**Mid-term Assessment of the Millennium Villages Project in Nigeria at Ikaram/Ibaram in Ondo State and at Pampaida in Kaduna State**

**Draft FINAL Report**

**Prepared by:**

Graham Boyd, Chigozie Cyril Asiabuka, Aderemi Medupin and Alfred Babutunde Osunsanya

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Graham Boyd

Chigozie Cyril Asiabuka

Aderemi Medupin

Alfred Babutunde Osunsanya

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**List of Acronyms**

AMVI African Millennium Villages Initiative

CBO Community-based organisations

DEX Direct execution

EI Earth Institute at Colombia University

FCT Federal Capital Territory

HIPC Highly Indebted Poor Country

HIV/AIDS Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

ICT Information communication technology

IITA International Institute of Tropical Agriculture

IMF International Monetary Fund

KADP Kaduna State agricultural development project

MDAs Ministries, Departments, and Agencies

MDGs Millennium Development Goals

MFI Micro-finance institution

MP Millennium Promise

Mt Metric tonne

MTEF Medium-Term Expenditure Framework

MTSS Medium-Term Sector Strategies

MVP Millennium Villages Project

NPC National Planning Commission

NEX National execution

NGOs Non-governmental Organisations

NYSC National Youth Service Corps

ODA Overseas development assistance

OSSAP-MDGs Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the MDGs

PLWHA People living with HIV/AIDS

PTAs Parents Teachers Associations

PRS Poverty Reduction Strategy

RTI Respiratory tract infection

SACCOS Savings and credit cooperative societies

SEEDS-2 State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy

SWOT Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats

STD Sexual transmitted disease

SUBEB State Universal Basic Education Board

TB Tuberculosis

ToR Terms of reference

UNICEF United Nations Children’s Fund

UNDAF United Nations Development Assistance Framework

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UN-FAO Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations

UTI Urinary tract infection

VIP Ventilated improved pit latrines

**Executive Summary**

The executive summary is structured into two parts comprising: (i) the main recommendations; and (ii) an assessment of findings. Together these form the synthesis of the mid-term project assessment of the Pampaida and the Ikaram-Ibaram Millennium Villages Project (MVP) in Nigeria. These two localities encompass the Nigeria cluster of The African Millennium Villages Initiative (AMVI) [[1]](#footnote-1) a collaboration partnership between UNDP, Millennium Promise, The Earth Institute at Colombia University[[2]](#footnote-2), and the Japanese Government. In addition to these international agencies in the Nigerian context the MVP cluster is supported by State and local governments in Ondo and Kaduna States and in the case of a number of schools in Ikaram-Ibaram by a wealthy American Millennium Promise benefactor.

In undertaking this assignment the consultants used 5 lenses as a means of structuring their assessment and analysis. The lenses used are: *Non-income poverty (social sectors); Income poverty (livelihood sectors); Vulnerability; Community Empowerment; and Evidence-based Policy dialogue.* Section 4 of the report provides a set of detailed recommendations. These are ordered into three time periods as a means of guiding future actions: *immediate (3mths), short-term (6-9mths) and medium-term (12-18mths)*.

The recommendations are designed to:

* ***Address MVP investment weaknesses and challenges*** in both the social services and livelihood sectors;
* ***Improve the project’s country level reporting capacity*** by broadening its coverage from budget input/activity reporting to include impact (MDG proof of concept) reporting;
* ***Enhance community ownership*** through strengthening community planning, decision-making and the organised efforts of vulnerable and less powerful groups;
* ***Broadening the ownership of the MVP science agenda*** so that Nigerian academic and research institutions and local communities become active stakeholders in its production and the application of its science; and to
* ***Enhance the coherence between the MVP projects and the various levels and tiers of planning, budgeting, and reporting so that evidence-based policy dialogue processes contribute to achieving the MDGs in Nigeria***

**Main Recommendations**

**Non-Income Poverty – Social Sectors**

Across the social sectors of health and nutrition, basic education, and water and sanitation both MVP projects have made notable progress. These sectors are where the interventions of the MVP are most visible and have had the greatest impact on the lives of villagers. This visibility can be attributed to the complementary role that the State, local government and the MVP projects have played. However, to-date this matching role between the public agencies and the MVP projects has functioned in a rather ad hoc and uncoordinated manner. It is not the result of a structured and integrated planning and partnership approach as outlined in the AMVPI project document. Due to the absence of a formal partnership arrangement MVP execution has lacked a strong focus on devising an integrated planning and coordinated service delivery approach. Policy, communication and service gaps have emerged with regard to: the number, quality and motivation of health and education staff; the sustainability of the current procurement and free-drugs arrangement; and the quality of self-help and some contractor executed infrastructure construction. These concerns need to be addressed during the balance period of the project to ensure sustainability beyond the life of the MVP.

In addition there are a number of sectors in particular sanitation and environment where progress appears to be limited or lagging. In these sectors the project needs to re-double its efforts through revising its current strategies so that greater emphasis is placed upon actions that accelerate, integrate and link-up activities with other investments and sector approaches.

**Income Poverty – Livelihood sectors**

In addition to addressing the social sectors the MVP places considerable emphasis on the livelihood sector in particular: agriculture (including livestock), environment, infrastructure – access roads, energy, irrigation, technology and information communication technology (ICT), financial services, and income generation and off-farm business development.

The underlying premise of the MVP model is that the many-sided nature of rural poverty can be overcome and the MDGs achieved through community-based, targeted investments aimed at raising rural productivity, leading to increased private sector savings and investments. By significantly supplementing the capital stock of households and the community in several key areas, the poverty trap can end. Several kinds of capital need to be increased:

* Natural (*e.g.* soil nutrients, forest cover, etc)
* Infrastructure (*e.g.* social sector buildings, access roads, power, telecommunications, etc)
* Human (*e.g.* farming and business skills, health and nutrition, education, etc)
* Financial (*e.g.* household assets, savings, collateral, microfinance, etc)

The designers of the MVP perceive that one of the main building blocks needed to lift people out of rural poverty is to raise the capital stock above a threshold level. Once above this threshold it is envisaged that villages will move towards self-sustaining economic growth. However the current MVP livelihood interventions are primarily a set of diverse input activities: fertiliser and improved seeds, demonstration farms and farmer training, tie-and-dye training hinged to small loans, and various business and ICT training activities. There does not appear to be an analysis of the key local economic challenges and opportunities nor an overarching strategy to build the necessary local economic development infrastructure to address the issues impeding economic growth. It is the view of the mission that the MVP model needs to place greater emphasis on developing a strategic approach to livelihoods based on strengthening and building four key local economic development infrastructure components. These are:

1. ***Financial services*** – informal savings and credit “esusu”; production orientated savings and credit cooperative societies (SACCOS); micro-finance loan providers; and private traders lending and pre-financing crops
2. ***Agricultural and business development services including ICT*** – economic literacy focused on retaining economic surpluses through enhanced market information and farmer association price negotiations; improved agricultural inputs, storage and advisory services; business knowledge and skills; use of ICT for market and product information, etc
3. ***Multiplication of economic association*** – formation; registration; linking-up systems; and capacity development of rural producers associations, cooperatives, group-based income generation activities for women, youth, older persons; support to family businesses, and partnerships with local investors, etc.
4. ***Skills and vocational training services*** – youth, women, etc

In shifting from an input activity-based approach primarily directed and executed by MVP staff to that of building a number of key local economic development infrastructure components emphasis should be placed on working through state and non-state service providers.

**Deepen Interventions for Vulnerable and Less Powerful Groups**

To-date the majority of MVP investments and actions have focussed on the provision of community-wide interventions that benefit the general population. Work has also begun to address particular types of vulnerable and less powerful groups – women, youth and PLWHAs. However during the remaining lifespan of the MVPs there is a need to enhance the focus on vulnerable and less powerful groups by specifically targeting them through self-organised community outreach initiatives. In addition to deepening activities with women, youth and PLWHAs there should be a focus on: older persons, orphans, underweight school pupils, disability, large households, and female headed households. In driving deeper into communities the MVP should avoid delivering interventions and activities at its own hand. The preferred strategy should be to mobilise the vulnerable and less powerful into organised groups for well-being, livelihood improvement and social protection using self-help and mutual aid concepts. These groups after a period of internal capacity development should be encouraged to federate into larger member-controlled organisations. Support to facilitate these organised groups grow should be provided by a combination of community-based organisations (*e.g.* faith-based organisations, cooperatives, etc) and external service providers.

**Community Participation and Empowerment**

To maximise the impact of community participation and empowerment, a number of conditions must be met. The local authorities must support the MVP approach and agree to coordinate different service providers. These service providers when planning their annual programmes and budgets must include village priorities. Beyond this, they must have some latitude and autonomy to respond to village requests. In addition these service providers must also have the authority to act. And finally, greater emphasis needs to be placed on local and village institutions whose role and capacity needs to be strengthened including increased mobilisation of financial and human resources particularly in the Ikaram-Ibaram project.

To-date both MVP projects have placed insufficient emphasis and efforts on creating an integrated and participatory community planning process in conjunction with local and State governments. Because village priorities cut across sectors (roads, health, education, water, etc.), authorities must plan inter-sectorally (integrated planning for rural development), and simultaneously, develop specific work programmes and budgets for each sector. Coordinated planning raises many questions. The multitude of priority issues and village action plans need to be translated into a coherent district plan which feeds into the local and State government annual plans and budgets. In addition procedures should be put into place so that local action plans conform to policies, standards and objectives specified in state and national development plans (*e.g.* 7-Point Agenda, National Development Plan, State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy - SEEDS-2, and Sector investment plans and policies, etc).

**Evidence-based Policy Dialogue**

One of the main intended outcomes/results of the AMVI project is to build coherence with country-led national strategies, plans and the MDGs. For a variety of reasons the MVP has made insufficient progress in establishing links to MDG country-led policy, planning, budgeting and reporting processes. However, both MVP projects have developed and executed comprehensive baseline surveys. In addition both projects have created 300 household stratified sample frameworks to enable periodic follow-up surveys and special studies to be undertaken. This set of baseline surveys and data represents a substantial body of work that could be playing a role in informing country policy making on how different types of MDGs interventions impact at community and household levels. The following recommendations are designed to upstream MVP reporting and link it to country-led national processes.

* AMVPI partners should seek to determine in conjunction with the UNDP Country Programme management how the MVP technical and policy advisory gaps could be bridged use UNDP Nigeria and other in-country UN agency expertise.
* MVP field staff should be orientated to the Nigerian MDGs and the current MVP emphasis on budget input/activity reporting should be broadened to encompass annual MDG ‘proof of concept’ reporting.
* Responsibility for the annual MDG reporting by the MVPs should be allocated to the two Science coordinators and the Pampaida and Ikaram-Ibaram database managers. They should submit annual MVP-MDG progress reports to the UNDP Nigeria economist who is the UN focal person for the country’s MDGs.
* Under the direction of the UN-MDG focal person short term technical assistance should be provided to the MVP database units to assist them to align and adapt their data and information so that to the greatest extent feasible full reporting on the Nigerian MDG indicators can be undertaken annually.
* UNDP Nigeria in conjunction with the National Planning Commission and the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the MDGs should explore the possibility of developing a case study chapter in the annual Nigerian MDG report. The Ikaram-Ibaram and Pampaida MVP projects should prepare case studies for inclusion in this national document with support from The Earth Institute and other in-country experts.
* The Nigerian component of The Earth Institute ‘proof of concept’ science programme and its findings should be regularly shared with a broad range of stakeholder: the MVP communities; federal, state, and local government officials and policy makers; Nigerian academics and researchers; and civil society.

**Scale-up the Pampaida MVP to the Other Settlements in Saulawa District**

The mission makes the following recommendations for the expansion of the Pampaida MVP into the adjoining settlements:

1. The Pampaida project name should be changed to that of the Saulawa MVP cluster to avoid the issues that the Ikaram project faces where the expansion of that project to the adjoining communities has led to misunderstandings over MVP investment decisions and the allocation of resources between settlements.
2. Strengthen the project’s management, coordination and technical capacities by:
3. Appointing a fulltime Science coordinator for Saulawa district
4. Appointing two team leaders from the existing set of MVP coordinators – one for the social sectors and another for local economic development (agriculture and livelihoods) as a means of ensuring: greater project cohesion across the social and local economic development sectors; improving coordination of field staff and others; and that there is increased connectedness and added value between the sector activities and the impact of investments.
5. Relocate many of the MVP project staff to the Resource Centre at Nakune Katsinawa as a means of: improving communications with the community; strengthening the delivery of inputs and monitoring activities; and assisting the project to deepen its engagement with vulnerable and less powerful groups.
6. Establish a formal partnership agreement with Ikara local government as a means of creating of an integrated participatory district planning, budgeting and reporting mechanism
7. Prior to scaling-up the intervention to the rest of Saulawa district a joint assessment of the implications of the various policy changes to health, education and other sectors that have occurred in the Pampaida MVP needs to be undertaken. The assessment should establish a clear set of policy parameters for the expansion of the MVP to district level while taking account of the future potential of scaling-up coverage to the whole of the local government area (LGA).
* Address the current MVP weaknesses in infrastructure construction - buildings, boreholes and water stand posts, and stove technology - prior to expanding the approach to the rest of Saulawa district. It should do this by:
1. expanding the MVP infrastructure team to including additional technicians and foremen/trainers (*e.g.* masons, carpenters, welders, etc);
2. ensuring greater oversight and quality assurance of all infrastructure activities including water and sanitation by placing all construction activities under the authority of the Infrastructure coordinator;
3. providing ‘best science’ in low-cost self-help building and stove technology advice and materials;
4. providing on-site technical guidance and supervision to self-help building activities during the time when the community is actually undertaking the construction work; and
5. ensuring that the MVP business and skills training component and the self-help construction projects being supported by the MVP infrastructure component are mutually reinforcing one another and adding value through using the foremen as on-the- job construction trainers for the youth.

**Findings**

The MVP is designed to harness three interconnected principles and components[[3]](#footnote-3). These are: (i) the principles of community participation and leadership; (ii) science-based innovations and local knowledge; and (iii) a costed, national action plan for reaching the time-bounded and targeted objectives of the MDGs. The mission found that components (i) and (ii) are being constrained due to the current MVP operational and decision-making modalities. And that for a variety of reason including the lack of two MVP Science coordinators insufficient progress has been made in establishing links to MDG country-led policy, planning, budgeting and reporting processes.

**Community Participation and Leadership**

The MVP project structure for both Ikaram-Ibaram and Pampaida is far too complex for what is essentially an integrated village development project where many of the decisions should be taken at the level of the community and the closest administrative levels to it namely local and State government. The project’s decision-making mechanism runs all the way from the project localities, via Abuja and Bamako to New York. Take for example the MVP annual work plans and budgets that are prepared using the results of a series of community planning events. These community level planning activities draw together in a holistic manner the communities agreed and prioritised actions. They are then collated into MVP work plans and budgets which are forwarded to UNDP Abuja and New York where they are reviewed, amended and approved. They are then returned to the MVP offices for execution. Such a process can in no way be considered to be community-led, empowered or strongly participatory. UNDP, Millennium Promise and The Earth Institute should devise a clear set of operating principles which devolves decision-making authority to MVP localities or to the closest levels to it namely local or State government.

**Science-based Innovations and Local Knowledge**

Concern must also be raised with regard to the manner in which the MVP science component and agenda are operating in Nigeria. A fundamental principle of any participatory development process is to remove and or reduce the hierarchy of decision-taking by creating a means whereby power and knowledge are more equally shared. A participatory development approach therefore seeks to build understanding between two different strands of knowledge: *local knowledge* of which villagers are more knowledgeable and *scientific knowledge* of which outsiders are more well-informed. The MVP science component is currently structured as an extractive process whereby science experts and MVP staff are designing and processing research data and conducting studies of which the community has little or no understanding. The process is one in which MVP villagers are in general not the beneficiaries of the knowledge. The MVP science programme and its findings need to be shared with the communities as a means of building their understanding of the ‘proof concept’ approach and its contribution to their self-development and that of their localities. To do this the science component of the MVP needs to devise a strategy for the popularisation of its science and findings by creating some kind of forum in each of the MVP localities, and developing a cadre of science volunteers and launching a calendar of annual events.

**Social and Livelihood Sectors**

MVP interventions and investments in both projects in the social sectors of education, health, and safe drinking water have shown significant progress and impact. When the MVP database mangers complete the updating of the MDG indicators against the 2006 baseline survey findings the full extent of progress will be able to be determined. However, the mission’s overall assessment is that across the range of health, education and water MDG indicators the project is likely to be ahead of the country trends and will therefore achieve and more than likely exceed the targets on many of the indicators. However renewed efforts are required to address both community environmental health matters and household sanitation where there are few signs of progress.

Interventions and investments in both projects in the livelihood sectors of agriculture (including livestock), environment, infrastructure – feeder roads, energy, irrigation, technology and information communication technology (ICT), financial services, and income generation and off-farm business development has been less notable. Impacts are both uneven and limited to specific individuals and groups such as farmers, and a small number of youth and women. There is evidence from a small random sample of farmers that annual income particularly in Pampaida may have gone up in 2006-7 due to free inputs of fertiliser and seed but reduced in 2007-8 when a steep cost recovery approach was introduced by the MVP. (See *Annexes 9 and 10 Household Revenue Cases* for details). In addition there is evidence from a small sample of six women in Ikaram-Ibaram who received both tie-and-dye training and small loans that most of the beneficiaries invested in other businesses such as trading in yams, meat, and small groceries. The MVP determined tie-and-dye idea lacked a market and the cost of the chemical inputs was deemed by the women to be too expensive.

The current livelihood approach is being driven by the delivery of a set of diverse input activities and project determined training much of which is being delivered by the MVP through its own hand. However the underlying weakness in the MVP approach is that it lacks of an overarching strategy focused on building the necessary local economic development infrastructure components that can create the basis of longer term area-wide sustainability. Efforts need to focus on building:

1. Financial services
2. Agricultural and business development services including ICT
3. Multiplication of local economic associations
4. Delivery of skills and vocational training services

**MDG Scaling-up**

In assessing the challenges of scaling-up the MVP model from its current operations in two village clusters with a total population of 24,000 the mission concludes that it is not in a sufficiently advantageous format for such a purpose in the Nigerian context. The model as currently devised has three significant limitations: (i) weak coherence and integration with national policy, planning, budgeting, procurement and reporting processes; (ii) poor linkages to Nigerian academic and research institutions; and (iii) the project model lacks flexibility, is operational complex and dependent upon donors honouring their overseas development assistance (ODA) promises to Africa. Therefore based upon this assessment the mission has devised three options for consideration and further investigation by UNDP and its partners.

**Option 1: Expand the MVP model to one village in each of the six Geo-political Zones**

Consideration should be given to scaling-up the MVP model to include one village in all six geo-political zones in Nigeria namely: *South-South, South East, South West, North East, North central and North West*. To ensure sustainability and the transfer of “MVP science” it is recommended that The Earth Institute and Millennium Promise should identify in each geo-political zone a Nigerian university and or a research institute who would work with it to manage the projects and provide technical backstopping. At the end of the project, the local institution should have acquired sufficient experience and capacity to both undertake the project management and continue the MVP science.

**Option 2: MDG-based Partnership Model (Direct Execution)**

This model delivers the MDG-based interventions using government structures and systems at federal, state and local government levels. The model is derived for that used to execute the IMF/World Bank Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) debit relief initiative. HIPC debt funds were prioritised through country-led national development plans - Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS). The model uses a multi-stakeholder approach and involves all levels of government, parliament, non-state actors, and development partners. The national development plan including an implementation matrix guides the process and is overseen by a core group of coordinating ministries and agencies – Finance, Planning, Public Service, National Statistics Office, Decentralisation/Local Government.

Delivery is undertaken by sector ministries and local governments using the budget, conditional grants and transfers. A particular challenge has been aligning sector plans and budgets and local government service delivery plans and budgets to the national plan’s poverty reduction priorities.

To measure progress and ensure resources have been properly utilised: national monitoring and evaluation systems have been strengthened including national surveys and routine data collection systems; independent research and evaluation has been commissioned using national institutions and experts; procurement systems and public sector audits have become more rigorous; public expenditure tracking studies and users satisfaction surveys have been introduced; and civil society organisations have been funded to conduct independent participatory monitoring and evaluation with reports being submitted to parliament.

Development partners have played a constructive supporting role in this model by providing a range of funding and technical assistance including: general budget support, donor basket funding for sector wide approaches, programme and project funding, and challenge funds for non-state actors, etc. Within this model there is sufficient scope for UNDP and the UN system in Nigeria under the UNDAF II framework to engage in policy dialogue with Federal government and to contribute a range of technical assistance to States and local governments. It will not be feasible to have technical assistance in each of the focus 111 LGAs or even in every State so some kind of hub or grouped system based either on the 6 geo-political zones or an expansion of UN sub-offices such as UNICEF’s four regional offices will need to be considered.

