

**PROJECT TITLE:
LA FORMAZIONE IN CAMPO SOCIO-SANITARIO:
UNA STRADA PER LO SVILUPPO. IL CASO
NIGERIANO” – n° AID 9113**

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1.0 Preliminary Conversations:

1.1 Introduction:

The purpose of this research is twofold: the first part is a case study of the project by APURIMAC and ICU in Nigeria, Jos and (Lubudna) New Karu near Abuja to be specific. The second part theoretically examines Nigeria's Development pattern with particular reference to issues connected with the development policy, Nigeria's growth factor; economic policy for poverty reduction; failed aid programmes; a wide angle on the most significance development experience and a suggestion for an alternative development strategy. In both parts of the research there exist a strong relationship in the issues that authorize the import of the projects in Jos and Abuja.

1.2 Methodology used for the research:

In order to generate the required data therefore, primary and secondary sources were used. The primary sources are generated from the projects in Jos and Abuja. The beneficiaries of the projects and those involved with the implementation were consulted using questionnaires, interviews and on site visits with the beneficiaries and those who supervised the work or charged with the implementation. In Abuja, the persons responsible for the supervision of the construction of the school; the school administrators, teachers, parents and students were interviewed so as to inquire about their perceptions of the school and its future. Similarly primary and secondary sources were used for the second part of the research. Aside consultations with relevant agencies of state and non-state actors such as the Federal Office of Statistics, Federal Ministry of Finance, National Planning commission Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC); Development agencies: Department for International Development in Nigeria [DFID], ActionAid Nigeria, United Nations Development Programme in Nigeria [UNDP], desktop analysis and inquiries helped to support the data collected from the activities of the groups consulted.

1.2.1 SAMPLING TECHNIQUE:

The purposive sampling technique was employed to ensure that the research results reflects the different social characteristics of the target population, such as gender, religion, ethnic group, marital status, workers in informal sector and the unemployed. Hence, different interests and groups that make up the target areas had opportunity to respond to the questionnaire. However after identifying the various groups, random sampling was used to select the respondents to the questionnaire.

SAMPLE SIZE: Though a total of five hundred (500) questionnaires were administered, only 469 were successfully filled and returned. The sample distribution includes beneficiaries of the APURIMAC & ICU project:

Skills Acquisitions: 140 and respondents distributed as follows:	
i. Hairdressing	30 respondents
ii. Tailoring	34 respondents
iii. Knitting	30 respondents
iv. Catering	50 respondents
v. Computer	6 respondents

Similarly 329 questionnaires were distributed to non-beneficiaries in the target areas. And the characteristics and distribution of the non-beneficiaries include: Christians-165, Muslims-164 (total 329); Married-232, single-97(total 329); males- 165, female-164 (total 329); workers in informal sector-240, unemployed-89 (total-329).

	Gender	No
a	Male	174
b	Female	155
	Total	329

	Religion	No
a	Christian	204
b	Muslim	125
	total	329

	Marital status	No
a	Married	232
b	single	97
	total	329

	Workers in informal sector	No
a	Married	240
b	single	89
	total	329

1.3 St. Augustine Community in Nigeria:

The contributions of the Augustinian Order in Nigeria have been known since 1938. Aside its primary missionary responsibilities, the Order has played a significant role in establishing educational institutions in Nigeria over the years. The institutions include St. Augustine’s Teachers’ College in Bazza, Villanova Secondary School in Numan and St. Michael’s College in Yola. In spite of challenges over the years the Order has persisted with its primary aspirations and other development quests. That the Order is now accorded full provincial status in Nigeria is a justification of all its remarkable activities in Nigeria. Thus, it is not surprising that the Augustinian Community in Nigeria in partnership with APURIMAC, ICU and the Italian Mission in Nigeria have established a school in New Karu, near Abuja the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria.

1.4 APURIMAC Onlus

APURIMAC is a non-governmental organization that works in the South of the world. Apurimac started to work in the Southern World more than one decade ago in Peru. Apurimac is the name of the region of **Kuscom**, the highest region of Peru, and also the poorest. Apurimac started work there because of the activities of the first Italian Augustinian mission more than 40 years ago. After the experience, Apurimac was born in 1992 as the development arm of the Augustinian mission in Italy. The mission of Apurimac is based on the principle that in the world where there is peace and justice, all individuals and societies have the possibilities to make their lives better. Simply put therefore, the mission of Apurimac is “**bring hope where there is no hope**”. It goes to show that at the time of educational collapse in Nigeria and

people are burdened by poverty, Apurimac in collaboration with the Augustinian Order and the Italian Mission in Nigeria is introducing new possibilities of hope to vulnerable Nigerians through a variety of interventions: skills acquisition, training and education.

PART ONE: THE CASE STUDY OF APURIMAC/ICU JOS & ABUJA PROJECTS

1.0 Socio-economical analysis of the target areas:

Jos: This is the capital city of Plateau State in central Nigeria. Jos can be described as a miniature Nigeria, as all the major ethnic groups that make up the country could be found in this city. The city called Jos today has three local administrative councils: Jos- East, Jos-North and Jos-South Local Government Councils. Specifically, the Apurimac / ICU project is located within the premises of St. Monica's Church Rantya in Gyel B ward of Jos South Local Government Area, under the auspices of the Augustinian Order in Nigeria.

The population of Jos-South Local Government is 3,06,716 (151454 females and 155262 males). The major ethnic group in the area is the Berom. Besides Berom, other Nigerian ethnic groups like the Urobo, Igbo, Tiv, Yoruba, Hausa- Fulani and other plateau ethnic groups are settled in the area due to Tin mining activities dating back to the pre-1930s. However there exist other opportunities that have turned Jos-South into a Metropolitan community. The target area has the highest policy research institute in the country aside crops and veterinary research institutions. The main occupation of the people is both subsistence and commercial agricultural production. But a large population work as civil servants and also farm extensively to augment whatever salaries they are able to get from the primary jobs.

Abuja: The project is located at Labudna, New Karu, a suburb of Abuja city, the federal capital of the Republic of Nigeria. Thus, the choice and location of the school in Lubudna, New Karu in Nassarawa State near Abuja for instance is remarkable. Abuja is the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria with a population of 1405201 (according to 2006 Census). Karu on the other hand is one of the local governments in Nassarawa state linking the FCT. Its population is put at 205477 based on the 2006 census. The population of Karu is understandable. Its proximity to the city is one reason. But majorly, the design and social mapping of Abuja city seem not to socially favor people of the lower class. This view was confirmed by the demolition of illegal structures during the Obasanjo administration which uprooted many people to the outskirts of the FCT including Karu, Nyanya, Masaka, Mararaba, Ado, etc. These areas mentioned are weak in many perspectives: poor planning, poor road network and environmental sanitation; overpopulation and poor housing conditions; poor and inadequate public health facilities and personnel; poor infrastructure; overcrowded public schools that lack appropriate learning environment and qualified personnel. This is the social ecology of New Karu where the St. Augustine's College is located.

1.1 Which is the average education level of the population?

A sample population of the target areas was studied and the findings show that the average education of the population in Jos-South area is secondary school. Similarly the literacy level of the population in Karu L.G.A is very low especially among the natives. Majority have basic education, few are educated up to secondary school level, while handful pass through higher institutions.

1.2 Which is the average composition of families?

Our investigation shows that the average composition of families in Jos-South and Karu near Abuja are similar. About 80% of the sampled populations reveal an average of 7 to 15 persons per family. Further investigation revealed that 72% of men have only one wife, while 15% have two wives. The average number of children for the sampled population also varies from six and that of the dependants is five in families with only one wife and far more with families with more than one wife. Among the Muslim community in Jos and Karu, there is prevalence of early female child marriage. Female children are given out in marriage between the ages of 12-14. Christians in the areas give out their female child in marriage between age of 18-21.

1.3 What are the main confessional and tribal groups of the population?

The main confessional groups in Jos-South are Christianity, Islam and few people who still practice their traditional religion. Whereas the Muslim community is dominant within Bukuru metropolis, there is a high concentration of Christians in the four districts of the local government. The ethnic composition of the population is predominantly Berom. However Jos-South presents an interesting mapping of a representation of all the ethnic groups in Nigeria. This diversity is influenced by some early social and economic factors and largely now, the presence of federal institutions of research and policy studies. Thus, the Urobo, Igbo, Tiv, Idoma, Hausa-Fulani and tribes in Nigeria are found in Jos-South outside the many other tribes in Plateau State.

In the same way, Karu Local Government Area is a multi-ethnic society because of its proximity to FCT. As characteristics of Nigerian Society, the following religions are found in the area, namely: Christianity, Islam, and traditional African religions with Christianity and Islam being the most popular. Among Christians the following denominations exist, Catholic, Baptist Church, Evangelical Church of West Africa (ECWA), Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN), and Pentecostal churches that are too numerous to mention. Among the Muslim community we have the Tijjaniya, Jama'atu Nasril Islam, Derika, Answar'rudeen, and Nurudeem sects among others.

Many people refer to Karu as 'mini-Nigeria' because virtually all tribal groups in country are represented in the area. However, the majority ethnic groups in the area are Gbaggi, Koro, Yeskwa, Gwandara, Mada and Gade. These groups are the locals of Karu Local Government. Other tribal groups in the area that are settlers include: Hausa, Fulani, Yoruba, Berom, Igbo, Idoma, Jaba, Bajju, Bachama, Igala, and Tiv among others.

1.4 Main Health Issues of Target Population in Jos and Abuja

The endemic health problems in Jos and Karu near Abuja are similar in many perspectives. First both areas are experiencing rapid urbanization challenges. One of such is the challenge of rapid migration influenced by different contexts though. These contexts are explained in the segment of the report on migration. These

endemic health problems include Malaria and typhoid fever caused largely due to the prevalence of mosquito, poor sanitary condition and lack of portable drinking water. Our visits to the public health centres and private hospitals in Jos-South and Karu did show that aside high cases of malaria and typhoid that are diagnosed among children and adults, especially women, there exist a population also that suffers from high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes militus and stomach ulcer. While malaria has remained persistent due to poor hygiene and sanitary conditions of the residents of these areas, maternal mortality and child care have remained alarming. Child birth rates and women dying of poor delivery systems still remain high. In addition to the factors of poor waste management system, lack of relevant health infrastructures, the survey revealed lack of jobs, housing challenges and other social factors like persistent conflicts are responsible for the high blood pressure amongst adults male and female. Also, our findings show that HIV/AIDS remain a deadly concern especially among young people in Jos-south and Karu.

Another health issue is that of self medication. Treatment of some these illnesses identified is mostly obtained from drug stores through self diagnoses and administration. Clinical test is rarely undertaken in recognized hospitals. Findings reveal that self – prescription has led to wrongful treatment and drug abuse. Some factors responsible for this state of affairs include lack of easy accessibility of health facilities within the reach of the target population. Government has established primary health care centres, however, these are poorly equipped and lack adequate personnel to manage the clinics.

As for Jos, there are hospitals such as the Plateau State Specialist Hospital and Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH). Here patients experience long queue before being attended to, giving them additional stress to the already weak body. Critical drugs required for treatment are always out of stock, thereby exposing the patients to the possibility of buying fake drugs and the attendant consequences. These drugs are expensive and most patients cannot afford to buy complete dosage and some we confirmed finally resort to traditional herbal medicine for treatment. Private hospitals exist within the community; however, their charges are so high and beyond the reach of the already impoverished population. Similarly for the target population in Karu, accessibility to both the general hospital in Keffi and the Abuja national hospital are far off the people, thus forcing majority of the population to visit the private clinics for those who can afford.

In summary, the health issues include diseases, lack of good health facilities and personnel to address the health issues of the people. People suffering from crushing pressures; sanitation facilities are absent hence the dominant diseases in the area are water-borne, airborne, cholera, typhoid and malaria. The incident of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), particularly HIV/AIDS is high among the young population.

1.5 How is the Health system organized?

The organization of the Health system in Nigeria is based on the statutory provisions of the constitution of Nigeria. Again the different tiers of government which are the federal, state and local government have respective responsibilities to ensure the healthcare of people. Basically, the health system is organized into three viz: The Primary Health Care (PHC) which is the responsibility of the local government; the

secondary health care is provided by the state government in form of general hospitals or specialist hospitals and the tertiary include the teaching hospitals, national hospitals supported by the federal government. For this reason government has established primary health care centres in Jos-South and Karu near Abuja. However, these are poorly equipped and lack adequate personnel to manage the clinics.

In Jos for instance, no local government council in the state has in its employment medical doctors and pharmacists. The Head of the health unit may be a nurse or a social worker. Moreover, the number of non-beneficiaries out numbers the beneficiaries. However, there are hospitals such as the Plateau State Specialist Hospital and Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH). Here patients experience long queue before being attended to, giving them additional stress to the already weak body. Critical drugs required for treatment are always out of stock, thereby exposing the patients to the possibility of buying fake drugs and the attendant consequences. These drugs are expensive and most patients cannot afford to buy complete dosage and may finally resort to the herbalist for treatment. Private hospitals exist within the community; however, their charges are so high and beyond the reach of the already impoverished population.

In Karu near Abuja there are 21 public Primary Health Care centres and 11 Secondary Health care Centre. Out of the 11 secondary health care facilities, one is public and the remaining 10 are privately owned. Generally, the provision of health care centre services in the area is low due to inadequate number of health facilities, basic equipments, essential drugs and commodities, shortage of skills health personnel such as Doctors, Nurses and Midwives. Other problems are poor quality of services delivered in public health centres, rent seeking behaviour and poor attitudes of health workers towards patients, poverty, inaccessibility and low level of awareness on the importance and quality of orthodox medicines. For instance, statistics available at the health department in the local government area indicates that less than 25% of the pregnant women attend antenatal services and about 18% eventually deliver in health facilities. The interface of the above problems and the inability of the majority of the inhabitants of the area to afford the cost of health care in private health care centres usually prompt them to travel to FCT to seek health care in public hospital which may take a longer period because of heavy traffic on the highway. A respondent posit that because of inadequate health facilities in Karu L.G.A many people have died of curable diseases and the heavy traffic on the highway to FCT coupled with poverty forced most poor people to turn to alternative services provided in the informal private sector such as traditional healers and spiritual homes.

In summary, the health system is organized at three levels, however the functionality of the system is the result of what the research has captured above.

1.6 Which are the main Jobs of the Target Population? Which are the main job opportunities in the areas?

One major the challenge the government is confused about is the high unemployment rate among young people in Nigeria at large. Recently the federal government declared that over 70% of its youth is unemployed and this accounts for the persistent cases of robbery, kidnapping and other forms of underground economies among young people. However, research investigation in Jos and Abuja reveal that as high as 69% of the population is not employed. This population includes housewives, youth

and children. Only 31% is said to be employed in petty – trading, farming, workers on construction sites, tailoring and of course government workers.

However, job opportunities abound in Jos and Abuja. These include the establishment of small and medium enterprises especially in the processing of agricultural products e.g. garri, groundnut; Irish potato, poultry feeds, poultry farming, piggery, baking, tailoring, computer work, packaging drinking water, and sewing. The demand for the products of these jobs can contribute to the sustenance of the family. Thus, what remains is to acquire the necessary, skills and the capital to establish the business or fill available job vacancies. It is also evident that an improved power supply (electricity) will increase possibilities for job creation.

In the Karu specifically, it is evident that the main sectors of economic activity in the area seem to be from casual observation, construction, agriculture and trade. While it is estimated that about 50% of the population of Karu local government area work in Abuja, the bulk of economic activities in the area lie in the informal sector. The research studies conducted in some parts of the area highlight that the main identified occupation of the inhabitants are chiefly farming and trading. As the area is predominantly an agrarian society, the people especially the natives cultivate food and cash crops. As observed above, the general economic activities and the major sources of income of the inhabitants are agriculture and trade, however, other sources of income include; palm-wine tapping, craft work, e.g. carpentry, masonry work, metal work, mechanic etc. Other job opportunities in the area because of its growing population and proximity to Abuja are contract, construction, and sale of building materials, transportation business, rise in private schools and hospital, eateries, communication etc.

