

CHAPTER 20 MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs) AND NEEDS

Objectives

After studying this chapter, students should be able to:

- define MDGs and NEEDS and mention their aims and objectives;
- list the 8 MDGs, their 18 targets and at least 20 of their indicators;
- explain the role of NEEDS in the road map to the national economic growth;
- identify the strategies used by NEEDS to achieve its objectives;
- point out the problems militating against NEEDS achievement and ways of tackling them;
- correlate MDGs, NEED and Yar'Adua's 7-point Agenda;
- examine best ways to implement NEEDS strategies.

20.1 Meaning of MDGs and NEEDS

The formulation of MDGs was carried out owing to increasing global stress, economic recession, poverty, preventable death, diseases and droughts occasioned by deforestation, desertification, flooding and climate change. This was done by the United Nations Organisation, in its Millennium Summit held in New York, USA in September, 2000. These are times-bound goals agreed on by the UN within a time frame of 15 years to enable developing countries level up on economic and social development. The resolution was signed by 189 member-countries of the UN with realizable set-time targets of 2015. The summit resolves, among others, to find solutions to issues of poverty, low quality education, gender inequality, health crises, environmental degradation and global partnership for development.

The Summit presented the problems confronting the developing countries and by implication the world on an eight-point agenda with a view to finding befitting solutions. The agenda of MDGs are as follows:

- (i) To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
- (ii) To achieve Universal Primary Education.
- (iii) To promote gender equality and empowerment of women.
- (iv) To reduce child and infant mortality.
- (v) To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.
- (vi) To improve maternal health.
- (vii) To develop a global partnership for development.
- (viii) To ensure environment sustainability.

The critical areas stressed by the summit are areas bordering on:

- (a) welfare of the masses
- (b) education
- (c) health
- (d) environment
- (e) global partnership

NEEDS which is the National Economic Empowerment and Developments Strategy, is one of Nigeria's strategies for prosperity. It aims at making an indigenous effort to tackle and reduce the challenges of poverty among Nigerians. It has to do with the development of strategies and plans to meet the basic needs of the ordinary people. It is a Nigerian tool to achieve the global Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It works on the idea that unless a people are empowered economically, it may not achieve the needed growth and development. The National Planning Commission, National Directorate of Employment, Ministries of Labour and Finance with other stakeholders of the economy are left with the duty of drafting economic blueprint and programmes for Nigeria to enable it attain economic self-sufficiency by 2015 and beyond.

20.2 Aims and Objectives of MDGs

Millennium Development Goals are laudable and achievable aims and objectives which, among others, include:

1. To achieve, within the target frame, a world free of hunger, hunger related vices and diseases.
2. To ensure that educational opportunities are equally distributed barring race, creed, gender and social status. This includes providing for free basic education.
3. To educate the masses on the dangers of environmental pollution and consequences of environmental degradation and Green House Effect on life and economy.
4. To foster collaboration and cooperation among nations and by so doing achieve resource and technology transfer for growth and economic empowerment.
5. Discouraging all forms of discriminations, unhealthy social and cultural practices particularly on areas of gender sensitivity.
6. To keep a healthy population devoid of ill health and scourges of deadly diseases that threaten lives and productivity.
7. Ensure education for productivity and efficient management of available resources for optimal development and improvement.
8. To harness the population for wealth creation and to regulate the population targeting at optimal level to achieve adequate distribution of resources for all.

In view of these, the aim to have an egalitarian global society carefully planned and coordinated is the vision of the UN Summit of 2000. The MDGs are seen as the right answers to the social, political and economic problems facing the world. It is also a strategy to redistribute the global resources, technology and manpower concentrated in one part of the world to make room for equitable and even development across the world. MDGs intend to open up buried, locked up and

untapped resources held back by discriminatory practices, low levels of technological attainment, high rate of illiteracy and school drop – outs and uncooperative attitudes among many nations who are rather engaged in mutual fears, distrust and hostility.