With regard to The Earth Institute and Millennium Promise MDG ‘proof of concept science’ if these organisations were to expand the MVP baselines and science to one village in all six geo-political zones then this would provide the scaled-up MDG national programme with a set of baseline villages from which to monitor and assess progress. These ‘sites of practice’ would in effect act as a set of sentinel sites that could supply regular data and findings into the country MDG report and thus help inform the country policy dialogue on MDG progress.

**Option 3: MDG-based Partnership Model (Management Agent)**

Option 3 uses the same country-led MDG-based policy, planning, budgeting and reporting framework as option 2 but introduces the possibility of a different implementation modality in the form of a management agent approach. This model has two main variants: (i) execution through a special government programme or agency, and (ii) outsourcing to non-state actors – private sector firms, civil society or public institutions such as universities and research institutions.

1. **Execution through a special government programme or agency uses the following modalities.**
* ***national in scale and executed as special programmes*** through a coordinating ministry such as Finance, Planning or Decentralisation/Local Government;
* ***uses a community-driven development approach*** that is focused on poverty reduction – social sectors, livelihoods, labour intensive public works, and social protection for vulnerable groups;
* ***by-passes existing government delivery systems*** - sector ministries, regional/state governments, and local government delivery systems;
* ***village level execution*** is guided by technical teams with project approval and monitoring being undertaken by a joint village-local government committee.
1. **Execution through outsourcing to non-state actors uses the following modalities.**

This variant of the model is unlikely in the Nigerian context to be used as a country-wide approach due to the country’s federal and decentralised system of government. However it may have some potential use at State and local government level where the authorities wish to engage with the programme but do not wish to undertake the direct implementation of either all or some of the components of the programme.

There are three implementation modalities that can be used by a management agent to execute the outsourcing model: contracts, grants, partnership agreements, and a combination of the three. These differing modalities provide a broad range of organisation the opportunity to engage with the programme – community economic associations, cooperatives, private firms and contractors, development NGOs, financial service providers, and academic and research institutions.

However to execute such a model requires a comprehensive operations manual and set of standard procedures for contracting, budgeting, procurement, accounting and reporting prior to the launch of the programme. In addition it is important in this model to separate out the evaluation and impact assessment component of the programme and have this undertaken by an organisation that is both independent of the programme management and the management agent.

**1. Introduction**

The terms of reference for the mid-term assessment specified two key tasks:

1. To briefly review the Millennium Villages Project (MVP) against the project objectives and work plans and assess whether the objective in each MDG related sector has been or will be achieved; and
2. To review the current MVP implementation model and provide alternatives especially when considering the desire for scaling-up and medium term sustainability.

The scope of work comprised two parts:

1. **Assessment of Findings**
* Assess the achievements of actual versus planned results
* Assess the strengths and weaknesses in the design and operation of the current project management structure including the progress and challenges in the tripartite relationship – Millennium Promise (MP), Earth Institute (EI), State and local governments, and UNDP
* Assess the extent of progress in incorporating active community involvement in all stages of the project implementation cycle
1. **Scalable Options and Recommendations**
* Provide options for sustainable and scalable expansion
* Provide a set of recommendations for action: immediate (3mths); short-term (6 – 9 mths); and medium term (12 – 18mths)

The assignment was conducted from 12th January to 4nd February 2009 in three locations: Abuja – 11 days, Pampaida – 6 days (Kaduna State) and Ikaram-Ibaram – 5 days (Ondo State). It was undertaken by a 4-person consultancy team comprised of two international consultants and two national consultants. The terms of reference (ToR) are attached in Annex 1. (See *Annex Report*)

In undertaking the assessment a cross-section of MVP stakeholders[[4]](#footnote-4) were consulted at the federal, state, local government and community levels in Kaduna and Ondo States. At the Federal level senior managers of UNDP and the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the MDGs (OSSAP-MDGs) were consulted while in Kaduna and Ondo States the team held meetings with both State and local government officials.

In the Pampaida MVP locality meetings were held with a total of 213 traditional leaders, MVP sector committee members and a range of interest groups – women, youth, heads of household, farmers, herdsmen and traders. This represents a sample of around 7.6 percent of the adult and adolescent population.

An identical set of meetings were undertaken in the Ikaram-Ibaram locality where over 352 villagers participated – 210 men and 142 women. This represents a sample of somewhere between 2.5 to 3 percent of the adult and adolescent population. See the tables below for a listing of the various types of community meetings and social groups who participated. A full list of those consulted and a schedule of activities is provided in Annex 2. (See *Annex Report*)

A range of qualitative and quantitative information-gathering techniques were used during the assignment. These included: village/town meetings; focus group meetings, key informant meetings, semi-structured interviews, household revenue analysis, and visits to MVP investments – health centres, renovated primary schools, community built feeder classrooms and a school kitchen, youth and information communication technology (ICT) centres, boreholes and handpumps/water standposts, VIP latrines, agricultural warehouses, markets, community centres and MVP project offices.

In addition the team reviewed two types of documentation:

* African Millennium Villages Initiative project documents and agreements including the technical design proposal, a range of Earth Institute and Millennium Promise reports, handbooks and promotional materials; and
* Nigerian country specific documents: MVP Pampaida and Ikaram-Ibaram workplans, budgets, progress reports and powerpoint presentations; Government of Nigeria reports and strategies – SEEDS-2, Nigeria 2006 MDG Report; and UN country plans – UNDAF II 2009-12

The output from this consultancy is a report that includes a set of recommendations designed to assist UNDP and its MVP stakeholders to determine future approaches, strategies, and operating modalities. The report is comprised of three parts:

1. Main report including an executive summary
2. An Annex Report, and
3. A Photographic record of Pampaida and Ikaram-Ibaram village meetings and MVP investments.

**Summary of Community Meetings in Pampiada MVP Project area**

* **A total of over 211 villagers were consulted during a four day period**

This represents a sample of around 7.5 percent of the adult and adolescent (15 -49 yrs) population. The current population estimate for the Pampaida cluster is 5,666 living 952 households.

* **A total of 160 traditional leaders and MVP sector committee members were consulted**
* **A total of 3 focus group meetings involving 40 village participants and 130 key informant meetings with heads of households**

One Women’s meeting 7 females

One Youth meeting 22 youths

One Livelihood meetings 11 participants from outside the MVP

 Pampaida project area

Thirteen key informant meetings 13 heads of household (11 men & 2 females)

**2. Assessment of MVP Progress**

**Summary of Community Meetings in Ikaram-Ibaram MVP Project area**

* **A total of over 352 villagers were consulted (142 females and 210 males) during a three day period**

This represents a sample of somewhere between 2.5 to 3 percent of the adult population. The current population estimate for the MVP Ibaram-Ikaram cluster is 18,307 living 4,500 households.

* **A total of 193 traditional leaders and MVP sector committee members were consulted (59 females and 134 males)**
* **A total of 15 focus group meetings involving 291 village participants (120 females and 171 males)**

One Men’s meeting 20 males

One Heads of Large Families Meeting 9 [2 females & 7 males]

[ *> more than 6 family members*]

Two2 Women’s meetings 46 females

Two Farmers’ meetings 40 [6 females & 34 males]

Three Traders & Income Generation meetings 30 [18 females & 12 males]

Three Youth meetings 114 [39 females & 75 males]

Three Older persons meetings 32 [9 females & 23 males]

This section of the report examines the extent to which both Pampaida and Ikaram-Ibaram MVPs have made progress in achieving their objectives and are likely to reach their planned outcomes. The African Millennium Village Initiative (AMVI) model has eight MDG-based objectives and forty one activity areas. To facilitate both reporting and to summarise issues the report is structured into the following sub-sections: *social sectors; livelihood sectors; and community participation and empowerment.* Individual tables have been prepared for both Pampaida and Ikaram-Ibaram summarising achievements against MVP objectives and work plans.

**2.1 Background to the MVP model in Nigeria**

The African Millennium Villages Initiative (AMVI) is a multi-country project with 9 Millennium Villages in eight sub-Saharan African countries[[5]](#footnote-5). In addition there are a further 3 Millennium Villages being implemented by The Earth Institute[[6]](#footnote-6). The villages have been selected not only to be representative of the twelve major agro-ecological zones and farming systems in sub-Saharan Africa but also to represent high incidences of rural poverty and hunger.

In Nigeria there are currently two Millennium Village projects (Pampaida in Kaduna State and Ikaram-Ibaram in Ondo State) both of which were launched in May 2006. The projects have been operational for just over 32 months out of a 5-year lifespan. These two localities encompass the Nigeria cluster of the AMVI [[7]](#footnote-7) a collaboration partnership between UNDP, Millennium Promise (MP), The Earth Institute at Colombia University (EI)[[8]](#footnote-8), and the Japanese Government. In addition to these international agencies in the Nigerian context the MVP cluster is supported by State and local governments in Ondo and Kaduna States and in the case of a number of schools in Ikaram-Ibaram by a wealthy American MP benefactor.

Pampaida with a population of over 5,600 is located in the North West geo-political zone which has a poverty ranking of around 63 percent while Ikaram-Ibaram with a population of over 18,000 is located in the South West geo-political zone which has a poverty ranking of 42 percent. (See *Geo-political Zones – Ranking by Poverty* on page 68 for details.)

The underlying premise of the MVP model is that the many-sided nature of poverty in rural Africa can be overcome and the MDGs achieved by 2015 through community-based, targeted investments aimed at raising rural productivity, leading to increased private sector savings and investments. By significantly supplementing the capital stock of households and the community in several key areas, the poverty trap can end. Several kinds of capital need to be increased:

* Natural (*e.g.* soil nutrients, forest cover, etc)
* Infrastructure (*e.g.* social sector buildings, access roads, power, telecommunications, etc)
* Human (*e.g.* farming and business skills, health and nutrition, education, etc)
* Financial (*e.g.* household assets, savings, collateral, microfinance, etc)

The designers of the MVP perceive that one of the main building blocks needed to lift people out of rural poverty is to raise the capital stock above a threshold level. Once above this threshold it is envisaged that villages will move towards self-sustaining economic growth. The MVP recommends making these capital investments at an appropriate magnitude of US$110 per villager per year over a time scale of at least 5 years. During this period a phased and sequenced approach should ensure that all sectors in the multi-sector approach are addressed. The US $110 investment costs are to be shared between communities, governments, and donors using the following suggested breakdown: government $30; community $10; other donor partners $20, and the MVP project $50. The MVP $50 contribution falls within the G8 leaders Gleneagles statement to increase overseas development assistance to sub-Saharan Africa to around $80 per person.

**2.2 Pampaida MVP Project, Kaduna State**

**2.2.1 Social Sectors (Non-income poverty)**

**Education**

Across the social sectors – health and nutrition, education, water and sanitation, and feeder roads - in Pampaida, primary education is where the impact of the MVP project has been most visible. This visibility can be attributed to the complementary role that the State, local government and the MVP project have played.

Of particular significance is the leading role that the MVP played in implementing an education campaign to sensitise the community to the importance of education and the need to send all children to school. The campaign was supported by a number of State ministries and UNICEF. It resulted in over 800 children being enrolled in school including those from pastoralist households. As a result of the campaign the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) constructed two blocks of 4 classrooms while the State education ministry provided 3 new teachers, and 3 secondary school graduates have been hired as teaching assistants.

In addition to launching the education campaign the MVP has played an important supporting and gap filling role in contributing funds, materials and equipment to primary education. The majority of these MVP resources have been used to contribute materials to the construction of a number of feeder classrooms, a community grain store and school kitchen. All these buildings have been constructed on a self-help basis by community members who undertook the work on weekends during the dry season. The MVP has also been instrumental in launching a school feeding programme supported through a 10 percent grain contribution from households who are the recipients of agricultural inputs provided by the project.

Due to these interrelated education interventions there has been a rapid rise in school enrolment from 420 pupils in 2006 (298 boys and 122 girls with a teacher ratio of 1:42) to the current total of 1,600 pupils - (920 boys and 640 girls with a teacher ratio of 1:80). This dramatic boost in school attendance has been assisted by a number of key MVP interventions:

1. the use of an education campaign to sensitise parents to the need to education their children and to gain an understanding of the obstacles involved in attending school;
2. support for the building of feeder classrooms in outlying settlements as a means of enabling younger children to attend school closer to their homes and thus removing the barrier of distance and the dangers of river crossing during the rains; and
3. the introduction of a school feeding programme supported through household contributions of grain and volunteer cooks.

These positive outcomes have however resulted in a an interesting household trade-off between education and the number of hands available for farm work due to the reduction of the labour previously provided by children.

The overall progress in education is shown in the Table below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **INDICES** | **BEFORE****2006** | **NOW** | **INCREASE****%** |
| Classrooms | 3 | 7 | 233.33 |
| Schools | 4 | 10 | 250.00 |
| Teachers | 10 | 21 | 210.00 |
| Enrolment of Pupils | 420 | 1600 | 380.95 |
| Girl Child | 122 | 640 | 524.59 |
| Boy Child | 298 | 920 | 308.72 |

**Source:** MVP Pampaida Data Base, MVP Project Nigeria, July 2008

**Gaps**

Three MVP interventions appear to have altered State primary education policy in the Pampaida locality:

1. the introduction of a school feeding programme;
2. the use of feeder classrooms; and
3. the establishment of a MVP central education committee rather than making use of the parent teachers associations (PTA).

To-date the MVP management has paid little attention to the implications of the policy dimensions of its interventions. However to sustain, scale-up and mainstream its approach the MVP management needs to strengthen its joint planning, budgeting, and policy dialogue with State and local government officials and policy makers. The mission was unable to find any evidence to show that the MVP ‘proof of concept’ had established a structured and systematic means of sharing its lessons from practice with local government and state level policy making as a means of influencing the achievement of the MDGs.

The feeder classrooms built with material support from the project fall short on construction standards even as work is in progress. The issue of the quality of the construction of the self-help buildings is due to the community undertaking the work during the dry season and usually over the weekend on its own with little or no technical guidance. MVP project staff were not on-site as they work in the project localities from Tuesday to Thursday. Due to understaffing the MVP infrastructure team did not have sufficient technicians and skilled foremen/trainers to both undertake on the job-training or provide the necessary technical guidance. A sizeable portion of the labour that carried out the self-help building work was drawn from the youth who could have gained useful construction skills if building projects had been linked to vocational/skills training under the business component of the MVP. In addition the MVP provided no ‘building science’ to assist the community to improve the quality of the buildings for instance through making them termite proof by using metal frames for the windows and doors and metal joist in the roof rather than timber. The additional supervision, skills training and improved materials would have added to the cost of the buildings. However, over the medium term these additional investments would have greatly added to the lifespan of these buildings.

A concern must be expressed that no ‘building and stove science’ appears to have been applied to the design of school kitchens where three large cooking pots use open fires as their means of cooking. This arrangement uses significant amounts of firewood in an area where tree cutting is having a detrimental impact on the environment. Furthermore the MVP model clearly indicates that the role of its interventions is to improve such situations not to add to them.

In a number of settlements visited by the mission there was evidence of overcrowded class rooms without qualified teachers. The MVP management in conjunction with the State education ministry needs to examine ways in which class room sizes – average of 1 teacher to 80 pupils - can be reduce and the quality of teaching improved. In addition the MVP, the State education ministry and PTAs need to establish a monitoring and feedback mechanism to ensure that the gains made in primary education are sustained and enhanced in the future.

**Recommendations**

Although the MVP agreement with the community was that as part of the community’s contribution volunteer cooks would prepare the school meals, reality points to the need to provide some kind of modest and formalised incentive to the volunteers for the hours that they donate. There are a number of different forms that this could take. For example, a small honorarium, priority access to MVP income generation skills training, or priority access to a micro-loan for livelihood improvement, etc.

Attention should be paid to the nutritional quality of the free meals being provided in order to improve the health status of the pupils.

The MVP management in conjunction with the State education ministry should make concerted efforts to ensure schools are staffed with competent and motivated teachers. This may require the construction of accommodation for teachers at Nakune Katsinawa where the resource centre is located.

The MVP management needs to address its weaknesses in:

1. providing low-cost self-help building and stove technology advice and materials;
2. providing on-site technical guidance and supervision to self-help building activities during the time when the community is actually undertaking the construction work; and
3. ensuring that the MVP business and skills training component and the self-help construction projects being supported by the MVP infrastructure component are mutually reinforcing one another and adding value through using the foremen as on-the- job building trainers for the youth.

To-date the MVP management has paid little attention to the implications of the policy dimensions of its interventions. However, to sustain, scale-up and mainstream its approach to education the MVP management needs to enhance its joint planning, budgeting and policy dialogue with State and local government officials and policy makers.

**Health**

Prior to the project coming on stream in 2006, the proportion of the total population of Pampaida with access to a health clinic was 10%, now it stands at 90%. This is a significant achievement. It is due to the construction by the State government of a more accessible health clinic within the Pampiada locality at a cost of $174,000. Due to this new clinic, the average distance to a health facility has been reduced to 3 kilometres from the previous 10 kilometres and its location outside of Pampaida. Similarly, the number of full-time health workers has risen from zero to 7 compared to the situation prior to the project’s intervention where no doctor had visited the area for 5 years.

According to the MVP baseline data gathered at the start of the project, about 68.6% of pregnant women in the community did not go for antenatal care, and only about 10.2% of deliveries were attended to by a skilled healthcare worker. Of the 31.4% of women that presented themselves for antenatal care at least once, only 7% had been attended to by a qualified health professional. Across the communities prevalent diseases are: malaria fever, diarrhoea, respiratory tract infections, and bacterial and viral skin infections. However, there is no evidence of the existence of sex workers and in 2008 there were 5 cases of STD, two cases of HIV/AIDS, and no cases of tuberculosis (TB). It is relevant to note that there are about 40 traditional herbal dispensers in the locality.

Progress on health and the provision of accessible health care services within the Pampaida locality is another visible success. The MVP project has played an important mobilising and complementary role in collaboration with State health institutions in making the primary health care system both accessible and operational.

Pampaida now has a clinic within the project area, manned by a doctor who also supervises the other nearby older clinic, assisted by a number of community health extension workers. There has been an increase in immunisation, distribution of free drugs, and de-worming as well as environmental sanitation and health awareness activities and events. The first consignment of 4,500 treated bed nets has been distributed. However there are some gaps in the distribution and these are currently being addressed by the project. In addition the project has supplied the community with a vehicle whose primary purpose is to act as an ambulance to take patients to the district hospital in cases of emergencies.

In 2008, ten village health volunteers were selected to cover the ten community zones in Pampaida. Their task is to undertake health education, clinic referrals and management of common ailments like diarrhoea. They were trained using the Federal Government manual for training health workers. They have also been trained in nutrition together with the community at large. Currently the community is constructing on a self-help basis at the site of the new clinic accommodation for the two doctors who work in the Pampaida and the adjoining locality.

**Gaps**

However, staffing gaps exist in terms of personnel and accommodation within the Pampaida primary health care system. There are particular difficulties with regard to the referral of patients to hospitals and specialist services at some distance from Pampaida. This requires the dedication of some funds to address the out of pocket expenses involved in such cases. Consideration should be given to changing to country procurement of drugs to replace the current importation model that is time consuming and has drug expiration issues.

One of the major constraints to using bed-nets is the number of people living in a room as a result of relatively large family size. The nearest comprehensive health clinic - is 10 kilometres from Pampaida. It has six bed spaces for emergencies. Although the MVP has supplied a vehicle to the community to provide ambulance cover it is also used for other purposes such as transporting agricultural supplies and produce to the nearby markets. The arrangement is not ideal and the MVP is currently working on addressing the situation by procuring a second vehicle for agricultural purposes.

The MVP health intervention appears to have altered State health care policy by introducing into the Pampaida locality the free distribution of drugs. The current policy is that drugs are paid for by patients. However there is a drug exemptions policy which exempts: pregnant women, children under the age of five, PLWHAs, and those over 60 years of age. To-date the MVP management has paid little attention to the cost implications of its policy change and how such a policy can be sustained once the project ends. The MVP management needs to address this issue in conjunction with the State health ministry and the community. Establishing a viable drugs policy and revolving fund or community health insurance system will take time to negotiate, set-up and become fully operational.

