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Developing Geospatial Information for Poverty Reduction: Lessons and Challenges from Nigeria's 2006 Census.

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Abstract
There is a misconception in what constitutes infrastructures not only in Nigeria but in most developing world. Infrastructures which were hitherto viewed as physical facilities can now be conceptualized as geo-spatial information. Since information regarding poverty is scanty in Nigeria, alleviating sufferings is thus a problem where the proportion of the poor is on the increase. Ogwumike (2001) summarized the trend and reported it as being 27% in 1980, 46% in 1986, 67% in 1997 and 70% in 1999. Similarly, recent studies of poverty in Nigeria show that poverty is widespread (Adeyeye and Nwosu, 1998, World Bank, 1996). It is also estimated that over half of the population are living in poverty (World Bank, 1996). This is in spite of the fact that Nigeria is endowed with an array of natural resources that adorn the layout of the ecological zones from the south to the northern part of the country. Similarly, exploration and exploitation of different minerals resources in the country also put the nation in the forefront of countries that is rich but whose citizens still live in poverty. This study is carried out with the aim of identifying poverty related information from year 2006 census and determines how they can be used to build geospatial information for poverty reduction. The basic question set utilized in this paper was collected from year 2006 Census questionnaire NPC Form 01 to create and determine NPC file structure which could be used to determine the pattern of poverty level in the country. The NPC file structure is then used to store and retrieve information about the pattern of poverty in the country as well as facilitate recommended solutions directly to the Local Government Areas (LGAs). Results include the facilitation of data collection through widely available, accessible, current and reliable source as provided by census with little or no additional cost. Challenges include exploiting of a single source (census) of geo-information to reduce wastage. It is therefore recommended that questions that could evoke desired response on the pattern and size of poverty levels of Nigerians be entrenched in our future censuses. Gathering information through census however is not enough but using such information to improve the standard of living of people is equally important and should be encouraged by any Government in power.

Key words: Nigeria, geo-spatial information, poverty, census, wetland, and militant groups.