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## THE ROLE OF CAPACITY BUILDING IN MDGs ACTUALIZATION AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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### ABSTRACT

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight international development goals that all 192 United Nations member states and at least 23 international organizations have agreed to achieve by the year 2015. Implementing the MDGs is proving to be a staggering challenge. While Capacity building is the totality of all the things needed for man to perform. The challenge(s) as regards the Millennium Development Goals is simply **human**. Every single goal i.e. eight (8) and the targets i.e. eighteen (18) in cannot be achieved if the human capacity is not developed to handle and solve the relevant problem. The question of whether Nigeria can or cannot meet the MDGs is a crucial one.

Keywords: MDGs, Human Capacity building, UN, Targets

### INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of the millennium heads of state and governments representing some 189 countries of the United Nations issued a declaration in which they agreed to take concerted action in respect of peace, security and disarmament: development and poverty eradication, our common environment, human rights, democracy and good governance. Emanating from the declaration is a set of certain goals now called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which are to be achieved by 2015 (UN Millennium Declaration, 2000). The **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** are eight international development goals that all 192 United Nations member states and at least 23 international organizations have agreed to achieve by the year 2015 (wikipedia.org). In summary the Millennium Development Goals are:

- End Poverty and Hunger
- Universal Education
- Gender equality
- Child Health
- Maternal Health
- Combat HIV/AIDS
- Environmental Sustainability and
- Global Partnership.

With only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on world leaders to attend a summit in New York on 20-22 September 2010 to boost progress towards the MDGs ([www.un.org/mdgs](http://www.un.org/mdgs)). Implementing the MDGs is proving to be a staggering challenge. Apart from a shortage of quantum of human capacity and material resources needed to achieve the goals, there are the emerging challenges. Dealing with these challenges requires

a holistic approach involving a multisectoral, multidisciplinary and international partnership (Ekhaguere, 2007).

In their work Alufohai and Ojogho (2010) buttress the fact that if women are given the necessary education and training they can contribute significantly to the growth and development of Agriculture. Chikaire et al (2010) opined that the only way the millennium development goals can be achieved in the Agricultural sector is to 'develop the human'. The human development in one word is termed Capacity Building.

### **CAPACITY BUILDING**

Capacity building is defined as the 'process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources that organizations and communities need to survive, adapt and thrive in the fast-changing world' (Philbin, 1996).

Capacity building can also refer to activities that improve an organization's ability to achieve its mission or a person's ability to define and realize his/her goals or to do his/her job more effectively. For organizations, capacity building may relate to almost any aspect of its work: improved governance, leadership, mission and strategy, administration (including human resources, financial management, and legal matters), program development and implementation, fundraising and income generation, diversity, partnerships and collaboration, evaluation, advocacy and policy change, marketing, positioning, planning etc. for individuals, a capacity building may relate to leadership development, advocacy skills, training/speaking abilities, technical skills, organizing skills and other areas of personal and professional development ([www.alliance.htm](http://www.alliance.htm)).

### **CAPACITY BUILDING AGENTS**

From researches carried out it has been discovered that there are various agents that help in capacity building development. These agents that are involved in the process of capacity building are enumerated below and their functions spelt out:

- Consultant: provides expertise, coaching, training and referrals
- Grantmakers: provides the fund for the research (government organizations or NGOs)
- Researchers: provides and identify issues and trends and building knowledge
- Training: impacts the knowledge

UNDP recognizes that capacity building is a long-term, continuing process, in which all stakeholders participate (UNDP).

### **THE CHALLENGE: MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

The problem of development has occupied the attention of scholars, activists, politicians, and development workers, local and international organizations for many years with an increased tempo in the last decade. Even though there are different perspectives to development, there is a general consensus that development will lead to good change manifested in increased capacity of people to have control over material assets, intellectual resources and ideology; and obtain physical necessities of life (food, clothing & shelter), employment, equality,

participation in government, political and economic independence, adequate education, gender equality, sustainable development and peace. This is why some people have argued that the purpose of development is to improve people's lives by expanding their choices, freedom and dignity.

