

Research/Review

Demand-Driven Approach Perspective is Used to Evaluate Poverty Alleviation Programs, Strategies, and Governance Challenges in Nigeria.

Ajiteru, S.A.R.^{1*}, Sulaiman T.H.², Abalaka, J.N.³

¹ Department of Political Science & International Relations Achievers University, Owo, P.M.B.1030 Owo

Ondo State Nigeria : ajiterudr.sheriffdeen@gmail.com

² Crown University Intl Chartered Inc. Faculty of Social Science, in USA, official partners' constituent campuses at government regulated universities worldwide and online operation.; staiwohassan99@yahoo.com

³ Crown University Intl Chartered Inc. Faculty of Social Science, in USA, official partners' constituent campuses at government regulated universities worldwide and online operation.; abalaka.james@yahoo.com

* Corresponding Author : Ajiteru, S.A.R

Abstract: This essay was written to investigate why, in spite of the policies that the Nigerian government has put in place, poverty rates are still high. The main obstacle that every accountable and responsive government must overcome is Regardless matter whether the government is a military dictatorship or a democracy, it must improve and give greater meaning to the lives of its citizens if it is to remain relevant and legitimate in the eyes of the governed. Since independence, every succeeding administration has implemented some kind of plan to lessen the suffering of the populace and make them happy. Prior to and during the Structural Adjustment Program (SAP), it was noted that the majority of these programs were supply-driven, meaning they were unable to address the needs of the impoverished and, as a result, had little impact on reducing poverty. In order to reach the target poor, various programs that were introduced after SAP adopted a demand-driven strategy. The purpose of this study are (i) to critically analyze the several programs, reforms, and policies aimed at reducing poverty that have been implemented by Nigerian governments in succession, as well as the factors that contributed to their success or failure. (ii). expresses profoundly helpful measures that, if properly applied, would help the country escape its current poverty trap and put it on the correct path for sustainable economic development rather than just the steady economic progress it has seen over the years.

Keywords: Approach, Evaluation, Nigeria's Path Forward, Poverty Alleviation, Strategies

1. Introduction

The elimination of poverty, which every government has incorporated into its developmental programs, is arguably the biggest issue confronting African countries today (Abiola & Salami, 2021). In fact, improving the quality of life and making it more meaningful for the populace is the main challenge facing any responsive and responsible government in Africa today, regardless of whether it is a military dictatorship or a democratic one. This is necessary for the government to remain relevant and legitimate in the eyes of the governed (Abalaka, 2017).

Since Nigeria gained its independence, every successive administration has implemented some kind of plan to lessen the suffering of the populace and make them happy all the time. The following goals are examined in this paper:

- What poverty means to both the ruled and the ruling
- To investigate the general causes of poverty in Nigeria
- To take brief Examine the various approaches taken by succeeding administrations to reduce poverty and determine whether or not they were successful.
- To create a solution for the country that could be used as a proposal for policy that would help Nigeria escape the current maze of ineffective methods for reducing poverty and put the country on the correct course for long-term, sustainable economic growth (Ajiteru, 2024).

The high rate of mass poverty is a reflection of the country's economy's bad performance and management. Any nation's economic performance is mostly determined by two variables. These are production levels and the amount of resources available in relation to the population. Nigeria is among the impoverished nations with abundant resources but

Received: 09 Marchth 2025

Revised: 24 Marchth 2025

Accepted: 08 Aprilth 2025

Online Available : 10 Aprilth 2025

Curr. Ver.: 10 Aprilth 2025



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low levels of output. misuse of the wealth that God has provided. It is reported that a sizable portion of the profits from these divinely provided resources are pilfered and placed in foreign accounts. Sulaiman (2024).

Poverty has a very broad and flexible definition. In various situations and contexts, it can imply different things to different people. According to Ukwu (2018), the most fundamental meanings are as follows:

- The state or attribute of poverty
- The state of having little or no material possessions or money, destitution, or lack (in different degrees)
- Lack, scarcity, deficiency, and the least quantity
- Lack of appropriate or desirable qualities
- a poor state of weakness or leanness brought on by inadequate nutrition, etc.
- The fundamental idea of poverty as it relates to individuals is a severe lack of economic resources, a situation of individual or collective or regional deprivation of what are deemed essential for acceptable living standards, or the inability to access facilities, opportunities, and a favorable environment for a reasonable standard of living.

2. Preliminaries or Related Work or Literature Review

The definition of poverty given in this study project is multifaceted and goes beyond the modern definition of low income. As a result, no one criterion can be used to define it or measure it later. Because of its political, social, and economic facets, metrics that solely concentrate on the economic side would inevitably fall short. According to Enahoro and Ikpefan's (2021) summary, the World Development Report (2020/2021) highlights a number of aspects of poverty. Numerous statistics demonstrate that poverty is reduced as a result of sound administration and quick economic growth. Sustainable growth and development are significantly impacted by domestic national policies, more open markets, stable and predictable environments, and careful macroeconomic management.

