
Usman Sambo PhD & Babayo Sule

Abstract
This study evaluates the performance of MDGs in Nigeria from 2005 to 2015. The work relied on secondary sources of data because it is a descriptive analytical approach. Existing documents such as books, reports, journals, articles and internet sources were used for data collection while content analysis was used for data analysis. In addition, a theory of Neocolonialism was used to explain the context of the research. The research discovered that the MDGs succeeded in making and achieving remarkable success in many areas particularly in the gender promotion, environmental safety, maternal and infant mortality rates and other goals. It was however identified that its implementation has failed to achieve its desired target especially in poverty alleviation. The study disclosed that lack of political wills, corruption, poor policy implementation and vulnerable economy are the constraints that impeded the success of MDGs in realising its objectives for sustainable development in the year 2015. The work recommends among others that an integrated community development approach should be adopted and the Nigerian government should introduce practical and persistent social investments policies that will reduce the gap of inequality, poverty and joblessness.

Keywords: Development, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Nigeria, Performance, Review

Introduction
Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is a universal policy programme introduced and adopted by world leaders in the year 2000 to ensure that sustainable development has been achieved through programmes such as poverty eradication, freedom, economic development, democracy and democratisation, gender equality, employment generation and other sound socioeconomic and political policies that will foster development rapidly across the globe. The declaration was made by the United Nations in the year 2000 in conjunction and consultation with the World Bank and IMF. Most of the world countries quickly adopted and signed the agreement for the MDGs policies and programmes in their territories in order to fast track development (Smith, 2007:2).

The MDGs targetted specifically developing countries of Africa, Asia and South America who are the most affected with economic and political challenges. African countries were bedeviled by the myriads of socioeconomic and political challenges since political independence and the challenges evaded all attempts to surmount them despite putting many measures on ground towards that. In this regard, the world countries especially the developed ones felt that something urgently

1 Department of Political Science and Administration, Yobe State University Damaturu
2 Department of Political Science, Federal University Kashere, Gombe State
must be done to curb the humanitarian crisis in Africa and the outcome is the emergence of MDGs (Adejumobi, 2015:6).

MDGs are set of policy statement and programmes designed by the world leaders to ensure that all world countries have achieved sustainable development by the year 2015. Some of the major concerns of MDGs include poverty eradication, eradication of discrimination against women, fight against human right abuse, eradication of hunger and malnutrition, democratisation, achieving quality and affordable education and healthcare services, environmental sanitation and other developmental programmes (Adejumobi, 2015: 7).

Nigeria is one of the countries that adopted MDGs in the year 2001 and implemented it fully in 2005 after debt cancellation and the country has been putting several efforts to ensure that she it has meet the targets in collaboration with international donor agencies who are donating cash and kinds for executing policies and programmes towards achieving the MDGs’ goals. Nigeria is a country that is suffering from chronic poverty with majority of the population living below poverty line, unemployment, hunger, high maternal and infant mortality rate, malnutrition misgovernance and other challenges of development (Le Van, 2015:3). It is because of the irresistible indicators of underdevelopment that policymakers in Nigeria found it imperative to instantly assent to the goals of the MDGs. This study is a review and evaluation of the MDGs in Nigeria from the year of implementation (2005) to the target year of success (2015), a period of ten years to revisit the successes and challenges that are encountered to enable for restrategising to ensure sustainable development in the country.

Literature Review

In this section, some relevant literature on the subject matter of study are critically reviewed under the following: the emergence of MDGs and the existing gaps of development; Goals and targets of MDGs; and MDGs in Nigeria as well as the challenges of implementation of MDGs in Nigeria.

The emergence of MDGs and the existing gaps of development

The MDGs were introduced and agreed on at the united nation millennium summit in September 2000 with nearly 190 countries, including Nigeria as signatories to the agreement. The MDGs were introduced as a wider attempt to encourage the international community to stop talking about making a difference in developing world and join forces to start doing something about it. Alongside the goals, a series of 18 targets were also drawn up to give the international community a number of tangible improvements to aim for within a fixed period of time, and also make it easier for them to progress to date. The intention is that almost all of these targets will be achieved by 2015 (DFID, 2007).

