

Millennium Development Goals and the Poverty Question in Nigeria

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Abstract *The paper examined the poverty question in Nigeria within the context of the Millennium Development Goals (NDGs), adopted by the United Nations in 2000. Over the past decades, Nigeria's preoccupation with development has had very marginal success. The past failures and depressing prospects have provoked a great amount of concern. The paper revealed that most Nigerians are worse off than they were; health and nutrition problems are widespread and infrastructure eroding rapidly. It further revealed that the achievement of the goal of stopping the traumatic march of poverty has so far eluded Nigeria and may not be able to achieve the ambitious Millennium Development Goal target of reducing poverty by half by 2015. The paper however, called for target policy interventions to protect the poor and a culture of prudent fiscal and monetary policy with incentives for non-oil growth and the development of the private sector.*

Keywords: *Widespread, per capita income, human development, dehumanizing, Vulnerable, households, empowering, access, etc.*

1. Introduction

Despite significant improvement since attainment of independence in Nigeria like many nations in the developing world, extreme poverty remains widespread. The Nigerian economy began to experience recession from the early 1980 and as a result, she moved from middle level income and a developing industrial nation, to become one of the poorest nations in the world (Central Bank of Nigeria, 2002-2003). Data from the National Bureau of Statistics on the Poverty Profile of Nigeria (1999), showed that the incidence of poverty rose from 28.1 percent in 1980 to 46.3 percent in 1985 but dropped slightly to 42.2 percent in 1992 before rising to 65.6 percent in 1996. Based on its low Gross National Product (GNP) per capita, Nigeria has since 1990, been classified as a "poor nation". The United Nations Developments Programme (UNDP), using its Human Development Index (HDI), ranked Nigeria 142nd among the 172 countries listed in 1997 and 146th in 1998 and 156th out of 179 in 2001. Comparatively, the incidence of poverty is more pronounced in the rural areas where over 60 percent of the population live with about 65 percent of them engaged in subsistence agriculture production (Central Bank of Nigeria, 2002-2003).

The overarching goal of Nigeria's economic development since independence in 1960 has been to achieve stability, material prosperity, peace and social progress. The United Nations Development Programme (2008-2009) however, observed that a variety of internal problems have persisted in slowing down the country's attainment of growth and development objectives. These include in adequate human development, primitive agricultural practices, weak infrastructure, uninspiring growth of the manufacturing sector, poor policy regulatory environment and mismanagement and misuse of resources. To ensure that the economy delivers on its potentials, the country experimented with two development philosophies- a private sector led growth in which the private sector served as the "engine house" of the economy and a public- sector-driven growth in which the government assumed the "commanding heights" of the economy. The initial low level of private sector development however, led to public sector dominance of the economy, encouraged by rapid growth in the oil sector.

Growth performance has improved significantly since the return to civilian rule in 1999 while the last seven years has witnessed an average growth rate of about 6 percent. However, economic growth has not resulted in appreciable decline in unemployment and poverty prevalence in the country. Some of the factors responsible for the low response of poverty and human development generally to economic growth may be found in the structure of production and nature of growth. Nigeria's top two primary products, agriculture and oil; continue to dominate both sectorial contributions to GDP and, in the latter case, exports. Agriculture continues to account for more than 50 percent of employment while the oil sector accounts for over 95 percent of foreign exchange earnings and 80 percent of government revenue. According to UNDP Human Development Report on Nigeria (2008-2009), the declining share of agriculture in GDP in the mid and early 1970s has been reversed since 1999: agriculture's share of GDP rose from 30 percent in 1981 to about 36 percent in 2000 and 47 percent in 2007. The two sectors therefore, account for more than 60 percent of Gross Domestic Product.

In contrast to the relative performance of agriculture, the manufacturing sector, has been relatively stagnant and losing its share of GDP from 6 percent in 1985 to a range of between 4 and 5 percent during 1990 to 2007. More critically, the report noted structural transformation, as measured by increasing value-added production and shifts in employment from private to secondary/ tertiary sectors which has continued to elude the economy. Growth has occurred more rapidly in recent years in the non-oil sector and importantly in agriculture, which is largely primary production.

Value addition, has been quite limited and so has been the employment effect. Overlaid by sustained high inequality, Nigeria's overall economic growth improvements, has translated too little or insignificant improvements in the welfare of the poorer segments of the population. Perhaps the best way to appreciate the importance of the concern is to place it in the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS), adopted by the United Nations in 2000 and achieving the target of reducing poverty by half by 2015 in Nigeria.

According to the United Nations, the development goals set out in the Millennium Declaration, "express the resolve of the world's political leaders to free their fellow men, women and children from abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty to make the right to development a reality for everyone to free the entire human race from want" (United Nations, 2000). The Millennium Development Goals and targets come from the Millennium Declaration, signed by 189 countries including 147 heads of states in September, 2000 (www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm) as updated by the 60th UN General Assembly in September, 2005. It is against this background, that this paper examines the Millennium Development Goals and the Poverty Question in Nigeria.

2. Conceptual and Empirical Overview of Poverty in Nigeria

No society can surely be flourishing and happy, of which by far the greater part of the numbers are poor and miserable (Smith, 1776) while Samavia (1995) contended that the unfinished business of the 21st century, is the eradication of poverty.

A search of the relevant literature shows that there is no general consensus on any meaningful definition of poverty. This is because poverty affects many aspects of the human condition including physical, moral and psychological. As Anyanwu (1997) rightly observed, a concise and universally accepted definition of poverty is elusive because different criteria have been used to conceptualize the phenomenon.

However, the Central Bank of Nigeria (2002-2003) stressed that poverty concerns individual's inability to cater adequately to the basic needs of food, clothing and shelter. It reflects the inability to meet social and economic obligations: lack of gainful employment, skills, assets and self esteem. The position of the Central Bank of Nigeria is predicated on limited access to social and economic infrastructures such as education, health, portable water and

sanitation thus, limiting the chances of advancing welfare to utmost level of capability. World Development Report (1990) has also conceptualized poverty, as the inability to attain a minimum standard to living. The report in addition, constructed two indices based on a minimum level of consumption in order to show the practical aspects of the concept. The United Nations has similarly drawn other indices such as life expectancy, infant mortality rate, primary school enrolment ratios and number of persons per physician. Sen (1987) defined poverty as the lack of certain capabilities such as being able to participate with dignity in society. Expressed differently, Galbraith (1969) stressed that people are poverty stricken, when their incomes, even if adequate for survival, fall radically behind that of the community...they are degraded, for in the literal sense, they live outside the grades or categories which the community regards as acceptable.

