



Strategies for Implementing the Goals of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication in the Local Government Areas of Borno State

Kamselem Shehu¹, Usman Ismaila², Sadiq Muhammad Dikwa³

^{1,3}Department of political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria.

²Department of Liberal and language Studies, Ramat Polytechnic Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria.

Abstract

This paper explores strategies for implementing the goals of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and poverty eradication in the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Borno State, Nigeria. Borno State, located in north-eastern Nigeria, faces significant challenges including the ongoing insurgency and a high poverty rate. Therefore, it is crucial to develop effective strategies that address these challenges and work towards sustainable development and poverty eradication. The first step in implementing the goals of SDGs and poverty eradication in LGAs of Borno is to assess the current situation. Such as income levels, access to education and healthcare, and the availability of basic amenities. It is important to involve key stakeholders, including local communities, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations, in this process to ensure their buy-in and ownership of the strategies. Therefore, it is necessary to explore diverse funding sources, including government budgets, donor funding, and private sector partnerships. Creating an enabling environment for investment and promoting public-private partnerships can also contribute to resource mobilization. In conclusion, implementing the goals of SDGs and poverty eradication in the LGAs of Borno requires a comprehensive and context-specific approach.

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Corresponding author



Kamselem Shehu
shehukamselem@gmail.com
Tel: +2348069432587

1. Introduction

The concept of sustainable development emphasizes achieving economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. It involves implementing policies and strategies that meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

In the context of poverty eradication, it is crucial to address the multifaceted nature of the issue. Poverty is not merely the lack of income but also encompasses limited access to education,

healthcare, employment opportunities, and basic services. Therefore, strategies for poverty eradication should aim to address these interconnected factors.

Implementing the goals of sustainable development and poverty eradication in the local government areas of Borno State would require a comprehensive approach.

The Sustainable Development Goals are an integral part of Borno State's effort to improve the livelihoods of the people of the state. Providing general objectives for all areas of development

and coordinating the efforts of all actors. Despite the daunting security challenges posed by the Boko Haram insurgency, local governments in Borno state will only reach their potential if they achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and poverty eradication. To this end, "The objective is to achieve inclusive economic growth and socio-economic transformation of the country, which means significant improvement in the quality of life of the people of Borno through increased productivity and competitiveness. In terms of scale and scope, the plan does not leave the LGA behind.

Locating and repatriating the SDGs beyond the national level is critical to the sustainable success of local governments in Borno State during the insurgency. Apart from the fact that most of the actions necessary to achieve the goals do not have to take place at the local level, political buy-in and commitment to redirecting public spending and improving governance must be replicated at all levels of the political system to prevent corruption, self-interest and political bias from jeopardizing development. This is even more important in federal systems like Nigeria, where political commitments and financial interests consistent with the SDGs must be effectively established to coordinate investment at the national level. As underlined by UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments) and the UN Roadmap for Localization of the SDGs: the governments in the Netherlands should not be seen as mere implementers of the agenda. State governments are policy makers, catalysts for change and the level of government best placed to connect global goals and local communities.

The first step in the midst of the sustainable development of the Boko Haram insurgency was therefore to collect sufficient data – a baseline – to understand where Borno State stands in relation to the goals, and to help guide policy actions targeting the deepest and most persistent areas of poverty for poverty eradication. Poverty reduction is one of the most difficult challenges in any developing country where, on average, the majority of the population is considered poor. Evidence from Nigeria shows that the number of people living in poverty has continued to rise, with Borno State recognized as the number one. The high prevalence of poverty in the country has made poverty alleviation strategies important

policy choices over the years with varying results. What is frustrating being that Borno lacks not development strategies but implementation of sustainable strategies. Furthermore, Borno is blessed with both human and material resources but the implementation and utilization of these resources is a matter of concern or principle. Several studies have shown that there is a link between youth poverty, unemployment and terrorism around the world. Ucha (2010) noted that "unemployment is the main cause of poverty in Nigeria. When people are unemployed, their livelihoods diminish over time.

