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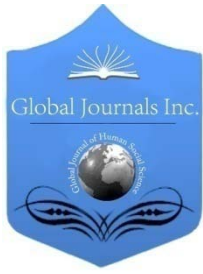
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Environcentricism: A Philosophy for a Constantly Changing World

By Dr. Valentine Ehichioya Obinyan

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Abstract- The present disastrous predicament of flood in the world today more than ever calls for an immediate attention of every one inclusive to participate in the ongoing campaign for a more environcentric world. We live in an ever constant-changing world, both for the betterment as well as the destruction of man and his world where it is either you go out and come to meet your house and property on fire or floating on a miraculous manifested ocean from a five minutes rain¹ or perhaps meet your environment-house and properties being transformed by a contemporary construction technique or low cast consumption code to enhance better living. By and large it is an 'either or' universe instigating a need to adopt an environcentric philosophy worthy of connecting the disconnects and reviving our lost environmental values or valuation and obligations. From an environcentric philosophical dimension, The research examines the problems associated with nature or the universe and attempts answers to certain important questions as its energetic force; what is the cause of this environmental disbalance, how do we remedy the situation and make our universe habitable for all life forms and those of the next generation. To ensure an exhaustive analysis, this work shall be phenomenological and critical-analytic in its method. This study concludes with the affirmation that an environcentric philosophy which identifies and respects the deep spiritual connection between man and his environment to ensure a value and purposeful and peaceful existence.

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I. INTRODUCTION

For millions of years, man has existed on planet earth and from scientific exploration it is purportable that there are life forms all over the universe. For this reason, the universe is life itself. However down through the ages, cracking deeply to dissolve the mystery of the universe either primitively or scientifically, has informed various dimensions and theories such as the scientific inquiries of philosophers like; Akinaton, Himotep, Amenotep, Tempels, Senghor, Darwin, Newton about the origin of man and the world and those of Socrates, Plato, Pythagoras and Heraclitus' ultimate stuff of nature, that is, earth, air, fire and water¹. These beliefs about the natural world around us, has greatly influenced human clinging as well as the origin and development of societal cultures and traditions especially their mythologies of the origin of man and the universe, the forces of nature and their presence in our natural environment such as in the rivers, lakes and springs, in the wind, cloud, thunder storms and other

sacred elements, places and times. Over the years, through these theories, traditions and customs, we have developed certain understanding of our natural environment and devised better ways of respecting, caring as well as combating environmental challenges even though these have occasioned conflicting questions of faith and worship.

Moreover, having been equipped with knowledge of earth shapes and components, weather kinds and patterns, water circulations and levels, chemical compositions and reactions, soil structures and properties, seed germination and food preservation, energy generation and conversion, we concluded the problem with the universe has been solved. Thereafter, we saw the world in parts rather than a whole corpus, we immoderately exploited rather than reverence, we took so much away and gave nothing, we carelessly changed even those that shouldn't be and invented all the 'ought not's'. Feeling fulfilled as the king of the universe, we declared we had knocked at the door of immortality and having lost our spiritual connection and true essences, we deified science as the savior of the world. But we have not long wallowed in the ocean of wealth and privileges of industrialization or globalization before we were being infringed by the destruction of our once celebrated achievements.

Consequently, the earth is in danger from our taste for development, we are obliged to act fast and preserve, respect and care for it by adopting an environcentric philosophy. It is obviously how far this will go to changing and catering for the ecological disbalances in the globe that this philosophy of involvement shown in the study; 'Environcentricism: A Philosophy for a Constantly Changing World' is informed.

It should be borne in mind that a philosophical approach to the study of the environment does not underestimate the vitality of other dimensions to this study such as ecology which is the study of organisms, in relation to their habitat and the interaction between the living and non-living components of such ecosystem. There are natural and manmade ecosystems such as the mangrove, swamps, fresh water, island, ocean, paddock or the earth. Ecology tends to understand the complex web of linkage, relationship and interdependencies as such². With ecology, homeostasis which is the psychological property of relatively constant condition such as

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constant internal temperature within the body in the face of changing external conditions, man has been equipped with the understanding that ecosystems have the maximum propensity to subsist in the events of decay and competition. The ecosystem comprises of certain components and each of these possess genetic structure which has the propensity to adapt stably to environmental dynamics and this is maintained except massively affected by an external factor disrupting patterns of relationships and possible collapse of the ecosystem. The possibility of this has heightened the need to study the environment and erect advocacies for environmental consciousness and protection that will enable better and healthier living conditions of all life forms. To this, philosophy is a part as it is the fundamental study of man and the realities around him³ (physical and metaphysical realities of his environment or the universe).

II. THE ENVIRONMENT: CONCEPT AND PROBLEMS

The concept of the environment refers to the atmosphere, the ecosystem, the universe, the earth, the world e.t.c. It also connotes the meta-physical, physical, behavioural, and operational. To a large extent, this concept has been viewed from different dimensions. It can be seen as the atmosphere which according to Mourice Strong, "is the principal medium through which human activity is interacting to shape the conditions on which the future of life on the planet depends".⁴ it can also be seen as the totality of life. It can also be seen as the whole corpus of both macro and micro bio-interaction. It can be seen as the complex network of plant and animal life-forms. More so, it can be seen as the unit of life-dependent resources, necessary for development and continuity of plants and animals. In our context, environment is considered as the unit from which resources needed for human sustenance and development are obtained and into which human development is directed. It implies the components of our ecological system [earth], the interactions therein and the change that occur. In addition, it is the structure and organization of the physical setting.

a) Issues of the Environment

Many would assume that the issues of the environment points direct to the nature, components or form of the natural world, to a large extent, the issues of the environment, are basically not restricted to the empirical or physical world itself but also it transcends from the empirical realities of the of physical world to include those of metaphysical world, the outer space and planets in fact, it subsumes the whole corpus of the universal form.

The objective of such analysis on the environment as it may, are for the primary purpose of committing man to an active participation in the

teleological movement of our world, understanding the deep spiritual connection between man and the universe and implications of his activity on the environment. No wonder an environcentric philosophy as this is informed towards the sharpening of such understanding. Dokun Oyesholo in his, '*Essentials of Environmental Issues, the World and Nigeria in Perspective*', noted that:

A study of ecological and environmental issues reveals that national as well as international survival of our world depends on our involvement in the very survival of the human species on planet earth. Therefore the meaning and objectives of the environmental issues can only be established within the context of survival of our world.⁵

To buttress this further, the results of human activities affecting the environment are multidimensional they range from physical to spiritual categories. The countless ecological disorder in the world shows practically that man and the environment, are truly in a dialogue. And the continuous disastrous occurrences in the globe, ranging from the flood destruction in Nigeria around the River Niger region-Adamawa, Lagos, Kogi, Delta, Edo state⁶ etc, in Europe Spain around Malaga, in America around California, the tycoon In Asia around Japan and the fog gathering in Nepal, the earthquake and post earthquake no electricity effect in Haiti, the electricity two days short down in India, the shark saga in Australia, Egypt/Ethiopia Nile valley ownership crisis⁷ and many others around the world are indication that man is in fact not compromising. All these have left and still leave their indelible marks as the cause the death of millions of people, plants and animals and render many handicap, homeless, losing properties, land and cultural heritages.

b) Problems of the Environment

From the above analysis, we can stretch that issues of the environment borders on the problems of consistent increasing climate change with its causes and consequences, pollution and toxic waste, population, urbanization, etc which has adverse effect on the social, economical, political and religious well being of all life forms. However, these are assembled largely on two broad categories, which can be conceptualized as causes and effects or aspects of the problem; the countless ecological problems such as depletion, acid rain, fog, global warming, and many others. The second category assembles the basic effects of these environmental problems.

i. The problem of climate change

What is climate change?, Is a question that man has over the years not fully digested given that the more we explain and predict, the further it eludes us. To understand climate change, it is important we give an analysis of climate, weather and finally climate change.

Though they are very closely related to each in the study of meteorology and climatology, the term climate can be confused with weather. We are often conversant with the notions of warm weather, rainy day, cold morning or a chilly night but never with notions like 'today's climate is warm'. Weather therefore refers to any causal remark about the atmospheric conditions of a particular area at a particular time. It is never static and cannot be generalized. This account for why in a country, we can speak of particularly warm or very sunny area as well as a particularly cold or very rainy area, a place can be subjected to inconsistent weather changes at any given time. In fact it varies incredibly.

When we speak of climate, we mean the average atmospheric conditions of an area over a considerable time. From atmospheric observations, climatic averages amount to a desirable minimum period of 35 years. This only made possible through a systematic observation, recording and processing of the of various elements of climate such as rainfall, temperature, humidity, air pressure, winds, clouds and sunshine before homogeneity of the climatic mode or average can be arrive at. The degree of climatic or weather variables differs within a particular country. To a large extent, the climatic conditions of temperate latitude variates more than those of the tropics. It for this reason Goh Cheng Leong noted in his, '*New Oxford Progressive Geography: Certificate Physical and Human Geography*', that:

The climate of British Isles is so changeable that many people have commented that Britain has no climate, only weather. Conversely, the climate of Egypt is so static that it makes a good deal of sense when people say that Egypt has no weather, only climate⁸.

The atmosphere is made up of gases and vapour, and receives incoming solar energy from the sun giving rise to what is called climate. Climate change therefore is the continuous movement of one atmospheric condition into another leaving certain alterations in environmental conditions which could favourably or unfavorably determine the activities or life of man. Scientists believe strongly that the rise in the earth average temperature, extremes in weather, the melting of ice caps and glaciers, and death of coral reefs and important species are descriptive indications of global climate change. Although from all angle, the subject has been debated, many hold strongly that the burning of coal, oil, and natural gas-fossils fuels that emits high amount of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere-by cars and industries are the causes of climate change.

Many environmental experts believe that those emissions act like a greenhouse, slowing to the bearest minimal the escape of heat from the earth into space and in turn causing an ever increasing rise in

temperature. Since as trees absorb carbon dioxide, large-scale deforestation may also contributes immensely to climate change. Climate change contributes to the extinction of animal species perhaps as much as 1,000 times more than natural rates. This also extends to the extinction of man and plants in the globe in an unestimated degree. Many reasons accounts for this changes in the climate and have been seen as elements by some scientists but we shall consider them as fundamentals of the climates.

We will recall that in a philosophical dimension of environmental analysis as noted earlier, the fact of causes and effects is indelible hence it is important to note that certain factors affect these fundamentals of the climate and the effects such causes is climate change which further results to the above mentioned issues of the environment.

III. MAN AND THE ENVIRONMENT: THE ONTOLOGICAL RELATIONSHIP

a) From Esan Eco-Philosophy

Every society has its belief; these beliefs are a product of their logical reflections on 'the realities of their environment which forms the basis for their actions and guide to their attitude and behavior towards the 'other' (man, plant and animals, animate and inanimate) in the community.

As I noted elsewhere, the world for the Esan⁹ people is characterized by 'Ahu'- forces, hence it is possible or commonly heard among the Esan that '*Elimhin ru Erhan*' -there are spirits in the trees also in rivers, forest, hills, mountains etc. this is not to say the Esan believes in animism in a derogatory sense. But in saying that things in nature or material things are alive, the Esan is consistent with his basic assumption about nature. He means that '*Orionlen*' - life forces, permeates the whole universe and that matter and spirit are one inseparable reality. For the Esan people, behind every natural thing and intimately co-existing with them is a non-material power. This power is '*Orionlen*' or '*Etinosa*'- life-force which he beliefs to have existed from the beginning of the world. This force is active and man, animals and spirit share from this life-force and it can be communicated to things. Spirit and mythical beings possess this life-force. It is impersonal and unconscious yet constitutes the individuality of every living thing and this can vary quantifiably and qualitatively¹⁰. Life-force is under the direction or guidance of the soul though it does not vary quantifiably or qualitatively. The Esan has no clarity of such forces but only describes them in terms of their functions or manifestations.

The above metaphysically shows that the Esan belief in the reality of an existing interaction between these forces in their environment. Hence for them the interactions between man and man; man and nature and man and God are those between vital forces, souls and or powers. In this dimension it becomes inferable that superior or higher forces directly influence lower ones while the lower ones

have indirect influence on superior ones. The product of such belief is the fact that as beings or forces exist in a mystical network of interrelatedness, the standard of good behavior depends on maintaining, respecting and strengthening relationship between vital-forces in the environment.

The world for the Esan people consists of the physical reality, which we see-'*Ebuwedage*'. It is not a static reality but a dynamic reality, which opens up to '*Agbon meyedage*'-the world I cannot see, the world beyond. The world both seen and unseen is one reality. In the world beyond, there is the realm of the nature spirits, both the good and the bad, and there is the realm of ancestors, realm of man and the realm of things, plant and animals or animate and inanimate things. Esan cosmology is affirmed further by J. Mbiti's conclusion on the African ontology in his; '*Introduction to African Religion*', when he said: "the Africans have their own ontology ... but it is an extremely anthropocentric ontology in the sense that everything is seen in terms of its relation to man".¹¹ The Esan people belief strongly that man is the owner and ruler of the world. Better put; the central focus of the universe hence they say; "*Oria yan agbon*". In Benedict Uabor's reference to Akhilomen's analysis on the anthropocentric nature of the Esan cosmology, this point is made emphatic when he noted that:

b) *Esan Anthropocentric Cosmology*

Man tends to be anthropocentric. He regards every other thing to exist for his sake and that, it is through him, in him and for him that things derive and have their meaning and significance. All things man feels is centering round him and, made for him. This is because he recognized his unique and distinct position in creation.¹²

From a purely naturalistic dimension, the Esan see the human person as a sacred being, possessing the spark of the Supreme Being; an '*Imago Dei*' –Image of God-'*Oria no Osanobua maeh*', possessor of value and dignity, and a communitarian being. '*Oria*'-man, in Esan ontology, is considered as the central focus of the universal form whose duty is to control, promote, protect and utilize nature or the components of his environment according to the desire of his maker. In Esan cosmological belief therefore '*Oria*', that is man, in this light, sees the universe in terms of himself and endeavors to live in harmony with everything in nature even where there is no existential relation of life. In this way the visible and invisible parts of the universe are at man's disposal through physical, mystical and religious means.¹³ The following is an illustration of the anthropocentric nature of the Esan ontology.

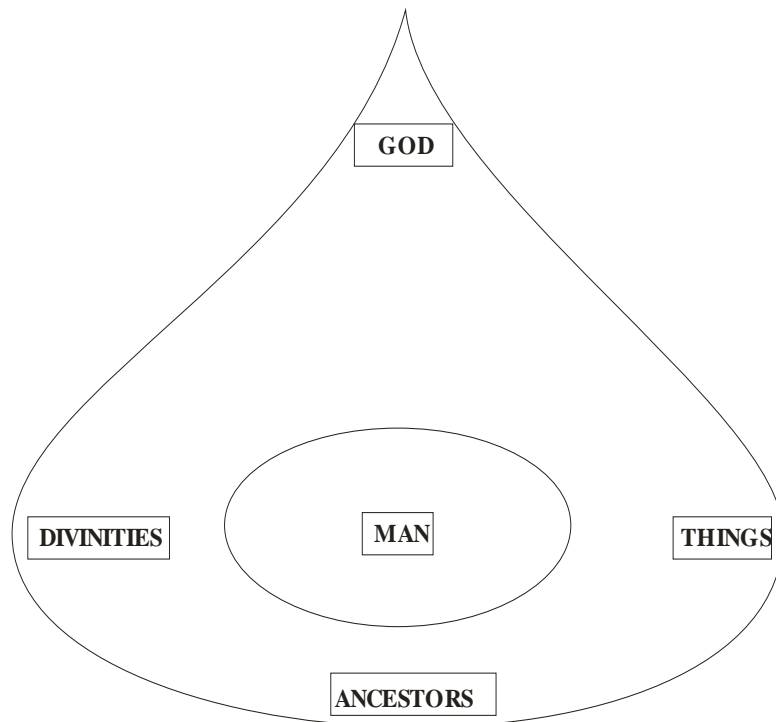


Figure 1 : Esan Anthropocentric Cosmology.

From the above, we can understand that for the Esan people, man is at the center of everything in the

universal form, this accounts for why the Esan commonly say '*Oria yan agbon*'. This shows also why they belief that

God made everything for man, placed him in the center of the universe and gave him power to utilize them for his good and theirs. By implication, man must reverence nature as the altar of God who is at the top of everything. Man must also understand that even though he is at the center of all, he is not the measure of all as there are forces that are higher than him, thus although all things were made for him, in his dealings with these forces, he must understand they can mar or make him. He must live in harmony with nature¹⁵.

The question we can draw from the above is, how much of these do we still have in our world today. How much does our eco-thought serve as a fundamental guide to our actions or activities in the universe? The answer to this is clearly negative as man's craving for development and 'super man' has accessioned an immoderate scientific exploitation, lack of care consciousness for the environment which has vulcanized a ever increasing threat to human lives and those of plants and animals as well as other animate and inanimate existents in the environment. Indeed a 'disturbia'. Most interesting is the fact that we are at once the asker and the asked, the problem and the solution, the cause and the affected. We are indeed trapped in a shadow we cannot run from. Hence we must respond.

IV. THE EMERGENCE OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND THE REACTION: A HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Although, man has consistently concerned himself with global environmental changes at different points in history especially from the Noah's ark saga in the B.C. era to the global warming indices of our contemporary time. However, it is purportable that recent envirocentric concerns heightened with the conveying of United Nation Conference on the Human Environment (UNICHE) in Stockholm back in 1972¹⁶. This invention informed a priority to human environmental challenges.

Certain past, present and future possible variable in forms of causes and effects such as the 1783 "remarkable fog", the acid rain, pollution and resource exploitation, occasioned the 1972 general assembly of the United Nation on human environmental challenges. One of the pressing issues at that time was the strong desire of developing countries for urgent industrialization like other countries around them. In order to harmonize the divide between the developed and developing countries, in Stockholm, Maurice Strong, the Secretary General of the United Nation Conference on the Human Environment (UNICHE) charged 27 experts with the duty of reaching a consensus to address the needs to institute principles through which the occasions of economic and social development can be regulated so that new international agreements do not excessively

burden on them and new legislation reflecting the unequal levels of development be reversed to center on the principle of sovereign equality. No doubt the result of the meeting in Gland, Switzerland in June 1971 was the no other than the immediate link between development and the environment and the concept of sustainable development as noted by Williams, cemented the alliance¹⁷.

Moreover, the 1980s dimension to the emergence of global environment change on the international political schema was a consequence of a number of certain highly disturbing environmental factors. Our planet is threatened by global warming, ozone depletion, biological diversity loss, deforestation, desertification, environmental disasters and degradation. In the same breath there are global ills besetting humanity prominent among these are AIDS, malaria, crime, drugs, social brake down and war. But basically, the political change in Eastern Europe influenced by the adoption of certain pragmatic theories, the consequences of the just ended Cold War which minimized the existing tensions between competing blocs who began the shift of attention from nuclear weapons threat to the dangers inherent in consistent human destructive activities adversely affecting the human and physical environment. Others are the of Bhopal and Chernobyl disaster, the great famine in Africa, heightened global oil spills, like the Exxon Valdez and indeed other environmental catastrophes in the globe. Furthermore, increasing scientific evidence of the environment and the discovery in 1985 of a hole in the ozone layer above Antarctica and warning from scientists about the dangers of global warming were dramatic illustration of the impact of environmentally insensitive economic growth¹⁸. This no doubt influenced the Brundtland Report in 1987 that current policies were unsustainable for planet and future economic prosperity¹⁹ and of course the need to convene UNCED Earth summit in 1992 Rio²⁰.

From all indication, paying particular attention to the issues of the environment as they consistently threaten human life and those of other species is an imperative in our time and this is the very interest of any philosophy of environmentalism. No wonder in event of global integrative philosophy, there have been an ever increasing demand on care for the human person and the environment as well as a radical orientation process through media both local and international, conference/seminars, publications as well as class room instructions for environmental care consciousness, human activities and its effect on the environment, the relationship between man and the environment; in fact a wide range of related topics as the safety and health of man and other living things in the universe depends on man.

V. PHILOSOPHY OF ENVIRONMENTALISM: TOWARDS SAFETY AND HEALTH OF MAN AND OTHER EXISTENTS IN THE UNIVERSE

Indeed, many may wonder how philosophy becomes so involved in such an environmental issue, what does it have to contribute? Is she through with the issues of; God, Evil, Death, Spirit, Language, Being, Substances and indeed a host of other problems? The answer is no because human existence is a constantly unfolding reality. Therefore considering the other problems of philosophy, such; Essence and Existence, Appearance and reality, Unity and Diversity, Change and Permanence, Causality, even the mind body interaction and the challenges of Determinism, the interwovenness of philosophy and environment is fundamental. J. Omoregbe noted that:

If u ask ten different philosophers what philosophy is, you are likely to get ten different answers. The simple question "what is philosophy?" is very difficult to answer. A person who for the first time tries to find out what philosophy is, is often disappointed to learn that there is no universally accepted definition of philosophy. Philosophers themselves disagree on what philosophy is or how it should be defined²¹.

