



Millennium.....  
Development  
Goals

*Report*  
2004

**NIGERIA**









# Millennium Development Goals Report 2004 NIGERIA





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## FOREWORD

Following the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted at the Millennium Summit held 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> September 2000 in New York, Nigeria has been committed to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. These Goals were targets for making measurable improvements in the lives of the World's poorest citizens. Participating countries were expected to articulate policies, strategies and plans which will facilitate the achievement of the eight Millennium Development Goals, while the UN Development System was to work closely with countries to facilitate the nation's efforts.

The first MDGs Progress Report produced by Nigerian's stakeholders provides the benchmark for the national development targets to be achieved by 2015. However one major challenge of this report is the need to strengthen the monitoring system. We must ensure constant progress monitoring using appropriate indicators that were identified in the Report. The agency responsible for producing the relevant data (Federal Office of Statistics) is being streamlined and strengthened financially and technically to perform this function effectively. Also, a National Committee for tracking the progress of meeting the MDGs targets will be set up to among other things produce an action plan for continuous monitoring.

It is also important that MDGs be linked with the on-going initiatives and processes under the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS). The plan for financing of the programmes and projects for the achievement of the MDGs will also be linked with the annual budgetary allocation to relevant sectors both at the federal and state levels. Other tiers of Government will be encouraged to adopt a similar approach.

It is my sincere hope that with the implementation of the suggestions in this document, Nigeria will gradually move away from high poverty incidence to a situation in which the majority of the people enjoy improved quality of life and self-esteem.



**Professor Charles Chukwuma Soludo**  
The Economic Adviser to the President

2nd June, 2004





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report examines the progress of Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, towards the achievement of the internationally established Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the year 2015. It covers goals related to poverty reduction, education, gender equality, child and maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, environmental sustainability and international cooperation for development.

The report recognizes Nigeria's huge resource potential including natural and human resources. However, despite this endowment, the annual GDP growth rate in Nigeria has averaged only 3 per cent per annum during the last decade. Since the population has also grown at approximately the same rate, the welfare of the average Nigerian has not improved significantly. Thus Nigeria is now ranked among the poorest countries in the world.

Three main challenges to Nigeria's development were identified, including the heavy external debt burden that affects the finances of the government and the economy as a whole and is a heavy tax on investment and growth. For instance, in 2000, Nigeria's debt service obligation was over 5 per cent of GDP. This represented three times the national education budget, nine times the public health budget, a significant drain for a country faced with an illiteracy rate of 57.0 per cent and confronted with the HIV/AIDS scourge.

Secondly, poverty has persisted despite a series of government interventions to address the issue. This is due in part to poor resource utilization that has worsened the poverty situation. The current National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) is expected to induce economic growth that is more pro-poor. The third main challenge is corruption, which makes Nigeria unattractive to investors as it raises the cost and risk of doing business in the country.

### Main Findings

There is potential to reach some of the targets related to achieving universal primary education, ensuring environmental stability and developing a global partnership for development. However, based on available information, it is unlikely that the country will be able to meet most of the goals by 2015 especially the goals related to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, reducing child and maternal mortality and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

Over the years, in response to development problems, several programs have been designed and implemented at huge cost, but there has been a lack of specific indicators to monitor performance. The report exposed several weaknesses in project implementation



procedures and the system of information gathering and management in Nigeria. For instance, the report noted that there is a lack of sustained gathering of relevant information to aid policy decision-making. This may be due to the perceived gulf between the producers and users of information that has led to paucity of data on some critical indicators. The poverty targets and indicators are worst hit in this regard. Nevertheless, it noted that from 1996 to 2003 especially since 1999 when a democratic administration came in, there has been some considerable emphasis on poverty reduction.

The last authentic and generally acceptable poverty data were published in 1996. Thus, with regard to Goal 1, which deals with poverty reduction efforts, it has been difficult to have an up-to-date assessment of the progress made. For most of the other goals, up-to-date data exists which shows that if the current trend continues, it will be difficult for the country to achieve the MDG targets by 2015. For each goal the report highlights the status, major challenges, the policy environment and priorities for development assistance. It is important to stress, however, that progress reports on the MDGs are a continuous process and efforts will be intensified to fill the data gap in order that subsequent reports will provide a clearer picture.

### **Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger**

Over the period 1980 to 1996, the proportion of poor people rose from 28.1% in 1980 to 65.6% in 1996. This translated to 17.7 million poor people in 1980 and 67.1 million people in 1996. By 2015, it is estimated that between 30.1 million, and 40.4 million people would still be living in poverty. Poverty is more pronounced in rural areas compared to urban areas. However, during the period 1986 to 1992, the early period of the Structural Adjustment Programme, there was a reduction in poverty in rural areas while poverty rates in urban areas remained relatively unchanged. Following 1992, poverty increased rapidly in both urban and rural areas.

Both male and female headed households experienced rising poverty between 1980 and 1996. However, female headed households fared relatively better than male headed households. In terms of food poverty, the proportion of underweight children under five years of age fell from 35.7% in 1990 to 28.3% in 1993 before rising to 30.7% in 1999. The incidence of underweight children was higher in rural areas.

The report outlines major challenges to poverty reduction including social, economic, political, cultural and environmental factors and examines various government interventions geared towards these challenges. It concludes with several areas of priority for development assistances including promotion of rural productive activities, human resource development, development of rural infrastructure; special development programmes targeted at vulnerable groups and strengthening rural communities.





Poverty reduction is the core of Nigeria's medium term development programme National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS). Interventions and policies directed at poverty reduction will benefit all segments of the Nigerian society, especially women and other vulnerable groups. The promotion of rural development will be given utmost priority with emphasis on agricultural and agro-industrial development. The main strategies include technology and skill acquisition, natural resource management, infrastructure (physical and social) development; non-farm activities and human capital development. In addition, in the area of agro-industrial development to reduce rural poverty, partnership between the public and private sectors will be an important approach.

## Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

The National Policy on Education adopted in 1981 and revised in 1995 and 1998 provides for nine years of basic education. The Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme, established in 1999, aims to provide access to all students to at least the first nine years of schooling. Nigeria also endorsed the Jometien Conference on Education for All (EFA) by the year 2000 that set out targets for early childhood care and development, primary education, junior secondary school, and adult literacy.

The trend in gross enrolment ratio (GER) indicates considerable fluctuation in enrolment between 1991 and 2000. Enrolment increased steadily between 1990 and 1994, rising from 68% to 86%. Subsequently, enrolment declined to 81% in 1995 and 70% in 1996. Nigeria, therefore, did not achieve the Jometien EFA goals of 2000. In addition female enrolment was consistently lower than male enrolment. Literacy rates among 15-24 year olds have deteriorated since 1991, falling from 71.2% to 64.1% in 1999. Literacy rates were higher in urban areas compared to rural areas, and more males were literate compared to females. Recent surveys reveal that overall literacy rates have declined from 58% in 1990 to 49% in 2001, while literacy rates among women and girls have declined from 44% to 41% over the same period.

The report identifies several challenges to achieving universal primary education, including resource constraints, poverty, institutional constraints, culture and quality of teaching. The initiatives currently under way to achieve this goal are discussed and the main priority areas for development assistance are identified as financial and technical assistance to key areas, including life planning and HIV/AIDS education, community education, education sector analysis for planning, strategy for accelerating girls education, integrated early childhood development, research and evaluation.





### Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

The report highlights gender disparity in access to primary, secondary and tertiary education leading to unequal access to employment. It was found that the trend in gender ratios shows a reduction of inequality at the primary and secondary levels, although the disparity is still pronounced at the tertiary level. The ratio of literate females to males in the 15 to 24 years age group increased from 0.89 in 1996 to 0.93 in 2000. However, national literacy rates remain low, declining from 58% in 1990 to 49% in 2001. During the same period literacy rates for women and girls declined from 44% to 41%.

The report notes striking regional and geo-political zonal differences both in overall literacy rates and in women's literacy rates. Despite the positive trend in female participation in education, there exist considerable regional variations in adult literacy between urban and rural areas and between geo-political zones. In 1999, the South East and South West zones had the highest literacy rates. In all zones the literacy rates for males were higher than females. The imbalance in female participation in secondary and tertiary education is cited as an obstacle to access to stable wage employment and economic empowerment of women. Survey data indicates that women are increasingly represented in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector. Female participation in politics is limited with only one female out of 57 members of the Senate and 3 out of 445 in the Federal House of Representative

The report identifies several challenges to gender equality and the empowerment of women, including the development of the capacity to mainstream gender into policy and strategy and the need to increase female participation in education and politics.

### Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

The report noted that not much progress has been made in reducing child mortality. There are wide variations in infant and under-five mortality rates among various data sources. However, all the available data indicate that these indicators have deteriorated since the 1990s. Recent estimates from the 2003 National Demographic and Health Survey put under-five mortality rate as 217 per 1,000 with large regional variations. Urban and rural areas had under-five mortality rates of 243 per 1,000 and 153 per 1,000 respectively. With regard to geo-political zones, the highest under-five mortality rates were found in the North West and North East and the lowest in the South East and South West.

According to the target of the goal under consideration, there must be a reduction by two-thirds of under-five mortality by 2015. This means that by the year 2015, Nigeria should be able to reduce under-five mortality to 49 per 1,000. Looking at the scenario presented above, it is very unlikely that Nigeria will meet the 2015 target of reducing under-five



mortality by two thirds. The obstacles to the achievement of this goal include poverty, poor access to health care facilities, HIV/AIDS, and poor maternal health.

### **Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health**

Available data indicates that maternal mortality has decreased since 1990, however the level still remains high at approximately 1,000 per 100,000 live births in the late 1990s to 2001. In 1999 in particular, the national maternal mortality rate was 704 per 100,000 live births, with considerable regional variation. While the South West and South East recorded 165 per 100,000 and 286 per 100,000 respectively, the rates were much higher in the North West and North East, which had 1,025 per 100,000 and 1,549 per 100,000 respectively. Urban areas had lower rates of maternal mortality of 351 per 100,000 live births, compared to rural areas with recorded rates of 828 per 100,000.

The challenges to the achievement of this objective include teenage pregnancy, harmful cultural factors, and lack of health personnel and other infrastructure, particularly in rural areas. Support to the deployment of skilled health professionals and provision of supplies and equipment to easily accessible health care facilities is essential.

### **Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases**

It is estimated that 3.2 million to 3.8 million Nigerian adults and children were living with HIV/AIDS by the end of 2003. Current projections show an increase in the number of people living with HIV/AIDS to between 3.4 million and 4 million in 2005 and between 3.7 million and 4.3 million in 2008. By 2008, cumulative deaths from AIDS would be between 3.6 million to 4.2 million people. The age group most affected by the virus includes 20-29 year olds while the regions with the highest median prevalence rates include the North Central, North East and South South zones. Several factors contribute to the rapid spread of HIV & AIDS in Nigeria, including sexual networking practices such as polygamy, a high prevalence of untreated sexually transmitted infections (STIs), low condom use, poverty, low literacy, poor health status, low status of women, stigmatization, and denial of HIV infection risk among vulnerable groups. Nigeria is a complex mixture of diverse ethnic groups, languages, cultures, religions, and regional political groupings, all of which present major challenges for HIV prevention programs. In response to the epidemic, Nigeria's HIV & AIDS Emergency Action Plan (2001-2004) aims to increase awareness; promote behavioural change; foster community-specific action plans; improve legislation; promote care and support; mitigate the effect of the disease; monitor; and stimulate research on HIV & AIDS.

Data on prevalence and deaths associated with tuberculosis reveal that while the prevalence rate appeared to be slowing down between 1990 and 1995, it began to rise





again in 1996. By 1998 it was estimated that 27,840 people had the disease. The deaths associated with TB have increased over time from as low as 12 in 1993 to 940 in 1998, underscoring the fact that the country is enmeshed in a new wave of the disease, partially attributed to the effect of HIV infection.

The prevalence of malaria in Nigeria remains high, which may be due to the abundance of unkempt drainage and an environment that aids the vectors of malaria. Data available indicates that the prevalence of malaria increased from 1,116,982 in 1990 to 1,875,380 in 1998. Deaths recorded from malaria, have also been on the increase.

### **Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability**

Despite the emergence of an institutional framework, there have been few achievements related to environmental protection and natural resources management. Several problems were identified, including land degradation, pollution, flood and erosion, desertification, inefficient use of energy resources, loss of biodiversity, environmental disasters and deforestation. Poor access to improved sanitation facilities in Nigeria is blamed on poor implementation of health, housing and other related policies, high levels of poverty, low level of awareness about issues concerning environmental sustainability and the general underdevelopment of the rural areas. To improve the lives of slum dwellers, it is recommended that attention should be paid to increasing access to improved sanitation and adequate housing in rural and urban areas.

Major challenges to be addressed include the catering for a rapidly expanding population without destroying the environment, dealing with increasing social unrest and dislocation due to environmental degradation, promoting private sector participation in infrastructure provision and adoption of environmentally friendly technologies.

### **Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development**

Nigeria plays a prominent role in regional cooperation initiatives such as the African Union's (AU), New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and has the potential to benefit from global trade initiatives such as the US African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA). The country actively participates in world trade negotiations and along with other developing countries advocates for a solution to the longstanding issue of agricultural protection in industrialised countries.

The issue of the high level of Nigeria's indebtedness is discussed in relation to exploring innovative mechanisms for debt relief and increased official development assistance to support the country's efforts to achieve the MDGs. Nigeria is already benefiting from the provision of new information and communication technology due to private sector



initiatives that have resulted in improved access to telephone lines and computers.

Some of the challenges to be addressed include improved access to markets in the European Union and the US as well as improvements in the national capacity to exploit these new market opportunities. The country will also seek to promote domestic and foreign investment and deal with the issue of debt reduction to provide additional resources for development.





## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome	NDHS	National Demographic and Health Survey
CAP	Capacity Acquisition Programme	NEAPs	National Environmental Action Plans
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria	NEP	National Education Plan
CBOs	Community Based Organizations	NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
CDP	Credit Delivery Programme	NISER	Nigerian Institute for Social and Economic Research
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency	NITEL	Nigerian Telecommunications Ltd
CPI	Consumer Price Index	NPC	National Population Commission
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations	NPE	National Policy on Environment
DEC	Development Education Committee	NPEC	National Primary Education Commission
DFID	Department for International Development	NPHCDA	National Primary Health Care Development Agency
EFA	Education For All	NPI	National Programme on Immunization
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization	PABA	People Affected By AIDS
FEAP	Family Economic Advancement Programme	PAP	Poverty Alleviation Programme
FEPA	Federal Environmental Protection Agency	PLWHAs	People Living With HIV & AIDS
FGN	Federal Government of Nigeria	RIDS	Rural Infrastructures Development Scheme
FMEn	Federal Ministry of Environment	SACA	State Action Committee on AIDS
FMOH	Federal Ministry of Health	SOWESS	Social Welfare Services Scheme
FOS	Federal Office of Statistics	SPEB	State Primary Education Board
FSP	Family Support Programme	STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
GER	Gross Enrolment Ratio	TBAAs	Traditional Birth Attendants
GSM	Global System of Mobile Telecommunication	UNAIDS	United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development	UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
ICT	Information and Communication Technology	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate	UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
IPT	Intermittent Preventive Treatment	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
ITNs	Insecticide Treated Bednets	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
ITU	International Telecommunication Union	UNSN	United Nations System in Nigeria
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency	UPE	Universal Primary Education
LACA	Local Government Committee on AIDS	WDI	World Development Indicator
LGEA	Local Government Education Authority	WIN	Women in Nigeria
MAP	Mandatory Attachment Programme	WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
MCH	Maternal and Child Health	YES	Youth Empowerment Scheme
MDG	Millennium Development Goal		
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate		
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey		
NACA	National Action Committee on AIDS		
NACB	Nigerian Agricultural and Cooperative Bank		
NACRDB	Nigerian Agricultural Cooperative and Rural Development Bank		
NAPEP	National Poverty Eradication Programme		
NDE	National Directorate of Employment		



## NIGERIA'S PROFILE

Nigeria, the tenth largest country in Africa, lies on the West coast of Africa and occupies approximately 923,768 square kilometers of land bordering Niger, Chad, Cameroon, and Benin. The country is made up of 36 states and Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory. These are further divided into approximately 774 local government areas. For over thirty years since independence in 1960, Nigeria was under military rule. Democratic governance resumed in 1999. It is the most populous country in Africa. Based on 1991 census figures, almost one in every five Africans is a Nigerian. There are more than 350 ethnic/linguistic groups and a variety of social groups in the country. The spatial distribution of the population is uneven, with a majority of the population in rural areas, approximately 36 per cent of the population live in urban areas.

With a wide range of climatic, vegetational, and soil conditions, Nigeria possesses the potential for a wide range of agricultural production. The country is greatly blessed with minerals, forest and water resources. Fossil fuels, metallic, non-metallic and radioactive minerals are the basic groups of mineral resources found in Nigeria, including petroleum, coal, lignite, columbite, gold, iron ore, uranium, limestone, marble, tin, gravel and feldspar. There is a diversity of species of plants and animals useful for domestic consumption and export.

Despite the large human and natural resource base of the country, the Nigerian economy has suffered considerable decline, especially since the mid-1980s. This is perceived to be due to negative shocks in the international crude oil market and the adoption of the orthodox type structural adjustment programme in September 1986. The annual GDP growth rate in Nigeria during the last decade has been relatively low, averaging about 3 per cent, which is also the population growth rate, implying that welfare of the average Nigerian has not improved significantly. This situation explains why Nigeria is ranked among the poorest countries in the world.

Nigeria's output is dominated by agriculture that accounted for over 40 per cent of GDP in 2000. The share of manufacturing has remained below 10 per cent since 1990 while the share of services was 39 per cent in 2000. It follows, therefore, that in order to reduce poverty in Nigeria, the economic base must be diversified. In this regard, emphasis should be on small and medium scale manufacturing enterprises that will provide the much desired linkage between agriculture and the large scale manufacturing.

Available data shows that over 70 per cent of the country's annual earnings come from crude oil in the form of crude oil export proceeds, petroleum profit tax and royalty. All levels of government depend heavily on oil revenue that is subject to massive shocks thereby threatening the integrity of the budget at all levels of government. Also, all levels of government are confronted with high personnel cost and high debt servicing leaving limited resources for development purposes. Analysis of federal government capital expenditure also shows that the share to social services, especially health and education has been relatively low. The implication is that access to these services is impaired as a result of low capacity to deliver services. It is felt that unless there is a significant reduction in debt service obligations, the government is unlikely to be able to invest massively in infrastructure and social services which are necessary for the achievement of many of the Millennium Development Goals.





## Main Challenges

Nigeria's major challenge rests in the area of corruption because it makes the country unattractive to investors as it raises the cost and risk of doing business in the country. Accordingly, the first bill sent to the National Assembly by President Obasanjo was the Anti-Corruption Bill. The Independent Corrupt Practices Commission was swiftly established soon after the bill was passed. It is anticipated that with this initiative, along with respect for the rule of law and adherence to the tenets of contract enforcement, Nigeria will become more attractive to investors in real sectors of the economy thereby creating remunerative employment opportunities for all.

Another major challenge facing the Nigerian economy is how to reduce the heavy burden of external debt on the finances of the government and the economy as a whole. The plan to secure substantial debt relief in respect of external obligations has failed to materialize over the years. The total public debt outstanding as a proportion of GDP rose from 71.1 percent in 1994 to 83.55 percent in 2002. Thus, debt stock in Nigeria is a heavy tax on investment and growth. For instance the debt service obligation of Nigeria in 2000, which was over 5 percent of GDP, was about three times the national education budget and nine times the public health budget. This is not healthy for a country with an illiteracy rate of 57.0 per cent and one confronted with the HIV/AIDS scourge.

Reduction and possibly total elimination of extreme poverty has topped the agenda of the governments at all levels. Poor resource utilisation has worsened the poverty situation. The government is seriously concerned about how to reduce or totally eliminate the incidence of poverty by creating jobs for the teeming unemployed youths in the country. Thus, the thrust of the government policies now is to induce economic growth that is more pro-poor. Such policies have been fully elaborated in the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS). Towards this end and in order to secure the much-desired intergovernmental development policy coordination without detracting from the tenets of federalism, the National Council on Development Planning and Joint Planning Board has been revived. A bottom-up approach that is participatory is to be adopted in the implementation of NEEDS.



## KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicators	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Growth of Real GDP (%)	8.2	4.8	3.0	2.7	1.3	2.2	3.4	3.2	2.3	2.8	3.9	4.2	3.3
GNP per capita (US Dollar)	-	-	-	-	220	210	240	280	300	310	-	-	-
Savings/GDP ratio (%)	11.0	12.0	10.0	12.0	12.0	12.1	13.2	14.7	12.8	10.5	22.0	25.5	25.1
Investment/GDP ratio (%)	6.3	5.8	5.6	6.1	5.7	4.7	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.6	6.2	7.0
Savings-Investment Gap (N billion)	4.7	6.2	4.4	5.9	6.5	7.4	8.6	10.3	8.5	6.1	19.9	19.3	18.1
Inflation Rate (%)	7.5	13.0	44.6	57.2	57.1	73.0	29.3	8.3	10.3	6.6	6.9	18.9	12.9
Domestic Debt stock/GDP (%)	32.3	35.9	31.5	31.9	37.3	17.2	12.2	12.2	18.9	24.9	18.6	18.5	19.7
External Debt stock/GDP (%)	114.6	101.4	98.9	79.0	69.2	74.7	80.5	70.7	87.2	80.7	64.0	57.9	64.1
Exchange Rates (N/\$)	8.0	9.9	17.3	22.3	21.9	81.2	82.0	83.2	85.6	96.1	101.7	111.9	120.5
Broad Money Growth (%)	40.4	32.7	49.2	49.8	35.9	19.4	16.8	16.9	23.3	31.4	48.1	27.0	21.6
Maximum Lending Rates (%)	27.3	20.7	29.8	39.1	21.0	20.8	20.9	20.9	21.8	27.2	26.4	23.9	29.7
Savings Deposit Rates (%)	18.0	13.8	16.1	16.7	12.3	12.6	10.1	6.1	5.2	5.3	4.9	5.2	5.7
Spread Between Savings & Lending Rates (%)	9.3	6.9	13.7	22.4	8.7	8.2	10.8	14.8	16.6	21.9	21.5	18.7	24.0

## Sources:

1. Underlying data obtained from Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Annual Report and Statement of Accounts.
2. Underlying data obtained from Federal Office of Statistics (FOS), Abuja, Nigeria.
3. Underlying data obtained from Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey, 2001.



## MDG STATUS AT A GLANCE

GOALS/TARGETS	WILL THE GOAL/TARGET BE MET?				STATE OF SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT			
	Probably	Potentially	Unlikely	Lack of Data	Strong	Fair	Weak but Improving	Weak
<b>Eradicate Extreme Poverty &amp; Hunger</b> Halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and those suffering from hunger by 2015				X			X	
<b>Achieve Universal Primary Education</b> Ensure that by 2015 children, boys & girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling		X					X	
<b>Promote Gender Equality &amp; Empower Women</b> Eliminate gender disparity in primary & secondary education preferably by 2005, and all levels of education no later than 201	X				X			
<b>Reduce Child Mortality</b> Reduce by two-thirds between 1990 & 2015, the under-five mortality rate			X				X	
<b>Improve Maternal Health</b> Reduce by 3/4 between 1990 & 2015, the MMR			X				X	
<b>Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria &amp; other diseases</b> Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidence of malaria & other major diseases			X				X	
<b>Ensure Environmental Sustainability</b> Reverse loss of environmental resources by 2015		X					X	
<b>Develop a Global Partnership For Development</b> Deal with the debt problems to make debt sustainable and make available the benefits of new ICT		X						X



## MONITORING AND EVALUATION CAPACITY

Goal	Existing Capacity for:														
	Data gathering			Quality of survey information			Statistical tracking			Incorporate Statistical analysis into policy			Monitoring & evaluation		
	S	F	W	S	F	W	S	F	W	S	F	W	S	F	W
Reduce Extreme Poverty/ Hunger	O			O				O			O			O	
Achieve UPE		O			O			O		O			O		
Promote Gender Equality		O			O				O			O			O
Reduce Child Mortality		O			O			O				O			O
Improve Maternal Health		O		O			O			O			O		
Combat HIV/ AIDS etc.			O		O		O			O			O		
Ensure Environmental Sustainability			O		O				O			O			O
Develop Global Partnership			O		O				O			O			O

S = Strong, F = Fair, W = Weak





## METHODOLOGY FOR MDG REPORTING

Millennium Development Goal Reports (MDGRs) are expected to track progress of countries towards the achievement of internationally agreed time bound goals. The report is designed for international comparison especially with regards to building national capacity to benchmark and assess progress, to highlight achievements and gaps. The UN Development Group provides guidelines on the procedures for the preparation, the duration, size and format and the outline. The MDGR is not an in-depth analytical review of policy reform, institutional change and resource allocations thus the length should range between 20-25 pages. Nevertheless, MDGRs vary within these specifications, reflecting the national development priorities on the basis of available data. The expectation is that the report would be based on secondary data.

The report begins with the development context of the country and examines each goal according to (i) status of progress to date, (ii) major challenges faced, (iii) supportive environment, (iv) priorities for development assistance and (v) capacity for monitoring progress.

Secondary data were used in reporting on each of the eight goals. A number of UN agencies in the country (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO, WHO, UNIDO, FAO, UNESCO) and the World Bank were visited to obtain necessary documents and information. In addition to these agencies, other major sources of data include the Federal Office of Statistics, Federal Ministry of Health, Federal Ministry of Education, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, Federal Ministry of Environment and Federal Ministry of Water Resources. In each Ministry, discussions were held with top officials and relevant data and publications were collected. Such documents in respect of each goal are identified in an annex at the end of this report. Meetings were held with the UN Group in the country at the Lagos office of UNDP to fashion out and review the procedures for writing the report and to have a preliminary deliberation on the draft report. The group was also represented at a meeting at the National Planning Commission to deliberate on the content, sources of data and modalities for the preparation of the report.

The draft report was prepared between July 14 and September 26, 2003. On January 29, 2004 a Stakeholders Forum was organized in the Federal Capital, Abuja, to review the Draft Report. The forum was organized by the National Planning Commission (NPC) supported by the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and was well attended with about 180 stakeholders drawn from international organizations, government corporations, state representatives as well as the NGOs and civil society organizations. On February 20, 2004 the UNCT, the NPC and the representative of the authors met to review the issues raised at the Forum and to work out the modality for the incorporation of the concerns of the stakeholders into the final report. Additional data were gathered with the active support of the UNCT, NPC and some Federal Ministries to fill the data gaps in finalising the report.



## GOAL 1

### ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY & HUNGER

TARGETS	INDICATORS
<i>Halve between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1/day</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proportion of population below \$1 per day</li> <li>- Poverty gap ratio</li> <li>- Share of poorest quintile in national consumption</li> </ul>
<i>Halve between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prevalence of underweight children (under 5 years of age)</li> <li>- Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption</li> </ul>

#### 1. Eradicate Extreme Poverty & Hunger (Status at a glance)

Eradicating poverty is regarded as the most important goal of human development. Indeed, it is now widely believed that at its core, development must be about improvement of human well-being, removal of hunger, disease and productive employment for all. A nation's first goal must be to end poverty and satisfy the priority needs of all its citizenry in a way that will not jeopardise the opportunity for the future generations to attain the same objective. The MDG goals, targets and indicators relating to poverty reduction are quite relevant in the case of Nigeria. While poverty is ravaging the economy at a terrific speed, progress towards curtailing the menace is moving rather slowly. Unless poverty reduction efforts are intensified with great commitment, transparency and determination both at the national and international arena, it is unlikely that this MDG target will be met.

National data reveals that the incidence of poverty increased sharply both between 1980 and 1985 and between 1992 and 1996. However, there was a decrease in poverty level between 1985 and 1992. The proportion of people living in poverty rose from 28.1% in 1980 to 46.3% in 1995 but dropped to 42.7% in 1985 before rising to 65.6% in 1996. This translated to 17.7 million poor people in 1980 and 34.7 million poor people in 1985. Despite the drop in poverty level in 1992, the population in poverty was about 5 million higher than the 1985 figure. By 1996, the population in poverty had increased sharply to 67.1 million.

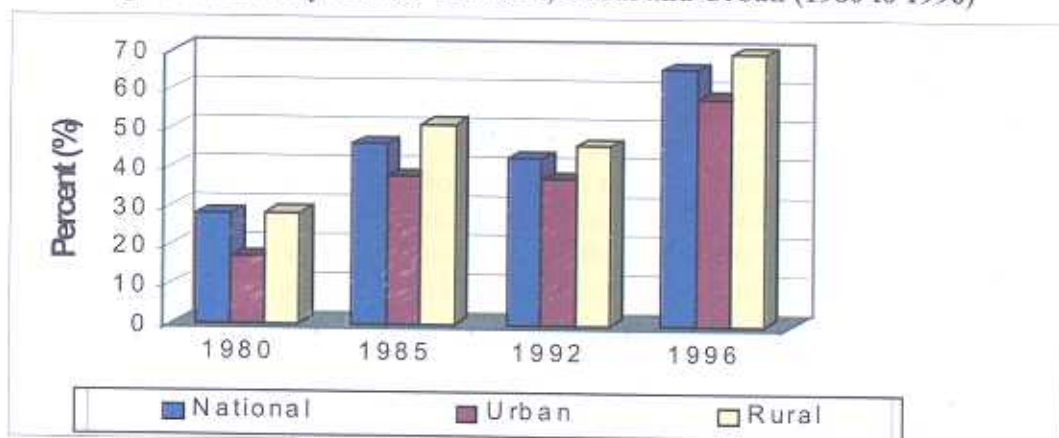
Status at a Glance			
Will target be reached by 2015?			
Probably	Potentially	Unlikely	Insufficient Data
State of supportive environment			
Strong	Fair	Weak but improving	Weak





Poverty is more pronounced in rural areas compared to urban areas as illustrated in Figure 1. Rural poverty, which increased by 22 percentage points over the period 1980-1985, decreased slightly during the period 1985-1992 but soared in the following four-year period, 1992-1996. In 1980, the proportion of poor people in rural areas was 29.3%, it rose to 51.4% in 1985 and fell to 46.1% in 1992. However, by 1996, the rural population in poverty had increased to 69.8%. In urban areas, poverty rose between 1980 and 1985, remained at about the same level between 1985 and 1992 and rose again between 1992 and 1996. The proportion of poor people rose from 17.6% in 1980 to 37.8% in 1985, 37.5% in 1992 and 55.2% in 1996. These figures indicate that the gains of the economic measures of 1986 to 1992 went more to the rural people than to the urban populace. A survey carried out by the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER) and Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), confirms that rural areas gained more during the early period of the structural adjustment programs, although there was an increase in poverty after this period. On the whole, between 1980-1996, rural poverty was higher than urban poverty.

**Figure 1: Poverty Trends National, Rural and Urban (1980 to 1996)**



Source: Poverty Profile for Nigeria, 1980 - 1996. Federal Office of Statistics (FOS)

On the basis of the sex of the household head, the data indicate that male-headed households were more impoverished than female-headed households. As illustrated in Table 1, the proportion of poor people rose from 27% in 1980 to 59% in 1996 among the female-headed households whereas the corresponding increase in poverty among male-headed household was from 29.2% to 67% over the same period. This underscores the advisability to give equal consideration to issues that are relevant to the activities of male- and female- households. The point is that no particular gender can be ignored in poverty reduction interventions at the expense of the other.

Using 1992 as a reference point, based on a projected population figure of 178.5 million by 2015, the proportion of people living in poverty is expected to decline to 21.4% by 2015. This implies that about 38.1 million people would still be poor. However, this figure varies



according to various population growth scenarios. The figure of 38.1 million people is based on the medium variant of population growth. Based on projected population figures at low and high variants, and a poverty incidence of 21.4% the population in poverty would range from 30.1 million to 40.4 million (Figure 2).

Year	Poverty Level (%)					Estimated Total Population (million)	Population in Poverty (million)
	National	Urban	Rural	Male Headed Households	Female Headed Households		
1980	28.1	17.2	28.3	29.2	27.0	65.0	17.7
1985	46.3	37.8	51.4	47.3	38.1	75.0	34.7
1992	42.7	37.5	46.0	43.1	39.9	91.5	39.2
1996	65.6	58.2	69.8	66.5	58.5	102.3	67.1
2015 (low population growth)	21.4					140.9	30.1
2015 (medium population growth)	21.4					178.5	38.1
2015 (high population growth)	21.4					189.2	40.4

Source: Poverty Profile for Nigeria, 1980 - 1996, FOS Publication.

Figure 2: Poverty Projections



Figure 3



Poverty in Nigeria is also known to be deep and pervasive. Depth of poverty can be interpreted to mean how much below the poverty line, is the average poor person. Severity, on the other hand can be seen as the spread of the poor around that level of the average poor. The period 1980-1985 witnessed a sharp increase in both the depth and severity of poverty. In the subsequent period, 1985-1992, the two poverty indicators remained at those high levels. Further, urban figures were below the rural figures, indicating the more serious position of rural dwellers. But by 1996, the gap in the figures had almost disappeared, pointing to an emerging urban crisis.





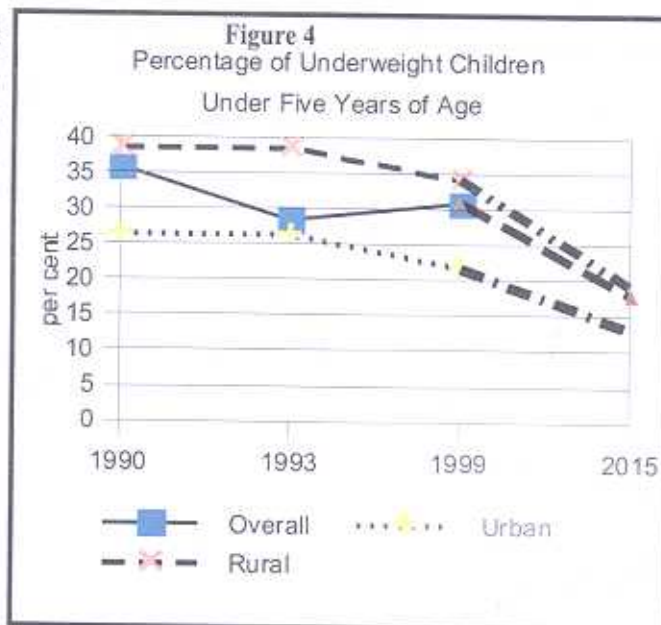
Another dimension of the poverty situation is the worsening income inequality in the country. For instance, in 1992/93 the expenditure share of the poorest 20% of the population was 4% compared to the 49% expenditure share of the richest 20% (Table 2). By 1996/1997 the share of the poorest 20% of the population was only 4.4% while that of the richest 20% climbed to about 56% indicating increasing inequality in the country.

**Table 1.3: Percentage Share of Consumption of Different Quintiles (1992-1997)**

Survey Year	Gini Index	Lowest 10%	Lowest 20%	Second quintile	Third quintile	Fourth quintile	Highest 20%	Highest 10%
1992-1993 <sup>a,b</sup>	45	1.3	4	8.9	14.4	23.4	49.3	31.3
1996-1997 <sup>a,b</sup>	50	1.6	4.4	8.2	12.5	19.3	55.7	40.8

Source: (1) World Development Report 1997, 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 (2) World Development Indicators.  
Note: a-Refers to expenditure shares by percentiles of population b- Ranked by per capita expenditure

The poverty situation in Nigeria is precarious not only in terms of income poverty but also in terms of food poverty. In 1990, the proportion of underweight children (under five years of age) stood at 35.7% but declined to 28.3% in 1993. In 1999, however, it rose to 30.7%. The problem appears to be more serious in the rural than urban areas. The proportion declined from 26.3% in 1990 to 21.7% in 1999 in the case of urban residents whereas for the rural residents it declined from 38.5% to 34.1%. The overall as well as the urban and rural figures are still far from the 2015 target figures, which are estimated at 17.8%, 13.2% and 19.3% respectively.



With regard to the proportion of population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption, data is available for three sub-periods between 1990 and 2000. About 13 percent of the population was undernourished between 1990-1992. The percentage dropped to 8 and 7 per cent in 1996-1998 and 1998-2000 respectively. If the target to halve the percentage in 2015 is to be met, approximately 6.5 percent of the estimated population of 178.5 million would be undernourished in 2015.



There has been a different trend in malnutrition and poverty rates over time. While malnutrition rates are on the decline, poverty has increased. There could be two explanations for this outcome. First, the majority of the poor are rural dwellers engaged largely in farming. If the majority are subsistence farmers, they may be able to generate low income and at the same time meet their direct food consumption requirements at the household level. They may therefore, continue to remain income poor while the gap in their dietary energy needs is being gradually bridged. The second explanation with respect to underweight children under five years of age is that nutritional improvement could derive from improved nutritional education rather than enhanced household income. Various initiatives improved nutrition education have been carried out by UNICEF, the Ministries of Health at the federal and state levels as well as NGOs involved in health and nutrition-related activities. For instance, UNICEF has campaigned for exclusive breast-feeding for children between 0 - 6 months old and breast milk and other food for children up to two years. In addition, the use of various cheap local food as supplements to breast milk for children especially the processing of Soya-beans to soy-pap, soy-milk, soy-soup and so on is being intensively promoted in the country. Adoption of these techniques may result in improved nutritional status of children even if their parents cannot be considered as rich on the basis of cash income.

## 2. Major Challenges

The challenges confronting the pursuit of poverty reduction in the country are manifold in view of the multi-dimensional causes of poverty. Poverty in Nigeria is caused by social, economic, political, cultural and environmental factors including:

- Poor access to employment opportunities;
- Inadequate physical assets, such as land and capital, and minimal access by the poor (especially women) to credit even on a small scale;
- Poor access to the means of supporting rural development;
- Poor access to markets where the poor can sell goods and services;
- Low endowment of human capital;
- Destruction of natural resources leading to environmental degradation and reduced productivity;
- Poor access to assistance for those living at their margin and those victimised by disasters; and
- Lack of participation in the design, implementation and monitoring of development programmes.

In order to meet the MDG targets of halving the population living in hunger and poverty by the year 2015 the following are some of the main challenges to be addressed.

- Generating respectable pro-poor growth. It is estimated that to achieve the MDG Goals, African countries need to achieve a growth rate of at least 7% per annum.
- Investment in human capital for sustainable economic growth





- Support of income and employment generating opportunities for the poor
- Provision of basic infrastructures to enhance the access and productivity of the poor
- Support of nutrition and family planning programmes and population control
- Generation of sex-disaggregated data and gender sensitive macro-economic and trade indicators for macro-economic planning.
- Promoting good governance, improved transparency and accountability

### 3. Supportive Environment

In terms of programmes, the Federal government addresses poverty through its National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP). A number of skill acquisition programmes and employment generating activities have been carried out under this initiative. For instance, about 200,000 people were employed under the programme in year 2000. The various schemes under NAPEP including the Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES) aimed at empowering the youths economically. This is done through the Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP), Mandatory Attachment Programme (MAP), and Credit Delivery Programme (CDP). NAPEP also includes the Rural Infrastructures Development Scheme (RIDS) that carries out rural electrification, rural water development and supply, rural transportation development programme and rural communications development. The Social Welfare Services Scheme (SOWESS) includes programs on qualitative education, primary health care, farmers' empowerment and provision of social services. Finally, the Natural Resources Development and Conservation Scheme contains programs for environmental protection as well as development of agricultural resources, solid mineral resources and water resources.

With regard to institutions, the Nigerian Agricultural Cooperative and Rural Development Bank (NACRDB) provides both micro and macro credit facilities for all agricultural activities and micro credit for non-agricultural projects in the ratio of 70% micro credit and 30% macro credit of all loanable funds. It should be noted also that there are a number of NGOs working to alleviate poverty in the country. However, most of the activities of such NGOs and CBOs are tailored towards provision of micro-credit. The financial transactions of NACRDB and those of the NGOs should, to a reasonable extent, enhance the access of the rural dwellers including women to financial resources, which will assist them in expanding their production enterprises.

