THE EXTENT OF ACHIEVING THE MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: EVIDENCE FROM NIGERIA

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1. INTRODUCTION

52 years after independence and given the huge natural and human endowment, Nigeria which was one of the 50 richest countries in the early 1970s has retrogressed to become one of the 25th poorest countries at the threshold of the twenty first century (Soludo, 2006). At the same time, has the 3rd largest number of poor population after China and India (Ogunmola and Badmus, 2010). This situation is not peculiar to Nigeria but to all Third World Countries which is synonymous with poverty, ignorance, and diseases. This circumstance has been predominant even right from the oil boom era in the country. According to Udeh (2000), the proportion of the population living in poverty increased from 36% in 1970 to 64.4% in 2004. In sub Saharan Africa (SSA), for example, the number of people living in absolute poverty, i.e. living on US $1 or less per day, soared from 217 million in 1990 to 290 million in 2000 (Economic Commission for Africa, 2005). Also, the rate of poverty went up from 41% in 1981 to 46% 2001 coupled with the growing number of population.

In the light of this situation, several strategies have been adopted to eradicate this disheartening situation in the Third World Countries but all to no avail (Ogunmola and Badmus, 2010). It was on this note that the United Nations came together to introduce a time bound Millennium Development Goals agenda, making eradication of extreme poverty and hunger the topmost priority.

In September 2000, the 189 member countries of the United Nations (UN), including 147 heads of states adopted the eight Millennium Development Goals(MDGs) committing themselves to making substantial progress towards eradication of extreme poverty, hunger and achieving other human developmental goals by the year 2015. These Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are a series of eight time-bound development goals, namely:

I. To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
II. To promote universal basic education
III. To promote gender equality and empower women
IV. To reduce child mortality
V. To improve maternal health care
VI. To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
VII. Ensure environmental sustainability

VIII. To develop a global partnership for development.

These goals are characterized with eighteen targets and 48 indicators. Most of the MDG targets have a deadline of 2015, using 1990 as the baseline against which progress is gauged.

The MDGs also provide a framework for the entire International Community to work together towards a common end – making sure that human development reaches everyone, everywhere. The sole objective was that if these goals were to be achieved, world poverty will be cut by half, tens of millions of lives will be saved, and billions more people will have the opportunity to benefit from the global economy.

The participants acknowledge the multi-dimensional nature of development and poverty alleviation; and also, an end to poverty requires much more than just increasing the income of the poor, value orientation and job creation but also to see the contributions of the rich countries to assist in terms of funding development programmes, developing favorable trade and for the multinational institutions to help countries implement them. This could be justified by looking at the first seven goals; they are mutually reinforcing and are directed at reducing poverty in all its forms. The last goal which is to develop a global partnership for development is a tool to achieve the first seven.

It was against this background the paper set its objective as follows; assess the performance of Nigeria on the Millennium Development Goals and to compare with the average score of the sub Sahara African countries; review the key challenges to MDGs in Nigeria, and suggest possible policies and strategies to fast track the achievement of the goal. This work could be of benefit to various policy makers, researchers etc. This will also constitute a feed back to government on how far they are fairing in the achievement of the said agenda.

The paper is organized into five (5) Sections. Section one gives the introduction, Section two provides the review of literature, Section three assesses the performance of Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria and Sub Sahara African countries, Section four reviews the challenges and prospects of attaining these goals in Nigeria, lastly, Section five gives the conclusion and recommendation.

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

The Millennium Development Goals were developed in order to address the needs of the Developing Countries and the Under Developed Countries to ensure that there is an improvement in the areas of per capita income and eradication of poverty. With the aim to achieve these eight goals, agencies including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) all helped to develop the millennium declaration with a collective responsibility to get the rich countries increase grants/aids, removal of unsustainable debts of the poorest the third world countries, trade liberalization and improving the per-capita income of the concerned countries (Todaro and Smith, 2006).

2.1 Conceptual Framework

The best way to define these eight MDGs objectives in one umbrella is by looking at the UN definition for poverty. According to United Nations (1995) poverty "is a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information”.

Similarly, World Bank (1999), defined poverty as “hunger, lack of shelter, being sick and not being able to go to school; not knowing how to read; not being able to speak properly; not having a job; fear for the future; losing a child to illness brought about by unclean water; powerlessness and lack of representation and freedom”.