Publications and several studies have provided graphical details of the escalating poverty situation in Nigeria between the period of 1980 and 1996. These reports according to the National Bureau of Statistics (2005), revealed marked deterioration in the quality of life of Nigerians over the years since independence, resulting in the steady increase in the number of citizens caught below the poverty line. These reports according to the National Bureau of Statistics further revealed that higher concentration of the poor, live in the rural areas and the urban fringes.

The UNDP Human Development Report on Nigeria (2008-2009), also revealed that the number of poor people in Nigeria remains high. According to the report, the total poverty head count rose from 27.2 percent in 1980 to 65.6 percent in the 1996, an annual average increase of 8.83 percent in the 16-year period. However, between 1996 and 2004, total poverty head count declined by an annual average of 2.1 per cent to 54.4 percent. Over the same period, the percentage of the population in the core poor category rose from 6.2 to 29.3 percent before declining to 22.0 percent in 2004. The fact that over 50 percent of the total population is officially poor should be of major concern to policy makers in Nigeria

At the global level, Nigeria ranked 54th in per capita income in 1987 and was classified as a middle income nation (World Bank, 1987). By 1989, Nigeria had lost her status as a middle-income nation and by 1991; the country joined the club of the poorest countries of the world. World Development Report (1989), placed Nigeria behind Benin Republic (US\$380), Togo (US\$390), Guinea (US\$430) and Angola (US\$610) in per capita income (World Bank, 1989). In the last three decades, Nigeria has been one of the world's weakest growing economies the World Bank (1989) observed.

In the period between 1990 and 1993, which was one of increasing poverty and human misery for Nigeria, the average national income was estimated at N1,014 in 1996 (UNDP, 1997a). The incidence of poverty increased from 27.2 percent in 1980 to 65.6 percent in 1996 representing 67.0 million people (Sa'id, 2001). The Human Development Index (HDI) and other indicators paint a dire picture of the state of poverty in the country as contained in Nigerian Human Development Report 1996 (UNDP, 1997a).

By 1999, it was estimated that more than 70 percent of Nigerians lived in poverty. Life expectancy was a mere 54 years, infant mortality (77 per 1,000) and maternal mortality (704 per 100,000 live births) are among the highest in the world. Other social indicators the Central Bank of Nigeria noted, are also weak;

- only about 10 per cent of the population had access to essential drugs,
- there were fewer than 30 physicians per 100,000 people,
- more than 5 million adults were estimated to be living with HIV/ AIDS,
- among children under 5, almost 30 per cent were under weight,
- only 17 per cent of the children were fully immunized down from 30 percent in 1990 and almost 40 percent had never been immunized ,

- only about half the population had access to safe drinking water (40 percent in the rural areas while 80 percent in the urban areas),
- some 29 percent of the total population lived at risk from annual flood,
- more than 90 percent of the rural population depended on forests for livelihood and domestic energy sources and
- rural households spent an average of 1.5 hours a day, collecting water and fuel wood (Central Bank of Nigeria, 2005).

3. Survey Results on Unsafe Water Supply, Toilet Facilities, Electricity Supply and School Enrolment in Nigeria

Safe or unpolluted drinking water is a basic necessity for good health while unsafe water is a veritable means of transmitting water-borne diseases such as diarrhea, cholera, typhoid, guinea worm and schistosomiasis. Safe water is constituted by pipe-borne treated, pipe-borne untreated, borehole/hand-pump and well-spring protected. On the other hand, unsafe water is constituted by well-spring unprotected and rain water, stream, pond or river. Table 1 shows percent distribution of households in the country using streams, ponds and similar sources of water for households use. National figures showed that in 1995, 30.8 percent of the households were said to be using these sources of water in their households, 1997; 32.2 percent, 2002; 35.8 percent and 2005; 30.40 percent. By all standards, these are unsafe water sources and over 30.0 percent of the households in the country were affected.

At the state level, higher percentages of households were recorded in some states such as Abia, 72.6 percent (1995) and 51.7 percent in (2000); Akwa Ibom 68.1 percent (1995), 77.9 percent (2000) and 34.5 percent (2005); Anambra 66.8 percent (1995), 71.0 percent (1999), 63.3 percent (2002) and 37.3 percent (2005), Cross River; 66.0 percent (1995), 76.5 percent (1998), 65.3 percent (2002) and 41.0 percent (2005); Taraba 66.8 percent (1995), 78.8 percent (1998), 63.5 percent (2002), 55.5 percent (2004) and 32.9 percent (2005). Based on the foregoing, the situation on the use of unsafe water in the country had improved a lot as figures dropped in 2005 to almost half of what was obtained in the previous 10 years. Some states still had high rates in 2005 compared to what was recorded in the preceding years. For instance, Yobe had 5.9 percent (1995), 2.3 percent (2007), 7.0 percent (2003) and 17.2 percent (2005). A similar pattern occurred for Kaduna at 10.5 percent (1995), 7.1 percent (1999), 14.2 percent (2001) and 16.0 percent (2005). Kano had 14.4 percent (1995), 6.9 percent (2000), 1.7 percent (2004) and 25.4 percent (2005), while Borno recorded 6.6 percent (1995), 12.5 percent (1999) 13.7 percent (2003) and 23.6 percent (2005). The proportion of households relying on unsafe water was on the increase and shown to be more in some Northern states.

Conventional disposal of liquid waste is constituted by the flush to sewage, flush to septic tank, covered pit latrine and ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrine. The use of bush/dung hill, toilet on water, pail/bucket and uncovered pit latrine constitute unconventional toilet facilities. The latter pose serious threats to managements of the environment. Table 2 shows percentage distribution of households using unconventional toilet facilities from 1995 to 2005. At the national level, many households were still using unconventional toilets in the country during the period. In 1995 about 31.4 percent of the households were affected. The figure increased to 60.6 percent in 1999, dropped in 2004 but rose again to 67.0 percent in 2005. At the state level, there were some observed variations. Those with higher than national rates include, Adamawa: 53.5 percent (2000), 50.1 percent (2002) and 78.6 percent (2005), Bauchi; 89.8 percent (2000), 87.4 percent (2001), 80.2 percent (2004) and 82.2 percent (2005), Benue: 64.6 percent (1996), 56.4 percent (2003), 63.8 percent (2004) and 76.6 percent (2005), Kogi: 57.8 percent (1995), 67.9 percent (1999), 61.4 percent (2003), 71.2 percent (2004) and 59.7 percent (2005), Rivers; 64.6 percent (1995), 68.5 percent (2000), 59.0 percent (2004) and 64.3 percent (2005); and Yobe had 56.6 percent (1995), 59.3 percent (2000), 47.1 percent (2003) and 77.1 percent (2005).

