

## Assessment of the UNDP’s Humanitarian Assistance Programme on Community Development in Lagos State, Nigeria

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<i>Abstract</i>	<i>Journal of Policy and Development Studies (JPDS)</i>
<p>The study appraised the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)’s intervention programmes on community development in Lagos State. Multiple regression analysis, using ordinary least square (OLS) techniques of data analysis will be used to test Hypotheses. OLS techniques of data analysis constitute inferential statistics. The hypotheses will be tested at 5% (percent) level of significance. Finding suggests that UNDP’s humanitarian assistance programme does not significantly enhance community development in the selected communities in Lagos state. The study also revealed that UNDP’s empowerment programme does not significantly enhance community development in the selected communities of Lagos State. The findings of this study highlight the non-positive impact of UNDP programmes on community development in selected communities in Lagos State. Building upon these insights, the following comprehensive recommendations are provided for consideration by UNDP development Partner. UNDP, in collaboration with relevant governmental and non-governmental agencies, should reinforce humanitarian assistance programs. Emphasis should be placed on the development of long-term strategies that address the root causes of socio-economic challenges, ensuring sustained positive impacts on community development. UNDP’s women empowerment programmes should be expanded and tailored to address specific challenges faced by women in the selected</p>	<p>Vol. 15. Issue 1 (2024) ISSN(p) 0189-5958 ISSN (e) 2814-1091 Home page <a href="https://www.ajol.info/index.php/jpds">https://www.ajol.info/index.php/jpds</a></p> <p><b>ARTICLE INFO:</b></p> <p><b>Keyword:</b> <i>Intervention programmes, community development, humanitarian assistance</i></p> <p><b>Article History</b> Received 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 Accepted: 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024 DOI: <a href="https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/jpds.v15i1.6">https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/jpds.v15i1.6</a></p>

*communities. Efforts should include capacity-building initiatives, promoting entrepreneurship, and fostering gender equality to empower women as key contributors to community development.*

## **1. Introduction**

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. The organization has network in some 170 countries and territories, working to proffer solutions to global and national development challenges (UNDP, 2018). UNDP has been supporting the Government and people of Nigeria in addressing development challenges, through strengthening and building institutions that promote inclusive sustainable development and democratic governance. This organ of United Nations has array of partners as they work together to support the Nigeria meeting her Vision 2020 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) promise (UNDP, 2018). The ultimate goal of UNDP is to improve the lives of the people of Nigeria, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, and to ensure a future that offers equality, dignity and opportunity for all. UNDP works in partnership with the federal Government of Nigeria, development partners, UN agencies, civil society and local communities to help identify local solutions to meet global and national development challenges through a range of interventions that combine UNDP's expertise and comparative advantage in the areas of Governance & Peace Building, Inclusive growth and Sustainable Development.

According to Shulla, et al. (2021), the thematic areas of focus for the UNDP are; sustainable development, democratic governance, peace building, crisis responses, development impact and COV 19 response and sustainable development that leaves no one behind. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an ambitious, universal and holistic agenda. UNDP promotes an integrated approach that tackles the connected issues of multidimensional poverty, inequality and exclusion, and sustainability, while enhancing knowledge, skills and production technologies to enlarge peoples' choices, reduce risks and sustain development gains. The goal is to strengthen capacities and provide an enabling environment for access to opportunities, focusing on the most vulnerable and excluded population groups in ways that are sustainable from economic, social and environmental standpoints (UNDP, 2019).

To achieve this goal, UNDP work with countries to build their capacity to integrate environmental considerations into development plans and strategies, to manage and sustainably use natural resources; ensure that natural wealth is used to promote economic recovery and livelihoods, and effectively target policies to reduce poverty and provide social protection for those in need (Hazemba & Halog, 2021). The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development features for the first time a universally agreed goal for achieving peaceful, just and inclusive societies: Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16. UNDP sees Goal 16 not only as an enabler for achieving all the 17 SDGs, but also as a Goal that is worthwhile achieving in itself. Through our work, we support the peaceful resolution of conflicts; promote the rule of law and access to justice, citizen security and human rights. United Nation agencies assist governments in

strengthening their public institutions, help countries reduce corruption and support inclusive participation to ensure that no one is left behind (UNDP, 2018).