**Table 1: the MDGs goals and targets.**

Goal	Title	Targets
Goal 1	Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	<b>Target 1:</b> Halve between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day. <b>Target 2:</b> Halve between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger
Goal 2	Achieve universal primary education	<b>Target 3:</b> Ensure that by 2015, children everywhere boys and girls alike will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling
Goal 3	Promote gender equality and empower women	<b>Target 4:</b> Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015
Goal 4	Reduce child mortality	<b>Target 5:</b> Reduce by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015, the under 5 years mortality rate
Goal 5	Improve maternal health	<b>Target 6:</b> Reduce by three-quarters between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality rate
Goal 6	Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases	<b>Target 7:</b> Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS <b>Target 8:</b> Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of Malaria and other major diseases
Goal 7	Ensure Environmental sustainability	<b>Target 9:</b> Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources. <b>Target 10:</b> Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water. <b>Target 11:</b> By 2020, to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of a least 100 million slum dwellers
Goal 8	Develop a Global partnership for development	<b>Target 12:</b> Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system. <b>Target 13:</b> Address the special needs of the least developed countries <b>Target 14:</b> Address the special needs of

		<p>landlocked countries and small island developing States</p> <p><b>Target 15:</b> Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term</p> <p><b>Target 16:</b> In co-operation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth</p> <p><b>Target 17:</b> In co-operation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries</p> <p><b>Target 18:</b> In co-operation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies</p>
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(Source: Bamiro, 2007)

However, the reality of the world is that many countries are underdeveloped with precarious development indices. More than 1.2 billion people or about 20 percent of world population live survive on less than US \$1 per day. Wealth is concentrated in the hand of a few people. The UNDP in its 1998 report documented that the three richest people in the world have assets that exceed the combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the 48 least developed countries. Similarly, the 1000 richest people in the world have personal wealth greater than 500 million people in the least developed countries (Igbuzor, 2006).

The challenge(s) as regards the Millennium Development Goals is simply **human**. Every single goal i.e. eight (8) and the targets i.e. eighteen (18) cannot be achieved if the human capacity is not developed to handle and solve the relevant problem. In developing the Human Capacity apart from the needed training (knowledge), the **tools** and needed **environment** (infrastructures) to operate is very important.

Consider the issue of Nigeria which depicts the situation in almost all the African countries in particular and under-developed in general, the question is what can you do in our world of today without power? Just to mention one of numerous unending challenges facing the realization of the millennium goals. The power sector in Nigeria if adequately operational (availability and affordability) can impact directly, positively on the actualization of the following goals:

- Goal 1: Eradication of poverty by encouraging investment from within and without.
- Goals 2 and 3: More children will go to school if their parents have job. This will have a direct impact on girl child also allowed to go to school and by acquiring education they can compete with the male.
- Goals 4, 5 and 6: improve health services and equipment.

- Goal 7: It will improve significantly the lives and living condition of over 100 million Nigerians.
- Goal 8: it will improve technology transfer/new technologies. Boost production which will improve our economy from maybe borrowers to lenders.

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

According to Igbuzor (2006), the question of whether Nigeria can or cannot meet the MDGs is a crucial one that should agitate the minds of politicians, government bureaucrats, civil society activists and development workers. In our view, there is no straightforward answer. It can be answered either in the negative or the affirmative. For Nigeria to meet the goals in 2015, there is the need to formulate and implement policies that will promote transparency and accountability; overcome institutional constraints; promote pro-poor growth; bring about structural change; enhance distributive equity; engender social and cultural re-orientation; engineer political transformation; **promote human development**; practice inclusive urban development; generate employment and transform power relations. In summary the one and only way to do this is by Human Capacity Building because with the needed human ability in the various goals and the necessary back it can be achieved.

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