

# Contributions of International Nongovernmental Organizations to Health, Education and Economic Development in Michika Local Government Area of Adamawa State, Nigeria

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**Abstract:-** Every rural community in Nigeria should be seen as a panacea for development because of its strategic contributions to national development. Successive governments have made fragile efforts towards improving health care services, education and the economy, for the development of Michika Local Government Area of Adamawa State. Unfortunately, all the efforts made did not achieve desired goal. Now, that the Boko Haram insurgency has subsided in Michika Local Government areas, the International Rescue Committee, UNICEF and Family Health International 360 have taken up some of the developmental challenges to compliment government efforts in reinstating the rural infrastructures. However, this paper focused on INGOs contributions on the provision of health care services, portable drinking water, renovation of schools and economic development. The study utilized both primary and secondary data and Chi-square was used to test the hypothesis. A sample size of 180 respondents was drawn for the study. Based on the findings, the International Rescue Committee has drilled 49 new boreholes and rehabilitated 18 old ones in 12 communities in Michika local government. UNICEF has renovated 14 primary schools, 15,000 learning kits and trained 510 class room teachers. Family Health International 360 renovated 5 primary health care centres, distributed mosquito nets, malaria vaccine and nutritious food supplements for malnourished children. By this, it means International Non-governmental Organizations has contributed 1% on provision of portable water supply, 1% on health care services and 1% in educational development. This paper therefore recommends that, the federal, state and local governments of all nations should never neglect rural communities as they are the basic foundation for development. However, what International Non-Governmental Organizations did in Michika is worth emulation by the government.

**Keywords:-** Development, Economic, Education and Health.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Developing the rural community through healthcare services and educational development can improve the rural economy. International Nongovernmental Organizations (INGOs) have supported Michika local government in the area of health care services and education. For example, United Nations, (2020) statistics indicate that the urban population of Nigeria in the 2020 is projected at 51.96% and the rural population is projected at 48.04% in 2021. The alarming rate of rural-urban migration due to unequal distribution of basic needs such as health care services, good education, portable drinking water supply has affected the rural areas and increasing in kidnapping, herdsman's and Boko Haram activities also destabilized the economic efficiency of Nigeria. The United Nation's World Development Report, (2020) upholds that rural-urban living standards diverge as countries developed and become more industrialized; unlike in other emerging economies such as Nigeria where the industrialization rate has not translated into better wellbeing, but just widening the rural-urban gap (Mustapha et al., 2019).

However, the rural areas which supported in providing agricultural product were left uncared for even though white collar jobs are hard to get in the urban cities. Available local government resources for rural development are not properly utilized for the purpose intended and the grants meant for the provision of rural basic infrastructures are often diverted to personal projects by people in power neglecting the basic necessities of the citizens. This has further decelerated rural development and the general wellbeing of rural dwellers. The poor condition of living standards in rural areas is what attracted some of the International Nongovernmental Organizations to embark on community developmental projects in order to reduce rural-urban migration (Simon, Hassan & Iganus, 2020).

The objectives of the International Non-Governmental Organizations are primarily to save life and improve living standards through provision of health care services and education for a healthy living, empowerment and economic development. In as much as the rural communities remain the food basket of the urban cities, it is unfair to concentrate

all means of livelihood in the urban cities. For instance Abdullahi and Aliero (2018) embarked that International Found for Agricultural Development (IFAD) intervention program created a positive impact. Hassan, Simon & Iganus (2020) on assessment of international nongovernmental organizations activities on rural development in Askira-Uba local government area of Borno State, Nigeria. The study revealed that there is a significant relationship between provisions of basic needs and rural development. This study considers contributions of International Nongovernmental Organizations on Health, Education and Economic Development in Rural communities of Michika Local Government Area of Adamawa State, Nigeria.

## II. LITERATURE UNDERPINNING

### A. *Integrated Rural Development Model*

Abasiekong, (2019) and Hallet, (2018) Integrated rural development model is concerned with everyday life including the crops grown by the farmers, goods sold and the road along which it is transported to the market by the traders, schools attended by the children and the health condition of individuals. The approach seeks to understand these linkages and to make appropriate provisions for the resultant effects of alteration in one or a few elements on the others. In this case, the model considered development as comprehensive and holistic strategy that can bring improvement to the entire rural living condition. The strategy emphasized the that the economic base in the rural areas has to be broadened through mobilized efforts and better utilized human and natural resources through services delivery by creating motivational and purchasing power through equal distribution of income and employment opportunities both in rural and urban communities. Establishing closer links between agricultural, industrial and service sectors in the rural areas can improve the living conditions of the people. Again, the model implies that peculiar needs of rural communities should be holistically examined because all they need are not more than health care services, portable drinking water supply, roads and educational facilities to discourage rural-urban migration. It also advocates that, developmental strategy must be multidimensional to enhanced opportunities for income generation.

