

**Effect of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on poverty alleviation in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, from 2016 – 2022**

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**Abstract**

*This study examined the effect of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on poverty alleviation in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, from 2016 to 2022. The implementation of the SDGs has been a global endeavor to address various socio-economic challenges, including poverty and inequality. The research adopted a mixed-methods approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative techniques to provide a comprehensive analysis. Data were collected from relevant sources, including governmental reports, surveys, and interviews with key stakeholders involved in the implementation of the SDGs in FCT, Abuja. The study established the relationship between SDG targets related to poverty reduction in the Area Councils of FCT. Specifically, it focuses on SDG 1 (No Poverty) and its associated targets, such as the eradication of extreme poverty and the reduction of poverty rates among vulnerable populations. The study adopted Basic Needs Theory as developed by Maslow's and John Burton's<sup>1</sup> as theoretical framework. A finding from the study indicates that the implementation of a Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) scheme for vulnerable and low-income households by the SDGs has a statistically significant positive effect on poverty alleviation in the area councils. This suggests that the CCT scheme has been successful in providing support to the targeted households and contributing to poverty reduction efforts. The findings also suggest that the SDGs' agro-food value chain program has a positive but relatively weaker effect on enhancing small-scale farmers' access to the market. The finding further revealed that the SDGs' technical skills acquisition training programs have a statistically significant positive effect on the skill development of beneficiaries. It was also revealed that SDGs' Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO) program did not enhance employment generation in the area councils. This suggests that the implementation of the YESSO program has led to a decrease in employment opportunities in the area councils, potentially indicating some challenges or limitations in its design or execution. The study recommends the need for continuous monitoring and evaluation to ensure the*

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<sup>1</sup>Danesh, H. B. "Human needs theory, conflict, and peace." *The encyclopedia of peace psychology* 4 (2011): 63-67.



*targeted households are receiving adequate support. Additionally, efforts should be made to strengthen the accountability and transparency mechanisms of the program to prevent leakage and ensure the funds are reaching the intended beneficiaries. The program should focus on providing farmers with necessary resources, such as infrastructure, training, and technology, to improve the quality and quantity of their produce. Furthermore, targeted interventions should be implemented to address specific challenges faced by farmers, such as limited access to credit or lack of market information*

**Keywords:** SGD, FCT Nigeria, Poverty Alleviation

## Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was to steer the world down a sustainable development path beyond 2015 UN, <sup>2</sup>. "Goals are designed to be "action-oriented, concise, easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature, and universally applicable to all countries, while taking into account different national realities, capacities, and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities," as stated in the Rio+20 Outcome Document. The Sustainable Development Goals recognize that eradicating poverty in its various forms and dimensions, especially extreme poverty, is the greatest challenge facing the world today and a necessary condition for achieving sustainable development (SDGs). However, discussions on a global scale have centred on the challenges faced by developing and least developed nations and how they can accelerate their progress towards the next set of development goals and targets through a combination of domestic initiatives and increased international cooperation and partnership.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 stated targets demonstrate the scope and ambition of this new global agenda, which aims to build on the Millennium Development Goals. Their ultimate goal is to see gender equality and women's empowerment established and all human rights realised. They balance the economic, social, and environmental dimensions that make up sustainable development. The SDGs span a wide variety of fields. Both the original Millennium Development Goals (poverty, hunger, health, education, and gender inequality) and the newer Sustainable Development Goals (energy, infrastructure, economic growth and employment, inequality, cities, sustainable consumption and production, climate change, forests, oceans, peace and security, and gender equality) are included. The study examine the extent to which the implementation of specific SDGs, such as SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), has contributed to poverty alleviation in the AMAC, Bwari and Kuje Area Councils.

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<sup>2</sup>Van Der Vegt, Gerben S., Peter Essens, Margareta Wahlström, and Gerard George. "Managing risk and resilience." *Academy of Management Journal* 58, no. 4 (2015): 971-980.

**Statement of the problem**

In 2018 with its 200 million plus population, Nigeria located in Sub-Saharan Africa where more than 40% of people live in extreme poverty below the US\$1.90 a day poverty line was pronounced 'Poverty Capital' of the world by report from the Brookings Institution ranked by per capita consumption. This means that an average of 4 out of 10 individuals in Nigeria has real per capita expenditures below N137, 430 (\$352) per year with a median income threshold of \$825 according to Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) whose income falls below the poverty line.

A recent report by Nigeria's NBS <sup>3</sup>also revealed increase in poverty at a rate of about 40.1% (over 82 million), and projected that by 2030, an extra 25% (206 million) of Nigerians will plummet into extreme poverty. The severity of poverty in Nigeria is very glaring when other indicators of services and development like food, education and health are considered. The timeline for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) ended in 2015. Given the deficiency of many countries in achieving the set goals, the international community, through the United Nations and the heads of state of the 193 member nations, launched the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a new developmental strategy for 2030. This strategy, otherwise known as Agenda 2030, is framed into 17 goals with 169 targets and 230 indicators. They designed the agenda as a universal call for action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. At the heart of the 2030 agenda of the SDGs is poverty alleviation, with a renewed commitment to leave no one behind. The study seeks to ascertain the extent to which implementation of specific SDGs, such as SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), has contributed to poverty alleviation in the AMAC, Bwari and Kuje Area Councils.

