

Research article

# MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs) IN NIGERIA WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO TARGET 7D OF GOAL 7 ON URBAN RENEWAL

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## Abstract

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are organized into 8 goals which United Nations including Nigeria and other international organizations such as International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) unanimously agreed in 2000 to pursue in order for the developed nations to assist the developing ones to develop their people through multiple channels. Each of these goals has specific targets and dates for achieving each of them. The aim of this paper is to assess the extent Goal 7, target 7D which has 2020 as its deadline, has been achieved so far in Nigeria. Materials were sourced from MDGs reports, case studies, research reports, and, internet materials. Findings indicate that given the present pattern and trend of environmental development efforts and commitment to urban renewal, Nigeria is not likely to achieve target 7D by 2020. It is therefore, only, through improved and sustained effort coupled with strong political will that Nigeria can attain the goal within the deadline. It is therefore recommended that to reposition Nigeria on the path of sustained effort and renewed commitment, there is need for the adoption of Public, Private Partnership Strategy (PPPS) which will permit the integration of the diverse efforts and resources to achieve slum free cities in Nigeria.

**Keywords;** Millennium Development Goals, urban renewal, slum dwellers, backwardness, environmental development

## Introduction

Apparently, as a result of the observable widespread incidence of backwardness and the magnitude of poverty plaguing mankind across the globe, due to imperceptible rate and unequal distribution of development, many countries of the world, particularly the developed nations, felt that there was need for intervention aimed at ameliorating the scourge of lack of development and reversing the pattern where possible. Sequel to this, alarm

was raised at different quarters that unless drastic measures are taken urgently, more than half of the world population may be wiped out due to neglect, malnutrition, undernourishment, diseases, hunger and other unhealthy conditions. From the perspective which development was defined and discussed, it appears that the developing nations, particularly those nations within the sub-Saharan region of which Nigeria is inclusive are the least developed and the worst hit by the consequences of dragging rate of development.

In terms of material wellbeing, one may be tempted to conclude that Nigerians are fast progressing particularly when it is realized that the rate of private car ownership is on the increase and that the number of Universities has increased from 11 in 1979 to 108 in 2014. Similarly, in view of the sophisticated physical structures in Lagos and Abuja, typified by fascinating network of intersecting dual-carriage-way flyovers and engineering masterpiece of skyscrapers that adorn them, which marvel first time visitors, the impression is that Nigeria is quite fast developing. However, the definition offered by [1] is quite instructive and noteworthy. He distinguished between the three concepts of growth, development and progress. According to him, growth is merely a set of increases in physical quantities; development is growth plus a favourable change in production techniques and consumer behavior; progress on the other hand is development plus a diminution of social tensions between groups within a society. Therefore, what is taking place in Nigeria is growth without the all important development and progress.

Against this background, it is obvious that the excruciating problems of development in Nigeria was part of the issues that agitated the minds of the initiators of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs are the United Nations initiative with the year 2000 as base year and 2015 as target year. Nigeria being part of this initiative is expected to abide by the UN development decisions and directives which are meant to enthrone sustainable development and maximum welfare through poverty elimination, promotion of human dignity and environmental stability. The issue of environmental stability has in the last decade occupied the attention of environmental practitioners, philanthropists, politicians, scientists, governments as well as nongovernmental organizations because of the crucial nature of the interrelationship equation between man and the environment.

As defined by the Wester New Dictionary, the environment is the aggregate of all external conditions and influences affecting the life and development of an organism (man). Thus defined, the environment embraces both physical and non-physical components. The component used for discussion here is the physical component conceptualized as the home within the neighbourhood. The aim of this paper is to assess the level of performance of Nigeria in goal No.7 of the MDGs which seeks to ensure environmental sustainability with particular focus on Target 7D which seeks to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. The guiding question is what are the realities on the ground vis-à-vis the target 7D of the MDGs.

## Materials and Methods

This paper is exploratory and expository in design which intends to unveil the true level of performance of Nigeria in the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as far as Goal 7, target 7D is concerned. To achieve this, materials were sourced from secondary data which included the Nigerian Millennium Development Goals reports, findings of case studies by various scholars in environmental issues, journal papers, unpublished University degree projects and internet materials. Relevant extracts were made from these sources for the purpose of reporting the extent to which Nigeria has shown sustainable commitment towards achieving target 7D of Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goal from 2000 to date. The findings from the analysis of the extracts form the premise on which this paper is developed.

