# ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES OF TECHNICAL AID CORPS AS A FOREIGN POLICY TOOL

**BY**

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# DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this project is a product of my research effort, undertaken under the supervision of Dr. Bello Basiru Gwarzo**.** It is an original work and has not been presented anywhere for the award of any degree or certificate. All sources have been duly acknowledged through references and any error therein is not intentional and is highly regretted.

# Khalifa Salisu Auwal Date

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# CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research work “Achievement and Challenges of Technical Aid Corps as a Foreign Policy tool” by Khalifa Salisu Auwal, BU/18C/BS/3261 has been approved by the Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, Baze University, Abuja, Nigeria.

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# DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to my beloved parents in person of Alhaji Salisu Auwal, mni, and Hajiya Halima Auwal who funded my education and encouraged me during my studies.

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**Table of Contents**

[DECLARATION **i**](#_bookmark1)

[CERTIFICATION **ii**](#_bookmark2)

[DEDICATION iii](#_TOC_250003)

[ACKNOWLEDGEMENT **iv**](#_TOC_250002)

[TABLE OF CONTENT](#_bookmark3) **v-vi**

[ABSTRACT vii](#_bookmark4)

[CHAPTER ONE **i**](#_bookmark0)

[INTRODUCTION **1**](#_bookmark5)

* 1. Background to the Study 1
  2. Statement of the Problem 2

1.34Objectives of the Study 3

* 1. Research Question 3
  2. Scope of the Study 3
  3. [Significance of the Study 4](#_TOC_250001)

CHAPTER II: Literature Review

* 1. Conceptual Framework… 6
  2. Theoretical Framework… 6

CHAPTER III: Research Methodology

* 1. Introduction… 14
  2. Research Design 14
  3. Population of Study… 14
  4. Sources of Data… 14
  5. Instrument of Data Collection… 14
  6. Definition of Variables… 15
  7. Model Specification… 15
  8. Method of Data Analysis… 15

CHAPTER IV: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

* 1. Introduction… 16
  2. Presentation of Descriptive Statistics… 17
  3. Analysis of Data 17

CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION

* 1. [Summary… 28](#_TOC_250000)
  2. Findings 29
  3. Recommendations… 30

# REFERENCES:

# ABSTRACT

*. The Technical Aid Corps Scheme is conceived by the Federal Government of Nigeria as an instrument of economic diplomacy. The ultimate aim of the programme is to promote Nigerias economic interest and boost her image in the comity of nations. However, despite the huge investment, Nigeria has not leveraged on the opportunities provided by TAC as a policy instrument to harvest economic and other dividends from the recipient states. The aim of the study therefore is to assess the scheme with a view to making appropriate recommendations. Frequency Analysis was used in analyzing data for the research.*

*A total of eighty five (85) Questionnaires were administered to staff in the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Technical Aid Corps whose responses formed the basis of analysis. Although the study has highlighted a lot of prospects and opportunities for the Scheme, factors such as poor funding, lack of adequate technical skills, and poor planning among others, pose serious challenges. In order to address this, the researcher has recommended adequately funding the scheme to fully meet up with its responsibilities, among other recommendations.*

# Background to the Study

**CHAPTER ONE**

# INTRODUCTION

Aid has been considered by Nigerian leaders as an effective instrument of foreign policy. Initially, the policy was primarily focused on Nigeria’s immediate neighbours and Africa in general. By the late 1980s, Nigeria shifted emphasis in her foreign policy direction more towards technical assistance to needy nations, not just in Africa, but also in the Caribbean and Pacific regions, with the establishment of Technical Aid Corps (TAC) Scheme in 1987 (Fage, 2012). The shift was part of Nigeria’s commitment to the call for South-South Cooperation.

The Technical Aid Corps (TAC) Scheme is conceived as a special programme which provides Nigeria with the opportunity to share its know-how and expertise, based on already- assessed and perceived needs of the recipient countries. The programme involves the deployment of Nigerian graduates in the fields of Medicine, Nursing, Education, Engineering, Agriculture, Accountancy and other related fields to African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries for a period of two years under mutually agreed terms. The Scheme serves as a complement to direct financial assistance to ACP countries, as a way of fostering and deepening international understanding and enhancing continental integration. According to Jinadu (2011), the Scheme is mutually owned and there are no conditionalities attached to it, but just a case of one developing country assisting another.

The Scheme has had presence in forty-three ACP countries and over fifteen thousand Nigerians have been availed the opportunity of this international exposure and professional enhancement (Osunyikanmi, 2014). Jinadu (2011) opines that the Scheme is one of the best examples of successful South-South cooperation, which countries within the region need to build upon to foster bilateral relationship, spread knowledge and unlock their potential through skills exchange. According to Akpuru-Aja (2006), the Scheme is a brain-child of Nigeria’s economic diplomacy. Economic assistance has been the main driving policy instrument used in setting up the Scheme. Such assistance envisages greater mutually beneficial economic and trade exchanges with the ACP countries. Nigeria’s Technical Aid Corps is, therefore, an instrument of Nigeria’s economic diplomacy. By extension, it complements diplomatic linkages between Nigeria and the ACP countries as well as creates necessary conditions for mutually beneficial economic relations.

Since the Scheme started in 1987, under the Directorate of the Technical Aid Corps (DTAC) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), over 15,000 volunteers have been deployed to over 43 ACP countries. At the moment over 20 ACP countries are benefitting

what is regarded by some as the only viable and sustainable scheme of its kind operated by an African country (Osunyikanmi, 2014). Daura (2012) notes that the TAC Scheme has fostered meaningful contacts between Nigerian volunteers and citizens of recipient countries in a manner that has led not only to lasting official and interpersonal relationships but also promoted the principles and ideals of non-aligned South-South collaboration.

# Statement of the Research Problem

Clearly, foreign policy implementation of any state should be intended to promote its interest among the comity of nations and should not be a ‘Father Christmas’ like posture of gift giving. In our argument, Nigeria’s foreign policy posture through the activities of the TAC should be directed mainly to actualize and enhance its interest and preferences in a subtle manner and as a soft power instrument. Thus, it is appropriate to begin this discussion by establishing possible connection between the activities of TACs and Nigeria’s success or failure in winning elective positions at the level of the AU. Hence, the associated benefits of TAC as regards Nigeria’s position or interest in regional affairs is not clear or cannot be adequately proven despite the huge funds allocated to the scheme by the Nigerian government.

The ultimate objective of the Technical Aid Corps Scheme is to promote Nigeria’s economic interest, better the lots of her citizens, and boost her image in the comity of nations. Despite the successes recorded in TAC as a Scheme, Nigeria has not leveraged on the opportunities provided by TAC as a policy instrument to harvest economic and other dividends from the recipient States. The economic benefits that the policy envisages are hardly noticed or felt. An effective mechanism ought to have been established by Nigeria to leverage on the Scheme to derive economic and other benefits. This study assesses Nigeria’s Technical Aid Corps as an instrument of Foreign Policy with, a view to making recommendations for implementation.

# Aim and Objectives of Study

The aim of this study is to assess Nigeria’s Technical Aid Corps (TAC) as an instrument of foreign policy, with a view to making recommendations for implementation. The specific objectives are:

* + 1. to examine the extent to which the Nigeria’s TAC Scheme has served as an instrument of foreign policy;
    2. to ascertain the mechanisms emplaced by the Nigerian government to derive foreign policy benefits through the platform of TAC;
    3. to examine the achievement and challenges of the Nigeria’s TAC scheme as an instrument of foreign policy.