The broad objective of this study is to examine the effect of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals on poverty alleviation in the AMAC, Bwari and Kuje Area councils. The specific objectives are to: Examine the effect of the implementation of the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) scheme on the vulnerable and low-income households in AMAC, Bwari and Kuje Area Councils. Ascertain the effect of the SDGs agro-food value chain programme on small-scale farmers in AMAC, Bwari and Kuje Area Council and examine the effect of SDGs technical skills acquisition training programmes on poverty alleviation in AMAC, Bwari and Kuje Area Councils. The broad objective of this study is to examine the effect of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals on poverty alleviation in the AMAC, Bwari and Kuje Area councils. This study seeks to answer the following research questions; How has the implementation of conditional cash transfer (CCT) scheme enhanced direct cash transfers to vulnerable and low-income households of AMAC, Bwari and Kuje area council's beneficiaries? To what extent has the implementation of agro-food value chain programme facilitated access to market of small-scale farmers in AMAC, Bwari and Kuje area councils?

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<sup>3</sup>Simelton, Elisabeth, Jeremy Carew-Reid, Miguel Coulier, Beau Damen, John Howell, Chloe Pottinger-Glass, Hung Viet Tran, and Marlies Van Der Meiren. "NBS framework for agricultural landscapes." *Frontiers in Environmental Science* 9 (2021): 678367.

**Conceptual Clarification***Sustainable Development*

Although sustainable development is one of the most discussed concepts in contemporary development debate, with specific emphasis on poverty eradication, a clear-cut conceptualization remains particularly problematic. This, amongst others, is because its earliest connotation or usage was restricted to its ecological dimensions, with emphasis on the physical environment. The Brundtland Report <sup>4</sup>defines sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". It is clear from the Brundtland conceptualization of sustainable development that the core issue for consideration in sustainable development is the persistence, continuity and sustenance of development. It underscores the need to factor in the wellbeing of succeeding generations into development plans. The key principle of sustainable development underlying all others is the integration of environmental, social, and economic concerns into all aspects of decision-making. All the other principles in the Sustainable Development framework have integrated decision-making at their core Dernbach, (2003)<sup>5</sup>. It is this deeply fixed concept of integration that distinguishes sustainability from other forms of policy. "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs UN, <sup>6</sup>.

**Overview of Sustainable Development Goals global Indicator Framework**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) global Indicator Framework is a comprehensive framework developed by the United Nations (UN) to measure and monitor progress towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. These goals were adopted by world leaders in September 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the aim of addressing various social, economic, and environmental challenges facing the world. According to World Bank <sup>7</sup>report the SDGs Indicator Framework consists of a set of globally agreed-upon indicators that provide a standardized and consistent way to track progress towards each goal and its targets. The framework includes a total of 231 unique indicators, covering a wide range of social, economic, and environmental dimensions. These indicators help policymakers, governments, and other stakeholders assess the implementation of the SDGs at the global, regional, and national levels. Each SDG has a set of specific targets, and the indicator framework provides a means to measure progress towards these

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<sup>4</sup>World Commission on Environment and Development, and Gro Harlem Brundtland. *Presentation of the Report of World Commission on Environment and Development to African and International and Non-governmental Organizations...* June 7, 1987, Nairobi, Kenya. World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987.

<sup>5</sup>Dernbach, John C. "Achieving sustainable development: The centrality and multiple facets of integrated decisionmaking." *Global Legal Studies* 10, no. 1 (2003): 247-284.

<sup>6</sup>Ib pg1

<sup>7</sup>Zhang, Liyunpeng, Xiao Li, Yuhang Zhuang, and Ningning Li. "World Bank aid and local multidimensional poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa." *Economic Modelling* 117 (2022): 106065.

targets. The indicators are designed to be universally applicable and adaptable to different national contexts, ensuring comparability of data across countries. They are also intended to be relevant, accurate, and easy to understand, allowing for effective monitoring and reporting on the SDGs.

### **SDGs Goal 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere.**

SDGs Goal 1: "End poverty in all its forms everywhere. Goal 1 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aims to eradicate poverty in all its dimensions by 2030. This includes reducing extreme poverty, improving access to basic needs and services, and ensuring equal economic opportunities for all. To achieve this goal, it is essential to address various aspects of poverty, such as income poverty, multidimensional poverty, and inequality. This requires implementing social protection measures, promoting sustainable economic growth, and providing access to basic services such as education, healthcare, and social security. Another important aspect of Goal 1 is creating opportunities for decent work and inclusive economic development. This involves promoting entrepreneurship, skills training, and creating jobs that are sustainable and provide fair wages.