## Background to the Millennium Development Goals

Global concern for the plight of the developing nations over their sluggish social and economic development was openly discussed in September 2000 during the millennium Declaration. During the millennium stadium, all the world leaders present adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The millennium stadium was an outcome of series of United Nations led conferences in the 1990s which motivated the Secretary General, Kofi Annan, to address the United Nations during its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on several issues bordering on the development predicament of the developing nations. In his paper titled, "We the peoples: The Role of the United Nations in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", the Secretary General described succinctly the excruciating conditions of the poor nations and finally called for the intervention of the developed nations. Other interested groups such as Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Bank and the International

Monetary Fund (IMF) had in one way or the other expressed the need for the developed nations to assist the developing ones to develop their people through multiple channels. This view was articulated in a document the OECD regarded as the International Development Goals (IDGs) and this was combined with the United Nations efforts in the World Bank's meeting in 2001 to form the Millennium Declaration. The Declaration relied heavily on the World Bank's report on seven crucial issues about the developing nations, from 1981 to 2008, which relate to; (i), proportion of the World population in extreme poverty, (ii), proportion of the population living on less than 1.25 dollars a day, (iii), rate of enrolment in primary education, (iv), under-five mortality rate, (v), number of people living with and newly infected and killed by HIV/AIDs, (vi), proportion of people using improved water sources , and, (vii), external debt service payments as a proportion of export revenues.

Against the background of this report, the Millennium Declaration focused on three major issues namely, (i), human capital, (ii), improving infrastructure and, (iii), increasing social, economic and political rights. In the Declaration, increasing the basic standards of living was seriously emphasized. For the infrastructural focus, the objectives include improving infrastructural facilities through increasing access to safe drinking water, energy and modern information and communication technology; amplifying farm outputs through sustainable practices, improving transportation infrastructure, and, preserving the environment. For the human capital focus, the objectives chosen include improving nutrition, health care including reducing levels of child mortality, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and, increasing reproductive health, and, education. Finally, the objectives chosen for the social, economic and political rights focus are empowering women, reducing violence, increasing political voice, ensuring equal access to public services, and, increasing security of property rights.

These Millennium Declaration objectives were later amplified and organized by 193 United Nations member States and at least 23 International organizations into what is known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs are organized into 8 goals which United Nations and other International organizations have agreed to achieve by the year 2015/2020. They are:

1. Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger,
2. Achieving universal primary education,
3. Promoting gender equality and empowering women,
4. Reducing child mortality rates,
5. Improving maternal health,
6. Combating HIV / AIDS , malaria and other diseases,
7. Ensuring environmental sustainability, and,
8. Developing a global partnership for development,

Each of these goals has specific stated targets and dates for achieving those targets (Table 1). For the purpose of making the goals achievable and realizable, the Finance Ministers of the 8 richest countries accepted in 2005 to provide adequate funds through the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the African Development Bank (ADB) to facilitate the cancellation of debts owed by the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) so as to enable them to finance social programmes such as health, education and for alleviating poverty, and, environmental stress.

**Table I: The Development Goals, targets and indicators**

Goals	Target		indicators
<b>Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</b>	IA: Halve the proportion of people living on less than 1 dollar a day	(i)	Proportion of population below 1 dollar per day (PPP values).
		(ii)	Poverty gap ratio reduction
		(iii)	Share of poorest quintile in national consumption.
	IB: Achieve decent employment for women, men, and young people	(i)	GDP Growth Per Employed Person
		(ii)	Employment Rate
		(iii)	Proportion of family-based workers in employed population.
IC: Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	(i)	Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age.	
	(ii)	Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption	
<b>Goal 2: Achieve Universal</b>	2A: By 2015, all children can complete a full course of	(i)	Enrolment in primary education
		(ii)	Completion of primary education

