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Can Nigeria Achieve Millennium Development Goals?

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Abstract: As the deadline of December 2015 for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaches, this paper examined using non-parametric econometric techniques-Deviation Measurement Equation Tests- the achievement recorded in Nigeria, and observed that the level of achievement of this goal are mixed in nature. For instance while MDGs 1, 2, 3 and 7 are near total achieved, goals 4, 5 and 8 are on course to be achieved, however a wide gap exists between achieved and expected achievement of the goal 6. This paper therefore recommends that an aggressive approach should be adopted so as to achieve the desired results for all the goals.

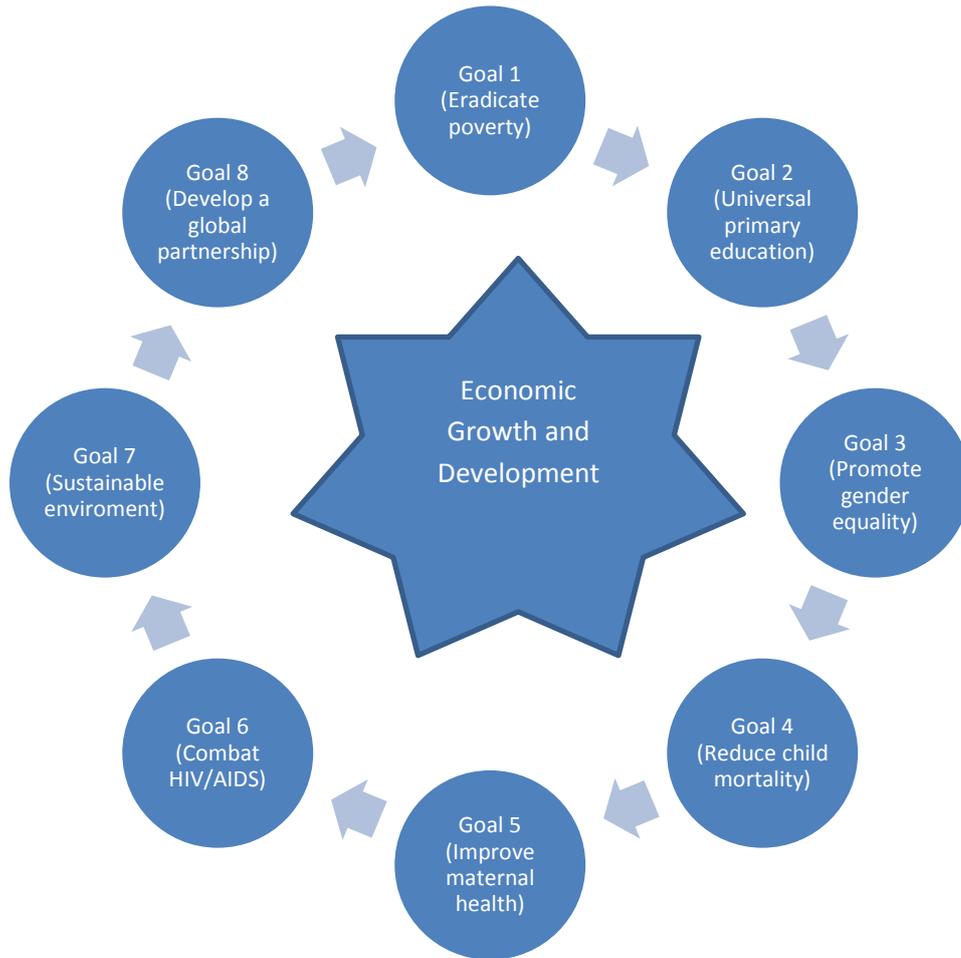
Keywords: Millennium development goals; Targets; Indicators; Nigeria; Achieved.

1. Introduction

Records have it that the Millennium Development Goals remains the biggest global promise to mankind. The MDGs consist of eight (8) thought provoking goals including: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger; Achieve Universal Primary Education; Promotion of gender equality and women empowerment; Reduce Child mortality, Improve health, combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop a global partnership for development. The goals were further sub-divided into eighteen (18) clear cut targets and forty-eight (48) indicators expected to serve as preliminary test to measure its achievements. These goals are expected to be achieved before the year 2015. These goals are expected to be achieved before the year 2015. These goals were adopted by virtually all the member-nations of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly. Nigeria, being a member nation of the United Nations system had in time past and recent adopted a number of policies and programmes including Vision 2010, NEEDS, 7-Points Agenda, Vision 20: 2020, SURE-P, Transformation Agenda Nigeria (TAN) among others as vehicles to achieve each of the laudable goals. This paper attempts to examine through the use of non-parametric statistical test, the extent to which the goals have been achieved so as to know the nations chances of achieving them by the end the year 2015, and recommends practicable strategies through which the goals can be achieved.