The desire to make up a big push towards development in the new millennium motivated various actors to involve themselves in the process of designing a suitable and workable set of goals that will rapidly usher in development across the globe. In this regard, the United Nations found it easier in mobilising state and non-state actors to come up with the most urgent issues that require critical address, well-articulated and designed as MDGs (United Nations, 2015). The MDGs are the world’s biggest promise of tackling the challenges of poverty through collaborative action. They were in their initial stage, clearly differentiated from other past promises of tackling global poverty because they were comprehensive and a collaborative process of financing, implementation and monitoring.
were worked out strategically (Hulme, 2009). The MDGs have their root from the global concern of the revealing statistics on the shocking waves of poverty, diseases, illiteracy and other goals that the world actors or policymakers found out to be issues that demanded for immediate action and that initiated an expedite action for establishing the goals (Chasse, 2016). The MDGs’ major objective and strategy of achieving sustainable development is through committing the international community to the expanded vision and mission of action (International Institute for Environment and Development, 2015).

The focal point of Government in any society is to spearhead development in the social, cultural, economic and political level. In ensuring this, physical necessities and basic rights such as shelter, food, clothing, equality, employment and freedom must be made accessible to the citizenry. It is on this premise, that the UN hosted 189 heads of states to a millennium summit in addressing inimical challenges to development (Igbuzor, 2005).

After World War II, countries leaned to construct concepts or ideologies that speak towards development. Thus, as the world was entering into a new millennium, the United Nations welcomed the MDGs as a developmental key in improving human well-being all over the world. The global aura of MDGs which got a mixed reaction from commentators has however indicated a significant progress globally on the goals. According to UN reports (2015), despite the uneven achievements and shortfalls in many areas, the MDGs has saved millions of lives and improved conditions for many others (MDG Report, 2015).

The UN report (2015) shows, the number of people who survives on less than $1.25 a day has been reduced from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015; the number of undernourished people also fell by half in 2015. In the area of education, Primary school enrolment rate in developing nations rose to 91% in 2015 from 83% in 2000; the global under five mortality rates has declined by more than half, dropping from 90 to 43 deaths per 1000 live births. The fight against malaria witnessed huge improvement, for instance, more than 900 million insecticide treated mosquito nets were delivered to malaria endemic countries between 2000 and 2014. With regards to accessible water, about 2.6 billion have gained access to improved drinking water. There has also been an indirect flow between drinking water target and sanitation. Globally, 147 nations have met the drinking water target, 95 countries have met the sanitation target while 77 countries have met both.

The MDGs were relatively successful in Sub-Saharan Africa, although, some scholars (Aribigbola 2009 and MDGs Report, 2011) believe the performance could have been better. Many countries in Sub Saharan Africa were able to record accelerated progress. For example, in Rwanda poverty reduced drastically from 78% to 44.9% in 2003 with the help of MDGs induced policies. Countries like Benin, Togo, Tanzania and Sao-Tome made considerable change in the area of education. Similarly, Nigeria recorded improved performance in its MDGs Goals (MDGs Report, 2011).

However, the implementation of this time bound developmental goals received mixed feelings as to its actualisation, especially with regards to Africa. On the contrary, to the tail end of 2015, Ban-Ki-Moon reported that the contrary, has yielded astonishing results all over the world in areas such as: poverty, child mortality, maternal mortality amongst others. Likewise, Nigeria has recorded slight progress in the actualisation of the goals, while remarkable progress is made in certain areas,
some are met halfway. As elaborated in the later part of this work, there is still much to be desired in this area in Nigeria context (MDG Report, 2015).

**Goals and Targets of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

There are basically eight (8) major goals of MDGs which include: Eradicate of extreme poverty and hunger; Achieve universal primary education; Promote gender equality and empower women; Reduce child mortality; Improve maternal health; Combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases; Ensure environmental sustainability and Develop a global partnership for development (United Nations Development Programme, 2002).