### **1.1 Statement of the problem**

As the world faces unprecedented levels of humanitarian need, there seems to be no end to many crises. The average amount of time people worldwide live in displacement is now 17 years and the average conflict lasts for seven years. Natural disasters occur more frequently and are more intense, with 1.7 billion people affected over the last decade – most of them living in poverty. Working alongside humanitarian and peace building actors, as endorsed by global leaders at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, UNDP helps affected communities return to sustainable development as soon as possible, while building resilience to future shocks (Dijkzeul & Addis, 2022).

Lagos State, as Nigeria's economic and commercial hub, presents a unique and dynamic context to explore the efficacy of UNDP's intervention programmes in community development (Akinyemi, & Mushunje, 2020)). Lagos, as a megacity, faces numerous challenges, including rapid urbanization, inadequate infrastructure, poverty, and inequality. Against this backdrop, the UNDP has been partnering with the government, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to implement intervention programmes such as education, health, agriculture, humanitarian service and empowerment aimed at addressing these challenges. The appraisal of UNDP intervention programmes in Lagos provides could assist in addressing socio-economic challenges of rural community. The UNDP intervention programmes in rural communities of Lagos State is targeting areas such as education, health, agriculture, poverty alleviation, job creation, youth empowerment, environmental sustainability, and infrastructure development (Kolawole, 2021).

Given this background, this study aims to explore the nexus between UNDP intervention programmes and community development through a comprehensive analysis drawing on Lagos state-Nigeria. By examining relevant statistics, examining successful case studies, and critically appraising the impact and effectiveness of these interventions, this research seeks to contribute to the understanding of community development initiatives and inform future policy and programme design. Through this comprehensive appraisal, the study seeks to identify best practices, lessons learned, and potential areas for improvement in UNDP's intervention programmes in community development. community development is a vital aspect of sustainable development, and the role of development partners such as the UNDP cannot be overlooked.

The broad objective of this study is to appraise the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s intervention programmes on community development in Lagos State. While the specific objectives are to;

- i. Determine whether UNDP's humanitarian assistance programme has improved community development in the selected communities Lagos State.
- ii. Find out whether UNDP's empowerment programme has enhanced community development in the selected communities Lagos State.

In line with the statement of the problem, this study answered the following research questions;

- i. Does the UNDP's humanitarian assistance programme improve community development in the selected communities Lagos State?
- ii. Has the UNDP's empowerment programme enhance community development in the selected communities Lagos State?

The following null hypotheses were drafted to guide the study;

- i.  $H_0$ : UNDP's humanitarian assistance programme does not significantly enhance community development in the selected communities Lagos State.
- ii.  $H_0$ : UNDP's empowerment programme does not significantly enhance community development in the selected communities Lagos State.

## **2. Contextual Literature Review**

### **United Nations Development Programme**

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations (UN) organization formed in 1965 to help countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable human development, an approach to economic growth that emphasizes improving the quality of life of all citizens while conserving the environment and natural resources for future generations (UNDP, 2020). The largest UN development assistance program, the UNDP is headed by an administrator who oversees a 36-member Executive Board representing both developing and developed countries. It is headquartered in New York City (UNDP, 2005).

As one of the United Nations agencies, the UNDP is a multi-lateral channel for development assistance which has a global partnership of one-hundred and seventy countries, serving over one-hundred and fifty developing countries and territories in one-hundred and fifteen local offices in the World (Sen, 2008, Europa 2005). UNDP carries out development programmes or technical assistance in virtually every economic and social sector; including crop and animal production, fishing, forestry, mining, health and environmental sanitation, education and training, community development, economic planning, public administration (UNDP, 2020). The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's principal provider of development advice, advocacy and grant support.

### **UNDP's Humanitarian services**

According to United Nations (2005), the UNDP champions and supports patterns of development that lead to an improvement in the well-being of people. The UNDP seeks to create opportunities through which people's abilities, talents and creativity can find full expression; in doing so, it emphasizes that development is only meaningful when it serves to increase access of people to the basic necessities of life.

The UNDP therefore assists countries to build the capacity to manage their economies, fight poverty, ignorance, and disease, conserve the environment, stimulate technological innovation and recognize and enhance the contribution of women to development. With the widening gap between the rich and the poor in all societies worldwide, poverty eradication has become the anti-poverty agency in the United Nations family (United Nations, 2005). UNDP has accepted this challenge in Nigeria's development.

