

## Assessment of The Millennium Development Goals (MGDs)

SALISU AHMED KABIRU, LAWAL MUSA BATSARI  
Umaru Musa Yar'adua University, Katsina, Nigeria.

**Abstract.** Millennium Development Goals, are 8 goals which the international community agreed to achieve from 2000 to 2015 that centers on eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promote gender equality, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, reducing prevalence of malaria, and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development. This study is an assessment of the MDGs, and the study utilized qualitative method and the data for the study was obtained from secondary source. Result from analytical analysis indicated that, while some of the goals were achieved especially in the developed countries, some other goals were not achieved mostly by the low-income countries. This paper argues that, for the world to achieve the next world development agender which is SDG, there must be more cooperation and coordination among member states in terms of resources mobilization and planning.

**Keywords:** Millennium Development Goal, Assessment

### 1. Introduction

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight (8) objectives which the world community consented to accomplish from 2000 to 2015 which revolves around decreasing extreme poverty and hunger, improving primary school enrolment, reducing mortality, improving maternal wellbeing, battling HIV/AIDS, curtailing the prevalence of diseases, guaranteeing natural maintainability and building up a worldwide organization for development (MDG Monitor, 2016). Although, there has been some success in some areas such as in reducing maternity rate globally, yet most of the goals were not achieved particularly by the low-income countries.

The reason for the failure was due to some factors which include absence of proper coordination, and close supervision, lack of adequate resources at the disposal of most of the low-income countries of the world, and absence of high-level implementation and monitoring mechanism to safeguard conformity with the set objective. Although, from 2000 on, there was some sort of monitoring progress and follow up effort to assess the progress so far, for example, in 2008 there was a follow up which comprises governments, foundations, business groups and civil society which at the end of the assessment announced a new commitment to meet the MDGs (MDG Monitor, 2016). Similarly, in 2013 there was a Global MDG Conference which was also an assessment forum in which participants in the Global MDG Conference underlined the importance of maintaining the momentum for accelerating progress to meet the 2015 target.

In the light of the above, this paper assesses the MDGs using conceptual approach, where the data for the study was mainly from secondary source and the analysis was analytical.

### 2. Literature Review

Development as a concept is multifaceted and multidimensional that could be understood from different perspectives depending on the background and contextual discussion upon which the concept is discussed. The term development means different things to different people, some people take it to mean change, others take it as advancement, improvement, and progress, and some scholars regard it, as modernization or westernization.

Within the contextual view of millennium development goals, development is perceived broadly as a continuous positive process of change in the well-being of a person or group of persons. In this perspective, development is viewed as ability to feed,

cloth, to live a longer life, better health, ability to read and write, and the ability to have a decent shelter.

Generally, development is a concept, which explains the general upliftment in the material, social and psychological conditions of a given human society. According to Seers (1974), development involves not only economic growth but also the conditions in which the people of a particular country have adequate food, jobs, and also incomes inequality is greatly reduced. The inquiry to pose about a nation's development according to Seer are consequently, what has been going on to disparity, joblessness and neediness, in the event that the sum total of what these have been decreasing from significant level, to low level, at that certain point, this has been a time of development for the nation concerned, but if one or two of these central problems have been growing up especially if all the three, it would be strange to call the result, development even if the per capita income multiplies several times.

Also, Rodney (1972), saw development as a many-sided process, at the individual level, it implies increase skills and abilities, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and material well-being, at the level of social groups, development implies an increasing capacity to regulate both internal and external relationships. Thus, development entails improvement on peoples', level of living, their incomes, health, education and their general well-being. It also, encompasses their self-esteem, prestige, dignity and freedom to choose. Development is both a physical reality and a state of mind in which society has some combination of social, economic and institutional processes for securing a better life.

Analytical Discussion

Within the context of millennium development goal, the eight goals were analysis and discussed with a view of understanding the actual achievement from 2000 to 2015.