In both Jos and Abuja, though government recognizes the challenge of unemployment, there is no deliberate effort to create job opportunities. It would appear government has left that sector in the hands of the private sector i.e. eateries and communication establishments, construction work, etc.

1.7 Are there internal migration trends? Which are the trends?

Though there is no current data to show of internal migration trends, interviews and consultations show remarkable instances that evidence internal migration trends. In the Jos area, persistent crisis in the city on religious grounds have forced people to migrate from one part of the other where there is a huge population of one's faith. So there is realignment of settlement along religious sentiments. For instance many people migrated to Jos-south on the account of this. Particularly where the Apurimac project is located, there have been constant influxes of people from Jos-North due to the cosmopolitan nature of the environment. Thus the pattern of settlement in Jos reflects religious and ethnic identity. Moslems and Christians live in different areas except for the Rantya community, the site of the Apurimac/ICU projects.

Trends and characteristics of migration in Karu local Government Area indicate that the dominant trend in internal migration in most recent times in the area has been the movement from rural to urban as well as movement from urban to rural. Many people from neighbouring villages migrate to some semi-urban settlements such as mararaba, New Karu, Ado Masaka and New Nyanya in Karu LGA for employment, infrastructural facilities, trade, health, education etc. On the one hand and on the other

hand people who could not cope with the high cost of living such as housing, transportation, health or suffer demolition of properties in Abuja metropolis migrate to semi-urban areas in Karu L.G.A. Besides, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as a result of religious turbulence from Kaduna, Plateau, Bauchi, Kano and Taraba States migrated to Karu LGA as farmers, businessmen and women, and artisans, all in search of peace, security and means of livelihood. Some of the residents shared this perspective with the researchers. These create social crises such as unemployment, housing, slums, overcrowding, environmental degradation, insecurity and urban poverty that may lead to poor nutrition, poor health, low life expectancy and livelihood crises in the area. Three settlements that are severely hit by overcrowding in the LGA are Mararraba, Ado/New Karu and Masaka. Based on projections, there are 270 or 3 household per hectre of land in these three settlements.

DA QUI

2.0 Institutional situation in the target areas: Jos and Abuja

2.1 How is the local political system organized?

The target area is under Jos – South local government area, headed by an Executive Chairman. The elected councilors make-up the legislative branch. Principally, the mandate of the local government is to transform the quality of lives of its residents. The local government is divided into districts, wards and village areas. This is with the intention of adequate representation and participation of people in government and to ensure that it is sensitive and responsive to their needs and demands. Apart from the governmental administrative machinery, there are traditional rulers that also oversee the affairs of their domain. Constitutionally, their role is to be custodians of their culture only. However, they perform a variety of functions including the allocation of land, tax collection, and settlement of disputes within the community and also charged with the maintenance of peace and distribution of fertilizer. The platform of Community Development Associations has also been used by residents to demand for improved provision of services to uplift their standard of living. However they are constrained by inadequate organization and logistics problems.

The institutional situation in Karu is not different from what is obtained in other local government areas in Nigeria including Jos. The local political system is constitutionally determined. Karu Local Government Area has three wards- Karu, Guruku/Kabusu and Aso/Kodape with 7 towns or townships that include; New Karu, Mararaba,Uke, Kugwaru, Masaka, Gitata and Panda. For administrative convience, the LGA is subdivided into 19 districts: Karu, Karshi I, Karshi II, Ukd, Kube, Panda, Kare, Taffara, Taka Laffia, Keffi Beffi, Agada, Bagaji, Aso, Gurku, Kadape, Kabusu and Kondoro. The political institution of the L.G.A is divided in to two: The Executive and Legislative arms. The Executive arm is composed of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman Secretary, Director of Personnel Management and others employee of the L.G.A. The Legislative arm is made up of councilors elected from the three wards. The traditional council of Karu Local Government Area that is the custodian of cultural values and agent of grassroots development is headed by Esu. It has three first class paramount rulers: Esu, Odyonga, and Nyonkpa, 19 district heads and 13 village heads. (Karu, BEDC, September, 2006)

2.2 Which are the institutions active in the education and social assistance sectors?

Education

Government is the major provider of education. It has established both primary and secondary schools. Nevertheless, a cursory assessment of the schools has shown that it is non-functional. In the past four years, for instance, teachers go on strike action following labour dispute every year to demand for their legitimate entitlements, which are not paid. As a result of government insensitivity to education, the strike last for almost six months of the 9 months in a session. Thus the schools have largely remained closed. In terms of infrastructure, most schools have no windows pupils sit on the floor, no teaching aids and the classrooms are overcrowded with seventy (70) pupils in one class instead of thirty – five (35). No doubt, this has resulted in low quality education and it is therefore no wonder that most of them cannot proceed for further education. They end up serving in the homes of the elites as houseboys and girls, cleaners, gardeners etc. The unlucky ones take to hawking of goods and to crime.

Apart from government, a non-governmental organization i.e. the Rochas Foundation has established a school for orphans and the children of those identified as less privileged. Some children in the community are beneficiaries. Similarly, religious bodies both Christian and Moslems have also established schools and hospitals within Jos to cater for the less privilege. For instance there is the St. Monica's Private School established by the Augustinian order; Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN) primary and secondary school at Kufang and an Islamic school by, name ASAC Private School at Dadin Kowa. There are private schools in the community, but mainly to cater for the interest of the elites that can afford.

As for social assistance, the government social welfare outfits have been very ineffective in rendering assistance due to poor funding, insensitivity and poor leadership. Religious bodies and non-governmental organizations render assistance during violent crisis. However, there is no any organization established to render social assistance on a sustained basis in the study area.

The above information is similar to that of Karu. On institutions active in the education and social assistance sectors, there are 36 Non-Government Organization(NGO), Faith Based Organizations (FBO) and Community Based Organizations(CBO) assisting the communities in the areas of education, health, environment, poverty alleviation, peace and conflict resolution, in collaboration with organizations such as ActionAid, Family Health International (FHI) , COMPASS, Centre for the Right to Health (CRH), Society for family Health (SFH) and Planned Parenthood Federation of Nigeria (PPFN). Others are UNICEF, World Health Organization (WHO), GTZ, World Bank and DFID. Some of the prominent, NGOs, CBOs and FBOs in the area Integrated Development Association Karu, Royal Crescent Community Masaka, Widow, Widowers, Orphans and Vulnerable Children Group, Global Women Empowerment Karu, Widows Care Foundation among others.

3. The project.

1. Description of the main problems faced by the project in Jos and Abuja. Please detail the different sectors such as Education, health, training, social discrimination etc

3.1.1 Education: “The Country Review Mechanism (CRM) interactive sessions reveal that, on the whole, Nigerians believe their educational system is in a crisis. Stakeholders were unanimous in the view that, as a result of its poor quality, the sector has mostly failed the millions of Nigerians who cannot access expensive private education. During the interactive sessions (at the federal and state levels), the responses on education were contentious, indicative of the level of frustration felt by many Nigerians over the poor state of their education system” (See APRM Country Review Report No.8, Chapter Six: Socioeconomic Development, 2008:305)

It is as a result of these swarming problems in the education sector that private schools emerged. And as already demonstrated in the responses of the beneficiaries of the project only few Nigerians can afford to send their children to private schools. The sum of all these explain the poor educational background and status of many Nigerians and hence the intervention of many private individuals, missionaries and non-governmental organizations such as APURIMAC, ICU, the St. Augustine community and the Italian mission in Nigeria.

The St. Augustine College:

This school is a pride of the owners of the school which is the Augustinians, the APURIMAC which is an Augustinian NGO in Italy. And also, it is a pride for the people of Nigeria because we hope to have very qualitative education. We also want to use this school to educate many Nigerians, as many as we can. And with every good will, we also want to make it more affordable to many Nigerians. That is one of the aims of this project and the owners of this school (Fr. Hycinth Kangyep, Prior Provincial St. Augustine, Nigeria).

The school is located at Lubudna, New Karu in Nasarawa State which is also a suburb of Abuja the federal capital territory. The school is a Boarding school for both Boys and Girls admitted from all states of the federation including the federal capital. Hence there is no discrimination either on geographical location, ethnic group or religion.

With regards to the problems on site interviews and consultations with those involved with the project reveal the following:

- **Classes as temporary accommodation:** The school has taken off with three arms of class one (A, B and C) of the junior secondary school. The total students’ population is one hundred and five (105) as at September 12, 2009. At the moment, the students are accommodated in some of the class rooms awaiting the completion of the hostels. The inconvenience with this temporary arrangement is obvious because the classrooms do not have similar facilities as the hostels.
- **Staffing (Academic):** Presently, the school has employed six (6) staff members. However, investigations revealed that the school requires a minimum of twelve (12) academic staff members. Hence six (6) more staff members are required to reduce the workload and to ensure field of specialization which will consequently improve the quality of output delivered.

- **Electricity:** Currently, electricity is supplied to the school through a generator bought by the school. This generator uses two (2) drums of diesel oil per week at the cost of Fifty – two thousand naira only (N52, 000.00). When this is calculated for a session, it will show that almost all the school fund will be dedicated to the purchase of diesel oil not to talk of the maintenance of the generator which may cause wear and tear. The school is located three (3) kilometers away from the nearest point where it could get connected to the National Electric Power Grid. The cost of drawing light will definitely consume the finances of the school and thereby cripple the operations of the school in other areas.
- **Road Networks:** The school is located three (3) kilometers away from the major road. The road to the school is not motorable, even though efforts have been made to make it accessible. There is need for the construction of the road to an appreciable standard. This will reduce the hazard cost of transportation maintenance of vehicles and provide easy connect with the outside world.
- **Staff Quarters:** There is no staff accommodation at the moment. They live outside the school premises. The propensity to be early at their duty post is greatly affected, as some of them have to go pass through the grueling traffic congestion in the early hours and also at the close of work and have to use public transport that has remained unreliable. Provision of staff quarters will reduce the stress, hardship and enhance staff productivity.
- **Library:** There is need for the provisions of a library to expose students to a wide variety of literature on the various subjects. Though our findings revealed that efforts are being made to purchase books for the library
- **Laboratory:** This is important especially for science based subjects where, practical activities have to be conducted. Thus, the need for the construction and equipping of the laboratory cannot be overemphasized. Even though the school is just at the JSS1 level, it is not out of place to prepare for the future.
- **Clinic:** The lack of college sick bay or a clinic at the moment could be worrisome particularly where children are concerned. A college sick bay or clinic will indeed reduce undue hardship to have to rush through the distance to access health facilities. With sick-bay and trained personnel some common ailments can be treated locally or managed before getting to where there are better hospital services.
- **Means of Transportation:** Given the location of the school and the poor organization and functioning of the transport sector in the country, there is need for a School Bus to convey students and staff either to hospital or on an excursion to any place of interest. This is more convenient and less risky than commercial buses that tend to be reckless on the high way.

- **Fencing / Security Guards:** Even though the school area was fenced in 1997 some of it has fallen. There is need to provide a fence of a reasonable height to prevent unwanted visitors, into the school and also to regulate the movement of the students. Similarly, there is need to engage the services of security guards from reputable organizations that will ensure the protection of the students that have been entrusted by parents into the hands of the school. When parents feel their children are in safe hands, it will reduce their anxiety and worries over the security of their children.
- **Inflation:** Discussions with the project supervisors reveal that the biggest challenge at the moment is how to complete the structures considering the high rate of inflation of cost of items. The conception of the project was five years ago and the cost of items have staggered high above the initial cost ever since. So, the immediate challenge now is how to source for funds to complete the construction and provision of other facilities in the school.

3.1.2 Health: The situation analysis of Health is not completely different from that of education. According to the Country Self-assessment Report (CSAR) "Nigeria's healthcare can best be described as below average, plagued with huge challenges despite rising public health expenditure. The bulk of public recurrent expenditure is on personnel while government's per capita expenditure on health is a less than US\$5-far below the \$34 per capita recommended by the world Health Organization for developing countries".

The graphic understanding of the above is that availability and accessibility of quality healthcare in Nigeria are extremely poor. Life expectancy is 46.5years; Average growth rate 3.2%; infant mortality rate is put at 113/1000 live births; maternal mortality rate is 1000/100,000 live births; deliveries at health facilities is put at 33% while deliveries at home is 67%; HIV/AIDS prevalence is 4.8%. The country is battling with malaria intervention and routine immunization (see country fact sheet in APRM Report pp viii-xviii). It is against this background that since 1999, health policy reforms have been aimed at enhancing access to health care through the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) Act 35 of 1999, launched in June 2005 (see APRM Report No.8, 2008:302).

The health scenario presented here further explains the challenges of the health sector at national, state and local levels. Accordingly, the following problems are visible with the health sector:

- Poor funding,
- Poor infrastructure and management issues
- Poor facilities and limited number of personnel
- Top-down policy delivery mechanisms
- Training of personnel and remuneration
- Corruption, etc.
- Poor involvement of the private stake holders

These and many other issues are responsible for the poor performance of the health sector in healthcare delivery in Nigeria at national and local levels including Karu Local Government.

With regard to the Apurimac project, there was no evidence of this aspect of the project during this research. However, it was gathered that the HIV/AIDS training programme would commence in September 2009.

3.1.3 Training:

“Every child in Africa is born with a financial burden which a lifetime’s work cannot repay. The debt is a new form of slavery as vicious as the slave trade” (All Africa Conference of Churches: in John Prendergast *Crisis and Hope in Africa* 1996:28)

There is a dialectical relationship between education, health, poverty and skills or vocational training. Nigeria is said to be a country with strange inconsistencies with overwhelming and endemic poverty in the midst of plenty. “The country is richly endowed with human and natural resources, particularly oil and gas, but also plentiful mineral deposits such as coal, gold and sulphur. With a real GDP of \$58.4 billion and a population of about 140million, Nigeria is among the fourth largest economies in Africa and is by far the continent’s most populous country. Despite this rich human and resource endowment, Nigeria’s GDP per capita is only about US\$752, and poverty is widespread, with about 54 per cent of the population living on less than 1 dollar per day” (Source: World Bank 2007: ‘Country Brief’ <http://www.worldbank.org>).

Nigeria has had so many socio-economic programmes aimed at ‘jump starting’ or ‘fast tracking’ the nation’s education, health and economic wellbeing. The Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) is one of such International Monetary Fund (IMF) ‘parachuted’ most controversial policy Nigeria painfully swallowed. SAP imposed hardship on the people and failed to provide for basic needs of the people. To address the imposed hardship, the Nigerian military government introduced a poverty reduction policy called the National Directorate of Employment (NDE). This programme provided training opportunities to many Nigerians in a variety of ways: welding, tailoring, knitting, barbing, small scale business, farming, etc. Unfortunately, the policy became comatose due to poor funding and management determined by weak political zeal. And so, the current poverty status of the citizens is a reflection of the total collapse of the economy and similar policies, alongside the fundamental failure in governance over the years.

