

ACTUALIZING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MOGS) IN NIGERIA BY 2015: AN EMPIRICAL SURVEY

O. E. Eichie

Abstract

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were fashioned out to address the problems of our underdevelopment. The goals are global initiatives that provide a framework and strategy for comprehensive development and moving the poorest countries like Nigeria out of poverty by the year 2015. Nigeria was among the 198 nations participant in the New York September 2000 summit that gave birth to the Millennium Development Goals. The Nigeria story is a sad reflection of our underdevelopment: mid way into the journey, (he needed targets are still very far from achievement. In Nigeria, poverty stilt abounds and constitutes the greatest threat to human existence and development. About two-thirds of the Nigerian people tire poor despite living in a country with vast potential wealth. This has created a great concern to the entire human race *m* the areas of deprivation, oppression, security, economic growth, social injustice, sex discrimination almost in every aspect of" life. This paper, therefore, seeks to give a theoretical and empirical x-ray of the actualization and impact of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on the aggregate of Nigeria development indices and proffer solutions towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria by the year 2015.

Introduction

The emergence of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is lo address poverty around the world, especially in developing countries like Nigeria and other countries in sub-Sahara Africa (SSA), Asia, Carabians, etc.

Poverty, which has become an enigma, constitutes the greatest threat to human existence and development all over the world. About two-thirds of the Nigerian people are poor despite living in a country with vast potential wealth. Our people keep falling deeper into poverty (NEEDS Document). This has created a great concern to the entire human race in the areas of deprivation,, oppression, security, economic growth, social injustice, sex discrimination almost in every aspect of life, though the magnitude varies from one culture lo another. The poverty monster has created fears and regrets to many who lived in abject penury, especially the orphans, widows and the physically challenged in the society. In fact, poverty is a major factor, which causes early death due to the lack of basic amenities of life. This is now highly pronounced in Nigeria where life expectancy falls below 50 years.

Oladunni (2004) reported that poverty reduction over the years has been of great concern and challenge to every government world over. There has been a growing abject poverty in a world of growing material plenty. The Millennium Development Goals grew out of the various agreements and resolutions of world organizations in the past decade, aimed at addressing the ever growing poverty among the populace especially in developing countries.

EGA Reports (2005c)'for the first time in history, a diverse range of players across the globe has agreed on a common platform of priorities for addressing the many faces of extreme poverty, hunger, joblessness, disease, lack of shelter, gender inequality and environmental decline. MD6s have made them the rallying cry of a global partnership and the cornerstone of international and regional development policy.

At the Millennium Summit held in September 2000, in New York, United States of America, countries of the United Nations (UN) made the following declarations: "We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected." The Millennium Declaration has created a new dimension for addressing the issue of poverty that, for a long time, undermines the international community to act with a renewed vigour or sense of urgency in achieving the specific target within a given time span. This has led to I he formulation and acceptance of the Millennium Development Goals to be achieved by 2015.

Consequently, the debate has shifted from the mere scaling-up of aids, to the more complex issues of its equality and impact. Also of importance is the limited capacity of many developing countries to benefit from

the trade and direct foreign investment that will make their economies grow. Thus, MDGs is both an opportunity and a challenge.

According to Oladunmi (2001) Nigeria and other developing countries, especially sub-Saharan African countries faced the greatest challenge for meeting the Millennium Development Goals. Poverty has remained pervasive; growth is below the threshold of 7% per annum required for the MDGs. The private sector is weak, external debt remains unsustainable in almost all countries while social indicators generally point to low levels of human development. In addition to the above, regional conflict have inflicted grave consequences on the population of a number of sub-Saharan African countries, thus casting political uncertainty over the region and also, driving away foreign investment. The World Bank estimates indicate that in the context of recent economic development experience, it is possible to reach all MDGs by 2015 in all regions, if there is a major scaling-up of efforts in sub-Saharan Africa.

