

Applying the Formula for Accelerated Change to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa

$$V \times P^2 \times A \times T = C$$

“Visionary People Together in Action over Time make Change”

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1. Understanding the Formula for Accelerated Change¹

The Formula for Accelerated Change ($V \times P^2 \times A \times T = C$) translated as ‘**Visionary People together in Action over Time make Change**’ is made by four key factors: **vision**, **people**, **action** and **time**. Each factor is organic in its nature, because it grows with time when nourished with the right ingredients, such as purpose, leadership, action planning, time management, etc. These ingredients are developed to build the four key factors of change. The combination of these factors produces the desired change. Each factor has a multiplier effect on change. That is why if one is missing, the change does not happen, so the change becomes null.

The formula reveals that any change starts with a vision. A shared vision motivates and mobilises people to take collective actions. Every action needs time to be planned, implemented and produce impact. When people become committed to a shared vision and to

¹ Source: Juvénal Turatsinze, 2015 The Formula for Accelerated Change: How to Become a Visionary Leader, Achieve Success and Sustainable Development. https://www.amazon.com/Formula-Accelerated-Change-Visionary-Together/dp/1519601875/ref=pd_rhf_se_p_img_4?ie=UTF8&refRID=1P0QSSMHYFCH3249G0TD

work together, synergy is created and produces an exponential impact towards vision and so by making the change to happen quickly.

.The ingredients to develop and use to build the four factors of change (Vision, People, Action and Time) are listed the table here below:

Vision	People	Actions	Time
Purpose	Self-awareness	Independent will	Time Management
Thoughts	Conscience	Responsibility	• Past
Ideas	Character	Initiative	• Present
Knowledge	Attitude	Action planning	• Future
Imagination	Beliefs and values	Proactivity	
Positive thinking	Self-discipline	Prioritizing	
Creativity	Dignity	Organizing	
Innovation	Leadership	Speaking	
New mindset	Empowerment	Entrepreneurship	
Paradigm shift	Mentoring		
	Team building		
	Empathy		
	Dialogue		
	Synergy		
	Critical Mass		
	Movement		

2. How development aid sustains poverty in Africa

The statement of saying that ‘development aid sustains poverty in Africa’ seems dangerous and cynical but a deep analysis of the development aid strategies applied in many development programmes confirms this reality. To understand the development aid reality in Africa, some questions have to be asked. Why do the majority of people in Africa remain in poverty after many decades of development aid programmes? Is there anything wrong with development aid in Africa? Is it because Africans do not want development or do not work enough to achieve results? Do people in Africa want to change? What is really wrong?

Let us try to understand the situation of development aid in Africa by using the Formula for Accelerated Change. This formula is based on four key factors and principles of improving lives of people, namely vision, people, actions and time. Analysing development aid approaches and strategies in Africa by using the formula we find out why they have failed to uproot poverty.

In the last two decades development aid has been guided by the ‘poverty reduction strategies’ and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that so far have not produced the expected results. According to the Formula for Accelerated Change, positive change starts with a vision. Without a vision people fail (perish). So, the key question is to know what kind of vision has been fixed for development aid strategies, such as poverty reduction strategies and MDGs in Africa. What is the vision for Africa? Is it a vision with a bright future or a gloomy future? It is clear that seeing a bright future motivates people but a gloomy future discourages,

condemns people and does not call for positive actions. So, what picture of the future do we get from these development aid strategies?

Many development aid strategies in Africa are based on the concept of 'poverty reduction'. The question here is to find out why is the verb 'reduce' used instead of 'eradicate'? Why is the focus on poverty? Why is the concept of 'poverty reduction' used? Why not the concept of 'wealth creation' or 'increasing prosperity'? The two concepts paint two different pictures of the future. The first one gives a negative vision of 'sustainable poverty'; it is saying that poverty can only be reduced and people have to live with it at a certain degree forever. However, the second concept gives a positive vision, it allows people to understand that they have the potential to create wealth and become prosperous. The poverty reduction concept comes from a pessimist paradigm that sees poverty, ignorance, chaos, disease and insecurity as Africa's destiny. This thinking promotes poverty reduction programmes designed and built on the premise of 'half empty' instead of opting for 'wealth creation' programmes built on the principle of 'half full'. There is no doubt that a positive vision gives positive results and a negative vision gives negative results. Having a negative vision is worse than having no vision at all.

