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## THE CHALLENGES OF POLICY IMPLEMENTATION IN AFRICA AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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### Abstract

*In recent times, the continent of Africa has found itself at the crossroads caused by economic recession, criminality, corruption and ineptitude leadership that has led to national insecurity and poverty. It is the better time now to join forces in searching for solutions to address the multifaceted challenges facing sustainable development in Africa. The study, therefore, examines the challenges of policy implementation in Africa and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a particular reference to Nigeria. In doing this, a survey study was carried out, and a questionnaire administered while chi-square was used to test the hypotheses. All the data obtained were computer processed through Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS). Key informant interview was also carried out. The study discovers that Nigeria and most countries in Africa have entered economic recessions because of policy implementation challenges such as unrealistic goal setting, political patronage, neglect of target beneficiaries and lack of consideration of policy environment. The study recommends that Africa should set policy goals that are implementable. The SDGs should be reviewed by African countries to domesticate the goals with environmental considerations properly. Africa should do more to check corruption. Policies designed for implementation by the Federal government in Nigeria should include the state and local government contents. There should be the participation of the target beneficiaries*

*in any policy design to better their lives. These will ensure ownership and avoid sabotage. With these, SDGs will make the significant impact in Africa.*

**Keywords:**

Africa, Development, Environmental, Implementation, Policy, Sustainable

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## 1. Introduction

In recent times, the continent of Africa has found itself at the crossroads caused by economic recession; political dislocations and upheavals, criminality, corruption and ineptitude leadership that has led to national insecurity and poverty. It is the better time now to join forces in searching for solutions to address the multifaceted challenges facing sustainable development in Africa. It is not only paradoxical but also an aberration for Africa with human and natural resources to have entered economic recessions. The economic indices of growth which are used to declare Nigeria as the most significant and the highest GDP in Africa are not interpreted to impact on the life of the common man in Nigeria. Nigeria is still among the poorest countries in the world. Kaimuri and Kosimbei (2017) however, stated that real gross domestic product per capita and terms of trade are insignificant in determining sustainable development. In the era of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight goals were slated to be achieved by 2015 with 18 targets and 48 indicators. By the time MDGs was terminating and replaced by Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), 11 out of about 57 countries made an impact in some of the eight goals such as Libya, South Africa, Seychelles, Equatorial Guinea, Cape Verde, Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, and Comoros. Nigeria was not among the countries with significant impact on the eight goals (Maduabum, 2016).

Maduabum argues further that apart from the inability of most Africa countries to achieve MDGs goals, five goals are still worrisome. They include: Reducing the slum population; reducing waste; Combating climate change; Marine conservation; and reducing violent deaths. With the advent of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targeting 17 goals by 2030, the case of Africa is even more sympathetic as many of them including Nigeria have entered into economic recessions. If Africa does not take a bold step to come out of recession, it might enter into a depression.

There is no doubt that Africa has severe challenges in implementing policies and programmes aimed at sustainable development such as its inability to ensure participation and

poor policy change management (Ajolor, 2015). Ibrahim Paneo Yulianto, Kadji Zuchri Abdussamad and Rama Hiola (2017) argue that policy is only a good plan stored in the archive if it is not implemented correctly" This study, therefore, examines the challenges of policy implementation in Africa and Sustainable Development Goals.

### 1.1 Objectives of the Study

- To identify the challenges facing policy implementation in Africa with a particular reference to Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria.
- To analyze if there is any significant change in underdevelopment situation in Africa since the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals' programmes with a particular reference to Nigeria.
- To analyze the extent to which African governments have ensured participation of target beneficiaries in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals' programmes with a particular reference to Nigeria.
- To discover the extent to which governments in Africa are sensitive to the environment of Sustainable Development Goals' programmes with a particular reference to Nigeria.

### 1.2 Research Questions

- What are the challenges facing policy implementation in Africa with a particular reference to Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria?
- Is there any significant change in underdevelopment situation in Africa since the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals' programmes with a particular reference to Nigeria?
- To what extent are African governments ensured participation of target beneficiaries in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals' programmes with a particular reference to Nigeria?
- To what extent are governments in Africa sensitive to the environment of Sustaining Development Goals' programmes with a particular reference to Nigeria?

