

Assessment of Influence of Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) Organized Competitions on Eradication of Poverty on the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria.

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Abstract. The purpose of this study was to appraise the influence of FIFA Organized Competitions on the attainment of Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria. To achieve this purpose, a total of 285 respondents were used for the study. A stratified random sampling technique was used. In this technique; the six (6) geo-political zones in Nigeria were used. Experts in the field of Physical and Health Education vetted the questionnaire in order to determine its face and content validity. The final draft of the questionnaire was administered on the respondents. The data collected were statistically analyzed using Descriptive statistics of frequency, means and standard deviation to determine the average responses of the respondents, one sample t-test was used to determine whether the rated influence is considered statistically significant or not. The findings indicate that FIFA organized competitions have no significant influence on the eradication of poverty and hunger in Nigeria. The Federal Government could exploit FIFA organized competition for promoting peace among ethnic and religious groupings thereby promoting the games in Nigeria. It was recommended that there is a need to develop more infrastructural facilities for FIFA organized competitions in Nigeria as this would pave ways for hosting the games.

1. Introduction

FIFA (Federation International de Football) has been the governing body of world Football since 1904. It has grown from a small European-based organization into a body with a membership of almost 200 nations. The growth and the place of FIFA within the world order of trans-national organizations and worldwide cultural politics have been brought under scrutiny by scholars (Searle, 2008). Drawing from previous facts and observations of the politics of FIFA and its related football confederations, and the unique structure and personalities that run the world most popular game, the aims and importance of organized competitions as it is expressed by most national Federations and multinational organizations is a matter of concern (Fredline & Fawkner, 2002). For instance, stated that in many respects, until the Second World War, there was considerable ambiguity over precisely who ruled the World of Football. When FIFA came into being in 1904, its seven (7) founding members were France, Sweden, Belgium, Denmark, Switzerland, Spain and the Netherlands.

The first official match between representatives of two nations was between [England](#) and [Scotland](#) in 1872 at [Hamilton Crescent](#), Glasgow, finishing in a 0–0 draw. The following

year at [The Oval](#), England enjoyed a 4–2 victory over the travelling Scots. This was followed by the creation of the world's second national football association, the [Scottish Football Association](#) in 1873. Previously [the Football Association](#) of England had been the world's only governing body, though codified football was being played only in the United Kingdom. The sole aim of FIFA organized sports competitions have metamorphosed into FIFA developmental project whose direction as a globally powerful organization sprang up during the period of Dr. Joao Havelange from 1974 to 1998. This development saw FIFA organized competitions throughout the world as a social transformer and its economic impact made it a phenomenal force (Fredline & Fawkner, 2002). According to Blatter (1996) who stated that about 200 million persons were actively involved in football and with an estimated 1.2 billion people directly or indirectly present an annual turnover of 200 billion dollars far higher than some cooperate organizations such as Mitsubishi or General Motors, (Blatter, 1996). It is however important to compare the economic situation of FIFA with that of the institutions. For instance, the goal of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is to combat world hunger and provide advice to government on food production, while United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has the broad aim of forging global educational and cultural links for the purpose of advancing the objectives of international Peace and the common welfare of mankind. From the above mentioned aims, there seems to be some striking similarities between some of these United Nations (UN) and FIFA organized competitions.

However, these developments and similarities among institutions and organs of government made the United Nations, on September 2000 at the millennium summit to establish the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS). The aim of the establishment of the MDGS was to, eradicate or reduce poverty, hunger. Therefore, having known the interdependence of various institutions and organizations and a brief development in football and the similarities in the goal and political agenda of these institutions, it is not very clear whether FIFA

organized competitions had any influence in the attainment of Millennium Development Goals. This study assesses the influence of FIFA Organized competitions in the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and if United Nations achieved its Millennium Development Goals in Africa and in Nigeria in particular through FIFA organized competitions as a strategic means. This aims at: reducing half the populations of the people who are living on less than one dollar a day, achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people. Reducing the half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. FIFA participants, volunteers and coaches acquire transferable life skills which increase their community services and supports through sport-based outreach programs. FIFA Programs and sports equipment production provide jobs and skills development. FIFA can help reduce stigma and increase self-esteem, self-confidence and social skills, leading to increasing employability.

