

Sustainable Development Goal 1 and Poverty Alleviation in South East Nigeria: The Nexus

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Abstract	<i>Journal of Policy and Development Studies (JPDS)</i>
<p><i>Poverty has remained endemic in Nigeria bringing about low standard of living for majority of the masses. Government and international organizations are coming up with policies and programmes aimed at reducing the impact of this malaise. One such programme by United Nations Organization is Sustainable Development Goals with seventeen (17) targets aimed at addressing social, economic, and environmental aspects of sustainable development. The study adopted descriptive research design. The population of the study was 21,955,400. Taro Yamane's formula was used to determine the sample size of 625. The data was analysed through the use of descriptive and inferential analysis, one sample t-test as used to test the hypotheses. Findings of the study showed that SDG1 had a positive significant influence on income generation, social protection, sustainable livelihood, access to education, and establishment of micro enterprises in South East Nigeria. The study recommended that for SDG1 to further make impact in the South East Nigeria, governments of the five states that make up the zone, should identify the marginalized communities and prioritize the implementation of SDG policies in those communities.</i></p>	<p>Vol. 15. Issue 2 (2024) ISSN(p) 1597-9385 ISSN (e) 2814-1091 Home page https://www.ajol.info/index.php/jpds</p> <p>ARTICLE INFO: Keyword: Poverty, South East, Development Goal 1, Unemployment.</p> <p>Article History Received: 5th April, 2024 Accepted: 15th June, 2024</p> <p>DOI: https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/jpds.v15i2.21</p>

1. Introduction

The origin of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is traced back to the declaration adopted by Heads of states at the millennium summit of the United Nations in 2000 (Nayyar, 2012). These goals were set to tackle extreme poverty and many other numerous challenges as they remain a global threat, within a specific deadline of 2015 (McArthur, 2014; Oleribe & Taylor-Robinson, 2016). Achieving these goals will lead to a general improvement in the general standard of human life, more specifically the less disadvantaged. Poverty has been significantly reduced as a result of the successful implementation of the program. However, the MDGs have no clear transformative vision because their major focus was towards alleviating the effect of poverty without capturing the required fundamentals in achieving a sustainable outcome, hence its replacement with SDGs, which are more inclusive and sustainable (Luna & Montaña, 2017). Thus, in 2015, the United Nations approved the 2030 sustainable development agenda to holistically address the social, economic, and environmental aspects of sustainable development (Abraham & Pingali, 2017).

The relevance of Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1) on poverty reduction cannot be overstated, as it serves as the foundation for achieving sustainable development globally. SDG 1, which aims to "end poverty in all its forms everywhere," underscores the urgency of addressing poverty as a fundamental human rights issue and a barrier to achieving broader development objectives (United Nations, 2015). Poverty perpetuates cycles of deprivation, inequality, and social exclusion, hindering individuals and communities from realizing their full potential. According to the World Bank, more than 700 million people worldwide still live in extreme poverty, struggling to meet their basic needs for food, shelter, and healthcare (World Bank, 2021). SDG 1 provides a comprehensive framework for mobilizing resources, fostering partnerships, and implementing targeted interventions to alleviate poverty and promote shared prosperity. By addressing the root causes of poverty, such as inadequate access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, SDG 1 seeks to create pathways for sustainable development and inclusive growth. Furthermore, the relevance of SDG 1 extends beyond its intrinsic goal of poverty reduction to intersect with other sustainable development goals, such as SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and SDG 4 (Quality Education). Achieving progress towards SDG 1 is essential for advancing the broader agenda of sustainable development and leaving no one behind in the journey towards a more equitable and prosperous world.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1) aims to eradicate poverty in all its forms, including extreme poverty, by 2030. In Nigeria, Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1) holds paramount importance in addressing the pervasive issue of poverty. With a significant portion of the population living below the poverty line, SDG 1 serves as a crucial framework for guiding targeted interventions and fostering inclusive development. Poverty not only deprives individuals of basic necessities but also undermines economic growth, social cohesion, and overall well-being. By prioritizing poverty alleviation efforts, Nigeria can unlock human potential, stimulate economic productivity, and reduce inequalities. SDG 1 provides a roadmap for implementing sustainable solutions that empower marginalized communities, improve access to education and healthcare, and create pathways to economic prosperity. Achieving SDG 1 in Nigeria is essential not only for fulfilling the rights and dignity of every citizen but also for building a more resilient and equitable society for future generations. However, Nigeria faces significant challenges in achieving this goal, with a large portion of its

population still living in poverty. The problem of poverty in Nigeria is complex and multifaceted, influenced by various socio-economic, political, and environmental factors.

Moreover, recurrent conflicts, insecurity, and environmental degradation pose significant obstacles to poverty reduction efforts in Nigeria (World Bank, 2021). These challenges exacerbate vulnerabilities, displace communities, and disrupt livelihoods, particularly in conflict-affected regions such as the Northeast and the Niger Delta. In South East, Nigeria, Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1) on poverty alleviation faces multifaceted challenges. Despite income generation initiatives and micro-enterprise support, many individuals still lack access to sustainable livelihoods, adequate social protection, and quality education. Structural barriers hinder economic empowerment, particularly in rural areas. Limited access to social safety nets exacerbates vulnerabilities, perpetuating cycles of poverty. Insufficient investment in education further restricts opportunities for socio-economic advancement. It is based on this statement that study examined the Sustainable Development Goal 1 and poverty alleviation in South East, Nigeria.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

- i. Analyse the influence of Sustainable Development Goal 1 on sustainable livelihood in South East, Nigeria.
- ii. Identify how Sustainable Development Goal 1 influenced access to education in South East, Nigeria.
- iii. Evaluate the influence of Sustainable Development Goal 1 on establishment of micro-enterprises in South East, Nigeria

1.4 Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study.

