

## **The Contribution of Department for International Development (DFID) to the Socio-Economic Development of Enugu State, Nigeria.**

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### **Abstract**

The International Development Partners were established with the aim of promoting economic, social and rural development. These institutions include United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Department for International Development (DFID), and Canadian International Development Association (CIDA). These development partners were established with a view to participating in human and environmental development. Thus, Department for International Development (DFID) was set up precisely to enhance poverty reduction and improve the standard of living of the people through good governance especially in the developing countries. The Department has been involved in the developmental programmes/projects in Nigeria. Its involvement in Nigeria is being examined by this study with a view to determining how effective its contributions have been in ensuring social-economic development and poverty reduction in Enugu State. In course of the study, Liberalism and Rational theories were applied which explain the basic character of DFID that emphasizes on free participation on project management and economic empowerment of participants. Survey research method was applied for the study. This revealed the empirical fact on the contribution of the department.

**Keywords:** Development, International Development Patterns, Poverty Reduction, Socio-Economic Reforms.

### **Introduction**

The establishment of International Development Partners was aimed at promoting economic, social and rural development. Development is seen as the main instrument to apply for effective poverty reduction and even eradication of absolute poverty. In fact, by employing all the variables involved in development, poverty reduction would be absolutely effected. In other words, the instruments of development would effectively be the main instrument for poverty reduction. Development, therefore, could be seen as positive change that brings increase in a man's socio-economic and political life that not only reduces his poverty but also enhances his standard of living conditions. Development is an effort or the process of adding value to life and the degree of such value depends on the perception of the receiver. For instance, the value of a cup of water to somebody depends on the extent of his thirst and of course, the quest for the water.

The appreciation of development partners, especially the International Development Partners, depends on the perception of the viewers and the efforts of the

Department on the people's need. Hence, Hettne (1995) views development as structural transformation which implies cultural, political, social and economic changes. While Todaro and Smith (2007) see development as the capacity to increase and sustain the economy and economic condition of the people. Seer (1969) sees development in terms of a country solving her problems of poverty, unemployment and inequality. Seer states that when these problems are solved or being solved, it is assumed to be development or the process of development. Nzenwa (2000) sees development as the improvement of human material needs, social and economic conditions as well as man's advancement in political and technological institutions. Oduran in Omoruyi (2001) sees development as a form of change from a prior condition to a better one. Development is gradual growth or advancement through progressive changes in all variables of a man's existence.

The establishment of International Development Partners alongside the World Bank was to enhance development. Though the World Bank and its affiliates such as the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP), the International Development Association (IDA), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Finance Corporation have been playing so much developmental roles, but the global trend for socio-economic development and poverty reduction have been the main agenda these development partners. In bid to help in global development and participate actively in the eradication of absolute poverty, the developed countries established International Development Partners. This was to assist the developing countries of the world. Such international development partners as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Canada International Development Association (CIDA) the British Department for International Development (DFID), etc are all development partners of the developed world. Their establishments have helped a lot in the development and alleviation of poverty of the developing countries.

Department for International Development is the British Government Department for International Development and Poverty Reduction throughout the developing countries (DFID July, 2006). Department for International Development (DFID) has been involved in many African Countries such as Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra, Leone and South Africa. It is also involved in European countries like Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, etc. DFID which primary aim is international development and poverty reduction through intergovernmental/community cooperation, has been assiduously working towards, enhanced standard of living and eradication of absolute poverty. The department has been very active in African countries especially in Nigeria. In support of Nigeria's reforms' agenda, DFID has offered perspectives to achieving sustainable high growth economy and poverty reduction. It has been involved in policy analysis and dialogue among the government, civil society, private sector and international communities.

