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**EVALUATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TOWARDS THE  
REALIZATION OF UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOAL ELEVEN IN UYO CAPITAL CITY  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF AKWA IBOM STATE, NIGERIA**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The study evaluated government efforts towards the realization of the United Nations sustainable development goal eleven in Uyo Capital City of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. The study adopted a survey research design. The population for the study consisted of three thousand five hundred and sixteen (3516) community leaders in the five hundred and eighty six (586) communities that make up Uyo Capital City Development Authority. A purposive sampling technique was used in selecting three hundred and ninety-nine (399) respondents from one hundred and thirty three (133) communities in the area under study. The instrument used for the study was a structured questionnaire titled “Government Effort towards the Realization of the United National Sustainable Development Goal Eleven Questionnaire (GERUNSDGEQ)” the instrument was validated by three experts in measurement and evaluation. Cronbach alpha reliability test was done to ascertain the reliability of the instrument. The data collected was analyzed using mean statistics. The result shows that government effort towards providing adequate and sustainable housing include; provision of mortgage loan for citizens. Establishment of an agency to inspect building sites before buildings are erected and giving approval before buildings are constructed. The study further showed that government effort towards managing and controlling flood include; providing designated dump site, ensuring that streets/roads have gutters/drainage, establishment of waste management agency and instituting a monthly sanitation exercise. Based on the findings, the following recommendations were mad; government should make effort to

provide houses for low income earners to buy/rent, government should endeavor to have the data base of all the houses within the Uyo Capital City, finally the agency in-charge of waste management should be encouraged to carry out their duty diligently among others.

**KEYWORDS:** Sustainable development, housing, flood.

## INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development is a construct that refers to the type of development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own development needs. Simply put, sustainable development can be said to be a continuous development aimed at balancing growth and development in all areas without the forfeiture of one for the other. Thus, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were the result of the 70th regular session of the United Nations General Assembly of September 2015, in New York, where heads of states and governments adopted the SDGs as the 2030 Development Agenda (United Nations' Report, 2015). The SDGs are a fifteen years vision expressed in a framework that contains of goals, 169 targets and 232 key performance indicators, which represents a universal call to action to end poverty, safeguard the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by the year 2030 (Atiret and Mboho, 2019; United Nations Report, 2019; Pagamini, Petiteville Dyke, Sterenton, Harry and Kerblat, 2018).

Sustainable development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs (Peters, 2012). This definition makes it clear that we are dealing with a development model, the aim of which is to meet human needs. The objective is to promote the wellbeing of people regardless of whether they are from present or future generations, intra-generational and inter-generational balance is advanced which means access to resources in order to meet the needs that will be equitable and fair (Lanzo, 2015). Saad (2022) submits that during the United Nations 1992 Conference on environment and development which took place in Brazil, it was held that the achievement of sustainable development must include three dimensions; environmental, economic and social. This is reflected in the fourth principle of the Conference "environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it". Sustainable development therefore is the idea that human societies must live and meet their needs without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs. It is a way of organizing society so that it can exist in the long term. This means

taking into account both the imperations present and those of the future, such as the preservation of the environment and natural resources or social and economic equity Lombard, 2022)

To Nwachukwu (2018) sustainable development is the process for meeting human development goals while sustaining the ability of natural systems to continue to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services upon which the economy and society depend. The issue of sustainable development has become a global concern and has attracted the attention of the United Nations. While population is increasing astronomically, it is not keeping pace with available resources. The resultant effect is that human beings are depleting the resources faster than they can be replenished, the effect is that if care is not taken, the resources today would not be capable of sustaining tomorrow's generation. The goal of sustainable development is to ensure a better quality of life for the present generation and next. The United Nations in September 2015 set an agenda for sustainable development in the world by 2030, according to its statement, the agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace and target freedom. It recognizes that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. Among the 17 sustainable development is Goal number 11; making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable which has 10 targets as follows.

