

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA, POVERTY CRISIS AND THE CHALLENGE OF STRUCTURAL DISTORTION IN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT PARADIGM: A CASE STUDY OF NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT: *African has continued to embrace Global development frameworks particularly the erstwhile Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the on-going Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) initiatives with high expectations because of the critical problems of excruciating poverty, underdevelopment and her seemingly capacity to impact key development super-structure towards desirable growth and sustainable development. She agreed to the on-going SDGs initiatives with the hope that things will eventually turn around. The study critically examines the effects of global a development agenda on African development crisis against the backdrops of high expectations. The study observes that African developing countries are worse off after international development intervention. It further observes that development interventionists' initiatives have not been able to stem the tide of African underdevelopment crisis due to structural deficiencies in African development matrix. With the results of development performances in Nigeria based on key indices, the study concludes that the level of poverty remain excruciating thereby bringing about the challenge of designing and nurturing new development paradigm that emphasizes removing inherent African structural deficiency in development matrix as we voyage into the new SDGs.*

KEYWORDS: Poverty Crisis, Structural Distortion, Global Development Agenda, African Development, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

African encounter with development activities can best be described as admixture of unfavorable experiences (Maathai Wnagari, 1995). The continent seems overwhelmed by recurring development negatives. The development negatives that dotted Africa development landscapes include lack of consistent and visionary leaders, failing institutional frameworks, excruciating poverty, recurring incidences of dashed hopes, failures to adequately take advantage of available opportunities for sustainable growth and development among others (Adeyeye 2003); (Rodney. W 1976), (Mno.I.2007), (Barnes A, 2010)

One critical indisputable fact about development is that nations and continents across the globe in the journey to sustainable growth is that there are development challenges to contend with. We also recognize the fact that as every nation climb up development ladder, goal-post for attaining sustainable development varies over time. With each passing decade, development challenges become harder (Wargwe.S.H, 2000). Nevertheless, the template for sustainable development across nations remains constant (Richer. R.A 2014); (Erhun. O.M 2015); (Shaker. R.R 2015). It includes need to build a strong and virile nation; ability to mobilize and deploy resources for common good of greater number of people (George-Genyi M.E 2013). Other development exigencies according to United Nations (2008) include the needs to rapidly build the capacity of people, engender proper citizenship for development sustainability (Sabot, R.H

2011). It also covers how nations and her citizens become relevant in increasingly competitive information-driven global economic infrastructure. The success story of nations and continents ultimately lies in the ability to surmount these aforementioned challenges that go along with growth and development momentum. Every momentum of growth is replenished with rough roads. Nations must endeavor to surmount available rough roads in order to attain desired growth and development. This approach is the universal rule and not an exception.

Therefore, the need to work and overcome rough roads is not peculiar to Africa or any particular continent for that matter. Getting over rough roads require combination of tough choices, discipline and better priorities. Unfortunately, while development inclined nations and continents have strived to overcome development hurdles using key virtues of resilience, consistency, commitments and unquenchable passion in development activities, Africa experience has been nothing but one of despicable wrong choices and inactivity (Onimode.B.2000). He insists that Africa has never been so lucky. Although the continent is predominantly blessed with vast human and material resources, but she has consistently failed to properly harness her vast resources. She has failed repeatedly to make tough choices. The situation is aggravated by scarcities of visionary leaders to legitimately pilot sustainable development activities. Other intrinsic problems according to reports of COPE-AFRICA 2014 colloquium on African development problems include lingering too long on the challenges created by the consequences of African encounter with colonialism; weak political structure, monolithic economy, absence of strong educational and technological backbone for propelling sustainable and desirable development. Added to all these, are the outright failure of African political class, endemic corruption, ineffective government bureaucracy, lack of strong agricultural, infrastructural, medical and educational policies.