**Recommendations**

The MVP management needs to address four key issues:

1. the drugs policy and how to make it sustainable beyond the life of the project;
2. the procurement of drugs within Nigeria should be given precedent over external purchasing;
3. greater attention needs to be given to joint planning, budgeting, and policy dialogue on health matters with State and Local government officials and policy makers; and
4. the findings of the ‘health science’ which the project and Earth Institute are undertaking in the form of baseline surveys and follow-up studies should be shared with the community and health workers through some form of ‘science forum’ and calendar of annual events (*e.g.* youth week, women’s day, etc).

**Water and Sanitation**

Before the project commenced the population of Pampiada relied exclusively on unprotected water sources - wells, streams and rivers. The MVP baseline survey identified that there were no boreholes in the locality prior to the commencement of the project and that only 3% of the population had access to safe drinking water while those with access to improved sanitation comprised 13 percent.

Due to the project, the number of boreholes in Pampaida has risen from zero to 12. The work has been executed using a contractor. However, the quality of some of the borehole and standpost concrete work is of poor quality. Prior to the commencement of the project there was not a single protected well in the entire village, now there are 58 wells. These MVP investments have significantly reduced the water collection distance from 1,500 to 500 metres, increased the number of safe drinking water sources, and reduced the amount of time women and girls spend collecting water. Furthermore, these improved water sources will also have made a contribution to an improvement in household health due to a reduction in water borne illness.

The most common way of defecation is in the open space and surrounding bushes. For those villagers who have access to improved sanitation it takes the form of a pit toilet located within or close to their homestead. The pit toilets are in most cases not closed and this invites flies and emits stench thereby polluting the surrounding environment. As part of its efforts to improve sanitation the project has supported on a self-help basis the construction of VIP pit latrines in key locations such as health clinics, schools and at the Ung Billa marketplace.

**Gaps**

However, living environments are still generally dirty and the children are equally looking unkempt. Sanitation remains poor. There is therefore the outstanding challenge of raising sanitary awareness among the population and accelerating the construction of VIP toilets for household use.

**Recommendations**

Greater efforts need to be devoted to improving environmental health and sanitation in Pampaida. The MVP in conjunction with the community and local government needs to addresses the challenge by devising a more accelerated and integrated approach that focuses on:

1. reinforcing health, hygiene and sanitation messages delivered at health clinics and schools with action to create healthy neighbourhoods and households;
2. the creation of settlement level infrastructure for community environmental health campaigns, weekly clean-ups, designated and maintained disposal sites, and a cadre of volunteer environmental health wardens; and
3. a sanitation programme that offers incentives to households to construct VIP toilets linked to an income generating toilet slab construction and outreach venture supervised by a skilled foreman to ensure quality.

The MVP management needs to establish a more rigours set of oversight and quality assurance procedures for its contractors. In particular all infrastructure contracts should fall under the authority of the project’s infrastructure coordinator.

**Infrastructure and Transportation**

The two most highly visible infrastructure developments within the locality that have considerable potential to make a significant impact on Pampaida are the newly asphalted 10 km access road and the electricity power line that runs concurrently through some of the settlements. Prior to this development there was no motorable road in the whole Pampaida. The State has undertaken both of these infrastructure projects as part of its capital investment programme.

There has been an increase in transportation in the locality. At the individual level, before the project commenced some 50% of beneficiaries had motor cycles, now the figure has risen to over 70%.

The MVP has played an important role in lobbying the State authorities to ensure electricity connections to key community facilities such as the health clinic, schools and the Nakune Katsinawa local development centre.

**Gaps**

Access to larger markets to enable Pampaida farmers to maximise their economic returns from the sale of their produce are far from the village and other means of communicating are few and unreliable. The main market is at least 30 kilometres away. With support from the MVP project a modest and more conveniently local market is now being experimented with at the settlement of Ung Billa. It is located next to the new asphalted road. However, the majority of settlements are to be found in the outlying areas away from the new road. Access to these settlements is primary by a network of tracks. There is a need to construct a feeder road network linking outlying settlements to the main Pampiaida access road if economic and social development is to gain both traction and momentum in this locality.

**General Observation**

Those villagers met by consultancy team expressed satisfaction with the management structure of the project. They were on the whole satisfied that the MVP had right from the formulation stage sought to listen to them and take account of their views. They recommended the expansion of the project to other communities on the proviso that it remains under the purview of UNDP and not the government. This position is informed by that fact that in their view, whereas the UNDP uses a participatory development approach to implementation and management, the government merely hands down directives.

**2.2.2 Livelihood Sectors (Income poverty)**

The MVP targets two different agro-ecological zones in Nigeria, one cluster is in the south-west derived Guinea Savannah area in Ondo State, while the other cluster is in the north-central Savannah area in Kaduna State.

The northern cluster is located in the Pampaida area of Saulawa district. The district is one of 7 districts that comprise the Ikara Local Government area. Pampaida covers an area of 40 square kilometers and is sparsely populated. It consists of 28 villages with a population of 5,666 people divided into 952 households. The vegetation is Sahel and the farming system is agrosilvopastoral, according to the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (UN-FAO).

**a) Infrastructure:** Until recently the area was weakly connected to road, power and telecommunications networks and was lagging in social service provision – schools, health clinics and access to safe drinking water. In addition the area has very rudimentary levels of investment in agricultural infrastructure such as irrigation systems, dams, farming and agro-processing technologies.

* **Access Road to Pampaida:** The MVP is now accessible through a newly constructed road by the State Government. This is a 10 km asphalt road that links the project area with the main road to Ikara town and the Zaria to Sokoto highway. The road also provides access to the market and the Local Government headquarters at Ikara, where some of the government staff seconded to the MVP have a field office and live during the week. They occupy three houses donated to the project by the Ikara local government one of which functions as the office. A number of the MVP extension staff that work directly with the communities should relocate to the resource centre in Pampaida at Nakune Katsinawa where the project is developing a local development centre. The 28 MVP settlements are located across the locality and only about 3 of them have direct access to the asphalt road.
* **Feeder and Farm Roads:** The other settlements are a considerable distances (in most cases more than 2 km) from a motorable road. There is a network of tracks and these will require upgrading including the construction of culverts for improved access. If this network of feeder roads is constructed the villagers will have good access to their farms and to the main asphalt road. Many of these tracks are only accessible by motorcycles or bicycles and a number of the settlements are cut-off during the rainy season.
* **Energy:** The main sources of domestic energy are firewood for cooking and kerosene for lighting. However Pampaida has recently been connected to the electricity grid through a new power line constructed by the State Government. The power line runs alongside the asphalt road and now allows part of the MVP area to have access to electric power. The MVP management has worked to have the main school, resource centre, and health clinics connected to electricity grid. Each of the 28 settlements is now requesting for their houses to be connected to the power line.

Firewood in Pampaida is becoming scarce due to tree-cutting. This has resulted in the environment becoming degraded due to the lack of adequate community management and tree replanting schemes. Women and girls spend longer time collecting firewood. Therefore the villagers will need to develop their own community forest from where they could sustainably source firewood in future.

There is a need in the agricultural and business component of the MVP to assist with the introduction of low-cost technology and infrastructure such as equipment and agricultural machinery that can improve production and reduce the drudgery of farm labour. This could include machinery such as power tillers and accessory implements for land preparation, planting, and the transporting of materials; and crop irrigation pumps. The MVP management has already provided building materials for an improved community grain storage facility but provision of individual household grain storage facility (*e.g*. FAO small galvanized steel storage silo), as well as other equipment for adding value to income generation activities should be considered. The MVP has procured a groundnut oil extractor and some post harvest equipment already but the MVP management should ensure that all the equipment and machinery procured are modern and very durable with easy access to spare parts.

ICT is another technology source for eliminating the digital divide and is incorporated into the MVP project model as an innovative investment that can contribute to achieving the MDGs. Investment in computers and accessories, including cell phones, and such can assist the populace to bridge the digital divide through increasing communications with the outside world and stimulating individual knowledge within the locality for both livelihood and community benefit. At the local development centre located at Nakune Katsinawa the MVP has built a resource centre where it has provided a digital television. The MVP management has confirmed that computers will soon be installed at the centre as part of the project’s 2009 investment activities.

**b) Agriculture:** This takes into consideration activities geared towards increased food production in order to eliminate hunger and such other agriculture livelihoods to generate income for households.

The Pampaida MVP is located in the savannah area of Nigeria where the rainfall commences around May and ends in October (a period of 5 months) but with frequent breaks which brings with it drought. The rain-fed growing season is estimated at 2.5 to 5 months per year.

One of the main rain-fed crops introduced by the MVP is hybrid maize with a high dosage of fertilizer designed to achieve an optimal yield. Each household is mandated to identify 1.0 ha of maize farmland and are provided with 11 bags of fertilizer by the project. Other crops introduced for crop diversification and improved household nutrition are cowpeas, soybeans and groundnuts.

However, the staple food crops in the Pampaida area are sorghum and millet. A small quantity of maize and rice are also grown for food and for cash. The project needs to put more emphasis on sorghum and millet rather than hybrid maize as the present fertilizer dosage is likely to be unsustainable for the smallholder farmers while the gross margin for maize will be lower compared to staple food crops. Maize as a surface feeder is not known to be drought resistant in comparison with the other two staple crops – sorghum and millet. Pampaida is an area that is prone to drought, as witnessed in the last few years. To eliminate hunger the project may need to concentrate on introducing new high yielding varieties of the staple food crops combined with modern methods of production. This will help to increase household food availability through the hungry season. From discussions with households it emerged that an average family will require about 20 bags (2.0 mt) of sorghum per year.

During the dry season, horticultural crops (tomatoes and onions) are grown by farmers in the “fadama” areas as alternative crops for income generation. These are crops with high gross margin and therefore profitable and could increase the household income in a short period. The MVP has provided some irrigation pumps (presently one unit is allocated to about 6 farmers in some settlements) but this is quite inadequate, as water is a limiting factor in the agricultural production in the locality. The MVP should also invest more in horticultural crop inputs (viable seeds and appropriate fertilizers), as well as low cost equipments, such as power tillers and accessories for the farmers. The MVP management should note that some farmers applied inappropriate types and dosages of fertilizers to their tomato crop last season and thereby failed to obtain any yield. To introduce the low-cost technologies to the farmers, they should be formed into farming groups within each settlement. Usually a group of 25 with 5 units of power tillers and accessories is optimal (including equivalent units for irrigation pumps) but the initial provision could be less depending on the available MVP resources. Farmers groups could source more units through production sales or linkages to agricultural micro-finance agencies in the State.

One of the main problems faced by farmers involved in horticultural crops is that of price fluctuations due to issues of seasonality, availability of buyers, and access to markets. The project should look into aspects of contract farming with regular buyers or processing factories as a means of ensuring improved returns and regular market access before encouraging large scale production, as these crops are highly perishable.

Other horticultural crops that could be introduced to the farmers are leafy vegetables to improve household nutrition. These could include: spinach, amaranths species, okra, etc. Women’s groups should be the focus for growing leafy vegetables in household gardens. They should be taught the use of organic fertilizer to improve the yield of their crops, rather than the use of mineral fertilizers.

As water is a major limiting factor for dry season farming within the project area, the farmers are presently utilizing the “fadama” areas or farming in the river beds, while some are using boreholes or shallow wells. The MVP management has plans for constructing a dam but provision of deep wells (over 40 meters) located appropriately may be another solution.

The MVP is also inhabited by some Fulani tribesmen. Their main source of livelihood is cattle rearing and they graze their cattle in the green pastures or in the fields after the harvests. Some of them have also requested MVP support in order to improve the quality of their livestock. The project distributed some livestock but the quantity is insufficient given the number of pastoralists in the project locality.

**c)** **Income Generation and Business Development:** This project activity area incorporates issues focused on the improvement of non-agricultural livelihoods, food processing and business development. Many of which are likely to require access to micro-credit facilities amongst the households in order to commence or improve their productive assets.

A number of heads of households and their wives have received training from the project. Women have received training either in tie-and-dye, tomato preservation or groundnut oil extraction but have not received any credit to commence their business. Some men have also gone through training in business management but have not received any credit support.

An important and innovative MVP condition negotiated with beneficiaries was that in return for the project’s assistance in the provision of free farm inputs, each beneficiary would contribute ten percent of their harvest to a community grain store. This contribution would be used for two purposes: (i) a feeding programme for primary school pupils; and (ii) funding of community agreed projects such as the provision of the capital for a revolving livelihood loan scheme. The MVP management received over 130 mt. of grains from the Pampaida farmers last year. In addition to being the main source of food supply to the school feeding programme a sum of N6 million has been raised from the sale of excess grains collected as part of the pay back from the beneficiary farmers.

Pampaida MVP management presently have plans for this community fund (N6 million deposited with PHB bank) to be used as a means of expanding the farm input credit facilities for the farmers and to provide small loans for income generation activities. The credit scheme will be administered by the MVP apex cooperative.

A small number of individual beneficiary interviews provided some insights into the livelihood component of the MVP. Mrs. Maria Boulous in Nakume village, apart from being a successful farmer in her own right, also engages in the dry season income generation activity of groundnut oil extraction. Also Mr. Abdulrahaman Adamu a rainfed farmer in Panpaida Makaranta village engages in growing horticultural crops and works as mechanic, while Mr. Awalu Tele of Kurmin Bakono village is also a rain-fed farmer but runs a butchery as an income generation activity.

In view of these existing potentials, the MVP Pampaida management should endeavour to explore the availability of other micro-credit sources in Kaduna State and actively seek to encourage them to establish operations within the Pampaida locality. The extension of credit services should not be limited to income generation activities developed by the MVP management. Individuals and common interest groups (*e.g.* women, youth, farmers, herdsmen, etc) should be able to pursue their own business ideas with support from the MVP. The project through service providers should offer business development services, technical expertise and training support.

It is also noted that the MVP baseline survey indicates that some members of the cluster engage in non-agricultural livelihoods, such as: butchery, mechanic, groundnut oil extraction, cake baking and commodity trading. The consultants observed that some of these households generate a significant proportion of their household income through these ventures. This is evidenced by the household revenue analysis carried out as part of the mid-term project assessment of 6 members of the cluster (See *Annex 9*).

Although the sample is small the analysis revealed that there is evidence to suggest that household income may have declined between years one and two of the provision of agricultural inputs. This may be due to the introduction of free agricultural inputs (100% subsidy) in the first year and the 50% inputs subsidy reduction policy in the second year. The MVP management should consider introducing a process of annual household revenue analysis as a means of measuring and analysing the impact of MVP livelihood activities on different categories of households. The net income of sampled households can be obtained by deducting the inputs subsidy costs (this time the 10% payback), as well as other production costs.

**Consultant’s Observation** *(These cover both project locations)*

* Farmers are being encouraged by the MVP to grow maize. Maize is a surface feeder and is not drought tolerant in an environment like Pampaida that is frequently affected by drought; while maize is not a priority food choice in Ikaram-Ibaram.
* The farmers have a better comparative advantage to grow sorghum and millet, two of the much more drought resistant grain crops than maize in Pampaida; while tuber crops (cassava and yam) are the staple food crops in Ikaram-Ibaram.
* Hybrid maize cultivation is too cash intensive and thus a high risk cultivation strategy for subsistence and smallholder farmers whose annual economic surpluses are often marginal. Such a strategy may not only prove unprofitable but unsustainable and runs the risk of tipping farmers into indebtedness and deeper poverty.
* There is evidence that the average yield for the average farmer is lower than the 3.5 mt. or 3.8 mt. per hectare, the hybrid maize yield figures presented by the project. The average as reported by farmers during the assessment visit is 20 bags (approximately 2 mt. per hectare). It should be noted that 2006 and 2007 were drought years in the project area; but the Science coordinator claimed these figures were scientifically defined and also we were unable to see any beneficiary rain-fed crop yield data to back this up.
* The free 100% inputs (hybrid maize seed and 11 bags of fertilizer per farmer) improved the household income of many of the targeted farmers in the first year of the project (2006), but not all the households in the villages of the clusters benefited from this provision in Pampaida especially. In Ikaram-Ibaram many of the cassava stem cuttings provided arrived late and were left to rot.
* In the 2007 and 2008 seasons, selective targeting was done (50% subsidy for men in 2007 and for women in 2008). This rapid withdrawal of inputs must have created a shock within the farming households and could have disrupted their farming sequence. In Pampaida many of the farmers have diverted the excess profit from the first year harvest into purchasing household assets (*e.g*. motorcycle, metal roofing sheets, etc.) or marrying new wives (probably in order to increase household labour).
* MVP staff turnover is too high: three Project coordinators in 3 years, two Agricultural officers in 2 years and three Community development officers in 3 years.
* Many of the farmers still requireagricultural production training, extension advice and market information and linkages. Some have lost their crops due to the wrong application of fertilizers and the late provision of inputs, as evidenced in Ikaram-Ibaram.
* The consultants also observed that in the 2008 season, the Pampaida MVP management encountered problems with fertilizer procurement and the farmers went sourcing for fertilizers on their own without the knowledge of the MVP management but failed. This seriously affected the planting operations as fertilizers were unavailable. This type of uncoordinated efforts could create problems for the project and should be avoided in future.

**Pampaida Needs**

* Improved water sources (*e.g.* dams and deep boreholes) to increase crop production, especially during dry season farming for tomatoes and onion production. The main river in the project area is used for irrigation and is not perennial. Currently water holes are used for irrigation. Many farmers generate a high income from this venture.
* Increase the provision of low cost technology and equipment to remove the drudgery experienced in using traditional hoes and cutlasses for farm work. For example, power tillers and accessories - plow, harrow, ridger, trailer and pump, should be provided to farmers in groups.
* Introduce farmers to three wheel-motorcycles for transportation of farm inputs, labour and produce to markets.
* Organise farmers into manageable working groups within each settlement for enhanced targeting of farm inputs, equipments and production orientated savings and credit.
* Ensure timely delivery of farm inputs to farmers to meet the start of the growing season and harvests.
* Farmers and women groups should be linked with financial services providers to enable them to obtain loans for income generation activities and off-farm business (non-agriculture livelihoods) activities.
* Link farmers to market information and to local markets and encouraging contract farming with bulk produce buyers.
* The Resource Centre in Pampaida should be provided with its own ICT facility and the youth trained on how to use it to benefit themselves and the farming households for market and business information.

**Recommendations**

These have been divided into three groups based on timeliness. Because many issues are common or have similarities between the two project localities they have been grouped together for ease of presentation.

**Immediate (3 months):**

* MDG objective 1 is to tackle hunger therefore more attention should be focused on the production of staple food crops (*e.g.* sorghum and millet in Pampaida and cassava and yam in Ikaram-Ibaram). In Pampaida more focus needs to be given to high valued crops *e.g.* tomatoes and onions, that could be undertaken as group farming activities for income generation during the dry season. Continued support is required for leguminous crops from IITA and Sassagawa 2000, as well as the provision of appropriate tree crop seedlings for households in the both MVP clusters.
* Farm input delivery at both MVP clusters should be improved so that they are both timely, of an acceptable standard and quality, and sufficient to cover the demand. Both MVPs need to devise more robust arrangements for the establishment of production orientated savings and credit facilities so as to make the provision of fertilizer and improved viable seeds sustainable before the completion of the project life. Inputs should be tailored to meet the exact farm size to avoid wastage and selling off of inputs by farmers or the return of inputs to suppliers by the MVP management.
* As much as the MVP doe not seek to encourage a dependency syndrome in agricultural inputs provision to the farmers, they need to develop a more subtle demand driven approach, whereby the inputs provided will be sustainable and do not provide shocks to the farming community.
* Land preparation is becoming a major problem, particularly in Ikaram-Ibaram. The MVP should therefore explore ways of procuring low cost technologies as a means of reducing the drudgery in farming and improving farm size. For instance, possibilities such as the provision of power tillers with accessories for group farming allocation should be explored. This may help to draw the youth back to the land.

**Short term (6 months)**

* MVP villagers should be allowed the choice of selecting their own income generation or off-farm business activity (alternative livelihood). They should be supported by the MVP in training as a livelihood choice group, and linked to an appropriate financial services provider (*e.g*. esusu group, SACCO, NGO, government or other MFI institution) for the provision of credit. Introduce new alternative livelihoods to households.
* Women groups should be encouraged and trained on growing leafy vegetable crops and provided with at least four types of seeds. They should be taught the process of producing organic fertilizer for use in their home gardens.

**Medium term (12 to 18 months)**

* The MVP should place more effort into providing access roads and culverts where required to all the settlements (Pampaida) and feeder roads to community farms (Ikaram-Ibaram). This will open up the productive areas in each locality for agricultural and other natural resource-based developments.
* The MVP should advocate for all 28 Pampaida settlements and Ase village in Ikaram-Ibaram to be connected to the electricity grid.
* There is need for great efforts to be made on encouraging and expanding community forestry programmes in both MVP clusters, so as to develop areas for firewood and other timber and non-timber products. Utilization of indigenous trees and fruit bearing trees should be the main focus of such a programme.
* Build the economic literacy and associational capacity of farmers through improved market information, improved storage facilities, exchange visits, capacity training to enhance and strengthen negotiation and contracting skills, and systems of linking-up of farmer groups so as to enable access to large markets and or contract farming.