Omonona (2001) defined poverty as condition of living that affects billions of people around the world and limits their freedom and longevity, despite the general trends of global economic expansion, liberalized markets and increased trade.

2.2 Nigeria Development Background.

Since independent in the 1960, Nigeria has engaged herself in an independent source of economic capital to provide sustainable and equitable development for different ethnic nationalities in the country. During the colonial era up till the early post-independent era, agriculture was the mainstay of the Nigerian economy so much that most of the funds needed to execute the development plans depended on agriculture. With the discovery of oil in Oloibiri in 1958, and refining in large quantities in the 70s, Nigeria has been running a mono-culture economy relying solely on oil exportation and importation of capital in return for the implementation of over 60% of its national development project contributing a high percentage to the revenue of the country (Ajiboye, et.al., 2009)

Thus, the oil sector is the most attractive sector of the Nigerian economy today (Osuntokun, 1987; Tomori,1991; Nnoli,1993; WorldBank,1997; UNDP,1999). But in spite of the huge funds accruing from the oil and gas sector of the Nigerian economy, there has not been serious translation of socio-economic development and improvement in the lives of an average Nigerian (Emmanuel; Olayiwola and Babatunde, 2009). Udeh (2000) argues that between 1981 and 1999, Nigeria received over $228 billion from oil export receipt, sadly, the number of people living on less $1 per day more than doubled in three decades, i.e. between 1970 and 2000. Also, confirmed by Akanbi and Du Toit (2009), Nigeria's basic social indicators now place her as the 25th poorest countries in the world economy.

PERFORMANCE OF MDGs IN NIGERIA AND SUB-SAHARA AFRICA

3.1 Situation Analysis of MDGs in Nigeria and Sub- Sahara Africa

In order to have a lucid understanding of where Nigeria stands in achieving these MDGs objectives, Nigerians score will be compared with the average score of Sub-Sahara Africa. It is also pertinent to mention these objectives one after the other and look at the extent to which they have performed overtime.

Goal 1: Eradication of Poverty and Extreme Hunger
TABLE ONE

INDICATORS	**COUNTRY**	**90**	**00**	**01**	**02**	**03**	**04**	**05**	**06**	**07**	**08**	**09**	**2015 TARGET**
Proportion of population living on less than $1 per day (%)	**Nigeria**	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	51.6	51.6	51.6	NA	NA	NA	21.4
	SSA	48		46.4	44			51		51.4			
Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age (%)	**Nigeria**	35.7	31	28.7	28.7	28.7	30	30	NA	25	23.1	NA	19.96
	SSA	32			26.3	31			28			22	

Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption (consuming 2,900 calories or less daily)	**Nigeria**	39	29	NA	NA	NA	35	35	35	34.1	33.1	32.9	14.5
	SSA	36	33	33	33								

Source - 2010 MDG Report for Nigeria
-2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 MDG Report

The poverty level in Nigeria has been extremely high with about two-thirds of the population living below the poverty line in 1996 (Ijaiya, 2002). According to the former CBN Governor, Soludo (2004), poverty has persisted in Nigeria especially since the 1980s due to economic recession and mismanagement of State funds by the ruling elites of both the military and civilian alike. He also recognized that Poverty was at high level in the rural areas than in the urban areas. His assertion is supported by Ogunlela and Ogungbile (2006), showing that available data indicate majority of the poor are located in the rural areas. In 1985, 1992 and 1996 the share of the poor in the rural areas were 49.9%, 46.1% and 67.8% respectively.

Although, according to the UNDP (2011) reports, the proportion of underweight children, has markedly reduced from 35.7 per cent in 1990 to 23.1 per cent in 2008, despite significant setbacks after the 2008-2009 economic downturn and the world food crisis. However, from the data on table one, the sub-Saharan Africa, has an increasing trend of poverty from 44.6 in 1990 to 51 and 51.4 in 2005 and 2007 respectively, as contained in the regional MDGs report (2010). The region houses the highest number of people living in extreme poverty. In 2008, there has been an improvement to an estimated figure of 46 per cent. The World Bank and IMF estimate that the poverty rate in sub-Saharan Africa is expected to be 38% by 2015, rather than the 36% it would have been without the economic crisis. There are serious shortfalls in fighting hunger and malnutrition in this region, the percentage of undernourished children has reduced from 32% in 1990 to 22 % in 2009. The recent hike on food is hindering achievement in reducing hunger.