Nevertheless, Nigeria’s return to democracy on May 29, 1999 created the political space for hope. The introduction of policies such as the National Economic, Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS 1 & 2 documents) and National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) were aimed to address issues of poverty, infrastructure and good governance. Similarly, the intervention of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with the Debt Relief Gains (DRG) fund is one of government ways to ensuring poverty reduction through training of vulnerable groups such as youth, women and other unemployed citizens. And so, our findings have shown that government over the years had policies on poverty reduction through vocational training, unfortunately the policies were not given desired support in terms of funding and political will. It is critical to mention that some of the policies failed due to mismanagement and corruption. The problems or challenges faced with the training sector over the period include:

- Imposed foreign economic policies i.e. SAP
- Weak political zeal on the part of government
- Inconsistencies in policies on poverty reduction

- Lack of sustainable mechanisms
- Corruption of leaders and management challenges
- Dictatorship

The Jos project is a significant relief to the many problems highlighted above. There are four (4) training and skills acquisition programmes undertaken in Jos. These are:

- i. Sewing,
- ii. Computer Knowledge,
- iii. Hairdressing and,
- iv. Catering.
- v. Conflict Management and Peace Building

The beneficiaries have expressed remarkable joy over their opportunity to benefit from the different skills offered by the Apurimac project. For some of them, the programme is an answer to many domestic challenges as many of them will receive life saving skills. The youth are so excited with the lessons of the computer and many are taking great advantage of the opportunity of the skills to enhance their marketability for job possibilities. Each training programme however has had some difficulties in a variety of ways. And so the problems encountered in the training process and the recommendations are respectively presented below as reported by the Coordinators of the various programmes and observed by some of the beneficiaries.

1. Sewing

Challenges:

- i. Inadequate sewing machines. Hence, not all the women have the opportunity to practice with the sewing machine considering their number.
- ii. The inter-religious dialogue class also affects this class. The combination of the inter-religious class impedes on the number of hours of some of the participants. This is slowing down the pace of the training and most women now resort to staying away on Tuesdays rather than attending the training session.
- iii. Inadequate Training Space: The challenge of space is a major one considering the enthusiasm of the participants. There is congestion at the present training hall and it makes the training cumbersome.

2. Computer

Challenges:

- i. The issue of power instability affects students desire to practice before the commencement of the main lectures. By implication the generator is powered just for the lectures and it hinders regular practice.
- ii. The lack of a photocopying machine for the computer school affects the production of instructional materials and other documents for the benefit of the students.
- iii. The lack of a computer for the administrative staff affects their efficiency and delivery of results, documentation and record keeping.

- iv. It would appear there is a concern of full mandate to coordinate the Computer school as done with other Apurimac projects. Our findings reveal that the lack of a coordinator has delayed decision-making and subsequent implementation of the decisions in many ways.
- v. Students have observed the show of poor commitment in some of the computer tutors. Late coming, early departure before end of lecture and

3. Hairdressing

Challenges:

- i. Irregular power supply.
- ii. The challenge of a permanent space is reoccurring again as with the challenge of sewing. This will protect and reduce frequent movement of facilities possible damage.
- iii. It was shared that the unit needs the following additional facilities to enhance the training:
 - a. 1 steamer
 - b. 6 hair towels
 - c. 1 boiling ring
 - d. 1 kerosene stove
 - e. 1 sitting stool
 - f. 1 mirror (framed)
 - g. 1 dryer stand

4. Catering

Challenges:

- i. The lack of funds to regularly buy the required ingredients for the lessons continue to affect regular lessons desired for the week. This has caused the class to be reduced from twice to once a week.
- ii. Again the challenge of space is a source of worry for those taking this skill. At the moment the kitchen is small for the number of women enrolled for the training. A permanent kitchen is desired.
- iii. As earlier observed the Inter-religious dialogue program also affects the Wednesday afternoon class. This keeps the women far behind their counterparts who attend the Friday classes.

5. Sensitization: Peace Building class:

This is another area of training that beneficiaries were quite hopeful about. The beginning was exciting but it was observed that the participation gradually reduced.

Challenges:

- i. Use of symbols (candles) suggestive of Catholic practices discouraged participants of other faiths including non-catholic Christians.

- ii. In ability to bring in a variety of trainers i.e. from the Muslim faith also discouraged the Muslim participants in particular from participating.

3.1.4 Social discrimination

Issues of social discrimination manifest in a variety of ways in Nigeria and among the population under study. Statistics abound on issues of social inequality, gender discrimination against women, religious and cultural impediments mostly against female than male. The struggle to attain 30% affirmative action for women in Nigeria is still on. School enrolment is lopsided in favor of males in many parts of Nigeria including North Central Nigeria where both projects are sited. The HIV/AIDS pandemic affects mostly women and young people. These categories of vulnerable groups have continued to be victims of conflicts of all natures in Nigeria. They suffer from drought, poor sanitation and health; fetch water and fuel (wood) from distant places to make meals. Trafficking of children, young boys and girls is a function of the collapse of social and economic structures. In addition other forms of social discrimination also come through confessional and ethnic otherness. The problems that inform these challenges include:

- Constitutional weakness
- Disregard for the rule of law
- Inability of security agencies to maintain law and order
- Disregard for existing national policies e.g. The Constitutional provisions, Federal Character Commission, Code of Conduct Bureau, etc
- Culture and religious impediments.

The description of the problems and challenges highlighted above are experienced at all tiers of governance in Nigeria. The structure of political governance in Nigeria is called federalism with immense power control at the centre. This political arrangement has a constitutional backing with relevant distribution of power to the various tiers. This by implication means control and distribution of resources is equally the decision of the centre. Thus when 'things fall apart' it is because the centre cannot hold. The reason for this long analysis is to establish that Jos and Karu near Abuja are deeply affected by the challenges enumerated above in every sector. Jos in Plateau state has been poorly managed since the return of democracy in 1999. Education has suffered more than any other sector since 1999. Unemployment rate among the youth is extremely high. Migration has continued to increase on the account of persistent crisis. The State of Plateau has equally suffered series of political instability leading to some political, ethnic and religious crises. Similarly, the death of public schools due to poor government policies and funding has caused the emergence of private schools for the rich. Public schools are closed for months without government determination to resolve the issues involved. The social characteristics of Lubudna, New Karu with its attendant population as already described above authorize the import of the school project in the area. The views expressed here are further buttressed by the beneficiaries of the project in Jos and Abuja as documented in the section on '**the perception of social, economical and political situation**'.

3.2 The project strategy to face the problems. Please detail:

The problems discussed above indicate the enormous challenges a huge population is facing in Jos and New Karu near Abuja as a result. The current intervention by APURIMAC and ICU has immense potentials to improve the conditions of the immediate communities and the direct beneficiaries in a variety of ways. For instance, the strategies of skills acquisition for vulnerable Christian and Muslim women groups, widows (young and old); computer skills and capacity building in peace building and conflict resolution and HIV/AIDS prevention; the construction of a secondary school in New Karu are some of the ways the project can address issues of poverty, improve healthcare and reduce illiteracy in the society. The following explain how the project has been able to strengthen, address or face and fits into the local cultural, social and economical context; the explanation covers the description of the interventions so far put in place for the different categories of beneficiaries.

1. How the project strengthens the local social institutions:

Though there exist local social institutions that are also involved with similar issues i.e. the confessional, state and non-state actors, the approach of APURIMAC & ICU appears to be proactively different from previous efforts by other local social institutions. Our conversations with the project officers in Jos, Abuja and other local social groups foresee possibilities for networking and partnership with APURIMAC in the nearest future. Equally, some of the beneficiaries are drawn from confessional institutions and local groups. Our conversations with them show that the beneficiaries are eager to take the experience back to strengthen their respective organizations with their new skills.

2. How the project faces the identified problems;

The actions so far taken point to positive intervention. Through skills acquisition i.e. baking, knitting, hairdressing, tailoring, computer skills), training in HIV/AIDS, peace building and conflict management in Jos; the secondary school in Karu near Abuja are positive actions aimed at addressing the identified problems. For instance the beneficiaries informed the researchers that the skills acquired will empower them to become self-reliant hence reduce their poverty and overcome dependency. Similarly, the school in Abuja will cater for a remarkable portion of the underprivileged and indeed facilitate the hope of building a future generation of active citizens.

3. How the project fits into the local cultural, social and economical context;

Based on the interviews and consultations with the beneficiaries, it is clear that the project in Jos and Abuja fit into the local cultural, social and economic context of the people. Poverty is a social and cross-cutting issue that affects all cultures. It is also a function of weak economic policies, bad governance and mismanagement of resources. The beneficiaries think the project has tremendous capacity to improve and influence creatively the local cultural, social and the economic contexts of the diverse beneficiaries.

4. **Description of the interventions so far realized pointing out the characteristics of the beneficiaries;**

The interventions so far realized are: Skills acquisition in the areas of: cooking/baking, knitting, sewing, computer skills, capacity building in peace building and health related issues like HIV/AIDS. As already shown in the responses to the interviews conducted, the beneficiaries belong to the old and young category of vulnerable groups. The beneficiaries are from diverse confessional (Christians and Muslims) and ethnic groups. Some are widows, married, not married, divorced, unemployed young female and male. Except for the school where the parents of some of the students are middle class, statistics show that a greater percentage of the students are from families with low income background. Discussions with some of the parents confirmed this and their sincere appreciation of the process and approach to encourage the underprivileged to go to school.

3.3 Please collect and describe at least 15 real cases of people who benefitted of the project pointing out their perception of the project amongst the following beneficiary groups: students, women, families.

To ascertain the perception of beneficiaries of the project, the views of beneficiaries from Abuja and Jos were collected. The categories of persons consulted include students, school teachers, the school proprietor, parents, and the direct beneficiaries in Jos.

Students of St. Augustine’s College, Lubudna, New Karu

1. Longji Damla Donald from Plateau State thinks the school is good enough for learning. He is excited about the environment. “I like the school, look at our hostels and class rooms. I really like the school.” This young man is hopeful that their teachers will help them to achieve the value of their coming here.
2. Arikmo Malum is indeed happy to be in the school. He thinks the school is promising and is looking forward to starting academic work. “My only concern for now is that I have to cope with the Catholic tradition”.
3. Yilnaan Na’ankwat a female is excited and feels the school is like home for her. “I am happy that we are the first set so no seniors to bully us. Generally, I like every arrangement here”.

Parents:

4. Mr. Dan Malum, I have a son in the school and his name is Arikmo. “From the first day I came to register my son, the first impression I got was that it was going to be conducive for learning. First because of the distance from the main road; I looked at that and concluded the students will not have room to roam about or be distracted. That struck my mind. Then, the fencing of the school is a strong sign of protection. The school has space for the students to play. The structures are awesome. Right now they are in a cluster but that is because the accommodation is not finished yet. The staff I met was great. From the security at the gate and the teachers, particularly the principal and matron were wonderful. In fact my son observed that the teachers are nice people based on how we were received. So far so good. I

am unable to talk about the academic aspect for now because the school is only beginning. But if the actions of the teachers are followed with their performance in the class, then we have no cause to worry as parents. Let me just say the college has great prospects”.

5. Mrs. Okeoha also has her son in the school. According to her, “I am still watching as things evolve. I want to begin to assess everything about the school in January 2010. Because then I want to think that some of the challenges we are noticing now would be put in place. At the moment, I am struggling hard to believe I did not make a mistake by bringing my son here. Everything seem to be working well, organized and there is a sense of direction and humility everywhere. Where my son studies and what he studies is important to me. I know the school is only beginning but I took some time to interact with a few teachers of the school. My conversation with them was instructive and indeed it gave me hope about the school”.
6. Mr. Kelvin Pam also has his son in the college. He expressed is thoughts differently. “For him, this school is a challenge to us as Nigerians and the Nigerian government. Anybody who comes here and sees the solid structures here should have a rethink. Government especially should come and see what is happening here. If you compare the amount of money expended here so far and what some Nigerians siphon from public sources and stock in foreign banks one would be ashamed of Nigeria. If that money is used here for the education of our children, they will grow to realize their full potentials, be better citizens and Nigeria sure will be a better place for all. The structures are not only fantastic and conducive for learning; I have not seen this type anywhere yet in Nigeria. For now I have observed two challenges, the access road and the lack of accommodation for the staff, otherwise everything for now looks pretty heartwarming”.
7. **School Principal:** Mr. Columba J. Yakubu is extremely happy with the speed at which the school is unfolding. So far he is happy the students are 105 in number. The teachers are employed and ready to go. He is particularly encouraged by the great interest parents have shown in the school. “For a new school, I am completely amazed with the commitment of APURIMAC, ICU, the Italian Government and the St. Augustine Community in Nigeria to achieve this partnership. The basic areas of major concern have been fixed and will be completed in a couple of weeks or months. For instance the classrooms and accommodation are the immediate infrastructure a school should first have. As you can see we have all that including boreholes. So our students have no business going to look for water even for their meals. However, there are few normal challenges that come with initiatives such as this. Staffing will have to progressively improve; staff accommodation is an immediate need; a stand by vehicle for emergency cases such as illnesses; access road, etc. But I am most excited to be here and I hope to make my experience count here. I foresee a bright future for the school considering the enthusiasm of staff and excitement of the children”.

Other Beneficiaries:Skills acquisition in Jos

8. Emiene Okoko is 24years old and a university graduate in building engineering. Okoko is unemployed and not married yet. Okoko is a beneficiary of Computer skills.

“I find the experience extremely helpful. I have gained a lot from the project, computer-wise. I can say I am computer literate to some extent. The skills I have acquired will add value and create opportunities for me because I have learnt skills to enhance my knowledge of design”

9. Elizabeth Mark 20years was able to complete her secondary school education. She says she had no job and was doing nothing when she had the opportunity to participate in the APURIMAC programme. Elizabeth is impressed with herself about her computer skills. She is confident about typing and using the computer skills to secure a job because she feels “I can type and design programmes and I feel good about it”. This is the capacity this project has built for many who never imagined of the opportunity to sit in front of a computer to manipulate.
10. Samuel Izang is 20years was engaged in some farming before this experience came. Samuel feels really good because he is able to design logos, wedding invitations, print ID cards and use the Microsoft Office Excel well. He is excited with excel because it has taught him about book keeping.
11. Talatu Suwa is also 20 years. She acquired skills in hair dressing. “Within these few months I have learnt how to retouch and plait hair. I have also learnt how to fix weave-on. This is what I thought I will never be able to do. I am learning this very well because I have seen many people who after going to school do not have anything doing. I want to be different. I also want to be able to take care of myself, my home and other people”.

Perception of Women and other family members:

12. Mariam Jongbo 36years, married with six children. She is able to have secondary school education. Mariam is a full-time house wife. She is one of those already putting her experience to use. She is learning baking and according to her “I make doughnuts, fish roll and fried rice for sale. I assist my neighbours on how to draw menus. I am using the experience already to sell a few things”.
13. Hannatu Pam 35years, married with four children. She also has a secondary school education. Hannatu was retrenched from her work. Now she is empowered to make cakes, dough nuts, and meat-pie to sell. She like Mariam is happy that she is using the profit of her sales to provide some basic needs in the house.
14. Amina Abdullahi is 46years, married but with no children. According to her she used to be a tailor but could not continue due to her poor eye sight. Amina has primary school education. Now she has learnt new cooking skills. She can now make menus; prepare fish roll, different soup dishes for the house

hold. She is excited about the skills because she is able to assist other wives in the household and her other family members appreciate her.

15. Talatu Yakubu is 41years and widow with eight children. She has no academic qualification meaning she cannot read and write. Talatu informed us that she used to engage in physical activity like breaking rocks manually for sale (quarrying). But the APURIMAC project has given me a new skill for life. “I am learning tailoring and I have gained so much within a short time. I have sewn some clothes for my younger girls. I am so happy I can do this to help my family”
16. Fatima Abubakar is 37years and she is married with five children. Fatima like Talatu has no formal educational qualification. She was never involved with any creative work. She is happy with the tailoring skills “I can cut and sew simple wears. I must say the training is instructive”.
17. Laraba Lawrence is 26yreas and married with a child. She could only complete primary three. “Before here, I was not doing anything. I thank God I am learning how to make other people beautiful. This skill of hair dressing is very good. It has changed my life. If I have a saloon, it will help me take care of my home. I think because I did not go to school, learning hair dressing will get me a job. My advice to everyone including those who have gone to school is to learn handiwork. It is very important”.
18. Josephine Zaqhiania is 40years and married with five children. She has a secondary school education. “Before I began this skill acquisition training I used to fry bean cakes. What I am doing now is the best in my life. I might not have gone far in education, but this knitting skill experience gives me pleasure and I advice to include skill acquisition into our education curriculum. It will go a long way to provide employment to those who have completed their schooling”.

