

**INTERNATIONAL DONOR AGENCIES AND
DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: A STUDY OF UNITED
NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)
POVERTY REDUCTION ACTIVITIES IN ENUGU
STATE.**

BY

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OCTOBER, 2008.

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BEING

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MASTERS (M. SC.) DEGREE IN
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BY

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TITLE PAGE

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PROGRAMME (UNDP) POVERTY REDUCTION ACTIVITIES
IN ENUGU STATE.

APPROVAL PAGE

This project work: International Donor Agencies and Development in Nigeria: A study of the United Nations Development programme (UNDP) Poverty Reduction activities in Enugu state has been approved by the Department of Political Science University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

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CERTIFICATION

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The work embodied in this project work is original and has not been submitted in part or full for any degree of this to any other university.

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DEDICATION

This piece of work is particularly dedicated to our dear mum, madam Gugune Catherine Ugwu, and all men of goodwill and justice throughout the world.

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This intellectual piece would, in no way, have been realizable outside the motivating material and non-material assistance offered by members of our family friends and well-wishers. Of special importance is the intellectual assistance offered to me by the lecturers in the Department of Political Science, university of Nigeria, Nsukka, namely: Professors H.A.Asobie, E.C. Amucheazu, Okechekwu Ibeanu; Dr. K. Ifesinachi, Dr. Ogban Ogban Iyam, Dr. Ede; especially; my academic adviser and project supervisor, Dr. Jonah Onuoha.

PREFACE

Poverty, conflicts, disease, corruption, political instability, poor policy implementation, etc, are some of the numerous factors that constitute a serious challenge to the economic development in the developing countries. In Nigeria, a lot of measures have been put in place to ensure economic development. One of such outstanding measures is poverty reduction. Poverty reduction efforts in Nigeria are aimed at improving the standard of living of the Nigerian people. As a result, successive governments in Nigeria have initiated and adopted various programmes towards poverty reduction, they include the Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), Green Revolution (GR), Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructures (DFRRI), Family Support Programme (FSP), Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP), Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP), Agricultural Development Programme (ADP), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), National

Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA), among others.

More so, foreign assistance is also sought in seeking solutions to the problem of poverty in Nigeria. In this respect, International Donor Agencies are often allowed to play great role. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is one such agencies that operate in Enugu State. Expectations are that such donor agencies would impact positively in such developmental activities.

The problem of the developing countries is that their hope and reliance on foreign assistance, most often, helps in weakening or slowing down development in such developing countries. In respect of this, the international donor agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Department for International Development (DFID), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) etc., upon their symbolic development activities, fall short of development

realities. This is as a result of their lack of touch with the target population, the poor.

So, to theoretically explain this research report, the **Dependency** theory is hereby applied. The central message of the theory is that developing countries should ensure real and actual development through home-grown efforts, rather than depending on foreign assistance which further deepens them into underdevelopment.

The research methodology applied here include observation and secondary source of data. Therefore, visits to project sites of the UNDP in Enugu state was personally done by the researcher of this research report. More so, relevant literatures were consulted.

At the end of the research, the followings were made:

1. Previous efforts by past Nigerian governments towards poverty reduction could not help reduce poverty in Nigeria

2. The communities that benefited from the UNDP projects in Enugu state were relatively few.
3. The so-called UNDP projects in Enugu state were mainly executed and controlled by the Enugu state government rather than being directly done by the UNDP.
4. The UNDP projects are small-scale in nature, and so, could not guarantee sustainable livelihood.
5. The UNDP projects easily fall into depreciation as they lack proper maintenance.
6. The micro credit loans given to few individuals were so infinitesimal that it could not bring about positive change in the lives of the beneficiaries.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

This research report is given scientific structure, as indicated in this chapter. As a result, this chapter is made up of the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the literature review, the theoretical framework, the hypothesis, the method of data collection, and the method of data analysis.

1.0 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This research report is driven by the continued high poverty rate in Enugu state of Nigeria, irrespective of the increasing effort towards poverty reduction. In this respect, the UNDP engaged in various poverty reduction activities in Enugu state, the result of which could not bring about considerable positive change, enough to effectively reduce the impact of poverty on the people.

In addition to the UNDP, other strategies are put in place by various Nigerian governments towards poverty reduction and improved livelihood. Some of these strategies are in the nature of such programmes like the green revolution, the directorate of food, roads, and rural infrastructures, the operation feed the nation, the family support programme, the poverty alleviation programme, etc.

2003 – 2007 serves as the scope of this research study.

The Green Revolution (GR)

On assumption of office in 1979, Alhaji Shehu Shagari gave priority attention to agriculture through the then newly articulated Green Revolution programme. With this programme, Alhaji Shehu Shagari approved the purchase and distribution of certain inputs and equipment to farmers. There and then, tractors, fishing trawlers, livestock, feeds, improved seeds, etc were purchased and distributed. A massive campaign was launched throughout the country to boost the production of

seeds to be supported by the provision of inputs and organized marketing.

***The Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure
(DFRRI)***

In 1986, General Ibrahim Babangida established the Directorate of Food, Roads and rural Infrastructure to provoke rural development. The aim of this scheme was to provide feeder roads, electricity and potable water and toilet facilities for the rural dwellers.

“The project gulped a whopping sum of 1.9 billion Naira (about 80 billion Naira today’s value), without the target audience benefiting from them” (Maduagwu, 2000, p 3). In addition, the Babangida government set up the Peoples Bank, the Community bank, and the National Economic Reconstruction Fund as financial institutions to offer the Nigerian people access to credit facilities. As well, the Better Life for Rural Women was set by the same government to cater for the Nigerian poor especially the rural women. The Better

Life for Rural Women ended up being hijacked by the rich who were allies to the wife of the president.

The Operation Feed the Nation (OFN)

Launched on 22 May, 1976, the OFN was one of the economic measures adopted by the General Murtala Mohammed/Olusegun Obasanjo regime. The launching of the Operation Feed the Nation was aimed at increasing agricultural production in order to make food more abundant for the people.

The Operation Feed the Nation was designed to increase food production, arrest the drift from rural to urban centres, provide employment, generate surplus food for export, etc. To ensure the workability of this programme, the government provided agricultural inputs, such as improved seedlings, fertilizers, pesticides, marketing and storage arrangements, etc. In addition, university students were mobilized, trained and deployed in their Local Governments to teach the farmers modern techniques and methods of farming. The Operation

Feed the Nation was intended to enable Nigerians appreciate the dignity of labour.

However, the Operation Feed the Nation could not fulfill its purposed goals. The scheme was destroyed by corruption among the government officials handling the projects, poor funding, and insincerity. At the end, the scheme could not live up to expectation.

The Family Support Programme (FSP)

In 1993, General Sani Abacha and his wife set up the Family Support Programme and the family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP). The two schemes were aimed at catering for the poor in Nigeria.