TABLE TWO

3.1.2 Goal 2- To Achieve Universal Primary Education

INDICATORS	**COUNTRY**	**90**	**00**	**01**	**02**	**03**	**04**	**05**	**06**	**07**	**08**	**09**	**2015 TARGET**
Net enrolment in primary education (%)	**Nigeria**	68	95	95	NA	NA	81.1	84	87.9	89.6	88.8	NA	100
	SSA	54	58	62	62	64	64	71	71	73	76	76	
Proportion of pupil starting primary One who reach primary Five (%)	**Nigeria**	67	97	97	96	84	74	74	74	74	72.3	NA	100
	SSA												
Literacy rate	**Nigeria**	N	64.	NA	N	60.	60.	76.	80.	81.	80	N	87

of 15-24 years old women and men (%)		A	1		A	4	4	2	2	4		A	
	SSA	65										72	

Source - 2010 MDG Report for Nigeria
-2004, 2005, 2006, 2007,2008,2009,2010 and 2011 MDG Reports

From the above Table, a general assessment of goal two shows that there has been a significant improvement in education. Impressively, the net enrolment has gone up since from 68 per cent in 1990, reaching 89 per cent in 2009 for Nigeria. Although, in more recent years from 2008, there have been a gradual improvement, dimming the prospects for reaching the MDG this target of 100% by 2015. When compared with Sub Sahara Africa, there has been improvement in this wise but Nigeria has an edge over the SSA. Countries like Burundi, Madagascar, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome, Principe, Togo and the United Republic of Tanzania have achieved or are nearing the goal of Universal Primary Education. Although, looking at the 2009 result of 76 per cent, there is the need for SSA countries to put in additional effort to achieve the goal.

TABLE THREE

3.1.1 Goal 3: To Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

INDICATORS	COUN TRY	90	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	2015 TA RG ET
Ratio of girls to boys in Primary Education (girls per 100 boys)	Nigeria	68	95	95	N A	N A	81. 1	84	87. 9	89. 6	88.8	N A	100
	SSA	54	58	62	62			71	71		76	76	
Ratio of girls to boys in Secondary Education (girls per 100 boys)	Nigeria	67	97	97	96	84	74	74	74	74	72.3	N A	100
	SSA		82	79	79				80	81	82	79	
Proportion of seats held by women in the national parliament	Nigeria	1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	7.7	7.5	7.5	100
	SSA	7.2	9.1					14	16	17	17.3		

Source - 2010 MDG Report for Nigeria
-2004, 2005, 2006, 2007,2008,2009,2010 and 2011 MDG Reports

The MDGs declaration argues for the need of promoting gender equality and so made mention of empowering women to be an important target. The developing regions as a whole are approaching gender parity in educational enrolment. In Nigeria so far, the proportion of girls enrolled has improved but still lower than that of the boys. According to the MDGR (2011), the ratio of boys in primary education shows long term progress. From the table three, in 2008, the number of girls per 100 boys is 85.4 and there has been a gradual but steady increase from 2000 to 2008. In 2011, the ratio of secondary school enrollment was 81, while in 2008, it was 79.9. However, it has risen from previous year when the ratio was 75.4. On the whole, the progress is slow and well below the rate required to achieve the desired result.

In comparing the result with other SSA, there has been a significant improvement in girl to boy education better than the result for Nigeria. 96 girls were enrolled to primary and secondary school for every 100 boys in 2009. This is meaningful improvement since 1999, when the results were 91 and 88 respectively.

TABLE FOUR

3.1.4. Goal 4: To Reduce Child Mortality.

INDICATORS	COUNTRY	90	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	2015 TARGET
Under 5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	Nigeria	191	183.8	183.8	183.8	201	201	201	201	138	157	NA	63.7
	SSA	184	167	168	172	172	168	163	157			129	
Infants mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	Nigeria	91	81.38	81.38	81.38	100	100	100	100	86	75	NA	30.3
	SSA												
Percentage of one year olds fully immunized against measles	Nigeria	46	32.8	41.1	61.8	31.4	50	60	60	60	41.4	74.3	100
	SSA	56	55	58	61	61	65	69	72			68	

Source - 2010 MDG Report for Nigeria

-2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 MDG Reports

Goal 4 of the MDGs declaration aims at reducing child mortality of children under-five years of age. From the table above, 191 per 1000 live birth was recorded in 1990 and a target of reducing this amount to approximately 64 per 1000 live birth in 2015. Data obtained shows that the under-five mortality rate rose to 201 per 1000 live birth in 2003 and declined to 138 per 1000 live birth in 2007 and to 157 in 2008. The probability of achieving this goal is far from feasible.