In summary, all the persons interviewed have expressed their excitement in a variety of ways. Particularly, the women are beginning to notice a change in the attitude of their husbands as there are possibilities that they will soon be contributing immensely to the up keep of the home. Beyond the aspect of up keep, the programme is so empowering especially that it has created space for women to share and learn how to deal with domestic challenges.

3.4 Description of the foreseen results of the project and its impact in the present and in the future.

So far the zeal and commitment shown by beneficiaries is a clear indication of how they value the project. Many of the beneficiaries are located far away from the venue of the training and they are able to make it every day. Considering

their vulnerability, that is huge sacrifice. Similarly, the location of the training venue (a Christian environment) has not persuaded members of other faiths to stay away. Critically also the issue of diversity is imperative here. Consequently the unforeseen results, its impact both present and the future include:

- The capacity of the project to reduce poverty and improve relationship in families
- The project has great opportunity to unite people and improve inter-faith relationships. Already beneficiaries are interacting and visiting families of other faiths and sharing experiences. The activity has built trust and reduced suspicion within Christians of different worship centres, and between those of non-Christian faith.
- It has potentials to reduce conflict, promote respect and the recognition of individual and cultural diversities of others
- Change perspectives of vulnerable groups about themselves and they are courageous to engage with one another on issues of concern to them.
- Become active voices in their respective communities, neighborhoods or even in their respective groups.
- Growing future leaders through the educational system
- Increased awareness among beneficiaries
- Increased quality of life among family members of beneficiaries
- Decrease in unemployment rate among young people because they are empowered and either self-reliant or are engaged in other productive ventures.
- This will bring about reduction in crime rate as more youth are gainfully employed.
- Gradual improvement in the quality of relationship among different ethnic groups
- Already, some of the women who are fast learners and more creative have begun to put their skills to use by selling their products to the public. Similarly those involved with knitting are providing sweat shirts to schools.
- One other remarkable outcome is the initiative of the beneficiaries to form a savings scheme called *Kafalbesa Women Co-operative Society (KWCS)* where they are making savings to be able to purchase their basic facilities that will enable them start to put their skills to use at the end of the training. **Kafalbesa** is a word derived from different Hausa words which connote love, favor, oneness/one mind, hope and peace. This is awesome and significant in the future initiatives for similar activities.

4. The perception of social, economic and political situation.

Information arising from questionnaire distributed to a sample of the population of the project area.

1. Main Difficulties in Daily Life of Target Population

Data collected in this respect shows that 46% indicated that the main difficulties in their daily life are unemployment. For 72% poverty is the main problem. While 4% lack of formal education is their major problematic. Unemployment and poverty are correlated. This is because if one is unemployed and has no employment allowance as found in other countries, it certainly means that the person cannot sustain him/her self. Therefore poverty and all its consequences shall prevail in the life of such a person. Moreover, with the little level of education acquired by 64% of the target population, it is no wonder

that they will be unemployed as they have not acquired the necessary skills that will qualify them for employment in the job market. Conclusively, the means of sustaining a decent standard of living is the main difficulty in the daily life of the target population.

2. Difficulties in Finding a Job

On the difficulties in finding a job, 64% attribute it to lack of functional education 26% to lack of job opportunities and 10% to the role of god-fatherism. The educational system as noted earlier is in shambles especially at the primary and secondary levels. Since the foundation is weak, hardly can majority of the pupils and students proceed on higher education. This therefore limits their chances of benefiting from job opportunities presently as adolescents. There is no doubt that Nigeria is also experiencing the impact of the economic crisis. Most small and medium scale industries have closed down. Some that are still operating do so at less than ¼ installed capacities.

3. Is Your Training Sufficient for the Job Market?

The data collected also revealed that 12% is of the opinion that their training is not sufficient for the job market. While 88% is satisfied with their training to enable them secure a job. It is not surprising that 12% feel that training is not sufficient for the job market. This is because, the kind of education that enables the beneficiaries to acquire functional skills which could be relevant for the job market. Theory is most emphasized than practical. There are no technical and vocational schools within the study area. What majority end up with is literacy education which cannot be applied to the requirements of the job market.

4. What Kind of Training would be Useful to Find a Job?

In order to enhance their capacity to find jobs, 93% suggests the need for skill acquisition programmes, while 7% will prefer formal education. However, the skill acquisition programmes should be in the areas of need to avoid unemployment after the completion of the programme.

5a. Rating of Public Institutions

Table 5 showing the Rating of Public Institutions

Items	Satisfactory	%	Not Satisfactory	%
Health	14	10	136	90
Education/Voc	5	3	145	97
Social Assistance	18	12	132	88

- i. On **health** services delivery, only 10% expressed their satisfaction, while 90% expressed dissatisfaction. This is not surprising, as common ailments can hardly be treated in the primary health care centres. Inadequate personnel, drugs, clinical tests equipment, are either not available or in acute

short supply and the primary healthcare centres are far in between which makes easy access very difficult.

ii. Educational/vocational institution.

The table shows that 3% are satisfied with the delivery of educational service. While 97% are dissatisfied. Public schools have been ‘bastardize’. Government has been insensitive to the provision of primary and secondary education. At most times they remain closed due government’s unwillingness to meet the minimum demands for a functional educational system. It is also observed that there no vocational schools in the community. Therefore, skills acquisition has become very problematic.

iii. Social Assistance.

The table indicates that 12% are satisfied, while 88% are not satisfied with the level of government social assistance. As noted in the previous section, the government social welfare office is not functional in the area. Presently, it does not enjoy any budgetary allocation to execute its mandate. Consequently, the impoverished population can hardly find succor through government agencies. Hence, poverty is ‘fast – tracking’ the untimely death of many due to unemployment, malnutrition and treatable diseases.

5b. Rating of Private Institutions

Table 6 Showing rating of private institutions.

Item	Satisfactory	%	Not Satisfactory	%
Health	12	8	138	92
Educational /Vocational	18	12	132	88
Social Assistance	11	7	139	93

The global view of this table shows that the target populations are not satisfied with the private sector in the delivery of Health, educational/vocational facilities and social assistance received from the private sector. This cannot be otherwise, considering the high cost of services offered by the private sector which is beyond the reach of ordinary Nigerians.

iv. Towards Enhancing Provision of Social Services

Focus group discussion reveals that bad governance by leaders have led to state failure. Hence, it is their opinion that there must be good governance in the country. The Constitution should therefore provide mechanism to ensure good governance. Thus, the amended constitution should remove those provisions that encourage lack of accountability and transparency in government business. These include:

- Immunity clause enjoyed by Chief Executives at the state and federal level. Reports of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) show that, Chief Executives hide under this clause to recklessly loot public treasury.
- It should prohibit public officers from patronizing private educational, health services either at home or aboard. Violation of this provision should be a basis for impeachment, recall or removal from public office.
- The amended Constitution should simplify the **Impeachment and Recall** procedure. A simple majority is recommended. This will ensure that the electorates are not ‘saddled’ with bad leaders.
- The amended Constitution should provide for **Freedom of Information**. This will ensure openness and prevent the hoarding of information by public officers. Access to information will make it easy to expose corrupt leaders that are deepening the poverty of the already impoverished populace. This will encourage leader to be more transparent and accountable for their actions.
- Provision for independent candidates to contest election: This will ensure that political parties do not imposed unpopular candidates because he/she is the highest bidder.
- Amendment of Perquisites of Office: One of the reasons for intense competition for public office in Nigeria is the enormous benefits that go with. The Constitution should therefore place the Political Leadership on the **same salary scale** with career civil servants and should enjoy the same benefits. If politicians work for four years, let them enjoyed the normal gratuity.
- Reform of the Legal System: The Constitution should provide for a jury legal system to especially try corruption and electoral cases. They should be elected by stakeholder. This will reduce cases of where judges are put under pressure to decide judgment in favour of the government that appointed them or because of inducement.
- Civil Society Activities – Civil society organizations should demand for regular account of stewardship from the political leaders. For instance, they should know how much income has accrued to the council, how much was spent, on which item, whether it is justified, the balance left in the bank and the account number for verification.
- The Civil Societies should also be involved in the budgetary process, by deciding on items that are of priority and also monitoring the implementation of the budget.

6. What do you dream for your future? And for your Children?

Focus group discussions revealed that it is the dream of the target population to be gainfully employed. This will enable them to live a comfortable life by meeting the needs and obligation of the family. Specifically, it is the dream of each to secure employment, have good accommodation, stable family, good and secured means of transportation.

Additionally, they want to live and co-exist with each other peacefully irrespective of creed, ethnic and gender differences, in order to attain the fulfillment of life.

It is the desire of the beneficiaries that their children will have qualitative education and be able to change certain anomalies in the governance structure of the country. Most of them do not desire that their children should experience their kind of situation in any form.

7. Table 7 showing satisfaction on the following:

Item	Satisfactory	%	Not Satisfactory	%
Job	14	9	129	86
House	60	40	88	59
Neighbour	112	74	29	19
Family	116	77	32	21
Country	22	15	128	85

- i. Job:** The table indicates that 86% are not satisfied with their jobs. Interview and focus group discussions revealed that they are mainly engaged in menial jobs (petty-trading, work on construction sites, food vendors, and hairdo) which earn them little income. Considering the present rate of inflation in the country (13%) there is no doubt that the little they earn cannot sustain the family in procuring their daily means of survival and other family obligations and responsibilities.
- ii. House:** 59% expresses dissatisfaction with their house. Investigation reveals that they live in rented houses of not more than a room and parlour. The parlour is also used at night as bedroom. With an average of six children and dependants no, doubt the accommodation is too small, leading to overcrowding and all its consequences of contracting communicable diseases especially in the hot season.
- iii. Neighbour:** The table shows that 74% are satisfied with their neighbours. Moreover, there are many points of contact such as ceremonies, burials, and community effort on security, road maintenance, etc. Efforts by politicians to cause disharmony within the community have not succeeded. Residents relate and interact freely with each other devoid of any encumbrances.

- iv. **Family:** 77% expresses satisfaction with their families. Explanation offered for such satisfaction shows that they will not despise their families, even in the face of poverty and degradation. The family is the source of hope, solidarity and love. Hence, if they cannot acquire material things as others do, the family is the source of fulfillment.
- v. **Country:** Table 7 shows that 85% are dissatisfied with the country. The Nigerian state is a political entity that has responsibility to its citizenry as found under the fundamental and directive principle of state policy contained in chapter two of the 1999 constitution. These principles have political, economic and social objectives. Among others, the political objectives emphasize the need for the state to protect and defend the liberty of the individual, enforce the rule of law and ensure the efficient functioning of government services. The economic objective include, the management and control of the economy in such manner as to secure the maximum welfare, freedom and happiness of every citizen on the basis of social justice, equality of status and opportunity. While, the social objective directs state policy toward ensuring that all citizens without discrimination on any ground whatsoever, have the opportunity for securing adequate means of livelihood and also ensure that the conditions of work are just and humane.

Section 14, clearly stipulates that it shall be the duty and responsibility of all organs of government and of all authorities and persons, exercising legislative, executive or judicial powers to conform, to observe and apply the provisions of this chapter. However, it does not require a rigorous research to show that there is a very wide gap between the constitutional requirement and the implementation of these provisions by government at all levels. The educational, health and infrastructural facilities are in very deplorable state of decay, it has not generated a productive base that can provide employment; rather, there is increased charge of fees, tax and inflation which further impoverish the masses. Those at the helm of state affairs, use their offices to amass wealth through primitive accumulation to the detriment of the majority. For the few minorities, wealth is suffocating them to death, while for the majority of the citizenry poverty is fast-tracking the untimely death of most of them. Given the resources the country has and its failure to impact on the quality of lives of the majority positively, it is therefore no wonder that 85% of the target population under study is dissatisfied with their country earlier stated.

PART TWO:

NIGERIAN DEVELOPMENT PATTERN NATURE AND CHARACTER OF THE NIGERIAN ECONOMY

The Nigerian economy in contemporary times can be described as one that is highly dependent on the advanced industrialized countries for its sustenance. It is heavily dependent on the crude oil and gas reserves that it is blessed with to secure foreign exchange and sustain its foreign trade. With huge oil and gas reserves, only Angola's reserves of oil surpass that of Nigeria in Africa. Oil accounts for 90% of total government revenue. Nigeria is the 13th largest producer of petroleum globally. The fact that crude oil exports accounts for such a high percentage of government earnings point to the fact that the economy is mono-cultural and not diversified. This means that Nigeria's economy is prone to the vicissitudes of the world's commodity markets and changes in the price of crude oil in the international markets affects Nigeria's economy directly. For instance, Nigeria's GDP has a wide variation rate depending on the price of oil in the international market: in 1985 it was US \$85 billion, in 1994 it was US \$33.2 billion, in 1995 it was US \$40.5 billion and in 2006 it was US \$115 billion. While this is a negative trend, it is important to note that the huge resources that have accrued to Nigeria's ruling elite would lead one to expect that they should have created a modern industrialized and diversified economy in Nigeria by now (NEPAD Country Review Report; 2008). Between 1960 and 2005, Nigeria's total earnings from oil was over US \$300 billion. Much of this money however was not re-invested in the country but served to justify the description of the possession of huge oil and natural gas reserves as a 'resource curse' to the nation. According to Michael Watts of the University of California, perhaps US \$50 billion of the revenues from oil that have flowed into Nigeria from oil earnings have 'disappeared' due to corrupt practices (Watts; 2003).

In addition to the effect of corruption, Aluko has observed that poor economic policies have also contributed to the fact that Nigeria's economy supports a very high ratio of poverty indicators compared to many other economies in Africa and beyond. He notes that to a large extent, the operators of the Nigerian economy have largely adopted the capital friendly and anti labour perspectives developed as the Washington Consensus of 1990 by the IMF and the World Bank (Aluko 2007). According to John Williamson, a World Bank Consultant, the primary principles of the Consensus are:

- i. Fiscal discipline via a Fiscal Responsibility Bill that restricts, rather than promotes, public investment in the economy.
- ii. Redirection of public expenditures towards areas that offer both high economic returns and the potential to ensure income distribution, and the provision of basic physical social and economic infrastructures away from public responsibility to the private domain.

- iii. Tax reform, so as to lower marginal rates and reduce the tax burden in favour of the rich.
- iv. Interest rate liberalization, so as to enable banks and other financial institutions to charge the 'market determined' rates of interest that are not normally beneficial to the lower income investors and small and medium scale entrepreneurs.
- v. Free and market determined exchange rates, causing recurrent currency devaluations, particularly in the dependent economies thus depressing the value of the incomes of wage earners and of the dependent groups in the economy. It renders the value of the national currency virtually worthless and inconvertible internationally.
- vi. Trade liberalization and the abandonment of trade regulation by the government of developing economies in favour of the metropolitan economies of the West, in a manner that increases the adverse balance of trade of the poorer economies in their trade relations with the developed Western economies.
- vii. Dependence of inflows of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) as the main engine of growth of the developing economies, a dependence that has had a negative effect of causing capital flight away from the poor economies into the developed economies.
- viii. Privatization of publicly owned enterprises and the reduction or minimization of the role of the government in the economy.
- ix. Deregulation of the economy, particularly the abandonment of economic planning based on time sequences of 4-year, 5-year, 10-year or other types of perspective planning.
- x. Security of property rights in favour of the rich or the endowed few, so as to prevent the imitation of the Japanese type of development, through the domestication of foreign technology and expertise (Aluko; 2007).