**2.2.3 Community Participation and Empowerment**

Village communities, regional and local government, and service delivery and rural development agencies, each have different objectives with regard to community participation and empowerment. For rural communities, participation is a way to identify and implement priority rural development activities through better use of existing resources. To do this, communities often with the support of a sensitised external organisation skilled in participatory methods analyse the existing situation (constraints as well as available resources), identify and agree upon priority problems, develop action plans to address the priority problems, take charge of implementing the action plans, and pressure the service providers and development organisations to provide the necessary assistance. Communities also identify what incremental resources are needed and organise themselves to try to mobilise these resources.

For regional and local government, the use of participatory methods in a large number of villages provides information to establish development programmes (including the use of regional and local development funds) that respond to local demands and needs. For rural development organizations and service providers, participation means becoming more accountable to communities. The village action plans provide the terms of reference that guide future assistance to the community. Moreover, villagers influence how the development organisations and service providers organise their work with the village. Through their strengthened organisations, villages can more strongly voice their satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the services received and by indicating how service delivery can be improved.

Poor planning and policy practices have often had a negative impact on various aspects of sustainable development. Development plans often ignore the need for grass-root participation. They have instead tilted towards centralism in the development paradigm. These types of plans do not reflect the genuine needs of the beneficiaries. The development paradigms are “top-down” and mostly import ready-made solutions from other countries. Consequently, they have poor databases and do not incorporate reliable mechanisms for coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Additionally, they failed to mirror sectoral linkages, thus leading to duplication of efforts.

Theimpact of the project in Pampaida can be summed up by the testimony of a traditional leader: “*We thank God that this project was located in our village. We have increased our crop yield, got school feeding, free school kits and water in the village. We now cultivate new crops: maize, soybean, cowpea and rice. We have free medicines and mosquito nets… But most importantly, our village is now known all over Nigeria because Senators and other politicians have visited us”*Sarki Awalu

Results for field visits indicated that there was community participation in project activities. This was reflected in the commitment of the communities in providing labour for feeder classrooms, school kitchen, grain store, market, health worker housing, and provision of pit latrines, etc. The state and local governments also participated through the provision of access roads, electricity power lines, renovation of primary schools and building of a health clinic. In addition the State government’s SUBEB constructed three blocks of classrooms for a secondary school. A discussion with the Commissioner of Economic Planning, Kaduna State indicated the willingness of the state government to participate in scaling-up the MVP model to the adjoining area. The Commissioner indicated that scaling-up in Saulawa district was part of the state’s budget for the 2009 fiscal year.

However, the State government indicated that they did not have the capacity to manage such a project on their own. They also believed that in scaling-up the project, an independent agency devoid of government bureaucracy would be needed for project management. The project manager might preferably be an institution such as a university, research institute or a development NGO. The State government was quite ready to provide their counter-part funding to such an arrangement. There is also evidence of participation on the part of Ikara local government in partnering with UNDP in sustaining the project. There is good cooperation between the project and the various departments of local government, However there was some evidence that there was inadequate community consultation, needs analysis and that the initial participatory community planning before the commencement of the project was limited. This was imperative since crops introduced to the farmers were not the choice of farmers. One participant claimed that the project promised to transform Pampaida to “New York” within five years.

The community power structure in Pampaida is hierarchical and traditional with leadership roles well defined. This makes for a high level of institutional and community harmony. The Christian section of the community indicated gender equity in participation while the Moslem section indicated segregation among gender. Women would not talk without the presence of the man/husband. Self help groups were also well defined and they have worked in harmony with the projects. There was collaboration with existing national and international agencies and institutions. For instance, Sasakawa Global 2000, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Kaduna State Agricultural development project (KADP) and Leventis Foundation had collaborated in training and other capacity building exercises in agriculture (*e.g*. snailery, fisheries and tree planting)

Results of community visits indicated a lack of proper integration among the cooperating partners. For instance, the MVP education sector made minimal use of existing institutional structures such as the PTA, local education authority and similar agencies. Rather, the education committee has been set up and works independently of the existing structure of government. The problem with this arrangement is that once the MVP closes and financing ends, the local authorities and staff have neither the means nor the capacity to continue these activities. Rather than duplicating local institutions through creating temporary organizations, the capacity of local institutions to plan and implement project activities should be strengthened. This ensures sustainability since the villagers are part of the planning and implementing process, and therefore have a sense of ownership and consequently will not allow such projects and their benefits to fizzle out. Some politicians also view the MVP as part of their political agenda and in some instances sought to gain personally.

There is the need to target gender, youth, and other vulnerable groups such as orphans, people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and older persons, large families and single parent households in the planning of development projects. There exist institutions that can be useful in sustaining activities that address the needs of gender, the elderly, the poor, orphans and PLWHA. Though HIV/AIDS goes with the stigma attached people were not willing to discuss and admit they are suffering from it, yet it exists in the communities. They ascribed HIV/AIDS related illnesses as some spiritual problems due to ignorance and lack of awareness and information. Information of HIV/AIDS was obtained from health workers. Results from village groups indicated that people were reluctant to publicly discuss HIV/AIDS. Since the poor, the youth, the elderly and people with large families often lacked access to most of the means of production, their livelihoods can be improved by establishing special programs targeted at them. For instance, school feeding for the orphans and poor underweight children can be arranged so that only such vulnerable persons can benefit from it, instead of every school pupil as in the school feeding programme.

**Recommendation**

To maximize the impact of community participation and empowerment, a number of conditions must be met. The local authorities must support the approach and agree to coordinate different service agencies, and include village priorities when planning their annual programmes and budgets. Beyond this, they must have some latitude and autonomy to respond to village requests. The service agencies must also have the authority to act. Local and village institutions must be strengthened and financial and human resources mobilized. For the participatory community planning process to be fully effective, local and regional authorities should include village priorities in planning their annual work programmes and budgets. Because the priorities cut across sectors (roads, health, education, water, etc.), authorities must plan inter-sectorally (integrated planning for rural development), and simultaneously, develop specific work programs for each sector. Coordinated planning raises many questions. The multitude of priority problems and village action plans need to be translated into a coherent district plan which feeds into the local and State government annual plans and budgets. Procedures should be put into place so that local action plans conform to policies, standards and objectives specified in state and national development plans (*e.g.* State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy - SEEDS-2, etc).

**2.3.4 PROJECT ACTIVITIES ACHIEVEMENT TO DATE (Work Plan) - MVP PAMPAIDA**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Expected Outcome** | **Planned Activities** | **Baseline Data** | **Input/****Result** | **Total Household Members** | **Commen**t **and Recommendations** |
| **Planned** | **Output** | **Male** | **Female** |
| **MVP Objective 1:****AGRICULTURE**Eliminate hunger and malnutrition in the villages by increasing production, access and utilization of nutritious foods, with a special focus on nutritional status of pregnant women, nursing mothers and infants under two**MDG Goal 1: *Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty*** | ***Healthy and highly productive soils*** – replenish soil fertility, with legumes, organic materials and mineral fertilizers and soil conservation techniques, etc | 1.5 mt/ha | 3.5 mt/ha |  |  |  |  | Intercropping grains with leguminous crop is in practice *e.g*. cowpeas and soybeans.Farmers should be trained on production of organic fertilizer. |
| ***Water harvesting techniques for small scale irrigation*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Some pumps provided for group farming during dry season but quite inadequate. |
| ***Access to improved seeds*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Different improved seeds provided. Some were provided late and some received none. |
| ***Agricultural extension services*** – Update the training of agricultural extension officers |  |  |  |  |  |  | Farmers have been trained.Youth have been trained at the Leventis Foundation Agricultural school. |
| ***Feeding and micronutrient supplementation programs for pregnant and lactating mothers and children less than 2 years old*** - Could be done with a school feeding program |  |  |  |  |  |  | School feeding program has been introduced with the 10% of produce repaid for free inputs. Excess produce monetized to N6 million to be used for credit. |
| ***Local grain storage facilities*** – Help farmers build and store food beyond subsistence needs in cereal banks that can be sold at better prices or used for school lunch programs; using techniques that minimize post-harvest losses. | zero | 1 |  |  |  |  | One grain storage warehouse built. Introduce household grain storage facility to individual household. |
| **Households:** |  |  | 952 | 952 | 934 | 18 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Expected Outcome** | **Planned Activities** | **Baseline Data** | **Input/****Result** | **Total Household Members** | **Commen**t **and Recommendations** |
| **Planned** | **Output** | **Male** | **Female** |
| **MVP Objective 2:** **GENDER EQUALITY and EMPOWER WOMEN**Improve livelihoods of women and men and increase their income beyond extreme poverty levels for both on-and-off farm activities**MDG Goal 1: *Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty*** | ***Diversification*** – divert part of farmland to high value crop. | 1 | 5 |  |  |  |  | Diversification process is on course but it is best to carry out gross margin analysis before crop selection. Four new crops. |
| ***Private Sector Development*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Some progress has been made but more could still be done. |
| ***Networking*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | This is very much required before many farmers undertake horticultural crop production to avoid wastage. |
| ***Electrify the village*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Government has connected the MVP to the national grid. Other settlements want the power line extended to their villages. |
| ***Transport services*** | Zero | 1 |  |  |  |  | Government donated 18 seater- bus.Introduce the Three-wheel motorcycle to the farmers groups for produce and family transport.7 number of agricultural staff shared only 1 motorcycle and only 1 pick up vehicle for all sectoral staff, thus the inadequate monitoring of project activities. |
| ***Credit, Banking, Storage and Business creation*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Proceed with plans with PHB bank for rotational inputs credit facility. Link groups with other credit facility providers. |
| ***Cooking fuel and Lighting*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Embark on community forestry program for each village.Encourage planting of various fruit trees at the households. |
| ***Gender responsive infrastructures*** - training of women to cater for water, health, agricultural infrastructures |  |  |  |  |  |  | Many women have been trained and they have been working in groups. More could be done in terms of sanitation in households and village surroundings. |
| **Persons** |  |  | 5666 | 5666 | 2785 | 2881 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Expected Outcome** | **Planned Activities** | **Baseline Data** | **Input/****Result** | **Total Household Members** | **Commen**t **and Recommendations** |
| **Planned** | **Output** | **Male** | **Female** |
| **MVP Objective 3:****EDUCATION**Assure full attendance to primary schools for both boys and girls and eliminate gender disparity in schools.**MDG Goal 2: *Achieve universal primary education*****MDG Goal 3: *Promote gender equality and empower women*** | ***Eliminate school fees for all primary school children in the village*** | 420 |  | 420 | 1600 | 920 | 640 | Free primary education policy is in existence. |
| ***School meals with locally produced and nutritionally balanced foods*** | 420 |  | 420 | 1600 | 920 | 640 | School feeding is on-going with produce from farmers’ farm. |
| ***Eliminate gender disparity in school attendance*** | 420 |  |  | 1600 | 920 | 640 | Girls number has increased from initial 122 to 640 in schools and boys from 298 to 940  |
| No of primary schools | 4 | 10 |  |  |  |  | The number of schools has increased from 4 to 10; while the number of teachers has increased from 10 to 21. Some school buildings constructed through direct labor require uplifting and direct labor process should be stopped. Some schools have a single teacher but 100 children. This requires urgent attention by MVP. |
| ***Achieve computer literacy*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Secondary school scholarships*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Vocational schools*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | MVP has plan for vocational training attachments for youth. |
| **Persons** |  |  | 420 | 1600 | 920 | 640 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Expected Outcome** | **Planned Activities** | **Baseline Data** | **Input/****Result** | **Total Household Members** | **Commen**t **and Recommendations** |
| **Planned** | **Output** | **Male** | **Female** |
| **MVP Objective 4:****HEALTH** Improve access to medical services,especially focused on improving women’s health and drastically reducing child and maternal mortality**MDG Goal 4: *Reduce child mortality*****MDG Goal 5: *Improve maternal health*** | ***Reduce mortality of children less than five years of age, including infants.*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Good drugs and clinical services now available in the MVP cluster. |
| ***Reduce maternal mortalit***y |  |  |  |  |  |  | The number of clinic staff has increased from zero to 7 staff including a doctor. |
| Number of health clinics | 1 | 2 |  |  |  |  | One new clinic built by MVP and the old one rehabilitated and all provided with free dugs for patients. |
| **MVP Objective 5:****HEALTH**Decrease rate of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases; and increase access to essential medicines such as antiretroviral medication (**MDG Goal 6: *Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.*** | ***Malaria*** - Distribution of bed nets for the prevention of malaria. |  | 4,500 |  |  |  |  | 4,500 units of Bed Nets provided against mosquito but the households want more. Only four provided per household of 6 average members. |
| ***HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis*** -Provide education on AIDS prevention and voluntary counseling and testing, ARV therapy, etc. |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 cases of HIV/AIDS reported in 2008.No incident of other transmissible diseases. |
| ***Essential health care, health care workers, access to essential medicines and capacity building*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Community health workers*** - train local, community health workers in prevention and general home-based care |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Persons:** |  |  | 5666 | 5666 | 2785 | 2881 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Expected Outcome** | **Planned Activities** | **Baseline Data** | **Input/****Result** | **Total Household Members** | **Commen**t **and Recommendations** |
| **Planned** | **Output** | **Male** | **Female** |
| **MVP Objective 6:****ENIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**Integrate the principle ofsustainable development into village programs to reverse the loss of environmental resources and enhance ecosystem services **MDG Goal 7: *Ensure environmental sustainability*** | ***Planting nitrogen fixing trees and cover crops in crop fields***. |  |  |  |  |  |  | Alley farming should be introduced with such trees as Gliricidia. |
| ***Restore severely degraded and eroded areas*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Farmers should be prevented from farming in marginal areas, such as stream embankments and steep slopes. |
| ***Community forestry and woodlot programs*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Embark on community forestry program for the villages for fuel wood supply in future. |
| ***Protection and remaining natural and common resource areas*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Conservation agriculture*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Farmers training required. |
| ***Biodiversity*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Carbon sequestration and greenhouse gases*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Persons** |  |  | 5666 | 5666 | 2785 | 2881 |  |
| **MVP Objective 7:****WATER and SANITATION**Increase access to clean water and sanitation for households, schools and medical services**MDG Goal 7: *Ensure environmental sustainability*** | ***Household Water Supply*** | 1 | 12 |  |  |  |  | Boreholes provided but some are too shallow for regular water supply. |
| ***Water Supply for Schools and Medical Facilities*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Boreholes provided. About 58 water points protected. |
| ***Water filtration and purification*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Latrines*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | VIP toilets provided in public places. More still need to be done in each village and households. |
| **Persons:** |  |  | 5666 | 5666 | 2785 | 2881 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Expected Outcome** | **Planned Activities** | **Baseline Data** | **Input/****Result** | **Total Household Members** | **Commen**t **and Recommendations** |
| **Planned** | **Output** | **Male** | **Female** |
| **MVP Objective 8:****INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**Eliminate the digital divide by making available the benefits of communication technologies, especially access to the internet and mobile telephone services**MDG Goal 8: *Develop a global partnership for development*** | ***ICT Community village centre*** - set up of a Community village centre with access to personal computers and internet. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***ICT training courses*** – provide training in information and communication technologies related to agriculture, market prices, health and infrastructure  | zero | 338 |  |  |  |  | Women have been trained in groups on health, farming practices and income generation activities e.g. tie & die and groundnut processing and tomato preservation but no credit provided |
| ***Small businesses*** – provide space near the village centre for establishment of small businesses that require electricity |  |  |  |  |  |  | Progress being made. |
| **Persons:** |  |  | 5666 | 2796 | 1436 | 1360 |  |

**2.3 Ikaram-Ibaram MVP Project, Ondo State**

**2.3.1 Social Sectors (Non-income poverty)**

**Education**

Ikaram-Ibaram like other parts of the South-West geopolitical zone has long embraced education. For example, Ondo state government has a policy-informed programme of free primary education and this is reflected in a relatively high level of primary school enrolment. Across the MVP there are 16 primary schools and 5 secondary schools. Within the MVP there is observance of State government’s official education policy that no child should travel more than 5 kms to the nearest basic school (*e.g*. Primary or Junior Secondary). In the Ikaram area most children travel up to 1 km to school except in four settlements in the Ibaram area where the distance is a little further to the nearest school. The most recent school enrolment figures for the MVP are as indicated below:

**School Enrolment Numbers**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **School Enrolment**  | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| **Nursery** | **344** | **363** | **707** |
| **Primary School** | **1748** | **1935** | **3682** |

In terms of senior secondary schooling, the Akoko Northwest local government area has 20 schools out of which 5 are located in the MVP locality. Many children from Ikaram are therefore able to access senior secondary education due to both their closeness to schools and the affordability of free education. Given these two factors school drop-out rates are low.

The baseline study indicates that the gross primary school enrolment in Ikaram is (84.8%) which is higher than the average for the local government area (73.7%) and even more when compared to the national average (70%). There is a difference between net enrolment rate and the gross enrolment rate suggesting that some of the primary school children in Ikaram are under age. This is due to the inclusion of kindergarten classes within the primary school system. Indeed, among children aged 4 to 6 years who are in school, about 50% are in both pre-school and primary school respectively. (See table below.) This relatively high proportion of children in both pre-school and primary school suggests that Ikaram-Ibaram families place a premium on early education and child development.

**School Enrolment of Children aged 4-6years**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| **Pre-primary (%)** | 48 | 52 | 50 |
| **Primary (%)** | 48 | 52 | 50 |
| **Total Number of Children**  | 120 | 128 | 248 |

However during the last couple of decades there has been official neglect and under funding of both the upkeep and investment in basic public sector infrastructure. In the Ikaram-Ibaram locality both school and health buildings were in a dilapidated condition, lacked water and toilet facilities, and equipment and supplies. In addition staffing levels were below State standards while the quality of the service was poor and the moral of staff was low. Thus the overall quality of teaching and learning in the MVP was low. At the commencement of the project there was striking need for remedial investments and actions on a range of interrelated issues that were combining to undermine the quality of education at the primary school level as well as at the next stage.

The MVP has invested significant resources in the construction and renovation of school buildings most of which are completed with only a couple of projects still on-going. In addition to investing in school construction the MVP has established resource centres in each school, and supplied text books (*e.g.* English, mathematics, social studies, science and computer studies), desks, benches, chairs, charts, science kits, computers and other instructional materials to all schools. Primary school teachers have been exposed to a series of training programmes to improve the quality and standard of education. To be more specific, four new blocks of classrooms have been built by the MVP and three by the government. It is important to point out that the school buildings constructed both by the project and the State government are of a high quality in comparison to reported national standards, with regard to the design, materials and the quality of the construction work.

**Gaps**

In Ase which has a population of 72 the MVP appears to have departed from the State government policy on the minimum number of new classrooms to be built in a community by constructing a number of additional classrooms. However, there are no libraries in the schools across the MVP locality and there are has been problems with the contractor hired to construct school toilets. A new contractor has been selected to install school toilets and work is due to start shortly. There appears to be an overlap between the MVP education sector committee role and the Parents Teachers Associations (PTAs) which are the government’s recognised school bodies. The MVP management needs to resolve this issue in conjunction with the State education ministry and the PTAs.

**Recommendations**

There is need for expansion of classrooms in some schools in order to end lumping of classes while play items such as swings for kindergartens should be given attention. Libraries serve as an important component of knowledge delivery in and outside of schools and deserve attention in the project; establishing and /or equipping libraries and or reading rooms in schools and in the neighbourhoods would be an effective means of promoting both school student and adult literacy. Further support could be given to the Adult Education Programme initiated by the government in order to broaden the base of participation as well as improving on the level of adult literacy in the locality. Although the focus of the project is on primary education, some inexpensive support could be given to the Secondary Schools for enhanced impact on education service delivery.

**Health**

Among the preventable diseases most prevalent in the locality before the intervention of the MVP were: malaria, diarrhoea, respiratory tract infections, urinary tract infections, and anaemia. Across the communities, 7.6% of children under five had suffered from diarrhoea in the previous two weeks to a survey carried out in June and July 2007. However, only (1%) of the children (born after January 1, 2001) had had pneumonia in the last one year preceding the survey in which 67% identified malaria as a problem in their households. Although there are six registered health centres, all operating user-fees, the facilities were grossly ill-equipped in terms of personnel, drugs and equipment. As a result of the MVP intervention, there has been improved health staffing by the government with the recruitment of 25 technical and 24 junior staff. In addition the project has undertaken a range of community training events including the orientation of 600 heads of households to a range of health, nutrition and hygiene issues, the distribution of over 20,000 treated bed nets, and the institution of a free-drug system that has led to increased clinic attendance and not surprisingly, abuse by both citizens and health providers. There is demonstrated evidence of HIV/AIDS awareness among the youths. During our visit refrigerators were distributed to all health centres for drug preservation.

