British Journal of Environmental Sciences
Vol.4, No.2, pp.37-54, June 2016
Published by European Centre for Research Training and Development UK (www.eajournals.org)

Analysis of MDG Projects on Land Use Planning In Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT: *Evidences from the literature reveals that many United Nations resolutions and development targets had remained elusive while some important projects and programmes are either unimplemented or are not yielding the anticipated outcomes. The politicization of decisions on MDG projects result in neglect of vital action area. The study analysed the various Millennium Development Goal (MDG) projects on land use planning in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. It adopted the method of survey, direct observation, and review of literature in gathering relevant information on MDG projects in the study area. It reviews the impacts of the MDG projects on the residents. Also, it carried out a comparative analysis of the MDG projects in line with the goals and targets of the Millennium Declaration. The empirical survey carried out helped to identify major MDG projects in the study area. It was discovered that the bulk of that MDG projects in the study area have focused majorly on Goal-#1 of the millennium declaration with little effort in other goals/targets of the millennium declaration. This showed that MDG efforts are not properly aligned with the focus of realization of the MDGs in the study area. Improved method of involvement of residents in project decision making, deliberate creation of environment-friendly projects, deliberate broadening of investment into other goals of the Millennium declaration were some of the suggested ameliorative measures.*

KEYWORDS: Millennium Declaration, Development Targets, Projects, Politicization, Millennium Development Goals

INTRODUCTION

In 2000 the 192 member states of the United Nations adopted the Millennium Declaration as a renewed commitment to human development. The Declaration includes eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), each with quantified targets, to motivate the international community and provide an accountability mechanism for actions taken to enable millions of poor people to improve their livelihoods. In the case of Nigeria, emphasis on the MDGs program became more pronounced after the exit from the Paris and London Clubs in 2005 (MDGs Performance Tracking Survey, 2012). The MDGs survey of 2012 is the first survey exclusively designed to capture some of the MDGs data needed for the estimation of relevant indicators. Before now, the evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals faced crucial challenges because of a general dearth of data. One of the shortcomings which emanated from the foregoing is that the country did not witness a comprehensive and holistic analysis of her MDGs operations. Like most developing countries, the challenges of producing quality data have been an integral part of the country's development problem in the past. The survey and performance-tracking of the country's progress in the MDGs affords government and other relevant stakeholders the opportunity of getting first-hand information, not only with the performance of vital socioeconomic indicators, but also the direction the economy is headed.

The interdependences of all the MDGs are determining factor to the achievement of the goals as a whole and of each goal individually. For example, environmental sustainability policies have on the one hand a bearing on health and on poverty eradication and, on the other hand, conservation of ecosystems will not be possible if populations are ridden by poverty, hunger and malnutrition. The majority of the undernourished people worldwide, which grew by 100 million in 2009 (74), lives in marginal areas with serious soil and land degradation, and the associated loss of ecosystem services.

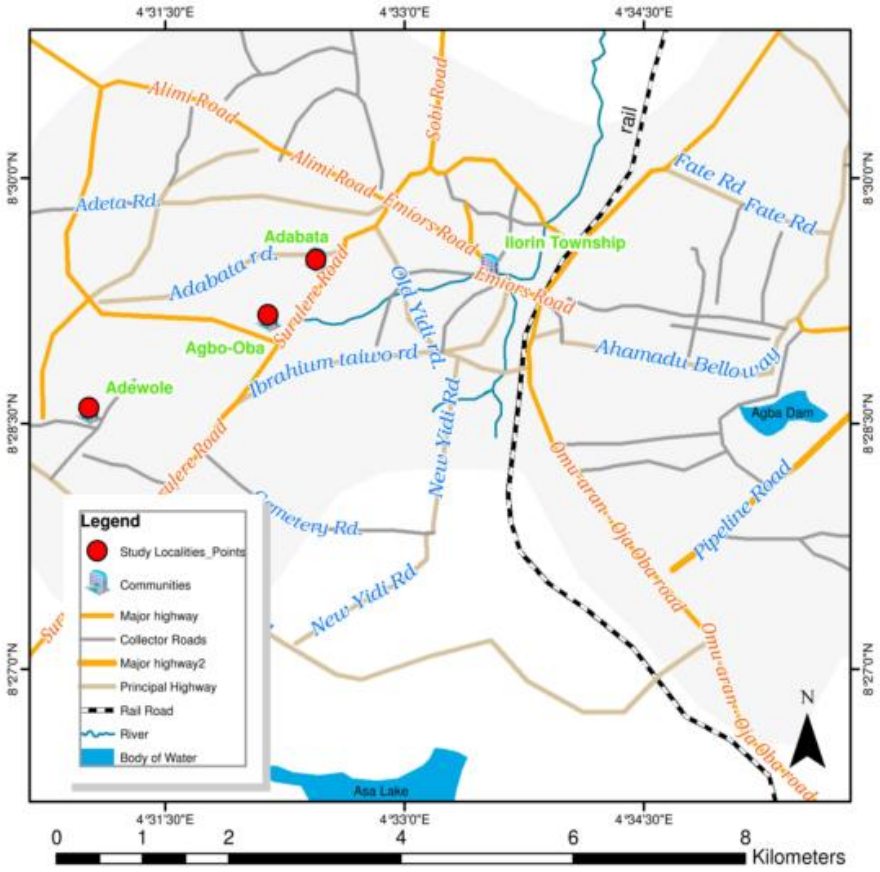
Environmental issues do not seem to be a priority in research and political agendas, while the international organisations continue to insist that the objective is extremely important (Donat et. al., 2010). There is also the concern, especially in the underdeveloped and developing countries, that MDG-7 is not given the necessary level of importance and effort. This study is therefore an effort to assess the level of seriousness and relevance attached to MDG-7 in the Nigerian context, analyse how well MDG-7 has been prioritised in relation to other MDGs, quantify the impacts of MDG-7 programmes (if any) in the study area and suggest ways forward.

