

Towards Achieving Millennium Development Goals (Mdg) in Nigeria: Prospect and Challenges

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Abstract

The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) according to analysts is the world biggest promise to mankind. It is a global mission with eight (8) vocal points of: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and women empowerment; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop a global partnership for development. In order to achieve these objectives, MDGs goals are sub-divided into eighteen (18) clear cut targets and forty-eight (48) indicators believed to be necessary as acid-test facilitator for the achievements of these laudable goals. These laudable goals are expected to be achieved between the years 1990-2015. Nigeria being a member of global committee of nations in the time past and recent adopts various developmental plans such as VISION 2010, NEEDS, 7-Points Agenda, VISION 20:2020, SURE etc within the framework of MDG to serve as driving force to achieve these laudable projects. Achieving these goals involves a lot of commitments. The essence of this paper is to examine through the use of non-parametric statistical test, the extent to which these goals (MDG) have been achieved and make relevant suggestions to aid speedy achievement of these goals.

Keywords: Enrolment Rate, Gender Equality, Millennium Development Goals, Poverty Reduction, Targets and Indicators

1.0 Introduction

The millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the world biggest promises to mankind. It is a bundle of developmental goals and targets committing about 189 independent states and virtually all of the world's main multilateral organisations to an unprecedented effort to reduce multi-dimensional poverty through global partnership. MDGs emerged as a result of series of outcomes of meeting and conferences held at various international forums. The MDGs have specifically eight goals: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and women empowerment; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop a global partnership for development. In order to achieve these objectives, MDGs goals are sub-divided into eighteen (18) clear cut targets and forty-eight (48) indicators believed to be necessary as acid-test facilitator for the achievements of these laudable goals. Achieving these goals could be tasky and require a degree of commitments both the national and international levels. The essence of this paper is to examine the extent to which MDGs are achieved in Nigeria, to identify the bottleneck in the achievement of these goals and profound possible solution with good policy recommendation. The rest of the paper is divided into four sections: section 2 review relevant theories and literature, section 3 provides the methodology used while section 4 discussed the result and findings, and section 5 provides the recommendation and conclusion.

2.0 Literature Review:

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

According to the UNDP (2010) report, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) represents the world's commitments to deal with global poverty in its many dimensions. This commitment is supported by a global partnership which calls for country-led strategies and support from developed countries in the areas of trade, Official Development Assistance (ODA), debt sustainability and access to medicine and technology

The World Health organisation (WHO) (2005), observed that MDG are currently the highest level of expression of international community to developmental priorities. It explained that the MDGs commit the international community to an action agenda which emphasizes sustainable human development as the key to

fulfilling social and economic progress. It further stressed that all the 191 member states of the United Nations Organisation have pledge to achieve these goals by the year 2015. It observed that the MDGs goals and their targets and indicators have widely accepted as framework for measuring national and global development progress.

David Hulme (2007) in a paper: *The Making of the Millennium Development Goals: Human Development meets Result-based management in an imperfect world*, observed that two ideas – human development and result based management- have been particularly significant in shaping the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). He explained that though they seems unlikely intellectual, they significantly influence and shape the pattern of direction of MDGs. He further observed that at time, the ideas of human development and result based management were pursue pursued as crucial to survival of MDGs, when these ideas challenges the interests of powerful groups or nations, their principles are compromised or assiduously avoided.

In a related development, Hulme (2008) studied the process that led to the formulation and implementation of MDGs and observed that it is an incremental and ongoing process of negotiation and bargaining with no clear cut phases or precise end. He is of the view that while the key actors presents policy as an outcome of a linear-rational process based on scientific analysis and weighing up evidence, the real process that they are engaged in are quite different. He explained that no leader or agency is ‘in control’ (see also Keeley and Scooneb, 2003; Stone, 2006)).

Olayode (2006) argued that for MDGs objectives to be realized there is need for establishment of an appropriate political and institutional framework to guide state intervention, market reform and poverty alleviation. He observed that MDGs being benefits accrued from globalisation requires Africa repositioning through appropriate policy measure. He argued that with appropriate policy measure, Africa in general and Nigeria in particular can more, attract more capital flows and benefit immensely from full integration into the world economy, which will culminate into speedy realisation of the MDGs objectives.

