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# HALFWAY TO 2015-2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: HOW HAS THE JOURNEY FARED SO FAR IN NIGERIA?

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**Abstract** **https://doi.org/10.65760/sjgs.v4.i2.1**

*The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the United Nations in 2015, provide a global framework for promoting inclusive economic growth, social equity, and environmental sustainability by 2030. As the implementation period reaches its midpoint, concerns have intensified regarding the likelihood of achieving the SDG targets, particularly in developing countries such as Nigeria. This study assesses progress toward the SDGs between 2015 and 2025, with emphasis on Africa and Nigeria, and evaluates Nigeria's prospects for attaining the 2030 targets. A qualitative review methodology was employed, relying exclusively on secondary data from peer-reviewed journal articles, policy documents, and reports published by the United Nations, World Bank, African Development Bank, National Bureau of Statistics, OSSAP-SDGs, WHO, UNESCO, FAO, and other reputable institutions. The findings indicate that Nigeria has made notable progress in institutionalizing the SDGs, expanding infrastructure, improving renewable energy access, advancing digital transformation, and strengthening development partnerships, with relatively stronger performance in SDGs 7, 9, 11, and 17. However, progress remains uneven, as poverty, food insecurity, inadequate healthcare, educational deficits, gender inequality, weak institutions, insecurity, climate change, and financing constraints continue to impede achievement of several goals. The study concludes that Nigeria is unlikely to achieve all 17 SDGs by 2030 under the current trajectory but can make substantial progress through strengthened governance, increased investment in human capital and infrastructure, improved data systems, climate-resilient policies, and enhanced multi-stakeholder partnerships.*

**Keywords:** *Sustainable Development Goals, Nigeria, Agenda 2030, Midterm Assessment, Sustainability*.

## Background of the Study

In September 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, comprising 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 169 targets, and 232 indicators to address global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice. The SDGs succeeded the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and provide a universal framework for promoting inclusive economic growth, social development, and environmental sustainability in both developed and developing countries. Central to the agenda is the principle of meeting present development needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs while ensuring that no one is left behind (United Nations, 2015).

The implementation period of the SDGs spans from 2015 to 2030, making the current period the midpoint of the global development agenda. This halfway stage offers an important opportunity to

assess progress, evaluate implementation strategies, identify emerging challenges, and determine whether countries are on course to achieve the SDGs by 2030. Such assessments provide valuable evidence for policy adjustments, institutional reforms, improved resource allocation, and strategic interventions needed to accelerate implementation during the remaining years of the agenda.

Since the adoption of the SDGs, governments, international organizations, development partners, civil society organizations, and the private sector have invested substantial financial, technical, and institutional resources toward their implementation. Globally, notable progress has been achieved in areas such as access to education, healthcare, renewable energy, digital innovation, and environmental awareness. However, progress has remained uneven and slower than anticipated. According to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Report (2023), only a small proportion of SDG targets are currently on track, while many have stagnated or regressed due to the combined effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, economic recessions, geopolitical conflicts, climate change, inflationary pressures, and widening inequalities.

The implementation challenges are more pronounced in developing countries, particularly Nigeria, where rapid population growth, widespread poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, infrastructural deficits, weak institutions, environmental degradation, insecurity, and governance challenges continue to constrain sustainable development. Although Nigeria has integrated the SDGs into successive national development plans and sectoral policies, progress across several goals remains mixed. Persistent poverty, inadequate healthcare services, poor educational outcomes, gender disparities, limited access to safe water and sanitation, inadequate urban infrastructure, and increasing vulnerability to climate change continue to undermine the attainment of sustainable development objectives.

These realities have raised concerns regarding the effectiveness of SDG implementation nearly a decade after the goals were adopted. Despite numerous government and donor-supported interventions, significant gaps remain between policy intentions and actual outcomes. Inadequate financing, weak institutional frameworks, ineffective monitoring systems, policy inconsistencies, corruption, insecurity, and limited stakeholder coordination continue to hinder implementation. Consequently, important questions remain regarding the extent of progress achieved, the effectiveness of existing implementation strategies, and the prospects of attaining the SDGs within the remaining years of the 2030 Agenda.