- By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade shims
- By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.
- By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participating, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.
- Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world cultural and natural heritage.
- By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

- By 2030, reduce the adverse per capital environmental impact of cities, including paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.
- By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.
- Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening natural and regional development planning.
- By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster risk management at all levels.
- Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials.

From the above, it can be observed that SDG11 specifically focuses on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable through sustainable housing and flood management. With increasing urbanization around the world, cities have become central centres for economic growth, cultural exchange and social development. However, rapid urbanization has also created significant challenges such as; growing inequalities, inadequate infrastructure and environmental degradation. Cities are crucial sites for sustainable development. More than half of the global population lives in urban areas and the urban component of the world's population is expected to reach 68% by 2050, cities consume over 60% of global energy and generate 70% of waste and carbon emissions. Rapid urbanization provokes extra pressure on air quality, fresh water supply, waste management, the living environment and public health. Many cities already experience a shortage of basic services, infrastructure, adequate housing and flood crisis.

Housing has been accepted globally as the second most important essential human need after food. Thus, house ownership is one of the most cherished cultural acquisition. Housing provides the physical environment in which the resources of man are integrated, enriched and released. Nathembi – Mahanyele (2012) believe that it is in the developing nations of the world, that the fundamental; challenge of housing provision for the future lives. In agreeing with this, Ademiluyi (2010) said that the situation even becomes more severe and worrisome when one recognizes the fact that despite a number of political, social and religious initiatives taken in the past in some of these developing countries, a large proportion of their population

still live in substandard and inadequate housing and deplorable and unhygienic residential environments. This position speaks of Nigeria today, where housing delivery by the government began before 1960 independence and despite numerous government involvements and considerable investments in housing provision, for the low income group in Nigeria. Shuaibu (2017) who posited that the problems associated with the attainment of affordable housing in Nigeria include compromises during implementation, lack of political sensitivity, corruption, amongst others. Any compromise made during implementation that sought to alter primary policy goals are generally detrimental to the successful execution of any housing policy. Though policy implementation is a tedious process that requires a great deal of analysis before it starts, the reality of basic housing can only be by proper implementation policies. Furthermore, lack of adequate data relating to the magnitude of the problem, which is as a result of the absence of a national data bank for housing; inconsistency includes regular changes of policies with changed of government without proper assessment of the existing ones; lack of efficient and sustainable credit delivery to the housing sector; incomes level of those needing houses, this is relatively low in comparison with house market prices, resulting in an affordability problem; high cost of building materials; the rapid annual growth rate of the Nigerian population which is estimated at 3.3% on the basis of annual birth rate of 49.3 per 1,000 (Ayo, Kabir, Sibongangani, Sijekula and Brink, 2019).

Generally, flood is seen as a disaster in which water level rises beyond its average and flow into areas that are normally dry, Douben (2016) view flood as a temporary condition of surface water (river, lake and the likes), wherein the level of water its discharges get beyond a particular value and overflow or spread across its usual confines. In other words, it is the overflow of water into an area or land that is normally dry. Observably, flood can be seen as a natural disaster in which there is an increase in the amount of water a lake, creek, river or ground can carry. Daniel and Udo (2019) view flood as an excess flow or eruption of a large body of water over an area not usually submerge. This usually occurs when water escaped from a natural water body to the river, lake or creek or when water is let out from a reservoir, dam or a canal. Flood according to Aderogba (2012) can be coastal, fluvial or pluvial. Coastal floods often occur within the coastal areas and are often necessitated by strong wind or storm that move towards a coast during high tide – also known as storm surge. Normally, storm surge occurs when high wind from a windstorm forces water on dry land. Observably, hurricanes, tsunami as well as high tide are seen as significant contributors or major sources of coastal floods to residents of coastal towns (communities). On the other hand, fluvial flood