- i. What is the influence of Sustainable Development Goal 1 on sustainable livelihood in South East, Nigeria?
- ii. How has Sustainable Development Goal 1 influenced access to education in South East, Nigeria?
- iii. What is the influence of Sustainable Development Goal 1 on establishment of micro-enterprises in South East, Nigeria?

1.5 Statement of Hypotheses

The following hypotheses guided the study.

- i. Sustainable Development Goal 1 does not significantly influence sustainable livelihood in South East, Nigeria.
- ii. Sustainable Development Goal 1 has no significant influence on access to education in South East, Nigeria.
- iii. Sustainable Development Goal 1 has not significantly influenced the establishment of micro-enterprises in South East, Nigeria.

2. Review of Related Literature

2.1 Conceptual Review

2.1.1 Sustainable Development Goal

Sustainable development is defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The concept of needs goes beyond simply material need and includes values, relationship and participation. It can be achieved through eradicating poverty and hunger, guarantying a healthy life, universal access to basic services such as water, sanitation, sustainable energy support, the generation of development through inclusive education and decent work. Members of a community must share in the cost and benefits of development. That is, all community members must participate in development.

There are a total of 169 targets for the Sustainable Development Goals. Each has between 5 to 20 targets (or about 10 on average). Each of these targets has one, two or three indicators to measure progress towards reaching the targets. In total, there are 232 approved indicators to measure compliance. There are United Nations official initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Solutions Network which monitors the activity of countries and regions in the work of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and also records the information. The Goals were adopted by the United Nations member states in 2015 as a universal call action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. All 193 member states of the United Nations have adopted 17 goals to be achieved by 2030. The Sustainable Development Goals offer a framework and blue print for achieving sustainable global prosperity and commit participating countries to individual and joint action for the good of all on the planet. The Sustainable Development Goals are successor to and improvement on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which ran from 2000 to 2015 (MDGs, 2015).

2.1.2 Sustainable Development Goal 1

Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1) aims to "end poverty in all its forms everywhere" by 2030, addressing the multidimensional aspects of poverty including income, access to basic services, and social protection. It recognizes that poverty is not solely defined by lack of income but encompasses various deprivations that limit individuals' capabilities and opportunities for a dignified life. SDG 1 emphasizes the need for inclusive economic growth, social protection systems, and targeted interventions to lift people out of poverty while ensuring their access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and clean water. It aligns with the broader agenda of sustainable development, acknowledging poverty as both a cause and consequence of environmental degradation and social injustice.

The eradication of poverty is fundamental to achieving sustainable development, as stated by the United Nations: "Eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development" (United Nations, 2015). By addressing the root causes of poverty and promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, SDG 1 seeks to create a world where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and fulfill their potential.

2.1.3 Nigerian Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Voluntary National Review 2020

Nigeria's 2020 Voluntary National Review (VNR) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focused on the key issues of poverty (SDG-1), and an inclusive economy (SDG-8), wealth and well-being (SDG-3), Education (SDG-4), Gender Equality (SDG-5), and the enabling environment of peace and security (SDGs-16), and Partnership (SDG-17). This focus is based on Nigeria's current development priorities and the development objective of President M. Buhari. The VNR is being developed while facing with challenges from COVID-19 pandemic testing the effectiveness of Nigeria's public health systems and the collapse of oil price, for an

economy still getting 86% of public revenue from oil and gas. Nigeria's 2017 VNR outline the institutional dimensions for creating and enabling policy environment for the implementation of the SDGs through the Economic and Recovery Growth Plan (ERGP) 2017-2020. It focused on economic, social and environmental dimensions of development that make it consistent with the aspirations of the SDGs.

SDG (3) Health and Well-being- poor health outcome such as high rate of maternal mortality: there has been a decrease from 157% to 132%. COVID-19 challenged health system by exposing how unprepared we are to tackle public health emergencies. Nigeria current access to clean water is 64% which is above average. SDG4-Education: out of school children is a major challenge, a demographic challenge that relates to interplay between employment SDG-11 education SDG-4 poverty SDG-1 and digital economy SDG-17. In Nigeria's 200 million people regional disparities are significantly observed with 78% of South West children able to read and write while only 17% of North Eastern children can. With only 1.6 of GDP to education more need to be done. SDG-8 inclusive economy: Nigeria's informal economy is one of the largest on the continent estimated at 53% of the labor force and accounting for 65% all non-jobs are informal. Youth have a combined rate of unemployment and under employment rate of 55.4% or 2.5 million.

According to Nigeria's 2020 Voluntary National Review (VNR), alignment of national planning to SDGs; good strides have been made in the domestication process of the SDGs in Nigeria. First, there is an ongoing realignment of the National Statistical System (NSS) with the requirements and indicators of the SDGs. Second, Nigeria has developed its home-grown 'Integrated Sustainable Development Goals (SDG model) – an analytical framework for assessing how policy making can better address the indivisible nature of the SDGs. Third, the Nigeria's 2020 VNR report has drawn on past evaluations across the Seven priority SDGs and has an ongoing evaluation of the country's performance in SDG 2&4. This attempt to systematically use evaluations is an innovation in the VNR context. Nigeria should strengthen the evidence-based planning and accountability mechanisms at State level for accelerating the SDG decade of action. The post-ERGP National Development Plan (2021-2030) will be pivotal in advancing the achievement of the SDGs in Nigeria.

2.1.4 Appraisal of the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 2030 in Nigeria

The massive persistence of poverty, particularly in rural areas, according to Idriss (1992), represents a problem for the popular acceptance of continue economic adjustment; and it represents a problem for growth itself. The problem lies not only in the unintended consequences of the prevailing development paradigm, but in the viability of the paradigm itself.