Furthermore, while numerous international and national reports have evaluated individual SDGs or specific development sectors, relatively few studies provide a comprehensive assessment of overall progress at the midpoint of implementation, particularly from the perspectives of Africa and Nigeria. This creates a knowledge gap because policymakers require integrated evidence to identify achievements, implementation bottlenecks, and priority areas requiring urgent intervention. Without such comprehensive assessments, policy decisions may not adequately respond to the interconnected nature of sustainable development challenges.

Against this backdrop, this study examines the progress made toward achieving the SDGs since their adoption in 2015, evaluates the major successes and implementation challenges, and assesses Nigeria's prospects for attaining the goals by 2030. The study aims to contribute to the growing body of knowledge on sustainable development while providing evidence-based recommendations for accelerating implementation during the remaining years of the 2030 Agenda.



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## Methodology

This study adopted a qualitative review research design based entirely on secondary data. Relevant information was obtained from peer-reviewed journal articles, policy documents, government publications, technical reports, and statistical databases on SDG implementation in Africa and Nigeria published between 2015 and 2026. Major sources included publications from the United Nations, World Bank, African Development Bank (AfDB), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), World Health Organization (WHO), UNESCO, FAO, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), and the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs (OSSAP-SDGs).

Relevant literature was identified through academic databases such as Google Scholar, Scopus, and institutional repositories using keywords related to SDG progress, implementation challenges, and sustainable development in Africa and Nigeria. The selected documents were analyzed using content analysis and thematic synthesis to identify recurring patterns, achievements, implementation constraints, and policy implications. In addition, descriptive statistics and documented indicators from official reports were synthesized to evaluate Nigeria's performance across the SDGs at the midpoint of the 2015–2030 implementation period. This approach enabled a comprehensive assessment of the country's achievements, major implementation challenges, and prospects for attaining the SDGs by 2030.

## Literature Review

### Conceptual Overview of Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda comprises 17 goals, 169 targets, and 232 indicators aimed at addressing the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of development (United Nations, 2015). Unlike the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which focused primarily on developing countries, the SDGs are universal and apply to all nations. They emphasize inclusiveness, sustainability, equity, and the principle of "leaving no one behind."

The SDGs cover a broad spectrum of development priorities, including poverty eradication, food security, health, education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work, industry and innovation, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities, climate action, and global partnerships. As the implementation period reaches its midpoint, assessing progress is essential for identifying achievements, implementation gaps, and prospects for attaining the 2030 targets.




**Figure 1 The Sustainable Development Goals**



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## Theoretical Framework: Sustainable Development Theory

This study is anchored on Sustainable Development Theory (SDT), popularized by the World Commission on Environment and Development in *Our Common Future*, which defines sustainable development as meeting "the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (WCED, 1987). The theory advocates balancing economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection, commonly referred to as the three pillars of sustainable development.

Sustainable Development Theory argues that long-term development requires poverty reduction, equitable access to education and healthcare, environmental conservation, responsible resource utilization, good governance, and inclusive participation. These principles underpin the 2030 Agenda and recognize that development challenges are interconnected; progress in one sector often depends on improvements in others. Consequently, the theory provides an appropriate framework for assessing Nigeria's performance across the SDGs and understanding how governance, institutional effectiveness, and multi-sectoral collaboration influence sustainable development. It also underscores the importance of partnerships, reflected in SDG 17, as a key mechanism for accelerating implementation.

## Global Progress toward the SDGs

Global assessments indicate that progress toward achieving the SDGs has been slower than anticipated. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Report (2023) revealed that only about 15% of SDG targets are on track globally, while many have stagnated or regressed. Likewise, Sachs et al. (2024) reported that no country is currently on track to achieve all 17 SDGs by 2030. Persistent challenges in poverty reduction, food security, biodiversity conservation, climate action, and institutional effectiveness continue to impede progress.

The slow pace of implementation has been attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical conflicts, inflation, debt burdens, and climate-related disasters. Similarly, the OECD (2024) observed improvements in renewable energy, digital connectivity, and educational access but noted significant regional disparities, particularly in developing countries where financial constraints and weak institutional capacity remain major obstacles.