The reason for the above is singularly that philosophy is the mother of all the sciences. Hence it is not limited in scope and its objective however considered, is projected at human existential wellbeing. As earlier noted therefore, philosophy is the study of man and the realities around him in a view of sharpening his attitude and concept. Observing the analysis on the ontological relationship between man and the environment in Esan-eco philosophy, a unique attitude of openness to nature in positive and sacred relationship is at once implied. It is not out of place therefore to affirm that this forms yet another dimension of man's essential characteristics or mode-of-being-in-the-world. No wonder Okolo's noted that:

...Nature is the product of a good God. Nature is not there simply/and solely to be exploited, subdued, and absolutely conquered. But for the African, it is to be venerated as the source of his material needs, the tombs of his ancestors and shrines of his gods. He obtains his needed material goods not so much by conquering and mastering it as by submitting to it and venerating it as well. Injury or damage to nature is a breach of Cosmic harmony and order which attracts penalties from the gods and when venerated, good fortune and blessings, material and spiritual, abound²².

Maquet puts the same idea across when he said that: "Nature, which man can never ignore is vast and indifferent. It hurts as much as it protects and the good

men as often as the bad are in turn victim and beneficiary"²³. This significantly identifies that the fact that nature is not only sacred and mystifying, but it is also the spring point of man's being and existence hence he seeks harmony with it by sharing in its life, spiritual and material blessing.

a) *Significance, Scope And Objective of Philosophy of Environmentalism*

From the Esan Eco-philosophy, it is hypothetically purportable that 'we are because nature is' just as 'nature is because we are' thus man and nature or his environment are ontologically connected. Environment belongs to all living beings and thus is, important for all. Each and every body of whatever occupation he or she may have, is affected by environmental issues like global warming, depletion of ozone layer, dwindling forest, energy resources, loss of global biodiversity etc a philosophy for human regulation or a moral code for living is thus important.

Philosophy of Environmentalism as a study, asks the why, the what, the how, and the where of mans existence in the universe. It raises and analyses fundamental questions about the processes in water, air, land, soil and organisms which leads to pollute, degrade or affect environmental and human well being. It also strives to show with its entire tool, that man's activity has great or disastrous effect on the environment. It helps us for establishing standard and consciousness, for safe, clean and healthy natural ecosystem. It also deals with important issues like how can there be safe and clean drinking water, hygienic living conditions and clean and fresh air, fertility of land, healthy food and development. It strongly proposes a sustainable environmental ethics that will guide human actions in the universe thus encourages environmental law, and joins with other human endeavors such as business administration, environmental protection, management and environmental engineering, medical and laboratory sciences which are immersing as new career opportunities for environment protection and managements.

b) *Scope of Philosophy of Environmentalism*

Philosophy of Environmentalism is a multidisciplinary science whose basic aspects have a direct relevance to every section of the society. Its main aspects therefore will include among others:

- Establishing standard and consciousness for human and environmental value
- Re-echo Ethics for healthy human environmental activities and sustainable environmental management.
- Engage the public and professionals in an epistemological awareness of the ontological relationship between man and the environment
- Ensure a culture of conservation of nature and natural resources.

- Conservation of biological diversity.
- Revamp civil responsibility to man and the environment
- Set sustainable standard for control of environmental pollution.
- Stabilization of human population and environment.
- Expose and engage civil society and professionals in social issues in relation to development and environment.
- Encourage development of non-polluting renewable energy system and providing new dimension to nation's security.
- Ensure a philosophical dimension of an environmental study.

c) *Objective of Philosophy of Environmentalism*

With the ever increasing developmental activities by modern man, large scale degradation of natural resources have been occurred, the public has to be educated about the fact that if we are degrading our environment we are actually harming ourselves. To encourage meaningful public participation and environment, it is necessary to create awareness about environment pollution and related adverse effects.

The United Nations conference on Environment and Development held in Rio-de-Janeiro²⁰, followed by Earth summit on sustainable Development have highlighted the key issues of global environmental concern and have attracted the general public towards the deteriorating environment. Any Government at its own level can't achieve the goal of environmental conservation, until the public has a participatory role in it. Public participatory role is possible only when the public is aware about the ecological and environmental issues. Contributing to such advocacies is the onus of this philosophical analysis of environmental care consciousness.

VI. CONCLUSION

Just as humanity promotes a culture of tolerance, dialogue and understanding the emphasis should be on moderate universal trans-cultural valuation and collective development. This work also calls for an attitude and practice of ecological sensibility as globalization faces countless ecological challenges which are to a large extent human infested (like more recently in Nigeria, the United States of America and Japan and even other parts of the globe). To a large extent therefore, the responsibility that we have as citizens and ambassadors of the earth extends not only to those whom we currently share our planet or community with but transcends also to other species, the environment and to future generations of humanity.

It should be borne in mind that this is not a conclusion to the dialogue on man for global peace, harmony, love, equality, justice and total development, but a step towards a humancentric globalization whose praxis lies in a proactive personal involvement of all

mankind in the concrete spirit of 'living together with others'.

In fact, for a wholesome management on planet earth, we would have to make the entire population of humanity, environmentally educated or oriented. From aforementioned, the following objectives of 'Philosophy of Environmentalism' therefore will engender a world of peaceful relations and moderate scientific exploitation. To ensure this therefore, we must struggle to:

1. Improving the quality of environment.
2. Creating awareness among people on environmental problems and conservation.
3. Creating such an atmosphere as people find themselves fit enough to participate in decision making process of environmental development programmes.
4. A good and deep knowledge of the environment or the ecosystem and contingent nature of every living thing on the other for continuous existence or survival.
5. Erect principles of environmental ethics and set standard that will maintain and enforce them.
6. Re –echo the need to teach philosophy of environmentalism in schools at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.
7. Get all the 'par status' of the society involved in this environmental care consciousness orientation and constant reminder process. This will ensure constant information and deliberations on the issues of the environment at the religious, political, social, economical levels. This will be made possible through the instrumentality of the family, church, schools, peer groups, and indeed other hands of the society.
8. Community health agency and commitment possibly enforced environmental health policies for life healthy living of all life forms, man, pant, animals and all categories of existents in the universe.
9. Government commitment support environmental research centers and programmes to enable structure that will meet environmental needs.
10. Government commitment sponsoring and equipping meteorological facilities to foster studies and research programmes to enable first hand and timely information about upcoming climatic changes so to ensure adequate and relevant emergency response.
11. Government and individual's consistent support to providing useful equipments to environmental agencies to ensure fully prepared or adequate emergency response to environment situations.
12. Non-governmental organization to divert attentions of from poor and needy to dealing with the cause of such conditions.
13. Non-governmental organization to give little or more attention to environmental hazard support scheme by providing for agencies necessary tools to foster ecological balance.

To project further clearly, a philosophy of environmentalism, making consistent and committed efforts to care for the environment is an imperative and in fact the duty of every philosophy. Hence like Micheal in his lyrics; *Hail the world*, we must echo "...hail the world, make it a better place for you for me and the entire human race, there are people dying, if you care enough for the living, make a better place for you and for me..."²⁴.

End Notes

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2. V. E. Obinyan, 'Man As A 'Being-With' In Esan Ontology' (A Ph.D dissertation in department of Philosophy Faculty of Artsnamdi Azikiwe University Awka July, 2012), p.212 00
3. J. Omoregbe, Ibid
4. Maurice Strong, see 'The Rio Earth Summit: Summary of the United Nations Conference' www.publication.gc.ca/.../bp317-e.htm 10/03/2013
5. Dokun Oyesholo in his, 'Essentials of Environmental Issues, the World and Nigeria in Perspective', (Ibadan; Daily Graphics Limited, 1995), p.3
6. Flood in Asaba, Ashaka, Ndemili, Isoko, Okwagbe, Patani; other areas in Delta State and environs as well as other parts of the world.
7. C.N.N reports
8. G. C. Leong , 'New Oxford Progressive Geography: Certificate Physical and Human Geography' (kuala Lumpur Singapore, oxford university press, 1969), p.83
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23. M. Jackson, in his lyric's, Track 8, "Hail the World".

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2. Dokun Oyesholo in his, Essentials of Environmental Issues, the World and Nigeria in Perspective, Ibadan: Daily Graphics Limited, 1995
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4. Goh Cheng Leong , 'New Oxford Progressive Geography: Certificate Physical and Human, Geography' kuala Lumpur Singapore; Oxford university press, 1969
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b) Journal

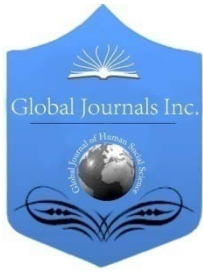
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c) Unpublished

9. V. E. Obinyan, 'Man As A 'Being-With' In Esan Ontology' (A Ph.D dissertation in department of Philosophy Faculty of Artsnamdi Azikiwe University Awka July, 2012)

d) Lyric

10. M. Jackson, in his lyric's, Track 8, "*Hail the World*"



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Al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb (AQIM): Terrorist Networks Infiltrate Northern Mali

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Abstract- The Paper provides an overview of the Tuareg rebellion in Northern Mali with particular reference to conditions that are conducive to terrorist networks infiltration of the age-long insurrection in the region. In this regard, the roles played by the infiltration of Al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), the return of the Migrant workers and Tuareg combatants from Libya as well as the 22 March mutiny and Military coup in the Tuareg rebellion culminating in the total collapse of north Mali and the unilateral declaration of the independence of the State of Azawad were highlighted. Noting that the problem in Northern Mali is not that of religious extremism or terrorism and that Military answer cannot be an effective long-term strategy or solution to the recurrent rebellion in the region, the Paper indicates that the solution to the problem lies in recognizing the fact that the Tuaregs have legitimate political, socio-economic, security, environmental, humanitarian and human rights grievances that must be addressed, without which the Tuareg rebellion will continue to resonate for some time to come.

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Al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb (AQIM): Terrorist Networks Infiltrate Northern Mali

Adebayo E. Adeyemi ^α & Mahmoud N. Musa ^σ

Abstract- The Paper provides an overview of the Tuareg rebellion in Northern Mali with particular reference to conditions that are conducive to terrorist networks infiltration of the age-long insurrection in the region. In this regard, the roles played by the infiltration of Al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), the return of the Migrant workers and Tuareg combatants from Libya as well as the 22 March mutiny and Military coup in the Tuareg rebellion culminating in the total collapse of north Mali and the unilateral declaration of the independence of the State of Azawad were highlighted. Noting that the problem in Northern Mali is not that of religious extremism or terrorism and that Military answer cannot be an effective long-term strategy or solution to the recurrent rebellion in the region, the Paper indicates that the solution to the problem lies in recognizing the fact that the Tuaregs have legitimate political, socio-economic, security, environmental, humanitarian and human rights grievances that must be addressed, without which the Tuareg rebellion will continue to resonate for some time to come.

I. BACKGROUND

The conflict that erupted in Northern Mali in January 2012 was not entirely new and unexpected. It was a continuation of the age-long and deeply rooted Tuareg struggle. Indeed, it has been termed the fourth Tuareg rebellion. What makes the difference between this and the previous insurrections was the way the struggle was coordinated and prosecuted this time around by the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) and the sudden change in the orientation from the rebellion of autonomy to secession due to the infiltration and hijack of the struggle by Al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and its allied Islamist militant groups which led to the eventual declaration of the State of Azawad.

destruction of properties, the southern part of the country was seized by young Military juntas who President Amadou Taumani Toure, suspended

constitutional rule and dissolved Government institutions.

Also new, was the way the Malian army were brutally suppressed, humiliated and chased out of their garrison in the northern region thus culminating in the 22nd March 2012 mutiny and coup as well as the foreign military intervention in the crisis, thereby placing the conflict at the top of international political agenda for the first time.

The role played by AQIM and its allied forces which changed the course of the Tuareg's struggle is very crucial. This is the focus of attention of the Paper. In this case, the origin of AQIM, its profile, sources of finance and the nature of the group's terrorist activities in North Africa which led to its expulsion and consequent resurgence in Mali, were examined in the paper. Also, factors conducive for the infiltration of AQIM in North Mali, the hijack of the age-long Tuareg struggle by AQIM and the secession of Azawad from Mali, including the roles played by the dual factors of the return of the Migrant workers and armed Tuareg combatants from Libya, as well as the impact of the 22nd March 2012 mutiny and Coup D'état in Mali, were investigated.

Additionally, the impact of the Malian crisis on the People and Government of the country, and the role of the international community, importantly the French Military intervention alongside the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) which led to the unconditional expulsion of AQIM and its rebel groups and the timely restoration of democratic governance in Mali were highlighted in the Paper.

II. AL-QAEDA IN ISLAMIC MAGHREB (AQIM)

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) is an Islamic militant organization evolved from the Algerian militant group known as the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC). [1] The GSPC, an offshoot of the Armed Islamic Group (Groupe Islamique Arme or GIA) was formed in 1998 following the decline in the popularity of the GIA as a result of its brutal tactics and extreme violence. [2] The GIA it would be recalled launched a brutal insurgency against the Algerian government in 1992, resulting in the killing of thousands of Algerian civilians, when the Algerian's military backed government cancelled the country's electoral processes set to be won by an Islamist Party, Islamic Salvation

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Front (FIS). [3] A combination of the intense pressure from the Algerian Security services and internal divisions over tactics within the group led to its disintegration. [4] Following the announcement by Ayman Al-Zawahiri, Al-Qaeda's second in command, the GSPC officially joined forces with Al-Qaeda in September 2006, declaring France an enemy and indicating that they would fight against French and American interests. [5] Consequently, following the "blessed union", in January 2007, the group formally changed its name to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) to reflect its alliance with Al-Qaeda from which it receives material and financial support. [6] With this development the U.S State Department, amended the GSPC designation to reflect the change on February 20, 2008. AQIM is listed on the United Nations Security Council Sanctions Committee's

consolidated list 1267 (Al-Qaeda) as an entity associated with Al-Qaida. AQIM has also been listed as a terrorist organization by Canada and New Zealand while the UK lists the group as the Salafist Group for call and Combat (GSPC). [7]

Adopting the name Al-Qaeda brought the GSPC the instant support of tens of thousands of online Jihadists, many of who now perceive the group as fighting on behalf of Al-Qaeda. [8] As indicated by Ait-Hida and Brinkel, seeing itself as a religiously motivated organization, "AQIM's public declarations begin with citations from the Koran and Hadith Religion plays a role in the recruitment of members, the legitimization of extreme violence and in the internal debate on the selection of targets of attacks". [9]



Figure 1: Map Showing AQIM's Areas of Operation

Source: Global Security, "Pan-Sahel Initiative" Available online from <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/oef-ts-maps.htm>

AQIM is essentially a regionally-focused terrorist group [10] located in North Africa drawing its followers largely from the Algerian Islamists group. [11] Its reach has also expanded across the Sahel region South of the Sahara Desert, attracting members from Mauritania, Morocco, Niger and Senegal as well as from within Mali. [12] In an effort to weaken and ultimately overthrow the Algerian government which it seeks to replace with Islamic rule based on a 'pure' interpretation of the Quran, AQIM carried out series of attacks against the Algerian military and attempted to assassinate the

Algerian President, Abdul-Aziz Bouteflika in 2007. [13] Over time, AQIM has adopted a more anti-Western rhetoric and ideology with the motivation to carrying out attacks on Western targets in the region and abroad particularly on France and American targets and kidnapping Western tourists for ransom. [14]

According to Jonathan Masters, "most of AQIM's major leaders are believed to have trained in Afghanistan during the 1979-1989 war against the Soviet as part of a group of North African Volunteers known as 'Afghan Arab' that returned to the region and radicalized

Islamist movements in the years that followed". [15] AQIM has called for the freeing of the Maghreb countries of North Africa from Spanish and French influences and for the regaining of the lost Islamic regions of Southern Spain, known as Al-Andalus. AQIM has stated its support for Islamists extremist violence in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Iraq, Yemen, Somalia, Chechnya and Palestine. It has also called on Muslims across North Africa to forget Western interest. [16]

The basic principles objectives of AQIM in North Africa according to Geoff Porter include ridding the region of western influence (in particular the French and the America) 'apostate unbeliever' governments in countries like Algeria, Mali, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, with the overall goal of installing fundamentalist regimes based on Islamic law or Sharia. [17] Abdelmalek Droukdel popularly known as Abu Mus'ab Abd al-Wadoud is an ardent believer and group leader of this ideology. It was under his leadership that France was declared by AQIM as its main target. [18]

AQIM is one of the region's wealthiest and best armed militant group. Its members engage in kidnapping for ransom and criminal activities to finance their operations with limited financial and logistical support from Algerian expatriates and AQIM supporters abroad, mostly in Western Europe. [19] In the words of Oumar Ould Hamaha, a notorious Islamist Commander in the deserts of West Africa, "the source of our (AQIM) financing is the Western countries they are paying for Jihad". [20] Hamaha stated this in reference to the huge ransoms militants collect in exchange for the release of their victims in the region. As noted by Adam Nossiter: Kidnapping is such a lucrative industry for extremists in West Africa, netting them tens of millions of dollars in recent years, that it has reinforced their control over northern Mali ...". [21]

Apart from the huge financial resources realized from kidnapping foreigners for ransom, AQIM also generate enormous funds from other criminal activities in the Sahel-Saharan region to finance its operations. This include, direct involvement in drugs trafficking or through protection offered to smugglers across the desert, arms trafficking, armed robbery, money laundering as well as booty from captured enemy armies in the region. [22] AQIM has also used kidnapping to obtain political concessions such as securing the release of Islamist prisoners. [23] Al-Qaeda also provides material and financial support to AQIM. [24]

In furtherance of its ideology, AQIM continues to perpetrate criminal activities culminating in the 11 December 2007 bombing of the UN Headquarters in Algiers killing 17 UN Staff and numerous innocent Algerians while several others were severely injured. [25] AQIM had also intensified its efforts in kidnapping for ransom and conducted small scale attacks and ambushes on security force. However, in 2011, AQIM intensified its terrorist activities with the attempted

assassination of the Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz on 7 February 2011 when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) was detonated on his convoy in Nouakchott, injuring nine soldiers. [26]

Following crackdowns by the Algerian government forces in the north and south of the country over the years, a splinter group of AQIM sought refuge in Northern Mali and Niger among the Tuareg where it capitalized on the armed rebellion launched in January 2012 by the MNLA, a Tuareg group, to conquer the Northern part of Mali.

III. AQIM AND THE HIJACK OF THE TUAREG'S STRUGGLE

With the nature of AQIM's ideology, its activities and pressure from the Algerian government forces, coupled with the porous nature of the Tuareg region in northern Mali, it is not difficult therefore, to understand why and how AQIM secured a safe haven in that part of the country, took advantage of the situation of the Tuareg and became very active in the region. The weak security infrastructure and poor economic situation in Northern Mali serve as impetus for the infiltration of AQIM in the region and the eventual hijack of the age-long Tuareg struggle for autonomy from the Central Government in Bamako.

Over the years, the Tuareg have been confronted with enormous challenges with grave economic implications. There was the problem of drought and desertification occasioned by climate change, culminating in famine, food shortage, and malnutrition and ultimately resulting into refugee crisis. [27] Despite this, the Malian government remained insensitive to the plight of the Tuaregs as it failed to provide economic support to the people in a way that will ameliorate their suffering and rescue them from a state of perpetual poverty. [28]

In the absence of positive attitude towards their plight from the Malian Government by way of investment and provision of infrastructure that make life worth living, the Tuaregs continue to feel hopeless, frustrated and marginalized. It was not difficult therefore for militant groups and other criminal organizations to exploit the conditions of extreme poverty in the region. Given the level of poverty and frustration especially among the youth in the Tuareg region, there was hardly any alternative to the temptations of getting involved in drugs trafficking, armed robbery, smuggling, kidnapping or some other clandestine activities including militancy and terrorism.

For instance, in an interview with Magharebia in Nouakchott, a former Al-Qaeda member who goes by the alias Nouredine confirmed that "Al-Qaeda relies primarily on the Maghreb region to recruit young healthy elements that are enthusiastic to rush to all kinds of

adventure". [29] He went further to explain the reason for this development. According to him, "what facilitated the task are widespread unemployment, poverty and frustration among young people in the region making them easy prey in the claws of Al-Qaeda". [30]

AQIM exploited the vacuum created by the negligence of the Malian government to gradually supplant itself in the northern part of the country, penetrating the local people and surreptitiously co-opting them to its fold. With time, and in the absence of any viable alternative, the local Tuareg population gradually learns to accommodate their presence "in part, due to the organization's ability to develop the local economy and provide basic services in an impoverished region that felt abandoned by its host government". [31] Making use of monies originating from ransoms paid for the release of kidnapped Westerners and other questionable sources, AQIM bought itself goodwill, friendship and networks by distributing money and medicine, treating the sick and empowering them. These relationships were cemented through marriage, not necessarily into powerful families but to poor local women as a way of winning the support of the impoverished ordinary local Tuareg people. [32]

Gradually, the organization changed its tactics and rule of engagement. In addition to the distribution of raw cash and provision of small welfare benefits, AQIM complemented its efforts with religion indoctrination. Through the use of the Islamic teachers, it began the preaching of its own brand of Islam, 'Salafism' while handsomely rewarding the religious teachers. [33] It was through this combination of strategies – economic, religious, military, political and humanitarian influences that AQIM penetrated the local communities in the Northern region of Mali and co-opted them into its fold. It was not a coincidence therefore, when in 2012, AQIM took advantage of the age-long political crisis in the Tuareg region to consolidate its hold and control on the region by joining forces with the MNLA to wage war against the Malian military forces to prosecute the secession of the Azawad region for the ethnic Tuareg people, through the support of the Ansar Dine, an Islamist militia led by veteran Tuareg fighter Iyad Ag Ghaly. [34] However, shortly after this 'victory', crisis broke out between the MNLA and Ansar Dine. Tensions came to a climax when a dissident splinter group of AQIM members broke off to form the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJWA) and violently expelled the MNLA out of key cities in the region. The group then supported Ansar Dine to entrench its power in the region, imposed Sharia law, levying taxes and issuing papers stamped with the State of Azawad seal. [35]

As Ansar Dine and its allied militant Islamist forces tightened their hold on the northern part of Mali, they engaged in hostage taking, focusing in particular on expatriates from Britain, France, Japan, Ireland and the United States. They also accelerated the

vandalization of tourism and religious sites especially in Timbuktu, classified by UNESCO as protected World Heritage Sites. Such acts of destructions were justified on theological ground based on Salafist Ideology. For instance in an interview with Magharebia, the Ansar Dine spokesman, Sanda Ould Bouamama, justified the destruction of such sites when he stated that:

"What is UNESCO? We don't care about the words of any entity because God is one without partners. All UNESCO's calls are just polytheism. We are Muslims and we don't revere any shrines or idols". [36]

These chains of destruction, the high handedness of the militant Islamist groups and the ambitious encroachment into the southern parts of Mali, attracted the attention of the international community to the crisis situation in Mali and the need for its urgent intervention.