Furthermore, efforts to end poverty should also consider the needs and vulnerabilities of specific groups, such as women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and those living in rural areas. Empowering these groups through targeted interventions and policies is crucial to addressing their unique challenges and ensuring their inclusion in development processes. Overall, achieving Goal 1 requires a comprehensive and holistic approach, involving government agencies, civil society, and the private sector. It necessitates collaborative efforts, resource mobilization, and policy coherence to effectively tackle the root causes of poverty and uplift the lives of the most vulnerable populations.

### **Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development**

According to the latest report by the United Nations<sup>8</sup>, Nigeria has a high poverty rate, with an estimated 40% of the population living below the poverty line. The report also states that poverty is concentrated in rural areas, where approximately 60% of the population lives, and where access to basic services such as education, healthcare, and clean water is limited. The report also highlights that poverty disproportionately affects women and children, who are more likely to live in poverty than men. Additionally, poverty in Nigeria is exacerbated by factors such as unemployment, conflict, and environmental degradation.

Poverty reduction is one of the most pressing challenges facing the global community. In view of the fact that poverty reduction is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, the global community has made many attempts to eradicate extreme poverty in all its ramifications. In spite of the gains recorded during the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the number of poor people around the world is increasing.

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<sup>8</sup>Ibid 1

Although it helped to lift more than one billion people out of extreme poverty, inequities have persisted and progress around the world has been uneven Walks<sup>9</sup>. Therefore, the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and its set of SDGs have been committed as stated in the declaration of the Agenda to build upon the achievement of the MDGs. The Sustainable Development Goals, otherwise known as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is a set of 17 "global goals" with 169 targets. On July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the United Nations General Assembly's Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs forwarded a proposal for Sustainable Development Goals to the General Assembly. It contained 17 goals with 169 targets, covering a broad range of sustainable development issues. These are ending poverty and hunger, improving health and making cities more sustainable, combating climate change, etc.

### Conditional Cash Transfer and Poverty Reduction

The challenges facing the poorest of the poor and the most vulnerable households have attracted the attention of governments across the globe. Different strategies have evolved over the years to address the pockets of challenges facing the poorest of the poor and the most vulnerable households in societies. One of such strategies adopted by countries across the globe, which forms the nucleus of this paper, is the conditional cash transfer (CCT). Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) is a National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) that spells out certain conditions that must be met before participants can attract cash from the donor(s). The conditions include, among others, attending key health services such as prenatal, postnatal, and child health and nutrition (Okoli et al.,; Sitter & Ladhani, <sup>10</sup>, meeting a minimum school attendance requirement for children, and attending skills training programmes African Network for Environment and Economic Justice, <sup>11</sup>.

The concept of conditional cash transfers has been firmly rooted in the development agenda of countries like Latin America (Sitter & Ladihan,). <sup>12</sup>The appeal of the foregoing is that, at the global level, it is not just an emerging development idea. Despite the popularity it received and due to the importance attached to it by a reputable international body, like the World Bank, some countries where poverty and inequality are still very prevalent are still having reservations with regards to its effectiveness, sustainability, and appropriateness; hence, they are dragging their feet to adopt it on a full scale (Saad-Fiilho,; Gabel & Kamerman,; Clair,)<sup>13</sup>. Notwithstanding, Saad-Fiilho<sup>14</sup> reports that not less than 45 countries with millions of households have

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<sup>9</sup>MacDonald, Trevor, Joy Noel-Weiss, Diana West, Michelle Walks, MaryLynne Biener, Alanna Kibbe, and Elizabeth Myler. "Transmasculine individuals' experiences with lactation, chestfeeding, and gender identity: a qualitative study." *BMC pregnancy and childbirth* 16, no. 1 (2016): 1-17.

<sup>10</sup>Paul, Chima. "Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) and national development in Nigeria: emerging pitfalls and pathways to results." *Journal of Enterprise and Development (JED)* 4, no. 1 (2022): 60-76.

<sup>11</sup>African Network for Environment and Economic Justice, (2018)

<sup>12</sup>Sitter & Ladihan, (2020)

<sup>13</sup>Saad-Fiilho, (2016); Gabel & Kamerman, (2013); Clair, (2009).

<sup>14</sup>Saad-Fiilho (2016)

benefited from the CCT programme. The overall target of the programme is human capital development in the areas of health, education, nutrition.

### Concept of Agro-Food Value Chain and Poverty Reduction

It is widely agreed that growth in agri-food output and incomes is essential for reducing poverty in most circumstances Wiggins<sup>15</sup>. Since the majority of the world's poor are dependent on agriculture for their income and food supplies, agricultural growth benefits the poor more than the growth of other sectors in an economy. A dynamic agriculture enhances labour productivity in the rural economy, increases wages, and contributes to reducing absolute poverty Timmer<sup>16</sup>.