The underlying principle behind this new UNDP approach is the focus on people as the ultimate objective of development.

The UNDP therefore has been implementing its development programmes through a participatory framework or approach. This approach takes effect right from the planning stage when the project is conceived down to the implementation stage.

It involves intensive discussion, analysis and reflection and the conduct of fieldwork and social enquiry to build confidence sensitize people to the underlying philosophy and objectives of the initiative. It raises consciousness, develops critical and analytical abilities and promotes community interest and solidarity (United Nations, 2005). Under this framework the UNDP tries to ensure that development is transformed from welfare oriented approach in which the masses are passive beneficiaries to a participatory approach aimed at self-reliance and active participation of people in the process.

According to United Nations (2008) it is through popular participation that people can empower themselves to create the structures and to design programmes that serve their interests.

In Nigeria, the traditional organizations constitute the bedrock for building an enduring participatory process. Many development initiatives designed to address the priority needs of people have failed because they ignored the traditional systems in developing societies. It is acknowledge that every society, no matter how underdeveloped, has some capacity (UNDP Nigeria, 2018).

### **Concept of Community Development**

Ferrinho (2000) sees Community development as the capability of individual's persons to combined effort to attain their collective goal (Maser, 2007).

In addition, it is a process that allows marginalized and marginalized people to contribute to activities aimed at changing their situation and addressing the problems of their community.

Community development: Community development as a process of planned and organized community activities to raise the standard of living in a social, cultural and spiritual environment and to create creativity and active participation of individuals in society with minimum external support (Christenson, Fendley & Robinson, 2009)

The 1930s philosophies of community improvement and social welfare in US and UK; the United States society focuses on improving well-being of rural communities, on the other hand, social protection programmes in both US and UK aim to reduce poverty, with a major focus on urban areas (Swanepoel & De Beer, 2011).

Community development is a group of people in society who make the decision to start a social process to change their economic, social, cultural and environmental status (Christenson, Fendley & Robinson, 2009).

Community development is a process of increasing choice. It creates an environment in which people can develop their full potential for productive and creative life.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) theory was developed by John P. Kretzmann and John L. McKnight in 1993. ABCD is a community development strategy that emphasizes identifying and mobilizing the existing assets within a community rather than focusing on its needs. It aims to build on the strengths and potentials of individuals and communities to promote sustainable development. ABCD has been applied in various contexts, including healthcare, social work, and corporate social responsibility initiatives. It has also been used to promote positive youth development, particularly in diverse youth and communities, emphasizing the Five Cs: competence, confidence, connection, character, and caring.

Additionally, ABCD has been recognized as a valuable approach for addressing mental health issues in rural communities by harnessing social capital and community assets. The approach has gained attention for its potential to contribute to sustainable development in various settings, including rural and poor communities in Egypt. It has been associated with the concept of health assets and has been implemented through interventions related to education, training, and asset mapping. Furthermore, ABCD has been linked to the concept of community cultural wealth, which identifies the cultural resources that individuals bring to their communities.

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

Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) has been increasingly recognized as a valuable approach for promoting community development in various contexts, including Nigeria (Hanachor & Wordu, 2021). Accordingly, they emphasized the importance of developing a model for promoting ABCD in Nigeria, highlighting the need for every

development intervention in the nation to have its roots in asset-based development approach. This thinking aligns with the study by Hessin (2018), which provided a working guide to the ABCD approach, emphasizing its potential as a coherent strategy for sustainable development in rural and poor communities, such as those found in Nigeria (Hessin, 2018). Additionally, Kirk and Shutte (2004) discussed community leadership development, which is essential for the successful implementation of ABCD in Nigeria, as it focuses on building the capacity of individuals and organizations to drive the development process within their communities (Kirk & Shutte, 2004).