Poverty is defined as hunger, lack of housing, illness that prevents one from attending school, inability to read, difficulty speaking, lack of employment, fear of the future, the loss of a child due to a disease caused by contaminated water, helplessness, and lack of representation and freedom (World Bank Report, 2019). Absolute and relative poverty are typically acknowledged as the two fundamental components of poverty. When there is a severe shortage or lack of access to the essentials of daily life, like food, clothing, and housing, it is referred to as absolute poverty. The African Medical and Research Foundation's explanation of health and education services (AMREF, 2018). When compared to a reference, standard, or parameter—such as the average for the group or region, a target standard or objective, or its ranking on specified criteria—the state of an individual, household, group, or community is referred to as relative poverty. However, all notions of poverty are ultimately relative. Therefore, living below a reference standard of life is what we mean even when we talk about absolute poverty. Sulaiman (2019) examines poverty through five deprivation dimensions:

- Physical and personal deprivation brought on by dietary, health, literacy, and educational barriers as well as a lack of confidence.
- Lack of access to assets, income, property, production factors, and financing is a form of economic deprivation.
- Denial of full participation in social, political, and economic activities leads to social deprivation.
- Lack of access to values, ideas, knowledge, information, and attitudes is a sort of cultural deprivation that robs people of their ability to direct their own lives.
- Lack of political voice to influence decisions that impact their lives is a form of political deprivation.

According to Sanusi (2021), the World Bank has drawn particular emphasis to the factors that contribute to widespread poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, the most fundamental of which is a lack of access to opportunities, resources, and skills. The causes of this lack of access are related to the socioeconomic and disparity in income. The main cause of poverty must be found in the status of the country and its governance, not in the circumstances of

specific individuals, in a scenario of mass poverty like that which exists in Nigeria, where poverty affects the majority of the population rather than just a select few. According to Ukwu (2020), some of the world's most developed nations have extremely low levels of physical resources, while the least developed nations, such as Nigeria, have some of the richest physical resource endowments. According to Nemedi (2021), among the issues impeding efforts to reduce poverty in third-world countries are: a shortage of jobs, particularly for school dropouts at all levels, sluggish economic expansion, inflation, a dearth of social services, exchange rate volatility, political unrest, etc. According to Okuneye (2021), the World Bank study from 2020 listed four ways to raise the income of the impoverished. These include giving the poor access to physical assets like land, raising demand and, consequently, the price of the factors of production they own, giving them social services like education, and giving them current income in the form of cash or food subsidies. By doing these steps, the prevalence of poverty in Africa may be reduced. According to Ajakaiye and Adeyeye (2021), the decrease in living standards is due to structural factors that determine poverty, such as a rise in crime and violence, environmental degradation, worker layoffs, and changes in family structures Sulaiman, (2024).

Using the p-alpha class of poverty measurement, Ijaiya (2020) empirically examined the poverty rate in Ilorin, Nigeria, and discovered that 58% of the population lived below the poverty line, making it a slightly high rate. According to him, these are issues with urban growth that can be resolved by raising earnings in both the official and unorganized sectors. Poverty can include both the restriction of opportunity to live a decent life and the absence of basic requirements. According to Ibru (2020), the three most important factors that the UNDP considers when assessing whether a person is in poverty are their capacity to live a healthy life, their level of education, and to have a respectable quality of life. In his research on rural poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, with a focus on Cote d'Ivoire, Egwuato (2017) came to the conclusion that the socioeconomic group that a population belongs to has a significant impact on its standard of life Ajiteru (2024).

The regression model's outcome demonstrated that the standard of living is significantly influenced by the size of the household. The household's head's expenses are greatly increased by the proportion of employed individuals living there. According to Ukwu (2017), corruption has impacted earlier efforts in Nigeria to reduce poverty. This also applies to the majority of African countries. Corruption has both direct and indirect effects. Indirectly contributing to the rise of poverty. Growth rate and growth potential are penalized as a result of the indirect effect of resource decrease or misuse. Large-scale informal activities define the small and medium-sized business subsector. It indicates economic activity using low-income, otherwise jobless, unskilled labor in metropolitan areas. Sulaiman (2024).

3. Proposed Method

In this section, you need to describe the proposed method step by step. Explanations accompanied by equations and flow diagrams as illustrations will make it easier for readers to understand your research.

Algorithm/Pseudocode

There are four methods for reducing poverty. According to Edralin, Tibon, and Tugas (2015), these include the Target Approach, Economic Growth Approach, Basic Needs Approach, and Rural Development Approach. Below is a detailed discussion of these strategies:

The approach to economic growth. This method focuses on capital formation in relation to human capital and capital stock. The needs of workers in terms of housing, food, health, and education are all related to human capital production. The fact that investments in these human capital sources raise labor quality and, consequently, productivity makes this clear (Misana, 2015; Sazama and Young, 2016; Edralin, et.al., 2015). Therefore, human capital must be given its proper place as a source of production growth in order to guarantee growth that alleviates poverty.