<b>Primary Education</b>	primary schooling, girls and boys.	(iii)	Literacy of 15-24 years old, female and male.
<b>Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower women</b>	3A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015	(i)	Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education.
		(ii)	Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector.
		(iii)	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament.
<b>Goal 4: Reduce child Mortality Rates</b>	4A: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	(i)	Under five mortality rate
		(ii)	Infant (under 1) mortality rate
		(iii)	Proportion of 1-year old children immunized against measles.
<b>Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health</b>	5A: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio.	(i)	Maternal mortality ratio,
		(ii)	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
	5B: Achieve by 2015, universal access to reproductive health	(i)	Contraceptive prevalence rate
		(ii)	Adolescent birth rate
<b>Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases</b>	6A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	(iii)	Antenatal care coverage
		(iv)	Unmet needs for family planning
		(v)	
	6B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it.	(i)	HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years, Condom use at high risk sex
		(ii)	Proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS.
	6C: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.	(iii)	Proportions of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs;
		(iv)	Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria.
(v)		Proportion of children under 5 years old sleeping under insecticide-treated bed net	
(vi)		Proportion of children under 5 years old with fever who are treated with appropriate anti-malaria drugs,	
(vii)		Incidence, prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis.	
<b>Goal 7: Ensure environmental Sustainability</b>	7A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs; reverse loss of environmental resources,	(i)	Proportion of land area covered by forest,
		(ii)	Co <sub>2</sub> emissions, total, per capita and per dollar GDP,
		(iii)	Consumption of ozone-depleting substances,
		(iv)	Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits,
		(v)	Proportion of total water resources used,
		(vi)	Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected,
		(vii)	Proportion of species threatened with extinction.
	7B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010 a significant reduction in the rate of loss.	(i)	Same as 7A
7C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.	(i)	Proportion of population with sustainable access to improved water source, urban and rural,	
	(ii)	Proportion of urban population with access to an improved sanitation.	
7D: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100million slum dwellers.	(i)	Proportion of urban population living in slum areas.	

<b>Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development</b>	8A: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system.	(i)	Includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction-both nationally and internationally
	8B: Address the special needs of the least developed countries (LDC)	(i)	Includes tariff and quota free access for LDC exports, enhanced programme of debt relief for LDC and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous overseas development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction.
	8C: Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.	(i)	Through the programme of action for sustainable development of small island developing states and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly.
	8D: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long run.	(i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (v) (vi) (vii) (viii) (ix) (x) (xi) (xii)	Net official development assistance (ODA) total and to LDCs as percentage to OECD donor's GNI, Proportion of total sector- allowable ODA of OECD donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation) Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD that is united ODA received in landlocked countries as proportion of their GNIs, ODA received in small island developing states as proportion of their GNIs Market access: proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries, Average tariff imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing country, Agricultural support estimates for OECD countries as percentage of their GDP Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity. Debt sustainability: total number of countries that have reached their HIPC cumulative completion points. Debt relief committed under HIPC initiatives, Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services.
	8E: In co-operation with pharmaceutical companies provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries	(i)	Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis.
	8F: In co-operation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technology, especially information and communication.	(i) (ii) (iii)	Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population, Personal computers in use per 100 population Internet users per 100 population

Source: United Nations, 2006, The Millennium Development Goals from internet materials

## The realities of goal 7, Target 7D in Nigeria.

The MDG 7, target 7D has its main aim as “to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers”. This can be achieved by drastically reducing the population living in slum conditions. For this to be achieved requires that all unmet provisions that give impetus for slum formation and development must be put in place so as to eliminate the occurrence of slum. Slum elimination has the implication of reducing the population dwelling in slums. Those unmet provisions such as adequate standard housing together with life support systems such as physical and social infrastructures; good accesses, functional power supply, potable water, health services, good schools, drainages and sanitary facilities, markets and shopping outlets, transportation and recreation facilities must be provided in the slum areas as part of the efforts towards the achievement of target 7D.

With few years to 2020 and having been part of the MDGs since 2005, it is germane to access the realities on the ground and understand the extent gone so far in Nigeria. With the exception of Abuja which has only peripheral rather than central or core slum areas because its development was based on physical planning regulations right from inception, there is hardly any other urban centre in Nigeria, be it those of pre-colonial or colonial origin, that does not contain environmentally insalubrious area called slum, which is an unpleasant area of eyesore. Slum areas are neighbourhoods of urban blight and squalid which ranges from simple to complex stages of deterioration. Slum areas exhibit three interrelated types of blight, which are; (i) physical, (ii) social and (iii) economic blight. Physical blight includes conditions of structural deterioration, missing sanitary facilities, deterioration of amenities, lack of and poorly maintained accesses, adverse environmental nuisances and high housing densities. Social blight includes abnormal high rate of juvenile delinquencies, family disorganization, low and high crimes, filth induced diseases and general lawlessness. Economic blight manifests as sharp decline in property values resulting to revenue decline, high incidence of vacant accommodation, tax evasion, joblessness, underemployment, low household income and concentration of menial labour providers [2].

