

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS, NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA *“THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEBATE”*

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ABSTRACT

This paper examined millennium development goals and Nigeria's national development and security from the perspective of the international development debate. The theoretical and historical methods were used to evaluate the data that documents the international development debate, which sets the policy and agenda for development in emerging economies like Nigeria. The findings showed that first, the dominant views about development that set the agenda and serves as drivers in policy documents for development in Nigeria are essentially international in origin, content and context with security implications. Second, the data that documents Nigeria's score card for the achievement of the MDGs showed that a substantial segment of those who live on less than US \$1 per day are worse-off than they were when the MDGs declaration was made in 2000 with potentials for economic, social and political insecurity. This implies that relative poverty increased over the period of the declaration of MDGs in Nigeria. Thus, growing poverty, especially when accompanied with unequal access to economic, social and political opportunities is correlated to insecurity. The study recommends that Nigeria should initiate its development policy document and implementation strategy that would be amenable to the socio-cultural, political and economic environment and security needs that generated those circumstances that created the challenges of underdevelopment- poverty, unemployment, high maternal mortality, hunger, inequality, bad governance, poor education, weak infrastructure and insecurity. Value re-orientation must be pursued in order to stem the tide of corruption, bad governance and resource misallocation that precipitate insecurity.

Keywords: Development, Goals, Millennium, National, Security

1.0 Introduction

The challenge of growing poverty and threat to security in Nigeria has kept issues of national development in the front burner in all the fora where concerns for the collective wellbeing of all Nigerians are kept in focus.

From the academia to the field of industry, from the political arena to the field of science and technology, social environment and other human endeavors within the entity of Nigeria the concern for national development and

security is shared by all with genuine interest for the total wellbeing of Nigerians. As the issues of Nigeria's development and security engage our attention, it is of critical importance to evaluate the opportunities for development provided through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as internationally agreed agenda and indicators of development at the dawn of the 21st century. Also, it is necessary to put in perspective the international development debate in history that documents the philosophy of national development in developing and emerging economies. The relevance of the history that documents the philosophy of national development in developing and emerging economies is to show clearly that the most potent and sustainable driving force behind any development efforts is the 'origin' of the agenda for development and the disposition of the characters and actors behind such agenda. By 'origin' it is implied: are the agenda and indicators a result of the experience and careful observations of the residents of the area in want of development? Are such agenda and indicators a collective resolve of the key segments of the society in need of development? Does the pursuit of such agenda and indicators possess the potentials to deliver an all-inclusive results for the differing segments of the society? The answers to these questions hold for us a significant opportunity to ascertain the likely security implications, the quality and sustainability of the quantum of the driving force underlying the pursuit of internationally determined agenda and indicators for national development in developing and emerging economies like Nigeria. This will by and large provide a platform for understanding the security implications of the pursuit of internationally determined agenda for development by Nigeria.

This study subscribes to the recent view of development that connotes current availability and access to basic socio-political and economic necessities of life such as education, health, water supply, and electricity, and good governance, equal access to sustained income earning opportunities, equal access to social, political and economic opportunities on a sustained basis. It is the need for quality living that drives the efforts put towards the pursuit of such indicators that defines development. Clearly, nations are differently endowed with the resources that are precursor to development. However, it is the ability and the willingness of each nation to harness and channel such resources towards desired usefulness and goals that outlines the state, level, depth, length and breadth of development highlighted by the aforementioned indicators. Nigeria is one of those nations that are overwhelmingly endowed with both human and natural resources that are precursor to development, yet is one of the comity of nations with the worst case scenario in social, political and economic development. Nigeria as a nation appears to possess a great measure of the ability but lacks the requisite willingness to harness and channel its resources towards addressing the key issues of development. The intention of this study is to draw attention to the international dimension of the development debate on which developing countries have anchored their development policy and agenda and its security implications for Nigeria. The rest of the study proceeds in four sections; section 2 puts into perspective the international development debate and Nigeria's development agenda, section 3 focuses on Nigeria's strategy for achieving the MDGs; while section 4 provides Nigeria's score card on the achievement of MDGs and its security implications; and conclusion and recommendations are provided in section 5.