occurs when there is excessive increase in the capacity of water body (river) occasioned by rains or heavy snow melt as ice jam. Similarly, pluvial flood takes place as a result of intense rainfall in areas wherein there is inadequate drainage systems. However, in Nigeria, there is indication of frequent flood occurrences over the years with a negative impact on communities as well as the overall nature; economy. These persistent incidences of flood are attributed to rapid population growth. Urbanization, poor urban planning and climate change especially increased frequency and intensity of rainfall. Mfon, Oguike, Eteng and Etim, (2022), similarly, claim failure, over flowing of major rivers, coastal storms, ignorance of warning from Nigeria metrological agency, delay in evaluation of flood victims and settlement of people at flood prone areas such as riverine areas and sea coast, climate change, extraordinary heavy rains and continued release of excess water from artificial reservoirs, poor maintenance of drainage channels coupled with indiscriminate waste disposal accounts for flooding in Nigeria (Mfon, Oguike, Ekeng and Etim, 2022). Studies in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State reveal that flood occurs due to the conversion of some flood channels as refuse dump, construction of roads without drainage channels, building and other cool constructions on flood channels as well as rainfall (Evans, Dominic and Utting, 2017).

Although several factor account for flooding in Nigeria and affect most parts of the country yearly, certain areas frequently report incidences of flood with devastating effects on lives and properties; there are often referred to as flood prone communities as well as status. Corroborating this views, Peduzzi, Dao, Herold and Minton (2019) status that at present, the world witness high incidences of flood and up to 70 million persons are vulnerable to flooding each year, also, more than 800 million people, reside in flood prone areas. In Nigeria, inhabitants of riverine or coastal communities are the worst or most vulnerable to incidence of flood, especially floods associated with storm surge and ocean surge. Njoku (2020) affirms that communities residing the riverine areas are more prone to flood risk in comparison with other inhabitants outside the coastal areas ratably rates and rating indexes are used in ascertaining flood prone areas. Njoku (2020) views an areas with elevation ot up to 100m as high risk areas while elevation above 100, I seen as low risk area. In addition, slopes more than 10 percent are less vulnerable to flood than slope with less than 10 percent. However, riverine communities span across the coastal region of the Niger Delta States particularly in Rivers, Bayelsa, Akwa Ibom, Edo, Cross River, Ondo and Delta States as well as Lagos State and the livelihood of majority of the inhabitants found in communities in these states are fishing and farming. Moreso, communities in Benue, Adamawa, Anambra and Kogi

States etc were among the states devastated by flood and also witnessed incidences of floods continually. These communities encounter a lot of losses as a result of the devastation resulting from flood.

### **Statement of the problem**

The importance of adequate and proper housing and flood management in cities cannot be overemphasized, this is because housing and flood management are essential to human safety which ultimately leads to human as well as environmental sustainability. Overtime, the issue of housing and flood has been a major concern facing the Nigerian society. For instance, Nigeria between the periods of 1985 to 2014 has lost properties worth more than 17 billion dollars, 1160 deaths as well as 11 million lives affected as a result of flooding (Mfon, Oguike, Eteng and Etim, 2022). Similarly, between the period of June and October, 2022, more than 600 deaths were recorded and about 1.3 million persons were displaced from their homes due to flood, a situation seen as one of the worst disasters in the past 10 years. Although, incidences of flood in Nigeria have rendered so many homeless as well as loss of lives and properties, most especially within the rural settlements, however, sensitization effort aimed at curbing the menace of flood in the rural areas becomes of absolute importance. This is because some of the factors causing the incidence of flood or r flood within the communities is manmade (blockage of canals, inadequate drainage systems, dumping of refuse on water ways, building on water ways among others). It is therefore against this backdrop that the study intends to evaluate government effort towards the realization of the United Nations SDG11 within Uyo Capital City of Akwa Ibom State.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The main aim of this study was to evaluate government effort towards the realization of the United Nations SDG11 within Uyo Capital City of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Examine government efforts towards providing adequate and sustainable housing for citizens of Uyo Capital City.
2. Investigate government effort towards flood management and control in Uyo Capital City.

## Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study;

1. To what extent has government provided adequate and sustainable housing for citizens of Uyo Capital City.
2. To what extent has government managed and controlled flood in Uyo Capital City.