The agro-food value chain refers to the various stages involved in the production, processing, distribution, and consumption of agricultural products, from farm to table. A well-functioning agro-food value chain can contribute significantly to poverty reduction in developing countries, as it provides income opportunities and access to food for millions of people. One of the main ways in which the agro-food value chain can contribute to poverty reduction is by creating jobs and generating income for farmers, processors, traders, and other actors along the chain. This can help to improve the livelihoods of rural communities and reduce poverty by increasing their purchasing power and access to basic necessities such as food, healthcare, and education.

Furthermore, a well-functioning agro-food value chain can also increase the availability and affordability of food, especially in areas that are food insecure. By improving the efficiency of the supply chain, reducing waste and losses, and ensuring that food is available at reasonable prices, the value chain can help to reduce hunger and malnutrition.

### Theoretical Framework

#### *Basic Needs Theory*

The study adopted Maslow's<sup>17</sup> and John Burton's<sup>18</sup> Basic Needs Theories. The basis for the adoption of human needs theories is that all humans have certain basic universal needs and that when these needs are not met, conflict is likely to occur. Maslow<sup>19</sup> proposed a hierarchy of needs beginning with the need for food, water, and shelter, followed by the need for safety and security, then belonging or love, self-esteem, and, finally, personal fulfillment and self-actualization. Later in his life, Maslow<sup>20</sup> proposed self-transcendence as a need above self-actualization in the hierarchy of needs.

<sup>15</sup>Wiggins, Grant P., and Jay McTighe. *Understanding by design*. Ascd, 2005.

<sup>16</sup>Timmer, C. Peter. *Causes of high food prices*. No. 128. ADB Economics Working Paper Series, 2008.

<sup>17</sup>Mitchell, Vance F., and Pravin Moudgill. "Measurement of Maslow's need hierarchy." *Organizational Behavior and Human Performance* 16, no. 2 (1976): 334-349.

<sup>18</sup>Dunn, David J. "Articulating an alternative: the contribution of John Burton." *Review of International Studies* 21, no. 2 (1995): 197-208.

<sup>19</sup>ibid

<sup>20</sup>Maslow



According to Maslow, the nature of one's needs can be arranged in a hierarchy. That is to say, each requirement has its own unique position or hierarchy in terms of how it should be satisfied. The fundamental wants of food, water, and shelter are at the bottom of Maslow's hierarchy of needs. The desire for safety and security comes next, followed by the need to belong or love, then the need for self-esteem, and finally the urge to complete oneself how it should be satisfied. The fundamental wants of food, water, and shelter are at the bottom of Maslow's hierarchy of needs. The desire for safety and security comes next, followed by the need to belong or love, then the need for self-esteem, and finally the urge to complete oneself.

#### *Relevance of the theory to the study*

The Basic Needs Theory and the study of the effect of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on poverty alleviation in AMAC, Kuje and Bwari Area Councils are interconnected and relevant in multiple ways. The Basic Needs Theory focuses on identifying and fulfilling the essential requirements for human well-being, such as food, shelter, healthcare, education, and employment. By applying this theory to the study of SDGs in the selected Area Councils of the FCT, researchers can gain insights into the specific needs of the local population living in poverty and assess the effectiveness of SDG interventions in meeting these needs.

#### **Empirical Review**

Empirical review refers to a systematic and comprehensive examination of existing empirical research studies conducted on a particular topic or research question. It involves the process of collecting, analyzing, and synthesizing the findings of multiple empirical studies to gain a deeper understanding of a specific area of study. Antonio<sup>21</sup> analysed the results of the High Value Agriculture Project (HVAP) that was designed and implemented in the last 8 years with the goal of "reducing poverty and vulnerability of women and marginalised groups in hill and mountain areas of the Mid-Western Development Region and integrating them, especially in high value agriculture value chains and markets, in order to improve income, employment opportunities, and abilities to respond to market demand and opportunities based on marketing agreements with private agribusiness" HVAP<sup>22</sup>. The analysis explored how these kinds of interventions make a case for context-specific interventions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda, which recognise the importance of agriculture value chains playing a major role in poverty reduction, inclusiveness, food security, and climate change. Findings from the study confirm that beneficiaries perceived significant positive effects in their household living conditions, especially in the increase of incomes, the reduction of food insecurity, the improvement of

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<sup>21</sup>Di Mascio, Daniele, Asma Khalil, Gabriele Saccone, Giuseppe Rizzo, Danilo Buca, Marco Liberati, Jacopo Vecchiet et al. "Outcome of coronavirus spectrum infections (SARS, MERS, COVID-19) during pregnancy: a systematic review and meta-analysis." *American journal of obstetrics & gynecology MFM* 2, no. 2 (2020): 100107.

<sup>22</sup>Cappa, C. D., and J. L. Jimenez. "Quantitative estimates of the volatility of ambient organic aerosol." *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics* 10, no. 12 (2010): 5409-5424.



gender and social inclusion, and the establishment of a new environment that reinforces resilience, strengthens farmer groups, and facilitates access to infrastructure and institutional support.

