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POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN NIGERIA

(A CASE STUDY OF UNICEF IN KADUNA STATE 1991-2001)

BY

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DECLARATION

This research project is an original work undertaken by me and submitted in partial fulfillment for the award of Master's Degree in International Affairs and Diplomacy of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

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APPROVAL PAGE

This is certify that the project title "Poverty Alleviation in Nigeria (A case study of UNICEF in Kaduna State 1991-2001" is original work undertaken by me and submitted to the Department of Political Science, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in partial fulfillment for award of Master's Degree in International Affairs and Diplomacy (MAID) of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. It is therefore been approved for it contribution to knowledge and literacy presentation.

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ABSTRACT

Poverty the dreaded disease stands as a stumbling block to the child directly or indirectly. While genuine efforts are being made to articulate poverty alleviation programmes that positively impact on the child, UNICEF, government and several development partners recognize that more creative strategies will be required if we are to attain the decade goals. These creative joint strategies are well spelt out in the UNICEF-Nigeria country programme of cooperation (1991-1995 and 1997-2001) which Kaduna state benefited from. The specialized areas of contraction of the country programme are education, health, nutrition, water and sanitation with regard to Kaduna state. The data collection and analysis were basically to assess the emphasized for it is the pivotal point around which sound health, good nutrition values, drinkable water and sanitation evolve, they can be seen as part of a major system for all a redirect dependent upon the other. Without doubt, the poverty profile of children of Kaduna state is and will always continue to remain in the hands of the policy makers, this will remain a fact that their livelihood is in their custody. The

obvious change is that children development should also be a priority as developing children in a positive direction helps to concretize the quality of the citizens of a nation.

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DEDICATION

THE WORK IS DEDICATED TO MY FATHER ALHAJI SHEHU AHMED WHO INITIATED IT ALL.

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CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Created more than 50 years, ago fundamentally to meet emergency needs of children in the aftermath of World War ll in Europe by the United Nations General Assembly, it has been concerned with the global well-being, and development of children. It is in line with this that the fund provides basic community health services, safe water and sanitation facilities and protect almost 130 million children in over 140 developing countries from death and diseases. Hence, eradicating poverty will therefore go a long way to improving the stratus and well-being of children.

In achieving this, UNICEF's primary concern therefore, is to work with other developmental partners, including national governments.

The reality of the predicaments of children which calls for UNICEF intervention is the "grand and unholy alliance" between diseases

like measles, tuberculosis, polio, diphtheria whooping cough, tetanus and diarrhea. The poverty domain manifests itself in the socio-environment, which has refused to be child-friendly. Hence many Nigerians children are subjected to or survive through child labour (hawking and street labout) prostitution and street begging. Some have taken to all manner of petty crimes from the picking of pockets to the sales of articles of dubious values.

Following the first ever world summit on children in 1990, specific goals to be achieved by the year 2000 were developed. These include, reducing infant and under five mortality by one-third, reducing maternal mortality by ensuring universal access to basic education and guaranteeing universal access to clean water an safe excreta disposal in rural and urban communities. All these are key indications of poverty and to that extent; the general objective of UNICEF could be taken as poverty reduction, particularly for children and mothers.

UNICEF's activities which was first introduced in Nigeria in 1951 with cash grants and technical assistance focusing on improvement of primary, health education and social development, have been expanded over the years. It now consists of five core sectoral programmes including primary health care; nutrition and household ford security; water and sanitation; basic education; children in especially difficult circumstances.

Progressively, however, UNICEF in collaboration with Government has attempted to respond to the various emergency and developmental needs of the country.

In the 60s, UNICEF made significant strides in Nigeria in three major fronts. The first area was mass disease control based on reason being that improving the situation of some Nigeria children and that of their mothers and facilities was sine qua non to good health and development in the country. To re-enforce this UNICEF supported the establishment of public health services to facilitate health care delivery.

Another area of a concern is malnutrition. This was considered the bane of Africa. Based on a report on the dreadful effects of malnutrition among African children and their mothers UNICEF, started a school feeding project to meet the needs of children and mother with the supply of vitamin capsules.

1.1 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The relevance of poverty alleviation in any society can not be overemphasized. It is an effort which can ensure the creation of a relatively stable and peaceful society.

In developing countries like Nigeria poverty alleciation programme should be a well articulated programme derived from the realities of the nation and concern, in such a way as to compliment other areas of nation building.

The problems of poverty alleviation in Kaduna State in particular and Nigeria in general, can be seen in the following: -

- The incoherent development plans in Nigeria and the various development partners like UNICEF, WHO and UNDP on poverty alleviation have profound impact on poverty alleviation in Nigeria and in Kaduna State in particular.
- Our society needs to redirect its focus on poverty alleviation from that of spectator to real participant.
- The situation of poverty level in Nigeria with particular reference to Kaduna state is a reality that manifest a worsening incidence and severity over the years.
- The culture of non-appreciation of the objectives and achievements of poverty alleviation programme in Nigeria and Kaduna state in particular.

1.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.2.1 AIMS

The focus of the study is to examine the efforts of UNICEF in poverty alleviation in Kaduna state.

1.2.2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study are to:

1. Identify the objective of UNICEF
2. To assess either the objectives of UNICEF are achieved in Kaduna State.
3. Identify the possible areas of its operations such as vaccine, and Education within the state.
4. Assess the contribution by UNICEF to improved child-education.

1.3.0 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This project is on UNICEF in Nigeria with particular emphasis on its intervention in poverty alleviation in Kaduna state.

