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FOREIGN AID IN NIGERIA: A DEPARTURE FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IMPACT TO SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT

ABSTRACT

Discussions around foreign aid although contradictory have mostly been on its impact on economic development of recipient countries leaving social aspect of development poorly attended to. Moving away from this common path, this paper aims to explore social development impact of foreign aid in Nigeria. Utilizing secondary sources of data, the paper decomposed social development into specific measurable variables such as poverty eradication, healthcare system and human security. The findings of the study demonstrate that foreign aid has not significantly impacted on larger components of social development investigated. It is also highlighted in the study that there is conflicting evidence regarding the impact of foreign aid on healthcare system in Nigeria. The result equally reveals that varying interest of foreign aid actors constitutes a serious challenge to the performance of foreign aid in the country. As a panacea, the paper recommends for global attitudinal change campaign to foreign aid actors.

KEYWORDS: foreign aid, social development, poverty eradication, healthcare system, human security

JEL: O24, P2, P3

INTRODUCTION

For decades now, interrogations of foreign aid have been on its impact on economic development in the recipient nations. Justifying this assertion, Chenery & Strout (1996) argue that the fundamental justification that foreign aid plays a role in economic development of recipient nations has been the driving force behind aids flows. There was a significant increase in the sum and areas of coverage of aid transfer in the latter part of 20th century to the extent that development assistance from Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) was roughly \$60 billion at the conclusion of millennium development aids (World Bank, 2004). This foreign aid to countries comes in various forms such as training of local people, grants, loans, sharing of intelligence and execution of projects among others; and this has been the case in African countries which have been part of developing nations receiving foreign aid to address numerous developmental challenges bedeviling the continent. Notwithstanding, there are increasing concerns among intellectuals and political actors over the implications of these huge foreign aid to developing countries. The various arguments regarding foreign aid are made to ascertain its impact on economic indices which include investment, growth, saving and real exchange rate (Berg, Hussain, Aiyar, Roache & Mahone, 2005; Van, 1984, 1985 and Younger, 1992).

This impact of foreign aid on economic development is controversial and arguable to the extent that different schools of thought have sprung up in that regard. Boone (1996) in Okon (2012) belongs to the category of scholars who believe that foreign aid has not impacted on economic development. On the other side is the school of thought who contends that foreign aid has impacted significantly on economic development of third world countries such as Nigeria. These later scholars further argue that this opinion is stronger when recipient nations implement right policies. The last school of thought draws on the above two different perspectives to posit that foreign aid has positive and negative effect on economic development (Ram, 2003; Sender, 1999 and Cassen, 1994 in Adamu et al, 2022).

However, Moosa (2016, 83) slightly goes social by pinning down the rationale for foreign aid to global security while contending that “After the terror attacks of 9/11 against the United States, the war against terror became an indispensable part of foreign aid programmes in poor countries, mainly because the industrialized countries (the donors) recognized the important and increasing need to collaborate with the governments of these countries to ensure global security. This stems from a profound comprehension the donor countries have of the intrinsic link between the spread of poverty and the phenomenal spread of terror”. Consequently, the prolonged poverty further weakens poor vulnerable nations thereby threatening global security. As a result, a significant aspect of the foreign aid has been channeled towards addressing developmental and poverty issues by executing projects aimed at creating the necessary manpower to boost the capacities of public institutions and different civil society organizations in the beneficiary nations ((Akramov, 2006).

This contentious impact of foreign aid on economic development has created a research gap as demonstrates by Nwude et al (2023) while arguing that despite the various studies on foreign aid, consensus is yet to be reached by scholars; hence, opening up further investigation on the impact of foreign aid. Toeing this line of thought, Molokwu et al (2022) observe that Nigeria is not exempted from the controversial economic impact of foreign aid as so many studies have made conflicting findings. This attests to the identified gap which is more visible and fundamental in social impact of foreign aid due to its grossly inadequate exploration. Therefore, the novelty of this paper is accentuated in the contributions of foreign aid to social development in Nigeria. Consequently, this paper is motivated in three specific ways. Firstly, it interrogates the impact of foreign aid on poverty eradication in Nigeria. Secondly, the paper investigates the extent to which foreign aid contributes to healthcare system in Nigeria and finally, it examines the impact of foreign aid on human security in the country.