Moreover, evidences from the literature reveals that many United Nations resolutions and developmental targets had remained elusive while some important projects and programmes are either unimplemented or they could not yield the anticipated outcomes (Onaolapo and Oladejo, 2011). Most worrisome was the fact that the gap between the developed and underdeveloped countries was widening rather than closing up. The year 2015 was chosen as an important milestone at which point a comprehensive assessment of goal achievements would be made. Finding out what is actually happening on the ground not only helps to establish if money and effort are reaching their intended objectives, but also helps to make critical decisions and reveal areas for urgent action. The paper aim to carry out an analysis of MDG interventions (projects and programmes) in the study area, as conceived in the millennium declaration. In achieving its aim the paper will carry out socio-economic survey of the study area, it will survey the intervention programmes and projects of MDGs programme in the study area. It will also investigate the level of incorporation of environmental sustainability concerns in policy making and appraise major hindrances to the realization of MDGs in the study area

Study Area – Ilorin, Nigeria

Ilorin is located on Latitude 8^0 3' North and Longitude 4^0 35' east. It is about 300 kilometres from Lagos, the former Nigerian Capital city and the economic hub of the country. (GCA Travel 1994). It is also the last emirate to the south of Northern Nigeria, where the success of the 19 Century Jihad, led by Shehu Uthman Danfodio, had evolved an emirate political system that covers major parts of the present day Northern Nigeria. Being a frontier that is dominated by the Southwestern Nigerian culture of the Yoruba, its sustenance of the emirate political structure keep alive, its historical relations with the northern Nigeria, that is dominated by Hausa/Fulani groups (Danmole, 1980).

Figure 1: ***Location map of Ilorin metropolis***



***Source**: Ministry of Lands, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria*

LITERATURE REVIEW

Poverty

One of the major intentions establishing the MDGs is the eradication of poverty. According to United Nations (1995) poverty "is a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information". Similarly, World Bank (1999), defined poverty as "hunger, lack of shelter, being sick and not being able to go to school; not knowing how to read; not being able to speak properly; not having a job; fear for the future; losing a child to illness brought about by unclean water; powerlessness and lack of representation and freedom".

Betti and Verma (1999) sees Poverty as a multidimensional concept that covers income and non-income aspects. It is a state of livelihood characterised by material deprivation, food insecurity and lack of access to productive means. Major signs of poverty include malnutrition, high rates of infant and maternal mortality, poor health status, unemployment, inappropriate housing, inadequate access to infrastructures and services (education, health care, transport, etc.), social and physical insecurity, vulnerability to shocks, low self-confidence and powerlessness. It further submitted that to ensure that projects assist in reducing poverty requires considering the status of various social and economic components influencing poverty.

Key components that are considered under poverty in these Guidelines are the economy; information, education and communication; and access to infrastructures and services.

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

Environmental Sustainability

Writing in the manual of planning and evaluation of sustainable development at regional level, Hrebík et al. (2006) opined that the concept of sustainable development can be seen as an idea, a philosophy, or political conviction or school of thought, based on a set of defined basic principles. Sustainable development principles tend to assume various definitions, but their message is always similar. The message is simply conveyed by the Gro Harlem Bruntland, World Commission on Environment and Development (1987), that ***"Sustainable development is development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."***

According to Langhelle (1999), the definition of sustainable development given by the Bruntland Commission in its report ‘’Our Common Future’’ has been widely debated and discussed, and has given birth to various new definitions and interpretations of sustainable development. Numerous treatments have criticized Our Common Future and considered it ambiguous and contradictory. Among further critique on the definition from the Brundtland Commission is that it does not give any insight to the mechanisms or changes needed to accomplish the desired sustainable development. Other researchers and practitioners mean that Our Common Future focuses too much on the economic growth (Langhelle, 1999). An argument for this reasoning is presented in Robinson (2004, p. 370) “development is seen as synonymous with growth, and therefore that sustainable development means ameliorating, but not challenging, economic growth”. The quote implies that economic growth is the most important aspect, as long as it is not challenging, which may be considered somewhat vague.