20.3 The Eight Agenda of MDGs

The Millennium Development Goals are generally referred to as the 8-Agenda of MDGs. Each of these agenda or goal has achievable targets which induce practical actions and possible strategies for realizing the formulated goals. There are also indicators to guide or reveal level of achievement on any and its target(s).

Goal 1: To Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

- Target 1: Tend to reduce by half the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 per day.
- Indicator 1: Proportion of population below \$1 per day.
- Indicator 2: Poverty gap ratio (i.e. incidence x depth of poverty).
- Indicator 3: Share of poorest quintile in national proportion.
- Target 2: To reduce to half, the number of people suffering from hunger.
- Indicator 4: Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age.
- Indicator 5: Proportion of population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption.

Goal 2: To Achieve Universal Primary Education

- Target 3: To ensure that by 2015, children everywhere, both boys and girls, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling or basic education.
- Indicator 6: Net enrolment ratio in primary school.
- Indicator 7: Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reached grade 5 (Junior – Senior Secondary Education).

Goal 3: To Promote Gender Equality and to Empower Women

- Target 4: To eliminate gender disparity in both primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and at all levels of education by 2015.
- Indicator 9: Ratios of girls to boys in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary education
- Indicator 10: Ratios of literate females to those of males between the ages of 15 and 24.
- Indicator 11: Share of women in wage employment, in non-agricultural sector.
- Indicator 12: Proportion of seats occupied by women in national parliament.

Goal 4: To Reduce Child Mortality

- Target 5: To reduce by two – thirds between 1990 and 2015, the incidence of under-five mortality rate.
- Indicator 13: Under-five mortality rate.
- Indicator 14: Infant mortality rate.

Indicator 15: Proportion of 1 year old children immunized against measles.

Goal 5: To Improve Maternal Health

Target 6: To reduce by three – quarters between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality rate.

Indicator 16: Maternal mortality rate.

Indicator 17: Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel.

Goal 6: To Combact HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases

Target 7: To have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Indicator 18: HIV prevalence among pregnant mothers between the ages of 15 and 24.

Indicator 19: Contraceptive prevalence rate and condom use rate.

Target 8: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

Indicator 21: Prevalence of death rates associated with malaria.

Indicator 22: Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures.

Indicator 23: Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis.

Indicate 24: Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS).

Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Target 9: To integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.

Indicator 25: Proportion of land area covered by forest.

Indicator 26: Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area.

Indicator 27: GDP per unit of energy use (as proxy for energy efficiency) of per \$GDP.

Indicator 28: Carbondioxide emission (per capital) and consumption of ozone – depleting CFCs (ODP tons).

Indicator 29: Proportion of population using solid fuels

Target 10: To reduce by half by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking.

Indicator 30: Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source in both urban and rural areas.

Target 11: To have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.

Indicator 31: Proportion of urban population with access to improved sanitation.

Indicator 32: Proportion of household with access to secure tenure either owned by self or rented.

