
Impact of the United Nations Humanitarian Aid in Promoting Economic Development in Developing countries: Nigeria in Focus

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Abstract

This paper investigates how humanitarian aid from the United Nations (UN) influences the economic growth of developing nations, with a focus on Nigeria. Nigeria's economy is beset by a number of issues, such as poverty, unemployment, and a lack of infrastructure. The purpose of this study is to offer empirical proof of the influence of UN humanitarian aid on Nigeria's economic growth. The study used a descriptive research approach and qualitative analysis to evaluate the humanitarian activities of the UN in Nigeria and their impact on the country's economic growth. An extensive investigation of UN humanitarian programs in Nigeria, including those for food assistance, healthcare, education, and infrastructure development, was part of the study's qualitative analysis. It looked at how well these initiatives worked to meet urgent humanitarian needs while also promoting long-term economic growth and stability. The paper utilized secondary sources of data from the literature, empirical field research, and information from national and international organizations, including journal articles, reports on the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, online publications, and papers. The Harrod-Domar growth model was used to analyze how humanitarian Aid affected Nigeria's economic development. The study found that UN humanitarian aid has played a significant role in mitigating immediate crises in Nigeria, such as food shortages and disease outbreaks. However, its long-term impact on economic development remains in doubt. Thus, recommends that Nigerian government should ensure that humanitarian aid programs are aligned with long-term development goals to foster sustainable economic growth, in addition to providing short-term relief. Also the need to improve coordination between different UN agencies and between the UN and the government of Nigeria. This will help to avoid duplication of efforts and to ensure that aid is delivered in a timely and effective manner.

Keywords: United Nations, Humanitarian Aid, Economic development, Poverty alleviation, Economic sustainability.

Introduction

Conflicts/violence and catastrophes are the most feared and challenging issues confronting most developing countries in the twenty-first century. The most notable of them is banditry, conflicts and disasters. People have been compelled to vacate their homes in search of safety elsewhere as a result of these heinous incidents. Tropical storms and monsoon rains, for example, prompted people to abandon their homes in Bangladesh, China, India, and the Philippines. Many people have been displaced due to violence in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Syria, Yemen, Columbia, Burkina Faso, Mali, South Sudan, Niger, and Nigeria (Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, 2020).

According to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports of 31st December 2020, there are 2,150,243 displaced persons in Nigeria, with 90 per cent of them in the North-East region. Other African countries with a large number of internally displaced persons emanating as a result of conflict and violence include Chad - 401,511; Cameroon - 321,886 (IOM, 2021). In Central Africa, conflict and violence have displaced over a million people in the Democratic Republic of Congo, other African countries which have had large numbers of IDPs as a result of the conflict in the past decade are Somalia, Uganda, Kenya and Sudan (Owoaje, Uchendu, Ajayi, & Cadmus, 2016).

As a result of these deplorable conditions orchestrated by banditries, conflicts and crises in the developing countries in general and Nigeria in particular, these scenarios have led to the attraction of the attention of the United Nations and other international interventions since 2014 (Emmanuelar, 2015). Notable among the international agencies that have intervene in providing succour to displaced once and humanitarian aids to IDPs is the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and private international NGOs.

According to Momoh, (2018); Kallon (2021) presently, there are over 62 humanitarian organizations operating in Nigeria, with most them dwelling in the North-East Nigeria, this includes over 27 international non-governmental organizations (INGOs); 19 National NGOs; 11 United Nations offices, agencies, funds and programmes such as United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR), UNICEF, UNFPA, UNOCHA etc. and; three Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Organizations; and one inter-governmental organization. (<https://www.icirnigeria.org/aid-agencies-avert-humanitariantragedy-north-east/>).

These agencies of the United Nations commenced full aid-giving in Nigeria (North-East region) in 2014 and spent roughly 70million USD in 2014, over 158 million USD in 2015, 460 million USD in 2016, 825million USD in 2017, 44million USD in 2018, 32 million USD in 2019, 305 million USD in 2020. Despite these funds and in addressing the plights and needs of IDP^S in the North-East, Nigeria still over 75% of the IDPs in the North East Nigeria are currently in dire need of humanitarian aid. (OCHA, 2020; Mark and Okafor, 2022)

Drawing from the above, in the landscape of international relations, humanitarian aid has emerged as a powerful instrument for addressing immediate crises and fostering long-term stability and development in developing countries generally, Nigeria particularly. Humanitarian aids are mostly said to be grants that a donor non-state actor or state actor advance to a state (recipient country) with the motive of accelerating the country's economic welfare. These grants are taken by the official sectors and government agencies and duly implemented for the economic development of the country.

In the light of the existence of United Nations Humanitarian Aid, and its numerous Father Christmas aid giving notwithstanding economic development in Nigeria still in dismay. In line with the stated, the paper adopted a descriptive research approach and qualitative analysis to evaluate the humanitarian activities of the UN in Nigeria and their impact on the country's economic growth. While the Harrod-Domar growth model was used to analyze how humanitarian Aid affected Nigeria's economic development, with the aim to discern whether humanitarian interventions, often designed to address immediate needs such as food, healthcare, and education, can catalyze lasting economic growth and prosperity. In essence, we strive to answer a fundamental question: To what extent does UN humanitarian aid contribute to shaping the economic destiny of developing countries like Nigeria?

