

# The Socioeconomic Impacts of Multi-Community Collaboration Approach to Urban Development, A Case of Ayobo Town CDAs in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State, Nigeria

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**Abstract:** This study assessed the Socioeconomic Impacts of Multi-Community Collaboration Approach to Urban Development in Ayobo Town CDAs, Alimosho LGA, Lagos State, Nigeria. Many reasons have been given as to what bring about Multi-Community Collaboration Approach. One of the reasons is that, it has been observed that government cannot solve the problem of our community alone despite the growing number of government efforts and strategies to develop both urban and rural areas in the country yet, communities are being confronted with socio-economic problems. The non-conducive living condition prevalent within various communities in Ayobo as a result of inadequate of social amenities, problem of erosion, pollution lack of proper planning etc. has become a cause for concern. Therefore, to solve these problems, there is a need to develop a comprehensive strategy by using a multi-community collaboration approach that will bring communities together in order to plan and solve their problems together. As suggested by (Gigler, 1999:1) Multi-Community Collaborative actions frequently emerge from the need to address the problems of the communities through joint efforts. To achieve this, the study reviewed the concept of the Multi-Community Collaboration Approach to urban development and its problems and prospects in Ayobo Town CDAs. In Ayobo urban area which is the study area, there are 3 principal communities namely, Megida, Ijan and Igbo-Ilogbo. These (3) three communities in Urban area of Ayobo had contributed immensely through Multi-Community Collaboration Approach to the development of Ayobo as urban area. Through the use of both primary and secondary data collections from relevant sources and literatures, the study revealed that financial constrain, poor membership participation-collaboration among others are the major problems of Multi-Community Collaboration Approach. The problems were properly itemized, analyzed and possible solutions were suggested through the Multi-Community Collaboration Approach concept.

**Keywords:** Collaboration, Multi Community Collaboration, Socioeconomic Impacts, and Urban Development.

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## Introduction

Presently, we live in an era of great challenges on the questions of what, where, how and who are those to improve the quality of life and standard of living of the majority of the people in an urban area. Because the government cannot solve the urban problems alone, is also require the effort of non-government organization, associations, age groups, private sectors and sometimes whole communities to collaborate with other community or communities for an effective urban development since the economic social and human potential of “doing things together” is much more extensive and profitable than the option of “doing it alone” (Gigler 1999:2).

Through history, progress and even survival have at times depended on multi-community collaboration. When environmental conditions, competition or other circumstances have made life more difficult for the people or resources scarce, great civilizations and movement have been developed by communities

uniting together for a common purpose so as to develop their areas (rural and urban).

Greatness and progress have often accompanied a unified effort through multi-community collaboration, therefore, when creativity, skills self-efficacy and motivation, accompany collaboration among communities towards urban development, possibility are extended, door are opened capacity expanded and success realized (Gardner, 1995:2).

Multi-community collaboration approach or initiative deals with organizations, associations and communities coming together in order to provide the people with better service and high quality goods.

## Statement of the Problems

Multi-Community Collaborative actions frequently emerge from the need to address the problems of the communities through joint efforts. But in adopting Multi-Community Collaboration

Approach in Ayobo being an unplanned area where there is environmental degradation, inadequate social infrastructures, there have been problems on

- (1) What are the available resources for the Multi-Community Collaboration?
- (2) What is the level of risk of Multi-Community Collaboration embarking on a project or projects? others are
- (3) Financial problem
- (4) Political problem through policy makers and development agencies
- (5) There is another problem on how to get honest, dedicated, hardworking members of community for effective multi-community collaboration participation on any community project for proper Monitoring and Management.

## Aim and Objectives

The main of the study is to assess the Problems and Prospects of Multi-Community Collaboration Approach to the development of Ayobo CDAs, Lagos State

To achieve this aim, these are the objectives:

- i. To identify the problems and prospects of MCC, Ayobo CDAs;
- ii. To reviewed the concept of MCC in connection with the problems and prospects of MCC, Ayobo CDAs;
- iii. To provide possible solutions to solve the problems and suggest means of improving MCC Approach to the development of Ayobo CDAs.