Analysts believed that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) offers mankind the world biggest promises with unprecedented but well-tailored targets and indicators to access its performances. It is believed that MDGs presents a Trans generation approach to alleviating human suffering in its entire ramification (MDG, 2014). As observed by the World Health Organization (2012), the MDGs are at current the highest level of expression of the global commitment to the development of the developmental processes and procedures that addresses human needs. It commits the global community to an action agenda that emphasizes sustainable human development as the key objective.

Figure-1. MDGs and Economic Growth and Development.



Source: Authors 2015

The figure 1 above shows the eight Millennium Development Goals and how each of the goals connects with one and another. At the center of the chart lies a star-like shape showing economic growth development. This implies that the essence of the goals all together is to achieve economic growth and development which will in turn uplifts the welfares of the citizens.

2. Literature Review

Beyai *et al.* (2013), observed that as the deadline of December 2015 for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaches, the success record of MDG for the Ghana's economy is mixed. They stated that while MDGs 1 and 2 are on course to be achieved, 3 and 7 are likely to be partially achieved, 6 has the potential to be achieved, and goals 4, 5 and the sanitation aspect of 7 are lagging. The study observed that the role of the Government of Ghana intervention through the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) serves as a key catalyst in fast achieving the goals at least to a level experienced in other economies. The MAF scheme was introduced to the Ghana Health Service (GHS) by the United Nations' Country Team spearheaded by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2010. The new intervention focused on MDG 5, which majorly addresses health related issues and was believed to be the arrowhead for achieving other Millennium Development Goals. Moreover, it was believed that MDG 5 which aimed at reducing maternal mortality through the MDG Acceleration Framework would help improve health indicators in the regions lagging behind. The authors stated that evidence abound that the three northern regions in Ghana are lagging behind the other regions as far as reducing maternal mortality is concerned. These regions also suffer the most in terms of access to quality health care for pregnant women and deliveries assisted by skilled health care workers. For all these indicators, there are disparities between the northern and southern regions and also across urban and rural areas. They identified lack of knowledge by pregnant women, financial and transportation difficulties, long distances to health facilities, and long waiting periods at health facilities as key reasons while mortality rate in the regions is high. Their paper shares Ghana's experience in the development of MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) for MDG 5. It identifies gaps in Ghana's existing policies; programmes in maternal health interventions, which inhibit the attainment of MDG 5; maps the various steps leading to the development of MAF for MDG 5 (see also Benno *et al.* (2005), Lolette Kritzinger-Van and Ritra Reinikka in Jan (2005); Mistry (2005), Roy (2005); Yonghyup (2005) Zamba and Oboh (2013)).

Zamba and Oboh (2013), in a paper titled “Effective Partnerships for Accelerating the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the Sub national Level: Evidence from the Implementation of Nigeria’s Conditional Grant Scheme (CGS)” examined the impact of the deployment of the Sovereign Debt Relief Savings to finance the Millennium Development Goals projects in Nigeria, and recommended a unique approach towards advancing the goals and targets of the MDGs in a populous and complex federation like Nigeria. Using the Nigeria’s Conditional Grant Scheme (one of the interventions funded from the debt relief savings) as a case study, the paper attempts to demonstrate the effectiveness of vertical and horizontal collaboration among multi-level partners in accelerating the MDGs particularly at the sub-national levels of government. With support from UNDP and other development partners, the Conditional Grant Scheme (CGS) collaborates with ministries, departments and agencies at the federal level to provide overall policy framework and coordination while actual implementation takes place at the states and local government levels. The Scheme represents one of the few successful unique arrangements through which states and local governments demonstrated commitment to the mandatory counterpart funds that enabled them to access direct funds from the federal government, targeted specifically at providing pro-poor basic services. Focusing on key sectors with quick and direct impacts on human development, over 38 million people have so far benefitted from various CGS interventions mainly in the areas of health care, education, water and sanitation, electricity and poverty alleviation. The paper concludes that sub-national tiers of government are better positioned to implement development projects given their closeness to the grassroots and extensive knowledge of the local environment, while the federal tier should concentrate on planning, coordination and monitoring of development interventions.