Nigeria as one of the famous countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, has a population of over 140 million people, with current high poverty incidence remains an aberration, given the country's abundant natural and human resources. The country is endowed with both human and natural resources that it ought not to be poor. Most often, economic philosophers and analysts refer to this maxim: "Nigeria is so rich to be poor, but so poor to be rich." The degenerate state of the Nigerian economy is a bandwagon effect from the lack of luster political leadership, economic mismanagement, corruption, poor social infrastructures, ethnic conflicts, insecurity and other social vices.

It is on the basis of the foregoing that this article is set to address the Millennium Development Goals strategy and assess the implementations, its prospects and constraints for their attainment in Nigeria. This paper is therefore divided into five parts. The first part is Introduction, which describes the existing environment; Part II highlights the goals, aims and objectives of MDGs, Part III examines the implementation process, prospects and constraints for the attainment of MDGs in Nigeria followed with a comparative analysis of other development countries in the same bracket, Part IV covers findings and recommendations, Part V, conclusion.

II: Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) represent the most overarching of global initiatives and provide a framework and strategy for comprehensive development and moving the poorest countries out of poverty. MDGs in a nutshell, refer to the international community adopted specific targets for poverty reduction globally but specifically in developing countries by 2015. These development goals, which have been embraced by the World Bank, have not provided a focus for the Bank's development programmes.

The goals are put in a place to address specific poverty indices, including the following:

- Goal I: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Goal H: Achieve Universal Primary Education
- Goal III: Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal IV: Reduce child mortality.
- Goal V: Improve maternal health
- Goal VI: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Goal VII: Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal VIII: Develop a global partnership for development

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were chosen so that the achievement of one goal enhances the chances of achievement of others.

Each goal has its own target and a measure (indicator) of its achievement over time. The first six goals aim at reducing income-poverty and its social manifestations, including: poor health and inadequate educational opportunities. The seventh aims at ensuring environmental sustainability, while the eighth advocates genuine international partnerships for development. It also addresses how developed countries could assist developing countries to attain the earlier stated seven MDGs.

For ease of execution, the millennium goals' declaration has a set of targets to be achieved in reducing poverty to a manageable level by 2015. They are as follows:

Target I: Reducing by half between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is

less than US\$1 a day; and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

Target 11: Ensuring that by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. Target III: Eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education not later than 2015. Target (V): Reducing child mortality rate by two thirds between 1990 and 2015 the under-five mortality rate.

Target V: Reducing by three-quarters, the maternal mortality ratio between 1990 and 2015.

Target VI: Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS incidence.

Target VII: Integrating the principles of sustainable environmental development into member country's policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources, i.e. Half the proportion of people without sustainable access to drinking water by 2015. Achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.

Target VIII Has a target among others, the development of an open, rule based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system. This should include a commitment to good governance, and poverty reduction, both nationally and internationally. The goal, therefore, will among others:

Address the special needs of the least developed countries.

If more generous Official Development Assistance (ODA) are committed to poverty reduction.

Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small Island developing states.

Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term.

Examination and Implementation Process, Prospect and Constraint for Attainment of MDGs in Nigeria

Goal 1 - Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger

The United Nations target for the first goal is to ensure a reduction by half of the proportion of people living on less than one dollar a day between 1990 and 2015. It also advocates the reduction by half the proportion of people living in extreme hunger.

Economic Community for Africa report (2005c) stated that although North Africa as a whole and a small number of Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) economies have a potential to reach the sub-goal of eradicating extreme poverty by half by the year 2015, the slow pace of progress in the majority of countries indicates that as a continent, Africa is unlikely to reach this goal, given the current trends. See table 1

According to the African Development Bank (ADB, 2003), Nigeria had 70.2% of her population living above US\$1 per day in 1997 and 90.8% below 2, US a day using the international poverty line criteria. By the same criteria, Nigeria currently has 34.1% of her population living below the US\$1 a day. The poverty line is defined as a line below which adequate acceptable nutrition; shelter and personal amenities cannot be assured.

The Nigerian experience is a complicated one. Despite the extreme statistical data, Nigeria has a large informal sector whose activities were never captured. In addition, coping with the mechanism strategies, and the resilience of the population, which are not put into consideration in calculating the indices, may be responsible for averting total collapse of the economies of most poor countries like Nigeria.