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2002 came up with a design for target of achieving MDGs in a conference to bring together, in the eighth Goal, the responsibilities of developing countries with those of developed countries, founded on a global partnership endorsed at the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico in March 2002, and again at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development in August 2002. The targets are presented in a tabular form below for easy identification.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Targets</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MDG 1; Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty</td>
<td><strong>Target 1.</strong> Halve between 1990 and 2015 the proportion of whose income is less than $1 a day. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDG 2; Achieve universal primary education</td>
<td><strong>Target 2.</strong> Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDG 3; Promote gender equality and empower women</td>
<td><strong>Target 3.</strong> Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education no later than 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDG 4; Reduce child mortality</td>
<td><strong>Target 4.</strong> Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDG 5; Improve maternal health</td>
<td><strong>Target 5:</strong> Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDG 6; Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases</td>
<td><strong>Target 6:</strong> Have halted by 2015 and began to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria disease.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDG 7; Ensure Environmental Sustainability</td>
<td><strong>Target 7:</strong> Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| MDG 8; Develop a Global Partnership for Development. | **Target 8:** Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Have achieved by 2020 a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, nondiscriminatory trading and financial system (includes a commitment to good governance,
development, and poverty reduction both nationally and internationally)
Address the special needs of the Least Developed Countries (includes tariff-and quota-free access for Least Developed Countries? Exports, enhanced program of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries (HPCs) and cancellation of official bilateral debt, and more generous official bilateral debt, and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction).

Source: UNDP 2002.

In the previous section, it was examined how some of the goals were achieved and the challenges ahead for most especially the developing countries as reported by MDGs in 2011. There is still a long way to go for a country like Nigeria which is the subject matter of study here. However, the next aspects of this work will guide us into the challenges and the successes recorded so far from the adoption and implementation of MDGs in Nigeria.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Nigeria
Nigeria was among the 189 countries that adopted the MDGs in year 2000. The programme was part of the government’s plan to reduce poverty and uphold sustainable development. The MDGs however commenced in 2005, after the cancellation of the debt by Paris Club. The cancellation of the debt enabled the government to save $1 billion annually and this led to the increase and target of pro-poor interventions such as YES, You Win, Conditional Cash Transfer, Conditional Grant Scheme, etc. (Igbuzor, 2013 and MDGs Report 2015). MDGs project in Nigeria have gulped about N1.4 trillion between 2006 and 2010 (Igbuzor; 2013). Prodding further, an analysis of the 2012 budget shows that a total of more than 3 trillion was spent on MDGs (Igbuzor, 2013).

Explicit resource commitments have been made to achieve the MDGs. According to UNDP (2007), in 2003, the Government of Nigeria approved a poverty reduction strategy, the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), based partly on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). To prioritise its spending in line with the Goals, Medium Term sector Strategies (MTSS) were developed to guide the preparation and implementation of the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), with 57 percent of total capital spending earmarked for the MDGs related sectors. A prudential committee on the MDGs was set up in 2005, with membership comprising of the Federal and State governments, the Legislature, Civil Society organisations and the Private sector and development partners. The review of NEEDS has led to the elaboration of a new strategy. NEEDS is more closely aligned to achievement of the MDGs. NEEDS is being aligned with the Seven-Point Agenda that is the focus of the new administration, which is largely in line with the MDGs to form the country’s National Development Agenda. This is expected to be the first medium term plan to implement the Vision 2020 (UNDP, 2007).

Following the debt relief extended to Nigeria in 2005, a Virtual Poverty Fund was established to ensure that monies released from the debt
relief would be channeled towards initiatives to reduce poverty. Since 2006, on an annual basis, about US$1 billion has been allocated to support progress in health, education, water and sanitation, environment, energy, housing, women’s rights, HIV/AIDS, social safety nets (including microcredit scheme and conditional cash transfer), the conditional grant scheme to state governments and for the provision of rural infrastructure. This fund facilitated the establishment of monitoring framework for tracking its expenditure and evaluating its impact. Through the involvement of the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), this monitoring framework has been used to track the performance of the activities implemented under the Debt Relief Gains (DRG) (Igbuzor, 2006).