The Family Support Programme alone gulped over ten billion naira while the Family Economic Advancement Programme consumed equally a similar amount. At the end, not much impact was made in the lives of the poor Nigerians.

The Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP)

On assumption of office in 1999, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo introduced the National Poverty Alleviation Programme, which later metamorphosed into National Poverty Eradication Programme. According to the United Nations Systems in Nigeria, 2001, p. 70, the poverty Alleviation Programme was aimed at providing immediate employment to an estimated two hundred thousand job seekers over a twelve month period.

The Poverty Alleviation Programme, unfortunately, ended up being hijacked by the implementing officers and political party loyalists.

Meanwhile, other related poverty Alleviation schemes or programmes include the River Basin and Rural Development Authorities (RBRDA), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Nomadic Education Programme (NEP), National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA), Oil Mineral

producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADEC), now transformed into Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Nigeria Agricultural Co-operative Bank (NACB), Peoples Bank of Nigeria, National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), Nigeria Industrial Development bank (NIDB), etc.

The above programmes and schemes are all directed towards economic improvement through poverty reduction. Though the programmes and schemes may sound purposeful, their implementation appears a different thing altogether. The problem may arise from the implementation officials who tend to be corrupt, or from the government that initiated such programme and later reneged on the goal of the programme through insincerity or failure to effectively fund such programmes. This, according to Mohamed (Crystal Magazine, March, 2000, p. 19) serves as the reason behind the

modification or the scrapping of such schemes, seeing that the schemes fail in addressing the vexed poverty question.

Side by side with some of the above schemes are some international donor agencies which as well, work in the spirit of reducing poverty in Nigeria. Some of the agencies include the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department for International Development (DFID), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, etc.

Encouraged by the desire to stem the tide of poverty, the Enugu state government partnered with the UNDP. The overall goal is to propel the state along the path of poverty alleviation through the promotion of full and productive employment and sustainable human development.

The activities of the United Nations Development Programme in Enugu state are grouped into two packages, namely;

- i) the integrated Community Development project,

ii) the financial Disbursement and Resource Mobilization.

According to the UNDP Transition Report, 2004 (pp 10), 80% of the total development fund earmarked for Enugu state was reallocated to Integrated Community Development Project, while 20% was for Capacity Building.

Under the Integrated Community Development project, sixteen communities were selected by the Enugu state government to receive assistance for the implementation of at least four projects as contained in the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The benefiting communities include Ugwogo Nike, Agbani, Mbu, Edem, Aguobu owa, Iheakpu Awka, Obinagu Uwani, Obunoffia, Mpu, Eke, Umuida, Oduma, Ameze, Aji, Akpawfu and Abor.

The above communities were earmarked to benefit in the UNDP assisted projects which are in the areas of water supply healthcare, sewing, hair dressing equipment, livestock, Garri processing, skill acquisition, road maintenance, etc.

In the area of financial Disbursement and resource mobilization, the Micro-Finance Institution (MFI) disbursed the sum of 5.2 million Naira on behalf of Enugu state government to eight-two groups for various income-generating ventures (Transition Report, 2004. pp. 6). This was aimed at encouraging capital formation for micro entrepreneurial development as well as to expand economic activities in rural communities.

However, it was observed that necessary maintenance attention is not given to such projects that were carried out to reduce poverty in Enugu state. The so-called financial disbursement was not sufficient and effective to bring about sustainable change in the life of the people so affected. Moreover, the involvement of the Enugu state government in the activities associated with the poverty reduction scheme calls for questions about the objectivity and sincerity of the people carrying out the scheme.

Following the above shortcomings in respect of the UNDP and poverty reduction in Enugu state, this research work is geared towards filling the gap by finding answers to the following research questions:

- 1) Is there considerable reduction in poverty level in Enugu state within 2003 and 2007?
- 2) Has the UNDP poverty reduction efforts improved the living standard of the people of Enugu state?

1.1 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The issue of development stands one of the national priorities of every government. Nonetheless, governments channel both domestic and foreign approaches in pursuance of national development.

This research work is aimed at assessing the successes and failures in respect of efforts employed in ensuring national development in Nigeria through poverty reduction schemes.

Such investigative assessment would learn on finding answers to the above research questions.

So, the objective of this research work includes:

- 1) To find out the extent to which the UNDP has reduced poverty in Enugu state.
- 2) To examine the nature of partnership between the UNDP and Enugu state government.
- 3) To examine the specific projects accomplished by the UNDP in Enugu state, in relation to such projects' influence on the living standard of the people.
- 4) To provide more effective strategies to enhance UNDP performance in Nigeria.

1.2 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The significance of this research work is based on the consideration that its findings would help re-direct the Nigerian

economic policy. Thus, the new economic policy would favour a shift from dependence on foreign donor agencies to a domestically-sewn economic policy which would serve as a gateway to a more realistic development.

Meanwhile, this research work would offer solutions to the problem of poverty and development in Nigeria. It would, as well, improve on the already existing knowledge about the role of foreign assistance to the developing countries of the world.

1.3 LITERATURE REVIEW

Undoubtedly, the nature of this study requires that some related literatures be looked at. These literatures would be considered, assessed and improved upon where necessary.

Regarding poverty, its problems and solutions, Nigerian governments have been putting up efforts towards alleviating poverty.

According to Anthony Maduagwu (Maduagwu, 2000 pp. 1), the reasons why the past poverty alleviation attempts failed include:

1. the politics of personal rule; which is a destructive political system in which the rivalries and struggles of powerful and willful men, rather than impersonal institutions, ideologies, public policies, class interests, are fundamental in shaping political life.
2. the top – down big man approach; in which poverty alleviation programmes are done in a master – servant kind of relationship in which government claims to know and understand what being poor means, who the poor is, and what is to be poor. He therefore argues that only the poor understands poverty and so, it is only the poor that know how their poverty could be alleviated.

He offered some solution which could be applied in tackling poverty. His suggestions include addressing

environmental problems, upward review of salaries and wages, addressing the problems of ethnic – based crises, curbing corruption, etc.

Adebayo. O. Lawal, in a book edited by Oyin Ogunba (Ogunba2000, pp 207 - 208), cited that despite several millions of Naira voted for various poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria by Nigeria government, none succeeded in registering any tangible positive impact on the poor masses in both the urban and rural area. Lawal blamed the failure on the various personnel in charge of the schemes. He maintained that such officials colluded with the powers that be in misappropriating the fund that were meant for financing the various poverty alleviation projects.

Comparatively, Lawal maintained that poverty in developed countries is a minor problem because of such countries productive economy, labour absorptive capacity, good governance, efficient tax system, committed leadership, welfare

system, and sensitiveness of government to the plight of the populace. In such countries, the national output that is annually generated is sufficient to afford a more equitable distribution of income to the effect that each person will be above poverty line so long as the rate of population growth is properly controlled. His solution to poverty in Nigeria include: Nigerian government must declare total war on poverty and borrow foreign technique as mentioned above. This would ensure consistent and pragmatic implementation of anti poverty programmes.

