

## **Engineering Implication for Millennium development Goals in Revamping and Sustaining Nigeria Economy**

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### **Abstract**

The paper focuses on the Engineering means of revamping Nigeria Economy, following the United Nation millennium Declaration at the millennium summit in 2000. The Millennium Development Goals which are to be realized by 2015 are a set of developmental targets aimed at affecting measurable improvement in the life of the world's poorest citizens. The goals are related to poverty reduction, gender inequality, child and material health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, environmental sustainability, and international cooperation for development. In order to achieve this goal, the Federal government of Nigeria decided to channel a total sum of ₦100 billion from the 2006 budget into ministries and Agencies for intervention in designed Paris club Debt Relief Gain and programmes with the context of National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies (NEEDS). However, the aim is to revamp and sustain Nigeria Economic by producing immediate measurable impact on the target communities and adopting a mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of public expenditure on the goals in providing dependable expenditure tracking and impact assessment in the short term, and to be fully institutionalized in the public expenditure management system with long term

### **Introduction**

As the developing countries continue to pay their debt grant from the developed countries, approximately 70% of people in the 21<sup>st</sup> century could not read and write or even afford a good square meal in a day. The above issue propelled the United nation General Assembly to adopt and declare the millennium development goals (MDGs), committing nations of the world to battle poverty, diseases, gender inequality, and environmental degradation and to foster a global partnership for development. In collaboration, the federal government took both policy and institutional step towards achieving the MDGs by launching the national Economic Empowerment and Development strategy (NEEDS) which was to ensure a comprehensive social economic reform compact, aimed at poverty eradication through job creation and the growing of local, small and medium scale enterprises. The economic reform (Needs) guides the government towards the achievement of the MDGs.

Consequently the federal government took the advantage of the debt relief from the Paris Club and channeled the gains on projects and programmes that will attain the millennium development goals in Nigeria. Subsequently, the debt relief gain was committed in the 2006 budget to ten ministries, namely: health, Education, Power, Rural development, Environment, Urban development, Housing, Women Affairs, Workers and Youth Development, for the Implementation of the MDGs related projects and programmes in the line with the Medium Team Sector Strategies (MTSS) of the Ministries and development Agencies (MDAs), so as to produce immediate results.

Therefore the Engineering Implication for Millennium Development Goals in the revamping and sustaining Nigeria Economy could be achieved through the introduction of an Overview of Public Expenditures in NEEDS (OPEN) as a special tracking mechanism to ensure that the resources are properly directed at spending on MDGs related activities with good results. the OPEN will therefore track the resources from the point of distribution to the point of public expenditure for subjects and programmes funded from the Debt Relief Gains (DRG) in the 2006 budget for realization of MDGs and implementation by relevant MDAs.

### **Methodology**

All the MDG resources person were coopted to impart in the knowledge and method used in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) which is based on geo-political structure. An independent body was put in place in Nigeria which consists of national monitoring and evaluation team of technical consultants and two National Civil society organizations (CSO). Under these National consultants and Community Based Organization (CBO), the six geopolitical zones have their consultants and CBOs that supervise the state-consulting firms, which observe directly on site the projects, and programmes privilege to be in the various state. Between January and March 2007, the teams were trained on how to apply the templates, paving way for the commencement of Monitoring and Evaluation of national exercise.

The national and zonal M&E teams were established at the end of January 2007 and the appointment letters were issued to them, therefore activities began within three days with the methodology workshop between January 29<sup>th</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup> subsequently, reviewed meetings were held at national and zonal levels in the course of the assignment. By February 19, 2007, all the M&E teams have commenced fieldwork. The national and zonal with assistance from the office of the senior special assistant to the president on the millennium development goals (OSSAP-MDGs) engaged the executing ministry and development Agencies (MDAs) at their various levels from their Headquarters in Abuja to their offices at the zones and states.

Moreso, the 2006 Federal budget contained a total of ₦100 billion of DRG funding for selected projects and programmes in the ten ministries. They were selected in collaboration with the participating ministries within the framework of their medium term sector strategies (MTSS). The primary criteria was to implement Projects and programmes that were “quick-win” having relatively short gestation periods but with potential for immediate impact, on the social well being of the communities across the country. The respective ministries and Development agencies were assigned the responsibility to plan, design and execute the DRG funded projects and programmes within the office of the senior special assistance to the President on millennium Development Goals exercises overview function on the delivery of these projects along the principles of the OPEN initiative. The DRG funded programmes to be tracked in each ministry are summarized in the 2006 budget of the ministries below.

**Table 1:** The Summary of Allocation in the 2006 budget to the ministries

MINISTRY	AMOUNT (N)
Health	21,288,000000.00
Education	18,221707,730.00
Water Resources	19,215,849,154.00
Power and Steel	16,961,849,154.00
Works	9,855,000,000.00
Agriculture	9,400,000,000.00
Environment	1,485000,000.00
Women Affairs	1,000,000,000.00
Intergovernmental affairs	990,000,000.00
Housing and Urban Development	495,000,000.00
Monitoring and Evaluation	1,000,000,000.00
Total	₦100,000,000,000.00

The above source of information is from the office of Senior Special Assistant to the President on Millennium Development Goals (OSSAP-MDGs 2006)

### Challenges

The following challenges were witness in the course of monitoring and evaluation exercise

1. Inadequate project planning affected the delivery of many projects and programmes.
2. Access to some project sites was difficult due to natural barriers such as rivers, lack of appropriate vehicle and inadequate information on the sites.
3. Some DRF-MDGs projects and programmes were not located in the sites indicated in the projects documents.