### 1.3 Research hypotheses

- The challenges of policy implementation in Africa do not have effect Sustainable Development Goals programmes with particular reference in Nigeria.

- There is no significant change in underdevelopment situation in Africa since the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals' programmes with emphasis on Nigeria.
- African governments do not ensure participation of target beneficiaries in the implementation Sustainable Development Goals' programmes with a particular reference to Nigeria.
- Governments in Africa are not sensitive to the environment of Sustaining Development Goals' programmes with a particular reference to Nigeria.

## 2. Conceptual Clarification

### 2.1 Policy implementation

Policy implementation is the process of changing a formulated policy into reality. It provides the operational area of function in carrying out the public policy declared by competent authority. In the execution of public policy, the combination of human, material, machine, and money is highly necessary (Ajulor, 2016).

To Mbieli (2006), policy implementation is critical to the success of any policy since it constitutes the epicenter of the policy process. It involves the identification of policy plans, programme, projects, and activities; precise definition of the distinct roles of implementation organizations or agencies; details of strategies and necessary linkages and coordinating mechanisms; as well as resources (human, financial, material, technology, information acquisition, and utilization). Efficient and effective policy implementation would require inputs of sound managerial and administrative capabilities to avoid the policy implementation gap (Maduabum, 2008).

### 2.2 Challenges of Policy Implementation in Africa

Challenges of policy implementation in Africa could link to improper planning, political instability, and bureaucratic bottleneck, the deliberate imposition of policy, complete alteration to the plan if it is not favorable to the implementers or civil servants saddled with the responsibility to implement it (Ajulor, 2016). Jones (1991) quoted in Ibrahim Paneo Yulianto, Kadji Zuchri Abdussamad & Rama Hiola (2017) explains that policy implementation can be influenced by organization, interpretation, and application. Many authors have also argued that

Africa has no problem with policy plan or formulation other than the challenge of policy implementation. One of the challenges of policy implementation is the inability to involve the target beneficiaries in policy process (Dialoke, Ukah, & Maduagwuna 2017).

Ggoobi (2016) discussing why the implementation of policy fail in Uganda, attributed it to the neglect of the rural areas, and, comprehensive policy design and planning without proper management. Policies imposed by the government without considering whether it meets the needs of the people or not. Reviewing South Africa's "Africa Agenda" Professor Chris Landsberg of University of Johannesburg argues that many NGOs have dubbed NEPAD a bottom-down scheme controlled by leaders and governments while they excluded civil society actors from NEPAD processes (Landsberg, 2014).

However, the new trends in Africa now are to adopt foreign made solutions to its plethora of problems and the implementation of such policy often undermines the capacity of local intellectual resources to act on local issues. These tend to deepen the underdevelopment of local talents and deprive them of the opportunity to master the problem on their terms. These also include the failure policymakers to take into consideration the social, political, economic and administrative environment when analyzing policy implementation and this often results in policy failure (Egonmwan, 1991).

It has become a recurrent decimal for the international community to impose a policy in the form of goal setting like Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and now Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Sambo (2008) explains that setting unrealistic goals are attributes of policy making of the developing nations (including Africa). Their policies formulations are always comprehensive and engender expectations among the people and which can hardly be matched by the capacities of the system to implement them adequately. The setting of the goal itself is not a problem but how to achieve them for example; there were eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which are comprehensive with 18 targets set. Most African countries could not adequately implement the goal because of lack of human and materials capacity.

