

The Concept of Millennium Development Goal and Its Application in the Development and Repositioning of Nigeria Economy

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Abstract: *The United Nations at various times have made several declarations with the aim of arresting human and environmental problems. However, most have not been globally attained and embraced. The Millennium Declaration termed- Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is one of the latest attempts by the United Nations with basic goals, targets and indicators to globally position the environment and the economy toward attaining sustainable level. This paper aims to assess how elements of the MDGs have been and can be applied in the repositioning of Nigeria Economy. The Nigeria economy like other developing countries is faced with challenges of good governance, poverty and health. 8 goals, 18 targets and 48 indicators were analysed from data sourced from United Nations, Federal Republic of Nigeria and other reliable authors. Findings revealed that effective implementation of the MDGs will enhance quality of lives, the environment and having the tendency of repositioning Nigeria economy.*

Keywords: *Millennium Goals, Economic repositioning, Development, Environment, Targets.*

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1.0 Introduction

The concept of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is termed to be one of the attempts to mark historic and effective method of global mobilization tending to achieve set of important social priorities. This ideology is derived from the 1990s conferences of the United Nations and was declared in the year 2000 to enhance peace and security; eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; Promote Gender equity and empower women; reduce child mortality; ensure environmental sustainability; Improve maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases and to develop global partnership for development.

It is important to note that many developing nations of the world have made substantial progress towards achieving the MDGs, however the rate of growth and progress is highly variable across goals, countries, and regions (Sachs, 2012). Some countries achieved all or most of the MDGs, whereas others achieved very few. Regional progress towards achieving the MDGs is more diverse (IMF, 2014). It is obvious that the goals are inter-related. Therefore, responses, ordinarily ought to be integrated. Thus, a holistic approach is required to attain the goals and meet the targets which will enhance economic repositioning in Nigeria and other developing nations. Some basic economic variables include improved transport infrastructure and communications which will act to create access to services, boost internal and external markets. Others involve integrated water resource management, pivotal amenity which may be central to survival of industries, commercial agriculture, public health and hygiene (Waheed, 2012). It calls for the redefinition of the existing economic order that excludes women from mainstreams of social, political and economic activities. Thus, effective measures aiming to offer protection to the poorest and most vulnerable member of the society will require more attentions. It becomes necessary that equity and equality in the use and access to resources will assist in lubricating the rise of the poor to the position of social inclusion.

The integration and implementation of elements of Millennium Development Goals will assist in the repositioning of Nigeria economy.

2.0 Origin of the MDGs

The United Nations held the Millennium Assembly from 6-8 September, 2000 and decided upon the Millennium Declaration which emphasized the need for a global engagement towards developing countries. 147 Heads of States and Governments from all over the world participated in this declaration. Part of the preamble to the declaration proclaimed thus: "We (heads of states and governments) must spare no effort to free all humanity and above all our children and grandchildren, from the threat of living on a planet spoilt by human activities and whose resources would no longer be sufficient for their need". The Millennium Development Declaration remains comprehensive document which gave birth to the MDGs (Prammer and Martinuzzi, 2013). It was signed by nearly 190 countries as signatories; the MDGs consist of 8 goals 21 targets and 43 indicators. Its framework is technically derived from the UN tradition and intentions of setting goals to be achieved internationally. Some well-known examples include the 0.7% target for aid as a proportion of donor GNP, or the targets for the water decade of the 1980s (Manning 2009). According to Manning (2009), most of the MDGs had their origin in the series of major UN sectorally focused conferences from 1990 (Jomtien Conference on Education) to 1995 (World Summit on Social Development, Copenhagen), and were drawn together through a process at the OECD Development Assistance Committee in 1995/96, which in turn, led to their inclusion in the Millennium Declaration at the UN General Assembly in 2000.

The Millennium Declaration which presently portrays extended issues beyond the Goals becomes ideas of concern to the world. It presently addresses issues from the environmental, economic to social points. According to Bardy, Drew and Kennedy (2012), it comprises environmental pollution, global warming, child labour, human rights violations and the deterioration of social standards (job security and the fight against corruption). However, it is interesting to note that initially, the main aim of the MDGs was to address the needs of the poorest of the poor, residing

in the least developed countries (LDCs), and small Land-locked developing countries (SIDCs) (United Nations, 2003). The MDGs was intended to address basic societal challenges confronting depriving peoples of the world and to create international standard for humanity. According to Vandemoortele (2011) the MDGs were designed to broaden the development narrative beyond the narrow growth paradigm; in which, the goals have not been able to achieve their expectation for all human societies and regions.