The Basic Needs Method. Basic necessities like food, shelter, water, cleanliness, medical attention, elementary education, and transportation must be provided. Due to their inherent disadvantage in terms of political power and the ability to influence the placement

and choice of government programs and projects, the poor may not be directly impacted by this method unless it is properly targeted (Ogwumike, 2017).

The approach to rural development. According to this strategy, the rural sector is special when it comes to reducing poverty. This is because this industry employs the vast majority of the impoverished in developing nations. Furthermore, there is practically little paid work in this industry. Traditional methods of reducing poverty may therefore be difficult to implement in rural areas without significant adjustments to the structure of credit, asset ownership, etc. The integrated approach to rural development has been the main focus of this development strategy. This strategy acknowledges that poverty is multifaceted and necessitates a multifaceted approach. The strategy seeks to provide the essentials of life, including food, shelter, clean drinking water, healthcare, education, work, and chances to earn money. to the impoverished in particular and to rural residents in general. Given how widespread poverty is in rural areas, one fundamental issue with this strategy for reducing poverty is that it is challenging to concentrate attention on the actual poor. Stated differently, it makes it extremely challenging to target programs aimed at reducing poverty (Oladimeji and Abiola, 2018).

Target Approach. This strategy encourages focusing poverty reduction initiatives on particular populations inside the nation. Programs like the School Meal Program, Micro Credits, and Social Safety Nets are all part of this strategy (Sulaiman, 2019). To reduce leaks, this method necessitates accurately identifying the target group. Concern over rising levels of poverty and income inequality, particularly in developing nations, has grown recently on a global scale. Through the development and execution of numerous Community Driven Development (CDD) programs, the necessity to alleviate it in order to raise people's standard of life has caused a change from the Supply Driven Approach to the Demand Driven Approach. It has been suggested that employing CDDs could enhance targeting since they employ superior local knowledge to define and identify the targeted groups, whereas targeting the impoverished has been one of the difficulties of development and disaster response programs (Farrington and Salter, 2019) and (Sulaiman, 2024).

Community Driven Development (CDD) Approach: CDD is a comprehensive concept that involves granting community organizations authority over resources and decision-making. In contrast, CDD approaches view the impoverished and their institutions as agents, partners, and assets that to construct. According to the World Bank (2013), CDD is a successful tool for reducing poverty that enhances state- and market-run initiatives by producing immediate and long-lasting effects at the local level. CDD can improve sustainability and increase the responsiveness of efforts to reduce poverty. One of the difficulties with development and emergency response programs has been focusing on the impoverished (Farrington and Slater, 2016). According to one argument in favor of CDD, targeting can be improved since CDD projects better define and identify the targeted populations by utilizing local knowledge (Mansuri and Rao, 2021). The effectiveness of targeting with the CDD technique, however, has been the subject of conflicting empirical data. According to a review, in diverse societies with significant social disparity, the effectiveness of According to Ajiteru (2024), the targeting of CDD projects has lagged behind that of externally administered programs.

Nigerian Poverty Alleviation Programs and Strategies. Growth, basic necessities, and rural development strategies have been the main focuses of Nigeria's poverty alleviation initiatives thus far. It is significant to note that the majority of Nigeria's poverty reduction initiatives were centered on the agriculture sector and rural communities. This is due to the fact that poverty in Nigeria is mostly a rural issue, with agriculture having the largest incidence over time. Furthermore, the agricultural sector has a major role in reducing poverty because it not only produces food for human consumption but also raw materials for manufacturing, and it is the primary employer of labor, particularly in rural regions (Ogwumike, 2019). Three distinct periods can be distinguished: the SAP era, the Democratic era, and the Pre-Structural Adjustment Program (Pre-SAP) era.

4. Results and Discussion

It's clear that poverty has several root causes. The question that people ask themselves is why poverty is more prevalent in Africa than in any other part of the world today, despite

the fact that more than thirty years ago, nearly all of the newly independent African states made poverty reduction their top policy goal. In a 2018 poverty survey conducted in Kenya's Kisumu area, the African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) found that the district's poverty was mostly caused by environmental, historical, political, demographic, and human reasons. The primary causes of poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, according to Obadan (2017), are: a lack of physical assets, such as capital and land (the poor have little access to credit, even on a small scale); a lack of resources for rural development in underdeveloped areas; a lack of markets for the sale of goods and services; a lack of human capital endowment; degradation and decreased productivity; a lack of assistance for those living on the margins and those experiencing temporary poverty; and, lastly, a failure to include people in the design of development programs that impact them. The causes of poverty, according to Enahoro and Ikpefan (2021), include having a large family, having little human capital, and not having access to arable land. lack of or insufficient access to markets and roadways in all weather conditions. Additional causes include low farm production, poor health, culture and social values that negatively impact work ethic, drug and alcohol misuse, and certain family structures (polygamy, single-parent homes).