However, it is important to note that the 'success' achieved in the prosecution of the fourth Tuareg Rebellion which led to the temporary secession of the State of Azawad, was made possible not only by the infiltration of AQIM in the Tuareg's struggle, but additionally, by other related incidences such as the return of Migrant workers and Tuareg combatants following the Libyan revolution as well as the impact of the 22 March 2012 Mutiny and the Coup D'état in Mali. Each of these factors would be briefly discussed for a better appreciation of the dynamics of the Tuareg's struggle in Mali.

IV. THE RETURN OF MIGRANT WORKERS AND FORMER TUAREG COMBATANTS FROM LIBYA

The Libyan revolution which eventually led to the death of its leader, Moammar Gaddafi was accompanied by reverberating impact across the globe. However, the brunt of the challenges that emerged as a result of the crisis bore greater consequences for the neighbouring states of Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Niger, Tunisia, Mauritania and Mali. [37] This is particularly so because of the influx of unemployed returnees, including migrants workers, former combatants from Libya and armed Tuareg and Toubou elements into these countries, as well as the impact that their return have on the Socio-economic and political stability of the affected countries as a result of the inflow of illicit arms and ammunition into the region and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALWs). [38]

Within a relatively short period of time, these countries and in particular those in the Sahel region had to contend with the influx of hundreds of thousands of traumatized and impoverished returnees as well as the inflow of unspecified and unquantifiable numbers of arms and ammunitions from the Libyan arsenal. [39] The aftermath of the Libyan crisis posed a broader threat to peace and security across northern and western Africa

and is clearly among the many factors that have aggravated the recent rebellion in the northern region of Mali. [40]

As reported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the crisis resulted in some 318,000 third country nationals in five of Libya's neighbouring countries of Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Niger and Tunisia and about 11,230 from Mali. [41] This figure does not include returnees who crossed the borders without the assistance of IOM. According to Government estimates, the total number of returnees, including unregistered cases, is approximately 420,000, out of which 200,000 are in Niger, 150,000 in Chad, 30,000 in Mali and 40,000 from Mauritania of which the vast majority were males of between 20 to 40 years old with low level of education. [42]

As in every humanitarian crisis, migrants left Libya under extremely difficult circumstances. They lost their savings and possessions and became victims of extortion and human rights violation. This led to psychological trauma, feeling of shame and embarrassment. Their inability to earn and provide for their families further compounded their socio-economic situation. [43] Their return therefore further placed additional burden on their home countries especially in the face of chronic food insecurity due to climatic conditions. [44]

In the absence of any gainful employment and with the availability of arms and ammunitions at their disposal, the unemployed youth and returnees in the northern parts of Mali engaged in crimes of all sorts such as car theft and armed attacks including trafficking in drugs. They also became potential recruit by criminal and militant groups in the region and rapidly became radicalized.

When therefore there were attacks on major towns in the northern region of Mali early in 2012, signaling the start of a renewed armed rebellion by the Tuaregs, the services of these jobless teaming Tuareg youths and former combatants including mercenaries became handy. With the array of arms and ammunitions in their possession, they were able to participate effectively in armed insurrection. [45] The greatest beneficiary of this situation was the AQIM which has long been active in the region and which has been looking for opportunities to create a separate state to be governed by Sharia law. AQIM joined hands with the ex-combatants and its MNLA, MUJWA and Ansar Dine Islamist militants to prosecute the Tuareg rebellion, over run northern Mali and ceased control of the region. [46]

V. THE 22 MARCH 2012 MUTINY AND COUP D'ÉTAT

Unlike the situation during the first Tuareg rebellion during which the Malian Government deployed the Military to brutally repel the Tuareg insurrection, this time around, the poorly equipped Malian Army of just

about 7,000 men proved no match for the Tuareg militants who armed with the Libyan arsenals successfully captured major towns and cities in the northern region, including Gao, Timbuktu, Kidal, Tessalit, Aguel, Menaka and Anefis and chased the Malian soldiers out of their garrisons in the region. [47]

The humiliation of the Malian Army in the hand of the rebels led to the 22 March 2012 Mutiny by the disaffected soldiers from the units defeated by the armed Islamist militant groups against the government of President Amadou Toumani Toure for his ineffective response to the Tuareg rebellion. [48] This eventually resulted in a military coup organized by non-commissioned and mid-ranking Officers of the Malian armed forces led by Captain Amadou Sanogo, Chairman of the National Committee for the Restoration of Democracy and State (Comité National de Redressement pour la Démocratie et la Restauration de l'Etat (CNRDRE) The Coupist immediately suspended constitutional rule and dissolved Government institutions barely a month to the planned April 2012 general elections in Mali. [49] The President was accused of not doing enough to tackle Islamist extremists, drug trafficking and the needs of the armed forces" thus demonstrating its lack of capacity and ability to deal with the new Tuareg rebellion. [50]

Domestically, the Malian ruling elite was perceived in many quarters as guilty of corruption, nepotism and abuse of power. Within the armed forces, especially among the rank and file, a wide-spread sense developed that the central Government had neglected its obligation, diverting significant resources from the counter-insurgency efforts in the north to enrich a few corrupt senior officers. The capacity of the military units deployed in the north thus became progressively weakened as a result of poor logistics, inoperable equipment and low morale. [51]

The mutiny and the resultant military coup accelerated the total collapse of the northern region of Mali as it provided unfetter opportunity for Ansar Dine and its allied Jihadist AQIM rebels to tighten their grips over the whole of the northern region and eventually declared the independence of the Tuareg state of Azawad. This led to the emergence of a terrorist state under strict Sharia law in the largely secular Muslim northern Mali akin to the Al-Shabaab terrorist state in Somalia and the Taliban Al-Qaeda terrorist state in Afghanistan before the US-led invasion in 2001. [52] This development, coupled with the inability of the Malian military junta to deal with the crisis situation that engulfed the whole of the country, brought tension to bear within and outside Mali and necessitated the intervention of the international community.

VI. IMPACT OF THE MALIAN CRISIS

The insurgency in Mali brought about a considerable impact on the Malian government and its

people. Since clashes erupted in the northern region of the country between armed rebels and government forces in early 2012, hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to flee their homes, thus adding to the woes of the civilian population already severely affected by the drought and food insecurity that prevails in the Sahel region. [53] As a result of the presence of heavily armed rebel groups, northern Mali remained largely

inaccessible to international humanitarian Agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) while cases of violations and human right abuses continued unabated. [54] This situation triggered the internal displacement of an estimated 204,000 people who were forced to live in extremely difficult circumstances, while more than 200,000 Malian found refuge in neighbouring Mauritania, Niger and Burkina Faso. [55]

Table 1 : Malian Refugees by Country of Asylum as of 1 November 2012 [56]

S/No.	Country of Asylum	Malian Refugees
1	Niger	61,880
2	Burkina Faso	35,895
3	Mauritania	108,953
4	Algeria	1,550
5	Togo	20
6	Guinea	44
7	IDPs in Mali	203, 840

In the same vein, human rights situation in Mali, especially in the northern region deteriorated as a result of the renewed armed rebellion in January 2012. Extremist Islamist groups of Ansar Dine, MUJWA and AQIM were reported to have committed gross human rights abuses, including "summary and extra-judicial execution, sexual and gender-based violence, recruitment and use of child soldier, torture and looting". [57] Immediately after taking over the northern region of Mali, the group imposed and implemented Sharia law, and in the strict and extreme interpretation of the law, committed extra-judicial execution, flogging and stoning among other crimes. [58]

The political and security situation in Mali also have grave economic implications as key socio-economic indicators and living conditions of the population were grossly affected. Throughout the country, economic and basic public services were severely disrupted, resulting in an economic growth rate of -3.1 per cent in view of revenue shortfall. The Sectors most affected include construction, agro and manufacturing industries, in addition to all branches of the service sector, including trade and financial services. [59] As a result of the crisis, the Government was compelled to write off as unrecoverable, 400 billion CFA francs (\$800 million) of the targeted revenue of 1.34 trillion CFA francs, for 2012 while spending plans were slashed accordingly. Also, the suspension of external

financing by donors as a result of the situation in the country caused a state budget shortfall of 391 billion CFA francs (\$782 million) in 2012. [60]

Due to the rising prices of food and fuel, inflation rate in 2012 rose to 5.3% compared to 3.5% in 2011. This resulted among other things in the closure of many hotels, tourist establishments and tertiary institutions; slowdown in the Secondary Sector particularly in construction industries; and a decline in foreign direct investments. [61]

Also, in view of the poor agricultural production, trade disruption, and the low level of public investments, poverty incidence increased a percentage point from 41.7% in 2011 to 42.7% in 2012. With the decrease in the purchasing power of the population, coupled with the higher food and oil prices it was estimated that the average inflation rate would continue to rise for a while. [62]

As the size of the population of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Mali and the number of people fleeing the country look set to grow in 2013, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and its partners have been working on contingency plans. Such plans include protection and assistance of refugees in neighbouring countries, as well as coordination of humanitarian actions for IDPs in Mali. [63]

Table 2 : UNHCR 2013 Planning Figures for the Situation in Mali [64]

S/No	Type of Population	January 2013		December 2013	
		Total in Country	Total Assisted by UNHCR	Total in Country	Total Assisted by UNHCR
1	Malian Refugees in Burkina Faso	40,000	40,000	50,000	50,000
2	Malian Refugees in Niger	50,000	50,000	60,000	60,000
3	Malian Refugees in Mauritania	70,000	70,000	80,000	80,000
4	IDPs in Mali	203,840	15,000	350,000	70,000

VII. DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY INTERVENTIONS IN MALI

International action aimed at assisting the Malian regular forces retake the lost Northern region and return the.

country into a democratic government was well coordinated. Immediately after the Malian coup, the Heads of State and Government of the ECOWAS suspended Mali from participating in all the Community's activities and imposed a range of political, diplomatic and economic sanctions on the Military Junta. The Organization thereafter, on 27 March 2012, appointed President Blaise Compaoré, of Burkina Faso, to mediate in the crisis and impressed upon the coup makers to revert to constitutional order. [65] At their Extraordinary Summit in Abidjan on 29th March 2012, ECOWAS leaders served the notice of the possibility of the deployment of a 3,000 regional standby force to assist in securing the territorial integrity of Mali against the Tuareg rebellion if the rebels refused to accept a peaceful solution to the conflict in the north. [66]

On 6 April the Military junta and ECOWAS signed a Framework Agreement which provided for a series of steps for the restoration of constitutional order in Mali as consistently called for by the UN Security Council and the international community as a whole. The Ouagadougou political framework of agreement among other things led to the formation of the Government of National Unity (GoNU) backed by a Presidential Decree in August 2012. [67] Headed by Prime Minister Cheick Modibo Diarra, the government has 31 Ministers drawn from the representatives of almost all the registered Malian's Political Parties, including four women and five close allies of Captain Sanogo, the junta's leader. [68] However, as argued by David J. Francis, this arrangement did not help the political and military situation on ground but rather emboldened the Ansar Dine rebels and their Islamic allies who took advantage of the situation not only to consolidate their military control over the Azawad region, but also continue to advance southward. [69] According to him, this imminent advance on Bamako by the military strong and coordinated Islamist extremists and their AQIM allies, forced the international community into action. [70]

In view of the gravity of the threat the activities of terrorism and criminal groups in northern Mali poses not only to the region but as well to the entire international community, the United Nations Security Council at its 6898th Meeting held on 20 December 2012, unanimously adopted Resolution 2085 (2012) under Chapter VII of the UN Charter to authorize the deployment of an African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) to support efforts by national authorities to recover the North. [71]

Prior to the authorization of the deployment of AFISMA and the call for contribution of troops, an

Extraordinary Summit of West African leaders was held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 11 November 2012 to discuss the modalities of an international military intervention in the political crisis in Mali. The Summit was preceded by the Meeting of Officials of ECOWAS, the AU, UN, EU and other partners in Bamako as part of the efforts to wrap up the details of the operation to flush out the rebels. [72]

Guided by the provisions of the UN Security Council Resolution 2071 of 12 October 2012, the Summit adopted the harmonized concept of operations for the deployment of the African led international force in Mali as developed by the Malian Military and ECOWAS Officials with the assistance of military experts from other countries and international partners and organizations. [73] It was this ECOWAS-AU-facilitated strategic concept of operation that formed the basis of the French-backed UN Security Council Resolution 2085 for the authorization of Military intervention in Mali.

However, while efforts were being made at all levels to help Mali find solution to the raging conflicts and security situation in the country, and whereas ECOWAS mediatory efforts were ongoing and indeed AFISMA was scheduled for deployment in September 2013, the extremist Jihadist militant groups in the northern region of the country continued to gain more grounds as they pushed southward from their strongholds in the north and were progressively advancing on Bamako. The militants' advance led the Interim President Dioncounda Traore to declare a state of emergency and appeal to the French President and regional leaders like Nigeria and Senegal to help repel the militants. [74] This development necessitated swift and decisive military intervention in Mali, changing the focus of engagement from diplomatic to military action. It was not difficult for France to respond immediately to the call for help from Mali more so that French hostages have been taken in neighbouring Niger by AQIM. France appears decided on containing any further military expansion in the region and assists the Malian Government to reestablish its control over the lost territory. [75] On 11 January 2013, France swiftly responded to the Malian Interim President's pleas for military assistance with air strikes and ground troops, with a view to preventing the takeover of Bamako by AQIM and its militant Islamist allies.

With nearly 4,000 troops, [76] the French military intervention in Mali was swift, decisive and précised. In less than three weeks, the rebellion in Northern Mali was scuttled with the recapture of all the major cities in the region under the control of AQIM and its rebel allies. The success recorded by France in this endeavour was however not without the support of the Malian troops, the ECOWAS, as well as the assistance received from other Western countries. Even though AFISMA's deployment was initially to begin in September 2013, however, with the unexpected advance by AQIM and its

allied forces towards the southern parts of Mali and the subsequent intervention from France, ECOWAS was compelled to deploy on 17 January 2013, beginning with the contingency from Nigeria. [77] Subsequently, the contingents from other AFISMA troops contributing countries like Burkina Faso, Benin, Chad, Togo and Senegal later joined the French and Nigeria's troops, while Major General Abdulkadir Shehu, a Nigerian was appointed the first Commandant of the Mission. [78]

Table 3 : AFISMA Troops Contributing Countries [79]

S/No.	Name of Country	Personnel
	Benin	650
2	Burkina Faso	500
	Cape Verde	unknown
4	Chad	2,000
	Gabon	900
6	Gambia	Unknown
	Ghana	120
8	Guinea	144
	Guinea Bissai	Unknown
10	Ivory Coast	500
	Liberia	One Platoon
12	Niger	500
	Nigeria	1,200
14	Rwanda	Unknown
	Senegal	500
16	Sierra Leone	500
	South Africa	Unknown
18	Tanzania	Unknown
	Togo	733
20	Uganda	unknown

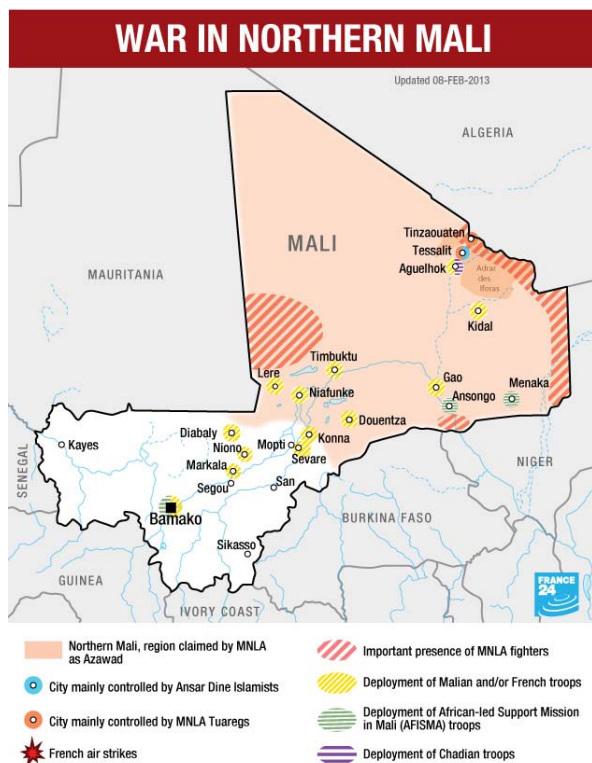


Figure 2 : Map Showing the Battle Zone in Mali [80]

On their parts, the Western nations made remarkable contributions either directly in support of their bilateral obligations to Mali; treaty obligation to France; commitment to the European Union; and support to Commonwealth countries in West Africa who are Members of the ECOWAS or like in the case of the United Kingdom, a combination of these factors. Both the AU and the EU organized Donors Conferences in support of AFISMA and the Malian Defence and Security Forces (MDSF) respectively in Addis Ababa and Brussels. The two Conferences provided opportunity for the international community to further demonstrate its support to Mali and assist in the early resolution of the crisis facing the country.

With these crucial supports from the international community and in particular, France's military intervention, the efforts of the African nations, the international organizations and institutions as well as those of the partner countries involved in the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA), the unity, stability and integrity of Mali was once again restored. Consequently, AFISMA was transformed to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

Against this background, and with the supports and goodwill of the international community, it was thus possible to open negotiations with the North and conduct the Presidential elections as stipulated in the Transition Roadmap unanimously adopted by Mali's National Assembly on 29 January 2013. [81] On Thursday, 19 September 2013, Mali's new President, Ibrahim Boubacar Kaita was inaugurated in Bamako, thus marking the beginning of a new era in Mali's history. [82]

The task before the new government nonetheless remains daunting. It must address the country's most pressing challenges including fostering national reconciliation; strengthening democratic institutions; spearheading security sector reforms; and training of its army to be able to ultimately defend its territorial integrity.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The intervention of the international community in the crisis that engulfed Mali is remarkable and commendable, especially those of the ECOWAS, AU, UN and the French Government and its allied. The foreign military intervention facilitated the unconditional retreat of the extremist Jihadist groups from the northern parts of Mali; the recapture of the loss territory; as well as the timely restoration of democratic governance in Mali. However, the problem in the northern region of Mali would not suddenly disappear merely because of the return of the country to a democratic rule. Malians are not alien to democratic rule. Indeed, more than any country in the West African sub-region, Mali had

experienced enduring democratic governance. Yet successive Malian administrations have not done enough to promote the unity and proper integration of the entire country but rather fanned the embers of discord and rebellion.

For a start, Mali's new President, Ibrahim Boubacar Kaita, should be encouraged to form a broad-based National Unity Government that would ensure the participation of all the stakeholders especially the Tuareg, in the administration of the country. This step would give all the regions of the country a sense of belonging and form the basis for the much anticipated national reconciliation in Mali. The international community must strengthen this process by facilitating a prompt dialogue between the Central Government in Bamako and the Tuareg people in north Mali who recognizes the country's secular nature and territorial integrity and who indeed rejected terrorism thus facilitating the isolation and early defeat of AQIM and its allied militant Islamist groups.

The sensitivity of Mali's neighbouring countries like Algeria, Niger and Mauritania must be taken into account in this negotiation. They are involved in the crisis and indeed are affected by it. They should therefore be involved in the dialogues that could lead to the resolution of the Tuareg problem. Their participation would be crucial to finding lasting solution to the situation not only in the northern part of Mali but also the plight of the Tuaregs in the Sahel region as a whole.

To ensure a lasting peace and stability in the country, the Malian Government can only ill-afford to continue to rely solely on military solution in the fight against the Tuareg insurgency as it did in the past. While recognizing the inevitability of the use of force in tackling the recent terrorist threat and instability in Mali, military answer cannot be an effective long-term strategy or solution to the problem in northern Mali. The fight for peace cannot be won through war. The solution to the recurrent rebellion in the region lies in recognizing the fact that the Tuaregs have legitimate political, socio-economic, security, environmental, humanitarian and human rights grievances that must be addressed.

The problem of the Tuareg people in Mali is not about religious extremism or terrorism. Indeed, it was to the credit of the Tuaregs whose way of life and culture is at variance with the extremist Jihadist groups and who promptly denounced terrorism that led to the successful isolation and consequent ejection of AQIM and its allied forces from the northern region. The challenges facing the Tuaregs stem from the long term insensitivity of the Malian Central Government to the plights of its people in the northern region of the country. It is a question of protracted economic inequality, extreme marginalization, and total exclusion from the management of their own local affairs, abject poverty, gross underdevelopment and infrastructural deficit among others. A problem exacerbated by extreme and

unfavourable climatic condition leading to environmental degradation, food shortages, malnutrition and displacement.