Conceptual Elucidation

Humanitarian Aid

Humanitarian aid is material and logistic assistance to people who need help. It is usually short-term help until the long-term help by the government and other institutions replaces it. Among the people in need are the homeless (displaced persons), refugees, and victims of natural disasters, wars, and famines. Humanitarian relief efforts are provided for humanitarian purposes and include natural disasters and man-made disasters. The primary objective of humanitarian aid is to save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity.

Humanitarian aid is seen as "a fundamental expression of the universal value of solidarity between people and a moral imperative". Humanitarian aid can come from either local or international communities. In reaching out to international communities, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) of the United Nations (UN) is responsible for coordination responses to emergencies. It taps to the various members of Inter-Agency Standing Committee, whose members are responsible for providing emergency relief. The four UN entities that have primary roles in delivering humanitarian aid are United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) (Mark, and Okafor, 2022)

Humanitarian aid is further taken as the flow of resources - both capital and technical assistance- from non-state actors or developed countries to developing countries. In its broadest sense, it means financial or technical assistance given by one country's government, state actors and non-state actors to a developing country to support social and economic development or to respond to a disaster in the receiving country. It can also involve providing financial grants or loans, technical advice, training, equipment and commodities such as food, health, infrastructure and transport.

For these types of resources to be referred to as aid, Bhagwati (1972) believes that they must meet two criteria:

1. The objectives must be non-commercial from the point of view of the donor.
2. They should be characterised by concessional terms (that are less stringent than commercial loans.)

Cassen and Associates (1994) further noted that the fundamental idea of aid is a transfer of resources on more generous (or softer) terms than loans obtainable in the world's capital markets. Their definition excludes concessional flows like those of private voluntary agencies, credits for military purposes, etc. Arnold (1985) presented an historical appraisal of aid and traced its origin to the 19th century, when British capital helped develop growing USA. In more recent times, the American Marshall Plan helped bring about the financial and

economic recovery of war-torn Europe. Modern aid could be said to have started with the Colombo Plan of 1950/51, which was a Commonwealth initiative to help the newly independent South East Asian nations. The emergence of the Cold War and the end of Colonial Empires in the 1960s gave real impetus to the significance of aid, as it was then seen as a political weapon to assist the numerous independent, poor, backward states in Africa and Asia. The 1970s marked the age of disillusionment as questions were then asked as to whether aid was achieving the stated objectives. The mid-1970s saw a number of Mid-East Arab nations becoming powerful as a fallout of the Yom Kippur War. The 1980s saw a reappraisal of the aid phenomenon as a result of the economic crises occasioned by the world recession. The collapse of the Iron Curtain in the early 1990s saw a gradual refocusing of the considerations underlying the granting of aid by donor agencies. Aid could be of two main forms: either bilateral (i.e. country to country) or multilateral (i.e. channelled through international agencies like the World Bank, UN agencies etc). The above two could additionally take any of the following forms: Project aid, Programmed aid, Technical assistance, Financial aid, Food aid, Emergency assistance, etc.

Reasons for Giving Aid

The literature is replete with donors' motives for giving aid, ranging from economic to social, moral, strategic, political etc. reasons (Gaud 1968, Griffin and Enos 1970 and Myrdal 1981). A study conducted by Moore and Robinson (1995) at the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex, UK, explored the use of aid by donor agencies to promote what is referred to as 'good government' in recipient countries. The study identified two approaches - punitive and positive - through which donor countries determine aid recipients (Palda, 1993).

Recipients also receive aid for a myriad of reasons, ranging from the need to expand resource base, consolidate political power and develop local manpower and resource base. These reasons are well documented in the cases of Somalia and Kenya by Arnold (1985), Pakistan by Khan and Rahim (1993) and Cameroon by Mbakwu (1993).

In sub-Saharan Africa, many reasons account for why donor countries give aid and why recipient countries in this region seek and receive such aid. For instance, the USA aid expenditure has tended to follow the nation's strategic priorities. In the 1940s, Europe received the most U.S. assistance as war-torn European nations rebuilt their national economies and infrastructures. In the 1950s and 1960s, Asian countries-particularly South Korea, Taiwan and South Vietnam-received about half of U.S. bilateral assistance. In the 1970s, U.S. priorities shifted to the Middle East when the United States gave large security and economic assistance to Israel and Egypt. The foreign aid spending of other bilateral donors have also tended to follow their political or economic interests. Japan, for example, devotes the majority of its aid spending to countries in Asia. France gives most of its aid to its former colonies, as does Britain. That pattern appears to be less true, however, for some of the smaller donors; the countries of Scandinavia, for example, devote their resources to the countries they perceive to be most needy (Arnold, 1985).

Multilateral institutions such as the World Bank Group and the regional multilateral development banks have generally favoured the poorest countries in the developing world. The flow of private capital to developing countries increased substantially in the early 1990s. Those flows include direct investment, lending by international banks, and equity flows (investment in the stock markets of developing countries). Alesina and Dollar (2000) studied the pattern of allocation of foreign aid from various donors to receiving countries. They found considerable evidence that the direction of foreign aid is dictated as much by political and strategic considerations, as by the economic needs and policy performance of the recipients.