### **2.3 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

In the year 2000, 189 countries laid their credence behind MDGs as a concerted approach to managing sustainable human development. The MDGs was translated into eight goals to be achieved by 2015. They include Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger;

Goal 2: Achieved Universal Primary Education; Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality; Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality. Others are Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health; Goal 6: Combat HIV and AIDS, Malaria and other diseases; Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability and Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development. The MDGs also include 18 targets and 48 indicators. It is to ensure that the development activities are better targeted and their implementation monitored and evaluated. The developed countries agreed that 0.7% of their Gross National Income be used to fund the MDGs through Official Development Assistance (ODA) to developing countries while the developing nations also vouched for their commitment to improved governance

Maduabum (2016) assessed the performance of African countries with regards to achieving MDGs. He argued that it has not been impressive generally as expressed in the MDGs Report, 2015 compiled by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). The Report reflects a mix of performances such as improvement in one or two MDGs by some countries and failure in others. These performances are displayed in the table overleaf with regards to the top ten African countries on each of the MDGs. However, Maduabum compiled 8 MDGs but they are reduced to 4 MDGs which are relevant to this study.

**Table 1: Top Ten (10) African Countries per MDG**

Position	MDG1	MDG2	MDG3	MDG4
1 <sup>st</sup>	Gambia (32%)	Sao Tome & Principe (100%)	Lesotho (1.25)	Egypt (66%)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Burkina Faso (25%)	Seychelles (100%)	Sao Tome & Principe (1.14)	Ethiopia (66%)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ethiopia (25%)	Algeria (100%)	Algeria (1.10)	Liberia (66%)
4 <sup>th</sup>	Niger (22%)	Tunisia (100%)	Tunisia (1.10)	Malawi (66%)
5 <sup>th</sup>	Swaziland (22%)	Cape Verde (99%)	Libya (1.10)	Tunisia (66%)
6 <sup>th</sup>	Uganda (22%)	Mauritius (99%)	Namibia (1.09)	Tanzania (66%)
7 <sup>th</sup>	Tanzania (16%)	Morocco (99%)	Cape Verde (1.09)	Algeria (60%)
8 <sup>th</sup>	Mozambique (15%)	Egypt (99%)	Sierra Leone (1.09)	Cape Verde (60%)
9 <sup>th</sup>	Senegal (14%)	Ghana (98%)	Gambia (1.09)	Eritrea (60%)
10 <sup>th</sup>	South Africa (12%)	Zambia (96%)	Mauritania (1.09)	Libya (60%)

Source: Compiled from the Records of UNECA (2015); UNAID, (2014); WHO (2014); and UNSAID (2015). Adopted from Maduabum, 2016.

Maduabum (2016) analyzing Table 1 above using specific indications for each goal explain the following

- **MDG 1: Eradicate Extreme Hunger and Poverty:** The percentages in the table represent reduction rate in poverty between 6 and 11 years period. Only Algeria made severe progress through the creation of employment for the youth; granting subsidies to firms as incentives to hire the unemployed as well as establishing a public works programme for the unskilled. Companies are given the opportunity to employ staff at no cost for one year while the government paid the salaries for skilled youth. Unemployment rates were 30% in 2000 and 48% in 2001 respectively.
- **MDG2: Achieve Universal Primary Education:** Assessed by Primary Education completion Rate in percentage (UNSD, 2015). Another indicator here is the youth Literacy Rate, And the following countries recorded between 94% to 100% literacy rate: Libya (100%); South Africa (99%); Seychelles (99%); Equatorial Guinea (98%); Cape Verde (98%); Botswana (97%); Egypt (95%); Equatorial Guinea (98%); Cape Verde (95%); Botswana (97%); Egypt (95%); Eritrea (95%); Garbon (94%); and Comoros (94%).
- **MDG 3: Promote Gender Equality through Empowerment of Women:** The indicator used in the above table is gender parity in Primary School Enrollment. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) refers to the parity in male-female primary school enrollment ratio achieved. Another important indicator of this goal is the percentage of seats held by women in national parliament. The performance here is as follows: Rwanda (64%); South Africa (45%); Seychelles (48%); Senegal (43%); Ethiopia (42%); Mozambique (39%); Angola (37%); Algeria (32%); Burundi (31%); and Cameroon, (31%);
- **MDG 4: Reduce Child Mortality:** On the average, the Under-Five Mortality Rate (U5MR) reduced by 55% (i.e.) 146 deaths per 1000 live births in 1990 to 65 deaths per 1000 live births in 2012) in Africa. The target which was met by some African countries is 66% as indicated in the table.