According to Idriss (1992) most of the forces creating poverty are essentially social. They reflect systems of resources allocations that are made by societies and as such can be reversed. Pricing policies, credit systems, social and productive services which neglect the poor, as well as gender discrimination, are not natural, universal and inevitable facts and neither is the poverty they give rise to. Stiglitz (2009: 12) noted that:

The globalization of the economy has benefited countries that took advantage of it by seeking new markets for their exports and by welcoming foreign investment. Even so, the countries that have benefited the most have been those that took charge of their own destiny and recognized the role government can play in development rather than relying on the notion of a self-regulated market that would fix its own problems. But for millions of people globalization has not worked.

Many have actually been made worse off, as they have seen their jobs destroyed and their lives become more insecure. They have fallen increasingly powerless against forces beyond their control. They have seen their democracies undermined, their cultures eroded.

Those who intervened in the market process like the Asian Tigers were better off but Africans took the 'rubbish' as was packaged for them without any contribution. Africans are now suffering exploitation; this has widened the gap between the rich and poor. Poverty is less a failure of the poor, than a failure of policy makers to grasp their potential according to Idriss (1992). As individuals, many of the poor are virtually unreachable. As member of associations and groups they create their own channels for institutional access. The dynamics of poverty are reversible, but only in collaboration with the poor themselves. The most valid spokesmen of the poor are the poor themselves.

The mobilization and enhancement of the resources and activities of the poor themselves can uphold their dignity and free them from the shackles of misery-while at the same time making a vital contribution to overall sustainable growth. Poverty alleviation involves creating conducive conditions under which people will receive their income from their work. Nigeria has six-tier model of class structure as in most industrial societies. The terms social and economic inequalities simply refer to the existence of socially credited inequalities. Sociologists use income, education and occupation prestige to measure social class. The social classes in Nigeria include: capitalist class, upper middle class, lower middle class, middle class, working class and classless. These classes are as a result of unequal distribution of income in our society mainly because of our weak social institutions.

Nigerians have been appealing to the conscience of political leaders to make their salaries and allowances realistic by receiving what government officials receive in other similar countries or reduce to a reasonable percentage but they refused. They live in luxury while the people whose money they are using and electorate that voted them into power are living in penury. Some are even attempting or actually committing suicide because of the frustration caused by bad leadership.

2.1.5 Poverty Alleviation

Poverty eradication encompasses a multifaceted approach aimed at addressing the root causes and manifestations of poverty to ensure a dignified life for all individuals. It goes beyond mere income levels and recognizes poverty as a complex phenomenon influenced by factors such as lack of access to education, healthcare, clean water, food security, and economic opportunities. Central to the concept of poverty eradication is the idea of sustainable development, which emphasizes the need for inclusive economic growth, social protection systems, and targeted interventions to lift people out of poverty while ensuring their access to essential services. As articulated by the United Nations, poverty eradication is "the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development" (United Nations, 2015). Effective poverty eradication strategies prioritize the empowerment of marginalized communities, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and indigenous peoples, to enable them to participate fully in society and access opportunities for socio-economic advancement. Additionally, addressing structural inequalities, promoting equitable distribution of resources, and fostering inclusive governance are essential components of poverty eradication efforts.

Aluko (2017) defines poverty as "lack of basic necessities of life". That is basically not having enough to eat, a high rate of infant mortality, low life expectancy, low educational opportunity, poor water, unemployment, inadequate healthcare and unit housing. However, poverty can no

longer be defined in terms of income alone because of its complexity. According to UNDP (2014) poverty is distinguished between income poverty and human poverty. Income poverty, according to UNDP occurs when the income level of an individual falls below a nationally defined poverty line. Overall poverty takes various forms, including “lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods; hunger and malnutrition; ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basic services; increased morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments and social discrimination and exclusion. It is also characterized by lack of participation in decision making and in civil, social and cultural life. It occurs in all countries: as mass poverty in many developing countries, pockets of poverty amid wealth in developed countries, loss of livelihoods as a result of economic recession, sudden poverty as a result of disaster or conflict, the poverty of low-wage workers, and the utter destitution of people who fall outside family support systems, social institutions and safety nets. (UN, 2015).

Table 1: Indicating Multidimensional poverty in Nigeria

Dimensions	Indicators	Deprived if
Education	Years of schooling	Any household member 15 years and above has not completed five years of schooling
	Child school attendance	Any child in the household between ages 5 and 15 years is not attending school
Health	Child mortality	Any child less than 15 years in the household have ????
	Nutrition	Any adult for whom there is nutritional information is malnourished ($BM < 18.5 \text{ kg/m}^2$)
Living Standard	Lighting	The household has no electricity
	Sanitation	The household's sanitation facility is not improved (according to MDG guidelines), or it is improved but shared with other households
	Use of Water	The household does not have access to safe drinking water (according to MDG guidelines)
	Floor	The household has a dirt, sand or dung floor
	Cooking fuel	The household cooks with dung, wood or charcoal etc
	Asset	The household has less than two assets and does not own a car
Unemployment	Unemployment	Any household member 15 years above is looking for work and available for work

Source: UNDP 2018

From the foregoing, the study presents data on education and employment as being part of the determining factors in multidimensional poverty indicators in Nigeria which affects rural women.

2.1.5 Structure of the Nigeria MPI (2022)

In 2018, Nigeria published its first national MPI, constructed by the National Bureau of Statistics, in the Human Development Report (UNDP, 2018). The Nigeria MPI (2022) has four dimensions: health, education, living standards, and work and shocks. The number of indicators and their ambition has increased. Security shocks were raised in consultations and have been added to the work dimension, which also now includes underemployment. Food security and time to healthcare have been added to the health dimension. School lag has been added to the education dimension as a proxy for quality, and water reliability added to living standards.