# Research Questions

To address the research problem, the study poses the following questions:

* + 1. To what extent is the Nigeria’s TAC Scheme an instrument of foreign policy?
    2. What mechanisms have the Nigerian government emplaced to derive foreign policy benefits through the platform of the TAC Scheme?
    3. What are the achievements and challenges of the TAC as an instrument of foreign policy?
    4. What recommendations and implementation plan can be put in place to ensure that Nigeria derives foreign policy benefits through the TAC Scheme?

# Research Assumptions

In practical terms, the Technical Aid Corps scheme operates on biennial basis. Individual volunteers are therefore expected to mandatorily serve for 24 months in their respective countries of deployment. The Technical Aid Corps operates through the concept of legal instrument referred to as TAC country agreement. The agreement represents the legal framework, which spells out the obligations and responsibilities of both Nigeria and the recipient countries. The operation of the scheme in any recipient country is largely predicated on the signing of this agreement. It is however pertinent to point out that deployment of volunteers to the recipient countries is strictly based on the assessed and perceived needs of the States more especially as one of the main goals and objectives of the scheme is to compliment the socio-economic development of the beneficiary countries. The scheme draws from the large pool of Nigeria's well-trained manpower to provide volunteers requested by these countries. Since inception in 1987, volunteers have served in countries in Africa, Caribbean and pacific States.

# Scope Limitations of the Study

The study focuses on Nigeria’s Technical Aid Corps with particular reference to the extent to which it has served as an instrument of economic diplomacy since its establishment in 1987 and the mechanism emplaced to realise this objective. It also examines the challenges and prospects of the Scheme as an instrument of economic diplomacy. The time frame of the study is 1987 - 2019.

The major limitation to this study was the researcher’s inability to visit one or two of the ACP countries to interview the officials and volunteers on the mechanism of the Scheme as an instrument of economic diplomacy. Nevertheless, the researcher had unstructured

interview with two ex-volunteers added with information from books and journals, a wide range of related literature and the extensive use of the internet sources were used to overcome the limitations.

# Significance of the Study

The findings would draw the attention of policy makers in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the need for an effective mechanism to open up more opportunities for the promotion of Nigeria’s interests through the Scheme. Findings from the study would also contribute to existing knowledge on the topic and provide material for further research for students of International Relations and other social sciences as well as other interested individuals. This is because works on the issue focus on the various perspectives of TAC as a tool of South-South coorporation. This research analysis the challenges and prospect of the scheme.

# Definition of Terms

* + 1. **Technical Aid Corps**

According to Daura (2006) The Nigeria’s Technical Aid Corps Scheme is a foreign policy tool established by the Federal Government in 1987. As a policy instrument of Nigeria’s foreign policy, the TAC programme is an alternative to direct financial aid to ACP countries. It is designed, not only to provide manpower assistance in the fields of human endeavour, but also to represent a practical demonstration enhancement of Nigeria’s image abroad and the effort to boost her influence in the comity of nations through service or contributions of her citizens to the development of other countries.

# Foreign Policy

Foreign policy (FP) is the primary method by which a country pursues its national interests in the external domain. It consists of decisions or actions taken by states to realize those interests (Mbachu, 2007 in Eze, 2009). FP, according to Frankel (1963), is a segment of public policy, concerned with how states relate with one another, international organisations as well as with changes in the global environment. Similarly, according to Satow (1962), FP refers to all the policies adopted by a state in relating with the outside world.

# Tools of Foreign Policy

Foreign Policy Tools generally accepted in international relations include Diplomacy, Defense and Intelligence, Sanctions, Foreign Aid, Trade, and Global Environmental Policy. In other worlds all nations must have the skill of managing international relations through their representatives abroad. Similarly, Foreign Aid either in cash or kind is a tool used by countries to support global peace, security provide humanitarian relief in times of crisis. The recent advocacy on climate change further underscores the essence of global environmental

policy as a foreign policy tool. The adoption of defense and intelligence by countries further provides necessary information which serves as a form of security to countries and helps in in protecting its image and territorial integrity.

CHAPTER TWO

# LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

* 1. **Introduction**

In exploring literature on technical coorporation and assistants as a tool of foreign policy, one easily comes across such works by Otuoku (2006) who assert that Aid is usually given in order to influence the behavior of the less endowed countries, and Ibrahim (2010) remarks that aid ranges from outrights cash donation to humanitarian calling.

In between, you can have technical aid which includes military assistance. In the case of Nigeria, Shuaibu (2014) on his parts note that apart from informal forms of technical assistance, there are four well-coordinated forms of technical cooperation programmes. They are Technical Aid Corps (TAC) Scheme, the Nigeria Trust Fund (NTF), the Technical Coorporation in Africa (TCA) and the Nigerian Technical Coorporation Fund (NTCF).

According to Hill (2003) TAC generally is a forum policy tool that countries use in coordinating their external relations in other to maximize their economic benefits, especially where they have comparative advantage. Thus, it is a way of managing interdependence. Important as Technical Cooperation is, successive government in Nigeria, according to Yusuf (2004) have not had a single common practice in the conduct of their foreign policies, although they had demonstrated broad solidarity and cooperation in their assistance to African countries.

# Technical Aid Corps Scheme

Literature on Nigerian Foreign Policy is scanty compared to earlier states that emerged after World War II. Reason may be that Nigeria is a relatively new state. It emerged as a sovereign in 1960, which means it will celebrate its Diamond Jubilee this year (2020). In spite of the dearth in literature in this aspect of Nigeria’s history, the works that abound covers broad ways of the country’s foreign policy such as domestic factors that influence its foreign policy (Akinyemi, 1974; Aluko, 1973; Gambari; 1980) and other unpublished works in the universities and foreign policy and strategic study’s institutions.

Few focus on relatively new areas such as soft-power diplomacy. Here, the Technical Aid Corps Scheme (TACS) comes to mind which has existed for a generation as an instrument of the Nigeria’s Foreign Policy (1987 to date). Even the authors dwell on or even continual to harp on the same “laudable” objectives of the scheme. One hardly comes across a critical analysis of the scheme. If this work is to be justified, its significance lies in filling this gap. It is an attempt to evaluate the programme. In so doing, the author shall attempt to identify the achievement and challenges facing the scheme and contribute by showing prospects as an instruments of foreign policy or otherwise.

In examining TAC as foreign policy tool, let us first centralize the two variables- foreign policy and technical cooperation.

Coming systematically to TAC, Ann and Fredrick (1992) have observed that in view of the challenges posed by globalisation the scheme (TAC) has become an important policy instrument for cooperation and even integration of the economies of African countries for self-reliance and less dependence on corporate organisations and other international agencies. Foreign policies according to Adeniji (2004) the marked a new phase in official development assistance in Nigerian foreign policy. It equally represented an innovative trend in the country’s drive towards the efficient institutionalisation of aid or assistance to needy sister African countries as well as Africans in the Diaspora. Adeniji (2004) further states that the scheme fits well into the context of South-South Cooperation as a strategy for promoting African and Third World Development. This was especially important considering the economic crisis that was sweeping across Africa, and the need for these countries to design an African alternative to externally imposed programmes of economic reform. The TACS was also expected to promote the image of Nigeria abroad, particularly in the face of consistent campaign of calumny against Nigeria by the western press. Akpuru-Aja (2006) also agree that the scheme is a brain-child of Nigeria’s economic diplomacy and it came as an alternative to direct financial assistance to African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, and furthering the whole spirit and soul of South-South cooperation. By extension, it complements diplomatic linkages of Nigeria with the ACP countries. However, he did not expatiate further nor treat the scheme as an instrument of economic diplomacy, even though he brought out economic relevance.