However, it has become certain to confirm that the MDGs are not fully as some countries and regions are still lagging behind, like sub-Sahara Africa. According to Prammer and Martinuzzi (2013), one can highlight that they have incontestable strength. Though, the Goals have galvanized political commitment as never before since they were narrowed to eight goals and are useful tools for orientation and economic repositioning of mostly developing nations (Vandemoortele, 2011).

3.0 Elements of the Millennium Development Goals

The key contents of the Millennium development goals appear to be strategic in the development of human society. It contains 8 goals, 18 targets and 48 indicators for assessing degree of progress between 2000 and 2015, the expected time for kick up and actualization of the goals. Table 1 below shows lists of the goals, targets and indicators as portrayed in the Millennium Development Goals.

Table 1: The Millennium Development Goals (with Symbol and slogans), Targets and Indicators

Goals	Targets	Indicators for Monitoring Progress
Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	1. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day	1a. Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day 1b. Poverty headcount ratio (% of population below the national poverty line) 2. Poverty gap ratio [incidence x depth of poverty] 3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption
	2. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	4. Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age 5. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption
Achieve Universal Primary Education	3. Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education 7a. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5 7b. Primary completion rate 8. Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds
Promote gender equality and empower women	4. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education no later than 2015	9. Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education 10. Ratio of literate women to men 15-24 years old 11. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector 12. Proportion of 1 year-old children immunized against measles

Reduce child mortality	5. Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	13. under-five mortality rate 14. Infant mortality rate 15. proportion of 1 year-old children immunized against measles
Improve maternal health	6. Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	16. Maternal mortality ratio 17. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	7. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread HIV/AIDS	18. HIV prevalence among 15-24 year old pregnant women 19. Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate 19a. Condom use at last high-risk sex 19b. Percentage of population aged 15-24 with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS 20. Ratio of school of attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14
	8. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	21. Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria 22. Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures 23. Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis 24. Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course (DOTS)
Ensure Environmental Sustainability	9. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	25. Proportion of land area covered by forest 26. Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity of surface area 27. Energy use (kg oil equivalent) per \$1 GDP (PPP) 28. Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) and consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs (ODP tons) 29. Proportion of population using solid fuels
	10. Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	30. Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural 31. Proportion of urban and rural population with access to improved sanitation
	11. By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dweller	32. Proportion of households with access to secure tenure
Develop a Global Partnership for Development	12. Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system Includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction-both nationally and internationally	Official Development Assistance 33. Net ODA, total and to LDCs, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income

	<p>13. Address the special needs of the least developed countries Includes: tariff and quota free access for least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for HIPC and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction</p>	<p>34. Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation) 35. Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors that is untied</p>
	<p>14. Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing State (through the Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)</p>	<p>36. OFS received in small island developing States as proportion of their GNIs 37. ODA received in small inland developing States as proportion of their GNIs Market Access</p>
	<p>15. Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term</p>	<p>38. Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and LDCs, admitted free of duties 39. Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries 40. Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as percentage of their GDP 41. Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity Debt Sustainability</p>
	<p>16. In co-operation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth</p>	<p>42. Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative) 43. Debt relief committed under HIPC initiative, 45. unemployment rate of 15-24 year-olds, each sex and total</p>
	<p>17. In co-operation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries</p>	<p>46. Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population</p>
	<p>18. In co-operation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications</p>	<p>47. Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population 48a. Personal computers in use per 100 population and Internet users per 100 population 48b. Internet users per 100 population</p>

Source: United Nations, 2013.

3.1 Goal one – Eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. The focus of this goal is centred on two key targets whose mutually inclusive intent desires to: (a) Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day, and (b) Equally, halve between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people suffering from hunger.

Examining goal one, Loewe (2012) asserts that poverty and hunger contribute greatly to the economic depression, reduction of quality of human life and environmental degradation. Its eradication constitutes stepping stones toward economic repositioning.

3.2 Goal Two: Achieve Universal Primary Education: By this goal, it is to be ensured that, by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. This goal becomes a deliberate attempt by the United Nations to eliminate illiteracy and enhance life's standard.

3.3 Goal Three: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women: The main intention is to eliminate gender disparity in first, at the primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and make it total in all levels of education not later than 2015.