Various policy measures geared towards poverty alleviation include the National Policy on Education aimed at making education meet the requirements for economic growth and development within the reach of Nigerians. In addition, the main goal of Nigeria's Health Policy is the provision of affordable health services to a large proportion of Nigerians. The National Policy on Population for Development aims to improve the quality of life, encourage the continued decline in mortality of mothers and children, reduce fertility and slow down the rapid rate of migration into the cities. The National Directorate of Employment (NDE) established for the purpose of creating employment and promoting self-





reliance has geared its activities towards poverty reduction. In recognition of the paramount role of finance in poverty alleviation, and to ensure widespread and adequate delivery of banking services especially to the rural areas, the Community Banking Scheme was also set up and has been operating even at the grassroots level to strengthen the financial capacity of the people. If the various policy measures are effectively implemented, it should be possible to have a meaningful reduction in poverty in the not too distant future.

The National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) pioneered in 2003, has poverty reduction at its core. The four key strategies under NEEDS include reorienting values, reducing poverty, creating wealth and generating employment. This would be done through creating an environment where businesses can thrive, government is redirected to providing basic services, and people are empowered to take advantage of new livelihood opportunities. Interventions and policies directed at poverty reduction will benefit all segments of the Nigerian society especially women and other vulnerable groups. The promotion of rural development will be given utmost priority with the emphasis being agricultural and agro-industrial development. The main strategies include technology generation and natural resources management, infrastructure (physical and social) development; rural non-farm activities development and human capital development. In addition, on the issue of agro-industrial development to reduce rural poverty, partnership between the public and private sectors will be an important approach.

#### 4. Priorities for Development Assistance

The Federal Government of Nigeria is currently implementing a number of poverty reduction projects under the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP). The programme consists of four major schemes namely; (i) Youth Empowerment Scheme, (ii) Rural Infrastructure Development Scheme, (iii) Welfare Services Scheme and (iv) Natural Resource Development and Conservation Scheme. Details of these schemes and implementation strategies are well documented. Development partners would be welcome to participate in all the schemes to ensure successful implementation.

Since the majority of the poor are in the rural areas, it is important to ensure that the rural areas are given the desired attention in the spirit of the recently launched National Policy for Integrated Rural Development. Implementation of the policy has to be pursued *pari passu* with the poverty alleviation programme. In other words the integrated rural development policies and poverty alleviation schemes have to be harmonized for the overall benefit of the poor. In the light of the foregoing, development assistance will be required from development partners not only for the existing poverty alleviation schemes but also for effective integrated rural development in the country especially in the following priority areas.

- (i) Promotion of rural productive activities
- (ii) Human resource development





- (iii) Enhancement of enabling rural infrastructure
- (iv) Special development programmes for target groups such as women, youth, children, elderly and retired, the handicapped, beggars and destitute, as well as economically disadvantaged and border areas.
- (V) Rural community organization and mobilization

The government's new development strategy NEEDS targets minimum annual GDP growth rates of 5% in 2004, 6% in 2005 and 7% in 2007 in order to achieve adequate per capita income and improve welfare. To finance this program the government is seeking additional foreign direct investment and overseas development assistance in addition to an increase in the efficiency of resource use, sale of assets, reform of the tax system and mobilization of domestic savings.

## 5. Tracking Progress in Poverty and Hunger - Monitoring and Evaluation Environment

Elements of Monitoring Environment	Assessment		
Data gathering capacity	Strong	Fair	Weak
Quality of recent survey information	Strong	Fair	Weak
Statistical tracking capacities	Strong	Fair	Weak
Capacity to incorporate statistical analysis into policy, planning and resource allocation mechanisms	Strong	Fair	Weak
Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	Strong	Fair	Weak



## GOAL 2

### ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

TARGET	INDICATORS
<i>Ensure that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls, will be able to complete a full course of reach primary</i>	- Net enrolment ratio in primary education - Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 will
<i>And preparatory schooling.</i>	- Literacy rate of 15 - 24 year Olds.

#### 1. Achieve Universal Primary Education (Status at a glance)

Education has been identified as the cornerstone of development. It is now clear that societies, which are under-developed are those which do not invest in or see education as their overriding priority. Nigeria is a signatory to the Jomtien Conference of 1990 and endorsed the "Framework for Action to Meet Basic Learning Needs". The country also actively participated in the Ouagadougou (1992) "Declaration on the Education of Women and Girls" and Dakar Framework for Action (2002) which reaffirmed the basic learning needs of all - Education for All (EFA) where six goals were defined. These include ensuring that by 2015 all children, with emphasis on girls, children in difficult circumstances and from ethnic minorities have access to 9 years of schooling and complete free and compulsory primary education of good quality".

According to Nigeria's EFA Plan of Action (2001), the following targets are to be achieved by 2015:

**Early childhood care and development:** By 2010, 3% of the National Budget to be spent on early childhood care and development programs. By 2015, enrolment in early children program to increase to 70%; and 70% of the children enrolling in primary school would have participated in at least one year of early childhood care and development programme.

**Primary Education:** By 2006 achieve 100% of enrolment of children between 6 - 11 years in full-time primary school. By 2010, achieve improvement of completion rate by 30% to an overall rate exceeding 90% of those in school. By 2015, 50% increase in number of children with disability into primary school, 90% transition rate from primary to junior secondary school, 80% reduction in the percentage of working children of school age.

**Junior Secondary School:** By 2015, provide access for all children to junior secondary, all young people and adults would have access to formal life long education and 80% of youths and adults aged 15 plus would have attained National standard set for literacy, numeracy, and





problem solving and gender parity.

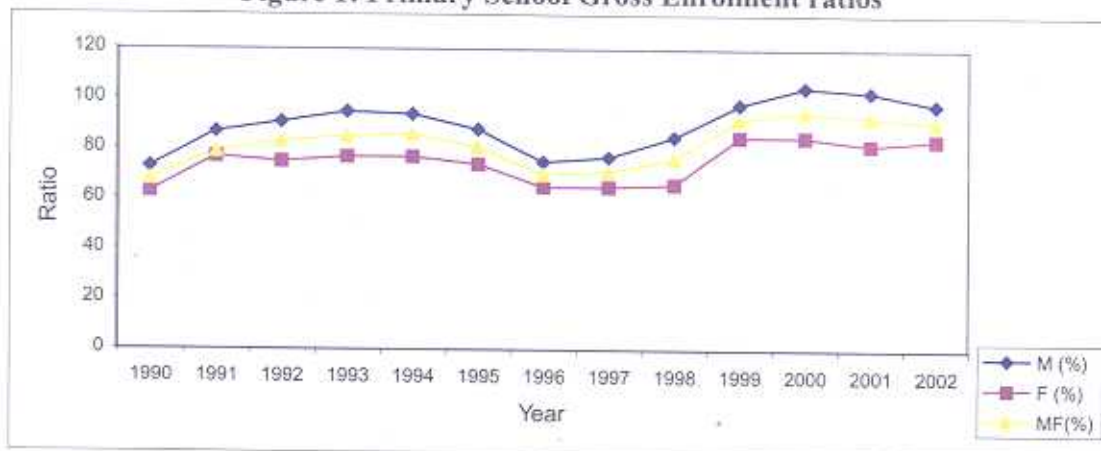
**Adult Literacy:** By 2010, there should be recruitment and training of 260,000 adult literacy instructors and provision of additional 100,000 training centers for adult literacy classes for nomadic education. By 2015, reduction by half (20 million) of illiterates in Nigeria.

Status at a Glance			
Will target be reached by 2015?			
Probably	Potentially	Unlikely	Insufficient Data
State of supportive environment			
Strong	Fair	Weak but improving	Weak

Primary education is the foundation of all types of formal education. The National Policy on Education adopted in 1981 and revised in 1995 and 1998 provides for a 6-3-3-4 education system that comprises of 6 years of primary education, 3 years of junior secondary education, 3 years of secondary education and 4 years of higher education. The Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme, established in 1999, aims to provide access to all students to at least the first nine years of schooling.

Today, the trend in gross enrolment ratio (GER), (the best available indicator of participation in the country) witnessed considerable fluctuation over the last decade (1991-2001). It increased steadily from 68% in 1990 to 86% in 1994. It declined thereafter to 81% in 1995 and further to 70% in 1996. The latest Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS, 2000) by Federal Office of Statistics (FOS) indicated a GER of 1999 as 92% in 1999, 95% in 2000 and a decline to 93% in 2001. The decline in GER between 1995 and 1996 has been blamed on the economic downturn, unfavourable political climate and poor financing of education. Thus, it was not possible for Nigeria to achieve the Jomtien EFA goals of 2000.

Figure 1: Primary School Gross Enrolment ratios



Source: FOS, Ministry of Education



The erratic movement in the GER trend is not limited to the national enrolment figures. When GER is examined by sex, it was observed that the GER for males was consistently higher than that of females by over 10 percentage points over the period 1990 and 2001. Since the inception of the present civilian administration in 1999, boys in the five Eastern States have resumed school as a result of supportive educational policies targeted at encouraging boys to have basic education. This had resulted in a rise of late entrants, which accounted for a GER higher than 100% in 2000 and 2001.

**Table 1: Primary School Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) (National)**

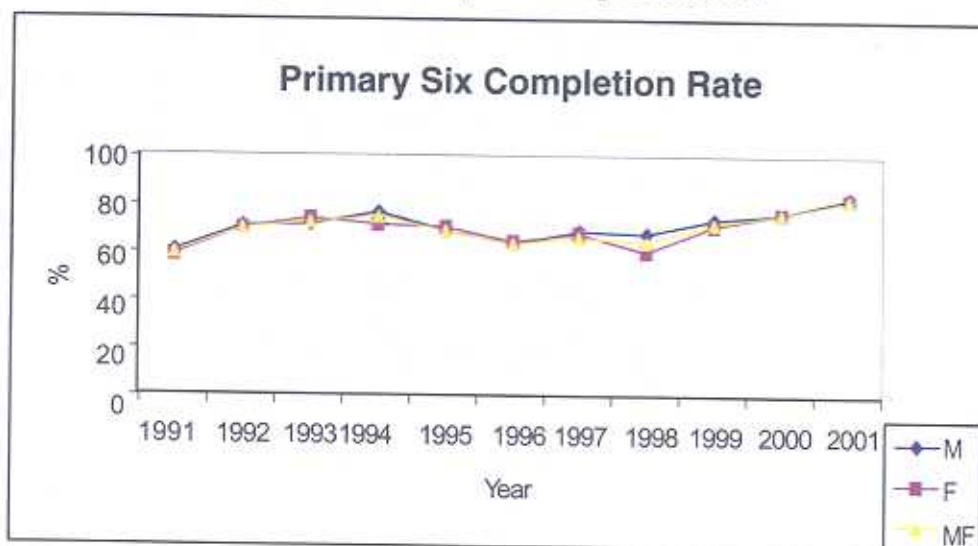
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
%M	87	91	95	94	88	75	77	85	98	105	103
%F	77	75	77	77	74	65	65	66	85	85	82
%M/F	79	83	86	86	81	70	71	76	92	95	93

Another dimension of the worsening participation rate at the primary school level is the unimpressive trend of primary six-completion rates in Nigeria. Primary six-completion rate stood at 60% in 1991 and increased steadily, reaching on all time high of 75% in 1994. It declined thereafter to 69% in 1995 and 64% in 1996, 67% in 1997 and thereafter increased consistently from 73% in 1999 to 83% in 2001. There were however imbalances in completion rates between boys and girls in favour of boys in 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994 and 1997-2001 while the girls were slightly favoured in 1993, 1995 and 1996. There has been fluctuation in the completion rate during the years under review. This is partly due to the rising incidence of poverty in the country resulting in modest drop out rates. There were also incessant strikes, by teachers in the public schools on account of non-payment of salaries and general poor conditions of service. Such strikes were sometimes prolonged by official insensitivity leading to withdrawal of pupils from school and dampening morale of a number of them even when the crises were finally resolved.





Figure 2: Primary Six Completion Rates



Source: FOS, Ministry of Education

Invariably, the literacy level in the country has also witnessed considerable deterioration, especially within the 15-24 years age group. The literacy rate for this group was 71.19% in 1991. However, the literacy rate in urban areas was higher than rural areas, these were 84.9% and in 62.1% respectively. By 1999, the overall literacy rate had declined to 64.1%. The trend was in the same direction for male and female members of the 15-24 years age group. Among the males the rate declined from 81.35% in 1991 to 69.8% in 1999. The decline among the females was from 62.49% to 59.3% during the same period. The declining trend is not unconnected with the high rate of unemployment, rising income poverty and the discouraging working conditions of teachers in Nigeria, which constituted great disincentive for acquiring formal education. However, with the advent of the present civilian administration, the Federal government has revised upwards the salary of teachers at all levels of education.

Table 2: Literacy Rates: 15 24 Year Olds (%)

	National	Urban	Rural	Male	Female
1991	71.9	84.9	62.9	81.4	62.5
1999	64.1			69.8	59.3



## 2. Major Challenges

The country faces various challenges in its efforts to implement the Universal Basic Education programme. The most important steps for achieving the desired results include the following:

**Financing of Education:** The biggest challenge facing the government is the inadequate public spending on education. Again, the paucity and unreliability of data on educational financing makes it difficult to get an overall picture of the level of resources going into education or how much of these resources are used. There is also a high degree of resource mismanagement through inflation of contracts and general official corruption. Apart from this, there is also the problem of how to create an enabling environment for private sector participation in education for all, without converting it to a profit making venture. It has been observed that government alone cannot bear the burden of education due to ever-increasing budgetary constraints. Perhaps that is why the objectives of education have not been fully achieved.

**Economic Factor:** This is another challenge faced by the government. The level of poverty is so high in some areas that poor families are unlikely to be able to afford the cost of education. The necessary sensitization and mobilization for possible reduction in the level of illiteracy through private sector and non-governmental organisation participation may not be achieved because of the high level of poverty prevalent in the country. In some areas, young boys do not attend school because the benefit from education, as evidenced by the high unemployment rates is not worthwhile.

**Institutional Constraints:** The management of the education system and the implementation of educational policy are hindered by the complicated constitutional and legal framework provisions of the educational system. There is much confusion on the leading role of the Federal Government in the UBE programme as well as the role of the state government in primary education. This lack of clarity on responsibility for UBE leads to lack of proper accountability, while at the same time increases the potential for conflict between the federal and state government.

**Culture:** This is a strong and sensitive factor that must be tackled by the government if the aims and objectives of the Universal Primary Education are to be achieved. For example, the purdah system of seclusion serves as a negative attitudinal barrier to girls receiving adequate schooling, especially in the northern parts of the country.

**Quality of Instruction:** There are several major issues that have implications for the quality of primary education. For instance, while the quality of staff is very poor in certain parts of the country, the problems of poor infrastructure for instructional delivery and the high cost of provision of further training to teachers cut across all the six geo-political zones.





### 3. Supportive Environment

Prior to the Dakar 2000 declaration, Nigeria had already embarked upon the Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme, which is the cornerstone of the Education for All (EFA) process. The objectives of UBE are to universalize access to education, eliminate inequality in male-female and rural-urban school enrolment, ensure gender and larger retention in school, and achieve full literacy and numeracy. It aims at increasing enrolment at all levels, including that of the girl-child and women. Its goal is to ensure that all primary and secondary schools are adequately staffed by the year 2006. Other initiatives include Mass Literacy and Nomadic Education programmes. All these programmes are in process and have been successfully carried out within the limited available resources.

The Federal Ministry of Education inaugurated the National EFA Education Forum (NEF) as a consultative coordination body that brings together all the stakeholders in basic education to focus on planning analysis, monitoring and evaluation of progress achieved towards the six goals set to deliver education for all by 2015. There are mechanisms to ensure a more participatory approach to educational policy and planning, including partnership with civil society, NGOs, CBOs, youth organisations and individuals. More progress has been made towards policy reforms and implementation in the education sector in Nigeria. For example, a UBE Bill has been passed by the National Assembly which clarifies roles and responsibilities and defines a new organizational structure at the Federal level, including parastatals as regards formal education, non-formal programmes, early childhood and nomadic education.

Insufficient teachers and skill inadequacies are being addressed with a pivotal teacher training scheme organized by National Teachers Institute (NTI) and proposed service for National Certificate for Education (NCE) graduates in a new National Teachers Corps. In addition, teachers' welfare has been improved with a substantial salary increase, comparable to their colleagues in the civil service and the private sector.

The status of vocational and technical education has been enhanced through the establishment of science and technical secondary schools in all states of the federation. Progress has also been recorded on improving the basic data for education. The Ministry of Education conducted a baseline survey and annual school census respectively, with the purpose of re-establishing a complete data set for the nation. Furthermore, a survey on Monitoring Learning Achievement of the existing level of literacy and numeracy was also made to provide baseline data on achievement in primary schools. In spite of the problem in the collection of accurate data and the need for data validation, the ministry has through the baseline data survey solved to a larger extent the problem of inaccurate data for the basis of decision-making.

More emphasis is also placed on the sensitization of youths in sex education in schools so



that the incidence of HIV/AIDS would be drastically reduced. Some experienced teachers are promoted to inspectors for monitoring learning and evaluation of teaching for the purpose of quality assurance.

#### 4. Priorities for Development Assistance

The main priority areas for development assistance are the literacy awakening education for all. UNESCO supports Nigeria's Education for All (EFA) programme by assisting the country to reinvigorate formal and non-formal education, nomadic education, increase school enrolment and promote literacy programmes. Financial and technical assistance is needed for key areas in order to achieve the objective of Education for All. Such key areas include life planning and HIV/AIDS education, community education, education sector analysis and planning. In addition, support is needed for the strategy for accelerating girls' education (SAGEN), integrated early childhood development, research, monitoring and evaluation, water sanitation and health, technical assistance to NIEPA inspectorate for girls education and a host of other key areas at the Federal level and in all the states of the federation.

Apart from financial and technical assistance, there is need for support to Basic Education through renovation and furnishing of primary schools and women development centres, literacy, english language and basic mathematics teaching and learning. The efforts of international agencies such as the World Bank, UNESCO, UNICEF, USAID, African Development Bank, DFID and others are appreciated for providing such highly needed assistance in these key areas. Nevertheless, further assistance is needed so that education for all by the year 2015 could be achieved.

#### 5. Tracking Progress in Achieving Universal Primary Education - Monitoring and Evaluation Environment

Elements of Monitoring Environment	Assessment		
Data gathering capacity	Strong	Fair	Weak
Quality of recent survey information	Strong	Fair	Weak
Statistical tracking capacities	Strong	Fair	Weak
Capacity to incorporate statistical analysis into policy, planning and resource allocation mechanisms	Strong	Fair	Weak
Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	Strong	Fair	Weak





## GOAL 3

### PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

TARGET	INDICATORS
<i>Eliminate gender disparity in primary and Secondary education preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education not later than 2015.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education.</li> <li>- Ratio of literate females to males of 15 -24 years old</li> <li>- Share of women in wage employment in the non-agriculture sector</li> <li>- Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament.</li> </ul>

#### 1. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women (Status at a glance)

The gender issue is one of the most discussed topics in recent times. There is growing awareness that females constitute more than half of the world's population (UNICEF, 1998) and as such meaningful educational advancement cannot take place in its entirety, if women are grossly under represented in this arena. An estimated 50 per cent of the population of Nigeria is made up of women and girls (UNSN, 2001), however, the gender disparity in access to primary, secondary and tertiary education dates back to the pre-colonial era and is rooted in African traditional culture, Christianity and Islamic religion. Recently, the difference in educational access between males and females, has assumed considerable significance in the Nigerian society, which is increasingly concerned with the twin imperatives of equity and efficiency. Investment in education is made in the expectation that its returns will be equitably distributed and that it will provide benefits to Nigerians as a whole. However, the traditional attitude of parents to the education of their children is to invest in the education of boys thereby denying the girls the opportunity to participate. This situation has translated into unequal access to education, health and employment.

#### Share of Boys, Girls in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Education

Inequalities in education associated with sex were taken for granted in Nigeria as it was assumed that both males and females would have equal educational opportunities. In the past, a number of government policies such as free education at primary and secondary levels, government take-over of secondary schools in a number of states, the establishment of more government schools and provision of bursary and scholarship awards by the states and federal governments to students in tertiary level were adopted in order to facilitate access to education by all students, including female students.