### **2.1 MDG1 Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger**

Reducing the rate of poverty and its associate problems of inequality lack of respect for basic human rights, ill health, lack of knowledge and skills and marginalization of large numbers of people are among the great challenges of this new century. A worldwide gauge of poverty uncovered that, the pace of poverty remains at 1.2 billion individuals which equals the entire population of China. The most

troubling truth was that, more than 70 percent of the poor live in low-income countries mostly ruralites and they are enslaved by vicious circle of poverty, lacking the means to access services and opportunities such as, education, and gainful employment that might take them out of poverty (MDG Monitor, 2016).

According to a report from the UN, the report indicated that, there were some areas where the MDGs has made an achievement such as in reducing extreme poverty and hunger by half which has been met, as well as the target of improving school enrolment, also the number of people who lack access to clean drinking water has been reduced, there was success in the effort to curtail the menace of communicable diseases like tuberculosis and malaria, death of children under five years, and maternal mortality has drastically reduced. Moreover, there has been success in the ratio of primary school admission between girl-child and boys (Lomazzi, 2014).

Even though, there has been a tremendous achievement by UN in reducing extreme poverty as highlighted by the UN, yet, majority of the low-income countries in Africa and South America have not recorded such milestone success. For instance, current evaluations demonstrate that, 10 percent of the total world populace lived on less than US\$1.90 per day in 2015 compare with 11percent in 2013, also 1.1 billion people are living in extreme poverty than in 1990 (World Bank,2017). Similarly, in spite of the decline in the extreme poverty rate in Sub-Saharan Africa to 41 percent, but due to the region's population growth, 389 million people lived on less than \$1.90 a day in 2013, and in 1990 the number was 113 million which implies that there was an increase of poverty from 1990 to 2013 (World Bank,2017).

### **2.2 MDG2 Achieving Universal Primary Education**

Industrialized countries of the world have successfully tried in increasing their funding of education to 26 % of their GNP at all levels of education, especially in primary education which allowed them to even exceed the MDGs target, but less developed countries tend to spend less than 10 % of their budget to education (World Bank, 2017). For example, around 124 developing countries that were signatory to the MDGs spend less than 5 % of their GNP on education with exception of Cape Verde, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Malaysia, Namibia and Tunisia who spend between 10 to 40 % respectively.

While there was significant improvement of literacy in the industrialized nations, on the contrary, literacy in the less-income nations has not been good enough as the rate was 77.5 % in 1990 (World Bank, 2017). Moreover, the over-all number of uneducated adults is still surging in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Arab States and in South Asia. For example, Burkina Faso, Niger and South Sudan are at the bottom of the rank where the literacy rates are still below 30% (Roser, 2013). Similarly, in Nigeria for instance, where 20 % of Africans reside, 10.5 million children were reported to have been out of school according recent UNESCO report (Roser, 2013).

### **2.3 MDG3 Promoting Gender Equality and Empowering Women**

Advancing gender equality is fundamental for meeting the MDGs and for making prosperous, safe, and peaceful world, where women have better access to health services, to education, the economy tend to growth faster. Again, where females are treated as second rate compared to male, an unending circle of confinement is created such as limited employment opportunities, lack of access to healthcare, forced marriages, constrained relationships and every now and again brutality and abuse can be set up and propagated. Concentrating more help on young female offers a chance to supplant that endless loop with a righteous one that puts female at the core of their families and their networks.

Gender inequality is often greater among the poor, both within and across countries. For instance, the gender gap in terms of aggregate enrolment both in primary and secondary gross has significantly decreased between 1991 and 2009. Globally, it is wider in poor countries 7 % points for primary enrollment, 13 % points for secondary enrollment, while in high income nations it accounts for 3% and 2% for both primary and secondary school respectively. In poorer nations and more isolated communities, the disparity between boys and girls has been in the increase (World Bank, 2011).

While in labor market, opportunities for women is very slim, and where they are able to get a job, they earn less than men for similar work, as was indicated recently, women earn just 79 cents for every dollar men make in 2019 regardless of job type or worker's position and more prone to be poor whether they work or not.