Overall, the area has not been doing badly on the child mortality index given the fact that the national under-five mortality rate is estimated at 197 per 1000 live births (2004) as against the estimated under-five mortality rate of 30.6 per 1000 for Ikaram-Ibaram.

There are a number of key outstanding challenges in the health sector: poor work attitude, need for effective monitoring and supervision, motivation of staff and difficulties due to UNDP’s international procurement process. Flowing especially from the MVP introduced across-the-board free-drugs policy is the issue of sustainability. In addition the free drug policy runs against the State policy on health that provides for a less embracing application based on the exemption of certain groups.

**Recommendations**

The MVP management needs to: supply more bed-nets to deserving communities *e.g.* Erusu; there is need to follow-up on the monitoring of the actual use of the distributed nets because, surprisingly, despite the distribution of 20,000 nets already, some villagers complained about not having nets.

In at least one village, the people have indicated a willingness to provide accommodation for health care workers so that they can have access to medical attention as and when needed. This request could perhaps be addressed by posting more medically trained National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members to serve in the area. This may be taken along with consideration for the improvement of ambulance services in cases of emergency. The request by individual villages for the location of a health centre in their settlement could perhaps be addressed by considering the establishment of health posts which would be more relevant given both the State health policy and the size of the population involved.

The quality of water from the borehole at the Ajowa health centre needs to be re-assessed as it is alleged by the villagers to smell. The explanation being given is that it is dug too near a stream and perhaps not deep enough to reach beyond surface water level.

The elderly have particular health needs that deserve attention. These include ailments such as arthritis, cataract and back pain. In this vein, the programme of consulting hours for the elderly in the 2009 MVP Plan should be fast tracked. Back-up generators for the health centres are needed both to curb the alleged excuse for health staff absenteeism and to enhance service delivery in general. Procurement of generators is currently underway.

Across the MVP health centre network, it may be worth considering some form of inexpensive incentives for health workers to motivate them.

**Infrastructure**

A noticeable infrastructure constraint is the poor state of the feeder road network, 75% of whose combined length is not motorable. Although the mission could not obtain the statistical evidence, it is reasonably safe to assume that due to the lack of a feeder road network especially those linking farms to markets that this results in farm product wastage which in turn has a negative consequence on farm incomes.

Prior to the project intervention, only 2 of the 4 health centres and 2 of the 16 primary schools in the area were connected to the electricity grid. Due to intervention of the MVP these facilities have been connected to the electricity grid as well as the ICT and youth friendly centres. The principle of running the ICT centres as semi-commercial operations holds potential with regard to their sustainability, apart from serving as a focal point on communal issues that affect the youth in particular. It is important to note that in Ayani village, a member of the community donated funds to both build a youth centre and purchase ICT equipment. The project also has plans for vocational training attachments for the youth.

**Gaps**

The programme of ICT and youth friendly centres is a useful avenue for socialisation of youths towards a positive orientation and skill acquisition. However, the arrangement currently in operation has not made provision for the elderly thus creating the basis for a generational digital divide.

**Recommendations**

Creative programmes of bringing the principles of ICT operations to the awareness of the elderly could be designed so that they can broaden their social awareness. There is need for back-up generators for health centres in order to increase the quality of health service delivery to the population. This recommendation is further underscored by the recent supply of refrigerators to all the health centres which are critical for drug preservation. The MVP management should revisit some of the boreholes in the schools as a number of them are reportedly not functioning. At another level, the State government should be reminded of the importance of completing the bridge on the main access road connecting Ajowa to the rest of the communities in the neighbourhood.

**Environmental Preservation**

There does not appear to be a strong action-orientated focus on environmental issues by the MVP. Yet, it is well appreciated in development practice, that this is the cornerstone of sustainable development.

**Water and Sanitation**

The baseline study revealed that the 4 health centres and 13 of the 16 primary schools in the project area did not have safe drinking water points before the project’s intervention. Across the villages, there were 738 hand dug wells out which 313 were perennial; out of 34 hand pumps fitted to boreholes only 21 were functional; and out of 28 motorised boreholes only 16 were functional. The main sources of water for the population of 18,000 during the wet season were rainwater collection, household wells and communal wells. During the wet season, 36.28% of the households relied on rainwater collection, 33.63% depend on household wells while 20.80% access water from communal wells. During the dry season, households relied on wells and communal wells as the major source of water for domestic use. The negative implications of the lack of safe drinking water on the population’s public health are obvious. For example, from a 2007 socio-economic survey, 60.88% of the households do not treat their drinking water, 18.71% treat theirs by boiling, and 9.18% add alum/potash to treat their water, 7.14% use filtration, while only 4.08% use chemical treatment.

The baseline survey indicates that about three-quarters (73.66%) of households have no access to a toilet and use the bush or fields. Only 7% to 10% use a toilet in their homes while some 4% to 12% of households rely on accessing toilet facilities away from their homes. These figures show the high public health risks faced by the residents, making them vulnerable to diarrhoea which not surprising is prevalent in the locality. Added to this is the challenge of solid waste disposal that is done indiscriminately around the houses and in open spaces. A combination of disposal methods are used including burning, burying, garbage pits, feeding to animals and livestock, and composting in nearby vegetable and agricultural plots.

Under the intervention 4 health centres have had motorised boreholes installed and in the case of primary schools hand pumps. These interventions have impacted positively on hygiene at clinics and among the pupils who now have access to hand washing basins.

**Recommendations**

There is need to resume work urgently on the uncompleted VIP toilets being constructed in Ibaram. Ajowa’s peculiarity (among the villages) should be appreciated as it is a village of 8 traditionally separate settlements each with its own traditional ruler among whom the chairmanship rotates; together, they constitute 44% of the total population the MVP locality.

**Capacity Building/Community Development**

The loudest request for assistance came from elderly women who engaged in ‘gari’ processing due to the work involved being physically exerting. In general, the elderly lacked access to micro-loans to enable them to undertake small trading and income generating activities.

Coming out of all this is the need to factor in the interests of vulnerable groups into the MVP project such as widows, underweight children, orphans, PLWHAs, the physically challenged, female-headed households, large households, and the older persons. The MVP management needs to examine the issue of vulnerable groups and devise a set of community outreach strategies and actions to ensure that they are not being tipped into further poverty or excluded from project interventions and investments.

As a way of promoting community participation, the ICT centres can be utilised as medium of information sharing between sector committees and the communities through the use of notice boards. In addition the centres should be used by farmers, traders, women’s groups and income generating groups all of whom have need for business and market information to improve their livelihoods. Also, the culture of Youth Week in some communities, for example Gedegede and Ajowa, can be further streamlined with the project to deliver on environmental sanitation awareness as well as care for vulnerable groups by the youths.

**General Observations**

There is a need to harmonise the activities of the various sector committees with the work of officially recognised bodies at the community level in order to enhance participation and the effectiveness of project investments. Here, the roles of the Parent Teachers Associations in relation to the MVP the education committee should be looked into to ensure harmonisation and especially participatory project monitoring.

**2.3.2 Livelihood Sectors (Income poverty)**

The Southern MVP cluster is located in the Ibaram-Ikaram area which consists of two wards out of the 10 wards that comprise the Akoko Northwest Local Government area. The Ikaram-Ibaram area is around 20 square kilometres and is fairly heavily populated. Initially the population was estimated to be 30,000 but it is now confirmed to be lower at 18,307 people. The vegetation is derived Guinea Savannah and the farming system is root crop-based, according to Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN-FAO).

**a) Infrastructure**

The area is reasonably well endowed with infrastructure. It has an asphalt road, electricity and telecommunications all of which are in varying operational states. Power supply has particular difficulties due to significant periods of power outages while telecommunications is patchy due to gaps in the network infrastructure. Poor road maintenance and bridge repairs hamper transportation both within the area and to the adjoining towns. However some of the settlements are peri-urban in character and there has been at one time (cocoa boom era) significant investment in two storey houses and community buildings such as churches and community halls, etc. In addition the areas level of investment in agricultural infrastructure and processing technologies appears to have declined a number of years ago due to the collapse in cocoa prices.

* **Access road:** This consists of the access road to the villages in the MVP locality and access roads to the market. The MVP location consists of seven villages that are located close to each other in spatial distribution, along the main Ikare Akoko and Lokoja highway. The road also provides access to the market and the Akoko North-West Local Government headquarters. The MVP staffs are located in an Ondo state zonal office in Ikare Akoko due to contractual problems with the construction of the project office at Ikaram. Ondo State government has recently terminated the current contractor’s contract and is in the process of handing over the task of completing the office construction to the MVP project who has budgeted for a contractor to complete the work in 2009.
* **Feeder and Farm roads:** The community lives 5 to 8 kilometres from their farms as their residences are locate along the main asphalt road. Most of the farm access roads will require upgrading and the construction of culverts if access is to be improved. Many of these access roads are only footpaths and are not motorable for the delivery of farm inputs and transportation of the farmers’ harvest of bulky tuber crops. After the roads are fixed, the introduction of three wheel motorcycle-trailers for transportation by farming groups would make a big difference in their farming lives.
* **Energy** in the form of electric power and firewood for cooking, technology for farm operations and irrigation of farm land. The MVP settlements have already been connected to the electricity grid but continual power failures are a problem (national problem). Although power supply is a problem the MVP management has made considerable efforts to have all the primary schools and the health clinics connected to the electricity power supply. The project is currently in the process of procuring back-up generators for the health clinics so that they are able to continue to function during periods of power failure.

**b) Agriculture:** This takes into consideration activities geared towards increased food production in order to ensure food security and such other agriculture livelihoods to generate income for households.

The Ikaram-Ibaram MVP is located in the derived guinea savannah area of Nigeria where the double maxima rainfall commences in March/April and ends in October/November.

The main rain-fed crop introduced by the MVP is hybrid maize which is supplied free along with a high dosage of mineral fertilizer. This is designed to achieve an optimal yield from the designated 1.0 ha farmland through the provision of 11 bags of fertilizer by the project for each beneficiary. Other crops introduced for crop diversification and improved household nutrition are cowpeas and soybeans. Some farmers were provided with cassava stem cuttings, yam sets and oil palm seedlings.

However, the staple food crops in this locality are cassava and yam. Maize is also grown for cash and also eaten as a snack. Rice is eaten as a fast food because it is easy to prepare but it is not grown in the locality. The project needs to place more emphasis on cassava and yam production rather than maize. The fertilizer dosage is likely to be unsustainable for the smallholder farmers, as the gross margin for maize will be too low compared to other staple food crops, such as yam and cassava. To ensure food security the project may need to concentrate on introducing modern methods of producing the staple food as a means of increasing household food availability. There is a ready market in the neighbouring urban areas for excess production. The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) are currently providing some technical support and this should be intensified so as to assist the farmers to adopt more appropriate technologies.

The farmers are very happy with the oil-palm seedlings introduced by the MVP but some claimed that the seedlings are not good and that they should be provided with the hybrid varieties. They want more oil-palm seedlings as the farmers usually use the palm-oil in their daily food preparation.

The MVP management should also organise the interested youth and women groups to take up horticultural crop production. They should be formed into farming groups within each settlement and provided with low cost technologies. Usually a group of 25 with 5 units of power tillers and accessories is optimal (including an irrigation pump); but the initial provision could be less depending on the availability of MVP resources. Farmers groups could source more units through sales or linkages with agricultural micro-finance institutions in the State.

Other horticultural crops that could be introduced to the farmers are leafy vegetables to improve household nutrition. These could include spinach, amaranths species, okra, etc. Women’s groups should be the focus for growing the leafy vegetables in their household gardens. They should be taught the use of organic fertilizer to improve the yield of their horticultural crops, rather than the use of mineral fertilizers.

**c) Income Generation and Business Development:** This area of project activity incorporates issues focused on the improvement of non-agricultural livelihoods, food processing and business development, including micro-credit facilities amongst the households in order to commence or improve their productive assets.

At present some heads of households and their wives have received training, either in tie-and-dye and cassava processing. A small number of the women who undertook training have received credit of N25,000 from the project to invest in tie-and-dye production. The results have been mixed as illustrated in the case study in Section 2.3.3. Some men have also gone through other training in business management but have not received any credit yet. The process of obtaining credit through the government facility has proved to be difficult as it requires the borrower to secure a civil servant as guarantor and many are not willing to do so as non-payment can lead to the sacrificing their salary to repay the loan.

In this southern cluster, the MVP negotiated free input subsidy repayment of ten percent from the farmers’ harvests. However the crop only yielded about 20 metric tonnes of maize and has been monetised to a value of US$9,500 (N1,143,000) and placed in the MVP community fund. This is about one-fifth of the N6 million monetised in the Pampaida MVP cluster. The cluster would have done better with the choice of a tuber crop such as yam or cassava rather than maize. However, this should not be a yardstick for comparing the two MVP clusters differ with regard to location, climatic conditions, farming practices, staple crop types, and culture. The Ikaram-Ibaram MVP management plans to use the community fund to establish a revolving loan scheme for livelihood activities for women groups.

A small number of farmer interviews provided some insights into the livelihood component of the MVP. Elder F.A. Ajayi from Ibaram produced enough maize from his farm in 2007 that he was able to increase his poultry productions threefold to 900 cockerels and 400 broilers last year. Another farmer, Apostle Alade used his cassava crop as feed for his piggery, while Ms Jato sold off her fertilizer in 2006 and used the cash to improve her cassava processing and tailoring businesses. These farmers demonstrate the soundness of independent choice of livelihood, as none of these farmers followed the MVP prescribed income generation approach but have achieved success by pursuing their own business ideas.

Using the household revenue analysis, a small number of households were sampled. In the Ikaram-Ibaram case it showed evidence of improved income per household after the MVP presence in the area. (See *Annex 10*). However, like Pampaida one can also point to the steep step-down repayment policy on agricultural inputs as having made an impact on their production and income. The MVP management should examine this repayment policy and devise a more suitable strategy for both supporting the provision of inputs and cost recovery.

The MVP management should explore possible linkages with other private financial institutions and NGOs who work in the project area on micro-finance. An important issue that the project needs to address is that credit should not be limited only to income generation activities developed by the MVP management. Individuals and cluster groups should be able to pursue their own business ideas with the MVP providing technical support and training.

**Ikaram-Ibaram Needs**

* The rehabilitation of the 85km of farm access roads should be prioritised on the basis of the level of farmer and youth support for farming activities within each settlement. It should not be done on the basis of largest settlements first.
* Many of the farm sites require land clearing and de-stumping. Group farming should be encouraged on communal lands to facilitate the easier targeting of inputs and technologies. Most farmers presently own on average less than 0.3 ha, but the MVP keeps focusing on 1 ha farmland per farmer.
* Fulltime farmers comprise a small proportion of the population and many are aging. Youth are disinterested in farming because of the drudgery. Introduce farm production technologies to assist farmers and entice the youth back to farming.
* Low cost technology and equipment remove the drudgery experienced in using traditional hoes and cutlasses. For example power tillers and accessories - plow, harrow, ridger, trailer and pump reduce the problems associated with land preparation, making of ridges, weeding, transportation and irrigation.
* Introduce farmers to three wheel-motorcycles for transportation of farm inputs, labour and produce to markets.
* Farmers and women groups should be linked with financial services providers to enable them to obtain loans for income generation activities and off-farm (non-agricultural livelihood) business activities

**2.3.3 Community Participation and Empowerment**

Institutional development is a *sina qua non* of successful projects. Not only does it ensure better implementation of projects but also better management and over the medium-term the sustainability of projects. Experience also shows that community participation is an important ingredient in the success of projects that impact on or in the vicinity of communities. The more a community contributes to and benefits from projects, the more sustainable the community development (Asiabaka et al 2008)[[9]](#footnote-9). Community participation could range from project planning, implementation, information dissemination, horizontal networking within a community and with adjoining communities, linkages with external partners, and evaluating the type of assistance required. Lack of community ownership of the process and results affects projects negatively. Additionally, technical support agencies and the quality of their interactions between them and the target community are key ingredients to project success.

Results from field visits show that there are a wide variety of differing types of existing community institutions such as community based organizations (CBOs) - informal “esusu” credit groups, cooperative groups, youth groups, faith-based groups, sports clubs, farmers groups, traders associations and other types of groups which can be useful in project implementation. The role of existing community power structures such as traditional leaders “kabiyesi” in the MVP community development process should be strengthened. There is evidence that these were not fully consulted in planning and implementing the MVP. For instance, in the area of choosing what projects were to be undertaken in schools, most of the MVP sectoral coordinators did not work in harmony with the Parent Teachers Associations (PTAs). The need to work in harmony with existing institutions is not only pertinent but aids in capacity building and project sustainability.

Local governments are veritable instruments of grassroots development if properly harnessed. Results from field visits indicated that the Local government administration were willing to participate but their participation has been limited by the need to satisfy other communities and by the MVP’s limited emphasis on the preparation and execution of a coordinated approach to planning, budgeting and reporting at ward and local government level. The Chairman of Akoko Northwest attested to this limitation. This limitation, can be overcome if the local government, MVP, communities, NGOs and other stakeholders play a part in a process of annual community participatory planning and feedback at the ward level during the remaining period of the project. Had the MVP at its initial stages of project development sought to introduce such a coordinated planning process and linked it to local government planning and budgeting the subsequent communication gaps and misunderstandings could have been significantly reduced.

Training has been provided to the beneficiaries in areas such as tie-and-dye and micro credit for the women, and snailery, fishery and information communication technology (ICT) for the youth. Most of the activities for the youth are yet to take-off in all the settlements. The youth perceived agriculture to be synonymous with the drudgery of hoe and cutlass work. They requested mechanized agriculture as a means of encouraging their involvement in agriculture. In the Ikaram-Ibaram locality there are limitations due to the fragmented nature of land holdings which averaged between 0.2 to 0.3ha. The implication is that mechanization would not be sustainable and cost effective. There is need for the pooling of land into larger blocks in order to actualize the aspirations of the youth. Even, if this recommendation is accepted, implementation will depend upon the extent to which community decision-making is supportive of the concept, since most land holdings are individual and communal and are held under customary land administration systems that are particular to each settlement.

Results from visits to the communities showed that the ICT and youth friendly centres had considerable potential to expand their usage to other sections of the community. In particular the ICT centres should be linked to the development of the agricultural and business services component of the MVP by providing communication and training services for business start-ups, income generation activities and marketing information for farmers and commodity traders. A particular limitation of the current youth friendly ICT approach with its focus on snooker, TV football games and ICT training is that it appears to be creating a feeling of exclusion on the part of the older people and women.

There is the need to target gender, youth, and other vulnerable groups such as orphans, people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and elder persons, large families and single parent households in the planning and execution of development projects. An interesting experience from the older people in the village of Iyani *“we hear of computers but have not used them; we hear of fertilizer but did not receive any….”* There exist institutions that can be useful in sustaining activities that address the needs of gender, the elderly, the poor, orphans and PLWHA. Though HIV/AIDS go with the stigma attached to it, people were not willing to discuss and admit they are suffering from it, yet it exists in the communities. Information of HIV/AIDS can be got from women’s counselling groups. Results from village groups indicated that people were reluctant to discuss HIV/AIDS. In one community, they acknowledged the incidence of two HIV/AIDS cases but quickly added that the persons concerned were dead. Since some of these groups lack access to all production systems, their livelihoods can be improved by establishing special programs targeted at them.

For instance, though the Ondo State’s policy is not to introduce school feeding there is potential for the MVP to introduce targeted school feeding for orphans and poor underweight children using community outreach approaches. These can be designed so that only certain categories of children benefit from them by arranging for the feeding to take place before the school day starts. There are a range of targeted community outreach schemes in sub-Saharan Africa that the MVP can draw upon in designing such an intervention.

The MVP lacks expertise and a sound understanding of the importance of member-controlled savings and credit mechanisms as a means of empowering the rural poor and in particular women: firstly to overcome their fragility to a range of climatic and other shocks; and secondly as a means of building household assets. The current MVP approach of selecting a small number of beneficiaries for income generation training on externally decided livelihood activities to which credit is attached is both outdated and disempowering. Micro-credit funds can also be delivered using “esusu” groups that already exist in the communities. An “esusu” is a group of people who come together, by mutual consent and contribute an amount of money each month as savings. Each member can receive credit facilities from the group for development activities. The beauty of this non-formal credit is that repayment is high due to the fact that each member knows each other. Micro-credit can be extended to community members though this group solidarity method.