The implementation of the third goal will eliminate ratios, bias and disparities among the different sexes, thus, enhancing equity in the proportion of boys and girls in all levels (Ajaji, 2006).

3.4 Goal Four: Reduce Child Mortality: The achievement of this goal is tailoring toward development of health sector and creating awareness. Thus, reduction of mortality rate by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015 by ensuring that proportion of 1 year – old children are immunized against measles. According to United Nations (2013), the proportion of under-nourished people in developing regions decreased from 23.2 percent in 1990-1992 to 14.9% in 2010-2012.

3.5 Goal Five: Improve Maternal Health: This goal promotes effective training of skilled health personnel to be able to reduce maternity problems by three-quarter between 1990 and 2015.

3.6 Goal Six: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases: The sixth goal of the MDGs that optimistically wishes a drastic containment of the HIV/AIDS pandemic would need to consider beyond the narrow dependence on adequate health for solution to include education, water and sanitation services that interface with the complete state of individual's health well-being (Waheed, 2012).

3.7 Goal Seven: Ensure Environmental Sustainability: Through this goal, the principles of sustainable development are to be incorporated into country policies and programmes to reverse loss of environmental resources.

3.8 Goal Eight: Development a global partnership for Development. This goal appears to be vast as it deals with 7 out of the 18 targets. It ranges from the physical environment to the social and economic well-being of nations and regions. Its targets address the special needs of the least developed countries. It also deals with the financial crisis confronting developing countries as it stresses the need to comprehensively address the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to create economic sustainability among nations and regions (United Nations, 2003). This goal still stresses on the cooperation of the private sector to enhance technological development, more especially through information and communication, provision of access to drugs and develop, and implement effective strategies for decent and productive work for youth especially in developing countries.

4.0 Importance of MDGs to the Built Environment and the Repositioning of the Economy

According to Kasim and Ikwuyatum (2015) the Millennium Declaration and the MDG framework for accountability derived from it have inspired development efforts and helped set global and national priorities and focus subsequent actions. While more work lies ahead, the world has cause

to celebrate, in part due to the continued economic growth of some developing countries and targeted interventions in critical areas. Increased funding from many sources has translated into the expansion of programmes to deliver services and resources to those most in need (United Nations, 2011). Despite that the deadline of its operation expired in 2015, its progress has been reported in most areas irrespective of the effects of global economic and financial crisis (United Nations, 2013).

According to United Nations (2013), there have been drastic poverty reductions from 46% to 27% between 1990 to 2005, while the proportion of people living on less than \$1.25 per day fell from 47% in 1990 to 22% in 2010. It is also within the framework of the MDGs that by 2015, global poverty rate will drop below 15% (United Nation, 2011). There are expectations that large proportion of the world will have access to improved drinking sources of water. It has been ascertained that between 2000 and 2010, mortality rates from malaria fell by more than 25% worldwide.

Also, according to United Nations (2012), a total of about 51 million tuberculosis patients were successfully treated, saving 20million lives. According to United Nations (2013) the number of undernourished people in developing regions decreased from 23.2% between 1990-1992 to 14.9% in 2010-2012. It is still found that urban residents in the developing world living in slums declined from 39% in 2000 to 33% in 2012 (United Nations, 2012). The United Nations (2013) reveals that environmental sustainability is still under severe threat, demanding a new level of global cooperation. There is need to address this challenge especially in global emission, deforestations, over exploitation of marine fish, extinction of birds and mammals as observed in decline in population and distribution as well as under protection of land and marine areas.

The United Nations (2013) maintains that there have been declines in maternity rate leading to increasing live births between 1990 and 2010. However, many children are still denied right to primary education though the number of children out of school declined by almost half from 102million to 57 million between 2000 and 2011. According to United Nations (2011), there is need to reduce the gap between men and women while disparities are increasing between provision of facilities leading to gap in standard of living between urban and rural areas especially in developing regions including Nigeria.