It was this consistent neglect and marginalization of the Tuareg by its own government that have made the northern region of the country a magnet for foreign Islamist fighters like AQIM and an ideal environment in which violent extremists thrive, illicit arms and ammunition are proliferated and a place of abode for mercenaries and all manners of transnational organized criminal gangs.

In the absence of concerted, deliberate and sincere efforts to addressing the age-long and deep rooted challenges facing the Tuaregs in ways that would reverse the threat that plagues the people, ameliorate the impact of the negative climatic condition in the region and preserve their way of life and culture, the Tuareg rebellion will continue to resurrect from time to time.

Notes

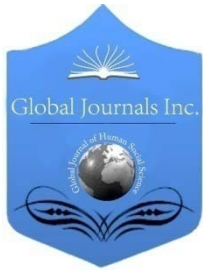
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HIV and Social Policy in Sub-Saharan Africa: Future Goals for Protecting the Children in Sub-Saharan Africa

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Introduction- The onerous task of protecting orphans in Africa requires a multifarious effort aimed not only at infusion of public, private or international funding into the care and treatment of HIV/AIDS but also the building of economic and legal systems that integrates social and cultural representation and identity of the people such as those that energize the primary base and involve these vulnerable victims of HIV/AIDS. Goals and objectives of governments and institutions working in this field of health should be a collaborative effort towards an effective coordination of work strategically designed for children in partnership with mental health, social, medical and legal personnel. It is my opinion that this will promote easy access to all available resources especially in countries such as Nigeria, Uganda and South Africa where HIV/AIDS is very endemic. In order to prevent abuse and improve access to health care, ethical and legal issues, much attention should be paid to the underlying social and economic problems that contributed to the spread of the disease. Orphans have been greatly affected by the high level of poverty, infectious diseases reaching epidemic levels, lack of education and inadequate health, legal, social and economic infrastructures.

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Dr. Foluke O. Dada

I. INTRODUCTION

The onerous task of protecting orphans in Africa requires a multifarious effort aimed not only at infusion of public, private or international funding into the care and treatment of HIV/AIDS but also the building of economic and legal systems that integrates social and cultural representation and identity of the people such as those that energize the primary base and involve these vulnerable victims of HIV/AIDS. Goals and objectives of governments and institutions working in this field of health should be a collaborative effort towards an effective coordination of work strategically designed for children in partnership with mental health, social, medical and legal personnel. It is my opinion that this will promote easy access to all available resources especially in countries such as Nigeria, Uganda and South Africa where HIV/AIDS is very endemic. In order to prevent abuse and improve access to health care, ethical and legal issues, much attention should be paid to the underlying social and economic problems that contributed to the spread of the disease. Orphans have been greatly affected by the high level of poverty, infectious diseases reaching epidemic levels, lack of education and inadequate health, legal, social and economic infrastructures.

Aside from the various social and economic infrastructures, law and legal reforms will actively play a major role in regulating behaviors, improving access and treatment, providing for present and future personal and proprietary interests of the victim and ultimately help in developing the full potentials of the general populations and increase economic growth and stability of the countries. These are issues that governments have control over and the effective intervention of the government not only on the policy level, but on implementation and enforcement aspects will ensure public health and safety. As part of the larger strategy that seeks to protect children's psychosocial health, the legal system of the three countries in focus must provide

the framework for a workable HIV/AIDS policy through the development of laws and the implementation of policy issues and instruments that regulate human behavior, develop environmentally adaptable social norms and views that are in sync with new developments in health care designed to manage disease outbreak and health care service and delivery across the various communities of the sub Saharan region of Africa. Additionally, "some of the social and institutional issues that must be addressed for national poverty reduction are also of vital importance for an effective and lasting response to HIV/AIDS."¹

The future goals for sub-Saharan African countries therefore will therefore be better enumerated by looking at the different areas of possible future development including but not limited to policy and system development, systemic management of social and legal infrastructures and framework, adaptation of existing and new systems to existing cultural and social systems, implementation of key systems for a direct community involvement and benefit and the introduction of solid, evidence based monitoring and evaluation systems in line with recent development in technology and international monitoring systems that may bolster the achievement of the millennium goals and national economic and health development of the citizens.

Most of the Public health, social policy and system development and policy delivery framework within government establishments must include a multi-disciplinary approach for the development of national HIV/AIDS framework. These take the form of the development of social and public health policies such as "surveillance, screening and testing for HIV/AIDS; prevention of mother-to-child transmission, which involves issues of testing of expectant mothers and newborns; confidentiality/disclosure of HIV information; partner notification and contact tracing; isolation and quarantine; blood, tissue and organ supply; universal infection control precautions; post-exposure prophylaxis

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¹ J.D Puymbroeck, "Beyond Sex: Legal Reform for HIV/AIDS and Poverty Reduction", (2008) 15 Geo. J. on Poverty L. & Pol'y 781

rules; and access to condoms".² The practicability of these policies within the African system will depend largely on legal enforcement mechanisms that are in place on which the sustainability of applicable policies and systems will depend. For example, the recent review of the HIV policy environment in Uganda, the need to continually develop a strong and supportive legal and policy environment was identified as key to the scale up of the fight against HIV/AIDS.³ According to this review however, "the dynamics and magnitude of the social, psycho-social and economic impact of HIV/AIDS call for formulation and articulation of specific and appropriate policy, legal and administrative instruments for containing the epidemic and protecting the rights of those at risk of infection, the infected and affected, and ensuring that the non-infected remain uninfected. The existing policy guidelines needed to be reviewed and updated for adaptation to make them consistent and relevant to the current HIV/AIDS situation coupled with current developments in the country and international level."⁴ The Ugandan National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS adopted a combination theoretical approach which is fourfold. These are:

- (i) to scale-up biomedical interventions to achieve universal access targets,
- (ii) uphold behavioral interventions,
- (iii) address socio-cultural and economic drivers of the epidemic and
- (iv) re-invigorate political leadership at all levels to enlist their commitment to HIV prevention.⁵

The introduction of legally backed and directly relevant public health policies with strong emphasis on mental health care for children will create an avenue for the enforcement of the legal rights of the children especially within the mental health field that has been neglected by many countries within the sub-Saharan region of Africa.⁶

Social factors affecting the effective control and management of the disease include the burdens

imposed by abject poverty despite the huge influx of funds and resources from international, regional and local organizations, the burden of disease such as TB, Malaria, and Measles exacerbated by the poor access to medical services caused mainly by poverty, lack of information, education and poor transportation and communication systems. The spate of progress in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa has been slowed down by localized infrastructural and systems failure occasioned mostly by government failure to understand the importance of consistent and persistent push to ensure that the effect of the disease is minimized on those that are already infected and the spread curtailed through adequate funding and the establishment of social systems designed to guarantee local access to primary and community healthcare services that incorporate HIV/AIDS program for pregnant women and children and ensure community educational services that serve the purpose of constant community awareness and that which encourages community participation at all levels. Recently, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS,

Tuberculosis and Malaria recently announced a shortage of around \$4 billion that is needed to continue funding essential HIV, TB and malaria services in 2010. The coalition believes there is a \$10.7 billion funding gap for regional implementation of the Global Plan to Stop TB⁷ with international donors and the already hard pressed African governments unable to meet with funding/financial obligations needed to actively curtail the spread of HIV/AIDS.⁸ This is in contravention of the pledge by African leaders at the Abuja, Nigeria meeting in 2001⁹ to set aside 15 percent of their national expenditure towards health. However, the cost of healthcare in most African countries is not commensurate with the average income and as such is reflected in the high disparity in the standard of living in Africa and in other developed parts of the world. In South Africa for instance, the average hospital stay for people with HIV is four times longer than for those with other illnesses. This will obviously increase the pressure on hospitals and healthcare services that are already over-burdened.¹⁰ This problem as exists in South Africa may be tackled by improving on other social models that aid access to basic health and social needs of the family which may ultimately help to reduce the burden of disease within the country.

² See L.Gable et al., Legal Aspects of HIV/AIDS: A Guide for Policy and Law Reform (2007) The World Bank Global Initiative on HIV/AIDS Program and Legal Vice Presidency. On-line version at: http://books.google.com/books?id=J3pWINGgbV4C&printsec=frontcover&dq=lan ce+gale+legal+aspects+of+hiv/aids&source=bl&ots=CEYGLAg0 pP&sig=xdDDCEQp90XGtvydOd6CtRBILOk&hl=en&ei=qR5uS-r-lou2M8HTydcE&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CA4Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=&f=false

³ See N. Asingwire, and S. Kyomuhendo, "Development of a National Overarching HIV/AIDS Policy for Uganda: A review of the HIV/AIDS Policy Environment" (2003) ONLINE at http://www.aidsuganda.org/pdf/Review_of_AIDS_policy_environment.pdf

⁴ "id"

⁵ Uganda: National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS, (2011- /12 – 2014/15) Published January 2012. Online at http://hivhealthclearinghouse.unesco.org/sites/default/files/resources/uganda_national_strategic_pl an_for_hiv_aids_2011_2015.pdf Last visited July 14, 2014.

⁶ See Tumwesigye et al. (2013) Policy development, implementation and evaluation by the AIDS control program in Uganda: a review of the processes Online version at <http://www.health-policy-systems.com/content/11/1/7>

⁷ K. Palitza, "Health-Africa: Global Financial Crisis Leads to HIV Budget Cuts" (May 18 2009) InterPress Issues published at: <http://www.globalissues.org/news/2009/05/18/1527> (last visited February 9, 2014)

⁸ "id"

⁹ The Abuja Framework for Action for the Fight against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other Related Infectious Diseases 2001 and the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other Related Infectious Diseases 2001

¹⁰ See the 2009 AIDS Epidemic Update at: http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2009/JC1700_Epi_Update_2009_en.pdf for a comprehensive update

Due to pressure from international organizations such as the WHO, Governments of countries in sub-Saharan Africa have been undertaking efforts aimed at combating the spread of HIV/AIDS in recent years. However, more has to be done to develop social systems and develop infrastructures that will enhance local policies and promote the achievement of millennium development goals within the stipulated period. Concerted efforts at reducing poverty in sub-Saharan Africa will promote the health of the people and increase the earning potentials and spending power that will ultimately help in developing the economies of the countries within the region and the global economy in general. At this point it is worthy to note the efforts of governments of the USA and the Republic of Korea to respond positively to the call by UNAIDS for the removal of visa/immigration and travel restrictions on people with HIV/AIDS effective January 1, 2010. Efforts such as this will promote the human rights of individuals especially the rights to freedom of movement and association and encourage world trade development and advancement in world economy and technological development. Also, the trend of criminalizing HIV/AIDS by many countries of the world has been criticized as working to unfairly punish women who often do not make sexual decisions within many cultures in Africa. These women ultimately pass the disease to the unborn children who then become the unwilling victim of societal condemnation and abuse. These children should be protected and afforded the necessary training and upbringing that will ensure that HIV/AIDS is controlled especially amongst the youth.

Over the years, social development outcomes have been uneven across and within Sub-Sahara African countries resulting in "the escalation in poverty, anemic growth rates, persistence in the structural weaknesses of these economies, and reversal in social development indicators, raise major challenges for them."¹¹ According to the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, there is a great necessity for tackling social challenges stemming from reduced capacities despite years of social reform. As a result, "this social deterioration, which has taken place over the last two decades, shows the urgency of social policy in the region."¹² This will also be in line with the nine priority framework developed by UNAIDS to reduce sexual transmission of HIV, mothers from dying and babies from becoming infected with HIV, ensure that people living with HIV receive treatment, prevent people living with HIV from dying of tuberculosis, protect drug users from becoming infected with HIV, remove punitive laws, policies, practices, stigma and discrimination that

block effective responses to AIDS, stop violence against women and girls, empower young people to protect themselves from HIV and enhance social protection for people affected by HIV.¹³

II. PROVISION OF LEGAL DEFENSE FOR CHILDREN AND ORPHANS

The South African Constitution however, affords its citizens some due process procedural and substantive rights in various sections of the constitution and guarantees every citizen the right to freedom including the right to bodily and psychological integrity and privacy rights, including the right to keep personal communications private. There is also a broad grant of equal rights and protection to all persons. Unlike the United States where equal protection extends only to state actors performing public functions, the South African Constitution guarantees privacy rights that extends to both private and public actors. The Constitutional Court stated that "This question, left unanswered in the interim constitution, was cleared up by Section 8 of the final Constitution: the Bill of Rights doesn't only apply vertically (from the state downwards, to its citizens) - it also applies, where applicable, horizontally (between one citizen or private body and another)." The Constitutional Court of South Africa has declared that Section 28 of the Bill of Rights, entitled "Children" is the most important legislation giving constitutional rights to children in South Africa. The section provides that;

- a) *Every child has the right to*
 1. a name and a nationality from birth;
 2. family care or parental care, or to appropriate alternative care when removed from the family environment;
 3. basic nutrition, shelter, basic health care services and social services;
 4. be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation;
 5. be protected from exploitative labor practices
 6. not be required or permitted to perform work or provide services that -
 - a) are inappropriate for a person of that child's age; or
 - b) place at risk the child's well-being, education, physical or mental health or spiritual, moral or social development;
 7. not be detained except as a measure of last resort, in which case, in addition to the rights a child enjoys under sections 12 and 35, the child may be detained only for the shortest appropriate period of time, and has the right to be -

¹¹ See UNRISD Social and Policy Development (2000-2005) 'Social Policy in Late-Industrializers: Sub-Saharan Africa and the Challenge of Social Policy'

¹² "id"

¹³ See the UNAIDS AIDS Epidemic Update (2009): 'Outcome Framework 2009-2011' published at http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2009/JC1700_Epi_Update_2009_en.pdf

- a) kept separately from detained persons over the age of 18 years; and
 - b) is treated in a manner, and kept in conditions, that take account of the child's age;
8. have a legal practitioner assigned to the child by the state, and at state expense, in civil proceedings affecting the child, if substantial injustice would otherwise result; and
- a) not be used directly in armed conflict, and to be protected in times of armed conflict.
9. A child's best interests are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child.
10. In this section 'child' means a person under the age of 18 years.

Despite the broad language used in the Bill of Rights, courts in South Africa are enjoined to keep the constitution in mind when interpreting the provisions of the Bill. S. 39 (1) (a) of the Bill stipulates also that, "When interpreting the Bill of Rights, a court, tribunal or forum must promote the values that underlie an open and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom." This applies generally to children especially those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS who are generally unable to protect themselves or unable to access most of their vital daily needs within the society. The Court in *Hoffman v. South African Airways* (supra), recognized this need and affirmed that individuals who are not able to defend themselves have the right to be represented in legal suits by associations and groups and those acting in the public interest to "approach a competent court, alleging that a right in the Bill of Rights has been infringed or threatened" with the court being authorized to issue appropriate relief "including a "declaration of rights". The Court has also affirmed in the case of *Minister of Health and others v Treatment Action Campaign and others* (supra) where the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) and two other parties challenged the government's policy on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV which permitted the use of Nevirapine at a limited number of pilot sites only affecting a significant group of HIV-positive mothers and children who did not have access to the research sites and were effectively denied access to a potentially life-saving medical intervention provided free of charge to the South African government for a period of two years by its manufacturers. The Court addressed the question whether the applicants had shown that the measures adopted by the government fell short of obligations under the Constitution. The Court said provision of a single dose of nevirapine was essential as far as children were concerned.

The Court in *Khosa v. Minister of Social Development* (supra) also affirmed that, "the right of access to social security, including social assistance for those unable to support themselves and their dependants is entrenched because as a society, we value human beings and want to ensure that people are

afforded their basic needs". The court stated further that "a society must seek to ensure that the basic necessities of life are accessible to all if it is to be a society in which human dignity, freedom and equality are foundational" Other legislations that provide specific protection for children in South Africa include:

- The Child Care Act of 1983, which makes it a criminal offence if a person who has to maintain a child doesn't provide the child with clothes, housing and medical care and the prohibition of virginity testing and male circumcision for children under 16; The Basic Conditions of Employment Act of 1997, which makes it illegal to employ a child under 18;
- The Domestic Violence Act of 1998, which defines different forms of domestic violence and explains how a child can get a protection order against the abuser; and
- The Films and Publications Act of 1996, which protects children from exploitation in child pornography.
- The Natural Fathers of Children Born out of Wedlock Act of 1997.
- Abolition of Corporal Punishment Act
- The Children's Act No 38 of 2005(updated to Government Gazette 33076 dated 1 April, 2010) as amended by the Children's Amendment Act, No. 41 of 2007 and the Child Justice Act, No. 75 of 2008
- Criminal Law (Sexual Offences And Related Matters) Amendment Act 32 Of 2007

These legislations take effect to protect the best interests of children in all foreseeable manners within the ambit of the law. The interrelationship between the rights affording protection to children can be seen in the multi-layered legislations enacted both at the national and international levels harnessing local and international resources for the protection of such rights. These laws should also serve as the legal premise for advocating for policy change and harnessing the rights and privileges under the law for the benefit of the orphans and other vulnerable children.

The legal rights of children in Nigeria on the other hand, have been under scrutiny for years due to the country's record of arbitrary human rights abuse and child maltreatment at various levels. Nigeria recognizes Civil, Customary and Islamic laws as the basis of its legal system. However, these three forms of law vary in significant forms and applicability may be subject to territorial and personal submission to the laws. Conflicts arising from these laws have been settled with the Constitution trumping any other law that operates to contradict the applicable law within the country. As stated earlier, the repugnancy rule also operates to bring the local laws and custom into conformity with rules of natural justice, equity and fairness which hopefully will guide against arbitrary application of such customs and aid the development of workable social

policies that will enhance the lives of all vulnerable children.

The protection of the legal rights of children including Children orphaned and made vulnerable by AIDS is well within the ambit of the law although enough is currently not being done to ensure that children who are in desperate need of such protection are provided with the necessary resources that is envisaged within the purview of the law. Formerly, the Children and Young People's Act (CYPA) which was originally passed by the British Colonial Government in 1943 to regulate juvenile justice was in force which was later revised and incorporated into Nigeria's federal laws in 1958 (formerly Chapter 32 of the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria and Lagos.) This law has since been abrogated by the Child Rights Act (2003). The Child Rights Act provides the minimum age for marriage as 18 years within the country's civil marriage whilst the Sharia Law and most Customary laws allow for girls younger than 18 to be married. The usual age of marriage under many local laws remain around 14-15 years of age. This is a serious issue in the effort to combat HIV/AIDS in children as many of the children become entangled in polygamous marriages and exposed to many venereal diseases they have no control over. Although many religious bodies require a mandatory HIV testing before marriage, mandatory testing for HIV is illegal under Federal law. The age of consent for testing is 18 years except where the child engages in risky behavior or is a matured minor who is able to give consent. The Act also provides for the appointment of a guardian ad litem for the child where necessary. Sections 50-52 of the CRA 2003 provide for the protection of children in need of care and against physical or moral danger and empowers "a child development or police officer or any other authorized person to bring a child in need of care and protection before a court for a corrective order, if he has reasonable grounds for believing that the child is an orphan or is deserted by his relatives, neglected, ill-treated or battered by his parent or guardian or custodian, or found destitute, wandering, homeless or surviving parent undergoing imprisonment, mentally disordered, or otherwise severally handicapped; or found begging for alms, or in company of a reputed/or common thief or prostitute, or otherwise beyond parental control or exposed to moral or physical danger."

Notably, the various international and regional laws ratified by Nigeria and otherwise applicable subject to domestication and the Constitution of Nigeria affords many of the rights outlined in the early part of this chapter which includes the right to life, dignity and personal liberty, right to the highest attainable standard of health. Listed below are some of the laws protecting the rights of children in Nigeria:

- The Child's Rights Act (CRA) 2003;
- Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act 2003;
- Ebonyi State Law No. 010 (2001) on the Abolition of Harmful Traditional Practices Against Children and Women;
- Edo State Female Genital Mutilation (Prohibition) Law 2002;
- Edo State Criminal Code Amendment Law 2000;
- Bauchi State Hawking by Children (Prohibition) Edict of 1985 CAP 58;
- Cross River State Girl Child Marriages and Female Circumcision (Prohibition) Law 2000;
- The Sharia Penal Codes of Zamfara, Kano, Kebbi, Kaduna and Sokoto States of Nigeria equally protect children against various forms of physical and psychological violence.

The Nigerian Agency for the Control of HIV/AIDS Act (2006) created Nigerian Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), an agency responsible for the development and management of all resources in cooperation with external agencies work to effectively manage HIV/AIDS disease in Nigeria. The National Human Rights Commission through the office of the Special Rapporteur on Children was also established in the year 2000 with the mandate to monitor, investigate, conduct researches and provide legal assistance to children who are victims of human rights abuses. Hopefully, the law can and should be used to monitor and develop tools and social policies designed appropriately to help children access and enjoy all the legal protections available to them. Governmental policies geared towards education including 'train-the-trainer' schemes should also be revamped or instituted where such are lacking.

One major challenge for children is the lack of legal advocacy and representation of children in courts of law. The lack of representation cannot be totally blamed on the total lack of laws or policies to protect the children but is reflective of the cultures of the people that often do not recognize children as individual rights bearers. Ensuring that the orphans and children affected by HIV/AIDS are identified and protected is key to the development of the law in the field of health and disability law within the sub-Saharan African region. Government must ensure that social, legal and welfare policies reflect the needs of the vulnerable within the society and as a matter of priority create avenues and agencies responsible for the administration of child welfare within the countries. Bar Associations must also encourage members to provide some hours of pro bono service within their community to help develop the law and generally the legal system of the country. This will help bring to the forefront issues that affect children and orphans within the society. Health lawyers will also be able to work with the insurance companies and rural health care plans to ensure that children and those



affected by HIV do not only rely on international agencies and other governmental agencies for their medication and other medical necessities that they may be able to attain through other efficient means.