Phil-Eze, in his own view (Phil-Eze 2000), maintained that considerable efforts have been made by successive Nigerian governments towards poverty reduction. These efforts include international agencies all being indicative of the Nigerian government awareness of the poverty level and suffering of the Nigerians.

Phil-Eze condemns a top-bottom approach to poverty reduction; rather, he suggests a bottom-top approach. This

approach, he sees as more realistic, arguing that reaching the hearts of the people established control and co-operation of the people.

His main focus is the rural/conflict areas (conflict area here being the area of the country where the carrying capacity of the land falls short of its population needs, in terms of food and national resources). To him, for the attainment of poverty alleviation in our rural/conflict areas, the poor must be driven to it by hope supported by transparent honesty, through their traditional leaders and community leaders, not people from outside, or government. This idea therefore calls for participatory approach that is bottom-up oriented. In this participatory approach to poverty alleviation, the traditional leaders and leaders of autonomous communities have a complementary role to play for the success of the poverty alleviation scheme. He suggested the following strategies:

- i. The traditional and community leaders should identify the needs of their people before any programme is embarked upon.
- ii. The traditional and community leaders should be the ones to select the beneficiaries of such programmes.
- iii. The proposed beneficiaries should be assisted through the provision of access to credits from financial houses,
- iv. The traditional and community leaders should accord women equal participatory opportunities.
- v. The traditional and community leaders should source and manage community-based information, including those related to health etc.

More so, the problem of poverty is a serious matter to any country and governments. Therefore its solutions could be sought from both within and outside the country in question. So, poverty could also be tackled through foreign aids. The aids could come in form of loans, grants, international governmental

and non-governmental donor agencies. Some of the international donor agencies that are operating in Nigeria include the Department for International Development (DFID), the United States Agency for International Development, (USAID), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), etc.

By assessment, one could consider the operational effectiveness of the so-called donor agencies to the actual development within the host countries.

According to Daniel Offiong (Offiong, pp. 143 – 149), contemporary imperialism or neo-colonialism seeks to avoid direct political control or military intervention. Western interests are then preserved through the reinforcement of the infrastructure of dependence. These infrastructures include African institutions and social classes which are geared toward foreign interests. These western interests are, there and then, accomplished in large measure through aid agencies.

Thus, in the view of Daniel Offiong, foreign aid (through the international donor agencies) tends to be counter-productive. This is as a result of the fact that such donor agencies indirectly serve and represent the interest of the developed countries rather than serving the interest of the developing countries. This is reflected in the former president of the United States, John Kennedy's definition of foreign Aid as "a method by which the United States maintained a position of influence and control around the world, and sustains a good many countries which would definitely collapse or pass into the communist Bloc" (Offiong, pp. 143-4). This imperialist statement by John Kennedy demonstrates the ontological reason behind the setting up of some donor agencies, especially as it concerns the cold war period. Judging from this statement therefore, foreign aids serve as the instrument of campaign for alliances, rather than promoting development in the recipient countries. Another significance of such foreign aids is that developing

countries are looked upon by the developed countries as marketable commodities which could be afforded by the use of aids. Furthermore, aids are seen as coming from the corridors of political projections rather than economic projections. Offiong therefore underscores many areas of difference and discontent between the developed countries (donor countries) and the developing countries (recipient countries). In a summarized form, the differences and discontents include:

- i) The so-called foreign aids to the developing countries are always infinitesimal relative to need.
- ii) The insufficient aid is usually secured after a prolonged and frustrating bargaining.
- iii) Tying the aid to stringent and unbalanced trade relation between the donor countries and the recipient countries makes such aid more of imposed than offered.

- iv) The donor countries give foreign aids mostly in order to project their image rather than to actually promote real development in the recipient countries.
- v) The foreign aids, most often, back-fires. This implies that instead of generating more income for the recipient countries or improving the lives of people, such foreign aids worsen the economies of the recipient countries, thereby forcing them into more foreign debts.

In his book, ***the West and the Rest of Us***, Chinweizu is of the view that, not that aids are given, but to what practical benefit they are to the recipient countries. This underscores the fact that aids are not given in good spirit by the donor countries, given the fact that the end product of such aids amounts to putting the recipient country in relatively worse economic condition.

Judging from Chinweizu's view, aids are unnecessary, especially as it involves the developed countries as donors and the developing countries as recipients, seeing that such

relationship is never on mutual benefit, but on master – servant relationship.

According to George Soros (Soros 2002 p 60), foreign aids are usually effective depending on the type of regime in the recipient country. For him, if a regime is corrupt, such foreign aid is bound to be misused. For instance, in the case of repressive regimes, foreign aids ought to be confined to non-governmental channels.

So, George Soros is of the view that the effectiveness of foreign aids depends largely on the type of regime in place. This implies that liberal regimes justly and judiciously apply such aids for the welfare of the citizenry, unlike the repressive regimes which usually use such aids to satisfy selfish ends.

Considering the above view point, George Soros is of the belief that such foreign aids, if to be given, ought not go through the repressive regimes, but preferably through non-governmental channels. This, no doubt, could help minimize or

entirely remove the danger of wrongly directing such foreign aids. In most cases, corrupt government officials divert them into selfish uses.

However, George Soros (Soros 2002 p 66) maintained that the World Bank pioneered what is referred to as comprehensive Development framework (CDF), with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), together with the World Bank, requires a poverty Reduction Strategy paper (PRSP) in connection with concessional loans and debt forgiveness for highly indebted poor countries. This new initiative is still in its infancy, but seems promising. George Soros maintained that poverty reduction strategies fail as a result of the fact that donor institutions like the World Bank or the IMF and the other donor agencies are often obliged by the standard rules to carry out their activities through the governmental channels. Unfortunately, this bureaucratic strategy exposes such aids to corruption that emanate from government officials who usually

divert such aids to their private pockets. So, there is the pressing need to go beyond governmental channels.

In summary, George Soros is of the view that the efficacy of foreign aids is strongly dependent on the channel through which the aids are delivered, and the sincerity of the regime in power in the recipient country.

The above illustrations demonstrate African countries' perception of the so-called foreign aid and their desire to attain development through their own track.

In the view of Chinweizu, (Chinweizu, p. 252), "the trouble with foreign aid is not that it is given, but rather, that its givers use it to stimulate a perverse kind of development".

From the reviewed literatures so far, it is observable that no attention was directed towards restructing the international donor agencies towards better performance. With this new approach in place, poverty reduction through the

international donor agencies would be more realistic, more effective and more realizable. As a result, this research work is centred on filling the above gap. So, the international donor agencies should be repositioned by finding new strategies to enhance their performance. This, nor doubt, would effectively help in reducing the poverty level in developing countries, thereby improving their economies.

1.4 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

For clearer analysis and understanding of this study, **Dependency theory** is hereby applied as the theoretical framework.