## Progress toward the SDGs in Africa

Africa occupies a central position in the global SDG agenda due to its rapid population growth, urbanization, poverty levels, and vulnerability to climate change. According to UNECA (2024), the continent has recorded progress in primary education, mobile connectivity, renewable energy investments, and women's political participation. However, achievements in poverty reduction, healthcare, food security, and environmental sustainability remain inadequate.

The Africa Sustainable Development Report (2024) prepared by the African Union Commission, AfDB, UNECA, and UNDP indicates that most African countries are unlikely to achieve many SDG targets by 2030 without substantial acceleration in implementation. Poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, weak infrastructure, conflicts, climate change, and limited financing continue to undermine progress.



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Beegle and Christiaensen (2019) observed that although poverty has declined over previous decades, rapid population growth has outpaced poverty reduction, leaving Sub-Saharan Africa with the world's largest concentration of extremely poor people. Similarly, Nhamo et al. (2021) found wide disparities in SDG performance across African countries, with stronger governance and institutional capacity associated with better outcomes. Scholes et al. (2022) further noted that climate change disproportionately affects Africa through droughts, floods, and declining agricultural productivity, thereby undermining several SDGs simultaneously.

**Empirical Studies on SDG Progress in Nigeria**

Nigeria has integrated the SDGs into national development frameworks, including the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) and the National Development Plan (2021–2025). Despite these efforts, progress remains uneven across sectors.

Regarding SDG 1 (No Poverty), the National Bureau of Statistics (2022) estimated that about 133 million Nigerians are multi-dimensionally poor. Ajakaiye and Tella (2022) attributed persistent poverty to unemployment, income inequality, inflation, and weak social protection, arguing that economic growth has not translated into inclusive development.

For SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO (2024) reported worsening food insecurity caused by insecurity, climate change, rising food prices, and declining agricultural productivity. Oyebanji and Olaniyan (2023) similarly highlighted the vulnerability of rural households, particularly in conflict-affected northern Nigeria, emphasizing the need for climate-smart agriculture and improved rural infrastructure.

Progress under SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) has been mixed. Although immunization and disease-control programmes have improved, Nigeria continues to record one of the world's highest maternal mortality rates. WHO (2024) and Uzochukwu et al. (2021) identified inadequate healthcare financing, shortages of skilled personnel, and unequal access to healthcare as major constraints.

In the education sector, UNESCO (2024) reported that Nigeria still has one of the world's largest populations of out-of-school children. Aina and Adeyemi (2022) linked this challenge to inadequate infrastructure, teacher shortages, regional disparities, and insecurity, recommending greater investment in educational facilities and technology.

Progress toward SDG 5 (Gender Equality) has also been limited. While women's participation in education and entrepreneurship has improved, UN Women (2024) reported persistent underrepresentation in political leadership. Edeh and Nwankwo (2023) attributed this to socio-cultural norms, discriminatory practices, and unequal access to opportunities.

Nigeria's rapid urbanization presents major challenges for SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). According to UN-Habitat (2022), urban growth has intensified pressure on housing, transportation, sanitation, and infrastructure. Oduwaye and Popoola (2021) documented housing deficits, informal settlements, waste management challenges, traffic congestion, and environmental pollution in Lagos, with similar conditions reported in other major Nigerian cities.

Climate change remains a significant obstacle to sustainable development. The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet, 2024) reported increasing incidences of flooding, drought, desertification, and extreme weather events. Adelekan et al. (2023) found that these hazards have



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reduced agricultural productivity, threatened livelihoods, and damaged infrastructure, while climate adaptation efforts remain insufficient.

In a nutshell, empirical evidence indicates that although Nigeria has strengthened institutional commitment to the SDGs and implemented numerous sectoral programmes, progress remains uneven across the goals. Existing studies have largely examined individual SDGs rather than providing a comprehensive assessment of overall implementation. Moreover, recent developments, including post-pandemic recovery challenges, debt pressures, insecurity, climate change, and geopolitical uncertainties, have altered the context of SDG implementation. Consequently, a comprehensive review of achievements, challenges, and prospects at the midpoint of the 2015–2030 Agenda is both timely and necessary for informing evidence-based policies and accelerating progress toward the SDGs.