Where a child loses either or both of their parents to HIV, the state must ensure that foster care or 'Kafallah' under the Islamic law or adoption or other forms of placement either with extended family members or guardians is provided for the children. The means and resources to navigate through successful placement process must be established by the government in order to ensure the protection of the children. State counsels and private health law advocates must ensure that any form of disability is provided for and that placement does not endanger the lives of the children in any way. This is most applicable in South Africa since the country has Children's Court but a lot is left to be desired of the governments of other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa such as Nigeria that do not have well established child welfare systems in place. More could still be achieved by the South African courts especially in the coordination of resources to reach those in the hinterland who may be cut off from certain rights and benefits due to poverty and other social-cultural barriers preventing them from obtaining the much needed services.

III. THE WAY FORWARD

The issues discussed in this paper depicts the inter-relatedness of the various psycho-social problems faced by Children orphaned and made vulnerable by AIDS and children generally in sub-Saharan Africa using the three focus countries as focal points for extrapolating issues and ways to address these issues. It is my opinion that the law will play a pivotal role in this regard. For children generally, governments must strive to work in consonance with the International Guidelines put forward to encourage proactive and uniform work towards the achievement of the goal to combat the HIV disease globally especially the guidelines to promote a rights-based response to the HIV epidemic such as developing equality legislation to protect the victims of HIV from unfair discrimination, guidance on law reform to support public health interventions such as introducing laws that support treatment programs by allowing the importation of drugs; and coordinate a multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS, by establishing an inclusive and participatory National AIDS Council and guidance on creating a supportive environment for groups vulnerable to HIV or affected by HIV for example, law reform decriminalizing homosexuality.¹⁴

Governments in sub-Saharan Africa must use public

funds, social policies and legal measures to back health policies being that the systems are just being developed and the levels of poverty and other social impediments may not allow individuals to obtain optimal healthcare that may be required to help in reducing or combating the spread of HIV/AIDS within the communities. The recent speech by the President of South Africa, Jacob Zuma to the National Council of Provinces in October 2009 is commendable particularly because of the call to the end of denialism and his optimism to cut the rate of new infection by half and for about 80% access to antiretroviral therapy by 2011.¹⁵ This level of motivation must be followed by positive actions and heavy investments by governments to prevent transmission of the disease especially prevention of mother-to-child transmission, which is a major source of infection in children. Using successful government-backed health care systems as the Canadian system as a guide, the criteria for such public administration of healthcare must be based on public administration, comprehensiveness, universality, portability and accessibility.¹⁶ There must be centralized monitoring system and enforcement of laws currently in place with the possibility of future development in all spheres of the society necessary for disease prevention useful for the control of future outbreaks of disease and infections. The different health insurance schemes must be organized in such a way as to allow for free health insurance for children and affordable healthcare premiums for adult family members considering the economical and demographic factors that operate within the African communities. This will be a departure from the free market economy model due to the sharp inequalities in the economic and social status of the people. A system similar to one described as "subsidized entrepreneurial model". Describing the Canadian health model, G.R. Weller explained that health insurance schemes "essentially subsidized the already existing health delivery system, and although health resources were still viewed as primarily a consumption good, they were seen to be so inequitably distributed that some public policy was needed to bring about greater equity".¹⁷ Such inequities cannot be over-emphasized in the African situation where problems in the administration and delivery of healthcare services are evidently inherent. The author suggests the following measures to be taken as part of the general efforts to overhaul the mental health systems in sub-Saharan Africa for the benefit of children and families needing mental health care within the region:

¹⁵ UNAIDS Outlook Report 2010 supra

¹⁶ Section 7 of the Canada Health Act R.S.C. 1985, c. C-6

¹⁷ G.R Weller, 'From "Pressure Group Politics" to "Medical-Industrial Complex: The Development of Approaches to the Politics of Health Care, J Health Polit Policy Law. 1977 Winter;1(4):445-70. Also, PERSPECTIVES ON CANADIAN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES POLICY: HISTORY AND EMERGING TRENDS', (Carl Meilecke & Janet Storch eds., 1980)

¹⁴ See Aids & Rights Alliance of South Africa (ARASA), (2009) "HIV/AIDS & Human Rights in South Africa" published at: http://www.safaid.net/files/ARASA_Human_rights_report_2009.pdf

IV. SOCIAL POLICY REGULATION AND LEGISLATION

Social policy regulation and legislation will help to combat social problems associated with HIV/AIDS in children and orphans. A clear and strong commitment and concerted effort by governments of the sub-saharan countries geared towards poverty eradication, public education, social security and pension administration, health status monitoring and the promotion of primary health strategies at the local levels through social programs directed particularly at rural populations and those directly at risk of infection among other things will work to promote the general health of the people.

Additionally, the continued support of the WHO in furthering the health systems of the focus countries through the Health Sector Strategic Plans (I & II) developed for the three countries will strengthen the health systems and help deliver "interventions that are cost-effective and sustainable" to all citizens.¹⁸

Overall, countries must seek to establish mental health legislations that will integrate mental health policies that include family support networks, coalition of social support groups and programs that encourage rehabilitation services to be provided for the children (especially where parents are either not able to physically provide care for the children for a reason or the other including but not limited to poverty, illness or death) or when parents are just not available to care for their children and other human rights issues that will enhance the welfare and rights of the children.

V. REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS/MARRIAGE/RELATIONSHIP COUNSELING

Countries in sub-Saharan Africa must gear up on efforts to ensure the registration of all births within their region as this will enhance the accurate collection and collation of data necessary to plan for public services and infrastructures and maximize resources available for the control and treatment of HIV and many of the endemic diseases within the sub-region. Additionally, it will promote the legal protection of each and every identifiable child born to families dealing with the disease and encourage the provision of services to any child affected by HIV whether the parents are available or not. This will be within the purview of S. 7 (1) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the different laws of the countries providing for rights of the child. Relationship counseling is another vital issue. For orphaned children, loss of parents and other social support systems may result in mental illnesses as

explained earlier.¹⁹ Child trafficking laws must be enforced so as to protect children from child traffickers who prey on orphans who may not have been affected by the disease initially but lost their parents to HIV/AIDS. With the high incidence of poverty, children may resort to prostitution and other sex work to sustain their daily needs thereby exposing them to more harm and other contagious diseases including HIV/AIDS. Protecting the identity of each child right from birth through birth registration with the adequate keeping of records will ensure that each infected child is treated as individual rights bearer and protected by law. In order to achieve this, the government must also provide social amenities and resources that will improve access to healthcare at the rural level within the primary healthcare services provided by the governments of the focus countries.

VI. ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION

Education is a major tool that will help to overcome HIV/AIDS prevalence and transmission in Africa. Many are still unsure as to the modes of transmission of the disease thereby circumventing the prevention efforts that aim to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS within sub Saharan Africa. Funding public education and public awareness programs that reach both city/urban dwellers and the rural communities will work as a vehicle to address the behavioral aspect of the disease.

Training of social workers and other professionals within the social welfare and healthcare system administration will be an important aspect of the improvement of the welfare of orphans and vulnerable children. The effectiveness of most of the primary healthcare systems will only be relevant or significantly felt within the system if the personnel required and the necessary tools and equipments are available to people across the board such as that encompassing both rural and urban dwellers who suffer from the disease.

Sex education must be included in the school curriculum as a required subject from the primary to the university level. Emphasis should be placed on prevention strategies that not only seek to curtail the spread of the infection through the traditional methods of transmission such as sex, blood transfusion and mother-to-child transmission but also to prevent new infections through drug use, sharing of needles and other routes that are currently unknown by the vast majority of the people.

Also, more lawyers should offer pro-bono services to indigents, orphans and vulnerable people who are generally not able to access legal and social

¹⁸ See http://www.who.int/healthmetrics/library/countries/hmn_uga_his_2007_en.pdf

¹⁹ See Dada F.O, "HIV & Psychiatry in Children – Using the Law as a Tool to Achieve" Child-Centric" Psychosocial Policies in Sub-Sahara Africa". Holy Cross Journal of Law & Public Policy, USA. Vol XV, 2011 Num. 1 pp. 91 - 127

services due to the peculiar difficulties faced by the children who are left without social or basic amenities and often robbed of inheritance and property rights at the death of the adult family member or caregiver. Importantly, parents must be encouraged to prepare wills and record deeds and other title documents to any property or assets that they may have in order to protect their children.

VII. ACCESS TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT TRACKING SYSTEM (CANTS) TO IMPROVE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

Government should be made accountable to the people through an audit system that conforms to professional accounting standards. Transparency and accountability is vital to promote proper management and avoid wasteful spending resulting from lack of coordination of programs.²⁰ Governments need to ensure that adequate funding is diverted to building infrastructures where people can access services more readily. Information must be managed effectively using modern technology for electronic medical records backed with privacy and anti-trust laws that provide the basis for legal enforcement of all violations or flagrant abuse of the system. E-health should be encouraged to make it easier for medical personnel and patients to have easier access to their medical records when they need to. In the case of orphans, such easy access will enable them to obtain better service and allow for a coordinated treatment plan when necessary.

A Child Abuse & Neglect Tracking System is needed to protect vulnerable orphans and children affected by or those infected with HIV/AIDS. In most parts of sub-Saharan Africa, there is a breakdown of the family/kinship care system partly due to the spread of HIV/AIDS that have taken the lives of many adults within families who would have taken care of the younger children. Governments need to step up and provide support systems such as foster care, adoption, guardianship or the support of extended family structures to absorb the children left behind by HIV/AIDS within the African communities. Surveillance, screening and testing of HIV/AIDS in infants/children and the parents will help to determine the spate of the disease

and the accurate control measures to be put in place by the governments. Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission has worked effectively to control HIV/AIDS in most developing countries and will work in sub-Saharan Africa if such surveillance systems are adequately monitored. The paramount legal issue here is the protection of the privacy of the individuals whose health records have been compiled. Here, local privacy rules should be reviewed and made specific to healthcare especially for the protection of orphans and other vulnerable children who may need social workers or guardians to act on their behalf. Confidentiality of such information obtained and kept will also be essential to the future success of healthcare delivery and administration. For children, ethics committees must be created to develop child-centric rules that will ensure the protection of the children and support the delivery of healthcare services to them more easily and responsibly.

A child welfare system backed with legislations, legal policies and enforcement procedures that are carefully managed and included in the National Plans of Action will ensure that children are supported and provided with adequate healthcare services within the countries and also work to adequately and properly steer the countries into the achievement of the MDGs and other local and regional laws, treaties and covenants that are in place to regulate the sphere of child protection. In Nigeria and Uganda for example, there is a need to establish family courts separate from the general civil court system whereby the family courts function with concurrent civil jurisdictions with the state high courts in the administration of family issues, exercise jurisdiction over juvenile delinquency, dependency, child neglect, child abuse, child and spouse support, adult misdemeanor crimes against juveniles, paternity of children, custody and visitation of children, adoptions, terminations of parental rights, divorces and annulments, specific enforcement of separation agreements, imperiling the family relationship, property divisions, guardianship over minors, orders of protection from abuse and intra-family misdemeanor crimes. Although South Africa has a family court system, this system is not without its own faults and will need to be generally overhauled.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and other collaborations with local, regional and international bodies are useful tools to achieve universal access to care. An important group within this strategy will be women's groups especially those within child-bearing age. Also, professional bodies from legal, medical, social and educational fields will be able to contribute on a multi-disciplinary basis to the development of child-centric policies that will promote the health of orphans and vulnerable children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS through the formulation of ethical rules that set the standard for the inclusion and treatment of children.

²⁰ See <http://www.urc-chs.com/projects/research/research-proj.html> Center for Human Services "A five-year project awarded to URC in August 2008 by the Centers for Disease Control is working to strengthen and expand HIV/AIDS comprehensive care and treatment services in the State of Enugu in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The PEPFAR-funded project, renewable on an annual basis, is providing services in HIV Counseling and Testing (HCT), Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT), Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) for Adults and Children, laboratory infrastructure strengthening, TB/HIV integration, Basic Care and Support to people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS and Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC)"

Although these rules cannot be legally enforced, ethical and professional principles often ensures the equitable treatment and management of health issues in children.

VIII. FRAUD PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Fraud is a major problem in many parts of Africa. Many African nations have lost major parts of their resource to fraud perpetrated across the different levels of government resulting in loss of economic opportunities within the continent. Governments of sub-saharan African countries must endeavor to develop strategies that will help alleviate, if not eliminate the wide-spread fraud within the health care system as an important government strategy/priority. As part of the fraud prevention strategy in sub-saharan Africa, the governments of the countries within the region must make and enforce specific laws that prohibit stigmatization, discrimination and unfair or differential treatment of the vulnerable children by healthcare workers.

IX. REFORM

The law has always taken the back seat in the provision of basic amenities and protection of human rights (including the right to health care) in most African countries. The absence or inadequacy of legislation needed to protect children often result in social and political ills within many African nations. Legal reform could possibly take the form of an actual introduction of laws into the legislature and the actual setting of regulatory framework, policies and systems that will enhance and ensure the protection of the vulnerable group consisting of women and children and ultimately benefit the entire community as a whole. Legal reform should engage public/private partnership and an active commitment to international treaties and regulations that have been ratified by the governments of the focus

countries. The legal profession through its professional associations must strive to work with the government in order to form medical-legal partnerships that not only participate, advise, supervise and provide technical support for the law making mechanisms of the state but also responsibly contribute actively legal services that may be needed especially by the children and their families. Government must strive to institute and fund regulatory bodies that will coordinate the affairs of the health service providers, insurance and other health professional groups to ensure consumer protection.

Also, there is an urgent need for a complete overhaul of the child welfare system of the three focus countries. Juvenile Justice System, state and national child protection agencies needs to be established and where they are in existence such as in South Africa, they need to be overhauled to ensue that services reach the children across the board. Many times, orphans and children often become victims of their circumstances and get thrown in adult jails where they are maltreated and sometimes abused. The author will advocate for medical-legal partnership for children advocating for government-funded, state run healthcare for children from birth to adulthood (about 18 years) where lawyers may provide pro bono services for all children and families in need of such through government appointed social and legal agencies under the active monitoring and guidance of the appropriate professional and regulatory bodies. Additionally, healthcare professionals and lawyers need to work together with the government to coordinate and support many of the rural and community healthcare programs that are currently run in a highly decentralized fashion.

The author suggests a community-based psychosocial model channeled through the Primary Health Care System encompassing the following:



Figure 7 : PHC /Community Based Psychosocial Health Service Model

The above suggested model advocates a centralized system of care targeted at children especially those orphaned by HIV/AIDS and/or those affected or infected by the disease. The case can be made for a centralized system of care since it facilitates an all-inclusive system that targets the specific group of children and helps focus limited resources and funding on the group that is most in need of such services. A community-based model that is culturally sensitive, trajected through primary health care delivery system centralized under Local Health Authority Boards for the purpose of aiding easy access to care and treatment, efficiency in disease management, improved use of information technology for data collection and a fairer or equitable resource allocation within each health care system. This is more so important in tackling the challenges posed by the various mental health issues presented by children infected or affected in any way by HIV/AIDS. Thus, "providing assessment, early intervention and continued monitoring at the primary care level, with a coordinated management plan including primary care clinicians, mental health professionals, school personnel, and others involved in the care of the child, offers the unique opportunity to engage families and maintain young people in treatment without stigma".²¹ Nutritional programs that are targeted at young children especially those in the rural areas must be given urgent priority. Many of the UN projects have already infused money into Africa through their various projects. Governments must better coordinate the activities of agencies and participating agencies working in the countries in order to ensure that the efforts at alleviating hunger and poverty embarked upon by these agencies are managed efficiently and reach those needing such services across the communities. Utilizing educational interventions have the capability of diffusing some of the fears, anxieties and ignorance surrounding mental illness within the different African cultures and other HIV/AIDS related social problems such as stigma, depression, sadness resulting from loss, bereavement and economic loss. Care at the primary level should integrate professionals in the various fields of healthcare, social service, legal, education and community support system that must contribute to the different healthcare needs of children in order to achieve optimal care level.

Major barriers to health development in SSA such as funding and availability of trained professionals must be tackled by the governments. There must be a commitment to develop and provide modern infrastructures needed for the training of those professionals and provide equipments and resources

for trained professionals within the various pediatric units that cater to the needs of children in need. This will provide an enabling environment for the professionals to be encouraged to continue to practice within the region. Financial barriers to development must be primarily tackled through a centralized control system that manages and allocates resources through the primary healthcare system reaching those as far away as the remote villages within the regions. In Uganda, the mental health system for example is effectively worked out in such a way that almost every patient has some access to basic medication. This structure can be worked out in other parts of SSA, for example, in Nigeria, each ministry is required to commit at least 1% of their budget to HIV/AIDS funding. A good size of this contribution should be used to promote the efforts at HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and management issues. A reasonable amount of government resources should ideally be diversified into the provision of adequate health care services for children being SSA is a predominantly youthful population. In this light, the mental health needs of orphans should be emphasized and incorporated into National Plans of Action. This should result in adequate National, State/Provincial and Local level health policies being developed for the psychosocial development of orphans and children generally. Funding received from international, local and private partners should be centrally administered in order to avoid waste and combat fraud that is mostly perpetrated in a loose system that is bereft of adequate records and legal enforcement.

The role of law is quite paramount. Many of the archaic laws within the region must be updated and adequate sentencing of offenders provided. Legal professionals must be encouraged at the national Bar Council level and at local areas to engage in some amount of pro-bono services for children. Effective Legal Aid Clinics must be developed to tackle the problems faced by children and their families and those that are vulnerable within the society. Medical-Legal Partnerships must be established and must be donor-funded, government supported via promulgation of adequate laws that seek to protect children effectively within the bounds of the law with targeted training of officers on child-friendly procedures and guidelines for child protection. Public/Private Partnerships must be encouraged as a major source of funding and community development. Health Insurance Schemes must operate within the confines of the law and must include public funded basic health care services for children as a matter of priority in order to ensure a healthy population in the nearest future that will be healthy enough to contribute positively to overall development of any nation. To this end, each of the countries in SSA must initiate and implement National

²¹ V. Eapen, Et Al., "Integration Of Child Mental Health Services To Primary Care: Challenges And Opportunities" Ment. Health Fam. Med. 2009 March; 6(1): 43-48

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Policy such as is the case in South Africa.²²

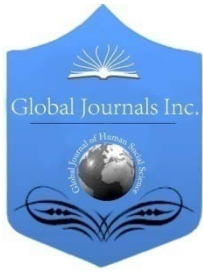
The goal of improving public health in Sub-Saharan Africa is one that should be accorded a high priority. Protecting the psychosocial health of orphans and children made vulnerable by HIV in can only be achieved by employing all the tools and resources made available through various sources effectively. Governments in sub-Saharan Africa must commit to financing mental health services within the existing healthcare structure. The necessity for developing and implementing policy statements and guidelines and a governmental commitment to the future growth and development will help to infuse the much needed energy and direction into community development and the improvement of the health of the people. Hopefully, this will be an achievable goal for Africa in the nearest foreseeable future.

1. Constitution of South Africa 1996 S. 12
2. "id" S. 14
3. "id" S. 14 (d)
4. See Hoffman v. South African Airways 2001 (1) SA 842 (A) (S. Afr.) Here, the court held that the airline company must afford reasonable accommodations to their HIV-positive employees, in this case, an HIV-positive employee was not able to obtain the mandatory yellow fever vaccination because of possible complications with the immune system of the HIV positive employee
5. See United States v. Guest, 383 US 745, 762 (1966) where the court stated that equal protection "speaks to the state or to those acting under the color of its authority". See also the civil remedies for violations of constitutional rights under 'the color of law' provided under 42 U.S.C. S. 1983
6. See <http://www.constitutionalcourt.org.za/text/rights/bill.html#Vertical> last visited December 18, 2009
7. The needs of children were the most urgent and the state was obliged to ensure that children were accorded the protection contemplated by section 28 of the Bill of Rights. It also ordered that the government make provision for the training of counselors and take reasonable measures to extend testing and counseling facilities. See: <http://www.constitutionalcourt.org.za/text/rights/bill.html#Vertical>
8. See also S. 12 (2) of the constitution of South Africa
9. "id"
10. Culled from the Constitutional Court website at: <http://www.constitutionalcourt.org.za/text/rights/bill.html#Vertical>
11. According to Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 1999 (NDHS 1999), the general data for 15–19-year-olds show that married girls have less knowledge about HIV than unmarried girls; they are less likely to have heard of HIV (50 percent vs. 83 percent) and are less likely to know that HIV can be transmitted from mother to child (38 percent vs. 52 percent). Nationwide, 20 percent of girls were married by age 15, and 40 percent were married by age 18. Among married girls aged 15–19, 62 percent have already given birth. Almost one out of four married girls gave birth before age 15
12. According to the Population Council (2004) Child Marriage Briefing: Nigeria, 48% of the girls in the Northwest were married by 15 years and 27% of married 15-19 year-old females were in polygamous marriages. Report published online at http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/briefingsheets/NIGERIA_2005.pdf
13. See Federal Government of Nigeria (2003) National Policy on HIV/AIDS 2003
14. See Section 75(3) of the Children's Act which says, 'Nothing contained in sections 72, 73 and 74 of this Act interferes with or affects the power of the Court to consult the wishes of the child in considering what order ought to be made under section 74 of this Act or diminishes the right which any child has to exercise on his own free choice'
15. See also Section 89(4), Section 90(5), Section 91(6)
16. See for example, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the AU Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
17. S. 34 (1) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999
18. "id" See S.35 (1)
19. See Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, Abuja: Country Report on Violence Against Children 2004 published at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/CRC/docs/study/responses/Nigeria.pdf>

²² See Robertson, et al., 'Systems of Care in Africa' (2004) H. Remschmidt, et al. 'Facilitating Pathways: Care, Treatment and Prevention in Child & Adolescent Mental Health (pp. 71-88), Springer, Berlin. See also, Omigbodun, Olayinka, 'Developing Child Mental Health Services in Resource-Poor Countries' International Review of Psychiatry, June 2008; 20(3): 225-235 emphasizing the importance of practical Child and Mental Health Policy Guidelines as against one that eventually becomes a mere decoration on bookshelves. (pg. 230)



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Superiority Struggles and Inter Agency Feud in Nigeria

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Abstract- Violent conflict is gradually becoming one of the defining characteristics of Nigeria, the nation considered by many as the most populous nation of the continent of Africa. No part of Nigeria is free from violence of one form or the other. The problem of violence in Nigeria has become more worrisome as the security operatives whose duty it is to maintain peace, detect and suppress crimes have themselves become engulfed in violent conflicts, thereby giving criminals opportunity to unleash terror on the citizenry with impunity. Although, other unethical practices are held accountable for the clashes, superiority struggles arising from their historical past has of late become prominent. The implication of this professional missnormal is grievous. The repeated violent clashes among these security professionals have consistently alienated them from the public. It has further caused loss of confidence and respect of the citizenry. The ultimate side effect is lack of civil co-operation that these forces need to succeed in crime control. This explains why the nation has not been able to effectively manage insurgency and other security challenges in recent times. If Nigeria's peace is pivotal to African and global peace as stressed by some scholars, then there is urgent need for the problem of superiority struggles to be addressed.