Elsewhere, continents like Europe, Australia, America, Asia are working assiduously to enhance their development horizon. They are making appreciable successes in turning around their fortunes. They were also able to deal with their rough roads with tenacity of purpose, and tackle development challenges head-on. But the unique thing about African development experience is that she has the peculiarity of being impervious to development interventions over time again and again. African continent has unenviable record of missed opportunities. It paraded pitiable sights of untapped resources, resource wastages and of people waiting for history instead of making history. African continent is bewildering. This is pitifully so because, some models that have worked successfully in other climes and continents have refused to work in Africa. One begins to wonder whether Africa is cursed. Home grown development agenda that seems to take critical cognizance of African peculiarities often fall flat in the face of application to solving development problems. This is the position of some African leaders. (Babangida,I.B 2006). The alternative global development agenda which has become the toast of most nations due to its tested and trusted nature have also consistently proved not effective in Africa. Some experts have posited that Africa seems not prepared for external global development interventions due to her turgidity (Adamson, 2006); (Ecosoc, 2008); (Achristain.V.S & Fabian, 2016), It seems the whole world is too much in a hurry while Africa seems not prepared to cope with development changes and dynamics.

Against this backdrop, it is important to accentuate perennial problems in Africa which has consistently made her impervious to development facilitations. So many explanations have been proffered. These includes lack of development experience, absence of visionary leaders, paucity of development knowledge, overbearing religiosity and inability to key into the quick

pace of global development agenda. This study is concerned with the most critical which is the issue of structural distortions in African development paradigm.

It is the position of this paper that Africa negative development parameter is attributable to inherent structural distortions in her development configurations. African development terrain is full of unnecessary artificial mountainous hills, diversionary policy summersaults and self-inflicted tornadoes. Unfortunately, Africa encounter with local and global development intervention overtime have failed to take full of cognizance these distorted structural development benchmarks. Therefore, it has become imperative to deal with African fundamental structural problems as a prelude to effective and successful development facilitation. This is important because the overriding impacts of structural distortion towards effective development facilitations are huge and critical. Structures in development facilitation in this context refer to enabling building blocks without which development facilitation would be made difficult. These are the foundational derivatives upon which development activities are inherently predicated. Structures also refer to basic environment and other related enablements that are needful for development to take root and grow albitio. Structural deficiencies in Africa have resulted in growth retardation, wasted opportunities, poor development efforts and negative growths leading to excruciating poverty and underdevelopment. By the time MDG development agenda was introduced at the eve of 21st century, development challenge in Africa has reached a crisis point. At that point, the continent has virtually become a poverty hub with available development indicators showing negative signs. In fact, Africa had already become a reference point in global poverty crisis.

The paper looks at the issue of foundation and structure for development in Africa. It observes that the only antidote to sustainable development in Africa lies in radical structural rejuvenation in order to make development permissible. It interprets structural rejuvenation in the context of development management orientation which involves creating the right environment and key fundamental enablements that acts as incentives to sustainable growth and development. In development facilitation, there is unanimity on key foundational imperatives that must be in place before meaningful development can take place. (UNCTAD, 2011); (Lawal.T & Abe.O 2011). It comprises of basic institutional frameworks that must be established before sustainable national growth and development can blossom. It also includes an absence of corruption or corrupt tendencies; visionary leadership, committed followership. Development experts have suggested various approaches to dealing with each of these. For instance, the World Bank, OECD recommends building strong institutions; reducing corruptions to the barest minimum and putting in place leadership frameworks and good governance mechanism to prop up transformational leaders. While available statistics have confirmed critical importance of strong institutions and corruption reduction, it has yet to universally establish whether democratic governance automatically leads to emergence of transformational leader given the African experience. (Edoh.T, 2003). Nevertheless, it can be affirmed that combination of aforementioned development derivatives are inevitable if development is to take place in any nation. This is the experience of most developed countries across the globe. We posit that Africa can never be an exception.

The study takes a critical look at recurring underdevelopment and poverty crisis in Africa despite an avalanche of local, international particularly global development agenda such as MDGs and the ongoing SDGs. It examines the overriding role of foundational structures which are necessary enablements for development activities to grow and become sustainable. The aim

is to underscore the pivotal role of foundational enablements and how they have successfully acted as disincentives to development in Africa over time.