The youth were trained in agricultural related activities such as poultry, snail keeping and fishery. They were also trained in ICT but they perceived these trainings to be inadequate. They preferred training in areas such as: barbing, tailoring, radio and television maintenance, bricklaying, and driving. The implication of this finding is that community assessments should have identified these needs before the commencement of the skills training intervention. Adult women and men saw adult literacy as very critical to the improvement of their livelihoods. Only two communities had adult education centres. Women have been trained in the use of micro-credit for tie-and-dye. There has been increased income for those participating women who received loans but it varies widely. In one community, one entrepreneurial beneficiary has in a period of two moths generated N75,000 from the initial N25,000 loan, a return to investment of over 300%. However, the success story has not been so outstanding in some other communities.

A case study approach involving six women in Ikaram who received both tie-and-dye training and N25,000 loans revealed that most of the beneficiaries invested in other areas of business such as trading in yams, meat, and small groceries The returns to investment ranged from N4,000 to N20,000. The actual amount invested in tie-and-dye was less than 25% of the total credit. The majority of the women invested in other businesses because the market for tie-and-dye was not lucrative. They perceived the cost of chemicals to be high and the designs they learnt during training were becoming obsolete since women in the Abeokuta area of Ogun State have the latest technology for tie-and-dye. This finding has implication for the way in which MVP is selecting and directing the choice of skills training and types of business for those participating in its income generation, business development and micro credit loans interventions. There is always the need for participatory approaches to livelihood improvements but these require to be premised on the principle of self-selection and individual or group self-choice. It is possible that what the beneficiaries needed was access to micro credit to boost their meat, grocery, and yam businesses and not tie-and-dye training. All the beneficiaries had a desire to improve their financial status and improve their livelihood, and rather than lumping all the participants into a particular business activity they should have been free to choose their own income generating activities and been provided with the necessary business and skills training to enhance their endeavours.

Some leaders and politicians in Ibaram and older people at Iyani expected that their community would be transformed into “a little London or New York”. This expectation was created due to the manner in which the project was introduced into the locality at time of political campaigning for the 2007 national elections. However, Ikaram-Ibaram is neither a ‘hunger spot’ nor a predominantly subsistence agricultural community and as such does not fully meet the criterion that defines a MVP village. In addition a number of the settlements have characteristics that are more associated with small towns and peri-urban areas. For example our initial meeting with local leaders took place not in a village hall but in the TOWN hall. During our visit a number of leaders drew our attention to the fact that the Ikaram-Ibaram cluster is a community that in an earlier period prospered economically from the sale of cocoa and other produce. Residents used the surpluses to invest in their children’s education, construction of two storey houses and in off-farm enterprises and as such perceived the term Millennium ‘village’ to be misplaced.

At the de-briefing meeting with MVP project staff it became apparent that some of the implementation challenges that the project was experiencing relate to the way in which the MVP model is being applied in the context of what is clearly a locality with a diverse set of livelihoods and settlements that were at one time made prosperous through its integration into the commodity export economy. It is the view of the consultancy team that the MVP intervention in Ikaram-Ibaram should be re-conceptualised as a rural/peri-urban regeneration initiative and that the MVP model needs to be adapted to this reality. It should do this by placing greater emphasis on a participatory livelihoods approach focused on strengthening and building four key local economic development infrastructure components. These are:

1. ***Financial services*** – informal savings and credit “esusu”; production orientated savings and credit cooperative societies (SACCOS); micro-finance loan providers; and private traders lending and pre-financing crops
2. ***Agricultural and business development services including ICT*** – economic literacy focused on retaining economic surpluses through enhanced market information and farmer association price negotiations; improved agricultural inputs, outputs, storage and advisory services; business skills and knowledge; use of ICT for market and product information, etc
3. ***Multiplication of economic association*** – formation; registration; linking-up systems; and capacity development of rural producers associations, cooperatives, group-based income generation activities for women, youth, older persons; support to family businesses, and partnerships with local investors, etc.
4. ***Skills and vocational training services*** – youth, women, etc

The MVP is designed to harness three interconnected principles and components[[10]](#footnote-10). These are: (i) the principles of community participation and leadership; (ii) science-based innovations and local knowledge; and (iii) a costed, national action plan for reaching the time-bounded and targeted objectives of the MDGs. Results for key informant and focus group meetings revealed that components (i) and (ii) are being constrained due to the current MVP operational and decision-making modalities.

The MVP project structure for both Ikaram-Ibaram and Pampaida is far too complex for what is essentially an integrated, low cost, village development project where many of the decisions should be taken at the level of the community or at the closest levels to it *e.g.* local or State government. The project’s decision-making mechanism runs all the way from the project localities, via Abuja and Bamako to New York. Take for example the MVP annual work plans and budgets that are prepared using the results of a series of community planning events. These community level planning activities draw together in a holistic manner the communities agreed and prioritised actions. They are then collated into MVP work plans and budgets which are forwarded to UNDP Abuja and New York where they are amended, approved and returned to the MVP offices for execution. Such a process can in no way be considered to be community-led, empowered or strongly participatory. UNDP, Millennium Promise and The Earth Institute should devise a clear set of operating principles which devolves decision-making authority to MVP localities or to the closest levels to it *e.g.* local or State government.

Concern must also be raised with regard to the manner in which the MVP science component and agenda are operating in both Ikaram-Ibaram and Pampaida. A fundamental principle of any participatory development process is to remove and or reduce the hierarchy of decision-taking by creating a means whereby power and knowledge are more equally shared. A participatory development approach therefore seeks to build understanding between two different strands of knowledge: *local knowledge* of which villagers are more knowledgeable and *scientific knowledge* of which outsiders are more well-informed. The MVP science component is currently structured as an extractive process whereby MVP staff and science experts are designing and processing research data and conducting studies of which the community has little or no understanding. The process is one in which MVP villagers are in general not the beneficiaries of the knowledge. The MVP science programme and its findings need to be shared with the communities as a means of building their understanding of the ‘proof concept’ approach and its contribution to their self-development and that of their localities. To do this the science component of the MVP needs to devise a strategy for the popularisation of its science and findings by creating a forum in each of the MVP localities, developing a cadre of science volunteers and launching a calendar of annual events. Much can be learnt from Kerala State in India which in the mid-1990s successfully created a state-wide initiative to popularise science and technology in its rural villages.

**2.3.4 PROJECT ACTIVITIES ACHIEVEMENT TO DATE (Work Plan) - MVP Ikaram-Ibaram**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Expected Outcome** | **Planned Activities** | **Baseline Data** | **Input/****Result** | **Total Household Members** | **Commen**t **and Recommendations** |
| **Planned** | **Output** | **Male** | **Female** |
| **MVP Objective 1:****AGRICULTURE**Eliminate hunger and malnutrition in the villages by increasing production, access and utilization of nutritious foods, with a special focus on nutritional status of pregnant women, nursing mothers and infants under two**MDG Goal 1: *Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty*** | ***Healthy and highly productive soils* –** replenish soil fertility, with legumes, organic materials and mineral fertilizers and soil conservation techniques, etc | 1.5 mt/ha | 3.5 mt/ha |  |  |  |  | Leguminous crops introduced *e.g.* cowpeas, soya beans.Farmers should be trained on production of organic fertilizer.520mt of mineral fertilizer provided to date.Large input stock, especially hybrid maize lie wasted at storage, not provided to farmers.This scientific average yield result may not apply to this locality as inputs were provided late and none last year due to credit. Maize is also not drought resistant. |
| ***Water harvesting techniques for small scale irrigation*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Provide farmers and youth with training on horticultural crops production by irrigation. |
| ***Access to improved seeds*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Improved seeds provided but supplies should be done early.There are lots of inconsistencies in the quantities procured and those supplied to farmers.Cassava stems procured in 2006 all dried up. Maize seeds procured in 2008 were not distributed and 2 mt of Ife Brown returned to supplier in 2008.Deceasing trend in inputs supply indicate lack of interest by farmers. |
| ***Agricultural extension services*** – Update the training of agricultural extension officers |  |  |  |  |  |  | Farmers have been trained.2 Youth to be trained at the Leventis Foundation Agricultural school. |
| ***Feeding and micronutrient supplementation programs for pregnant and lactating mothers and children less than 2 years* old**. Could be done with a school feeding program |  |  |  |  |  |  | Government against School Feeding program but communal feeding of vulnerable should be initiated.Various drugs now available. |
| ***Local grain storage facilities –*** Help farmers build and store food beyond subsistence needs in cereal banks that can be sold at better prices or used for school lunch programs; using techniques that minimize post-harvest losses. | 0 | 1 |  |  |  |  | One grain storage warehouse built.Introduce household grain storage facility to individual household. |
| **Persons:** |  |  | 18307 | 1665 | 1644 | 21 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Expected Outcome** | **Planned Activities** | **Baseline Data** | **Input/****Result** | **Total Household Members** | **Commen**t **and Recommendations** |
| **Planned** | **Output** | **Male** | **Female** |
| **MVP Objective 2:****GENDER EQUALITY & EMPOWER WOMEN**Improve livelihoods of women and men and increase their income beyond extreme poverty levels for both on-and-off farm activities**MDG Goal 1: *Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty*** | ***Diversification*** – divert part of farmland to high value crop. | 1 | 5 |  |  |  |  | Diversification process is on course but it is best to carry out gross margin analysis before crop selection. Focus on tuber crops. |
| ***Private Sector Development*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Some progress has been made but more could still be done. Allow individuals free choice of vocation. |
| ***Networking*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | This is very much required before many farmers undertake horticultural crop production to avoid wastage. |
| ***Electrify the village*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Government has connected the MVP to the national grid.The clinics and schools have been connected to power supply by MVP. |
| ***Transport services*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Upgrade the farm roads.Introduce the Three-wheel motorcycle to the farmers groups for produce and family transport. |
| ***Credit, Banking, Storage and Business creation*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Link groups with other credit facility providers in the project area. |
| ***Cooking fuel and Lighting*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Embark on community forestry program for each village. |
| ***Gender responsive infrastructures*** - training of women to cater for water, health, agricultural infrastructures |  |  |  |  |  |  | Many women have been trained and they have been working in groups. |
| **Persons** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Expected Outcome** | **Planned Activities** | **Baseline Data** | **Input/****Result** | **Total Household Members** | **Commen**t **and Recommendations** |
| **Planned** | **Output** | **Male** | **Female** |
| **MVP Objective 3:****EDUCATION**Assure full attendance to primary schools for both boys and girls and eliminate gender disparity in schools.**MDG Goal 2: *Achieve universal primary education*****MDG Goal 3: *Promote gender equality and empower women*** | ***Eliminate school fees for all primary school children in the village*** (students in 4 MVP village schools) | 674 | 757 |  |  |  |  | Free primary education policy is in existence. |
| ***School meals with locally produced and nutritionally balanced foods*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Against Ondo State policy.Organize vulnerable group feeding in the communities. |
| ***Eliminate gender disparity in school attendance*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Girls number has increased from initial 122 to 640 in schools and boys from 298 to 940.  |
| No of primary schools | 16 | 16 |  |  |  |  | 4 new blocks of classrooms built by MVP and 3 by government.Furniture and textbooks provided by MVP to schools. |
| ***Achieve computer literacy*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Secondary school scholarships*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Vocational schools*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | MVP has plans for vocational training attachments for youth. |
| **Households** |  |  |  | 4422 | 2120 | 2302 |  |
| **MVP Objective 4:****HEALTH** Improve access to medical services,especially focused on improving women’s health and drastically reducing child and maternal mortality**MDG Goal 4: *Reduce child mortality*****MDG Goal 5: *Improve maternal health***. | ***Reduce mortality of children less than five years of age, including infants.*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Good drugs and clinical services now available in the MVP cluster. |
| ***Reduce maternal mortality*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | The number of clinic staff has increased to 72 with a doctor. |
| Number of health clinics | 1 | 2 |  |  |  |  | All clinics and maternity centres rehabilitated and all provided with free dugs for patients. 25 technical and 24 Junior staff newly recruited and paid for by MVP for 2 years. |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Expected Outcome** | **Planned Activities** | **Baseline Data** | **Input/****Result** | **Total Household Members** | **Commen**t **and Recommendations** |
| **Planned** | **Output** | **Male** | **Female** |
| **MVP Objective 5:****HEALTH**Decrease rate of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases; and increase access to essential medicines such as antiretroviral medication (**MDG Goal 6: *Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.*** | ***Malaria*** - Distribution of bed nets for the prevention of malaria. | zero | 20,000 |  |  |  |  | Bed nets provided against mosquito but the households want more. Only four provided per household of 6 average members. |
| ***HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis*** - Provide education on AIDS prevention and voluntary counseling and testing, ARV therapy, etc. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Essential health care, health care workers, access to essential medicines and capacity building*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Referral, drugs, equipment, child clinic, routine immunization now provided. |
| ***Community health workers -*** train local, community health workers in prevention and general home-based care |  |  |  |  |  |  | 24 community health workers recruited by MVP. |
| **Persons:** |  |  |  | 18,307 | 8,513 | 9,794 |  |
| **MVP Objective 6:****ENIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**Integrate the principle ofsustainable development into village programs to reverse the loss of environmental resources and enhance ecosystem services **MDG Goal 7: *Ensure environmental sustainability*** | ***Planting nitrogen fixing trees and cover crops in crop fields***. |  |  |  |  |  |  | Alley farming should be introduced. |
| ***Restore severely degraded and eroded areas*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Farmers should be prevented from farming in marginal areas, such as stream embankments and steep slopes. |
| ***Community forestry and woodlot programs*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Embark on community forestry program for the villages for fuel wood supply in future. |
| ***Protection and remaining natural and common resource areas*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Conservation agriculture*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | Farmers training required. |
| ***Biodiversity*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Carbon sequestration and greenhouse gases*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Persons** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Expected Outcome** | **Planned Activities** | **Baseline Data** | **Input/****Result** | **Total Household Members** | **Commen**t **and Recommendations** |
| **Planned** | **Output** | **Male** | **Female** |
| **MVP Objective 7:****WATER and SANITATION**Increase access to clean water and sanitation for households, schools and medical services**MDG Goal 7: *Ensure environmental sustainability*** | ***Household Water Supply*** |  | 13 |  |  |  |  | 36 boreholes rehabilitated and 13 new overhead tanks provided but some are too shallow for regular water supply. |
| ***Water Supply for Schools and Medical Facilities*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | All schools and clinics provided with water source. |
| ***Water filtration and purification*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | 398 water springs and wells protected. |
| ***Latrines*** |  |  |  |  |  |  | 398 toilets exists in MVP and 20 VIP toilets provided in public places. More still need to be done in each village and households. |
| **Persons:** |  |  |  | 18,307 | 8,513 | 9,794 |  |
| **MVP Objective 8:****INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**Eliminate the digital divide by making available the benefits of communication technologies, especially access to the internet and mobile telephone services**MDG Goal 8: *Develop a global partnership for development***  | ***Community ICT Village Centre*** -  set up of a community village centre with access to personal computers and internet. | zero | 4 |  |  |  |  | ICT centres have been built by MVP in 3 communities and each school and Iyani community provided own centre. 300 youths have been trained. |
| ***ICT training courses*** – provide training in information and communication technologies related to agriculture, market prices, health and infrastructure  | zero | 325 |  |  |  |  | Women have been trained in groups on health, farming practices and income generation activities e.g. tie & die and groundnut processing and tomato preservation but no credit.25 health staff have been trained |
| ***Small businesses*** – provide space near the village centre for establishment of small businesses that require electricity |  |  |  | 167 | 97 | 70 | Progress being made. |
| **Persons:** |  |  |  | 1,119 | 876 | 343 |  |

**2.4 MVP Nigeria Financials**

This section briefly examines the value of financial contributions and their allocation between the two MVP localities and the various sector investments. The cost estimates and cost-sharing figures are based upon the sum of $110 per person per year for five years. This is the required investment average for a typical rural community to be able to reach the MDGs.

**Stakeholder Contributions**

Concerning cost-sharing, from inception to date (2006-2008), the Table below shows the absolute and relative contributions of the key stakeholders.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Source** | **Value of Contribution (US$)** | **% share of total** |
|  | Pampaida | Ikaram-Ibaram | Pampaida | Ikaram-Ibaram  | Ideal% |
| Government (State & Local)(In Kind) |  450,000 |  900,000(1,620,000) |  27 | 10.14(26.94) | 27.27 |
| Community (In Kind) |  150,000 |  300,000 (540,000) |  9 |  3.38(9.09) |  9.09 |
| **Sub-total** |  **600,000** | **1,200,000****(2,160,000)** |  **36** | **13.52****(36.03)** | **36.36** |
| Donors & Partners (Cash) | 1, 050,000 | 7,678,511(3,780,000) |  64 | 86.48(63.64) | 63.64 |
| **Grand Total** | **1, 650,000** |  **8,878,511****(5,940,000)** | **100** | **100** | **100** |

**Notes:**

1. A population figure of 30,000 was used to calculate the original Ikaram-Ibaram project contributions. The figures in brackets represent the total value and share of contributions expected from the respective stakeholders over the three-year period (2006-2008) based upon a revised population figure of 18,307.
2. The difference between the initial figures and the revised population figures for Ikaram-Ibaram explains the surplus funds. It is proposed to transfer these surplus funds to the Pampaida area where they will be used to scale-up activities to cover the whole of Saulawa district.

**Fund Allocation by Sectors**

Table 2 above shows, the guide on fund allocation across sectors has been differentially applied in the two project sites. While in Ikaram, the impression is of rigid adherence to the suggested guide, a greater flexibility is witnessed in Pampaida. In the latter, two interrelated explanations were given for the revision in allocation; namely: (i) primacy of agriculture in livelihood poverty among the villagers; and (ii) the chance to obtain quick wins.

**Table 2: Cost Structure (2006-2008) within Project Objectives**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sector** | **Guiding % Provision** | **Planned Allocation****Pampaida** | **Planned Allocation****Ikaram-Ibaram** |
| Agriculture & Nutrition(Objective 1) | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Health (Objs 4,5) | 30 | 35 | 30 |
| Education & Gender Equality( Objs 2, 3, | 20 | 15 | 20 |
| Infrastructure | 20 | 22 | 20 |
| Water, Sanitation & Environment | 15 | 10 | 15 |
| Community (Obj 10)\*\* | - | 3 | - |
| **Total** | 100 | 100 | 100 |

**Note: \*\***Community Capacity Building is subsumed under Infrastructure covering the provision of ICT and Youth Friendly Centres

**3. MDG Scaling-up and Sustainability in Nigeria**

**3.1.2 Proposed Expansion of the Pampaida MVP**

The MVP Nigeria cluster has a surplus of $3 million in funds. The surplus was created due to an over estimation of the population size in the Ikaram-Ibaram project at the design stage. UNDP Nigeria in consultation with its partners in the State governments of Ondo and Kaduna has proposed that the funds be used to expand the project into the adjoining Pampaida settlements in Kaduna state. The expansion would cover the whole of the Saulawa district of which Pampaida is part. Currently the MVP project in Pampaida involves 28 settlements with a population of 5,666. Expanding to the whole of the Saulawa district would add 29 additional settlements and a population of 16,422. This scaling-up to cover the whole of the Saulawa district would provide the Nigerian MVP with its first district-wide intervention. The Saulawa MVP project would comprise a total of 57 settlements with a total population of 22,088.