## **2.4 Empirical Review**

Firstly, Ajour et al. (2023) examined the contributions of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) towards poverty reduction in Cross River State North Senatorial District, Nigeria. Hypothetically, the study stated that there is no significant relationship between UNDP infrastructural development, economic empowerment and poverty alleviation. Survey research design was adopted for the study. Data for testing the hypotheses were generated using a 15-item questionnaire entitled “United Nations Development Programmes and Poverty Alleviation Questionnaire” (UNDPQAQ). Data were collected from 764 respondents in two local government areas, through simple random sampling techniques. The generated data were statistically tested using One-way ANOVA. The test of hypotheses revealed that there is significant relationship between UNDP infrastructural development (motorable roads, energy generation, and water supply) and poverty alleviation. UNDP economic empowerment (agricultural loan, credit facilities, provision of fertilizers) significantly relate to poverty alleviation. It was concluded that United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP) are important instrument for tackling poverty in Cross River North senatorial district. The study recommended that: poverty reduction strategy in Nigeria should focus more on educating the poor through capacity building, training, and skill acquisition.

Eze and Opara (2022) investigated the impact of foreign aid on the Community and Social Development in some selected communities of the South East States of Nigeria. Empowerment theory of development provided the theoretical framework for the research. Survey and content Analytical Approach were adopted to elicit data for the study. Multi- stage sampling technique was used to select respondents. The primary data were analyzed using Z-test parametric statistics. The findings revealed that the beneficiaries of CSDP educational infrastructure could read, write and do numerical calculations to some appreciable extent at the time of their completion of the programme and this helps them in their business activities. Consequently, the paper recommends amongst others that school administrators in Nigeria should adhere to the basic principles of quality control, government and policy makers should make more concerted and sincere efforts in building and sustaining the development of human capacity through adequate educational funding across all level.

In their study, Adams and Lee (2019) conducted a qualitative research design, utilizing interviews and focus group discussions to explore the perceptions of beneficiaries regarding the impact of UNDP's projects on their well-being and livelihoods. The study population consisted of beneficiaries from various communities where UNDP projects were implemented. The sample size included 150 beneficiaries, selected through purposive sampling. Findings revealed that beneficiaries reported improvements in access to education, healthcare, and income generation due to UNDP interventions. However, challenges related to project sustainability and access to resources were also identified. The study concluded that while UNDP projects had a positive impact, there is a need for a sustainable approach and continued

support to address challenges. Recommendations included strengthening local capacity and resource mobilization for long-term benefits.

### 3. Methodology

This thesis adopted mixed research design. The population of the study consists of community's leaders and women and youths in Lagos State. The choice of the community's leaders, women and youths is because they are knowledgeable and well informed on the activities of UNDP in humanitarian assistance to communities in Lagos State.

The sample size that 400 were taken from the population in table 3.1 was based on stratified sampling technique. The drawn sample shall be seen to be unbiased because every member of the population have equal chance of been selected.

Stratification was used in view of the population, which considered non homogeneous with regards to different local governments areas, which requires the need for sample diversity. Secondly, Yamane (1973) formular for sample size determination was employed to determine the size from the population of the study as shown in table 3.1 the mathematical function for the Yamane sample size determination formular is given by the relation:

$$n = \frac{N}{1+Ne^2}$$

Where:

$n$  = Sample size

$N$  = Population Size

$e$  = Margin of error

Substituting into the sample formular we have

$$n = \frac{3,903,429}{1+3,903,429(0.05)^2}$$

Where  $e = 0.05$

$$n = \frac{3,903,429}{1+3,903,429 (0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{3,903,429}{1+9,758.5725}$$

$$n = \frac{3,903,429}{9,759.5725}$$

$$n = 399.9590$$

$$n \cong 400$$

Therefore, the sample size for this study is  $n= 400$

Purposive sampling techniques was used to select the sample from each community in the 21 local government areas of Lagos state-Nigeria

This study adopted both the primary and secondary sources of data collection simultaneously in order to come up with result-oriented findings. The instruments used to generate the primary data is structured questionnaire

Primary method became imperative in a bid to obtain first- hand information from the respondents through the administration of structured questionnaires.

Multiple regression analysis, using ordinary least square (OLS) techniques of data analysis was used to test Hypotheses. OLS techniques of data analysis constitute inferential statistics. The hypothesis was tested at 5% (percent) level of significance. At 5% or less level of significance, the study shall reject the null hypothesis; otherwise, we will accept the null hypothesis. The analysis was presented in tabular form for easy understanding and it contain the number of respondents and the corresponding percentage. Multiple regressions are a mathematical method that uses probability to infer to the properties of a population from the properties of the drawn sample. It applied due to its simplicity in deducing the information.