1.3.1 LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

Like many other research works, this project has many obstacles that affected data collection. UNICEF officials were reluctant to cooperate. And getting data released from government officials was not easy too. Although many papers have been written on poverty alleviation, the literatures on the real condition of the devastating poverty among children in Kaduna state are scantly.

Finance was a serious constraint due to the unimaginable fuel price hike, epileptic salary payment and much other financial unreliability, which contributed to make the writing of the project a Herculean task.

1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study in question is of tremendous relevance and justifiable, for the reason that rehabilitation and rescuing people from poverty is highly relevant to the entire society.

The study would be of tremendous relevance to academicians or scholars and stakeholders engaged in reach or interest and in the activities of UNICEF. It will provide room for more studies.

Further more, it would reveal areas that need improvement from the development partners, the government and the general public.

Finally, the study would be of relevance to the various communities and the society at large on how to ensure and develop the effort intervening in such important sectors.

1.5 ASSUMPTION

Poverty alleviation in Kaduna state has not been achieved despite the role played by UNICEF's contribution.

Lack of mutual cooperation between UNICEF and other development partners is not responsible for the difficulty encountered in poverty alleviation.

1.6 METHODOLOGY AND SOURCES OF DATA

The collection of appropriate data in any research activities involves deliberate and planned efforts. Data was collected using two (2) main sources, namely primary and secondary sources of data.

Primary sources involve original information obtained through personal observation and questionnaire administered to certain officers in the field and the beneficiaries based on random sampling. The secondary source of data on the other hand include information sought or obtained from documented records, books, magazines, journals, encyclopedia, e.t.c.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The significance of literature review can not be overemphasized. Different scholars hold different views on the poverty situation of children.

The United Nation (UN) convention on the rights and welfare of the child and charter on the right and welfare of the not the right to which a child is entitled but also specifies the suite which state, partners should provide for the welfare of children.

They emphasis the need for legal provision to promote and protect the right and welfare of the children. This for the simple reason that children too like anyone else are human beings but also the recognition. As the African chapter puts it, that child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguard and

care. It would be wrong, therefore, for anyone to think that the recognition of this special vulnerability of the child and the creation of legal safeguard for him is an exclusively modern phenomenon. More than a thousand years ago this noble cause of safeguarding the welfare of children was espoused by Islamic law in both commitment and action and in pursuit of that commitment, certain basic inalienable rights and legal safeguards were promulgated for the benefits of all children. The Qur'an, the primary source of Islamic law, initiated this unprecedented and pioneering venture by declaring certain basic rights for the protection of children, which in the conception of Islamic law, have since been of universal and external validity. According to the Holy Qur'an "when she gives birth to a girl instead of a boy, she said Rabbi. I have given birth to a girl" Allah knew very well that she has delivered. "And that the male is not like a female. I have named her Maryam (Mary) and I seek your protection for her and

her children from the mischief of shatan, the accursed". (Sura 3 verse 36).

The protection of the rights and welfare of children, having been adopted as an early commitment of Islamic law, a variety of approaches were also adopted for it realization. A measure favoured by Islam which has also been adopted by the convention and the African charter is the embodying of children's rights and entitlement in clear, unequivocal, mandatory legal rules and safeguards. According to this approach it is never enough to merely acknowledge the principle that children are vulnerable and entitled to certain special consideration. But the law must make a positive declaration of such rights and provide detail safeguard. This is the position taken by sharia from the start. The sharia law includes within itself, law, religion and ethics, and it to put multidimensional approach covering the total personality of the child.

According to Hung (1991:201) children belong to the nation. To him if a nation is to survive in a competitive and Darwinian world, its children would have to become physically fit to enable them carry out their destined roles as male worker and soldiers and female wives and mother. Elaborating his view, he brought out two major issues which concern children. First there was the question of the proper treatment of “the children of the state” those under the authority of the poor law; secondly there was the State department with responsibility for children. Drawing from the above position, it can be seen that, Hugh seems to be of the view that children’s physical fitness and well-being is necessary only for the survival of the State, it is worthwhile nothing that whether for strong nation or not, children as part of their right need protection of a kind from the nation.

Burt ed. (1997:373) argues that children are always victims. But the likely identify of the victimizers and the protectors is more problematic. He further emphasized the baseless point normally

advanced by victimizes; adults, in justifying their point of victimizing which according to them is to instill notions of responsibility and decorum into their mischievous head. Though the abusing parent can not be said to be consciously hypocritical in his claim but is simply blind to the incongruity of his belief that these brutal injuries could teach his children anything but abject terror. The parent is blind to differentiate between the massive pain inflicted on the children and the minor breaches of decorum that promoted this relation by him. The children's physical injuries and the adult account of the origin of those injuries would require us, if we were school teachers, physicians or other professionals to notify state officials under the mandatory child abuse reporting laws now in force in every State. From the above mentioned point the writer did well to explain the justification of some parents on instilling injuries on children and what these cost such children. He however, did not explain an alternative way of guiding children towards norms of responsibility and decorum.

Polier ed (1974. Xiv) writes on the fact that institution, whether judicial or administrative, largely determines the rights of children, like schools and welfare services. They inevitably reflect both the knowledge and the ignorance both the concern and prejudice, both the general and the niggardly qualities that have shaped any society. She went further to point out that recent report provides clear evidence that hunger, malnutrition delinquency, lack of health care, inadequate education, and discrimination remain areas of crisis, if not disaster for children. The monumental deficiencies in services are compounded by a lack of determination to tackle the problems of children whose lives are subject to the crippling effects of what we do and fail to do. It can be observed that recent steps taken to protect the legal right of children reflect the hard work of many individuals. Unfortunately their steps have been paralleled if not outpaced by a growing awareness of the low value placed on children. Thus while we move towards establishing legal rights we are also confronted with

the persistent undermining of the basic props that make life meaningful, while our rhetoric reflects the mythology about children with the stigma of feeling neither wanted nor needed. It is this pathology blindness that alienates ant destroys the capacity in children for caring for others or having hope for themselves.