## 2.4 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In anticipation of the end of MDGs period which was December 2015, the United Nations Assembly made up of 193 countries enunciated and adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) precisely on 25h September 2015. Again, this is to span a 15- year period with a commencement date of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 until the end of December 2030. It is

apparent that SDGs constitute a logical continuation of the MDGs. The SDGs are however expanded to accommodate 17 goals. The table below is a display of the goals, their targets, and indicators.

**Table 2:** Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Target and Indicators (2016-2030).

S/NO	GOALS	TARGETS	INDICATORS
1.	End poverty in all its forms	End extreme poverty	Share of population living under the international poverty line
2.	End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	End Hunger	The share of the population that is undernourished (food intake is insufficient to meet dietary energy requirements continuously).
3.	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all of all ages	Reduce Maternal mortality	Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate per 100,000 live births)
4.	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Universal Secondary Education	Percentage of the population age 20-24 years that have completed upper secondary level education.
5.	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	End child marriage	The share of 20-24 years old women who married before 18 years.
6.	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.	Universal access to sanitation	The share of the population with access to improved sanitation facilities.
7.	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Universal access to power	Share of population with access to electricity
8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	Economic growth in LDCs	Annual % of GDP growth
9.	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Industrialization in LDCs	Industry, value added (% of GDP)
10.	Reduce inequality within and among countries	Reduce income inequality	Growth income of the bottom 40% relative to average
11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe,	Reduce slum populations	The share of the urban population living in slums.

	resilient and sustainable		
12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	Reduce waste	Solid waste generated per person (tones)
13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Combat climate change	Average annual carbon emissions per country (millions of tons)
14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.	Protect marine environments	Reefs under threat (%)
15.	Restore and promote sustainable use of forest ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	Halt deforestation	Forest area as a share of total land area
16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.	Reduce violent deaths	Violent deaths as a share of total deaths
17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalized the global partnership for sustainable development.	Mobilize domestic resources	Government revenue as a share of GDP

Source: World Bank (2016); UNICEF (2016); UNHABITAT (2016); Hornweg and Blada-tatat (2012); World Resources Institute (2011); WHO (2016); and IMF (2016). Adopted from Maduabum, 2016

Maduabum (2016) argues that after eleven months of establishing SDGs the following performance could be discovered so far from available data

- On goals 1 to 5, no country in Africa has so far succeeded in eliminating extreme poverty entirely, and the current rates of progress on hunger are prolonged. On health, Rwanda is impressive having reduced maternal mortality rate from 567 to 290 deaths per 100,000 live births. On education, limited progress made in the area of the secondary school. However; Ghana and Gabon are set to reduce child marriage by above 50% by 2030.

- On goals 6 to 10, Cape Verde is the only country on track to achieve universal access to sanitation by 2030. South Africa and Gabon are the only countries projected to meet the energy target in 2030; Regarding growth, Ethiopia stands out as one country where GDP growth has averaged 11% for the past decade as against 4.5% witnessed in most other countries. Unemployment is on the high side; In the area of Industrialization, only Niger and Zambia are on track to get around half of the target;
- On goals 11 to 17, With regards to inequality; Niger and Burundi are examples of countries that experienced “pro-poor” growth. Reduction in slum dwellers can only witness in Lesotho, Senegal, Kenya and South Africa; regarding waste generation, only Seychelles, Mauritius, and Comoros are projected to experience a slight decrease. All the African countries are expected to witness increases in carbon emissions; More than half the reefs in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans are projected to be at high risk of being threatened by the target date. Deforestation is said to continue at a relatively slow rate; violent deaths as a share of total deaths are set to increase in African countries; South Africa, Lesotho, and Swaziland are countries projected to witness a fall in government revenue as a share of GDP.

Maduabum (2016) further discovered that on the whole, five goals and targets is heading in the wrong direction. They are: Reducing slum population; reducing waste; Combating climate change; Marine conservation; and reducing violent deaths. This situation is indeed worrisome.