Pettinato and Vásquez (2013), re-emphasized that the Millennium Development Goals, is a global effort put in place to help alleviate human suffering in all its ramifications. The authors stressed that achieving these goals requires a comprehensive public policies focused objectives that will accelerate both the individuals’ and nations’ human development simultaneously and impact positively on the core sector of the economy especially the education, health and livelihoods in a way that guarantee equity, security and environmental sustainability. The study used multidimensional nature of poverty and wellbeing index to measure performance of MDGs especially as it’s relates to MDGs 1, 2 and 3. They justified the choice of the methodology on the strength of its ability to help identify the most disadvantaged groups, inform public policies for more impact and effectiveness, and report national outcomes globally. (Adam, 2005; Falade, 2008; Gert, 2009; Hulme, 2007; Lind and Wathen, 2012; Wing *et al.*, 2005).

Slay *et al.* (2013) surveyed the performance of Millennium Development Goals in the emerging economies of Europe and Central Asia, and observed that the experiences from these parts of the globe are of utmost important for policy implication for both pre-2015 Millennium Development Goals and post-2015 days for developing economies. They explained that this argument may seem somewhat counterintuitive because these regions have not been in the vanguard of global MDGs efforts as expected. Likewise, the success of efforts to push the MDGs closer to the center of development discourse in this region has been moderate at best. However, it is precisely the difficulties encountered in the application of the ‘MDG agenda’ to this region and the responses to these difficulties that have emerged that are germane for discussions on how to make global development goals more universally relevant—both thematically and geographically—after 2015 (see also Giuman *et al.* (2013), Hulme (2008); Olayode (2006); MDG (2014); Keeley and Scoones (2003); Stone (2006); Agbu (2006), Hussan *et al.* (2005); Aribigbola (2009); Ajayi (2008)).

From the proceedings, it can be deduced that the success story of MDGs in most developing economies are relatively mixed as some economies have shown signs of great achievements while others are lagging behind, this call for an investigation of how far Nigeria as a nation had achieved the MDGs targets so as to know how best to harness our resources for maximum achievement.

3. Methodology

3.1. Data and Methodology

3.1.1. Data

The data used in this study is primarily from secondary sources obtained from journals, periodicals and other scholarly publications. The core sources of data are the Central Bank of Nigeria Statistical Bulletin (various issues), (ADB, 2013) African Development Bank Indicators for the year 2013 and WB (2013) World Bank World Development Indicators also for the year 2013, the NBS (2009) National Bureau of Statistics Social Statistics in Nigeria 2009, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Human Development Report 2014, Millennium Development Goals Nigeria 2014 Report, UNDP- MDG (2014) International Assessment 2014.

3.1.2. Methodology

In this study we follow Garba (2000) by using a Deviation Measurement Equation stated as follows

$$di = P_1^a - P_1^A \tag{1}$$

Where; P_1^A is the goal target value

P_1^a is the actual value of the goal

The percentage deviation is derived by is following

$$P_1^d = [CP_{A1} - P_1^A] * 100 \tag{2}$$

The data for target or announced policy is sourced from the MDG Declaration (1990), while data on actual values were sourced from CBN (2009) Annual reports, (various issues), CBN (2012) statistical bulleting (various issues), CBN (2013) Economic report (various issues).

So as to be able to interpret our own result, we also adopts the following formula

$$P^d_1 = [P^a_1/P^A_1 - 1] * 100 \tag{3}$$

Such that when $P^d_1 = 1$ then $P^a_1 = P^A_1$ that is target objective were fully achieved.
 If $P^d_1 > 1$, then $P^a_1 > P^A_1$ that is the target objectives were over shoot or achievement is beyond target.
 And if $P^d_1 < 1$, the $P^a_1 < P^A_1$, implying that the target was not fully realized.

To measure the achievement of the target at the cumulative level at the terminal of our end period 2014 we used the following formulae.

$$P^d_1^* = |(P^T - P^0) / P^T| \tag{4}$$

Where $P^d_1^*$ is the end period 2014 cumulative result.

3.2. Data Presentation

Table-1. Annual achieved goals of the MDGs in Nigeria.

Years	G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	G6	G7	G8
2000	60	77	66	18	704	5	46	0
2001	81	77	68	18	704	6	38	1
2002	86	76	88	18	704	6	36	2
2003	74	82	72	16	800	5	34	3
2004	54	82	76	16	800	5	43	9
2005	52	69	70	14	800	4	40	16
2006	52	68	69	12	800	4	49	24
2007	58	68	66	12	545	4	51	30
2008	54	66	67	12	400	4	54	46
2009	59	46	68	10	400	3	58	45
2010	49	88	68	10	400	3	65	70
2011	50	89	68	10	350	3	66	70
2012	45	90	68	10	300	2	69	75
2013	43	95	68	9	300	2	75	79
2014	44	92	68	7	280	2	79	82

Note: G1; G2; G3; G4; G5; G6; G7; G8 are Percentage distribution of people living on less than one (\$1) dollar a day (Goal1); Percentage of student's Completion of Primary Education (Goal 2); Proportions of Gender Equality (Goal 3); Child (under 5 years) mortality level (Goal 4); Maternal mortality per 100,000 live births (Goal 5); Disease control (Goal 6); Accessibility to water (Goal 7); Partnership for Development – Communication (Goal 8).