## Justification for the Study

Since we live an era of great urban challenges, the problems and prospects of Multi-Community Collaboration Approach cannot be over emphasized because there is this realization that for an urban development to be effective and sustainable, it has to be people centered, not only in the sense that the people are the beneficiaries of development (Speth 1993:1) but also, and perhaps more importantly in the sense that development is undertaken by the people for the people.

## Literature Review

### Origin of Multi-community Collaboration

Throughout history, progress and even survival, have at times depended on collaboration. When environmental conditions, competition, or other circumstances have made life more difficult or resources scarce, great civilizations and movements have been developed by people uniting together for a common purpose. Greatness and progress have often accompanied a unified effort through adversity. When creativity, skills, self-efficacy, and motivation, accompany collaboration, possibilities are extended, doors are opened, capacity expanded and success realized.

### Multi-community Collaboration in Nigeria

This is the view of Hillman (1960) who sees multi community collaboration development as a method of helping local communities to become aware of their needs, to assess their resources more realistically, to organize themselves and their

resources in such a way as to satisfy their needs and in so doing, acquire the attitude, experiences and cooperative skills for repeating this process again and again on their own initiative.

In Nigeria, the people of the rural communities cannot afford to fold their arms and wait for government to bring all the facilities to them. They also struggle on their own to live a life of ease. This is because, according to Ihimodu (1997), the people in their own little communities have their own dreams just like the elites at the centre.

According to Igboeli (1992) one of the most significant events that took place in major urban and rural areas in Nigeria has been the citizens' participation through multi community collaboration in the physical, societal and political developments of their areas and this joint participation actually started from time immemorial

According to Amos (1978) between 1968 and 1978, it was discovered that self-help groups (communities) gave priority to economic and social welfare projects.

### Multi-community Collaboration in Other Countries

Internationally, Multi-Community Collaboration Approach has contributed to the development of many countries. In the case of Israel and United States, their development was as a result of their effectiveness in Multi-Community Collaboration. They believed in coming together so as to solve community problems. Much was not put on government but the communities carried their own responsibilities and play their own roles toward the development of their countries.

In the case of communities in America many projects were executed such as community school, roads construction, electricity supply, water supply etc.

### The Limitations of Multi-community Collaboration

There may be circumstances under which Multi-Community Collaboration is not the best course of action. To determine whether or not it is appropriate to initiate a collaborative venture, it is necessary for all parties to fully understand the limitations of the process:

- Multi-Community Collaboration is a notoriously time-consuming process and is not suitable for problems that require quick and deserve action.
- Power inequalities among the parties can derail the process.
- The norms of consensus and joint decision-making sometimes require that the common good take precedence over the interests of a few.
- Multi-Community Collaboration works best in small groups and often breaks down in groups that are too large.
- Multi-Community Collaboration is meaningless without the power to implement final decisions.

## Theoretical Framework

### Community Concept

The word community has over the time occupied a key position in local, national and international development and even its contribution to the development of urban areas. There is no universally accepted meaning for the word "community". From

various perspectives, its definition and delineation are determined on the plurality of (Noltridge 1972; Omuta 1986 cited in CASSAD, 1998).

Usually, a community is defined as a geographic unit i.e. it could be a group of people living in the same area such as a village a town of an urban neighborhood. A community, according to Warner (1941:5), is essentially a socially functioning whole, a body of people bound to a common social structure which functions as a specific organisms and which is distinguishable from other such organisms.

### **Collaboration Concept**

As its Latin roots “com” and “laborate” suggest, collaboration reduced to its simplest definition, means “to work together” The most robust definition and the most commonly cited seems to be found in Barbara Gray’s [1994:3] collaborating: finding common ground for multiparty problems. She describes collaboration as *“a process through which parties who see different aspects of a problem can constructively explore their differences and search for solutions that go beyond their own limited vision of what is possible.”*

### **Multi-community Collaboration Concept**

According to Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary, the word “multi” means many things or something that is more than one etc. Therefore, multi-community collaboration is referred to as an approach by which two or more communities joined together as a means of solving community problems, promoting system change and enhancing community well-being.