Women spend almost twice as much time on housework, almost five times as much time on child care, and about half as much time on market work as

men do (UN,2017). The proportion of parliamentary members, women constituted only 19.4 percent for the upper and the lower chamber (Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2011). From a legal point, in many countries of the world, women lack legal right to own land and have property of their own as well as to conduct a decent business, or even to travel without their husband's consent, and for the 21 of the 63 countries studied by Htun and Weldon (2011) have found an unequal inheritance rights for men and women.

### **2.4 MDG4 Reducing Child Mortality Rates**

Undernutrition is assessed to add to in excess of 33% of all death of children under five. Collaborative programs among development partners such as Child Hunger and Undernutrition (REACH) and WHO, WFP, and UNICEF have helped networks and family units secure access to healthfully sufficient eating regimens which limit undernutrition. Among all the 8 MDGs goal, goal 4 is among the accomplished goal as data indicated. For instance, there was a reduction of mortality rate of children of under-five by more than 50 % which equals to a reduction of 90 to 43 deaths for each 1,000 live births. There was a worldwide drop in the number of children under-five dying from 12.7 million in 1990 to about 6 million in 2015 despite the population growth, and there was also an increase by three-fold in the pace of decrease of under-five mortality since the mid-1990s (MDG Monitor, 2016).

Even though, some countries of the Sub-Saharan Africa, were left behind in achieving all of the 8 goals, yet they have recorded a success in achieving goal 4 as MDGs report indicated. From 1990 to 2015, the yearly pace of decrease of under-five mortality was five times when compare with the period between 1990 and 1995. Moreover, in the area of measles vaccination, the effort has helped to prevent the death of children of about 15.6 million from 2000 to 2013, implying a reduction of 67 % in the total measles cases reported worldwide , and about 84 % of children worldwide was said to have received at least one dose of measles containing vaccine in 2013 which accounted to 73 % increase since 2000.

Around 84 % of children worldwide was said to have gotten a portion of measles vaccination containing antibody in 2013 which record to 73 % expansion since 2000. Despite the global achievement in reducing the mortality rate of children of under-five, nations like Oceania and some Sub Saharan African have not accomplished more than 50 percent decrease in under-five mortality (MDG Monitor, 2016).

Regardless of the achievements in most low-income nations, the pace was not sufficient enough to meet the MDG focus in 2015. Around 16,000 children under five keep are dying each day in 2015, for the most part because of preventable causes like pneumonia, intestinal sickness, and looseness of the bowels. Another 6 million children were estimated to die before the reach age five (MDG Monitor, 2016).

### **2.5 MDG5 Improving Maternal Health**

Improving maternal wellbeing is basic to sparing the lives of a huge number of women who die because of entanglement from pregnancy and childbirth yearly. More than 90 % of these deaths could be forestalled if women in low income countries have easy means of getting balance diet, basic knowledge about pregnancy, clean water, and good sanitation facilities before and after childbirth. From 1990 to 2015, the number of women dying during pregnancy and after childbirth has reduced tremendously, a 45 % reduction in maternity mortality was recorded worldwide and in South Asia there was a 64 % decrease in maternal mortality ratio between 1990 and 2013, and 49 % in Sub-Saharan Africa. Additionally, there was an expansion of 12 % increase of helped births by trained personnel the world over in 2014, which accounted for 70 %, as against 59 % in 1990. The North African region had recorded a surge of women receiving four or more antenatal visits by 50 percent in 1990 to 89 % in 2014 (MDG Monitor, 2016).

Despite the success recorded so far, a substantial number of women die every day during pregnancy from intricacies emerging from childbirth. The maternal death rate in low income region is around 14 % above high-income countries. The world over, there is an expected 289,000 maternal death in 2013 which is equal to 800 women dying every day. The highest number of women dying from maternal problem was recorded in Sub-Saharan African and Southern Asia which stand at 86 %.