In modern societies, it may be through self-evidence that the state should use its power to intervene between parent and their children in order to defend children from various kind of ill-treatment, inadequate care or poor upbringing. Writing on the importance of child-care law and policy, Harding (1996:2) reflects on the widely known and accepted fact that not all parents are for and socialize their children well. There is much evidence of various kind of abuse. From time to time extreme cases of child cruelty leading to death hit the headline and provoke much media condemnation of agent of the state. It seems legitimate for society, the force of law if necessary to act when such standards are not achieved. There is a strong popular sense of society's duty protect;

the social workers are criticized for not having used more fully and willingly the powers of the state. Sometimes the actual limits of these powers are misunderstood, but is appears at first glance that there must be a consensus here that the state should indeed have, and use extensive legal powers to act against and overrule the apparently “natural” powers of parents where there is a need to protect the child. Poverty can be seen as the state of being poor, the state of not having enough money to take care of basic needs such as food, clothing and housing. Poverty can be seen as lack: Deficiency or lack of something. And also infertility of soil lack of soil fertility or nutrients.

Aboyade (1987:34) whose view falls in line with the general trend as regards poverty says that, poverty as a concept is difficult to handle. And that what is universal is the easy nature to which poverty is recognized and defined. Thus, even though it is difficult to be specific about the minimum level of well-being or the state of poverty, the poor in any given society usually stands out sufficiently

in terms of acute material deprivations for their wretch conditions to be immediately recognized. To him poverty is or may be seen as a reflection of glaring defects in the economy as evidence in mass penury, pauperization of the working class and professional class including artisan, mass unemployment and poor welfare service, he stated in absolute terms the fact the insufficient or total lack of necessities and facilities like food, housing, medical care, education social and environmental service, consumer goods, recreational opportunities, neighborhood amenities and transport facilities are sufficient indicators of a state of poverty-stricken when incomes are inadequate for survival and falls behind that of community average. In this regard however, what might be considered as poverty level in one community might well be the height of well-being in another.

Sancho, (1996:60) is of the view that poverty is a situation where an individuals not able to cater adequately for his/her basic needs of food, clothing and shelter, it is also seen as a situation where

the individual is unable to meet basic social and economic obligations with a multiplier effect of reducing gainful unemployment, skills, assets and self-esteem; and has limited access to social and economic infrastructure such as education, health, potable water and sanitation and hence have limited chance of advancing his/her welfare to the limit of his/her capabilities, Sancho however, fall short of the fact that at times even those who have employment, skills assets and self-esteems might be at times regarded as poor. This is in a situation where all these basic elements are not available, needs are inadequate to meet basic social and economic obligations in life.

CAUSES OF POVERTY

Development literature on remote causes of poverty in developing countries, hinges on adverse international development, world recession, series of economic reforms undertaken by countries and the crushing burden of foreign debt. The fundamental causes of

poverty, however are domestically based and include, inadequate production and income; difficult access to employment opportunities; poor quality of labour force, low level of technology; inefficient use of resources, and lack of access to credit facilities and other productive resources.

Aluko (1975;54) to him, this attributes of poverty may be classified into structural, economic, social and cultural and political deprivation. The structural dimensions appear more permanent and manifest a vicious cycle, reflecting limited productive resources, lack of skills for gainful employment locational disadvantage and inadequate income to obtain the basic necessities of life. The social dimension of poverty is largely a gender issue since the greatest weight of poverty is born by women household heads and children from poor homes. However, the conventional notion depicts poverty as a condition in which people are below a specific minimum income level and are unable

to provide or satisfy the basic necessities of life needed for an acceptable standard of living.

What seems to inform Ismaila (1995;7) about poverty, as it relates to population projection is the fact that these two variables are very topical and interesting and as such attack the attention of many Nigerians. The drawing concern lay emphasis on the fact that, population explosion usually have an adverse effect on living standards especially in most developing countries where income grow continues to fall to intolerable levels. He talks of the fact that ascertaining the size of population should be best done in the light of bringing out the different structures, size of each age group and its regional distribution process to him, will enhance reasonable projection which will help adequate economic planning for the future, he went further to explain that, no matter how good or bad the economy of the country seems to be, population growth requires more-food, land, education, health services and as well as environmental protection. He stressed out the environmental

protection. He stressed out the fact that, rapid population growth might not be a negative phenomenon if such a growth is reciprocated with a growth in GDP.

Also progress in human development can be gauged from the degree of political freedom, guaranteed human right and personal self-respect; he concluded his observation by concluding that, government should intensify efforts to develop its human resources. The decline in the standard of education and health care services could have long-run effects on the quality of the labour force. The tremendous slow down in technological progress does not augur well for rapid growth in output and income, there is therefore the need to focus increased attention to improve macro-economic and sectional policies with a view to raising the national income, both in the short and medium term.