Similarly, Akabogu-Chinwuba O., (2012) argues that TAC was an important aspect of the economic diplomacy introduced during the Babangida Administration and it was a classic case of South-South Cooperation. She further informs that Nigeria continues to extend manpower aid to less- endowed ACP countries. This signifies the use of economic resources in international relations. She concludes that however, it would appear that Nigeria has not fully seized the opportunity presented by her TAC policy to harvest economic dividends in the receiving states. For instance, countries receiving Nigeria TAC medical personnel should be required to source their pharmaceutical needs from Nigerian manufacturers. They should also pledge to support Nigeria’s position at international for a. However, the gap in that literature is that she did not propose any mechanism in reaping these economic benefits from the ACP countries. A retreat was hosted by the Directorate of the Technical Aid Corps from 17th -19th December, 2012 on TAC scheme as an effective tool in the pursuit of Nigeria’s foreign policy objectives including the building of civilian capacity in transitional and

post-conflict countries. In its recommendations it only focused on the strengthening of the institutions in terms of funding and capacity building for greater future accomplishment without reference to the scheme as an instrument of economic policy in accomplishing Nigeria’s foreign policy.

# Foreign Policy

Nations pursue their foreign policies within the context of an existing global environment. This means policies designed to serve sets of interests in a given period under given circumstances can be largely irrelevant in different periods and circumstances. Policy makers in any nation and the citizenry at large perceive the world from a particular vantage point, based on sovereignty, geographical location, security and defence interests, and a wide range of interests and values they are trying to secure (Black and Thompson, 1975). In this regard, as Black and Thompson (1975) note, foreign policy must be viewed as a process of competition, cooperation and compromise, within the stormy seas of world politics.

Dwelling on the approaches to the conduct of foreign policy, Macridis (1976) identifies two primary approaches. First is the ideological approach, which views foreign policy primarily in psychological terms. It looks at the motives or ideologies of leaders or governments as the essential and sole determinant of policy. The basis of this approach is that a democratic regime pursues one type of Foreign Policy, an autocratic government another, a communist government yet another and a democratic-socialist administration another one. In this case, Foreign Policy is considered a function of a political system in action or of the preferences or convictions of political leaders. The second is the analytical approach. The basis of this approach is policy consistencies that transcend individual beliefs or ideologies regardless of the party in power or the leaders and their private or public philosophies, and places certain irremovable limits upon any statesman seeking to formulate foreign policy in pursuing what constitutes the interests of a nation state (Macridis, 1976). It provides that regardless of the intentions, social philosophy or religious outlook of individuals, the broad strategic interests intimately bounding up a nation’s geographic position and international role must be safeguarded to guarantee and preserve its independence. Furthermore, Foreign Policy makers are expected to make choices and discriminations of a necessary order because the interests of a nation are not only permanent but are in hierarchical order of greater to lesser interests. In a classic statement relevant to the formulation of Foreign Policy, Paul- Henri Spaak in Macridis (1976) observes:

There must be a hierarchy in international obligations. The nations of a continent cannot reasonably be asked to consider with the same realism and sincerity of judgement affairs which directly concern them and events

which are taking place thousands of kilometres away in regions where they have neither interest nor influence.

This simply means certain interests must be defended at all costs; others should be safeguarded under particular circumstances; while others, although desirable, can almost never be defended. It is the task of any nation to determine its own hierarchy of interests. Even when national leaders do not identify hierarchies of interests, the actual Foreign Policy in itself points to those vital interests. For instance, the US’s decision, in World War II, to bring the fighting to a successful conclusion in Europe and the North Atlantic before turning to destroy the enemy in the Pacific, is an example of action in terms of a basic perception of interest (Macridis, 1976).

On the factors that influence Foreign Policy decision making process, Merritt, (1975) highlights that different degrees of constraints upon the options and behaviour of a national Foreign Policy decision system exists. Broadly speaking, they are domestic and external factors that impact greatly on the outcomes of Foreign Policy implementation. For Ajayi (2006), it is erroneous to believe that Foreign Policy is independent of the internal environment, but rather it is an extension of domestic policy. Thus by implication, the two do not exist in isolation of each other. Therefore, domestic stability and comforts of the citizenry are hallmarks of a viable Foreign Policy. It is pertinent to note however, that these determinants of Foreign Policy elements must of necessity be thought of in terms of concentric circles. At the centre should be certain elements that are more or less material in character. Some of which are relatively permanent, such as geography and natural resources. Others like the economic, industrial and military establishments are responsive to change and human manipulation.

Commenting on the less permanent elements of Foreign Policy, Macridis (1976), avers that there are human factors; largely quantitative in the case of population, while qualitative, as regards national character, social structure, national morale, political institution, experience and an effective tradition of diplomacy. These elements constitute the nature of foreign policy derive and the emergence of major historic policies and national interests (Macridis, 1976). For example, Crab (1974) identifies the national interest of the United States of America as predicated on her collective national security - a term anchored on freedom, equality, democracy, the open market and fundamental human rights. That of Britain, according to Taylor (2000), is defined by its commitment to conservatism, equality and fundamental freedom. To Lee (1997) France’s conception of its national interest implies a commitment to European economic integration and the wellbeing of its people, while according to Thomas (2000), that of Russia and China are governed by the sanctity of their

economic sovereignty. South Africa has as its national interest the protection of its national sovereignty, national prosperity and respect for the core values captured in its constitution (Naidoo, 2010:210). Egypt, a major force in North Africa, maintains a national interest anchored on its security in the Middle East and respect for its military and religious institutions (Boutros-Ghali, 1977). It is important to note that the protection of the national interest is crucial to any foreign policy articulation. Krasner (1978) explains that the general societal goals perceived over time with a consistent ranking of importance, thus serving as a guideline for the conduct of a country’s Foreign Policy and its relationship with the external environment.

The primary tool for the attainment of Foreign Policy objectives is diplomacy, which is defined as the art, science, or practice by diplomatic agents and diplomatists in conducting negotiations between sovereign nation-states, using tact and skill in a non-forceful manner, without visible signs of hurting one another in accordance with established rules in order to secure and maximise strategic advantage over other negotiators (Akinterinwa, 2010). More importantly, diplomacy as a Foreign Policy tool is applicable in all facets of relations between nations. Different nations have used various forms of diplomacy such as public diplomacy, shuttle diplomacy, transformational diplomacy, preventive diplomacy, economic diplomacy, and citizen diplomacy in the pursuit of their Foreign Policy objectives (Akinterinwa, 2010). Foreign Policy decision making which utilises diplomatic tools is premised on what policy approach to follow within the political exigencies and prevailing global environment.

# Nigerian Technical Aid Corps Scheme and Foreign Policy

Since its creation to date, TAC has helped in many ways to ensure the provision of social services and development to many states (Koutonin, 2015; Adebanwi, 2011). Its central and cardinal objectives are: (1). Sharing Nigeria's know-how and expertise with other African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries; (2). Giving assistance on the basis of assessed and perceived needs of the recipient countries; (3). Promoting cooperation and understanding between Nigeria and beneficiary countries (4). Facilitating meaningful contacts between the youth of Nigeria and those of the recipient countries (TAC 2018).