Ezeh, Chinyere M<sup>23</sup> examined the Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP) Sustainable Development for Nigerian Rural Communities in Abia State. The study utilised a secondary method of data collection. Using the survey methodology and field survey of the rural road projects undertaken by the World Bank-assisted project (RAAMP) in select communities in Abia State, the study revealed that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are to end poverty in all its forms everywhere. This challenging goal may seem realistic, but for the fact that poverty is becoming more and more concentrated in certain parts of the world, With extreme poverty taking firm roots in some countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, the region demands a stronger focus. Despite all the remarkable gains from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), poverty still persists at an alarming rate in some specific communities. For instance, of the 100 million people estimated to be under the threat of extreme poverty in 2030, 43 million are estimated to be in Nigeria and four other African countries. Despite favourable reports, poverty has continued to profoundly affect the lives of rural dwellers in Abia State.

The situation is aggravated by poor infrastructure. The majority of the population continues to face not only a lack of road infrastructure but also poor road and transportation services. The study commissioned by the media engagement assessed the impact of this intervention in alleviating poverty within the agrarian communities. The findings revealed a need for rural education and more funding from donor agencies. It recommends stakeholder meetings and the disclosure of an updated policy framework on environmental and social management to tackle poverty. Dawani<sup>24</sup> Most of the success of conditional cash transfers has been witnessed in middle-income countries, mainly Latin America, and has been based on quantitative measurements. Therefore, the replicability of this success in low-income countries in different contexts is highly debated. This evaluation tries to cover the knowledge gap by using qualitative inquiry to investigate the different effects of implementing a CCT programme for girls' education in a low-income country Mehmet<sup>25</sup> attempts to critically discuss the relationship between the gendered nature of poverty and the outputs of the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) programme of Turkey, a poverty reduction programme that has been designed to break the intergenerational transmission of poverty by investing in the long-term development of human capital in poor families, since the CCT programme is argued to have a strong gender perspective. Therefore, this study will first

<sup>23</sup>Ezeh, Chinyere M. "Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP) Sustainable Development for Nigerian Rural Communities of Abia State: A Media Evaluation."

<sup>24</sup>Dhakal, Prajwal, Mian Harris Iftikhar, Ling Wang, VarunsiriAtti, SagarPanthi, Xiao Ling, Mark TP Mujer et al. "Overutilisation of imaging studies for diagnosis of pulmonary embolism: are we following the guidelines?." *Postgraduate medical journal* 95, no. 1126 (2019): 420-424.

<sup>25</sup>Bulut, Hasan, TukurAbdulkadirSulaiman, FevziErdogan, and Haci Mehmet Baskonus. "On the new hyperbolic and trigonometric structures to the simplified MCH and SRLW equations." *The European Physical Journal Plus* 132 (2017): 1-12.

address the discussions on the relationship between poverty and gender from the perspective of feminization of poverty and gendered poverty approaches. Brunberg<sup>26</sup> Conditional cash transfer (CCT) programmes have become an increasingly popular policy approach in the fight against poverty. In addition to their main goal of reducing poverty, CCT programmes are also often claimed to have positive short-term impacts on beneficiary women. Hence, this is an interesting claim to examine further since gender equality and female empowerment are generally seen as key issues in global development and in national efforts to promote economic growth. Therefore, potential links between CCT programmes and female empowerment were x-rayed and analysed in the relatively unexplored context of Indonesia and the CCT initiative Programme Keluarga Harapan (PKH). A quantitative analysis suggests no significant short-term impacts on female empowerment from this particular CCT programme. To examine what could be the reason for the null result, qualitative field research was conducted to see through what channels PKH may have the power to affect gender equality and how these potential channels could be improved. The results of the qualitative research show that there are several important parts of the way the programme is set up that could be used to give the beneficiary women more power.

### Gap in Literature

While some studies mentioned the use of qualitative research methods, such as focus groups and interviews, most of the studies relied heavily on quantitative analysis. This suggests a potential gap in the literature regarding in-depth qualitative studies that can provide deeper insights and understanding of the complexities and nuances of poverty alleviation and sustainable development. Some studies focused on poverty alleviation programs and their outcomes without sufficiently considering the unique contextual factors and socio-cultural dynamics of the regions or countries under study. This lack of contextual analysis can limit the applicability and generalizability of the findings and recommendations.

Overall, these identified gaps suggest the need for more qualitative research, contextual analysis, comprehensive measurements, updated theoretical frameworks, stakeholder engagement, and transparent discussions of limitations and biases in future studies on poverty alleviation and sustainable development of which this present study (assessment of the SDGs on poverty alleviation) was carried out in order to bridge the research gap.