Ufuoma ed. (2000.16) extensively wrote on Obasanjo's poverty alleviation programme, to her poverty is not unexpected. The UN human right charter and other conventions and Declaration all

recognize and indeed emphasis the fact that, poverty is a brutal denial of human right. The declaration of the UN decade (1997-2000) for the eradication of poverty has its foundation in the UN human Right Charter of December 10, 1984. Given the above, any democratic government that assures and respect human rights must put poverty alleviation in the front.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) describes poverty as "anti-human Development." The World Health Organization (WHO) on its part says of poverty, that is wields its destructive influence at every stage of human life, from the moment of conception to the grave. It conspires with the most deadly and disease to bring a wretched existence to all who suffer from it.

Poverty profile of Nigeria, shows that Nigeria is in a firm grip of poverty, a Federal Office of Statistics (FOS) (1996) survey shows that about 2/3 of Nigeria's population live below poverty line or less than 1$ a day. The implication of it is that over 70 million Nigerians grovel in poverty going to bed each night without food.

Could be argued that, a poverty free Nigerian society is possible, achievebale and indeed attainable. All it requires is the governments' political will and determination by diligently using the people centered "bottom-top" approach and development options that are equitable and sustainable with an enriched enabling environment aimed at capacitating the poor to fit and contain the scourge of poverty themselves.

Ufuoma ed. (2000.16) went further to emphasis the fact that alleviating poverty is mainly about building and expanding the capacity of the poor to empower them and make them active partners in tackling poverty. The design and implementation of poverty alleviation programmes that will succeed must be guided by the needs, of the poor rural folks as identified by them. This point is just to add more flesh to the fact that only the poor themselves can best understand their needs. Hence, they should be actively involved in any programme geared towards poverty alleviation. By so doing, the target group must first of all be

indentified and any project so design must adequately achieve its objective.

Looking at past governments, it can not be any gainsaying to say that their efforts towards poverty alleviation which have always include elephant projects are usually lip service. Hence, it is important to note that, any serious and concerted approach that will not go the way of other attempts in the pat must de-emphasis the "top-down" approach, in previous attempts at poverty alleviation coupled with the failure to work directly with the communities and Non-Governmental organizations as it is done in other lands, have been largely responsible for the non-success of previous schemes.

According to Ufuoma ed. (2000.16) the failure of any poverty alleviating scheme, the effect of the worlds deadliest and the biggest single underlying course of death, diseases and suffering in the country. She back up this view with the fact that all what is needed for successful poverty alleviation are readily available.

Besides other factors human freedom that acts as a catalyst of sort for sustainable human development is assured following a peacefully transition from totalitarian rule to participatory governance.

In conclusion, the main concern of every policy maker therefore should be geared towards poverty alleviation. It is only by so doing that, the standards of living if its subjects can improve. Hence, ensuring a better living condition for the children who are the price of every nation in the future.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF UNICEF

The creation of the United Nations in 1945 represented the coming of age of international cooperation. Its immediate spur was the destruction caused by world war 11, but behind this laid a long –term desire to promote world peace. There was however, no idea of setting up within the constellation of new institutions special organization for children. The creation in 1946 of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund was an accident of early cold war politics. The prospective in Europe were grim. The winter in 1946-1947 was particularly bitter. Millions of people were still without proper shelter, fuel, clothing or food. Children especially were suffering; in some affected areas, half of all of babies were dying before their first birthday. The Allies, anticipating widespread devastation at the end of the war, had established the United Nations relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) in 1943 to provide general assistance.

But the iron curtain descended, and the United States Government refused to go on using UNRRA as relief channel because it was aiding countries in both western and Eastern Europe.

Just as UNRRA was abount to be winded off, however, voices were raised up at its final meeting in Geneva to protest the fate of Europe's children. The delegate from poland, Ludwig Ranchman was particularly vocal, and the meeting accepted the proposal; that UNRRA's residual resources should be put to work for children through a UN international Children's Emergency Fund.

Ranchman was regarded therefore, as the funder of UNICEF. The executive Director, Maurice pate, made it a condition of his service that there was no caveat about whether the aid (mostly dried milk) might go, insisting that UNICEF support equally children in vanquished as well as victorious countries.Subsequently on 11, December 1946 a resolution of the UN General Assembly number 57(1) brough UNICEF into being.

Fortuitously, therefore, the children's fund become part of that continuing experiment international Cooperation that has since constituted the United Nations system.

Coincidentally and almost unnoticed, the international community had also embrace the new central principle that children were above the political divide.

This was quickly put to the test some of the most important early program supported by UNICEF were established in east European countries, Poland Romania and Yugoslavia as well as Germany. And in the late 1940s, UNICEF provided relief assistance on both sides of the civil wars in China and Greece. It also sent aid to children in the Middle East uprooted by the creation of Israel.

UNICEF was established to heal children damaged by war. But it stayed in existence to take on a much broader role. While UN member states had not intended to prolong UNCEF's life beyond the postwar emergency, they did include in its founding resolution the phrase "for child heath purposes generally", and this was to offer the children's Fund a permanent niche in the large scale control and prevention of diseases affecting children.

When the time camein 1950 for the UN to close down it "ICEF" a successful lobby was mounted to save it, this time, it was the new nations of the

developing world that spoke up. How, asked the delegate from Pakistan, could the task of international action for children be regarded as complete when so many millions of childrenin Africa, Asia and Latin America Languished in sickness and hunger, not becouse of war, but becouse of the age-old problem of poverty?. Again the plea did not go unheard. This was first turning-point in UNICEF's history. In 1953, the General Assembly confirmed the children organization as a fixture in the UN system.

UNICEF at this time dropped "international" and "Emergency" from its title-becoming simply the United National Children's Fund although retaing its acronym. But it never sbsndon the children in crisis those affected by war, conflict, drought, famine or any other emergency.