From all the indications, the situation on the use of unconventional toilets was not significantly improved from 1995 to 2005. Disaggregation by geographical zones revealed that five out of the six zones reported that more than 25 percent of households used unconventional toilet facilities while the lowest figure of about 16.8 percent of households was recorded in South- East zone in the year 2000. Throughout the period reported on, year 2005 showed the worst situation across the zones as North East reported the highest rate of 72.5 percent while the lowest rate of 52.5 percent was reported in the South – West.

Energy supply forms the bedrock of economic development. Over the years under review (1995-2005), more than half of the households in the country were without electricity. The highest figure of 60.8 percent was recorded in the year 2000 while the lowest 48.7 percent was recorded in 2005. Generally, Lagos state recorded less than 5 percent of households without electricity except in the year 2000: 26.0 percent, 2002; 13.2 percent and 2001 8.1 percent. About 60.0 percent of households in the South- West States had access to electricity supply. It was further observed that Anambra, Delta, Edo and Imo states had less than 50.0 percent of households without electricity over the period. In North- Central Zone, Kwara and FCT (Abuja) had less than half of the households without electricity. Generally in the Northern zones, all the states recorded more than half of the households without access to electricity, see table 3.

Education is a veritable tool for human development and a vital pre-requisite for combating poverty, empowering people, protecting children from hazardous exploitation, promoting human rights and demography, protecting the environment and influencing population growth. The federal government appreciates the essence of education which is one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (National Bureau of Statistics, 1995- 2005). Primary school net enrolment is defined for children of primary school ages (6-11years) that are currently in Primary School (Primary 1 to Primary 6) divided by the number of children of primary school ages. Table 4 shows the enrolment of persons aged 6-11 years in primary school for 1995-2005. During the period under review, national enrolment rate ranged between 66.9 percent in 1996 and 61.5 percent in 2005. The average rate for the period was 60 percent except in 1999 that 59.8 percent was recorded. Disaggregation by states shows that in 1995, the highest enrolment rate of 98.4 percent was recorded by Abia while Kebbi had the lowest rate 15.8 percent. In 1996, Anambra had the highest rate of 97.2 percent while the lowest rate of 16.4 percent was recorded by Yobe. From 1997 to 2005, the highest enrolment rate was recorded by Osun: 97.2 percent in 1997, 98.8 percent in 1999 and 90.7 percent in 2000. Ondo recorded 96.0 percent in 1998, Anambra; 91.2 percent in 2001, 91.2 percent in 2002 and 88.1 percent in 2004 and 85.1 percent in 2005 and Ekiti 89.5 percent in 2003. The lowest rates were recorded by Yobe as shown in table 4. On the other hand, secondary school net enrolment is defined as the number of secondary school children (age 12-17 years) currently in secondary school (JSS 1 to SSS 3) divided by the number of children of secondary school ages.

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of persons aged 12-17years who enrolled in various secondary schools across the country during the period under review. National enrolment rates showed that in 1995 about 69.0 percent of such children enrolled in secondary schools but in 2005, the rate dropped significantly to 45.6 percent. There was an appreciable increase in the enrollment rates between 1996 and 1999 at 76.1 percent in 1996, 75.1 percent 1997, 73.1 percent 1998 and 70.0 percent in 1999. At the state level, higher rates of above 59.0 percent were shown for Abia, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Enugu, Imo, Kogi, Lagos, Ondo Osun, Oyo and Rivers. States with low rates and figures below 35.0 percent were Jigawa, Sokoto and Yobe. Jigawa recorded the lowest figures of 14.40, 15.48 and 20.17 percent between 1999 and 2001 respectively. Sokoto recorded the least: 22.9 percent and 17.9 percent in 1996 and 2005 respectively while Yobe had the least rates of 20.41 percent and 14.54 percent in 1995 and 1997 respectively.

4. Evaluation of Past Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Nigeria

Poverty reduction measures according to the Central Bank of Nigeria (2002-2003), consist of series of purposive act and measures designed to address poverty problems through the provision of basic needs such as Health services, education, water supply, food, minimum nutrition requirements and housing, among others. The Central Bank of Nigeria however, observed that the response of various administrations to the poverty problem appear to have been largely ad-hoc and un-coordinated. A recent survey of the Central Bank of Nigeria on policies and interventions, chronicled 28 federal projects and programmes with poverty reduction thrusts.

Such poverty reduction efforts include: Rural Electrification Schemes, Credits Scheme to Small Holders through various specialized institutions such as the People's Bank, Agricultural and Cooperative Development Bank, Community Banks, NERFUND, SME Credit Scheme, the Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP), Universal Primary Education Scheme and Low Cost Housing Scheme. Others include: Transport Schemes such as the Urban Mass Transit, Health Schemes such as Primary Health Care Programme, the activities of the Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Better Life for Royal woman programme, as well as the Family Support Programme (FSP). More recent programmes include the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) Small and Medium Industries Equity Investment Scheme (SMIEIS) and so on.

While none of these programmes was completely without merit, none of them had significant lasting or sustainable positive effects due largely to poor coordination, absence of a comprehensive framework, excessive political interference, ineffective targeting of the poor, leading to leakages of benefits to unintended beneficiaries, unwieldy scope of the programmes, which caused resources to be thinly spread across too many projects, over-lapping functions which led to institutional rivalry and conflicts, absence of sustainability mechanisms in programmes and projects and non inclusion of beneficiaries in the project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Similarly, Okafor (2006) contended that fundamentally, almost all the programmes were directed towards quick, short-term yields rather than "long term" sustainability. Other reasons why these efforts failed to make the expected impact on poverty alleviation Okafor (2006) further asserted, include the following: the programmes lacked convergence, linkages and synergy with the result that the benefits were ephemeral; weak institutional arrangements and framework were made worse by policy inconsistencies, the absence of legislative backing and corruption; diversity of poor people's condition and relationship with the environment were not taken into consideration. The result was lack of the much needed understanding of who the poor are and what their priorities are in each community; programmes were planned and executed from the economic point of view without linkages to local communities to penetrate the grassroots and the environment; poor implementation of the objectives of the programmes encouraged environmental degradation with accelerated poverty on the long run and; budgetary, management and governance problems which resulted in under-funding, under staffing and the phenomenon of abandoned projects.