As a parastatal, it is a semi-autonomous institution housed under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that is in charge of orientation, recruitment and training the volunteers, their deployment to other counties and possible debriefing on return. According to the Directorate of TAC the scheme was conceptualized as a complement to Nigeria’s traditional diplomacy “(2004: 15).

True to the above, the scheme has an impressive record. Many African countries such as Namibia, Uganda, Ethiopia and Gambia, have benefited from the program. In fact, Koutonin (2015) estimated that, over 35 African and Non-African countries demand for the services of TAC and according to (Tella, 2017) more than 1,500 skilled and non-skilled volunteers contributed in providing key services to those countries.

Consequently, TAC has been listed as part of Nigeria’s soft power potentials which has increased Nigeria’s goodwill in African and can be leveraged upon to advance its interest (Ogunnubi, 2016). In this context, Tella (2017), Ogunnubi (2014, 2016) and Adebanwi (2011) noted that TAC has helped to provide technical knowhow to developing countries lacking critical and very important skills such as medicine, engineering, and law, among others.

These professionals serve for two years and their salaries are paid directly by the Nigerian state which lessens the burden on the recipient nations. In essence, TAC has improved Nigeria’s image and respectability among states especially developing states. For instance, Adebanwi (2011) observed that TAC has gained for Nigeria a considerable prestige and good image of a marketer of peace and development among African, Caribbean and Pacific States. Table 1 below shows countries that have benefited from the TAC:

# Table 1: List of Some Countries in Africa that benefited from TAC

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SN** | **List of Some Countries** |  |
| 1 | Congo |  |
| 2 | Cape Verde |  |
| 3 | Ethiopia |  |
| 4 | Gambia |  |
| 5 | Kenya |  |
| 6 | Liberia |  |
| 7 | Niger |  |
| 8 | Rwanda |  |
| 9 | Sierra Leone |  |
| 10 | Sao Tome & Principe |  |
| 11 | Senegal |  |
| 12 | Uganda |  |
| 13 | Zambia |  |

**Source:** Directorate of Technical Aid Corps (2018)

The list of beneficiaries of the TAC includes countries in Africa region. Specifically, it cuts across the different regions in Africa. In fact, there is no sub-region in the continent that has not enjoyed the services of Nigerian expertise through TAC. In some instances, Nigeria’s contribution to the socio-economic development of these countries have been recognized and appreciated by even the Heads of States (e.g. Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Meles Zenawi, former President of Namibia, Sam Nujoma), (Tella, 2017;

Adebanwi, 2011). Similarly, International Organizations such as United Nations Volunteer Service, Commonwealth, and the European Union have heaped accolades on the contributions of TAC in the socio-economic development of those countries.

Illustrated in Table 2 is a variety of high skilled Nigerian manpower sent to other countries through TAC.

# Table 2: High Skilled Nigerian Manpower Sent to Some Selected Countries

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SN** | **Year** | **Country and Nature of Assistance** |
| 1 | 2006 | Deployment of 40 Nigerian medical personnel to Kampala International University Teaching Hospital, located in Ishaka in the Bushenyi District of Uganda, to work and teach |
| 2 | 2009 | Spending over 70 million US dollars for the operation of 132 highly- qualified Nigerian professionals in Sierra Leone |
| 3 | 2010 | Over 34 artisans, including fashion designers, auto mechanics, cosmetologists, agriculturists, nutritionists were sent to Namibia for volunteer service |
| 4 | 1999 | Training of Academic and non-academic staff of Gambia’s first University |
| 5 | 2000 | Deployment of 50 Nigerian Lecturers to Uganda Islamic University |
| 6 | 2001 | Deployment of 671 Nigerian Lecturers to Ethiopia |
| 7 | 2007 | Sending 29 Nigerian medical professionals to work in Belize, a Caribbean nation |
| 8 | 2006 | Deployment of 110 medical professionals to Jamaica |

**Sources:** (Tella, 2017; Adebanwi, 2011; Koutonin, 2015).

In the light of the above, Tella (2017) and Ogunnubi (2016; 2014) argued that due to the achievement of Nigeria’s Technical Aid Corps within Africa and the global South, it can be used to achieve Nigeria’s interest in the international scene.

Ironically, despite the TACs’ existence over 30 years, and the fact that the deployment of huge material, financial and human resources has been of immense benefit to other countries within and outside Africa, the scheme’s capacity to advance Nigeria’s interest in Africa such as in AU elections as weak. To be sure, TAC has contributed in providing social services to many African countries; these acts of international public goodwill cut across not just African countries but beyond. In fact, countries outside Africa such as Jamaica, Fiji, Belize, among others have benefited in one way or the other through TAC. For instance, since the inception of TAC in 1987, Nigeria has sent over thousands of volunteers to other counties in the Global South (DTAC 2018). In 2014 alone, over 400 request for TAC service were received from 35 countries around the world (Koutonin, 2015).

# Theoretical Framework

The researcher decided to use pluralism by cooperation approach as theoretical framework to explain the problem. The concept of pluralism originated during the 1970s from writers such as Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye (1973) in the course of their bid to

establish an alternative to traditional realism. Although the realist theory considers States as the principal actors in the international arena, Keohane and Nye extended the league of actors to include business groups, Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs) and Multinational Cooperations (MNCs) on the international scene when they professed theoretical pluralism (Keohane & Nye, 1973). These, they explained through the concepts of transnationalism, multiple access channels and complex interdependence.

Nye and Keohane (1973) argue that States, as well as non-State actors, contribute to world politics and it is this fundamental assumption of pluralism that clearly challenges and distinguishes it from realism. Pluralist Theory argues that States do not act in a unitary fashion rather the State is fragmented and ‘composed of competing individuals, interest groups and bureaucracies’ which shapes state policy. Keohane (2005; 45) opines that transnational co-operation was needed to respond to common problems and co-operation in one sector would inevitably lead to co-operation in other sectors and as a result, ‘the effects of transnational relations are becoming more important and pervasive’.

The Technical Aid Corps scheme, an instrument of Nigeria’s economic diplomacy, supports the fact that the world economic system is interdependent. Hence, States can prosper by extending aid which gives room for trade and economic negotiations, as well as sharing resources. Indeed, a higher standard of living for citizens is the ultimate objective of foreign policy. Therefore, mutual recognition by all States of one another’s needs and interests provides the only rational term upon which international politics is conducted. Nigeria’s adoption of the instrument of economic diplomacy is to be seen from this perspective.

# Introduction

CHAPTER THREE

# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents an outline of the methods used in the research to arrive at both quantitative and qualitative result, it include Research Design, Population of Study-Sample Size, Types and Source of Data, Instrument/Method of Data Collection, Definition of variables, Model specfication, Method of Data Analysis and the Sampling Technique used for the analysis of data.

# Research Design

The study adopted the survey research design,using both the qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection.

# Population of Study-Sample Size

A total of 85 questionnaires were administered on personnel selected from various professional bodies involved in the TAC. The respondents cut across both serving and retired middle and top level management staff of various professional bodies who are involved in the TAC.

# Types and Source of Data

Both quantitative and qualitative data are sourced for this study. Questionnaires were adminitered to government functionaries and stakeholders in Trade and Investment Ministry, National Planning Commission and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Directorate of Technical Aid Corps (DTAC) and other relevant MDAs and other MDAs whose mandate is germane to the study.