In another development, Agbu (2006) observed that for Nigeria to part take of the benefits of MDGs, it is imperative for the country to adopt a practical approach by collaborating with the other countries of the South, and other South multilateral groups in negotiating for better terms of engagement with the developed world. Hr sited the membership of Nigeria in the Developing Eight (D -8), consisting of Nigeria, Iran, Indonesia, Turkey, Egypt, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Malaysia who unanimously agreed to promote trade among themselves through reforming there custom services and other policies that hinders the free flow of goods and services across their borders. This we believe is crucial to the fulfilment of MDGs objectives and targets. He advocated for attraction of FDI in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors as crucial to MDGs goals achievements as it has the capacity to increase job creation and reduce poverty knowing that about 70% of the rural populace engage in Agriculture and a strong relationship between agric and manufacturing.

Aribigbola Afolabi (2009) studied the institutional constraints to achieving the MDGs in Africa, using the example of Akure Millennium City and Ikaram/Ibaram Millennium Villages both in Ondo states, and observed that although both the Millennium City and Millennuim Village projects have taken off as programmed, the effect of the programme has not been widespread especially in Akure, though the effect of the programme seems visible in the millennium village. He discovered that the problems which programmes are design to solve are still widespread and lack adequate conceptualization of the project militate against full implementation of the project. He indentified lack of conceptualisation and understanding both by the implementers and the will be beneficiary (people at the grass root), overpolitization by the government, lack of interest on the part of grass root would-be beneficiary/ community and inadequate funding and capacity under utilisation as the major problems militating against the success of the project. He recommended collective participation that will carry the community along in project design, and implementation as crucial to achievement of the MDGs cum complete removal of civil service bureaucracy.

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

Hassan Arif, Patel Shela and Satherwaite David (2005) observed that MDGs represent a new attempt to increase the effectiveness of development assistance in reducing poverty with a time bound targets and strong commitment to monitor progress. They pointed out that in order to achieve these laudable MDGs objectives, it is imperative to address the need for water sanitation, health care, schools, employment and poverty crisis especially among the less developed economies.

Adam Elhirika (2005) observed that despite recent increase in average growth rate of most African

countries from about 4.3 percent to 4.6 percent in 2003 and 2004 respectively, as a result of global expansion that led to higher demand and prices for commodities, a significant increase in Official Development Assistance, driven mainly by debt relief and emergency assistance, improving macroeconomic stability, the continent will have a long way to go if sustainable growth is to be achieved as specified in the MDGs targets. He identified unpredictable weather conditions, concentration of production and exports in the commodity market, and volatile external capital flows too weak in comparison with those of other parts of the world. He noted that Official Development Assistance (ODA) represents the main source of development financing for many African countries, reaching over \$23 billion for sub-Saharan Africa in 2003, and far exceeding debt service payment in that year. This notwithstanding, aid flows to Africa remain volatile and cannot meet the MDGs financing needs even if the goal of 0.7 percent of rich countries GNP is achieved. He concluded by saying to ensure reality of MDGs, Africa's development partners are urged to move faster to ensure all their policies – on ODA, market access and debt – are consistent with meeting MDGs.

Wing Thye Woo, Gordon McCord and Jeffrey Sachs (2005) observed that MDGs offers Africa a way of escape out of poverty trap - poverty trap being too poor to grow – they plead with the Western policymakers to fully support the MDGs and encourage increase in public investments so as to produce a large step increase in Africa's underlying productivity, both rural and urban. They noted that foreign donors will be critical to achieving this substantial step increase.

On the other hand, Yonghyup Oh (2005) was of the opinion that MDGs is a combination of enhanced foreign intervention, more external money and top-down approach having a potential of depriving recipients of the spirit of independence as their eyes are clue to free launch offer by the donor agencies. Another area of concern as noted by Oh, is the post MDGs implementation periods, in other words, what become of MDGs after 2015. He argued that since MDGs focus mainly on building up infrastructure to produce more public goods, chances are that poor funding may set in after 2015, the terminal year of MDGs, at this point, he asked what becomes of successful MDGs projects.