Despite these anti poverty programmes and projects, Nigerians are still very poor and social development is limited. If present trends continue, the country is not likely to meet the Millennium Development Goals of breaking the scourge of poverty.

5. Eradicating Poverty in Nigeria Within the Framework of the Millennium Development Goals

Sustainable development is about improving the quality of people's lives and expanding their ability to shape their future. These generally call for higher per-capita incomes, equitable

education and job opportunities, better health and nutrition and a more sustainable natural environment. The Millennium Development Goals are the world's time-bound targets to measure and monitor the progress of countries in improving people's welfare (World Bank, 2009).

The first of the eight Millennium Development Goals is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. The first and most studied target under this goal, is to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty (living on less than US \$1.08 per person per day) by the year 2015, starting from the level of extreme poverty in 1990. As is well known, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty is the head-count ratio, a measure for the spread of poverty; while the income level of US \$1.08 per person per day, is the poverty line, a threshold below which people are deemed to be poor. Three indicators have been selected to reflect progress in achieving this target. These include: the head-count ratio itself, the poverty-gap ratio and the share of the poorest 20% of the population in national consumption (ie, the share of the poorest quintile). It can easily be shown that reducing the spread of poverty by half by the year 2015, with 1990 as the base year, requires an annual rate of reduction of the head-count ratio by about 2.7345 percent (Ali-Abdel, 2005). On the basis of this reduction of the head-count ratio, a corresponding rate on growth of per capita GDP can be calculated. The required rate of growth for poverty reduction depends crucially on the structural features of poverty in the various countries, Ali-Abdel (2005) further asserted. An aggregative indicator of these structural features is the growth elasticity of poverty. Ali-Abdel however, observed that as far as sub-Saharan African (SSA) which Nigeria is constituted is concerned, given the structural features of its poverty as well as past growth performance; it has been shown that the attainment of the first Millennium Development Goals will not be feasible.

Over the years since their formulation, the Millennium Development Goals have provided the much needed development framework for the least developed countries. As a result, it is not surprising to find that the recent African initiative of launching a new partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), is closely related to the Millennium Development Goals.

In 2004, the federal government of Nigeria instituted the National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS) while the state and Local Governments followed suit, with the various State Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (SEEDS) and Local Economic Empowerment Strategy (LEEDS) for the purpose of implementing the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria. The NEEDS is the latest policy of the federal government and its focus is essentially directed at four key strategies for reorienting values; reducing poverty, creating wealth and generating employment. The following are the main thrust of Needs; 6 percent annual growth of gross domestic product as a result of widespread reforms; develop public-private partnership to stimulate rapid infrastructure development including the provision of water for domestic and commercial use; draw up a social charter or contract between government and electorate to ensure that the voices of the poor are heard and their concerns addressed; reduce the number of unqualified primary school teachers by 80 percent; mobilize community and private-sector involvement in education; completion of Universal Basic Education Programmes; reduce maternal mortality by three-quarter and under-five child mortality by two-thirds and the provision of affordable housing, water and sanitation and so on.

Consequently over the years attempts were made at alleviating poverty as reflected in the expression of commitment by successive governments through increase in the number of programmes and projects as well as increasing financial commitment towards empowering Nigerians. However, findings have indicated that poverty was more acute in the rural areas of Nigeria and some geo-political zones were particularly hard hit than others by poverty while unemployment kept souring. Muhammed (2006) contended that Nigeria's democratic experience has neither served the purpose of political emancipation nor led to economic betterment of the citizens of Nigeria (see table 6). This is especially in the face of endemic poverty, hunger, unemployment and progressive disempowerment of the majority of the population. The prospect

of escaping this life threatening situation and achieving sustainable growth and development with the MDGS framework in Nigeria calls for concerted concern. The actualization of the laudable goals of the Millennium Declaration in Nigeria is currently challenged by poor leadership, inconsistency in policy, instability in government, legacy of mismanagement and corruption, the boom and bust mode of economic management; encouraged by the dominance of oil in the economy, overdependence on oil and the traditional sector. It is pertinent to note that some growth indices are often paraded by the Nigeria government but strangely, there is a mismatch or disconnect between it and existing realities as the country still exhibits large symptoms of underdevelopment as reflected in the socio-economic lives of Nigerians and amply demonstrated by this paper.

After many years of implementation of poverty alleviation programmes and projects and seven years to the dateline 2015, the level of inequality in the system is high because the underlying structure of the economy has not been allowed to experience structured transformation. Subsistence agriculture is still widely practiced with more than 50 percent of the labour force working in this sector; which means that Nigeria's labour force is largely unsophisticated and unskilled for the demands of a 21st century economy. The oil sector, the other leg on which the economy stands, generates more than 90 percent of foreign exchange earnings and funds at least 80 percent of the federal budget, yet it employs just 1 percent of the labour force with very low forward and backward linkage with the economy. It is obvious, therefore, that the discourse on inequality in Nigeria has its roots in the absence of a structural transformation in the economy (UNDP, 2008 and 2009).

As recent statistics tend to indicate, Nigeria seems to have a systemic structure of inequity; only such a system would permit just 20 percent of the population to own 65 percent of national assets while as much as 70 percent of the same population, are peasant rural workers and artisans. Inequality in Nigeria means that opportunities for upward mobility are very limited; it means few decent jobs, poor income and low purchasing power for the employed; which also means poor infrastructure and institutional failure in key sectors including education, health and transportation (UNDP, 2008 and 2009).

The Human Development Report 2007 and 2008 on Nigeria showed that the Human Development Index for Nigeria was 0.470 which gives the country, a rank of 158th out of 177 countries. Life expectancy is 46 years, ranking Nigeria as 165th and adult literacy rates (% ages 15 and above) was 69.1, ranking Nigeria as 104th out of 177. The report also indicated the Human Poverty Index Value of 37.3 percent for Nigeria, which ranked the country as 80th among 108 developing countries for which the index was calculated (UNDP, 2008). UNDP (2008-2009) also observed that Nigeria ranked 100th in health and survival out of 128 countries, indicating that there is still much to be desired in the country's healthcare system. Life expectancy, which had increased till 1990, fell to 43.7 for men and 44 years for women in 2005. The infant mortality rate stands at 96 deaths per 1000 births while the sex ratio (male to female) at birth is 0.94. Both male and female children have about an equal chance of health and survival as the ratio stands at 0.969. Nigeria also ranks 106th out of 128 countries in political empowerment with female to male ratios of 0.08 for women in parliament and 0.11 for women in ministerial positions (UNDP, 2008 and 2009). If the present trend persists, Nigeria is not likely to meet the Millennium Development target of eradicating poverty by half in 2015. To say the least, eradicating poverty in the country through the Millennium Development Goals framework, poses a Herculean task (UNDP, 2008 and 2009).