Status at a Glance			
Will target be reached by 2015?			
Probably	Potentially	Unlikely	Insufficient Data
State of supportive environment			
Strong	Fair	Weak but improving	Weak

Although there were considerable operational and financial difficulties encountered in implementing these policies, the policies seemed to have yielded positive results in terms of increased participation of girls in the educational system. Over time the imbalances in gender ratios at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education seem to have reduced considerably. At the primary school level, the gender ratio increased from 0.76 in 1990 to 0.79 in 1995 and 0.96 in 2000. At the secondary school level, the gender ratio increased from 0.75 in 1990 to 0.95 in 1994 but declined to an all time low of 0.65 in 1996. Nonetheless, the ratio, which displayed an upward trend from 1997, reached 0.85 in 2000 and increased further to 0.92 in 2002. This seems to imply that gender inequality at the secondary school level is no longer a serious problem in Nigeria. There are higher levels of inequality at the tertiary level compared to the primary and secondary levels of education. In 1990 the gender ratio was only 0.46, which rose to 0.58 in 1996. Thereafter, the ratio maintained an upward trend rising to 0.82 in 2000 and stabilising up to 2002 (Figure 1).

Figure 1: School Enrolment Gender Ratio

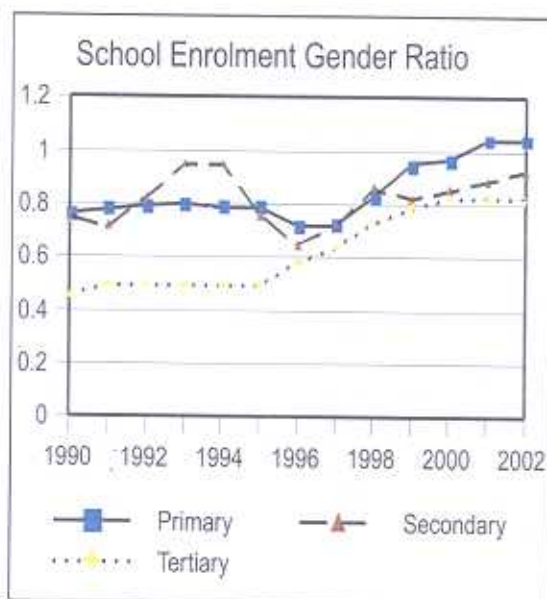


Figure 2: Ratio of Literate Females to Males



Source: Ministry of Education, A Handbook of Information on Basic Education in Nigeria, 2003; FOS





## Share to Literate Males to Females

Another indicator of increased women's participation and reduction in gender imbalances in the education sector is the ratio of literate females to males. Data available indicates that the ratio of literate females to males between 15 to 24 years of age was 0.89 in 1991. Subsequent data sets address the age group of 15-29 years. For this group, the ratio of literate females to males followed an upward trend from 1996 to 2000, increasing from 0.89 in 1996 to 0.93 in 2000 (Figure 2).

In spite of the generally positive trend of female participation in education, overall national literacy levels remain low and there exists considerable regional variation in female literacy rates. National figures mask regional variations, which may threaten the achievement of the goal in all regions. For instance, a recent analysis of the literacy situation in Nigeria (NPC/UNICEF, 2001) found that:

- Overall, the literacy rate has declined from 58 per cent in 1990 to 49 per cent in 1999
- Literacy among women and girls has also declined from 44 per cent to 41 per cent during the same period
- There are striking geographical discrepancies with the urban areas recording about 67 percent while the rural areas recorded 42 per cent.
- There are striking regional or geo-political zonal differences both in overall literacy rates and in women's literacy rates (see Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Regional and Gender Difference in Adult Literacy Rates**

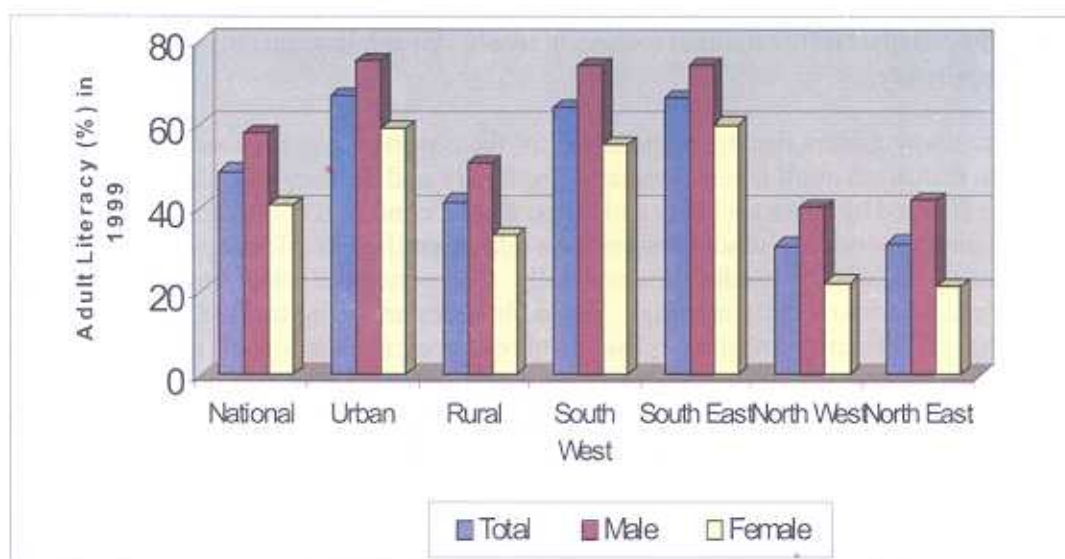


Table 1: Regional and Gender Difference in Adult Literacy Rates

	Adult Literacy, % of Population aged 15 and above (1999)		
	Male	Female	Total
South West	74.2	55.4	64.2
South East	74.4	60.0	66.4
North West	40.3	22.1	31.0
North East	42.1	21.4	31.6
Urban	75.4	59.1	67.0
Rural	50.8	33.6	41.7
Overall	58	40.7	48.9

Source: NPC/UNICEF, Children and Women's Rights in Nigeria: A Wake Up Call, 2001.

**Table 1** illustrates the disparities in overall literacy rates between males and females both at the national level and within regions in the country. In the South East and South West zones for instance, the female literacy rates were 60 per cent and 55 per cent respectively, compared with male literacy rates of 74.2 per cent and 74.4 per cent. These gaps are related to the unfavourable environment that is characterised by lack of encouragement from the wider society, particularly from the men folk and even from women. The North West and North East zones had female literacy rates of 22 per cent and 21 per cent respectively compared to 40.3 per cent and 42.1 per cent for their male counterparts. This may indicate the relatively lower emphasis on education in general, particularly female education in these regions. Fewer women apply for entry to universities as a result of fewer girls completing higher secondary education. Furthermore, the fact that a smaller proportion of women applicants (as compared with male applicants) succeed in gaining admissions is a reflection of girls' relatively lower success rates in the senior secondary certificate examinations. These factors have a direct impact on the status of women in society. By implication only few women secure wage employment.

There are many factors that are responsible for the observed gap between male and female access to education at all levels (Primary, Secondary and Tertiary). For instance, access to school is affected by cultural beliefs and the economic condition of the family. In addition, a host of factors outside the school system have been identified as affecting the enrolment and participation rate of girls in education generally. These include lack of time due to domestic work, child labour and early marriage. These obstacles are being tackled and it is expected that with the right commitment, mobilisation of resources, and the support of the international community, the goal of eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, with a focus on ensuring girls full and equal access to basic education and achievement of good quality education by 2015 is likely to be achieved.





Figure 4: Share of Women in Wage Employment



FOS Data

### Share of Women in Wage Employment in the Non-agricultural Sector

Apart from social empowerment, economic empowerment is also crucial, especially in terms of poverty reduction. Thus, in assessing women's empowerment, wage employment outside the agricultural sector is an important indicator. The employment situation in the country for all categories of participants in the labour force is generally precarious. Available employment data, however, indicates that women have become increasingly favoured even in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector. The General Household Surveys of the FOS indicate that the share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector stood at 46% in 1996 but by 1997, it has climbed to 62% and stabilised around this figure up to 2000. This proportion includes women employed as professionals as well as those involved in administrative, clerical, sales, services and production activities. This impressive record of relative empowerment derives from several ad hoc women-focused programmes such as the Better Life for Rural Women, Family Support Programme (FSP) and Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP), initiated and implemented in the 1990s.

### Share of Women in National Parliament

Yet another empowerment domain is participation in governance, especially political participation. Between 1979 and 1983, the participation of women in politics remained



significantly low. There was only one female out of 57 members of the Senate, three females out of 445 in the Federal House of Representatives and only two female ministers. In 1991, only 27 (2.3 per cent) of 172 legislators in the Houses of Assembly were women. In 1992, only 9 women contested for the position of State governor out of 300 aspirants. However, none of them won and women held only 4 per cent of party executive posts. **Table 2** illustrates the distribution of elected officials in 1992/1993. While no woman emerged as a governor, there were only 143 women out of 8,810 councillors, and only 9 women out of 774 Local Government Chairmen. The State Houses of Assembly elections resulted in 12 women being elected out of a total of 983 members. For the first time in the political history of Nigeria, a woman was unanimously elected speaker of Benue State House of Assembly. In 1999, women showed great interest in contesting for elective public offices. The figures for elected officers by gender in 1999 and 2003 general elections are shown in **Table 3**, indicating that some progress has been made in increasing the political activities of women since 1999.

**Table 2: Distribution of Elected Officials and Political Aspirants in 1992 - 1993, By Sex**

Posts	Male	Female	Total	Share of Women
Governor	36	0	36	0
Legislators Aspirants	145	27	172	15.70
Councillors	8667	143	8810	1.62
Local Government Chairmen	765	9	774	0.86
State House of Assembly				
Senate	971	12	983	1.22
House of Rep.	357	3	360	0.83

Source: Women in Nigeria, 1998.

**Table 3: Proportion of Women Holding Political Posts, 1999 - 2003**

	Male		Female		Total		% Female	
	1999	2003	1999	2003	1999	2003	1999	2003
President	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Vice President	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Ministers Special Advisers	35	34	9	5	44	39	20.45	12.82
Speakers	35	34	1	2	36	36	2.78	5.56
Governors	36	36	0	0	36	36	0	0
Deputy Governors	35	34	1	2	36	36	2.78	5.56
LGA Chairpersons	765	0	9	0	774	0	1.16	0
Councillors	8667	0	143	0	8810	0	1.62	0
State Assembly Members	978	-	12	-	990	-	1.21	0
Senators	106	105	3	4	109	109	2.75	3.67
House of Representative	347	345	13	15	360		3.61	4.17

Source: National Assembly, INEC, 1999 and 2003.





## 1. Major Challenges

In spite of tremendous progress made, there are still major challenges facing the country in achieving gender equality in education and women's empowerment. The attainment of EFA goals is constrained by the high rate of attrition in primary schools which is due to many factors including (i) engagement in income-generating activities by some children during school hours; (ii) inability of parents to meet expenses for such things as school uniforms, textbooks, etc.; (iii) distant or inaccessible location of schools from pupils' homes; (iv) ill-health arising from poor environmental sanitation, lack of potable water, lack of toilet facilities, etc.; (v) religious and cultural factors which cause some parents to choose religious schools, such as Qu'ranic schools, in preference to western-type primary schools; (vi) early marriage of girls; and (vii) teenage pregnancy.

Another major challenge impeding gender equality is the problem of developing capacity for mainstreaming gender and implementing existing policies, including the national policy on Women and the domestication of CEDAW. For instance, the implementation of the government's new social and educational policy of free education for women and girls at all levels, and of free and compulsory basic education for girls. This indicates the need to strengthen the capacity of government to incorporate gender analysis into all spheres of planning and development, including macro-economic planning and management.

Apart from the difficulty in policy implementation, the problem of how to increase women's participation in education, especially the nomadic women, women in purdah, women in riverine areas, women in rural areas, the gifted, the handicapped has to be addressed. The rate of female attrition is very high and the increasing number of drop-outs has also complicated the problems associated with rising single parent families.

Yet another challenge is how to achieve a satisfactory level of women's participation in politics. The process of satisfying the 30 percent political posts that are supposed to be set aside for women in order to close the wide political gap has not been met. It is observed that all forms of discrimination against women in all spheres of life do exist. The forms of discriminations range from gender based violence to women's status (married, unmarried, widowed, divorced etc). Eliminating discrimination is still a great challenge.

## 3. Supportive Environment

The legislative and policy environments are supportive of increased gender balance in national development efforts. For instance, the 1999 Nigerian constitution provides that government shall direct its policy towards ensuring that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels without discrimination. Government's approval of the implementation of the National Curriculum on Sexuality Education at Junior and Secondary School level is also a positive development. In 2002, the Legislative Advocacy Coalition on





Violence Against Women submitted a bill on Violence Against Women (Prevention, Protection and Prohibition) to the National Assembly. An Act in this respect is being awaited.

Education of girls at the primary level received a boost when Nigeria endorsed the goals of the Jomtien Conference of 1990 on Education For All (EFA) by the year 2000. Subsequently, in 1993, Nigeria re-established the National Primary Education Commission (NPEC) that had been dissolved in 1991, and gave it the responsibility for pursuing EFA goals at the primary level. A number of other ad hoc programmes such as the Family Support Programme (FSP) that was initiated in 1994 also intensified the campaign on the education of the girl-child. Development partners such as the British Council, DFID, UNESCO, UNDP, Ford Foundation and UNICEF have also played active roles in the promotion of female education at the primary level, and thus contributed to the observed positive trend in female enrolment. Through the Strategy for Acceleration of Girls' Education in Nigeria (SAGEN) and the Child Friendly School Initiative, there is an increased focus on advocacy, partnerships and resource mobilization; child friendly schools; non-formal education; access and child protection; water, environment, sanitation and health; integrated early child development; and research, monitoring and evaluation. Efforts are also being made to ensure that all schools are child friendly and attractive to girls, the poor, the hard to reach and those with special needs.

The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Youth Development has been in the forefront of policy development, monitoring and implementation of gender mainstreaming, including advocating for gender budgeting and improved quality of education for women and girls. The Federal Ministry of Education works hand-in-hand with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Youth Development for effective implementation of programmes and actualization of policy thrust and budgets in favour of women. These Ministries work in collaboration with the United Nations agencies and the international organizations that focus on women and girls education. At the state level, the Ministries of Education and their parastatals, Local Governments and non-governmental organizations, the local communities, women's groups or organizations are also encouraged to play their roles for the achievement of the target by the year 2010.

There is also a nationwide sensitization of stakeholders on the Beijing Platform of Action, and the implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The country has compiled the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> CEDAW periodic country reports that were defended in January 2004. A mechanism for collection of data and information on women's issues has been set up as a result of the drafting of the reports. Moreover, policy research on Girl Child Education as well as Women and Youth empowerment schemes are contained in blueprints produced by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs. The above-mentioned actions have clearly set an enabling environment in which the attainment of gender equality and promotion of non-discrimination can thrive in Nigeria.

Since independence, Nigeria has grappled with the problem of creating a fair, just and





equitable political arrangement among its different peoples. The past three decades have witnessed a global emphasis on women's issues as related to empowerment, such as political empowerment, economic empowerment, social and cultural empowerment. The National Policy on Women adopted in 2000 articulates gender mainstreaming in relevant sectors. It also supports the formulation of policies in relation to social, economic, and political actions that will actualize the provision of the constitution. The policy thrusts of equality and social well-being are designed to remove the social menace associated with gender inequality and thereby promote activities that empower women for achieving sustainable employment.

Development agencies have encouraged research and placed greater emphasis on gender and development issues from interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary perspectives. Several conferences, seminars and workshops were organized to address the issue of women in politics. Similarly, women's development advocacy seems to have visibly gained ground in Nigeria. Examples are the Better Life for Rural Women Programme, the National Commission for Women and the Family Support Programme, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and Vision 2010. Vision 2010 includes several initiatives such as accessibility of schools, promoting child friendly schools and broadening the Qu'ranic school curriculum. Several non-governmental organizations (NGOs), women's associations and professional groups have initiated programmes to press for increased women participation in the social, political and economic sectors.

#### 4. Priorities For Development Assistance

The priority areas for development assistance in eliminating gender disparity in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions not later than 2015 include the following.

- Provision and enforcement of compulsory and free primary and secondary education for all children, including access to safe water and environmental sanitation in schools, non-formal education, and integrated early childhood development and specific initiatives for girls;
- Support for women in their struggle for elimination of all forms of discrimination, especially in politics so that the 30 percent quota of women in elective posts could be achieved.
- Ensuring effective mobilization and sensitization of parents, communities and relevant agencies for the purpose of increasing access to education;
- Support for the expansion and enhancement of science and technology at all levels of the educational system stressing mathematical skills and the application of science and technology at the primary and secondary school levels by local and international agencies; and
- Restructuring of the curriculum to include basic science and technology in women education programs.



**5. Tracking Progress in Promoting Gender Equality and Women Empowerment -  
Monitoring and Evaluation Environment**

Elements of Monitoring Environment	Assessment		
Data gathering capacity	Strong	Fair	Weak
Quality of recent survey information	Strong	Fair	Weak
Statistical tracking capacities	Strong	Fair	Weak
Capacity to incorporate statistical analysis into policy, planning and resource allocation mechanisms	Strong	Fair	Weak
Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	Strong	Fair	Weak





## GOAL 4

### REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

TARGET	INDICATORS
<i>Reduce Under-five mortality by two thirds by 2015</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Under-five mortality rate</li> <li>- Infant mortality rate</li> <li>- Percentage of one year olds fully immunized against measles.</li> </ul>

#### 1. Reduce Child Mortality (Status at a glance)

Although there are wide variations in infant mortality, and under-five mortality rates among various data sources, all the available data reveals that these indicators have deteriorated since the 1990s. The under-five mortality rate increased from 147 per 1,000 in 1990 to 176 per 1,000 in 1995 before falling to an all time low of 119 in 1998. Thereafter it increased steadily over time. By 2001, the under-five mortality rate in Nigeria was 183 per 1,000, which was even higher than the 1990 figure. According to the target of the goal under consideration, there must be a reduction in the 1990 level of under-five mortality by two-thirds by 2015. This corresponds to a rate of under-five mortality of 49 per 1,000 or less by the year 2015. All available indications are that it is very unlikely that Nigeria would meet the 2015 target of reducing under-five mortality by two thirds.

Regarding infant mortality, the available data shows that the infant mortality rate (IMR) was 85 per 1,000 live births in 1990 and it increased to 195 per 1,000 live births in 1994. The rate eventually dropped to 114 between 1995 and 1998 and 75.1 per 1,000 by 2002. If the target for the IMR reduction were to be reached by 2015, the country would need to reduce the rate to less than 28 per 1,000. It seems unlikely that this target would be achieved, which may further compound the problems relating to the reduction of under-five mortality. An important factor that could contribute to the reduction of under-five mortality is the increment in the proportion of one-year-old children fully immunized against measles. Available data reveals that this indicator has maintained a rising trend from 1990 to 2002. The proportion has increased from 45 percent in 1990 to 90.4 percent in 2002. This shows that Nigeria can attain 100 per cent coverage of children of one year old fully immunized against measles by 2015.

Recent data from the National Demographic and Health Survey (2003) indicates that rural areas experienced higher infant and under-five mortality rates than urban areas over the 10-year period preceding the survey. While the overall under-five mortality rate is estimated at 217 per 1,000 the infant mortality rate is estimated at 109 per 1,000. Urban areas had under-five and infant mortality rates of 153 per 1,000 and 81 per 1,000 respectively, compared to 243 per 1,000 and 121 per 1,000 for rural areas. This difference is attributed to differences in



neonatal rates, the probability of dying within the first month of life, which is higher in rural areas. This is due to unequal access to health facilities since urban residents are expected to have better access than rural residents.