2.0 The International Development Debate and Nigeria's Development Agenda

Generally, there are divergent views on the concept of development, and it is for this reason that an appreciation of what development is within the purview of the interests to be advanced in this discourse becomes of critical importance. Prior to the 1970s the concept of development was essentially viewed as an economic phenomenon in terms of the ability of an economy to have successive rapid gains in per capita Gross National Product (GNP) that would generate spill-over effects to the people in form of new employments and economic opportunities. Also, it is always expected that such rapid gains in per capita GNP would elicit greater access to and wider distributions of the social cum political and economic gains of growth. According to Todaro and Smith (2005) issues of development in strict economic sense were cast in terms of planned alteration in the structure of production and employment in such a way that the share of agriculture declines in both cases, while that of manufacturing and service industries increases. Thus, the focus of development strategies was on the rapid industrialization at the expense of agriculture and rural development. However, the economic perspective of development was sometimes followed with some social indicators such as gains in literacy and schooling, health services and housing. Issues of poverty, gender equality, income and opportunity inequality, unemployment were considered of less importance when compared to the efforts put towards ensuring economic growth.

From the mid 1980s a number of economies in Europe and United States of America (USA) had met their growth targets, and some developing economies started experiencing rapid economic growth. However, growth in developed economies

were accompanied with job and wealth creation and consequently changes in living standards; while growth in many developing economies left the levels of living standards of most of the people unchanged. This was a clear indication that something was wrong somewhere. This scenario set the agenda for policy debate on the urgent need to redefine and re-assess the concept of development. One of the prominent outcomes of such debate was the conceptualization of economic development in terms of reduction of poverty, inequality and unemployment within the context of a growing economy (Jegadish, 1996; Todaro & Smith, 2005). Also, Dudley (1969) had pointed out that if poverty, unemployment and inequality have declined from high levels then a country with such experience could be said to be developing. But if on the other hand one or two of these problems have been growing worse, it would be "strange" to consider the result as development (Richard, 1995).

Again, Todaro & Smith (2005) showed that the situation in the 1990s worsened further as growth rates turned negative for many developing economies, forcing governments (faced with mounting foreign debt problems) to cut down on their already limited social and economic programs. During the 1990s, while this situation reinforced itself within the developing economies, there were no incentives to count on the high growth rates in the developed economies to spill-over to the poor in developing countries. Available evidence (as indicated in Todaro and Smith, 2005) showed that while United States and Great Britain experienced strong economic boom in the 1990s, average incomes actually declined in the sub-Saharan Africa, and the number living in extreme poverty – less than US \$1 per day - in the region rose by about 50 million people. Earlier on, Goulet (1971) had noted that underdevelopment is a real fact of life; it defines a state of mind as much as a

state of national poverty. Goulet (1971) as cited in Todaro and Smith (2005) was categorical when he forcefully portrayed underdevelopment as follows:

“Underdevelopment is shocking: the squalor, disease, unnecessary deaths, and hopelessness of it all! No man understands if underdevelopment remains for him a mere statistics reflecting low income, poor housing, premature mortality. The prevalent emotion of underdevelopment is a sense of personal and societal impotence in the face of disease and death, of confusion and ignorance as one gropes to understand change, of servility toward men whose decisions govern the course of events, of hopelessness before hunger and natural catastrophe. Chronic poverty is a cruel kind of hell, and one cannot understand how cruel that hell is merely by gazing upon poverty as an object”