### **Collaboration and Community**

Civic collaboration is a process of shared decision-making in which all the parties with a stake in a problem constructively explore their differences and develop a joint strategy for action.

### **Urban Development**

There is no general agreed meaning of the word “urban” because it means different things to different discipline. Jones (1966) admits that there are countless difficulties in defining an urban and that it means different things to different people. He also preoccupied himself whether an urban is the agglomeration of streets and building whether an urban is the centre of exchange and commerce or it has a certain designate size and density.

Similarly, Adedeji (1973:23) observes area variation in the definition of urban area according to countries. According to him, developed countries (urban area) are associated with industrialization and economic development while in the developing Countries; urban areas are related to economic, social and administrative problems.

Finally, according to Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary, the word “multi” means many things or something that

is more than one etc. Therefore, multi-community collaboration is referred to as an approach by which two or more communities joined together as a means of solving community problems, promoting system change and enhancing community well-being. Axner and Berkonitz (1998:2) described multi-community collaboration as “what happens when non-profit, private and public organization and community members form a partnership whose purpose is to solve problems that impact the whole community”. Chavis (2001) summarizes the outcome of multi-community collaboration which has strengthened socio-economic and also enhanced the effort of the communities towards the sustainable development in an urban area through multi-community collaboration approach, many communities have succeeded in raising funds and implementing new local service system. They have fostered coordination at the system and the case levels. Collaboration has also enabled spin off activities and initiatives.

Bruce (1994:3) defines multi-community collaboration approach as an approach to urban development reform whereby multiple constituencies within a community work together to address the multiple needs of the entire member of the urban settlement. Multi-community collaboration approach serves as the involvement of various communities in order to put effort together to improve standard of living in their both urban and rural area.

Therefore, multi-community collaboration can be defined as a process where two or more communities work together towards urban development.