An MDG awareness campaign was carried out in 2005 with participation from a broad spectrum of society including school children, out-of-school youth, and grass-roots women. It also included training for the media to encourage reporting to bring the Goals to public attention and show the connection between the MDGs and the daily life of the people. This campaign increased awareness of the Goals and underlined the survey of MDGs awareness was also undertaken in 2006. At the national level, MDGs needs assessment has been undertaken in eight sectors – agriculture, energy, environment, housing, roads, water, health and education. Efforts to garner support for the states and local governments were introduced with funding being provided from the national level for “MDGs quick wins” projects. The MDGs report, not less than 14 states have initiated the process of domesticating MDGs reporting. Significant progress has been made in education (MDGs 2 and 3, relating to universal primary education and gender equality). Net enrolment rates show considerable improvement as a result of the government’s implementation of the Universal Basic Education Programme (UBEP), a 145,000 teachers were retrained and 40,000 new teachers recruited through the Virtual Poverty Fund (Igbuzor, 2006).

On Goals 7 and 8 on environment and global partnership for development respectively, initiatives that merit special mention are the agreement on Zero Tolerance on Gas Flares by 2008 and the cancellation of Nigeria’s international debt, freeing up an additional $1 billion a year for poverty reduction. At the Africa regional launch of fighting climate change: Human solidarity in a divided world, President Umaru Musa Yar’Adua appealed for world leaders to address climate change as a matter of urgency to avert a global climate disaster. He explained that developing countries are paying a high toll for the actions of rich nations and called on developed countries to drastically cut emissions, and exceed the report’s recommendations. “While the report is advocating a reduction by 30% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 from advanced countries, the 30% must be reached before 2015 if they really want Africa to reach the MDGs.” President Yar’Adua said that Nigeria, as the host of the regional launch, would take a leading role on climate change in Africa and that his government would not tolerate gas flaring in the Delta beyond 2008 (UNDPHDR, 2008).

Challenges of Implementation of MDGs in Nigeria

The challenges that impede the MDGs from achieving their target include corruption. Nigeria recorded one of the alarming ranks in Corruption Perception Index (CPI) from 2005 to 2015, the period in which the MDGs were adopted (Transparency International, 2016). The African Union in 2017 reported that over $500 billion was lost in Nigeria in forty-years owing to corruption. In essence, the money that should have been invested in implementing the programme even without an external support were stolen and diverted for
private use by the greedy politicians. Political intervention is another factor that affected the success of MDGs in Nigeria. The MDGs reported in 2015 that Nigerian policymakers played politics with policies, statistics and implementation of the goals of MDGs. Environmental issues, attitude of the beneficiaries and the policymakers and perception of the public who always view what the Western world and its institutions is presenting to our communities with suspicion and hostilities as a result of their past records of unpleasant relationship with the natives as observed by the Neocolonial theory used in the work is another considerable factor that impeded the success of MDGs in the country.

Theoretical Framework

This research adopted the theory of Neocolonialism in explaining the MDGs goals and targets towards achieving the desired developmental goals. This is a concept that has been in existence since the 1960s. To the layperson, neo-colonialism is an indirect form of control by a superpower through political, cultural and economic means. It also means an indirect continuation of colonial policies under the guise of achieving freedom (Udodilim 2016). Kwame Nkrumah (1965), in his book Neocolonialism: The Last Stage of Imperialism, articulated the concept as:

…an indirect source of exploitation rather than for the development of the less developed parts of the world. Investment under neo-colonialism increases rather than decreases the gap between the rich and the developing nations. Moreover, the struggle against neo-colonialism is not aimed at excluding the capital of the developed world from operating in the less developed countries. Instead, it is aimed at preventing the financial powers of the developed countries to be used in a way to impoverish the less developed ones.

In this definition, Nkrumah seems to suggest that African nations did not wholly alter their relationship with the colonial powers and this, he argued, gave room for dependency on and exploitation by the imperialist countries. The African economy is regarded as a neo-colonial economy through which the world capitalist system performs their leadership role with the African countries at their mercies. For example, one of the main goals of the Structural Adjustment Programme was to reduce trade deficit to a sustainable level. However, this was not achieved, and, instead, the programme gave rise to many economic problems which are still witnessed in Africa today (Gbara 2008).