4. Some MDAs were reluctant in providing projects information and documents required for the M&E assignment, to the teams.
5. Some MDAs personnel at state and local level were unaware of the MDGs and thus were unable to identify the DRF-MDGs projects for lack of access to projects information and documents.
6. The delay in paying mobilization fees and the non-provision of special equipment for M&E.

### **Findings**

- The appointment of the monitoring and evaluation teams has encouraged positive effect of gearing the MDAs in paying greater attention to internal supervision and monitoring of MDGs projects and programmes in the whole six geographical regions.
- Those still living contractors who abandoned their project's sites returned and those that had not been mobilized to site quickly did so, and commenced work on learning that independent M&E teams has begun sites visitation.
- The intervention of OSSAP-MDGS through the DRGs have resuscitated hitherto moribund component of some social service projects and programmes, examples are Federal College of Education (Technical) Umunze, and the Primary Health Center at Ukwulu.
- Also some of these DRG funded projects and programmes remained at different stages of completion as at 2007. Some are either not started or abandoned. At present, Anambra/Imo River basin authority has just mobilized some contractors to site as at December 2007.
- There are some substandard Construction, Renovation works and supply of sub-standard materials, craftsmanship and non-adherence to contract specification.
- Some counterpart MDAs in various states of the Federation and benefiting communities were totally unaware of or did not participate in the project and programmes being implemented at their domain. This fact is particularly in Health sector where the Doctor in charge of Primary Health Care Centre (PHCs) claimed unaware of all on-going or completed projects, only during commissioning he would be invited. This makes them unwilling or reluctant to play their role in the delivery of the projects.
- The rehabilitation, construction and procurement of equipment for the PHCs were not executed in coordinated sequence; supply of drugs and reagents preceded the construction or rehabilitation of the facilities. This resulted in the drug and reagent being kept in places not so designated. In many instances, the Drugs and reagents expired before the completion of the rehabilitation or construction of the PHCs.

The 2006 annual report of monitoring and evaluating the debt relief gains funded millennium development goals project represents a compilation of aggregated findings and sectorial analysis summaries gathered from field via the state and zonal monitoring and evaluation team. Below are the comprises between the good and non-performance of the dept relief gain projects.

**Table 2: Non-Performance Debt Relief Gain Projects**

MDA	PROGRAMMES/ PROJECTS	IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	LEVELS OF IMPLEMENTATION
1. Transport	Road rehabilitation	Lagos-Ibadan Enugu-aba-PH	0% 0%
2. Universal Basic Educa Commission	Science kits	Purchase of Sciene kits for schools	0%
3. Water resources	Rural Water supply to small Town/Villages and Irrigation Irrigation	Provision of 449 Motorised boreholes Nation wide Provision of 21 Village water supply Rehabilitation of Goronyo dam	0% 0%
4. Hadeja-Dams are RBDA	Irrigation	Development of 15 small scale irrigation Projects	0%
5. Upper Niger RBDA	Irrigation	Construction of small irrigation projects and rehabilitation of Earth Dams	0%
6. Benin-Owenna RBDA	Irrigation	Construction of 42 small earth dams	0%
7. Ogun-Oshun RBDA	Irrigation	Construction of small irrigation projects and rehabilitation of earth dams	0%
8. Lower Niger RBDA	Irrigation	Construction of small earth dams	0%

**Table 3: Good Performance Debt Relief Gain Projects**

MDA	PROGRAMMES/ PROJECTS	IMPLEMENTATION	LEVELS OF IMPLEMENTATION
1. Transport	Road rehabilitation	Funtua-Sokoto, warri-Benin	100% 100%
2. NYSC	HIV/AIDS Sexual reproductive health	Capacity building of 400 state youth officers	100% 100%
3. Youth Development	Capacity building, Agricultural Entrepren Dev	Youth officer's training corps members	100% 90%
4. Women Affairs	Capacity building, Gender, Mainstreaming Advocacy, Grant to state and NGOs, Development and Publication of Policies	Capacity building, Gender mainstreaming Advocacy, Grants to states and NGOs, Development and publication of policies	100%
5. Water Resources	Irrigation Irrigation	Zobe Irrigation Scheme Gada-Buyu Irrigation	98% 100%

### Conclusion

The appointment of the monitoring and maintenance teams and their subsequent activities have had a salutary and positive effect of gearing, the ministry and development Agencies to pay greater attention to internal supervision and monitoring of their project and programmes. Some contractors that had abandoned their project sites returned and those that had not mobilized to sites quickly did so and commenced work on learning that independent Monitoring and Evaluation teams had begun site visitation.

Several of the 2006 DRG funded projects and programmes remained at different stages of completion as at June 2007. many had not started at all. The examples are most of the projects under the River Basin Authorities had not commenced. It was therefore not possible to evaluate the impact of the most of the projects and programmes on the end users and impossible to meet the millennium development goal (MDG) by 2015. There were instance of apparent inadequate internal capacity,,inadequate documentation and lack of due diligence in planning and supervision in some MDAs,among Contractors and and Project Consultants. This resulted in plethora of substandard construction works and supply of substandard materials.

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### **Recommendation**

Observation indicates that:

- i. Mobilization of contractors to sites should take cognizance of the effect of elements of weather, while funds released should be timely to stem delays in projects delivery which results in high cost to government heighten the anxiety of the beneficiaries and builds mistrust between the citizenry and the government.
- ii. All necessary documents relating to projects to be monitored and evaluated should be made available to Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team.
- iii. M&E team should be properly introduced to MDAs and stakeholders to facilitate monitoring and evaluation exercise.
- iv. Medical equipments should not be supplied before the construction or renovation of primary health care centers.
- v. Beneficiary communities should be consulted prior to location of projects in their domain so as to give them the opportunity to choose projects of their priority.

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