1. LITERATURE REVIEW

This part of the study focuses on conceptual clarification of key variables (social development and foreign aid) and issues therein. It is also devoted to social related foreign aid received by Nigeria.

1.1 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Issues around standard of living, fundamental human rights, quality health, fairness and equality among others have necessitated the global agenda on social development. In this agenda lies a consensus on the integration of social development in political actions, policies and programmes (Panagiotis et al, 2022). Historical aspect of social development has been characterized by life expectancy and human population. However, certain earlier components of social development are currently given poor attention, although there is improvement of nutritional levels; and education is made available in an unprecedented manner; but some of these social change are not advantageous and development is uneven; general wellbeing and

opportunities had been unimaginably offered in an unequal way decades ago (Binggin & David, 2019).

Presently, the concept of social development transcends social contracts for government to provide basic amenities and economic facilities. It suggests investment in citizens to enable them initiate and implement ideas aimed at achieving their aspirations as well as improving their wellbeing and those of others in the society (Veenhoven, 2012). Sustainable Development Goals accord is a demonstration of global recognition and acceptance of the need for social development by 2030. SDGs agenda aims to encourage member states to come up with initiatives that are consistent across sectors. Those of social sector include but not limited to poverty eradication measures, provision of employment opportunities and basic healthcare (United Nations, 2018).

The above discussion paints a clear picture of top priority given to social development not only in a country but also on a global scale but without a clear definition of social development. In filling this lacuna, this paper views social development as efforts and measures directed towards improving the general wellbeing of the people and empowering them to meet their aspirations. Specifically, it entails policies, programmes and projects put in place to alleviate poverty, deliver quality healthcare services, provide security, access to safe drinking water and education among others.

1.2 FOREIGN AID

Foreign aid which can also be known as official development assistance is traceable to post World War II (Mahembe & Odhiambo, 2019; World Bank, 1998). It comprises of resources such as grants, loans, technical skills and physical goods from donor nations to beneficiary nations (Mahembe & Odhiambo, 2019; Riddell, 2008). It is defined as financial assistance offered by a donor to third world countries or nations going through transitional period. This financial assistance might be used to support government-issued loans, trade, non-governmental organizations, economic, security and political activities. Foreign aid is viewed as measures put in place by donor countries to address issues related to hunger, despair and misery in developing nations. However, economic aid is defined as the strategies adopted by donor nations to assist the citizens of economically poor nations in developing their resources and in setting up the ideal conditions for long-term economic growth geared towards self-sufficiency. Political military and security aid include projects sponsored by donor nations as well as initiatives aimed at ensuring political stability in recipient nations which in turn engender peaceful environment, advance democratic ideals, and sustain self-government of former colonies of the donor nations thereby exerting new but strong influence by foreign donor nations (Pronk et al. 2004). Thinking in the same direction of dominance of foreign donor countries, Ofoma (2023, 35) contends that “Foreign aid can be conceptualized as donation of money, goods, or services from one country to another country. Such donations may be given for humanitarian or altruistic reasons or to advance the national interests of the nation giving them. Aid can be provided between two (bilateral) or several (multilateral) countries or agencies”. It is volition transfer of government resources from a nation to another with a view to improving the standard of living of people in the recipient country (Lancaster, 2007).

Looking at it from a perspective of relationship existing between developed and developing countries, Cassen (1994) contends that foreign aid is a situation where a developed nation offers financial assistance to developing nations which can come as project aid, commodity aid, programme aid and technical aid. This explanation by Cassen (1994) is very narrow and does not fully represent the trajectory of foreign aid over the years. Specifically, this view can be dismissed on the ground that it fails to take cognizance of the fact certain developing countries have been seen offering aid to other developing countries. For instance, Premium Times (2022) reveals that Nigeria donated N1.4 billion to Niger Republic for security purposes. Also, the

flaw of this definition is underlined in the reality that developed nations can be given foreign aid when the need arises. Following this line of thought, Riddell (2008) submits that wealthy nations are sometimes given foreign aid especially during the time of economic crisis, natural disasters and emergencies.