In an effort to achieve a desired conducive environment for Nigeria, the British government through DFID chose some states in Nigeria for effective reforms and poverty reduction strategies. The states include Enugu, Benue, Ekiti and Jigawa states where it has supported key micro and macro economic reforms aimed at poverty reduction and rural development especially in such areas as agriculture, health care delivery, education, judiciary and police services reforms (DFID Project, 2004). In Enugu State, DFID has been actively involved in the development of the state since 2001 especially in the rural

areas (Nwamari, 2004). This paper, therefore investigates the development programme of the Department (i.e. DFID).

**Statement of Problem** In view of the above engagements of DFID, this study tries to investigate the extent the Department has actually achieved its developmental programmes in the stated areas, especially, in Enugu State. Consequently this study seeks to enquire the character of DFID as a development partner and how effective it applies its strategies towards achieving its goals. It investigates the roles the department plays towards rural development in Enugu State and strive to suggest measures that could help in improving the performance of DFID for greater impact in its bid for the development of Enugu State and as a development partner.

**Theoretical Framework** In this study Liberalism and Relational theories are applied. Liberalism, though an old political theory that engendered freedom and generosity in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, was given prominence in 1873 by Milton John and Stuart Mill who argued for liberal society and free expression of idea of help and activities (Mbah, 2006). In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Friedrich Hayek argued that economic freedom (the right to own, use and dispose of private property) is the essential guarantee of political liberty. He argued that a liberal democratic political system and respect for civil liberties can only develop in the context of a capitalist economy.

**Also Relational theory** is concerned with the historical relationship of social groups and the nature of their understanding of each other in the society. Differences in value systems of groups create suspicion and deep seated mistrust. Hence, Mohammed (2006) argues that the basic needs of people should be met in order to feel belonged and accepted in the society. These needs, according to Burton (1990), include social and economic recognition and sense of belonging.

In applying these theories, to this study, one appreciates the fact that liberal relationship is the apt for the sense of direction for all the Development Partners. These Development Partners see third world countries as underdeveloped countries and need special attention for poverty reduction through development strategies. While liberalism emphasizes free participation on project management and socio-economic development, the relational theory emphasizes economic empowerment, recognition, social and political development of a group/society.

**The methodology** applied in this paper is Survey Research which included personal interviews, visitations, non participant observation and monitoring. While some information were gathered through books, articles, internet materials and inference on available data on the activities of Department for International Development (DFID).

#### **The Code of Ethics of DFID:**

The Department for International Development (DFID) which was transformed and renamed in 1977 from Oversea Development Administration (ODA) to DFID, with a full ministerial capacity headed by secretary of state with cabinet rank, has Code of Ethics. The Codes of Ethics are in line with the overarching objectives of the department and these include the following:

- Establishment of long-term partnership with developing countries on specific projects of economic development.
- Focus on assisting private sector development policies aimed at encouraging Entrepreneurship of Small and Medium Enterprise of Developing Countries.
- Working with World Bank to provide assistance to the less developed countries with a view to reduce poverty burden of the citizens.
- Providing opportunity for human resource advancement and capacity building for the developing countries.
- Working closely with other development partners whose interest are for social development and poverty eradication.
- Developing Partnership with local communities to help strengthen their capacity to tackle poverty and better their living condition.
- Help in bilateral talks for peace keeping and harmonious co-existence with and among countries especially in the Third World Countries. Etc.

**General Duties of DFID:** The Department for International Development (DFID) works with many international institutions with the aim of fighting poverty and enhancing development globally. DFID has affiliations with core institutions of which duties are to fight poverty with passion and professionalism. Such institutions are the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and International Development Association (IDA) (DFID 2004). For instance, in 2006, DFID in partnership with IMF, affirmed their position to fight poverty corruption. They were of the view that good governance eliminates poverty. In other word, the Department does not only fight poverty but promotes good governance.