However, its mission expanded as the post-colonial era presented it eith a new challenge.

In the late 1950s, and early 1960s, the winds of change were to blow away most of the remaining colonial order in Africa Aand the Caribbean.

And at the United Nation s U.S President, John F. Kennedy urged an end to the poverty in the newly independent countries of the developing world. UNICEF took up that challenge on behalf of children. This was the second major turning –point in UNICEF's history.

The "development" era redefined the children's cause. Children previously had been seen as objects of purely humanitarians and welfares concern, as "Children

in distress" or as "children in poverty" to be taken in to care of given supplementary support. Like a refugees the elderly or the disabled, children were regarded as a special group. But according to the new development perspective, children were not another cause. They were part of every cause, among the hungry, the sick, the ill-fed, the poorly clothed, the homeless, the jobless, the illiterate and the destitute, there were always children and unless they were arphaned or abandoned children could never be treated in isolation from their parents and families, and especially not from their mothers.

From the perpective, a mission on behalf of children was no longer near and self contained. Helping nations to help their children demanded

engagement in many areas of human activity. It certainly involved creating services to help children directly, such as maternal and child heath, early childhood care and primary education. But also demanded others that were not specific to children such as water supplies and sanitation, slum and shanty town renewal, and credit facilities for women entrepreneurs.

The same breath of concern also affected their children, agriculture, industrialization, population growth, woman's rights, environmenttal depletion and urbannization. The list grew steadly-later including debt, structural adjustment and the post cold war transition.

The response to the problem of children thus involved into a subset of the growing past colonial "science" of development and the quest to eradicate poverty within this broarder pursuit, however, UNICEF argued that children had to be single out becouse they suffered the most acutely from poverty.

As a result, they were also poverty's most sensitive barometer.

Down the years, the UNICEF response to children's need finder went many changes. In the 1950s, it involved mass canpaigns agaist the menance of epidemic, disease: tuberculoses, trachoma, leprosy and malaria. In the

1960s, the development movement emphasized the miracles to be brought by transferring capital and techonology from rich countries to poor and by investing in human capital, including children – “our most precious resources”, in the 1970s, doubts abount development experience grew more prominent, and disillusionment with the pursuit of economic growth led to a research for alternative approach that were more people community-centered.

In the 1980s,brought further disappointment as the economiest of many countries in Africa and Latin America went into precious decline and was forced into budgetary cuts and readjustment, indeed for many parts of the world the1980s can also legitimately be described as lie decade in which their course was re-found.

Advancement for child right the replacement of the 1959 declaration of the rights of the child with a weightier international legal instrument.

In the 1989, the UN General Assembly passed the convention on the rights of the child. This entered into force in the following year, and as with child survival and development revolution it toughed a highly responsive chord and forced fewer obstacles to ratification than most other human rights instruments.

The year 1990 was there a watershed for children. The world summit and the passage into international law of the child were crowing moments of twin campaigns for children at the leading edge of human development, and for children at the cutting edge of human rights.

These campaigns may have crystallized during the 1980s, but their expansion belongs to the whole course of the post-warld war11 and post coclonial period. In the decade of the 1990s, there campaigns have converged and begun to take on each others coloring and perspective.

In the uncertainties of the post-cold war era, the outstanding question for UNICEF and other companions of the children's cause is whether the momentum for children will continue to grow amidst the clamour in the 1960s, UNICEF made significant stride in Nigeria on three major fronts. The first area was mass control, based on the conviction that of Nigerian providing grand that of their mothers and families was important. To give more substance to this, UNICEF did not relent its effort by establishing public heath care facilities to easy the delivery of health care.

The second major area was the concern of high level of malnutrition considered. A "silent killer disease "in Africa.

A typical project during this period included the distribution of dry skimmed milk for distribution to 5,000 pre –school age and 7,000 school aged children in the country. In addition the provision of milk to mothers and cildren proved to be an incentive for their regular clinic attendance.

Another area was relief supply during the civil war, 1967-1971. UNICEF with the international committee of the Red cross provided humannitarian assistance for the 30-month war. UNICEF brought in some relief materials to alleviate the trauma of the war on both sides of the conflict. Abount 5.5 million children and mothers were catered for with food shipments and supply of materials.

Even after the war, UNICEF supported other international non-governmental organization to confront the problem of hunger, health and housing conditions of victims. UNICIF was in a position to contribute to the post war relief and reconstruction effort in all the distraught territories. In 70s, the executive board approved an allocation of over $7million for rehabilitation of schools and health care centres, and for the expansion of children services in the country.

After the war, the emergency character of intervention metamorphosed into a more development oriented programme geared towards the welfare of Nigeran's children.

Following the approval by the executive board in 1972 of study on "children and Adolescent; goals and priorities in the second development decade", UNICEF global programme became more develoment oriented. The net effect was more integrated social programming, which emphasized local support and popular participation.

1970s witnessed major interventions in water supply. Due to high incidence of guinea warm cases, UNICEF supported the provision of pumps in several parts of the country, especially the East, where guinea warm infection was it major cause for concern.

A major aspect of the country plan of operation between 1970 and 1990 was the control off preventable diseases were major contributions to high infant and child morbidity and mortality in developing countries in Nigeria along side malaria, acute respiratory infections and malnutrition are the most common.

From February 1986 to 1989, the programme of immunization (EPI) and oral rehydration therapy (ORT) were implemented by UNICEF as an integrated programme of federal, state and local government levels.