Dependency Theory is an attempt to explain the failure of the third world countries to develop. The theory owes its largest debt to the work of Karl Marx and Lenin. Other proponents of the Dependency theory include Wikipedia, Raul Prebisch, Vincent Ferraro, Robinson Rojas, Chinweizu, Walter Rodney, etc.

The dependency theory maintains that the developing (third world) countries are characterized by extreme form of underdevelopment. This situation, according to the proponents of the dependency theory is produced by the dependency of the Third World countries on the more developed countries.

According to the proponents of the Dependency theory, the development of capitalism in Western Europe led to the creation of an international political economy driven by a world wide division of labour in which the metropolitan capitalist countries achieved dominance over the underdeveloped countries.

Dependency theory has it that the cause of low level of development in the less economically developed counties is the reliance and dependence of such underdeveloped countries on the more economically developed countries. That is to say that the underdeveloped countries are underdeveloped because they rely on the developed countries. Furthermore, the theory

maintains that the undeveloped countries are underdeveloped as a consequence of their being incorporated into the global capitalist system. This incorporation gave rise to the centre – periphery relationship which made the underdeveloped countries more of a servant in the global capitalist system. This situation positioned the underdeveloped countries in a dependent condition, as they lack the sufficient resources to act independently in their relationship with the developed countries. Dependent countries, because of their subordinate role in the world capitalist system, are unable to make independent decisions concerning the pace and direction of growth of their national economies. Rather, the issue of what to produce, how to produce, how much to produce, and for whom to produce are decided by an international structure and process outside the control of the developing countries. This development therefore principally constrains and fundamentally distorts the nature of

development and underdevelopment in the underdeveloped countries.

Such dependence is manifested in foreign loans, grants and aids granted to the underdeveloped countries by the developed countries through foreign government and international donor agencies.

In the view of the proponents of the Dependency theory, dependency and reliance on such foreign aid is counter-productive, as such aids rarely influence development.

Therefore, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as an agency for promoting development in the Third World countries falls short of expectations. Its activities in Enugu state of Nigeria fails to promote sustainable livelihood among the poor masses.

So, the Dependency theory is hereby applied in explaining the activities of UNDP in Enugu state

1.5 HYPOTHESIS

This research work could only assume scientific posture if it is guided by a hypothetical statement. The whole essence of this study is to validate or nullify the hypothesis of this research work through the research findings.

The hypothesis for this research work is: **The UNDP poverty Reduction programme in Enugu state has not improved the living standard of the people.**

1.6 METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

Data collection for this study would be done through observation and secondary source of data.

In the observation technique, the researcher would visit most of the project sites of the UNDP to see the real things on ground. This would offer real assessment of such projects.

Secondly, the secondary source of data collection would as well be applied. Here, the researcher would consult relevant and related literatures. This could be facilitated through the access to libraries, official documents, the Internet, etc.

As a result several test books journals, official documents, newspapers, magazines seminar papers, etc. were consulted by the researcher, of this research report.

1.7 METHODS OF DATA ANALYSIS

In analyzing the data for this research report, percentage and other related measures of central tendency were applied.

However, certain indicators should be used in analyzing the data. The indicators include:

- i) the number of sustainable job engagements created for the poor by the UNDP,
- ii) the change in the living standard of the people of Enugu state, especially the poor,
- iii) the continued maintenance and functionality of the UNDP projects after accomplishment.

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CHAPTER TWO

THE HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF UNDP DEVELOPMENTPROGRAMME IN NIGERIA

2.0 HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is an agency of the United Nations Organization (UNO). The UNDP is the UN's global development network which advocates for change and connect countries to knowledge; experience and resources, with the aim of helping people build better life.

Equally, UNDP is a hands-on organization with 85% of its staff in the countries it supports. Its programmes are therefore designed to advance national development goals, end poverty and build peace through activities that can be managed and sustained locally.

It is now common knowledge that poverty denies people choices and effective participation in their communities and the decisions that affect them. Meanwhile, UNDP recognizes that poverty is a denial of fundamental human rights, and so, has committed itself to the promotion of the right to development for all by supporting poverty eradication programmes. It provides assistance for training, micro-finance schemes and other initiatives to empower the poor.

Specifically, UNDP's current main area of focus include democratic governance, poverty reduction, crisis prevention, recovery, information and communication technology, energy and environment, as well as HIV/AIDS.

As a result, the UNDP is on the ground in one hundred and sixty-six countries working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges (UNDP Nigeria, 2006, p 1-2). UNDP has been in Nigeria since 1960 when the country became independent. Generally, the UNDP is a force

for change, as it helps the government and people of Nigeria to create and share solutions to emerging challenges of development. The UNDP offers policy advice, advocates for change and mobilizes resources to facilitate sustainable human development in Nigeria.

2.1 UNDP OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK (1960-1999):

Though the UNDP has been in operation in Nigeria since independence in 1960, a stronger enhancement was accorded to its operations in Nigeria by the partnership agreement reached and signed by Nigerian Government and the UNDP. The partnership agreement includes the memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the Programme Support Document (PSD), which was signed on 12 April 1988 by the two parties.

The programme support Document was contained in Article 1 of the standard Basic Agreement signed on the 12 April 1988 (UNDP Poverty Reduction Programme, 2003-2007).

With the 4th Programme Cycle (1999-2003), the programme activities of the UNDP were mainly on capacity building and institutional strengthening. There and then, ownership of development process was not in the hands of the nationals. It was later that such ownership was transferred to the nationals, (Onyishi, 2004, p 7). Within the 4th and 5th programme cycles, such implementing structures as State Programme Coordinating Committee (SPCC), Stakeholders Boards (SHBs), and appointments of state programme Accountants, were established. This, according to Onyishi, was followed by the consultative meeting of all the stakeholders to 'x-ray' the state development environment, dialogue and identify the priority needs of the people, as well as agree on operational modalities and implementation structures. Meanwhile, the presence and programmes of the UNDP were not conspicuously felt by the people until later, when government and government

officials were directly involved in the planning and implementation of UNDP programmes.

2.2 UNDP OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK (2000-2007)

The 4th and the 5th programme cycles of the UNDP in Nigeria laid the foundation for the 6th programme cycle (2003-2007). The current programme cycle, that is, the 6th programme cycle, witnessed a shift from mere capacity building and institutional strengthening. It was envisaged that appropriate capacities are required at all levels of government so as to transfer the ownership of development process to nationals. As a result of this, UNDP made extensive use of government technical ministries as implementing agents, which offered civil servants the opportunities to be trained on management of development programmes and coordination.