According to the Economic Policy Research Center (2017), the HIV/AIDS epidemic, economic crises, and civil unrest are the primary causes of poverty. According to Yahie (2018), the following factors contribute to poverty:

- Ukwu (2017) lists the following as the main reasons why people in sub-Saharan Africa live in poverty.
- inadequate availability of job openings.
- Poor people have little access to credit, even on a small scale, and insufficient tangible assets, such as capital and land.
- Insufficient availability of resources to assist rural
- development in underdeveloped areas. The impoverished have limited access to markets where they can offer their goods and services.
- inadequate human capital endowment.
- depletion of natural resources, which results in decreased productivity and environmental damage.
- Insufficient access to aid for individuals experiencing temporary poverty.
- Absence of involvement in initiatives aimed at reducing poverty

Institutions Of Previous Programmes and Policies to Alleviate Poverty in Nigeria

Many schools of thought support a variety of actions to lessen poverty (Ijayi, Ijayi, Bello, & Ajayi, 2011). On October 1, 1960, Nigeria becomes politically independent of the British government. Following political independence, several governments have implemented various policies aimed at reducing poverty and empowering Nigerians to become economically independent. Subsequent Nigerian governments have implemented the following tactics, among others (Ajiteru, 2024).

- The government's initial effort at independence was the Farm Settlement Center. The food-subsector was to be developed for both the food crop and the cash crop.
- The initiative ended after a few years because the Gowon Administration, which took power in 1967, declared it a failure.
- Later, in 1973, the General Gowon Administration launched the Agricultural Development Project (ADP). The World Bank, along with the federal and state governments, then worked together to finance the ADP. The program's subsequent goal was to advance integrated rural development.
- The now-defunct Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) was established in 1976 by the Olusegun Obasanjo administration. To increase Nigerians' awareness of food production self-sufficiency was the OFN program's main goal. Using all the funds poured into OFN, the initiative failed to increase food production in the way that was anticipated.
- Once more, the Obasanjo administration issued an order guaranteeing the abolition of the land-tenure system and the government's ownership of all land. The goal of the policy was to make sure that people's attempts to farm were not impeded. A higher level of living for the populace was thought to result from increased food production. Ajiteru (2024).

- The "Green Revolution" was established by former President Shehu Shagari during the second republic (1979–1983). Even if Nigerian forests were green before the green revolution, the program's operators lacked the fervor and dedication necessary to make it successful.

The Pre-SAP, or Pre-structural adjustment program Time Period

During the pre-SAP era, development planning and management were never specifically focused on reducing poverty. The government only indirectly demonstrated concern for reducing poverty. The First National Development Plan (1962–68), Second National Development Plan (1970–74), Third National Development Plan (1975–80), and Fourth National Development Plan (1981–85) were the programs that Nigeria created and implemented throughout this time. Many of the government-sponsored programs in Nigeria during this time period (either entirely or in collaboration with foreign organizations) had a positive impact on reducing poverty, even though some of them did not specifically target impoverished individuals or communities (Sulaiman, 2019). Among these programs are initiatives to improve agriculture productivity, which have tended to help and assist farmers with their output Ajiteru (2024).

Establishing marketing boards for Nigeria's main commodities between 1947 and 1986 to act as buyers of last resort, at set rates, and holding strategic or buffer stock was the most significant intervention in the country's development of a modern agricultural marketing system. The marketing boards operated as parastatals, which are entities in the para-public sector. Although they had some administrative authority, the government continued to closely monitor them (Idachaba & Ayoola, 2017). Nigerian marketing boards were plagued by a number of issues that were typically connected to government business matters. They had a huge workforce, bureaucratic annoyances, low pay, and most of the employees were unfit for their jobs. Overzealous involvement in their care, related to the boards' low level of efficiency was caused in part by high operating costs and tenure instability (Olubanjo Akinleye & Ayanda, 2019).

The Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme (ACGS), the Rural Electrification Scheme (RES), the Rural Banking Programme (RBP), the Free and Compulsory Primary Education (FCPE), which was also founded in 1977, the Green Revolution, which was established in 1980, and the Low-Cost Housing Scheme were among the other programs that were implemented during this time. The majority of these programs were created with the intention of achieving goals like increasing agricultural revenue and output, creating jobs, and slowing the rate of rural-urban migration. These initiatives had some admirable effects; they improved many Nigerians' quality of life. Nevertheless, they were unable to continue because of a lack of political will and dedication, unstable policies, and inadequate participation of the beneficiaries in these initiatives (CBN, 2018; Akinyosoye, 2015; Nnadozie, 2014; Iheanacho, 2014; Ogwumike, 2017, 2016, and 2018).