In 1989, the Structure Adjustment Programme (SAP) had a far reaching impact particularly on health, education, nutrition levels and environmental conditions for the most vulnerable group- children and woman.

In a final communiqué of a consultative meeting held in Paris to mobilize foreign assistance for Nigeria UNICEF presented a statement strongly advocating greater focus on the social dimensions of structural adjustment and more projects to assist vulnerable groups. These position suggestions received attention in the 1991-92 rolling plan.

Between 1991 and 1995, a new country programme of cooperation between UNICEF and the federal, government of Nigeria was designed and implemented to achieve basic objectives and targets relating to children.

Having been partners for three years, the government of Nigeria and UNICEF recently develop a new country programme of cooperation which came into effect from 1 January 1997 until December 3 2001, file current programme focuses on primary health care (PHC), improved nutrition, provision of quantitative basic education for boys and girls, adequate access to water and improved sanitation and development of appropriate measures to protect children in need of special attention.

The objective of the programme among others includes:

- Broaden and consolidated knowledge on the situation of children and woman with respect to the National programme of Action [NPA] goals at all levels of the Nigeria society.
- Improved awareness and implementation of the convention on the rights of child in support of achieving NPA goals.
- Support the expansion of the basic social services in a sustainable way to reach the least development and most underserved states and local government areas and communities.

3.1 ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION OF UNICEF

UNICEF is a semi autonomous but integral part of the United Nations system, with its own governing body. This 36-member executive board establishes policies review programmes and approves budgets for the organization. The UNICEF secretariat, headquarter in New York carries out its work through more than 200 officers covering over 160 countries.

There are also officers in Copenhagen, Geneva and Tokyo and a research centre in Florence.

UNICEF in Nigeria operates through one head officer Lagos and four zonal offices. (Enugu, Ibadan Kaduna and Bauchi). A liaison office operates from Federal capital territory. (FCT).

UNICEF works in close cooperation with NGOs and other United Nations agencies, to identify the need of children and use the energies and capacities of individual, families, communities and governments to help countries address those needs. Some 85% of

UNICEF staff work in the field, assisting needs, evaluating plans and liaising with government partners to provide services, secure supplies and stimulate local capacity.

The UNICEF supply division with its headquarters in Copenhagen provides the, logical and supply requirements for programmes, shipping essential drugs such as oral rehydration salt, vaccines and immunization equipment, and emergency supplies such as blankets tents and water pumping and storage sets.

The cooperation of UNICEF and Government is usually through different ministries in Nigeria and agencies. The programme which is usually developed every five years are articulated in a master plan of operation [MPO].

A basic cooperation Agreement (BCA) provides the legal foundation for UNICEF's organizational presence and programmes in Nigeria. The existing BCA was signed in 1977.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 UNICEF INTERVENTION IN KADUNA STATE

Kaduna state is made up twenty three local government areas, and as total population of 4.8 million people according to 1990 National population census projection. 189,580 of the population are children aged 00-11 months, and 976,334 are between the ages of 5 years, while 1,042,687 are woman of child bearing ages. [from ministry of education report 1998].

The main occupation of the people of the state is farming and trading. The system of farming is mostly subsistence farming which gives one a clear indication of the economic situation of the people.

Kaduna state is one of the ten state that benefit from the country programme of cooperation between the Federal Government of Nigeria and UNICEF in [1991-1995], and from the new country

cooperation is geared towards specialized activities such as health, education, and water supply, hence this chapter will look in vivid terms the situation of these activities as obtained in Kaduna state.

4.1 AREAS OF INTERVENTION: HEALTH, EDUCATION & WATER SUPPLY

ALL government efforts are to provide health care facilities at the local, state& national level. Access to health care facilities is one guarantee of the child's right to life. It is against this back drop that the national policy on health emphasized the need for preventive health care at the primary levels. To adequately realize this objective of health for all by the year 2000 and beyond. The activities and activities and project are directed under the PHC which is a department of the ministry of health.

Kaduna state has a total of about 601 phc facilities.

PHC programme consists of the following major project:

Expanded programme on immunization [EPI]

Oral Rehydration Therapy and control of Diarrhea Disease onchecerciasis control.

Mortality and morbidity.

Baby- friendly Hospital initiative: [BFHI]

Community-based primary health care.

Its should be noted that the UNICEF Zonal office is to supervise and ensure the effective implementation of the projects. For the purpose of this work only some of this project will be examined.

4.1.1 EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION [EPI]

For decades UNICEF had conducted a high profile campaign to reach the target of 80% immunization. Looking at the general result, one can say it is spectacular, saving the lives of 3 million children a year and protecting many million more from malnutrition and disease.

A serious attempt to guarantee child survival was made in the late 80's when the UNICEF- assisted EPI was 80% successful. This success was short lived for the gains were lost by the mid 90's. In July 1996, the EPI metamorphosed into the National programme on immunization [NPI].

Since its launching, it can be said that a large percentage of children have not been immunized.

4.2 EDUCATION

There is no gain- saying that education has been termed " A window of tomorrow, hence the right to education is central to long –term prospects of the Nigerian child. In recent times education has gained greater attention from various members of society who have expressed concern about the falling standards in our educational system. This can be associated to the fact that,

while some of the proprietors see education as a money spinner, others have more noble intentions.

There are many like missionaries of old, who are committed to improving the quality of education. The efforts did make some impact and benefited a few.