With particular reference to Nigeria underdevelopment situation, Odumosu (2011) argues that in Nigeria the population has continued to grow with 1.97 grow rate in 2010. Various organizations including United Nations organs have predicted that Nigeria's population will reach 300 million in the next three decades. When it comes to the birth rate per 1000 people, Nigeria comes 29th with of 36.07. The death rate for Nigeria is 16.31 per 1000 people, placing it at an unenviable 6th position in the whole world. The infant mortality rate per 1000 live births stands at 92.99. These put Nigeria in the 10th position. Nigerians life expectancy is 47.24 years on the average. These put it in the 220th area, out of 224 countries. Only 68 percent of Nigerians are literate. We occupy the 171st place. It is a shame and a disaster that we spend 0.90 percent of our GDP on education. These put us in the 183rd position. 70 percent of Nigerians live below the poverty line, for 8th place in the world.

Today the situation has not changed. Nigeria economic has entered into economic recession. Instead of boosting its productive capacity so that it can export finished goods Nigeria has redirected its economic policy toward encouraging the exportation of raw materials for an instance foreign exchange balance. When it ships out raw materials at paltry sums, then import finished goods from it at exorbitant costs. The dollar is far higher than the naira the cost of introducing chocolate will definitely out balance the gains of exporting cocoa.

## 2.5 Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on Goal Setting Theory. Locke who derived his inspiration from Aristotle argued that there is a definite relationship between clearly identified goals and performance. Goal setting theory stipulates that specific and challenging goals lead to higher level of performance than do the generalized goals, harder goals tend to make people think deeply on how to achieve them; thereby resulting in higher efficiency, which at the end will increase performance. However, goals should not be so challenging that they will be frustrating and discourage in nature (Ijaduola, 2008).

Ijaduola explains further that Public policy-making begins with the setting of realizable goals. The context of goals will give direction and focus to the government on the one hand and the policy implementers on the other. However, when the goals are unrealistic, the policy will eventually fail at the implementation stage. In most developing countries and Nigeria in particular, it is discovered that silly goal set ultimately leads to policy failure.

Sambo (2008) argues that the critical activity in policy formulation and implementation process is goal setting. He explains that policymakers in developing countries engage in the elaborate exercise of goal setting by creating structures for planning. As politicians make a fetish of preparation as the basis for development, the more they planned, the less progress is achieved. According to him, developing countries are guilty of trying too much to set goals and targets for national development which often create a lag between the expectations and realization of policymakers in developing countries.

Hirschman (1963) argues that it is fashionable for developing countries to opt for a comprehensive or fundamental solution to policy problems. The choice that these nations make compounds the failure of policy for two reasons; first, developing countries hardly possess governments with the policy-making apparatus adequate to the task of producing a comprehensive programme. Second, this inadequacy met with the introduction of policy solution

from elsewhere, usually from advanced developed economies which is hardly suitable to local problems. The adoption of foreign-made answers, in turn, undermines the capacity of local intellectual resources to act on local issues deepens the underdevelopment of local talents and deprives them of the opportunity to master the problem on their terms.

### **3. Research Methods**

#### **3.1 Survey Study**

A survey study was carried out, and the questionnaire was used to elicit information from the respondents while chi-square was used to test the hypotheses. All the data obtained were computer processed through the use of Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS). Key informant interview was also carried out.

#### **3.2 Population and Sample of the Study**

The population of the study was obtained from a state each in the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria. The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members helped in the distribution of the questionnaire. NYSC is a one-year mandatory scheme for any graduate from tertiary institutions in Nigeria posted to the 36 states and Federal Capital Territory. The NYSC members who graduated from Lagos state university mainly from the Department of Public Administration sent to serve across the country helped in the distribution of the questionnaires in five zones; while the researcher with the help of the research assistants distributed the questionnaires for Lagos state. Ten respondents were selected from each state irrespective of the population as indicated in table 3 below. The respondents were selected from the Major Group as identified by the United Nations in the Conference on Environment in 1992. It includes Women; Children and Youth, indigenous peoples, Non-governmental organizations, local authorities; Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industry; scientific and Technological Community and farmers. Convenient sampling technique was used to obtain the information from the various respondents across the states. Table 3 indicates the population samples as selected from 6 geopolitical zones in Nigeria; Table 4 showed the questionnaires distributed and the returned rate.

