
Assessment of The Millennium Development Goals (MDGS) on the Eradication Of Poverty And Hunger In Nigeria

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Abstract

Though poverty is multi-facet, a program designed to alleviate poverty by way of providing food for the citizens to eat, access to education, adequate shelter, health, and protection from violence etc. is obviously an action of change. An example of such program is the MDGs which strive to halve poverty and hunger before the end of 2015. With the startling increase in poverty in Nigeria, even with the locally designed policies and programs to compliment the achievement of the MDGs, a need to assess the influence of the program on poverty eradication is therefore necessary. As such this study utilized the OLS technique to analyze the MDGs indices within 2000 – 2015, and incorporating the ODA received, government expenditure, population with access to clean water, agricultural growth and economic growth. The results therefore demonstrate that ODA, government expenditure, growth of the economy, and access to clean water poses significant negative effect on poverty and hunger in the country. However, adoption of the SDGs, measure to curb funds mismanagement, ODA inflow enhancement and plans that will boost the growth of the economy are recommended.

Keywords: MDGs, Poverty, Hunger, Poverty Reduction

Introduction

The presence of high incidence of poverty, hunger, malnutrition, lack of shelter, inability to access basic health care delivery system, electricity, pipe borne water, education and the prevalence of several diseases, among other precarious development indices recurring in most developing economies of the world, which became worrisome and mind bugging to world leaders and leading development institutions around the globe brought 189 independent states including Nigeria together and virtually all of the world's main multilateral organisations (Ajiye, 2014), which therefore led to the birth of the "Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)" in the year 2000 in New York. Specifically, the MDGs has eight goals, vis-à-vis; the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger; achievement of universal primary education; promotion of gender equality and women empowerment; reduction of child mortality; improvement of maternal health; fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and other disease; ensuring environmental sustainability; and the development of global partnership for development (Ajiye, 2014).

On the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, the MDGs aim at reducing the proportion of people living on less than \$1 day to half the 1990 level by 2015, from 29% of all people in low- and middle-income economies to 14.5% (African Development Bank [ADB], 2002). The goal tend to achieve reduced proportion of people living in extreme poverty to 890 million. On the global analysis, the target of reducing extreme poverty rates by half was achieved five years ahead of the 2015 deadline, and there was a sharp and significant decline in the proportion of developing economy's population living on less than \$1.25 a day to 14% in 2015 as against nearly half of the population in 1990 (World Health Organisation [WHO], 2014).

In Nigeria, as shown by statistics, the proportion of the incidence of extreme poverty among Nigerian populace took a declining trend during the period 1996 to 2004, indicating a fall in the proportion of the population living in poverty from 65.6% in 1996 to 54.4% in 2004 (National Bureau of Statistics [NBS], 2012). Apparently, even with the introduction of the National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS), 7-Point Agenda and Vision 20:2020 in place to consolidate the achievements of the MDGs, and lay a foundation for sustainable poverty reduction, employment generation, wealth creation and value re-orientation (Ajiye, 2014), there was a change in poverty eradication pattern, as the declining effect reverts to continuous increase in the incidence of poverty among Nigerian populace, which therefore hampered the achievement of the first MDGs goal's target of halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and hunger half-way. In 2010, out of Nigeria's 163 million population, 112.47 million are living in poverty, indicating that about 69.0% of the population living in poverty, while 38.75% live in extreme poverty (NBS, 2012), which was estimated to have risen to about 70% in 2017 (CIA World Factbook, 2017). With the continuous growth in the country's population and decline in living standard, there is no doubt that this rising trend will continue.

Despite Nigeria's enormous resources, 92.4% of the Nigerian population lives in poverty on less than \$2 per day, 70.8% lives in extreme poverty on less than \$1 per day, one-third of children are malnourished and with stunting, 30.7% are underweight, and 15.6% suffer wasting (Eneh, 2009), even with MDGs and other policies put in place to combat poverty having little or no eradication effect on its increase. Although this is likely due to poor technical capacity in formulating, implementing and monitoring the operational MDGs based on Poverty Reduction Strategy Process (PRSPS) which result to backwardness in policy implementation and execution which is identified with most African countries such as Nigeria, compared with other region of the world (Falade, 2008).

On this note, this paper assess the effect of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on the eradication of poverty and hunger in Nigeria. Apart from the introductory part, this paper is structured on five sections as follows; literature review, method, result and discussion, conclusion and policy implications.