- DFID has been actively involved in the bilateral talks and has been bidding for trade, education health and rural development. Being an active partner to the World Bank and IMF, DFID has been involved in debt relief negotiation especially for the developing countries such as Nigeria (International Development Committee (IDC) of the DFID report 2006). It shows that DFID negotiates Debt relief for the developing countries.
- In 2007 DFID, in partnership with the World Bank and other development partners such as United Nations, Education and Scientific Organization (UNESCO), United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) International Association (CIDA) and Canadian International Development Association (CIDA) built some science and technological centres in some of the developing countries like Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia etc, and other capacity innovation for sustainable growth and poverty reduction.
- In Nigeria, DFID has been actively participating in rural and socio-economic development of the country. The department has identified with some states such as Benue, Enugu, Ekiti and Jigawa States and has been championing the reforms in these states. Since 2001, the department has been playing significant roles in the rural development of these states (DFID 2004). It has been actively involved in the educational, social and health development of these states  
DFID channels its development programme in form of "programmes" These

Programmes are

- Access to Justice

- State and Local Government Programme
- Community and Public Health Programme.

**Access to Justice:** Access to Justice is one of the programmes of DEFD. It is a programme that handles such Projects as Security, Justice and Growth. It reforms the security systems in such way that creates confidence and guarantees security of live and property. The justice section of the programme is responsible to all cases and litigations especially as it involves the less privileged in Enugu State. It also helps to expedite judicial process by the reform actions and activities in the judicial services and ministry of justice. A Justice and growth section of the programme has brought reforms in the Nigerian judicial system which is aimed at social growth and good administration.

**State and Local Government Programme:** This programme is designed to work with the states and local government with the sole aim of encouraging the reform in the states, where it is involved. For instance the Public Health Programme of DFID involves Community Health Development and Public Health management.

In line with the objectives of development partners and the aim of British Government in the establishment of Department for International Development (DFID), the Department having selected Nigeria and Enugu State as Participants in the league of benefiting countries, this paper intends to evaluate the Department within the period between 2002 and 2007 on its contribution to the National reforms, socio-economic and rural development which have been the objectives of the Federal Government of Nigeria, Enugu State inclusive.

### **DFID activities in Nigeria**

In recognizing the effort of DFID in Enugu state, the former Enugu State Commissioner for Human Development and Poverty Reduction Ogbonna Ike stated"

"The state and local government programme (SLGP) of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) provided considerable financial and technical assistance for the development of the state. We must mention that the Enugu state DFID partnership is increasingly being cited as a model of partnership between government and international development agencies" (Ike, in HDPR 2004:3)

The ministry of Human Development and Poverty Reduction which was primarily established for the alleviation of poverty or rather eradication of absolute poverty, has easy access to the DFID which ideals are on poverty reduction and sustainable development globally. Hence the specific duties and programme of DFID in Enugu State (either solely or in partnership with the state government) are many. Between 2001 and 2006, most of the development projects and poverty reduction strategies in the state were in conjunction with DFID. These include such projects as Capacity Building, Schools Meal Plus, Early Childhood School Programmes, Computerization of the State Civil Service, Criminal Justice, Fire Service, Public Expenditure Management, Public Health Programme and Access to Justice Programme within the period under review. DFID executed the above projects through its programmes as earlier stated. The projects specifications for the programme include the following.

**Access to Justice:** Access to Justice is a branch of the DFID that was involved actively in the development of Enugu State. The programme is known as security, justice, and

growth programme (SJGP). Security, Justice and Growth programmes are divisions of DFJD which supervised the development of security systems, land development and reform, access to justice and judicial development.

**Security Division:** The security division of SJGP played pivotal role as to community policing, reform in the police service commission, police affairs and Neighbourhood Association. In the area of community policy, security, Justice and Growth Programme successfully sponsored and passage of the community policy Bill at the Enugu State House of Assembly. It also organized Seminars and Workshops in most of the local government areas of the state on how best to protect the rural communities by the rural dwellers themselves. The division also organized Seminars, Workshop and Courses for Police Officers and Officers of the Police Service Commission, Police Affairs especially on Police Public Relations. It facilitated international courses for some Police Officers. Between 2003 and 2006, the division spent over N60million (sixty million naira) to the development of neighbourhood Association in the state. Neighbourhood Association was making the people understand the important of communal development by way of participatory involvement of the people towards project development, community and rural development programme, security and transparency in terms of behaviour (Enugu state sectoral policy briefs 2006). This helps the community to get rid of hoodlums and urchins or minimize their menace within the society.