Aluko notes that the original proponents of the Consensus have now admitted that the imposition of a majority of the propositions is harmful to developing economies, particularly currency devaluation, privatization trade liberalization, deregulation, market determined economic policies and dependence on the free flow of FDI. While the Consensus was developed for Latin American countries originally, they as a category have rejected its main propositions. Countries like Venezuela, Bolivia and Peru, have insisted on increasing the role of government in their economies. He also observes that the original proponents of the 10 principles have admitted in various fora and publications and at conferences that, the proposals are not immutable. They have also admitted that:

- a) Privatization has become controversial in many parts of the world and has been rejected because of its right-wing anti-people economic consequences.
- b) Deregulation is equally not a policy that reverberates in the more rapidly developing economies of South East Asia (South Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, and Taiwan – the Asian Tigers), where the economic policies pursued run much in the opposite direction.
- c) The Consensus is a conservative, right-wing capitalistic, rather than a progressive economic policy. It is more suited to the developed than to the developing economies.
- d) The Consensus is a geographically and historically specific reform agenda for Latin America in 1990 and not meant to be adopted, hook, line and sinker, by other geographic areas of the world where the economic situations are different (Aluko; 2007).

It is important to observe that in recent publications also, the proponents of the Consensus agree that the liberalization of the economy does not necessarily imply a swing towards market fundamentalism and a minimalist role for the government. Unfortunately, in many regards the current operators of the Nigerian economy cannot see the difference between the two. For instance, in the era of military rule, overt control of the nation's economy by its rulers and the absence of institutional checks on public actors meant that to large extent, the operators of the Nigerian economy could ignore the fact that growth indicators suggested that the economy's growth rate of 2.8% across the 1990s meant it could not lift the bulk of the citizens out of poverty and there was not much that the wider population could do to hold their leaders accountable. However, in the context of civilian democratic and constitutional rule, it is expected that, with wider consultation, it should be easier to convince the government, to carry out policies that are oriented towards curbing the incidence of poverty and simultaneously increase the economy's capacity for growth. It is important to emphasize that a primary reason why the pursuit of market fundamentalism and a minimalist role for government is inimical to the struggle to reduce the incidence of poverty in a country is that such policies do not allow for the sufficient development of human capital since they shift the focus away from constructing and sustaining requisite infrastructure to support human capital development and focus on infrastructure that allow for the accumulation of capital in the hands of those who already possess it.

It is in the service of such policies that the decision to consolidate the existing banks in Nigeria was carried out. The CBN required that all banks in Nigeria have a minimum of N25 billion capitalizations to operate. Forced mergers were carried out and, in the end, only 25 financial institutions have

been registered as banks in Nigeria. It has been observed that now, foreign control of Nigerian banks is more effective than ever before (Aluko; 2007). The decision to create these mega banks has abolished the distinction between the banks that are constituted in such a way that they cater to specific customers and businesses through their specialization and thus remain small, and those that require large capital bases to cater to customers whose activities require such capital to operate. This distinction which has been abolished means that in many respects, people whose businesses require the small specialized banks are likely to be forced to the margin as all Nigerian banks are now configured to businesses of those with large amounts of capital. The regulations from the CBN also affected the Micro-finance institutions requiring them to reach at least N20 million capitalization. As a result of this there has been a reduction in the number and staff of Micro-finance institutions in the country. For instance, there were 960 community banks before May 1999 when the Fourth Republic was instituted employing up to 500,000 people. With the new policies put in place by 2002, there are now only 650 in the country employing not more than 200,000 people. Needless to add, the government's policy aimed at the deregulation of the downstream sector of the Petroleum Sector has meant the removal of government subsidies that helped to keep the pump price of petrol and other derived products from crude oil low. The pump price of petrol was N18.00 per litre before May 1999 but now stands at N65.00 per litre. Diesel price rose from N17.00 per litre in 1999 to N95.00 today while kerosene rose from N16 per litre in 1999 to N105.00 per litre today. These policies, as well as the attempt to divest government's continued investment in the educational and health sectors leading to progressive decay of all facets of publicly owned educational and health facilities have put heavy and increasing pressure on the more vulnerable categories of the population who form the overwhelming majority of Nigerians. For instance, over 90% of Nigeria's population lives on less than US \$2 a day according to the 2007 report of the European Union's Country Support Strategy (EU Country Support Report Nigeria; 2007).

It is such policies that have led to the increased importance in the role of NGOs and the informal sector in Nigeria's economy. The informal sector has thrived in a way that has been impossible for much of the economic activities of the formal economy to thrive. Besides engaging in commercial activities of various sorts, the informal sector involves activities such as manufacturing, finance and agriculture. It has been observed that in this sector, loan recovery and repayment rates are very high and by utilizing thrift collection strategies, savings as a percentage of owned capital is also high. Informal sector enterprises have helped a large number of people survive periods of economic stress in the country. The informal sector usually

records significant gains in times of stress and during periods of upswings and down turns in the economy.

Women tend to dominate the informal sector and it is guided by communitarian ethics. Legal protection for the sector and access to the benefits of state protection for the sector is a great need. Increasingly, the reality is that this sector has begun to enjoy the unqualified support of NGOs, and the support of concerned organizations from the richer parts of the industrialized West. In addition, religious organizations are increasingly involving themselves in the activities of people who participate in this sector.

OVERVIEW OF THE GROWTH PATTERNS OF THE NIGERIAN ECONOMY

The Nigerian economy's performance over the years since independence has been dismal. Significant improvements have occurred since the inception of the Fourth Republic in 1999. However the challenges that the Nigerian economy faces are still very impressive.

To begin with, per capita GDP in Nigeria is accepted as one of the lowest in the world through the two decades of the 1980s and 1990s. While it has been observed that the annual per capita growth rate required to significantly reduce poverty in a functional economy with huge levels of poverty is at least 4.2% of GDP per annum, in Nigeria, throughout the 1990s, the GDP remained stagnant growing at no more than 2.8% per annum. Between 1999 and 2003, the GDP grew at just 2.2% (NEPAD Country Review Report; 2008).

Table 1
Macroeconomic Indicators and Sectoral Contributions

MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
GDP Growth	1.19	4.89	4.72	4.63	9.57	6.5	6.23
Oil sector (%)	-7.5	11.13	5.23	-5.17	23.9	3.3	0.5
Non-oil Sector (%)	4.37	2.87	4.54	8.27	5.17	7.76	8.21

Inflation rate	0.2	14.5	16.5	12.2	23.8	10	11.6
Maximum lending rate	27.1	26.8	23.9	29.722.5	22.5	20.6	25.76
Industrial capacity							
Utilization	32	33	34	36	49	54	55
SECTORAL CONTRIBUTIONS							
Agriculture	43.45	42.65	42.3	42.14	41.01	40.98	41.21
Petroleum	24.45	25.91	26.04	23.46	26.53	25.72	24.33
Solid minerals	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	0.27
Telecommunications	0.45	0.46	0.55	0.78	0.99	1.2	1.45
Manufacturing	3.49	3.44	3.52	3.7	3.57	3.68	3.79
Financial institutions	4.05	4.03	4.02	4.97	4.12	3.96	3.82
Wholesale & Retail trade	13.46	13.04	12.76	12.99	12.54	12.9	13.64
Others	18.25	10.1	10.42	11.54	10.87	11.18	11.36

Source: Central Bank of Nigeria: Statistical Bulletin, 2006.

In more than 40 years since her independence, it is significant to note that the Nigerian economy has never grown at 7% or more for up to three consecutive years. Nigeria's real GDP in 2008 stood at \$58.4 billion. With a population of about 140 million people, Nigeria is one of the four largest economies in Africa. The country's GDP per capita stands at US \$ 752 and poverty is widespread while about 54% of the population lives on less than a dollar a day (NEPAD Country Review Report; 2008). In 2001, the GDP stood at US \$45 billion and the per capita income stood at US \$300. Nigeria was therefore one of the poorest countries in the world. In 2000, it had earned about \$300 billion from its oil exports since the mid 1970s but its per capita income was 20% lower than what it had been in 1975 (NEEDS Review 2007).

The real sector of the economy is dominated by the primary production sectors. Agriculture, dominated by small farmers with low productivity accounts for 41% of the real sector while crude oil accounts for 13%. The secondary sector, especially manufacturing has stagnated at 3.7% - 3.8% of GDP. Nigeria is therefore one of the least industrialized countries in the world (NEPAD Country Review Report; 2008).

Table 2
Manufacturing Value-Added: A comparative Analysis (%)

Country	1980	1990	2000	2005
Nigeria	8.4	5.5	4.5	4.6
Mexico	22.3	20.8	20.3	17.7
Indonesia	13.0	20.7	27.7	-
Brazil	33.5	-	17.1	-
Ghana	7.8	9.8	9.0	8.6
South Africa	21.6	23.6	19.0	19.1

Source: World Bank Database 2006

The reliance on crude oil has meant that the Nigerian economy is increasingly vulnerable to commodity price fluctuations and volatility. Not surprisingly, Nigeria ranks low on Human Development Indices (HDI). In its report for 2007/2008, the UNDP ranked Nigeria 157th out of 177 countries – down from 148 out of 173 countries in 2003 (NEPAD Country Review Report;

2008). Nigeria's HDI, standing at 0.453 in 2005 is lower than the average HDI for sub-Saharan Africa which is put at 0.515. It is however slightly above the West African average HDI which is placed at 0.434. In 2007/2008, the UNDP HDI, valued Nigeria at 0.47 out of 1. This means that Nigeria is placed at 157 out of 177 countries. The same report shows that Nigeria's Human Poverty Index (HPI) has a value of 37.3% ranking Nigeria at 80 out of 102 countries. Statistics show that 78% of Nigeria's population lives in the rural areas and they account for the largest overall segment of the poor and they also lack many significant public service delivery requirements of contemporary populations (NEPAD Country Review Report; 2008, Action Aid Country Strategy Paper; 2009).

Between 1975 and 2000, Nigeria's broad macroeconomic aggregates such as growth, terms of trade, real exchange rates, government revenues and spending, were among the most volatile in the developing world. Over the past three decades, high macroeconomic volatility has become a key determinant and consequence of poor economic management. The economy has been caught in a low growth trap characterized by a very low 'savings – investment' equilibrium. This stands at a weak 20%. With an annual investment rate averaging at 16% of GDP, Nigeria is far below the minimum investment rate of about 30% of GDP required to unleash a poverty reducing growth rate of at least 7 -8% per year (NEEDS Review; 2005).

Figure 1.1

Trends in GDP growth, GDP per capita, and sectoral contribution to growth

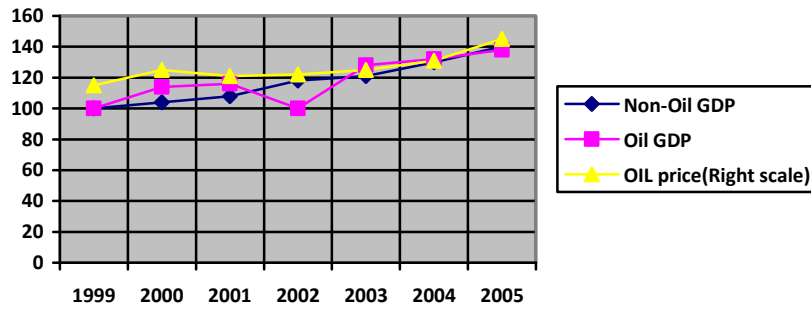
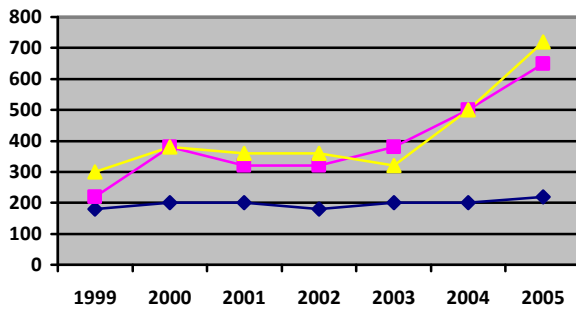


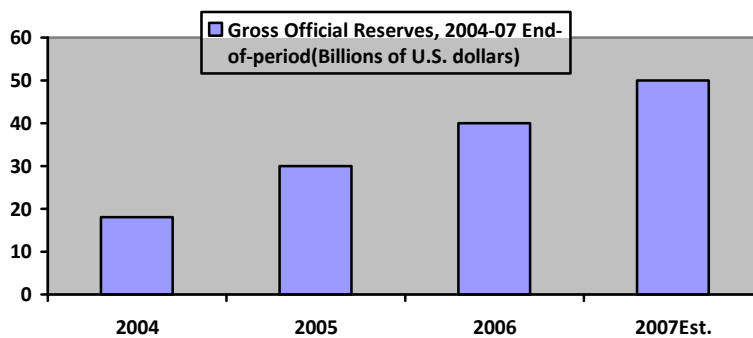
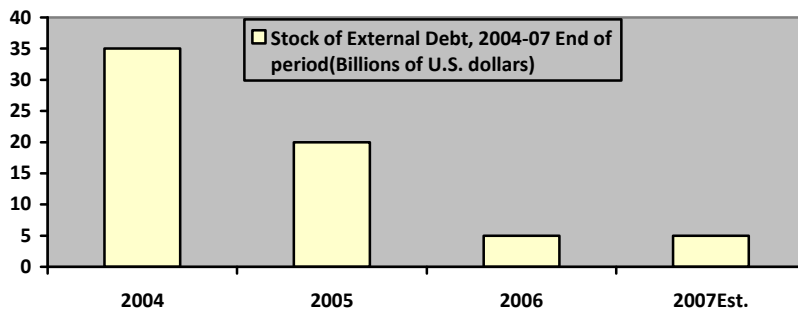
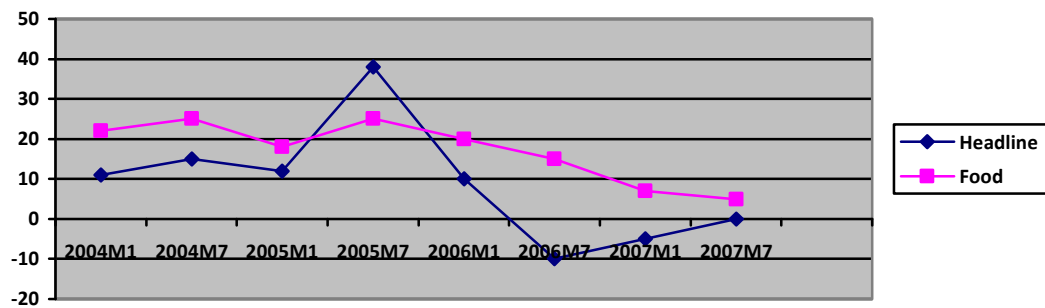
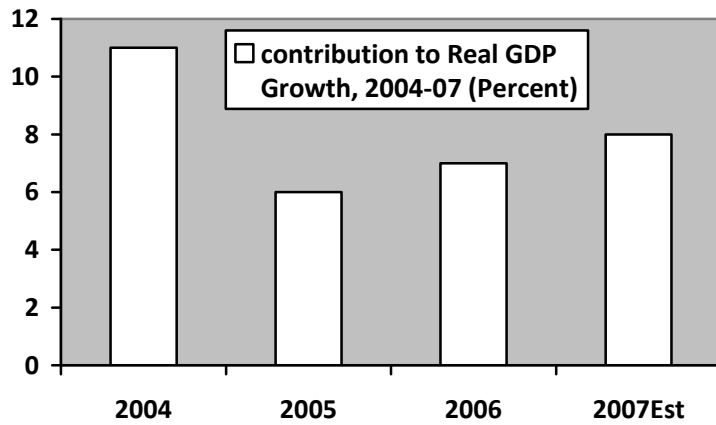
Figure1.2



Source: Review of Implementation of NEEDS 2004-2007

As a result of the perceptions of risk and the high costs of doing business in Nigeria, private agents keep the bulk of their assets abroad and more than 2 million highly educated Nigerians have emigrated to Europe and the United States. Most of the FDI attracted into the economy historically, goes into the oil and extractive sectors. Only since 1999, has there been a significant change in this trend. For instance FDI in the non oil sector rose significantly between 1999 and 2003. Heineken built its largest plant in the world in Nigeria and upgraded all other plants in the country investing about 500 million Euros. A survey of 108 medium and large scale firms operating in Nigeria showed that they invested over US \$10 billion during the period. Private investment in power and other infrastructure has also been growing steadily. However the country's economic structure still remains highly undiversified with oil exports accounting for 95% of total exports while manufacturing accounts for less than 1% of all exports. Since the 1970s Nigeria has lost her international market share of non-oil exports even in her traditional agricultural exports (NEEDS Review; 2005).