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

The trends of poverty level in Nigeria are presented in Column 2 of the table above. It can be deduced from the table that about 60 percent of the population lives on less than \$1:00 per day in the 2000 while about 54 percent of the population feeds on less than \$1 a day in 2008. For the end of the study period, about forty four (44%) of Nigerian are living below the poverty line. For the study period, an average of about 32.29 percent of Nigeria leave bellow \$1 daily. It is important for us to note that the MDGs 2015 target for this goal is 21.15%

MDG 2: Distribution of student's completion of Primary Education.

Column 3 in the table above shows that about 65.91 percent of Nigeria children enrolled and completed primary education in the year 2008. From the table, it can also be deduced that the national primary school enrolment stood at 90% as at 2012. Also note that the target for this goal as specified in the MDG outline is 100% by the year 2015.

MDG 3: Proportions of Gender Equality.

In the table above, the fourth column represents the performance of Nigeria in achieving the MDGs goal 3 using the proportion of girl child to boy school enrolment. Here, it can be deduced that the ratio of girls to boys in school enrolment was 66 percent in the year 2000 but decline to 66.8 percent in the year 2008. On the other hand the percentage of women in the national assembly in the year 2000 was 3.1 percent, the flow was maintained till 2007 (another national election year) when it rose to 7.7 percent. The numbers of women in national legislative houses in the year 2011 election year still remain the same as it was for the year 2007. The targets for these goals are 100 percent and 30 percent respectively.

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

The MDGs target that by 2015, the child mortality rate would have been reduced to about 6.37 percent (two-third- 2/3- of the 1990 figure), and a look at Column five (5) in the table above shows that for the years 2000, 2001, 2002, the rate was 18.38 percent, the rate rose to 20.1 percent in the year 2003 and was maintained till the year 2006. It drops to 13.8 percent in the year 2007, only to rise to 15.7 percent in the year 2009. By the end of year 2013, the rate had reduced to about 9%. On the average, the rate stood at 13.74% for the study period.

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

Column 6 in the table above shows the maternal mortality rate for the period under review, it shows that for the year 2000 through 2003, seven hundred and four (704) cases of maternal mortality were recorded for every one hundred thousand cases, the figure rose to eight hundred for the years 2003 to 2007 and significantly dropped to five hundred and forty five (545) in the year 2008. By the end of the year 2013, the rate stood at about three hundred per one hundred thousand new births. The MDG projected that the rate should be as low as two hundred and fifty (250) per one hundred thousand live births.

MDG 6: Disease control.

Column 7 represents the rate of prevalence of HIV/AIDS among pregnant women in Nigeria. The MDG target is to bring the target as low as 0 percent on or before 2015. The rate stood at 5.4 percent at year 2000 and dropped to 4.2 % by the year 2008, and further dropped to 2% by the end of the year 2013. This could be linked to aggressive investment and campaign against the pandemic

MDG 7: Accessibility to water.

The MDG 7 intends that by 2015, at least 77 percent of Nigerians will have to access safe drinking water, Column 8 in the table above shows that 50.9 percent in the year 2007 have access to clean water. By the end of the year 2013, about seventy five percent (75%) of Nigerians have access to clean water.

MDG 8: Partnership for Development – Communication.

Goal 8 of the MDGs is a unique goal in the sense that it has little or no quantitative figure to check its accomplishment by the end of the year 2015. The table above measures the rate of accessibility to communication equipment or technology by Nigerians for the study years, for instance, the rate of teledensity in the year 2001 was 0.73 percent, it rose to 8.50 percent in the year 2004 and stood at 45.93 percent in the year 2008. On the average the rate increases continually, and by the end of the year 2013, it stood at about seventy nine per cent (79%). This could be as a result of the level of unprecedented growth in the telecommunication industry driven by private sector initiatives.

4. Data Interpretation and Presentation

The hypothesis for this work is follows:

H₀: There is no difference between MDGs expectations and the Nigeria experience;

H₁: There is a difference between MDGs expectations and the Nigeria experience.

