

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE MDGs

What is Climate Change and the MDGs?

Climate Change and Global Warming refer to an increase in average global temperatures. Natural events and human activities are believed to be contributing to an increase in average global temperatures. To learn more on Climate Change click on this link <http://geowashnigeria.cfsites.org/climatechangeandwash> or navigate from the home page <http://geowashnigeria.cfsites.org>

The MDGs are international target to half the World Poverty by 2015 or to reduce the world poverty by half.

1. Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Climate change is seriously increasing the poverty lever especially in developing countries. While MDG is targeting on eradicating extreme poverty in one end, Climate Change is exacerbating it at the other end. If Climate Change is not put into proper control, meeting this target by 2020 would be highly implausible. The level of drought in the north and flooding in the south would make agricultural practices difficult and this is going to be an impending tragedy on the entire globe. In the mean time, in the Himalayan, the water that feeds most of the world rivers and streams is disappearing which implies that agricultural practice would be adversely affected.

“Africa's Lake Chad, once a landmark for astronauts circling the earth, is now difficult for them to locate. Surrounded by Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria . . . , the lake has shrunk by 95 percent since the 1960s. The soaring demand for irrigation water in that area is draining dry the rivers and streams the lake depends on for its existence. As a result, Lake Chad may soon disappear entirely, its whereabouts a mystery to future generations” (Plan B 2.0—Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble, by Lester R. Brown). So, you can imagine how this would affect food security in this part of the world!

Since climate change would affect the annual rainfall in these regions, only little rain would be available to recharge their lakes and dams thus making irrigation farming difficult to sustainably practice. This would adversely affect food security. One might rationalize that after all drought would not a As climate change continues to intensifying flooding in the south

2. Achieve Universal Primary Education

During flooding and water related disasters induced by climate change, people get destabilized children become wandered about and displaced. They would suddenly find themselves in conditions they are unprepared their education would be the number one prize that would be paid in change for food, cloth & shelter. During drought children are mostly used to assist in searching day and night for food and water for their family thus abandoning school with increase in sickness and related calamities, most children are

likely to face interference in their education life. Malnutrition for instance, brings about lower rates of concentration in school. Since climate change has high potentials toward affecting parent's economics status, they may no longer be able to fund their children's education which may lead to all or some of the children dropping out for others. All stakeholders in this sector should plan with climate change in view if they are to plan towards sustainable development and achieve this MDGs target.

3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Woman

As global warming intensified climate change, the target to empower women as part of decision making, governing and self-dependent arms of the society would hardly be achieved. This is because as climate change threatens the globe with drought, food scarcity water scarcity desertification etc, woman would be wholly involved searching for food, water fire wood and other domestic activities especially in developing countries while the men would sit at home. Because of the effect of desertification women would have to involve more in deforestation thus aggravating climate change. Although, this challenge varies from one part of the world to another, however women in comparison to men have limited access to decision-making & economic assets which has been historically proved and which would aggravate if climate change is not put into proper control. It is imperative therefore that a gender analysis be applied to all actions on climate change and that gender experts are consulted to spell out individual gender's role in combating climate change so that sustainable development would be focus driving.

4. Reduce Child Mortality by $\frac{2}{3}$ for Children Under Five

This is one of the most sensitive aspects where climate change challenges the MDGs. This is because it has an immediate long term effect on child mortality. Every year, 1.5 million children died of diarrhoeal which is the 2nd highest single cause of child mortality and kills more children than AIDS, malaria and measles combined (WHO/UNICEF 2009) malaria kill more than 1 million children and pregnant women in Africa, central Asia & Latin America it cause 500 million illnesses annually around 40% of the world's population are currently living in malaria – endemic areas. Climate change would expand this range especially as global temperature rises. High temperature favours the condition at which mosquito breeds. As climate change intensifies flooding diseases like diarrhoeal, malaria, cholera, typhoid, Hepatitis-A, dysentery etc would be increases (add from the other page). Children are most likely to be affected by malaria-carrying mosquito because they lack immunity to malaria and since they play outside at nights especially in this climate change induced era.

Climate change would also increase the geographical distribution of Lyme diseases which is spread by tick. Children are more vulnerable because they tend to play on the ground where they can easily be exposed to tick. Due to the low immunity children under 5 are the potential primary.

5.Improve Maternal Health

As one of the primary stakeholders in the vulnerability group, women especially the pregnant and they nursing ones would be adversely affect by climate change. The combine effect of climate change on goal 3 and 4 would definitely be applicable for goal five. We are experiencing the impact of climate change all around us now. We are looking forward to an unprecedented effect beyond the climate change modelling estimation effect. The rate of maternal mortality would be on increase because pregnant and nursing mothers would be restlessly looking for food, water, wire-wood and some other necessities especially in the developing countries.