Nigeria has made appreciable efforts to reduce the poverty level in recent times. With the advent of democratic government, the prevalence of poverty among Nigerian household has been reduced considerably. For instance the Obasanjo Regime reviewed the wages and salaries of workers by 100% in year 2001 and by another 12% in the year 2004 and by 15% in October 2005. The seven point agenda of President Umaru Yar'adua though slow as it is, will help in the area of poverty reduction if they are consciously implemented.

The government has introduced one meal per day/child in some selected primary schools in the Federal Capital Territory and some selected states like Nasarawa State as a pilot programme. This is expected to go round the whole country within a reasonable time. The African Development Bank (2002/2003) reported that Nigeria had only 7% of children undernourished with food availability of 2840 Kcal/person/day

between 1998 and 2000. The constraint experienced here is that there is no proper follow-up of implementing the policy.

Goal II: Achieving Universal Primary Education (UBE)

Clemens *et al* (2004), from World Bank Report 2004 reported that the number of children attending school in Africa has increased rapidly during the past decade, from 20% in 1990 to 61.2% in 2000. However, significant progress is insufficient to attain the goal. See Table 2 (Annexure I) Nigeria falls within the Western Region of Africa.

In accomplishing this goal, the Nigerian government introduced the Universal Basic Education (UBE) in all the states of the federation to enroll every child of school age (six years and above).

Along the line, money, which was meant for building new UBE schools, was diverted for renovation of existing and dilapidated old school buildings and some of the funds converted into private pockets while in other cases contracts for the buildings were over-inflated. The passage of "Child Right Bill (2002)" into law by the National Assembly is a step towards implementing this UBE sub goal. The bill makes it compulsory that Nigerian children of school age must not be denied basic education. Consequently, parents might be sent to prison if they denied any child the Basic Education.

Despite these efforts, the Nigerian government has not made any appreciable mark. According to Clements (2004) unfortunately, increased enrolment has not translated into completion rates. Overall a mere 55% of the children on the continent are able to complete full course of primary education, against 57 percent a decade ago. The remainder enters into child labour, poverty and the streets and the girl child is the first victim.

Goal III: Promoting Gender Quality and Empowering Women

According to the African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD), Africa's poverty scenario is characterised by a poor record of economic growth, high inequality in income and assets ownership, inadequate access to basic social services, resulting in low level of human resource development and low agricultural productivity (Okojie, 2003). In sub-Saharan Africa about 50% of the population lives in absolute poverty, about 80% of these comprise women (ACGD, 2001). Africa faces several challenges in reducing poverty. They include the following:

- Reducing women's poverty: Although men and women share the burdens of poverty, women face additional constraints, which limit their opportunities and deny them equal access to public service and consumption goals.
- Addressing gender inequality: A major problem is how to address persistent gender inequality in access to and control of productive, human and social assets.

In its efforts to stamp out inequality which determines against women, the United Nations made a declaration: "There is no time to lose, it few are to reach the Millennium Development Goals by the target date of 2015, only by investing in the worlds of women can we get there." Nigerian women even in recent times continue to bear the brunt of inequality and hitherto had suffered a lot of deprivation, and poverty is prevalent among them. The worse cases exist in the Northern part of Nigeria where urgent assistance is required to address the situation.

Goal IV: Reducing Child Mortality Rate Especially the Under 5 by 2/3 by 2015

Reducing the under-five mortality rate in Sub-Saharan Africa has been painfully slow. The under-five mortality rate was 186 per 1000 live birth in 1990 and remains practically unchanged at 184 in 2002. On the other hand, in North Africa, the under-five mortality rate was 97 per 1000 live birth in 1990 and dropped significantly to 38 in 2003.

The success of North Africa may be directly attributed to focused strategies for combating preventable diseases such as polio, smallpox and parasites which cause half the under-five deaths. In 2003 while 93 percent of North Africa's children received a full course of vaccination, the figure for Sub-Saharan Africa remained at a dire 61 per cent.