Roy Culpeper (2005) appreciates the global commitment to move about 50 percent poor of the world out of extreme poverty by 2015 through MDGs projects. However, he advocated for a more thorough approach on the ground that not just 50 percent, but 100 percent of the people living in poverty should be elevated. He explained that if we still had 40 percent or 50 percent of humanity struggling to subsist at between one and two dollars a day, then we need a deeper approach to fighting poverty. He equally observed that MDGs pay little or no significant attention to poverty in the urban economy, he is of the opinion that the MDGs should focus as well on provision of decent employment in the productive sector for urban dwellers. He advocated for restructuring of the tax system which he described as being regressive at current based on the extreme reliance on sales and consumption tax system. He argued that most developing economies, elites hardly pay tax (a very regressive distributional tax system).

Mistry (2005) observed that MDGs are laudable projects aimed at poverty reduction. He established a divergence between MDGs and Developmental goals. He pointed out that ever since independence, most Africa states have been faced with developmental failure, he observed that aid to Africa has not worked because human, social and institutional capital – not financial capital – poses as binding constraint. He advocated for a shift in foreign Direct Investment (FDI) on concentration of funding to a blend of funding and know-how so as to maximize the benefits of MDGs

Benno Ndulu, Lolette Kritzinger-Van and Ritra Reinikka in Jan Joost Teunissen (2005) were of the opinion that MDGs are the finest set of goals or promises to the third world especially African countries, however there is need to blend MDGs with economic growth. They identify four major reasons for Africa's slow growth: low capital accumulation; high price of investment goods for African investors; low productivity of investment; and geographical disadvantages. They advocated for aggressive investment in infrastructure as key to economic growth that will complement MDGs achievements and improved social outcomes. Furthermore, they identify the importance of regional cooperation and integration. According to them, regional integration helps growth and infrastructure and vice versa, which will have a lasting effect on MDGs beyond 2015

3.0 Methodology:

This study employs the use of secondary sources of data. This is because the necessary information required for the work is more easily available in documented form. The source of data includes journals, magazine, workshops proceedings and findings of other scholars. Data were analysis using Chi- Square techniques of analysis. The data were obtained from the Central Bank of Nigeria Annual Abstract of Statistics for various year, African Development Bank Indicators for the year 2008 and World Bank World Development Indicators also for the year 2008, the National Bureau of Statistics Social Statistics in Nigeria 2009, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report 2011, Millennium Development Goals Nigeria 2010 Report, UNDP- MDG International Assessment 2010.

In specifying the model emphasis is placed on whether the nation's economic growth has any significant influence on achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Having established this link, the first equation is formulated as:

$$X^2 = \frac{(o_1 - e_1)^2}{e_1} + \frac{(o_2 - e_2)^2}{e_2} + \frac{(o_3 - e_3)^2}{e_3} + \dots + \frac{(o_k - e_k)^2}{e_k} = \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{(o_1 - e_1)^2}{e_1} \quad (\text{equ. 1})$$

Where if the total frequency is N,

$$\sum o_j = \sum e_j = N.$$

If $X^2 = 0$, the observed and theoretical frequencies agree exactly; while if the $X^2 > 0$, they do not agree exactly. The larger the value of X^2 , the greater is the discrepancy between the observed and expected frequencies.

The sampling distribution of X^2 is approximated very close by the chi-square distribution

$$Y = Y_0 (X^2)^{1/2 (v-2)} e^{-1/2 X^2} = Y_0 X^{v-2} e^{-1/2 X^2} \quad (\text{equ. 2})$$

Where:

$V = k - 1$ if the expected frequencies can be computed without having to estimate the population parameters from sample statistics, and $V = k - 1 - m$ if the expected frequencies can be computed only by estimating m population parameters from sample statistics;

$Y_0 =$ is a constant depending on V such that the total area under the curve is 1. (See Murray and Larry (1999), Gert Nieuwenhuis (2009) and Lind, Marchal and Wathen (2012).