The World Bank (1991) had also started taking a multi-dimensional approach to the understanding of development when its World Development Report indicated that the challenge of development, particularly in poor countries encompasses as ends in themselves better education, higher standard of health and nutrition, less poverty, a cleaner environment, more quality of opportunity, greater individual freedom, and a richer cultural life. Before the 1990s, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had prescribed structural adjustment policies anchored on liberalization with privatization as the policy handle for realigning developing economies recovery and growth patterns. The tenets of liberalization formed the basis for drawing the “Washington Consensus” and “Santiago Consensus” on the State in Development policy; that held sway in the 1980s and 1990s. The two consensus reflected the free-market approach to development held by the World Bank, IMF and

key international development agencies. The underlying philosophy for privatization was that it will deliver the greatest good to the “deserving” in terms of “ability to pay” while at the same time ensuring that available scarce resources are allocated on the basis of efficiency that will generate growth on a sustainable basis. Developing nations plunged into this “new hope” for economic growth from the mid 1980s through the late 1990s with mixed results. For instance, Nigeria introduced the Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) in 1986 that fundamentally altered the structure of production in the domestic economy. The result was a very sharp fall in the living standard of the people while there was a marked resurgence in the growth potentials of the country’s GDP (Jibril, 2003). The program was discontinued in view of the fact that the growth experienced did not translate into creation of new jobs, improved standard of living, increased access to portable water and electricity, reduction in poverty and increased access to health services. In fact, the state of utilities worsened and there was huge outcry to discontinue the program.

Before 1986, Development planning approach formed the basis for economic policy designs in Nigeria after independence in 1960. This approach was a conscious governmental effort to influence, direct and in some cases, control changes in the principal sectors of the economy (CBN, 2000). The intention was to foster rapid and sustainable real growth geared towards employment creation, infrastructural development and achievement of high rate of standard of living. Based on this, four development plans were designed and implemented between 1960 and 1985. During this period Nigeria was considered as an “under-borrowed” nation with a foreign debt of ₦17, 300 million at the end of 1985. The Development Planning Approach was jettisoned in favor of internationally prescribed (SAP) in 1986 as a

new development strategy that would guarantee growth, efficiency and equity for Nigerians. The argument was that SAP was necessary in order to boost private sector participation in productive activities and remove cumbersome administrative controls and to adopt more market-friendly measures and incentives that would encourage the growth and development of private enterprise and more efficient allocation and resource use (CBN, 2000). However, the overall target was the reduction of direct involvement of government in productive activities through privatization and commercialization programmes. SAP failed to generate new jobs, increased access to education, health, poverty reduction, low mortality rate, gender equality and growth in infrastructure. Also, Nigeria government adopted a Three-year Rolling Plan in the management of the economy in response to the 'highly fluid international economic environment' of the 1990s. Essentially, the first three-year rolling plan (1990-1992) was launched with the primary objective of consolidating the "achievements" of SAP (CBN, 2000). At the beginning of 1993, the government styled its development policy approach as "Guided Deregulation" while subsuming the rolling plan approach. At this time the "Washington Consensus" and "Santiago Consensus" which reflected the free-market approach to development held by the World Bank, IMF and key international development agencies had received international ratification as the basis for growth policies.

The inclusion of social indicators such as nutrition, access to education, access to health, portable water, and electricity other than economic indicators like income and wealth in the framework for the overall assessment of development was succinctly argued by Sen (1985 and 1999) who pointed out that "Economic growth cannot be sensibly treated as an end in itself and that

development has to be more concerned with enhancing the lives we lead and the freedoms we enjoy." Sen's (1999) argument points to the fact that poverty measured in terms of lack of income or wealth only, represents a gross underestimation of the content and context of poverty when considering poor or non-poor persons. It was on the basis of this that development came to be conceived as a multidimensional process that involves major changes in social structure, national institutions, accelerated economic growth, reduction in inequality, sustained access to nutrition and health, and poverty eradication (Todaro & Smith, 2005).