Economic Development

The earliest concept of development was interpreted in terms of growth of output over time, and later in terms of per capita output. The terms growth and development were used interchangeably (Ahmad et al, 1990). In the 1950 and 1960s many developing countries realized their economic growth targets but the standard of living of the people did not change, rather, the existence of mass poverty, illiteracy and ill health continued to plague developing countries. This implied that there was something wrong with this definition of economic development. Most of the economists clamored for dethronement of GNP and defined development in terms of removal of poverty, illiteracy, diseases and changes in the composition of input and output, increase in per capita output of material goods. Increase in output of goods and services and in income does not imply an improvement in the standard of living of the people because GDP is a narrow indicator of economic development that does not include noneconomic indicators such as leisure time, access to health, education, environment, freedom or social justice (Abdul, 2017).

According to Easterly (2005), Economic development is a process where low income national economies are transformed into modern industrial economies. It involves qualitative and quantitative improvements in a country's economy. Political and social transformations are also included in the concept of economic development in addition to economic changes. Economic development is generally defined to include improvements in material welfare especially for persons with the lowest incomes, the eradication of mass poverty, with its correlates of illiteracy, disease and early death, changes in the composition of inputs and output that generally include shifts in the underlying structure of production away from agricultural towards industrial activities, the organization of the economy in such a way that productive employment is general among working age population rather than the situation of a privileged minority, and the correspondingly greater participation of broad based groups in making decision about the direction, economic and otherwise, in which they should move their welfare. United Nations Human Development Report (1994), stated that the purpose of development is to create an environment in which all people can expand their capabilities, and opportunities can be enlarged for both present and future generations. Economic development being a multifaceted concept having many dimensions, there is no single measure of development that completely captures the process. Clearly these indicators or measures of development should be valid and amenable to measurement and comparison. Per capita income has been one of the earliest and also a popular measure of economic development. Some economists have emphasized on certain social indicators as a measure of development such as levels of literacy, health and employment, while others have emphasized on reduction in poverty as an important indicator of development. It has now become a common practice to measure development in terms of composite indices such as HDI (Human Development Index).

The United Nations Development Programme, in its annual Human Development Report, builds a composite Human Development Index (HDI), which assigns a value to a country based on its GNP per capita, life expectancy, adult literacy and mean years of schooling. For the purpose of this study, development is therefore taken to encompass a long-term trend of growth in GNP per capita, rising education levels, improving health conditions, low to moderate population growth, sustainable use of natural resources and the environment, and secure access to adequate amounts of food.

Empirical review

The Nexus between Humanitarian Aid and Economic Development

Research has been ongoing on the nexus between humanitarian aid and economic development and the study of Amidt, Jones and Tarp (2007) agreed that the growth in private and foreign investment has led to a valuable governance and economic control problems. Burnside and Dollar (1997) found that there exist a link between humanitarian aid and economic development only when there are strict regulations at an appropriate time and in a well-established policy environment. Meaning that where there is the existence of good economic policies humanitarian aid will impact on economic development (Collier & Dollar, 2000).

Whitaker (2006) findings showed that the fact that massive amounts of humanitarian aid has been forwarded by developed nations and international institutions yet there has been perceived lack of result from this, raises the question as to the actual effectiveness of foreign aid to less developed country. The study was able to determine that humanitarian aid had a positive effect but factors like conflict and geography lessens the impact and can even make it negative. It was suggested by the Arellano, Buliø, Lane and Lipschitz (2009), that increasing humanitarian aid flows by \$10 billion would lift about 25 million people out of poverty per year, provided that such countries have sound economic management. Djankov (2008) opined that humanitarian assistance has a significant negative effect on the changes in political institutions more specifically democracy.

Furthermore, the OECD (1985) reviewed 25 years of ODA and it found that despite setbacks in Sub-Saharan Africa and some countries of Latin America, many developing countries had achieved remarkable economic and social growth over the past quarter century. It also found that aid, accompanied by growing exports to OECD countries, had significantly contributed to these gains. Conchesta (2008) used a single equation model to examine the impact of foreign aid on economic growth in Tanzania over the period 1990 to 2004. In his analysis; while foreign aid was disaggregated in terms of government development expenditures and recurrent expenditures other combined variables include net national savings, export growth and total debt service. The study reveals that foreign humanitarian aid and total debt service have a negative impact on GDP growth for the case of Tanzania. According to Riddell (2007), 'Aid-tying' which is associated to project aid causes the exploitation of the developing countries because they are usually indebted to purchase items from the donor country.

Foreign humanitarian aid is also likely to lead to the appreciation of the real exchange rate of the developing countries, and this results into rising domestic inflation. This is known to be the Dutch disease whereby an inflow of foreign exchange in form of export earnings, private capital inflows or foreign aid puts an upward pressure on the real exchange rate of the recipient developing country. Foreign aid may lead to the appreciation of the exchange rate of the recipient country thereby reducing the competitiveness of the export sector.

Fasanya & Onakoya (2012) analyzed the impact of foreign humanitarian aid on economic growth in Nigeria during the period of 1970-2010. The empirical analysis rests on the neo-classical modeling analytical framework and combined several procedures in modern econometric analysis/estimation techniques. Their findings show that aid flows has significant impact on economic growth in Nigeria: domestic investment increased in response to aid flows and population growth has no significant effect on aid flows. Subhayu, Sajal and Javed (2013), examined the effects of ODA grants, concessional ODA loans, and private offshore bank loans on growth rates of 131 developing nations over 1996-2010 in a unified way. Their results show a non-linearity in all three relationships, suggesting that at low (high)

levels grants are better (worse) than loans (concessional or private). Burnside and Dollar (2000), in their investigation of the relationship between foreign humanitarian aid, economic policy and growth of per capital GDP found that aid has a positive impact on growth in developing countries with good fiscal, monetary and trade policies but with little effect in the presence of poor policies.