The Nigeria MPI (2022) also has a linked Child MPI. This Child MPI extends the Nigeria MPI to include appropriate indicators for children under 5, by adding a fifth dimension of child survival and development. This additional dimension contains eight vital aspects of early childhood development in physical and cognitive domains—including severe under nutrition, immunisation, intellectually stimulating activities, and preschool. While it does not offer individual-level data, it uncovers additional children who according to the extra dimension should qualify as multidimensionally poor.

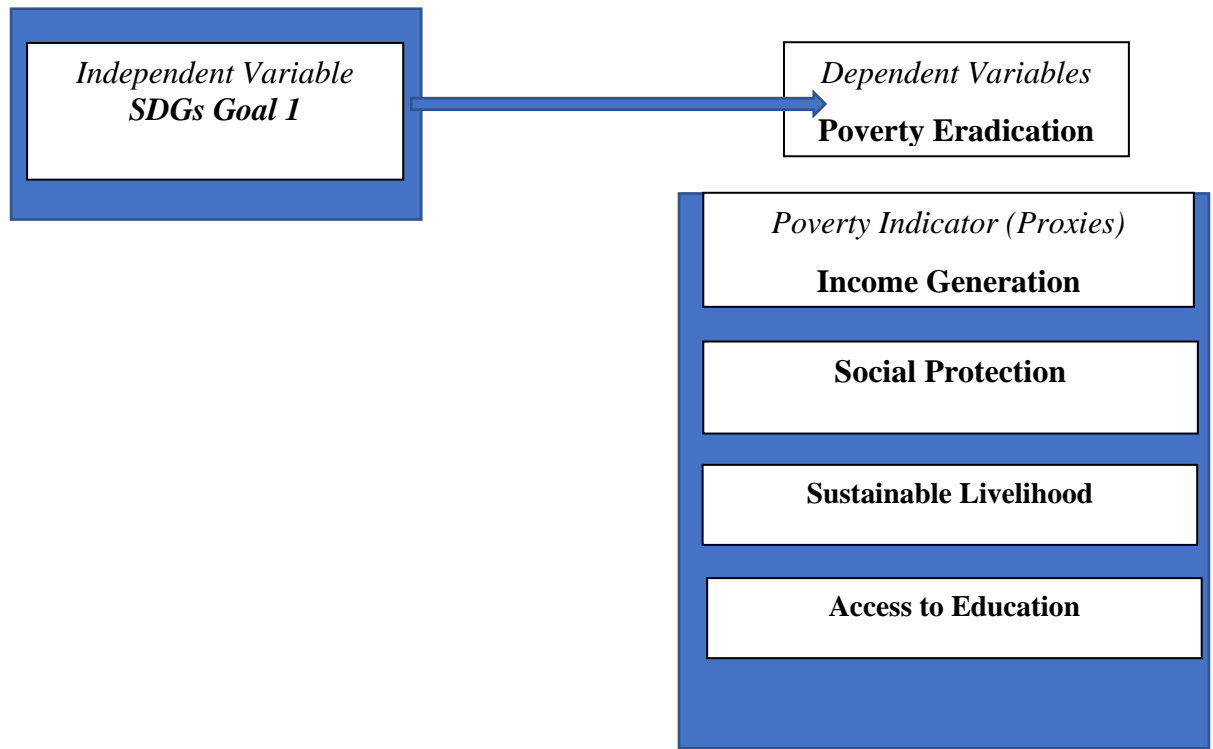
Nigeria MPI (2022)—Key results

Sixty-three percent of people—133 million—are multidimensionally poor.

- i. The Nigeria MPI is 0.257, showing that poor people in Nigeria experience just over one quarter of all possible deprivations. The value ranges from 0 to 1, with 0 reflecting zero poverty and 1 universal poverty and deprivation. The aim of the Nigeria MPI (2022) is for this number to reduce over time. Over half of the populations who are multidimensionally poor cook with dung, wood or charcoal, rather than cleaner energy. High deprivations are also apparent in sanitation, time to healthcare, food insecurity, and housing.
- ii. Multidimensional poverty is higher in rural areas, where 72% of people are poor, compared to 42% of people in urban areas. Approximately 70% of Nigeria’s population live in rural areas, yet these areas is home to 80% of poor people; the intensity of rural poverty is also higher: 42% in rural areas compared to 37% in urban areas. Sixty-five percent of poor people—86 million—live in the North, while 35%—nearly 47 million—live in the South.
- iii. In a federal system, it is vital to understand the level of poverty by State. Poverty levels across States vary significantly, with the proportion of the population (incidence) living in multidimensional poverty ranging from a low of 27% in Ondo to a high of 91% in Sokoto.
- iv. In terms of the MPI value, which captures the proportion of poor people as well as the intensity of their poverty, the poorest states are Sokoto, Bayelsa, Jigawa, Kebbi, Gombe and Yobe, but we cannot say for sure which of these is the poorest, because statistically their confidence intervals (or the range within which the true value falls considering the sample) overlap.
- v. Patterns of poverty also vary within States, with representative results available at the senatorial district level. As an example, in Kano State, the proportion of people who are poor ranges from **50%** in Kano Central to **77%** in Kano South. In terms of MPI composition, in three of the poorest districts—Kebbi South, Yobe South, and Sokoto North—deprivations in years of schooling and food security contribute most to MPI in Kebbi South, but in Yobe South and Sokoto North it is deprivations in school attendance.
- vi. The Nigeria MPI can be disaggregated by vulnerable populations, such as by disability status or children. Seventy one percent of people living in households with at least one person living with a disability (PLWD) are poor, compared to 62% of people living in households where no one is living with a disability. Two-thirds of children aged 0–17 are poor (67.5%), compared to 58.7% of adults. This gives rise to the sobering reality that over half of all poor people (51%) are children. In this study poverty eradication was measured

by income generation, social protection, sustainable livelihood, access to education and micro-enterprises.