Neo-colonialism could also be described as the geopolitical practice of using capitalism, business globalisation, and imperialism to control society instead of either direct military control or indirect political control (Gbara 2008). For example, most African nations rely on their colonial mother countries for defense and internal security. In ensuring development over the world, the United Nations came up with a developmental framework known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the year 2000 to respond to the world’s developmental abnormalities. The framework, which comprised eight well-outlined goals, eighteen defined targets and 48 quantifiable indicators, was designed to solve developmental abnormalities and ensure a better life for citizens. Adopted by 189 nations and signed by 147 heads of states, the goals had a timeframe of being achieved by 2015 (Gbara 2008).

The MDGs emerged from actions, targets and several developmental conferences prior to 2000 and sought to eradicate poverty, and promote human dignity, equality, good standards of living and environmental stability
(Aluko and Nwogwugwu 2013). However, there were mixed feelings regarding the actualisation of the developmental policy by 2015. While some scholars (Aleyomi 2013 and Igbuzor 2013) felt the MDGs target was not comprehensive enough with the 15-year time frame, others (Todaro and Smith 2009) argued that the goals formulated were unfair particularly to Africa.

The implementation of the framework of the MDGs has been regarded as neither benefitting to Africa nor contextualised (Ogunrotifa 2015). Fukuda-Parr and Greenstein (2010) argued that the framework favours developed countries and rich institutions. According to them, the MDGs were not designed to bring development to developing countries. Instead, they were meant to protect the interests of a specific order, which is revolving poverty while maintaining a capitalist status quo. The MDGs have also been criticised on the grounds that the goals set were insufficiently ambitious when considered against the volume of basic human needs that were not being met (Barnes and Brown 2011). For example, the first goal (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) when compared to the 1996 World Food Summit’s goal on poverty alleviation, rather than halving the proportion of people suffering from extreme poverty and hunger, the MDGs should have instead aimed to halve the absolute number of people suffering.

The theory can be applied here in this work because it is a simple explanation of the MDGs in Africa and Nigeria. The capitalist West designed the policies or programmes with the target and Nigeria was asked to sign without any input or modification; all the goals and targets. Since the goals or targets cannot be in accordance with Nigeria’s indigenous system, it cannot succeed as expected that is why the literature above disclosed that the programme has not succeed as anticipated in Nigeria. the country is not allowed to design its own poverty eradication programmes. Thus, the programme cannot achieve the desired result. The Theory was chosen for this study because its assumptions that the dominant world powers continue to find strategies and ways of subjugating, and external direction of the policies of developing countries can be seen in how the MDGs were designed externally by developed countries that have a different focus from our own. Our countries should have been allowed or required to design their own home-grown strategies of development as well as the suitable ways for implementing them.

Methodology

The paper used a qualitative method of data collection and analysis in which secondary sources were used such as books, journals, newspaper sources and internet sources. The data obtained were presented using thematic analytical interpretations.

Discussions and Findings


The 2008 Nigeria MDG Report which denoted a mid-point of the 15 years millennium journey, however, indicated a slow-paced approach in the realisation of the goals on the underlying basis of the 2005 Nigeria MDG report (Igbuzor, 2013). The report indicates that the number of people living in poverty was to have declined from 54.7% to 28.7% in 2007 in ascertaining the assurance of the goal but it has not gotten there. On the other hand, infant mortality rose from 81 per 1000 live births in the year 2000 to 110 per 1000 live births in 2005/2006 against the global target of 30 per 1000 live births in 2015; Under the midway target, maternal mortality rates were expected to fall within 440 per 100000 live births, however, it was 828 deaths per 100000 live births and 531 deaths per 100000 live births in urban areas. The numbers of people with access to safe drinking water rose from
54% in 2000 to 60% in 2005/2006 while the proportion of the population with access to basic sanitation dropped from 42.9 in 2000 to 38% in 2005/2006 (Igbuzor, 2013: 10-12).