The Poverty Crisis in Africa

Towards the beginning of the millennium, Africa had already become one of the most poverty-ravaged continents of the world. The report of various development audits across the continent clearly exemplifies the following negative development indices:

- The Number of people living in extreme poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa grew from 217 million in 1987 to more than 300 million in 1998, more than ½ of Africa population on 2015.
- Monolithic economic system
- Low quality of life
- Extremely low Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- Africa dominated the lower echelon of United Nations Human Development Index (HDI)
- Average Africa country faced annual inflation of over 60% from 1990 till 2015
- Widespread famine
- Preventable water-borne diseases constitute the cause of mortality that affects children, infants and women
- Lack of visionary leaders
- Water crisis leading to lack of safe drinking water
- High Incidences of national debts with large percentage spent on things that do not benefit or add value to the continent
- High illiteracy rates and growing unemployment

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) analysis of basic facts about Africa gives a captivating summary of poverty crisis prior to MDG global Agenda in the following ways:

- One in two people in Sub-Saharan Africa survive on less than one dollar a day
- 184 million people or 33% of Africa population suffer from malnutrition in 2000 and the figure is increasing.
- During the 1990's the average income per capital decreased in 20 African countries
- Less than 5% of African population has access to hospitals and doctors
- In 2000, 300 million Africans did not have access to safe drinking water
- The average life expectancy is 41 years

- Only 57% of African Children enrolled in primary education and only one in every three children complete school.
- One in six children die before the age of 5. This number is 25 times higher in Sub-Saharan Africa than in the OECD countries.
- Children account for half of all civilian casualties in wars in Africa
- The African countries lost more than 5.3 million hectares of forest during the decades of 1990. The situation has not abated in 2015.
- Less than one person out of five in Africa have access to electricity.

MDGs/SDGs Global Development Interventions in African Poverty Crisis

With excruciating poverty situation in Africa, the continent was able to accept the available global development agenda with high expectations. African hope was rekindled by international posture of MDGs. The Millennium Developments Goals (MDGs) represents eight international goals All 193 United Nations (UN) member states and at least 23 international organizations agreed to achieve the goals by the year 2015. Africa also subscribes to SDGs because of the promise of rapid development transformation. With the global support at the root of MDGs /SDGs global agendum, Africa has full hope that there is enormous capacity to turn things around particularly with support of strong international institutions.

Africa like other continents was excited by the emphasis of MDGs/SDGs on specific goals and targets. The approach gives strong hope of development attainment. The MDGs in particular has eight fundamental goals. All the eight major goals of MDGs were encapsulated into 21 development targets. For instance, Goal 1 focuses on extreme poverty and hunger and the targets include: halving the proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day; achieve decent employment for women, men and young people as well as halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. Goal 2 aimed at ensuring universal primary education by the year 2015. It has as its targets; ensuring all children complete full course of primary schooling (girls and boys). For Goal 3, the aim is to ensure gender equality and women empowerment while the targets focus on the elimination of gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and at all levels by 2015. While the aim of Goal 8 is to develop a global partnership for development, its targets include the development of an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system. It also seeks to address needs of less developed countries (LDCs); the special needs of landlocked countries, small island states and deals comprehensively with debt problem of developing countries through national and international measures that will make debt sustainable; provide cooperation with pharmaceutical companies so as to increase access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries; work with the private sector to make available benefits of new technologies especially information and communications (IT).

In development management context, the implication of this approach to global development is worthwhile. It is a goal-centered technique for development intervention. There was greater hope for success due to the fact that Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have measurable indicators. The entire eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) comprises of twenty-one (21) quantifiable targets that are adequately backed by sixty measurable indicators. The importance of indicators is that everyone can measure actual performance with set goals. For instance, while the target of Goal 2 is to ensure all children complete a full course of primary

schooling (both boys and girls) by the year 2015, the measurable indicators for this particular goals as determined by MDGs include: enrollment in primary education; completion of school and literacy among 15-24 years old (male and female). With this kind of far-reaching attempts, it was assumed quite correctly that global development agenda is capable of deepening development interventions towards desired sustainable development.