## METHODOLOGY

Survey research design was adopted for the study. Survey research design according to Ibang (2020), allows the researcher to carry out a survey of a given population for the purpose of exploring, describing or explaining certain attributes that are unique to them. The study covers the Seven Local Government Areas under the Uyo Capital City Development Authority (UCCDA), they include; Uyo, Itu, Ibiono, Uruan, Ibesikpo Asutan, Nsit Ibom and Etinan Local Government Areas. The population of the study consisted of all the three thousand five hundred and sixteen (3516) community leaders in the five hundred and eighty six (586) communities that make up the Uyo Capital City Development Authority. A purposive sampling technique was used in selecting three hundred and ninety-nine community leaders comprising of the village head, council secretary and youth leaders. Consequently, three (3) community leaders were selected from each of the one hundred and thirty three (133) villages making it a total of three hundred and ninety-nine respondents in the area under study. A structural questionnaire titled "Government Effort towards the Realization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11 Questionnaire (GERUNSDG11Q)" was used for data collection. The instrument was validated by an expert in measurement and evaluation in the Department of Educational Foundations, College of Education, Afaha Nsit, Akwa Ibom State. Thirty five copies (35) of the instrument was administered to thirty five (35) community leaders in the villages that were not selected for the study. A reliability test was done using Cronbach alpha reliability test. Hence, a reliability coefficient of 0.83 was obtained, indicating that the instrument was reliable for the study. Three hundred and ninety-nine (399) copies of the instruments were administered with the help of two (2) research assistants and all the copies administered were retrieved and used for the analysis of the research questions, the two research questions were analyzed using mean statistics. Consequently, any mean score above 2.50 was accepted while any mean score below 2.50 was rejected.

### Research Question 1

To what extent has government provided adequate and sustainable housing for citizens of Uyo Capital City?

**Table 1: Mean responses on the extent to which government have provided adequate and sustainable housing for citizens of Uyo Capital City.**

S/N	ITEMS	VHE	HE	LE	VLE	$\bar{X}$	DECISION
1.	Our Community has government estate	33	15	150	201	1.70	Disagreed
2.	Government has made provision for mortgage loan for our community members	133	106	115	45	3.10	Agreed
3.	Government has the data base of all the houses in our community	21	42	116	220	1.95	Agreed
4.	Government agency inspects every building site before buildings are erected	1.66	1.03	73	57	2.95	Agreed
5.	Our community ensure that before buildings are erected, the owner of the building must present the approval given by ministry of lands and housing	118	1.66	26	19	3.31	Agreed
6.	There is government agency responsible for assessing where houses are built in the state.	173	1.68	26	19	3.31	Agreed
7.	The agency responsible for item six above perform their duty diligently	119	106	91	83	2.68	Agreed
8.	There is government sensitization against building without the approval of ministry of lands and housing through the radio/TV/newspaper/social media and bill boards	109	.123	96	71	2.95	Agreed
	<b>Grand Mean</b>					<b>2.70</b>	<b>Agreed</b>

Table 1 above shows that communities with government estate had a mean score of 1.70, government providing mortgage loan to community members had a mean score of 3.10, government has the data base of all the houses in the village had a mean score of 1.95, government agency inspects every building site before buildings are erected had a mean score of 2.95, community ensure that before buildings are erected, the owner of the building must present the approval given by ministry of lands and housing had a mean score of 3.31, existence of a government agency responsible for assessing where houses are built in the state had a mean score of 3.24, the agency responsible for item number six perform their duty

diligently had a mean score of 2.68 and government sensitization against building without the approval of ministry of lands and housing through the radio/TV/newspaper/social media and bill boards had a mean score of 2.95. From the above, it can be seen that item number 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 had a mean score of 2.68 and above which is Above the 2.50 mark threshold, this indicates that the respondents agreed that the above government effort were done so as to ensure the realization of sustainable development goal eleven i.e the area of adequate and sustainable housing for citizens in Uyo Capital City. However, item 1 and 3 were disagreed because there was no government estate in the communities and government does not have the data base of all the houses in the various communities in the area under study.