In view of the poor mid-point performance, some scholars (Oshelowo, 2011 and Ajiye, 2014) are of the opinion that the country may be unable to achieve the MDGs target in 2015 especially given the lack of transparency and accountability, misuse of funds, poor coordination and corruption facing the implementation of most of the MDG Programmes. Notwithstanding the challenges that the MDGs are facing, some gains were recorded in key sectors.

In 2004, Nigeria poverty status rose from 53.3% to 65.6% in 2006; then moderated to 54.4% in 2011 (MDGs Report, 2015). However, a report by World Bank (2014) stated that 33.1% Nigerians lives in poverty which is a closer range to the 21.35 % target for 2015. This report however contradicts the NBS (2011) and UNDP (2013) report estimate that about 69% people live in poverty. This programmes has yielded remarkable achievement in the Universal Primary Education following the improvement in school net enrolment rate from 60% in 1995 to 84% in 2004; 87.6% in 2006 and 88.8% in 2008 (MDG Report, 2013). However, due to insurgency in the North and insecurity in some other parts of the country, the net enrolment rate dropped to 59% in 2011 and moderated to 68.7% in 2014 (Nigeria MDG Report 2015).

In gender aspect, MDGs have succeeded in many prompts. Statistics showed that there has been a progressive increase in the ratio of girls to boy in primary school. In 1995, the ratio was 86% but declined to 78% in 2000. The figure climbed to 90 % in 2012 and 94% in 2013. Similarly, ratio of girls to boys in secondary school witnessed similar turnaround from 78% in 1991 to 86% in 2005 and 91% in 2013 (Federal Ministry of Education, 2015). Share of women in wage employment has also witnessed a slight progress from 6.6% in 1990 to 7.7% in 2010 and 14% in 2012 has compared to the desired 100% target. Women involvement in politics has also witnessed changes. Statistics showed that women seats in the parliament improved from 3.1% in 2000 to 7.5% in 2008 and 5.11% in 2015 as compared to the 35% required target for 2015. At the state level, seats occupied by women in all Nigerian states were 2.19% in 1999 and jumped to 6.97% in 2011. There was an impressive growth at the grass root level, where seats chaired by women increased from 1.21% in 1999 to 9.43% in 2007 (National Bureau of Statistics, 2012).

The under-five mortality rate has witnessed slight progress as it has improved from 191 deaths in 1990 to 89 deaths per 1000 in 2015 as against the 63.7 deaths per 1000 target for 2015. IMR has also witnessed a similar trend, from 91 deaths per 1000 to 100 deaths per 1000 in 2004, then declined progressively to 58 in 2014 as against the 2015 30.3 deaths per 1000 target (NBS, 2014). Nevertheless, in the actualisation of the MMR target in Nigeria, there has been a remarkable progress from a value of 1000 in 1990 to 243 maternal deaths per 1000, waylaying the 2015 target of 250 maternal deaths per 1000 (MDGs Report, 2015). Additionally, the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel increased from a low of 36.3% in 2004 to 58.6% in 2014. Antenatal care coverage also witnessed changes from 6% in 2004 to 68.9% in 2014 as against the 100% target (Nigeria MDGs Report, 2015).

In Nigeria, statistics shows that HIV prevalence among young women aged 15-24 is on the decline. The rate of infection fell from 5.8% in 2001 to 4.1% in 2010. This however falls short of the 2015 target of 0.9%. Proportion of the population with advanced HIV infection that has access to antiretroviral drugs increased from 23.9% in 2000 to 48% in
2014 as against the 100% 2015 target. With regards to Malaria, there has been a sharp increase in the prevalence rate, despite distribution of long-lasting insecticide treated bed nets and other malaria preventives. The statistics which was 2,122,663 in 1998 increased to 5,326,573 in 2008 and 10,143,142 as against the 0 target for 2015 (MDG Report, 2015).

An appraisal of the MDGs in Nigeria in 2015 revealed the following as indicated in table 2.