6. Conclusions

It is often said that the true barometer for measuring the advancement of a society is by judging how its poorest and most vulnerable groups live. Similarly, development is concerned ultimately with enhancing people's quality of life and to achieve this, is to improve basic human capabilities

(longevity, knowledge and income). This translates to expanding access to health, education and job opportunities. Improvement in the basic human capabilities is reflected in improvement in the human development index of a country. The human development index scores for Nigeria have consistently been among the lowest in the world since 1980, revealing a slow underlying rate of improvement and pointing to a clear policy challenge facing the country; how to translate higher growth into improved human development outcomes, corruption and wasteful public investment, low government revenues and low quality of public infrastructure. In most specific terms, corruption has limited growth potentials of the country and more importantly, initiatives against poverty and inequality, government reform policies to improve their efficiency and respond to changing economic and social priorities, growth and income distribution matter for poverty reduction and public policy as key driver to both etc.

On the whole, the performance of the Nigerian economy has not been satisfactory despite its enormous potential for growth and development. The penalty for this has been paid by the country in high levels of poverty and inequality and the untold suffering of many millions of Nigerians. Given the structural characteristics of the economy as well as the quality of growth witnessed in the past, any strategy to improved welfare, must therefore, address four simultaneous courses of action, namely:

- maintain a strong and focused emphasis on economic growth underpinned by a benign macro- economic framework which capitalizes on the gains of the past several years by avoiding a circle of booms and bursts,
- generate better access to social services and adequate infrastructure especially for the poor.
- target policy interventions to protect the poorest or the most vulnerable groups etc. Indeed to grow the economy and yet reduce poverty requires a culture of prudent fiscal and monetary policy with incentives for non-oil growth and development of the private sector. There are sufficient grounds for hope but the challenges ahead of the country are significant and wide-ranging.

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APPENDIX

TABLE 1 PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS USING STREAM, POND AND OTHERS

States	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Abia	72.63	43.56	46.51	41.04	49.97	51.68	48.16	44.64	41.12	37.60	32.00
Adamawa	35.84	47.55	37.60	46.93	43.48	51.38	49.16	46.94	44.72	42.50	30.90
Akwa Ibom	68.13	72.00	59.47	83.55	68.57	77.85	73.01	68.17	63.34	58.50	34.50
Anambra	66.80	74.99	60.56	61.99	71.04	76.36	69.85	63.33	56.82	50.30	37.30
Bauchi	17.11	16.21	17.18	20.67	29.08	85.40	74.53	63.65	52.78	41.90	37.40
Bayelsa						17.66	18.14	18.63	19.11	19.60	38.40
Benue	54.90	63.45	56.37	53.33	49.30	59.29	57.82	56.35	54.87	53.40	47.90
Borno	6.60	8.82	12.92	22.05	12.45	13.17	13.35	13.53	13.72	13.90	23.60
Cross River	66.03	76.78	77.45	76.54	76.12	66.96	66.64	66.33	66.01	65.70	41.00
Delta	30.95	32.05	31.82	35.73	28.18	37.32	34.36	31.41	28.45	25.50	37.00
Ebonyi						53.52	56.54	59.56	62.58	65.60	46.20
Edo	38.32	40.79	45.68	40.00	46.48	63.94	57.28	50.62	43.96	37.30	37.50
Ekiti						43.56	40.85	38.13	35.42	32.70	33.60
Enugu	52.86	59.78	57.17	67.69	63.39	62.07	60.00	57.93	55.87	53.80	38.80
Gombe						27.78	27.43	27.09	26.74	26.40	29.30
Imo	53.35	58.92	61.24	62.77	52.07	57.85	50.74	43.62	36.51	29.40	28.30
Jigawa	5.00	4.78	3.83	0.60	0.00	3.81	3.09	2.36	1.63	0.90	16.70
Kaduna	10.45	11.69	14.50	16.30	7.12	14.39	14.22	14.04	13.87	13.70	16.60
Kano	14.42	3.95	13.73	12.21	11.93	6.69	5.59	4.30	3.00	1.70	25.40
Katsina	13.23	17.63	20.49	21.12	25.08	28.47	26.40	24.34	22.27	20.20	27.40
Kebbi	18.55	20.20	19.33	19.56	19.87	16.55	12.51	8.48	4.44	0.40	24.40
Kogi	54.91	54.07	39.06	47.24	17.46	48.35	46.02	43.68	41.34	39.00	40.60
Kwara	20.82	21.20	22.33	16.23	13.33	18.18	18.59	18.99	19.40	19.80	33.60
Lagos	0.41	8.77	11.47	7.19	22.74	21.29	16.27	11.25	6.22	1.20	5.30
Nassarawa						64.98	61.64	58.29	54.95	51.60	30.30
Niger	38.70	50.50	42.03	46.37	51.58	50.87	46.70	42.54	38.37	34.20	34.90
Ogun	19.66	32.28	26.72	33.37	29.75	26.42	23.91	21.41	18.90	16.40	17.20
Ondo	62.80	45.62	41.83	43.06	57.14	47.87	48.48	49.09	49.69	50.30	22.70
Osun	30.06	27.69	25.23	26.08	23.75	34.55	31.26	27.97	24.69	21.40	23.70
Oyo	20.05	17.68	22.62	19.23	36.33	20.51	21.46	22.41	23.35	24.30	37.90
Plateau	37.69	52.38	48.73	46.77	43.25	61.04	58.11	55.17	52.24	49.30	32.20
Rivers	48.43	41.31	41.88	40.17	43.45	31.55	28.84	26.12	23.41	20.70	38.50
Sokoto	19.87	18.50	17.95	24.28	25.86	11.14	10.60	10.07	9.53	9.00	48.10
Taraba	66.77	75.06	74.02	78.77	64.36	75.15	70.24	65.33	60.41	55.50	32.90
Yobe	5.91	8.52	12.53	4.43	0.69	2.26	3.83	8.95	6.97	5.00	17.20
Zamfara						42.64	42.01	41.37	40.74	40.10	22.10
FCT (Abuja)	22.48	54.33	33.32	47.52	45.40	58.14	51.95	45.77	39.58	33.40	19.70
Nigeria	30.81	33.68	32.24	33.82	35.40	39.88	37.84	35.79	33.75	31.70	30.40