Knack,(2017) argues that high level of aid erodes institutional quality, increases rent seeking and corruption as it has negative effect on growth. Knack, (2017) in a cross-country regression analysis of 34 countries in the 1950s and 51 countries in the 1960s, treating foreign aid, foreign investment, other flows and domestic savings as explanatory variables, found that foreign aid has a substantially greater effect on growth than the other variables. He further explained that; unlike domestic savings can fill the foreign exchange gap as well as the savings gap. Fayissa and El-Kaissy, (2017) in a study of 77 countries shows that foreign aid has positive affect on economic growth in developing countries. Using modern economic growth theories, they point out that foreign aid; domestic savings, human capital and export correlated positively with economic growth in the countries studied. This is consistent with the economic theory of foreign aid which asserted that overseas

development assistance accelerates economic growth by supplementing domestic capital formation (Chenery and Strout,2015), Burnside and Dollar, (2016) in their well-known paper aid policies and growth found that aid has a positive impact on growth in developing countries with good fiscal, monetary and trade policies but has little impact on countries where such policies are poor. Nigeria is one of such countries that have poor policies even on health that has direct bearings with economic activities. To some, economic growth is elusive because different factors are responsible for growth in different economies.

### B. *Goals of International Nongovernmental Organizations*

The goals of International Nongovernmental Organizations INGOs is to developed rural communities by bring potential positive changes to boost the rural economy using the Sector wide approaches (SWAPS) and Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS) which have been introduced by aid agencies as instruments that can promote a coherent, all-encompassing and sustainable development to promotes rural participation. Even though, NGO voices may not be heard in SWAPs and PRS being the most powerful donors in capital community projects, their contributions are always timely and very significant. SWAPS are linked to national sector plans that represent many donors of aid Degnbol, (2018).

In a SWAPS approach, the scope is large when it comes to the actors in the field of intervention, several aid agencies that are currently paying attention to the rural communities in the SWAPS processes (NORAD, 2018). The PRS is a way of encouraging the recipient government to take responsibility for planning and prioritizing projects that need to be carried out at a particular time. Smith, (2019) in Kruse, (2018) made a similar observation that both SWAPs and PRS place greater demands on countries capacity with respect to policy analysis, monitoring and evaluation, implementation through multiple organization and more participatory forms of governance. However, these beautiful pictures of policies can only yield success if the community members are deeply involved right from decision making. This implies a renewed attention to how NGO can adapt their 'project-style interventions and contribute to SWAPS through the PRS. The health and education sectors generally are considered the most important part of national poverty reduction strategies, given the relationship between health, education and poverty reduction (Smith, 2019). These two instruments recognized the importance of capacity building and rural development Moulton, (2017).

### C. *International Rescue Committee on Provisions of Water Supply*

In 2019 integrated growth and development programme in collaboration with the rural water supply and sanitation agencies created 4,000 new safe water resources across various Local Government areas in Nigeria which 1 million people benefited from. Essien, (2018) reported that access to potable water in Southern Nigeria is estimated at 35% out of which only 14% is accessible to rural communities. Antai, (2017) observes that only responsible and responsive government provides basic facilities for the improvement of rural communities. Potable drinking water helps to reduce

disease vulnerability and promote health status. Okeh, (2015) asserted that the quality of life of rural dwellers can be improved through effective provisions portable water supply. In Adamawa State, only 60 per cent of households have access to improved drinking water sources which were not provided by government but personal owned boreholes. Access to adequate water supply and sanitation remains low due to poor system of health care delivery (UNDP, 2019). The international rescue committee pointed out that potable water is very important such that it must be available and accessible to all citizens living in rural or urban communities. In view of this, 49 new boreholes were drilled and 23 old ones were rehabilitated in different communities in rural areas of Michika. However, according to Okeh, (2015) in Adamawa State more than half of the populations have no access to portable water, so many women and children walk for hours to fetch available water for survival.