Figure 1: Social related foreign aid received by Nigeria

S/N	Donor	Year	Amount/Service/Project	Objective
1	AfDB	2013	STVEP Project	Promoting inclusive education
2	IRC	2014	Relief materials & services	Mitigating impact of flood
3	US Department of State	2016-2020	\$6 million	Military education & training
4	TSCTP	2017-2020	\$10.6 million	Training, equipment & advisory aid against terrorism
5	IRC	2019	Health services	Promoting good health among women & children
6	AfDB	2019	Tap project	Access to potable water
7	WHO	2019	Epidemic intelligence Open Sources tool	Improving good health
8	European Union	2014-2023	€437 million	Humanitarian assistance
9	The Global Fund	2020	\$890 million	Promoting access to malaria prevention, access to HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis services; and improving health system
10	USAID	2020-2021	\$40 million	Maternal & Child Health
11	USAID	2020-2021	\$28 million	Malaria control
12	USAID	2020-2021	\$10.5 million	Safe drinking water
13	USAID	2020-2021	\$15.5 million	Basic education
14	IOM	2022	Relief items for IDPs	Mitigating impact of flood
15	UK	2023	€20million	Promoting resilience against health challenges
16	UNODC		Capacity building program	Counter-terrorism
17	World Bank	2023	\$800 million	National social program
18	WHO	2022	Mobile health intervention program	Providing critical health services
19	UNICEF	2022	Integrated primary care services	Improving the health conditions of people in IDP camps and host communities
20	UNHCR	2023	Labondo Local Integration Project	Sustainable solutions for displaced families

Author's construct (2023), data extracted from relevant establishments.

Explanations:

AfDB: African Development Bank

IRC: International Rescue Committee

TSCTP: Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership

WHO: World Health Organization

USAID: United States Agency for International Development

IOM: International Organization for Immigration

UK: United Kingdom

UNICEF: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

2. METHODS

This paper utilized secondary sources of data which include but not limited to journals, books, official publications and newspapers. Specifically, information was generated from reputable outlets such as Taylor and Francis, Sage, Elsevier, EBSCO, WHO and NCDC etc. Where available, Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) of the articles were provided for easier verification.

3. THE TRIPARTITE DISCOURSE

The main argument of this paper is the impact of foreign aid on Nigeria's social development which is decomposed into poverty eradication, healthcare system and human security. Therefore, this part of the paper is devoted to these issues as critically interrogated below.

3.1 FOREIGN AID AND POVERTY ERADICATION IN NIGERIA

Burnside & Dollar (2000) observe that certain studies have indicated that foreign aid has the capacity to eliminate poverty (Alvi & Senbeta, 2012; Arndt et al., 2015; Lensink & White, 2000; Mosley et al., 2004; Mosley & Suleiman, 2007; Rajan & Subramanian, 2008). Notwithstanding, there are other studies that made findings which are at variance with the above submission (Boone, 1996; Chong et al., 2009; Easterly et al., 2004; Moyo, 2009). It is interesting to aver that not everyone who opposes foreign aid does so completely. Additionally, the opponents do not demand that foreign aid be stopped (Easterly, 2007). Instead, they argue against relying solely on foreign aid to foster economic development. This is partially due to the fact that foreign aid has greatly improved living standards and growth in certain nations; but has failed to do so in others (World Bank, 1998). Arguably, the impact of foreign aid to nations is driven by mixed evidence (Alvi & Senbeta, 2012; Mosley, 1986). This is due to the fact that typical family and business income levels must not rise in order for foreign aid to eliminate poverty (Lensink & White, 2000; Mosley et al., 2004; Mosley & Suleiman, 2007).

Viewing it from Nigeria perspective, Fasanya & Onakoya (2012) maintain that the increasing level of foreign aid in Nigeria together with its enormous economic potential has not resulted to economic development, job opportunities and poverty reduction. Aligning with this opinion, Olofin (2013) submits that the rate of poverty and unemployment has continued to increase in developing nations such as Nigeria in the face of increasing level of foreign aid. There is no strong justification that foreign aid has significant positive impact on development as poverty persists in many Third World nations despite receiving foreign assistance. For instance, in Nigeria, there is a negative correlation between foreign aid and human development which suggests that foreign aid has tendencies to compound problems around human development (Dreher et al., 2021). Raising salient questions around the impact of foreign aid on poverty reduction in Nigeria in a rhetorical manner, Anibueze (2018) avers that "The lesser developed countries (LDCs) of the world continue to suffer from economic hardship, raising questions of