The MDGs' global agenda was a watershed; it was accepted as a potential turning-point for development turn-around in Africa. From inception till the time when the program eventually winded down, Africa willingly subjected herself to the dictates of the agenda. They subscribed to each of all the components of MDGs. African governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), organized private sector (OPS) government officials and citizen across Africa key to MDGs campaign and advocacy initiatives. Apart from forming partnerships, African institutions also encouraged MDGs by building necessary support for the agenda at every level. The presentation of MDGs road map in 2001 by UN Secretary-General was a watershed. It highlights comprehensive overview of situation and the strategies for actions designed to meet the goals of Millennium declaration, Africans also embarked on other recommendations as may be necessary in order to achieve MDGs global agenda. There are templates for periodic reports of progress towards achieving the MDGs. Some of the outcomes of MDGs program report have also resulted in the design of guidelines for best and innovative development practices. The designs were based on World Bank (2011) template for Africa based tested principles of high-level political commitment, national ownership, integration, inclusiveness, transparency and regular reviews.

The implication of these is that no stone was left unturned to ensure that MDGs impart development in Africa. Efforts were deployed to ensure that it becomes successful. At the country level, the MDGs report helped to engage political leaders, decision makers and other stakeholders towards proactive actions for accelerating MDG progress report (Nujoma. S. 2007). It is important to highlight importance of monitoring to MDG global development agenda. The MDGs monitoring format benchmark progress made against available development intervention template that comprise of goals, targets and indicators. Based on this, countries are made to subject themselves to monitoring discipline so that the objectives of MDG can be attained. All these are signals that MDG global agenda is committed both at the levels of individual national governments and at sub-regional and continental levels. (Ravallion,2001). As the whole world wrapped up Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) came on board as a United Nation Goal development initiative.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was developed in anticipation of the expiration of Millennium Development Goals in 2015. Specifically at Sustainable Development Summit on the 25th September, 2015; UN member states adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The agenda covers another set of 17 sustainable development goals to end poverty, fight inequality, injustice and tackle climate change by 2030. Aside from building on MDGs that expires in 2015, the new global agenda contains broader sustainability targets and deliverables. Helen Clark (2015) observes that the SDGs targets the root cause of poverty as well as universal needs for development that works for all people. The interesting things is that the 17 SDGs are interconnected to UNDP Strategic plan with focus areas such as sustainable development, democratic governance, peace building, climate and disaster resilience. To be specific, Goal No. 1 affirms a commitment to no poverty, No. 2 Zero hunger, No 3. Good health and well-being, No. 4 Quality education, No. 5 Gender equality, No 6 Clean water and

sanitation, No. 7 Affordable clean energy. The goal No. 8 focuses on decent work and economic growth, No. 9, Industry innovation and infrastructure. Others include No 10, Reducing inequalities, No.11 Sustainable cities, No. 12. Responsible consumption, No. 13, Climate action, No.14 Life below water, No.15 Life on land, No.16 Peace, justice and strong institution and No. 17 focuses on a partnership for the attainment of set goals.

As commendable as SDGs would seem both in intent and implementation strategy at promoting development, there is underlying lethargy in its capacity to make desired difference in Africa due to fundamental problems of structural distortion in African development paradigm. It is the position of this paper that development would only sprout and blossom where favourable factors are in place to provide fertile ground. Some of the factors in environments that generally support development include committed leadership, zero tolerance for corruption, institutional framework and good governance.

African Development Crisis and the Problems of Structural Distortion in Development Paradigm

The basic assumption of this study is that global development agenda in Africa particularly MDG/ SDGs has become artificial construct because of inability to achieve desired objectives. It has been difficult to facilitate growth in Africa due to structural distortions in development paradigm. Across Africa, there are structural distortions which are fundamental to a successful development facilitation. Until and unless these distortions are uprooted in the first instance, it will be extremely difficult if not totally impossible to achieve desired development goals. The pervasive structural distortion in Africa development landscape includes lack of visionary leaders, endemic corruption and the absence of good governance mechanism to drive and sustain development orbit.