The new view of development has been conceptualized to include three core values: sustenance, self-esteem and freedom. In the conceptualization of development into these three core values certain questions have been raised particularly by Todaro (2005): "Is it possible to define or broadly conceptualize what we mean when we talk about development as the sustained elevation of an entire society and social system toward a 'better' or 'more humane' life?" In Todaro's (2005) view the appropriate answer for developing nation in the 21st century should not be necessarily the same as it would have been in the period gone by. Rather the response should elicit a conceptual philosophy of national development that will aggregate the domestic feelings, aspirations and expectations of developing nations that are based on their current socio-cultural, political and economic capacities and realities. It is in this regard that concepts such as "best practices" "international framework" "universal applicability" must be scrutinized in order to establish their value and relevance within the context of development given the peculiarities of each nation.

There is no doubt that the generally accepted three objectives of development as conceptualized in Todaro and Smith (2005) are

worth pursuing by developing nations. These includes; 1) to increase the availability and widen the distribution of basic life-sustaining goods such as food, shelter, health, and security; 2) to raise the standard of living for all members of the society; which includes in addition to higher income levels, more jobs, better education and increasing attention to cultural and human values and; 3) to expand the range of economic and social choices that engender freedom from servitude and dependence on others. But it is important that each developing nation must be able to raise its capacity for self evaluation and assessment of the nature and categories of its developmental focus, and be able to deliberately chart the course of relevant policy actions that would be amenable to the socio-cultural, political and economic environment that generated those circumstances that created the challenges of their underdevelopment- poverty, unemployment, high maternal mortality, growing diseases cases, hunger, insecurity and inequality, bad governance, poor education, and weak infrastructure.

According to Igbuzor (2013) the 2010 human development report expressed the fact that human development is the expansion of people's freedom to live long healthy lives and to advance other goals they have value for. In Kambhampati's (2004) view development requires growth and structural change, some measure of distributive equity, an improvement in socio-cultural attitudes, political transformation that guarantees stability, improvement in health and education as well as increase in urban standard of living and access to employment opportunities.

From the foregoing, it is obvious that the dominant views about development are essentially international in origin, content and context. It is also clear that irrespective of the fact that there are divergent perspectives to

the understanding and approach to development; there is a consensus that the achievement of development would bring about increased access to employment, reduction in poverty and inequality, access to education and health care, good governance and social integration. Furthermore, Igbuzor (2013) pointed out that documented evidence has shown that one in every five of more than 1.2 billion people live and survive on less than US \$1 per day. For instance in Nigeria, using US \$1 per day as rate of measurement, available statistics indicates that incidence of poverty increased from 28.15% in 1980 to 46.3% in 1985 before declining to 42.7% in 1992, it rose again to 65.6% in 1996 (Jibril, 2011, and Igbuzor, 2013). The poverty incidence worsened in 1997 when it rose to 69.2%. However, the 2004 poverty report by National Planning Commission as cited in Igbuzor (2013) showed that incidence of poverty in Nigeria fell to 54.4% in 2004. The incidence of poverty in Nigeria stood at 52.0%, 52.0%, and 54.0% for 2005, 2006 and 2008 respectively (Lawal, Obasaju and Rotimi, 2012). Igbuzor (2013) further indicated that the incidence of poverty increased significantly to 65.1% in 2010. The situation is not any different in most sub-Saharan Africa and other developing nations of the world. It is for these reasons that development is always at the front burner of international organizations such as the United Nations, World Bank and International Monetary Fund. The alarming poverty situation and other acute forms of deprivation prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa and other developing nations was essentially precursor to the United Nation's declaration of the Millennium Development Goals in collaboration with multilateral agencies such as the World Bank, IMF, and World Trade Organization (WTO) in September, 2000. The MDGs represents the international community's commitment to time-bound efforts aimed at addressing