Several maternal issues which result to the death of a large number of women is preventable if proper mechanism was in place, and of the total death, hemorrhage account for more than 27 % of maternal death in less developed nations which stands at 16 %. Similar intricacies resulting to death are unsafe abortion, infections, high blood pressure during pregnancy, and intricacies from delivery. Well planned health-care assistance can support manage or prevent these intricacies, including expert attention during childbirth, antenatal care during the period of pregnancy, and attention and support in the weeks following childbirth (World Bank, 2017).

### **2.6 MDG6 Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**

MDG 6 was based on reducing spread of HIV, Malaria, Tuberculosis and different infections. Based on this reasoning, MDG 6 has 3 targets, stopping significantly the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015 as well achieving worldwide access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for those who need it, and to ceased and start reversal of the incidence of malaria and other major diseases by 2015. Reduction of malaria infection by 40 %, and the spread of HIV from 3.5 million cases in 2000 to 2.1 million were among the achievement so far recorded. There was also a colossal upsurge in the number of individuals living with HIV getting retroviral treatment (ART) globally, from 800,000 in 2003 to 13.6 million in 2014. The rate of death as a result of HIV has decreased by 45 % from 1990 and 2013, while predominance rate fell by 41 % within a similar timeframe (MDG Monitor, 2016).

New cases of HIV diseases have declined all around by about 40 % globally showing a drop from an expected 3.5 million to 2.1 million new contaminations. Among the nations with adequate information, 10 nations recorded a drop in excess of 75 % in new HIV contaminations from 2000 to 2013, while another 27 nations recorded a decrease of in excess of 50 percent. The 75 % of new diseases recorded in 2013 happened in just 15 countries, however sub-Saharan Africa is as yet the most seriously influenced by the scourge with an expected 1.5 million new contaminations in 2013. Of these, almost 50 % have happened in three nations, South Africa, Nigeria, and Uganda (MDG Monitor, 2016).

### **2.7 MDG7 Ensuring Environmental Sustainability**

MGDs 7 is about ensuring environmental sustainability, hence policies and programmes were geared toward reversing the depletion of environmental resources, and to halve environmental degradation by 2015. Out of the 30% of the total land that is forest, an estimated 1.6 billion people depend on forests directly for their livelihoods, as well as clean air and water. Forests also provide a habitat for millions of plants and animals, as well as catchment for 75 % of the world's fresh water. They help in the adaptation and mitigation of climate change, though they are under threat from deforestation.

Since the launch of MDG in 1990, there was significant increase in marine and terrestrial protected areas in many regions. For example, in Caribbean

and Latin America, coverage of terrestrial protected areas increased from 8.8 % in 1990 to 23.4 % in 2014. Similarly, access to safe drinking water has increased from 76 % in 1990 to 91 % in 2015. Additionally, an estimated 2.6 billion have access to safe since 1990, and 1.9 people have access to piped water on premises, and 58 % of the world population access this service in 2015.

147 nations were able to achieve the target of safe water target, 95 nations have met the sanitation target, while 77 nations met both the sanitation and safe water target respectively. At the same time, the proportion of people practicing open defecation has reduced by nearly 50 % since 1990. Net loss in forest cover reduced from 8.3 million hectares annually in 1990 to 5.2 million hectares annually each year between 2000 and 2010 (Okon, 2012).

Despite the success recorded for the last 15 years in securing the planet, a lot must be done to save the planet from severe climate change as deforestation remain high in South America, Africa, and Oceania where there was a significant net losses of forest area, due to severe drought and forest fires as reported. More so, between 1990 and 2012, CO<sub>2</sub> emission had increase by 50% the world over, as a result of the growth in developing regions. This increase in emission is expected to rise which in turn will have a drastic effect on the global climate and possibly irreversible consequences for people and ecosystems, like food shortages and longer lasting weather extremes. Moreover, increased exploitation of marine fisheries is threatening livelihoods, food security, economies, and ecosystems, as between 1974 and 2011, the number of marine fish stocks within safe biological limits dropped by 19 %, from 90 % to 71 %.