Nigeria may not be able to achieve this goal, as the number of the poor in the region is likely to increase, Nigeria for example has under 5 year mortality rates of 136 children per 1000 birth between 1990-94, from 1995-2000, this has increased to 153 per 1000 birth. This is in contrast to the 25 per 1000 in Mauritius and some other developing countries reported by the world Health estimation that two thirds of these deaths are preventable with more competent public services, in some parts of the world including Nigeria, vaccination coverage has begun to decline. For example, the report further stated that in 1999, 55

countries had not attained 80% measles vaccination of children under one year of age, while in Nigeria particularly in the North, religious bias is preventing some children of Muslim parents from being vaccinated against polio. The National Programme on Immunization (NPI) suffered set back in some parts of Northern Nigeria. Consequently, more children are affected by the disease thereby increasing the number of handicaps and future beggars in Nigeria.

Goal V: Improved Maternal Health

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations International Children Educational Fund (UNICEF) have, estimated that more than half a million women die in developing countries from complicated pregnancy and childbirth. The reason is that primary health care provisions are not readily available in most developing countries including Nigeria. More so, where they are established they are not properly managed. Most of the funds are converted into private pockets, while the programmes die on a sliding scale.

Health care delivery is very expensive in Nigeria and "outside the reach of the ordinary Nigerian, again women being the victim. So far, all the good plans of Nigerian government with regards to healthcare delivery are still on the pipeline coupled with the incessant strikes and work-to rule of Nigerian medical personnel. Achieving this goal in Nigeria by the year 2015 appears to be a mirage.

Goal VI: Combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Disease

This goal has a target of reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS by half in 2015 and to subsequently witness the reversal of its spread. World Health Organisation report states that seven out of 100 adults are living with HIV/AIDS in Africa. This rate is substantially higher in southern Africa where sexual behaviour, high domestic violence and illegal drugs and lack of effective educational campaigns to reduce risk of infection remain serious challenges.

The problems and constraints faced by Nigerians are: the unwillingness to speak out and inadequate commitment to addressing issues of poor relationships between men, women and youth also hamper the response to the pandemic.

A lot of people have no access to good health care facilities and the necessary information and treatment needed. Coupled with this are the cultural and religious beliefs that prevent sufferers from reporting the ailment for fear and shame of stigmatization and the belief that HIV/AIDS is not real. According to government data, Federal Office of Statistics (FOS), there is a growing trend in HIV/AIDS in Nigeria most especially between the ages of 15 and 49 years. In 1991, it was 1.8 percent, 1999 5.4 percent, 2001, 5.8 percent and this accounted for about 3.47 million of the total population of Nigeria.

Although there is public enlightenment to everyone to avoid casual sexual intercourse, most Nigerian girls now go nude, putting on transparent and provocative dress to lure boys and men into sexual intercourse. Most of the religious organizations and educational institutions that ought to model the youth and educate them about the moral, social and economic consequences pay little or no attention. Almost every group is resigning to faith. Efforts initiated by Nigerian government through the National Action committee on AIDS (NACA) so far seem to pay lip service to the realities on ground. Anti retro viral drugs provided free of charge by donor agencies are being hijacked by some few persons and are very expensive and outside the reach of the poor. Health care institutions are still too few to cope with the HIV/AIDS growth rate.

From the foregoing, Nigeria as a country in the sub-Saharan Africa cannot achieve the eradication of HIV/AIDS in the year 2015. Legal and illegal migration is on the increase because of poverty. Human trade is on the increase.

Goal VII: Ensuring Environmental Sustainability

The United Nations Organisation Agency on Environment and Development opined that the by-products of poverty bring about pollution in the environment, creating environmental hazards, stress in different shapes and sizes. The poor, in their struggle to survive destroy their environment. They cut down trees, set fire on the forest, causing carbon pollution, their livestock will overgraze grassland, rivers are fed with heavy metal, e.g. Abandoned boats, canoe, etc, blocking the drainage systems with waste.

According to World Commission on Environment, poverty across the region has meant continued loss of forests and other previous environmental resources. In sub-Saharan Africa, the proportion of land covered by forest is estimated to have decreased from 29.3 percent in 1990 to 27,1 percent in 2000.

