

Review of: "Nigeria's Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This article is an important contribution to the issue of Sustainable Development Goals (also known as Global Goals) in Nigeria. It addresses each of these Goals and highlights local peculiarities inhibiting Nigeria from measuring up to the expected performance levels. Employing a systematic review approach, the paper reviews the National Voluntary Review and other related literature to bring to the academic mainstream factors impeding the implementation of the Goals in Nigeria.

I suggest that the authors' views be foregrounded alongside reviews. By so doing, topical contexts in the country will be highlighted to deepen discussions. For instance, I would like the authors to expand on this point:

"A third constraint is the vicious cycle of growing levels of corruption through challenged federal-state coordination. These result in a poor quality of public service delivery, deepening transparency and accountability issues in the country (World Bank 2019)."

A reader may not fully appreciate the dimensions of corruption in context. Beyond the federal and state levels, it will be helpful if corruption from the citizenry is mentioned and cited. It has been alleged that a lack of mechanisms for strict monitoring of beneficiaries enables them to divert or even squander transferred monies they receive from the government. A critique of the method of sharing these monies, especially during the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020, will illuminate the extent of corruption on both divides – government and citizens.

While reviewing the review, the authors' voices should be lent more pointedly to issues. For instance, in addition to discussions on hunger, it would be helpful to further situate the discourse within the Nigerian situation, disclosing the nexus between insecurity and hunger/hidden hunger. There are abundant scholarly works to substantiate such views.

Expanding discussions on each Goal will help readers – especially non-Nigerians – to better understand the situation of the country vis-a-vis the feeble attempts at attaining Sustainable Development Goals.

The paper is well-written, and the literatures cited are appropriate to the issue in focus. The authors did a good job, and I am looking forward to reading the published version of this important research.