Figure 2.1 Conceptual Framework



Source: Author’s conceptualization, 2024

3. Methodology

3.1 Research Design

Research design is a logical way of connecting data to the research problems, questions and conclusions. The research design adopted in this study was survey design, which is the most suited method based on the research objectives. This survey method was adopted for this research because the study explored Sustainable development goal 1 and poverty alleviation in South East, Nigeria.

3.2 Method of Data Collection

The research instrument used is the questionnaire. According to Oppenheim (1992) a questionnaire offers considerable advantages in its administration. It can be used for large numbers of population simultaneously and also provided the investigation with an easy accumulation of data. Gay (1992) maintains that questionnaire gives respondents freedom to express their views or opinions and also make suggestions. Questionnaire and document analysis were used to collect data. The questionnaire instrument was in a 5-point Likert scale structured form (Strongly agree =5, Agree = 4, undecided = 3, Disagree = 2, Strongly disagree

= 1). The questionnaire items were drawn from the objectives, research questions and hypotheses developed for the study.

3.3 Methods of Data Analyses

The data was analysed through the use of descriptive and inferential analysis. This is the process of summarizing the collected data and putting them together so that the researcher can meaningfully organize, categorize and synthesize information from the data collecting tools. Data gathered was coded for analysis. This was done after editing and checking out whether all questions were filled in correctly. Quantitative data was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and the results were presented using frequency tables, mean and standard deviation for a meaningful conclusion. This is deemed to be easy in interpretation and is convenient in giving general overview of the problem under study. Z-test was adopted in testing the research hypotheses.

4. Data Analysis

Research Question one: What is the influence of Sustainable development goal 1 on sustainable livelihood in South East, Nigeria?

Table 4.1: The influence of Sustainable development goal 1 on sustainable livelihood in South East, Nigeria

s/n	Item	SA	A	U	D	SD	Mean	Std. Deviation	Decision
1	SDG 1 encourages the development of policies that prioritize poverty reduction and social safety nets in the South East region	215 43.1%	138 27.5%	25 5.0%	61 12.2	61 12.2	3.6866	1.22131	Agreed
2	Initiatives under SDG 1 drive the implementation of poverty alleviation programs tailored to the specific needs of vulnerable populations in South East Nigeria	265 52.8	95 19.0	32 8.4	56 13.2	43 8.5	3.3633	1.47911	Agreed
3	SDG 1 influences resource allocation towards social protection programs, ensuring financial and institutional support for poverty eradication efforts.	189 37.7	159 31.7	30 6.0	61 10.2	72 14.4	3.7725	1.41990	Agreed
4	By promoting inclusive economic growth and access to basic services, SDG 1 empowers communities in South East Nigeria to improve their socio-economic conditions.	243 48.5%	105 21.1%	35 7.0	62 12.4	56 11.2%	3.9441	1.37582	Agreed
5	SDG 1 encourages monitoring and evaluation of poverty reduction efforts, ensuring accountability and effectiveness of social protection measures in the region.	265 52.9	74 14.8	24 4.8	93 8.5	45 9.0%	3.6826	1.42866	Agreed
	Valid N (listwise)	501							
	GRAND MEAN						3.68982		

Source: Field Survey 2024 and SPSS Result Output Version 23.0

Table 4.1 above shows the frequency, percentage and means distribution of opinions of the respondents on the influence of Sustainable development goal 1 on sustainable livelihood in South East, Nigeria.

Data shown in item one, the data shows that 215 respondents, constituting 43.1% of the respondents strongly agreed, 138 respondents constituting 27.5% of the respondents agreed, 25 respondents representing 5.0% of the respondents were undecided, 61 respondents constituting 12.2% of the respondents disagreed and 61 or 12.2% of the respondents strongly disagreed. The mean score of 3.6866 is an indication that majority of the respondents accepted that initiatives under SDG 1 drive the implementation of poverty alleviation programs tailored to the specific needs of vulnerable populations in South East Nigeria

On item two, 263 or 52.8% respondents strongly agreed, 95 or 19.0% of the respondents agreed, 32 or 8.4% of the respondents were undecided, 56 or 13.2% of the respondents disagreed and 43 or 8.5% of the respondents strongly disagreed. The high mean of 3.3633 is an indication that majority of the respondents accepted that initiatives under SDG 1 drive the implementation of poverty alleviation programs tailored to the specific needs of vulnerable populations in South East Nigeria

With reference to item three, 189 or 37.7% of the respondents strongly agreed, 159 or 31.7% respondents agreed, 30 or 6.0% of the respondents were undecided, 61 respondents disagreed while 72 or 14.4% of the respondents strongly disagreed. The result shows a high mean score of 3.7725 which implies that majority of respondents accepted that SDG 1 influences resource allocation towards social protection programs, ensuring financial and institutional support for poverty eradication efforts.

For item number four, 243 respondents, constituting 48.5% of the respondents strongly agreed, 105 respondents constituting 21.0% of the respondents agreed, 35 respondents representing 7.0% of the respondents were undecided, 61 respondents constituting 10.2% of the respondents disagreed and 72 or 14.4% of the respondents strongly disagreed. The agreed mean of 3.9441 depicts that respondents accepted that by promoting inclusive economic growth and access to basic services, SDG 1 empowers communities in South East Nigeria to improve their socio-economic conditions.