#### *D. International Nongovernmental Organizations Provisions on Health Care Services*

Provision of health care services is one of the most important aspects of standard living conditions in all human society. The INGO intervention projects in rural communities are based on the human rights law which clearly stated the rights of citizens with regards to living conditions. For example, there is law that protects the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS which NGO have been at the forefront of setting standards for these rights, as well as promoting and protecting those rights. The role and tasks of the United Nations in the field of human rights is greatly enhanced by the generous input of NGO. In 1997, NGO in collaboration with the United Nations Human Right Committee UNHRC addressed issues such as non-discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS, protection of families of infected persons, right of those living with HIV/AIDs in participation with political and public life at national and international levels, right to privacy among others (UNICEF, 2020). Such rights should be applicable to other things that can promote healthy living as the INGO are doing. In Kano State, Civil Society on HIV/AIDS in Nigeria CISHAN partnered with the state government on the campaign against the spray of HIV/AIDs. In this regards, CISHAN has since 2003 recorded significant milestone in the State. Its activities include among others advocacy for treatment centers, mapping and validation strategic framework MVSF on HIV/AIDs in Nigeria (Uneze, 2019). A recent declaration by World Health Organization (WHO), more than 5 million people are suffering from diabetes and this informed United Kingdom based NGO, Saint Patrick Diabetic Association (SPDA) to establish a diabetes counseling office in Nigeria. Based on this, SPDA created public awareness on dietary disorder which is a silent killer if left uncontrolled.

Over the years, farmers in the rural communities have shifted their focus from producing nutritious crops to economic crops. However, this has adverse effect on health particularly children and the elderly. Provision of dietary foods to poor families falls under health care services and this is what Family Health International 360 are doing in Michika rural communities. Rural children are more likely to be affected by malaria UNICEF, (2020).

#### *E. International Nongovernmental Organizations Provision on Education*

Education remains the most vital tool for rural development in Nigeria. Surprisingly, there were very few schools in the rural communities of Michika Local Government Area. However, the physical structure, facilities for teaching and learning are not available in most of the schools in Michika Akomolafe(2018) and Ofoegbu (2018).

For the past decades, government has lost focus on the educational institution, giving more attention to security because of the endless Boko Haram insurgency. This is an indication that government alone cannot adequately fund education Sowunimi (2019). This precarious situation in the education system especially in rural communities, informed the intervention of INGOs. In response to this, UNICEF supported some children whose parents cannot afford basic primary education. Likewise, in Borno State UNICEF sponsored 20000 children into basic primary education Kamanu,(2019). Girls Power Initiative (GPI) is another NGO that is supporting educational system by empowering the less privileged girls to go to school. This has not only helped the girls to be educated but, reduced girl-child marriage and its associated problems. GPI graduated hundreds of adolescent girls and trained them in different skills for step-down training Ikpi, (2019) Utak, (2019).

International Foundation for Education and Self-Help (IFESH) in partnership with Chevron Nigeria Limited provided basic education for primary school children, adult literacy classes, and training for primary school teachers. Specifically, their objective is to train approximately 1,000 youths for self-employment. The importance of education, especially in improving rural lives cannot be overstated. Education is a powerful instrument for the development of man and his environment. It is the key to increasing economic efficiency for self-reliance (Rowat, 2015). Human resources development entails investing in people's education, health and nutrition. Human capital development is one of the keys to sustainable rural socio-economic development as it creates knowledge, broadens skills and improves health which is key to sustainable economic growth, raising living standard and enriching people's lives. The most permanent and deepest aim of social policies is to develop and invest in human beings themselves and this is the only way to break the vicious circle of poverty UNDP, (2019).

#### *F. International Nongovernmental Organizations Contribution to Economic Development*

The wave of poverty is economic backwardness and dearth of infrastructure, health problem, unemployment, rural-urban migration is currently some of the most serious problems in the Nigeria. The Federal Office of Statistics report indicated that about 16.5 per cent of Nigerians is poor with majority is living in rural communities. Based on these, NGOs are leaving no stone unturned in fighting poverty Akpanudoedehe (2019), Okoro and Agba, (2018).