The seminar and workshop which the SJGP used to organized in collaboration with the state government. These have helped the citizens known their basic rights and responsibilities as regards to their freedom and security within the communities. Also by constant interaction through Police Community Relation Committee (PCRC), the police understands how best to relate with the public especially the rural communities.

**Justice:** The Justice division of the SJGP played very well role towards the socio-economic reform and the development of the state. The Access to justice Programme has helped the state in many reform measures which include:

(a) The facilitation of justice and case management system the programme helped in modernizing the ministry of justice by financing all necessary gadgets that could facilitate accelerates of justice. The ministry of justice was fully computerized by the Access to Justice Programme. The office of Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) was modernized and computerized including modern filing system replica of developed countries like UK. The office of the Attorney General (AG) of the state was renovated and equipped with proper filling system. These have helped in facilitating the process of cases in the state. The Staff of the ministry were constantly trained by way of seminars and workshops including courses.

(b) Legal Aid to indigent people: The security, justice and Growth (a. k a. Access to Justice) Programme helped the indigent people to obtain justice. It helped such people to have access to court and legal representative.

(c) Alternative to Dispute Resolution (ADR). Alternative to Dispute Resolution is a scheme that used to settle disputes out of court. Lawyers and legal people are trained on ADR and are paid allowances by Access to Justice of the DFID. The programme, i.e. Access to Justice has spent over N2 million (Two million naira) in training, organizing

courses, seminars etc for the staff at local, state and national levels and sometimes international seminars and conference were also organized.

**Growth:** The growth division of the programme introduced reforms in the administration of land and urban development of the state. It restructured the urban planning and development of the state capital and local government headquarters in terms of Certificate of Occupancy (C of O), renovated the ministry of land and survey and installed a 40 KVA power generator therein.

**State and Local Government Programme (SLGP).** The State and Local Government Programme (SLGP) of the DFID has been outstandingly committed to the development programme of the state since 2001. The Programme is made up of Policy and Strategy, Project Development and Solid waste Management:

i. Policy and strategy division. Policy and strategy division of SLGP has initiated many projects aimed at capacity building, poverty reduction and general development of the state. The projects of the policy and strategy division include school meal plus and early childhood programme, computerization of the State Civil Service, Public expenditure management and Enugu State Environmental Protection Agency ENSEPA now known as Enugu State Waste Management Authority ESWAMA. The school meal plus which involve some selected schools in each of the local government, was ideologically motivated by DFID with financial commitment of about 40% (forty percent). The scheme which has a policy of feeding the nursery and junior primary schools also took care of their writing materials and total free school fees of the pupils concerned. Though it was tripartite involvement, of the local government, state government and DFID, the DFID financed the Project more than any of the partnering agencies. Hence the nursery and primary enrolment have shoot up due to this absolute scholarship.

ii. Project development: The project development division of SLOP facilitated many developmental projects in the state. These include; the state rural electrification, which the programme committed over N500 million (Five hundred million naira). This has greatly facilitated the development of rural communities. The urban electrification was also involved as some of the transformers of the urban areas were replaced with new and modern ones.

The water board was given a boost as the Enugu state greater water project and other water projects in the state have been attributed to the financial commitment of the SLOP of the DFID. Also on the water project at Owa in Ezeagu Local Government was principally financial by the programme which provided the people with three 300 KVA transformers.

The SLOP participated in road rehabilitation especially feeder roads in the rural areas. For instance the Mgbagbu Owa road, Obinofia Ndiuno town and so many other towns have their roads reconstructed by the programme.