**Recommendations**

The mission visited both the Pampaida project area and the adjoining areas in Saulawa district. It strongly supports the proposed expansion and makes the following recommendations:

1. That the Pampaida project name be changed to that of the Saulawa MVP cluster. This name change is recommended to avoid a repeat of the issues currently being faced in the Ikaram project where the expansion of that project to the adjoining communities has led to misunderstandings over MVP investment decisions and the allocation of resources between settlements.
2. Prior to scaling-up in Saulawa district the MVP management needs to strengthen the project’s management, coordination and technical capacities by:
3. Appointing a fulltime Science coordinator for Saulawa district
4. Appointing two team leaders – one for the social sectors and another for local economic development (agriculture and livelihoods). The team leaders should be selected from the existing MVP sector coordinators. They should continue to undertake their coordinator responsibilities but also be tasked with ensuring greater project cohesion across the social and local economic development sectors, that field staff and others are better coordinated, and that there is increased connectedness and added value between the sector activities and the impact of investments; and
5. Consideration should be given to relocating the work stations of some of the MVP project staff to the Resource Centre at the local development centre located at Nakune Katsinawa built by the project. Currently all MVP field staff are based in a field office situated in Ikara and travel into the Pampaida locality to undertake field work. This re-location would help improve communications with the community and assist the project to deepen its engagement with vulnerable and less powerful groups.
6. The MVP management should seek to establish of a formal partnership agreement with Ikara local government. The partnership should focus on the creation of an integrated participatory district planning, budgeting and reporting mechanism. The approach should fit within the policy context of Nigeria’s local government and public expenditure management reforms.
7. Prior to scaling-up the intervention to the rest of Saulawa district a joint assessment of the implications of the various policy changes to health, education and other sectors that have occurred in the Pampaida MVP needs to be undertaken. This should be carried out as a joint exercise between the MVP management, local and state government officials and policy makers. The assessment should establish a clear set of policy parameters for the expansion of the MVP to district level while taking account of the future potential of scaling-up coverage to the whole of the local government area (LGA).
* The UNDP Pampaida expansion proposal[[11]](#footnote-11) indicates that a significant proportion of the re-allocated project funds are likely to be used for a range of infrastructure investments. The MVP management needs to address the current weaknesses in infrastructure construction - buildings, boreholes and water stand posts, and stove technology - prior to expanding the approach to the rest of Saulawa district. It should do this by:
1. expanding the MVP infrastructure team to including additional technicians and foremen/trainers (*e.g.* masons, carpenters, welders, etc);
2. ensuring greater oversight and quality assurance of all infrastructure activities including water and sanitation by placing all construction activities under the authority of the Infrastructure coordinator;
3. providing ‘best science’ in low-cost self-help building and stove technology advice and materials;
4. providing on-site technical guidance and supervision to self-help building activities during the time when the community is actually undertaking the construction work; and
5. ensuring that the MVP business and skills training component and the self-help construction projects being supported by the MVP infrastructure component are mutually reinforcing one another and adding value through using the foremen as on-the- job construction trainers for the youth.

Finally, other specific recommendations on agriculture, livelihoods, environment, quality of education, community empowerment, and environmental health and sanitation as outlined in the Pampaida section of the report (Section 2.2 pages 25 to 31) should be taken into account.

**3.1.3 MDG evidenced-based Policy Dialogue and Project Management**

One of the main intended outcomes/results of the AMVI project is to build coherence with country-led national strategies, plans and the MDGs. See *Annex 6: MVP Results and Resources Framework* for details. In the Nigerian context this requires that the MVP projects are aligned to and linked to the three tiers of government - local, state and federal – and their policy dialogue, planning, budgeting and reporting processes. The mission undertook a snapshot assessment to identify the extent, frequency and degree of linkage to country-led processes and institutions including the MDGs. The box below provides details.

There are a number of reasons why the MVP projects in Nigeria have not been able to create the kind of coherence and alignment that the AMVI project document and its designers initially envisioned.

**Snapshot assessment comparing African Millennium Village Initiative Strategy with MVP actions**

**Linking villages to MDG-based national development strategies**

* ***Federal MDAs:*** Poor linkages. No formal coordination process developed. Contact mainly through occasional meetings by UNDP and MVP Science coordinator. Occasional visits from senior managers of Millennium Promise and Earth Institute.
* ***Ondo and Kaduna State Governments:*** Weak linkages to State planning, budgeting and reporting processes. Contact focuses primarily around coordination, updating progress meetings and requests for specific resources and assistance to unblock various local issues.
* ***Local Governments in Akoko North West*** ***& Ikara***: Weak linkages to district annual planning and budgeting. Contact focuses primarily around coordination, updating progress meetings and requests for specific resources and assistance to unblock various local issues.

**Collaboration with other partners**

Engaging national and local governments (Covered in previous section)

**Involving the UN Country team**

There appears to be little or no engagement. However there is potential to link MVP impact reporting on village level progress to MDG country reporting through creating a section in the national report on MDG Case studies. The case studies would report on progress against the 2006 Baseline survey and analysis. The MVP project has a weak understanding of the role and scope of work being undertaken by other UN agencies and the various project interventions that they are supporting. (*e.g.* UNICEF’s Child Friendly Villages programme; UNCDF’s micro-finance for local economic development programme, ILO’s work on labour intensive public works, etc)

**Applying lessons from the Millennium Villages**

The key lessons learnt presented to the Mid-term assessment team were predominantly issues and not lessons. Further work needs to be given to this aspect of the project. In addition many of the MVP investments appear to be resulting in impacts that are already well documented as best practice within the sphere of international development NGO.

**Mobilising civil society and other partners**

Both projects have undertaken a range of activities that have either been supported or delivered by non-state actors and other development partners. However, the majority of these activities appear to one-off and of a short duration. Little attention appears to have been given to establishing long term partnerships other than in agriculture where a limited number of research institutes and training providers are actively working with the MVPs. Efforts to establish formal partnerships with development NGOs, academic and research institutes, private sector associations, and micro-finance institutions remain limited in scope and/or underdeveloped.

* Firstly, the two MVP projects share a single Science Coordinator. The coordinator is over stretched in trying to meet: the day-to-day implementation demands of two multi-sectoral projects operating in two differing localities and working environments; on-going requests from Earth science teams and external visitors; and the protocol and reporting demands of two projects which are over 800 kms apart.
* Secondly, it takes around 12 to 15 months to get community-based projects off the ground and another 6 to 12 months to begin to see visible results (*e.g.* quick wins/achievements)and some signs of impact. However, although both projects have been able to report progress across a range of sectors in relation to work plan deliverables – types of infrastructure investment and quantities, number of communities and groups mobilised, training events and numbers, etc – they have had little to say on the substance of MDG ‘proof of concept’ reporting. This is due to the way in which MVP project reporting has been divided into separate operations: (i) internal to the country - budget input/activity reporting which is the responsibility of MVP field staff; and (ii) external to the country - MDG ‘proof of concept’ reporting which is the responsibility of The Earth Institute.
* Thirdly, the complexity of the MVP decision-making, lack of two Science Coordinators, and the external orientation of the MDG ‘proof of concept’ has provided little time to devise and shape an approach to country MDG processes and institutions.
* And fourthly, the manner in which the AMVI has structured and divided up responsibilities between UNDP, The Earth Institute, and Millennium Promise. Technical and science advice is provided by The Earth Institute and Millennium Promise while operational and administrative matters are handled by the UNDP Country Programme. This has led to a lacuna at the country level with regard to both technical and policy advice. Normally when UNDP undertakes the direct execution (DEX) of a project it provides technical advice and expertise as well as operational and administrative support. In the MVP model this technical and policy advisory role at country level is absent.

Due to these limitations and gaps the MVP has to-date has made insufficient progress in establishing links to MDG country-led policy, planning, budgeting and reporting processes. However, both MVP projects have developed and executed comprehensive baseline surveys under the guidance of The Earth Institute, Millennium Promise and other contracted research institutes. This work has been carried using two categories of baseline data collection tools: (i) Biophysical data collection tools; and (ii) Social and Health data collection tools. See the *MVP Baseline Surveys Table* on the next page for details of all baseline surveys, sample sizes and the dates when the surveys were undertaken. Furthermore, based on the initial demographic survey both projects have created a 300 household stratified sample framework to enable periodic follow-up surveys and special studies to be undertaken.

This set of baseline surveys and data represents a substantial body of work carried by the MVP projects, The Earth Institute, and others. Currently all the data is forwarded to The Earth Institute. Neither UNDP Nigeria, the two State governments, the National Planning Commission (NCP) or the OSSAP-MDGs has requested the information because the MVP has never explained to these institutions what ‘science’ they are doing and what surveys and data they are collecting and analysing. It also became clear that the various Earth Institute science teams and individual researchers are making sizeable demands on MVP staff and the time of villagers through requesting data and follow-up information, uncoordinated and poorly prioritised visits, and requests for specific staff to be available when field research is being carried out. In addition the timing of Earth Institute visits appears to be determined predominantly by the schedule of the scientists and not those of the community, households or MVP work plans.

From discussions with the Pampaida database manager it became apparent that with a small amount of technical assistance both MVP projects could provide data on most of the Nigerian MDG country indicators. See *Annex 7* for details of the Nigerian MDG indicators.

**MVP Baseline Surveys**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Survey Instrument** | **Pampaida Sample Size** | **Dates** | **Ikaram Sample Size** | **Dates** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Biophysical data collection tools** |
| Land use and Agriculture | 300 HH | Nov06 |  |  |
| Agriculture and environment | 300 HH | Nov06 | 300 HH | April-May07 |
| Market prices | 2 Large markets near village | Nov06 | No details | Nov07 |
| Energy | 300 HH | April07 | 300 HH | No date |
| Water and sanitation | 300 HH | Nov06 | 295 HH | April-May07 |
| Transportation and Communication | 300 HH | April07 | 295 HH | Nov07 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Social & Health data collection tools** |
| Demographic survey | 952 HH | June06Oct06Feb07 | 1000 HH | Sept-Nov06 |
| Shortened socio economic survey | 652 HH | Nov-Dec06 | 554 HH | May-June07 |
| Detailed socio economic survey | 300 HH | Nov-Dec06 | 300 HH | Feb-March07 |
| Men and Woman’s health | 190 Men & 190 Women from 300 HH | Sept06 | 375 HH | June07- June 08 |
| Women and Children | 360 Women from 300 HH | Sept 06 | 245 HH | June-July07 |
| Men’s health | 387 Men from 300 HH  | Sept06 | 312 HH | Aug-Sept07 |
| Human nutrition | 300 Person | Sept06-Sept07 | 300 HH | April-May07 |
| Malaria | 300HH | Sept06 | 300 HH | Feb-May07 |
| STI and HIV/AIDS | 380 Women from 300 HH | Sept-Oct06 | 376 HH | May-June07 |
| Anthropometrics | 442 Persons | Oct06 |  |  |
| Stool sampling | 442 Persons | Oct06 |  |  |
| Blood Sampling | 442 Persons | Oct06 | 377 HH | April07 |
| Orphans | 112 Persons | Jan06- Jan07 | 53 Persons | Aug-Sept07 |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**Sources:** P*ampaida Baseline Survey Analysis,* July 2008 and *Draft Ikaram-Ibaram Baseline Analysis*, May 2008

Given the usefulness of the MVP baseline data and the potential of future surveys to inform country policy making on the MDGs, the mission makes the following recommendations:

* AMVPI partners should seek to determine in conjunction with the UNDP Country Programme management how the MVP technical and policy advisory gaps could be bridged use UNDP Nigeria and other in-country UN agency expertise.
* MVP field staff should be orientated to the Nigerian MDGs and the current MVP emphasis on budget input/activity reporting should be broadened to encompass annual MDG ‘proof of concept’ reporting.
* Responsibility for the annual MDG reporting by the MVP should be allocated to the two Science coordinators and the Pampaida and Ikaram-Ibaram database managers. The job descriptions of these MVP staff should be amended to include this task. Annual MVP-MDG progress reporting should be submitted to the UNDP Nigeria economist who is the UN focal person for the country’s MDGs.
* Under the direction of the UN-MDG focal person short term technical assistance should be provided to the MVP database managers and their units to assist them to align and adapt their data and information so that to the greatest extent feasible full reporting on the Nigerian MDG indicators can be undertaken annually.
* UNDP Nigeria in conjunction with the NPC and OSSAP-MDGs should explore the possibility of developing a case study chapter in the annual Nigerian MDG report. The Ikaram-Ibaram and Pampaida MVP projects should prepare case studies for inclusion in this national document with support from The Earth Institute and other in-country experts.
* The Nigerian component of The Earth Institute ‘proof of concept’ science programme and its findings should be regularly shared with a broad range of stakeholder: the MVP communities; federal, state, and local government officials and policy makers; Nigerian academics and researchers; and civil society.

**3.2 MDG Scaling-up Options**

Scaling-up leads to more quality benefits to more people over a wider geographic area more quickly, more equitably and more lasting (FAO, 2000)[[12]](#footnote-12). Four types of up-scaling have been identified based on geographical area, dissemination of knowledge and practice, institutional involvement, and policy engagement and advocacy:

1. **Quantitative scaling-up** - this implies the dissemination of the practice over a wider geographical area as a result of spontaneous spread or replication of the practice. This involves an increase in the number of people involved in a practice in a geographical area and focuses on adoption of information or practices by the intended population.
2. **Functional scaling up** - this involves the expansion of a good practice through the addition of new activities. For example, re-focusing the MVP livelihoods component from activities to that of building local economic development infrastructure – financial services, agricultural and business services (including ICT), multiplication of economic associations; and training and capacity development.
3. **Organizational scaling up** - this involves deepening or broadening of an organization’s capacities or membership, enabling it to become more efficient and flexible, with the objective of being more sustainable over the long run. Promoting skills development, diversifying and stabilising funds, increasing the degree of self-financing, and creating institutional variety.
4. **Political scaling up** - here the organization endeavours to restructure the causes of underdevelopment or poverty and to influence policies through policy dialogue, advocacy, lobbying, or direct entry into policy processes.

Scaling-up the MDGs in Nigeria will involve quantitative, functional, organizational and political scaling in order to ensure sustainability. Of vital importance will be the commitment and sustained leadership of Federal, State, local government and community politicians and other leaders who will need to share ownership and accountability for the endeavour. As such a central role for these leaders will be their role in approving and overseeing the planning and coordinating institutions tasked with devising the strategies and implementing the action plans that guide public investments and operations. In addition, they will require to play an important role in mobilising and building a broad-based development partnership comprised of politicians, all levels of government, civil society, the private sector, academia, and the development partners. The role of development partners should be that of enabling support – provision of harmonised and country aligned aid assistance to fill investment gaps, provision of technical assistance for capacity development, and the enhancement of mutual accountability and transparency of development resources.

In assessing the challenges of scaling-up the MVP model from its current operations in two village clusters with a total population of 24,000 the mission concludes that it is not in a sufficiently advantageous format for such a purpose in the Nigerian context. The model as currently devised has three significant limitations: (i) weak coherence and integration with national policy, planning, budgeting, procurement and reporting processes; (ii) poor linkages to Nigerian academic and research institutions; and (iii) the project model lacks flexibility, is operational complex and dependent upon donors honouring their overseas development assistance (ODA) promises to Africa. Therefore based upon this assessment the mission has devised three options for consideration and further investigation by UNDP and its partners.

**Option 1: African Millennium Villages Initiative Model**

Consideration should be given to scaling-up the MVP model to include all six geo-political zones in Nigeria namely: *South-South, South East, South West, North East, North central and North West*. Presently, Pampaida is located in North Central while Ikaram Ibaram is in South West. The new MVP villages would be in: South East, South-South, North East, and North West. They should be selected using the African Millennium Village Initiative criteria of:

* Be a hunger “hot spot”
* Have a high level of poverty
* Have a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, malaria and/or tuberculosis
* Have high child and maternal mortality rates
* Have infrastructure in need of renovation and/or lacking in infrastructure such as feeder roads, markets, electricity, clean water and sanitation
* Have a need to reverse loss of environmental resources and ecosystems
* Have a willingness from State, local government, and non-state actors to work in partnership

The Box below provides the poverty ranking for each geo-political zone. One village should be selected in each zone, giving a total of six MVPs.

To ensure sustainability and the transfer of “MVP science” it is recommended that The Earth Institute and Millennium Promise should identify in each geo-political zone a Nigerian university and or a research institute who would work with it to manage the projects and provide technical backstopping. At the end of the project, the local institution should have acquired sufficient experience and capacity to both undertake the project management and continue the MVP science.

**Geo-political Zones - Ranking by Poverty**

**North East (67.3%)**

States: Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Gombe, Jigawa, Bauchi, and Taraba

**North West (62.9%)**

States: ***Kaduna,*** Sokoto, Kebbi, Katsina, Zamfara, Kano

**North Central (62.3%) *plus the Federal Capital Territory***

States: Nasarawa, Plateau, Benue, Niger, Kwara, Kogi

**South South (51.1%)**

States: Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Cross Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Edo

**South West (42%)**

States: **Ondo,** Ogun, Oyo, Osun, Lagos, Ekiti

**South East (34.2%)**

States: Anambara, Ebonyi, Imo, Abia, Enugu

**Source:** *Nigeria 2006 MDG Report*, National Planning Commission, February 2007, p13

The mission proposes the following recommendations for this option:

* Expand the Nigerian MVP cluster to all six geo-political zones in the country by establishing a MVP project in each zone. Currently the MVP project clusters are located in North West and South West.
* The four new MVP clusters should be selected using the MVP criteria and fall within the 111 poorest local government areas (LGAs). See list of bullet points outlined above.
* Implementation of all six MVP projects (the two existing and four new projects) should be undertaken using UNDP’s execution modalities for non-state actors – development NGOs, academic/research institution, or a partnership approach.
* Research and technical assistance from The Earth Institute should be re-configured to support this scaling-up to six MVP village clusters. A Nigerian academic or research institution within each geo-political zone should be selected as the lead ‘science’ organisation for that particular MVP location.
* Earth Institute and Millennium Promise in addition to contributing funds should be tasked with: transferring the MVP methodology; building research and technical capacity where required; undertaking the science peer review for ‘proof of concept’; and providing other technical backstopping such as short training courses, academic exchanges and placements and international media coverage.
* All six MVP clusters should become ‘sites of practice’ and provide documentation for district, state and federal lesson learning and policy dialogue on achieving the Nigerian MDGs. All six sites would contribute case studies to the Nigerian annual MDG report.

**3.2.2 MDG-based Partnership Approach – Options 2 & 3**

The starting point for Options 2 and 3 is the December 2008 draft *Concept Note on Scaling-up an Adapted Millennium Village Programme in Nigeria* prepared by UNDP. The note’s objective is to find a means of scaling-up a package of MDG-based investments to reach 111 of the poorest local government areas in the country (*e.g.* 3 LGAs per State plus the Federal Capital Territory). To do this the note concisely outlines both the MVP and MDG scaling-up challenges in Nigeria: implementation scope, modality, financing and capacity development requirements. However the paper interprets the scaling-up of the MDG process in Nigeria as one of essentially scaling-up the MVP model by adapting it: (i) through the adoption of an MVP ‘Lite’ model focused on agriculture, primary health care (including water and sanitation) and basic education at a cost of US$35 per capita per year; and (ii) fitting and aligning the adapted MVP model into national systems, plans, and resource frameworks.

Although it is clear that both the Pampaida and Ikaram-Ibaram MVP projects have had varying degrees of impact across a range of sectors the approach also has significant challenges and limitations. To recap:

* 1. Although there is a high proportion of seconded State officials working for the MVP, the project operates in parallel and semi-autonomously from government delivery systems and has weak linkages to government policy, planning, budgeting and reporting processes;
	2. In the Nigerian context the MVP management has placed insufficient emphasis on building long term partnerships *upwards* and *outwards* to state, non-state actors (academic and research institutes, development NGOs, private sector providers, etc) and development partners (UN agencies, World Bank, and bi-lateral funders, etc). Its primary focus of attention has been *downwards* where it has built direct relationships with community institutions and in many instances either directly or partially delivers services. However, the unanswered question is: How to sustain some of the interventions beyond the life of the project? (For example in Ikaram-Ibaram villagers and project staff expressed concerns that local government appeared to have virtual withdrawn from working in the locality.)
	3. Although the MVP can show some important results in the health and basic education sectors it has done this through partially changing some aspects of government policy in these sectors. However due to its weak linkages to government policy-making, planning and budgeting processes it is currently unable to institutionalise these changes.

Rather than seeking to adapt and scale a model that has been tested for only a short period of time in two localities with a total population of less than 24,000 it may prove more beneficial to look at options that make use of existing government systems, operations and interventions. Currently there are a number of country-led plans, reforms and institutional capacity development initiatives that could be harnessed to scale-up MDG-based interventions across the country. For example, national and state policy and planning initiatives, public expenditure management, local government reform, on-going OSSAP-MDG initiatives, the universal basic education initiative, the States and UNICEF supported child friendly village initiative[[13]](#footnote-13) which is operational in 222 communities in 111 focus LGAs, the recently launched Federal Ministry of Health and DFID funded Newborn Health Research and Advocacy Fund[[14]](#footnote-14), and UNDAF II governance, social service delivery, and productivity and employment programmes focused on the Federal level, 10 States and the creation of 28 to 30 local development funds.

The national starting point for devising a MDG-based set of LGA interventions should be the country’s *7-Point Agenda* and its implementation through the *National Development Plan* (NDP). The NDP provides the medium-term framework for action (2008 – 11) and more detailed Medium-Term Sector Strategies (MTSS), the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and annual budgets are the means of prioritising and executing the delivery. Therefore MDG-based LGA interventions need to: (i) be articulated and anchored to these planning and budgetary frameworks; and (ii) seek to address MDG indicators that are worsening or static by targeting a set of actions on social services and local economic development causes that are impeding and re-staining progress. Interventions should then be designed around getting these indicators back on track. This could be combined and supplemented by actions on those indicators where quick wins can be achieved *e.g.* malaria through the distribution of bed-nets, etc.