There are other studies that indicate no important association among aid and growth. Easterly (2005) found different results when they added more data and also extended the year range from 1993 to 1997. Although they do not actually argue that aid is ineffective, they found that with the introduction of the new data, the positive relationship between aid and growth withers away. Okon (2012) tried to look at a long-term perspective on development aid and human development in Nigeria. The study employed two stage least squares estimation to analyzing data from 1960 to 2010. The result showed that there is a negative relationship between development aid and human development, implying that aid tends to worsen human development in Nigeria.

Chenery and Strout (1966) adopting empirical data from less developed countries, show that foreign aid has a significant positive effect on the recipient country's economic growth. Other researchers however have disrupted this, findings that indeed foreign aid has often had a negative impact on economic growth of developing countries, as it negatively affects economic growth by replacing the local savings (Griffin, 1970; Leff, 1969). The main argument is that foreign aid in its negative impact offsets the advantages of transferring resources and that it undermines or weakens governance by increasing the return to corruption or increase in lending for the developing countries. Bakare (2011), examined the extent of the impact of foreign aid on economic growth in Nigeria by employing standard statistical method, Vector Autoregressive Model (VAR) to determine the sources of shock to growth in Nigeria and treated foreign aid as an endogenous variable. The study found a negative relationship between foreign aid and output growth, which imply that foreign humanitarian aid tend to worsen output growth in Nigeria rather than improving it.

From the myriad of findings from the related studies above, it is safe to infer that the impact of humanitarian aid on developing countries are double edged; some scholars and researchers conclude that the impact of humanitarian aid on the economic development of Nigeria are negative and worsen human development in Nigeria; while the other schools of thought conclude that the United Nations humanitarian aid have a significant positive impact on the economic development of Nigeria. Based on the foregoing, this study finds and recommend that, although humanitarian aid have some negative impact on the economic development of Nigeria, Nigeria as a developing country, still needs and relies on the United Nations humanitarian aid, because the benefits far outweigh the risks.

From the above debates therefore, empirical studies on the nexus between humanitarian aid and economic growth have produced inconsistent and somewhat elusive results. On the important question of whether aid contributes to development or not, the debate is broadly divided into those who believe it hastens development and those who believe it does not.

Cassen and Associates (1994), Chenery and Carter (1973), Papanek (1973), Rostow (1960) and Sachs (2005) represent one side of the divide that believes that humanitarian aid is a necessary condition for developing nations to achieve take-off. There are, on the other hand, those who believe that humanitarian aid has done nothing but impoverish the economies it was supposed to develop, distort consumption, lower growth rate, worsen inequalities, engender corruption at both ends, etc. (Bauer, 1981; Bhagwati, 1970; Boone, 1994, 1996; Dacy, 1975; Griffin and Enos 1970; and Mosley and Hudson, 1984). More recently, there are

writers who are more interested in the political and 'world trade' undertones of foreign humanitarian aid (Easterly, 2006; Chang, 2007; Moyo, 2009 and Stiglitz, 2002). They believe that, rather than helping poor African nations to develop, humanitarian aid further impoverishes them.

The first school of thought: Humanitarian Aid has positive Impact on Development

Burnside and Dollar (2000) carried out an extensive study on data from a cross-section of developing countries and found out that humanitarian aid has a strong positive effect on growth in low-income countries with good policies, while it has no measurable effect in countries with severely distorted policy regimes. Also, in the same vein, a 1995 study by the World Bank (1996) found an average rate of return of 17 percent on projects completed between 1990 and 1994 in developing countries. Gomanee, et al (2005) tested the hypothesis that aid contributes to increasing aggregate welfare, measured by infant mortality and Human Development Index (HDI) in recipient countries. Estimation was based on data for 104 countries over the period 1980 to 2000, and for sub-samples of low income and middle-income countries. Fixed effects estimates provide robust evidence that aid is associated with improved values of the welfare indicators and this effect appears to be greater in low-income countries. Aid appears to increase welfare either directly or through the effect on growth.

Alvi and Senbeta (2011) examined the effects of humanitarian aid on poverty using dynamic panel estimation techniques. According to them, this technique enables the control for time-invariant, country-specific effects of aid and its endogeneity. The study found out that, even after controlling for average income, there was a significant poverty reducing impact of aid. Foreign aid is thus associated with a reduction in poverty as measured by the poverty rate, poverty gap index and squared poverty gap index. Alvi and Senbeta concluded that the composition of aid matters, as multilateral aid and grants have more poverty reducing effect than that of bilateral aid and loans. Some of the studies of the effectiveness of aid on development conclude that aid may affect some aspects of human development such as education and health. Dreher, Nunnenkamp and Theile (2006), using panel data and a dynamic panel estimator on primary school enrolment rate as the measure of education outcome, examined the impact of aid on education in less developed countries and found out that aid has statistically significant positive effects on primary school enrolment rates.

