

PRIPODE (NG1)

RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION, POVERTY AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT: THE CASE OF LAGOS, NIGERIA

Prof P. A. Okuneye	Team Leader; Agricultural/Environmental Economist
Dr. K. Adebayo	Team Member; Rural sociologist
Mrs. B. T. Opeolu	Team Member; Environmental Scientist
Dr. F. Baddru	Demographer/Sociologist

**University of Agriculture,
PMB 2240, Abeokuta,
Nigeria**

E-mail: b_okuneye@yahoo.com

Submitted to:

PRIPODE/CICRED SUMMARY REPORT

OCTOBER 2006

- Part I: *summary* description of the research operations conducted from the start of the project: meetings, fieldwork operations, data collection and processing, etc. (no more than 7 pages)

SUMMARY

The study examined the causes and impact of rural urban migration to Lagos, Nigeria and attempted to draw the implications of these on the socio-economic, environmental and the well-being of the people in both Lagos and the places of origin of the migrants. The project conception was further strengthened after the commissioning by CICRED/PRIPODE to finetune the methodology adopted by inviting other experts to critique the existing format. Extensive review of literature was done from available documents at the national and international Institutions and organisations. Stakeholders' meeting was held to harvest some basic data and complement survey data. Six enumerators were chosen among the top postgraduate students in UNAAB for the primary data collection at an agreed price. They were trained twice for both the administration of the research instruments used for Lagos and the places of origin of the migrants. Meetings were also held after the pre-test of each category of questionnaires to finalise them. The data collection was in two phases. The first was that of Lagos and the second, the places of origin of the migrants to Lagos.

The project focussed on Lagos – the commercial nerve centre of the country with an estimated population of about 12 million. About 15 of the 20 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the State make up Lagos metropolis. These 15 LGAs were purposively categorised based on population density and income profile of the residents and six (6) of these were randomly selected within their categories. The interview guide was administered to randomly selected 360 respondents from the six LGAs

representing relatively high-income and low population density (i.e. Eti-Osa and Ikoyi LGAs), relatively middle-income and of medium population density (i.e. Kosofe and Surulere LGAs) and relatively low-income and high population density (i.e. Ajeromi/Ifelodun and Agege LGAs) sectors of the city. Furthermore, the Chairmen of the 6 selected LGAs and Permanent Secretaries/Directors of relevant State Ministries and Departments were interviewed on the plans and activities of their organisations regarding the migrants and the needs of the increasing population. One hundred and eighty (180) respondents were covered from the three most prominent States of origin of the migrants. Samples of water and street foods were collected for analysis in both Lagos and migrants' places of origin to determine any impact of environmental pollution on them.

This study established that over 80% of the migrants in Lagos, Nigeria came from 11 States of the Federation. Of these, migrants from Ogun, Oyo and Osun States in southwest Nigeria dominate. The first reason that readily comes to mind is proximity to Lagos. This factor, proximity, did not have a fair mention in the literature as a reason for peoples' decision to migrate. Furthermore, about two-thirds of the migrants to Lagos stopped over in several locations especially Ilorin (Kwara State); Ibadan (Oyo State), Benin (Edo State) and Sagamu (Ogun State) before finally moving on to Lagos.

Migration to Lagos was firstly to seek better employment and then to enjoy social amenities not present in the places of origin of the migrants. It was discovered that migrants found it easier to get employment than to get accommodation. Most migrants reside in relatively environmentally poor areas and lived under poorer conditions than the residents in other areas. The Geographical Information System (GIS) carried out revealed

that there had been a drastic expansion of developed areas in Lagos leading to a rapid loss of biodiversity and other forms of environmental degradation.

This uncoordinated growth has consequently resulted into: a mosaic of shanties/ blighted areas in many older areas of the city; a mosaic of disjointed, badly serviced areas in terms of urban infrastructures such as roads, health centers, police stations, electricity, water, drainage systems, waste management, etc. Lagos parades the highest number of uncompleted buildings among major cities in the world today. Of greater importance is the high rate of the urban sprawl, the massive cases of property encroachment and unplanned changes to other land use types in the City. Infrastructural development in Lagos was not at a rate commensurate with or near to that of the influx of population and hence heaps of wastes were found in many localities far more than in the 1990s. This massive sprawl was consequently becoming difficult to understand given its incremental occurrence. Whereas for low income areas of Agege LGA, the % of developed parts increased from 12.5 in 1962 to 100% in 2000 as against 3.4% increasing to 32.2% in high income Eti-Osa LGA for the same periods with concomitant population density. It was also found that the street foods and water consumed in low income LGAs were more contaminated than those of high income LGAs. The quality of these foods and water were similar to those in places of origin of the migrants. The average income of the migrants was higher than those of their contemporaries in their places of origin.