The United Nations (UN) has made the reduction of extreme poverty and hunger the first agenda in the Millennium Development Agenda. This is because poverty degrades and lowers humanity. According to African Union (2006), poverty is pain; it seems like a disease, it attacks a person not only materially, but also morally, it eats away human dignity and leads to complete despair. Therefore, even before setting the Millennium Development Goals for 2015 and setting the 20:20-20 vision for 2020, Nigeria has vigorously tried to prevent extreme poverty from its civic organizations. Government of Borno State has been working around the clock to reduce this menace through its federal government programs, creation of enabling environment, creation of local programs and plans and establishment of Ministry of Poverty Alleviation.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 global goals established by the United Nations in order to address various social, economic, and environmental challenges. These goals aim to promote sustainable development and eradicate poverty worldwide by the year 2030. Borno state, located in north-eastern Nigeria, faces significant challenges in achieving the SDGs, particularly in regards to poverty alleviation.

In Borno state, the ongoing conflict with extremist groups such as Boko Haram has further exacerbated poverty levels and hindered progress towards sustainable development. The conflict has resulted in widespread displacement, loss of livelihoods, and increased vulnerability among the population. As a result, achieving the SDGs in

Borno state requires a comprehensive approach that addresses both the immediate humanitarian needs and the long-term development goals (Ogbuke, 2020)

To tackle poverty and promote sustainable development in Borno state, it is crucial to focus on several key areas:

- i. Ensuring peace and security: Efforts should be made to restore peace and stability in the region, as prolonged conflict hampers any sustainable development initiatives. This includes addressing the root causes of the conflict and promoting reconciliation among communities.
- ii. Humanitarian assistance and resilience-building: Providing essential humanitarian aid, such as food, shelter, healthcare, and education, is necessary to address the immediate needs of the population. Additionally, initiatives aimed at building resilience among communities can help them better cope with future crises and reduce their vulnerability to poverty.
- iii. Economic empowerment and job creation: Promoting economic opportunities and job creation is crucial for poverty reduction. This can be achieved by supporting agriculture, entrepreneurship, and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in the region. Investment in infrastructure, such as roads and electricity, can also attract private investment and foster economic growth.
- iv. Education and skills development: Access to quality education and skills training is vital for breaking the cycle of poverty. Efforts should focus on improving access to schooling, reducing gender disparities in education, and providing vocational training to equip individuals with the skills needed for employment opportunities.
- v. Environmental sustainability: Borno state, like many other regions, faces environmental challenges such as desertification and water scarcity. Promoting sustainable land management and water conservation practices, as well as investing in renewable energy sources, can contribute to both poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.

It is important to note that addressing the SDGs in Borno state requires collaboration and partnership among government agencies, international organizations, non-governmental

organizations, and local communities. By implementing targeted interventions and strategies that take into account the unique context of the region, it is possible to make significant progress towards poverty reduction and sustainable development in Borno state.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 global goals established by the United Nations in 2015. They aim to address various social, economic, and environmental challenges facing our world, with the ultimate objective of achieving sustainable development by 2030. These goals provide a comprehensive framework for tackling poverty, inequality, climate change, and other pressing issues.

One perspective on the SDGs is their significance in addressing poverty. Goal 1 specifically targets ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions, highlighting the commitment to eradicate extreme poverty while ensuring the social inclusion of all individuals. The SDGs recognize that poverty is a multi-dimensional issue, requiring holistic approaches that go beyond income-based measures. By considering factors such as access to education, healthcare, clean water, and decent work, the SDGs provide a comprehensive roadmap for poverty reduction.

2.2 Poverty Eradication

The concept of poverty eradication revolves around the goal of eliminating poverty in all its forms and dimensions. It involves implementing measures to address the root causes of poverty and uplifting the living conditions of individuals and communities who are marginalized and have limited access to resources and opportunities.