whether foreign aid is a worthwhile and effective approach to boosting growth, development and eradicating poverty in Nigeria. Now the pertinent question is does foreign aid enhance economic development in less developed country? And how does foreign aid affect growth? This is a question that has attracted the attention of many scholars over several decades. This has made some scholars to argue on the role of economic policy in determining". It is disturbing that the economic growth in Nigeria just as South Africa cannot be married with poverty level in these countries as poverty rate equally grows (Beegle et al, 2016). Also, Odusanya et al (2011) contend slightly differently that foreign aid has impacted on Nigerian economic development but it has not reflected qualitatively on the well-being on citizens of Nigeria. A further attempt at narrowing down the discourse to Nigeria is made by Duru et al (2020) while maintaining that Nigeria's receipt of various kinds of foreign aid has not had positive impact as many Nigerian citizens wallow in abject poverty, unemployment and insecurity.

Premised on this position, Heidhues & Obare (2011, 56) blame the failure of foreign aid on imposition of strategies while observing that "Before, the recommendation and adoption by African leader of the Structural Adjustment Programmes, several continental strategies and plans for economic growth were disfavoured and rejected by the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and the United States of America and Western donors, such as, the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA), and the Regional Food Plan for Africa (AFPLAN).

It is deducible that the above discussion attempts to suggest a negative correlation between foreign aid and poverty eradication in Nigeria. Hence, it is strong to argue that foreign aid has not significantly impacted on well-being of ordinary Nigerians which would have led to drastic reduction of poverty level. This submission is buttressed in National Bureau of Statistics (2023) that approximately 133 million Nigerians currently live in poverty.

3.2 FOREIGN AID AND HEALTHCARE SYSTEM IN NIGERIA

"The aphorism that health is wealth is germane. Thus, a nation that neglects its health sector is bound to face huge challenges as a healthy citizenry most often approximate to a dedicated workforce. This accounts for the reasons many countries pay special attention to the training, retention and remuneration of their healthcare personnel" (Obi-Ani et al, 2021, 5). It is within this context that federal, state and local governments; foreign countries and organizations have continued to make efforts towards providing quality healthcare services in Nigeria. Available record reveals that various developed nations such as United Kingdom, France and United States of America have offered huge health related foreign aid both financially and materially to Nigeria (Abimbola, 2021). This is in agreement with the opinion of Abimbola (2019) that Nigeria state has continuously received huge foreign aid both financially and technically from foreign nations and international non-governmental organizations aimed at improving healthcare system. Between 2004 and 2010, Nigeria received \$897million from United States of America and became one of the highest recipient countries of US foreign aid (Hill, 2011). The World Bank and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation financed the purchase of \$25 million worth of oral polio vaccines for Nigeria in 2009 (Gates & Gates, 2009). In addition, Jlatteh (2013) argues that Nigeria state has received huge amount of money from the United State of America to address health related challenges. This is outside other assistance from the US such as playing pivotal role in healthcare policies and programmes. Adewole (2017) posits that World Bank has contributed the sum of \$171.5 million to healthcare programme in Nigeria aimed at enhancing performance based financing.

World Health Organization has assisted Nigeria in treating tuberculosis among adults and children by establishing connection between them and primary healthcare centres together with laboratory test kits and anti-retroviral drugs. It has contributed in addressing other health challenges such as malaria and polio among others (WHO, 2016). Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention in partnership with Tropical Health and Education Trust; and

Commonwealth Pharmacists' Association flagged off another phase of grants at the tune of £4.6 million for Antimicrobial Stewardship sponsored by the government of United Kingdom (NCDC, 2023). The grants aimed at funding health organizations and specialists to boost the capacity of manpower in Nigeria's health sector. It is arguable that President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has played a vital role towards saving lives in Nigeria especially in the aspects of HIV treatment programmes, mother-to-child HIV prevention activities, care for orphans with HIV and safe blood supplies among others (PEPFAR, 2008). PEPFAR donated more than US\$2.5 billion between 2004 and 2010 to combat HIV/AIDS in the country (PEPFAR, 2012). "More than 39 million Nigerians have been informed of HIV prevention methods through community programmes; approximately 5 million Nigerians have been reached with HIV counselling and testing services; more than 2 million pregnant women have received PMTCT health services; over 1 million PLWHA have received care to support their quality of life; over 200,000 J.V. Jappah children orphaned by HIV/AIDS and other vulnerable children receive care; and approximately 340,000 women and children are receiving antiretroviral treatment. PMTCT activities have been expanded and decentralized in Nigeria. There are more PMTCT outlets in Nigeria currently, with PEPFAR supporting 651 sites as of September 2009" (PEPFAR, 2008). These are just some of the foreign aid provided to improve the healthcare system in Nigeria as captured in the table above.