**Table 3:** Population samples from the selected States from the 6 Geo-Political Zone using United Nations Official "Major Groups."

	Taraba State	Lagos State	Bayelsa State	Ebonyi State	Zanfara State	Benue State	Total
Women	10	10	10	10	10	10	60
Youth	10	10	10	10	10	10	60
Indigenous Peoples	10	10	10	10	10	10	60
Non-Governmental Organizations	10	10	10	10	10	10	60
Local Authorities (Local Governments)	10	10	10	10	10	10	60
Workers and Trade Unions	10	10	10	10	10	10	60
Farmers	10	10	10	10	10	10	60
Business and Industry (SME)	10	10	10	10	10	10	60
Technicians	10	10	10	10	10	10	60
Streets Mechanics	10	10	10	10	10	10	60
Total							600

Source: Survey Study, March 2017

**Table 4:** Distribution of Questionnaire According to the Selected States in the 6 Geopolitical Zones and the Returned Rates

S/N	Geopolitical zones	Each state selected from six geopolitical zones in Nigeria	Estimated sample size	No of questionnaire distributed	No returned	Percentage
1	North East	Taraba state	100	100	89	89%
2	North West	Lagos state	100	100	95	95%
3	South-South	Bayelsa state	100	100	78	78%
4	South East	Ebonyi state	100	100	86	86%
5	North West	Zamfara State	100	100	96	96%
6	North Central	Benue state	100	100	87	87%
		Total			531	

Source: Survey study - March 2017

## 4. Analysis of Data

### 4.1 Responses of the Respondents and the Chi-Square Analysis of Data

See the appendix below.

### 4.2 Testing of Hypotheses with Chi-Square

The measurement of the hypotheses with the chi-square is as follow:  
DECISION RULE: There are significant differences in the responses if the  $X^2$  calculated is higher than  $X^2$  tabulated

- Hypothesis 1 based on Question 3 in the questionnaire; and the following table ensues

**Table 5:** *Nigeria is facing challenges in implementing the SDGs*

Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Degree of freedom	P value/ sig	$X^2$ calculated	$X^2$ tabulated
330	114	52	30	5	4	significant	650.968 >	9.488

Based on the table above, we reject the null hypothesis and posit the alternate; that Nigeria is facing challenges with implementing SDGs.

- Hypothesis 2 based on Question 8 on the questionnaire and the following table ensues

**Table 6:** *There is significant change in underdevelopment situation since the Implementation of SDGs' programmes in Nigeria*

Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Degree of freedom	P value/ sig	$X^2$ calculated	$X^2$ tabulated
27	24	30	320	130	4	Sig	613.11 >	9.488

Based on the table above, we reject the null hypothesis, since the calculated is greater than the tabulated; we, therefore, assert that Nigeria has not witnessed any significant change in underdevelopment since the implementation of the SDG programmes

- Hypothesis 3 is based on question 14 on the questionnaire

**Table 7:** *Nigeria government has ensured participation of target beneficiaries in the implementation of SDGs' programmes*

Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Degree of freedom	P value/ sig	$X^2$ calculated	$X^2$ tabulated
66	77	130	185	113	4	sig	124.54 >	9.488

Based on the table above, we see a significant difference in the responses, and we oppose and posit that the Nigerian government has not ensured the participation of the target beneficiaries in the implementation of the SDG programme.

- Hypothesis 4 is tested based on question 20 on the questionnaire;

**Table 8:** *Nigeria government is sensitive to the implementing environment of SDGs*

Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Degree of freedom	P value/ sig	$X^2$ calculated	$X^2$ tabulated
34	56	237	123	81	4	Sig	242.59 >	9.488

Based on the table above, we can see that the Nigerian Government is not sensitive to the environment for implementation of the SDGs