Most African leaders have poor vision. They were unable to appreciate the exigencies of sustainable growth and development. Leadership architecture in most African countries is sustained by the rich versus the poor syndrome. In some of these countries, leadership is only about the arrogant display of power and mindless subjugation of masses. A template of visionary leadership acumen based on calculated efforts to enhance the quality of life for the greater number of people is very much in short supply across Africa. This has greatly affected how those who found themselves in the leadership position perceive and push for development

Aside from poor leadership, another major distortion that militates against effective development intervention is corruption. Endemic corruption pervades every stratum of most African social, economic and political landscape. It has been a major disincentive to success and meaningful development efforts particularly international development aids including the MDG. (Adeyeye,2014). On this, Adeyeye further insists that in spite of the inflow of international development assistance that includes MDG initiative, the corrupt development environment in Africa has contributed to growth stagnation. Evidence abounds of various critical development initiatives across Africa with substantial inputs by international development support systems that were frittered away due to humongous corrupt activities (Adeyeye, 2015). There were reported cases of misappropriations of development support funds. Some drugs and other free aid supplies that were meant to address critical health challenges were also reported to have been stolen, sold or found their way into the commercial store. These situations have precipitated despicable under-development circle in a way that makes development initiatives cheer waste while African development problems and poverty crisis have refused to subside.

The other major area of fundamental structural distortion in African development paradigm which does not allow for the effectiveness of deployments to achieve sustainable growth is lack of good governance mechanism. A major part of African structural distortion that has huge repercussions for development undoing is that most African countries concentrate on building strong individuals instead of strong institutions. The political institutions in Africa are grossly inefficient due to lack of democratic culture. Most of the time, there were deliberate attempts by the elite ruling class to circumvent due process. African ruling elites do not believe in political accountability. The Effects of these are political tensions, lack of openness that engenders sustainable development. Other essential features of African governance system include lack of democracy; lack of accountability in public procurement practices (Adeyeye, 2014); profligacy and power-sharing crisis (Caleb. et'al, 2014).

These structural deformities point to African unpreparedness for sustainable development and growth. In the last five or more decades of African post-independence era, the continent has refused to purge herself of political slumber that has its root in archaic undemocratic tendencies. Africa lacks a genuine democratic culture. Leaders and elites across Africa have consistently succeeded only in using democratic mantra to pursue selfish class agenda. No meaning is attached to the concept and practice of public of service. Public procurement processes are conducted in an opaque manner while there are no openness, transparency, probity and accountability in governance.

All the above are undercurrents in African development processes and practices that have made growth extremely difficult. Unfortunately, these undercurrents are necessary development derivatives that should for development and growth to take place. (Sebudubudu.D 2010). The indisputable fact is that sound leadership quotients, corrupt free society and good democratic governance are necessary ingredients that act as “enablers” for meaningful development facilitation either in national or global context. For instance, if a nation is governed by visionless leaders where corruption is entrenched and there is widespread impunity, there is no way development activities can blossom. With these cacophonies of structural deficiencies in Africa development environment, it may not be difficult to understand why development activities (both local and international) have not achieved desired objectives.

With enormous inputs by local and global development interventions, (Smart Adeyemi, 2015) asserts that African countries in the past fifty or more years are afflicted by the same recurring foundational challenge of structural distortions in development derivatives. The effect of this is that development efforts by various African national governments as well as external initiatives such as MDGs have not made any meaningful development impact. This is why there lingering poverty crisis, under-development and growth retardation across Africa. (Oyeyemi & Wale, 2011) assert that right from the 1950s when countries across Africa started obtaining independence from colonial masters till the eve of millennium development agenda; there have been no successful efforts to establish appropriate sustainable development enablements. In fact, there were no sustainable development structures to genuinely make Africa free from obvious leadership failure, corruption and poor governance encumbrances. As a result of this, the continent lacks sustainable development structure capable of instigating or nurturing growth. The Wikipedia (2011) report on the problems of poverty in Africa identifies key indices of lack sustainable structures not conducive for development facilitations. These include the absence of visionary leaders to drive African development process, endemic corruption, political instability and monolithic economic base.