Keywords: *africa, conflict, crime, nigeria, security, violent.*

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1. INTRODUCTION

One of the defining characteristic of most African societies and Nigeria in particular, at least in the past two to three decades is violence and destructive conflicts. Violent conflicts in Nigeria have assumed a dangerous dimension in recent times. The problem of violent conflicts in Nigeria is widespread to the extent that, no geo-political zone is insulated from the social virus of violence (Albert, 2012). For instance, while the south-western zone has National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) to contend with, the south-south has been under the 'claws' of youth gangs and youth restiveness, the south-eastern zone has been troubled by kidnapers, the middle belt states of Benue and Taraba have not rested from Tiv/Jukun and Fulani clashes. On the Plateau have been the problem indigene/settler clashes, while the Islamic sect "Boko Haram" has caged the north-eastern zone in gory and endless nightmare. Furthermore, all the zones have evolved ethnic militias that seek to dictate power, security and social interactions in their various areas.

For instance, the south-west produced O'dua People's Congress (OPC), the south-south produced Igbesu Boys, the south-east produced Bakasi Boys, while the northern equivalent is Arewa People's Congress (APC). One thing that is common to these sub-cultural groups is lawlessness and violence. Violent crimes have sent many Nigerians to their early graves, permanently maimed several others, generated several widows and orphans, as well as heightening doubts and suspicion among the divers ethnic nationalities and religious groups that have cohabited for decades. Nigerians today find it difficult to believe that Islam and Christianity (the two foreign but popular religions in Nigeria) are religions of peace. This is because, violent crises arising from religious front have claimed uncountable lives and responsible for destruction of several public and private properties in the recent past (Abimboye, 2009). The gloomy state of most parts of Nigeria is captured in the words of the Christian Association of Nigeria's secretary quoted by Abimboye (2009) thus:

....He said there is no longer mutual trust between Muslims and Christians in the north, and people are forced to live together in mutual suspicion, with security being imposed by combat ready policemen. This, according to him is not peace.....

There is no doubt that the problem of violence has overwhelmed Nigerians of the 21st century.

However, what is more devastating is inter-agency wrangling that has often left on its trail destruction to public and private properties, loss of lives and disruption of commercial activities in the affected parts of the nation. The enormity of the implications of inter-agency clashes is better appreciated when we recall the purpose of their creation. For instance, Alemika and Chukwuma (1997) have argued that the police are paid to police, secure and ensure compliance with the existing laws and conformity with the precept of social order. In the same vein, Oke, Oloruntimehin and Akinola (1996) posit that the police exist to prevent and or reduce crimes in society. They are further saddled with the right to protect the citizenry from harm and violations. Hence, they are seen as indispensable formal agency of social control (Reid, 1997). The role of the army on the hand is very similar to what is expected of the police. They are saddled with the task of protecting and defending the nation against external aggression (Nigerian Army, 2006). They are further expected to work in collaboration with civil police to provide internal

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security to the nation (Arabamen, 2004; Adebayo, 2004). The similarity in origin, status, roles, remuneration and condition of service was what made Adekanye (1993) to see the Nigerian Army and Police as peers. This also inspired Omoigui (2006) to advocate for jointness in training and security operations. If the above is the popular perception of the roles of the army and the police in Nigeria, it brings to mind the proverbial African 'oracle that ought to be consulted to unfold causes of misdemeanor in the society is itself accused of criminal behaviour'. By the same token, if the forces are thus involved in persistent violent clashes that often cause destruction to lives and property then, where will the society seek the solutions to such crimes when they are committed by the civil society?

Apart from the side effects of violence, is the absence of security to the citizens at the time of these clashes and the rating of the giant of Africa (Nigeria) as unsecure and unsafe nation to do business with. This popular perception has scared both domestic and international investors from the resource studded nation (Odoma, 2011). Instead of the public security operatives whose primary duties are to protect lives and property of the law abiding citizens and secure territorial borders to develop professional synergy as expected of them (Alemika, 2003; Omoigui, 2006), they have been at each other's throat, thereby exposing the nation and her citizens to perpetual threats, nightmare and insecurity. What then is the cause of inter-agency feud in Nigeria? How can inter-agency clashes be controlled? How should these agencies be made to respect each other in the performance of their duties? These are some questions that this work seek to address.

II. THE PROBLEM

Security operatives are creation of the state to checkmate personal and group excesses of members of the society. This is because it is only in the atmosphere of peace and tranquility that social life can be ordered and development of the society achieved (Nwolise, 2005). However, the provision of security is an herculean task, as it requires the synergy of members of the society with security operatives for this social virtue to be enjoyed. More critical to the provision and enjoyment of security in society is the cooperation of security agencies who are saddled with security provision in different domains, since security is ubiquitous (Omoigui, 2006; Odoma, 2011b). If security agencies are involved in violent conflicts in the full glare of the civil populace as noticed in Nigeria of late, it spell doom for national security. This mean inter-agency synergy would have failed, while public confidence leading to civil-police co-operation becomes difficult. Today, the civil society in Nigeria is economical with vital information needed by the police to control crimes in Nigeria. In fact, it has been stressed that most Nigerians lack

confidence in the police and other law enforcement agencies and thus prefer private security outfits or vigilante groups to public security operatives (Ajayi and Aderinto, 2008).

Furthermore, Nigeria is perceived by many as the most populous nation of the continent of Africa and the giant of Africa (Hutchful, 1999; Kolapo, 2006). If this assertion is anything to go by, it therefore means that several African countries are looking unto Nigeria as role model. It will not be out of place therefore, to state that the insecurity of Nigeria as a result of inter-agency feud will have a spiral effect on the rest of African countries.

Similarly, the prolonged case of Boko Haram insurgent that seem to have defied all security prescriptions may not be unconnected to the lack of synergy between security operatives and also between civil population and security agencies. The security operatives because of lack of synergy have not been able to form formidable resistance to the onslaught of insurgents. In the same vein, due to frequent frictions between security agencies, they hardly enjoy the confidence of the civil population and by extension, lack the necessary co-operation and support from them. It is therefore in the interest of Nigeria, Africa and the global community that this social problem is quickly put under check.

III. INTER AGENCY FEUD IN NIGERIA

Inter agency clash was first reported in Nigeria in 1977 in Port Harcourt between personnel of Nigeria Police and Nigerian Army (Odoma, 2011). This problem has not only become repeated in several parts of Nigeria, but has over the years involved virtually all the security agencies and para-military organizations in Nigeria (MILPOPPROF, 2007). For instance, there were reported cases of violent clashes involving personnel of Nigeria Police and Nigerian Navy, between the Nigeria Police and Nigerian Air force, between Nigeria Police and National Security and Civil Defence Corps, and between Nigeria Police and Nigerian Custom Service, etc. However, army-police clashes have been the most prominent of them all, considering the frequency of occurrence, the level of casualties, losses and confusion that accompanied it. For instance, Odoma (2011) presented the chronicles of army-police clashes in Nigeria and their implications as shown in the table below:

Table 1 : Army/Police Clashes in Nigeria and the Extent of Destruction

Serial	Date	Location	No: of Death	No: of Wounded	Extent of Destruction
1.	09/11/77	Port Harcourt	Several Policemen were killed	Several others were wounded	Civilians deserted their homes, tensions, threat to security and withdrawal of police from duty posts.
2.	06/09/92	Yaba	1 Army Colonel	Nil	Tension, threat to security, withdrawal of police from checkpoints, lawlessness among security agencies and miscreants.
3	06/07/04	Ikeja	1 Soldier	25 Policemen	Traffic flow hindered and economic and commercial activities disturbed.
4.	04/10/05	Ojuelegba	2 Policemen & 3 Civilians	6 Soldiers, 2 Policemen and several Civilians	Area 'C' Police station, Police Barracks and vehicles burnt, 40 detainees unlawfully released while traffic flow was hindered.
5.	16/01/06	Bauchi	Nil	2 Policemen	Bayan-Gari Police Officer's Mess burnt and several days of tension and uncertainty.
6.	24/09/06	FESTAC Town	Nil	3 Soldiers and 1 Policeman	Satellite Police station destroyed and confusion among civil populace
7.	30/03/07	Benin	Nil	10 Policemen	Ring-Road Police station destroyed.
8.	29/05/09	Orile	1 Soldier	Several Police men	Confusion, fear and panic among civilian population.
9.	11/02/10	Benin	2 Soldiers & 3 Mobile Policemen	10 persons wounded	Tension, serious threat to security and fear among civilians
10	11/04/13	Ibadan	Nil	Several Soldiers and Policemen injured	Confusion and apprehension among civilian, disruption of commercial activities.

Source: Adapted from Odoma (2011).

Security operatives, rather than exploring avenues of collaboration in security provision, capacity building and sharing intelligence as is the case with developed nations of the world (Omoigui, 2006), have over the years been engulfed in unhealthy rivalries. Such rivalry has been noticed between the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) over security duties in several parts of the nation as well as between the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) over the management of vehicle registration and licensing (Oluwole, 2012). Rather than complementing each other, the existence of one is viewed as a threat to the other. The overall effect of inter-agency feud is the inability of the security sector of Nigerian society to proffer workable solution to the lingering terrorism and several security challenges facing the nation in recent times. Security operatives are often accused of seeking organizational glory rather than the synergy that will enhance the much desired but often elusive national security.

IV. LITERATURE REVIEW

a) *The Origin of Inter Agency Conflicts in Nigeria*

The foundation of army/police clashes was laid as far back as the mid 1970s. Prior to this period as remarked by Adekanye (1993), the Nigeria Police which was the nearest occupational group to the army in terms of origin, status, pay and conditions of service, enjoyed comparatively better status and pay. But after the 1966 coup and the corresponding civil war between 1967 and 1970 within which time the Nigerian military assumed the leadership position of the nation, the army had through their privileged vantage position conferred by their occupation effected a 'status coup', which marked the reverse of the pre-1966 state of affairs in police-army status comparison. The salary differentials between the military and the police force became widened in favour of the military in 1981 and became pronounced under the Babangida military presidency of 1985 to 1993. These public security forces were in the cause of this development dragged into a form of 'cold war' as the

sudden status twist did not go down well with other occupational groups in the country. Adekanye (1993:13) further asserts that:

Thus it was that the Nigerian Soldiers were able to elevate themselves above not just their peers in Nigeria Police but other groups hitherto at the apex of the occupational prestige hierarchy.

The above, no doubt have inspired series of social unrests and agitations among other occupational groups in the country that characterized the entire period of military rule and specifically, the reign of Ibrahim Babangida (Onyeonoru, 1996).

Puritt and Carnevale (1982) quoted in Irwin and Kenneth (1995) argues that conflicts between groups, nations and individuals occur when the aspirations and goals of the parties are incompatible or where the parties have divergent interests regarding a particular issue. Due to the diametrically opposing interests of the groups, a resolution to conflict is always problematic because, the resolution that satisfies one party to the conflict may not necessarily satisfy the other.

Coser (1998) maintains that conflict between groups or individuals stem from the withdrawal of legitimacy. People are sufficiently aroused for conflict when channels for expressing grievances do not exist and when their desire for membership into higher ranks are thwarted, at this point, withdrawal of legitimacy occurs. With the withdrawal of legitimacy, conflict becomes the ultimate end product.

To understand the nuances of intergroup conflict, social parameters alone do not provide complete explanation. The interplay of the social forces such as competition among groups for resources, religious beliefs etc and the cognitive or perceptual factors such as stereotyping groups, misperception of out-groups etc, will no doubt provide better understanding, because the way a group of people think about the social world (specifically about an opposing group) profoundly affects how they feel and behave in response to the other group (Irwin and Kenneth, 1995).

Taking a historical look at conflict on the continent of Africa, Olutayo (1997) remarks that long before the experimentation of military rule on the continent of Africa, the seed of military dictatorship had been planted by the French and British colonizers whose use of force left the post colonial African nations on the pedestal of force and discord. Colonial collaborators and imperialists who at the background provided support for military adventurers often exacerbated post-colonial conflict in many African countries. The erstwhile colonial masters supported military regimes in Africa with the socialization they bequeathed their former colonies.

Metcalf and Metcalf (1993) further argue that individuals and groups are likely to work for peace only when the interest at stake is mutually advantageous or

beneficial, but when their interests are diametrically opposed and incompatible, they are likely to be involved in destructive conflict not mindful of their past cordial relationship.

Systemic failure is considered as one of the potent causes of conflict especially within and between the army and the police forces in Nigeria. Sankara (2005:4) submits thus:

Men and women of the Nigeria Police, many of whom have to pay their way to join the Police, train under one of the most inhuman conditions imaginable, as attested to by the state of the Police colleges and after training, buy their own uniform, boots, writing materials, torchlight and all other working tools. Beside these, they have to go on for upward of four or six months before they can earn first monthly salary, which amount to nothing at the end of the day.

Corroborating the views of Sankara is Bashir (1993) who remarked that the welfare of the forces especially members of the Nigeria Police force were neglected for a very long time. The neglect by their leaders and governments created a sense of alienation among them. Bashir, (1993:584) succinctly argued that:

It is universally accepted that the strongest motivation in any place of work is proper care or the welfare of the workers. To fail to take good care of worker's well-being is to create a sense of alienation in them. This undoubtedly will have adverse effect on their performance. The Nigeria Police Force has until recently suffered from government and social neglect. This has drastically destroyed the morale of officers. Their personal emoluments until recently was one of the lowest in the country while their working environment was one of the most unkept, not to talk of their residences. Generally they were marginalized in the scheme of things.....

In the same vein, the personnel of the Nigerian Army had suffered for a long time from neglect especially by their leaders who at sundry times were accused of misappropriating funds that was meant for their troops. This has led to grumbles and unrests among the lower echelon of the army (Dongjur, 2002; This Day, 2008).

However, conflict is not always entirely evil as it engenders cohesion, consensus and solidarity among individuals and groups (Kukah, 1994; Ritzer, 1996; Vold, 1996; Coser, 1998; Nwolise, 2005). Furthermore, the nature of conflict between groups will to a great extent depend upon their past experiences. If the groups involved in conflict enjoyed cordial relationship in the past, they might likely tread the path of compromise and avoid the extreme. But if their past is bedeviled with animosity, suspicion and hatred, conflict between them is likely to be volatile and destructive (Irwin and Kenneth, 1995).

One factor that has aggravated the violent inter-service rivalry especially between the police and the army personnel in Nigeria is envy occasioned by the illegal opportunities available to the police to extort money and or receive bribe from the citizenry in the course of their duties. The army (especially the lower echelon), who are poorly paid do not enjoy such opportunities. This experience breed envy as the army sees this as an opportunity for the police to overcome poverty and neglect which they equally suffer. Due to this reason, any slight provocation or error from the police sparks destructive conflict between the forces (Omoigui, 2006; Odoma, 2011). The matter is heightened with the enthronement of democracy which empowers the police as the only domestic security operative to handle and prosecute civil offences even if soldiers and senior army officers are involved. According to Omoigui (2006:15), "this has gone hand in hand with the perception of soldiers that the police no longer know its place and that the police which they used to deride, now feel superior". This has no doubt deepened inter-service animosity in the Nigerian security sector.

A forum of the Military, Police and Paramilitary Public Relations Forum [MILPOPPROF] submits that, the incessant violent clashes between the various security agencies and army /police in particular in the Lagos metropolis are largely due to the dearth in information available to the personnel of these forces about their sister forces. This has led to widespread ignorance especially among the junior officers in such matters as the complementary roles of other forces to the actualization of own roles, areas of mutual co-operation and exclusivity as well as their perception of the ranks and organizational structure of other forces. This condition has more often than not, led to many unnecessary and avoidable violent clashes in recent times in Lagos (MILPOPPROF, 2007). The ignorance about other forces is however attributed to the lack of professional forum for regular interaction especially among the lower echelon and more importantly, the low educational qualification required for entry into the various security forces.

Furthermore, Marizu (2007) identifies myriads of factors responsible for the fracas among the public security forces. Such reasons include among others, defending a regime's interest, economic poverty and ignorance among the lower ranking officers. In his words:

The skirmishes between the lower ranks especially among the Armed Forces and the Police are largely due to ignorance and perhaps a case of defending regime interest. Another factor could be economic poverty because the officers have maintained solid discipline....It has been identified that indiscipline, ignorance and poor training

among others are the bane of the clashes. (Marizu, 2007:2)

Similarly, it has also been stressed that, of all the causes of the army, police and paramilitary forces clash in Lagos, illegal business 'stand tall'. For instance, Taiwo (2007:4) suggests that:

The friction among members of these government agencies that necessitated the birth of this Association are mostly perpetrated by the lower ranks, especially among the Armed Forces and Police, or Customs and Police and sometimes between Customs and Soldiers who may want to engage themselves in a manner inimical to Customs' laws and regulations especially as it affects smuggling. I know that the engagement of these personnel in this act is largely due to ignorance and economic poverty. The junior officers who display acts of gross indiscipline require reorientation. They must eschew intolerance and always embrace our traditional esprit-de-corps and camaraderie in the discharge of their essential functions.

The forces have been accused of various degrees of professional excesses on their host communities. This has been the defining characteristics of the agencies since their colonial days and has therefore, not only been responsible for conflicts with other security agencies, but have equally alienated them from the people they are meant to protect (Alemika and Chukwuma, 1997; Olutayo, 1997).

Omoigui (2006) presents some reasons for the destructive rivalries between the army and the police in Nigeria. They include extortion, complex protections, the desire to avenge dishonor suffered at the hands of the police etc. Omoigui (2006:4) further stresses that:

The most common scenarios for these clashes include traffic police demanding vehicle particulars and driving licenses from military personnel or seeking to search their private vehicles; complex "protection" deals between servicemen in uniform who ride for free in public transport vehicles and then proceed to protect their hosts from bribe seeking policemen; or the desire of the military personnel to retrieve friends and colleagues who have been arrested by the police for one reason or the other. Sometimes it is a desire to "avenge" perceived dishonour suffered at the hands of the police. Another potential for crisis is when the police engage in hot pursuit of suspects who for one reason or another then take refuge inside military barracks. One particular scenario that is not fully appreciated by the public revolve around the fact that in order to make ends meet many junior soldiers own and operate motorcycles (a.k.a "Okada") with which they engage in the business of public transportation after normal working hours. This provides a lot of opportunities for conflict with traffic policemen.

Furthermore, the overlapping historical origin of the army and the police has been linked to their rivalries in recent times. This overlapping historical origin and the dramatic status transformation (especially) in favour of the army is argued to have engendered the struggle for seniority and superiority among the forces, which in essence has been the source of the "cold war" between the forces, from which destructive clashes result (Adekanye, 1993; Omoigui, 2006).

Lack of regular interaction between the forces especially among officers of the lower ranks is argued to be responsible for the clashes. Ekong (2007:10) submits that:

We are very happy to see the Forum making this move. Personally, I have participated in the Presidential Retreat; we called a spade a spade – no interaction. Hence we recommended that there should be regular interaction among members of the security operatives. It is very painful reading about needless clashes involving uniform personnel.

Furthermore, the early superior status enjoyed by the police, which they lost to the army through military rule may have been linked in part to their persistent clashes. From their origin, the police was not only senior to the army, but they also enjoyed superior status and remuneration until the first military incursion into civil politics (Adekanye, 1993) which saw them [police] losing their erstwhile superior status to the army. Adekanye (1993:7) argues further that:

Army member of the NCO grade received less pay than their counterparts in the Police...Thus it was that Nigerian soldiers were able to elevate themselves above not just their peers in the Nigeria Police but other groups hitherto at the apex of the occupational prestige hierarchy

This occupational twist in favour of the army was underscored by the uniqueness of the military job coupled with its high risks, such as the risk of possible death (Adekanye, 1993; Olutayo, 1997). But the police did not only lose their status; they were also exposed to some forms of repressory measures by which the army targeted at weakening the police force. Such repressory measures included operational jealousy and suspicion, denial and hijacking of security equipment procured to enhance the performance of the police (Omoigui, 2006). This situation, which commenced from former President Shagari's regime, lasted throughout the military era in Nigeria and has further fuelled a 'cold war' between the security agencies.

