

Aligning National Policies to SDGs in Nigeria

Chukwuka Onyekwena Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA)

Introduction

- Global efforts over the next 14 years are focused on successfully implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as a replacement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- SDGs consists of 17 goals, a total of 169 targets making it broader and more ambitious than the MDGs
- The SDGs build on the successes of the MDGs and was designed around a similar framework that incorporates a collective set of objectives for countries to achieve over a specific timeframe
- SDGs are largely an extension of the MDGs to broader development areas. However, the major difference is that while MDGs adopted donor-centric approach, the SDGs are driven by the coordination of developed, developing and emerging economies (Uneze, Adedeji, & Uzor, 2016).

Comparing MDGs to SDGs

MDGs	SDGs
1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	 End poverty in all its forms everywhere End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
2. Achieve universal primary education	4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
3. Promote gender equality and empower women	5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
4. Reduce child mortality5. Improve maternal health6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases	3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Comparing MDGs to SDGs contd.

MDGs	SDGs
7. Ensure environmental sustainability	 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation Reduce inequality within and among countries Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
8. Develop a global partnership for development	 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 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Nigeria's experience with the MDGs

- While Nigeria was one of the 189 countries that adopted the MDGs in 2000, the implementation gained momentum in 2005 following the debt relief provided by the Paris Club.
- The Debt Relief Gains (DRG) enabled the country to increase investments in pro-poor programmes and projects towards achieving the MDGs
- At the end of MDGs, a review of the implementation in Nigeria reveals that the country registered mixed results across the goals, geographic areas and gender groups- some considerable progress was achieved on certain indicators, but many goals and targets were not met

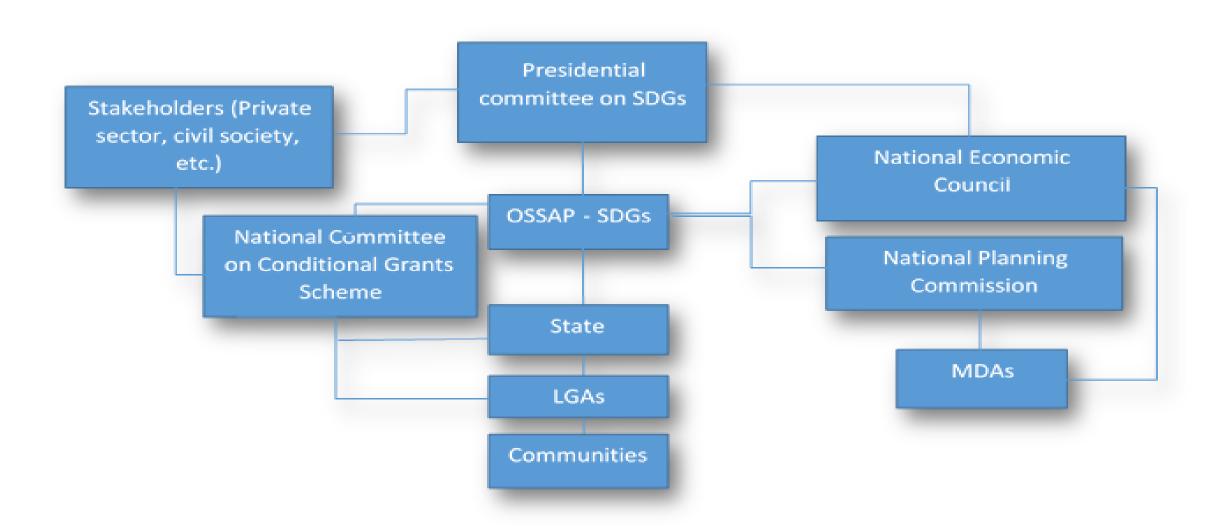
Nigeria's experience with the MDGs contd.

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

The transition to SDGs in Nigeria

- The Presidency has developed a country transition strategy document for transiting from the MDGs to the SDGs - "Nigeria's road to SDGs". The mission of the strategy is to "rigorously integrate SDGs to ensure that the goals inspire commitment". The strategy envisions an inclusive, people-centered implementation process for the SDGs
- The transition strategy seeks to leverage on the core lessons and successes as well as the challenges encountered in the implementation of the MDGs and also accommodate additional strategy options which reflect the expanded breadth and depth of the SDGs – scale up
- Effective mainstreaming of the SDGs into the broad national development agenda collaboration would rely on the collaboration of 3 key institutions: Office of the Senior Special Adviser to the President on SDGs (OSSAP-SDGs), National Planning Commission (NPC) and National Economic Council (NEC). OSSAP-SDGs would function as the secretariat of the Presidential Committee to drive performance on the SDGs on a day-to-day basis