Goal 8: To Develop Global Partnership for Development

- Target 12: To further develop an open, rule - based predictable non-discriminatory trading and financial system which includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction both nationally.
- Indicator 33: Net Official Development Assistance (ODA) committee donors GNP (targets of 0.7% in total and 0.15% for Least Developed Countries – LDCs).
- Indicator 34: Proportion of ODA to basic social services (basic education, primary health, nutrition, safe water and sanitation).
- Indicator 35: Proportion of ODA that is untied.
- Indicator 36: Proportion of ODA for improvement in small island developing states.
- Indicator 37: Proportion of ODA for transport sector in island – locked countries.
- Target 13: To address the special needs of the LDCs which include: tariff – and quota – free access for LDCs exports, enhanced programme for debt relief for HIPC (Highly Indebted Poor Countries), cancellation of official bilateral debt and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction.
- Indicator 38: Proportion of exports (by value and excluding arms) admitted free of duties and quotas.
- Indicator 39: Average traffics and quotas on agricultural products, textiles and clothing.
- Indicator 40: Domestic and export agricultural subsidies in OECO countries.
- Indicator 41: Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity.
- Target 14: To address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing states.
- Indicator 42: Proportion of official bilateral HIPC debt cancelled.
- Target 15: To deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term.
- Indicator 43: Debt services as a percentage of export of goods and services.
- Indicator 44: Proportion of ODA provided as debt relief.
- Indicator 45: Numbers of countries reaching HIPC's decision.
- Target 16: In cooperation with developing countries, to develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for the youths.
- Indicator 46: Unemployment rate of 15 – 24 years old.
- Target 17: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, to provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.
- Indicator 47: Proportion of population with access to affordable drugs on a sustainable basis.
- Target 18: In cooperation with the private sector, to make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication.
- Indicator 48: Telephone lines per 100 people.
- Indicator 49: Personal computers per 1000 people.

Some of the indicators, particularly from target 12 downwards, are formulated to be monitored separately for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Africa, landlocked countries and small islands, while the targets are levels or points fixed as either minimum or optimum measures (scales) of achievement, the indicators are events or data fixed as evidence for achieving the set targets. By this, it shows that each of the 8 Millennium Development Goals are both measurable and verifiable. Each millennium goal mapped out has a target audience. Some target at women, children and youths while others target countries with special needs, developing and highly indebted and poor countries. Yet, some are targeted at developing the human skills, intellect, social relations, environmental concerns, human needs and general physical and structural development.

MDGs is a global awareness of the plights of the LDCs otherwise known as third world countries (TWCs) and an indepth study of factors very primordial to their underdeveloped status, and eradicating them. It indicates a global move and courage to equitably redistribute world resources and show concern for the under-privileged. It targets on a final onslaught against neo-colonialism which has helped in marginalization and gross underdevelopment and poverty of the African, Caribbean, Latin American and Some Asian states.

20.4 Aims and Objectives of NEEDS

National Economic and Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) is a local content and design for achieving the MDGs. It is the Nigerian and national design or programme aimed at achieving accelerated economic growth through addressing the issues raised by the Millennium Development Goals.

Some of the aims and objectives of NEEDS includes:

1. To have a medium-term framework capable of transforming the economy nationally.
2. To change the economy of Nigeria from rural based economy to technological based one.
3. To empower the youths and women for a robust economy and to give everyone equal and fair share of participating in self and national development.
4. To eradicate poverty and poverty causing conditions among Nigerians by 2015.
5. NEEDS is aimed at promoting private enterprises.
6. To empower the people through education, special programmes and encouraging handwork.
7. Changing the way the government work is done and working towards efficiency and service delivery.
8. Improving on infrastructural facilities such as reliable power supply and good road network for business expansion.
9. Diversifying Nigerian economy by investing in the agricultural sector.
10. To re-orientate Nigerians towards patriotism, hard work and diligence.

The goals or aims no doubt are in line with intentions of the National Directorate of Employment which is a programme meant to empower people through the acquisition of skills for self-sufficiency. The scheme established by General Ibrahim Babangida in November, 1986 was

designed to fight mass unemployment and harness the untapped potential among the youths. National Poverty and Eradication Programme (NAPEP) established by President Olusegun Obasanjo in 1999 complements the NDE's effort. NAPEP was aimed at integrating the poor masses into the nation's economic development plan, and eradicating extreme poverty and hunger from Nigeria through agricultural production, health care, provision of water, conservation of the environment quality education, sanitation, growth of micro-enterprises and massive infrastructural development. As a result of NEEDS, Nigerian, at the national, state and local areas are empowered to have access to capital, stable market and information.