# Instrument/Method of Data Collection

The primary data were collected through the administration of questionnaires distributed to various relevant stakeholders from various professions viz: medical personnel, agricultural extention workers, senior research fellows, laboratory technologist, nurses, midwives and members of the diplomatic corp from Trade and Investment Ministry, National Planning Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Directorate of Technical Aid Corps (DTAC), Federal Ministry of Health, and other relevant MDAs and other MDAs whose mandate is germane to the study. Secondary data were sourced from published and unpublished materials collected from the library (publications, journals and books), internet facilities, newspapers and editorials.

# Definition of Variables

* + 1. **Technical Aid Corps**

According to Daura (2006) The Nigeria’s Technical Aid Corps Scheme is a foreign policy tool established by the Federal Government in 1987. As a policy instrument of Nigeria’s foreign policy, the TAC programme is an alternative to direct financial aid to ACP countries. It is designed, not only to provide manpower assistance in the fields of human endeavour, but also to represent a practical demonstration enhancement of Nigeria’s image abroad and the effort to boost her influence in the comity of nations through service or contributions of her citizens to the development of other countries.

# 1.5.2 Foreign Policy

Foreign policy (FP) is the primary method by which a country pursues its national interests in the external domain. It consists of decisions or actions taken by states to realize those interests (Mbachu, 2007 in Eze, 2009). FP, according to Frankel (1963), is a segment of public policy, concerned with how states relate with one another, international organisations as well as with changes in the global environment. Similarly, according to Satow (1962), FP refers to all the policies adopted by a state in relating with the outside world.

# Method of Data Analysis

The primary data collected were analysed quantitatively using inferential statistics- Simple Frequency Analysis. The results were presented descriptively in the discussion in form of charts and tables to draw inferences or deductions from the response of the respondents. The qualitative data was transcribed and analysed along side the quantitative responses. Both were harness to present a holistic view on the issue under investigation.

# Sampling Technique

The study employed the purposive random sampling technique such that all relevant stakeholders are covereed within the sample population. Respondents are selected bearing in mind their area of discipline and expereince in TAC.

CHAPTER FOUR

# DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS ON ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES OF TECHNICAL AID CORPS AS A FOREIGN POLICY TOOL

This chapter presents and analyses the data obtained through the administration of questionnaires to respondents who cut across middle and top level personnel from Trade and Investment Ministry, National Planning Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Directorate of Technical Aid Corps (DTAC), Federal Ministry of Health, and other relevant MDAs and other MDAs whose mandate is germane to the study, they include serving and retired TAC volunteers selected from the medical, security, education and engineering sector, civil society, officials of relevant MDAs as well as other stakeholders who play key roles in the management of TAC.

The selection was done through the purposive random sampling technique to ensure that all relevant segments of the sample population were captured in the study.

Primary data collected from the field survey were analysed using inferential statistics

–Simple Frequency Analysis, while KII conducted were recorded, after which interpretation and deductions were made.

# 4.2 Analysis of Response Rate

A total of 85 questionnaires were administered out of which 78 were retrieved. Figure

4.1 give a graphic representation of the response rate.



**Not Retrieved 8%**

**Retrieved 92%**

# Figure 4.1: Analysis of Response Rate.

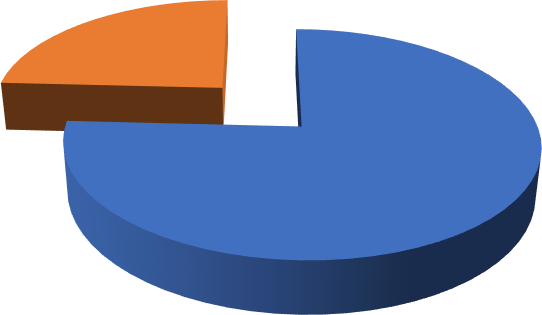
***Source: Field Survey, 2020***

Figure 4.1 above shows that out of 85 questionnaires administered, 78 representing 92% were returned, while 7 questionnaires representing 8% were not returned due to logistics and other constraints. The retrieved questionnaires cover to a large extent the scope that gives the research the required data needed to arrive at a logical conclusion.

# Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

This section summarises the demographics of respondents which include gender, age, educational qualification and occupation of respondents.

Figure 4.2 shows that 76% of the respondents are male, while 24% are female. The disparity in the ratio of male to female did not in any way affect the result of the findings but rather points to the purposive distribution of the questionnaires within the sample population.



Female 24%

Male 76%

# Figure: 4.2: Distribution of Respondents by Gender

***Source: Field Survey, 2020***

Figure 4.3 below shows the age distribution of the respondents. The figure shows 9% of the respondents are between ages 25-35 years, while 35% fall within age bracket 36-45 years. 40% of the respondents are between the ages of 46-60 years, while 15% of the respondents are above 60 years of age. From the foregoing, it is observed that the respondents are old enough to comprehend the issues under investigation and to contribute meaningfully to the overall aim and objectives of the research.



45

**40**

40

35

30

25

**35**

20

15

10

5

0

**15**

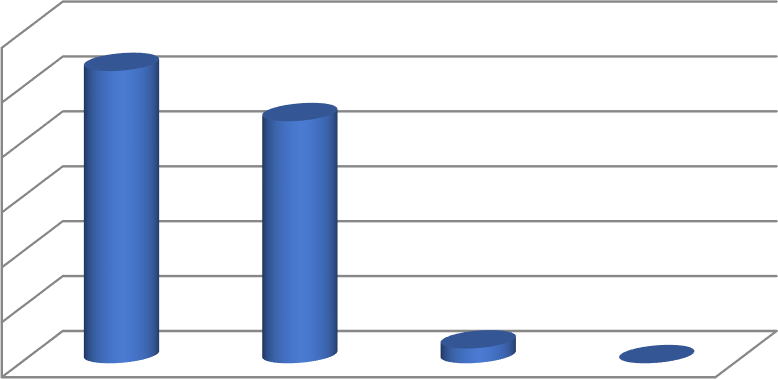
**9**

25 - 35 36 - 45 46 - 60 Above 60

# Figure 4.3: Distribution of Respondents by Age

***Source: Field Survey, 2020***

Figure 4.4 below shows that majority of the respondents making up 53% hold a PhD/Master’s degree or its equivalent, while 44% possess BSc/HND or equivalent. It can therefore be opined that respondents for this study are well educated; therefore their opinions are based on proper understanding of the situation. This also makes their views capable of being relied upon, taking cognisance of their level of literacy, experience and comprehension of the subject under investigation.



60

**53**

50

**44**

40

30

20

10

**3**

**0**

0

PhD/Masters Degrees/HND Diploma

SSCE

# Figure 4.4: Distribution of Respondents by Educational Qualification

***Source: Field Survey, 2020***

Figure 4.5 below shows the distribution of respondents by their various professions. The respondents are well represented in the sample population with civil servants (39%), private sector (31%), military (6%) and paramilitary (16%). From the foregoing, it can be deduced that the opinions of major relevant stakeholders have been captured and analysed, giving a true reflection of the situation under investigation.

nutritionist

**12**

environmentalist

Estate developers

**8**

**9**

Lawyers

medical practitioners building/civil engineers

**10**

**38**

**13**

military/paramilitary

**10**

0

5

10 15 20 25 30 35 40

# Figure 4.5: Distribution of Respondents by Profession

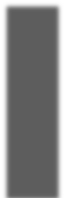
***Source: Field Survey, 2020***

# Empirical Analysis of Field Data

This section deals with responses to the questionnaires and data analysis. It is targeted at meeting the stated objectives of the study and answering the research questions on achievements and challenges of technical aid corps as a foreign policy tool. All the responses were tailored towards answering the research question with a view to finding answer to the issues raised by the researcher.