Literature Review

Poverty

According to World Bank (2001) cited in Ucha (2010), poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon, which encompasses dimensions such as the lack of empowerment, opportunity and security. Due to the lack of opportunities poor masses remain inactive in the society, as the lack of security and empowerment increase their vulnerability to

diseases, crime, violence and the restriction of their choices in almost everything in the society respectively.

Just like most African countries, in Nigeria about 60% of the population live below the poverty line of \$1.90, thus the existence of poverty in Nigeria is highly significant. Although report had it that the case is more severe in the northern part of the county and rural areas respectively (NBS, 2012). The significance of poverty ranges from the inability to provide for the basic needs of food, shelter and clothing, education and social amenities. The poor masses are usually faced with health issues due to inability to afford balanced diets, proper treatments for diseases and proper hygiene. Other effects of poverty is the increase in mortality rate among infants, children and women, low life expectancy, etc. In Nigeria, factors such as high population growth rate, unemployment, political instability, corruption, debt burden, crime, war, violence, dependency on oil, faulty educational system and inequality are fingered to be the major causes of poverty, even with policies and programmes put in place by different government, such as Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) of 1976, Green Revolution of 1979 and Family Support Programme, Family Economic Advancement Programme of 1993 and NAPEP of 1993 among others (Adibe, 2012). Mass poverty has led the Nigerian state to be reckoned as one of the most highly retrogressively developing country of the world in social, economic and technological terms. All evident in mass graduate unemployment and widespread anti-social activities like, internet scam, cultism, drug trafficking, ritual killings, political vandalism and assassinations among others of their kind (Igwe, 2016).

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The Millennium Declaration at the Millennium Summit in September 2000 was the world's biggest promise, a global agreement to reduce poverty and human deprivation at historically unprecedented rates through collaborative action (Hulme, 2009 cited in Ajiye, 2014). The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the most widely supported and comprehensive development goals the world has ever established (Lomazzi, Borisch&Laaser, 2014), they represents the world's commitments to deal with global poverty in its many dimensions (UNDP Report, 2010), supported by 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 (Ajiye, 2014). The eight goals of Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; Achieving universal primary education; Promoting gender equality and empowering women; Reducing child mortality rates; Improving maternal health; Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; Ensuring environmental sustainability; and Developing a global partnership for development with its 18 targets provide a concrete framework for tackling poverty, hunger, maternal and child mortality, communicable disease, education, gender inequality, environmental damage and the global partnership for development (United Nations, 2000). Furthermore, the MDGs are inter-dependent and largely influence each other. For example, promoting gender equality and empowering women enables not only better conditions for women but also improved household management leading to better health and education for children and to higher income for the family (Lomazzi et al., 2014). If these goals are achieved, world poverty will be reduced by half, millions of lives will be saved, and

billions of people will benefit from the global economy in a more sustainable environment (United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], 2013).

As a target of the first MDGs goal, world leaders set to halve 1990 extreme poverty and hunger rates by the end of the year 2015, and the achievement of full and productive employment and decent work for all the working-age population, including women and young people (Anderson, 2015). Indicating the need for the fall in percentage of impoverished people (those living on less than \$1.25 (£0.83) a day) by 25%, and the proportion of people without adequate food security by 12.5% by the end of 2015. Although on a global scale, the target to reduce extreme poverty by half was reached by 2010, as the global poverty rate dropped to 22%, making it one of the first targets across all the goals to be met, an unequal regional differences was glaring. While east and south-east Asia met the target, sub-Saharan Africa countries are unable to do so (Anderson, 2015). Out of the estimated 1.2 billion people in the world who are extremely poor, 340 million (28%) are from sub-Saharan Africa, which is more than half of the region's population (Eneh, 2009). Sub-Saharan Africa countries are faced with the greatest challenge of meeting the MDGs, as they are not on course to meet the poverty reduction and social development goals, with the presence of high poverty levels, inability to access education, health, and other social services (ADB, 2002).