Program for Structural Adjustment (SAP) Time Period

Nigeria's government started making deliberate policy efforts to reduce poverty during the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) era. The majority of Nigerians' quality of living deteriorated during the country's severe economic crisis in the early 1980s. By implementing SAP, the government made a concerted attempt to contain the situation. The living conditions of many Nigerians, particularly the poor, who were the most vulnerable population, were made worse by the SAP adoption. Because of this, the government created and carried out numerous programs to reduce poverty between 1986 and 1993. Additionally, during the 1993 phase of directed deregulation the government implemented further programs to reduce poverty between 1993 and 1998. The Directorate of Food, Roads, and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), the Better Life Programme (BLP), the People's Bank of Nigeria (PBN), the Community Banks (CB), the Family Support Programme (FSP), the Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP), the National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA), the Agricultural Development Programmes (ADP), the Strategic Grains Reserves Programmes (SGRP), the Primary Health Care Scheme (PHCS), and the Guinea Worm Eradication Programme were among the initiatives during this time.

The nation's first rural infrastructure development program, the Directorate for Food, Roads, and Rural Infrastructures (DFRRI), was established in 1986 with the goal of stimulating rural development by supplying rural communities with a range of infrastructure services from the building, renovating, and maintaining rural feeder roads, rural marketplaces, rural power plants, and rural drinking water systems for groundwater extraction and rainwater gathering. Few rural residents were impacted by the DFRRI program, and those who did not internalize the concepts of self-development ingrained in this ostensibly innovative idea for rural change perceived it as primarily political (Idachaba, 2018).

To increase the amount of land under cultivation, the National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA) was established with the goal of establishing sizable farm communities that were conceptually comparable to the former Western Region FSS. The Agricultural Land Resource Management Program was one of the other initiatives that were particular crops through soil surveys and land evaluation; soil fertility management to monitor and improve their attributes; and rehabilitation to guarantee the preservation of the lands' fertility. Due to a lack of funding and technical staff, the project was never carried out (Ayoola, 2021).

The Rural Water delivery and Sanitation Programme (RUWASSAN) was established in 1995 with the intention of helping States achieve a minimum of 50% nationwide coverage for rural water delivery by the year 2000. The issue with RUWASSAN is comparable to other rural programs that are implemented without taking into account already-existing groups. The services that the State Water Supply Agencies and Health Institutions were created to carry out were supplied by RUWASSAN.

Programs for the empowerment of rural households were also put into place at this time.

started in the 1990s. The program's goals include choosing appropriate areas for the production of The Better Life for Rural Women Programme (BLP) was one such initiative. It was created to help rural residents, especially women, escape poverty and ignorance. Under a military regime in 1994, the program changed its name to the Family Support Programme (FSP). The Federal Government created the Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) by 1997 as an alternative to the BLP and FSP. This empowerment program was created especially for prospective cottage industry entrepreneurs and regionally based producers of goods and services. By promoting suitable economic activity in the different wards of each local government area across the nation, the initiative seeks to raise the standard of living for low-income groups (Obasi and Oguche, 2015). By 1999, every Poverty Alleviation Programs (PAPs) were created by combining these earlier initiatives. The strategy used by all of these programs, both new and old, is microcredit and the encouragement of small, rural businesses (Iwuchukwu and Igbokwe, 2017). The numerous program activities were not prepared for, and the programs were poorly thought out. They had a lot of noise-making, if not propaganda, but not much substance. Because sustainability was not incorporated into their planning, program names were altered whenever a new government took office. Program administrators were the only ones who benefited from the institutions established to oversee the program. The programs were misleading since they forced a reliance syndrome and a "beggar" mindset on rural households, not empowering them to create self-sustaining businesses possess the necessary political and commercial clout to ask for and receive their rights from the government (Ajiteru, 2024).

Post-SAP Democratic Era

Governments created and carried out a number of initiatives and plans to reduce poverty during the democratic era. During this time, the Seven Point Agenda and the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) were launched. Nigeria's indigenous approach to reducing poverty was the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) (PRSP). NEEDS was a medium-term plan that ran from 2013 to 2017, however it was based on the nation's long-term objectives of reducing poverty, creating wealth, creating jobs, and reorienting values. Working closely with state and local governments (via their State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy, or SEEDS) and other stakeholders, NEEDS was a nationally coordinated framework of activity to build upon the successes of the democratic era from 1999 to 2003 (World Bank, 2020). According to Sulaiman (2024), NEEDS has four main strategies: reorienting the populace

with an enduring African value system; expanding the private sector; enacting a social charter for the people; and reforming the government and its institutions.