## **Methodology**

### **The Study Area**

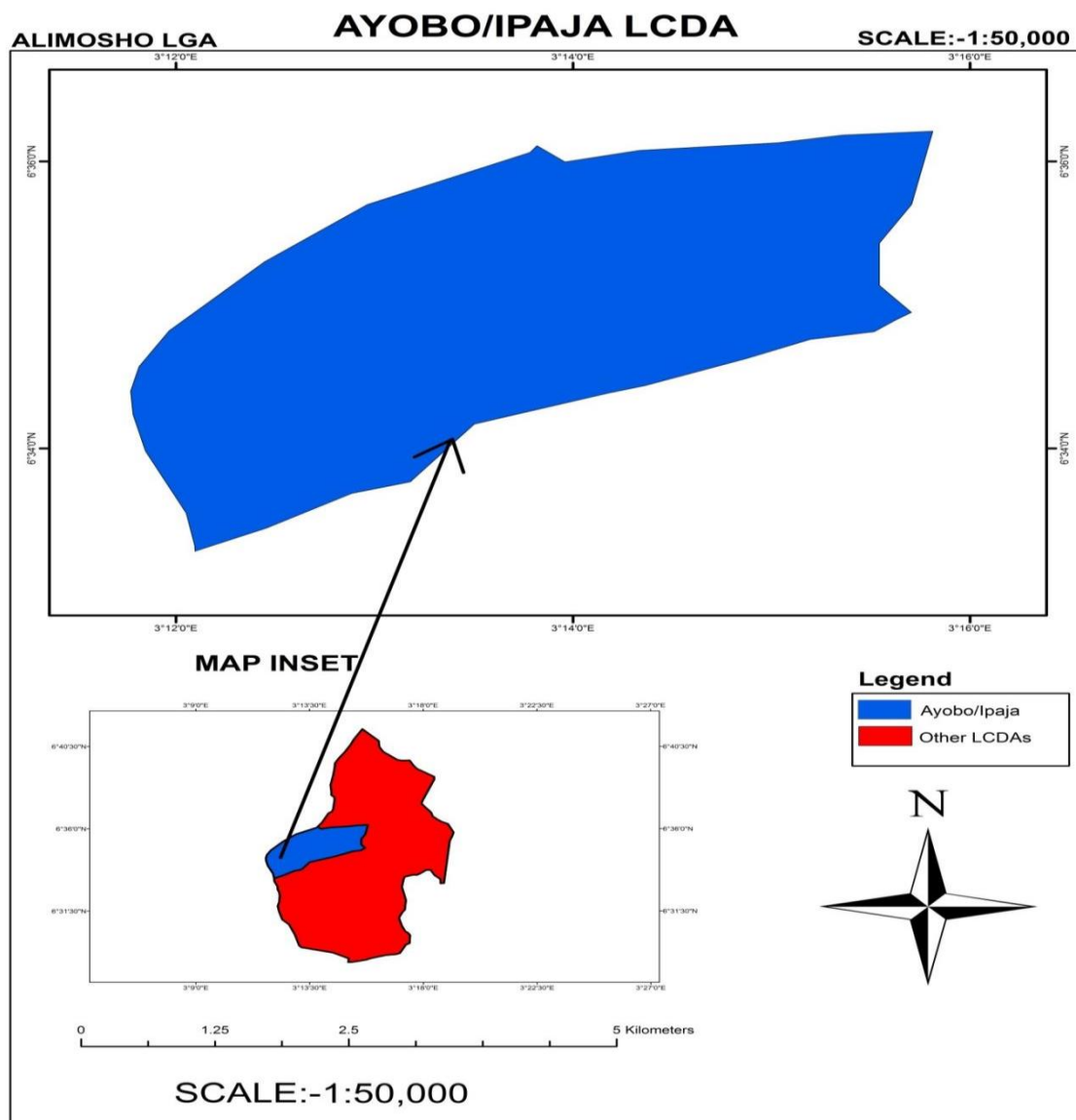
#### **Geographical Location of Ayobo Town**

Ayobo is a suburb in Alimosho local government area of Lagos State, south-western Nigeria. It is located between latitudes 6°34'00"N, 6°36'00"N and 3°12'00"E, 3°16'00"E. It is one of the administrative towns in Ayobo-Ipaja Local Council Development Area, Alimosho Local Government Area, Lagos State. It is located at an elevation of 42 meters above sea level.

It is a border town linking Lagos State with Ogun State by road and having boundary with Ipaja town. It is solely within the tropical rain forest. The total area of the town has been approximated to 265sq.km. The north- south stretch is about 16km whilst the east- west stretch covers about 20km. (Makinde, 1992:2)

The central part of the town is predominantly residential and commercial dotted by administrative offices. At almost the central of the Town there is Anchor University located along the Ayobo road. The major food and cash crops in the area are maize, cassava and vegetables.

Map 3: Map of Alimosho LGA Showing Ayobo Town by the Author, 2019



Map 1: Map of Alimosho LGA Showing Ayobo Town by the Author, 2026

## Results and Discussion

These are some basic information required for the study in order to achieve its aim and objectives. Therefore, both primary and secondary data collection methods were employed.

### Types and Sources of Data

These are some basic information required for the study in order to achieve its aim and objectives. Therefore, both primary and secondary data collection methods were employed.

### Primary Data

The primary data collection gives room to direct source of information. Under the primary data collection, (Field operation) reconnaissance survey, questionnaire was administered for effective, efficient and accurate information. Not that alone individual (personal) oral interview was also undertaken.

#### (A) Field Operation

Reconnaissance survey was undertaken to facilitate firsthand information on the study area. In view of this, the study area was visited severally. And during the course of the visits, the

spatial variation of the communities' development associations and the condition of the environment in the study area were optically examined. The Ipaja-Ayobo Local Government Council Secretariat was visited for other information concerning the study area. This led to the classification of Ayobo into communities' development associations

#### (B) Administration Of Questionnaire

The questionnaire designed for Community Development Association membership was grouped into three sections. Section A, B and C with 20 questions all together. Twenty (20) questionnaires were distributed randomly to the Community Development Associations in the study area. Section A of the questionnaire consists of the questions on personal information, section B consist of the questions on characteristics of the community Development Associations. While the section C consist of the questions on effectiveness of the multi-community collaboration.