It is the position of this study that Africa has not been able to maximize development benefits of MDGs and other international development programs because of fundamental distortions in her development matrix. The continent has consistently experienced development failures due to lack of fundamental structural development enablements. African paraded basic distortions that are not conducive for development facilitations. These distortions include disoriented leadership quality, pervasive corruption and absence of good governance. The gravity of distortion is such that it does not matter what development initiative are introduced in Africa be it the MDGs or SDGs and other global development initiatives, the fundamental distortions have remained repugnant thereby making it difficult to experience substantial growth and development.

Poor Performances of MDGs Due to Fundamental Structural Distortion in Development Paradigm: The Nigeria Experience

A critical appraisal of MDGs' performances against goals and targets in Nigeria is taken as our case study. Result of analysis will leave no one in doubt as to whether MDGs have achieved its desired intention. Our appraisal is anchored on study reports presented at German Development Institute/REGNET/Germany Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development collaborative International Conference on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Beyond: Reflection on International Development Policy Agenda Post 2015. The report gives a captivating summary of both the successes and failures MDG intervention as a global development intervention in Nigeria. Although, the report was developed as a lesson guide, it is also a prelude to the design of alternative development agenda that takes cognizance of obvious lapses. The summary report concurs that MDGs actually failed to attain far reaching success in targeted poverty ravaged countries around the world. The conclusion was reached after broad review of MDG interventions in specific country contexts Adeyeye, (2011) for instance gives report of MDG intervention in Nigeria by comparing actual outcomes of MDG intervention with intended objectives as follows:

MDG GOALS/TARGETS	PERFORMANCE RECORDS IN NIGERIA AT THE TWILIGHT OF 2015
<p>Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.</p> <p>Target 1 A: Halve the proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day.</p> <p>Target 1 B: Achieve Decent Employment for Women, Men, and Young People.</p> <p>Target 1 C: Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in GDP without corresponding effect on quality of life. - High inflation that easily wipe off disposable income. - Increase in unemployment among youth, men and women across Nigeria. - Increasing population that aggravate dependency ratio. - Increased incidence of hunger due to low income and inflation. - Increased poverty.
<p>GOAL 2: Achieve universal primary education.</p> <p>Target 2A: By 2015, all children can complete a full course of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase enrolment - Enrolments have not impact on quality of education. - Production of functional illiterates that find it difficult to establish appropriate

primary schooling, girls and boys.	<p>connection between education and development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children are rushed into school without adequate considerations to infrastructure, availability of teachers and other resources.
<p>Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women.</p> <p>Target 3A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2015, and at all levels by 2015.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existence of non-gender friendly cultural practices that hinders equality i.e. early marriages etc. - Gender affirmation by national government without corresponding institutional frame work. - Learning and opportunity gap - Decrease in employment opportunities and the few available are for grab by men.
<p>Goal 4: Reduce child mortality rates.</p> <p>Target 4A: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is considerable improvement in mortality rate as a consequence of immunizations program, but there remains the problem of family poverty that cannot guarantee nutritious life for children.
<p>Goal 5: Improve maternal health.</p> <p>Target 5A: Reduce by three quarters between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio.</p> <p>Target 5b: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maternal mortality still very prevalent in Nigerian rural areas. - Available health practitioners grossly insufficient to address health needs of Nigerian people. - Incidences of poverty and high cost of health services are serious hindrance to full access to reproductive health.
<p>Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.</p> <p>Target 6A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.</p> <p>Target 6B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it.</p> <p>Target 6C: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to HIV/AIDs remains as costly as ever even though there is greater awareness. - Poverty, lacks of access to safe-water and decent living have continued to aggravate poor health among Nigerian people. - Malaria, Tuberculosis and other preventable diseases is still greatest killer in Nigeria.