2. Statement of the Problem

Countries and cities spend so much money to participate, host and organize FIFA competitions (Antonakis, 2006). The pride, glory and the opportunity to showcase to the world the host countries culture and cities, there are the perceptions and belief that such events create an economic windfall (Matheson & Baade, 2004), This may be the case for developed nations, the prize for hosting FIFA organized competitions in developing nations is far from being sustainable (Rojek & Dunning 1992; Anotonakis, 2006; Levermore & Baacom, 2008). They further opine that host countries have to shoulder the constructions of modern stadia, hotels, built roads networks and other forms of infrastructure necessary to host global competition. These facilities are not maintained after the sports competitions (Venkateswarlu, 2006).

According to Matheson and Baade (2004), the constructions of these state of the art stadia are not sustainable, as ticket revenues alone are not able to make up for the cost of yearly maintenance during or after competition. Some

of the problems encountered during the implementation of the program include lack of political will from the government, mismanagement of funds, low women participation in the program, lack of transferable skills from the coaches, participants and volunteers and inability to bring about the much desired peace as entrenched in the development goals. (Venkateswarlu, 2006, Matheson and Baade, 2004).

It is not very clear whether such benefit exists in Africa and Nigeria in particular. Although much has been reported about the challenges faced by developing countries in organizing football competition, the case of South Africa and the world cup in 2010 was faced with so many bribery and corruption allegations coming up after the 2010 world cup (Levermore and Beacom, Ogi, 2002; Searle, 2008; Venkateswarlu; 2008). Preuss (2008) listed a number of objectives South Africa had in mind; putting the country on the map, showcasing the region, promoting the political system, creating new trading partners, attracting investment, urban renewal including housing and infrastructure and building a legacy of sport infrastructure. Building a legacy was successful since South Africa won the hosting right of Africa Cup of Nations in 2013.

In view of the fact that FIFA aligned with the achievement of the eight Millennium Development Goals by the year 2015, the researcher was motivated to appraise the Influence of FIFA organized sports competitions on the attainment of Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria.

3. Hypothesis

There is no significant influence of FIFA organized competitions on eradication of poverty and hunger

4. Methodology

Ex-post facto research design was used. Thomas & Nelson, (2007), stated that this method is the best tool to use in descriptive research involving current events or conditions. The population of this study consisted of all staff of Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), State Football Association (FA) Secretaries in the 36 States of the Federation and F.C.T, Abuja. It also included all staff working in the MDGs offices in the 36 states of the federation and F.C.T Abuja on the basis of the study, a total of 285 respondents were used for the study which is shown below:

Table 1: Sample Respondents for the Study

	Organization	Respondents
1	States F.A s	16 officials X 10 states = 160 respondents
2	Nigeria Football Federation (NFF)	25 officials = 25 respondents
3	Millennium Development Goals office	10 officials X 10 States = 100 respondents
	Total	= 285

* NFF = 25 officials, MDGs = 100 Officials and State FAs = 160 officials = 285 Respondents