Item five with 265 respondents, constituting 48.5% of the respondents strongly agreed, 74 respondents constituting 14.8% of the respondents agreed, 24 respondents representing 4.8% of the respondents were undecided, 93 respondents constituting 8.5% of the respondents disagreed and 45 or 9.0% of the respondents strongly disagreed. The mean of 3.6826 equally showed that the respondents accepted that SDG 1 encourages monitoring and evaluation of poverty reduction efforts, ensuring accountability and effectiveness of social protection measures in the region.

From the overall mean (Grand Mean) of **3.68982** relates that respondents affirm that Sustainable development goal 1 exerted a significant influence on sustainable livelihood in South East, Nigeria

Research Question two: How has Sustainable development goal 1 influenced access to education in South East, Nigeria?

Table 4.2: How Sustainable development goal 1 influenced access to education in South East, Nigeria

s/n	Items	SA	A	U	D	SD	Mean	Std. Deviation	Decision
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1	SDG 1 initiatives provided financial aid and scholarships, improving access to education for economically disadvantaged students in South East Nigeria.	285 52.9%	95 19.0%	32 8.4	66 13.2	43 8.5	3.83234	1.425424	Agreed
2	SDG 1 facilitated infrastructure projects, building schools and improving facilities to enhance educational access in remote areas of South East Nigeria	128 25.5%	240 47.9%	20 4.0%	74 14.9	29 7.8	3.8403	1.45136	Agreed
3	SDG 1 promoted community involvement in education, fostering partnerships to support school infrastructure and ensure equitable access across South East Nigeria	216 43.1%	138 27.5%	25 5.0%	61 12.2%	61 12.2%	3.6866	1.22131	Agreed
4	SDG 1 influenced inclusive education policies, ensuring marginalized groups, such as girls and children from low-income families, have equal access in South East Nigeria.	189 37.7%	159 31.7%	30 9.0%	51 10.2%	72 14.4%	3.3633	1.47911	Agreed
5	SDG 1 focused on capacity building for educators, enhancing teaching quality and educational outcomes in schools across the South East region.	154 30.7%	136 27.1%	22 4.4%	116 23.2%	73 14.8%	3.7725	1.41990	Agreed
	Valid N (listwise)	501							
	GRAND MEAN						3.6995		

Source: Field Survey 2024 and SPSS Result Output Version 23.0

Table 4.2 above shows the frequency, percentage and mean distribution of opinions of the respondents on the how Sustainable development goal 1 influenced access to education in South East, Nigeria.

With respect to item one, the data shows that 285 respondents, constituting 52.9% of the respondents strongly agreed, 95 respondents constituting 19.0% of the respondents agreed, 32 respondents representing 8.4% of the respondents were undecided, 66 respondents constituting 13.2% of the respondents disagreed and 43 or 8.5% of the respondents strongly disagreed. The mean score of 3.83234 is an indication that majority of the respondents accepted that SDG 1 initiatives provided financial aid and scholarships, improving access to education for economically disadvantaged students in South East Nigeria.

Based on item two, 128 or 25.5% respondents strongly agreed, 240 or 47.9% of the respondents agreed, 20 or 4.0% of the respondents were undecided, 74 or 14.9% of the respondents disagreed and 29 or 7.8% of the respondents strongly disagreed. The high mean of 3.8403 is an indication that majority of the respondents accepted that SDG 1 facilitated infrastructure projects, building schools and improving facilities to enhance educational access in remote areas of South East Nigeria.

In item three, 216 or 43.1% of the respondents strongly agreed, 138 or 27.5% respondents agreed, 25 or 5.0% of the respondents were undecided, 61 respondents or 12.2% disagreed while 61 or 12.2% of the respondents strongly disagreed. The result shows a high mean score of 3.6866 which implies that majority of respondents accepted that SDG 1 promoted community involvement in education, fostering partnerships to support school infrastructure and ensure equitable access across South East Nigeria.

For item number four, 189 respondents, constituting 37.7% of the respondents strongly agreed, 159 respondents constituting 31.7% of the respondents agreed, 30 respondents representing 9.0% of the respondents were undecided, 51 respondents constituting 10.2% of the respondents disagreed and 72 or 14.4% of the respondents strongly disagreed. The agreed mean of 3.3633 depicts that respondents accepted that SDG 1 influenced inclusive education policies, ensuring marginalized groups, such as girls and children from low-income families, have equal access in South East Nigeria.

Item five indicates that 154 respondents, constituting 30.7% of the respondents strongly agreed, 136 respondents constituting 27.1% of the respondents agreed, 22 respondents representing 4.4% of the respondents were undecided, 116 respondents constituting 23.2% of the respondents disagreed and 73 or 14.8% of the respondents strongly disagreed. The mean of 3.7725 equally showed that the respondents accepted SDG 1 focused on capacity building for educators, enhancing teaching quality and educational outcomes in schools across the South East region.

From the overall mean (Grand Mean) of 3.6995 is a confirmation by the respondents that there are many ways Sustainable development goal 1 influenced access to education in South East, Nigeria which included that SDG 1 facilitated infrastructure projects, building schools and improving facilities to enhance educational access in remote areas of South East Nigeria among others.

Research Question Three: What is the influence of Sustainable development goal 1 on establishment of micro-enterprises in South East, Nigeria?