Also, infant mortality rate shows that the Country would still record an infant mortality rate of about 70 per 1,000 live births in 2015 and so not meet the MDG goal of reducing the infant mortality rate by two-thirds of the 1990 rate (which is about 31 per1, 000 live births). Similarly, the SSA has not put an applauding effort on achieving this goal; there is a record of 129 death rates per 1000 live births in 2009. According to the 2008 MDG report, between 1990 and 2006, about 27 countries – the large majority in sub-Saharan Africa – made no progress in reducing childhood deaths

TABLE FIVE

3.1.5. Goal 5: To Improve Maternal Health

INDICATORS	90	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	2015 TARGET
Maternal mortality rate (per 100, 000 live births)	1,000	704	704	704	800	800	800	800	800	545	NA	250
	920	920					900				640	
Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	45	42	42	37.3	36.3	36.3	43.5	43.5	43.5	38.9	NA	100
	40	42			41	46	47	47	47	47	46	
Contraceptive prevalence rate (%)	NA	NA	NA	NA	8.2	8.2	12	12	12	14.6	NA	NA
	13	20									22	
Adolescent birth rate (%)	-	-	-	-	25	25	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	124	118					119				122	
Unmet need for family planning (%)	-	-	-	-	17	17	NA	NA	NA	20.2	NA	-
	26	24									25	

Source - 2010 MDG Report for Nigeria

-2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 MDG Reports

This goal is aimed at reducing maternal and health care, proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel and universal access to reproductive health.

According to the UNDP (2010) report, shown on table five, it was revealed that from the 1990 to 2002, there has been a declining trend in maternal mortality rate. Although, from 2003-2007, the result has been constant with 800 per 100,000 live births. Year 2008 also witnessed a drop with 545 per 100,000 live births. From this trend, there is a promising future that maternal mortality rate in Nigeria will be 250 per 100,000 live births in 2015 according to projections.

The proportion of births attended by the Skilled Health Personnel was 45 percent in 1990. So far, the country has not achieved a better level than this result. Despite several measures put in place in the last 2 years to improve on this result, measures include the midwives scheme. However, the SSA result for deliveries attended by skilled personnel is much better than for Nigeria and it shows a promising result that there is every possibility of close achievement to a 100 percent.

According to the MDG(2011) report, maternal mortality rate is concentrated in the sub-Saharan Africa and also has the highest birth rate among adolescents (124 per 1,000 women).In year 1990,maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live birth was 920 and reduced to 640 per 100,000 in 2009 (See table above).

TABLE SIX

3.1.6. Goal 6: To Reduce HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases.

INDICATORS	COUNTRY	90	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
HIV prevalence among pregnant young women aged 15-24 (%)	Nigeria	NA	5.4	5.8	5.8	5	5	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2
	SSA	2.3	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.0	5.0		
Malaria prevalence (per 100,000)	Nigeria	NA	2024	1859	2203	1727	1157	1157	1157	1157	NA	NA
	SSA											
Tuberculosis prevalence (per 100,000)	Nigeria	NA	15.74	12.01	12.57	21.75	7.07	7.07	7.07	7.07	NA	NA
	SSA	142			320	274	281	281	291	328	365	355

Source - 2010 MDG Report for Nigeria
-2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 MDG Reports

From table six, exhibiting the UNDP (2011) report, Nigeria has had a striking success in areas of eradication polio and reducing the number of cases to 98 per cent between 2009 and 2010.