3.1.0 Data Presentation

YEARS	MDGs 8 GOALS							
	Percentage distribution of people living on less than one (\$1) dollar a day (Goal 1)	Percentage of student's completion of Primary Education (Goal 2).	Proportions of Gender Equality (Goal 3)	Child (under 5 years) mortality level (Goal 4).	Maternal mortality per 100,000 live births (Goal 5).	Disease control (Goal 6)	Accessibility to water (Goal 7)	Partnership for Development – Communication - (Goal 8)
2000	60	77	66	18	704	5	46	0
2001	81	77	68	18	704	6	38	1
2002	86	76	88	18	704	6	36	2
2003	0	82	72	20	800	5	34	3
2004	54	82	76	20	800	5	43	9
2005	52	69	70	20	800	4	40	16
2006	52	68	69	20	800	4	49	24
2007	0	68	66	14	800	4	51	30
2008	54	66	67	16	545	4	44	46
2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	45

Goal 1: Percentage distribution of people living on less than one (\$1) dollar a day.

Column 2 in the table above shows the trend of poverty level in Nigeria for a period of about ten years, one can see that about 60 percent of the population leave on less than \$1:00 per day in the 2000, 51.55 percent of Nigeria leave bellow poverty line in the years 2006 and 2005, while about 54 percent of the population feeds on less than \$1 a day in 2008. For the study period, an average of about 62.67 percent of Nigeria leave bellow \$1 daily. It is important for us to note that the MDGs 2015 target for this goal is 21.15%

Goal 2: Percentage of student's completion of Primary Education.

Column 3 in the table above shows that about 76.7 percent of Nigeria children enrolled and completed primary

education in the year 2000, 82 percent for the year 2003 and 2004, and 65.91 percent for the year 2008. On the average about 73.87 percent of the Nigerian children enrolled and completed primary school programme for the study period. The target for this goal as specified in the MDG outline is 100% by the year 2015.

Goal 3: Proportions of Gender Equality.

The fourth column in the table above shows performance of Nigeria in achieving the MDGs goal 3 using the proportion of girl child to boy school enrolment. From the table, one can see that the ratio of girls to boys in school enrolment was 66 percent in the year 2000, jump to 75.5 percent in the year 2004, but decline to 66.8 percent in the year 2008. On the other hand the percentage of women in the national assembly in the year 2000 was 3.1 percent, the flow was maintained till 2007 (another national election year) when it rose to 7.7 percent. The targets for these goals are 100 percent and 30 percent respectively.

Goal 4: Child (under 5 years) mortality level.

The MDGs target that by 2015, the child mortality rate would have been reduced to about 6.37 percent (two-third- 2/3- of the 1990 figure), and a look at Column five (5) in the table above shows that for the years 2000, 2001, 2002, the rate was 18.38 percent, the rate rose to 20.1 percent in the year 2003 and was maintained till the year 2006. It drops to 13.8 percent in the year 2007, only to rise to 15.7 percent in the year 2009. On the average, the rate stood at 18.34% for the study period.

Goal 5: Maternal mortality per 100,000 live births.

Column 6 in the table above shows the maternal mortality rate for the period under review, it shows that for the year 2000 through 2003, seven hundred and four cases of maternal mortality was recorded for every one hundred thousand cases, the figure rose to eight hundred for the years 2003 to 2007 and significantly dropped to five hundred and forty five in the year 2008. The MDG projected that the rate should be as low as two hundred and fifty per one hundred thousand live births.

Goal 6: Disease control.

From The table above, column 7 shows the rate of prevalence of HIV among pregnant women in Nigeria. The MDG target is to bring the target as low as 0 percent on or before 2015. The rate stood at 5.4 percent at year 2000, rose to 5.8 percent in 2001 and maintained this rate the following year. This could be as a result of awareness about the pandemic. The rate dropped to 5.0 percent in the years 2003 and 2004 and further dropped to 4.3 percent in the year 2005, which was maintained through 2007 and further reduction to 4.2 percent in the year 2008. These reductions could be traced to aggressive commitment from the various collaborating agencies at combating the plague of HIV.