Unfortunately, between 68 to 70 percent of urban dwellers in Nigeria live in such unwholesome urban environment particularly by underprivileged urban households most of which earn below one dollar (N167.00) per day. The determination to eliminate urban slum in Nigeria predates the advent of the United Nations MDGs. For instance, Lagos Executive Development Board (LEDB) was established in 1928 as a planning and housing authority charged primarily with the re-planning, improvement and development of Lagos. This assignment explicitly included slum clearance and option of urban renewal [3]. Immediately after establishment, the Board swung into action and identified two sites for neighbourhood redevelopment scheme which included the 300 hectares of land lying in the northern part of the Lagos Island and the 60 hectares of land around Idumagbo Lagoon. The Board also later cleared Isale-Eko as part of the Lagos Central Planning Scheme (LCPS) in an attempt to decongest the most congested rundown area of Lagos in preparation for 1960 independence. Later in 1935 the Oko-Awo clearance was undertaken. Under the LCPS, the central Lagos slum clearance was planned and executed in 1952, all in an attempt to rid Lagos of slum problems and make it a befitting place that will become the capital of Federal Republic of Nigeria. During the post-independence military regime, there was no less than five slum clearance projects undertaken in Lagos between 1972-1975 [4]. This slum clearance exercise continued to the Badia East in the 90s and the most recent extensive Maroko slum clearance in 1991.

Outside Lagos, there were relatively few half-spirited attempts at urban slum clearance in Nigeria such as 1981 Okpoko environmental up grading [5], the 1990 Owerri community development project, the 1980 Aba upgrading scheme, the 1980 Umuahia upgrading scheme, the 1980 Bauchi redevelopment project, and the 2011 Army Barracks clearance in Port Harcourt. Apart from these few cases, there are no other reported slum clearance schemes which have actually been implemented in Nigeria. What exist are very many research reports on proposed slum clearance in some Nigerian cities. For instance, [10] reports about the proposed slum clearance for some parts of Ibadan such as Bere, Oje, Idi-Arere, Foko, Isale-Osi, Popo, Yemoja and other slum areas but was not carried out because of some traditional and cultural problems. Up till today, the Ibadan slum areas are still there with more decay and deterioration. [6] identified Ibiwe quarters as a typical slum area in Benin and made proposals for its physical upgrading but has not been implemented till date. [7] identified some major slum areas in Nigeria such as Ajegunle in Lagos, Elokuro in Ibadan, SabonGari in Kano and Kaduna, Diobu in Port Harcourt, Ogbete in Enugu, Ndiegoro in Aba and the popular Cable Point in Asaba till date nothing has been done about them. [8], observed that feasibility urban renewal reports have consistently been prepared for some cities in Oyo State but none of them have been accepted for implementation. For instance, the Town Planning Division of the Ministry of Local Government prepared a document on “Upgrading of Core

Areas” in Ibadan and Osogbo in 1984, but apart from the identification of three core areas for possible rehabilitation; Yemutu, Adeoye, Mokola and Agugu and the choice of Agugu for the pilot project, nothing has been done in this regard. Thus Oyo state which is the heart of South Western Nigeria and the most urbanized in the country has had no urban renewal/slum clearance experience or an enduring urban renewal policy [8]. The same is true of all the geo-political zones in Nigeria.

## Results and Discussion

Against the background of the slum clearance realities in Nigeria, one may be tempted to ask the question of whether Nigeria will ever meet the 7D target of the MDGs. Will Nigeria ever attain the target may appear a bitter question because it is very doubtful, given the present state of concern for slum elimination in Nigeria, whether Nigeria will succeed in reducing by half the urban population living under slum conditions by the year 2020 – just six years ahead, particularly when it is realized that almost fourteen years have been spent without any sign of commitment towards attainment of the target. It is interesting to note that the 2005 Nigerian report on MDGs highlights the current status and trends of each of the MDGs, the challenges and opportunities in attaining the goal, the promising initiatives that are creating a supportive environment and priorities for development assistance [9]. In the report, there is evidence that there exists high hope to attain some of the MDGs targets including “Ensuring Environmental Stability.” This creates the impression that Nigeria will be capable of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. But research reports in Nigeria indicate that rural-urban migration has been on the increase and almost all the migrants, because of escalating house rents, resort to finding accommodation in the slum areas, meaning that rather than being on the decrease, the population of slum dwellers have been swelling up over the years. The problem has been that the policy makers in Nigeria appear not to have understood the multi-dimensionality of the relevance and benefits of slum elimination and hence have accorded the need to embark on it a very low priority. This partly explains why governments in Nigeria have not been able to evolve any practicable, comprehensive and planning policies with respect to the complex issues involved in slum clearance or at least measures to mitigate the incidence of urban slum. Often hampered by their lack of grasp of the social, economic, physiological and psychological implications of slum residence, they seem to have accepted a defeatist attitude thus regarding the existing slum conditions as beyond remedy [10].