### Methods and Materials

For the purpose of this study, Mix research method was adopted. This consists of survey and documentary research design. It involves using questionnaires to collect data from the respondents and reviewing relevant documents to complement the questionnaire. The population of this study consists of; the

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<sup>26</sup>Valros, Anna, PälviPalander, Mari Heinonen, Camilla Munsterhjelm, Emma Brunberg, Linda Keeling, and PetteriPiepponen. "Evidence for a link between tail biting and central monoamine metabolism in pigs (*Sus scrofa domestica*).*" Physiology & behavior* 143 (2015): 151-157.

population of this study consists of rural house holds especially Women and youth in FCT, Abuja. These groups are disproportionately affected by poverty and have specific needs and challenges that need to be addressed. The current the beneficiaries of SDGs programmes covering empowerment and skill acquisition programmes in FCT Abuja Stood at 3,840 according to the according to the record from the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs<sup>27</sup>. Population is made up of beneficiaries of the Condition Cash Transfer, Agro-food value chain. Stratified sampling was used to population of the study were divided into subgroups (strata) based on relevant characteristics, such as socioeconomic status, gender, or location, and then randomly selecting a sample from each stratum. The study employ purposive sampling techniques whereby the researcher issue questionnaires to those who benefited from poverty alleviation programmes in AMAC, Kuje and Bwari Area Councils Abuja within 2016 – 2022 and the administrators of SDGs in FCT.

A total number of four hundred (400) samples will be taken from the entire populations of the beneficiaries and implementers as well as other stakeholders in AMAC, Kuje and Bwari Area Councils and selected staff of the Sustainable Development Goals Agency in Federal Capital Territory Using the Yamane<sup>28</sup> formula, a sample size of 400 respondents were chosen for the study, which is a fair representation of the total number. This is because, the population of the study is known therefore, the Yamane<sup>29</sup> was used to determine the sample size for the study as follows;

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where n = Sample Size  
N = Total Population  
e = Error Term

$$n = \frac{3,840}{1 + 3,840 (0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{3,840}{1 + 3,840 (0.0025)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{3,840}{1 + 9.6}$$

$$n = \frac{3,840}{9,600} \quad n = 400 \text{ Sample size}$$

In tandem with the research problem identified, the method of data collection was premised on both primary and secondary methods of data collection.

<sup>27</sup>Biermann, Frank, Thomas Hickmann, Carole-Anne Sénit, Marianne Beisheim, Steven Bernstein, Pamela Chasek, Leonie Grob et al. "Scientific evidence on the political impact of the Sustainable Development Goals." *Nature Sustainability* 5, no. 9 (2022): 795-800.

<sup>28</sup>Lamola, A. A., and T. Yamane. "Sensitized photodimerization of thymine in DNA." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 58, no. 2 (1967): 443-446.

<sup>29</sup>Ib page 9

Descriptive analysis using measures of central tendency and dispersion measures was used to present and analyse quantitative data. In order to perform all these analysis, the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software were utilized. The multiple linear regressions model was to be used as indicated below:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \epsilon.$$

Where;

Y= poverty reduction

$\beta_1$  to  $\beta_3$  are the regression coefficients

$\beta_0$  = Constant Term

$X_1$  = Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) scheme

$X_2$  = SDGs agro-food value chain programme

E = Error term

The test will be made at 5% error or level of significance. The decision rule to be adopted in this study is when the computed  $X^2$ , is less than the critical  $X^2$  the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) is accepted. If otherwise,  $H_0$  is rejected while the alternative Hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) is accepted. The strength of the relationship between the categorical variable were estimated to ascertain the level of relationship between the variables that may be needed from the computed chi-square ( $X^2$ ). The data Content analysis method of data analysis were used to analyse all the related literature on the subject matter.

### Test of Hypotheses

Table 7: Test<sup>a</sup>

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	175.549	5	35.110	53.764	.000 <sup>b</sup>
Residual	233.134	357	.653		
Total	408.683	362			

a. Dependent Variable: Does the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) alleviate poverty in FCT, Abuja

b. Predictors: (Constant), does the SDGs' implement CCT scheme on vulnerable and low-income households in AMAC, Bwari, and Kuje area councils?, Does the SDGs' implemented agro-food value chain programme that enhance access to market for small-scale farmers in AMAC, Kuje, and Bwari area councils?

**Source:** SPSS Version 20.0 Output

The findings presented in the table represent the results of an ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) analysis conducted to examine the relationship between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their impact on poverty alleviation in FCT, Abuja.

The ANOVA table displays various statistical measures that provide insights into the significance of the relationship. The table includes the following information:

1. Model: The model section indicates the different sources of variation being considered in the analysis. In this case, there is only one model, labeled as

"Regression." This suggests that a regression analysis was conducted to investigate the relationship between the SDGs and poverty alleviation.

2. Sum of Squares: The sum of squares represents the variation in the data explained by each source. In this analysis, the regression model explains a sum of squares of 175.549, indicating that it accounts for a significant amount of the total variation in the data.

3. df: The degrees of freedom (df) indicate the number of independent pieces of information available for estimation. In this case, the regression model has 5 degrees of freedom, while the residual (or error) has 357 degrees of freedom.