In Nigeria, attention on the MDGs became pronounced after the writing off of the country's debt by the Paris and London Clubs in 2005 (Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN), 2003). However, efforts toward implementation of the MDGs targets were initially slow. In 2004, its progress accelerated with the integration of MDGs into comprehensive economic development framework – the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) at the Federal levels (FRN, 2010). This was expected to trickle down to the States Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies (SEEDS) and at the local government level into Local Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies (LEEDS). Certain approaches were initially carried out like the establishment of the MDGs office and appointment of a Senior Special Assistant to the President to head the office (FRN, 2010). There was Presidential Committee for the Assessment and Monitoring of the MDGs. Though, Nigeria faced with challenges of funding, data, human capacity, poor coordination among the three tiers of government, weak governance and accountability efforts were hardly achieved in all the targets.

It is observed that disparities exist between literacy levels in the urban and rural areas. While it was 80.0% for the urban that of the rural was 56.6% in 2008. However, in 2004, literacy rate among girls was 60.4% in 2008, 80.0% in 2010 and 66.0% in 2012 (FRN, 2013). Also, FRN (2013) maintains that consumption of improved drinking water sources was not incrementally consistent as also manifests in improved sanitation facilities as accessibility to improved sanitation in 2004 was 38%, 53.8% in 2008 and declined to 33.7% in 2012. Sanitation in Nigeria remains a serious challenge as at 2012, it fell far below 70% benchmark for the MDGs in 2015.

5.0 Agenda Beyond 2015

The MDGs expired in 2015. However, the strength and weaknesses of the MDGs still remain as majority of the developing countries have not yet met the targets benchmarks. Though, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) replaced the MDGs. The content of the SDGs according to Loewe (2012) addresses basic elements of human challenges and tends to uplift quality of lives. It includes (1) No poverty (2) Zero hunger (3) Good Health and Well-being (4) Quality education, (5) Gender Equality (6) Clean water and sanitation, (7) Affordable Clean Energy (8) Decent Work and Economic Growth (9) Industry Innovation and Infrastructure (10) Reduced Inequalities (11) Sustainable Cities and Communities (12) Responsible Consumption (13) Climate Action (14) Life Below Water (15) Life on Land (16) Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions as well as (17) Partnerships for the Goals.

The SDGs which replaces the MDGs started in 2015 and to expire in 2030. Its intentions include elimination of extreme poverty by ensuring that no one lives below \$1.25 a day. Having access to sufficient and nutritious food as well as access to safe and effective medicine and vaccines. It maintains that everyone should achieve universal primary and secondary education, affordable vocational training and access to higher education. Also, the SDGs tend to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by ensuring end to discrimination and disparity, ensuring availability and sustainable management of water, as well as good sanitation for all. Thus, everyone on earth should have access to safe and affordable drinking water. It is of the interest of the world leaders that access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all dwellers on the surface of the earth. This accordingly can be achieved through promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all through promotion of policies that encourage entrepreneurship and job creation, eradication of forced labour, slavery and human trafficking. Goal nine of the SDG encourages building resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. Another important aspect of the SDG is to reduce inequality within and among countries through regulation of financial markets and institution by sending development aid where it is needed.

It is important to note that it becomes certain that making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable by creating good and affordable public housing and also upgrade slum settlements. This is still achieved by investing in public transport; create green spaces, and public participation in urban planning decisions. The Development Goals still ascertained by ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns through effective management of our natural resources, and proper disposal of toxic wastes, as well as cutting per capita food waste in half globally.

The sustainable Development Goals maintains that urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts be taken. It appeals for global conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources. It also calls for protection, restoration and promotion of sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt bio diversity loss. These become necessary and actualized through societal balance in which goal sixteen calls for promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for Sustainable Development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. This is aimed to reduce all forms of violence and propose that governments and communities find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity by strengthening the rule of law, reducing the flow of illicit arms, and bringing developing countries more into the centre of institutions of global governance. It finally appeals for strengthening the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

6.0 Conclusion

The MDGs were intentionally carried to address international challenges of nations especially the developing countries. However, the MDGs faced problems of effective data collection and measurement of impacts as relate to its indicators (Prammer and Martinuzzi, 2013). These according to Poku and Whitman (2011) who argue that such challenges are portrayed in compilation methodologies and definitions, some indicators and targets may not be consistent across years due to differentiation in data sources.

The MDGs would have been better opinion in addressing poverty, governance and environmental issues in Nigeria. However, its duration has expired but effective implementation of its elements remains evergreen in the repositioning of Nigeria economy. The post 2015 process is already in top gear. The SDGs are the re-integration of the existing MDGs such as poverty reduction, global partnership, education, climate change and gender equality. Others are human right, energy and the preservation of oceanic lives.

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