**Progress Made by States in Nigeria on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, Nigerian states have played a critical role in localizing and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through policies, programmes, and institutional reforms. Although progress varies across states, significant achievements have been recorded in governance, poverty reduction, education, healthcare, infrastructure, renewable energy, environmental sustainability, and partnerships.

A major milestone has been the localization and institutionalization of the SDGs across the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory. According to the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs (OSSAP-SDGs, 2023), all states have established SDG implementation structures and incorporated SDG priorities into their development plans. For instance, Lagos integrated the goals into its Lagos State Development Plan (2022–2052), while Kaduna aligned its State Development Plan (2021–2025) with both the SDGs and the African Union Agenda 2063. These initiatives have strengthened planning, budgeting, monitoring, and reporting at the sub-national level.

State governments have also implemented programmes aimed at poverty reduction and economic empowerment. The Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) has disbursed over US$100 million to more than 20,000 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) since 2016, creating thousands of jobs (LSETF, 2024). Kaduna has expanded agricultural mechanization and youth empowerment initiatives, while Benue has strengthened agricultural value chains. Despite these interventions, the National Bureau of Statistics (2022) reported that about 63% of Nigerians remain multidimensionally poor, indicating that poverty remains a major development challenge.

In the education sector, states have invested significantly in infrastructure and human capital development. Kaduna recruited more than 25,000 teachers between 2017 and 2023 and renovated hundreds of public schools, while Borno reconstructed over 800 schools destroyed by insurgency with support from development partners (UNICEF, 2024). Lagos has expanded digital learning and classroom infrastructure. Nevertheless, UNESCO (2024) estimates that Nigeria still has approximately 18.3 million out-of-school children, the highest number globally.

Healthcare delivery has improved through investments in primary healthcare facilities and health insurance schemes. Kwara State's Health Insurance Scheme has enrolled more than 300,000 beneficiaries, while Lagos has upgraded numerous primary healthcare centres. Kaduna reports that all 255 political wards now have at least one functional primary healthcare centre. Collaboration



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between state governments, the National Primary Health Care Development Agency, and development partners has also contributed to improved immunization coverage nationwide.

Several states have expanded access to water supply and sanitation through borehole construction, rural water schemes, and rehabilitation of water treatment facilities. States such as Jigawa, Katsina, and Lagos have invested substantially in both rural and urban water infrastructure. However, UNICEF and WHO (2023) estimate that nearly 70 million Nigerians still lack access to safely managed drinking water, highlighting the need for sustained investment.

Progress has also been recorded in gender equality and women's empowerment. Ekiti introduced gender-responsive budgeting, Lagos strengthened its Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA), Kaduna increased female representation in senior government positions, and Borno implemented livelihood programmes for women affected by insurgency. Despite these efforts, women continue to occupy less than 5% of seats in the National Assembly (UN Women, 2024), reflecting persistent gender disparities.

Significant investments have been made in urban infrastructure and sustainable cities. Lagos commissioned the Blue Line Rail, West Africa's first intra-city electric rail system, expected to transport over 250,000 passengers daily when fully operational. Other states, including Kaduna, Rivers, Enugu, and the Federal Capital Territory, have expanded road networks, drainage systems, and urban renewal programmes, improving mobility and service delivery (Dankani, 2019).

Environmental sustainability has also received increased attention. Cross River continues to protect one of Nigeria's largest forest reserves through anti-deforestation policies, while Lagos is implementing its Climate Action Plan targeting net-zero emissions by 2050. Eleven Northern states such as Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Yobe and Zamfara participate in the Great Green Wall Initiative, which seeks to combat desertification and restore degraded lands (African Union Commission, 2024).

Nigeria has equally made notable progress in renewable energy. Through the Nigeria Electrification Project implemented by the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) with World Bank support, more than 5.5 million Nigerians have gained access to electricity through mini-grids and solar home systems across states including Kaduna, Niger, Kano, Sokoto, Plateau, and Cross River (REA, 2024; World Bank, 2024).