A simplified version of concept of sustainability was given by Allen (1980). He conceptualised Sustainability as a simple idea, stating that: sustainable utilization implies that we should utilize species and ecosystems at levels and in ways that allow them to go on renewing themselves for all practical purposes indefinitely." He further revealed that the importance of ensuring that utilization of an ecosystem or species is sustainable varies with a society’s dependence on the resource in question. For a subsistence society, sustainable utilization of most, if not all its living resources are essential. He concluded that the greater the diversity and flexibility of the economy, the less the need to utilize certain resources sustainably but by the same token the less the excuse not to.

In the discussion of Robinson (2004) the debate on the content of the term ‘sustainable development’ is presented; Robinson has identified two approaches in the contemporary literature:

a) Dualistic approach: Emphasizing the relationship between humanity and nature

b) Three pillar approach: Emphasizing the economic, social and ecological dimensions

Robinson's (2004) standpoint on the matter seem to favour the more common three pillar approach; he states that sustainability must be an integrating concept and include social aspects with the biophysical, physics applied to biological problems, perspectives, in order to comply with the definition of sustainable development from the Brundtland Commission. Solutions that do not address all three perspectives are insufficient and sustainability must be an integrative concept across sectors and fields. Robinson and Tinker (1998) mean that the three components, economic, environmental and social have direct effect on each other and can never be used in isolation. The three pillar approach is the most common attempt to break down the concept of sustainable development, but it is usually called 'the triple bottom line'. The phrase was coined by John Elkington in a book. The triple bottom line in this context refers to the three levels: people, planet and profit (Elkington, 1997).

Profit Bottom Line is referring to the economic sustainability. Dyllick and Hockerts (2002) define economic sustainable companies as those that on any time guarantee sufficient cash-flow to ensure liquidity while producing a persistent above average return to their shareholders. The selling price minus cost of production must be positive also in the long run. The company must pursue economic stamina. This bottom line is shared in all types of commerce, no matter whether they are interested in sustainable development or not. Profit is also a firm's record of economic performance (Hamson, 2001). This perspective is natural for most people, but needs to be integrated with the other two in order to obtain a sustainable development for an organization.

People Bottom Line refers to social sustainability. Social sustainability can be of many different kinds but aims to assess a firm's impact on employees, consumers and communities (Hamson and Stuart, 2001). Dyllick and Hockerts define socially sustainable companies as those that: add value to the communities within which they operate by increasing the human capital of individual partners as well as furthering the societal capital of these communities. They manage social capital in such a way that stakeholders can understand its motivations and can broadly agree with the company's value system (Dyllick & Hockerts, 2002). It is important to be fair and a triple bottom line organization seeks to benefit many stakeholders, not exploit, or endanger any group of them. An organization working with social sustainability would e.g. not use child labour, would pay fair salaries to its workers, would maintain a safe work environment and tolerable working hours, and would not otherwise exploit a community or its labour force.

Planet Bottom Line refers to the environmental sustainability. Dyllick and Hockerts define environmental or ecological sustainable companies or activities as those that: use only natural resources that are consumed at a rate below the natural reproduction, or at a rate below the development of substitutes. They do not cause emissions that accumulate in the environment at a rate beyond the capacity of the natural system to absorb and assimilate these emissions. Finally they do not engage in activity that degrades eco-system services. (Dyllick & Hockerts, 2002)

Pursuing environmental sustainability in practice often refers to reducing the harm incurred on the nature and reducing its ecological footprint. The term of ecological footprint was coined in 1990 by Mathis Wackernagel and William Rees and has become a rather trendy notion. Ecological footprint is a measure of human demand on the Earth's ecosystems; in more practical terms it means e.g. to reduce waste, limit the energy consumption, limit the use of

non-renewables and limit the waste of toxic materials (Global Footprint Network, Research and Standards Department, 2008). In order to assess the environmental impact, a life cycle assessment is usually conducted, which aims to calculate the ecological impact of a product or service over a lifetime. In a life cycle assessment the true environmental cost, from raw materials to disposal of the end user, is taken into consideration (Gloria, 2009). An organization or people can also make improvements to the environment and this naturally enhances their environmental sustainability (Elkington, 1997).