20.5 NEEDS and Economic Empowerment in Nigeria

NEEDS is only a blue print which directs actions towards areas of focus to achieve national economic and social development within the target period. The idea of it is to plan for prosperity. This entails making extensive plans through workshops, holding meetings and conferences to plan for a future Nigeria. It was recognized that Nigeria requires a core value system to enable it advance to the next economic stage. This core value system comprises honesty, industry, respect for elders, discipline, cooperation, accountability, moral, courage, self-confidence, patriotism, patience among others. Basically, NEEDS is based on the projections or demands of the declaration of 2001 which expects all Nigerians "to build a truly great African democratic country, politically united, integrated and stable, economically prosperous, socially organized, with equal opportunity for all, all responsibility from all, to become the catalysts of (African) renaissance, and making adequate all –embracing contributors, sub-regionally, regionally and globally". NEEDS is also based on the contributions of Nigerians through wide consultation and economic summit.

NEEDS looks at four key strategies namely: re-orienting values, reduction of poverty, creation of wealth and employment generation. These formed the basis of President Yar'Adua's 7 – point Agenda of:

- (a) power and energy;
- (b) food security and agriculture,
- (c) wealth creation and employment
- (d) mass transportation
- (e) land forms
- (f) security, and
- (g) good education

These 7-points Agenda of Late Musa Yar'Adua gives a good broad base to the ambitions of NEEDS.

In 2001, Nigerians were consulted from the grassroots to air their opinions on what they need, how to move Nigeria forward and break the shackles of backwardness and poverty. The collation of their diverse opinions gave rise to the draft of NEEDS in March, 2004. Through this process, its states and local chapters were formulated namely the State Economic Empowerment Strategy (SEEDS) and the Local Economic Empowerment Strategy (LEEDS). Every state and local government area has its

own draft reflecting its peculiar needs. The idea is to carry every sector of the economy and tier of government along in order to shore up the economy and make the people more involved in planning and executing of projects, and in benefitting from its dividends.

20.6 Problems Facing NEEDS in Nigeria

Nigeria is an economic paradox with rich resources and where one-third of its population appears superfluously rich leaving two-thirds in abject and shocking poverty. This has limited its development and made it a subsistent economy. This is because only few enjoy the chance to prosperity, successive governments and their officials have engaged in looting of public wealth and corruption, and the not-very-friendly environment for the survival of private businesses.

1. NEEDS would have the problems of poverty and inequality. By 1999, it is estimated that 70% of Nigerians wallow in abject poverty living below \$1 per day. Many Nigerians are poor due to ill-health, natural and man-made disasters, denied access to credit facilities, lack of material resources, government negligence and lack of good education. It is obvious that poverty can be caused by lack of basic social amenities/services; apparent lack of capital and assets; lack of basic physiological needs; lack of economic and political empowerment; inequality and social discrimination, natural and human-caused disaster and conflicts.
2. Another problem in Nigeria militating against the aims of NEEDS is bad, weak and corrupt government. Nigerians have perfected ways to defraud government. Public office holders circumvent the law and draw the oil wealth meant to empower the common man. Political hacks preying on the economy makes development strategies a mere wish.
3. Monocultural economy is a problem to a good economic blueprint. Concentration on the oil wealth with its fits and fluctuations coupled with gross mismanagement of its proceeds and establishment have rendered the nation backward. All tiers of government depend on oil, this has led to deficit budgeting. As at 2004, Nigeria's deficits or debts for servicing annual budgets for five years stood at above N1trillion with no other economic base, the economy dwindles and Nigeria gets poorer.
4. Because of our over reliance on crude oil and agriculture, its allied sector has been neglected. Only foreign nationals which command and control the oil sector are thriving. Owing to lack of basic infrastructure, the environment has appeared hostile to small and medium scale private sector. There are no efficient power supply, security and credit facilities with high rate of corruption and insincerity. Foreign investors are scared away to the detriment of our economy and development.