Furthermore, state governments have strengthened partnerships with organizations such as the World Bank, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, the African Development Bank, GIZ, and the European Union, improving funding, technical support, and institutional capacity for SDG implementation. Collaboration between the National Bureau of Statistics and OSSAP-SDGs has also enhanced sub-national data systems through the Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index and periodic SDG progress reports, supporting evidence-based planning and monitoring.

Finally, several states have expanded social protection programmes targeting poor and vulnerable populations. Lagos strengthened cash transfer and employment initiatives, while Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe implemented humanitarian interventions for internally displaced persons in partnership with the World Food Programme, UNHCR, and UNICEF. National social investment programmes, including school feeding and conditional cash transfers, have further promoted social inclusion among vulnerable households.



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Table 1 summarizes selected achievements across Nigerian states. Kaduna recruited over 25,000 teachers under SDG 4, Kwara enrolled more than 300,000 beneficiaries in its health insurance scheme (SDG 3), the Rural Electrification Agency connected over 5.5 million people through off-grid solar projects (SDG 7), Lagos commissioned the Blue Line Rail under SDG 11, and Cross River strengthened forest conservation under SDG 15. Overall, these achievements demonstrate that Nigerian states have made meaningful progress in implementing the SDGs. Nevertheless, sustaining these gains, reducing regional disparities, and accelerating implementation remain essential if Nigeria is to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

**Table 1 SDGs Achievement by States in Nigeria**

| SDG Area | State Example(s) | Key Achievement/Statistic | Source |
|---|---|---|---|
| SDG 4: Education | Kaduna | 25,000 teachers recruited; hundreds of schools renovated | Kaduna State Government (2023) |
| SDG 3: Health | Kwara | 300,000+ health insurance enrollees | KWHIA (2024) |
| SDG 7: Energy | Kaduna, Niger, Kano, etc. | 5.5 million people connected through off-grid solar | REA (2024); World Bank (2024) |
| SDG 11: Sustainable Cities | Lagos | Blue Line Rail operational; 250,000 daily passenger capacity (planned) | LAMATA (2024) |
| SDG 15: Environment | Cross River | Expanded forest conservation and anti-deforestation measures | AUC (2024) |

**The SDGs' Journey So Far in Nigeria**

Based on current evidence from the **U**nited Nations SDG Reports, Sustainable Development Reports (2024–2025), World Bank assessments, and Nigeria's Voluntary National Reviews**,** Nigeria is unlikely to achieve all 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 if progress continues at the current pace. However, the country can make substantial progress and may achieve selected targets under certain goals, particularly those where institutional frameworks, investments, and partnerships have yielded measurable results.

The Sustainable Development Report 2024 ranks Nigeria among the countries facing major challenges across most SDGs, with significant gaps in poverty reduction, food security, health outcomes, infrastructure provision, and environmental sustainability (Sachs et al., 2024). Similarly, the United Nations SDG Report 2024 indicates that many developing countries, including Nigeria, are off-track on a majority of SDG targets due to financing constraints, insecurity, climate change, and governance challenges.



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**SDGs Nigeria Is Unlikely to Fully Achieve by 2030**

**a)** SDG 1: No Poverty: Nigeria is unlikely to eradicate poverty by 2030. With approximately 133 million people living in multidimensional poverty (NBS, 2022) and persistent economic challenges, achieving the poverty-related targets appears difficult within the remaining years.

**b)** SDG 2: Zero Hunger: Food insecurity remains severe due to insecurity, climate change, inflation, and low agricultural productivity. The increasing number of food-insecure households suggests that the country is not on track to eliminate hunger by 2030 (FAO et al., 2024).

**c)** SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being: Although improvements have occurred in immunization and disease control, Nigeria still records one of the world's highest maternal and child mortality rates. Achieving all health-related targets by 2030 remains unlikely (WHO, 2024).

**d)** SDG 4: Quality Education: The large population of out-of-school children, especially in northern Nigeria, poses a major challenge. While educational access has improved, universal quality education by 2030 may not be achieved (UNESCO, 2024).

**e)** SDG 5: Gender Equality: Progress in women's empowerment has been recorded, but gender disparities in political representation, employment, and access to resources remain substantial, making full achievement difficult.