In Nigeria, like most sub-Saharan African countries, achieving the MDGs goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by half before the end of 2015 is being challenged, as statistics show aggravation of poverty and hunger in the country. With a projected population of 193 million as at 2016 (Central Bank of Nigeria [CBN], 2016), about 135 million of the total population live below the poverty line, which represents 70% of the population, which signifies the prevalence of poverty in the country. Accordingly, 7.9% of the population live below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption in 2015, which is marginally above the 7.5% in 2004 (World Development Indicators [WDI], 2017), and thus signifies the presence of hunger and insufficiency in food intake to meet dietary energy requirements continuously in the country. Poverty in Nigeria is so chronic that it has become a catalyst for violence, conflicts, displacement of large populations, environmental degradation (Sakanko & David, 2018), illness due to malnourishment, spread and endemic of diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, malaria and vaccine-preventable childhood diseases (Eneh, 2009).

The sorry situation is further exacerbated and characterized by excessive income disparity or inequality among the people. Nigeria is among the 20 countries in the world with the widest gap between the rich and the poor (Igbuzor, 2006 cited in Durokifa & Abdul-Wasi, 2017), with the richest 20% of the population earning 49.2% of the total income while 5% of the total income is earned by the 20% poorest (World Bank, 2008), which polarized the country into a few overly rich persons and a countless massively poor people who further suffer from lack of basic infrastructure like absence of regular power supply and environmental pollution from so many rickety vehicles, besides absence of affordable accommodation, among other deprivations (Igwe, 2016). And this thus shows that Nigeria is not on course in eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, even after the 2015 deadline, due to the poor mid-point performance, given the lack of transparency and accountability, misuse of funds, poor coordination and corruption facing the implementation of most of the MDG Programmes in the country (Durokifa & Abdul-Wasi, 2017).

Notwithstanding the challenges that faced the realization of the first goal of MDGs in Nigeria, some success were recorded. Nigeria made notable progress in poverty reduction the fight against hunger, but generally missed meeting the targets of most of the indicators. Although no significant progress was made on poverty reduction, as the incidence of poverty among the percentage of the population aggravated from 65.6% in 1996 to 69.0% in 2010 and even 70% in 2017, one particular area of strength was marked as hunger was reduced by 66% in 2012 (three years in advance of the 2015 deadline), owing to the transformative interventions in the nation's agricultural sector (Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Millennium Development Goals [OSSAP-MDGs], 2015). The upturn in the agricultural sector led to the notable achievement of Nigeria's fight against hunger, and this development aid in reducing the proportion of underweight children from 33.3% in 1990 to 18.3% in 2014 (WDI, 2017), which is short of the 2015 target of 17.85% by 0.45%. Though there are still high level of disparities across the geo-political zones, states and between the urban and rural areas, the prevalence of hunger is much higher in the Northern states and more endemic in rural than in urban areas (OSSAP-MDGs, 2015).

Overall, while strong progress was made, especially in hunger eradication in Nigeria, the first goal of MDGs was not met, as the eradication of poverty was not achieved (Durokifa&Abdul-Wasi, 2017). Although certain feats were achieved, the current rate of progress is approximately at a snail's pace. The detail of the situation in Nigeria at present trends shows that Nigeria is urgently required to pursue the implementation of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). All official reports indicate that Nigeria was unable to achieve goal one. For Nigeria to have attained target one, poverty is supposed to be reduced from 42% in 1990 to 21% in 2015. But by 2010, poverty was increased to 69.1%. The progress towards achieving MDG goal 1 in 2015 was very slow, and five out of every ten Nigerians still live in poverty. Accordingly, growth has not been sufficiently equitable or generated enough jobs to reduce poverty further (Yisau, 2017).

Theoretical Framework

The concepts of the Keynesian/Liberal theory of poverty provides the frameworks that explains how poverty is caused by underdevelopment of an economy, and how policy actions of the government that will cause growth in the economy can aid in alleviating poverty. In concept, the Liberal theory revolves round the notion that the multiple facet of broad underdevelopment is responsible for poverty in an economy, while growth in the economy as suggested by the Keynesians can promote economic development and thus relieve poverty. J. M. Keynes, believed that market forces can promote economic development, which was in turn perceived to be the single most important tool against poverty. Although, this growth is possible through government intervention at the macroeconomic level (via fiscal and monetary policy), mainly to tackle involuntary unemployment (Davis & Sanchez-Martinez, 2015). Apparently, poverty in a given country might be heavily affected by economic policy framework, the fiscal framework, fiscal traps, physical geography, governance patterns and failures, cultural barriers, geopolitics and the presence of a very weak institutional environment including corruption, for example, which adversely influences the functioning of markets. In another context the most crucial factor may be geographical isolation, which may impede the import of basic goods and services needed for individuals to attain a certain level of

wellbeing. Under this view, the importance of such a wide range of factors at the macro level needs to be weighed in each specific case; only then can a particular, tailor-made policy agenda be designed to combat poverty.