Group conflict often have their causes rooted in the perception of one group about the other. The cognitive orientation directs the definition a group gives to social life and it in fact, directs their action and interaction with such group. The cognitive culture manifests when a group stereotypes the other, that is, a false notion that a group develops about the out-group.

The belief and stereotype that groups hold about each other play crucial role in intergroup conflict. Stereotype enhances misperception of the others, which is often at the heart of intergroup conflict.

Army/police clashes are not limited to Nigeria alone. There are reported cases of the army/police clashes in some parts of the world. For instance, in Ouagadougou- Burkina Faso, there was a violent clash between the nation's army and the police on the 26 day of December 2006. The clash led to the death of five security officers (3 soldiers and 2 policemen), while several others particularly civilians sustained various degrees of injury from stray bullets fired in the shoot-out. Additionally, about 600 inmates serving various jail terms in Ouagadougou prison escaped from detention during the unrest. The clash was sparked by a group of angry soldiers who were on a revenge mission for the death of their colleague the day before in a late night brawl.

In the same vein, the Pakistan Press International [PPI] reported an army/police clash in Lahore on 20th October, 2003. Matters relating to the use of tinted glass reportedly caused the clash. The clash generated unnecessary tension among the forces as well as the civil population. The organized civil society in Pakistan condemned the disgraceful act, which was interpreted to mean that, the security operatives have by their action leading to the clash shown that they were above the law. A probe panel was therefore demanded of the government that was accused of failure to maintain law and order.

On 1st October 2002, another army/police clash occurred in Jakarta- Indonesia. The clash that claimed at least lives of four police officers occurred among about 100 Indonesian soldiers and their police counterparts. The clash was reportedly caused by the arrest of a soldier by the local police for drug offence. As a result, a group of soldiers attacked a police post with machetes, rifles and grenades, killing about four police officers.

The Afghan experience presents the worse case of army/police clashes ever reported considering the number of death and destructions recorded in a single clash, the kinds of weapons used by the security officers and the number of days the clash lasted. The clash, which lasted for five consecutive days, was said to have started from a minor argument between personnel of the forces. The clash left in its trail, two military commanders, eight police officers and nine civilians dead, while unquantified amount of properties were destroyed with several civilians left with various degrees of injury. The level of destruction to lives and property could not have been less as the fighting forces used dangerous weapons such as rockets and heavy weapon not only on the location of their opponent, but also on residential districts.

The above literature provides two striking revelations. Firstly, the destructive army/police clashes occurred as a result of flimsy reasons such as minor quarrels, brawling at the pub, indiscipline and the involvement of the forces in drug related offences. Equally striking is the fact that, once checked for those misdemeanors, the security officers get offended and then embark on murder, assault and destruction. Secondly, none of the cases reported in the literature involves security forces of the developed nations of the world; rather they involved army and policemen from the developing or less-developed countries of Africa and Asia.

V. THE IMPLICATIONS OF INTER-AGENCY FEUD

Continuous inter-agency feud has grave implications. There is no doubt that the greatest of such implications is insecurity of the Nigerian state and her people. As noted earlier, all the parts of Nigeria have experienced various kinds of security threats in the past decade or two. One thing that have remained constant across the nation is that, at the peak of all the security challenges, security operatives are often found helpless, not really knowing what to do (Ajayi and Aderinto, 2008; Odoma, 2011). With such development, miscreants and hooligans have always had free days to unleash terror on defenceless citizens with impunity.

Furthermore, constant wrangling among security operatives will no doubt continue to dampen the regard of the citizens for security agents. If all that these professionals do is to always get involved in selfish clashes and destroy selves and property with weapons bought with tax payer's money, or maim citizens, their reputations and civil co-operation will continue to dwindle as has been noticed over the years. Today, average Nigerians prefer private security guards to public security agencies (Ajayi and Aderinto, 2008). The issue here is that, if the police cannot protect the citizens, they are left with the option of protecting themselves. The danger inherent in the people protecting themselves with all forms of private security guards is the possible generation of confusion as it is already noticed in many parts of the country, where several ethnic militias have evolved. These militias have taken laws into their hands in all the parts they exist and have further worsen the security situation in the country. So, rather than controlling crimes rate in the country, the freedom of creating ethnic militia sub-cultural groups, have enhanced the generation of more criminals (Reid, 1996).

Repeated and uncontrolled violent clashes by the public security agencies put the security operatives in danger of the loss of their own lives and equipment. All the clashes between the police and the army in Nigeria for instance, have led to the death of operatives themselves, their properties and operational equipment

(Odoma, 2011). In the same vein, Omoigui (2006) noted that, the cold war between security forces had on several occasions led to unnecessary death of troops during joint operations, all in the name of accidental discharges. This development is not good for national security.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

Widespread violent conflicts have tarnished the image and reputation of Nigeria among international community. It has equally threatened the corporate existence of the nation as nearly all the geo-political zones have their share of violent conflicts, yet, the public security agencies seem to have failed to provide adequate checks to the social menace. Although Nigeria and Nigerians have had their image dented by violent conflicts across the nation, the clashes between the formal and public security forces seem to make the situation hopeless. The question on the lips of most Nigerian in the past decades is "if the security operatives who are supposed to protect and safeguard the law abiding citizens from violence are themselves violent, from where do we expect peace and security"? The situation has caused a lot of disaffections, not only among the civil populace, but equally among the security agents themselves. If Nigerians must be secured as they have often desired, both the security operatives and the civil society must turn a new leave. It is only when this attitudinal change is effected that civil/police relationship as well as the synergy between the various security agencies will improve. This paper recommends particular attitudes and or behaviours that must change for sustainable security to be provided for the teaming Nigerian populace. They include:

- All the relevant agencies and stakeholders involved with the provision of security must endeavour to sponsor regular interactive forum among the forces. Ignorance relating to the roles, organizational and rank structures of other forces, areas of cooperation and exclusivity etc were identified by the study to have caused some of the clashes. These can be resolved by such interactive forum.
- Discipline is the hallmark of any security organization. The leadership of these forces must ensure that discipline is rightly enforced among the junior officers who for the nature of their roles are more visible than their commissioned officers. In a democratic polity such as ours, these security officers must learn to accord people of other profession the respect they deserve especially in their places of responsibilities. The forces must see the naked use of force always associated with the military regimes as belated and uncivilized mode of behaviour.
- Seniority or superiority struggles among the forces have no basis. The existence, roles and powers of these forces are products of the constitution of the

Federal Republic of Nigeria and other relevant Acts. The same constitution did not anywhere define seniority or superiority of the forces. The superiority or otherwise of the weapon used by these forces should not imply seniority/superiority of the users, but they should be seen in the light of the role they are meant to perform to the nation rather than defining the status of anyone carrying them. He that carries weapon should respect the person that does not, as no one carry any weapon outside official duties. Similarly, whatever the status of any security personnel, as soon as he/she meets another in his/her beat, such a personnel must be accorded due respect to the officer on the duty post. Furthermore, officers and civilians as well should be seen as superiors in their own right and must be accorded their due respect and dignity while in their official working environment. In this way, superiority struggles will be checked not only among the security operatives, but also in all facets of our social lives, if democracy must be stabilized in Nigeria.

- A good and respected law enforcement officer should at any time be willing to submit himself/herself to the authority of other governmental agencies for routine checks where necessary. This does not only speak of how disciplined the officer is, but also shows how mature such an officer is.
- After trying several forms of government, if Nigeria has settled down with representative democracy as the best form of government for her citizens, then every segments of the Nigerian population must work for its success by respecting the tenets of democracy. Security agencies should be reoriented to dissociate themselves from the dark days of coercion and ignorance and strive to come to terms with modernity that will get Nigeria the needed recognition among international communities.
- The Police Acts of 1958 and 1990 present the constitutional responsibilities of the Nigeria Police to include among others the power/right to perform such military duties within and without Nigeria as may be required of them by or under authority of this or any other act (Asemota, 1993; Odita, 1993; Nigeria Police, 2006). In the same vein, the Nigerian Army is saddled in part with the task of collaborating with the civil police to provide internal security to the nation and perform any other functions as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly (Arabamen, 2004; Adebayo, 2004; Nigerian Army, 2006). From the foregoing it is safe to state that the founders of these forces envisaged the possibility of collaborative security roles from the very beginning. Therefore, the police and the army must seek to down play any organizational differences and

develop operational synergy that will enhance the actualization of the expected national security.

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Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Nigeria: Issues and Problems

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Abstract- Development is a key factor in every given society. Although, the concept of development and its understanding differs from society to society. That is, each society has ways of developing itself passing through the necessary developmental stages. The success of these stages is a function of many key factors such as the environment, interaction with other societies within and outside, leadership and its style, management, culture, individual and collective goal(s) of the people and of the community and the people themselves. The MDGs is meant for Africa as a continent with a bench mark of 2015, what is the situation of realization of these goals in spite of the financial resources committed to this course ? What are measures put in place by Nigeria as a country or to what extent have we gone in realizing these MDGs? Hence this article to investigate the issues and problems of MDGs in Nigeria. The secondary method of data collection was thoroughly explored in this article. The article noticed that Nigeria as the GIANT of Africa might not attain the MDGs even if smaller nations (Ghana, Cameroon and Botswana etc) in Africa does.

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Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Nigeria: Issues and Problems

Kolawole Taiwo Olabode ^α, Adeigbe Yunus. Kayode ^σ, Zaggi Yacham Hilary ^ω & Owonibi Elizabeth [¥]

Abstract- Development is a key factor in every given society. Although, the concept of development and its understanding differs from society to society. That is, each society has ways of developing itself passing through the necessary developmental stages. The success of these stages is a function of many key factors such as the environment, interaction with other societies within and outside, leadership and its style, management, culture, individual and collective goal(s) of the people and of the community and the people themselves. The MDGs is meant for Africa as a continent with a bench mark of 2015, what is the situation of realization of these goals in spite of the financial resources committed to this course? What are measures put in place by Nigeria as a country or to what extent have we gone in realizing these MDGs? Hence this article to investigate the issues and problems of MDGs in Nigeria. The secondary method of data collection was thoroughly explored in this article. The article noticed that Nigeria as the GIANT of Africa might not attain the MDGs even if smaller nations (Ghana, Cameroon and Botswana etc) in Africa does.

1. INTRODUCTION

Bringing together, in the eighth Goal, the responsibilities of developing countries with those of developed countries, founded on a global partnership endorsed at the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico in March 2002, and again at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development in August 2002.

a) UNDP Comprehensive Perception of MDGs

According to UNDP, the MDGs are comprised of the following eight goals, targets and indicators:

* Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Target 1 : Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day

1. Proportion of Population Below \$1 (PPP) per Day (World Bank)
2. Poverty Gap Ratio, \$1 per day (World Bank)
3. Share of Poorest Quintile in National Income or Consumption (World Bank).

Target 2 : Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

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4. Prevalence of Underweight Children Under Five Years of Age (UNICEF)
5. Proportion of the Population below Minimum Level of Dietary Energy Consumption (FAO)

* Goal 2 : Achieve Universal Primary Education

Target 3 : Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling

6. Net Enrolment Ratio in Primary Education (UNESCO)
7. Proportion of Pupils Starting Grade 1 who Reach Grade (UNESCO)
8. Literacy Rate of 15-24 year-olds (UNESCO)

* Goal 3 : Empower Women and Promote Equality Between Women and Men

Target 4 : Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015

9. Ratio of Girls to Boys in Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Education (UNESCO)
10. Ratio of Literate Women to Men 15-24 years old (UNESCO)
11. Share of Women in Wage Employment in the Non-Agricultural Sector (ILO)
12. Proportion of Seats Held by Women in National Parliaments (IPU)

* Goal 4: Reduce Under-Five Mortality By Twothirds

Target 5 : Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five

13. Under-Five Mortality Rate (UNICEF)
14. Infant Mortality Rate (UNICEF)
15. Proportion of 1 year-old Children Immunised Against Measles (UNICEF).

* Goal 5 : Reduce Maternal Mortality by Threequarters

Target 6 : Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio

16. Maternal Mortality Ratio (WHO)
17. Proportion of Births Attended by Skilled Health Personnel (UNICEF)

*Goal 6 : Reverse The Spread of Diseases, Especially Hiv/Aids And Malaria

Target 7 : Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

18. HIV Prevalence Among 15-24 year-old Pregnant Women (UNAIDS)

19. Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate and Population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS, UNICEF, UN Population Division, WHO)
20. Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years

Target 8 : Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

21. Prevalence and Death Rates Associated with Malaria (WHO):
22. Proportion of Population in Malaria Risk Areas Using Effective Malaria Prevention and Treatment Measures (UNICEF):
23. Prevalence and Death Rates Associated with Tuberculosis (WHO):
24. Proportion of Tuberculosis Cases Detected and Cured Under Directly-Observed Treatment Short Courses (WHO)

**Goal 7 : Ensure Environmental Sustainability*

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

25. Forested land as percentage of land area (FAO)
26. Ratio of Area Protected to Maintain Biological Diversity to Surface Area (UNEP)
27. Energy supply (apparent consumption; Kg oil equivalent) per \$1,000 (PPP) GDP (World Bank)
28. Carbon Dioxide Emissions (per capita) and Consumption of Ozone-Depleting CFCs (ODP tons):

Target 10 : Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water

29. Proportion of the Population with Sustainable Access to and Improved Water Source (WHO/UNICEF)
30. Proportion of the Population with Access to Improved Sanitation (WHO/UNICEF)

Target 11 : Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020

31. Slum population as percentage of urban population (secure tenure index) (UN-Habitat)

** Goal 8 : Create A Global Partnership For Development, with Targets for Aid, Trade and Debt Relief*

Target 12 : Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, nondiscriminatory

trading and financial system Includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction — both nationally and internationally Target 13. Address the special needs of the least developed countries Includes: tariff and quota free access for least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for HIPC and

cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction.

Target 14 : Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing States.

Target 15 : Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term.

Target 16 : In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth.

Target 17 : In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries

Target 18 : In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

Official development assistance

32. Net ODA as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national product (targets of 0.7% in total and 0.15% for LDCs)
33. Proportion of ODA to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)
34. Proportion of ODA that is untied
35. Proportion of ODA for environment in small island developing States
36. Proportion of ODA for transport sector in landlocked countries

Market access

37. Proportion of exports (by value and excluding arms) admitted free of duties and quotas
38. Average tariffs and quotas on agricultural products and textiles and clothing
39. Domestic and export agricultural subsidies in OECD countries
40. Proportion of ODA provided to help build tradecapacity

Debt sustainability

41. Proportion of official bilateral HIPC debt cancelled
42. Total Number of Countries that Have Reached their HIPC Decision Points and Number that Have Reached their Completion Points (Cumulative) (HIPC) (World Bank-IMF)
43. Debt Service as a Percentage of Exports of Goods and Services (World Bank)
44. Debt Relief Committed Under HIPC Initiative (HIPC) (World Bank-IMF)
45. Unemployment of 15-24 year-olds, Each Sex and Total (ILO)
46. Proportion of Population with Access to Affordable, Essential Drugs on a Sustainable Basis (WHO)
47. Telephone Lines and Cellular Subscribers per 100 Population (ITU)

48. Personal Computers in Use and Internet Users per 100 Population (ITU).

II. MDGS AND THE NIGERIA CASE HOW-FAR?

GOAL 1; Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger the millennium development goals call for reducing the proportion of people living on less than \$1 to half the 1990 level by 2015 from 27.9 percent of people in low and middle income economies to 14.0 percent. Also to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger from 1990-2015.

Nigeria, the most populous African country has more than 70 percent of its citizens living below poverty line. The Nigerian preliminary report on world bank global consultation with the poor suggests the communities in Nigeria have a rich, complex and comprehensive experience of poverty, defining it using a range of material and non-material indicator. Increasingly, communities perceive poverty as an overwhelming denial of their right to a quality life that is enabling and empowering with characteristics of social exclusion, vulnerability, and insecurity [World Bank, 1999], it is estimated by the united nations that about 20% of African `s populations resides in Nigeria and that over 50% of African investments are in the country [Chinsman, 1998].

In spite of substantial economic progress and social advancement in the past thirty years, then, is still much human suffering and the country continues to face enormous challenges in setting a development agenda that meets the need of its citizenry. About, 10% of Nigeria population lives in absolute poverty [define as earning less than \$1.00 a day] with about 80% of poor residing in rural areas [UNDP, 1996; NPC, 1996]. The federal office of statistics [1999] reported that during a 17 years period [1980-1996], proportion of core poor rose five-fold from 6.2% in 1980 to 29.3% in 1996, with the greatest percentage increase in the period between 1992 and 1996. Levels of urban poverty also worsened sharply from 17.6% in 1980 to 37.80% in 1985 with an all-time high of 58.2% [FOS, 1999].

Considering the aggregate macro-levels, the gross national product [GNP] has declined from \$ 1,000 in 1980 to 260 in 1995 placing Nigeria among the 20 poorest nations in the world [UNDP, 1998]. The physical quality of life index [PQLI] recorded in 1980 was 38% in Nigeria, while Kenya reported an index of 530/ and Ghana and Cote D'Ivoire 41% respectively [UNDP, 1996]- the united [HDI] for 1996 placed Nigeria resources. The 1998 figure was more dismal and Nigeria ranked 142 among the 172 countries assessed [Oladipo, 1999].

The Nigeria demographic and health survey [NDHS, 2003], attested to the contribution of poor nutrition and hunger on high toll rates of disability, morbidity and mortality in Nigeria. The body mass index

also confirmed poor health indicator among women in relation to poor food intake.

However, government has reportedly made several attempts at poverty alleviation. Successive regimes in the country had rolled out various programmes aimed at poverty alleviation, but these programmes, despite the laudable objectives of their initiators were moribund by corrupt practice some of the recent programmes include DFRRI, FSN and most recently, poverty Alleviation programme.

III. OVERVIEW OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The MDGs were introduced and agreed on at the united nation millennium summit in September 2000 with nearly 190 countries, including Nigeria as signatories to the agreement. The eight MDGs were:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education;
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

According to DFID [2007] the MDGs were introduced as of a wider attempt to encourage the international community to stop talking about making a difference in developing world and join forces to start doing something about it. Alongside the goals a series of 18 targets were also drawn up to give the international community a number of tangible improvement to aim for within a fixed period of time, and also make it easier for them to progress to date [table 1]. The intention is that almost all of these targets will be achieved by 2015.

IV. THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT IN NIGERIA AND CHALLENGES FOR MDGS

It is essential to gain an understanding of the challenges which need to be addressed to achieve industrial development and attain the MDGs. This is informed by the characteristics of the rural areas and the significance of the rural dwellers in national development.

Table 1 : MDGs, Goals and Targets

Goals	Targets
MDG 1; Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty	Target 1. Halve between 1990 and 2015 the proportion of whose income is less than \$1 a day.
MDG 2; Achieve universal primary	Target 2. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.
MDG 3; Promote gender equality and empower women	Target 3. Ensure that , by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.
MDG 4; Reduce child mortality	Target 4. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education no later than 2015
MDG 5; Improve maternal health	Target 5. Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.
MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases	Target 6: Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio
MDG 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability	Target 7: Have halted by 2015 and began to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
MDC 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development	<p>Target 8: Have halted by 2015 and began to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases</p> <p>Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.</p> <p>Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.</p> <p>Target 11: Have achieved by 2020 a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers</p> <p>Target 12: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, nondiscriminatory trading and financial system (includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction both nationally and internationally)</p> <p>Target 13: Address the special needs of the Least Developed Countries (includes tariff-and quota-free access for Least Developed Countries? Exports, enhanced program of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries (HPCs) and cancellation of official bilateral debt, and more generous official bilateral debt, and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction).</p> <p>Target 14: Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing states (through the Program of Action for the sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and 22nd General Assembly provisions)</p> <p>Target 15: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term</p> <p>Target 16: In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth</p> <p>Target 17: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.</p> <p>Target 18: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information communication technologies</p>



V. RELEVANCE OF MDGs TO NIGERIA

Igbuzor (2006) pointed out some important reasons why Nigeria should participate in the MDGs. According to him, MDGs provide additional entry point to engage government on development issues. It also affects all segments of the society and serves as link between government and the grassroots. It provides link between local and international actions towards human centered development. Other reasons advanced include: MDGs draw together in a single agenda issues that require priority to address the development question. Secondly, the MDGs have received tremendous endorsement and backing by world's governments and thirdly, the MDGs have the advantage of being more or less measurable, few in number, concentrated on human development and focused almost on a single date 2015. Another advantage of the MDGs to Nigeria is that it adds urgency and transparency to international development.

VI. NIGERIA'S COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING MDGs

Explicit resource commitments have been made to achieve the MDGs. According UNDP (2007), in 2003, the Government of Nigeria approved a poverty reduction strategy, the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), based partly on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). To prioritize its spending in line with the Goals, Medium Term sector Strategies (MTSS) were developed to guide the preparation and implementation of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), with 57 percent of total capital spending earmarked for the MDGs related sectors. A prudential committee on the MDGs was set up in 2005, with membership comprising of the Federal and State governments, the Legislature, Civil Society organisations and the Private sector and development partners. The review of NEEDS has led to the elaboration of a new strategy. NEEDS is more closely aligned to achievement of the MDGs. NEEDS is being aligned with the Seven-Point Agenda that is the focus of the new administration, which is largely in line with the MDGs to form the country's National Development Agenda. This is expected to be the first medium term plan to implement the Vision 2020.