Table 4.3: Influence of Sustainable development goal 1 on establishment of micro-enterprises in South East, Nigeria?

s/n	Items	SA	A	U	D	SD	Mean	Std. Deviation	
1	SDG 1 promoted entrepreneurship training and funding, encouraging the establishment of micro-enterprises to alleviate poverty in South East Nigeria.	128 25.5%	136 27.1%	20 4.0%	74 14.8%	39 7.8%	3.9441	1.37582	Agreed
2	SDG 1 initiatives increased access to microfinance and loans, supporting the establishment and growth of small businesses in South East Nigeria.	154 30.7%	136 27.1%	22 4.4%	118 23.2%	73 14.5%	3.6826	1.42866	Agreed
3	SDG 1 facilitated market linkages and networks, enabling micro-enterprises in South East Nigeria to access broader markets and sustain their growth.	216 43.1%	139 27.5%	25 5.0%	61 12.2%	61 12.2%	3.8323	1.42542	Agreed

4	SDG 1 focused on skill development programs, equipping individuals in South East Nigeria with the necessary skills to start and manage successful micro-enterprises.	265 52.9%	95 19.0%	32.6.4 %	66 13.2%	43 8.5%	3.8403	1.45136	Agreed
5	SDG 1 influenced policy frameworks that promote a conducive environment for micro-enterprises, fostering economic empowerment and poverty reduction in South East Nigeria	189 37.7%	159 31.7%	30 6.0%	51 10.2%	72 14.4%	3.6866	1.22131	Agreed
	Valid N (listwise)	501							
	GRAND MEAN						3.79718		

Source: Field Survey 2023 and SPSS Result Output Version 23.0

Table 4.3 above shows the frequency, percentage and means distribution of opinions of the respondents on the influence of Sustainable development goal 1 on establishment of micro-enterprises in South East, Nigeria.

With reference to item one, the data shows that 128 respondents, constituting 25.5% of the respondents strongly agreed, 240 respondents constituting 47.9% of the respondents agreed, 30 respondents representing 4.0% of the respondents were undecided, 74 respondents constituting 14.8% of the respondents disagreed and 39 or 7.8% of the respondents strongly disagreed. The mean score of 3.9441 is an indication that majority of the respondents accepted that SDG 1 promoted entrepreneurship training and funding, encouraging the establishment of micro-enterprises to alleviate poverty in South East Nigeria.

In view of item two, it can be seen that 154 respondents representing 30.7% of the respondents strongly agreed, 136 or 27.1% of the respondents agreed, 22 respondents were undecided, 118 respondents constituting 23.2% of the respondents disagreed and 73 respondents representing 14.3% strongly disagreed. The high mean score of 3.6826 is an indication that majority of the respondents accepted that SDG 1 initiatives increased access to microfinance and loans, supporting the establishment and growth of small businesses in South East Nigeria.

In connection with item three, 216 of the respondents strongly agreed, 139 respondents agreed, 25 respondents were undecided, 61 respondents disagreed while 61 respondents strongly disagreed. The result shows a high mean score of 3.8323 which implies that majority of respondents accepted that SDG 1 facilitated market linkages and networks, enabling micro-enterprises in South East Nigeria to access broader markets and sustain their growth.

For item number four, 265 respondents constituting 52.9% of the respondents strongly agreed, 95 respondents constituting 19.0% of the respondents agreed, 32 respondents representing 6.4% of the respondents were undecided, 66 respondents constituting 13.2% of the respondents disagreed and 43 or 8.5% of the respondents strongly disagreed. The agreed mean of 3.8403 depicts that respondents accepted that SDG 1 focused on skill development programs, equipping individuals in South East Nigeria with the necessary skills to start and manage successful micro-enterprises.

Item five holds that 189 respondents, constituting 37.7% of the respondents strongly agreed, 159 respondents constituting 31.7% of the respondents agreed, 30 respondents representing 6.0% of the respondents were undecided, 51 respondents constituting 10.2%% of the respondents disagreed and 72 or 14.4% of the respondents strongly disagreed, with the mean of 3.6866 equally showed that the respondents accepted that SDG 1 influenced policy

frameworks that promote a conducive environment for micro-enterprises, fostering economic empowerment and poverty reduction in South East Nigeria.

The grand mean of 3.79718 indicates therefore that the respondents asserted that Sustainable development goal 1 influenced the establishment of micro-enterprises in South East, Nigeria.

4.2 Test of Hypotheses

The hypotheses were tested using independent T-test

The Independent Samples t-Test compares the means of two independent groups in order to determine whether there is statistical evidence that the associated population means are significantly different. The Independent Samples t-Test is a parameter test.

4.3.3 Test of Hypothesis One

Restatement of Hypothesis Three

H₀₃: Sustainable development goal 1 does not significantly influence sustainable livelihood in South East, Nigeria.

H₀₃: Sustainable development goal 1 does significantly influence sustainable livelihood in South East, Nigeria

Table 4.4t-test for Sustainable development goal 1 and sustainable livelihood in South East, Nigeria

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
SDG 1 encourages the development of policies that prioritize poverty reduction and social safety nets in the South East region	981	4.0846	1.22723	.03918
Initiatives under SDG 1 drive the implementation of poverty alleviation programs tailored to the specific needs of vulnerable populations in South East Nigeria	981	3.8716	1.44201	.04604

Table 4.4 One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
SDG 1 encourages the development of policies that prioritize poverty reduction and social safety nets in the South East region	104.246	980	.000	4.08461	4.0077	4.1615
Initiatives under SDG 1 drive the implementation of poverty alleviation programs tailored to the specific needs of vulnerable populations in South East Nigeria	84.091	980	.000	3.87156	3.7812	3.9619

Source: SPSS Output version 23.0

From table 4.5 the independent sample t-test gave an f value of 104.246 and t value of 84.091 and this is significant at .000. Since .000 is less than 0.05, this means that at .05 level of significance, the p value of .000 is significant.