extreme poverty in its multidimensional manifestations- income poverty, disease, hunger, inadequate shelter- and to foster the promotion of gender equality, access to basic education, and environmental sustainability. The framework for the implementation of this strategy is the international community's commitment to support a global partnership with country-led strategies and support from developed economies in terms of fair trade, Official Development Assistance (ODA), debt sustainability and access to medicine and technology. Specifically, the United Nations declared eight focal points that translate into the MDGs with clearly defined targets achievable by 2015 using 1990 as the base year. The goals are: 1) eradicate extreme poverty and hunger 2) achieve universal primary education 3) promote gender equality and empower women 4) reduce child mortality 5) improve maternal health, 6) combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases 7) ensure environmental sustainability; and 8) develop a global partnership for development (Yaqub, 2005).

3.0 Nigeria's Strategy for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals

After the declaration of the MDGs, the United Nations and other multilateral agencies continued to make concerted efforts to guide the implementation process and procedure for achieving the targets by 2015. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) human development report for 2003 pointed out emphatically that the achievement of the MDGs required policy response that would drastically ease existing structural constraints and stepped-up external support (Igbuzor, 2013). The 2003 UNDP human development report specifically recommended six policy thrusts that could help developing countries exit the poverty trap. These include; early and ambitious investment in basic education and health while fostering gender equality; increase the productivity of farmers in unfavorable environment; improvement in

basic infrastructure; an industrial policy that encourages entrepreneurship and diversification of the economy from primary products for exports; promotion of democratic governance and human rights; and environmental sustainability and urban management. In response, Nigeria's development policies and agenda since 2000 have been geared towards the achievement of the MDGs. The first of Nigeria's notable policy response towards the achievement of the MDGs is the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) intended to pilot national development between 2003 and 2007. The NEEDS document outlines a strategy for poverty reduction, employment generation, wealth creation and value re-orientation in Nigeria. Generally, the NEEDS documented presented a public-private partnership driven social agenda to address poverty reduction, education and health; women and youth empowerment, reduction of infant and maternal mortality. The key route to the implementation of the ideals of NEEDS was through a four way strategy: reforming government and institutions, growing the private sector, implementation of a social charter and value re-orientation. The principal strategy was growing the private sector. It is quite easy to identify the conflict of interest between the private sector agenda and the social agenda of the government. In a world of growing social needs embedding a larger poorer segment of the society with shrinking resources, it is difficult if not impossible to achieve a twin objective of private sector agenda and social agenda. It is important to note that subsequent developmental policies and agenda in Nigeria were simply an update of the NEEDS document; these include, Vision 20:2020 (NEEDS II) and Vision 20:2020 (NEEDS III: Transformation Agenda- 2011-2015). Clearly, each of these developmental policy documents are heavily dosed with the MDGs

as a direct response to the millennium declaration of 2000 and the human development report of the United Nations in 2003 as a way of acknowledging “best practices,” “international framework” and “universal applicability.” However, it must be noted that concepts such as “best practices”, “international framework” and “universal applicability” could be misleading given the peculiarities of each country in terms of socio-cultural environment, level of political advancement and economic capability.

4.0 Nigeria’s Score Card on MDGS and its Security Implications

This study takes a closer look at only two of the goals; goal 1: eradication of extreme poverty and hunger and goal 2: achieving universal primary education. The reasons for this special focus are first, the peculiarity of the nature and structure of growth in poverty and hunger in Nigeria in recent times and its implications for national security. Second, education especially at the basic level is fundamental to sustainable poverty exit and socio-economic and political security. Note that the targets for the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger as set by the United Nations are: target 1: to halve between 1990 and 2015 the proportion of people whose income is less than US \$1 per day; target 2: to

halve between 1990 and 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. The target for the achievement of universal primary education is to ensure that by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls will be able to complete full primary schooling (Yakub, 2005; Igbuzor, 2013). The question then is how has Nigeria fared on the scale of these targets set by the international community?