Following the debt relief extended to Nigeria in 2005, a Virtual Poverty Fund was established to ensure that monies released from the debt relief would be channeled towards initiatives to reduce poverty. Since 2006, on an annual basis, about US\$1 billion has been allocated to support progress in health, education, water and sanitation, environment, energy, housing, women's rights, HIV/AIDS, social safety nets (including micro-credit scheme and conditional cash transfer), the conditional grant scheme to state governments and for the provision of rural infrastructure. This fund facilitated

the establishment of monitoring framework for tracking its expenditure and evaluating its impact. Through the involvement of the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), this monitoring framework has been used to track the performance of the activities implemented under the Debt Relief Gains (DRG).

An MDG awareness campaign was carried out in 2005 with participation from a broad spectrum of society including school children, out-of-school youth, and grass-roots women. It also included training for the media to encourage reporting to bring the Goals to public attention and show the connection between the MDGs and the daily life of the people. This campaign increased awareness of the Goals and underlined the survey of MDGs awareness was also undertaken in 2006. At the national level, MDGs needs assessment has been undertaken in eight sectors – agriculture, energy, environment, housing, roads, water, health and education. Efforts to garner support for the states and local governments and being introduced with funding being provided from the national level for "MDGs quick wins" projects. The MDGs report, not less than 14 states have initiated the process of domesticating MDGs reporting. Significant progress has been made in education (MDGs 2 and 3, relating to universal primary education and gender equality). Net enrolment rates show considerable improvement as a result of the government's implementation of the Universal Basic Education Programme (UBEP), a 145, 000 teachers were retrained and 40, 000 new teachers recruited through the Virtual Poverty Fund (Igbuzor, 2006).

On Goals 7 and 8 on environment and global partnership for development respectively, initiatives that merit special mention are the agreement on Zero Tolerance on Gas Flares by 2008 and the cancellation of Nigeria's international debt, freeing up an additional \$1 billion a year for poverty reduction. At the Africa regional launch of fighting climate change: Human solidarity in a divided world, President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua appealed for world leaders to address climate change as a matter of urgency to avert a global climate disaster. He explained that developing countries are paying a high toll for the actions of rich nations and called on developed countries to drastically cut emissions, and exceed the report's recommendations. "While the report is advocating a reduction by 30% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 from advanced countries, the 30% must be reached before 2015 if they really want Africa to reach the MDGs." President Yar'Adua said that Nigeria, as the host of the regional launch, would take a leading role on climate change in Africa and that his government would not tolerate gas flaring in the Delta beyond 2008 (UNDP HDR, 2008).

The President (Yar'Adua) urged that African governments should act now to address the effects of climate change in the region, which include erratic rainfall patterns, floods and prolonged and recurring

droughts creating a cumulative cycle of vulnerability and destitution across generations (UNDP HDR, 2008). The details of the situation in Nigeria were captured in the 2005 MDGs report with regard to each of the goals is shown below:

a) Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

2015 target: Halve proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day, and those suffering hunger): The current rate of reduction in poverty is too slow to meet the targets set for 2015. If the current rate of poverty reduction is maintained, poverty incidence would reduce to 43% as opposed to 21.2 % by 2015.

b) Achieve Universal basic Education

2015 target: Achieve universal primary completion): The efficiency of primary education has improved over the years, as the primary six completion rate increased steadily from 65% in 1998 to 83% in 2001. It however declined in 2002 only to shoot up to 94 % in 2003. Literacy level in the country has steadily and gradually deteriorated, especially within the 15-24 years group. By 1999, the overall literacy rate had declined to 64.1% from 71.9% in 1991. The trend was in the same direction for male and female members of the 15-24 years age bracket. Among the male, the rate declined from 81.35% in 1991 to 69.8% in 1999. The decline among the female was from 62.49% during the same period.

c) Promote Gender Equality

2005/2015 target: Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education enrolment by 2005, and achieve equity at all levels by 2015): At the primary school level, enrolment has been consistently higher for boys (56%) than for girls (44%).

d) Reduce Child Mortality

2015 target: Reduce by two thirds the child mortality rates): Infant mortality rate was 91% 1000 live births in 1990 which later decline to 75 in 1999 but became worse in 2003. It rose to 1000 live births in 2003.

e) Improve Maternal Health

2015 target: Reduce by three quarters the proportion of women dying in childbirth): The 1999 multiple indicator cluster survey reported a maternal mortality rate of 704 per 100, 000 live births. The maternal mortality is more than twice as high in the rural areas. The report did not give comparative statistics.

f) Combat AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases

2015 target: Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases): Since the identification of the first HIV/AIDS case in mid 1980s, the HIV prevalence rate has continually been on the increase from 1.8 to 5.8% in the period between 1991 and 2001. In 2003, the rate decreased to 5.0% and in 2005, it decreased to 4.4%.

g) Ensure Environmental Sanitation Sustainability

Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources 2015 target: To reduce by half the proportion of people without access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation. The country is endowed with abundant environmental sustainability. The environmental situation is challenged by myriad of problems, which impact negatively on the utilization of the resources for development and poverty alleviation.

h) Develop a global Partnership for Development

Target: develop further an open, rule – based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system (includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction both nationally and internationally).

VII. CHALLENGES FOR NIGERIA MEETING THE GOALS

The question of whether Nigeria can or cannot meet the MDGs is a crucial question that should agitate the minds of politicians, government bureaucrats, civil society activists and development workers. It can be answered either in the negative or the affirmative. The NEEDS document clearly states that “if present trend continues, the country is not likely to meet the Millennium Development Goals.” On the other hand, the 2005 report gives the conditions for meeting the goals: strong political will and sustained efforts. Perhaps, a better way to frame the question is what can Nigeria do to meet the MDGs in 2015?. Nigeria has sufficient resources to meet the MDGs in 2015. But for this to happen, as earlier stated, the country will have to change course in the conceptualization and implementation of policies and programmes to achieve the MDGs (Yusuf, 2006).

Igbuzor (2006), reported that one good initiative in Nigeria designed to meet the MDGs is the oversight of Public Expenditure in Nigeria (OPEN) set up to monitor the Debt Relief Gain (DRGs). Two issues make this initiative unique. The first is the leadership of the process which has been participatory, open, transparent and all inclusive with participation of private sector and civil society. The second and perhaps most important is that systems have been put in place to track resources. This is perhaps the model that should become the norm in every ministry, department and agency at all levels of government. It must however be recognized that development is a complex issue and goes beyond allocation of Debt Relief Gains to some MDGs Ministries.

According to Gwary (2011) identified the following challenges facing Nigeria in achieving the MDGs. They are:

There are available statistics to illustrate the extent of the challenges which need to be surmounted in Nigeria's efforts to attain the MDGs. One of the greatest threats in this regard is the level and extent of poverty which is not prevalent in the rural areas.

Statistics on income and social indicators show poverty in Nigeria to be wide spread and severe and the trend increasing. According to Federal Office of statistics (FOS) and World Bank, the population of the poor in Nigeria which was 36.1 million in 1985 and 34.7 million in 1992, has jumped to 55.8 million in 1997 (Human Development report, 1998). The calculation of the human poverty index for Nigeria shows that it is 41.6, meaning that the people are extremely deprived, with one in every two Nigerians is poor (Human Development report, 1997). In terms of the proportion of the poor in the total population available statistics indicates that in 1960 the poverty level in Nigeria covers about 15% of the population and by 1980 it grew to 28.0%. In 1985 the poverty level was 46.0% which dropped 43.0% by 1992. By 1996, the poverty level in Nigeria was estimated at 66% and about 70% of the population have become poor by 2001 (FOS, 2003; FGN, 2002). According to World Bank Reports, 1999 (In Aliyu, 2001), Nigeria's Human Development Index (HDI) was only 0.416 which placed the country among the 25 poorest countries in the world. Furthermore, life expectancy at birth was 51 years, literacy rate was 44% and 70% of the rural population do not have access to portable water, healthcare facilities and electricity. Infant mortality rate

(per 1000 live births) and under-five mortality rates were 82 and 191, respectively in 1995. Information from the National Bureau of Statistics indicated that the literacy rate ranged between 49.335% for male and 62.25% for female with respect to inability to read and write in English language. The rate for those who cannot read and write in any Nigerian language were 60.17% for male and 49.39% for female. The national net primary school enrolment rate was 81.19% which suggests that 29 out of every 100 primary school children are not in school (Fajonyomi, 2006).

Poverty in Nigeria as been described as poverty amidst plenty (Human Development report, 1998). This is attested by the fact that Nigeria is endowed with both natural and human resources which if wisely managed can no doubt make it possible to attain the MDGs. There are other challenges especially with respect to the other MDGs. With reference to MDG 6, the spread of HIV/AIDS has increased significantly in Nigeria since the first official report of the first case in 1986. Information culled from the National HIV/AIDS and Reproductive Health Survey (NARHS, 2005) indicated a progressive increase in the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate from 1.8% in 1991, through 4.5% in 1996 to 5.8% in 2001. However, they appear to be a reversal in trend with the 2003 survey result of 5.0% (FMOH, 2003b) and 4.4% in 2005. About 2.9 million Nigerians are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in 2005. From the statistics, it is glaring that the AIDS pandemic continues to be a major health and development challenge in Nigeria.



Different Phases and Level of MDG Dilapidated Water Infrastructures/Facilities in Ekiti State



A European Union & UNICEF functioning Water Project with a Community in Osun State



Different Abuses of Treated Mosquito Net: Use as Net for Goal Posts and for Domestic Gardens Respectively in Osun State



A bad and contrary use of ITMN meant to protect the people of Ekiti state against mosquito bite



Functioning and benefiting water projects in Ekiti state different from the MDG water project

Another health of critical significance in meeting the MDG is maternal morbidity and mortality. Though there are variations across states and ecological zones in Nigeria, in general statistics shows that the country has a high level of maternal mortality. Based on available estimates of 800 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, Nigeria records about 37,000 maternal deaths annually, the third highest in the world (WHO, 2004). Poor health seeking behavior, poor availability of obstetrics services and poor quality of services are major factors associated with high maternal morbidity and mortality rates in Nigeria. There are sharp urban-rural differences in access to health services. Women in rural areas generally have relatively poor level of utilization of health services. According to the National Health and Reproductive survey (NHRHS) (2003), the proportion of urban mothers (59%) that were assisted by skilled attendants at delivery was more than twice that of rural women (25%). Urban women are three times as likely to receive post-natal care as rural women (Federal Ministry of Health, 2005). The goal of improving maternal health in the country have also been hampered by lack of friendly policies to encourage access to antenatal services by women as well as other site specific constraints in different parts of the country. A survey in Kano state north eastern Nigeria shows that most deaths of pregnant women were due to hypertension and late referral, and the reasons for this according to Yusuf (2006) are:

1. Lack of competent health personnel;
2. Inadequate health facilities;
3. Poor health seeking behaviors (patients waiting until crisis point);
4. Gender power relations between men and women, especially as regards domestic decision-making;
5. Low educational status of women;
6. Inadequate postnatal Emergency Obstetrics Care services;
7. Muslim women have problems with accessing health services promptly, mainly because they have to seek permission from their spouse and there is disapproval of non-same-sex medical attendants.
8. In general, there are several other challenges facing Nigeria in meeting the MDGs. These include:
9. Decay of infrastructure;
10. The size of the population;
11. Mismanagement of public resources;
12. The capacity of the public service to deliver;
13. Corruption and lack of transparency;
14. The common characteristics of many Nigerian politician to be only interested in what they can gain from the office and an obsession with how to remain in office, rather than thinking of the public benefits;
15. Lack of adequate funding for public education and inequitable allocation of resources between rural and urban areas;
16. Cultural which include religious and social impediments to gender equality;
17. Lack of sufficient care and appropriate laws to protect the environment.

It is very important that the above statistics and discussion shows clearly those mounting challenges which Nigeria needs to overcome in a bid to reach the

MDGs and ensure improve welfare for her people, especially the rural dwellers.

VIII. STRATEGIES REQUIRED FOR DEVELOPMENT

Development requires growth and structural change, some measure of distributive equity, modernization in social and cultural attitudes, a degree of political transformation and stability, an improvement in health and education so that population growth stabilizes, and an increase in urban living and employment. Social transformation will require good change and progress in the following areas:

a) *Transparency and accountability*

Several analyses of the challenges of development in Nigeria have identified lack of transparency and accountability as major a obstacle. Accountants in Nigeria have a great role to play in this regards. They must change the way auditing is done from financial auditing of certifying payments and receipts to systems auditing and examining the whole concept of value for money. Otherwise, accountants and auditors will just be certifying corruption.

b) *Tracking Institutional Constraints*

To deliver services to the people require effective and efficient institutions that follow due process and standards.

c) *Pro-Poor Growth*

It is clear that there has been economic growth in Nigeria in the last few years above 5%. But economic growth alone cannot lead to achievement of the MDGs unless the growth is pro-poor. Structural Change: To achieve the MDGs in Nigeria, there is the economy is not dependent on only one product but diversified economy and expanding the industrial sector.

d) *Distributive Equity*

Deliberate efforts and policies must be put in place to redistribute income. The MDGs will be meeting if the poor and excluded in society are empowered to meet their basic needs.

e) *Social and cultural Re-orientation*

There is the need for social and cultural re-orientation to meet some of the goals. For instance, the goals on women and girls require a new kind of mindset to achieve them.

f) *Political Transformation*

The political system and the way it engenders commitment, participation and patriotism by the people contributes immensely to national cohesion, peace and stability and development.

g) *Human Development*

Development implies the fulfillment of basic human needs including those for education and health.

h) *Urban Development*

The growth of urbanization is definitely increasing and there will probably be more people in urban areas than rural areas by 2015. There must be urban development process that is inclusive and not based on dislocation of slum dwellers without alternatives.

i) *Employment*

Employment is the surest way of achieving the MDGs because individuals will receive income and will contribute of the economy.

j) *Transformation of Power Relations*

Whenever power is concentrated in the hands of a few, they will utilize such powers to accumulate wealth. To achieve the MDGs will require transformation of power relations and challenge of patriarchy.

k) *Partnership with development partners*

It has been documented that in order to make adequate progress towards achieving the MDGs, Nigeria will require additional external financing averaging about US \$6.4 billion annually between 2005 and 2008. Even if the resources in the country are used effectively there will be challenges in meeting the MDGs. Meanwhile, Nigeria is seriously under aided. Nigeria receives only US \$2 per capital in ODA compared to the average for Africa of US of US \$28 per capital. In addition, meeting the MDGs will require partnership between government, the public sector and the private sector. In particular, it will require transformers from the public sector, civil society, media and private sector to build a critical movement of people advocating for and implementing change (Igbuzor, 2006).

IX. THE WAY FORWARD

The reality is that the Millennium Development Goals are not being met. Fortunately, however, the prospects are not completely bleak. Bangladesh and other low income countries can meet these goals, but we require a significant change from business as usual, both in low income countries, as well as in the behavior of rich countries and the international institutions. Only true international partnership will propel the Millennium Development Goals beyond rhetoric and into effect. While this partnership started auspiciously at the beginning of the decade, it has gone off track as the world has grown enmeshed in conflict (Sachs, 2004).

To Gwary (2011) he suggested that the efforts to achieve the MDGs in Nigeria should be coordinated bt all tiers of government in the following areas:

- a. Government in implementing NEEDS, SEEDS and LEEDS: the three (NEEDS, SEEDS and LEEDS) are holistic planning framework geared towards harnessing the potentials of Nigeria's vast human and natural resources to develop the country. To get the benefits envisaged by the plan. This requires

that all hands be on deck, meaning, coordination of efforts of Federal, State and Local governments in genuine partnership with all and sundry. Moreover, realizing this vision for Nigeria relies on ensuring that the set targets and programmes so defined are implemented effectively and that the beneficiaries are involved in monitoring and evaluating the processes.

- b. Promote participation of rural people: Participation of rural people is necessary for sustainable development. It means that the people who are affected by project or programme should be involved in all stage of it, including the planning, implementation and monitoring. This is the only that the essential human element of the project or programme can be incorporated in it. In practice, it entails that all rural development programmes targeted at attaining the MDGs should ensure beneficiaries involvement in its design, implementation, monitoring progress and evaluation.
- c. Promotion of Rural Entrepreneurship: This includes engagement in off-farm and off-season income earning ventures. This is necessary because labor intensive agriculture practiced in the rural areas alone may prove inadequate means of alleviation of rural poverty. Moreover, many rural households derive a significant proportion of their income from non-farm activities and the counter cyclical nature of non-farm employment smoothen the seasonal pattern of earnings. This point should be taken very serious because entrepreneurship is a catalyst to alleviate poverty. Even though NUC have recommended the teaching of entrepreneurship in all existing and functioning tertiary institutions in Nigeria, not all institutions have comply to this order and even those that have complied, most of them are not doing any practical at all. Thus, it is not a complete dose of knowledge.
- d. Adequate funding of rural development: Provision of adequate funding of rural development activities is necessary to address rural poverty and reverse the neglect suffered in the past. With enough funding there will be rural revival in forms of agricultural development, rural employment which raise rural incomes ad also help stem rural urban migration.

X. CONCLUSION

From the above unbiased discourse, it may be very difficult for some countries in developing societies to attain the MDGs because most of them share the same socio-economic and religious template especially for a nations like Nigeria where corruption is the order of every second and it is very unfortunate the virus of corruption has been injected into all the on coming generations. It is also important that the rural areas

become central aspect of planning, restructuring and reformation and rebranding simply because it is evident that the rural areas are very essential in the economic development of any country. For the MDGs not to be a tall dream, the analysis, facts and figures discussed above is dependent is a function of comprehensive development of the rural areas and improvement in the living standard of the rural people. The abandonment of the rural areas is what led to the status we are today in Nigeria as a result of bad leaders that have been ruling the country right from when Nigeria got her *roundtable independent*.

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Abstract, used in Original Papers and Reviews:

Optimizing Abstract for Search Engines

Many researchers searching for information online will use search engines such as Google, Yahoo or similar. By optimizing your paper for search engines, you will amplify the chance of someone finding it. This in turn will make it more likely to be viewed and/or cited in a further work. Global Journals Inc. (US) have compiled these guidelines to facilitate you to maximize the web-friendliness of the most public part of your paper.

Key Words

A major linchpin in research work for the writing research paper is the keyword search, which one will employ to find both library and Internet resources.

One must be persistent and creative in using keywords. An effective keyword search requires a strategy and planning a list of possible keywords and phrases to try.

Search engines for most searches, use Boolean searching, which is somewhat different from Internet searches. The Boolean search uses "operators," words (and, or, not, and near) that enable you to expand or narrow your affords. Tips for research paper while preparing research paper are very helpful guideline of research paper.

Choice of key words is first tool of tips to write research paper. Research paper writing is an art. A few tips for deciding as strategically as possible about keyword search:



- One should start brainstorming lists of possible keywords before even begin searching. Think about the most important concepts related to research work. Ask, "What words would a source have to include to be truly valuable in research paper?" Then consider synonyms for the important words.
- It may take the discovery of only one relevant paper to let steer in the right keyword direction because in most databases, the keywords under which a research paper is abstracted are listed with the paper.
- One should avoid outdated words.

Keywords are the key that opens a door to research work sources. Keyword searching is an art in which researcher's skills are bound to improve with experience and time.

Numerical Methods: Numerical methods used should be clear and, where appropriate, supported by references.

Acknowledgements: Please make these as concise as possible.

References

References follow the Harvard scheme of referencing. References in the text should cite the authors' names followed by the time of their publication, unless there are three or more authors when simply the first author's name is quoted followed by et al. unpublished work has to only be cited where necessary, and only in the text. Copies of references in press in other journals have to be supplied with submitted typescripts. It is necessary that all citations and references be carefully checked before submission, as mistakes or omissions will cause delays.

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Tables, Figures and Figure Legends

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Figures: Figures are supposed to be submitted as separate files. Always take in a citation in the text for each figure using Arabic numbers, e.g. Fig. 4. Artwork must be submitted online in electronic form by e-mailing them.

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TECHNIQUES FOR WRITING A GOOD QUALITY RESEARCH PAPER:

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27. Refresh your mind after intervals: Try to give rest to your mind by listening to soft music or by sleeping in intervals. This will also improve your memory.

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- Significant conclusions or questions that track from the research(es)

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Approach

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Approach:

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- Submit to work done by specific persons (including you) in past tense.
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<i>Introduction</i>	Containing all background details with clear goal and appropriate details, flow specification, no grammar and spelling mistake, well organized sentence and paragraph, reference cited	Unclear and confusing data, appropriate format, grammar and spelling errors with unorganized matter	Out of place depth and content, hazy format
<i>Methods and Procedures</i>	Clear and to the point with well arranged paragraph, precision and accuracy of facts and figures, well organized subheads	Difficult to comprehend with embarrassed text, too much explanation but completed	Incorrect and unorganized structure with hazy meaning
<i>Result</i>	Well organized, Clear and specific, Correct units with precision, correct data, well structuring of paragraph, no grammar and spelling mistake	Complete and embarrassed text, difficult to comprehend	Irregular format with wrong facts and figures
<i>Discussion</i>	Well organized, meaningful specification, sound conclusion, logical and concise explanation, highly structured paragraph reference cited	Wordy, unclear conclusion, spurious	Conclusion is not cited, unorganized, difficult to comprehend
<i>References</i>	Complete and correct format, well organized	Beside the point, Incomplete	Wrong format and structuring



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