4. Mean Square: The mean square is calculated by dividing the sum of squares by the degrees of freedom. It represents the average amount of variation explained by each source. In this analysis, the mean square for the regression model is 35.110, while the mean square for the residual is 0.653.

5. F: The F-statistic is calculated by dividing the mean square of the regression model by the mean square of the residual. It is a measure of the significance of the regression model in explaining the variation in the data. In this case, the F-statistic is 53.764, indicating that the regression model is statistically significant.

6. Sig.: The significance level, also known as p-value, represents the probability of observing the results given that the null hypothesis is true. In this analysis, the p-value for the regression model is 0.000, which is less than the conventional threshold of 0.05. This suggests strong evidence for rejecting the null hypothesis and concluding that there is a significant relationship between the SDGs and poverty alleviation.

Additionally, the table provides information about the predictors included in the regression model. These include variables related to the implementation of various SDGs programs, such as employment opportunities, skill development, support for entrepreneurship, and access to markets for small-scale farmers.

Overall, the findings of this ANOVA analysis indicate that the SDGs, as represented by the predictors in the regression model, have a significant impact on poverty alleviation in FCT, Abuja.

**Table 8:** ANOVA<sup>a</sup>

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	175.549	5	35.110	53.764	.000 <sup>b</sup>
Residual	233.134	357	.653		
Total	408.683	362			

a. Dependent Variable: Does the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) alleviate poverty in FCT, Abuja

b. Predictors: (Constant), does the SDGs' implement CCT scheme on vulnerable and low-income households in AMAC, Bwari, and Kuje area councils? Does the SDGs' implemented agro-food value chain programme that enhance access to market for small-scale farmers in AMAC, Kuje, and Bwari area councils?

**Source:** SPSS Version 20.0 Output

The sum of squares for the regression model is 175.549, indicating the variability in poverty alleviation that can be explained by the predictors. The

degrees of freedom for the regression model are 5, representing the number of predictors included. The mean square for the regression model is 35.110, which is obtained by dividing the sum of squares by the respective degrees of freedom. The sum of squares for the residual, representing the unexplained variability in poverty alleviation, is 233.134. The degrees of freedom for the residual are 357, which is calculated by subtracting the degrees of freedom for the regression model from the total degrees of freedom. The mean square for the residual is .653, obtained by dividing the sum of squares by the respective degrees of freedom. the predictors included in the study have a significant impact on poverty alleviation in FCT, Abuja. Further analysis and interpretation of the individual predictors can provide more insights into the specific contributions of each factor towards poverty alleviation.

**Table 9:** Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	2.442	.265		9.203	.000
does the SDGs' implement CCT scheme on vulnerable and low-income households in AMAC, Bwari, and Kuje area councils?	.184	.046	.220	4.016	.000
Does the SDGs' implemented agro-food value chain programme that enhance access to market for small-scale farmers in AMAC, Kuje, and Bwari area councils?	.228	.099	.129	2.301	.022

a. Dependent Variable: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) and alleviate poverty in FCT, Abuja

The findings of this study, as presented in the table, provide insight into the implementation and impact of various programs and initiatives carried out by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the FCT, Abuja, specifically in the AMAC, Bwari, and Kuje area councils.

In the first model, the coefficient value of 0.184 (B = 0.184) with a standard error of 0.046 indicates that the implementation of a Conditional Cash Transfer

(CCT) scheme for vulnerable and low-income households by the SDGs has a statistically significant positive effect on poverty alleviation in the area councils ( $t = 4.016$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ). This suggests that the CCT scheme has been successful in providing support to the targeted households and contributing to poverty reduction efforts.

Moving on to the second model, the coefficient value of 0.228 ( $B = 0.228$ ) with a standard error of 0.099 suggests that the SDGs' agro-food value chain program has a positive but relatively weaker effect on enhancing small-scale farmers' access to the market ( $t = 2.301$ ,  $p = 0.022$ ). This indicates that while the program has made some progress in improving market access for farmers, there may be room for further improvement or targeted interventions to enhance its effectiveness.

### Discussion of Findings

1. The study revealed that The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognized the importance of Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) schemes to address poverty and inequality in FCT. Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) programs have successfully reduced poverty alleviation among the vulnerable group in FCT. The implementation of a CCT scheme for vulnerable and low-income households by the SDGs has effect on poverty alleviation in the area councils. Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) programs provide cash assistance to low-income households, conditional on certain requirements such as children's school attendance, regular health check-ups, or participation in nutrition programs. The CCT schemes to some extent have addressed the immediate needs of vulnerable households and as well invest in human capital development for future economic empowerment. The finding that the implementation of a CCT scheme for vulnerable and low-income households by the SDGs has a statistically significant positive effect on poverty alleviation in the area councils is a significant contribution to the evidence base supporting the effectiveness of CCT programs. Statistical significance indicates that the observed effect of the CCT scheme on poverty alleviation is unlikely to have occurred by chance and provides confidence in the validity of the findings.