The link between population growth and environmental sustainability

The Working Group on Population Growth and Economic Development of the National Academy of Sciences (National Research Council, 1986) has advocated that population dynamics are not a significant factor in the availability of exhaustible resources, and that even renewable ones depend only indirectly on their influence. Other researchers (Pimentel et al., 1994) argue, however, that the limits of optimum sustainable development, which they place at a world population of close to 2 billion, have already been surpassed and that the current world population maintains itself at the cost of increasingly depleting non-renewable resources, in a way that is incompatible with long-term sustainability.

Engelman et al., (2000), reported that population living in countries with scarce natural resources are growing more rapidly than the world population as a whole, putting even greater pressure on these biologically fragile zones. In a related development, European Environment Agency, (in David, 2005) reported that one of the conclusions that have arisen from some studies based on the ecological footprint concept is that, given present consumption levels, the world has already exceeded its maximum level of sustainable use of space by about 20%, meaning that it is using resources in ways that are not sustainable in the long run. Europe, in particular, is said to have an ecological footprint that is twice as large as the land resources the continent has available

The MDG Concept

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the world's time-bound and quantified targets for addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions – income poverty, hunger, diseases, inadequate housing – while promoting gender equality, education and environmental sustainability (MDG Nigeria 2010).

Also the World Health organisation (WHO, 2005), observed that MDG are currently the highest level of expression of international community to developmental priorities. It explained that the MDGs commit the international community to an action agenda which emphasizes sustainable human development as the key to fulfilling social and economic progress. It further stressed that all the 191 member states of the United Nations Organisation have pledge to achieve these goals by the year 2015. It observed that the MDGs goals and their targets and indicators have widely accepted as framework for measuring national and global development progress. In line with this, the UNDP (2010) attempted to synthesize 34 MDG Country Reports to identify country-level evidence of successes and failures, impact of the global financial crisis, interventions that have worked in bringing individual countries On-track toward achieving specific MDGs as well as some of the common bottlenecks. The synthesis suggests that there is no single approach guaranteed to bring a country success across the board.

In a related development, Ajayi (2008) studied the success of MDGs in Millennium Village project and found out that Nigeria is at present off track and very slow , when it come to MDGs implementation and execution. He therefore called for a better understanding between the policy formulators and executors. Similarly, Falade (2008) observed that most African countries are backward when it comes to implementation and execution of the MDGs, when compared with other region of the world. This, he explained is due to poor technical capacity in formulating, implementing and monitoring the operational MDGs based Poverty Reduction Strategy Process (PRSPS).

It has been argued in literature that climate change and the MDGs need to be seen as the same policy arena and to be addressed in an integrated manner, but in much of the discourse, each is still treated as separate and often adaptation is seen as 'bolt on' to business as usual although this is increasingly challenged (Fankhauser and Schmidt-Traub, 2010; Agrawala and Fankhauser, 2008; Fankhauser, 2010; UNFCCC, 2007 and World Bank 2009b on adaptation costs; World Bank, 2009a on adaptation finance; Mitchell and Tanner, 2008; 2009).

In the words of Wing Thye Woo, Gordon McCord and Jeffrey Sachs (2005), MDGs offers Africa a way of escape out of poverty trap - poverty trap being too poor to grow – they plead with the Western policymakers to fully support the MDGs and encourage increase in public investments so as to produce a large step increase in Africa's underlying productivity, both rural and urban. They noted that foreign donors will be critical to achieving this substantial step increase. Whereas, Yonghyup Oh (2005) was of the opinion that MDGs is a combination of enhanced foreign intervention, more external money and top-down approach having a potential of depriving recipients of the spirit of independence as their eyes are clue to free launch offer by the donor agencies. Another area of concern as noted by Oh, is the post MDGs implementation periods, in other words, what become of MDGs after 2015. He argued that since MDGs focus mainly on building up infrastructure to produce more public goods, chances are that poor funding may set in after 2015, the terminal year of MDGs, at this point, he asked what becomes of successful MDGs projects.

The MDGs, according to Easterly (2009), were designed poorly and arbitrarily as instruments for defining "success" and "failure" on poverty and other development targets and that the MDG methodology sets up Sub-Saharan Africa for failure—even if these countries make significant progress. To shed light on Easterly's view, Clemens *et. al.* (2004) noted that the required rates of progress for achieving MDG targets exceed even the most impressive historical achievements. In particular, drawing on available research work, these authors observed that a typical African country is required to grow at an annual rate of 7 percent over 25 years period in order to be able to reduce poverty by half. Surprisingly, two African countries (Botswana and Equatorial Guinea) have so far achieved the feat. These authors also warned that unrealistic MDG targets may actually turn domestic development success into perceptions of failure, which could undermine future government reform and aid constituencies. Moreover, as noted by Benjamin and Julia (2010), many of the MDG targets measure progress in terms of development outcomes (e.g. reducing maternal mortality) instead of development outputs (e.g. enrolling girls in school). Whereas achieving outcomes is a longer and more difficult process than achieving output targets. In a related critique, David Dickson (2010) stated that there is a widespread perception with many developing countries that the MDGs represent a donor-led agenda that does not take sufficient account of local priorities and capabilities. He further argued that the curse of the MDGs is that the focus is on relatively

short-term, concrete objectives, and lack sufficient 'buy-in' from the very countries they are intended to help. As a result, they undermine the type of long-term commitment to capacity.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