The UNDP development programmes are enhanced through the adoption of Programme Support Document (PSD) and the State Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The

UNDP is partnering with the Nigerian Government to address the challenging problems like high rate of unemployment, poor governance, corruption, lack of accountability, gross violation of human rights, nepotism and a skewed income distribution. As a result, the UNDP, in tackling both the global and national challenges, identified some key focus areas as

- i) Governance and human Rights,
- ii) Poverty reduction
- iii) Energy and Environment,
- iv) HIV/AIDS

Meanwhile, the reduction of poverty is central to government's development efforts and is one of the major areas of intervention of the refocused UNDP. Poverty reduction is also one of the three key priority areas of assistance identified in the United Nations development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). Within this overall framework, UNDP would support

national development efforts under the 6th country programme of the UNDP in the following four areas:

- i. **Poverty Reduction:** The different thematic areas covered by the four programmes provides UNDP with strategic entry points to support government's effort to develop the new macroeconomic framework that would create such an environment under the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS).
- ii. **Good Governance:** The shift from military rule to civil rule created enthusiasm among Nigerians as it has given rise to participatory Democracy. Broad participation of the civil society is greatly needed to help develop consensus on the need for action and improved implementation of poverty programmes. This enhanced

democratization through the strengthening of local governance to ensure effective representation of people at the grassroots and their participation in the development process. With this, the governance programme would strengthen national capacity for the development and deepening of democratic culture and processes. In this regard, the governance and poverty Reduction programmes would complement each other and help to institutionalize accountability and transparency in macroeconomic planning for poverty reduction.

- iii. **Energy and Environment:** The energy and environment package would complement the management of the ecosystem, and by promoting environment friendly production techniques. Hence, institutionalizing effective waste

management and erosion control process are important initiatives in the poverty reduction process. The environment programme would also assist in building the capacity of the Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SME) operators through the implementation of the refrigeration management and the foam sector phase-out plans. This would improve productivity and accelerate national efforts in job creation, which is a key area of intervention in the poverty programme.

- iv. **HIV/AIDS:** The decapitation of workforce, impoverishment of women and children by HIV/AIDS scourge compound poverty trends and call for multi-sectoral efforts. The HIV/AIDS programme would support efforts of the other three programmes to reduce vulnerability of the

poor to economic, social, environmental and psychological difficulties.

However, the four programmes are linked in a network all aimed to address the poverty situation.

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CHAPTER THREE

UNDP POVERTY REDUCTION IN ENUGU STATE

3.0 THE UNDP GOAL IN ENUGU STATE

According to a UNDP publication on poverty reduction in Nigeria, 2003 – 2007 pp 2, the United Nations Development programme Poverty Reduction package in Nigeria is designed to support national efforts aimed at reducing poverty levels so as to improve the quantity of lives of Nigerians through strategic, well coordinated pro-poor policy initiatives, as well as to increase the participation of vulnerable groups to economic and social development processes.

The UNDP programmes in Enugu state have the following overarching goals.

- i) poverty reduction
- ii) employment generation
- iii) wealth creation

The strategic themes include:

- i) to improve community participatory governance
- ii) leverage on existing institutions,
- iii) to improve public expenditure management,
- iv) public sector reform

The strategic objectives include:

- a) to build culture of entrepreneurship and self help.
- b) to provide access to capital,
- c) to improve delivery of social services,
- d) to improve basic infrastructures,
- e) sustainable environmental management,
- f) to create investment friendly environment.

Meanwhile, in relation to the above outline, the UNDP activities in Enugu state are grouped mainly into the following packages:

- 1) the Integrated Community Development Project
- 2) the Capacity building Project

3) the Micro credit Administration Project

3.1 THE INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Under this thematic area, eight communities were initially selected by Enugu state Government to receive assistance for the implementation of at least four projects, as contained in the signed memorandum of understanding. Later, eight other communities were added. The benefiting communities include Afigbo Owa, Iheakpu Awka, Ugwogo Nike, Agbani, Mbu, eke, Edem, Obinagu Uwani, Obuofia, Mpu, Aji, Umuida, Oduma, Ameze, Akpawfu and Abor.

The projects are as shown below:

Community	Project	Programme No.	Completion status
Ugwogo Nike	1) Surface water, construction of overhead tank and reticulation	NIR/98/300	Completed, but developed problem.
	2) Construction of 5 No VIP latrine	NIR/98300	Completed
	3) public Health	NIR/98300	Completed
Agbani	1) Water reticulation	NIR/98300	Completed
	2) Public Health Education Post	NIR/98300	Completed
Mbu	1) Drilling of 3 No borehole and 2 No hand-dug well	NIR/98300	Completed
	2) Afforestation	NIR/98400	500 trees planted, erosion clicked.
	3) Maintenance of rural feeder road.	NIR/98/400	10km rural road rehabilitated.
	4) Public Health Education Post.	NIR/98/400	Completed
Edem	1) Water reticulation	NIR/98300	5km rural road rehabilitated

	2) Maintenance of rural feeder road	NIR/98/400	Completed
	3) Public Health education Post	NIR/98/300	Completed
Aguobu Owa	1) Reactivation of existing water scheme and reticulation	NIR/98/300	Completed
	2) Sanitation	NIR/98/300	Special latrines constructed.
	3) Public Health education post	NIR/98/300	Completed
Iheakpu Awka	1) Water reticulation and construction of 40.000 overhead tank	NIR/98/300	
	2) Maintenance of rural feeder road	NIR/98/400	Rural road rehabilitated and maintained
	3) Public Health post	NIR/98/300	Complete
Obinagu Uwani	1) Garri processing		Equipment supplied, building completed, installation not

			yet done.
	2) Community health post		Installed, workers currently working.
	3) Public Health education post	NIR/98300	Completed
Obuoffia	1) equipment for health post	NIR/98/300	Equipment supplied, and installed
	2) Water and sanitation	NIR/98/300	Project still on-going
	3) Public Health education post	NIR/98/300	Completed
Mpu	1) Public health education	NIR/98/300	Project at a cross road, as the Engineer had accident.
	2) Public health education	NIR/98/300	Access to medical information made possible.
Eke	1) Livestock	NIR/98/400	Piggery and

			fishery farms set near Ugwu Di Nso, junction, Eke.
	2) Road maintenance	NIR/98/400	Rural feeder road maintained.
	3) Public health education post	NIR/98/200	Completed
Umuida	1) Water reticulation	NIR/98/300	Four water points spread across the community.
	2) Road maintenance	NIR/98/400	Sensitization on feeder road maintenance.
	3) Public health education post	NIR/98/300	Completed
Iheakpu	Maintenance of rural feeder road.	NIR/98/300	Completed
Oduma	1) Surface water	NIR/98/300	Equipment supplied, building under construction.

Amaeze	1) Water reticulation and sanitation	NIR/98/300	Extension and erection of taps completed.
	2) Maintenance of rural feeder road	NIR/98/400	Road rehabilitation completed.
	3) Public health education post	NIR/98/300	Completed
Aji	1) Garri/Palm/Wood processing	NIR/98/300	Completed
	2) Public health education post	NIR/98/400	Completed
Akpawfu	1) Rural road rehabilitation	NIR/98/300	Almost completed
	2) ten hand-dug wells	NIR/98/300	On-going
	3) Health education post	NIR/98300	Completed
Abor	1) Erosion control and stabilization	NIR/98/400	Uncompleted
	2) Abor science and Intro-Tech laboratory at Abor Girls Technical Secondary School.		Science and intro-Tech equipment supplied and installed.