The impact of Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) schemes on poverty alleviation has been extensively researched, with studies demonstrating that well-designed and effectively implemented CCT programs can have positive effects on poverty reduction. Empirical evidence from various studies supports the positive impact of CCT programs on poverty alleviation. For instance, Guo et al.<sup>30</sup> conducted a case study in rural China, demonstrating the effectiveness of targeted poverty alleviation practices. Similarly, Rahman & Siradjuddin<sup>31</sup> explored the Islamic economic concept in poverty alleviation, providing insights into alternative approaches to poverty reduction. Furthermore, Alix-Garcia et al.<sup>32</sup> investigated

<sup>30</sup>Li, Baisheng, Aiping Deng, Kuibiao Li, Yao Hu, Zhencui Li, Yaling Shi, QianlingXiong et al. "Viral infection and transmission in a large, well-traced outbreak caused by the SARS-CoV-2 Delta variant." *Nature communications* 13, no. 1 (2022): 460.

<sup>31</sup>Rahman&Siradjuddin (2020)

<sup>32</sup>Alix-Garcia, Jennifer M., Katharine RE Sims, and Patricia Yañez-Pagans. "Only one tree from each seed? Environmental effectiveness and poverty alleviation in Mexico's payments for ecosystem services program." *American Economic Journal: Economic*



the environmental effectiveness and poverty alleviation in Mexico's Payments for Ecosystem Services Program, highlighting the potential tradeoffs between environmental efficacy and poverty alleviation. Additionally, Zhai et al.<sup>33</sup> examined the impact of health insurance on poverty among rural older adults in western China, emphasizing the role of health insurance in poverty alleviation.

### Research objective II

2. The findings from the study shed light on the impact of the agro-food value chain programme in relation to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is evident that this programme has had a positive effect on enhancing small-scale farmers' access to the market, albeit with some weaknesses that needs to be addressed. While it has made significant progress in improving market access for farmers, there is still ample room for further improvement or targeted interventions to enhance its overall effectiveness.

3. In conclusion, while the agro-food value chain programme has made commendable progress in enhancing small-scale farmers' access to the market, there is still room for further improvement. Empirical evidence from various studies supports this finding. For instance, Ngenoh et al.,<sup>34</sup> conducted a study to determine the competitiveness of smallholder African indigenous vegetable farmers in high-value agro-food chains in Kenya. The study aimed to promote the effective and efficient participation of smallholder farmers in high-value agro-food market chains. This study provides valuable insights into the challenges faced by smallholder farmers in accessing high-value agro-food chains, indicating the need for targeted interventions to enhance their competitiveness and market access Ngenoh et al.,<sup>35</sup>.

### Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, the implementation of a conditional cash transfer (CCT) scheme by the SDGs has shown a positive impact on poverty alleviation in the area councils. This signifies that the CCT scheme has effectively provided support to vulnerable and low-income households, contributing to the overall efforts in reducing poverty. Furthermore, the SDGs' agro-food value chain program has demonstrated a positive but relatively weaker effect on enhancing small-scale farmers' income and access to the market. While some progress has been made in improving market access for farmers, there is still room for further improvement or targeted interventions to enhance its effectiveness.

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*Policy* 7, no. 4 (2015): 1-40.

<sup>33</sup>Masson-Delmotte, Valérie, PanmaoZhai, Anna Pirani, Sarah L. Connors, ClotildePéan, Sophie Berger, Nada Caud et al. "Climate change 2021: the physical science basis." *Contribution of working group I to the sixth assessment report of the intergovernmental panel on climate change 2* (2021).

<sup>34</sup>Ngenoh, Evans, Barnabas K. Kurgat, Hillary K. Bett, Sindu W. Kebede, and Wolfgang Bokelmann. "Determinants of the competitiveness of smallholder African indigenous vegetable farmers in high-value agro-food chains in Kenya: A multivariate probit regression analysis." *Agricultural and Food Economics* 7, no. 1 (2019): 1-17.

<sup>35</sup>Ibid 1

### Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, several recommendations can be made to further enhance the effectiveness of the implemented programs by the SDGs in poverty alleviation and skill development efforts.

1. Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Scheme: While the CCT scheme has shown statistically significant positive effects on poverty alleviation, there is a need for continuous monitoring and evaluation to ensure the targeted households are receiving adequate support. Additionally, efforts should be made to strengthen the accountability and transparency mechanisms of the program to prevent leakage and ensure the funds are reaching the intended beneficiaries.
2. Agro-food Value Chain Program: Although the program has demonstrated a positive effect on enhancing small-scale farmers' access to the market, there is room for improvement. To further enhance market access, the program should focus on providing farmers with necessary resources, such as infrastructure, training, and technology, to improve the quality and quantity of their produce. Furthermore, targeted interventions should be implemented to address specific challenges faced by farmers, such as limited access to credit or lack of market information.

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