Reforming Government and Institutions: In order to provide the public with efficient services, NEEDS aims to reorganize, appropriately scale, professionalize, and fortify government and public institutions. It also sought to eradicate waste and inefficiencies so that the government could invest in social services and infrastructure. Expanding the private sector: NEEDS is a development strategy that relies on the private sector as the main driver of economic growth, job creation, and poverty alleviation (Iheanacho, 2014) decrease. The government serves as the regulator, facilitator, and enabler. Businesses are managed, executed, and directly invested in by the private sector. The renewed privatization, deregulation, and liberalization program were the main components of this policy. People were the focus of the NEEDS social charter's implementation; this included their welfare, health, education, employment, poverty alleviation, empowerment, security, and involvement. According to the World Bank (2020), this is the main objective of NEEDS. Obasanjo's government's economic development blueprint, the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), had an impact on President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua's 7-Point Agenda, which outlines policy priorities to fortify the reforms and expand the economy so that the benefits of the reforms are felt by all citizens the nation. Power and energy, food security, wealth growth, transportation, land reforms, security, and education were the topics of the Seven Points Agenda (Federal Ministry of Information and Communications, 2017; Dode, 2020). All of these goals were just mentioned in newspapers; they were never fully implemented, according to Ajiteru (2024).

Nigerian Community-Driven Development Initiatives

Numerous CDD initiatives have been carried out throughout this democratic era, and some are either underway or soon to be completed. These include Fadama II and, more recently, Fadama III, the Community-based Natural Resources Management Project, the Community-based Agricultural and Rural Development Project, the Community-based Poverty Reduction Program (CPRP), the Community and Social Development Project (CSDP), and the Local Empowerment and Environmental Management Program (LEEMP). Below is an explanation of them.

Empowerment of Local People and Project for Environmental Management (LEEMP)

Nine states are implementing the Community Driven Development Project known as the Local Empowerment and Environmental Management Project (LEEMP), which went into force in 2004. Adamawa, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Benue, Enugu, Imo, Katsina, Niger, and Oyo Sulaiman were among the states that took part (2019). In order for communities to finance their own investment goals, LEEMP was created to create an institutional structure for transferring investment resources to them. Furthermore, it highlights that sustainable development and livelihoods depend on environmental management. State governments, participating beneficiary communities, and the International Development Association (IDA) provide funding for it. Using a Community Driven Development (CDD) model that prioritizes social, natural resource, and environmental management, it aims to alleviate poverty, promote growth, and empower individuals. LEEMP promotes social inclusion by means of participation and gender equality. By supporting a range of revenue-generating endeavors, it generates wealth and employment possibilities. In addition to helping communities adopt sustainable farming methods, increase market accessibility, and mainstream environmental issues, it supports legislative and policy changes in the environmental sector (NISER, 2017). These programs tackle Nigeria's issues of inadequate rural environment management, poor use of natural resources, extreme rural and urban poverty, and highly centralized administration (Onah et al., 2013). By encouraging integrated multi-sectoral planning, sustainable environmental impact control, and participatory decision-making within micro-project communities, LEEMP works within the Community-Driven Development concept (Ajiteru, 2024).

The CPRP, or Community-Based Poverty Reduction Project

Increasing the availability and management of development resources at the community level, as well as improving the impoverished's access to social and economic infrastructure, are among the project's development goals. The project's results include improved

infrastructure and services in underserved beneficiary communities; better federal capacity to monitor, support, and assess efforts to reduce poverty; and expanded state capacity to carry out community-driven projects. creation of efficient organizations in 12 states to finance activities and initiatives created by the community; The project's input is capacity building, which was intended to increase the ability of the federal, state, and municipal governments to create policies for poverty reduction and to disseminate them, advocate for them, and raise stakeholder awareness. Sulaiman (2024).

The CSDP, or Community and Social Development Project

Initiated in July 2008, this Community Driven Development initiative is scheduled to conclude in December 2013. The five-year Sector Investment Loan (SIL) known as CSDP enables:

- the expansion of the CDD strategy beyond the CPRP and LEEMP states to other Nigerian states,
- the incorporation of the CDD approach into the three governmental levels' planning methodologies,
- a sustainable, inclusive approach to the problem of human development at the local level, and
- better management of sustainable natural resources. The initiative intends to expand impoverished people's access to social and natural resource infrastructure services in a sustainable manner by supporting:
 - empowering local communities to grow, carry out and keep an eye on microsocial infrastructure projects (public and common pool goods), such as initiatives in natural resource management and
 - enhancing the abilities and capabilities of sectoral public agencies and local government bodies to assist communities and foster collaboration. There are four main parts to the CSDP. These consist of:
 - Coordination and Program Support at the Federal Level (\$10m)
 - The Community-Driven Investment Component (\$170m); the LGA/Sectoral Ministries Capacity and Partnership Building Component (\$20m); and the Vulnerable Groups Livelihood Investment Grants/Transfers Component (World Bank, 2006; African Development Bank (AfDB), 2019).