With respect to halving extreme poverty between 1990 and 2015, the MDGs Report (2010 and 2013) and National Bureau of Statistics (2012), indicated that the poverty profile for Nigeria measured in terms of the proportion of people living on less than US \$1 per day indicated 51.55%, 52.0%, 52.0%, 54.0% and 61.20% for 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2010 respectively. As cited in Jimi (2012) the World Bank estimated the proportion of Nigerians living in poverty in 2010 at 84.5% of the population. Again, Jimi (2012) showed that the proportion of those defined in relative terms as the non-poor declined from 72.8% in 1980 to 31.0% in 2010. The poverty gap ratio used for 2010 is 29.6% which was the gap used for 2004 (MDG Report, 2010 and 2013) as indicated on table 1 below. Evidence suggests that the poverty gap may have exceeded 40% with a substantial rise in unemployment and infrastructural break down between 2003 and 2015.

Table 1: Status and Profile of Poverty in Nigeria

Indicator Target	1990	1992	1996	2004	2010	2015
i. Proportion of population living on less than less than USD1 per day (%)	N.A	42.70	65.60	51.55	61.20	21.40
ii. Poverty gap ratio (%)	32.10	N.A	N.A	29.60	N.A	N.A
iii. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption (%)	5.0	5.10	5.10	5.90	5.50	N.A
Note: N.A: Not Available						
Source: Adapted and modified from MDGs Report (2010 and 2013)						

According to MDGs (2010 and 2013) report as indicated on table 1 above, the share of the poorest quintile in national consumption averaged 5.90% in 2004 and 5.50% in 2010 is expected to be far

less than that at the end of 2015. However, unofficial sources as cited in Igbuzor (2013) had quoted poverty rate in Nigeria to be an average of about 70%, while the MDGs target for 2015 is 21.40% (Abdulgafar, Ibrahim and Alasinrin, 2013). The sub-Saharan poverty rate measured in terms of people living on less than US \$1 per day averaged 51.0% for the same period under review.

Table 2: Proportion of People who suffer from Hunger in Nigeria

Indicator	1990	2001	2004	2010	2015
Target					
1. Prevalence of underweight children Under five years of age (%)	35.7	28.7	30.0	24.0	19.60
ii. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption (consuming 2,900 Calories or less daily) (%)	39.0	N.A	35.0	32.83	14.5
Note: N.A: Not Available					
Source: Adapted and modified from MDGs Reports (2010 and 2013)					

Again, in terms of halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger between 1990 and 2015, the MDGs report (2010 and 2013) presented on table 2 above indicated that the prevalence of underweight children under the age of five years for Nigeria was 35.7%, 28.7%, 30.0% and 24.0% for 1990, 2001, 2004 and 2010 respectively; while the proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption (consuming 2,900 calories or less daily) was 39.0%, 35.0% and 32.83% for 1990, 2004 and 2010 respectively. The sub-Saharan Africa average of underweight children under the age of five years is 25% for the same period (Jimi, 2012).

Table 3: Status of universal primary education indicators in Nigeria

Indicator	1990	2000	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2012	2015
Target									
i. Net enrolment in primary Education (%)	68.0	95.0	81.10	84.60	87.90	89.60	88.80	N.A	100.0
ii. Primary six completion rate (%)	58.0	76.70	82.0	69.20	67.50	67.50	80.0	87.70	100.0
iii. Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds (men and women) (%)	N.A	64.10	60.40	76.20	80.20	81.40	80.0	66.01	100.0
iv. Proportion of pupils starting Primary 1 who reach primary 5 (%)	67.0	97.0	74.0	74.0	74.0	74.0	72.3	N.A	100.0
Note: N.A: Not Available									
Source: Adapted and modified from MDGs Report (2010 and 2013)									