Figure 2.1: Nigeria's key Economic indicators



Source: NEPAD Country Review Report 2008

Fiscal reforms since the inception of the Fourth Republic have contributed to macroeconomic stability and government fiscal operations are becoming transparent. Notable achievements since 2006 include the fact that the exchange rate has become relatively stable and the reforms have increasingly made the exchange rate stabilization mechanisms more flexible. Inflation has been reduced from 23% in 2003 to below 10% in 2006/2007. Chronic fiscal deficits have given way to consolidated surpluses and an improvement of overall fiscal balance from the previous 3.5% budget deficit to a fiscal surplus of 10% of GDP in 2004 and 11% in 2005. There have also been marked increases in the external reserves from \$7.68 billion in 2004 to \$9.68 billion in 2005 to \$40 billion in 2006 reaching a high of \$68 billion by 2008. However, with the pressure on the US dollar as a result of the global economic meltdown, and the Niger Delta crises there has been a lot of pressure to utilize the foreign reserves to prop up the national currency the Naira. This has led to a significant drop in the foreign reserves. They stood at \$42 billion at the end of June 2009 (CBN Report 2009).

With his election in 2007, President Umaru Yar'Adua enunciated the 7 point agenda as the guiding framework for his economic policies at his inaugural address. The central objectives of this document are based on the President's vision of transforming the Nigerian economy, through appropriate policy tools and interventions into one of the 20 leading economies in the world by the year 2020. These include:

- The generation and expansion of existing infrastructure in key areas of the economy such as electric power, gas harnessing and distribution, telecommunications and transportation via roads, rail, river and air.
- To address comprehensively the developmental needs of the communities in the Niger Delta region through positive interventions.
- To create consolidate and sustain an era of food security across the nation for all Nigerians irrespective of class or social status.
- To concretize the process of human capital development in Nigeria through massive injection of funds into education, health and social service delivery.
- To change the nature of land tenure in the country with a view to transforming a majority of Nigerians into home owners and ease transactions involving land were these can contribute to economic growth.
- To end the era of insecurity in Nigeria
- To alleviate poverty through wealth creation (<http://nigeria.gov.ng>)

Unfortunately, the global economic crises caused by the over stretching of the financial sector in the United States has led to unfortunate consequences

in Nigeria. Coupled with the increase in violence in the Niger Delta and the collapse of crude oil prices, the Nigerian government resource base has shrunk considerably in recent times. As the global economic crises develops, its impact on Nigeria's growth pattern will become clearer and strategists in Nigeria, will have to develop coping strategies as well as policies to reduce Nigeria's vulnerability to external shocks.

ECONOMIC POLICIES FOR POVERTY REDUCTION

Nigeria has a generalized high manifestation of poverty and inequality in income distribution. In 2004 the Nigerian living standard survey revealed that, 35% of Nigerians live in absolute poverty and about 54% live on less than a dollar a day. In this kind of environment, developmental goals are very difficult to implement. In the Nigerian Millennium Developments Goals (MDGs) Report of 2006, 36.6% of Nigerians are indicated as food poor. In other words, their primary coping strategy in the context of their poverty is to reduce food intake because primarily all of their income is spent on food. Food as the UNDP Report for 2007 observes is one of the main measures of absolute poverty. In Nigeria, agriculture which is the base of food production is mostly carried out on a subsistence level by poor farmers in rural areas. About 85% of rural households participate in agriculture compared to 14% in urban areas. Data from the MDG's 2006 Report indicates that 25% of the core poor households are involved in peasant or subsistence agricultural activities while 21% subsist on non agricultural activities (Mid-Point Assessment of Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria; 2008).

Table 3 Key Facts About Nigeria

Population: 144.7 million (World Bank(WB), 2006)
Average life expectancy: 46.8 years (WB,2006)
Average per capita income: US\$843(International Monetary Fund (IMF), 2006)
Gross national income (GNI): US\$101 billion(WB, 2006)
Average annual growth rate: 7.8% between 2004 and 2007 (IMF, 2008).
Percentage of people not meeting daily food needs: 34% cannot attain sufficient calories even if they spend all their money on food (Nigeria Living standards survey, 2004)
Women dying during childbirth: 800 per 100, 000 live births (UNSD, 2000)
Children dying before age five: 201 per 1000 live births (Nigeria Demographic and health Survey, 2003).
Percentage of children receiving primary school education: 60-80% (estimate)(UNESCO/EFA, 2008)
Percentage of people aged 15-49 living with HIV AND AIDS: 4.4% (Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria, 2005)
Percentage of people with access to safe, clean water: 48% (UNICEF, 2004)

Source: <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/countries/africa/nigeria-facts.asp>. Retrieved 04/09/2008

With the inception of the Fourth Republic in 1999, there has been a formal recognition that poverty constitutes a risk to the overall stability of the nascent civilian democratic arrangement. Measures have been adopted by the government, to deal with problems of development, in Nigeria. One of the primary projects of the government was the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) which was unveiled in 2004. It was a follow up on the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). The equivalent of NEEDS at the state and local government levels are the State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEEDS) and the Local Government Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (LEEDS) respectively. Some of the programmes under NEEDS include the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) and the Universal Basic Education (UBE) that have MDGs at their centre. The government also established the Small Scale Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), Microfinance Bank and other micro-credit instruments to improve access to credit (Mid-Point Assessment of Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria; 2008).

Table 4: ECONOMIC INDICATORS IN NIGERIA, 2000-2007

ECONOMIC INDICATORS		1990	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
GDP	Growth (%)	8.2	5.4	4.6	3.5	9.6	6.6	5.8	5.3	5.7

Oil sector growth(%)	5.6	11.1	5.2	-5.2	23.9	3.3	-1.7	-3.7	-5.9
Non-oil sector growth (%)	8.6	4.4	2.9	4.5	5.2	7.8	8.4	9.5	9.2
Budget deficit/GDP	-2.9	-2.3	-4.3	-5.5	-2.8	-2.6	-0.2	0.3	0.7
Ext. Reserves (% GDP)	Na	Na	Na	Na	7.7	11.4	24.4	36.5	42.6
Ext. Reserves(Months of Import Cover)	Na	13.6	11.3	7.8	7.2	12.2	18.6	23.0	20.9
External debt/GDP	106.5	64.9	57.3	72.1	61.1	84.5	69.2	7.4	4.0
Domestic debt /GDP	31.3	32.2	36.6	26.1	28.6	25.3	20.8	18.6	19.2
Savings-investment GDP	9.9	16.4	4.4	6.4	1.5	(0.9)			
Overall BOP/GDP	-2.1	6.9	0.5	-10.3	-2.3	5.2	10.5	12.7	1.4
Inflation rate	7.5	6.9	18.9	12.9	22.2	15.0	17.9	8.2	5.9
Average Ofcial Exch. Rate	7.9	101.7	111.9	121.0	127.8	132.8	132.9	128.5	127.4
Prime Lending Rate	25.5	17.9	18.3	24.4	20.5	19.2	17.9	17.0	16.5
Broad Money Growth	44.9	48.1	27.0	21.6	16.9	6.5	18.9	29.1	11.0
Social Indicators									
Population (million)	88.5	108	118.8	122.4	125.6	129.2	133.8	140.0	140.0
Population Growth Rate (%)	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.2
Life Expectancy (years)	Na	Na	54.0	54.0	54.0	54.0	54.0	54.0	54.0
Adult Literacy Rate (%)	Na	57	57	57	57.0	62.0	57.0	64.2	64.5

Note: a stands for 1992 data, b stands for 1996 and c is 2004 data.

Sources: CBN. (i) Annual reports and statements of Accounts 1992; 1996; 2004 (ii) CBN Statistical Bulletin, Volume 17 December 2006 (iii) National Bureau of Statistics: National Poverty Assessment 2007.

In addition to these, the Federal Government pursued and secured the Paris Club Debt Relief deal of US \$18 billion. When this was achieved, the gains were set aside within the budget through the Virtual Poverty Fund (VPF). This was then channeled through pro-poor projects and programmes as additional spending in the Federal Budget. Conditional Grants to States were also initiated and other projects include the appropriated Debt Relief Gains from the 2007 budget intended to support marginalized groups through a Social Safety Net Scheme (Microfinance, “Keke NAPEP” and Cash Transfer) (Action Aid Country Strategy Paper; 2009).

Figure 3.1

Poverty Level by Zones

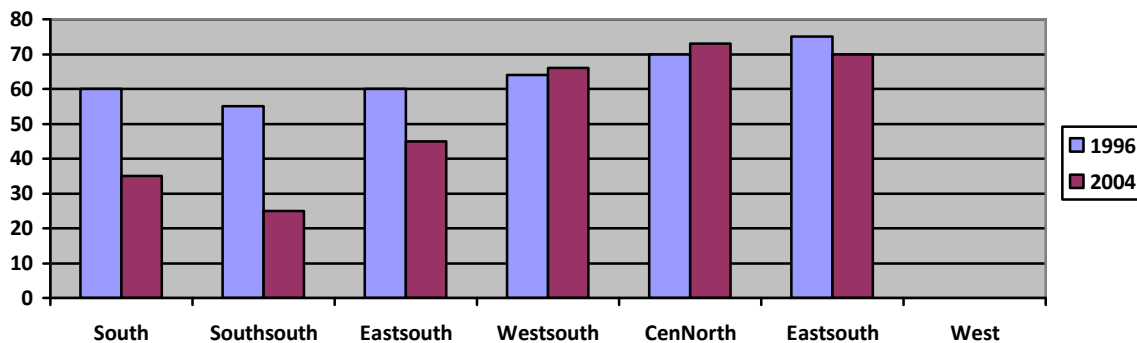
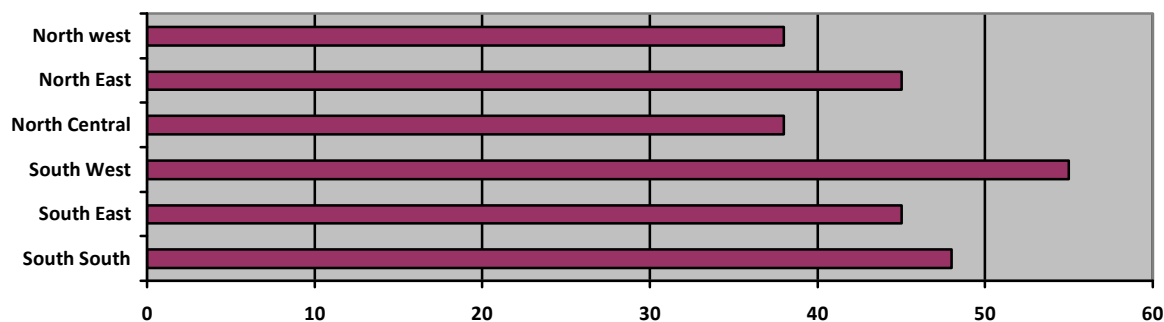


Figure 3.2 Spatial Distribution of Inequality by Zones (in Gini Coefcient) 2004



Source: Mid-Point Assessment of Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria 2007

We shall take a closer look at these policies aimed at poverty reduction put in place by the federal government in Nigeria.

National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies (NEEDS)

From 2003 – 2007, NEEDS was the overarching framework for poverty reduction in the country. It is a national sector wide strategy. It covers a wide range of key sector – related strategies in agriculture, manufacturing, solid minerals and small and medium scale enterprises. The vision that guides the operations of NEEDS is based on the Nigerian constitution and the Kuru Declaration. There were also inputs from previous initiatives such as Vision 2010. As a matter of fact, the core values draw upon the report of the Vision 2010 initiative which among other things highlighted the importance of attitudes such as honesty, accountability, cooperation, industry, discipline and moral

courage. The purpose of NEEDS is to raise the country's living standards through a variety of reforms including macro-economic stability, deregulation, liberalization, privatization, transparency and accountability.

The NEEDS project is divided into phases. The first phase, NEEDS I ran from 2003 – 2007. Thereafter, the second phase commenced and hopes to run until 2011. The primary facets of the NEEDS programme focuses on four key strategies.

- Reorientation of values
- Reduction of poverty
- Creation of wealth
- Generation of employment

In the expectation that these goals can be achieved by creating an environment in which business can thrive, government is redirected to providing basic services while people are empowered to take advantage of the new livelihood opportunities the plan will stimulate. The idea is to achieve this by addressing basic deficiencies such as the lack of fresh water for household use and irrigation, unreliable power supply, decaying infrastructure, impediments to private enterprise and corruption.

NEEDS is the first Nigerian Development Plan that integrates economic development efforts at the Federal and State levels. It does not confine itself to specific sectors nor does it limit itself to addressing only the major challenges it identifies. Instead, it looks at the big picture, examining how the challenges identified in each sector affect other sectors.

The preparation of NEEDS was followed by the state version called the State Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (SEEDS). Starting from 2006, in consonance with the National and State equivalents, Local Governments also articulated with donor support (including that of the UNDP), their Local Government Economic Empowerment Strategy (LEEDS) (NEPAD Country Review Report; 2008).

State Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (SEEDS)

In recognition of its federal structure, Nigeria promoted at the State level, a sister strategy to complement the implementation of NEEDS at the National level. This strategy is SEEDS. Using statutory organs for intergovernmental coordination (the National Economic Council, the National Council for Development Planning and the Joint Planning Board), State governments not only endorsed the thrusts of the NEEDS programme but also committed themselves to developing SEEDS programmes.

A framework for developing SEEDS was issued by the National Planning Commission as a manual entitled "Government for Growth and Service." Within this framework, States also agreed on a minimum set of priorities that

each State government must reflect in its SEEDS programme. These had to cover the following sectors:

- i. Agriculture
- ii. Small and Medium Scale Enterprises
- iii. Rehabilitation and Maintenance of Infrastructure (especially roads)
- iv. Public Finance Reforms and Transparency

Many states have since drafted and published their version of SEEDS based on the stated visions of their governments while taking into account the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The National Planning Commission collaborated with donor agencies to provide technical assistance to the States in developing their SEEDS as a necessary compliment to NEEDS. Using the guidance manual it prepared, the National Planning Council organized training workshops for the States in the six geo-political zones of the country on preparing, monitoring and evaluating State plans.

Both NEEDS and SEEDS are time bound largely medium term policy frameworks. At the end of 2007 their time has been fulfilled and they are being prepared for their second phase (NEPAD Country Review Report; 2008).

Local Government Economic Empowerment Strategy (LEEDS)

After the successful launching of NEEDS and SEEDS by the Federal and State governments in Nigeria, there have been concerted efforts to ensure that LEEDS too adds to the tally of successes. The UNDP decided to pilot the process of grassroots participation in decision making in twelve local governments in six States of the Federation (Adamawa, Akwa-Ibom, Bauchi, Cross River, Kogi and Ondo).

In spite of the laudable efforts to position LEEDS on the same level as NEEDS and SEEDS, there are certain structural problems built into the framework of the Nigerian system that hinder its path to success. For instance, the Nigerian Constitution does not delineate clearly the issues that are covered in the exclusive list and those in the concurrent list for legislation. This in many respects leads either to the duplication of efforts by the various levels of government or to ignoring certain aspects of responsibilities by the levels of government in the expectation that they will be fulfilled by others.