The transition to SDGs in Nigeria: Institutional Framework



The transition to SDGs in Nigeria- Phases

BUILD ON EXISTING FOUNDATIONS (2016 - 2020)

Leverage on existing institutional knowledge and learning outcomes from implementing the MDGs to establish effective institutions, innovative policy, and political buy-in

SCALE UP (2021 - 2025)

Full integration into national and sectoral policy frameworks and implementation

LEAVE NO NIGERIAN BEHIND (2026 - 2030)

Further Implementation

The transition to SDGs in Nigeria: remedial action

MDGs – Key weaknesses/problems	SGDs – transition actions
Institutional framework: Poor institutional framework – weak institutional interactions and low capacity at local government levels	 Strengthen the NPC and OSSAP relationship Reposition Local governments as the SDGs tier of government – mandate of pursuing and coordinating the SDGs
 Legal and Policy framework: Sector specific policies not directly targeted at MDGs Non-institutionalization of successful activities and processes 	 Establish SDGs legislation/Act – e.g. set minimum expenditure for projects and programmes NPC and NEC to coordinate multiple grants across tiers of the government.
 Partnership: Weak inter-agency and intergovernmental partnerships Poor engagement with key actors e.g. private sector 	 Establish Community Consultative partnerships, Citizens Feedback Mechanism, and Private sector partnership. Strengthen collaboration among the different tiers of government

The transition to SDGs in Nigeria: remedial action contd.

MDGs – Key weaknesses/problems	SGDs – transition actions
 Data, Monitoring & Evaluation: Enormous administration data gaps Data measurement and credibility difficulties Misalignment between national statistical systems and MDGs indicators 	 Realign National Statistical Systems with the SDGs Prioritize administrative data improvements
Communications Framework: Ineffective communications and advocacy, especially at the community levels	 Strengthen and reposition the Communications and Press unit of the SDGs Project Monitoring Unit Carry out advocacy and sensitization of stakeholders on SDGs – private sector, communities, and traditional rulers
 Financing Framework: Little recourse to alternative financing options – e.g. organized private sector Untimely disbursement of projects and programmes funds 	 Develop and increase private sector financing of the SDGs Strengthen budgeting systems at the Federal and State levels

Implementing the SDGs in Nigeria: Emerging issues

Positive side:

- Nigeria can capitalize it's past leadership and institutional capacities in the implementation of the MDGs.
- On the overall, SDGs have been consistent with Nigeria's domestic development agenda i.e. Vision 2020
- The SDGs coincide with a new administration in Nigeria and thus provides a unique opportunity to ensure political buy-in and integration with the new administrations' broad development framework.

Implementing the SDGs in Nigeria: Emerging issues contd.

Risks and challenges:

- Within the Vision 2020 agenda, Nigeria government's plans to expand the oil sector and develop coal power plants, and thus generate significant carbon emissions, is at variance with the SDGs emphasis on environmental sustainability.
- Nigeria's current fiscal crisis driven by the plunge in global crude oil prices and production volatilities/shortages poses a major constraint to the implementation of the SDGs – presently, both federal and state governments are unable to execute their planned capital and recurrent expenditure

Implementing the SDGs in Nigeria: Emerging issues – more ...

Risks and challenges:

 The insecurity in the North eastern region as a result of the activities od Boko Haram has significantly increased the population of internally displaced persons – a huge challenge for the human and social development aspects of the SDGs

 The challenges posed by the presence of vested interests and institutional bottlenecks major constraints to the successful implementation of SDGs

Conclusion

 Nigeria is building on the lessons learnt from the implementation of the MDGs in its transition to SDGs

- Progress on the transition from MDGs to SDGs has been limited to the design of strategy and the provision of a strategy document – no programs and projects have implemented yet
- Notable opportunities and challenges have emerged in the process of the implementation of the SDGs

Recommendations

- The present government needs to significantly strengthen the political will and institutions necessary for the successful implementation of the SDGs
- While the need for extensive involvement of various stakeholders, particularly the private sector and civil society has been identified and acknowledged, their roles should be clearly defined and coordination among them should be strengthened for effective implementation
- The present government needs to fast-track the implementation process for the SDGs, particularly in deciding on the alternative sources of funding for funding the projects and programmes – improving the currently bad fiscal position of the country

Thank you