Source: National Bureau of Statistics (2007)

TABLE 2 PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH UNCONVENTIONAL TOILETS

States	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Abia	12.95	13.3	10.44	15.69	9.93	73.13	60.20	47.27	34.33	21.40	63.30
Adamawa	43.38	49.95	38.40	47.37	44.15	53.46	51.77	50.08	48.39	46.70	78.60
Akwa Ibom	1.78	2.68	6.47	4.24	1.07	92.55	75.11	57.67	40.24	22.80	56.90
Anambra	10.46	8.61	6.76	9.35	6.95	77.88	62.03	46.19	30.34	14.50	67.50
Bauchi	29.20	29.98	25.81	27.52	36.79	69.78	87.39	84.99	82.60	80.20	82.20
Bayelsa						85.91	79.73	73.55	67.38	61.20	79.20
Benue	61.06	64.58	58.81	58.08	55.03	33.98	41.44	48.89	56.35	63.80	76.60
Borno	19.75	21.66	22.37	22.21	29.26	80.83	66.20	51.57	36.93	22.30	73.30
Cross River	34.52	35.83	45.37	45.40	48.13	49.35	54.81	60.27	65.74	71.20	70.40
Delta	20.84	24.68	23.03	25.92	38.18	69.81	66.21	62.61	59.00	55.40	71.30
Ebonyi						55.63	63.53	71.42	79.31	87.20	71.40
Edo	15.13	8.82	20.20	12.16	17.61	68.38	64.26	60.14	56.02	51.90	30.00
Ekiti						31.63	39.25	46.86	54.48	62.10	57.60
Enugu	52.27	48.79	53.23	50.31	43.39	28.18	37.29	46.39	55.50	64.60	67.00
Gombe						84.20	72.35	60.50	48.65	36.80	66.20
Imo	6.67	5.04	6.28	4.10	6.90	77.92	61.19	44.46	27.73	11.00	81.60
Jigawa	21.16	25.61	29.76	30.54	25.17	68.66	60.72	52.78	44.84	36.90	49.70
Kaduna	13.09	16.87	8.9	14.06	5.99	79.86	66.22	52.58	38.94	25.30	85.40
Kano	30.94	28.19	23.32	17.04	11.58	91.06	71.67	52.28	32.89	13.50	73.20
Katsina	19.66	27.37	21.84	21.94	15.93	83.30	67.10	50.90	34.70	18.50	71.70
Kebbi	41.47	42.07	45.39	46.71	58.25	47.91	47.13	46.35	45.58	44.80	74.80
Kogi	57.82	54.44	56.85	67.89	74.25	31.89	41.72	51.54	61.37	71.20	59.70
Kwara	52.22	49.75	42.25	47.16	51.33	45.80	50.25	54.70	59.15	63.60	69.00
Lagos	6.41	7.21	4.41	3.26	3.34	43.66	34.37	25.08	15.79	6.50	27.70
Nassarawa						46.57	53.70	60.84	67.97	75.10	76.10
Niger	53.34	55.63	43.66	49.36	49.47	37.46	43.97	50.48	56.99	63.50	73.90
Ogun	23.64	30.18	28.23	31.74	30.82	62.26	55.80	49.33	42.87	36.40	45.20
Ondo	43.77	43.72	42.10	42.04	48.78	52.77	55.45	58.13	60.82	63.50	56.70
Osun	51.57	44.35	38.03	40.27	47.16	39.92	41.79	43.66	45.53	47.40	56.30
Oyo	34.56	36.36	39.36	43.76	60.67	48.99	50.62	52.25	53.87	55.50	72.00
Plateau	48.70	59.67	54.63	53.22	48.44	39.57	49.03	58.49	67.94	77.40	74.60
Rivers	64.62	58.77	55.88	63.34	51.03	68.45	66.09	63.73	61.36	59.00	64.30
Sokoto	29.76	25.63	24.39	36.82	24.14	73.67	66.63	59.59	52.54	45.50	58.60
Taraba	44.81	52.82	50.60	48.44	50.52	37.58	46.11	54.64	63.17	71.70	58.00
Yobe	58.62	51.46	58.73	50.76	43.60	59.26	55.19	51.13	47.06	43.00	77.10
Zamfara						82.50	69.80	57.10	44.40	31.70	87.10
FCT (Abuja)	21.83	41.37	26.1	29.28	37.5	41.09	42.21	43.34	44.47	45.60	68.80
Nigeria	31.36	32.06	30.04	31.74	32.31	60.56	57.12	53.68	50.24	46.80	67.00

Source: National Bureau of Statistics (2007)