# Are you conversant with Technical Aid Corps Scheme as a tool of Nigeria’s foreign Policy?

Figure 4.6 shows that a bulk number of the respondents making up 82% were conversant with the Technical Aid Corp Scheme as a tool for Nigeria’s foreign policy. This implies that the Scheme is well acknowledged as an instrument by the Government in pursuing its foreign policy in recipient states and economic diplomacy is also a tool in Nigeria’s foreign policy.



90

80

70

60

50

40

30

20

10

0

82

12

6

Yes No NR

# Figure 4.6: Are you conversant with Technical Aid Corps Scheme as a tool of Nigeria’s foreign Policy?

***Source: Field Survey, 2020***

# Do you think the Scheme has achieved its set goals?

Figure 4.7 depict respondent’s opinion on whether the scheme has achieved its set goal. Fifty –five percent, (55%) of the respondents agreed that the Scheme has achieved it set goal, while 24% of the respondents strongly agree. The respondents’ opinion is generally in tandem with their acceptability of being conversant with TACS as a tool of Nigeria’s foreign policy which is set out to achieve Nigeria’s national interest.

60

50

40

30

20

10

0

**55**

**24**

**6**

**5**

**3**

**6**

Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly

Agree Disagree

Don’t

know

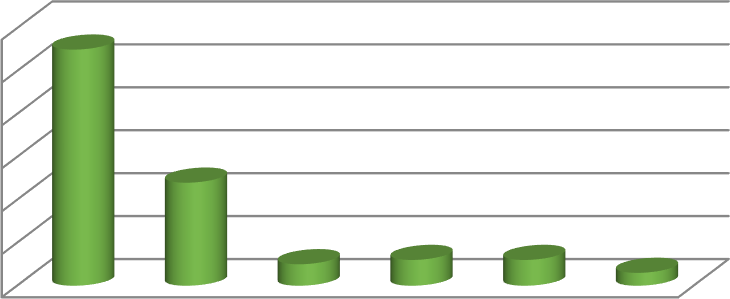
NR

# Figure 4.7 Do you think the Scheme has achieved its set goals?

***Source: Field Survey, 2020***

# Has the Scheme been beneficial to the recipient countries?

Figure 4.8 show that 79% (55% strongly agreed and 24% agreed) of the respondents agree that the scheme has been beneficial to the recipient countries. It can therefore be deduced that the scheme has been beneficial to the receiving countries. This could be attributed to the informed knowledge of the respondents about the Scheme and feedback from ex-volunteers as well as the international community’s positive appraisal of the Scheme.



60

50

40

30

20

10

0

**55**

**24**

**5**

**6**

**6**

**3**

Strongly Agree Disagree Strongly

Agree Disagree

Don’t

know

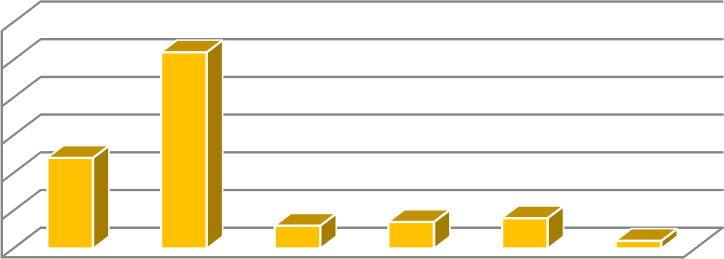
NR

# Figure 4.8 Has the Scheme been beneficial to the recipient countries?

***Source: Field Survey, 2020***

# Do you think the Scheme has promoted cooperation and understanding between Nigeria and the beneficiary countries?

Figure 4.9 show 52% agreed and 24% strongly agreed that the Scheme has promoted cooperation and understanding between Nigeria and the beneficiary countries. From the foregoing, it can be inferred that the Scheme has promoted cooperation and understanding between Nigeria and the beneficiary countries.



60

50

**52**

40

30

20

10

0

**24**

**6**

**7**

**8**

**2**

Strongly

Agree

Agree

Disagree Strongly Don’t

NR

Disagree

know

# Figure 4.9: Do you think the Scheme has promoted cooperation and understanding between Nigeria and the beneficiary countries?

***Source: Field Survey, 2020***

# Do you think the Scheme should continue?

Figure 4.10 show respondents’ contentious opinion on whether the Scheme should continue or not. The figure shows that 45% of the respondents were of the opinion that the Scheme should continue, while 44% of the respondents were of the opinion that the scheme should not continue. From the foregoing, even though the margin is 1% which is too close to conclude, it can be deduced that the scheme should continue in view of the fact that it has promoted cooperation between Nigeria and the beneficiary countries, but should be driven by economic diplomacy to provide economic and other benefits to the country.



NR

**6**

Don’t know **5**

Strongly Disagree

**21**

Disagree **23**

Agree **32**

Strongly Agree **13**

0

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

**Percentage**

# Figure 4.10: Do you think the Scheme should continue?

***Source: Field Survey, 2020***

# Do you think the recipient countries are appreciative of Nigeria’s Technical assistance?

Figure 4.11 above show that the recipient countries are not appreciative of Nigeria’s Technical assistance as opined by 55% of the respondents, while 20% of the respondents

strongly support the assertion. The 55% recorded of recipient not appreciative of Nigeria’s technical assistance could be inferred on their perception of the negative attitude of some African Countries in Nigeria’s quest for support for a competitive position at the international fora.



NR

**4**

Don’t know

**7**

Strongly Disagree

**20**

Disagree

**55**

Agree

**7**

Strongly Agree

**6**

0

10

20

30

40

50

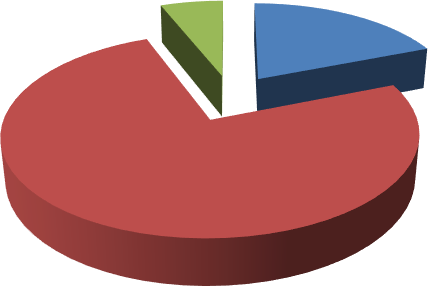
60

# Figure 4.11 Do you think the recipient countries are appreciative of Nigeria’s Technical assistance?

***Source: Field Survey, 2020***

# Do you think the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has put in place appropriate mechanism to ensure that Nigeria derives economic benefits from the Scheme?

Figure 4.12 show that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not put in place appropriate mechanism to ensure that Nigeria derives economic and other benefits from the Scheme. As presented in the Figure, 75% responded opined that Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not appropriate mechanism for the Scheme and 19% responded in the affirmative. This implies that there is need to put in place an appropriate mechanism to ensure that Nigeria derives economic benefits from the Scheme.



NR

6%

Yes

19%

Yes

No NR

No

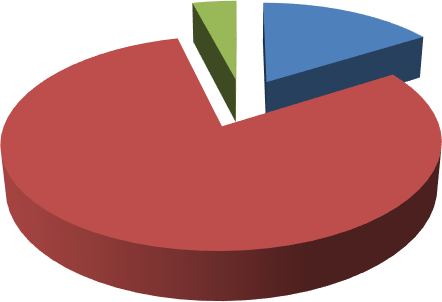
75%

# Figure 4.12: Do you think the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has put in place appropriate mechanism to ensure that Nigeria derives economic benefits from the Scheme?