Empirical Literature

Empirically, several studies have been conducted to examine the factors responsible for poverty. For instance, in the study of Geda, Jong, Mwabu and Kimenyi (2001), in which the factors responsible for poverty was examined in Kenya using binomial regression and polychotomous logit model, the study discovered that poverty is largely influenced by the level of household's educational status, size of household and agricultural activities. Similarly, Afandi (2011) in studying the characteristics of poverty in Padang Pariaman District, discovered that households with family size of more than four people, floor total area of less than 8 m² per capita, age of family head less than 35 years, utilizing the facility of business credit, and family heads working in the sectors other than agriculture and industry have the probability of being poor. Accordingly, Djamaluddin (2017) studied the factors that influence poverty rate in households in West Java, using logistic regression model. The findings from the study indicates that control of total number of household members and asset ownership are the major significant poverty alleviating factors in West Java.

Correspondingly, Ucha (2010) examines the dimensions and contributing factors of poverty in Nigeria. Employing descriptive statistics, the study revealed that unemployment, corruption, non-diversification of the economy, income inequality, laziness, and the poor nature of the education system are the abetting factors of poverty in Nigeria. Equally, in the study of Apata, Apata, Igbalajobi, and Awoniyi (2010) on the determinants of rural poverty, with evidence from small-scale farmers in South-western, Nigeria, and employing logistics regression model, the study revealed that, access to micro-credit, education, participation in agricultural workshops/seminars, livestock asset, and access to extension services significantly influence the probability of households' exiting chronic poverty, while the probability of female headed households' and distance to the market increases the probability of persistence in chronic poverty.

In investigating the determinants of child poverty in rural Nigeria, Adeoti and Popoola (2012) employed logistic regression model, and the result obtained revealed that parent's higher education, employment of household head in the service sector, male-headed households, 'rich' households and presence of a health facility are factors responsible for the reduction of child poverty in rural areas, while large household size, households engaged in agriculture and the probability of children living in the south-south zone increase the probability of child poverty.

Harmoniously, Mok, Gan and Sanyal (2007) using descriptive statistics to investigate the factors of urban poverty in Malaysia, discovered that human capital, size of household, ethnic group and religion significantly lowers the probability of poverty while migrant laborers are more vulnerable to poverty in Malaysia. Hayati (2012) reveals that the geographical location and addition of the number of household members cause the risk of poverty high in households in municipalities and districts in Banten Province, While Sari (2014) asserts that asset ownership, work, and number of dependents are the major factors for poverty in Bonangsub district, Demak District.

Method

This study uses annual data from 2000 to 2015 to empirically assess the influence of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger in Nigeria. For the purpose of this study, data on poverty incidence in Nigeria was collected from the Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), while hunger measured by the Prevalence of undernourishment (% of population), government expenditure, Official Development Assistance (ODA), access to safe drinking water, growth of the Nigerian agricultural sector and the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) were collected from the World Bank Development Indicators (WDI).

To assess the influence of MDGS on extreme poverty and hunger eradication, a functional relationship is developed as follows;

$$POV = f(ODA, GEXP, ACWR, AGRIC, GDP) \quad (1)$$

$$HUN = f(ODA, GEXP, ACWR, AGRIC, GDP) \quad (2)$$

Poverty and hunger are function of the indicators of MDGS and the indicators of growth in an economy. Where; *POV* denotes the incidence of poverty; *HUN* denotes hunger; *ODA* is the Official Development Assistance received; *GEXP* is the general government current expenditure; *ACWR* denotes the percentage of the population with access to clean drinking water; *AGRIC* is the growth of the agricultural sector; and *GDP* is the growth of national output, which also measures the growth of an economy. To assess the size and signs of these indicators empirically, the model to be estimated is specified as follows;

$$POV_t = a_0 - b_1 ODA_t - b_2 GEXP_t - b_3 ACWR_t - b_4 AGRIC_t + b_5 GDP_t + \mu_t \quad (3)$$

$$HUN_t = a_0 - b_1 ODA_t - b_2 GEXP_t - b_3 ACWR_t - b_4 AGRIC_t + b_5 GDP_t + \mu_t \quad (4)$$

Where; a_0 is the intercept; $b_1 - b_5$ are the slope coefficients; t denotes the number of time series observations; and μ is the error term. The model stated in Eqn. (3) and Eqn. (4) will be estimated with the use of the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) estimation technique. The choice of this method is guided by the nature of the size of the sample which is relatively small and inappropriate for ambiguous estimation techniques. Though the stationarity (absence of unit root) status of the variables will be examined.