This implies that there is no significant difference in the mean responses of the influence of Sustainable development goal 1 on sustainable livelihood in South East, Nigeria. The statistical significance indicated that the Sustainable development goal 1 does significantly influence sustainable livelihood in South East, Nigeria.

4.5.4 Test of Hypothesis Two

Restatement of Hypothesis Four

H₀₄: Sustainable development goal 1 has no significant influence on access to education in South East, Nigeria

H_{i4}: Sustainable development goal 1 has a significant influence on access to education in South East, Nigeria

Table 4.6: *t*-test for Sustainable development goal 1 has access to education in South East, Nigeria

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
SDG 1 facilitated infrastructure projects, building schools and improving facilities to enhance educational access in remote areas of South East Nigeria	981	4.1070	1.39011	.04438
SDG 1 promoted community involvement in education, fostering partnerships to support school infrastructure and ensure equitable access across South East Nigeria	981	4.1417	1.39507	.04454

Table 4.6: One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
SDG 1 facilitated infrastructure projects, building schools and improving facilities to enhance educational access in remote areas of South East Nigeria	92.537	980	.000	4.10703	4.0199	4.1941
SDG 1 promoted community involvement in education, fostering partnerships to support school infrastructure and ensure equitable access across South East Nigeria	92.986	980	.000	4.14169	4.0543	4.2291

Source: SPSS Output version 23.0

From table 4.6, the independent sample t-test gave an f value of 92.537 and t value of 92.986 and this is significant at .000. Since .000 is less than 0.05, this means that at .05

level of significance, the p value of .000 is significant. This implies that Sustainable development goal 1 has a significant influence on access to education in South East, Nigeria.

4.3.5 Test of Hypothesis Three

Restatement of Hypothesis Three

- H₀₃: Sustainable development goal 1 has not significantly influenced the establishment of micro-enterprises in South East, Nigeria.
- H₀₃: Sustainable development goal 1 has significantly influenced the establishment of micro-enterprises in South East, Nigeria.

Table 4.7: *t*-test for Sustainable development goal 1 and the establishment of micro-enterprises in South East, Nigeria

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
SDG 1 initiatives increased access to microfinance and loans, supporting the establishment and growth of small businesses in South East Nigeria.	981	4.2650	1.23845	.03954
DG 1 facilitated market linkages and networks, enabling micro-enterprises in South East Nigeria to access broader markets and sustain their growth.	981	4.0601	1.34067	.04280

Table 4.7: One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
SDG 1 initiatives increased access to microfinance and loans, supporting the establishment and growth of small businesses in South East Nigeria.	107.864	980	.000	4.26504	4.1874	4.3426
DG 1 facilitated market linkages and networks, enabling micro-enterprises in South East Nigeria to access broader markets and sustain their growth.	94.854	980	.000	4.06014	3.9761	4.1441

Source: SPSS Output version 23.0

From table 4.7 the independent sample t-test gave an f value of 66.336 and t value of 4.613 and this is significant at .000. Since .000 is less than 0.05, this means that at .05 level of significance, the p value of .000 is significant. The statistical significance indicated that Sustainable development goal 1 had significantly influenced the establishment of micro-enterprises in South East, Nigeria.

5.1 Summary of Findings

- i. It was discovered that Sustainable development goal 1 did significantly influenced sustainable livelihood in South East, Nigeria. This implied that SDG 1 significantly

- enhanced sustainable livelihoods in South East Nigeria by improving economic opportunities, agricultural practices, and access to education and skills.
- ii. It was found out that Sustainable development goal 1 had a positive significant influence on access to education in South East, Nigeria. This goes to show that SDG 1 significantly improved access to education in South East Nigeria through financial support, infrastructure development, and inclusive educational policies.
 - iii. Finally, the findings revealed that Sustainable development goal 1 had significantly influenced the establishment of micro-enterprises in South East, Nigeria. This implied that SDG 1 significantly boosted the establishment of micro-enterprises in South East Nigeria through access to microfinance, training, and supportive policies.

5.2 Conclusion

The study concluded that Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1) has played a crucial role in advancing poverty alleviation efforts in South East Nigeria. Through targeted interventions such as microfinance, entrepreneurship training, and supportive policies, SDG 1 has empowered individuals to lift themselves out of poverty by establishing sustainable livelihoods. The emphasis on social protection programs, including cash transfers and healthcare subsidies, has provided essential safety nets for vulnerable populations, ensuring their basic needs are met. Furthermore, SDG 1 initiatives have promoted inclusive education and skills development, equipping people with the tools needed to access better job opportunities and improve their economic status. Overall, SDG 1 has not only addressed immediate poverty challenges but also laid a foundation for long-term sustainable development in the region, fostering economic resilience and social equity. Continued commitment to these goals is essential for sustaining these positive impacts and achieving lasting poverty eradication in South East Nigeria.

5.3 Recommendations

- i. The study recommended that the government of South East Nigeria should promote sustainable livelihoods by investing in eco-friendly practices, supporting agricultural diversification, and enhancing access to education and skills training, thereby solidifying the positive impacts of Sustainable Development Goal 1 in the region.
- ii. The study recommended that the government of South East Nigeria should continue to prioritize education by investing in infrastructure, expanding scholarship programs, enhancing teacher training, and ensuring equitable access to quality education for all, building on the successes of Sustainable Development Goal 1 initiatives in the region.
- iii. The study recommended that the government of South East Nigeria should facilitate continued support for micro-enterprises by expanding access to microfinance, providing entrepreneurial training, fostering favorable regulatory environments, and promoting market linkages, thereby sustaining and enhancing the impact of Sustainable Development Goal 1 on local economic development.

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