In order to ensure equal chances for the respondents to be part of the study, a stratified random sampling technique was used. In this technique, the six (6) geo-political zones in Nigeria were used. They are: North Central (NC) North East (NE) North West (NW) South East (SE) South West (SW) South South (SS). The dip, pick, recorded and returned method. The state F.A were written on pieces of papers differently and drop in a box/bag and the research assistants picked one at a time and the researcher will record and will have the pieces of paper refolded and returned into the box/bag

on each occasion a state F.A was picked until the two state F.A.s required for each zone are achieved. This is to keep the same number for all the selection process, (Thomas & Nelson, 2007). Purposive sampling techniques were applied for Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) as such; twenty five (25) officials was purposively selected according to their status. At the State levels sixteen Football Association (FA) officials was purposively sampled from each State. From the Millennium Development Goals offices ten (10) officials would be randomly sampled from each state. The table below is the

summary of how the respondents were sampled. The instrument for this study was the questionnaire which was self-developed by the researcher into the following sections: A: Bio data, B: Key for respondent feelings, C: FIFA organized Competitions and the Eradication of Poverty and Hunger and attainment of MDG in Nigeria, D: FIFA Organized Competitions on the Attainment of Universal Primary Education and attainment of MDG in Nigeria, E: FIFA Organized Competitions and Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in Nigeria and attainment of MDG in Nigeria, F: FIFA Organized Competitions assist in Combating HIV/AIDS in Nigeria and attainment of MDG in Nigeria, G: FIFA Organized Competitions and reduction of child mortality and attainment of MDG in Nigeria, H: FIFA Organized Competitions and improvement of maternal health and attainment of MDG in Nigeria, I: FIFA Organized Competitions and ensuring environmental sustainability and attainment of MDG in Nigeria and J: FIFA Organized Competitions and Global Partnership for Development and attainment of MDG in Nigeria. The likert 5-point scale of measurement was used, that is, it would have strongly agrees points, agree 4 points, undecided 3 points, disagree 2 points, simply disagree 1 point. Was adopted. Thomas & Nelson, (2007), expressed that likert scale of measurement allows the respondents to place themselves along a feeling continuum for each statement in the instrument inventory. In order to determine the face validity and internal consistency, the questionnaire was given to five different professional experts' sports management, within and outside the Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria to serve as jurors by vetting the contents with the sole aim of determining the instruments' suitability and adequacy. On the basis of their inputs a final clean copy of the questionnaire was prepared for the conduct of pilot study.

To establish the reliability of the instrument to be ascertained, two states from the North Central (NC) geopolitical zone was used for the pilot study. The states for the pilot study were selected by the method used in the selection of

the states for the study. Through this method, Plateau and Nasarawa states were selected. The instrument therefore was administered to 26 respondents each selected from Plateau and Nasarawa state FA's and MDG's. The total questionnaires used were therefore 52 respondents. The data collected were coded and subjected to statistical analysis using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS IBM version 20). The Cronbach Alpha, option was selected in line with (Tavakol, 2011) recommendation for interval scaling for establishing the reliability of the instrument and internal consistency of the items within it. The observed reliability obtained for the instrument for the cronbach Alpha was 0.89, The internal consistency index was establish at 0.89 for the average measure intra-class Correlation. The obtained reliability coefficients all indicated that the instrument could be considered reliable and internally consistent for the study. This observation is consistent with Field, (2006) recommendations which states that the reliability coefficient of between 0.5 and 1 is expected to be obtained for an instrument which would imply that it is reliable and internally consistent for a study and studies of similar nature. The researcher with the help of six (6) research assistants, who were trained on how to administer the questionnaire and be deployed to administer the questionnaire within two weeks.

As the purpose of this study is to assess the influence of Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) organized competitions on the attainment of Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria, the statistical package for social science (SPSS) was used to analyze the data. Descriptive statistics of frequency means and standard deviation to determine the average responses of the respondents and to answer the research questions rose in this study, one sample t-test was used for differences among the NFF Staff, State FA's Staff and MDG's Staff in their perceptions of the influence of FIFA organized competition on the attainment of MDG's and All statistical techniques were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

5. Result:

Table 2: Research question mean scores of the responses on FIFA organized competitions’ influence on the eradication of poverty and attainment of MDGs in Nigeria