Results and Discussion

Stationarity Test

The Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) unit root test was employed to test the stationarity status of the series in the model. Under the ADF unit root test, a variables is stationary at either levels, first difference or second difference if its ADF statistics is greater than the critical values at either 1%, 5% or 10% level. As shown in Table 1, the series (*POV*, *HUN*, *ODA*, *GEXP*, *ACWR*, *AGRIC* and *GDP*) are found to be mixture of I(0), I(1) and I(2). While *ACWR*, *AGRIC* and *GDP* were made stationary at levels, *POV*, *ODA* and *GEXP* were made stationary after first difference. Similarly, *HUN* after check at levels and first difference, was made stationary after second difference. Since the variables are all stationary, the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) will be employed to ascertain the size, sign and significance of MDGs and economic growth indicators on the eradication of poverty and hunger in Nigeria.

Table 1: Result of Unit Root Test

Variables	ADF	5% Critical Value	Order of Integration
<i>POV</i>	-3.766725	-3.098896	I(1)
<i>HUN</i>	-3.107756	-3.212696	I(2)
<i>ODA</i>	-3.837827	-1.968430	I(1)
<i>GEXP</i>	-3.270015	-1.968430	I(1)
<i>ACWR</i>	-6.836422	-3.081002	I(0)
<i>AGRIC</i>	-3.864516	-3.081002	I(0)
<i>GDP</i>	-3.579306	-3.081002	I(0)

Source: Author's Computations Using EViews-7

Discussion of Estimates

The empirical results of model 1 and model2 presented in Table 2 and Table 3 shows that the MDGs and economic growth indicators in the models account for about 57% and 83% variation in the poverty and hunger respectively, as measured by the R^2 value. Accordingly, the F-statistic in the both model shows that the explanatory variables in the models are jointly statistically significant in explaining poverty and hunger in Nigeria. As presented in Table 4, the result of the diagnostics shows that both model 1 and model 2 are free from autocorrelation, heteroscedasticity and the error terms are normally distributed. Similarly, employing the Ramsey RESET diagnostics to check for the stability of the models, it was discovered that the models are stable, hence asserting the correctness of the model. From the regression estimates for both model, the constant term (intercept) which is the value of poverty and hunger when all the indicator variables included in the model are held constant, is positive, high and statistically significant which indicates that with the absence of the indicator variables, poverty and hunger will increase annually by 38.32% and 18.33% respectively.

From the regression analysis presented in Table 2 and Table 3, the inflow and receipt of Official Development Assistance (ODA) exhibits a significant and negative influence on poverty and hunger respectively. This implies that Official Development Assistance (ODA) and aids from foreign countries to Nigerian economy, which forms part of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is significant in poverty and hunger eradication. For a percent increase in the inflow and receipt of ODA will lead to 15% and 0.33% decrease in poverty and hunger in Nigeria respectively. Similarly, the current government expenditure impact negatively and significantly on poverty and hunger in Nigeria. From the estimates, it denotes that for a percent increase or decrease in government current expenditure will result to 2.29% and 31% decrease or increase in poverty and hunger respectively.

Furthermore, from the estimate in Table 2 and Table 3, while access to clean water aid in eradicating hunger in Nigeria, it further aggravate poverty. Owing to the results obtained from regressing MDGs and growth indicator variables on poverty and hunger, a percent change in the proportion of the population with access to clean and safe water will cause hunger to significantly decline significantly by 13%, while influencing the rise of poverty by 71% significantly on a 10% significance level. Accordingly, the growth of the Nigerian agricultural sector influences poverty and hunger negatively, though insignificantly. This therefore expels the claims of the federal government on the reduction of hunger due to growth in the agricultural sector.