Consequently, fish stocks in 2015 were below the level at which they can maximize sustainable yields. In 2011, 41 countries experienced water scarcity as against 39 countries in 1988. Also, 10 Countries from Central Asia, Arabian Peninsula, and North Africa withdrew more than 100% of their renewable fresh water which implies they are depleting their renewable groundwater resources.

## **2.8 MDG8 Developing a global partnership for development**

MDGs 8 was predicated on global partnership, which seek to encourage partnership among nations for socio-economic development. Specifically, the partnership aims to establish an open predictable, rule-based, non-discriminatory trading and economic system, to address the special needs of the developing

nations to comprehensively deal with debt issues and provide the mechanism through which the developing nations could access affordable drugs in collaboration with the developed nations. Other aims which the world partnership seeks to establish include: collaboration in technology transfer, communication, sciences, and in agriculture, as well as in trade. The success recorded as a result of the global partnership as from 1990 to 2015 include, 60% a rise in assistance given to the developing nations by the developed nation reaching \$135.2 billion.

Similarly, developed nations such as United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Luxemburg continue to give assistance to developing nation which exceed 0.7 % which is the UN threshold, and export from the developing nation to developed nation has increased to 65% in 2000, and 79% in 2014 (United Nations Development Programme, 2013).

The proportion of external debt service to export revenue in the developing world reduced from 12 to 3 % between 2000 and 2013. Additionally, 95 % of the global population is covered by a mobile cellular signal as of 2015. Moreover, mobile-cellular subscription has grown by nearly tenfold in the last 15 years, from 738 million to over 7 billion between 2000 and 2015. Similarly, internet penetration has increased from about 6 % of the global population to 43 % between 2000 and 2015. Consequently, 3.2 billion people are now linked to an international network of content and applications. Also, net official development assistance (ODA) from member countries of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) increased by 66 % between 2000 and 2014, reaching a peak of \$135.2 billion in 2013 (United Nations, 2008). There was also, an increase of humanitarian aid by 22 %, from \$11 billion to \$13 billion. Similarly, debt relief grants dropped by 87 % from \$3.6 billion to \$476 million (World Bank, 2017).

Although, there has been increase in terms of collaboration, yet the relationship between the developed nation and developing nation is not on equal basis (Olusola, 2016). There exists exploitation by the developed nation in terms of trade and technology transfer. It is on these bases that, it has been argued by some scholars that, aid to less income countries is not a healthy thing, if the developed nation really want to assist, they should help in building the capacity of the developing nation through training and technology transfer (Olabode, 2014

Conclusion

This study assessed MDGs which will serve as a mirror for the attainment of sustainable development which is the next global initiative. Conclusively, this study argued that, there is need for a concerted effort if at all the sustainable development is to be achieved. Available record has shown that, while some goals were achieved, others were not achieved especially in the developing countries which call for a careful implementation of the next development initiative.