#### (C) Oral Interview

Oral interview was another method adopted to assess the effectiveness of Multi-Community Collaboration within the

geographical area of Ayobo. This assisted in examining critically the impact of both the government and the entire community as far as Multi-Community Collaboration approach is concerned on the study area. The interviews were conducted randomly within the three principal communities in Ayobo.

### Secondary Data

The secondary data collection for the research work include information from journals, literatures, maps, charts and bulletins from the Community Development Association (CDA) office Ayobo-Ipaja Local Government Council, etc.

### Measure, Analytical Techniques

The study area consists of three widely separated Communities located at Ayobo, namely Megida, Ijan and Igbo-

Ilogbo. Each community was considered homogenous with spatial compactness (environmental area) and sub-streets on the bases of social and economic identification. Ayobo has total numbers of 83 Community Development Associations and 38 communities. The Master Plan Consultants for the major cities in the state enumerated over 4,140 residential houses in Ayobo. The sampling frame for this study is the total numbers of the CDAs in Ayobo, which is 83 as shown in Table 4.1.

### Sample Size

A sample of 20 CDAs (24.096%) were taken in order for easy administration of questionnaire that assists in generating a desire result.

Table.1 Sample Frame and Sample Size

| S/N | Community    | Sample frame<br>(No of CDAs) | Sample size<br>No |
|-----|--------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1   | Ayobo Megida | 24                           | 6                 |
| 2   | Ijan         | 24                           | 6                 |
| 3   | Igbo-Ilogbo  | 35                           | 8                 |
|     | Total        | 83                           | 20                |

Source: Field Survey by Author, April 2026

From table 1, 50% of projects executed through the multi community collaboration in Ayobo so far were grouped under construction projects such as road construction, construction of Town Halls, Vocational Centres, and Culvert etc. Projects under water supply and electricity supply had 35% and 15% respectively

such as drilling of boreholes, hand dug well, extension of electricity etc. while finally the remaining 5% belong to other projects under environmental sanitation such as bush clearing, gutter clearing, renewal of public toilets, provision of incinerators etc.

Table .2 Percentages of different Categories of Community Projects in Ayobo

| S/N | Categories of projects | No | %   |
|-----|------------------------|----|-----|
| 1   | Construction           | 10 | 50  |
| 2   | Electricity supply     | 6  | 30  |
| 3   | Water supply           | 3  | 15  |
| 4   | Others                 | 1  | 5   |
|     | Total                  | 20 | 100 |

Source: Author's Field Survey, 2026

The study observed that communities in Ayobo had been executing crucial projects since over 20years ago. The projects handled through the multi-community collaboration approach (MCC) in Ayobo were categorized into three areas – completed, on-going and future projects. The number, types and costs of such projects were also analyzed with a view to better understand the contributions to the development of Ayobo.