### Research Question 2

To what extent has government managed and controlled flood in Uyo Capital City?

**Table 2: Mean responses on the extent to which government manage and control flood in Uyo Capital City.**

S/N	ITEM	VHE	HE	LE	VLE	$\bar{X}$	DECISION
9.	Government has provided designated dump site in our village	118	109	96	76	1.70	Agreed
10.	All the street/roads in our community has gutters	89	122	89	88	2.50	Agreed
11.	There is government agency responsible for waste management in the state	209	190	-	-	3.52	Agreed
12.	The agency responsible for item three above perform their duty diligently	25	43	126	-	1.71	Disagreed
13.	There is a monthly/weekly sanitation exercise in our community	206	193	-	-	3.51	Agreed
14.	There is government sensitization against indiscriminate dumping of refuse in our community in through the radio/TV/newspaper/social media and bill boards	218	181	-	-	3.54	Agreed
	<b>Grand Mean</b>					<b>2.90</b>	<b>Agreed</b>

Table 2 above shows that communities with government designated dump site had a mean score of 1.70, communities with streets/roads with gutters had a mean score of 2.50, existence of an agency responsible for waste management in the state had a mean score of 3.52, the agency responsible for item eleven perform their duty diligently had a mean score of 1.71, existence of a monthly/weekly sanitation exercise in communities had a mean score of 3.51

and government sensitization against indiscriminate dumping of refuse in our community in the through the radio/TV/newspaper/social media and bill boards had a mean score of 3.54. From the above, it can be seen that item number 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14 had a mean score of 2.50 and above which is equal to the 2.50 mark threshold, this indicates that the respondents agreed that the above government effort were done so as to ensure the realization of sustainable development Goal II i.e the area of managing and controlling flood in Uyo Capital City. However, item number 12 was disagreed because the agency responsible for waste management did not perform their duty diligently.

## **DISCUSSION**

From the findings of the study, it was discovered that government effort towards providing adequate and sustainable housing include; provision of mortgage loan for citizens, establishment of an agency to inspect building sites before buildings are erected, giving approval before buildings are constructed, establishment of an agency for assessing where houses are built in the state, ensuring that the agency perform their duty diligently and public sensitization against building without the approval of ministry of lands and housing through the radio/TV/newspaper/social media and bill boards. This is contrary to Shuaibu (2007) who state that government did little or nothing towards providing adequate and sustainable housing for citizens of Uyo Capital City.

It was also discovered in the findings that government effort towards managing and controlling flood include; providing designated dump site, ensuring that street/roads have gutters, establishment of waste management in the state, instituting a monthly/weekly sanitation and public sensitization against indiscriminate duping of refuse in communities through the radio/TV/newspaper/social media and bill boards. This is contrary to Daniel and Udo (2019) who submitted that government did not do enough towards managing and controlling flood in Uyo Capital City.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the result of the study, it was concluded that government effort towards providing adequate and sustainable housing include; provision of mortgage loan for citizens, establishment of an agency to inspect building sites before buildings are erected, giving approval before buildings are constructed, establishment of an agency for assessing where houses are built in the state, ensuring that the agency perform their duty diligently and public

Sensitization against building without the approval of ministry of land and housing through the radio/TV/newspaper/social media and bill boards.

It was also concluded that government effort towards managing and controlling flood include; providing designated dump site, ensuring that street/roads have gutters establishment of waste management in the state, instituting a monthly sanitation and publication sensitization against indiscriminate dumping of refuse in the communities through the radio/TV/newspaper/social media and bill boards.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Based on the findings, the following recommendation were made;

- i. Government should make effort to provide government owned houses for low income earners to buy/rent
- ii. Government should endeavor to have the data base of all the houses within Uyo Capital City.
- iii. The agency in charge of waste management should be encouraged to carry out their duty diligently.

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