Another remarkable success was the fall in the prevalence of HIV/AIDS from 5.8 per cent in 2001 to 4.2 per cent in 2008. Awareness and use of contraceptives also improved and access to treatment for HIV/AIDS rapidly doubled from 16.7 per cent in 2007 to 34.4 per cent in 2008.
Nationwide distribution of 72 million long insecticide treated bed nets, although only in its initial stages, protected twice as many children (10.9%) in 2009. However, in SSA in 2008, 5.5 per cent were infected with HIV/AIDS. Also, HIV/AIDS incidence rate of 0.4 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa in 2009 meant that 4 adults out of 1,000 were newly infected that year (leading to a total of 1.8 million new infections in the region). The HIV prevalence rate among 15-49 year olds was in the highest in the sub-Sahara Africa (5.7%) in 2007 and much greater than the average for all developing countries (0.9%). There has been a rise in malaria infection , there has been a rise in the production of treated mosquito net from 30 million in 2004 to 95 million in 2007 – but surveys still suggest that half of the children in the region sleep under such nets. Survey data also shows that children who received anti-malaria medication fell between 2000 and 2005. Whereas, the numbers of TB cases continues to rise in most of this SSA regions.

TABLE SEVEN

3.1.7 Goal 7: Promoting Environmental Sustainability

INDICATORS	COUNTRY	90	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Proportion of area covered by forests	Nigeria											
	SSA	29	27					27				
Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility	Nigeria											
	SSA											
Proportion of population using an improved drinking water	Nigeria											
	SSA											

Source - 2010 MDG Report for Nigeria
-2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 MDG Reports

Nigerian natural resources are some of its most valuable assets but are still seriously threatened. For example, between 2000 and 2010 the area of forest shrank by a third, from 14.4 per cent to 9.9 per cent of the land area. Safe water and sanitation became less accessible between 2003 and 2005, but the situation has since improved due to more effective investments. The proportion of the population accessing safe water has risen from 49 per cent in 1990 to 58.9 per cent in 2006 and the proportion accessing improved sanitation, 51.6 per cent (NMDG, 2011).However, when comparing this outcome with the result of the sub-Saharan Africa the number of people using an improved drinking water source from 252 million in 1990 to 492 million in 2008. The percentage of the population with access to improved sanitation facilities in SSA has improved from 26 per cent in 1990 to 31 per cent in 2006. Access to water provision has improved from 49 per cent in 1990 to 60 per cent in 2008(MDGR, 2010)

TABLE EIGHT

3.1.8. Goal 8: To Develop a Global Partnership for Development.

INDICATORS	COUNTRY	90	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	2015 TARGET
Per capita ODA to Nigeria (US$)	Nigeria	3	1.47	1.39	2.38	2.44	4.49	48.94	81.67	NA	NA	NA	NA
	SSA												
Debt Service as a		22.3	8.2	12.4	7.8	5.9	4.5	15.2	11	1.3	0.5	NA	NA

percentage of export of goods and services			9.4								2.0	3.1	
Telephone lines per 100 people		0.3	0.44	0.47	0.54	0.66	0.75	0.87	1.17	1.07	0.86	NA	NA
Cellular subscribers per 100 people		0	0.02	0.21	1.2	2.35	6.65	13.19	22.4	27.35	41.66	NA	NA
Internet users per 100 people		0	0.06	0.09	0.32	0.56	1.29	3.55	5.55	6.77	15.86	NA	NA
		1	3						3				
Teledensity		NA	NA	0.73	1.89	3.35	8.5	16.27	24.18	29.98	45.93	45.93	NA

Source - 2010 MDG Report for Nigeria
-2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 MDG Reports

There has been a consistent rise of ODA to Nigeria since 1990 to 2006 (World Bank, 2006 and CBN, 2007) from 48.94 to 81.67 in 2006. In 2005, the Paris club wrote of US$18 billion of her debt on the condition that the country, Nigeria will pay off the balance of approximately US$12.4 billion owing to the Paris club creditor, which the country also did in 2006. This made debt servicing fall from 15.2% of export to 0.5% in 2008. Trade agreements unfortunately are still not equitable and constrain exports and economic growth.

There has been a very low usage of global partnership for development in sub-Sahara Africa; this implies that countries within this region are not utilizing the opportunities that abound in partnership with other development nations of the world (Eniayeju, 2009).

SECTION FOUR
CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS OF MDGs IN NIGERIA

4.1 Challenges of MDGs in Nigeria

Following the above discussion, it is appropriate to identify those important factors that militate against the effectiveness of the MDGs objectives.