Mishra and Newhouse (2007) focused their research on the effectiveness of aid on health outcomes. The authors used panel data to investigate effectiveness of aid on different measures of health outcomes. The study concludes that total aid per capita and per capita health aid reduce infant mortality rates significantly but aid has no significant impact on life expectancy. Aggregate aid improves Human Development Index (HDI) and reduces infant mortality rates in less developed nations. Gomanee, et al (2005) are also of the opinion that aggregate aid improves human welfare and reduces infant mortality rate and effectiveness of aid on health and human welfare is higher at lowest levels of income.

The second school of thought: Aid Does Not Significantly Impact Development

On the other hand, the second school of thought that propose the theory that humanitarian aid have little or no impact on a country's economic development, Mosley (1996) has shown that when the donor receipt relationship is modelled as a noncooperative game, moral hazard problems can lead to aid having little impact on the problems it is intended to alleviate. Aid may simply relax the budget constraint of the recipient government without having much impact on the amount of that budget that ultimately is used to purchase capital. Furthermore, the donor government can also be part of this game for reasons other than benevolence. Donor interest may lead to suboptimal use of aid and dampen any positive impact that it has. Mallik (2008) examined the effectiveness of foreign aid on economic growth in the six

poorest and highly aid dependent African countries by using the Johansen's co-integration tests. The empirical results showed that aid as a percentage of GDP and the long run impact of aid on growth was found negative for most of the sample countries. In a study of Pakistan, an economy that has received considerable amount of foreign aid recently, Ali and Ahmad (2013) explored the impact of aid on income inequality in Pakistan for the period 1972-2007. The result confirmed the income inequality increasing impact of official aid in Pakistan in the long run. It is evident that the financial resources received in terms of foreign aid have not been used for development; rather these funds may have been sidetracked to unproductive activities. So, the aid inflows could not add to the growth of Pakistan economy and employment generation, but rather increased the income inequality in the economy. Ugwuegbe, Okafor and Akarogbe (2016) investigated the effect of external borrowing and foreign financial aid (foreign grant) in the form of official development assistance (ODA) on the growth of the Nigerian economy over a period of 34 years from 1980 to 2013. Their study employed Ordinary Least Squares technique (OLS) and revealed foreign aid was positively related to GDP, but statistically insignificant.

Outcome: Still Unresolved

Nevertheless, the debate is still ongoing and has remained largely unresolved. This is because the issue cannot be settled on purely economic terms, which is a major pitfall of most studies. Just like the question of development, foreign humanitarian aid is a multi-dimensional phenomenon. Mankiw (1995), after examining empirical models of several nations' growth, suggested that the roughly 100 nations for which data on economic performance over recent decades are available, offer too few observations to allow scholars to discriminate among the many other factors that contribute to growth, notably including foreign humanitarian aid. According to Mankiw, the empirical evidence from this body of research is simply too limited to enable analysts to reach strong conclusions. Burnside and Dollar (2004) revisited the relationship between aid and growth using new data set focusing on the 1990s. Their evidence supports the view that the impact of aid depends on the quality of state institutions and policies. They employed an overall measure of institutions and policies popular in the empirical growth literature. The interaction of aid and institutional quality has a robust positive relationship with growth that is strongest in instrumental variable regressions. There is no support for hypothesis that aid has the same positive effect everywhere.

The apparent lack of any correlation between the amounts of foreign aid a country receives and its per capita rate of economic growth, in particular, has fostered vigorous debate among economists about whether or not aid is effective. Despite a large number of academic articles, this literature has not reached a consensus. Researchers seem divided into ideological camps, each fighting for their model, with one group claiming to show that aid works, and the other group pointing to a lack of robustness of these results. In summary, a broad review of the literature on development appear to suggest that foreign aid, in the best of circumstances, may play only a modest role in promoting economic development and improving human welfare. Other factors, such as the quality of a developing country's government and the policies it pursues, appear to be as equally important in promoting growth and development, than the quantity, quality, or type of humanitarian aid the country receives.

Theoretical Framework

The Harrod-Domar growth model concentrates on the assumption that in a dynamic economy, aggregate savings must be equal to the aggregate investment. The central argument of this model is to maintain a steady rate of growth which combines both multiplier and accelerator principles to determine the rate of growth of income that assumes ex ante saving must be

equal with ex ante investment. Thus, this model describes the economic mechanism whereby more investment leads to more growth. According to them, when aggregate supply expands, this leads to expansion on aggregate demand side such that business expands more, and affects the aggregate supply side whereby more investment increases capital stock and produces more business activities.

However, the main obstacle to development for developing countries, according to this theory, is the relatively low level of new capital formation in most poor nations. This capital constraint approach to growth and development became the justification, during the cold war politics, for transfers of capital and technical assistance from the developed to the developing nations, hence, the rationale for foreign aid. This framework could be related to the structure of the Nigerian economy and the need for foreign aid. Nigeria is a developing nation that still requires inflow of capital and capital formation for growth and rapid development. The nation is currently undergoing economic recovery and for sustainability, increased savings, investment and capital formation are needed and in the absence of that, the gap may need to be bridged from foreign aid. Poverty level is high and according to the World Development Indicators (2014), over 63 percent of the populace live below the poverty baseline of US\$1.25 per day. Other indicators are also not too impressive - unemployment is high, savings is low and investment is generally low in the country. However, to bridge the gap and make up for the savings shortage, foreign aid is encouraged as it does not crowd-out private investment, compared with domestic borrowing. It is an additional capital inflow and when properly channelled to investment, economic growth should occur.