20.7 Strategies of NEEDS Towards Economic and Development Recovery

In recognition of all these loopholes, the President Obasanjo led administration while formulating NEEDS equipped it with the necessary strategies to embrace the MDGs mandates.

1. The first strategy is that of empowerment of the people through the provision of basic needs such as water and sanitation, nutrition, shelter, clothing, education, health care, physical security and means of livelihood. There is a social charter between the Nigerian Government and the people where the people honestly work hard as the government provides the necessary facilities and enabling platform. This is the genesis of the service compact (Servicom) of 2004.
2. Job creation is yet its next strategy. Nigeria is estimated to have one of the highest urban migrations in the world and urban unemployed rated at about 10.8%. NEEDS mandate was to create in a few years of its establishment about more than 7million jobs through training the people in relevant skills in the world market. This is hoped to be achieved through the cooperation of SEEDS.
3. The creation of affordable housing. Nigerians have need of housing units for comfort. It is a basic need. NEEDS intends to:
 - (a) makes it a lot more easier for developers to buy land to construct affordable houses.
 - (b) encourage the use of local materials in housing construction so as to cut cost.
 - (c) train new generation of architects in designing low-cost buildings, and
 - (d) ensure that state, local government and big construction companies provide low-cost of buildings for their workers.
4. Improvement of health care services which will fight diseases. NEEDS targets diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and reproductive health-related diseases with emphasis on health education. It also created the national Blood Transfusion Service (NBTs) for life recovery, support manufacturing base for reagents and essential drugs, pursue vigorously antenatal, postnatal and family planning services for a virile nation.
5. Strengthening the skill base of Nigerians. Through quality Universal Basic Education, Nigerian children are prepared for functional living. Retraining of teachers should be vigorously pursued and funds should be invested on:
 - (a) mounting entrepreneurial skills and vocational courses;
 - (b) buying equipment and building technical schools;
 - (c) exposing students to ICT education;
 - (d) making French language compulsory for primary and post primary students, and
 - (e) providing special distance learning for nomadic peoples and dropouts.

It also insists that university education be made more technical, scientific and professional oriented.

 - (f) Vulnerable groups must be protected. The urban and rural poor must be protected from more hardship and suffering. Among these are: women, youths, widows and widowers, victims of ethnic violence, crime, unemployment or of loss of income, children and people living with HIV/AIDs.

- (g) Promotion of peace and security is another strategy of NEEDS. This means that the national security would need to be reformed through police – military value orientation, quick intervention strategy and crime detecting skills.
- (h) Through promoting private enterprise, NEEDS tends to allow the economy to be private driven where government is to act as a facilitator, regulator and enabler while the private sector will execute, invest and manage businesses. To achieve this, government would apply liberalization and deregulation policy in important sectors to diminish the role of government.
- (i) Government would be restructured, become smaller but stronger, better skilled and efficient in terms of providing essential services. Benefits of civil servants would be monetized and transactions conducted in transparent manner short of corruption.

NEEDS is different from other previous development plans in three distinct ways viz:

- (a) It is the peoples plan for prosperity.
- (b) It coordinates actions both at the federal, state and local government levels and
- (c) It is a feasible and realizable plan.

20.8 How NEEDS Strategies can be Applied

NEEDS can be better implemented using the networks of State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies (SEEDS) and the Local Economic Empowerment Development Strategies (LEEDS). This therefore requires synergy, cooperation and understanding. In order to achieve its goal, state and local governments are encouraged to develop medium-term development plans indicating in them, benchmarks, targets that are achievable within a given time and guidelines.

Apart from the above governmental institutions, NEEDS has an independent monitoring committee chaired by the Secretary to the Federal Government and made up of the private sector and appointed government officials, the civil society and the press. It reports to the presidents and the National Assembly. NEEDS also has inputs from the Joint Planning Board, National Council on Development Planning and the National Economic Council.