Added to this problem is the glaring fact that at the Local Government level, the capacity for development and participatory planning is still very weak. As with all the development programmes, there is the further handicap that there is limited involvement of their beneficiaries in the design, formulation and implementation of projects. In spite of these challenges LEEDS offers great opportunities for the involvement of people at the grassroots level in the policy formulation process (NEPAD Country Review Report; 2008).

PAP, NAPEP, YES, FEP, CAP

Historically, Nigerian governments have introduced and managed series of development projects and programmes. From such programmes as Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) initiated in 1976 to the various rural development and infrastructural development programmes introduced during the era of Military Rule from 1985-1993. Programmes such as the Directorate for Food Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), Better Life for Rural Women and so on were introduced at different periods during this time. However, most of these poverty alleviation programmes failed to achieve their intended objectives largely because of poor coordination, the absence of a comprehensive policy framework, political interference, ineffective targeting of the poor leading to leakage of benefits to unintended beneficiaries making handsome profits, the unwieldy scope of programmes which caused resources to be thinly spread across too many projects, overlapping functions which led to the institutionalization of rivalry and conflicts, the absence of sustainability mechanisms in programmes and projects, and the complete lack of involvement of beneficiaries in project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

In response to this failure, the Federal Government initiated and launched the Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) within the framework of the 2000 budget. The programme was designed to provide employment for 20,000 people. It was implemented in every State of the Federation and provided temporary jobs for people who were paid monthly stipends. In January 2001, PAP was phased out and was replaced by the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP). This programme is currently the government's main poverty alleviation project. It is the central coordination point for all antipoverty efforts from the Local Government level to the National level.

NAPEP operates with the assistance of specialized ministries and agencies in designing poverty reduction programmes. Among these programmes are the Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES), Capacity Enhancement Scheme (CES), Rural Infrastructure Development Scheme (RIDS) and the Farmers Empowerment Programme (FEP) which entails the financial empowerment of small scale farmers. Reportedly, a total of 7,200 small scale farmers have participated in the project to which NAPEP committed the sum of N240 million during the first phase which was implemented in 12 states. There is also a Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP) which exists to train and provide funds to empower youths in viable economic activities. During the initial phase of this programme, 140,000 youths were trained for three months across the nation (NEPAD Country Review Report; 2008).

NDE, NOAS, SMEDAN

Another important institution created to address poverty is the National Directorate for Employment (NDE). It is designed to eradicate poverty through employment generation. Its main areas of intervention are vocational skills acquisition training, entrepreneurial training, training for rural employment and

training for labour based works programmes. A total of 783,318 unemployed youths who formerly lacked marketable skills have been trained in 83 different bodies under the National Open Apprenticeship Scheme (NOAS). Presently, 37,000 youths are undergoing training in various trades across the country.

The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), is a government development programme targeted at the development of small, micro and medium scale enterprises (SMMEs). The SMMEs, have been described as the engine of growth of the economy. SMEDAN was established by the SMIDA Act of 2003 to promote and facilitate the development programmes in the SME sub-sector of the Nigerian economy. The Federal Government has also embarked on several agricultural reforms notably the Presidential Initiative on Cassava Production, Processing and Export; Vegetable Oil Development Programme; National Special Initiative for Food Security, and the Presidential Initiative on Rice Production, Processing and Export (NEPAD Country Review Report; 2008, NEEDS Review 2005).

MICRO-FINANCE

Traditionally, microfinance in Nigeria relies predominantly on social capital for its sustenance. However, modern economic development cannot rely on traditional microfinance institutions because of their obvious managerial shortcomings and the fact that they are only able to mobilize limited funds. To overcome this problem, the Central Bank of Nigeria established a Micro Finance Policy Regulatory and Supervisory Framework and also launched a Microfinance Policy in 2005.

The Microfinance Policy has a number of sound objectives, such as encouraging States and Local Governments to set aside 1% of their annual budgets for lending through microfinance banks. In addition, in 2001, the CBN introduced the Small and Medium Enterprises Equity Investment Scheme (SMEEIS) with the aim of supplying finance and managerial expertise to Small and Medium Industries (SMI). According to the guidelines, all deposit banks in Nigeria are to set aside 10% of their pretax profit for equity investment in the SMIs. Such funds should then be invested within 18 months in the first instance and 12 months thereafter. So far N38.226 billion has accumulated in the fund though only N17.039 billion has been disbursed because most of the clients operate on a small scale.

This situation is indicative of the difficulty that small and medium scale enterprise still face in accessing the already existing funds. As a result of this, it is clear that there is still a massive unserved market in need of the elaborate credit facilities that the banks can give. There exist in the country, various informal microfinance platforms as already mentioned. One of the criteria used by the CBN to transform Micro Finance Institutions (MFI) into Micro Finance Banks (MFB) is that they raise their liquid funds to the tune of N20million. Once this is done, they are eligible to all the perquisites that formal recognition

can confer on a financial institution (NEPAD Country Review Report; 2008, NEEDS Review 2005).

CONCLUSIONS

A common thread that runs through these programmes is the fact that they are all top – to – bottom strategies of fighting poverty. They reflect the thinking of the politician, the bureaucrat and the technocrat. They do not carry the vision that informs the experiences of the urban and rural poor. Their objectives are laudable and their design and intentions also reflect the creative and positive side of those who generate them. However, as a result for their top-to-bottom form of conception, they suffer the perennial problem of effective monitoring of implementation, and free flows of their feedback mechanisms. For instance, NEEDS I and SEEDS I have been wound up since 2007 and the government is in the process of implementing the second phases of these projects. However, their impact across much of the nation in real terms is small. In most areas, knowledge of how to get involved in these projects is simply not there. To many people then, they are just ear catching acronyms.

Another dimension of the problems that they are burdened with is their reliance on government bureaucratic machineries that are unreliable with regards to their service delivery capabilities and their propensity to ‘leak’ funds thereby making many projects more expensive than they ought to be. The fact that so much money has been expended and yet the incidence of poverty remains pervasive bears out the authenticity of the criticism.

ROLE OF FOREIGN BASED NON GOVERNMENTAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA

NIGERIA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

In accordance with article 177 of the treaty establishing the European Community, Community policy in the sphere of development cooperation shall foster these objectives;

- i. The sustainable economic and social development of the developing countries and more particularly the most disadvantaged of them.
- ii. The smooth and gradual integration of the developing countries into the world economy.
- iii. The campaign against poverty in the developing economies.

These objectives no doubt played an important role in the decision of the European Council of Ministers on the 15th May, 2007 to adopt a specific

common position on Nigeria. This common position specifies that the EU will pursue a consistent and coherent approach towards Nigeria, covering policies within the political, economic, trade and development fields with a view to supporting and encouraging Nigeria's efforts to:

- i. Consolidate democracy and respect for human rights
- ii. Reduce poverty and achieve sustainable institutional reform, and enhance social and economic development,
- iii. Enhance the nation's capacity to contribute to regional integration, peace, security and development; and integrate into the world economy.

Considering that Nigeria's economy will remain highly dependent on oil for the foreseeable future with crude oil accounts amounting to up to 65% of GDP, 75% of public revenue and 95% of exports, the EU's involvement in helping Nigeria deal with poverty and development issues recognizes these constraints. Confronted with the fact that 70% of the population about 90 million people live on less than a dollar a day and the fact that up to 90% live on less than two dollars a day, the dire need for socio-economic transformation in Nigeria is exposed even more. Table 5 below shows how the incidence of poverty has worsened between 1980 and 1996.

TABLE 5

Year	Non Poor %	Moderately Poor %	Core Poor %
1980	72.8	21.0	6.2
1985	53.7	34.2	12.1
1992	57.3	28.9	13.9
1996	34.4	36.3	29.3

Source Country Support Strategy and Indicative Programme Nigeria – European Union 2001 – 2007.

It is in the light of its aims of helping developing countries develop their potentials and enter productively and competitively into the global economy that the EU's relations with Nigeria can be contextualized. Between 1976 and 1995, Nigeria had received up to E528.5 million from successive European Development Funds. Between 1995 and 1999 however cooperation between the EU and Nigeria was put on hold over the human rights record of the military regime in Nigeria. With the establishment of the Fourth Republic in 1999 however, full cooperation was again renewed. On the 1st of June 1999, a joint communiqué by the EU and Nigeria was issued announcing the normalization of relations and that development assistance was to resume. A Quick Start Package (QSP) was put in place immediately. During 1999 and 2000, the EDF (European Development Fund) Committee approved financing proposals valued at up to E100 million for the following projects:

- Micro – project Programme in the Niger Delta in Rivers, Bayelsa and Delta States worth E21 million.

- Micro – projects Programme in six States of the Niger Delta, Abia, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Edo, Imo and Ondo worth E42 million
- Small Town Water Supply Project (STWSP) in Delta, Adamawa and Ekiti States worth E 15 million.
- Economic Management Capacity Building Programme (EMCAP) worth E10 million
- Support to the NAO worth E6 million
- Support to the National and State Assemblies worth E6.6 million.

On the initiative of the European Parliament, a budget line of E7 million was established to fund human rights and democracy in Nigeria between 1998 and 1999. It has been used to fund fifteen projects run by European and Nigerian NGOs (Country Support Strategy and Indicative Programme Nigeria – European Union; 2007).

When compared to aid by the EC to other ACP countries or to funding by other donor agencies, the share of the aid expended upon Nigeria by the EC is large. When compared to the revenues at the disposal of the Nigerian government however, they are quite small. This becomes all the more obvious when compared to the needs in Nigeria in areas like health, education, water supply or agriculture. For instance, while the EDF programme can mobilize about E552 million of EDF funds over a five-year period, it will amount to only E1 per year for each person in Nigeria. It will also amount to only about 0.5% of government revenue if the revenue that accrued to the government in 2000 (which was US\$20.3 billion) is used as a bench mark (Country Support Strategy and Indicative Programme Nigeria – European Union; 2007, 21).

This scenario also applies to donor funding in general. If all donors are lumped together, and using their aggregate experiences in 1999 to generate our statistics, Nigeria emerges as the country with the lowest ODA/GNP ratio in Africa at 0.4%. When this is compared to the figures from other African countries such as Ghana 8.3%, Ethiopia 9.8% and Malawi 25.1 % the disadvantage of the Nigerian population stands out (OECD 2000). According to the EC Indicative Programme Report, Nigeria cannot realistically hope for more than US\$4 or US\$5 per head annually in ODA funding and this would represent a rise to between 1% and 2% of GNP (CSS 2007). It goes further to assert that only Nigeria's own resources at US\$100- US\$200 per head from oil depending on the price, are substantial enough to begin to tackle the pervasive incidence of poverty in the country.

Unfortunately it observes that the Nigerian public programmes have largely failed to direct these resources effectively to deliver real services to the population as a result of waste and misappropriation. The fact therefore remains that since the quality of management of public finances in Nigeria has been extremely low and represents the principal constraints to medium and long term development, the best contribution (according to the Indicative Programme

Report) that the EC can make to helping Nigeria is to help the nation manage its resources in spite of the obvious risks that this involves (Country Support Strategy and Indicative Programme Nigeria – European Union; 2007, 22).

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP) IN NIGERIA

It has been observed that poverty in Nigeria is associated with high unemployment, poor governance, and corruption, lack of accountability, gross violation of human rights, nepotism and a skewed income distribution. Additional factors include poor and decaying infrastructure and impaired access to productive and financial assets, particularly by women and other vulnerable groups. As a result of the entrenching of democratic governance from 1999, the government's poverty alleviation initiatives have merited increased support from the UNDP. Consequently, there has emerged a new initiative in the UNDP's 6th Country Programme as it moves ahead with the Poverty Reduction Programme.

The 6th Country Programme builds on the lessons learnt during the first Country Cooperation Framework (CCF1). It responded by linking up with the Government's programme for poverty reduction. The thrust of the strategy focuses on enabling the Government to design and implement policies and strategies that are pro-poor. The focus will be on the following key areas of intervention:

- i. Support the development and implementation of pro-poor and sustainable development strategies for poverty reduction
- ii. Building institutional capacity for tracking progress in the achievement of national and international development targets (establishing poverty monitoring and reporting mechanism)
- iii. Promote access to financial and productive assets for poverty reduction
- iv. Support policy dialogue and partnership building for poverty reduction. (UNDP Poverty Reduction Programme; 2007)

According to the Report of the Poverty Reduction Programme 2003-2007, Nigeria's commitment justifies UNDP support. It notes that the reduction of poverty is one of the major areas of intervention of the refocused UNDP. Also, that poverty reduction is one of the three key areas of assistance identified as vital by the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) (UNDP Poverty Reduction Programme; 2007).

The National Planning Commission is the government body coordinating donor assistance in Nigeria. With regards to the UNDP's presence in Nigeria, it has overall management of programmes and is accountable to the UNDP. The Programme Committee serves as the apex structure for the management of UNDP supported programmes at national and state levels. It is comprised of the Planning Commission, one representative each from

coordinating public institutions and civil society organizations in governance, Poverty Reduction, Energy and Environment, HIV/AIDS, the Accountant-General and Auditor General's Offices and the Private Sector. The Programme Committee provides policy direction for the implementation of programmes. As much as possible, direct programme implementation is sub-contracted out to competent public/private sector organizations and proven civil society organizations. The UN specialized agencies normally provide technical assistance and support for programme implementation at the respective levels required. In line with the UNDP's Executive Board decision 98/2: "all costs associated with the delivery of other resources funded programmes at country level are to be fully covered through cost recovery mechanisms". In this regard, a General Management Service fee of approximately 7% will be charged on non-core resources mobilized in the implementation of UNDP programmes.

The 6th country programme demonstrated the ability of the UNDP to handle and manage complex, large scale operations in Nigeria most notable through the implementation of the intentions of a US \$135million grant from the European Union and a US \$16million from the Federal Government for the national census conducted in 2006-2007. With the winding up of the timeframe for the 6th country programme, the 7th country programme was inaugurated.

There are three strategic inputs that define the 7th country programme's design:

- i. The Seven Point Agenda of the Government which contains its development priorities. These include growth in the non-oil sector, improving infrastructure; human capital development; security, law and electoral reforms; combating corruption and improving governance; regional development; and cross-cutting issues such as gender and HIV/AIDS. The on going revision of the NEEDS 2 document will incorporate the Seven Point Agenda while a Vision 2020 document, which sets out the long term strategic vision of turning Nigeria into one of the 20 leading economies in the year 2020, clinch the first set of strategic inputs.
- ii. The second input is the strategic direction of the draft UNDAF, which is about improving governance in four areas:
 - a) Governance and accountability,
 - b) Productivity and employment,
 - c) Social service delivery, and
 - d) Crises and conflict management and prevention.
- iii. A final input is the UNDP regional strategy for Africa in the area of capacity development for pro-poor growth and accountability. The strategy emphasizes the importance of public expenditure, regulatory systems and skills for ensuring accountability.

The strategic focus will be pursued through four programme components. Each component will also carry the gender equality strategy (2008-2011) of the UNDP, assessed and guided by independent gender audits. These components are:

- a) Economic governance,
- b) Political governance,
- c) Private Sector Development, which will focus on growing the non-oil segments of the sector, and
- d) Sustainability and Risk Management focusing on the protection of the nation's resource base.

These projects are expected to cost the UNDP a total of US \$136.97million over a period of three years (2009-2011) (UNDP Poverty Reduction Programme Nigeria; 2008).

DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DFID)

The Department for International Development (DFID), which is an arm of the government of the United Kingdom (UK), has been involved in helping the Nigerian government tackle among other things the high incidence of poverty in the country. As things stand now, the DFID budget for her projects in Nigeria is over one hundred and twenty million British pounds.

For the World Bank's 2000/2001 World Development Report, the DFID organized a Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) in 1999 allowing the poor to speak for themselves about their experiences. This is reported in the Country Synthesis Report "Nigeria: Voice of the Poor". Some of the main findings include these.