Even though the State and the Local Governments had good plans for the development of these areas, implementation methodologies and finance were deficient. Land use changes and infrastructural

development need to be planned and taken much more seriously for environmental sustainability and improvement in well-being to be achieved in Lagos and other Nigerian cities. Given the fact that migrants transited in some towns, if the attractions that make people move to Lagos are available in the transiting towns, the problems arising from migration to Lagos would be greatly reduced. This observation enabled a migration map which can be used to stem migration to Lagos if employment opportunities and other socio-economic attractions can be provided in transit towns/cities and in deed in places of origin.

- Part II: presentation of the team with description of their respective responsibilities with addresses and email of all team members (no more than 2 pages)

1. Prof Peter Adebola Okuneye, an Agricultural/Environmental Economist is the team leader. He is the foundation Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria. His area of interest is environmental management policies, development and sustainable issues. He had done a lot of work on the effects of rural urban migration on agriculture and farm income. He is a Consultant to, among other organisations, the World Bank on employment and agricultural Policies, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) where he led the Nigerian team that conducted the study on Integrated Assessment of Trade Liberalisation and Trade-Related Policies on the Export Crop Sector in Nigeria. He is the leader of the African Institution Network of UNEP on the study, the Effect of Desert Encroachment and Lake Recession on Agricultural Trade and the Livelihoods of African Farmers. He is also a Consultant to the UNDP on Small and Medium Enterprises development.

E-mail: b_okuneye@yahoo.com

He co-ordinated this study and organised the stakeholders' meeting and the interview with the policy makers. He was in charge of the analysis of the data and along with the consultant on Geographical Information System (GIS) obtained the relevant maps depicting the expansion of Lagos and the trend in environmental situation. He led in the report preparation and communication with CICRED.

2. Dr. Kola Adebayo is a lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria. His research interests

include assessing the behaviors of rural people, uptake and dissemination of agricultural innovations as well as rural livelihoods and management of the environment. He has successfully participated in several international and multi-disciplinary researches including the UNEP study on Integrated Assessment of Trade Liberalisation and Trade-Related Policies on the Export Crop Sector in Nigeria; the study on Cassava Utilisation funded by the Natural Resource Institute, Greenwich University, Britain

E-mail: kolawole_adebayo@hotmail.com.

He was responsible for the supervision of the postgraduate students that interviewed the migrants in Lagos and the residents of migrants' areas of origin. He participated in the analysis of the survey data particularly the graphs and maps. He wrote the social aspects of the report. He was the main assistant to the Team Leader throughout the study.

3. Mrs. B. T. Opeolu is an Environmental Scientist. She lectures in the Department of Environmental Management and Toxicology, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria. Her area of interest includes, the management of hazardous substances, environmental chemistry and Environmental Monitoring systems and techniques

E-mail: opeolubt@yahoo.com

She was in charge and supervised the collection of water and food samples and their analyses. She collected these samples in Lagos and the areas of origin of the migrants in the selected three States. She prepared the sections of the report on food and water pollution. .

4. Dr. Fatai Adesina Badru is a Lecturer in Demography/Sociology with the Department of Sociology, University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos, Nigeria. His area of interest is population dynamics and the psychological behaviour of the people to different situations. He has done a lot of work on migration, family separation and tolerance levels of the people to different circumstances. He is a Consultant to the ILO and WHO.

E-mail: badrufat@yahoo.com

He was responsible for the literature search on Lagos and the preliminary meetings with the officials of the Ministries and Local Governments. He prepared and presented the background paper at the Stakeholders' meeting and organized the participants of the Meeting held at the University of Lagos. He assisted in the report preparation on Lagos.

- Part III: *detailed* presentation of research findings: this part of the report should only briefly sum up the research proposal as initially submitted (1 or 2 pages, not more). It will cover the research methodology and the main findings of the different research operations conducted within the ambit of PRIPODE programme (clearly specify what was or was not supported by PRIPODE).