Status at a Glance			
Will target be reached by 2015?			
Probably	Potentially	Unlikely	Insufficient Data
State of supportive environment			
Strong	Fair	Weak but improving	Weak

Figure 1: Infant and Under-five mortality

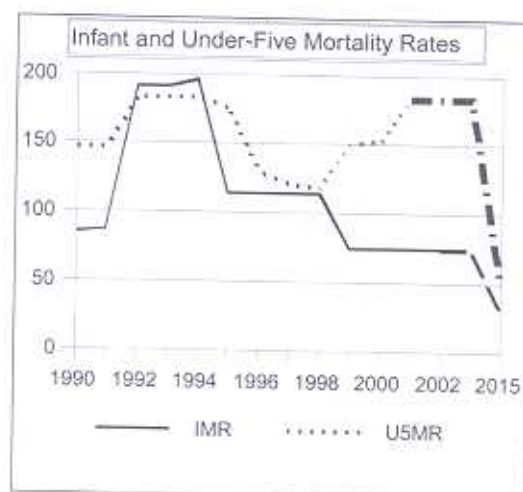
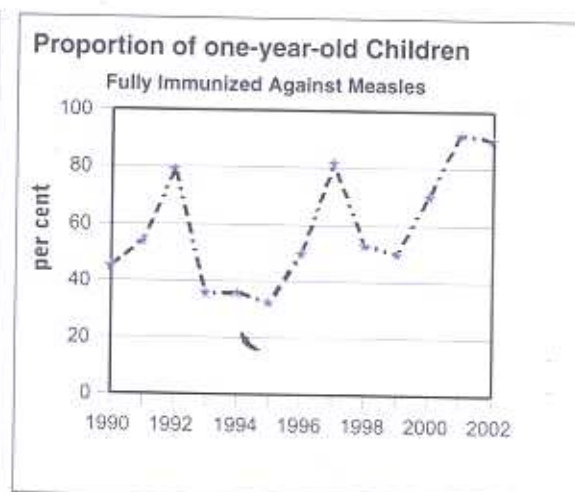


Figure 2: Proportion of Immunized Children

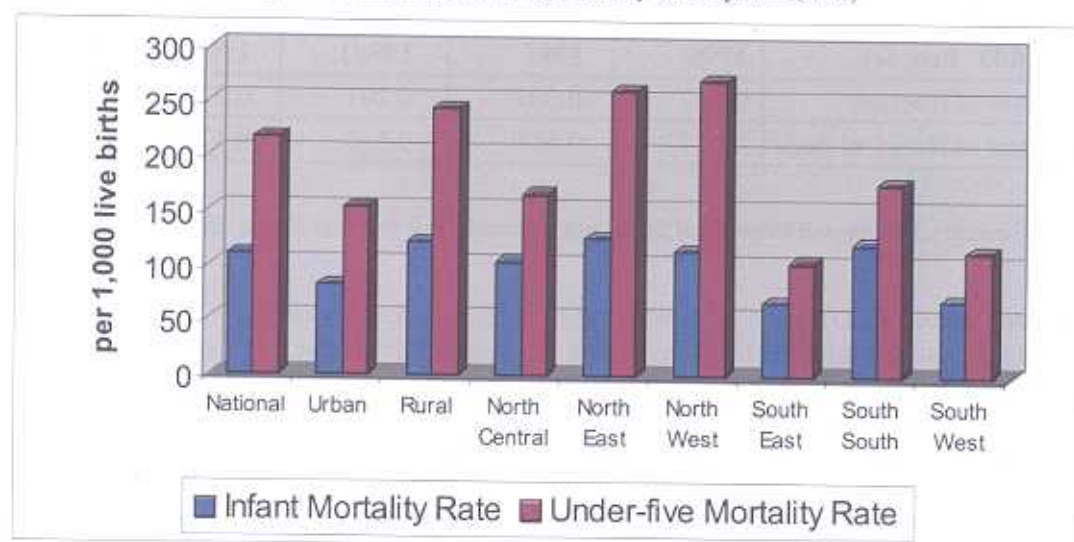


With regard to geo-political zones, the highest under-five mortality rates were found in the North West and North East with 269 per 1,000 and 260 per 1,000 respectively. The South East and South West had the lowest rates with 103 per 1,000 and 113 per 1,000 respectively (see figure 3).





Figure 3: Infant and Under-Five Mortality Rates by Zone (2003)



Source: National Population Commission, National Demographic and Health Survey (2003)

## 2. Major Challenges

There are several challenges facing the country in its efforts to reduce under-five mortality including:

**Poverty:** Poverty in Nigeria manifests itself in a variety of ways, including the fact that poor families are unlikely to be able to afford treatment and medicines in good hospitals, especially when it involves referral cases requiring movement from one particular location to the other. This problem is more pronounced in the rural areas, where there is less access to good health care services and the population is predominantly poor.

**Poor availability of health care facilities:** In addition to poverty, which hinders access to health care facilities, there is a lack of adequate provision of health care services in many parts of the country, especially the rural areas. Additionally, insufficient health personnel to attend to both mothers and the children in the available hospitals compound this problem. As illustrated in **Table 1**, both the numbers of doctors and hospital beds per 1000 people are very low; and the trend over the years has not shown any significant improvement. Using the number of doctors and hospital beds per 1,000 people as indicators of the adequacy of the available health services, the data shows that on the average, there was much less than one bed to 1,000 people. This is a major challenge to reducing under-five mortality.



Table 1: Availability of Health Care Facilities, 1996 - 2000

(Per' 000 People)	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Number of Doctors	0.212	0.207	0.201	0.223	0.22
Number of Hospital Beds	0.677	0.643	0.613	0.575	0.639

Source: CBN Annual Report and Statement Accounts, For the Year Ended, 2000 & 2001.

**The Problem of HIV/AIDS:** The HIV/AIDS epidemic is, without doubt, one of the major challenges posing a threat to reducing under-five mortality. Today, in Nigeria, more than 3 million Nigerians (including 120,000 children) are living with HIV/AIDS. Among the remaining number are women of childbearing age that have the probability of transmitting HIV to their newborn babies. It should be noted that HIV has a direct effect on child mortality. Furthermore, children who became orphans in their early years, as a result of the death of one or both parents from HIV/AIDS, are at high risk of not reaching their fifth year even when they are not HIV positive themselves.

**Health of Mothers:** It should be noted that the survival of a child depends largely on events that are associated with pregnancy and childbirth. In the first instance, pregnant women are likely to suffer from poor health due to poor nutritional status and frequent childbearing. In addition, the place of delivery is equally important to the health of both the mother and the child. Some cultural and attitudinal factors impede the good health of the mothers and their children. Such factors include early marriage, which is predominant in many rural areas in Nigeria, as well as fertility preferences and inadequate spacing between births, which increase the risk of mortality among children. Research has shown that a child born less than two years after the previous birth, faces three times more risk of dying before the fifth birthday compared to those with spacing of more than two years. In addition, children born to teenage mothers have a higher risk of mortality, and the level of education is an important factor in determining mothers' health.

### 3. Supportive Environment

The National Health Policy (NHP) was officially launched and became operative in October 1988. The NHP aims at a level of health that will enable all Nigerians to achieve socially and economically productive lives. The NHP emphatically adopts the Primary Health Care (PHC) concept as the main engine by which the goal of health for all Nigerians can be attained. With the introduction of the NHP, it became important for Nigeria to match her health care strategy with the reality of her health problems. The common causes of morbidity and mortality in Nigeria, especially of the children, are still preventable. The persistence of





avoidable diseases indicates weaknesses in the implementation of PHC. Therefore, the adoption of a health care strategy that is based on a PHC, which is promotive, protective, preventive, restorative, and rehabilitative and not losing sight of curative care represented by the secondary and tertiary health institutions that serve as referral for the PHC is quite desirable.

Although the NHP of 1988 is the one still in use, there have been various policy statements by the government on the issue of maternal and family health. In 2003, the National Council on Health resolved as follows:

- i. Each state should develop a strategic plan of action for reproductive health and integrated child survival programs in line with the National Plan and ensure its implementation.
- ii. Each state should ensure equitable access to an essential package of health care for women and children, which should include routine immunization, nutrition, growth monitoring, breast feeding, control of malaria, diarrhoea, acute respiratory tract infections, skilled birth attendance, and care for the new born.
- iii. States and LGAs should be encouraged to use skilled personnel in maternal and family health services and also build capacity in Life Saving Skills.

All the above are measures targeted directly or indirectly at reducing child mortality in the country. Moreover, the Nigerian government has recently passed into law a bill guaranteeing the right of children. In the area of health, the government has established an agency called the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) charged with the responsibility for the development of health care facilities at the local government level nationwide. The agency has conducted training programmes for upgrading the skills of the PHC personnel in the local government areas. More village health workers and Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) have also been trained and made available at the community level in order to assist in reducing child mortality.

Furthermore, there have been awareness campaigns against common childhood diseases. The government has provided vaccinations at no cost for the children in the country. The government has also embarked upon routine immunization days in which workers go from house to house to immunize the children against the killer diseases. In her effort to make immunization more effective, the Nigerian government recently reviewed the EPI (Expanded Immunization Programme) and renamed it National Programme on Immunization (NPI). Today, the Nigerian government is striving towards reducing mortality, morbidity and incapacitation caused by the childhood killer diseases to the barest minimum, and effort is in top gear to eradicate polio from Nigeria by 2004.



Regarding HIV/AIDS, governments at all levels have established AIDS and STDs control Programmes with the aim of reducing the menace of this deadly disease in Nigeria. There are National and State Action Committees on AIDS (NACA, SACA), and Local Government Committees on AIDS (LACA). Also, HIV screening centers have been established in all states of the federation. As at 1996, confirmatory laboratories have been established in four centers in the country. The implementation of all these programs will contribute to lowering the rate of child mortality and improve the quality of life. The government carries out publicity and provides family planning services with the aim of addressing inadequate spacing between children and to limit birth. Family planning services are available, accessible, and affordable to the citizens.

#### 4. Priorities For Development Assistance

The areas in which development partners can provide assistance in achieving this goal include:

- a. Provision of health facilities and improved basic social services including water and sanitation especially in rural areas. The focus would be on increased accessibility and provision of qualified health personnel.
- b. Support to the national effort to combat HIV/AIDS through the provision of anti-retroviral drugs and additional screening centers at affordable prices to promote access by the poor.
- c. Improved availability of family planning services with particular emphasis on rural areas.
- d. Changing the orientation of the rural population through awareness campaign on the need to use health care facilities instead of patronising traditional healers who may lack adequate skills, although it should be noted that traditional healers and home management are important components of the Nigerian health system and could be integrated into the formal health system. Particular attention would have to be paid to the regulation and reduction of harmful practices in traditional medicine and the promotion of key household practices including early stimulation at the household level.





## 5. Tracking Progress in Reducing Child Mortality: Monitoring & Evaluation Environment

Elements of Monitoring Environment	Assessment		
Data gathering capacity	Strong	Fair	Weak
Quality of recent survey information	Strong	Fair	Weak
Statistical tracking capacities	Strong	Fair	Weak
Capacity to incorporate statistical analysis into policy, planning and resource allocation mechanisms	Strong	Fair	Weak
Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	Strong	Fair	Weak



## GOAL 5

### IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

TARGET	INDICATORS
<i>Reduce the maternal mortality ratio by three-quarters between 1990 and 2015</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maternal mortality ratio</li> <li>- Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel</li> </ul>

#### 1. Status of Progress (Status at a glance)

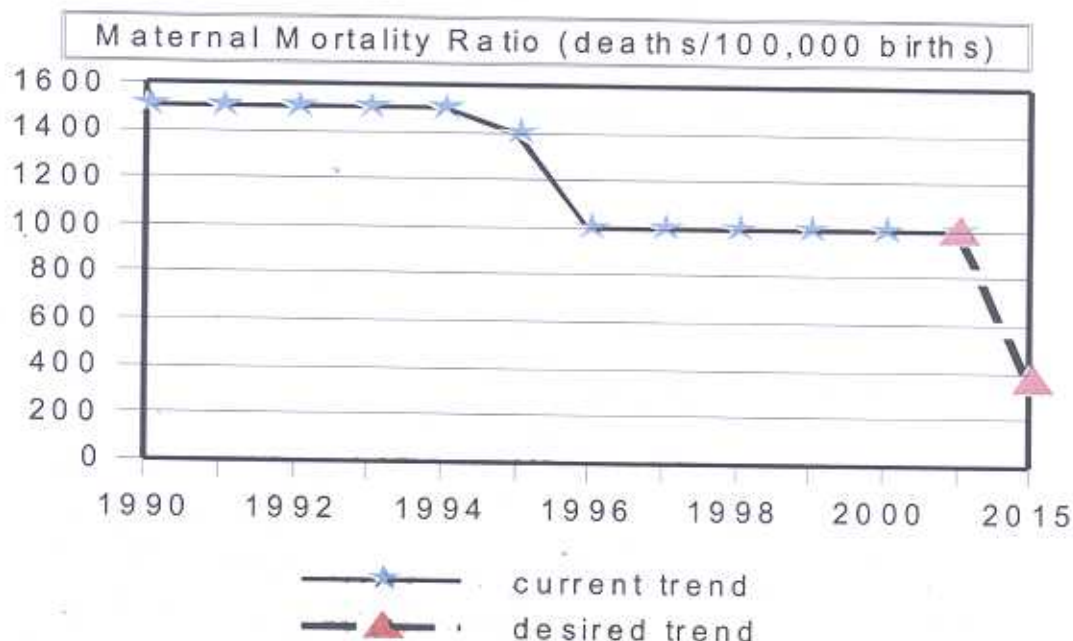
The Nation's Health Policy (1988) adopts the primary health concept, which includes the establishment of maternal health services to provide efficient and effective maternal health services to every woman, mother-to-be and mother. The National Population Policy (1988) aims to strengthen maternal and child health care services. As a result of the 1994 Cairo - International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), in 1994 many governments in the world (including Nigeria) adopted the improvement of women's sexual and reproductive health as a key objective of the activities of governments.

The available data shows that while the maternal mortality rate in the early 1990s was between 1400 to 1500, it dropped to 1000 per 100,000 live births in the late 1990s to 2001 (CBN). In 1999 in particular, although the national maternal mortality rate was 704 per 100,000 live births, there was considerable regional variation. While the South West and South East recorded 165 per 100,000 and 286 per 100,000 the rates were much higher in the North West and North East, which had 1,025 per 100,000 and 1,549 per 100,000 respectively. Urban areas had lower rates of maternal mortality of 351 per 100,000 live births compared to rural areas with recorded rates of 828 per 100,000 (FOS/UNICEF, 2000).

The proportion of births attended by skilled medical personnel dropped from 45 per cent in the early 1990s to 31 per cent in 1998 but rose again to 42 per cent in 2000. The number and timing of antenatal care visits can be a salient factor in preventing adverse pregnancy outcomes. For about 47 per cent of all births recorded in the five years preceding 2003, the mothers made at least four antenatal care visits, whereas in the five years before 1990, 52 per cent of the mothers made at least four antenatal care visits, thus indicating a reduction in the proportion of births receiving antenatal care (NDHS, 2003, 1990). This definitely has its toll on maternal morbidity and mortality. In addition, only about 63 percent of the mothers received antenatal care from medically qualified medical personnel, with 2.5 percent being attended to by Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA) during the five years before 2003. Access to an antenatal care provider was much higher in urban areas compared to rural areas.







Status at a Glance			
Will target be reached by 2015?			
Probably	Potentially	Unlikely	Insufficient Data
State of supportive environment			
Strong	Fair	Weak but improving	Weak

According to National Population Census NPC (2000), only about 37 per cent of the births were delivered in a health facility, while in 1990, the figure was 31 per cent thus indicating an increase. It should be noted that lack of care is most life-threatening during childbirth and the days immediately after delivery, since these are the times when sudden, life-threatening complications are most likely to arise. In both the 1990 and 1999 NDHS, it was found that there exists a positive association between mother's education and receiving antenatal care.

## 2. Major Challenges

Teenage pregnancy is regarded as a major problem as it reduces the likelihood of the mother achieving education goals, reduces prospects for subsequent employment and earnings, compromises the financial position of her family's household (maintenance from the father is



rarely forthcoming), and negatively impacts on the child, who is born into relatively greater poverty. In 2000, it was estimated that 18% of teenage women are mothers, with another 4 percent currently carrying their first pregnancy (NPC, 2000). However, there has been a decline in the percentage of teenagers who have started childbearing, from 28 per cent of teenagers in 1990 to 22 per cent in 1999.

Cultural and attitudinal factors are important in addressing maternal health. In some parts of the country, husbands still insist that only female health personnel should attend to their wives. Since there are a limited number of female medical personnel available, this attitude hinders improvement in maternal health. Taboos also challenge maternal health, including various beliefs that impinge on the health of the woman. For example, some people believe that a pregnant woman should not eat certain foods. This has an effect on the nutritional status of the woman. To counter harmful cultural and attitudinal factors, there is a need to embark on aggressive health education campaigns not only in the various health facilities whose target population are the women who have come to receive antenatal care, but such campaigns should reach out to the general populace.

There is an absence of trained medical personnel including nurses outside major cities. Thus a large number of women make use of the traditional birth attendants (TBAs), especially in the rural areas. Some of these TBAs may be involved in harmful traditional practices, such as female genital cutting, thus the integration of traditional birth attendants and health practitioners into modern health care is a necessity. A proper orientation of the traditional health practitioners on the principles of modern health care would help to reduce the incidence of harmful health practices.

Health facilities in rural areas are not open for long hours and do not provide the minimum package of essential services. They lack sufficient qualified health personnel, equipment and other infrastructure.

Thus the number of women making use of these ante-natal health care facilities is very low.

### 3. Supportive Environment

The existence of a maternal and child health policy whose aim includes the reduction in maternal morbidity and mortality as well as increasing public/professional awareness on harmful traditional practices shows a strong commitment of the Government of Nigeria in improving maternal health. Embedded in the National Policy is the provision of family planning services through the various public and private sector outlets and the strengthening of maternal and child health care services. In order to address the various cultural attitudinal and acceptance barriers, the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) uses traditional, religious and respected opinion leaders in the various communities in disseminating healthcare messages.





The Adolescent health policy has different initiatives focussed on the health problems related to socio-cultural context. This includes programs related to sexual behaviour, reproductive health, nutrition, drug abuse, alcohol consumption, smoking, parental responsibilities and social adjustment as well as issues relating to traditional practices (e.g. early marriage) which ultimately affect maternal health.

The government in collaboration with development partners carries out activities that encourage people to use family planning. A revolving fund scheme exists for providing family planning commodities at a minimal cost to the end users. These commodities are provided through funds provided by international development partners such as UNFPA and UNICEF, and are made available through local government areas (LGAs) for distribution to health facilities. These activities are coordinated by the Primary Health Care Department that includes the State Immunization Committee, and the Maternal and Child Health Unit. As a matter of policy every pregnant woman attending ante-natal care is given tetanus toxoid vaccine in all the health facilities.

#### 4. Priorities for Development Assistance

A tremendous effort needs to be made to achieve the target which would involve an annual reduction of 45 deaths per 100,000 live births from 2003. The reality is that if the present trend continues, Nigeria may not be in a position to attain the goal by 2015. Instead, the set target may be achieved around 2026 at the earliest, which will be about 11 years behind schedule.

The most important way to reduce maternal deaths is to ensure that a skilled health professional is present at every birth as many women develop serious and hard to-predict complications during or immediately after delivery. However, there is a serious shortage of these professionals. The challenge is for the government and development partners to expand services, improve their quality, and tailor them to meet the needs of women and communities by: ensuring that health facilities are located close to where women live, have a continuous supply of drugs and equipment. Such services should be sensitive to cultural and social norms such as preferences for privacy, confidentiality and care by female health workers.

In view of the significant life threatening complications that arise during pregnancy, there is a need to ensure effective access to emergency obstetric care as well as a fully functional referral system between all levels of care. It is also important to continuously update standards and protocols for service delivery, management and supervision, and using them to monitor and evaluate the quality of services, along with feedback from clients and health providers as well as educating women and communities about the importance of maternal health and appropriate services. There is also the need for more awareness programmes, especially for pregnant women. Development assistance will be required in all these areas in order to achieve the desired results.