**3.2.3 Option 2: Direct Execution Model**

This model delivers the MDG-based interventions using government structures and systems at federal, state and local government levels. The model is derived for that used to execute the IMF/World Bank Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) debit relief initiative. HIPC debt funds were prioritised through country-led national development plans - Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS-1) - and subsequently expanded and re-ordered under PRS-2 – National Growth and Poverty Reduction strategies. In Africa the countries that have similar public administrative traditions and systems to Nigeria and which have successfully executed PRS-1 and have moved onto executing PRS-2 are: Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya.

The model uses a multi-stakeholder approach and involves all levels of government, parliament, non-state actors, and development partners. The national development plan including an implementation matrix guides the process and is overseen by a core group of coordinating ministries and agencies – Finance, Planning, Public Service, National Statistics Office, Decentralisation/Local Government.

Delivery is undertaken by sector ministries and local governments using the budget, conditional grants and transfers. A particular challenge has been aligning sector plans and budgets and local government service delivery plans and budgets to the national plan’s poverty reduction priorities. However a number of countries have found ways of tackling this for example by ring fencing a proportion of the budget for poverty reduction measures, by introducing gender and equity budgeting as part of the annual budget guides, and by introducing participatory local government planning and budgeting tied to poverty reduction priorities.

To measure progress and ensure resources have been properly utilised: national monitoring and evaluation systems have been strengthened including national surveys and routine data collection systems; independent research and evaluation has been commissioned using national institutions and experts; procurement systems and public sector audits have become more rigorous; public expenditure tracking studies and users satisfaction surveys have been introduced; and civil society organisations have been funded to conduct independent participatory monitoring and evaluation with reports being submitted to parliament.

At the national level in many PRS countries this direct execution model can often involve between 80 to 120 institutions and organisation all of whom are actively engaged in the process. Development partners have played a constructive supporting role in this model by providing a range of funding and technical assistance including: general budget support, donor basket funding for sector wide approaches, programme and project funding, and challenge funds for non-state actors, etc. Within this model there is sufficient scope for UNDP and the UN system in Nigeria under the UNDAF II framework to engage in policy dialogue with Federal government and to contribute a range of technical assistance to States and local governments. It will not be feasible to have technical assistance in each of the 111 LGAs or even in every State so some kind of hub or grouped system based either on the 6 geo-political zones or an expansion of UN sub-offices such as UNICEF’s four regional offices will need to be considered.

With regard to The Earth Institute and Millennium Promise MDG ‘proof of concept science’ if these organisations were to expand the MVP baselines and science to one village in all six geo-political zones then this would provide the scaled-up MDG programme with a set of baseline villages from which to monitor and assess progress. These ‘sites of practice’ would in effect act as a set of sentinel sites that could supply regular data and findings into the country MDG report and thus help inform the country policy dialogue on MDG progress. However such development partner roles and the extent of any involvement will require to be negotiated with the government at a number of different levels.

A study visit to Ghana, Uganda and Tanzania to examine the various planning, implementing, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms that have been developed under the PRS direct execution model many prove fruitful in identifying both the critical issues that lie ahead and the solutions used to address them.

**3.3.4 Option 3: Management Agent Model**

Option 3 uses the same country-led MDG-based policy, planning, budgeting and reporting framework as option 2 but introduces the possibility of a different implementation modality in the form of a management agent approach. This model has two main variants: (i) execution through a special government programme or agency, and (ii) outsourcing to non-state actors – private sector firms, civil society or public institutions such as universities and research institutions.

**Execution through special government programme or agency**

Over the last 10 years a number of African countries have established Social Action Funds (SAF) with the assistance of the World Bank. These special programmes are:

* ***national in scale and executed as special programmes*** through a coordinating ministry such as Finance, Planning or Decentralisation/Local Government;
* ***uses a community-driven development approach*** that is focused on poverty reduction – social sectors, livelihoods, labour intensive public works, and social protection for vulnerable groups;
* ***by-passes existing government delivery systems*** - sector ministries, regional/state governments, and local government delivery systems;
* ***village level execution*** is guided by SAF technical teams with project approval and monitoring being undertaken by a joint village-local government committee.

The SAF country operations that have similar public administrative traditions and systems to Nigeria are Tanzania and Malawi both of whom have these types of community-driven operations funded by the World Bank. This model has proved to be successful at delivering its activities both quickly and visibly in local communities. However the long term sustainability of some of its interventions has been questioned due to its detachment from planning, budgeting and reporting processes of sector ministries and decentralised government.

**Outsourcing to non-state actors**

This variant of the management agent model is unlikely in the Nigerian context to be used as a country-wide model due to the country’s federal and decentralised system of government. However it may have some potential use at State and local government level where the authorities wish to engage with the programme but do not wish to undertake the direct implementation of either all or some of the components of the programme. For example with regard to the expansion of the MVP into the remainder of Saulawa district the position of both the State and local government was that they were willing to contribute resources but did not feel that they had the capacity to directly execute the project.

There are three implementation modalities that can be used by a management agent to execute the outsourcing model: contracts, grants, partnership agreements, and a combination of the three. These differing modalities provide a broad range of organisation the opportunity to engage with the programme – community economic associations, cooperatives, private firms and contractors, development NGOs, financial service providers, and academic and research institutions. However to execute such a model the management agent requires to draft a comprehensive operations manual and set of standard procedures for contracting, budgeting, procurement, accounting and reporting prior to the launch of the programme. All service providers will require orientation and training in the operation and use of the manual and its procedures. In addition it is important in this model to separate out the evaluation and impact assessment component of the programme and have this undertaken by an organisation that is both independent of the programme management and the management agent.

**4. MVP Detailed Recommendations**

The mission’s recommendations are designed to assist the MVP management to:

* ***Address MVP investment weaknesses and challenges*** in both the social services and livelihood sectors;
* ***Improve the project’s country level reporting capacity*** by broadening its coverage from budget input/activity reporting to include impact (MDG proof of concept) reporting;
* ***Enhance community ownership*** through strengthen community planning, decision-making and the organised efforts of vulnerable and less powerful groups;
* ***Broadening the ownership of the MVP science agenda*** so that Nigerian academic and research institutions and local communities become active stakeholders in its production and the application of its science; and to
* ***Enhance the coherence between the MVP projects and the various levels and tiers of planning, budgeting, and reporting so that evidence-based policy dialogue processes contribute to achieving the MDGs in Nigeria***

**Scale-up the MVP to the other settlements in Saulawa District – Short term next 6 months**

The mission makes the following recommendations for expansion of the Pampaida MVP into the adjoining settlements.

1. The Pampaida project name should be changed to that of the Saulawa MVP cluster to avoid the issues that the Ikaram project faces where the expansion of that project to the adjoining communities has led to misunderstandings over MVP investment decisions and the allocation of resources between settlements.
2. Strengthen the project’s management, coordination and technical capacities by:
3. Appointing a fulltime Science coordinator for Saulawa district
4. Appointing two team leaders from the existing set of MVP coordinators – one for the social sectors and another for local economic development (agriculture and livelihoods) as a means of: ensuring greater project cohesion across the social and local economic development sectors; that field staff and others are better coordinated; and that there is increased connectedness and added value between the sector activities and the impact of investments.
5. Relocate many of the MVP project staff to the Resource Centre at Nakune Katsinawa as a means of improving: communications with the community; delivering inputs and monitoring activities; and assisting the project to deepen its engagement with vulnerable and less powerful groups.
6. Establish of a formal partnership agreement with Ikara local government as a means of creating of an integrated participatory district planning, budgeting and reporting mechanism
7. Prior to scaling-up the intervention to the rest of Saulawa district a joint assessment of the implications of the various policy changes to health, education and other sectors that have occurred in the Pampaida MVP needs to be undertaken. The assessment should establish a clear set of policy parameters for the expansion of the MVP to district level while taking account of the future potential of scaling-up coverage to the whole of the local government area (LGA).
* Address the current MVP weaknesses in infrastructure construction - buildings, boreholes and water stand posts, and stove technology - prior to expanding the approach to the rest of Saulawa district. It should do this by:
1. expanding the MVP infrastructure team to including additional technicians and foremen/trainers (*e.g.* masons, carpenters, welders, etc);
2. ensuring greater oversight and quality assurance of all infrastructure activities including water and sanitation by placing all construction activities under the authority of the Infrastructure coordinator;
3. providing ‘best science’ in low-cost self-help building and stove technology advice and materials;
4. providing on-site technical guidance and supervision to self-help building activities during the time when the community is actually undertaking the construction work; and
5. ensuring that the MVP business and skills training component and the self-help construction projects being supported by the MVP infrastructure component are mutually reinforcing one another and adding value through using the foremen as on-the- job construction trainers for the youth.

Finally, other specific recommendations on agriculture, livelihoods, environment, quality of education, community empowerment, and environmental health and sanitation as outlined in the following sections should be taken into account.

**4.1 Detailed Recommendations -** **Pampaida**

MVP interventions and investments in Pampaida in the social sectors of education, health, and safe drinking water have shown significant progress and impact. When the MVP database manger completes the updating of the MDG indicators against the 2006 baseline survey findings the full extent of progress will be able to be determined. However, the mission’s overall assessment is that across the range of health, education and water MDG indicators the project is likely to be ahead of the country trends and will therefore achieve and more than likely exceed the targets on many of the indicators.

However there a number of sectors in particular sanitation and environment where progress appears to be limited or lagging. In these sectors the project needs to re-double its efforts through revising its current strategies so that greater emphasis is placed upon actions that accelerate, integrate and link-up activities with other investments and sector approaches.

In agriculture there is concern with regard to the current MVP emphasis on introducing fertiliser and maize into a drought prone locality. It is considered that the project has not placed sufficient emphasis on increasing the production of staple food crops such as sorghum and millet to ensure food security. Therefore to ensure that progress is maintained and weak areas of intervention are enhanced the following actions are recommended:

**1. Development of Infrastructure (immediate - within 3 months)**

Results from visits to the locality indicated that there has been significant progress in: health facilities and services, provision of safe drinking water, primary education enrolment and school attendance, and farm production. There were increases in the production of maize, sorghum and tomatoes however there are some concerns with regard to the promotion of maize and level of addition income that it generated. However, road infrastructure development in the locality has been limited. Although the State government has recently constructed both a 10km asphalted access road to Pampiada and an electricity power line the majority of the settlements lie in the interior of the locality. There is therefore a need to build a network of feeder roads linking these settlements to the main access road if the potential for agricultural and natural-resource based development is to have any overall impact on the economic and social development of the locality.

**2. Monitoring and Evaluation (immediate - within 3 months)**

There should be a proper monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism put in place. The method of providing materials (cement, corrugated zinc, etc) to villages without proper construction supervision of their use should be reviewed. For instance, the Garangaran feeder classrooms were built with local labour and materials supplied by the project. The result was a set of classrooms built in 2008 but to building standards of the 1950s. The implications are that the MVP management needs to address: the issue of the shortage of infrastructure field staff –technicians and construction foremen/trainers; the need for supervision and monitoring when the communities are actually undertaking the work; and need for construction foremen to undertake on-the-job training of the youth. In addition there is need to increase the quality of education in Pampaida by reducing class sizes and increasing the number of trained school teachers.

**3. Community Participatory Planning (12 to 18months)**

There is need for participatory community planning before project inception and during the review of MVP. This helps in carrying along the entire community in planning, implementation and evaluation. The wrong conception of the aims of the project emanated because the mode of entering the communities was faulty. Some members expected that all their roads will be tarred and transformed into “a mini London”.

Training and the introduction of technologies should be based on community needs. For instance, crops introduced in the communities should be crops where they have a comparative advantage in their production. Within this framework, farmers should be trained on production of organic fertilizer just as a community forestry programme for the villages for future fuel wood supply should be instituted. At the same time, planting of various fruit trees at the households’ level should be encouraged.

**4. Strengthening Institutional collaboration and networking (intermediate – 6 to 12 months)**

Development agencies and local institutions should be encouraged to work closer together for the common good. The MVP management should continue to explore avenues of networking and capacity building. Collaboration with agencies such as Sasakawa Global 2000, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and other UN agencies should be explored and utilised.

**5. Targeting the Vulnerable Groups (immediate - 3 months)**

The project should make ample provision for addressing the needs of vulnerable and less powerful groups such as the youth, women, PLWHA, the elderly and the very poor. This can be done through setting-up community outreach programmes and schemes that assistance with the provision of drugs, housing, feeding and adult literacy/functional education, etc.

**6. Broadening the base to facility all beneficiaries (12 to 18 months)**

The State government should be encouraged to extend the electricity grid to the settlements that lie in the interior of the locality. There appears to be a shortage of transport for MVP field staff. Currently seven agricultural staff share a single motorcycle and only one vehicle is available for all of the field staff. This appears to be having an impact on the timely delivery and monitoring of project inputs. The MVP management needs to address this through relocating more of the field staff into offices within the Pampaida locality.

**4.2 Detailed Recommendations – Ikaram-Ibaram**

Interventions and investments in Ikaram-Ibaram in the social sectors of education, health, and safe drinking water have shown significant progress and impact. When the MVP database manager completes the updating of the MDG indicators against the 2006 baseline survey findings the full extent of progress will be able to be determined. However, the mission’s overall assessment is that across the range of health, education and water MDG indicators the project is likely to be ahead of the country trends and will therefore achieve and more than likely exceed the targets on many of the indicators. To ensure that progress is maintained and weak areas of intervention are enhanced the following actions are recommended:

1. **Opening up access roads for livelihood improvement: (Immediate – within 3 months)**

Ikaram Ibaram MVP has been successful in rehabilitating and developing the social sector infrastructure, *e.g.* six primary schools, boreholes in all primary schools, free medical facilities including drugs and rehabilitation of health centres. However, there is a need to open up access roads to the farms in the interior of settlements where there is a strong demand for agriculture as the main source of livelihood. Since farm land is small in size and fragmented, communities need to identify communal land which can be cleared for improved agriculture and other natural resource based developments of their choice.

1. **Strengthening existing institutions: (12 to18 months)**

There existed before the entry of the MVP into these localities formal and non-formal institutions. For instance PTAs for schools, “esusu” for non-formal credit and community defined power structures - Kabeiyesi/traditional rulers. These need to be strengthened instead of setting-up parallel ones. In additions efforts should be intensified to sensitise and encourage the participation of under-represented and less powerful groups in community decision-making and in the creation of economic and social organisations of their own choosing for livelihood improvement and social protection.

1. **Focus on activities in areas of need prioritised by the communities (6 to 12 months)**

There is need to focus on areas of need prioritised by the community and vulnerable and less powerful groups. Instead of training women in tie-and-dye for micro-credit, the credit can be extended in areas of interest to the beneficiaries. Less than 5% of the micro-credit recipients utilised the credit for tie-and-dye. They put the loan money into trading in order to repay the loans. A practical approach would be to link small solidarity groups to SACCOS, NGO and micro-finance providers either in the project locality or in the adjoining area.

1. **Reaching vulnerable groups the elderly, youth, PLWHAs, orphans, etc. - Start within 3 months**

MVP should target vulnerable and less powerful groups and provide assistance to them. The assistance can be in areas of adult education, group-based home feeding scheme for underweight children and orphans, health, livelihood and social protection for older persons and a range of support for PLWHAs.

**4.3 Detailed Recommendations for the Livelihood Sector for Pampaida and Ikaram-Ibaram**

These have been divided into three groups based on timeliness. Because many issues are common or have similarities between the two project localities they have been grouped together for ease of presentation.

**Immediate (3 months)**

* MDG objective 1 is to tackle hunger therefore more attention should be focused on the production of staple food crops (*e.g.* sorghum and millet in Pampaida and cassava and yam in Ikaram-Ibaram). In Pampaida more focus needs to be given to high valued crops *e.g.* tomatoes and onions, that could be undertaken as group farming activities for income generation during the dry season. Continued support is required for leguminous crops from IITA and Sassagawa 2000, as well as the provision of appropriate tree crop seedlings for households in the both MVP clusters.
* Farm input delivery at both MVP clusters should be improved so that they are both timely, of an acceptable standard and quality, and sufficient to cover the demand. Both MVPs need to devise more robust arrangements for the establishment of production orientated savings and credit facilities so as to make the provision of fertilizer and improved viable seeds sustainable before the completion of the project life. Inputs should be tailored to meet the exact farm size to avoid wastage and selling off of inputs by farmers or the return of inputs to suppliers by the MVP management.
* As much as the MVP doe not seek to encourage a dependency syndrome in agricultural inputs provision to the farmers, they need to develop a more subtle demand driven approach, whereby the inputs provided will be sustainable and do not provide shocks to the farming community.
* Land preparation is becoming a major problem, particularly in Ikaram-Ibaram. The MVP should therefore explore ways of procuring low cost technologies as a means of reducing the drudgery in farming and improving farm size. For instance, possibilities such as the provision of power tillers with accessories for group farming allocation should be explored. This may help to draw the youth back to the land.

**Short term (6 months)**

* MVP villagers should be allowed the choice of selecting their own income generation or off-farm business activity (alternative livelihood). They should be supported by the MVP in training as a livelihood choice group, and linked to an appropriate financial services provider (*e.g*. esusu group, SACCO, NGO, government or other MFI institution) for the provision of credit. Introduce new alternative livelihoods to households.
* Women groups should be encouraged and trained on growing leafy vegetable crops and provided with at least four types of seeds. They should be taught the process of producing organic fertilizer for use in their home gardens.

**Medium term (12 to 18 months)**

* The MVP should place more effort into providing access roads and culverts where required to all the settlements (Pampaida) and feeder roads or farms roads to community farms (Ikaram-Ibaram). This will open up the productive areas in the each t locality for agricultural and other natural resource-based developments.
* The MVP should advocate for all 28 Pampaida settlements and Ase village in Ikaram-Ibaram to be connected to the electricity grid.
* There is need for great efforts to be made on encouraging and expanding community forestry programmes in both MVP clusters, so as to develop areas for firewood and other timber and non-timber products. Utilization of indigenous trees and fruit bearing trees should be the main focus of such a programme.
* Build the economic literacy and associational capacity of farmers through improved market information, improved storage facilities, exchange visits, capacity training to enhance and strengthen negotiation and contracting skills, and systems of linking-up of farmer groups so as to enable access to large markets and or contract farming.
1. ***UNDP project ID: 00043328*** [Phase I: 1 February 2006 to 31 January 2008 and Phase II: 1 February 2008 to 31 January 20011] [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For details on the role and involvement of both ***Millennium Promise*** and ***The Earth Institute***. Visit: [www.millenniumvillages.org](http://www.millenniumvillages.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The Millennium Villages |Project: An Overview, The Earth Institute, Millennium Promise & UNDP, February 2007, p1. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The consultancy team indicated to UNDP that they welcomed the participation of both The Earth Institute and Millennium Promise in the assessment mission. However due to time limitations and other engagements representatives of The Earth Institute and Millennium Promise were unable to participate in the assessment. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. **AMVI Millennium Villages:** Bonsaaso, Amansi west district, Ghana; Detru, Garissa district, Kenya; Mwandama, Zombe district, Malawi; Tiby, Segou region, Mali; Pampaida, Kaduna state, and Ikaram-Ibaram, Ondo state, Nigeria; Potou, Louga region, Senegal; Mbola, Uyui district, Tanzania; and Ruhiira, Isingiro district, Uganda [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. **Earth Institute Millennium Villages:** Koraro, Ethiopia; Sauri, Kenya; and Mayange, Rwanda. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. ***UNDP project ID: 00043328*** [Phase I: 1 February 2006 to 31 January 2008 and Phase II: 1 February 2008 to 31 January 20011] [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. For details on the role and involvement of both ***Millennium Promise*** and ***The Earth Institute***. Visit: [www.millenniumvillages.org](http://www.millenniumvillages.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Asiabaka, C.C. et al 2008. *Beneficiary Impact Assessment of Parasitic Weed Pilot Sites in Cereal Legume systems: Northern Guinea Savannah*, Nigeria, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, SP-IPM. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. The Millennium Villages |Project: An Overview, The Earth Institute, Millennium Promise & UNDP, February 2007, p1. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. *Report on the proposed expansion of the Pampaida Millennium Villages*, UNDP, October 2008 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. FAO (2006). *Workshop on Good Practices for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Developme*nt, Rome: May 17, 2006 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. This intervention involves supporting 3 LGAs per state and the FCT. The intervention is focussed on: education, health, water and sanitation, and gender and children in 2 communities per LGA a total of 6 communities per state. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. This intervention is focused on reducing child mortality and improving maternal health [↑](#footnote-ref-14)