Decision rule: Reject H₀ if calculated aggregate value is less than (<) expected aggregate value

4.1. Result of Deviation Measurement Equation Tests using Microfit 4.2

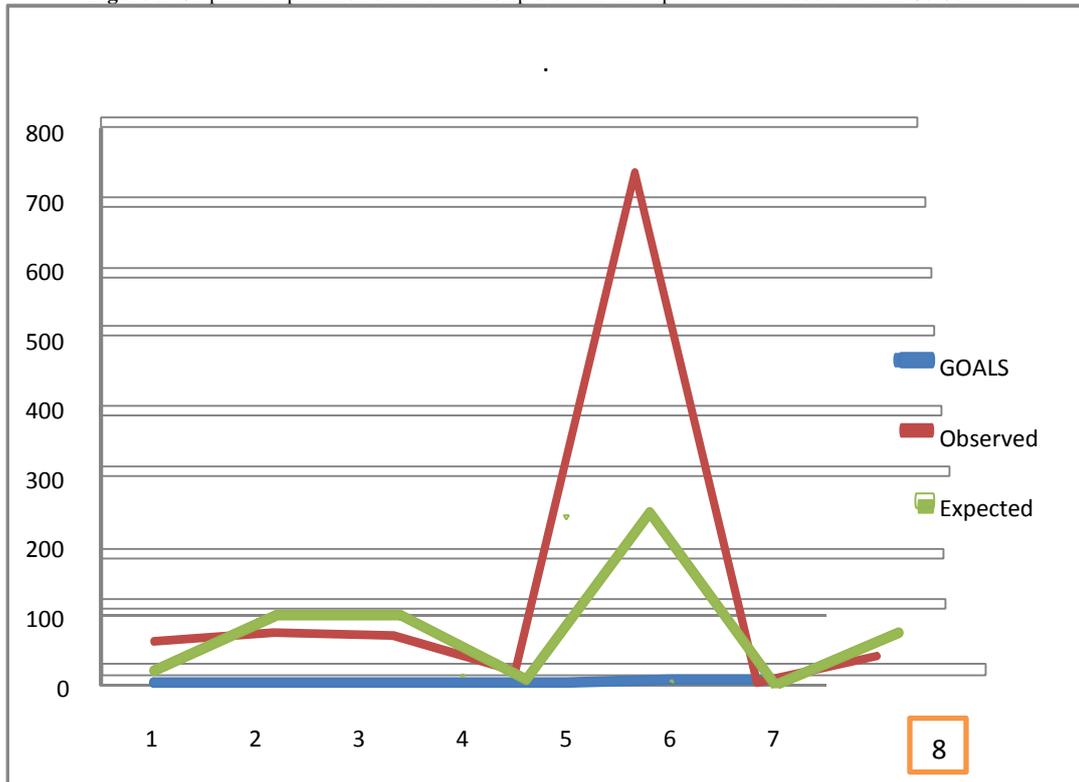
Table-2. Result of Deviation Measurement Equation Tests using Microfit 4.2

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	1.911E3 ^a	63	.000
Likelihood Ratio	948.461	63	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	126.550	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	9208		
P₁^d	0.577		0.000

4.1.1. Findings

Since the Deviation Measurement Equation Tests result is less than 1 though significantly higher than 0, for this study, we reject H₀ and conclude that there is a difference between MDGs expectations and the Nigeria experience. The outcome of this result is supported by MDG (2014), UNDP (2014) HRD Nigeria 2013/2014 report.

Figure-2. Graphical explanation of the relationship between the expected and the observed MDGs Comment



The graph above present an insight into the level of achievement of the various MDGs objective. The graph shows that goals 1, 2, 4 and 7 are near full or total achievement, goals 3 and 8 have a record of over seventy percent achieved while goals 5 and 6 are far from being achieved.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

This paper examined the achievement of MDGs in Nigeria from the year 2000 to year 2014 (a fourteen years length) so as to know the relationship between MDGs expectations and the actual level goals achieved in Nigeria. The study observed that the degree of achievement recorded in Nigeria, though quiet lower than the target goals, chances are that on the average the goals could be achieved before the end of December 2015. Based the works of other authors as reviewed in this work, the study identified poor funding, lack of conceptualization and understanding both by the implementers and the would be beneficiary (people at the grass root), over-politicization by the government, lack of interest on the part of grass root would-be beneficiary/ community and inadequate funding and capacity underutilization, poor technical capacity in formulating, implementing and monitoring the operational MDGs based Poverty Reduction Strategy Process (PRSPS) as the major problems militating against the success of the project.

From the preceding, this paper thus recommends that consolidation of the success areas should be upheld with aggressive investments in other goals with less success records so as to achieve the desired objectives.

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