### 4.3 Discussion of Findings

- The study showed that there are challenges facing policy implementation in Africa with a particular reference to Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria. In the first instance, it is clear that up till now the programme has not been redesigned for easy implementation in Nigeria; there are no states and local government contents, rural areas completely neglected. Other challenges are unrealistic goal setting, corruption and security challenges. When the United Nations set 8 goals terminated in 2015, Nigeria could not realize any of them in fullest. Now we are talking about 17 goals to be achieved by 2030. The MDGs were set in 2015, and before the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2016, most of the countries of African economic had entered the recession. Ggoobi (2016), discussing why the implementation of policy fails in Uganda, attributes it to the neglect of the rural areas and comprehensive policy design and planning without doing a management policy that is implementable.
- The finding discovered that Underdevelopment situation in Africa has not changed since the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals' programmes with a particular reference to Nigeria. Poverty and hunger have not reduced, enrolment in the primary school in Nigeria has not improved, and the gap in gender equality and women empowerment has become broader. Child mortality has not reduced. Maduabum (2016) explains that "after eleven months of establishing SDGs, no country in Africa has so far succeeded in eliminating extreme poverty completely and with regards to hunger, current rates of progress are prolonged".
- The study discovered that the target beneficiaries are not participating in the SDGs programme with a particular reference to Nigeria. The farmers, the rural people, the Community Development Associations (CDAs), women group and the youth, are neglected in the discussion on how to implement the SDGs. Dialoke et al., (2017) recognize the fact that there is need to involve the target beneficiary at every stage of the policy implementation process to ensure transparency and accountability. He is of the opinion that a programme carried out with the consent of the target beneficiary will not be sabotaged (Ajulor, 2016).

- The study discovered that Governments in Africa are not sensitive to the implementing environment of Sustainable Development Goals' programmes with a particular reference to Nigeria. SDGs' programmes are not redesigned to meet the needs the target beneficiaries. Nigeria has 36 States and 774 local governments. The requirements of these states are not the same. The North is educationally backward, and its immediate needs may be how to increase the enrolment in the schools that may not be the needs of the people in the south whose citizens had acquired education without jobs. Programmes designed at the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja by the government on same bases to be implemented in the states and local governments without the consideration of the peculiarities of each state and local government in Nigeria. Hashim (2002) explains that after launching poverty reduction programme at Abuja with pomp and pageantry and with a national perspective and then going down to localities to implement such plan by setting up the institutions and replicating them at the state level does not look at the local condition that caused poverty.

## 5. Conclusion and Recommendations

### 5.1 Conclusion

The study has been able to show that the challenges of policy implementation in Africa have constituted barriers to implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. The study discovers that Nigeria and most countries of Africa have entered economic recession because of policy implementation challenges such as unrealistic goal setting, political patronage, political instability, insecurity, insensitive to the capacity of the target population to contribute to policy implementation and lack of consideration of the environment in implementing policy. It should also note that policies are often forced on people without consultation they in turn distance themselves from the government's excellent programme meant to improve their lives and can even go as far as sabotaging such plan. The importance of the civil society, nongovernmental organization and epistemic community and the mass media in influencing policy for the good of the people cannot be overemphasized. But the interest of these groups cannot also be taken for granted. The question is if their interest is contrary to the benefit of the target beneficiary of the policy, what happens? Therefore, even when the civil societies are involved, the target beneficiary should be able to take ownership of the policy that will affect their lives. The non-inclusion of the target beneficiary in the

formulation and implementation of the policy has serious implication on policy failures in Nigeria and Africa in general.

## 5.2 Recommendations

The study recommends that Africa should set policy goals that are implementable. The Sustainable Development Goals should be reviewed by Africa countries to properly domestic the goals with environmental considerations. Africa should do more to check corruption. Policies to be implemented by the Federal government in the case of Nigeria should include the state and local government contents. There should be the participation of the target beneficiaries in any policy design that will better their lives. It will ensure ownership and prevent the programme from sabotage by this; the SDGs will make the significant impact in Africa.

Also, the cooperation between the policy implementers and the target beneficiary is highly necessary for the success of any policy. Policy making and implementation in Africa should be changed from the top-down command structure to more consultative and participatory approach to enhance transparency and accountability and reduced political patronage.