## 5. Tracking Progress in Improving Maternal Health - Monitoring & Evaluation Environment

Elements of Monitoring Environment	Assessment		
Data gathering capacity	Strong	Fair	Weak
Quality of recent survey information	Strong	Fair	Weak
Statistical tracking capacities	Strong	Fair	Weak
Capacity to incorporate statistical analysis into policy, planning and resource allocation mechanisms	Strong	Fair	Weak
Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	Strong	Fair	Weak





## GOAL 6

### COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

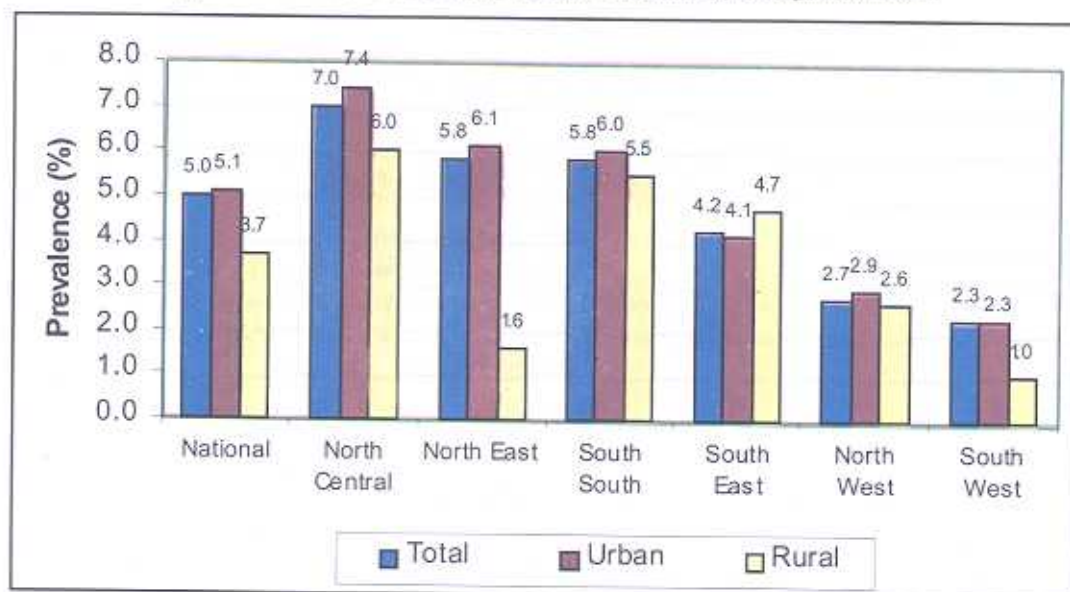
TARGETS	INDICATORS
<i>Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HIV prevalence among 15 to 24 year old pregnant women</li> <li>- Contraceptive prevalence rate</li> <li>- Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS</li> </ul>
<i>Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria</li> <li>- Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis</li> </ul>

#### 1. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases (Status at a glance)

The impact of diseases such as malaria, HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis on the economy is likely to be more pronounced in a highly populated country like Nigeria. Adult HIV prevalence increased from 1.8 percent in 1991 to 5.8 percent in 2001 and 5 per cent in 2003 (FMOH, 2003). In general, the difference between prevalence in urban and rural areas is not large, indicating that AIDS problem in Nigeria is not strictly an urban one. Compared to some other African countries, this infection rate may seem low, however, this should be considered in relation to the nation's large population. It is estimated that 3.2 to 3.8 million Nigerian adults and children were living with HIV and AIDS by the end of 2003. Current projections show an increase in the number of people living with HIV and AIDS to between 3.4 million and 4 million in 2005 and between 3.7 million and 4.3 million in 2008. As a result of the epidemic, the crude death rate in Nigeria was about 20 percent higher in 2000 than in 1990. In 2001 alone, 170,000 adults and children died of AIDS. By 2008, cumulative deaths from AIDS would be between 3.6 million to 4.2 million people (FMOH, 2003).



Figure 1: HIV Prevalence at the National level and by Geo-political Zone



Source: National HIV Zero-prevalence Sentinel Survey, Federal Ministry of Health (2003)

Status at a Glance			
<i>Will target be reached by 2015?</i>			
Probably	Potentially	Unlikely	Insufficient Data
<i>State of supportive environment</i>			
Strong	Fair	Weak but improving	Weak

Several factors have contributed to the rapid spread of HIV in Nigeria including sexual networking practices such as polygamy, a high prevalence of untreated sexually transmitted infections (STIs), low condom use, poverty, low literacy, poor health status, low status of women, stigmatization, and denial of HIV infection risk among vulnerable groups. Nigeria is a complex mixture of diverse ethnic groups, languages, cultures, religions, and regional political groupings, all of which are major challenges for HIV prevention programs. There are large regional differences in prevalence rates, an examination of the six geo-political zones reveals higher than average prevalence in the North Central, North East and South South zones. The age group most affected by the virus includes 20-24 year olds followed by 25-29 year olds in all zones except the South West of the country. In this zone the highest prevalence is found among 40-49 year olds.





Tuberculosis has re-emerged as a global health problem, including the need to improve funding and strategies to reach the poor who are more likely to contract the disease. Data on national prevalence and deaths associated with Tuberculosis are only available for the years 1990 to 1998. The prevalence appears to decrease between 1990 and 1995, and begins to rise in 1996. By 1998, it had risen to 27,840 people infected. The deaths associated with TB have also been on the increase from as low as 12 in 1993 to 940 in 1998. This seems to indicate that the country is enmeshed in the new wave of TB.

Malaria is a major health and developmental problem in Nigeria as it affects school attendance and the ability to work. It has been estimated that over half of the Nigerian population has at least one episode of malaria annually and the majority of outpatient visits can be attributed to malaria. The groups most at risk include pregnant women and children (NDHS, 2003). The high prevalence of malaria in Nigeria is high, which may be due to the abundance of unkempt drainage and environment, which aids the vectors of malaria. The prevalence of malaria has increased from 1,116,982 in 1990 to 1,875,380 in 1998 (FOS). The deaths recorded from malaria, have also been on the increase.

## 2. Major Challenges

Before the advent of the present regime in 1999, policy makers lacked the political will and commitment needed concerning the fight against HIV and AIDS and Malaria. This may be the reason for the increase in the rate of HIV and AIDS infection. The level of political will and commitment at the level of states and the local governments varies. However, the commitment shown by policymakers at the federal level is exceptional. At the federal level, President Olusegun Obasanjo personally spear heads the fight against HIV/AIDS. The government is also involved in the Roll Back Malaria Program to mitigate the effect of malaria. However, a tremendous effort is still required as the ownership of mosquito nets is not widespread in Nigeria with only 12% of household reported to use at least one net in 2003 (NDHS, 2003). The issue of poverty and low status of women are also great impediments to fighting these diseases.

Funding is a constraint in the fight against malaria, tuberculosis and HIV and AIDS. In recent years, significant resources have been committed to HIV and AIDS in Nigeria including funds from the World Bank, US, UK, Canada and the Global Fund for HIV and AIDS. Although funds are being dispensed, there is still a need for these funds to be channelled to the communities and for additional resources due to the scale and complexity of Nigeria's HIV and AIDS epidemic. The issue of over-dependence on donor support needs to be addressed. The challenge is for the nation to raise the financing from domestic sources in order to avoid a possible reversal of the gains in the absence of donor support.

The fact that there are not enough trained personnel to implement programs like the national AIDS program is also a great challenge in Nigeria. For example, on the average between





1996 and 2000, the ratio of doctor to people was 1:4703 (NISER, 2003). This affects the implementation of the AIDS program and healthcare in general. In addition to the health sector, other sectors including education, defence, police, agriculture, labour, finance, women affairs and others have a role to play in a multi-sectoral response to the epidemic in view of the rising infection rates among young people, students and particularly the female population. In this regard there is a need to address the weak capacity for planning, implementation and evaluation as well as technical skills in all these sectors.

A review of the policy environment for HIV and AIDS programs in Nigeria finds that while policy formulation, political support and organization structures are good, there is a noticeable weakness in the availability of program resources. Additional weaknesses identified include a weak legal and regulatory environment and poor coordination especially between the national government, local government, NGOs, private sector and international donors. The development of supportive legislation for HIV and AIDS programming is a tremendous challenge in the face of conservative social and religious values, such as polygamy and female genital mutilation. Legislation is particularly pertinent with regard to stigmatisation of those infected with HIV and AIDS.

Though many Nigerians have heard about HIV and AIDS, only a few know how to prevent the infection. In 2003, it was estimated that approximately 86% of women and 97% of men had heard about HIV and AIDS. However, only 42% of the women and 60% of the men had knowledge of HIV prevention by using condoms or limiting sex to one uninfected partners. The age bracket with the least knowledge of HIV and AIDS, was the 15-19 year olds where only 37% of the women and 52% of the men had any knowledge of how to prevent the disease. Thus there is the challenge of increasing the level of knowledge of how to prevent infection among the entire population, especially the young.

The 2003 National HIV and AIDS sentinel survey emphasises the issue of expansion of care and support activities including the scaling up of the anti-retroviral program to meet the increasing demand. In Nigeria, only 14,000 people are receiving ARV's out of an estimated 1.5 million people who need the drugs. This indicates coverage of only 1%. WHO and UNAIDS three by five initiative which aims to provide anti-retroviral therapy to 3 million people with HIV and AIDS in developing countries by 2005 is a welcome initiative. The data on infections also reveals the need for the emphasis of the response to the epidemic to shift from sensitisation and awareness towards behavioural change communication and care and support of people living with HIV and AIDS and people affected by HIV/AIDS.

### 3. Supportive Environment

The restoration of democracy in Nigeria in 1999 brought the first signs of a strengthened national response to the growing HIV and AIDS epidemic with the formation of the Presidential Commission on AIDS (PCA), which includes ministers from all sectors. The National Action Committee on AIDS (NACA) was formed in 2000 to foster a multi-sectoral





approach to AIDS. Membership includes representatives from Ministries, the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and networks of persons living with HIV and AIDS. State and Local Action Committees on AIDS (SACA and LACA) are also being formed to spearhead the local multi-sectoral response to HIV and AIDS. The government also launched the Roll Back Malaria program.

The first HIV and AIDS Emergency Action Plan, prepared by the National Action Committee on AIDS was approved in 2001 for a 3-year period. The Plan's objectives include: increasing awareness and sensitization of the general population and key stakeholders; promoting behaviour change in both low-risk and high-risk populations; ensuring that communities and individuals are empowered to design and initiate community-specific action plans; ensuring that laws and policies encourage the mitigation of HIV and AIDS; institutionalizing best practices in care and support for people living with HIV and AIDS; mitigating the effect of the disease on people living with HIV and AIDS, orphans and other affected groups; creating support groups of people living with HIV and AIDS and others affected by AIDS; establishing an effective HIV and AIDS surveillance system; and stimulating research on HIV and AIDS. Also on 4 August 2003 the National AIDS policy was launched.

The overall goal of Nigeria's policy is to control the spread of HIV by providing equitable care and support for those infected by HIV and to mitigate its impact to the point where it is no longer of public health, social and economic concern, such that all Nigerians will be able to achieve socially and economically productive lives free of the disease and its effects. Strategies for implementation include Voluntary Confidential Counselling and Testing (VCCT), Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT), ensuring that many health facilities have capacities to diagnose early and treat sexually transmitted infections and other opportunistic infections. The government is implementing a program of providing access to anti-retroviral drugs (ARV) and free treatment to tuberculosis patients.

There is a network of people living with AIDS, which is involved in most of the government's program and activities relating to HIV and AIDS. The network encourages the formation of various care and support groups across the country and is at the forefront of the fight against stigmatization.

#### 4. Priorities for Development Assistance

Development and implementation of interventions aimed at reducing the level of stigmatisation and improving the awareness of the citizenry on the ways to prevent being infected with HIV and STIs is a priority. The strategy to be adopted would include all stakeholders and would take into account cultural and religious differences. STI care and counselling centres should be more youth friendly to encourage access by youth to information, preventive and curative services.



Surveillance systems for major communicable diseases need to be strengthened with a particular emphasis on HIV and AIDS to expand coverage beyond pregnant women aged 15-49 years who attend antenatal clinics. Surveillance should focus on all groups, especially the high-risk groups. In addition there should be additional research and support of comprehensive assessment on these diseases, with the aim of obtaining the epidemiological situation, determinants of risk and vulnerability of the citizenry to the diseases. The national strategy for evaluating the performance of policies and interventions should be strengthened.

In addition, development assistance should be focused on:

- Promotion of behaviour change, prevention of HIV infections, including targeted interventions,
- Care and support for those already living with full blown AIDS,
- Provision of adequate resources and ensuring improvement in the availability of drugs
- Need for social security for AIDS orphans and children with AIDS

#### 5. Tracking Progress in Combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases - Monitoring and Evaluation Environment

Elements of Monitoring Environment	Assessment		
Data gathering capacity	Strong	Fair	Weak
Quality of recent survey information	Strong	Fair	Weak
Statistical tracking capacities	Strong	Fair	Weak
Capacity to incorporate statistical analysis into policy, planning and resource allocation mechanisms	Strong	Fair	Weak
Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	Strong	Fair	Weak





## GOAL 7

### ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

TARGETS	INDICATORS
<i>Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proportion of land areas covered by forests</li> <li>- Land area protected to maintain biological diversity</li> <li>- GDP per unit of energy use</li> <li>- Carbon dioxide emissions per capita</li> </ul>
<i>Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without access to an sustainable access to safe drinking water By 2010, to have achieved a significant improvement</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proportion of population with sustainable improved water source</li> <li>- Proportion of people with access to improved sanitation</li> </ul>
<i>in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proportion of people with access to secure tenure</li> </ul>

#### 1. Ensure Environmental Sustainability (Status at a glance)

Actions aimed at ensuring environmental sustainability gathered momentum following the Earth Summit held in 1992. Awareness has grown regarding the integration of environmental concerns into resource management, policy and planning processes as a way of promoting sustainable development. The recognition of the critical linkage between the environment and national development led to the establishment of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA) in 1988 and the launching of the National Policy on Environment (NPE) in 1989. In 1999, FEPA was transformed into a full-fledged Federal Ministry of Environment and the NPE was revised partly in view of the necessity to integrate environmental concerns into the activities of all sectors of the economy. Despite this institutional framework, achievements relating to environmental protection and resource management have been rather limited. Sustainable development is being threatened by a plethora of environmental problems including land degradation, pollution, flood and erosion, desertification, inefficient use of energy resources, loss of biodiversity, environmental disasters and deforestation.

Only a small proportion of land is covered by forests, this area has declined from 15% in 1990 to 14% in 2000. During this period, the protected land area as a proportion of total land area was approximately 3%, far below the 10% achieved in the 1970s. Government policy makes provision for an increase of the forest estate from 10% to 20% of the total land area. However, annual deforestation is estimated at about 400,000 ha compared to reforestation of about 1,043 ha (CBN, 2002). Over last two decades the rate of deforestation has grown considerably. The average annual rate of deforestation grew from 0.7% in 1980/90 to 0.9% in 1990/95 and 2.6% in 1990/2000. This translates to a loss of 1,200, 1,214 and 3,984 square kilometres respectively (WDI, 2000-2003).





The production, transportation and use of energy have had considerable environmental consequences ranging from deforestation, land degradation, air and water pollution and loss of bio-diversity. Persistent flaring of gas, oil spillage and vandalization of oil pipelines, especially in the southern part of the country, exacerbate the situation. Oil spillage that finds its way into nearby streams and rivers and related forest fires reduce productivity of land and water resources.

Status at a Glance			
<i>Will target be reached by 2015?</i>			
Probably	Potentially	Unlikely	Insufficient Data
<i>State of supportive environment</i>			
Strong	Fair	Weak but improving	Weak

Commercial energy use including consumption of hydropower, natural gas and petroleum products has grown considerably. Natural gas used in industrial production accounts for over 50% of total energy consumption. Average annual commercial energy use grew from 2.9% between 1980 and 1990 to 4.6% between 1990 and 1994 (WDI, 2000). Per capita commercial energy use rose from 165 kg of oil equivalent in 1995, to 753 in 1997, and 710 kg in 2000. Despite the substantial increase in energy consumption over the period, the gain in efficiency of energy use has not been significant. Available figures shows that GDP per unit of energy use was PPP \$0.7 in 1980. By 1997 the figure rose to \$1.1 but it has been virtually stagnant at \$1.2 in 1999 and 2000.

The largest sources of air pollution and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions include secondary energy (refined petroleum products and thermal electricity), household energy use, industries and vehicles. In 1992, the level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Nigeria (96,513 million metric tons) was the highest in Sub-Saharan Africa excluding South Africa. Emissions from flared gas alone are reported to have accounted for more than half of this figure (UNSN, 2001). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions resulting from domestic use of fossil fuels remains an important source of air pollution and climatic change in the country. In addition, due to the erratic supply of electricity, there is widespread operation of a wide range of power generation equipment, which has exacerbated the environmental consequences of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The high level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is related to the high dependence on fossil fuels for domestic consumption. The trend of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions since 1992 has been on the decline.

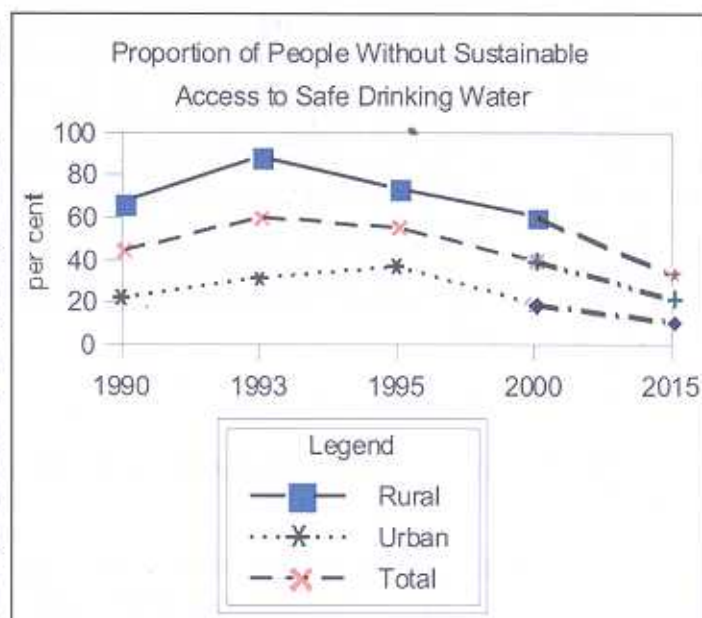
Since 1992, total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have declined to 83.3 million metric tons in 1996, 78.5 million tons in 1998 and 40.4 million metric tons in 1999 (WDI, 2002, 2003). Per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions fell from 0.9 metric tons in 1990 to 0.3 metric ton in 1999 due to the lull in manufacturing activities and increased environmental protection activities and awareness over the period. There was a decline in the proportion of gas flared from 77% in 1990 to 54% in 2000. However, this reduction did not translate to a reduction in the volume of CO<sub>2</sub>





emissions since the volume of gas flared in 2000 (25,592 million cubic metres) was higher than that of 1990 (21,820 million cubic metres) (CBN, 2000).

During the last decade, expansion of water supply and improvement in sanitation was aimed at poverty alleviation, increased food production and improved public health as well as enhanced environmental protection. The proportion of the population with access to improved water sources rose from 49% in 1990 to 57% in 2000 (WDI, 2002). There are differences between access in urban and rural areas. Access in urban areas increased from 78% in 1990 to 81% in 2000. In rural areas, where the majority of Nigerians live, only 33% had access in 1990 and 39% in 2000. Reaching the target of reducing the proportion of rural populations without access to an improved water source from 67% in 1990 to the target of 33.5% in 2015 is much more demanding task than the urban equivalent of 11% by 2015.



Inadequate supply of water in the urban areas is due to poor urban planning, poor management and inability to expand the water works at the state level, ineffective mechanisms for the collection of water rates and lack of incentives to encourage private sector participation. In rural areas poor access is due to lack of commitment to rural development by the government and limited knowledge by the rural population about the essence of improved water supply and health implications.