**f)** SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities: Regional disparities, income inequality, and unequal access to social services continue to widen development gaps across the country.

**g)** SDG 13: Climate Action: Nigeria remains highly vulnerable to climate-related disasters and lacks sufficient adaptation and mitigation capacity to fully achieve climate-related targets by 2030.

**SDGs Where Nigeria Could Achieve Significant Progress or Selected Targets**

**a)** SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation: Although universal access may not be achieved, ongoing investments in water supply, sanitation infrastructure, and the Open Defecation Free (ODF) programme suggest that substantial progress can be made.

**b)** SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy: Nigeria has made considerable advances in renewable energy, particularly solar electrification projects. While universal energy access may remain elusive, significant improvements are achievable by 2030.

**c)** SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth: Economic reforms, digital entrepreneurship, agricultural modernization, and private-sector expansion could lead to moderate progress in employment generation and economic growth.

**d)** SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Investments in transportation, telecommunications, digital technology, and industrial development are likely to yield continued progress toward infrastructure-related targets.



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**e)** SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities: States such as Lagos, Kaduna, Abuja, Ogun, and Rivers are implementing urban renewal and infrastructure programmes that could improve housing, transportation, and urban sustainability indicators.

**f)** SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: While insecurity remains a challenge, ongoing governance reforms, judicial modernization, and digitalization of public services may improve performance on selected institutional targets.

**g)** SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals: Nigeria has demonstrated strong collaboration with international organizations, development partners, civil society groups, and the private sector. This goal remains one of the areas where the country has shown the most progress and is likely to achieve several targets.