With little access to alternative and affordable energy sources - 60% of Africa's energy demand is met by forest. African communities continue to rely on firewood for heating, cooking and lighting. Overall, deforestation as well as poor land use and management, has had a devastating effect on the continent, increasing the region's historic tendency to both extremes of drought and flooding. As at the year 2006, the

solution to tackle the environmental problem is still on the drawing board. Our plans and actions are executed on the pages of newspapers, radio, and televisions and in public forum. There is no reasonable plans to control erosion, no provision for waste disposal, bush burning and afforestation are on the increase. Nigeria might not achieve the goal by 2015.

VIII: Developing a Global Partnership for Development

The broad goal encompasses reform of global trading and financial system tariff and quota-free access for least developed countries' exports, debt cancellations, addressing special development needs, creating work, providing access to essential drugs and sharing new information, communication, and other technologies. Developed countries subsidies, tariffs and quotas still restrict market access for African products. And, where there has been market access, supply-side constraints have prevented African countries from taking advantage of it. Among developing countries, sub-Saharan Africa faces the greatest challenge in meeting the MDGs.

According to the African Development Bank (ADB), Africa and indeed Nigeria may have an uphill task in meeting the MDGs goals criteria. Nigeria in particular may not be able to meet any of the six criteria if right policies are not adopted at the appropriate time. Consequently, it will be better for the country to concentrate on the poverty alleviation criterion in the main time, while also making concerted efforts to resolve the persistent conflicts and severe governance problems, which confront the country.

In an effort to achieve the MDGs the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) was established. The NEPAD arises from two different initiatives of African leaders. These are the Millennium Partnership for Africa Recovery Programme (MAP) and the Plan Omega (PO). This synthesis resulted in one plan initially named the New African Initiative (NAI). NAI was adopted by OAU summit in July, 2001. Consequently, at a meeting of the implementation committee on heads of states at Abuja, Nigeria, October 2001, it was formally established under the name NEPAD and thus became a major strategy development of the New African Union (AU). The Great Britain and other European Union had affirmed their support for strong partnership with developing countries based on mutual accountability and responsibility. Great Britain adopted the African Action Plan as a framework for action in support of the NEPAD and agreed to establish enhanced partnerships with African countries whose performance reflects NEPAD commitment. In addition the United Nation General Assembly in September 2002 unanimously adopted a Declaration on NEPAD.

NEPAD presently operates at four levels, which include: global continental, sub-regional and national. At the global level African countries relate with communities in other continents, international institutions, development partners and donor agencies. At the continental levels it leads to cooperation, integration and collaborations among Africa countries to achieve common objectives, while at the national levels it is aimed at stimulating, promoting and revitalizing partnership among public, the private sectors and civil society. NEPAD is seen as a good road map to sustainable development geared towards the meeting of the MDGs especially as it relates to African conditions and challenges. Despite all the efforts put in place to integrate African countries into purposeful development, Nigeria is still at the crossroads. Nigerian government has invited governments, people, companies, and investors of other nations to participate or invest and explore Nigeria's abundant resources. The responses are like a nightmare. Those invited to partnership with Nigerians are scared because of many factors, which include the high level of insecurity prevalent in Nigeria, economic and political climates. A recent World Bank report says that as at now Nigerian environment is not quite safe for investment. This is most likely to be connected with the slate of insecurity in the Niger Delta Region where there are reports of restiveness, oil bunkering, and kidnapping of foreigners who come to do business in Nigeria.

This is coupled with the unstable government policies which switch each (Sme there is a change in the Federal, State and Local Government Cabinets. Every political party or sets of people in power have their own set agenda. The good intentions of past government(s) are silenced, without any follow-up.

Finding and Observations

In this paper, we have discussed the implementation of the MDGs and bow it has been implemented in Africa, sub-Saharan African and Nigeria in particular. II was observe that there is a tremendous improvement in achieving the MDGs in North Africa as opposed to sub-Saharan Africa where the attainment is slow. In Nigeria, the machinery put in place in achieving the MDGs still suffers some setbacks.