TABLE 3

PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT ELECTRICITY

States	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Abia	49.71	46.95	47.51	42.52	37.67	46.6	44.24	41.52	41.96	36.40	21.10
Adamawa	76.37	78.81	65.09	74.55	69.57	85.6	81.02	83.22	72.95	80.80	79.10
Akwa Ibom	71.50	72.29	64.24	74.02	72.96	69.6	65.58	58.86	56.17	48.10	52.50
Anambra	26.25	28.78	22.39	19.59	13.90	19.7	24.21	19.65	21.00	19.60	11.00
Bauchi	76.46	78.09	82.98	82.31	85.28	51.3	68.68	59.27	75.09	67.20	77.40
Bayelsa						75.2	73.98	72.76	71.53	70.30	60.00
Benue	84.13	82.01	82.87	80.83	84.56	85.0	81.72	81.43	80.39	77.90	73.30
Borno	66.58	68.2	65.71	69.55	66.78	69.3	67.16	66.12	64.31	62.90	58.20
Cross River	63.08	70.33	70.77	70.95	66.79	57.2	62.46	54.59	61.39	52.00	57.10
Delta	42.79	36.13	37.66	38.95	50.45	40.7	36.86	37.59	36.08	34.50	33.10
Ebonyi						84.7	83.31	81.94	80.57	79.20	75.30
Edo	41.33	29.95	37.46	28.69	25.35	40.3	32.65	35.36	33.93	30.40	17.90
Ekiti						40.2	38.79	37.43	36.06	34.70	28.80
Enugu	70.29	74.40	75.31	80.61	80.68	60.2	64.07	53.74	61.31	47.30	51.20
Gombe						69.3	70.83	72.39	73.94	75.50	70.60
Imo	44.39	38.71	39.03	37.76	43.10	54.0	35.36	32.01	24.52	10.00	4.80
Jigawa	88.63	85.04	87.89	84.46	93.05	79.6	84.35	83.65	87.80	87.70	82.20
Kaduna	55.32	58.27	57.43	64.16	62.17	61.7	57.06	55.85	53.72	50.00	46.00
Kano	74.38	72.63	67.64	69.54	65.96	46.7	59.48	46.32	56.77	45.90	40.10
Katsina	88.16	84.07	86.42	84.70	80.68	87.9	79.83	75.59	74.86	63.30	58.20
Kebbi	89.73	89.22	86.86	85.44	88.22	85.4	80.85	72.48	73.23	59.60	56.40
Kogi	58.34	43.87	49.58	55.86	55.18	64.5	52.40	60.94	53.49	57.40	57.00
Kwara	38.03	33.54	32.43	30.63	32.33	26.2	32.46	31.37	34.47	36.50	22.70
Lagos	3.39	2.99	3.72	2.31	2.68	26.0	8.08	13.16	2.01	0.30	0.10
Nassarawa						78.2	78.19	78.23	78.26	78.30	73.30
Niger	65.83	66.08	58.32	69.14	73.68	68.5	64.68	63.28	58.21	58.10	65.20
Ogun	24.87	28.28	27.58	26.79	34.05	33.8	29.58	30.89	27.79	28.00	27.00
Ondo	30.19	24.79	27.51	29.61	46.69	34.7	34.44	44.09	40.51	53.50	45.20
Osun	34.98	37.76	29.34	29.03	35.79	44.1	39.24	40.72	33.32	37.30	26.80
Oyo	28.00	22.06	21.94	23.75	40.33	41.7	30.02	37.98	28.12	34.30	25.40
Plateau	59.65	72.72	69.59	66.97	61.25	68.7	73.64	74.56	75.00	80.40	65.30
Rivers	59.70	52.83	47.97	43.98	57.93	38.6	45.90	38.96	43.64	39.30	54.20
Sokoto	82.78	84.22	86.87	85.33	83.10	84.1	83.25	82.28	83.69	80.50	76.00
Taraba	85.33	88.29	88.38	85.87	97.58	91.4	89.24	90.19	88.69	89.00	75.20
Yobe	85.45	72.82	81.10	74.46	77.16	76.7	71.85	70.88	73.10	65.10	57.20
Zamfara						81.0	76.88	72.75	68.63	64.50	52.90
FCT (Abuja)	26.17	41.38	29.10	40.31	40.79	49.2	44.50	47.61	37.55	46.00	24.40
Nigeria	57.57	51.62	51.06	51.53	54.70	60.8	54.40	57.17	52.28	53.50	48.70

Source: National Bureau of Statistics (2007)

TABLE 4
PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN (6-11YRS) ENROLLED
IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

States	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Abia	98.35	92.76	95.33	93.16	94.57	83.07	81.78	82.69	76.93	76.29	70.80
Adamawa	61.48	42.40	59.25	59.10	46.05	61.63	53.20	55.03	62.81	58.60	64.00
Akwa Ibom	95.12	95.95	92.92	95.25	94.94	85.71	87.23	86.72	82.11	82.86	78.50
Anambra	97.37	97.22	95.99	95.24	97.32	90.55	91.16	91.21	87.82	88.13	85.10
Bauchi	38.09	42.36	39.62	35.57	30.69	39.86	41.23	35.40	39.98	40.67	40.10
Bayelsa						84.11	83.80	81.34	78.00	80.12	71.90
Benue	55.39	75.52	79.60	74.94	66.25	78.50	76.46	71.83	77.95	76.93	77.40
Borno	34.15	42.25	33.98	29.50	23.62	34.14	38.28	28.96	34.22	36.29	34.30
Cross River	91.21	91.35	93.19	91.14	90.52	85.10	84.18	83.76	81.05	80.59	77.00
Delta	94.71	95.93	94.24	92.93	93.62	86.27	87.12	85.96	82.29	82.71	78.30
Fhnyyi						84.20	85.48	84.31	83.35	80.24	75.00
Edo	94.46	95.55	95.52	95.10	94.50	86.16	86.18	85.65	81.48	81.49	76.80
Ekiti						89.98	86.89	84.91	89.54	86.07	89.10
Enugu	65.75	79.71	75.80	83.99	74.90	77.85	79.81	77.40	78.88	79.85	79.90
Gombe						35.83	34.90	30.35	36.64	34.15	33.40
Imo	91.05	94.15	96.30	95.84	90.00	89.90	88.83	86.75	86.70	86.16	83.50
Jigawa	20.07	25.33	27.70	25.94	18.18	28.00	26.82	23.24	28.15	27.56	28.30
Kaduna	62.54	65.66	58.52	56.98	38.64	62.31	65.88	52.37	64.21	65.99	66.10
Kano	45.32	39.38	40.70	27.94	28.33	43.65	42.99	37.47	45.13	44.80	46.60
Katsina	32.71	29.84	36.34	34.73	32.10	40.07	36.82	37.95	41.94	40.31	43.80
Kebbi	15.78	23.05	30.42	29.69	22.68	31.66	27.98	27.79	32.28	30.44	32.90
Kogi	81.46	84.63	88.00	84.28	76.69	84.25	82.57	78.60	82.38	81.53	80.50
Kwara	91.80	87.91	89.06	87.47	79.19	83.83	83.26	78.90	81.22	80.93	78.60
Lagos	94.45	95.40	94.43	97.61	98.00	88.12	88.60	89.90	84.96	85.20	81.80
Nassarawa						63.85	60.84	59.41	66.13	63.67	66.50
Niger	50.12	40.53	45.93	45.70	38.25	51.72	49.02	47.88	54.61	53.26	57.50
Ogun	96.36	88.14	93.81	89.77	89.38	88.71	85.87	86.49	86.15	84.74	83.60
Ondo	97.76	97.07	93.84	95.98	81.48	89.17	90.79	82.99	86.84	87.64	84.50
Osun	98.54	94.66	97.22	94.84	98.80	90.66	89.38	91.45	87.38	86.74	84.10
Oyo	86.22	92.21	92.15	89.67	83.62	84.63	84.66	80.36	80.86	80.88	77.10
Plateau	70.11	66.04	72.67	67.54	62.67	75.99	72.67	70.94	77.64	75.99	79.30
Rivers	79.03	90.93	90.33	92.49	81.94	83.12	83.12	78.92	79.51	79.66	75.90
Sokoto	28.48	18.54	20.11	20.30	20.72	26.11	25.32	26.41	29.10	28.71	32.10
Taraba	56.26	41.57	42.69	48.02	39.72	50.05	50.29	49.36	54.92	54.64	59.00
Yobe	21.64	16.41	12.06	22.00	19.20	23.70	25.96	27.35	29.64	30.73	35.50
Zamfara						24.94	25.64	26.88	29.37	25.87	26.10
FCT (Abuja)	48.73	73.83	80.68	73.66	77.78	82.04	78.62	80.59	82.72	81.01	83.40
Nigeria	62.91	66.91	66.61	64.74	59.78	64.06	64.21	60.64	62.78	62.85	61.50