With respect to the goal of achieving universal primary education, in other words that by 2015, children everywhere— boys and girls alike- will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling; the 2010 and 2013 MDGs report for Nigeria presented on table 3 above indicated that net enrolment ratio in primary

education stood at 68.0%, 95.0%, 81.10%, 84.60%, 87.90%, 89.60% and 88.80% for 1990, 2000, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 respectively. Also, the proportion of pupils starting primary 1 who reached primary 5 averaged 74% between 2004 and 2007, and fell to 72.3% in 2008 (MDGs report, 2010 and

NBS, 2009). The average enrolment rate for sub-Saharan Africa is 72% for the same period. The primary 6 completion rate for Nigeria from the MDGs (2010 and 2013) report stood at 58.0%, 76.70%, 82.0%, 69.20%, 67.50%, 67.50%, 80.0%, and 87.70% for 1990, 2000, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2012 respectively; while the literacy rate of 15-24 year olds (men and women) stood at 64.10%, 60.40%, 76.20%, 80.20%, 81.40%, 80.0% and 66.01% for 2000, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2012 respectively (see also, NBS, 2009).

The average literacy rate for sub-Saharan Africa is 72% (MDGs Report, 2010). The critical issues to note from the above basic education statistics in Nigeria is that the number of pupils starting primary one who reach primary five is a percentage of the total number of pupils enrolled in primary 1 in any given school year who reach primary 5. This category is referred to as the 'survival rate'. From the data on table 3, the survival rate fluctuated through the period, from 97% in 2000 to 72.3% in 2008. The same trend can be observed from the primary 6 completion rate that fell throughout the period from 82% in 2004 to 67.5% in 2007 before rising to 87.70% in 2012. Thus, it is obvious that the net primary enrolment that steadily increased through the period is in contrast with the decrease in the proportion of pupils who started primary 1 and reached primary 5. Also, while a substantial number of children of school-age actually enrolled in school, a number of them dropped out before the completion period. In Igbuzor's (2013) estimation about 10 million children of school age are out of school in Nigeria. The clear indication is that growing poverty reinforces drop-out from school at whatever level.

From the foregoing, a number of questions can be raised, such as; irrespective of the massive government efforts at poverty reduction in pursuit of the MDGs; whose

poverty is being reduced? The relevance of this question is made obvious by the very data that documents Nigeria's score card for the achievement of the MDGs that indicates that a substantial segment of those who live on less than US \$1 per day are worse-off than they were when the MDGs declaration was made in 2000. You will find this extremely fearful and with incalculable security implications if you compare the value of the Naira Vis a Vis the US Dollar of today with the value in 2000. This is an indication that relative poverty may have actually increased over the period of the declaration of MDGs in Nigeria as indicated on table 1. It has been affirmed in Jibril (2011) that high level and wide spread poverty, especially when accompanied with unequal access to economic, social and political opportunities are correlated with insecurity. Thus, growing poverty breeds economic, social and political insecurity; such that without a deliberate and clear design for sustainable economic growth, there would be increased uncertainty with respect to self esteem and relevance. Issues of self esteem and relevance are critical in Nigeria, where access to sustainable income stream is a strong determinant for participation in the political process. Possession of political control is perceived among some Nigerians as the most potent means to resource control and allocation. When low income and uneducated persons are on the increase in any society, they generally cannot adequately educate their own children or start and expand business. This leaves such individuals vulnerable to persuasions for alternative means to active participation in wealth generating activities and political relevance with severe implications for security.

Also, it is of extreme importance to check if the quality of students admitted into training institutions today is better when compared with pre 2000. This is relevant because the students admitted today must have passed

through the basic primary education anchored on the pursuit of MDGs for education. What is the level and rate of the average performance of the students admitted into Nigerian educational institutions when compared to the performance of pre-2000 students? In order for anyone to clear his or her doubts, you will need to visit public primary schools outside urban centers to underscore the capacity for quality foundational education that is critical to graduated performance at the tertiary level necessary for poverty exit. Poor quality of graduates begets limited opportunities for employment in the regular and higher wage paying sectors of the economy. As opportunities shrink because of poor quality education, formal joblessness grows with obvious potentials for youth insecurity with spill-over effects for restiveness, armed robbery, and cultism, kidnapping and religious extremism that have become common features of security reports in Nigeria in recent times.