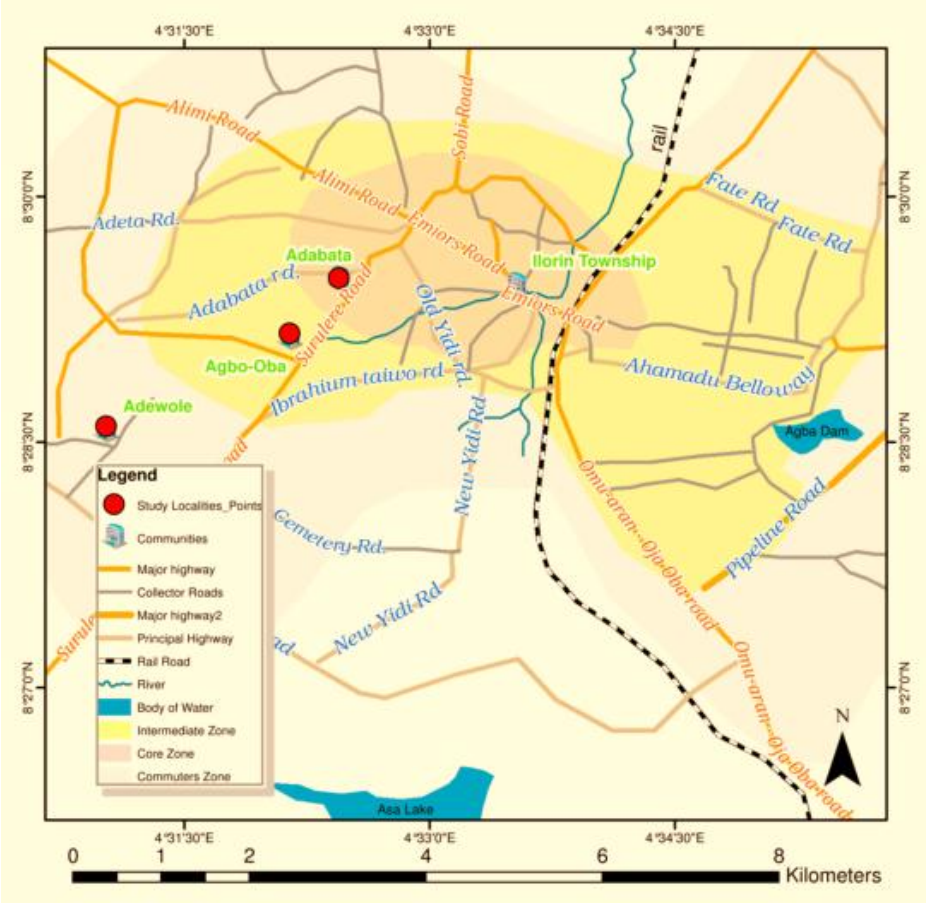
The study adopted methods of social (survey) research in achieving its aim and objectives. Research instruments adopted were survey questionnaire and a rigorous review of literature. The assessment are based primarily on the analysis of MDG projects carried out in the study area using the global indicators; where data is available, and analysis of relevant information obtained from residents. This was investigated on the grounds of global benchmarks and least requirements as stipulated in Nigeria MDG reports. The research makes use of Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) for statistical (both descriptive and inferential) analysis on survey data. For presentation, descriptive statistics like percentages, frequencies, maps, pictures, etc. were used.

It utilised data from both primary and secondary sources. Summarily, a combination of methods was applied in collecting primary and secondary data, including a desk review of relevant documentation in addition to in-country key informant interviews with representatives from targeted governmental agencies and organisations and residents in the study area. Facility survey of select area helped in quantifying the status of some MDG indicators in the study area while interview of residents aided in surveying the perception of people on the impacts of the MDGs projects on their socio-economic well-being.

The primary sources of data include the interviews and social survey conducted in the study area on residents and relevant government organisations and parastatals. Primary data were collected through oral interviews with residents of the study area and officials of MDGs-relevant government agencies, The interviews were done using the generic survey instrument, given as Appendix I. The face-to-face approach enriched the questionnaire feedback by allowing for elaborate discussion, interaction with respondents. The government agencies in the sample include the DRG/MDGs monitoring department of Kwara state. A total of twenty eight (28) individuals from across the relevant government MDGs monitoring department were interviewed. Secondary data utilised in the study were extracted from related studies on the subject matter. These sources include journals, government official reports, published and some unpublished thesis works, reports of expert meetings, report of workshops etc.