References

- Akintoye, V. A., & Opeyemi, O. A. (2014). Prospects for achieving Sustainable Development through the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria. *European Journal of Sustainable Development*, 3(1), 33-33.
- Assefa, Y., Van Damme, W., Williams, O. D., & Hill, P. S. (2017). Successes and Challenges of the Millennium Development goals in Ethiopia: Lessons for the Sustainable Development Goals. *BMJ Global Health*, 2(2), e000318.
- Awortwi, N., & Musahara, H. (Eds.). (2016). *Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals: Progresses and Challenges in Some African Countries*. Ethiopia: OSSREA.
- Fukuda-Parr, S., Greenstein, J., & Stewart, D. (2013). How should MDG success and failure be judged: Faster progress or achieving the targets?. *World Development*, 41, 19-30.
- Ki-Moon, B. (2013). The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013. United Nations Pubns. Retrieved from [https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as\\_sdt=0%2C5&q=The+Millennium+Development+Goals+Report+2015&btnG=](https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=0%2C5&q=The+Millennium+Development+Goals+Report+2015&btnG=)
- Lawal, A. I., Obasaju, B., & Rotimi, E. M. (2012). Towards achieving Millennium Development Goals (Mdg) in Nigeria: Prospect and Challenges. *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, 3(9), 74-82.
- Roser, M., & Ritchie, H. (2013). Hunger and Undernourishment. Our World in Data. Retrieved from [https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as\\_sdt=0%2C5&q=%28Roser%2C+2013%29.+MDG&btnG=](https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=0%2C5&q=%28Roser%2C+2013%29.+MDG&btnG=)
- Htun, M., & Weldon, S. L. (2011). State Power, Religion, and Women's Rights: A Comparative Analysis of Family Law. *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies*, 18(1), 145-165.
- Lomazzi, M., Borisch, B., & Laaser, U. (2014). The Millennium Development Goals: Experiences, Achievements and what's next. *Global Health Action*, 7(1), 23695.
- MDG Monitor (2016, November). MDG Progress Retrieved from <https://www.mdgmonitor.org/mdg-8-develop-a-global-partnership-for-development/>
- NBS (2017). *The Nigerian Statistical fact sheet on Economic and Social Development*. National Bureau of Statistics, Abuja.
- World Bank. (2017). The World Bank Annual Report 2012. The World Bank. Retrieved from [https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as\\_sdt=0%2C5&q=World+Bank%2C+2017+MDG&btnG=#d=gs\\_cit&u=%2Fscholar%3Fq%3Dinfo%3AadrfmESLa8cAJ%3Ascholar.google.com%2F%26output%3Dcite%26scirp%3D9%26hl%3Den](https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=0%2C5&q=World+Bank%2C+2017+MDG&btnG=#d=gs_cit&u=%2Fscholar%3Fq%3Dinfo%3AadrfmESLa8cAJ%3Ascholar.google.com%2F%26output%3Dcite%26scirp%3D9%26hl%3Den)
- Rodney, W. (2018). How Europe Underdeveloped Africa. Verso Trade. Retrieved from [https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as\\_sdt=0%2C5&q=Rodney+%281972%29&btnG=](https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=0%2C5&q=Rodney+%281972%29&btnG=)
- Seers, D., Schaffer, B., & Kiljunen, M. L. (Eds.). (1979). Underdeveloped Europe: Studies in Core-Periphery Relations (No. 1). Humanities Press.
- Okon, D. E., & Ukwai, J. K. (2012). Challenges and Prospects of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS) in Nigeria. *Global Journal of Social Sciences*, 11(2), 118-132.
- Olabode, K. T., Adeigbe, Y., Kayode, Z. Y. H., & Owonibi, E. (2014). Millennium development goals (MDGs) in Nigeria: Issues and Problems. *Global Journal of Human-Social Science: Sociology & Culture*, 14(5).
- Olusola, O., & Plaatjie, S. R. (2016). Problems and Prospects of Millennium Development Goals in Ghana. *Africa's Public Service Delivery and Performance Review*, 4(4), 624-638.
- United Nations (2008). Commitments for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. High-level event. Available from: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2008highlevel/commitments.shtml> [cited 10 April 2013]
- United Nations Development Programme. (2013). Global MDG Conference. Making the MDGs work; 2013. Available from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/>

[presscenter/](#) events/2013/february/27-28-february--making-the-mdgs-work.html[cited 10 April 2013].

Woolbridge, M. (2015). From MDGs to SDGs: What are the Sustainable Development Goals. *Bonn: ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability*. Retrieved from [https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as\\_sdt=0%2C5&q=From+MDGs+to+SDGs%3A+What+are+the+Sustainable+Development+Goals%3F&btnG=](https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=0%2C5&q=From+MDGs+to+SDGs%3A+What+are+the+Sustainable+Development+Goals%3F&btnG=)