It has been affirmed that Nigeria has indeed commenced the MDGs programme but has a major setback in its implementation. So far there is no zeal and determination to get to the root of the various problems. Goal one - eradicating extreme poverty and hunger can only be achieved if the family is empowered to overcome hunger. As at today, we talked about. National Economic Empowerment

Development Strategy (NEEDS), SEEDS, LEEDS, it is the desire of the write-up to incorporate the Family Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (FEEDS) into the programme. More Universal Basic Education Primary schools should be opened in all local governments and towns in the country.

The study reveals that promoting gender equality and empowering women have not been properly addressed and there is a great disparity in integrating the women into the mainstream of the national economy. However, there is a little improvement as more women are being invited to function at higher levels of government. By nature women are the economic palm trees of any growing nation. The development of a nation evolved and revolved around them and their siblings. The ratio of men and women in responsible positions is still wide, they are discriminated against in employment, tax matters, governance and property ownership.

Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases in Nigeria has been a major task. There has been mass enlightenment on HIV/AIDS in television, radio and print media. Drugs are being provided and subsidized in designated hospitals. The problem has been that people who are carriers of HIV/AIDS disease are ashamed to make themselves available for treatment because of the dehumanising stigma. The laws on environmental protection are only on papers, the machinery put in place has not started in earnest.

The New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) was put in place to aid Africa in development. This is a step in the right direction. So far, the effort is yielding good results at the continental level among nations in the African Union; in peace keeping and other economic development areas.

Recommendations and Conclusion

The United Nations Assembly's effort to develop and pursue the MDGs is highly commended in the history of mankind. They should be vigorously implemented as planned, bearing in mind the various constraints in developing countries in the world. From the foregoing we wish to recommend the following as a means of achieving the MDGs in Nigeria.

1. Nigeria as a country should step up a genuine action that can lead to a gradual reduction of poverty and especially extreme hunger. This could be achieved by the implementation of the Universal Basic Education to its letter. Free education for women and subsidizing the cost of food e.g. milk, sugar, protein foods and wares. Government should control prices of building materials and employment of able bodies men, women and a reasonable percentage of disabled people.
2. Efforts should be geared towards reducing the gap between masculine and feminine gender in economic, public and social activities. The women who are by this right described as the economic palm tree of a nation, by nature, should be fully empowered to have equal rights and privileges in all spheres of national activities. They should be appointed to higher positions in government ministries, parastatals and agencies and in nongovernmental organizations. They should be allowed to form associations like Nigerian Women in Civil Service (NWICS). The male-female ratio should be very close in all government activities.
3. Attention should be focused on the health care of children and their mothers who are the future leaders and builders of tomorrow. A reasonable percentage of the national, state, local government budget should be geared to realizing these objectives; this will reduce the child and maternal mortality rate by the year 2015.
4. Presently, Nigeria has set up an agency called the National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS) State Levels (SEEDS) and at local levels (LEEDS). The prayer of this write-up is that this concept should be extended to the family, which is the root of any nation; there should be Family Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (FEEDS). This will eliminate hunger, suffering and depressions out of the lives of countrymen and women.
5. On HIV/AIDS and roll back malaria programme, efforts should not be spared to fight this seemingly insurmountable monster. The government, non-governmental organizations and individuals should be encouraged to work in partnership to reduce or put an end to this devastating scourge. Government should budget more funds to health institutions all over the country to enable them provide effective health care delivery to patients.
6. Effort at ensuring environmental sustainability must be addressed along with other issues. Poverty is the major contributing factor to a degrading environment and its attributable hazards. To address the problem of ensuring environmental sustainability there should be real commitment through budgetary allocation and implementation in Nigeria. Environmental Protection Agency should be adequately mobilised to harness citizenry willing to produce the desired goal to our decaying environment.

7. Partnership with other nations in all areas of national life should be encouraged i.e. politics, economy, agriculture, education, social, security, communications technology, engineering, etc. This should be encouraged at intercontinental, continental, national and local levels.
8. To achieve the MDGs there is the need for the Nigerian government to have well-defined and consistent economic, political, social and cultural policies, which will be managed, by any successive government irrespective of the political party in power.
9. Finally, in order to actualise the full objectives of MDGs, its goals should be incorporated in the national budget. The various heads and subheads of the Millennium Development Goals should be accrued for in the Federation Budget. The implementation should be properly controlled and monitored. An inspectorate division to monitor the MDGs should be set up as a commission, to be known as MDGs commission. Its duties should be specified and passed into law, by the national assembly. This should be given priority in order to realize a reasonable percentage for the Millennium Development Goals by the year 2015.