The study area, in consideration of its size, was stratified into three Landuse zones namely high density core area (CBD), medium density, and low density zones. Based on Burgess' (1923) Concentric Theory, the core or central area of town is regarded as the zone of high population; the intermediate zone is regarded as having medium population density while the commuter's zone is regarded as having low population density. Adabata, Agbooba and Adewole area were selected as study locality for the core zone, intermediate zone and commuters' zone respectively.

Figure 2: Concentric zones map of Ilorin



***Source**: Ministry of Lands, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria*

This is to ensure that the population from the sample is drawn is representative of the study population. Within each population density zones, a locality with one or two functional MDG project is selected as a domain (or sample frame) of respondents. At each locality sampling is carried out by determining the total number of house units (or houses) per study locality. This was made possible by the use of GOOGLE Earth image source from which counting of the units was carried out. Total housing units in Adabata, Agbooba and Adewole area are 287, 215 and 175 respectively. This added up to a total of 677 buildings. The sample size for the study was determined by adopting the mathematical relation in Isreal (2009), as follow:

$$S = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2} \quad \ldots. (1) \text{ (Israel, 2009).}$$

Where, N = Sample Frame, e = degree of freedom, S = the Sample Size

Adopting a 95% confidence interval will give a degree of freedom (or margin of error) of 0.05 (i.e e = 0.05). This generated a sample size of 252 for the study. Based on total housing units at each locality, 106,81 and 65 questionnaires were randomly administered at Adabata, Agbooba and Adewole area respectively

Data Analysis

Investigation into the awareness of residents about MDG projects and programmes reveal that majority of the residents (83.1%) know that a form of MDg project or the other is in their

locality, confirming claims by the *Federal Ministry of lands, housing and Urban development (Ilorin field HQ*) that there are projects of the MDG that have been executed in the study area. This also shows that the MDG, as a product of the Millennium declaration, is not just an initiative known only at the global level but that people are aware of the need and importance of the MDGs even at the local level. It clarifies, to some extent, claims in some quarters that MDG projects only exist only on paper and there are no real interventions due to corrupt practises by administrators of the programmes or projects. Although 84.6% of the respondents who are residents and users of the MDG projects in the study area reported that there are usually no consultations with the residents before decisions on what type of project to execute are made. This is in sharp contrast to information gotten from the department in charge of the MDG projects in Kwara state. The department argued that project decisions are made at national level (per constituency) after consultations have been made at the local wards meetings. It can inferred that greater percentage projects executed in the area are not a true reflection of the need of the residents. Also, it was discovered that since the supposed needs of the community are usually decided at ward meetings, project decisions at such ward meetings are biased and not a true reflection of the needs of the people. More than one-third (40.6%) of the respondents opined that the projects have little or no influence on their socioeconomic activities while 30% feel that most of the MDG projects do have any impacts on their livelihood. This shows weak level of acceptability of the projects and an indication that the projects may not be having the desired influence on residents' livelihood.

Figure 3a&b: MDG intervention projects in the study area

Fig. 3a): MDG Skil Acquisition centre Borehole project at Agbooba, Ilorin

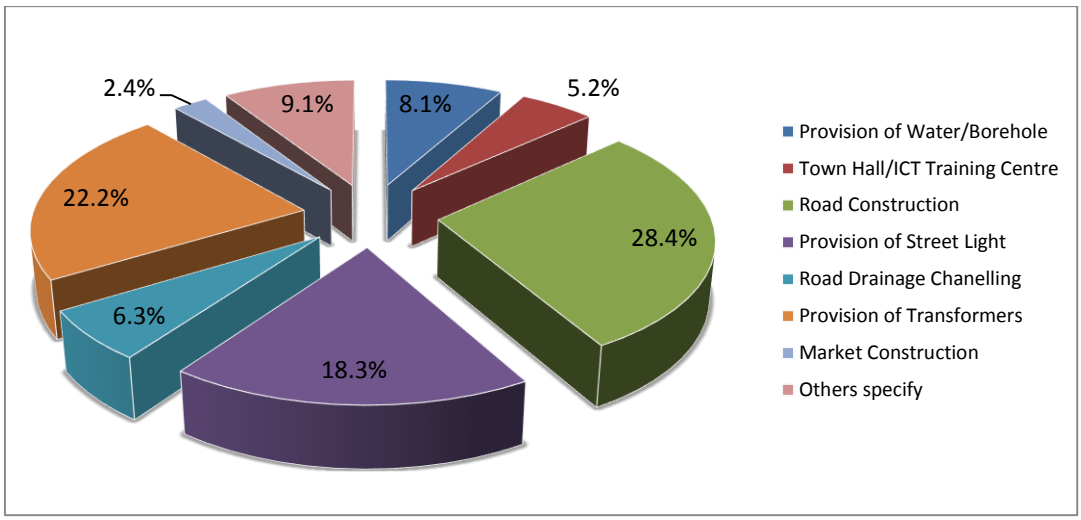
Fig. 3b): MDG Solar Powered at Adabata, Ilorin