Ugwogo Nike	Equipment for skill acquisition	NIR/98/200	The centre was equipped with sewing, hair dressing, barbing and shoe making equipment. About 53 persons are being trained.
Mbu	Equipment for skill acquisition centre	NIR/98/200	Centre equipped with hairdressing, bakery, barbing and brewing equipment.
Edem	Equipment for skill acquisition centre	NIR/98/400	Equipment supplied, and TOT conducted for computer operator and instructor.
Aguobu	Equipment for skill	NIR/98/200	Skill equipment

Owa	acquisition centre		supplied and installed, training on-going.
Ikeakpu Awka	Equipment for skill acquisition	NIR/98/200	Centre equipped with hair dressing, barbing, baking, and sewing equipment.
Obuoffia	Equipment for skill acquisition centre	NIR/98/200	Equipment supplied, installed and instructors trained.
Mpu	Equipment for skill acquisition centre	NIR/98/200	Centre equipped with barbing, hair dressing backer and shoe making equipment, training is on-going.
Eke	Equipment for skill	NIR/98/200	Hair dressing,

	acquisition centre		barbing, baking, fashion and designing to be learnt.
Umuida	Equipment for skill acquisition centre	NIR/98/200	Equipment procured, installation yet to be done.
Oduma	Equipment for skill acquisition centre	NIR/98/200	Equipment supplied, installed, training on-going
Amaeze	Equipment for skill acquisition centre	NIR/98/200	Equipment supplied, installed and centre operational.

Source: Transition Report on Integration of UNDP monitoring and evaluation Unit into economic Development Unit, Government House, Enugu, 2004. (pp 10-18).

3.2 CAPACITY BUILDING

In some communities, the UNDP has provided equipment and organized training for skill acquisition in various self-help ventures. The benefiting communities include Ugwogo Nike, Mbu, Edem, Aguobu Owa, Iheakpu Awka, Obuoffia, Mpu, Eke, Umuida, Oduma, Amaze, etc.

3.3 MICROCREDIT ADMINISTRATION

The microcredit administration entails financial disbursement to individuals and groups, which is aimed at empowering the individual beneficiaries towards small scale business ventures. This scheme's end-result would thus be self-reliance for the beneficiaries.

The UNDP microcredit administration in Enugu state is as contained in the table below:

Project	Completions	Benchmark Achieved
Microcredit to benefiting communities through CIDJAP, Enugu	On-going	The micro finance institution (MFI) has on behalf of Enugu state, disbursed the sum of N597300.00 to a total of 82 group with membership strength of 2235. The MFI is currently undertaking a recovery mission. A total of N4439943.24 has so far been recovered.

Source: Transition report on integration of UNDP monitoring and Evaluation unit into Economic Development unit, Government House, Enugu, 2004. (p 23).

3.4.0 BENCHMARK OF UNDP POVERTY REDUCTION IN ENUGU STATE

At this juncture, it is pertinent to carry out a corporative analysis of the activities and performance of the UNDP in Enugu state.

This analysis would enhance the upholding or nullification of the hypothesis of this research work.

So, the success and the failures of the UNDP in Enugu state are outlined here as a background for any assessment and judgment conclusion.

3.4.1 ACHIEVEMENT OF THE UNDP IN ENUGU STATE

According to the Transition Report (Onyishi 2004, pp. 25-26), the UNDP was given a pass mark for its performance in Enugu state. Highlights of the acclaimed breakthrough by the UNDP in Enugu state include:

- The provision of water through underground and surface water schemes provided adequate water to the benefiting communities especially guinea worm endemic areas. There is about 20% reduction in cases of water born disease.
- Successive donor interventions in the state had paid little attention to putting in place long term plan for

sustainability. However, the participatory approach to project conceptualization, planning, implementation and monitoring provided a good opportunity for on the job training and inculcating the culture of ownership. This arrangement made it possible for the programme to ensure that suitable technologies were provided through adequate training on maintenance, management and sustainability.

- The implementation of integrated community projects using the community project implementation committees and output recorded have raised the awareness of government at all levels on the effectiveness of joint collaboration for greater impact. The introduction of counterpart contribution both in cash and in kind from the government and benefiting communities is an in-built measure that enhances sense of ownership, transparency and accountability.

- The development has resulted in replicating UNDP's integrated community project by institutionalizing a participatory development policy called Enugu state community country council. The project involves joint contribution of development fund by state Government, (50%), Local Government (30%), Community (20%) to implement an integrated project using community level implementing agent.
- The sensitization for policy makers, technocrats, coupled with the establishment of multi-purpose skills Development centres have resulted in government embracing functional skills development as a viable option towards fighting unemployment. It has made the young school leavers to see self-employment as a way forward towards economic empowerment. UNDP support in this direction has at least reduced unemployment by about 3%.

- Prior to UNDP's intervention in some of the benefiting communities, there was no health/maternity centres in the vicinity and people have to travel long distances to receive treatment with many dying on the way to hospital. However, the establishment of community Health centres and public Education posts has improved their access to primary and preventive care. This has gone a long way to reduce high rate of infant and maternal death in the benefiting communities.
- Harmful Traditional practices have been reduced by at least 5% following the passing into law by Enugu state Government the bill prohibiting all sorts of harmful Traditional practices.

Moreover, with the microcredit and financial disbursement programmes, the UNDP made available financial assistance to the recipients. This, in no small measure, helped in enabling the recipients embark on small scale business ventures of their

own. In a nutshell the UNDP in Enugu state carried out; provision and maintenance of bore-holes, construction and maintenance of rural feeder roads, establishment and maintenance of collage hospitals, engagement in agricultural activities like poultry, piggery, etc, setting up of small scale garri processing industry, provision of basic equipment for schools, hair dressing garri processing, etc. training people on skill acquisition, provision of microcredit for small scale business ventures, bringing new orientation with regard to discriminatory and harmful cultural practices, etc.

3.4.2 SHORTCOMINGS OR FAILURES OF UNDP IN ENUGU STATE

At this juncture, it is pertinent to have an analytical view of some of the performances of the UNDP in Enugu state. As a result, investigative and on-the-spot assessment of the UNDP projects in Enugu state, as carried out by the researcher of this study are expected to help understand the argument clearer.

However, out of the ten communities visited by the researcher, among the communities that benefited from the UNDP projects, only three communities have their own projects still functioning by the time of the visit, representing only 30% of the ten communities visited. The ten communities visited include Abor, Agbani, Aji, Amaeze, Edem, Eke, Mbu, Oduma, Mpu, and Umuida. By the time of the researcher's visit, only the water projects in Umuida, Agbani and Mbu were functional.