5.0 Conclusion

From our discussion so far, there is a need to draw our attention to the core of the prospects and challenges of MDGs for Nigeria's national development and security. There is no doubt that the achievement of the MDGs holds the prospects of a Nigeria free from extreme poverty, social deprivation, enhanced access to basic education, increased political participation and good governance, reduced infant mortality and maternal death, equal opportunity and women empowerment, growing global partnership for development and a more secured environment. Is there a possibility of Nigeria achieving the MDGs before the end of 2015? Available statistics if they are anything to go by, readily answers for itself.

Given the nature and philosophy of the international development debate that was precursor to the declaration of the MDGs,

certain formidable challenges become obvious. First, the dominant views about development that set the agenda and serves as drivers in policy documents for development in Nigeria are essentially international in origin, content and context, and as such have implications for Nigeria's internal security. What is important is that Nigeria must be able to raise its capacity for self evaluation and assessment of the nature and categories of its developmental needs and focus, and be able to deliberately chart the course of relevant policy actions that would be amenable to the socio-cultural, political, economic environment and security needs that generated those circumstances that created the challenges of Nigeria's underdevelopment- poverty, unemployment, high maternal mortality, growing diseases cases, hunger, insecurity and inequality, bad governance, poor education, and weak infrastructure. Second, there is a huge problem of information asymmetry in terms of the credibility of data that documents measures of development indicators both for planning and evaluation in Nigeria. It is until all doubts concerning data can be verifiably cleared that measurable planning, implementation and evaluation can be effectively carried out.

Third, development policy documents in Nigeria are heavily focused on concessional assistance from multilateral agencies. This is a natural follow-up from the first challenge of the origin, content and context of development policy and agenda document. Widening poverty gap generate conflicts that undermine the security of Nigeria as a nation. Therefore, Nigeria must originate its development policy document and implementation strategy based largely on own resources and security needs with less reliance on the good will of international development partners. It is on record that no nation can develop sustainably on the basis of the actions

of international development partners without putting at risk the economic, social and political security of its people.

Fourth, corruption and bad governance sit at the commanding height of all the challenges to Nigeria's development, security and the achievement of MDGs. It was Kingsmill (2005) who lamented that Nigeria deserved more aid; but there is a huge apprehension on the part of donor governments and agencies in view of the endemic nature of corruption and rent seeking behavior of Government Officials. The actions of government representatives has been argued to stem principally from the notion that since the resources involved are from abroad there is little or no commitment to probity and accountability. These breeds inefficiency and wastefulness in resource use. This study hopes that with the inception of a new government appropriate value re-orientation will be vigorously pursued to stem the tide of corruption, bad governance and resource misallocation.

Finally, this study notes that the period for the achievement of MDGs will officially elapse at the end of 2015. The United Nations has already put in place a new global development framework and agenda from which templates are generated as replacement for the MDGs

known as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) made up of 17 goals and 169 targets. These are a proposed set of targets that will define the focus and future of international development during the next decade and half. This new framework for international development was first mooted at the United Nations conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 (June, Rio de Janeiro) where a schedule for change in procedures and protocols relating to MDGs were designed to be replaced with those of SDGs at the end of 2015. The prime focus of SDGs is expectedly the economic, environment and social aspect of sustainable development while paying zero attention to security issues- social, economic, political and human life safety. As much as the SDGs are a global agenda for development it is of utmost importance to note that the contributions of developing economies to the debate and discussions that culminated in the goals and targets are quite meager. The zero security content in terms of safety of human lives in the targets of the SDGs leaves a lot to be desired and therefore requires a careful revision of the goals and targets of SDGs to reflect prime focus on safety of human lives in developing economies.

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