Another key factor of change is people. Change and development are about people. Change starts with people. Change is made by people themselves, first by changing themselves and then changing others. Once people have a common vision and are sufficiently equipped to take actions, they make the change they want. However, the analysis of development aid strategies built on the 'poverty' concept shows that priority has not been put on empowering people, but on activities and results related to production, infrastructures, institutions, etc. The impact of these activities, which are not 'people centred', cannot become sustainable without empowering people. People have to improve their knowledge, skills and attitude to maintain and expand and roll out the outcomes of development programmes. Unfortunately, in the last five decades, the development aid strategies in Africa have been built on a negative vision of poverty, and have not focused on empowerment of people as a priority.

It is now high time to change and come up with development strategies and approaches built on a positive vision that gives priority to the empowerment of people in all actions undertaken. It is imperative for a country to have a national vision that guides policies, sectoral strategies, programmes and projects. The same requirement is valid for communities, organisations, public and private institutions. The starting point of change and development is the creation of a clear and positive vision, building the capacity of people to have a shared vision and ownership of their destiny.

Considering the concepts developed from the Formula for Accelerated Change, the development strategies have to be based on a '**vision approach**'. The vision approach is where all development strategies, programmes and projects are built on a vision. A vision owned and shared by people creates synergy, motivates them to action, accelerates change and produce exponential impact.

The vision approach introduces the new design of development programme/project planning and implementation tools. Among other key tools to redesign is the 'Logical Framework',

where vision becomes the first element of the project description. As well the Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs) will have to focus more on measuring improvement in people’s lives and how they are creating wealth and becoming prosperous.

New Logical Framework with a ‘vision approach’

Project Description		Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs)	Means of Verification	Assumptions and Risks
Vision	What picture of the future do we want?	How will we know we've been successful (vision is being achieved)?	How will we check our reported results?	What assumptions underlie the structure of our project and what is the risk they will not prevail?
Purpose	Why are we doing this?	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above
Goals	What results do we expect?	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above
Outputs	What are the deliverables?	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above
Activities	What are we doing?	Inputs	Costs	
				Conditions

3. Applying ‘a vision approach’ in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In the succession of the 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the new set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – adopted at a global summit of heads of state and government in New York from September 25 to 28, 2015. This is essentially an agreed ‘Global Vision’ that will guide people of the planet on a sustainable path to a better world by 2030. It will form the bedrock of a new development agenda that spells out how people can work together to promote dignity, equality, justice, shared prosperity and well-being for all, while protecting the environment for future generations.

The success of the SDGs will require the participation of all people on the planet. People together in their respective countries, counties, districts, communities, groups, families, institutions, companies, etc. will have to own that global vision by localising and adapting the SDGs to their contexts, areas of intervention and specific needs. That is why all countries as well as institutions, communities, groups, families and individuals need to own and incorporate the SDGs targets into their respective development agendas. All development goals and targets have to be set so as to build synergies, achieve inclusive and people-centred development that promote shared prosperity that leaves no one behind. All individuals will have to play their respective roles, get actively involved and own the process of transformation and shape their lives. The priority action of any development initiative would be to empower each individual to realise their potential, participate actively and contribute to the common good. Sustainable development goals will be achieved when each person is engaged and everyone is working together to achieve common vision and build a better world.

Applying a vision approach and using the Formula for Accelerated Change in achieving SDGs consists of defining common visions that will guide the development plans,

programmes, projects and activities at global, national, local, group, organisational, family and personal level that are consistent to the SDGs. From global to the personal level, visions, policies, strategies, plans, programmes, projects and activities have to be coherent and connected to the SDGs as presented in the table below.

Level of Vision	Global visions	National visions	Local and Community visions	Organisational visions	Family and Personal visions
Entities or stakeholders	International organisations, multilateral agencies and multinational companies.	National governments, national agencies and companies.	Local authorities and agencies at region, province, county, district and community level.	Companies, NGOs, voluntary and faith organisations and groups.	Families and Individuals.
Instruments	Multinational plans and programmes, International agreements and protocols.	National policies, strategies, plans, programmes and projects.	Local development plans, programmes, projects and activities.	Business plans, strategic plans, action plans, programmes, projects and activities.	Family and Personal development plans, projects and activities.
Sustainable Development Goals					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere. 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation. 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries. 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss. 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. 					

The achievement of SDGs requires a new brand of leaders, visionary leaders at global, national and local levels and in all areas targeted by SDGs. Only leaders with a new mindset will be able to mobilise and include everybody in the process of making change in the lives of the people. Empowering people for change, building synergies among them and organising collective actions to achieve their shared visions from local to global levels is the effective way to achieve SDGs and make the world a better place for all.

REFERENCES:

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