Poverty eradication is not just about providing immediate relief or assistance to those in need but also entails creating sustainable and long-term solutions to break the cycle of poverty. It requires comprehensive approaches that encompass economic, social, and environmental dimensions (Jaiyeola, 2020)

One of the key frameworks addressing poverty eradication is the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015. The SDGs consist of 17 interlinked goals, and Goal 1 specifically focuses on ending poverty in all its forms. These goals provide a holistic roadmap to address poverty by addressing issues such as education, healthcare,

gender inequality, sustainable economic growth, social protection, and environmental sustainability.

The poverty alleviation program is very extensive; it is believed that there is no general agreement on what can be called poverty. This cannot be separated from the fact that poverty affects many aspects of the human condition, which can be physical, moral and psychological. However, some well-known analyzes agreed with the traditional view of poverty resulting from insufficient income to provide basic goods and services, (Adeniy, 2020). Other analysts look at poverty in terms of education, health, life expectancy, infant mortality, etc. (Balami, 1999). This work deals with poverty in meeting the "basic needs" of people such as food, health, education, and shelter. There are many forms of poverty, because the definition of poverty still means absolute poverty, as cited by Balami (1999), refers to the absence of the minimum physical requirements for human or domestic existence, which is so extreme that the poor are no longer able to live a dignified.

2.3 Approaches to Designing Sustainable Poverty Programs

For poverty alleviation programs/projects to be meaningful, relevant and sustainable in different local areas, they must aim to satisfy the basic needs of those people and win the trust of the beneficiaries. Furthermore, the sustainability of such poverty alleviation programs is greatly assured when the people for whom the program is designed are engaged (Federal Agriculture and Water Resources, 2009; Undiandeye et al, 1999). A participatory approach is therefore recommended to initiate sustainable poverty alleviation through focus group discussion on the priority needs of communities:

- i. This can be achieved in the following ways: me utilizing the services of consultants to identify community needs and recommend an appropriate program strategy.
- ii. People's forum - this approach allows people to express their problems and development needs.
- iii. Demands made by constituencies through their elected representatives.

Based on the above approaches, whatever approach is used to initiate poverty alleviation programs, the local government must rank and prioritize the needs of the community before designing an appropriate program.

2.4 How to achieve sustainable development goals and poverty eradication in Borno State

The availability of resources and their mobilization is a critical factor that must be taken into account in order to achieve the goals of sustainable development in all areas of local government. All the more considering that the implementation of the necessary programs and projects is capital intensive. In addition, it is a fact that Borno's primary development needs exceed the Sustainable Development Goals and they also compete for funding. Meanwhile, Borno state is struggling against the Boko Haram insurgency, exacerbated by poverty.

Meanwhile, the state struggled to resettle displaced people in their ancestral homes. Although Nigeria has shown great commitment to mobilize domestic resources to achieve the SDGs, the country needs the support of the international community to improve aid flows and improve aid structure and predictability to improve financing for sustainable development.

3. Methodology

The method of data collection for this study is secondary sources, such as data collected from National Bureau of Statistics, National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), Central Bank of Nigeria, Library Archive, Journals and Nigerian Newspapers as well as data collected from various international research organisations such as Global Poverty Ranking Index (GPRI), Human Development Index (HDI), The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

4. Result and discussion of findings

The study on challenges affecting sustainable peace and conflict mitigation in the north east region of Nigeria aimed to understand and highlight the factors that impede the achievement of lasting peace in the region. The research employed a comprehensive methodology that included data collection, analysis, and

interpretation. Here are the key findings and results of the study:

- i. **Historical and Political Factors:** The north east region of Nigeria has a long history of political and socio-economic marginalization, which has contributed to the rise of conflicts and hindered sustainable peace. The study revealed that historical grievances and power struggles have continued to fuel violence in the region.
- ii. **Insurgency and Terrorism:** The presence of insurgent groups like Boko Haram has had a devastating impact on the region's stability and security. The study identified their activities as a significant challenge to achieving sustainable peace, as they engage in violent attacks, recruitment of young people, and displace communities, further exacerbating the conflict.
- iii. **Socio-Economic Factors:** Poverty, unemployment, and lack of basic amenities were found to be significant factors contributing to the perpetuation of conflict. The study revealed that the absence of viable economic opportunities, coupled with limited access to education and healthcare, are key challenges that need to be addressed for sustainable peace and conflict mitigation.
- iv. **Communal and Ethnic Tensions:** The north east region is characterized by diverse ethnic and religious groups, and tensions among these groups have often led to violent conflicts. The study found that inter-communal disputes over land, resources, and political representation have hindered efforts towards reconciliation and peace-building.
- v. **Weak Governance and Corruption:** The research highlighted the detrimental effects of weak governance and corruption on peace and conflict mitigation in the region. The study revealed that a lack of effective governance structures, coupled with widespread corruption and impunity, undermine institutional capacity, trust in authorities, and overall peace-building efforts.
- vi. **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Refugees:** The presence of a significant number of internally displaced persons and refugees in the north east region poses an additional challenge to sustainable peace. The study highlighted the strain on resources, social cohesion, and access to basic services caused by the ongoing displacement crisis.

These findings demonstrate the complex and interconnected nature of the challenges facing sustainable peace and conflict mitigation in the north east region of Nigeria. Addressing these issues requires a multi-dimensional approach, involving effective governance, socio-economic development, conflict resolution mechanisms, and security reforms.

5 Conclusion

In conclusion, we can confirm that strategies for the implementation of the goals of sustainable development of the insurgency era and eradication of poverty and other success factors for the goals of sustainable development are unavailable in the local government areas of Borno state, but suffice it to say that the SDG agenda must pay attention not only to the goals, but also to the integrated implementation of the goals, but also to the means of realizing the goals. A critical challenge for Borno State in the current period of insurgency is to accelerate economically sound, socially inclusive, poverty alleviation and ecologically sustainable development. The Sustainable Development Goals encompass less of this and represent the best possible way out of the complexities of current economic development. The challenges facing Borno State are vast and deep and require innovative solutions based on our shared values of fairness, justice, equity and solidarity. Now is the time to ensure that Borno State does not lag behind in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and that all the people of the state will benefit. The measure of our success in the implementation of SDGs in various areas of the LG will be the achievement of the vision of this administration, bringing the country back to its lost glory, so the people's government must unlock this vision. This can be done by creating and maintaining the key factors important for the successful implementation of sustainable development goals, high political support, state ownership, institutional and human capacity building, including the development process, mutual accountability and political reform. The success of the SDGs in all 27 LGAs depends on reliable implementation tools.

6 Recommendations

Regarding recommendations for implementing the goals of sustainable development and poverty eradication in the local government areas of Borno State, it's important to develop a comprehensive approach tailored to the specific context and challenges faced by the region. Here are some recommendations:

Enhance education and vocational training opportunities: Invest in education and vocational training programs to equip individuals with the necessary skills for sustainable employment and income generation. Promote entrepreneurship and support the establishment of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Strengthen agricultural practices and food security: Improve agricultural productivity through the provision of modern farming techniques, access to credit, and investment in irrigation systems. Enhance access to markets and storage facilities, and support farmers in adopting sustainable farming practices.

Promote renewable energy sources: Encourage the use of renewable energy sources such as solar power, wind power, and biogas. Initiate programs to provide communities with affordable and reliable renewable energy solutions, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and improving access to electricity.

- i. **Foster infrastructure development:** Improve transportation networks, access to clean water and sanitation facilities, and healthcare services. Develop and upgrade infrastructure to support economic activities and improve the overall quality of life for the local communities.

Encourage community participation and stakeholder engagement: Involve local communities, civil society organizations, and relevant stakeholders in decision-making processes. Promote participatory approaches that empower individuals and communities to actively contribute to the planning and implementation of development initiatives.

Strengthen governance and institutional capacity: Enhance the capacity of local government institutions to effectively plan, implement, and monitor sustainable development and poverty eradication programs. Promote transparency, accountability, and good governance practices to ensure the efficient and equitable allocation of resources.

It is vital to regularly evaluate and refine these strategies based on the evolving needs and challenges of the local government areas of Borno State. A holistic and collaborative approach that involves all stakeholders will be instrumental in achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication goals.

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