The A. Fadama Project

Low-lying flood plains with readily accessible shallow groundwater are referred to as "fabama" in Hausa. Fadama usually retains moisture throughout the dry season but becomes flooded during the rainy seasons. Additionally, Fadama describes a seasonally flooded area utilized for dry-season agricultural. According to Qureshi (2019), it is an alluvial lowland that is created by the erosion and depositional processes of rivers and streams. They include resources of water and land that are readily adaptable to irrigation agriculture (World Bank, 2014). These regions are thought to have a great deal of potential for economic growth with the right kind of investments in household goods, infrastructure, and technical support. Fadama are frequently referred to be wetlands when they cover a sizable area (Blench and Ingawa, 2014; Nkonya et al, 2017). Because of the biodiversity they support, wetlands are recognized by the RAMSAR treaty (signed in the Iranian city of Ramsar) and are significant globally. A signatory to this convention is Nigeria. Wetlands are areas of marsh, fen, peat land, or water, whether natural or manmade, permanent or temporary, with flowing or stagnant water that is fresh, brackish, or salty, including areas of sea water whose depth at low tide is less than six meters, according to the Ramsar convention of 1971. Ajiteru (2024).

Approximately 760 million hectares of arid and hyper-arid land are currently utilized for food production through irrigation in developing nations (apart from China) (FAO, 2015). The National Fadama Development Project, which is primarily supported by the World Bank with corresponding money from the federal government and benefits state governments, was designed in response to the desire to fully utilize Nigeria's Fadama resources. Phase I of Fadama-I Implementation of the National Fadama Development Project took place between 1993 and 1999. Fadama-I mostly ignored downstream operations like processing, preservation, and marketing in favor of concentrating on crop production. Fadama-I focused on giving crop producers access to wash bores through straightforward finance agreements

in order to increase total crop production (NFDO, 2015). The Fadama expansion initiative is regarded as a tool for agricultural technical transformation that would enable small-holder farmers to escape the poverty cycle. Regarding the assessment of Fadama-I's effectiveness, the World Bank (2013), Onoja (2014), and NFDO (2015) state that this first phase neglected to address a few crucial economic sectors, as detailed below:

The Fadama-I project increased productivity for producers, but not to keep their excess, preserve it, and sell it. Because of the supply glut, a large portion of the output was either unsold or sold for cheap prices; in other words, the design of Fadama-I did not provide rural infrastructure to guarantee the effective transit of agricultural products to markets.

When it came to planning and carrying out projects and offering consulting services, it failed to include and empower important players like producer organizations, local government organizations, the commercial sector, and civil society organizations. As a result, it brought up issues with sustainability and project ownership. The Fadama project areas' dispute resolution procedures were not covered in Fadama-I. It did not sufficiently take into account the requirements of other users of Fadama resources, including hunters, pastoralists, fishers, livestock producers etc. aside from farmers who are sedentary. Conflict occasionally resulted between the pastoralists and sedentary farmers as their customary paths to grazing and water were cut off. Property damage and physical harm were the outcomes of these altercations.

Fadama-I did not encourage the development of non-farm businesses in rural areas. It ignored chances to add value through processing and other operations in favor of a concentrated emphasis on crop production. Fadama II was born because of the flaws found in the original project.

A continuation of the first phase (1992-1998) is the Second National Fadama Development Project (NFDP-II). The primary goal of NFDP-II is to expand high-value-added farm and non-farm operations in order to sustainably raise the earnings of Fadama consumers. The project, for which payment was announced is supported by US\$100 million from the World Bank and US\$30 million from the African Development Bank (AfDB), with effect from May 27, 2004. It includes the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and eighteen states. The World Bank provides assistance to 12 of the 18 participant states. Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe, the Federal Capital Territory, Imo, Kaduna, Kebbi, Lagos, Niger, Ogun, Oyo, and Taraba are among the states (NFDO, 2017). The project was also created to help participating Local Government Areas and project contracted facilitators carry out project-related tasks at the level of Fadama Community Associations (FCAs) and other Fadama User Group (FUG) beneficiary organizations. Fadama-II was created to combat poverty throughout the course of its six-year operation (2004–2010). Decrease in Nigeria. But it wasn't until September 2005 that the real implementation started (Nkonya et al., 2017). The 2 million rural families in the participating states who are now making a living on the Fadama lands are the immediate beneficiaries. They are not just farmers, though, because a major goal of the project design was to make sure that the different Fadama User Groups (FUGs) learned to respect each other's rights to a shared resource pool and make their own decisions. Consequently, one should consider the potential effects that such activities could have on other people and the Fadama environment as a whole. Sedentary farmers, who make up the majority and are also the most outspoken and powerful group, have historically controlled Fadama use.

Making ensuring that other, less prominent Fadama users—such as fishermen and pastoralists—as well as marginal users—such as hunters and gatherers—were recognized as Fadama users and that their contributions to the upkeep of these lands were valued was one of the project's principal goals. Additionally, disadvantaged subgroups, like widows and the elderly, were specifically targeted to guarantee that they would benefit from project-funded activities. This strategy was intended to prevent instances of elite capture and conflict, both formal and informal, which were major barriers to the original Fadama Development Project's success (Ajiteru, 2024).