Table 1: Progress Towards the MDGs in SSA_~ 1990- 2015

| 1990 (Target) | 2000 | 2015 | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| MDG1: people living on less than \$1 (PP) a day (% of population) | 45 | 46 | 22 |
| MDG2: Primary education completion rate (% of relevant age group) | 57 | 55 | 100 |
| MDG3a: Promoting gender equality; primary education (% of girls in school) | 0.82 | 0.87 | 3 |
| MDG3b: Promoting gender equality: secondary education | 0.75 | 0.82 | 1 |
| MDG4: Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 births) | 187 | 174 | 62 |
| MDG5: Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births) | 920* | 917 | 230* |
| MDG6: Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases: HIV/AIDS - in 2001 youth prevalence was 13% for men and 6% for women Malaria - Only 7 out of 27 SSA countries with above 5% incidence use bed nets for prevention. Tuberculosis (TB) -- had a prevalence of 350 per 100,000 in SSA in 2001. | | | |
| MDG7b: Access to improved sanitation services. (% of population) | 55* | 54 | 77 |
| MDG8a: ODA Hows (% of donors' GN) | On decrease | the Increase to 0.3%** in 2003 | 0.7% agreed ; as in |
| Monterrey mDGSb: Debt sustainability African countries have | N/A | Currently (2004) 12 | reached completion point |

Source: EGA 2005c~

Table 2: Annual Growth in Net Enrolment Rates required to Achieve EFA and Historical Trends (Percentage Points)

| Region | Enrolment Rate 2000 | Increase required (2000-10) | Observed (1991-99) |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Central | 71.00 | 2.86 | ~ 0.03 |
| East | 53.99 | 4.60 | 0.07 |
| North | 82.83 | 1.72 | 0.22 |
| Southern | 75.27 | 2.47 | 0.01 |
| West | 44.66 | 5.53 | 0.21 |
| <u>All regions</u> | <u>61.18</u> | <u>3.88</u> | <u>0.54</u> |

References

- Clemens, M.Ch. Kenny & T.J. Moss (2004): *The trouble with the MDGs: Confronting expectations of aid and development Success*. Centre for Global Development, Working Paper, No. 40, Washington D.C
- Commission for Africa (2005). *Our common interest*. Report of the Commission for Africa, London. EGA (2004a), Economic Report on Africa; *Unlocking Africa's trace potential*, Addis Ababa.
- EGA (2005c). *Survey of the economic and social conditions in Africa*. Paper presented at the 2004 Conference for African Ministers of Finance in Abuja, Nigeria.
- Focu Augustine K. (2005). *Inequality and the growth of poverty nexus: Evidence from sub-Saharan Africa*, EGA, Addis Ababa.
- Government of Gambia, with UNDP (2003). *Millennium development goals progress report*, Banjul.
- Jahan Selim (2003). *Achieving millennium development Goals: Partnership and participation* UNDP: New York.
- Princess E.B.I. Oladunni (2004). *Millennium development goals (MDGs): Prospect of attainment and challenges for Nigeria*, CBN: International Economic Relations Department (IERD), Pg. 31-42.
- NEPAD (2005). *Promoting and monitoring MDGs in African countries. A Synthesis Report*, Pretoria.
- Okojie, C.E.E. (2003). *Gender mainstreaming and gender awareness for community development*; A paper presented at community Development, SPDC, Edjeba, Warn, November, 2003.
- Economic Commission for Africa Report: *The Millennium Development goals in Africa, Progress and challenges*; August 2005. pp 3-10
- World Health Organization (2005). *The world health Report 2005. Make Every Mother and Child Count*. Geneva www.who.int/whr/en.
- United Nations (2005), *The millennium development goals report 2005*, UN Secretariat, New York.