Looking at Article 28, section one of the United Nations convention on the rights of the child stipulates that states recognize the right of the child to education subsection (a) of the same article goes on to state that primary education most be made compulsory, available, and free for all. Education helps to develop a child "personality, talent, mental and physical abilities to their fullest potentials" in addition to that education is suppose to teach the child to have respect for his identity, parents language, social value rights and freedom.

The situation in Kaduna state seems to oppose to the above postulation holding firm to the fact that economic, social and cultural factor s have made it impossible for many children to go to

school. Poverty has always been seen as the obstacle to education.

Another reason is that Kaduna state like other state of the North; Female children are only grudgingly allowed to go school because of religious and cultural beliefs. Some parents see it as negative western influence UN human development review (1995).

In many rural areas, children have to go long distance on foot to attend school. These children often drop out of school entirely. Limited job opportunities, law prospects for further education, and language differences between the school and home have also been cited as reasons for low enrollment.

It has however been concluded by the world conference on education of all march 1990 held in Jotien, Thailand, that children can learn in spite of the circumstances in which they may find themselves.

In Kaduna state UNICEF has focused on pre-primary and primary education as one of its major drivers, with emphasis on the education of girl child aged between 8 and 14 years. Under the broad heading of education pre primary and primary education will be reviewed.

4.2.1 PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION

This is specifically known as Early Child- Care Development (ECCD). It deals with children below the primary school level that is children of the ages of 3 to 5 years.

UNICEF in collaboration with the ministry of education of Kaduna state see this level of education as very crucial and important in preparing children for the primary school level.

A general programme of identification assessment and sensitization/mobilization for expansion is being carried in 18 local government area of the state.

It should be noted that this assistance earlier child-care development (ECCD) got from UNICEF was stopped for some time. Every form of materials necessary for the programme was left in the hand of the state government. With this it become difficult for the scheme to succeed because the state government was not able to finance the activities. However, with the introduction of Universal Basic Education (UBE) by Nigerian Government there is resumed hope in that direction.

4.2.2 PRIMARY EDUCATION

As regard to primary education in Kaduna state, a total of 24 schools in 12 local government area benefit from the UNICEF assistance.

- There benefits are in terms of capacity building. That is the training of trainers and administrative staff in these schools.
- There is also the supply of instructional materials. These materials are in the form of slates, chalk, Textbooks, maps, over head projects etc.

- Another form of contribution to the schools is in the form of providing vehicles to aid supervisors to go though to supervise schools. This act to ensure efficient and effectiveness. Apart from these vehicles, motor cycles and bicycles are also provided.
- UNICEF also provides date processing materials. This is geared towards effective storage and analysis of data. Still in line with the assistance is the aspect of water and sanitation. This is done through the provision of polywells used for storage of water and also plastic buckets.
- On heath as aspect, there is the provision of first AID kits and the training of health and hygiene workers who emphasizes to the pupils the need of personal hygiene as an alternative to good health.

Generally speaking, it was observed that, this aspect of UNICEF contribution was some how effective because it is

geared towards the grassroots involvement. The community actively participate in there educational programmes. Despite these position aspects there are some general obstacle that were identified.

4.3.1 WATER SUPPLY

Majority of Nigerian lives in overcrowded sub optimal housing without running water. Referring to the convention of Right of child [article 24 paragraphs C and E], to which Nigeria was the first signatory among Africa nations, the goals of the programmes is to contribute to the reduction of child mortality from water born disease, and the reduction of household drudgery in fetching water, to contribute to sustain programme output to give minimum quality standard and at reasonable cost.

The daily quest for safe drinking water has resulted in the proliferation of children hawking pure water of doubtful quality. Many households in urban and rural area still have to trek long distance in search of water. Public taps in urban centers are often destroyed and children sustain injuries in the brawling and struggling to fetch water, these are the details which the statistics may have difficult to capturing, but which speak of the hardship experienced by the child.

UNICEF has targeted ₦330,000.00 Million ($15 Million) up to the year 2001 to improve water supply in Nigeria. The water sanitation (WATSAN) programme in cooperation with the Federal Government in the State and UNICEF aimed at proving portable drinking water for mother and children mostly in rural areas. They engage in drilling boreholes were tap water is not available. The joint WATSAN programme has a yearly target of 200 boreholes but it was realized that

the yearly target has reduce to 100 borecoles. This is due to the high cost of working machineries.

WATSAN in collaboration with UNICEF in Kaduna State engaged in the construction and maintenance or upgrading of latrines. The upgrading of old latrines is done with the use of sanplat. The emphasis is usually geared toward the local areas. The funding of this project is usually done by the counterpart systems. That is, both the Government Local State, Community and UNICEF is in term of materials and the transportation of such materials and manpower to the Local Community, the training of manpower and the sensitization of the community towards using latrines rather than outside environment.

However, this project is yet to receive or record adequate success due to the shortage of manpower, low payment of Government's share to counterpart payment, inadequate manpower and shortage of means of transportation.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

5.1SUMMARY

The global task of UNICEF for the over 50 (fifty) years of inception is to tackle the emergency needs of children. Hence, UNICEF in collaboration with Government, NGOs and the community work together to realize these needs.

It has been realized that children in Nigeria in general and in Kaduna State in particular are the most affected by poverty. Because they are subjected to lots of abuses and neglect by both their parents and the State Government, and water of the child which are the guiding principles of the organization of African Unity and United Nations as regards to children.

Children in Kaduna State are exposed to different types of child labour (street hawking, apprentice, house girl/boys,

and bus conductors) along the streets in the burning suns. They are forced into the actives in order to contribute to the economic levels of their families.