Goal 7: Accessibility to water.

The MDG goal 7 targets that by 2015, 77 percent of the population shall be able to access safe drinking water, in other word the population of people without access to quality drinking water would have reduced to less than 23 percent. Column 8 in the table above shows that 46 percent of the population can access safe drinking water in the year 2000, the figure dropped to 37.89 percent, 35.79 percent and 33.75 percent in the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 respectively. It picked up again to about 43 percent in the year 2004, and increased to 43 percent in the year 2004. It reaches a peak of about 50.9 percent in the year 2007.

Goal 8: Partnership for Development – Communication.

Goal 8 of the MDGs is a unique goal in the sense that it has little or no quantitative figure to check its accomplishment by the end of the year 2015. The table above measure the rate of accessibility to communication equipment or technology by Nigerians for the study years, for instance, the rate of teledensity in the year 2001 was 0.73 percent, it rose to 8.50 percent in the year 2004 and stood at 45.93 percent in the year 2008. On the average the rate increases continually, this could be traced to the level of unprecedented growth in the telecommunication industry driven by private sector invasion.

4.0 Data Analysis And Presentation

The hypothesis for this work is follows:

H_0 : There is no difference between MDGs expectations and the Nigeria experience,

H_1 : There is a difference between MDGs expectations and the Nigeria experience.

Decision rule: Reject h_0 if calculated value is greater than ($>$) Tabulated value.

MGD 8 AGENDA GOALS CROSS TABULATION

Count									
YEARS	MDGs 8 AGENDA GOALS								Total
	Percentage distribution of people living on less than one (\$1) dollar a day (Goal 1)	Percentage of student's completion of Primary Education (Goal 2).	Proportions of Gender Equality (Goal 3)	Child (under 5 years) mortality level (Goal 4).	Maternal mortality per 100,000 live births (Goal 5).	Disease control (Goal 6)	Accessibility to water (Goal 7)	Partnership for Development – Communication - (Goal 8)	
2000	60	77	66	18	704	5	46	0	976
2001	81	77	68	18	704	6	38	1	993
2002	86	76	88	18	704	6	36	2	1016
2003	0	82	72	20	800	5	34	3	1016
2004	54	82	76	20	800	5	43	9	1089
2005	52	69	70	20	800	4	40	16	1071
2006	52	68	69	20	800	4	49	24	1086
2007	0	68	66	14	800	4	51	30	1033
2008	54	66	67	16	545	4	44	46	842
2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	45	86
Total	439	665	642	164	6657	43	422	176	9208

4.1.0 Result of Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	1.911E3 ^a	63	.000
Likelihood Ratio	948.461	63	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	126.550	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	9208		

4.1.1 FINDINGS:

Since the Chi Square calculated value is greater than the table value i.e. $X^2_{cal} > X^2_{tal\ value}$. Hence we reject H_0 and conclude that there is a different between MDGs expectations and the Nigeria experience. The outcome of this result is supported by MDG Nigeria 2010, UNDP HRD Nigeria 2008/2009 report.

DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

	n	Range	Minimum	Maximum	Mean		Std. Deviation	Variance
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Statistic
Percentage distribution of people living on less than one (\$1) dollar a day (Goal 1)	7	34.45	51.55	86.00	62.6714	5.53269	14.63813	214.275
Percentage of student's completion of Primary Education (Goal 2).	9	16.09	65.91	82.00	73.8678	2.12884	6.38652	40.788
Proportions of Gender Equality (Goal 3)	9	21.00	66.00	87.00	71.2000	2.21892	6.65676	44.312
Child (under 5 years) mortality level (Goal 4).	9	6.30	13.80	20.10	18.3378	.74514	2.23541	4.997
Maternal mortality per 100,000 live births (Goal 5).	9	255.00	545.00	800.00	7.3967E2	28.84634	86.53901	7.489E3
Disease control (Goal 6)	9	1.60	4.20	5.80	4.9000	.21922	.65765	.432
Accessibility to water (Goal 7)	10	17.15	33.75	50.90	42.1730	1.76223	5.57265	31.054
Partnership for Development - Communication - (Goal 8)	9	45.20	.73	45.93	19.6400	5.98995	17.96986	322.916

The below table shows mean observed values and MDGs expected value by 2015.