The proportion of people with access to improved sanitation facilities declined marginally from 56.5% in 1990 to 55.5% in 2000. In urban areas, access declined from 69% in 1990 to 66% in 2000, while access in rural areas improved marginally from 44% in 1990 to 45% in 2000 (WDI, 2003). This trend seems to corroborate the persistent problem of urban decay characterized by a rapid increase in slums and sub-standard housing conditions. The major factors underlying the low level of access to improved sanitation facilities include poor implementation of health, housing and other related policies, high level of poverty, low levels of awareness about issues concerning environmental sustainability and the general underdevelopment of the rural areas.



With regard to the proportion of people with secure tenure as one of the indicators of environmental sustainability, the available data does not reflect the true situation. While there is evidence of poor shelter conditions in urban areas, tenure security in 1998 was quite high. For example in two major urban centres, 93% of the residents of Lagos and 85.8% of those in Ibadan had access to secure tenure (WDI, 2003). However, these cities are also known to be centres of deteriorating social services and environmental conditions. Thus, if the MDG target of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020 is to be met, not only should there be significant improvement in the access to improved sanitation, the problems of inadequate housing, over-crowding in urban centres, homelessness, waste disposal and poor quality housing in general should also be effectively addressed. Indicators relating to these inadequacies would be required for proper monitoring of progress.

## 2. Major Challenges

The country faces the following challenges in its effort to achieve environmental sustainability:

- Implementation of strategies to improve the living standards and quality of life of the people in the face of rapidly growing population without destroying the environment
- Dealing with the increasing trend of environment related social unrest and dislocations, rising pollution and environmental degradation
- Promoting private sector participation in the provision of housing, improved water supply and urban waste management
- Fostering the adoption of efficient and environment friendly technologies for the generation, transmission and distribution of energy in the face of unending crisis in the sector

## 3. Supportive Environment

The assessment report on sustainable development in Nigeria ten years after Rio (UNCED), prepared for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg, South Africa provides details of the support environment for sustainable development in Nigeria in all its ramifications (FGN, 2002). The activities and achievements relating to each area of environmental management and sustainable development are articulated as well as actions to ease the constraints. These include:

- Social and economic dimensions including demographic dynamics, human settlements, environmental health, tourism, trade and challenges of globalization.
- Conservation and management of natural resources covering areas such as integrated production and pest management, agriculture and rural development, fisheries,





forestry, ocean and marine resources, erosion and coastal zone management, drought and desertification, oil and gas, solid mineral development, energy, biodiversity resources and biotechnology, freshwater resources and atmospheric emission.

- Hazardous chemicals, wastes and industrial pollution management including solid waste management and sewage.
- Science and technology for sustainable development
- Integrating environment and development for decision making

The Federal Ministry of Environment (FMEn) provides policy support with regard to climate change and atmospheric emissions while the Federal Ministry of Water Resources has the overall mandate for policies and regulatory mechanisms for water resources development in Nigeria. FMEn activities enhance public awareness about environmental issues. Development activities include data management and information, maintaining an environmental reference library and Infoterra Services. Infoterra is the global environmental information exchange network consisting of National Focal Points in 174 countries coordinated by UNEP. Several standards and guidelines have been produced to aid in the sustainable management of the environment including:

- National Master Plan for Public Awareness on Natural Resources Conservation, 1999.
- National Guidelines on Environmental Management System in Nigeria, 1999.
- National Guidelines on Waste Disposal through Underground Injection, 1999
- National Guidelines on Registration of Environment Friendly Products and Eco- Labelling, 1999.
- National Guidelines for Water Quality in Nigeria, 1999.
- National Pollution Abatement in Industries and Facilities Generating Wastes Regulations, 1992.
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Decree No. 86, 1992
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Procedural Guidelines, 1995
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Sectoral Guidelines, 1995

Despite the considerable efforts made towards the protection of the environment and sustainable management of the natural resources in Nigeria the outcomes have fallen below expectation. A great lacuna remains to be filled and huge financial and other resources will be required to implement existing programmes in order to improve the situation. The Ministry of Environment's programme on National Air Quality Assessment works through national and state level environmental reference laboratories to gather baseline data on atmospheric emissions with support from the World Bank. However, not much has been achieved in monitoring and maintaining acceptable air quality in Nigeria. With regard to climate change, a unit has been established in the FME for the purpose of effective coordination of activities towards implementation of the Climate Change Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. Nigeria has collaborated with CIDA and UNDP to implement capacity building programmes for the same purpose. The country has also worked with UNIDO and the Climate Change Initiative





to increase public awareness in various aspects of climate change issues. The draft of its First National Communication on the Climate Change Convention has been produced.

At the Federal level the Ministry of Water Resources, a National Water Resources Institute and 12 River Basin Development Authorities are responsible for management of water resources. Each state government has designated agencies (water board and water corporation) charged with the responsibility of providing water to communities in the state. In 1992, the National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Strategy document was prepared as the basis for implementation of a number of programmes and projects. In 1993, the Water Resources Decree 101 was produced in 1993 to give legal backing to the development of water resources in the country and in 1995 the National Water Resources Master Plan for the period 1995-2020 was developed and issued with the assistance of the Japanese government. In 1995, the National Water Supply Policy was approved which provided guidelines for water supply development up to 2015.

Since the inception of democratic governance in 1999, the federal government has made efforts to re-focus the sector and re-direct project implementation strategies to yield better results. In this connection, the government adopted a National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy in January 2000. The policy seeks to provide sufficient potable water and improved sanitation to all Nigerians in an affordable and sustainable way through participatory investment by the three tiers of government, the private sector and the beneficiaries. According to the policy, access to potable water is to be increased from 40% to 60% in 2003, 80% in 2007 and 100% by 2011. It encourages private sector support, including operation under contract, and regularising the services of independent providers. In small towns, the focus is on community ownership coupled with local private sector contracting for operations and maintenance. In rural areas, the focus is on increasing the share of ownership and management by communities and local governments, with communities taking charge of operations and maintenance.

The focus of the governments new economic strategy, NEEDS, on the environment is to ensure a safe and healthy environment that secures the economic and social well being of Nigerians on a sustainable basis. The specifics of the agenda are enunciated in the "Environmental Renewal and Development Initiative" the primary objectives of which are: "to take full inventory of Nigeria's natural resources, assess the level of environmental damage and design and implement restoration and rejuvenation measures; aimed at halting further degradation of our environment"

#### 4. Priorities for Development Assistance

In order to ensure that every Nigerian achieves a sustainable livelihood through the pursuit of policies and strategies that address issues of development, sustainable resource management





and environmental protection, development assistance will be required in the following areas:

- (i) Gaining access to appropriate technology for effective implementation of Agenda 21 as well as the various conventions and global protocols on the environment;
- (ii) Improving the capacity for effective analysis and adoption of available technological innovations and
- (iii) Implementing National Environmental Action Plans (NEAPs) to achieve sustainable development.

The country has designed a number of environmental programs which require development assistance for successful implementation. The priority areas in this connection include the following

- Waste management and pollution control activities
- Reclamation and rehabilitation of degraded areas
- Afforestation
- Desertification control and drought amelioration
- Erosion and flood control
- Control of invasive species
- Environmental sanitation
- Environmental impact assessment
- Conservation and sustainable management of bio-diversity and environmental awareness
- Community based micro-watershed and environmental management

## 5. Tracking Progress in Environmental Sustainability -

Elements of Monitoring Environment	Assessment		
Data gathering capacity	Strong	Fair	Weak
Quality of recent survey information	Strong	Fair	Weak
Statistical tracking capacities	Strong	Fair	Weak
Capacity to incorporate statistical analysis into policy, planning and resource allocation mechanisms	Strong	Fair	Weak
Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	Strong	Fair	Weak



## GOAL 8

### DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

RELEVANT TARGETS	INDICATORS
<i>Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services</li> <li>- Proportion of ODA provided as debt relief</li> </ul>
<i>Address the Special Needs of the Least Developed Countries including more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Share of ODA in GDP</li> </ul>
<i>In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Telephone lines per 1000 people</li> <li>- Personal computers per 1000 people</li> </ul>

#### 1. Develop a Global Partnership for Development (Status at a glance)

Nigeria actively participates in regional initiatives such as the African Union (AU), New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Nigeria is also an active participant in the Doha Round of negotiations under WTO which advocates for the implementation of all commitments under previous agreements and a rejection of measures that would prevent governments from taking measures for protecting health and nutrition. Tariff liberalization and the removal of non-tariff barriers in both the agriculture and textiles and the clothing sectors by Nigeria following the previous trade agreements has led to an increase in goods imported into the country, including textiles from Asia, Brazil and Europe. This has had a negative effect on domestic production of textiles. This situation has affected the implementation of the Africa Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) enacted by the U.S.A congress to favour the importation of African textiles into the United States. International co-operation in the global trading system, especially in the areas of the removal of subsidies on agricultural exports as well as an enhanced export capacity, would provide Nigeria with the opportunity to improve its revenue base and achieve significant reduction in its external debt. In addition to trade, partnership with international creditors and development agencies through innovative mechanisms of debt relief and increased official development assistance would enable the country to attain the MDG goals.

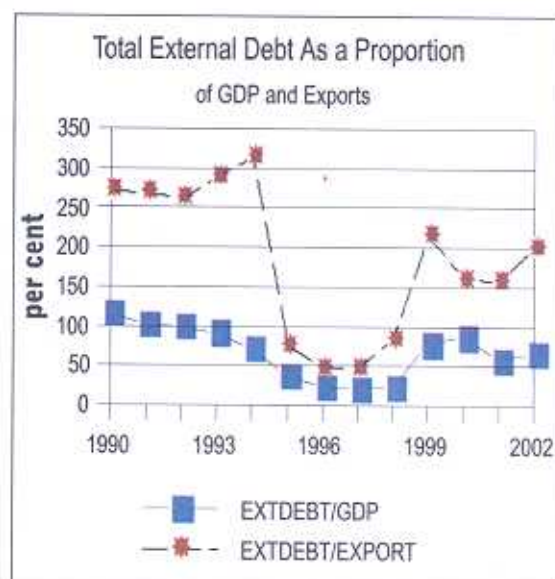
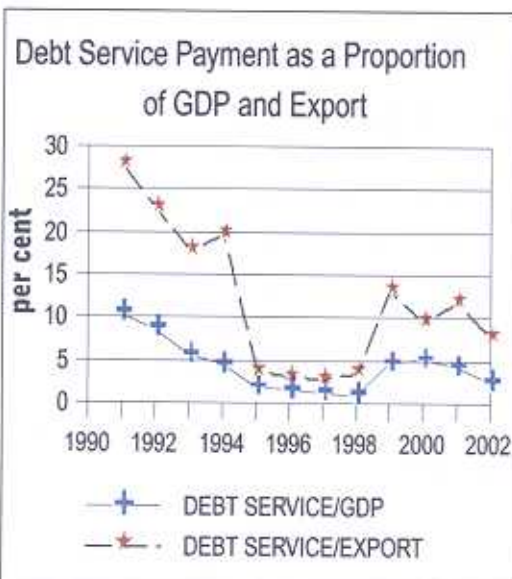
The level of external indebtedness is unsustainable. Rather than support economic development it cripples the economy. Total outstanding external debt rose from USD 30 billion in 1990 but climbed substantially to USD 31 billion in 2000. Total outstanding debt as





a proportion of GDP fell from 115% in 1990 to 21% in 1997. Since then it has increased steadily to 86% in 2000, and 66% in 2002. External debt as a proportion of export of goods and services was 272% in 1990. By 1994 it peaked at about 315% before plunging to 47% in 1996 and increasing to 217% in 1999 and 202% in 2002. Recent increase in external debt is mainly due to the capitalization of unpaid interest and charges on Paris Club debt which at the end of 2002 accounted for 81.2% of total debt.

Status at a Glance			
Will target be reached by 2015?			
Probably	Potentially	Unlikely	Insufficient Data
State of supportive environment			
Strong	Fair	Weak but improving	Weak

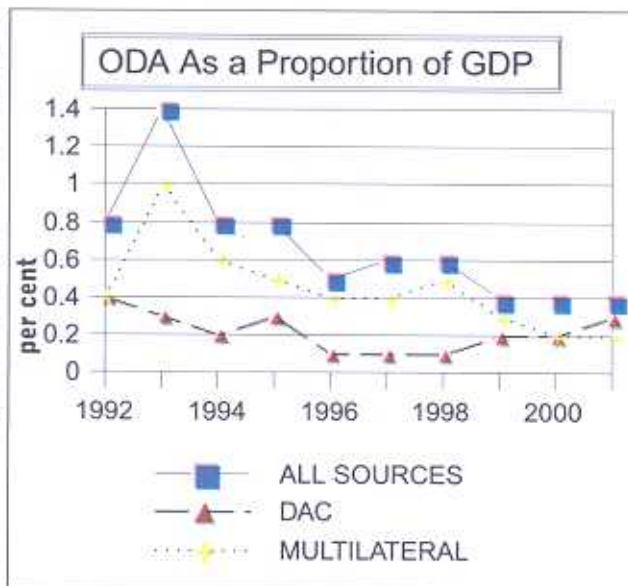


Nigeria finds it difficult to fulfil her external debt obligations due to the critical economic situation, relatively low export earnings and the political imperatives of providing a better standard of living for her citizens. External debt service payments rose from USD 1.3 billion in 1998 to USD 2.1 billion in 2001. By 2002, the amount was USD 1.2 billion, comprising USD 0.8 billion in principal repayment, USD 0.3 billion in interest payments, and USD 0.02 billion for commitment, penalty interest and other charges. Debt service payments as a proportion of GDP, declined from 10.42% in 1991 to 1.01% in 1998, depicting the increasing difficulty and inability of the country to fulfill its repayment obligations. With increased



commitment thereafter, the ratio increased to 5.19% in 2000 after which it declined to 2.59% in 2002. Debt service as a proportion of exports, declined from 27.78% in 1991 to 2.91% in 1997. The proportion increased to 13.33% in 1999 and declined again to 7.9% in 2002. The high debt service ratio has imposed considerable constraints on resources needed for the development of basic infrastructure in the country. In addition, investor's perception of the strength of the economy is affected by the quandary associated with burgeoning external debt. Thus, unless the debt burden is considerably reduced, the goal of reducing poverty may be difficult to achieve in Nigeria.

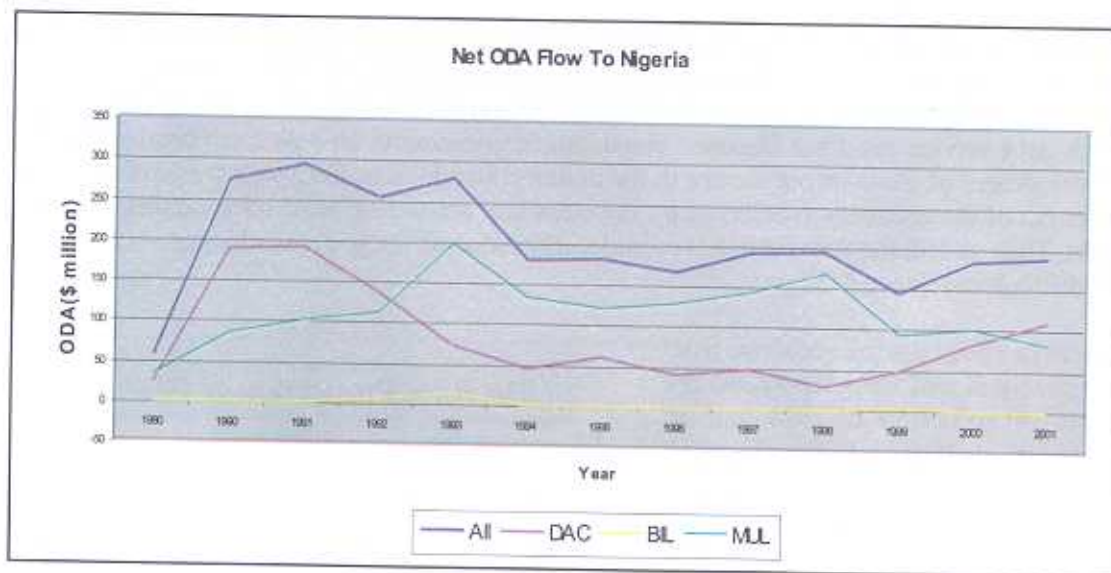
There has been a weak response from the international community on the issue of reduction of debt and an increase in Official Development Assistance (ODA). The level of ODA to Nigeria has declined over the last decade. Data from the African Development Indicators shows that the inflow of ODA and foreign aid to Nigeria fell from USD 278million in 1993 to USD 145 million in 1999 with a marginal increase to USD 189 million in 2001. This low level of inflow of ODA is a constraint to the achievement of the MDGs. Before 1993, a large proportion of ODA to Nigeria was from the Development Assistance Committee (DAC). Since then ODA from multilateral sources has increased although between 1993 and 1997, the flows declined from all sources and in some cases assistance from non-DAC bilateral sources was negative. Since 1998, ODA to Nigeria has recovered slowly. The reduction in ODA from bilateral donor may reflect a shift of focus from Africa to the Middle East. ODA as a proportion of GDP has declined from 0.8% in 1992 to 0.4% in 2001. This includes a decline of 0.4% to 0.3% from DAC sources and a decline of 0.4% to 0.2% from multilateral sources. These ratios are far below the average ratios for sub-Saharan Africa



There is considerable cooperation with the private sector in provision of new information and communication technology (ICT). In 1999, teledensity (telephone lines per 1000 persons) in Nigeria was 4.2; far below that of Ghana and South Africa which stood at 8 and 125 respectively. Developing countries in other regions such as India (26.6), Venezuela (109), Brazil (149) and South Korea (438) far outperformed Nigeria in terms of teledensity. However, Nigeria's teledensity rose to 6.1 in 2001 and 19.6 in 2002. This significant increase was due to the deregulation of the telecommunications sector and the subsequent introduction



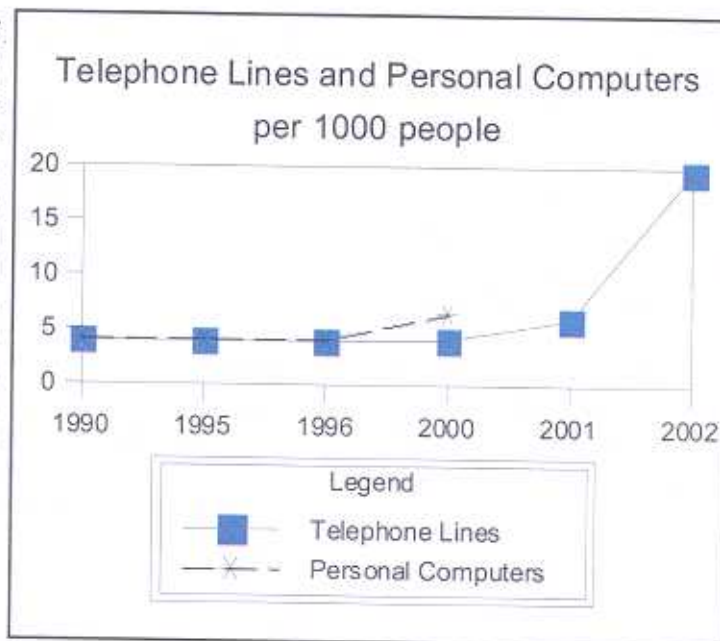




of the Global System of Mobile (GSM) communication in 2001. The GSM private operators increased their lines from 300,000 in 2001 to 1,660,000 in 2002. These lines, in addition to about 500,000 connected Nigerian Telecommunications (NITEL) fixed lines, 136,758 GSM lines and 38,881 analogue lines placed Nigeria's teledensity at 1:51 which was clearly above the ITU standard of 1:100 (see CBN, 2002)

In the 1990s, no tangible progress was made with regard to personal computers.

Available data indicates that the number of computers per 1000 person remained 4.1 in 1995 and 1996. By 2000 the number increased to 6.6. Obtaining information on this indicator is difficult, thus it is possible that the number has increased recently in view of the increasing awareness about the usefulness of computers in various sectors of the economy.



## 2. Major Challenges

One of the major challenges facing the Nigerian economy is the problem of access to markets in industrialized countries, especially the European Union (EU) and the United States of America (USA). An increasing share of Nigeria's exports goes to sub-Saharan African countries due to the unfavorable external market. The unfavorable domestic trade and investment climate and delay in the benefits of trade liberalisation policy also hamper increased trade.