SN	Eradication of poverty in Nigeria and attainment of Millennium Goals (MDGs)	Mean	S. D.
1	Through Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) organized sports competitions the poverty in Nigeria could be eradicated	2.88	1.577
2	Through Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) through its competitions has alleviated the living standard of many nations	3.00	1.520
3	Through Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) organized sports competitions are only for poverty eradication	2.87	1.504
4	Through Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) organized competitions, many children have become self-employed.	2.83	1.482
5	Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) organized competitions have no economic benefit to Nigeria	2.90	1.507
6	Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) organized competitions could help improved Food storage facilities to Nigeria	2.98	1.391
7	Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) organized competitions could help eliminate hunger in Nigeria.	2.88	1.421
8	Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) organized competitions could help promote free trade in and out of Nations.	2.83	1.478
9	Through Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) organized competitions, Nigeria as a nation could benefit from High Economic growth.	2.89	1.589
10	Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) organized competitions have improve Nigeria’s International trade.	2.96	1.494
Aggregate mean		2.90	0.594

The aggregate mean score of 2.90 with a standard deviation of 0.594 for the table shows that the respondents did not have the positive perception that FIFA organized competitions have significance influence on the eradication of poverty and the attainment of Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria. This is perceived to be non-achievement of self-employment opportunities creation which enhance derived economic benefits from such competitions organized within the county. The respondents were therefore of view that such competitions no adequate resources to completely eradicated poverty in the country. The respondents did not perceive that any of the FIFA organized competitions could be said to be aimed at eradication of poverty and encourage improvement in the standard of living of the people.

This could explain their disagreement with suggestion that FIFA organized competitions have economic benefit to Nigeria and their disagreement with the suggestion that the FIFA organized sports competitions help promote free trade which has economic benefits to Nigeria that in turn enhance the standard of living in the country and improve the economic standard. It could thus be said that the respondents were of the view that FIFA organized competitions have no significance influence on the eradication of poverty and the attainment of Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria.

The opinions of the respondents on the level of influence of FIFA organized competitions on eradication of poverty and hunger in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals examined in Table .2 is tested in this hypothesis. The mean scores for the items were subjected to a one sample t-test to determine whether the rated influence is considered statistical significant or not. A summary of the test is presented in Table 3.

Hypothesis: There is no significant influence of FIFA organized competitions on eradication of poverty and hunger

Table 3: One sample t-test on influence of FIFA organized competitions on eradication of poverty and hunger in the attainment of MDGs in Nigeria.

Variables	N	Mean	S. D.	S. E	t-value	DF	P-value	Remarks
Eradication of poverty	276	2.90	0.594	0.036	1.715	275	0.070	NS
Test mean	276	3.00	0.000	0.000				

The table showed that the respondents were of the opinion that FIFA Organized Competitions has no significant influence on the eradication of poverty and hunger enshrined in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria. The observed t-value of 1.715 for the table is higher than the critical value of 1.96 at the 275 degree of freedom (DF). The probability level of significance obtained for the test is 0.070 ($P > 0.05$). With these observations, there is no sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis that there is no significant influence of FIFA organized competitions on the eradication of poverty and hunger in Nigeria.

6. Discussion:

In the test of the hypothesis, the significance of the influence of FIFA organized competitions on the eradication of poverty in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria was tested. The result showed that the rating of the influence by the respondents was not significant. The null hypothesis was therefore retained. The finding contradicts the report of the former Secretary-General of United Nations Organization Kofi Annan (2005) who stated that developing countries are reducing extreme poverty, extending access to primary education and alleviating disease and hunger in many regions of the world, pursuit of targets set in the year-2000 UN Millennium Declaration.

7. Conclusion

From the findings of this study the following conclusion was drawn:
 FIFA organized competitions have no much influence on the eradication of poverty and hunger through their activities in Nigeria.

8. Recommendation

Based on the conclusion obtained from this study, it is therefore recommended that the

Federal government through the ministry of Sports and Youth Development should put in place to ensure that FIFA organized competitions are encouraged in view of their numerous advantages of providing economic opportunities.

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