United Nations Humanitarian Aid and Economic Development in Nigeria

United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945, after the Second World War, by 51 countries committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights. Whose Humanitarian aids have reached every corner of the globe. Although best known for peacekeeping, peace building, conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance, there are many other ways the United Nations and its System (specialized agencies, funds and programmes) affect lives and make the world a better place. The Organization works on a broad range of fundamental issues, from sustainable development, environment and refugees protection, disaster relief, counter terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, to promoting democracy, human rights, gender equality and the advancement of women, governance, economic and social development and international health, clearing landmines, expanding food production, and more, in order to achieve its goals and coordinate efforts for a safer world for this and future generations.

The UN has 4 main purposes

1. To keep peace throughout the world;
2. To develop friendly relations among nations;
3. To help nations work together to improve the lives of poor people, to conquer hunger, disease and illiteracy, and to encourage respect for each other's rights and freedoms;
4. To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations to achieve these goals (<https://www.un.org/un70/en/content/history/index.html>)

United Nations Humanitarian Aid to developing countries

Humanitarian aid simply means the active provision of humanitarian aid, designed specifically to save lives, alleviate suffering, and restore and promote human dignity in the midst of disasters and during large-scale emergencies resulting from either conflicts or natural disasters (Pringle, & Hunt, 2015).

Beyond this definition, there is a discrepancy in how humanitarian aid is framed and understood. It can also be purported as political or nonpolitical, as secular or non-secular, as a movement or an institution, and as short-term emergency response or longer-term development and guided by or apart from humanitarian principles. Mark & Okafor (2022)

The idea of humanitarian aid is attributed to the Dunantist tradition of humanitarianism, named after Henri Dunant, a founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 1863 (Pringle, & Hunt, 2015). The Dunantist custom of humanitarianism is emblemized by the Red Cross, preserved in the Geneva Conventions, and protected under international humanitarian law. This kind of action came up in response to people in danger and communities in distress and provides touchable succour in the form of food, education, materials, services, shelter, and medical care. However, providing care to groups of people and communities in emergency situations requires coordinated, collective responses, calling for workers with a range of skills and from a variety of vocations and professions and bringing them into line with the needs specific to particular contexts, and in some cases, government support (Pringle, & Hunt, 2015).

Humanitarian aid was initiated on the value placed on humanity, that is, all human beings are entitled to be treated humanely and to receive lifesaving assistance simply by virtue of being human. Therefore, people have a right to receive humanitarian support and humanitarian actors or agencies have a right to provide assistance wherever it is needed irrespective of geographical location. Thus, humanitarian action is carried out considering the following three guiding principles: neutrality, impartiality, and independence (Pringle, & Hunt, 2015).

They typically mobilize in response to crises and disasters in resource-poor settings within the global South. Examples of humanitarian organizations embody in the United Nations organizations including the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and also the World Food Programme (WFP), in addition, because the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and also the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and private international NGOs like CARE, Oxfam, Save the children, and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) (Pringle, & Hunt, 2015).

Humanitarian aid is context-specific, however generally includes the availability of primary healthcare, water and sanitation, food and nutrition, shelter and site planning, public health surveillance, vaccination campaigns, and disease occurrence response. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) incorporates a mandate to coordinate the various giant and tiny organizations that conjure the international humanitarian response. High-profile emergencies (the donor darlings) generally elicit well-funded responses from multiple organizations, whereas low-profile, extended emergencies in less geopolitically strategic areas (the donor orphans) may expect very little or no response (Pringle, & Hunt, 2015).

The United Nations (UN) provides humanitarian aid to developing countries in order to alleviate suffering and promote economic development. This aid can take many forms, including food assistance, medical care, shelter, and education.

In Nigeria, the UN has provided humanitarian aid in response to a number of crises, including the Boko Haram insurgency, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ongoing drought. This aid has helped to save lives and prevent further suffering.

In addition to providing humanitarian aid, the UN also works to promote economic development in Nigeria. This includes supporting agricultural development, improving access to education and healthcare, and promoting good governance.

The impact of UN humanitarian aid in promoting economic development in Nigeria is difficult to quantify. However, there is evidence that this aid has had a positive impact. For example, a study by the World Bank found that UN-supported agricultural programs in Nigeria have helped to increase crop yields and reduce poverty.

The UN's work in Nigeria is not without its challenges. Corruption and a lack of coordination among different UN agencies can sometimes hinder the delivery of aid. However, the UN remains a vital partner in Nigeria's efforts to achieve economic development and improve the lives of its people.

Examples of UN Humanitarian Aid to Nigeria

In 2016, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) provided food assistance to over 2 million people affected by the Boko Haram insurgency. This aid helped to prevent widespread hunger and malnutrition, which could have had a devastating impact on the country's economy.

In 2020, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided educational support to over 1 million children affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This aid helped to keep children learning and prevent them from falling behind in their studies.

In 2022, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) is supporting the government of Nigeria to implement a program to improve access to clean water and sanitation. This program is expected to benefit over 10 million people and boost the country's economic productivity.