On capacity Building, most of the beneficiaries of the skill acquisition scheme were dumped and abandoned after the training exercise. There were no take-off assistance with which such beneficiaries of the training exercise could start on their own. In addition to this is the fact that there was no arrangement for their being absorbed into the labour market, having been trained.

Another ugly development is that the micro credit administration did not offer enough capital with which a viable

business could be embarked on. As a result, such financial assistance easily fizzled out, leaving the beneficiaries poorer as they battle to repay the loans. This situation therefore aggravates the poverty level rather than alleviate it. There is misplacement of priority by the UNDP as the priority of poor centres on the ability and means of keeping food on the table, rather than the social services and infrastructures provided by the UNDP. So, emphasis should be on job creation and employment opportunities.

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CHAPTER FOUR

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE UNDP AND ENUGU STATE GOVERNMENT

4.0 OVERVIEW

As a result of cases of massive fraud and mismanagement of programme fund by some states, UNDP and Federal Government of Nigeria took a decision to recruit programme Advisers for states (Onyishi 2004 p6). As a consequence of this development, one Mr. Nnanyelugo Dan Onyishi was recruited as the UNDP programme Adviser for Enugu state in 1996, during the tail end of the UNDP 4th country programme cycle in Nigeria.

However, following the completion of the 5th country programme cycle, a decision was taken to integrate Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) into the state civil service. In view of this, states were asked to second a focal person from its civil service. Following this directive, one Mr. Ajadike was appointed to take

over the integrated m & E in Enugu state in preparation for the commencement of the new programme cycle (the 6th country programme cycle, 2003-2007)

Prior to the 5th programme cycle, programme activities were mainly on capacity building and institutional strengthening. There after, it was envisaged that appropriate capacities are required at all levels of government, so as to transfer the ownership of development process to nationals. As a result of this, UNDP made extensive use of government technical ministries as implementing agents, which offered civil servants the opportunities to be trained on management of development programmes and co-ordination.

In addition to capacity building and institutional strengthening, UNDP assisted Enugu state to implement different development projects during the 4th country programme cycle (Onyishi 2004 p. 7).

4.1 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

According to Onyishi (p 7), between 30 September, 1998 and 1 December 1998, there was a preparatory phase for the commencement of 5th country programme cycle. This process of transiting from 4th to 5th country programme cycle witnessed the establishment of all implementing structures such as State Programme Coordinating Committee (SPCC), Stakeholders Boards (SHBs) and appointments of state programme Accountants. This was followed by the consultative meeting of all the stakeholders to 'x-ray' the state development environment, dialogue and identify the priority needs of the people, as well as agree on operational modalities and implementation structures.

Moreover, the UNDP – Assisted National programmes were further enhanced through the adoption of Programme Support Document (PSD) and the State Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as the implementing framework. The

PSD is contained in Article 1 of the standard Basic Agreement between the Government of Nigeria and the UNDP as signed by the two parties on 12 April 1988 (UNDP 2004).

However, both the PSD and MOU were fine-tuned to reflect the state's specific development priorities. This was the case with Enugu state. Using the PSD and MOU as the general frameworks, the state programme coordinating committee (SPCC) and other relevant implementing agencies in the state mobilized manpower and accessed financial inputs from UNDP to complement local resources to support Enugu state in various development projects at community levels, under the following programmes:

i. Capacity Building and Aid Cordination: This involves manpower development, aid coordination, as well as building database for proper programme planning, budgeting and mobilization of resource for sustainable human development. This also involves institutional strengthening and proper

orientation to gender-responsive and people-centred development.

ii. Job creation and sustainable livelihood: This framework is centred on the micro entrepreneur development aimed at improving the level and the rate at which the rural people participate in micro income generating activities. This serves as an entry point to the integrated community project and has the potential to empower the rural people economically and build a revenue base for maintaining and sustaining development efforts at the community level.

iii. Social Development: This implies reduction of illiteracy rate through functional literacy campaign at an annual rate of over 20%, improved health, provision and protection of portable water in targeted communities, as well as increase the level of women participation in income generating activities and decision making process.

iv. Sustainable Agriculture, Environment and Rural

Development:

This implies an increase in agricultural productivity at rural communities by encouraging appropriate farming techniques, and supply of agricultural inputs. It also focuses on improving the income of smallholder farmers as well as support the maintenance of good roads for easy evacuation of farm produce.

Meanwhile, in assisting the Enugu state to implement the above national programmes, four main implementation modalities were adopted. These include:

- Integrated community development project,
- Functional skills development
- Capacity building and institutional strengthening.
- Microcredit administration to encourage capital formation and Rural industrialization.

In addition to the four areas mentioned above, UNDP is also supporting federal and state Governments, Enugu state inclusive, in other areas such as:

- Private sector partnership for human development fund.
- HIV/AIDS mainstreaming in National development.

4.2 PROGRAMME DESIGN

The UNDP mission, National Execution, programme Approach, Programme support Document and Memorandum of Understanding guided the operations of the UNDP. However, the development policies of Enugu state Government, to a great extent, influenced the UNDP towards fine-tuning the UNDP intervention strategy to focus more on downstream development activities for greater impact.

According to Nnanyelugo Dan Onyishi, "In Enugu state, UNDP in partnership with Enugu state Government, is intervening in areas of surface and underground water

development, reactivation and boosting of existing water scheme, provision of basic health equipment to establish community health centres, training and rehabilitation of rural feeder roads, renovation of primary school blocks to enhance adult and non-formal education, establishment of skills development centres to impart relevant trade for self-employment and extension of micro credit to 177 men and women to boost income – generating activities, support for improving agricultural productivity of smallholder farmers, and gender mainstreaming in development activities at all levels (Dan Onyishi, 2002p.6).

In Enugu state, the community areas of influence for the UNDP projects and assistance include Aguobu Owa, Iheakpu Awka, Ugwogo Nike, Agbani, Mbu, Eke, Edem, Obinagu Uwani, Mpu, Obuofia, Aji, Umuida, Oduma, Amaeze, Akapawfu, and Abor.

Meanwhile, the UNDP – Enugu state partnership was precipitated and strengthened by the memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed by the UNDP and the Enugu state Government.

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CHAPTER FIVE

STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE UNDP PERFORMANCE IN NIGERIA

5.0 BACKGROUND

Obviously, developing countries, especially in Africa, are in an increasing battle against economic weakness and backwardness. On the strength of this, a lot of economic related measures have been, and are still being pursued to ensure economic revival and survival in an ever increasing competitive economic world.

In addition to the regional economic groups into which Africa is divided, the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) was launched in 2001. Both the regional economic groupings and the NEPAD are efforts aimed at fostering stronger economic co-operation, which should help minimize the economic problems, which hamper economic development in Africa.