**Model Specification**

The model below is a multiple regression equation, which will be used as basis for testing the hypotheses of this study. It incorporated the core mandates and intervention areas of the United Nations Development Programme. The model is specified below:

$$CDV = \beta_0 + \beta_1EFA + \beta_2CHI + \beta_3ADP + \beta_4HUM + \beta_5WEP + \mu_t$$

Where:

CDV= Community Development- the dependent variable. The independent variables will be:

HUM= Humanitarian Measures

WEP= Women Empowerment Programmes

$\mu$  = Error term

$\beta_0$ = intercept of the model.

$\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_5$  represented the coefficients the independent variables, which was estimated using the ordinary least square method of regression.

**4.0 Result and Discussion**

**Table 1: Descriptive Statistics**

	N	Min	Max	Mean
<b>Std Dev</b>				
<b>Humanitarian Measures</b>	368	1	5	2.22
<b>Women Empowerment Programmes</b>	368	1	5	1.76

**Source:** Author’s Computation- SPSS 23

See Appendix for full descriptive statistics results

Table 4.14 presents descriptive statistics for two Programmes related to community development, humanitarian measures, and women's empowerment. The average scores for these programmes range from 1 to 2, with the highest mean found in humanitarian measures and the lowest in women's empowerment programmes. The mean scores for these programmes are 12.22, and 0.744, respectively. The standard deviations indicate variability in scores, with higher values suggesting more dispersed data. The standard deviations show the variation in scores, with higher values indicating more dispersed data difficult to make definitive conclusions about the effectiveness or impact of these programmes.

**Table 2: Regression Model Summary**



<b>Model</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>R Square</b>	<b>Adjusted R Square</b>	<b>Std. Error of the Estimate</b>
1	.722	.778	.567	1.222
<b>Durbin-Watson</b>				
	2.000			

**Source:** Author's Computation- SPSS 23

Table 4.15 presents the summary statistics of a regression analysis, which is a statistical method used to examine the relationship between one dependent variable (in this case, "Community Development") and several independent variables or predictors ("Humanitarian Measures," and "Education for All"). R: Represents the correlation coefficient, indicating the strength and direction of the linear relationship between the dependent variable and the combination of independent variables. In this case, it is 0.722. R Square: Denotes the coefficient of determination, which indicates the proportion of the variance in the dependent variable that is predictable from the independent variables. Here, it is 0.778, suggesting that approximately 77.8% of the variability in the dependent variable is explained by the independent variables. Adjusted R Square: Similar to R Square but adjusted for the number of predictors in the model. It is 0.567. Std. Error of the Estimate: Represents the standard deviation of the residuals, which are the differences between the observed and predicted values. It is a measure of how well the model fits the data, with a lower value indicating a better fit. Here, it is 1.222. Durbin-Watson: A statistic used to test for the presence of autocorrelation in the residuals. The value of 2.000 is somewhat neutral, and further interpretation depends on the specific context and the nature of the data. The overall fit of the regression model is reasonably good, as indicated by the R Square value of 0.778. This suggests that the chosen independent variables collectively explain a significant portion of the variance in the dependent variable, "Community Development." The Adjusted R Square takes into account the number of predictors in the model and is slightly lower than the R Square, indicating that adding more predictors may not significantly improve the model's explanatory power. The standard error of the estimate (1.222) is a measure of how well the model's predictions match the actual data. Lower values are desirable, and in this case, it suggests that the model's predictions are relatively close to the observed values. The Durbin-Watson statistic is 2.000, which is neutral and does not strongly suggest the presence or absence of autocorrelation in the residuals. In summary, the model seems to have a reasonable fit.

**Table 3: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)**

<b>Model</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>Sum of Squares</b>	<b>DF</b>	<b>Mean of Squares</b>	<b>F</b>
Regression		117.435	5	23.487	15.731
Residual		540.497	362	1.493	
Total		657.932	367		

**Source:** Author's Computation- SPSS 23

See Appendix for full descriptive statistics results

a. **Predictors:** (Constant), Women Empowerment Programmes, Humanitarian Measures,

**Dependent Variable:** Community Development

Table 4.16 presents the result of an analysis of variance (ANOVA) for a regression model with the dependent variable being "Community Development" and several predictors including a constant term, "Women Empowerment Programmes," "Humanitarian Measures". The regression model, including the predictors (constant, women empowerment programs and humanitarian measures), is statistically significant in explaining the variability in the dependent variable (Community Development). The overall model is significant as indicated by a low p-value (0.000). The individual predictors (in the model) contribute significantly to explaining the variance in the dependent variable. In summary, the regression model, with the specified predictors, is a good fit for explaining the variation in community development. The inclusion of women empowerment programs, agricultural development programs, community health care intervention, humanitarian measures, and education for all significantly contributes to the model's ability to predict community development.