Goals	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Expected (e_j)	21.35	100	100	6.37	250	0	77
Observed (O_j)	62.67	73.87	71.2	18.34	739.67	4.9	42.17

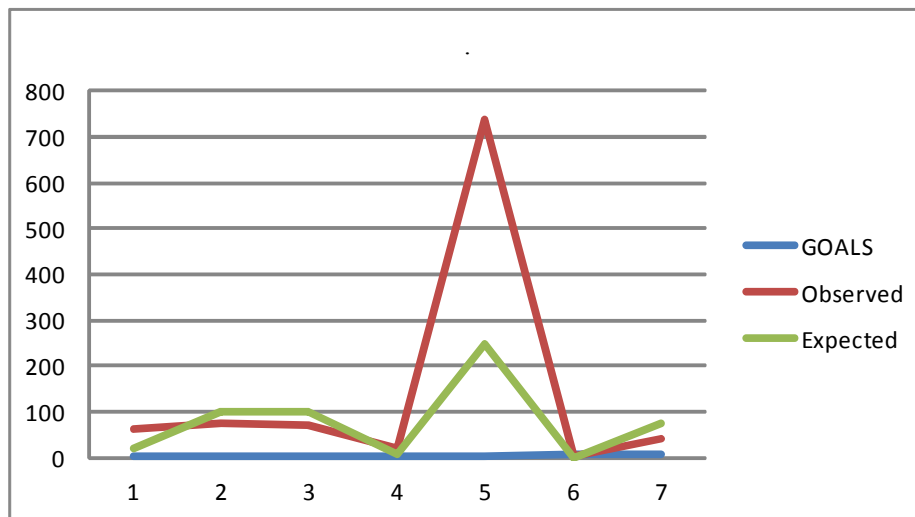


Figure 1: Graphical explanation of the relationship between the expected and the observed MDGs

Comment: From the above line graph, goal 1, 2, 3 and 7 are relatively close to the expected values if adequate supervision and control are put in place. Goal 4 and 6 are under control and by 2015 the expected values can be achieved.

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations:

This paper examined the achievement of MDGs in Nigeria from the year 2000 to year 2009 (a ten years length) so as to know the relationship between MDGs expectations and the actual level goals achieved in Nigeria. The study observed that the degree of achievement recorded in Nigeria is convincingly below expectation. Based on the works of other authors as reviewed in this work, the study identified poor funding, lack of conceptualisation and understanding both by the implementers and the would be beneficiary (people at the grass root), over-politicisation by the government, lack of interest on the part of grass root would-be beneficiary/ community and inadequate funding and capacity under utilisation, poor technical capacity in formulating, implementing and monitoring the operational MDGs based Poverty Reduction Strategy Process (PRSPS) as the major problems militating against the success of the project.

5.1.0 Recommendations:

To promote the level of achievement in the realization of the MDGs objectives, we suggested as follows:

Aggressive investment in poverty reduction schemes both by the public and non-governmental institutions;

Massive investment in Agriculture and rural economic development;

Massive mobilization of grass root participant in project implementation of MDGs programmes;

Increase in allocation of seats to women in political office holding at all the various stages of governments;

Aggressive investment in health especially in areas that affect child killer diseases;

Improvement in the health care delivery system so as to reduce maternal mortality;

Further strengthening of the awareness on HIV/AIDS pandemic and other killer diseases;

Massive investment in clean air, pipe-borne water and pursuance of productive and protective environmental policies;

Aggressive pursuance of urbanization policy so as to reduce the suffering of slum dwellers;

Development of an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system that can relate effectively among the nations of the world;

Development of a sound project designing, implementation, and monitoring system to oversee the design, implementation and monitoring of the MDGs as it suits Nigeria needs;

Integration of Nigeria development plans and budgetary allocations in line with MDGs provisions.

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