However, Jlettah (2013) submits that the results demonstrating the degree of HIV/AIDS information among the people in Nigeria are varied, despite large resources invested by PEPFAR in the country. Condom use in Nigeria has not reached its full potential in terms of area of coverage. In Nigeria, the HIV myths persist and the social stigma surrounding HIV mostly ignores the biological basis upon which the virus spreads. The focus of HIV transmission from person to person or body fluid to body fluid has turned to issues of morality and sexuality. Investigation on sudden deaths conducted by Olayinka et al (2013) (SD) reveals that out of 48 instances, 35.5% were caused by communicable diseases and 60% were caused by non-communicable diseases, with 718 adult deaths documented in communicable diseases on the whole. Nigeria belongs to nations with healthcare challenges especially the northern part of the country where there is high child mortality rate with a very few number of pregnant women having access to antenatal services (Olatunji et al, 2014). Adelakun et al (2017) equally acknowledge the dilapidated healthcare system in the country using a poor handling of outbreak of Lassa fever as a point of emphasis but blame it on hesitant political leadership approach. Current records show that situation of Lassa fever in Nigeria has worsened in that in April, 2023, the suspected and confirmed cases; and deaths of Lassa fever stood at 4908, 897 and 154 as against the records of 2022 which stood at 4272, 751 and 140 respectively (NCDC, 2023). The condition of Nigeria healthcare system is very poor to the extent that it is responsible for about 10% global child, infant and maternal deaths (United States International Development Agency, 2014). 16% of children below five years old die of illness that can be prevented (Department for International Development, 2013; United States International Development Agency, 2014)

To be positive, Abimbola (2021) argues that health related aid from foreign donors such as United Kingdom, United States of America and France appear to have contributed not only to health sector but also economically. Additionally, the provision of this foreign aid has increased the public expenditure in health sector. To corroborate this, Nnamuchi (20007) observes that there is a significant growth in Nigeria's health sector due mainly to unrestrained assistance from the government together with that of foreign organizations. This submission that foreign aid has impacted on Nigeria health sector supports the findings of Muhammad & Ahmad (2021) which reveal that the effect of foreign aid on health sector is less than five mortality rate. Pining it down to a particular foreign donor, Bello submits that the assistance of World Health Organization in Nigeria healthcare service delivery system has positive impact on the lives of

Nigerian citizens precisely those of Bauchi state. In the same vein, WHO (2016) reveals that its aid to Nigeria has led to reduction in death of pregnant women and children dying of malaria. “NCDC has established and supports a network of Lassa fever diagnostic laboratories and overall clinical expertise has greatly increased in Nigeria through the efforts of colleagues at the hospitals in Irrua and Owo in particular, and partners such as World Health Organization (WHO), United States Centres for Diseases Control and Prevention (US-CDC), The World Bank, African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET), Georgetown University (GU), Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) to list a few which have led to the current reductions in the case fatality” (NCDC, 2023). The aid for malaria control from foreign donors and development partners such as World Bank, Clinton Health Access Initiative, WHO, UNICEF, Global Fund and President Malaria Initiative has been helpful in Nigeria (Nigeria Malaria Operational Plan, 2014).

Building on this investigation leads us to contradictory evidence for impact of foreign aid on healthcare system in Nigeria. The credence of this result is pivoted in the position of Abimbola (2021) that there is still no consensus on whether foreign aid is positive in impacting on health and economic sectors of the recipient nations as well as meeting the objectives of the foreign donors.