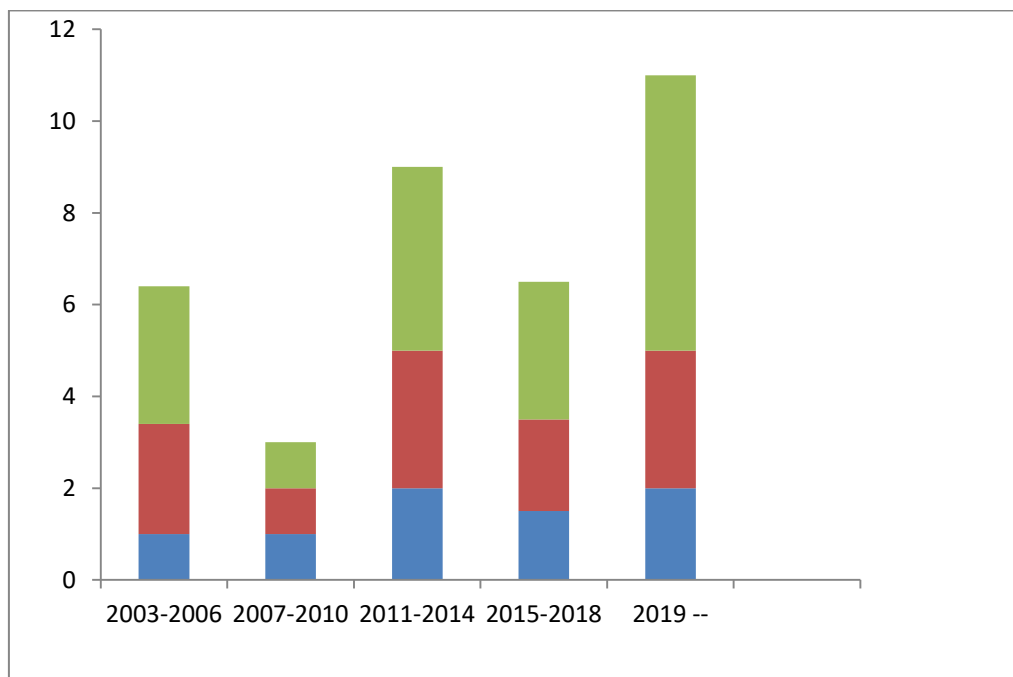
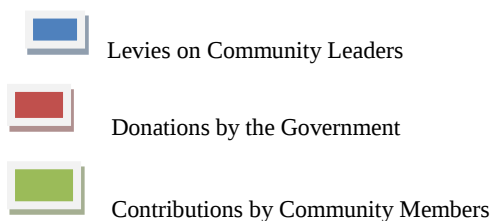
## Results and Discussion

Through the questionnaires administered in the study, it has been discovered that the MCC in Ayobo had been facing majorly with financial problem because 70% of the activities/projects executed by the Multi- Community Collaboration (MCC) in Ayobo have been funded majorly by the communities themselves. The study identified three principal sources of fund to the Multi

Community Collaboration (MCC) that is contribution by members, donations from the non-members and levies on members. Apart from financial problem, there are other problems such as lack of cooperation by some community members by not participating fully in community projects, environmental problems, governmental policy not complying with the standard of Town Planning rules and regulations.

Figure 1 below, revealed that contributions by members carried more, followed by levies on community leaders which shows that, the MCC depended on contributions by members of the various organizations, associations as sources of fund while other sources are made up of donations by wealthy individuals/indigenes of the communities and some non-governmental organizations which mean MCC responsible for activities carried out in Ayobo.

Fig.1 Sources of Fund by CDAs Through Multi-Community Collaboration (MCC) In Ayobo.

**KEY**

Source: Author's Field Survey April, 2026

## Discussion and Policy Implications

### Recommendations

The study recommended that members of the community should be given an effective and efficient orientation by educating members of the public on importance of MCC, its aim and objectives toward the development of Ayobo and not only that, through the activities of MCC there is need for total support of the entire members of the community on the programmes, projects and planning of the Multi-Community Collaboration (MCC). Furthermore, both the government and the entire community members of urban area of Ayobo must be able to make contributions financially, materially, physically and socially towards the success and effectiveness of Multi-Community Collaboration in Ayobo.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, since the purpose of the study is to assess the problems and prospects of Multi-Community Collaboration Approach to the development of Ayobo Town CDAs. Therefore, all the analyzed data in this work had proved beyond unreasonable doubt that the proper identification of problems and prospects of MCC and the review of the concept of the MCC in Ayobo Town CDAs cannot be overestimated. And that based on the recommendations given in this study, the problems of MCC to the development of urban areas can be solved so that there will be effective of Multi-Community Collaboration to the sustainable

development of urban area of Ayobo by the entire members of community in Ayobo.

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