Emphasis is on tackling such socio-economic problems like disease, poverty, conflicts, corruption, external debt, etc. which are common with African countries. Meanwhile, the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) was launched in the year 2000 by the World leaders at the UN Millennium Summit of 2000. With the MDG, expectations are high that national and global efforts are to be directed towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals as; (1) to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger (2) to achieve Universal Primary Education (3) to promote Gender Equality and Empower women (4) to reduce child mortality (5) to improve Maternal Health (6) to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases (7) to ensure environmental sustainability (8) to develop a global partnership for development. The developing countries are expected to, inter-alia, reduce the number of people living with less than one dollar a day to half, by 2015. In a related development, during the 2004 G8 Summit in Georgia, US, a senior US official, in a

sceptic statement complained that “Africa is one continent that will probably not meet the MDG in 2015” (Newswatch, 28 June, 2004 p 43). However, the reality of this skepticism is yet to be confirmed.

Dependence on international Donor Agencies for poverty reduction assistance is another approach usually taken by the developing countries. In Nigeria, the UNDP, being one of such international Donor Agencies, carried out a lot of development – oriented projects as illustrated in Chapter Three of this research work.

Analytically, it could be observed that such UNDP activities as they were carried out in Enugu state fell below expectation. The falling below expectation is observable from the following findings:

i) The previous attempts towards poverty reduction by various Nigerian governments proved to have ended in failures – as

they failed to impact positively on the lives of the real poor, which is the target population.

- ii) The number of communities that benefited from the UNDP projects in Enugu state is relatively low to the number of communities in Enugu state.
- iii) What to do and where to do it was dictated by the Enugu state government, leaving the UNDP a passive partner in the scheme of things. This created lack of enabling and conducive environment for the UNDP to operate.
- iv) It is only in two communities (Eke and Obinagu Uwani, where there were livestock farm and Garri processing factory respectively) that what seems to be employment-creating projects were established by the UNDP, otherwise, none of the UNDP projects could guarantee self-reliance by generating employment opportunities for the poor.

- v) The UNDP project sites so visited by the researcher of this research work reveals that most of the projects were, at the time of the visit, non-functional, as they are either not completed or were left without proper maintenance.
- vi) The microcredit given to individuals or groups were so meagre that its beneficiaries easily fell back to their previous poverty position, in which some even mortgage their family land so as to be able to pay back such loans.
- vii) The UNDP projects in Enugu state could not guarantee sustainable livelihood to the beneficiaries of such projects.

The above findings confirm that:

- a) The UNDP fell short of expectations in reducing poverty in Enugu state.

- b) The partnership between the UNDP and the Enugu state Government is in a subordinate – super-ordinate relationship where the Enugu state determines the do's and don'ts of the UNDP.
- c) The projects accomplished by the UNDP in Enugu state are not human development – oriented as they could not offer or guarantee sustainable livelihood to the poor.

On the strength of the above findings therefore, it could be inferred that the performance of the UNDP in Enugu state is far below expectations. This therefore calls for more reliable strategies that could enhance the performance of the UNDP in Enugu state in particular, and Nigeria in general.

5.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure a more realistic and effective performance of the UNDP, there have to be a shift from the old approach. Consequently, a more relevant and effective strategy need to be followed. The researcher of this research work, having

undergone thorough study of the old approaches to the operations of the donor agencies, offer the following recommendations, which could serve as stronger and more directional strategy towards the greater performance of the donor agencies, especially the UNDP:

- a) The UNDP should partner more with the benefiting or host communities rather than with Government.
- b) Government partnership with the UNDP should be as a third party by supplementing fund when necessary rather than directly participating in the actual execution of the projects through government officials. The host community should serve as the second party by participating actively in the citing, executing, supervising and maintaining the projects.
- c) UNDP should not bite more than it could chew by embarking on overstretched projects; it should rather focus on few projects that are more realizable.

- d) The UNDP should be encouraged to make use of more foreign personnel than the local ones as a way of minimizing bias, selfishness, laziness and corruption that are always associated with local personnel, especially the government officials.
- e) Having completed a project, the responsibility of maintaining such project should be shifted to the host and benefiting community which, conventionally, should show more care than the government.
- f) There should be attitudinal re-orientation among Nigerians and Nigerian government in respect of being realistic and dedicated towards handling social problems, as against embarking on policies and programmes just for the sake of it.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

6.0 SUMMARY

Obviously, development is the hallmark of every country's battle for survival. In developing countries, especially in Africa, the struggle for survival is challenged by a lot of problems. Top in the list of such problems include political instability, civil wars, corruption, poverty, hunger, disease, foreign debt, bad leadership etc. As a result of these challenges, the developing countries are faced with the desire to find ways of containing those problems.

Beyond the national level, the developing countries are engaged in a lot of summits and conferences, formation of regional, continental and intercontinental groupings and organizations as ways of finding solutions to the mentioned challenges.

The developing countries equally operate at the national level in finding solutions to their problems. In most cases, the most noticeable activities are the ones that concern economic development. This entails efforts towards fighting hunger and poverty, indebtedness and economic dependency. Often times, governmental and non-governmental donor agencies play a lot of roles in terms of offering technical and financial assistance.

In Nigeria, for instance, both domestic and foreign approaches are applied in the search for economic development. Various Nigerian Governments engaged in different economic development programmes. Some of such programmes include the Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) the Green Revolution (GR), the Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), the Family Support Programme (FSP), the Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP), the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), etc. At foreign level, international governmental and non-

governmental donor agencies assist developing countries through the use of foreign aid. In Nigeria, such international governmental aid also come through such donor agencies like United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Department for International Development (DFID) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), etc.

This research study has revealed that a lot of factors hinder the direction, activities and the convenience with which the international donor agencies carry out their work. This therefore calls for a new way forward in the operations of the international donor agencies. So, the UNDP poverty reduction effort in Nigeria calls for a rethink. This is as a result of the fact that its poverty reduction activities in Enugu state is not in any way being felt by the poor. Therefore, a new approach is needed.

6.1 CONCLUSION

From the analysis shown in Chapter Three of this research work , it is observed that the percentage of success by the UNDP in relation to its poverty reduction activities in Enugu state, is far much low. The interpretation, therefore, is that the goal (to reduce poverty) was not realized. Priority for the poor is not social services and infrastructures. The poor suffer hunger, and so, need food on the table. In addition to feeding, the poor are also faced with a numerous responsibilities like shelter, surviving in an unbalanced price and market forces, etc.

Rather than providing job opportunities through the setting up of viable industries, especially for the army of unemployed youths, the UNDP concentrated on providing such services that are secondary in importance to the poor. In this case, the poor remains poor and the unemployed remain unemployed. This therefore helps to uphold the hypothetical statements of this research work.

As a result therefore, it could be adduced that international Donor Agencies are not reliable, in terms of the approach to poverty reduction in particular, and national or continental economic development. This calls for a review of all the on-going approaches towards development.

So, for a more effective and reliable approach to poverty reduction and economic development, the recommendation made by this researcher, as contained in chapter five of this study, should be adequately adopted and applied.

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