3.3 FOREIGN AID AND HUMAN SECURITY IN NIGERIA

Security especially human form of security is said to be business of every individual in the society but it is more business of the government. This argument is underscored in social contract theory whose tenet is the provision of security as a public good by the state (Hobbes, 2004). Therefore, a government's legitimacy is premised on its ability to ensure security of lives and property of the citizens (Locke, Two Treaties, 123). This postulation suffices but does not foreclose the role played by foreign nations and organizations in security governance of a country. Following the trajectory of military foreign aid in Nigeria, Macro (2016) and Idem (2018) unanimously submit that upon the termination of Anglo-Nigeria defence accord, Nigerian entered into agreement with German, Indian and US governments for expanding her air force; setting up of military training centre and training of army officers respectively. Kinsey & Krieg (2021) posit that Western allies have contributed in enhancing military capacity in Nigeria. To be precise, United Kingdom and United States of America have put in huge resources in establishing training programmes aimed at combating terrorism in Nigeria. Notwithstanding, the training courses were occasional and not part of the overall method adopted to address terrorism and insurgency in the country. In addition, Multinational Joint Task Force (a security outfit established in 1994 with partnership of neighbouring nations) was deployed by political authorities in Abuja to fight Boko Haram insurgency that was growing into international criminal organization operating along borders (Kinsey & Krieg, 2021).

The commitment of foreign donors and partners in assisting Nigeria to address numerous security challenges bedeviling the country has come under serious scrutiny. As Eeben (2018) puts it “The absence of effective direction and assistance with operational planning in anti-boko Haram operations in Northern Nigeria widely undermined the effectiveness of Western defence engagement. In the critical application phase of converting doctrine and theory into military practice, most regular Nigerian army platoons were left on their own- Western Special Forces teams would only embed sporadically with Nigeria Special Forces. Much of this training is focused on window-dressing, but when you look through the window, the room is empty”. This opinion is at variance with the submission of Boutton & Carter (2013) that foreign donors are interested in combating transnational security challenges such as Boko Haram in Nigeria because their interests in the country are more endangered. The influence of foreign aid is especially noticeable in recipient nations with the greatest degree of transnational insecurity

since there is a tendency that the donor interest will likely increase proportionately with the rate of transnational terrorism.

Quoting a high ranking Army Officer from Britain involved in training military officers in Nigeria, Kinsey & Krieg (2021) acknowledge the effectiveness of training courses but blame the challenges on lackadaisical attitude of the trainers in following up as the British government was unfavourably disposed to letting the trainers (their Army officers) get close to the conflict areas in the North. Therefore, Nigeria's partnership with foreign countries and regional allies can at best be described as incapable of combating security challenges such as Boko Haram insurgency. Agreeing with this submission, Asongu & Ssozi (2017, 14) blame it on three factors while positing that "The consistent negative impact of foreign aid on terrorism (especially the effects of bilateral and total aid) may be explained from three angles: the motives of aid, insufficiency of aid and usage of aid (mismanagement). First, the motives of aid substantially vary from one donor to another. For instance, while the USA is substantially involved in Africa for security reasons, China's and France's presence in the continent is fundamentally driven by economic and politico-economic interests respectively. It also depends on the outcome of bargaining among donors". To support this, Ofoma & Onwe (2023) submit that Nigeria state has been locked in numerous conflicts ranging from Boko Haram insurgency to youth agitations to the extent that the security agents have been seemingly overpowered by these bad elements. In Nigeria, various states have their own peculiar security challenge but banditry in the Northwest geopolitical zone is becoming prominent (Ojo, 2020). For instance, in the South-eastern part of the country, secessionist agitation manifesting in sit-at-home order has resulted to a serious security tension leading to death of innocent citizens, the agitators and security personnel (Ofoma, 2023).

The above discussion is a suggestive consensus of the pervasive security conundrum in Nigeria which casts a serious doubt on impact of foreign aid on human security in the country. While various efforts have been made by foreign donors as acknowledged earlier; the security realities in the country point to a different negative direction. Inference of this; is reinforced in salient rhetorical question by Molokwu et al (2022), where is the significant impact of foreign aid in the face of abject poverty, poor human development and increasing unemployment rate in Nigeria? Rationale for the failure of foreign aid in Nigeria security system is found in the expression of Asongu (2015) and Eubank (2012) that impact of foreign aid on security challenges (terrorism) can be ineffective partially due to its inability to tackle the root causes of insecurity which are in many cases linked to injustice, inequality, religious bigotry and anti neo-colonial disposition etc.