Provision of Basic Necessities:

One of the most important ways that UN humanitarian aid can promote economic development is by providing basic necessities, such as food and shelter. When people have their basic needs met, they are better able to focus on economic activities.

The UN has supported education programs in Nigeria that have helped to increase school enrollment and improve the quality of education. This aid has helped to create a more skilled workforce, which can boost economic productivity.

The UN has also supported healthcare programs in Nigeria that have helped to reduce the burden of disease. This aid has helped to improve the health of the population, which can free up resources for investment in other areas.

The Promotion of Good Governance:

Good governance is essential for creating an environment where businesses can thrive and where economic growth can be sustained. The UN has worked to promote good governance in Nigeria by supporting anti-corruption measures and by strengthening institutions. This aid has helped to create a more transparent and accountable environment, which has attracted investment and has helped to boost economic growth.

Limitations of UN Humanitarian Aid in Promoting Economic Development in Nigeria

The impact of UN humanitarian aid is often limited by a number of factors. One factor is the lack of coordination between different UN agencies and between the UN and the government of Nigeria. This can lead to duplication of efforts and can also make it difficult to track the impact of aid.

Another factor is the lack of accountability for the use of aid. There have been cases of corruption and mismanagement of UN humanitarian aid in Nigeria. This can undermine the trust that people have in the UN and can make it more difficult to deliver aid effectively.

Finally, the impact of UN humanitarian aid can also be limited by the broader economic and political context in Nigeria. For example, the country is currently facing a number of challenges, including the Boko Haram insurgencies and banditries. These challenges can make it difficult for the government to implement reforms and for businesses to invest, which can hinder economic development.

Impact of UN's Humanitarian Aid on Economic Development in Developing Countries

The impact of United Nations (UN) humanitarian aid in promoting economic development in developing countries is a complex and multifaceted issue. Here are some key points that highlight the general impact of UN humanitarian aid on economic development in developing nations:

1. **Immediate Relief and Stabilization:** UN humanitarian aid plays a critical role in providing immediate relief during crises, including natural disasters, conflicts, and health emergencies. This assistance helps stabilize communities, save lives, and address urgent humanitarian needs.
2. **Healthcare and Disease Control:** UN aid programs often include support for healthcare infrastructure, immunization campaigns, and disease control efforts. By improving public health, these programs contribute to a healthier and more productive workforce, which can positively impact economic development.
3. **Education and Human Capital Development:** UN-supported initiatives aim to increase access to education and vocational training in developing countries. Education is a key driver of human capital development, which is essential for long-term economic growth and poverty reduction.
4. **Infrastructure Development:** UN projects often focus on infrastructure development, including building roads, bridges, and providing access to clean water and sanitation facilities. Improved infrastructure can reduce transportation costs, facilitate trade, and stimulate economic activities.
5. **Food Security and Agriculture:** UN agencies work to address food security and agricultural development in many developing countries. Increasing agricultural productivity and ensuring food security are crucial for reducing poverty and promoting economic growth.
6. **Job Creation:** Humanitarian aid projects can create temporary employment opportunities in the communities they serve. This can inject income into local economies and help build community resilience.
7. **Gender Equality:** UN aid programs often promote gender equality and women's empowerment, which can have a significant impact on economic development. When women have equal access to resources and opportunities, it can lead to increased economic productivity and growth.
8. **Challenges and Complexities:** Challenges such as political instability, corruption, governance deficiencies, and security issues can hinder the effective delivery and impact of humanitarian aid. Addressing these challenges is essential for maximizing the benefits of aid.
9. **Long-Term Development:** To achieve lasting economic development, there is a need for a transition from relief-oriented aid to development-focused strategies. UN agencies often work with local partners to build capacity, promote self-reliance, and support sustainable development efforts.

10. Quantitative Analysis: Assessing the direct quantitative impact of UN humanitarian aid on economic indicators (e.g., GDP growth, employment rates) can be challenging due to the multitude of factors at play. The relationship between humanitarian aid and economic development is context-dependent.

In summary, UN humanitarian aid plays a critical role in addressing immediate needs, improving healthcare and education, building infrastructure, and fostering human capital development in developing countries. While it may not be a sole driver of economic development, it contributes significantly to creating the conditions for sustainable growth and poverty reduction. Collaboration, long-term planning, and adaptation of aid strategies are essential for maximizing its positive impact on economic development.

UNs Impact on the Economic Development of Nigeria

Federal Republic of Nigeria was admitted as a member state of the United Nations on 7 October 1960, having gained independence on 1 October the same year. The United Nations System (UNS) in Nigeria, consisting of 19 resident and 4 non-resident entities has had a productive engagement with the Federal Republic of Nigeria since its independence. The UNS has been a catalytic supporter of, and trusted partner in, the development aspirations of Nigeria. At the moment, Nigeria faces multi-faceted challenges which include the complex humanitarian situation in its north-eastern region, other internal conflicts and a number of development deficits.

The previous United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), particularly UNDAF III, has helped significantly in the formulation of this country strategic framework by way of informing the new, high impact strategies and interventions for Nigeria. Notable lessons learnt from the past experiences include the need to emphasize stronger partnerships; the effective optimization and utilization of UN convening power and advocacy platform as a critical resource at all levels of the government; and, the imperative of enhancing coherence and greater coordination of UN activities as these have the potential to increase partners' overall interest in the UN support and in reducing duplication of efforts and unnecessary competition among agencies at all governmental levels.