Achieving the Vision 20:2020 in which the Nigerian economy aspire to be among the top 20 economies in the world, which is based on the growth of the economy tend to aid in eradicating poverty and hunger in the Nigerian society. From the estimates in Table 2 and Table 3, the growth of the Nigerian economy measured by the growth of the GDP shows a negative influence on poverty and hunger. This indicates that when the Nigerian economy grow by a percent, it will cause poverty and hunger to decline significantly by 36% and 0.43% respectively.

Table 2: MDGs on Poverty Eradication

Dependent Variable: *POV*

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
<i>Constant</i>	38.31546	24.07468	1.591525	0.1426
<i>ODA</i>	-0.152814	0.043774	-3.490953	0.0058
<i>GEXP</i>	-2.285869	0.747710	-3.057159	0.0121
<i>ACWR</i>	0.706335	0.349867	2.018870	0.0711
<i>AGRIC</i>	-0.104593	0.082893	-1.261778	0.2357
<i>GDP</i>	-0.359050	0.185055	-1.940233	0.0810

$R^2 = 0.57$, Adj. $R^2 = 0.35$, F-statistic = 2.60, Prob(F-stat) = 0.093, Durbin-Watson stat = 1.99

Source: Author's Computations Using EViews-7

Table 3: MDGs on Eradication of Hunger

Dependent Variable: *HUN*

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
<i>Constant</i>	18.33128	2.759604	6.642721	0.0001
<i>ODA</i>	-0.031150	0.005264	-5.917714	0.0001
<i>GEXP</i>	-0.309919	0.082969	-3.735344	0.0039
<i>ACWR</i>	-0.128911	0.042070	-3.064229	0.0120
<i>AGRIC</i>	-0.002457	0.009461	-0.259723	0.8003
<i>GDP</i>	-0.042959	0.017763	-2.418396	0.0362

$R^2 = 0.83$, Adj. $R^2 = 0.75$, F-statistic = 10.05, Prob(F-stat) = 0.001, Durbin-Watson stat = 1.75

Source: Author's Computations Using EViews-7

Table 4: Diagnostic Tests

Test Statistics	Model 1	Model 2
Autocorrelation: Chi-Sqr(1)	0.0319 (0.86)	0.0054 (0.94)
Heteroscedasticity: Chi-Sqr(5)	2.1132 (0.83)	3.8178 (0.58)
Normality: Jaque-Bera	0.0613 (0.97)	1.1969 (0.55)
Functional Form: Ramsey RESET F-stat(1,9)	0.1108 (0.75)	1.2345 (0.30)

Source: Author's Computations Using EViews-7

Conclusion and Policy Implication

The fact that poverty is multi-facet, a poverty alleviation program which strive to provide enough food for the citizenry to eat, access to education, adequate shelter, health, and protection from violence etc. is an action of change. Though this represents the core goal of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), an assessment of the effect of this program particularly in Nigeria in the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger within

the 15 years (2000 – 2015) it was introduced shows its inefficiency in solving the problem of poverty and hunger, as the country has continued to witness a soar in the poverty rates, although little success was recorded in the area of hunger, thanks to the growth in the agricultural sector. As such, in examining the influence of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger in Nigeria, this study utilizes the technique of Ordinary Least Square (OLS) to analyze the MDGs indices data from 2000 – 2015, and incorporating the Official Development Aids (ODA) received by Nigeria, government expenditure, percentage of population that have access to clean drinking, growth of the agricultural sector and economic growth. The results therefore indicate that while ODA, government expenditure and the growth of the Nigerian economy influence poverty negatively and significantly, the access to clean water has an enhancing effect on poverty. Similarly, the result revealed that enhancement in ODA, government expenditure, access to clean water, and the growth of the economy have potentials of reducing hunger in the country.

In essence, it is recommended of the Nigerian government to embrace the post development agenda known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which was steered as a result of the end of MDGs, which reflect a broader and better coverage of the totality of the social, economic, environmental and institutional system. Similarly, measures that will curb funds mismanagement and wastefulness should be enforced, so the fund set aside for the reduction or eradication of poverty and hunger can get to the target population as well achieve the goal. Since the flow of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) shows negative effect on poverty and hunger, efforts should be made towards attracting steady and increased flow of the assistance, as it has been fluctuating and on a serious decrease, due to its potential in reducing poverty and hunger. Concurrently, the economy should be placed on a path of growth through a well-planned economic policy.

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