The multiplier effect of this is that most of them have to forgo schooling. Education is far from their concern. Most of these children have not seen the four-walls of a classroom and those who were lucky to have started school were not too lucky to complete. Education is paramount because these children if not educated will themselves grow up to become uneducated parents hence, the trend will continue.

Uneducated parents can hardly understand what balance diet to malnutrition is all about. That is why these children are poorly fed and are heavily malnourished.

The environment in which they live is not healthy enough they are fit for human habitation. Water which has been termed a source of life is normally not there for them. The number of people who have access to portable drinking water is

countable hence makes borne disease like Guinea worm common.

Despite all odds as summarized about Kaduna State among other states in Nigeria is a beneficiary of the country-programme of Cooperation of 1991-1995 and that of 1997-2001. This programme is of joint cooperation between UNICEF and the Federal Government. It is expected that by this programme, the poverty situation of children has been improved in the specialized areas of health Education Nutrition and water supply.

5.2 RECOMMENDATION

The sensitization campaign should be carried out, the government and leaders of the community should educate the people about the important of education, health, nutrition and water supply. Such awareness programme should not be

limited to radio and television means for the affected people at the grassroots who are poor see these things as, luxuries. Manpower should be employed to give direct face to face lectures on these aspects of life to parents.

Policies or programmes geared towards alleviating poverty should not come from above and imposed on the people. They should be allowed to participate in designing such programmes. In this way the people will feel responsible and get committed to see that the intended project is realized.

Only a holistic approach as advocated by the UN convention on the Rights of the child, and which our National Health Policy endorses can promote child survival, prevent disease, protect child and restore his mental and physical development at an affordable price. The extent to which the policy is implemented depends on the political will and commitment to government. The situation calls for the reordering of priorities,

of the leadership, an increase in interest and commitment on the part of the governed as well as external partners.

UNICEF, as well as NGOs and other development partners should explore more avenue of working with children as agents of development. A lot should be done trough school, on health and sanitation.

The success of any policy or programme in helping to alleviate poverty and improving the living conditions of the Nigerian child will depend to a large extent on the requisite political will vision and genuine commitment to national development on the part of the leadership. Towards this end the values of transparency, accountability and responsiveness to the public must be allowed to take root through institutionalization of viable democratic culture.

The government should try as much as possible to check the increasing level of unemployment. This should be treated with caution as the number of people employed in menial and

occasional jobs conceals the level of redundancy in the economy, poverty should be reduced to the barest minimum.

Policy makers should know that the policies so made control the hearts or lives of children hence control in totality their future. In this regards any misguided policy will only go a long way to effects the child negatively. This is so important because the quality of any nation depends on the upbringing of its children.

Presently, the concern of all should be for all to build a new Nigeria that will be politically united and democratic; God fearing and considerate, economically buoyant, setting the pace in industry for the African Continent. These are obvious ridden and insecure to the level of development. Political unity has remained fragile. Democracy is still and objective, a sound economy which is the basis for lasting socio-political

power is stick lacking so efforts should geared towards that direction.

As regards to child labour this has become important nowadays in the state. A new convention on child labour to fill the gap in current international legal instruments dealing with children and their rights. Prohibition of work for the very young (under 12 or 13 years) and special protection for girls.

There should be designated authority responsible for child labour making crime against children any where a crime every where. Financial aid to fight against child labour should be increased.

5.3 CONCLUSION

The situation of children in Kaduna state, discussed in the preceding chapter can not be explained outride the context of the general economic situation of the country.

Children make impelling share to the family income ranging from 20-25 percent. That is why children are seen in the major streets of Kaduna state begging, selling in the major street of Kaduna or doing petit job to earn a token.

What is so disheartening is the fact that, despite this glaring and alarming situation there are no laid down government laws or policies to check these precarious situation even if there are, they are mostly theory than practice because they are not monitored to see that these policies are effected. There is no law passed by the National Assembly to guide against this poverty, all of us know it has a multiplier effect on other aspect of one's life. Hence education, good health education, portable drinking water can not be afforded when poverty is real.

Poverty is the main reason why schools are becoming more expensive, thus the poor can not afford to send their children to school, and even when they can, the schools they can

afford do not provide quality education. This situation is also true in the health sector. Unavailability of health facilities, which translated to children dying due to diseases that can otherwise, is preventable. Most poor families are very satisfied when they are able to provide food to eat irrespective of the quality which causes the rising number of malnourished children. The prevailing economic situation makes it very difficult for families to upgrade their sanitary facilities. To make matters worse, the lack of public Toilets compels people to defecate in open spaces, on side walks in playgrounds and even in streams, turning such places into veritable breeding ground for typhoid, cholera and other infectious diseases.

Another important aspect worth mentioning is the fact that UNICEF's Operations is in line with the Country-Programme of Cooperation as the name depicts, it obvious that the Federal Government, State Governments, Local Governments

and the community have to work in collavoration with UNICEF to realized the achievement of any programme it was realized that most at times, the government normally allow everything for UNICEF to do. The people of the community usually allow everything for UNICEF is responsible to take care of every thing hence it makes it difficult for any effective job or project to be realized.

The funding of these projects is normally known as joint-counterpart payment. It was realized that, most at times the state Government do not contribute their own quata and in some of the situations which they do, it is usually done very late. For example, hardly the State government make allocation of funds relating to the provision of boreholes. They see it as an obligation of UNICEF.

What was also noticeable is the fact that most parents are not aware of the important of education for their children especially the girl child. This explains their failure to send

their children to school and in the case of the girl-child giving them out for early marriage.

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