4. IS VARYING INTEREST AN IMPEDIMENT?

Foreign aid either as a programme, project, transfer of skill, grants, loans or service etc is driven by interest of not only the government(s) but also other relevant actors. The fact that activities around foreign aid are carried out by human beings who naturally have interest which may be national, organizational or personal strengthens this argument and opens up windows of interrogations on level of consistency or inconsistency of the interests. Looking at it from government perspective, Nye (2008) contends that foreign aid is a foreign policy instrument used in form of attraction by a donor country to affect other recipient country's decision towards a particular outcome. This is in congruent with the opinion of Riddell (2018) that foreign donors are driven by diverse interests which include humanitarian aid, developmental objective, solidarity, economic reason, strategic political motive and promoting fundamental human rights. The suaveness of this position is stressed in the opinion of Moosa (2016, 93) that "most donors still connect their own self-centred interests, including those related to politics, strategy, trade, culture and ideology, with the likely granting of foreign aid. The essence of the problem

lies in the fact that donors entertain strong intentions to accomplish these self-centred interests while paying little attention to the failure of foreign aid programmes. A widespread feeling about the ineffectiveness of foreign aid programmes points to evidence that these programmes often work against humanitarian and development objectives. This assumption goes further, claiming that donors' self-centred interests help to undermine the outputs of the aid and limit their effectiveness". Again "donors may prefer to release their funds to solve problems other than the sectoral priorities set by the governments where these funds are highly managed by their own experts and/or by independent NGO's which are merely implementers of already designed projects. Funds meant to help governments achieve its mandate to combat poverty and alike may be directed by foreign policies of hidden economic or political agenda whereas, they must be subjected to adhere to conditions hard to meet, meant to enable its best utilization" (Pycroft & Pedro, 2009).

It can be argued further that foreign aid actors such as local street level bureaucrats, policy makers and officials of implementing agencies may have their own interests divergent from the government interest. Whether these individual interests are nationalistic, progressive, developmental or selfish is debatable. Moosa (2016) infers that administrators who implement foreign aid initiatives have vested interest which they protect. These administrators have converted foreign aid projects and scheme to lucrative enterprise. Lancaster (2007) explains the type of motives existing among actors in foreign aid. The actors may be private individuals, formal or informal institutions with some interests or purpose in initiating and executing measures in the process of foreign aid. These players have developed their own procedures and targets with hidden motives. Their interests may vary but they have clear strategies for influencing foreign donors externally and internationally thereby achieving their objectives. With the instrumentality of bilateral and multinational institutions responsible for foreign aid initiatives in recipient nations, these actors can influence the tools and strategies for executing foreign aid interventions. Put differently, goals of foreign aid are mostly reflections of local powers in donor nations which by extension govern various interests in foreign aid offered to recipient nations (Olsson & Wohlgemuth, 2003; Brainard & Chollet, 2007).

In his survey of charitable organization financing in Global South, Schiffrin (2017) reveals that the conflicting interest among parties (donors and recipients) which manifested in editorial partiality and overzealousness of reporters to please foreign donors. Narrowing it down to foreign donor's agenda setting in Nigeria, Myers (2018, 37) quotes a Punch Newspaper director as "I've always believed that funders usually have an agenda and try to get you to subscribe to it. But I'm like "no, what you think we need is not necessarily what we need"... [The donor] comes with an idea and my role is to circumscribe that and define what would be appealing to our readers". In the same vein, a Premium Times publisher observes "pick and choose our donors—for example [we partner with] Open Society because our interests coincide... [Mostly] we don't reject the funding that's on offer—for example, LGBT rights issue are currently the fashion [among donors] but we have no problem with this—we go for it from the human rights angle. The strategy we have already defined is clear" (Myers, 2018, 37). Premised on this discussion is the negative impact of conflicting interest on foreign aid in recipient countries such as Nigeria.

CONCLUSION

This paper is a departure from common exploration of economic impact of foreign aid to social impact in Nigeria with poverty eradication, healthcare system and human security as the specific variables. Relying on secondary sources of data, the paper found out that foreign aid has not impacted significantly on poverty eradication and human security in the country. It is equally discovered in the study that there is mixed evidence regarding the relationship between

foreign aid and healthcare system in Nigeria. Also, it is observable that varying interest of actors poses a serious threat to the performance of foreign aid in Nigeria.

On the whole, this paper submits that foreign aid has negative correlation with larger components of social development investigated in the study. Away from that, this study's contradictory finding on the relationship between foreign aid and healthcare system in Nigeria presents an opportunity for further exploration. It is also the position of this paper that conflicting interest of actors is undermining element to the performance of foreign aid initiatives in Nigeria. As a panacea, this paper suggests for global attitudinal change campaign to actors of foreign aid.

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