More so, since water quality would be affected, pregnant women as well as nursing mothers would be threatened by water born diseases. The resulting flooding would also exacerbate poor sanitation related disease which would definitely affect maternal health. It is imperative therefore that all programmes designed to reduce maternal mortality in achieving the MDGs are designed with climate change in view. There is need for all stakeholders in these fields to look at the areas where climate change could possibly affect the sustainability of their programme and incorporate its mitigation in their project. This should be reflected in their risk analysis and the control measure should be spelt out.

Awareness education climate change to the grass-root level should be re-intensified. The media should be involved, the civil society organisation (CSOs), Non Governmental Organization (NGOs), community based organizations (CBOs), faith Based Organizations (FBOs), Parents, Teachers Association (PTSs) other format and informal institution are all primary stakeholders in disseminating awareness education on climate change. Working with climate change experts in education these groups and working in collaboration with these groups in every level of implementation would go along way in building towards sustainable development. Donor organizations should also make climate change one of their primary focus bearing in mind that the huge amount of money invested into sustainable development towards achieving the MDGs would be a waste if climate change is not put into proper control. There is need to act precisely urgently and decisively.

6.Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases

People coping with HIV and AIDS related illness malaria and other disease are not immune to the effect of climate change. Since the improvement of the health of the sufferers and the eradication of these diseases in the primary target of these goals, we have to be duly concerned about how climate change would adversely affect meeting this target.

Research has shown that good water and sanitation practice improve our immune system and reduce our chance of contracting HIV virus. In other words, the immune system of the people living with HIV and AIDS related illnesses would be better – off if they gave access to potable water and

sanitation, since global warming/ climate change is affecting water quality and induced poor sanitary environment we should be expecting this to affect the health quality of people living with HIV/ AIDs.

As mentioned earlier malaria cause 500 million illnesses annually and more than 1 million deaths, mostly among children and pregnant women in Africa, central Asia and Latin America. This value is subject to an unprecedented increase if climate change is not decisively controlled. Already, 40% of the world population currently lives in malaria-endemic areas. Climate change would cause greater exposure. Global warming may have already exacerbated malaria outbreak in north America, given that locally transmitted malaria had occurred in Texas Georgia, Florida, New Jersey, New York and Toronto.

Diarrhea is the second highest single cause of child morbidity & it said to be killing 2.4 million annually of which 1.62million are children weather fire. It kills more than malaria measles and AIDS combined. As we all known all diarrhoeal disease is cause as a result of poor or contaminated water provision, poor sanitation and unhygienic practices. Climate change would intensify the spreading of diarrhoeal diseases most especially in developing countries because of water born disease and unsafe environment. Air born diseases are not an exemption which it comes to climate change induced diseases. Since we known that everything started in the space, air pollution has been identified as primary cause of global warning and increase in air pollution will affect air quality thus induce air born-disease so, in promoting or combating disease to meet the MDGs air quality controls should be taken into consideration.

7.Ensure Environmental Sustainability

There is no much explanation needed to explain how climate change would affect this goal seven. This goal is the primary target of climate change and the same time the solution to climate change verse-versa. How do I mean if we get goal seven right, or if we give goal seven the priority it deserves climate change would be mitigated to the bearest minimal.

Environmental sustainability is the key factor in combating climate change. In other words ensuring environmental sustainability is the main goal with various targets aims at primarily combat climate change. This is the general opinion and beliefs. Anyway while these beliefs and opinion are not disputable, however, for environmental sustainability to cut across all phases of sustainable development as far as Climate Change is concerned, air stakeholders in each goal of the MDGs should also recognized the fact that environmental sustainability cut across their own aspect of the MDGs

Until there is collective realization by all stakeholders that a collective drift of partnership could take place which mark the central target of goal 8.

Therefore, ensuring environmental sustainability should be part of each of the MDGs. All stakeholders in these fields should be made to recognize this, incorporate environmental sustainability with climate change in view to their development programmes from pre policy to post implementation stage. All

hands should be on desk to advocate these effects of climate change on the MDGs.

8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development

Develop a global partnership for development climate change is also affecting global partnership if not seen and viewed from the right perspective.

All intervention agencies that focus primarily in each or some of the MDGs should realized the fact that climate change affects their own aspects of sustainable development and thus realized the imperative need to combat or mitigate the effect of climate change. This collective realization would bring about a collective action for global partnership. This will enable us to act precisely and decisively. When enable aspect of the MDGs is designed or re-designed with climate change in view, then more resources would be focused to this aspect of development, which would reinforce a top-down drift of partnership.

Paper objective: to sensitize policy makers, intervention agencies, donor organizations, NGOs, CBOs philanthropists and other NSAs (Non state Actors) on the with climate change in view in each and all aspects of their intervention. To sensitize the above organizations the need to focus resources on projects aim at mitigating and combating climate change alongside their target goals.

To sensitize the policy makers the imperative need to incorporate climate change mitigation into international and national policy and make it part of all development projects.

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