According to the former Head of DFID, Kingsmill (2005), Nigeria deserves more aid; there is a lot of apprehension by donor countries in the face of persistent corruption and rent seeking behavior of Government Officials. Corruption and the notion of governance have been presented as the missing link to successful growth and economic reform including the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This is also corroborated by Ogunmola and Badmus (2010), saying that the implementation of MDGs has been characterized by deeply entrenched corruption and gross inefficiency, and wastefulness.

In addition, the issue of global economic crisis witnessed in late 2008-2009 has lessened donor countries to carry out their eighth goal, which is to develop global partnership for development under the MDG agenda, which is a tool for achieving the first seven.

Also, other challenge recognized by the NMDGR, 2004 to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger are poor access to employment opportunities; inadequate physical assets, such as land and capital, and mineral access by the poor (especially women) to credit even on a small scale, poor access to the means of supporting the rural dwellers and lack of participation in the design, implementation and monitoring of development programmes. In addition, one cannot help to mention lack of data for proper policy action and responses. According to the MDGS report (2010) on Nigeria, there are some MDG indicators that have not been adequately evaluated due to large gaps in data. These data deficiencies are more pronounced with respect to MDG 1 (Poverty and Hunger) and MDG 7 (Environmental Sustainability).

4.2 Prospects of MDGS in Nigeria

The MDGs situation analysis has awakened the country that poverty is still lurking in the country. It also brought about awareness that other human and socio-economic development indicators need urgent attention. Poverty rate in Nigeria is growing at an alarming rate, countries that are over populated like China and India has been able to reduce their poverty rate. According to the United Nation (2009), China reduced it poverty level despite its population to 15.9% in 2005, a remarkable reduction from 1990 level of 60.2% while India had reduced it poverty rate from 49.4% in 1994 to 41.6 % in 2005. Instead of reducing, Nigeria's poverty level increased from 49.2% in 1993 dramatically to 64.4% in 2004.

Given this problem, the question is; is there any prospect for the country to achieve these time-bounds objectives? The Government can meet the MDGs if there is a credible and efficient institution that is necessary for total transformation of MDGS project implementation by 2015. That is, there should be an office that will be responsible for adequate checks and balances in the course of implementation. For Example, the administration of Obasanjo (May 1999-May 2007) provided for the creation of the Oversight of Public Expenditure in Nigeria (OPEN). OPEN is established with the oversight functions of monitoring the use of Debt Relief Gains (DRGs) and this could serve as a model for two major reasons. First, OPEN's leadership is participatory, transparent, and involves government-civil society partnership in that it recognizes and includes the participation of both private and public sector (PPP). Second, the OPEN mechanism was established to track resources. The Nigerian authority should also embark on pragmatic socio-economic policy reforms in the interests of all and sundry. Policies that will address the problems of infrastructure, health, education, macro economic instability and lack of accountability and transparency

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Conclusion

The Millennium Development Goals forecast is crucial to Nigeria's social and economic development and especially at this time when we have about four years to 2015 so as to make adjustments for the future. Consequently, one cannot rightly make a conclusion that neither Nigeria nor SSA has the best result. Considering the situation analysis of both regions, in the areas of Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger, Promotion of Universal Primary Education, Promotion of Gender Equality and to Empower Women, Sub Sahara Africa has the best result. Nigeria achieved the best results in goal4-To Improve Maternal Health, goal 5-to combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other vulnerable disease even though, according to projections, the country is not going to make it up to the required target, Goal 6 and goal 8 – Development of Global Partnership for

Development. The MDG (2010) reported that Overall, the involvement of private sector operators in the telecommunications sector has brought competition, innovation and wider coverage, mobilized new financing for the industry and increased its contribution to GDP. Consequently, the numbers of Nigerians using internet facilities have increased a great deal.

5.2 Recommendations

From the above, Nigeria is a country blessed with abundant human and natural resources there is the need to use this resources judiciously and to make adequate planning for short, medium and long term achievement of goals based on the resources. If these resources are well managed and yield capital returns, Nigeria should invest on huge transformation to refurbish, rehabilitate and restructure the infrastructural facilities, especially the energy and agricultural sectors in the Country. Therefore, providing an enabling environment that will capture potential and virile expatriate to come and invest in Nigeria. Unfortunately, these recommendations might not be feasible if the issue of corruption is not addressed.

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