



At the end of this chapter, students should be able to:

- explain the current economic plans in Nigeria;
- explain the eight main targets of MDGs;
- explain the four main goals of NEEDS;
- explain the key parameters that will help Nigeria to attain Vision 2020.

18.1 Introduction

Nations around the world experience varying economic situations that can either be positive or negative. It should be noted that the negative situation or condition cannot persist forever. In order to salvage the economy of such nations, different economic plans have been suggested and also implemented.

Nigeria as a nation is not exempted from the aforementioned situation. This chapter shall examine economic plans that include the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies (NEEDS) and Vision 2020.

18.2 Economic Plans

This refers to a series of economic steps to be carried out or goals to be accomplished. The following are the current economic plans in Nigeria:

(A) Millennium Development Goals

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were meant to address the problem of poverty and promote sustainable development.

Nigeria, which was one of the richest 50 countries in the early 1970s, has retrogressed to become one of the 25 poorest countries at the beginning of the 21st century. Nigeria is also known to be the sixth largest exporter of oil and at the same time she hosts the third largest number of poor people after

countries like China and India. In the country's bid to address the problem of poverty and promote sustainable development, the United Nations Millennium Declaration was adopted in September 2000. This was at the instance of heads of countries (both rich and poor) whose target was to eradicate poverty, promote human dignity and equality and even achieve peace, democracy and environmental stability. MDGs has eight main targets and they are as follows:

(a) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: By the year 2015 (target year), there should be reduction in the incidence of poverty by half, i.e., half the proportion of people living on less than US\$1 a day and those suffering hunger.

(b) Achieve universal basic education: By 2015, (target year), there should be achievement of universal primary completion.

(c) Promote gender equality: There will be elimination of gender disparities in primary and secondary education enrolment by 2005 and by 2015 equity at all levels should be achieved.

(d) Reduce child mortality: It is expected that the rate of child mortality should be reduced by two-thirds by 2015.

(e) Improve maternal health: There should be reduction by three-quarters in the proportion of women dying at childbirth by the year 2015.

(f) Combat AIDS, malaria and other diseases: There should be a reverse in the incidence of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases to about half by the year 2015.

(g) Ensure environmental sustainability: There should be reduction by half in the proportion of people without access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015. By the year 2020, there should be achievement of a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

(h) Develop a global partnership for development: This goal commits north and south to work together to achieve an open rule-based trading and financial system, more generous aid to countries committed to poverty reduction and relief for the debt problems of developing countries.

18.3 National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy

National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) is the Nigerian reform-based medium-term plan for economic recovery, growth and development. NEEDS was conceptualised in the year 2003, it was launched in 2004 and it was as a response to the numerous challenges facing Nigeria. Some of the challenges are as follows:

- Near collapse of social and economic infrastructure

- Per capita GDP remained stagnant prior 1990 and grew at 2.2% during years 1999 to 2003.

- Total GDP, as at 2001, was US\$45 billion.

- Per capita income was US\$300 a year.

- External and domestic debt was 70% of GDP and was difficult to service debt, while domestic debt rose by 200% between 1999 and 2002, which was about US\$9.0 billion.

• Real sector was dominated by primary production sectors such as agriculture (41% of GDP), crude oil (13% of GDP) and manufacturing (5%–7% of GDP).

• High macroeconomic volatility (exchange rate, inflation rate, budget deficit, GDP growth rate, GDP per capita), which was among the worst in the world

• High level of poverty (about 70%)

• Dysfunctional education system (low standard, institution decay, youth militancy, etc.)

• Unfriendly business environment (public sector dominance, rent seeking, weak institutions, corruption, high cost of transacting business).

• High unemployment rate (urban 12.4%, rural 23.2%).

• General insecurity of life and property Due to the above-mentioned numerous issues affecting the economy, an integrated and coordinated development approach was adopted, with the sub-national governments developing complimentary medium-term plans. There came the State Economic

Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEEDS).

Goals of NEEDS/SEEDS

There are four main goals and they are as follows:

- (a)** Poverty reduction
- (b)** Wealth creation
- (c)** Employment generation
- (d)** Value reorientation

18.4 Vision 2020

A vision must be supported by a clear and realistic path to its realization. Vision 2020 as documented by Nigeria states that “By year 2020, Nigeria will be one of the 20 largest economies in the world, able to consolidate its leadership role in Africa and establish itself as a significant player in the global economic and political arena”.

Some Key Parameters or Variables that will Help Nigeria to Attain Vision 2020

(i) Polity: By 2020, the country will be peaceful, harmonious and democratically stable.

(ii) Macroeconomy: A sound, stable and globally competitive economy with a GDP of not less than US\$900 billion and a per capita income of not less than US\$4,000 per annum.

(iii) Infrastructure: Adequate services that support the full mobilisation of all economic sectors.

(iv) Education: A modern and vibrant education system that provides every Nigerian with the opportunity and facility to achieve his or her maximum potential and provides the country with adequate and competent manpower.

(v) Health: A health sector that supports and sustains a life expectancy of

not less than 70 years and reduces to the barest minimum the burden of infectious diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS and other debilitating diseases.

(vi) Agriculture: A modern technologically enabled agricultural sector that fully exploits the vast agricultural resources of the country, which will also ensure national food security and contribute significantly to foreign exchange earnings. The listed parameters above are not exhaustive.

Summary

â€¢ This chapter examined the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the eight main targets it is set to achieve. National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) and the challenges and its goals were also examined.

â€¢ The chapter also looked into State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEEDS).

â€¢ Further, Vision 2020 was examined too and the parameters that will help Nigeria to attain Vision 2020 were also discussed.

Class Activity

1. The teacher should ask students to visit the Internet to find out how far the main targets of the Millennium Development Goals have been achieved in Nigeria.

Revision Questions

Objective Questions

1. Millennium Development Goals was meant to address the problem of:

- (a) Unemployment
- (b) Poverty and promotion of sustainable development
- (c) Inflation
- (d) Irregularity of power
- (e) Debt burden

2. There are _____ main targets of MDGs.

- (a) 6 (b) 8
- (c) 7 (d) 10
- (e) 12

3. National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) was launched in Nigeria in:

- (a) 2009 (b) 2010
- (c) 2004 (d) 1999
- (e) 2011

4. Some key parameters that will help Nigeria to attain Vision 2020 are:

- (a) Polity
- (b) Macroeconomy and infrastructure

- (c) Education and health
- (d) Agriculture
- (e) (a), (b), (c) and (d)

5. There are _____ main goals of National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS).

- (a) 3 (b) 1
- (c) 4 (d) 6

Essay Questions

1. (a) What do you understand by the term “Millennium Development Goals”?

(b) What are the main targets of Millennium Development Goals?

2. (a) What is National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy?

(b) What are the challenges that Nigeria faced that led to the launching of National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy?

3. Explain the following goals of National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy:

- (i) Poverty reduction
- (ii) Wealth creation
- (iii) Employment generation
- (iv) Value reorientation

4. (a) What do you understand by Vision 2020?

(b) Explain five of the variables that will help Nigeria to attain Vision 2020.

5. Explain how Nigeria can achieve the four main goals of National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy.

Glossary

MDGs: Millennium Development Goals

NEEDS: National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy

SEEDS: State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy

VISION 2020: This is a vision that works towards ensuring that Nigeria will be one of the twenty largest economies in the world by the year 2020.