Sustainable development should emanate from the process in which the people participate in all stages of decision-making from problem identification and programme formulation, resources mobilization and implementation, to monitoring and evaluation. Participatory development contributes local knowledge to the process and ensures that the problems addressed are the priorities of the target community-led initiative. This local capacity should only be supported by the organizations such as the civil societies, community-based organizations, national and international non-governmental organizations.

Policy implementation should be built up from formulation stage through appropriate planning and realistic goal setting that is implementable. Implementation management and appropriate technology should be employed. These will include: proper planning process, organizing less, communicating more, thereby carrying along stakeholders of the policy, etc. It will close the gap between policy conception and implementation and reduce confusion and criticisms that may trail implementation change.

The government should consider the socio-political and economic environment of a particular target population before making and implementing policies. These will enable

them to discover the differences in needs, culture and the peculiarities and conditions of each of the target impoverished group in the rural community either in the states or local government. The policy made at the Federal level in the same patterns for the whole country should be repackaged during implementation putting into cognizance the heterogeneous nature of Nigerian societies and examining the differences in needs, culture, aspiration, condition, and peculiarities. Therefore a policy that is made to affect the whole country should be repackaged to meet the needs and lifestyle and expectation of a particular target population.

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## Appendix

**Table 9:** Responses of the Respondents and Chi-Square Analysis of the Data

S/No	Description of items	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Undecided	Disagreed	Strongly Disagreed	Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ); p-value
1	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set to solve the problems of underdevelopment in the world	25	153	297	35	21	6.8E-116
2	There are seventeen goals to be achieved by every country in the world by 2030	431	15	50	25	10	1.667E-26
3	<b>Nigeria is facing challenges in Implementing the SDGs</b>	330	114	52	30	5	1.438E-13
4	The SDGs redesigned by the government for easy implementation in Nigeria	12	7	489	15	8	0
5	There are enough funds earmarked for the implementation of SDGs' programmes	21	55	150	252	53	7.12E-72
6	There have been State and Local government contents in the implementation of SDGs by the Federal government in Nigeria	46	16	330	125	14	9.2E-143
7	People have were rained for the implementation of SDGs in Nigeria	30	31	100	250	120	1E-64
8	<b>There is significant change in underdevelopment situation since the Implementation of SDGs' programmes in Nigeria</b>	27	24	30	320	130	2.2E-131

9	Poverty and hunger have reduced since the implementation of SDGs in Nigeria.	11	20	30	320	150	3.4E-141
10	There has been improvement primary school enrolment	13	67	245	152	54	1.14E-68
11	Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women:	41	25	330	125	10	2E-142
12	There has been reduction in Child Mortality	10	15	246	110	150	2.65E-78
13	Mosquitoes are eradicated, and Malaria and other Diseases has reduced since the implementation of SDGs	7	28	0	260	236	1E-136
14	<b>Nigeria government has ensured participation of target beneficiaries in the implementation of SDGs' programmes</b>	66	37	130	185	113	5.71E-26
15	The ordinary citizen has been consulted on the best way to implement SDGs' programmes in Nigeria	11	15	23	319	163	4.5E-147
16	The rural people are involved in the implementation of SDGs programme	22	17	66	189	237	1.64E-81
17	The farmers are included in the implementation of SDGs programme	11	18	81	245	176	1.6E-83
18	The youth are entirely mobilized and involve in the implementation of SDGs	29	17	97	189	199	7.77E-59
19	The civil societies are included in the implementation of SDGs	21	55	256	132	67	4.22E-69
20	<b>Nigeria government is sensitive to the implementing environment of SDGs</b>	34	56	237	123	81	2.62E-51
21	SDGs' programmes are redesigned to meet the needs the target beneficiary	77	82	126	43	203	6.19E-30
22	The implementation of SDGs is promoted at the grassroots in Nigeria	46	56	206	123	100	2.04E-32
23	The states and governments in Nigeria are involved in the	76	50	228	100	77	3.13E-

	implementation of SDGs						39
24	Every Nigerian is aware of these goals	141	35	25	295	35	6.769E-108

\*E stands for ( X 10<sup>^</sup>); the standard form of expression.