***Source: Field Survey, 2020***

# Do you think the experience and skill acquired by participants of the Scheme are being harnessed by the Directorate of Technical Aid Corps for national development?

Figure 4.13 show that 80% responded that the experience and skill acquired by participants of the Scheme are not being harnessed by the Scheme for national development. Their response can be inferred of not being able to attribute any substantial developmental projects or services to ex-volunteers as their contribution towards the development of the country.



NR

4%

Yes

16%

Yes

No NR

No

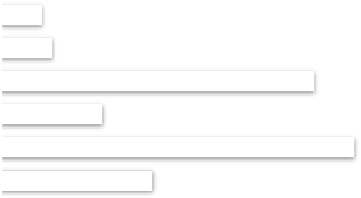
80%

# Figure 4.13: Do you think the experience and skill acquired by participants of the Scheme are being harnessed by the Directorate of Technical Aid Corps for national development?

**Source: Field Survey, 2020**

# Is the Scheme worth committing Nigeria’s hard earned resources in establishing it?

Figure 4.14 show that 50% (35% agreed and 15% strongly agreed) of the respondents agree that the Scheme is worth committing Nigeria’s resources in establishing it while 41% (31% strongly disagreed and 10% disagreed) disagree with it. There is a gap of 9% between the two opinions but the opinion of the 50% respondents is enough to infer that the respondent are in support of the country using its resources in establishing and promoting the Scheme. It is worthy to note however the opinion of the significant minority of the respondents who holds the opinion that the interest of the country should come first in bilateral relationships.



NR

Don’t know

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Agree Strongly Agree

4

5

31

10

35

15

0

10

20

**Percentage**

30

40

# Figure 4.14: Is the Scheme worth committing Nigeria’s hard earned resources in establishing it?

***Source: Field Survey, 2020***

# In your opinion, has Nigeria succeeded in using the Scheme as foreign policy tool?

Figure 4.15 show that 64% of the respondents disagree that Nigeria has succeeded in using the Scheme as its foreign policy tool while 30% agree that the Scheme has being used as foreign policy tool. The negative response by implication means that Nigeria has not succeeded in using the Scheme as foreign policy tool to derive economic and other benefits to the country. The Scheme over the years dwelled on promoting the image of the country internationally and not much is placed on its economic benefits. Most countries Nigeria assisted have not reciprocated the gesture, there has not been any visible benefit from recipient countries, not even visible cooperation from them; rather the relationship between Nigeria and the recipient countries is more of envy and nonchalance. Other notable opinions from the respondents were that the Nigerian government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should have used the scheme with strings attached for Nigeria’s economic and political interest.



NR

**6**

No

**64**

Yes

**30**

0

10

20

30

40

50

60

70

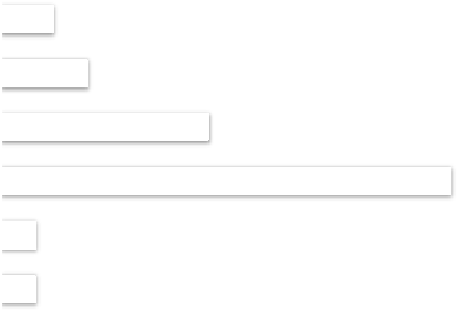
**Percentage**

# Figure 4.15: Nigeria succeeded in using the Scheme as foreign policy tool

***Source: Field Survey, 2020***

# Do you agree that Nigeria is maximising the potential benefits of the Scheme?

Figure 4.16 show that 52% of the respondents strongly disagree and 24% disagree that Nigeria is maximising the potential benefits of the Scheme. Only 10% agree and 6% strongly agree that Nigeria is maximising the potential benefits of the Scheme.



0

10

**Percentage**

20 30 40

50

60

Strongly Agree

6

Agree

10

Disagree

24

Strongly Disagree

52

Don’t know

4

NR

4

# Figure 4.16: Do you agree that Nigeria is maximising the potential benefits of the Scheme?

***Source: Field Survey, 2020***

# : Do you agree that the Scheme has improved Nigeria’s image?

Figure 4.17 show that 12%, 45% and 11% are slightly positive, positive and very positive, respectively that the Scheme has improved on Nigeria’s image, while 8% and 15% of the respondents give negative and slightly negative, respectively in their response that the Scheme has improved Nigeria’s image. This could be attributed to the enlightenment of the respondent which could be deduced from their knowledge of the Scheme and its embracement by the International Community especially the United Nations and the African Union.

# Figure 4.17 Do you agree that the Scheme has improved Nigeria’s image?



50 **45**

40

30

**15**

20

10

0

**12**

**11**

**8**

**6**

**3**

**Percentage**

***Source: Field Survey, 2020***

# Do you think the recipient countries are treating the Nigerian volunteers with respect?

Figure 4.18 show that 53% of the respondents responded negative that the recipient countries are treating the Nigerian volunteers with respect while 13% vote in affirmative. The respondents’ negative response could be attributed to what they perceived from hostility that Nigerians sometimes received from nationals of some recipient African countries. However, the two ex-volunteers interviewed had different opinion from the majority of the respondents. They rather reiterated that the nationals of their recipient countries were appreciative of their contribution and they were well treated throughout their stay.

NR

**10**

I don’t know

**24**

No

**53**

Yes

**13**

0

10

20

30

**Percentage**

40

50

60

# Figure 4.18: Do you think Nigerians are treated with respect?

***Source: Field Survey, 2020***

# : What has been the negative impact of the Scheme on the Volunteers?

Figure 4.19 show the various responses of the respondents to the question on what has been the negative impact of the Scheme on the volunteers. 33% was recorded for hostility from host country, 21% for uncomfortable personal experience, followed with 16% for intense home sickness, 12% recorded for health problems, 7% of the respondents indicated

career disruption and 5% attributed the negative impact of the Scheme on the volunteers to economic hardship.

Although hostility from host country top the chart as one of the negative impact of the Scheme on the volunteers but the position of the two ex-volunteers that the researcher had interviewed with differed. They informed that they did not encounter hostility from the nationals of their host country but scored home sickness as their own negative impact in relation to the diet they had to cope with in their recipient countries.

**Percentage**

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35

Uncomfortable personal experiences

Economic hardship Intense home sickness Career disruption Health problem(s)

Hostility from host country

None of the above

NR

**21**

**5**

**16**

**7**

**12**

**33**

**0**

**6**

# Figure 4.19: What has been the negative impact of the Scheme on the Volunteers?

***Source: Field Survey, 2020***

# : What in your own opinion are the challenges confronting Nigeria’s Technical Aid Corps as an instrument of economic diplomacy?

The respondents highlighted some of the challenges bedeviling the scheme to include lack of clear objective, poor planning, and lack of clear policy direction on the part of government. Also indentified is the inability of the government to use the technical aid corps scheme for economic gains. The inability of the government to clearly workout a well- articulated policy framework for the advancement of the country’s socio-economic and political interest was also identified as a major setback to the Scheme.

# : What are the prospects for Nigeria in Nigeria’s Technical Aid Corps as an instrument of economic diplomacy in your own opinion?

The respondents opined that the Scheme is a laudable foreign policy tool that creates a platform for Nigeria to harness human capacity development and opens business gateways and bilateral investment and trade relations between and within countries. But the mechanism for driving the economic benefits are lacking. The prospect is therefore dependent on the

ability of government to put in place the mechanism of economic diplomacy in maximising the potential economic benefits from the Scheme.