**iii. Solid Waste Management:** The project development (a. k. a Issue Based Project IBP) of SLOP articulated and produced a study on Solid Waste Management which has been very effective in environment sanitation and health management of the state (HTPE, 2006). DFID spent over \$35m in 2003/2004 on health management. DFID has been actively involved in health and health reforms in Nigeria and Enugu State particularly. In fact more than 20% (twenty percent) of the Department Fund in Nigeria is channeled

towards health programme. It has been very effective on the National Programme on Immunization (NPI) which has been tackling Epidemics and deadly diseases in Nigeria. It collaborates with other international Development Partners such as World Health Organized United Nation Development Programme, United States Agency for International Development etc.

**Community and Public Health Programme:** The Health programme of DFID participated actively in the Health Sector Reforms (HSR) of the state. The programme helped in computerization of Ministry of Health and built some Health Centers in the state. The programme requested Crown Agency Nigeria Ltd to carry out the process to provide the Health Commodities Project (HCP) with the supply of Pharmaceuticals to Primary and Secondary Health care facilities throughout various states in Nigeria including Enugu state (Guardian Newspaper 18/09/07:34). Currently the Community and Public Health Programme has been transformed to Partnership for Transforming Health System (PATHS) and is vigorously pursuing health reforms system of the state.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

The Department for International Development (DFID) through the various programmes has actually played vital roles in the socio-economic, political and institutional reforms in Enugu State and Nigeria generally. The state and local government Programme (SLOP) has immensely enriched and empowered the state and its citizens. The primary school pupils have geometrically increased by way of pupils enrolment due to the school meal plus and other assistance rendered by DFID in the state. The rural areas benefited much from the development projects of DFID such as Education, by way of public schools built in partnership with the State Primary School Board, Water projects, and rural electrification. On health sector DFID, through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) programme, has effectively touched the lives of the people in its bid to reduce poverty burden in the state by way of Primary and Secondary Health Care Delivery. Assistance to the ministry of health in tackling epidemics and killer diseases such as Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS), the tackling of poliomyelitis through NPI by way of free vaccine to children less than 5years (Five-years), public health buildings and equipment/computerization of the state ministry of health have been wonderful improvement on the lives of the people in state.

DFID has been a leading development partner in Enugu State, Nigeria, having impacted positive changes and development of the state, especially in the rural communities. However, for its impact to be felt and appreciated by the people, the Department should be properly focused and exogenously estimated and appreciated in terms of project implementation. The Department would serve better by being independent in undertaking any projects. Even project proposals and feasibility studies should be independently carried out. It has been observed that most of the projects that the Department partnered with the government were over invoiced, over quoted or overvalued. A situation where the actual percentage impact on a project could not be empirically ascertained is not a comfortable assessment.

Partnership is a good and progressive venture, as the Igbo adages says "Igwe bu Ike" (i.e. Unit is strength), but a situation where such partnership is not transparently

elucidated, the venture becomes vague in terms of project valuation. It is therefore advisable for DFID, in any joint venture, to elect an independent management/consultant, to oversee such project development and implementation, with all the members being in a position to assess and evaluate such project.

Also it will create more impact on the lives of the people if the Department increases its budget for developing projects and poverty reduction. By so doing, its efforts will reach out to the needy who are so many in the society especially in Enugu state which has been noted as one of the poorest states in the country. The rural communities should be made to be aware of the partnership programmes of the DFID especially on community Development projects and neighbourhood/capacity enhancement programme/schemes. This could be done by carrying out aggressive enlightenment campaign system that would reach out. The pre-budget joint meeting of officials of DFID and the partnering state e.g. Enugu State should be held constantly so as to assess and evaluate project implementation, execution and report.

Financially, it is empirically clear that the character of DFID as an International Development Partner has contributed significantly to its involvement and objectives in the development process of Enugu state. It has also played significant roles in rural and community development of the state.

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