- The poor no longer believe that their poverty is temporary. They have therefore turned what were previously coping strategies for times of crises into broad – based livelihood strategies.
- Non-material expressions of poverty (e.g. lack of safety and security) are more widespread than material ones.
- Agencies of the state are not trusted and most people have no expectations of the state as service provider, regulator or protector.
- The lack of access to portable water is ranked as the highest priority problem in rural populations but the need for improved sanitation is not widely recognized.
- NGOs are not highly rated by the poor who tend to rely more on Citizen – Based Organizations (CBOs) such as community –based and hometown associations, religious organizations, women's groups and indigenous savings and credit organizations.
- Gender relations are understood to be changing partly as a result of the experience of poverty with women indicating that they have greater economic independence and decision-making opportunities within the

household than previously, though at the community level men retain their power and status.

The DFID plays a significant role in the ‘community of donors’ in Nigeria. If one looks at the sectoral engagement of the main donors in Nigeria, the prevalence of the DFID in practically all sectors cannot be ignored as Table 6 below indicates.

TABLE 6
SECTORAL ENGAGEMENT OF DONORS IN NIGERIA

ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT	WB, EC, DFID, USAID
GOVERNANCE	UNDP, DFID, Germany, Sweden
HEALTH	WB, ADB, UNFPA, UNICEF, DFID, Italy
EDUCATION	WB, UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO
WATER SUPPLY and SANITATION	WB, EC, EDB, UNICEF, DFID, Japan, France
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	WB, EC, ADB, UNDP, Japan

Source: Country Support Strategy and Indicative Programme for the Period 2001-2007 <http://www.delnga.ec.europa.eu/docs/>, country strategy.pdf

The DFID increased its funding in Nigeria from 30 million pounds sterling in 2003 to 120 million pounds sterling per annum as a result of the freer climate for work that the entrenchment of democratic governance had created. This represents a 400% increase in funding. According to Mr Eamon Cassidy, the recent outgoing country director of the DFID, the organization’s focus in Nigeria has been primarily in the education and health sectors in the last six years. It has also been working closely with the government in the area of capacity building so as to increase service delivery to the people.

Since 2003, the DFID has conducted extensive programmes in the less developed states in Northern Nigeria in areas like HIV/AIDS, agriculture, governance, capacity building, power sector development and anti-malaria as well as management to maximize the impact of these programmes.

CONCLUSION

These aid programmes from foreign based agencies have been of great help to the Nigerian government in particular and the Nigerian society generally. However in spite of the resources that they have committed and the programmes they have carried out over the years, the incidence of poverty in

Nigeria remains high. So far they have failed in their intentions with regards to the eradication of the incidence of poverty in Nigeria. This does not however imply that their efforts are not significantly positive. Their efforts need commendation and the cooperation of Nigerians and their government. Any commitment to eradicate the incidence of poverty in Nigeria must contend with the fact that both material resources and time are required in large amounts to combat the endemic nature of the incidence of poverty in the country. Both foreign based and domestic organizations need to join in their efforts at achieving humanitarian goals if they are to deal with the incidence of poverty in Nigeria.

ALTERNATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

The NEEDS document published in 2007 contained three alternative scenarios for growth in the Nigerian economy. They reflected the possible impact on the ability of the Nigerian economy to affect the pervasive incidence of poverty through growth. These scenarios were predicted on growth rate projections across decades from the year 2000 to the year 2030. In the first scenario, Nigeria maintains an average growth performance of 3.5% from 2000-2030. Considering that the DGP per capita income was US \$300 in 2000, it would have increased by US \$52 by 2030. In the second scenario, if the average level of growth can be sustained at 5% then the per capita income will be US \$576 in 2030. The incidence of poverty will be about 70%. The third scenario projects an annual growth rate of 7% over the period. The per capita income will have risen to US \$1,031 and the incidence of poverty will be at 17% (NEEDS Review; 2007).

These scenarios help to define the nature of the importance of developing alternative frameworks for development in Nigeria. If economic growth is to have an effect on the reduction of poverty, then it is important that growth must be reflected in those sectors that can transform the lives of the most vulnerable groups in society. As is well known, growth in mining and other extractive industries may have a tangential effect on the incidence of poverty unless the resources are channeled into pro-poor policies.

Nigeria's economy as it stands is so heavily dependent on oil that an alternative framework is required to make its performance able to reduce significantly the incidence of poverty in the population. In this regard, the importance of medium and small scale businesses, manufacturing, the educational sector and increased focus on rehabilitating infrastructure and providing new ones becomes relevant.

In order to do these, reliance on the public sector alone to drive transformation may not be wise. Apart from the incidence of vested interests, the mechanism for resource allocation, once politicized may itself increasingly contribute to disarticulation of the economy rather than streamlining it significantly. The role of the private sector therefore becomes relevant. Private sector contribution will require FDI in significant quantities as well as the role that NGO and other Donor Agencies can play. It will require partnership between foreigners and citizens to raise the level of performance within the economy so as to make growth more pro-poor and sustainable. For example, if the Nigerian population continues to grow at 2.8%, there will be 182 million Nigerians by 2015. With urbanization running at current trends, 87 million of them, fully 48% will be living in urban areas. By 2030, there will be 275 million Nigerians with 182 million living in urban areas, fully 66% of the population. If the secondary sector, especially manufacturing, does not grow significantly to absorb this kind of growth, it is impossible to project that the incidence of poverty will reduce.

In attempting to find a framework for improving the Nigerian economy's performance, the military regime of General Ibrahim Babangida introduced the Structural Adjustment Programme in 1986. The programme had been designed by economists in the World Bank and IMF as the package to jump start and reorient the declining economies of Sub-Saharan African countries. Most of the economies in the region had begun to decline from the mid 1970s and most were already in recession by the end of the decade. A variety of reasons had caused this trend but the intervention of the IMF and WB was drawn along lines that intended to, among other things, reduce the involvement of the public sector in the economy and create a stable macro-economic environment for the private sector to grow.

As it was to be applied in Nigeria, the policy aimed at floating the Nigerian currency, the naira on the international market, rationalize the national bureaucracy, reduce government spending through tighter regulation of fiscal spending (to the extent that even the provision of social service and the maintenance of infrastructure would be affected), carry out measures to reduce the debt burden through rescheduling agreements and debt equity swaps, increase the commercialization of government parastatals and encourage private sector participation in practically all sectors of the economy and create measures to eliminate administrative controls that may prevent market forces from playing a greater role in the allocation of resources in the Nigerian economy.

These policies taken together were to become a defining epoch in Nigeria's history as a result of their social effects no less than their economic impact on Nigeria. The floating of the naira in the Foreign Exchange Market (FEM) led to its immediate devaluation. This in turn led to huge inflationary pressures that practically wiped out the savings of a vast majority of the people. From an exchange rate of US \$1 to N4.62 in 1986, by March 1992, the exchange rate had fallen to US \$1 – N18.06 (Aluko; 2007). Since the country is dependent on imports for virtually all its manufactured products, the inflationary trends unleashed on the economy led to the practical pauperization of the entire middle class. People whose wages and income were largely fixed simply could not recover from the abrupt nature of the shock. Added to this the decision to rationalize the work force across the nation seriously increased the incidence of poverty nationwide. As inflation soared, so did unemployment. As unemployment increased, the government put in place measures to commercialize all its parastatals and reduce spending on social security. The combination of these measures guaranteed that Nigeria's social condition became so bleak that once the regime of General Ibrahim Babangida came to an end, the regime of General Sanni Abacha had to terminate the programme, and attempt to develop policies that were more bearable to the generality of Nigerians.

A primary criticism of the Structural Adjustment Programme is that it was attuned to the interests of capital over the interests of labour. The virtual wiping out of the middle class and withdrawal of government spending on social security led to the rolling back of the state from engaging with the wider society. This led to a situation in which kinship and other primordial groups became increasingly visible on the social and political arena. That one of the single most injurious programme to have been inflicted on Nigeria is SAP is not an overstatement. One of the most disconcerting things about SAP, apart from its people unfriendliness is the fact that it did not end the Nigerian economy's dependence on the export of crude oil, nor did it lead to an increase in the importance of manufacturing to the share of the national GDP.

THE FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT BEYOND SAP

During the decade from 1986 to 1996, SAP was rigorously implemented in the country with unfortunate consequences. The resistance to the programme was carried out by the affected populace and academics. The thrust of the argument by academics was that unless a people and labour oriented package could be developed and conscientiously enforced, the Nigerian economy would not emerge from the doldrums. The later part of the General Sanni Abacha regime, recognizing this, created the Petroleum Trust Fund (PTF) to help it manage the legacy of decaying infrastructure across the country. However, since the regime was a pariah government, its ability to introduce significant amounts of FDI was simply impossible. Its collapse in 1998 led to the

framework that ushered in the Fourth Republic. The primary document for socio-economic development in the Fourth Republic as has been consistently pointed out is NEEDS.

CONCLUSIONS

Socio-economic development requires that the concept of development be appreciated as entailing much more than increases in GDP and mathematical projections on per capita income figures. Socio-economic development requires that individual human beings and the communities they belong to must be used as the primary yardstick for measuring development in the society. Sometimes, the error is projected that growth equals development. This error is predicated on an erroneous dichotomy between capital and labour. In the proper context in which socio-economic development is to be understood, capital is a product of labour and its expansion, if divorced from the requirement of improving the conditions of labour becomes problematic and skewed. In this context, it may become the tool that unravels the bond that holds society together.

This is not to belittle the obvious and necessary role that capital plays in generating the conditions for growth and development in any society. In the Nigerian context, because of the low level of capital investment and the incidence of corruption and the expatriation of capital by the ruling elite, the country has been unable to shake off the high incidence of poverty she experiences. The fact also, that a majority of the development programmes that her governments have developed tend to perceive growth as development, has meant that much of the efforts to eliminate underdevelopment has not been bale to generate the conditions necessary for socio-economic development. Add to this, the incidence of corruption and the picture becomes even bleaker.

We contend that there is a distinct possibility that, the Nigerian economy can be positioned for growth. However, this is going to require that the political will must be developed and the focus must be directed at finding the right balance in the socio-economic development programmes such that capital and labour are correctly aligned.

If this is done, then the first thing that will occupy the interest of government will be investing in her human capital by carrying out people friendly programmes of investment. The idea of self reliance, an attitude that celebrates education, hard work and manufacturing will then be supported by necessary economic programmes to guarantee their success. Such a shift will ultimately reduce the reliance on the extractive sector such as oil and solid minerals. Rather, the focus will be on training the human capital to be used in working in these areas and developing the technology that drives these sectors.

While such activity is going on, the government will need to tackle head-on the incidence of corruption in our public life. Unless this is done, the massive

loss of capital through inappropriate behavior of people in government will continue to ensure that the nation continues to hemorrhage irreplaceable hard foreign currency. Since Nigeria's source of foreign capital is primarily crude oil, such an arrangement simply prevents the use of such resources for investment in human capital. This trend must be checked and reversed.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The intricate connection between political activity and economic options are captured throughout the course of this report. In describing the Nigerian economy, it becomes clear that the dominant player is the government of the country. The resources at the disposal of the government and the total dependence of Nigeria upon more advanced countries for its manufactured and technological goods describes clearly a situation in which the orientation of the political elite describes the nature of the economic options open to the citizens of the country. In this regard, any set of recommendations as to the possibilities that can aid in the positive transformation of the Nigerian economy that does not include possible benefits that the political process can get will be inadequate. It is in this regard that we shape our recommendations around four sets of frameworks that can be understood as intervening variables for any development partner that seeks to help Nigerians develop the requisite skills to create a modern society as they struggle to cope with the pervasive incidence of poverty in the country.

I. Economic Governance

The primary form that this entails can be seen in the development of needed skills relevant to recognizing and appropriating the various kinds of resources that can aid the process of economic development and growth. In the

four areas relevant to this process, issues related to the implications for income, gender and spatial disparities cannot be over-emphasized. These areas which can benefit immensely from support include:

- a) Development Planning: The requirement here is aid to help relevant institutions set out transparent policy and spending road-maps that integrate the efforts across sectors and incorporate tools that are relevant for evidence based decisions such as poverty analysis needs assessment and macro-modeling.
- b) Fiscal Policy: There is an overarching need for aid particularly with regards to State and Local Governments in Nigeria. The emphasis should be on the optimization of resource allocation and the acquisition of skills and techniques for the implementation of fiscal rules.
- c) Monitoring: The requirement here is based on the need for institutional surveys and the lack of adequate facilities for data storage, analysis and dissemination.
- d) Aid Coordination: The need here requires help to institutions in both government and outside it that receive support from organizations that grant them aid. The focus should be on information management and technical support for all coordination tools and frameworks.

II. Political Governance

In this area, the primary focus is with regards to accountability and oversight in resource management. Four areas can be discerned as requiring assistance at all levels of government. They are:

- a) Electoral Reforms: The need for credible elections at all levels cannot be overemphasized if the constitutional representative democracy is to survive, then the processes that require legal backing to make this possible ought to be supported in full. Also, help is needed in deepening the content of democracy in areas such as the functioning of political parties using ideologies and programmes for mobilizing support and the generation of contact points between women and other vulnerable groups and the government.
- b) Integrity in the Use of Public Resources: Increasing skill acquisition for government institutions in the field of due process and financial accountability across the nation and all levels of government.

- c) Civil Society Development: An approach that recognizes that the entire sector needs to be developed. In this regard, civil society groups need to associate with like partners across national borders to improve peer support and assessment with the government generating the required legal and other support frameworks. Assistance in areas that will encourage the government recognizes the gains to be had in its own goals where other foreign based organizations come to play a constructive role in Nigeria.
- d) Local Governance: Generate support and aid policies that will strengthen accountability at the local community level by linking States and Local Government Areas and communities to deliver essential services through inclusive consultation, planning, implementation, monitoring and oversight. Vulnerable categories of the population will also benefit from inclusion in these support policies.

III. Private Sector Development

The focus of this framework will be primarily on helping Nigeria to recognize the need to develop the non-oil resource base of the nation and help her to manage the sector. This will entail activities that include:

- a) Development of Inclusive Markets: The nature of policies to be supported here refers to those paradigms that aid in the development of human capital. The inclusion of foreign and local NGOs and donor agencies in areas like the provision of quality education at all levels, the support for healthcare delivery and the acquisition of skills relevant to generating technologically competitive manufactures. The focus should also include support for entrepreneurs in developing small and medium scale enterprises.
- b) Renewable and Clean Sources of Energy: This should include efforts to address the critical deficiency in power generation and supply in the country. The possibility of introducing on a larger scale the use of solar, wind and other sources of energy and the introduction of infrastructure to increase the potentials of such sources of energy in both urban and rural areas.

IV. Sustainability and Risk Management

The focus required in this framework revolves around programmes to protect bases that generate the resources that the nation depends upon. This will entail activities such as:

- a) Conflict Prevention and Management: All geographic zones require such intervention in the country. The devastating conflicts in the Niger-Delta directly affect the ability of the nation to maximally benefit from the petroleum reserves in the area. This conflict is connected to environmental, ethnic and employment issues as well as to the political context of federalism in Nigeria. Support in managing this conflict is critical to the nation. In much of the Northern part of the country, the most challenging conflicts revolve around already politicized religious identities and the breakdown of social cohesion as a result of ethnicity. Support is also critical here. Across the rest of the country, rising crime rates and the use of modern weapons to engage in violence and project political agendas and the use of political power with impunity also requires intervention and help.
- b) Environmental Governance: Especially as this relates to developing policy frameworks for the management of natural resources connected to extractive industries as these infringe the rights of vulnerable minority groups in the population
- c) Governance of HIV/AIDS and other epidemics through the preparation of strategic and contingency plans and country led coordination and response keeping the gender dimension in mind. Also, carrying out impact analysis to construct a firmer basis for developing future plans.

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