# Summary of Findings

The findings of this study reveals the extent to which the Technical Aid Corps Scheme has achieved its set goals and objective right from inception. The study highlighted the degree to which the scheme has been beneficial to the receiving countries, and how it has also promoted cooperation and understanding between Nigeria and the beneficiary countries. The study confirms that the Nigeria government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not seized on the opportunities of the TAC Scheme to put in place appropriate mechanism for Nigeria to derive economic and other benefits from the recipient ACP countries.

While the study has highlighted a lot of prospects and opportunities for the Scheme, there are however identified factors that are serving as clog in the wheel of progress for the Scheme. This included, amongst others, poor funding, lack of technical skill, lack of clear policy objective and direction on the part of government, poor planning: inability of the government to use the platform for economic gains, lack of transparency in the selection of the Scheme’s volunteers, favouritism, lack of feedback mechanism from beneficiaries, instability in the polity and the incessant insecurity situation in the country.

The inability of the government to clearly workout a well-articulated policy framework for the advancement of the country’s socio-economic and political interest is a major setback. These and other issues constitute a stumbling block to Nigeria’s Technical Aid Corps Scheme’s thrust towards an instrument of economic diplomacy. The challenges appear enormous, but with the right machineries put in place, it can be overcome.

CHAPTER FIVE

# CONCLUSION

# Summary

This study examined the achievements and challenges of Nigeria’s Technical Aid Corps scheme as a foreign policy tool. Nigeria has committed huge national resources to ensure the implementation of the Scheme within the framework of South-South Cooperation. The Scheme represents a major plank of Nigeria’s technical assistance to the ACP countries in line with its afro-centric foreign policy. The primary objective of the Scheme is the sharing of technical know-how and expertise with the ACP countries on the basis of their assessed and perceived needs.

The Scheme has unquestionably brought a clear focus to the conduct of Nigeria’s foreign policy, which has consequently gained for the country the good image of being a promoter of peace and development in the African Region and beyond. Unlike Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) under which the United Nations Volunteer Services (UNVS) was created in 1970, TAC is a Nigerian initiative targeted at friendly developing countries of the South. Apparently, there is no mechanism put in place to leverage on its success to promote economic and other benefits for the country.

There is a need, therefore, to address this gap and emplace an appropriate mechanism in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Federal Ministry of Trade with a mandate to leverage on the Scheme for economic benefits. The challenges identified include lack of implementation of the objectives to the later, poor planning, bad politics, and government inability to use the technical aid corps scheme for economic gains, corruption, and lack of political will. These constitute a cog in the wheel to the scheme as a foreign policy tool. Furthermore, there is need to revamp the Scheme with necessary funds and capacity. Funding is required to sustain and expand the scope of the Scheme. All of these constitute a major setback to the effectiveness of the Scheme.

# Recommendations

In the light of the findings of this research and the conclusion drawn, the following recommendations are hereby proffered:

* + 1. The Scheme should be reviewed periodically to make it more robust
    2. The Directorate of Technical Aid Corps should give a new orientation to volunteers that emphasises economic cooperation
    3. The Directorate of Technical Aid Corps should review its selection and orientation processes in line with the provisions of the new Statute of the Scheme
    4. The Directorate of Technical Aid Corps should update its orientation processes to include presentations from relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) for the purposes of economic diplomacy. This is with a view to ensure appropriate debriefing of returning ex-volunteers to harness their experience towards economic development of the country
    5. The Federal Government should adequately fund the Scheme to fully meet up with its responsibilities as enshrined in the reviewed Act establishing it
    6. The Directorate of Technical Aid Corps should review the allowances and welfare package of volunteers in the new Scheme.
    7. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should periodically organise workshops involving all TAC recipient countries in order to gauge the benefit of the programme and possible ways of improvement.

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# APPENDIX ONE

Dear Respondent,

**RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE**

I am Khalifa Salisu Auwal, conducting a research on **“ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES OF TECHNICAL AID CORPS AS A FOREIGN POLICY TOOL”.**

This research work is a requirement for the award of BSC in International Relations.

It would be highly appreciated if you could kindly respond to the attached questionnaire to enable me enrich my research.

Please be assured that the information you provide in this questionnaire will be treated with extreme confidentiality and will only be utilised for the purpose of this research work.

Thank you for your kind cooperation.

# Khalifa Salisu Auwal

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

***Please carefully read the questions below and objectively respond by ticking the appropriate boxes* [****] *and filling in the blank spaces provided were applicable.***

# SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHY OF RESPONDENTS

**Gender**

* + - 1. Male 
      2. Female

# Age of Respondent:

* 1. 25 – 35 years 
  2. 36 – 45 years 
  3. 46 – 60 years 

(e) 60 years and above

# 3 Highest Educational Qualification:

1. Secondary School Certificate of Education  (b)Diploma  (c)Degrees/HND  (d)PhD/Masters

# Respondents Profession (Please indicate)

**SECTION B: RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

*(Please, tick*  *as appropriate and respond were necessary please)*

# Are you conversant with Technical Aid Corps Scheme as a tool of Nigeria’s Foreign Policy?

1. Yes 
2. No 

# Do you think the Scheme has achieved its set goals?

1. Strongly agree 
2. Agree
3. Disagree 
4. Strongly disagree 
5. Don’t know 

# Has the Scheme been beneficial to the recipient countries?

1. Strongly agree 
2. Agree 
3. Disagree 
4. Strongly disagree 
5. Don’t know 

# Do you think the Scheme has promoted cooperation and understanding between Nigeria and the beneficiary countries?

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree 
3. Disagree 
4. Strongly disagree
5. Don’t know 

# Do you think the Scheme should continue?

1. Strongly agree 
2. Agree
3. Disagree
4. Strongly disagree 
5. Don’t know

# Do you think the recipient countries are appreciative of Nigeria’s Technical assistance?

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree 
3. Disagree 
4. Strongly disagree 
5. Don’t know 

# Do you think the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has put in place appropriate mechanism to ensure that Nigeria derives economic benefits from the Scheme?

* + 1. Yes 
    2. No 

# Do you think the experience and skill acquired by participants of the Scheme are being harnessed by the Directorate of Technical Aid Corps for national development?

* + 1. Yes
    2. No 

# Is the Scheme worth committing Nigeria’s hard earned resources in establishing it?

* + 1. Strongly agree 
    2. Agree
    3. Disagree 
    4. Strongly disagree 
    5. Don’t know 

# In your opinion, has Nigeria succeeded in using the Scheme as foreign policy tool?

* + 1. Yes 
    2. No

# Do you agree that Nigeria is maximising the potential benefits of the Scheme?

* + 1. Strongly agree 
    2. Agree
    3. Disagree 
    4. Strongly disagree
    5. Don’t know

# Do you agree that the Scheme has improved Nigeria’s image?

* + 1. Slightly Positive 
    2. Positive 
    3. Very Positive 
    4. Negative 
    5. Slightly Negative 
    6. Don’t know 

# Do you think the recipient countries are treating the Nigerian volunteers with respect?

Yes  No  Don’t know 

# What has been the negative impact of the Scheme on the Volunteers?

1. Uncomfortable personal experience s 
2. Economic Hardship 
3. Intense home sickness 
4. Career disruption 
5. Health problems 
6. Hostility from host country 
7. None of the above 

# What in your own opinion are the challenges confronting Nigeria’s Technical Aid Corps as an instrument of economic diplomacy?

* 1. **What are the prospects for Nigeria in Nigeria’s Technical Aid Corps as an instrument of economic diplomacy in your own opinion?**