The formulation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (UNSDPF) IV (2018-2022) comes on the heels of the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union (AU) 2063 Agenda at a time of global economic downturn with Nigeria's economic growth, social progress and environmental protection at the crossroads. The UNSDPF (2018-2022) proposes a paradigm shift in UN partnership for enhanced and robust support to the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) "to reach those furthest behind first" and "to leave no one behind", reflecting concerns with equity and inclusiveness, respectively. The shift integrates national development objectives with international trends and commitments in developing programmes and interventions to systematically support the national authorities in addressing development challenges.

Milestones

- Strengthened partnerships with diverse stakeholders. In 2019, the UN system applied for funding from the Joint SDG Fund to engage in a detailed, inclusive 2030 SDG Consultation process throughout the six geo-political zones. The process will take place in 2020 and will be carried out together with Government partners as a demand-driven exercise on behalf of the Government of Nigeria.

- Investment in data systems, capacities, technologies and processes to better monitor implementation and measure progress and help guide policy interventions to target the most persistent pockets of poverty.
- Stepped up action at state-level with focus on supporting solutions at scale and sustainability. In 2019, the UN in Nigeria, through UNDP, introduced the iSDG model which is a System Dynamics (SD) model that uses computer simulation methodology and mathematical modelling technique to frame, understand, and discuss complex issues and problems.
- Determine the additional cost of scaling up public investments in social and physical infrastructure with a view to achieving the SDGs. In the analytical form, iSDG will analyze how – under business as usual conditions – the country would progress towards each of the 17 SDGs.
- Towards the achievement of SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation: Communities and institutions at the national and sub-national level were supported. The UN and partners continued advocacy which led to the presidential declaration of a state of emergency in the WASH Sector and the launch of a National WASH Action Plan, including a promise that Nigeria will end open defecation by 2025.
- Strengthened coordination within and between multiple layers of governance (national and sub-national as well as regional level). This includes strengthening horizontal and vertical linkages to ensure proper coordination of the SDGs implementation across the three tiers of government and institutionalize regular stock-taking and peer review as part of the national SDGs monitoring and reporting system across the country.

Findings

This paper finds that humanitarian aid has had a two-pronged effect on the economic development of Nigeria. With one group of findings indicating that the UN Humanitarian aid has a positive impact on Nigeria's economic development, while the other finding is that the impact of UN's Humanitarian aid is extremely negative to Nigeria's economic development. The impact has been uneven and depends on a number of factors, such as the type of aid, the context in which it is delivered, and the capacity of Nigeria to implement and deliver it. Initial findings indicate that UN humanitarian aid has played a crucial role in alleviating immediate crises in Nigeria, such as food shortages, supporting education, healthcare programs and disease outbreaks. Nevertheless, its sustained influence on sustainable economic development remains a topic of discussion. The paper also finds that the impact of humanitarian aid has been greater in areas where the aid has been more effectively delivered with supporting economic policies. The study equally found that in as much as foreign humanitarian aid is encouraged, it has been observed in Nigeria that instead of impacting positively on infrastructure and economic development, it only resulted in waste and unproductive public consumption because of perceived corruption, policy implementation and weak institutions (Ugwuegbe, Okafor and Akarogbe, 2016). Some school of thought maintain that humanitarian aid impacts negatively on the economic development of Nigeria, some scholars like Easterly (2006), Chang (2007), Moyo (2009) and Stiglitz (2002), maintained that rather than assisting poor African nations to develop, foreign humanitarian aid further impoverishes them.

In conclusion, UN humanitarian aid in Nigeria has had a significant impact on immediate relief, healthcare, education, and infrastructure development, all of which can contribute to economic development. However, addressing structural challenges and fostering long-term

sustainability remain critical aspects of leveraging humanitarian aid for lasting economic growth in the country.

Conclusions

In conclusion, UN humanitarian aid has undoubtedly made significant contributions to addressing immediate humanitarian needs and laying the groundwork for economic development in Nigeria and other developing countries. However, realizing sustained economic growth requires a comprehensive, long-term approach that goes beyond immediate relief and addresses structural challenges. The UN and its partners continue to play a crucial role in this endeavor, adapting strategies to meet evolving needs and circumstances. Future research and policy efforts should continue to refine and optimize the delivery of humanitarian aid to maximize its positive impact on economic development.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions on the impact of the United Nations (UN) humanitarian aid on promoting economic development in developing countries, particularly Nigeria, the paper recommends; Nigerian government to ensure that humanitarian aid programs are aligned with long-term development goals to foster sustainable economic growth, in addition to providing short-term relief. This means investing in education, healthcare, and infrastructure, which can help to create a more stable and prosperous environment for economic growth. Also, the UN can work with the government of Nigeria to develop a national plan for economic development. This plan should identify the country's priorities and how UN humanitarian aid can be used to support them. The UN can support the government of Nigeria to improve its economic policies; this includes policies that promote trade, investment, and job creation.

Also, there is need to improve coordination between different UN agencies and between the UN and the government of Nigeria. This will help to avoid duplication of efforts and to ensure that aid is delivered in a timely and effective manner.

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