The overall goal of economic development is to improve human well-being and Nigeria is retched in natural resources that can reduce poverty. The inability of any

economy to ensure a stable development may result to mass subjection to poverty and entrapment to illusion. Development economics literature has shown that developing countries are prone to poverty as pointed out by Aliero (2017). He further said that Nigerian policy makers have been conscious of the fact that majority of their population reside in the rural areas and are smallholder with agriculture as their means of sustenance. In Adamawa State the network of INGOs has been on increase and in recent times the national and international agencies have been networking with the aim of meeting national economic empowerment development strategy (NEEDs) and millennium development goals (MDGs). Specifically, INGOs have contributed in the area of health care services and education in northeast of Nigeria (Akpanudoedehe, 2019).

### III. THEORETICAL FOUNDATION

Two theories selected for this study: ACF and theories of organization, society and corporate citizenship. The theories have been successful in finding solutions through interactions or subsystems to organizations and institutions and propagating policy change. However, ACF chosen for this study, the intent of choosing ACF over theories of organization, society, and corporate citizenship was because it is applicable in addressing the problem that faces rural communities in accessing basic needs. According to Sabatier and Jenkins-Smith (1999), the ACF handles complex and intense public policy change and shift. Advocacy coalition intends to bring diverse groups together and use purposive course of action to amplify INGOs operations for change in policy in public interest domain. It is essential to employ ACF and advocacy coalition when working to understand the belief system (Heikkila et al., 2014). The framework provides analysis of interest group's behavior, learning and policy change in issues characterized by intense political conflict.

The creed holds diverse groups power in coalition, and suggest a change on policies for positive change strategies. The group's approach issues from different point of views for a change (Sabatier & Jenkins-Smith, 1999). The interest groups understand the need to come work together and agree on strategies to achieve the goals that bind them together focusing on public interest at all different levels as far as the coalition exists, (McBeth, Jones, & Shanahan, 2014). Change in policy direction sometimes creates differences among interest groups, and disputes emerge at early stages when the coalition mission and goals are not clearly stated and understood by the groups. Relationships of the groups suffer disagreement as a result of the vague mission statement and goals.

This introduces stress and disputes among groups that take an undue long time to resolve, (Sabatier, & Weible, 2014). To address the issue of diverse interests, the advocacy coalition aims (a) promote the promulgation of policy on coalition, particularly collaboration policy that brings stakeholders together to provide access to basic need to the communities. The problem statement was a complex issue for an essential policy shift on basic needs; therefore,

ACF was a better choice that promotes long-term network relationship for management, (Shafritz, 2016). The assumption of Civil Society Responsibility/Business Society Responsibility theory carries the expectation that when organizations express interest to help the community and perform their social responsibility, that action of kindness provides an enabling environment for further action of development takes place in the location. The effect and impact on the communities and persons positively record progress in development (Shafritz, 2016). The relationship between organizations and communities requires solution based on research for a long term solution that can handle future complex issues creating sustainable development.

The ACF was vital for this study in addressing perceived partnership between INGOs and communities. Organizations responsibility to communities' development through the efforts of donors and charity organizations attempt to help create social equality, and strengthen economic and development growth. The stakeholders facilitate and drive the sense of coalition and network such as subsystems, attending complex issues and challenges that confront communities. World Vision's, UNICEF Nigeria and Girl's Education operations transformed from traditional concepts to business concepts over the years in certain areas and part of the world. INGOs' activities assist in bringing solutions to formal schooling, and finding objectives that address problems, (Shafritz, 2016). Over time, the interventions of INGOs become business related with approach of corporate social responsibility visiting business organizations, and non-profit strategies to assist communities overcome inequalities. INGOs, and profit organizations respond to needs of community areas providing assistance to improve standard of living. In this context of the theory background, the connection between this study and the theory exist. Stakeholders' partnerships and resources mobilization bring a change to assist the rural communities' access to health, education and economic development.

### IV. METHODOLOGY

This study utilized survey and in-depth interview (IDI) for the primary data and Secondary information was sources from journals, NBS and CBN. Michika has the total population of 570,000 (NPC, 2006). For the survey, a sample size of 180 respondents were drawn, while 15 informants were interviewed using an interview guide. Chi-square was used to test the hypothesis. This study is purposive as only local government area that INGOs are carrying out intervention projects was selected which Michika local government happen to be one. A multi stage simple random sampling technique was used to select the five districts (Yambule, Madzi, Nkafa, Futu and Garta), 12 communities and the respondents. For the survey, one adult male and one adult female were selected from every fifth house in each of the selected wards, while for the in-depth-interview 15 key community stakeholders were selected and interviewed.