Source: National Bureau of Statistics (2007)

TABLE 5
PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN (12 - 17YRS) ENROLLED
IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

States	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Abia	94.69	87.31	89.22	90.47	89.73	78.30	74.61	75.56	76.19	75.82	61.90
Adamawa	69.73	54.61	65.37	67.33	68.00	53.37	45.81	51.19	52.17	52.50	37.00
Akwa Ibom	89.10	91.86	92.16	89.31	90.30	74.05	75.43	75.58	74.16	74.65	59.00
Anambra	96.29	95.91	93.33	94.15	52.39	79.80	79.61	78.32	78.73	57.85	63.30
Bauchi	36.97	43.53	44.82	36.02	26.79	29.59	32.87	33.51	29.11	24.50	22.20
Bayelsa						73.10	78.64	77.17	77.27	64.14	49.50
Benue	65.86	79.24	79.01	78.27	68.89	55.43	62.12	62.01	61.64	56.95	45.00
Borno	36.78	51.74	43.92	35.69	30.56	29.79	37.27	33.36	29.25	26.68	22.80
Cross River	88.26	89.59	90.22	90.28	88.77	75.33	76.00	76.31	76.34	75.59	62.40
Delta	93.72	95.50	95.84	92.22	92.42	75.91	76.80	76.97	75.16	75.26	58.10
Ebonyi						73.95	72.43	72.87	71.20	72.51	43.40
Edo	93.45	94.79	94.64	93.87	91.52	75.78	76.45	76.37	75.99	74.81	58.10
Ekiti						79.62	79.08	78.80	77.05	63.60	71.60
Enugu	75.61	89.56	86.21	86.25	83.82	68.11	75.08	73.41	73.43	72.21	60.60
Gombe						25.11	27.60	27.33	24.16	21.08	17.20
Imo	91.76	95.82	94.02	94.11	86.07	76.88	78.91	78.01	78.06	74.04	62.00
Jigawa	16.96	26.34	30.21	25.00	14.40	15.48	20.17	22.11	19.50	14.20	14.00
Kaduna	66.55	69.68	63.58	68.17	53.92	54.08	55.64	52.59	54.89	47.76	41.60
Kano	42.38	42.96	38.01	30.53	28.82	34.74	35.03	32.56	28.82	27.96	27.10
Katsina	29.33	32.39	32.66	31.27	29.13	25.82	27.35	27.48	26.79	25.72	22.30
Kebbi	29.20	27.92	41.65	32.28	33.97	25.50	24.86	31.73	27.04	27.89	21.80
Kogi	82.58	86.82	85.26	86.56	84.67	71.19	73.31	72.53	73.18	72.24	59.80
Kwara	88.08	94.24	90.39	88.81	83.16	68.09	71.17	69.25	68.46	65.63	48.10
Lagos	83.49	93.72	91.95	94.11	91.04	76.65	81.76	80.88	81.96	80.42	69.80
Nassarawa						50.30	52.21	50.02	48.93	38.35	44.00
Niger	54.96	48.03	52.11	52.68	46.03	44.58	41.12	43.16	43.44	40.12	34.20
Ogun	86.58	86.41	91.06	84.88	78.05	70.19	70.11	72.43	69.34	65.93	53.80
Ondo	94.41	96.74	95.35	94.90	83.91	79.56	80.72	80.03	79.80	74.31	64.70
Osun	93.34	94.55	93.75	93.08	97.09	77.92	78.53	78.13	77.79	79.80	62.50
Oyo	86.93	89.68	90.44	86.33	80.12	75.82	77.19	77.57	75.52	72.41	64.70
Plateau	77.78	76.46	80.01	70.70	73.00	60.14	59.48	61.26	56.60	57.75	42.50
Rivers	73.21	95.76	92.45	92.03	81.28	66.41	77.68	76.03	75.82	70.44	59.60
Sokoto	26.66	22.81	19.33	17.92	19.10	22.28	20.36	18.62	17.91	18.50	17.90
Taraba	68.04	61.05	57.26	54.74	49.19	49.32	45.83	43.93	42.67	39.90	30.60
Yobe	20.41	22.87	14.54	23.89	19.44	21.51	22.74	18.57	23.25	21.02	22.60
Zamfara						35.80	33.09	31.27	30.29	29.20	20.00
FCT (Abuja)	52.82	79.44	80.55	73.83	80.55	55.56	68.87	69.43	66.07	69.43	58.30
Nigeria	68.96	76.67	75.14	73.10	70.00	57.28	61.14	60.37	59.35	57.80	45.60

Source: National Bureau of Statistics (2007)

TABLE 6 Dimensions of Poverty in Nigeria in 1995, 1999 and 2001

POVERTY DIMENSIONS AND INDICATORS	1995	1999	2001
INCOME			
Population below US\$1 per day (%)	70.2		
Population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption (%)	13		7
SERVICES			
Schooling			
Primary school enrolment (female %)	47.8	45.9	
Primary school enrolment (male %)	52.2	54.1	
Youth literacy (% ages 15-24)	81.1		87.8
Health			
Access to essential drugs (% of total population)		10	
Access to physicians (per 100,000 people)		<30*	
Nigerians living with HIV/AIDS (millions)		>5	
Prevalence of HIV, female (% ages 15-24)			5.8
Incidence of tuberculosis (per 100,000 people)			305
Under 5 mortality rate (per 1,000)	187		183
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	112		110
Immunisation, measles (% of children under 12 months)	44		40
Immunisation, full (% of total children)		17	
Maternal mortality (modelled estimate, per 100,000 live births)	1100	704*	
Clean water			
Access to safe drinking water (% of population)		50	
Access to safe drinking water (% of urban population)		80	
Access to safe drinking water (% of rural population)			40
Access to improved water source (% of population)			62
Access to improved sanitation (% of population)			54
EMPOWERMENT			
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (%)			3
GENERAL			
Population (millions)	111.3		125
Average annual growth in GDP		2.9	2.9

Source: World Bank

*baseline data upon which reform projections are based