<p>Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability.</p> <p>Target 7A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs, reverse loss of environmental resources.</p> <p>Target 7B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss.</p> <p>Target 7C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation (for more information see the entry on water supply).</p> <p>Target 7D: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased desertification. - Massive damage to Nigeria ecosystem particularly across oil exploration and mining areas. - Increasing numbers of urban slum due to urban renewals. - Increased water, air and land pollution. - Lack of access to safe water by higher proportion of Nigerian populace. - Increasing incidences of water-borne diseases.
<p>Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development.</p> <p>Target 8A: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system.</p> <p>Target 8B: Address the Special needs of the least Developed Countries.</p> <p>Target 8C: Address the Special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing states.</p> <p>Target 8D: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activities in global scene designed in a way that favors only developed and rich countries. - The global trading system through WTO merely supported Nigerian exports without encouraging value addition. - Most Nigerian countries have reverted back to debt status despite the MDGs' propelled debt forgiveness. - The cost of drug and medical services are still costly thereby making nonsense of the partnership with pharmaceutical companies. - Various international laws on intellectual property rights have remained impediments to technology transfer.

The above report on MDG Intervention in Nigeria is part of presentations on MDGs, Excruciating poverty in Africa and the Challenge of a United Nations Global Development Regulatory Agency at International” Conference on Alternative Development Agenda Post-2015 organized by German Development Institute/REGNET/Germany Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development.

The above benchmark analysis clearly indicates that MDGs have not fully attained desired objectives in Nigeria despite the lofty objectives. The position of this study is that the problems of achieving targets are apparently not the fault of MDGs as a development agenda. Rather, it is the problems of inherent distortions within the African development paradigm which makes development difficult.

CONCLUSION

As African nations avail themselves of ongoing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) opportunity provided by international development agenda, it is very important to pay special attention to enhance quality of leadership in terms of availability of knowledge, envisioning and passion for development. African is in dire need of leaders that are committed. The continent requires leaders with strong conviction. Leaders that are ready to operate within the framework of ethics of leadership so that African countries can make success out of development efforts whether local or foreign induced. African countries have not being able to make appreciable progress, even in their own development choices due to combination of leadership flaws, corruption and lack of good governance mechanism. The low success of international development agenda is because the same sets of flawed leaders drive international development agenda.

Endemic corruption prevents sprawling growth and development activities. Most countries in Africa are filled with corruption landmines. These have adversely affected effective delivery of development programs be it local or global initiatives. Until corruption is tackled head-on, it will be difficult to get value for development effort African corrupt environment has greatly impeded successful implementation of development aids program and project. The problems of good governance with basic features such as accountability, openness, rule of law, democratic tenets are yet to take firm root in Africa. Expectedly, these inherent structural distortions which are the bane of local development efforts have also consistently marred effective optimization of international development efforts.

It should therefore not surprise anyone that Africa recorded little development success in her encounter with MDG agenda. The same was responsible for the low level of success achieved even when African used local initiatives to fast track national development. The basic truth is that African developing countries need to work on her inherent structural development distortion that had consistently subdued growth and sustainable development. Until the recurring spate of endemic corruption, successive showcasing of visionless leaders and perennially poor governance mechanism are eliminated, the initiatives at sustainable development whether local or foreign-induced agenda; may never achieve desired development impacts. As we voyaged into SDGs, another milestone in international development agenda and for it not to be an exercise in futility, there is need to address the critical problems of fundamental structural distortions which permeates African development paradigm

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- The major impediment to effective global governance is the challenge of global government. As much as we desire global governance for trashing issues of common interest across the globe, we should also muster the courage to accept the responsibility for commensurate global government. There can never be meaningful global governance without the required dose of global government.
- There have been long standing concerns as to the legitimacy and effective capacity of previous global development attempts at development facilitation in international context. The basis of the concern is that there has not been enough capacity and due capacity for effective global governance.
- This is the position that was vigorously articulated by African experts who strongly believed that the MDGs agenda is nothing but a waste time. It is the contention of these experts that the MDG agenda has not impacted the continent the way it should have done.
- This is the result of survey on the effects of MDGs development agenda on Africa man on the street. The essence of the survey is to move far beyond the rhetoric's of increase in national GDP, economic growth etc that does not translate into improved quality of life of a common men in the street of Africa. On this see COPE-AFRICA survey on poverty as it affect common man on the street.

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