**Table 2: Evaluating Nigeria’s Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDGs Goals</th>
<th>Process Towards Target</th>
<th>Conclusion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</td>
<td>Appreciable progress especially in reducing hunger and underweight children</td>
<td>Goal not Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achieving Universal Primary Education</td>
<td>Slight progress mainly because of the insurgencies and insecurities in some parts of the country</td>
<td>Goal not Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoting Gender Equality and Women Empowerment</td>
<td>Satisfactory progress in areas in the ratios of girls to boys in school and Weak progress in women empowerment.</td>
<td>Goal not Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction of Child Mortality</td>
<td>Satisfactory Progress</td>
<td>Goal not Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvement in Maternal Health</td>
<td>Appreciable Progress in Maternal Mortality Ratio. Weak Progress in other indicators</td>
<td>Goal not Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases</td>
<td>Weak Progress</td>
<td>Goal not Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensuring environmental sustainability</td>
<td>Appreciable progress in the provision of safe drinking water. Weak progress in other Indicators</td>
<td>Goal not Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing Global Partnership for Development</td>
<td>Appreciable and Satisfactory Progress</td>
<td>Goal Met</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Nigeria MDGs Report (2015).

**Findings**

The major findings from the previous works studied in this work, the current work and the theoretical framework, it is discovered that:

1. The MDGs were designed and introduced by the UN based on the desires and initiation of the developed world without an adequate consultation with the affected states or the beneficiaries which are the developing countries;
2. The introduction of the MDGs by the UN and its support by world powers revealed that neocolonialism is still existing and countries like Nigeria are dominantly being manipulated and remote-controlled by the powerful states globally;
3. Nigeria failed to utilise the goals and targets of MDGs within the periods despite the various financial, technical and logistic support from the economically-rich countries;
4. MDGs succeeded in some aspects such as reducing the rate of maternal mortality and infant mortality, environmental safety while it did not record any serious impact in terms of poverty and eradication of diseases as well as gender promotion and
5. Nigeria must introduce serious macroeconomic policies to lift the populace from the current socioeconomic malaise of underdevelopment in line with the target of MDGs towards SDGs.
Conclusion and Recommendation

The work concludes that underdevelopment is an alarming social phenomenon which should be tackled in order to prevent the outbreak of law and order. Because of the menacing rate, the MDGs in 2001 came up with some designed programmes to help the developing countries fight some serious developmental problems including poverty which is one of the most disturbing social indicators. It is concluded that the MDGs did not fulfill its mission of achieving its goals globally, and in Nigeria by the year 2015 as expected because of many factors. The challenges that impede the MDGs from achieving their target include corruption, political intervention, environmental issues, attitude of the beneficiaries and the policymakers and perception of the public who always view what the Western world and its institutions is presenting to our communities with suspicion and hostilities as a result of their past records of unpleasant relationship with the natives as observed by the Neocolonial theory used in the work. Nevertheless, despite the obstacles witnessed in the process of implementing the MDGs in Nigeria, it has impacted immensely in lifting thousands out of poverty and it has recorded a remarkable and a significant landmark achievement in the areas of MDGs goals. Thus, the following is recommended for a better performance in future:

1. The policy designers should integrate the locals or the beneficiaries in the process of designing the programme so as to enable the contribution of the selected target with their inputs on how to go about the programme in future. This will help in warding up suspicion and negative perception of a hidden agenda in the local community and it will also enable the beneficiaries to build their own capacity in their own indigenous way instead of the universal approach which may not work in our local communities.

2. It is recommended that the MDGs should identify technocrats separate from the stakeholders in the government who have integrity and honesty to avoid the influence of politics in the process of the implementation of the goals. This will eschew corruption and other unwanted interference from the part of the government. They should remain as partners providing technical assistance to the MDGs without unnecessarily diverting the process.

3. It is also recommended that the MDGs should set a new target and identify technicalities and processes of achieving them but, it should be remembered that MDGs alone cannot help in achieving the goals. Social investment programmes by the Nigerian government should be introduced which will complement the efforts of the MDGs in achieving sustainable development and poverty reduction.

References