Improvement or amelioration of slum conditions is full of challenges but feasible and attainable because most advanced countries have successfully achieved it and Nigeria only needs to borrow a leaf from them. Even in Nigeria, pockets of good attempts exist. For illustrative purposes, in Enugu city, the present government in Enugu State led by Barrister Sullivan Iheanacho Chime, in 2011 embarked on an improvement and elimination of the Coal Camp (Ogbete) slum condition by way of rehabilitation and redevelopment of roads and streets, as well as provision of pipe-borne water, drainages and solid waste disposal facilities. The outcome is quite impressive and commendable, but this is just a tip of the iceberg because there are still other slum areas in Enugu city such as Ogwuagor, Obiagu, OnuAsata, Ama- Hausa, Ugbo-Oghe, Onuato, Ngenevu, Jamboree, Ugwu Aaron, Iva valley, Pottery and Artisan quarters residential neighbourhoods yet to receive attention. This kind of situation is not uncommon in most Nigerian cities. Against this background, it is difficult to avoid the temptation of asserting emphatically that unless by special miracle, Nigeria may not attain MDGs target 7D by the year 2020. By the current pattern and trend of environmental development efforts and commitment, the urban slum population is on the increase because fresh migrants into the cities from rural areas lack the wherewithal to secure accommodations in the recent and modern layouts and estates in the cities but rather in the slum areas.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

The problems of urban deterioration have occupied the attention of academicians both nationals and expatriates, environmentalists, national and international non-governmental organizations, politicians, welfare workers for many years with an increased tempo in the last decade. Slum neighbourhoods are the “sick areas” of the city that need urgent treatment for the sake of the urban poor that constitute the major occupants. This is why it is widely believed that urban renewal is undertaken for the purpose of improving the lives of the poor by expanding their choices, freedom and dignity and little wonder then why the world nations included slum issues as one of the MDGs targets. Whether Nigeria, given the current trend and pattern of commitment to urban renewal, can or cannot meet the MDG 7D target within the deadline is an issue that should agitate the minds of all Nigerians in politics, government, business and civil service. The National Environmental and Economic Development Strategy (NEEDS) report clearly states that “if present trend continues, the country is not likely to meet the

MDGs". The first Nigerian MDG report in 2004 states that "based on available information it is unlikely that the country will be able to meet most of the goals by 2015 especially the goals related to eradicating extreme poverty... It further states that apart from goal I, the existing data shows that if the current trend continues, it will be difficult for the country to achieve the MDG targets by 2015. However, the 2005 MDG report is hopeful that there is possibility for achieving all the MDGs in Nigeria with sustained efforts and strong political will [9]. It then means that in the absence of strong political will and sustained efforts, the promise of 2005 report will not hold, and, this is the situation Nigeria is experiencing presently.

Besides these weaknesses, urban renewal efforts in Nigeria have been bedeviled with poor planning, commitment gaps, policy disconnections, corruption and general poor governance [11]. To reposition Nigeria on the path of sustained effort and commitment, there is every need for the adoption of Public, Private Partnership Strategy (PPPS). This will permit the integration of the diverse efforts and resources to achieve healthy urban environment. The rationale of this partnership is the need to harness the combined strengths of both the public and private sectors to establish complementary relations on the premises that both the public and private sectors have unique advantages in specific aspects of service or project delivery. These are arrangements between government and private sector entities for the purpose of providing public infrastructure [12]. PPPS will inject new spirit of development, speed up the rate of development, inculcate strong will and foster sustained effort towards the path of achieving substantial percentage of success in target 7D of MDGs.

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