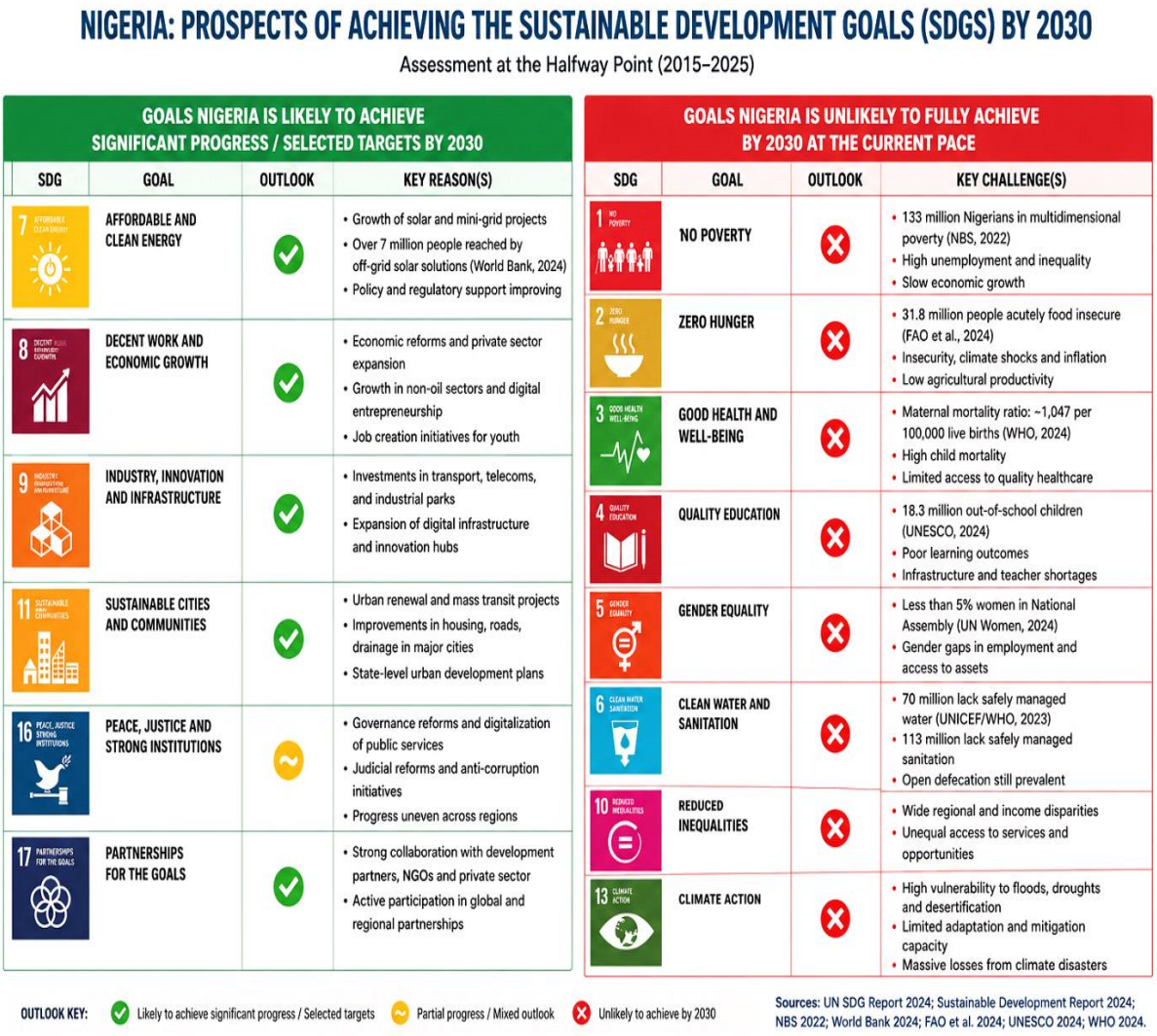


**Figure 2: Prospects of Achieving SDGs by 2030 in Nigeria**

**Source: Authors' Review**



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## Conclusion

This study assessed the progress made toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the midpoint of the 2015–2030 implementation period, with particular emphasis on Africa and Nigeria. The review reveals that while notable progress has been recorded in areas such as institutionalization of the SDGs, infrastructure development, renewable energy expansion, digital transformation, healthcare interventions, educational access, and multi-stakeholder partnerships, the overall pace of implementation remains insufficient to achieve many of the targets by 2030.

Evidence from global, African, and Nigerian assessments indicates that progress across the SDGs has been uneven. In Nigeria, gains have been recorded in SDGs relating to affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9), sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), and partnerships for development (SDG 17). However, significant challenges persist in poverty eradication (SDG 1), hunger reduction (SDG 2), quality healthcare (SDG 3), education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), reduction of inequalities (SDG 10), and climate action (SDG 13). Factors such as widespread poverty, insecurity, inadequate financing, weak institutional capacity, rapid population growth, environmental degradation, and governance deficiencies continue to undermine progress.

The findings suggest that, at the current rate of implementation, Nigeria is unlikely to achieve the majority of SDG targets by 2030. The halfway assessment of the SDGs serves not only as a measure of progress but also as a call to action. The remaining years to 2030 provide a critical window for accelerating implementation efforts. Through decisive leadership, strategic investments, institutional reforms, and inclusive partnerships, Nigeria can significantly improve its SDG performance and lay a stronger foundation for sustainable and equitable development.

## Policy Implication

**i.** Given limited resources and the approaching 2030 deadline, policymakers should prioritize interconnected sectors with strong multiplier effects, particularly poverty reduction, education, healthcare, food security, employment, and infrastructure, while adapting interventions to sub-national and regional realities.

**ii.** Governments should improve revenue generation, reduce leakages, strengthen public financial management, and fully integrate SDG targets into national and sub-national development plans, budgets, and sectoral policies to ensure that expenditures are linked to measurable development outcomes.

**iii.** Effective SDG implementation requires stronger institutions, improved inter-agency coordination, transparency, accountability, policy continuity, and investment in reliable statistical, geospatial, and digital monitoring systems for evidence-based decision-making.

**iv.** Governments should treat insecurity as a major development priority while expanding social protection programmes and addressing the underlying drivers of poverty, unemployment, conflict, displacement, and inequality, particularly among vulnerable group.

**v.** Increased investment in education, healthcare, vocational and digital skills, renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, environmental conservation, and resilient infrastructure is essential for sustainable and inclusive development.



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**vi.** Greater collaboration among government, the private sector, development partners, academia, civil society, and local communities is necessary to mobilize resources and innovation. At the same time, policymakers should begin preparing a post-2030 framework to sustain progress and address unmet development challenges.

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