Within three years of its formation, NEEDS evolved other ways of coordinating its activities which are matching grants scheme from the Federal Government to State and Local government; Peer Review Mechanism and Public Private Partnerships to facilitate coordination, reforms in the National statistical system and financial backing for the plan to attract foreign investors in the economy.

To achieve this, NEEDS concentrates first on clear vision, sound values and lasting principles. The fundamental principles of NEEDS are:

- 1. That the security and welfare of the people are fundamental to government.
- 2. In controlling the economic resources of the state, the state should ensure equality, social justice, welfare, freedom and equal opportunities for all.
- 3. The state must make policies reflecting;
 - (a) balanced economic planning and development
 - (b) effective utilization of the mental resources to the benefits of all.

- (c) equitable distribution of wealth among the social classes of the people.
 - (d) welfare packages for all citizens such as adequate shelter, food, reasonable national minimum wage, old age care, pensions, unemployment allowances, sick benefits and care for the disabled be integrated.
 - (e) equal and qualitative educational opportunities for all.
 - (f) national ethnic anchored on religious tolerance, self reliance, patriotism, discipline, integrity, social justice and dignity of labour.
4. To create an incentive platform to celebrate diligent private enterprise and excellence.
 5. To establish a better partnership with all major players in the economy.
 6. To ensure the creation of a public sector with prompt, good and quality service delivery.

Summary

- Millennium Development Goals are the light critical global vision and programmes conceived at the UN Summit in 2000 to encourage equitable distribution of global resources and socio-economic development, while NEEDS are the Nigerian strategic document and plan to achieve the MDGs by the projected 2015 set target.
- The aims and objectives of the MDGs are all geared towards achieving the goals and formulated to scale down poverty and underdevelopment in the Least Developed Countries. The only way to indigenize the process falls on NEEDS and Yar'Adua's 7-point Agenda.
- A proper master plan was developed to arm the NEEDS in facilitating economic development which are centred around private sector economy and developing the potential of the people with whom the government and other major stakeholders of the economy forge a standing pact and partnership.

Objective Questions

1. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were approved by a UN Summit in 2000 held in _____.
 - A. Hague
 - B. New York
 - C. Washington DC
 - D. Rome
2. The set time target for the MDGs is _____.
 - A. 1990-2015
 - B. 2005 – 2015
 - C. 2000 – 2015
 - D. 2004 – 2015
3. The MDGs has _____ number of targets.

- A. 8
 - B. 45
 - C. 18
 - D. 16
4. The MDGs goal which touched on gender mainstreaming is _____.
- A. goal 6
 - B. goal 5
 - C. goal 1
 - D. goal 3
5. The establishment of _____ was in line with MDGs directives.
- A. FRSC
 - B. NDLEA
 - C. NAPEP
 - D. EFCC
6. _____ contributed to the NEEDS document.
- A. NBTS
 - B. Juru Declaration
 - C. Parliamentary debates
 - D. Local Government Reforms
7. NEEDS was formally launched in the year _____.
- A. 2004
 - B. 2001
 - C. 2000
 - D. 1999
8. One of these were not part of the programmes established in course of implementing NEEDS
- A. NBTS
 - B. Servicom
 - C. Rollback Malaria
 - D. National Emergency Funds
9. _____ is one of the planning agencies of NEEDS.
- A. FERMA
 - B. NEMA
 - C. National Economic Council
 - D. NYSC
10. One of the core values of NEEDS is _____.
- A. charity
 - B. discipline
 - C. social justice

D. security and welfare of the people

Essay Questions

1. How would you explain the concept.
(i) MDGs (ii) NEEDS
2. Compare and contrast MDGS and NEEDS aims and Objectives
- 3a. List out the eight MDGs goals.
- b. List 3 targets of any 3goals and outline their indicators.
- 4 Outline the strategies of NEEDS
- 5a. What are the major principles of NEEDS?
- b. How can NEEDS be properly applied to meet with its goals?