The economy is structurally weak and vulnerable, and does not presently possess the productive capacity to take full advantage of the new opportunities offered by improved market access conditions. Major supply-side constraints include weak production, export structures that concentrate on a narrow range of products, weak technological capacity, inadequate legal and regulatory frameworks, and bottlenecks in physical infrastructure.

Nigeria is faced with the challenges of improving the economy's international competitiveness to enable her to participate and benefit from the recent globalisation process. The Nigerian government is taking steps to nurture domestic production by banning importation of certain goods to counter dumping of frivolous imports. The government is working on export incentives. However, the agency responsible is constrained by inadequate funding for administration, and coping with the expected increase in the volume of applications for the various incentives. The challenge is for the government to assist Nigerian exporters without violating WTO's agreements on export subsidies.

The reduction of the existing level of indebtedness to allow the economy to grow at a rate that would result in significant reduction in poverty is yet another challenge. The priority would be to minimize the cost of debt management in the face of rising external indebtedness and inability to fulfil repayment obligations. It is also important for the country to create an enabling environment to promote domestic investment and foreign direct investment. With regard to making the benefits of ICT available to the people, it is imperative that the government strengthens existing regulatory institutions and provides strong mechanisms to eliminate consumer exploitation and prevent abuses on the part of service providers.

Nigeria has assumed considerable responsibilities in conflict resolution, peace keeping and regional integration including commitment of resources. Examples include peace-keeping operations in Sierra Leone and Liberia as well as in other parts of the world. These operations, particularly the ones in Liberia and Sierra Leone have cost the country billions of dollars. An estimated USD 8 billion over the past 6 years have been spent on these activities, and thousands of precious lives of her citizens have been lost. Whereas Egypt and Poland got support and understanding for their roles in international events through debt relief, Nigeria is yet to enjoy such consideration. It is, therefore, equitable for Nigeria's debt to be significantly reduced, especially now that doing so will enhance the achievement of its capacity to reduce poverty as envisaged by the international community.





### 3. Supportive Environment

The government is highly committed to the promotion of global partnership in reviving the ailing economy especially through the encouragement of increased inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI). President Olusegun Obasanjo has embarked on several trips across the globe to convince the business community to take advantage of the investment-friendly environment being created at home. The results have been mixed as FDI inflows averaged USD 1.18 billion per year between 1997 and 2001, falling from USD 1.54 billion in 1997 to USD 1.05 billion in 1998 and USD 1.0 billion in 1999. There was a slight improvement to USD 1.14 billion 2000 and USD 1.18 billion in 2001. The major constraints to FDI inflow has been the unfavourable business environment including poor infrastructure (electricity, communication, road network etc.) as well as macroeconomic, social and political instability.

The government has strengthened the mechanisms of managing the debt crisis. The country plans to work in strong collaboration and partnership with all categories of creditors and wishes to be more prudent even with domestic borrowing. To improve the management of the country's debt and enhance consistency and prudence on national debt issues, a semi-autonomous Debt Management Office has been created. The office is responsible for both external and domestic debt management issues. Currently, Nigeria's economy is undergoing some competitive restructuring and reforms which are apt to bolster its international market opportunities, especially in view of the challenges posed by the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The country's position in future WTO negotiations should be in favour of further liberalization of trade in agriculture as well as the progressive reduction in non-tariff barriers bordering on environmental, technical, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and anti-dumping measures since these issues would limit Nigeria's export capacity in the long term when it would have overcome its present difficulties. Nigeria would also like to ensure that the highest level of transparency is maintained, especially on the side of other WTO members.

Domestic incentives have been put in place by government as part of efforts to provide meaningful incentives to exporters. These include huge reduction of custom duty rates on all raw materials (inputs) needed to stimulate capacity utilisation and output in all the sectors of the economy; higher customs duty rates on imported finished products to revive and sustain local production; reduction of port charges and removal of imported items on the VAT exemption list.

### 4. Priorities for Development Assistance

To deal effectively with the Nigerian debt problems, the donor community and multi-lateral agencies should support the on-going debt management efforts in the country. This would include facilitating access to external financial assistance on favourable terms and ensuring that Nigeria secures significant debt reduction through debt forgiveness thus making the



country better positioned to mobilize internal resources to improve the well-being of the people. Support is also required from development partners for export expansion through the elimination of non-tariff barriers and anti-competitiveness measures, including dumping by their home countries. International development assistance is required for the successful implementation of NEPAD programmes and for the enhancement of regional cooperation.

## 5. Tracking Progress in Global Partnership for Development - Monitoring and Evaluation Progress

Elements of Monitoring Environment	Assessment		
Data gathering capacity	Strong	Fair	Weak
Quality of recent survey information	Strong	Fair	Weak
Statistical tracking capacities	Strong	Fair	Weak
Capacity to incorporate statistical analysis into policy, planning and resource allocation mechanisms	Strong	Fair	Weak
Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	Strong	Fair	Weak





## CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY DIRECTIONS

This first assessment of the progress made in attaining the MDG goals has exposed several weaknesses and strengths of project implementation in Nigeria. It has also revealed the problem of information gathering and management. In respect of all the goals, there is a great concern to improve the situation. This can be achieved through the design and implementation of different programmes and projects as well as investment of huge material and other resources. The major weaknesses include the lack of specific indicators for monitoring performance, and continuous gathering of relevant information to aid decision-making. There seems to be a great divide between the producers of information and users. It has therefore, not been possible to effectively keep track of the progress made in the country as far as the MDG goals are concerned.

Poverty reduction is essentially the core of the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) that includes interventions and policies directed at poverty reduction to benefit all segments of the Nigerian society. The strategy is to be implemented by creating an environment in which businesses can thrive, redirecting government to provide basic services and empowering people to take advantage of new livelihood opportunities. Empowering people will include attention to health, education, environment, integrated rural development, housing development, employment and youth development, safety nets, gender and geopolitical balance and pension reforms. The promotion of rural development will be given utmost priority with the emphasis being agricultural and agro-industrial development. The main strategies include technology transfer and dissemination, natural resources management, infrastructure (physical and social) development especially provision of clean, affordable and reliable energy; rural non-farm activities development and human capital development. In addition, on the issue of agro-industrial development to reduce rural poverty, partnership between the public and private sectors will be an important approach.

In the area of education, priority attention should be given to girls' and women's education. Increased participation by communities and civil society organisations should be encouraged and every effort made to empower poor families to send their children to school and to reach those that are in difficult circumstances, especially the nomadic women. Furthermore, the condition of service of teachers and the payment of their salaries should be given adequate attention. To achieve the Universal Primary Education, the educational structures, contents and methods should be made to match evolving personnel and national needs. All these require increased resource allocation to education and social services. The educational planning of the country should be linked to economic planning and manpower needs of the economy.

With regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women, special incentives for increasing participation by girls and women should be considered. Emphasis should be on quality education that empowers people for development. Education is expected to increase



the share of women in wage employment and the non-agricultural sector. Women's empowerment should not only be social, political, but also economic. Access to productive resources, especially land and credit will increase the productivity of about 68.5% of Nigerian women engaged in agriculture.

To reduce child mortality, the policy emphasis should include a programme to educate women on improved home-based care and encourage the use of available health care facilities. This is important because 80 per cent of infant mortality is said to occur at home. Awareness campaigns should be intensified at both rural and urban areas on the dangers of patronizing traditional herbalists who lack the required skill as well as programs to counter harmful practices. To achieve the required reduction in under-five and infant mortality there should be a dramatic increase in access to health care facilities and improvement in basic social services including water and sanitation. More health professionals need to be trained and deployed to rural areas, health facilities need to be equipped and an intensified immunization campaign for the children should be carried out. Coordination of assistance from development partners is also a priority.

With regard to improving maternal health, the emphasis should be on the education of girls since there is a positive association between mother's education and antenatal care. In addition, interventions should be directed at cultural change on issues such as early marriage, teenage pregnancy, and the insistence by husbands from a particular region that only female health personnel can attend to their wives. There is a need for change in such attitudes. Women should be encouraged to make use of available antenatal facilities and there should be increased emphasis on the training of health personnel. The most important way to reduce maternal deaths is to ensure that a skilled health professional is present at every birth since many women develop serious and hard to-predict complications during or immediately after delivery. Traditional birth attendants should be trained continuously on the principles of modern health care. Health services should be expanded and tailored to the needs of women and communities. A fully functional referral system should be in place between all levels of care, including provision of EOC.

In order to combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases the surveillance system for major communicable diseases needs to be strengthened and resources mobilised both internally and externally to improve health services and finance the interventions necessary. For HIV and AIDS in particular, surveillance should take into account high-risk groups. Research should be encouraged, including support for a comprehensive assessment of these diseases, with the aim of obtaining the epidemiological situation and determinants of risk and vulnerability of the citizenry to the diseases. With regard to malaria, the population should be encouraged to improve drainage to discourage the vectors of malaria.

In order to fight the spread of HIV and AIDS, interventions should encourage awareness on preventive mechanisms and promote behavioural and cultural change, with regard to high sexual networking practices such as polygamy, and female genital mutilation, and use of





contraceptives, including the male and female condoms. There should be enhanced coordination of activities by various actors in the fight against the disease and an enhanced capacity of all health facilities to be able to provide Voluntary Confidential Counselling and Testing (VCCT) services. The issue of stigmatisation of those infected by HIV and AIDS needs to be addressed and effort intensified to increase access to continuous supply of ARV drugs.

In order to ensure that every Nigerian achieves a sustainable livelihood through the pursuit of policies and strategies that simultaneously address issues of development, sustainable resource management and environmental protection, attention should be focused on urban renewal and elimination of slums to ensure that the level of ecological poverty is significantly reduced. The government should support provision of rural energy services, dissemination of energy technologies that utilize locally available renewable resources (agriculture residues, small hydro power) which can reduce fuel wood consumption in rural areas. Environmentally sustainable income generating activities in all protected areas including sustainable agriculture, production of energy efficient stoves, sericulture, agro-silviculture, avenue planting, honey production, horticulture, community forestry, home and herbal gardens, should be promoted. Other activities include cleaner production and energy efficiency improvement projects in wood, paper, plastic, iron, steel and textile sub sectors as well as sanitation programmes in towns and cities. Rehabilitation of degraded resources (forests, mines-land, soil, water bodies etc) and promoting the sustainable use of such resources by impoverished areas and groups are to be accorded top priority. Other policy actions include improved monitoring of pollution; strengthening of environmental guidelines and standards; implementation of global climatic initiatives; encouragement of private sector partnership in waste management; and measures to discourage pollution (tax relief, emission fees, grants).

Efforts to boost Nigeria's share of global trade should be directed at enhancing the capacity to export non-traditional products while boosting sub-regional trade. Incentives to attract FDI should be considered including improved legislation and a quick and well coordinated investment approval process. Effort should be intensified to restructure Nigerian external debt in a manner that would ensure sustainable growth of the economy and attract and increased flows of ODA to Nigeria. Mechanisms for monitoring donor performance should be put in place. The country would improve its ICT capability through the continued liberalization of the telecommunication sector.

With regard to the MDG report in general, there is an overriding need to strengthen the monitoring system. The agencies responsible for producing the relevant data should be streamlined, strengthened financially and technically and provided with the necessary infrastructure to perform their functions effectively. The Federal Office of Statistics will be accorded high priority in this regard. The reluctance by official agencies to release data for policy analysis and the excessive bottleneck often associated with information dissemination



should be addressed with the seriousness that is required. Relevant agencies should be mobilized to embark on the analysis of the poverty situation in the country and come up with up-to-date indicators for poverty monitoring.

In addition, reporting on the progress towards the MDGs should be linked with the on-going national initiatives and process under the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies (NEEDS). A national committee for tracking progress in meeting the MDG targets is to be set up in due course. The committee would work out an action plan for continuous monitoring, including the financial implications and the role of the various stakeholders as well as increasing annual budgetary allocations to relevant sectors at the federal and state level necessary for achieving the MDGs.





## ANNEX I: Main Documents Consulted and Data Sources

Goal Reduce Extreme Poverty and Hunger	<b>Sources of Data</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FOS Poverty Profile for Nigeria, 1980-1996</li> <li>World Development Report 1997, 1999/2000, 2000/2001</li> <li>World Development Indicators (various issues)</li> <li>UNSN (2002) United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2002-2007), United Nations System in Nigeria</li> </ul>
Achieve Universal Primary Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal Ministry of Education (2003) Education Sector Status Report, Abuja</li> <li>UNESCO (2000): The State of Education in Nigeria, UNESCO Abuja Office, Nigeria</li> <li>FGN/UNICEF/UNESCO/UNDP (2000) Comprehensive Education Analysis Project (Secondary Data Report) Federal Ministry of Education, Abuja</li> <li>FOS: General Household Survey (various years)</li> </ul>
Promote Gender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNESCO (2000): The State of Education in Nigeria, UNESCO Abuja Office, Nigeria</li> <li>FGN/UNICEF/UNESCO/UNDP (2000) Comprehensive Education Analysis Project (Secondary Data Report) Federal Ministry of Education, Abuja</li> <li>Central Bank Annual Report and Statement of Accounts (Various years), CBN, Abuja</li> <li>NPC/UNICEF (2001) Children's and Women's Rights in Nigeria: A Wake-up Call</li> <li>UNSN (2001) Nigeria Common Country Assessment.</li> </ul>
Reduce Child Mortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central Bank of Nigeria, Annual Report and Statement of Accounts (Various years), CBN, Abuja</li> <li>World Development Report (Various Years) World Bank, Washington D.C.</li> <li>World Development Indicators (Various Years) World Bank, Washington D.C.</li> <li>NISER (2001) NISER Review of Nigerian Development, 2000: The State in Nigerian Development. NISER, Ibadan</li> </ul>
Improve Maternal Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central Bank of Nigeria, Annual Report and Statement of Accounts (Various years), CBN, Abuja</li> <li>National Population Commission [Nigeria] (2000). Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 1999. Calverton, Maryland: National Population Commission and ORC/Macro.</li> <li>World Development Indicators (Various Years) World Bank, Washington D.C.</li> <li>FOS/UNICEF, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 1999, Draft Data tables, Federal Office of Statistic and UNICEF, Lagos</li> <li>National Population Commission [Nigeria] (2000). Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 2003. Calverton, Maryland: National Population Commission and ORC/Macro.</li> <li>FOS, Annual Abstract of Statistics (Various Years), Federal Office of Statistics, Abuja</li> <li>National Population Commission [Nigeria] (2000). Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 2003. Calverton, Maryland: National Population Commission and ORC/Macro.</li> </ul>
Combat HIV and AIDS, Malaria and Other Communicable Diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NISER (2003) NISER Review of Nigerian Development, 2001/2002: Understanding Poverty in Nigeria. NISER, Ibadan</li> <li>UNAIDS (2002) Report on the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, UNAIDS, Geneva, Switzerland</li> <li>UNSN (2002) United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2002-2007), United Nations System in Nigeria</li> <li>National HIV Sero-Prevalence Sentinel Survey, FMOH (2003).</li> </ul>
Ensure Environmental Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNSN (2001) Nigeria Common Country Assessment, United Nations System in Nigeria</li> <li>FRN (2002) Sustainable Development in Nigeria: Ten Years After Rio (UNCED) National Assessment Report (Main Version) Prepared for the WSSD</li> <li>World Development Indicators (various issues)</li> <li>CBN, 2000-2002.</li> </ul>
Develop Global Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CBN Annual Reports and Statement of Accounts (various issues)</li> <li>African Development Indicators (various issues)</li> </ul>

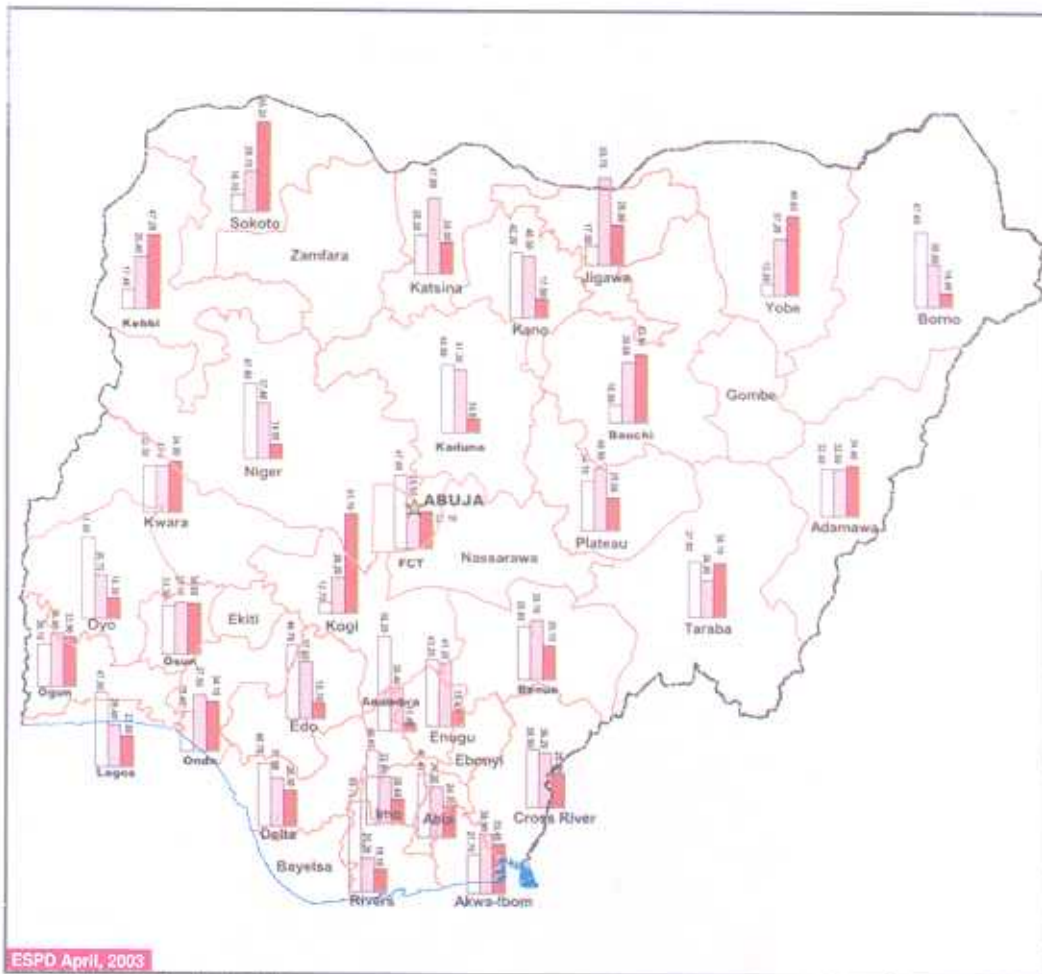


## ANNEX II: POVERTY DATA (1996)

	Poverty Incidence (%)			
	1980	1985	1992	1996
<b>National</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>66</b>
Moderately Poor	21	34	29	36
Core Poor	6	12	14	29
<b>Urban</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>58</b>
Moderately Poor	14	30	27	33
Core Poor	3	8	11	25
<b>Rural</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>70</b>
Moderately Poor	22	37	30	38
Core Poor	7	15	16	32
<b>Male Headed Households</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>67</b>
Moderately Poor	20	35	30	37
Core Poor	10	12	14	30
<b>Female Headed Households</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>59</b>
Moderately Poor	21	27	23	34
Core Poor	6	11	17	25







## NIGERIA

Poverty Head Count (in %) by state, using  
National Consumer Survey (NCS) 1996

- Non-poor
- Moderately
- Core Poor
- International Boundary
- Administrative Boundary
- Coast Line
- ★ Capital City



Source:

Federal Office of Statistics (FOS) (1999)  
"Poverty Profile for Nigeria, 1980 - 1996."

Note:

The states that were not listed in the poverty study were created after 1996. They are Ebonyi, Ekiti, Nasarawa, Zamfara, Gombe and Bayelsa - states. In fact these states were created in 1998 by General Abacha the then military Head of States.

The boundaries and names shown on this map **DO NOT** imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