The above observation when considered in the light of an analysis of the socioeconomic characteristics of residents sheds more light on the socioeconomic impacts of the projects. Majority of the residents are self-employed (45.4%), government employee make up 20.4% of the respondents while 21.7% are unemployed. This agrees with findings that the MDG has been investing, over the years, in skill acquisition and entrepreneurship programmes. In the area of access to potable water, 54.2% of the respondents depend on protected well/spring for

their water needs while 34.4% have access to borehole, the rest depend on tanker service (0.6%), unprotected well/spring (8.3%), while some 2.1% did reveal their source of water supply. This agreed with findings on water provision by the MDG projects on which 69.7% of the respondents agreed that there has been provision of boreholes to their community.

The survey of MDG projects in the study area revealed that majority of projects in the study area are mainly physical construction projects. Based on information gotten from the *Federal Ministry of lands, housing and Urban development (Ilorin field HQ*), categories of projects in the selected sections (or localities) studied, include road surfacing and drainage construction, road rehabilitation, digging of borehole, provision and installation of street lights construction of ICT center etc. based on perception of respondents that degree of work in each of the projects is presented in below;

Figure 4: Percentage Occurrence of Major MDG Projects Study Localities



***Source**: Field Survey, 2014*

It can be deduced that the bulk of the efforts and much of the MDG projects in the study area has been in the area of road construction (28.4%), provision of transformers (22.2%) and provision of streetlight, while efforts in other projects have not been intensified as these three. This is probably a reflection of what the decision makers deem to be the needs of the populace. However on analysing these efforts in line with the targets of the millennium declaration, it is observed that MDG programme in the study area has been neglecting some of the millennium development goals/targets in their efforts.

As rightly observed in a report by the UNDP (2003), there is great deal of interdependence of the MDGs, and these must be protected if the desired level of social and economic development is to be attained. Although the impact of project cannot be completely isolated, as each project influence several aspects of life to some extent. However, areas of major and direct impact of projects can be identified. Therefore, grouping the projects by utility derivable from them, projects in the study area can be classified under each target of the \MGDs as shown in the table below;

The table above shows that MDGs in the study area have focused majorly on Goal-#1 of the millennium declaration with little effort in other goals of the millennium declaration.

Table 1: Comparison of MDG projects in Ilorin with the Millennium Declaration Targets

MDG Targets	Some identified MDG projects in the study area							
	Provision of Water/Borehole	Construction of Town Hall/ICT/skill Training Centre	Road Construction	Provision of Street Light	Provision of Transformers	Primary health centre	Road drainage channeling	
MDG1: Eradicate extreme poverty	■	■	■	■	■		■	
MDG2: Achieve universal primary education								
MDG3: Promote Gender equality								
MDG4: Reduce child Mortality						■		
MDG5: Improve maternal Health						■		
MDG6: Combat HIV/AIDS and other disease								
MDG7: Ensure environmental sustainability							■	
MDG8: Develop global partnership for development								

***Source**: Field survey, 2014*

Statistical Investigation of Project Impacts

A Chi-square statistic was conducted on data collected via survey to investigate whether MDG intervention programmes or projects in the study area have impacts (whether it makes any difference, however little) in the socioeconomic status of people of the study area. This probe was put in the form of an hypothesis stated as below;

H_o: MDG intervention programmes or projects in an area do make significant difference in the socioeconomic status of people of the benefiting community

H_1: It does

The Chi-square statistic was conducted thus;

Table 2: Observation frequency record

	OBSERVED FREQUENCIES							
Perception	Provision of Water/Borehole	Construction of Town Hall/ICT Training Centre	Road Construction	Provision of Street Light	Provision of Transformers	Primary health centre	Road drainage channelling	**TOTAL**
SA	175	154	188	174	163	82	48	**984**
SD	23	41	10	37	27	27	59	**224**
UN	54	57	54	41	62	143	145	**556**
TOTAL	**252**	**252**	**252**	**252**	**252**	**252**	**252**	**1764**