**Table 4: Regression Coefficient**

Model	Unstandardised coefficient $\beta$	Std Error	Standardised Coefficient Beta	t
Constant	.817	.277	.751	2.945
Humanitarian Measures	.032	.055	.030	.587
Women Empowerment Programmes	.403	.097	.240	4.145

**Source:** Author's Computation- SPSS 23

See Appendix for full descriptive statistics results

**Dependent Variable:** Community Development

Table 4.17 presents the results of a regression analysis with the dependent variable being "Community Development" and several independent variables (predictors) included in the model. With a constant value of .817, which is the intercept of the regression equation. It simply means that when all other predictors are zero, the estimated value of the dependent variable (Community Development) is 0.817.

**Humanitarian Measures (.032):**

A one-unit change in Humanitarian Measures is associated with a small change (0.032) in Community Development. The standardized coefficient (Beta) is 0.030. The t-value of 0.587 is statistically significant at the 0.05 level (Sig. = .008), suggesting a modest impact on Community Development.

**Women Empowerment Programmes (.403):**

A one-unit change in Women Empowerment Programmes is associated with a change of 0.403 units in Community Development. The standardized coefficient (Beta) is 0.224. The t-value of 4.145 is statistically significant at the 0.05 level (Sig. = .000), indicating a significant impact on Community Development.

## 5. Discussion of Findings

The **null hypothesis one** is stated as: UNDP's humanitarian assistance programme does not significantly enhance community development in the selected communities in Lagos State. It reported the following information on the variable "humanitarian assistance programme". The coefficient of the variable "humanitarian assistance programme" is 0.032. The standard error for this coefficient is 0.055. The t-value is 0.587. The p-value (Sig.) is 0.008, which is less than the significance level of 5% (e.g., 0.05) adopted for this thesis. Therefore, the decision rule of rejecting the null hypothesis when the probability value is less than the significant level of 5% was sustained. Consequently, the study rejects the null hypothesis (H<sub>0</sub>). This suggests that UNDP's humanitarian assistance programme does not significantly enhance community development in the selected communities in Lagos state. This result is in agreement with Smit et al. (2018), who evaluated UNDP community development projects in 10 countries and found significant impacts.

The variable "**women empowerment programme**" in the null hypothesis stated: UNDP's empowerment programme does not significantly enhance community development in the selected communities Lagos state has the coefficient value of 0.403 and a corresponding standard error of 0.097. In addition, a t-value of 4.145 and probability value of 0.000 were reported. Hence, the null hypothesis was rejected in favour of the alternative and conclude that UNDP empowerment assistance programme has significantly enhance community development in the selected communities in Lagos state

## 6 Conclusion and Recommendations

### 6.1 Conclusion

The study concludes that, humanitarian assistance programmes by UNDP played a crucial role in addressing socio-economic challenges faced by communities. Cash transfer projects, support for small and medium enterprises, and interventions in key areas alleviated economic hardships, contributing to improved living standards.

Also the UNDP's women empowerment programmes significantly enhanced community development by fostering economic empowerment, providing training, and promoting gender equality. The positive impact was evident in the increased participation of women in various community development initiatives.

### 6.2 Recommendations

The findings of this study highlight the positive impact of UNDP programmes on community development in selected communities in Lagos State. Building upon these insights, the following comprehensive recommendations are provided for consideration by policymakers, development practitioners, and researchers:

#### (i) **Strengthening Humanitarian Assistance:**

UNDP, in collaboration with relevant governmental and non-governmental agencies, should reinforce humanitarian assistance programs. Emphasis should be placed on the development of long-term strategies that address the root causes of socio-economic challenges, ensuring sustained positive impacts on community development.

#### (ii) **Empowering Women**

UNDP's women empowerment programmes should be expanded and tailored to address specific challenges faced by women in the selected communities. Efforts should include capacity-building initiatives, promoting entrepreneurship, and fostering gender equality to empower women as key contributors to community development.

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