Furthermore, a Community Driven Development (CDD) approach with a strong focus on stakeholder participation particularly at the community level—was the project's fundamental strategy. Project-supported facilitators aided in the formation of the Fadama Community Associations (FCAs) and led them through a rigorous group decision-making process that produced LDPs utilizing a variety of participatory methodologies. In this way,

the project made sure that all of the activities that it financed were developed following community-wide, informed discussions that came about as a result of social inclusivity and consensus building (Ingawa et al, 2014). The Federal Government created the National Fadama Development Project (Fadama-II) with the intention of extending the breadth and scale of Fadama-I's accomplishments, which is a key tool for accomplishing the government's goal of reducing poverty in Nigeria's rural areas. At the end of its six-year duration, the initiative was able to meet its goals. In order to accomplish these results, the Five components were designed for the project. These consist of: Demand-Responsive Advisory Services, Pilot Productive Asset, Rural Infrastructure Investment, Capacity Building, and Project Management, Monitoring, and Evaluation (NFDO, 2015). The Local Development Plan (LDP), Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), and the local framework (logframe) are the methods used to ensure the programs' efficacy. However, Fadama-III, the project's expansion to other states in 2010, was made possible by the success of Fadama-II. Reducing poverty among the recipients in Nigeria's 36 states and Federal Capital Territory is the goal.

The Function of Performers in Reducing Poverty

The literature identifies three actors as being involved in every particular nation in an effort to address this issue: the government, bilateral or multilateral international organizations, as well as NGOs (non-governmental organizations). First, poverty can be reduced at the governmental level by allocating funds to the most disadvantaged segments of society. But in Nigeria's modern market philosophy of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), not only is acquiring basic necessities of life becoming more and more a matter of personal economic power, but there is also a search for ways to maximize the extremely limited government resources. Significant deficits in the public sector also necessitate cutting back on or charging for government social services. A serious and deteriorating level of living has resulted from the reduction in the poor's access to these services (Adebayo 2017).

Second, the World Bank and other bilateral and multilateral international organizations have made significant contributions to reducing poverty in the development of human resources by increased funding and policy reforms in the fields of health and education, as well as improving the lives of the most impoverished segments of society through focused employment and nutrition initiatives. The World Bank Group (WBG) recently authorized a \$1.5 billion package to support the development of a robust recovery after COVID-19 and deliberated on a new five-year Country Partnership Framework (CPF) from 2021 to 2024. This contributes to Nigeria's attempts to reduce poverty (World Bank Group, 2020).

Third are non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which function in both developed and developing nations under various titles and guises. NGOs are thought to contribute to fixing the market's and the state's shortcomings (Edwards, 2019). NGOs are seen as a substitute for development, providing creative and neighborhood-focused methods for advocacy, community empowerment, and service delivery (Nader & Foundation, 2016). These groups support people's empowerment, which results in more durable and successful local development services than those supported by the government (Bassey, 2018). It is reasonable to infer that commercial and non-profit organizations' contributions are essential to reducing poverty when taking their aid into account. According to Masoni (2015), the only viable connection between large-scale investments and the farmers or city dwellers to whom the investments are directed is the existence of NGOs in the local community and their unique dedication to improving the lives of vulnerable groups. He went on to say that the target audiences need to be addressed in ways that can be linked to their jobs and lives. In relative terms, he said that government departments typically cannot match NGOs' sensitivity to such issues, as well as their local understanding and operations. As a result, NGOs have had great success over the past thirty years and are now widely acknowledged to have a useful role in reducing poverty.

5. Conclusions

The high rate of poverty in Africa today is a significant developmental obstacle that needs to be addressed immediately. The increasing patterns of poverty across the continent show that despite the attempts to combat poverty with a variety of strategies, not much has been accomplished. As a result, Nigeria ought to take inspiration from other nations. similarity, especially In the 1960s and 1970s, East Asian nations experienced poverty at rates

comparable to those of several African nations. The goal of poverty alleviation programs is to help the poor by lowering their level of poverty, but most of them failed because of the Nigerian government's implementation strategy. It was also found that the majority of these programs did not support the poor. It is now evident that economic growth is a necessary but insufficient prerequisite for reducing poverty. Growth must be supported by a purposeful deployment of an enabling infrastructure that can support economic development in order to be a successful strategy. The government must also provide an investment environment that supports the expansion of the private sector and enables the impoverished to take part in that growth at the same time. Without effective administration, eradicating poverty in Nigeria and throughout Black Africa would be a pipe dream. Good policies are only one aspect of creating a favorable investment climate. According to Sulaiman (2019), it consists of stable, high-quality infrastructure, appropriate institutions, and sound governance.

6. Suggestions

The nation's poverty rate would be significantly reduced if all programs effectively used this CDD to target the very poor. Some of these programs had little effect on the poorest people, either men or women. It means providing men and women with equal access to financial resources. More female engagement must be encouraged. Ajiteru (2024). It is necessary to avoid elite capture in any CDD project with appropriate targeting.

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