**SA; Strongly Agree, SD; Strongly Disagree, UN; Undecided*

***Source**: Field Survey, 2014*

Table 3: Chi-Sqaure value computation

O	**E**	**O-E**	**$(O-E)^2$**	**$((O-E)^2)/E$**
175	140.5714	34.42857143	1185.327	8.432201
154	155.2857	-1.285714286	1.653061	0.010645
188	155.2857	32.71428571	1070.224	6.89197
174	155.2857	18.71428571	350.2245	2.255356
163	155.2857	7.714285714	59.5102	0.38323
82	155.2857	-73.28571429	5370.796	34.58654
48	155.2857	-107.2857143	11510.22	74.12288
23	32	-9	81	2.53125
41	38.28571	2.714285714	7.367347	0.192431
10	38.28571	-28.28571429	800.0816	20.89765
37	38.28571	-1.285714286	1.653061	0.043177
37	38.28571	-1.285714286	1.653061	0.043177
27	38.28571	-11.28571429	127.3673	3.326759
59	38.28571	20.71428571	429.0816	11.20736
54	79.42857	-25.42857143	646.6122	8.140802
57	106.4286	-49.42857143	2443.184	22.95609
54	106.4286	-52.42857143	2748.755	25.82723
41	106.4286	-65.42857143	4280.898	40.2232
62	106.4286	-44.42857143	1973.898	18.54669
143	106.4286	36.57142857	1337.469	12.56683
145	106.4286	38.57142857	1487.755	13.97891
X^2				**$\sum$ =307.1644**

*df = (r-1)(c-1) (**Source**: Field Survey, 2014)*

At a 5% (0.05) level of significance (that is 95% confidence level) and 12 degree of freedom (*df)*, the chi-square table figure for this study was 21.0 while the chi-square calculated value (X^2) was 307.1644. It can be seen that the chi-square calculated value is greater than the chi-square table figure. Therefore, by convention, the NULL hypothesis (Ho) which states: MDG intervention programmes or projects in an area do not have significant impacts on the socioeconomic status of people of the benefiting community, was rejected and the alternative hypothesis to this was accepted. This means, the provision of poverty alleviation/reduction projects/intervention had some impact on the people of the study area. However, personal interview with the respondents revealed that such impact was very little, and has not led to the overall reduction or elimination of poverty of the people in the study area. This is not far from Aluko (2013)'s submission that "Many African countries, including Nigeria, have committed themselves to carrying out extensive economic reform programmes. The results have been somewhat mixed. In some cases a modest growth has been achieved through the transition from a centrally - planned economic system to a market based strategy. But in virtually all cases, the modest growth achieved has not translated into any significant improvement in poverty" (Aluko, 2003). Also, Nwanna (2004) confirmed that "The programmes contributed minimally"

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The study has identified the major projects of the MDG in the study area which include; Provision of Water/Borehole, Construction of Town Hall/ICT/Skill Training Centre, Road Construction, Provision of Street Light, Provision of Transformers, Primary health centre, Road drainage channelling; being the major ones.

Although most residents disagree that the MDG projects have improved their livelihood, self-employment which is common in the study area, as discovered by observation and as survey has revealed, can be attributed to the training and skill acquisition programmes put in place as MDG project in the study area. Also it has been confirmed statistically that the MDG project in the study area contributed economic wellbeing of the residents

It is widely accepted in literature (Abdulgafar,et. al., 2013; that majority of residents in Nigeria, on the average, live on less than a dollar per day. This is not so in study area, where majority of the respondents (48.6%) submitted that they live on close to four (4) dollars per day. This may be, arguably, attributable (to a considerable extent) to positive yields from MDG programmes and developmental efforts at all levels. This is substantiated by, and as reported in Lawal et., al. (2012), Abdulgafar et., al. (2013), that percentage of the Nigerian population on a dollar or less per day has been on the decrease.

This study discovered that the bulk of that MDG projects in the study area have focused majorly on Goal-#1 of the millennium declaration with little effort in other goals of the millennium declaration (see table 1). This shows that efforts are not properly aligned with the focus of realization of the MDGs in the study area. That is, works are being done, and these works have made positive impacts, but the MDG efforts in the study area have neglected vital MDG targets completely, whereas effort is supposed to be channelled into all the Millennium declaration targets.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Efforts have to intensified in other aspects of the Millennium development goals other than poverty alleviation
- ✓ Methods of involving residents in the process of decision making on what MDG projects to be carried out should be improved upon, as the current method of using ward meetings to hear people opinion and desires seem to favour party activists and party card carries as investigations by the author revealed.
- ✓ The office in charge of MDG projects should consider projects that incorporates environmental sustainability as core value in their future project decisions

CONCLUSION

Despite discovered shortcomings, the MDG projects in the study area has contributed important infrastructure and facilities, which may not have been provided up till now in some area, to Ilorin. Also the MDGs still acts and is accepted as benchmark, and in the absence of any other viable globally agreed upon alternative, it is being pursued. Even if all the targets are not achieved in the study area, the progress made in trying to achieve them has been beneficial from both an economic and development perspective.

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