**V. RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS**

Sources of Water Supply	Frequency	Percentage
River/Pond	119	66.1%
Borehole	49	0.49%
Well	12	6.7%
	180	100%
Location of Water Supply		
Within community	165	91.7%
Personal/in my house	15	8.3%
	180	100.0%
Distanceto Water Supply		
Less than1 kilometre	176	97.8%
More than 1 kilometres	4	2.2%
	180	100.0%

Table 1: International Rescue Committee Provisions of Portable Water Supply

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

Table 1 shows that sources of water from river/ponds are 66.1%;which may likely have negative effect on the health of people living in the rural community considering the fact those rivers/ponds are proud to open defecation. Sources of water supply from boreholes are 0.49% which can reduce vulnerability of water borne diseases in the community and other sources of water from well is6.7% such water in most cases may not be hygienic for drinking because containers used in fetching the water are usually kept in unclean environment. With regards to the location of water in the communities is 91.7% of the populations have good access to portable water supply. Apart from the boreholes drilled by the organization there are individuals who have personal boreholes in their houses that neighboring houses benefit from. Distance to water supply it was also found out that 97.8% access to water within the distance of less than 1 kilometer while 2.2%have torte for about a kilometer before accessing the portable water supply.

Health CareServices	Frequency	Percentage
Distribution of mosquito net	169	93.9%
Renovation of health care centre	9	5.0%
Provision of anti-malaria drugs	2	1.1%
	180	100.0%

Table 2 : Family Health International 360 Provisions of Health Care Services

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

Table 2 shows that an increase in health care services is more likely to improve the living the health status of rural dwellers by 93.9% health care services is a holistic approach that includes provisions of mosquito net, renovation of health care centers and provisions of anti-malaria drugs. As such health care has improved by 5.0%, on the other hand provisions of anti-malaria has improved health with 1.1% in

the communities.

NGOs on education	Frequency	Percentage
Teachers Capacity Building	3	1.7%
Provisions of learning Kits	174	96.7%
Renovations of Classrooms	3	1.7%
	180	100.0%

Table 3 : UNICEF an Educational Development

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

Based on the findings on Table 3 1.7% of classroom teachers have received training in different teaching skills to step down programme. Beside this 96.7% of learning kits were distributed to various schools for effective teaching and learning. Also1.7% of classrooms were renovated this has added values to the education thereby attracting more children’s within the communities.

	Observed N	Expected N	Residual
Highly Increased	165	90	88
Increased	15	90	-75
Chi-Square	276.633		
Total	180	180	100%

Table 5 : Chi Square Teston Water Supply

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

Table 5 indicates that the level of portable water supply in the communities has highly increased to 165. Then the expected number of communities that benefited from the provisions of water supply is90, however there is an increase of observed number to 15 as a result of the new drilled boreholes and the old rehabilitated ones.

	Observed N	Expected N	Residual
Highly Increased	169	90	109.0
Increased	11	90	-109.0
Chi-Square	297.43	-	-
Total	180	180	100

Table 6 : Chi Square Test on Health Care Services

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

The result in table 6 shows that there is a high increased in the provision of health care services which has reduced malaria infection cases in the community’s at169. Then the expected number of communities that benefited from the anti-malaria drugs is 90 it has also been observed that there is an increase of 11 reductions in malaria infection in the communities.

	Observed N	Expected N	Residual
Literacy has improved	63	45	18.0
Increased in school attendance ratio	71	45	26.0
Transition to secondary sch.	36	45	-9.0
Increased intake rate to primary school	10	45	-35.0
Chi-Square	51.244	-	-
Total	180	180	100%

Table: 7 Chi Square Test on Education

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

## VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion, the contribution of INGOs in Michika Local Government Area have reduced rural-urban migration as most of the things such as health care services, education and other facilities that attract development were improved by organizations. Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that the government of Adamawa State should support the INGOs by providing the basic needs of the rural people because government is the collective custodian of people's resources. Michika community stakeholders should make sure that the projects implemented by the INGOs are properly handled, maintained and sustained.

Projects implementation should always involve community member's right from decision making so that the people will feel the ownership.

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