

## **Social Security Services and Sustainable Development in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria**

**Lazarus Bassey Abonor, Ph.D**

Department of Social Work

University of Calabar,

Calabar, Nigeria

EMAIL: [abonor.laz@gmail.com](mailto:abonor.laz@gmail.com)

PHONE: 08036705761

**&**

**Victor Itita Ede, Ph.D**

Department Of Social Work

University Of Calabar,

Calabar, Nigeria

Email: [victorede85@gmail.com](mailto:victorede85@gmail.com)

### **Abstract**

The study investigated Social Security Services as it relates with Sustainable Development in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria. To achieve this aim, the study formulated a hypothesis based on the variables. The Basic Needs Theory was adopted as theoretical framework and descriptive survey research design was used for the study. The multi-stage sampling techniques involving purposive, systematic, and stratified simple random sampling techniques were adopted to select 400 respondents. The instrument for data collection was questionnaire. Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Analysis was used to test the hypothesis. Result of the analysis shows that Social Security Services significantly influence sustainable development in Southern Senatorial Districts of Cross River State, Nigeria. Based on the result, it was recommended that Government, NGOs, and other relevant authorities should increase their yearly budget for the provision of adequate Social Security Services to increase economic activities.

**Keywords:** Social Security, Less Privilege, Sustainable Development, Government.

### **Introduction**

The concept of Sustainable Development is a global call to action to eradicate poverty, protect human environment, to ensure peace and prosperity in the World. The permanency

of the natural stock is a necessity for sustainable development in any Country. This means that, current decision should not deprive the prospect for maintaining or improving the future stock (Aniefiok & Etim, 2017). Central to the question of sustainable development therefore is the issue of inter-generational equality because of the belief that the resources base of any economy belongs to both present and future generations (Igbal, 2014). The main thrust of sustainable development is the management of natural resources which has become unavoidable due to the conflicts between the short-term need to eradicate poverty and the long-term plan for environmental sustainability especially in developing Countries. According to Cahill and Fitzpatrick (2022), Pressures placed on natural resources to meet peoples demands present a dilemma for policy makers concerned with sustainable development.

Sustainable development has been understood from different angles and is constantly evolving, making it difficult to earn a particular definition (McKeown, 2022). It has become a global concept due to the encompassing nature of socio-economic problems all over the World. Sustainable development was developed out of concern for the future of humanity due to the shift in the interaction between man and his environment (Cornelius-Ukpepi, Kalu & Domike, 2017). To achieve sustainable development, it is suggested that a clear knowledge of the constraints within the society and the requirements to remove these constraints should be known (Mebrafu, 2018). This is because, sustainable development looks beyond the wellbeing of the present generation into the future. It requires that, citizens in recent time must be alert to the various Social Security Services. Therefore, when there is absence of Social Security Services, the idea of sustainable development becomes an illusion.

Social Security Services comprises a wide range of activities and services which focus on the provision of palliatives, security and other support to enhance poverty reduction (Lazarus, Uzoh, & Takwan, 2025). The objective of Social Security policies is to provide a safety net for those who need support due to situations such as poverty, unemployment, poor health, disability or other conditions that requires assistance. According to Ndukwe (2020), Social Security Services ensures that every member of the society can maintain a minimum standard of living and dignity, with their essential needs substantially taken care of. The issue of sustainable development has therefore become a major concern in Nigeria, as social welfare activities are poorly funded. The Social Welfare Services in the area of Social Security is unavailable to majority of those who need it. This has posed a threat to public health in the face of dwindling economy occasioned by poor budgetary and funding of this sector (Mebratu, 2018). Social Security Services are parts of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), that advocates that, individual members of the society need some level of assistance

either due to their disposition or because of the environment they find themselves. Individuals and families require some Social Security packages to enable them cope with social problems that arises from daily activities and social conditions. The need to take a critical look at the Social Security Services in Nigeria becomes necessary due to the pivotal role it plays in national development. It is against this background that this research was carried out to investigate Social Security Services and sustainable development in the Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The main aim of sustainable development has been the utilization of resources of nature as the basis for the sustenance of the current tempo of development without compromising the needs of future generations. Therefore, small segment of members of the society especially the under-privileged ones are affected with extreme poverty, poor literacy, poor health status, unemployment, low income and food insecurity whenever development policies are not successfully and sustainably implemented by the government or necessary agencies. However, at the midway to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, this target has moved out of reach. After decades of major progress in the fight against hunger and poverty, the number of people affected by acute hunger and abject poverty has risen steadily since 2018, (Global Report on food crises, 2023). According to the report, millions of people in fifty-eight (58) Countries are suffering from acute hunger every year. In recent year, people in seven countries are on the brink of dying from starvation according to Germany's Federal Foreign Office (2023). The report also shows that the number of people who are so poor that they depend on humanitarian aid will rise as compared to other years.

Sustainable Development is a goal that Countries all over the world have been striving to achieve, by instituting plans and actions to improve the way things are done. It calls for constant efforts to initiate programmes and execute them for the overall interest of people (Aniefiok & Etim, 2017). The responsibilities of executing these Sustainable Development Goals predominantly lies with various Countries. Nigerian governments in particular, have not actively responded to the demands of the Sustainable Development Goals due to poor Social Security programmes which have manifested in increased vulnerable people in the Country. These Social Security Services may be connected with challenges of sustainable development in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria. However, successful government in Cross River State over the pass years have undertaken several welfare approaches in many areas such as the Conditional Cash Transfer Scheme and free maternal and infant care introduced by Senator Liyel Imoke, a former governor, and the Ayade Care by Governor Ben Ayade. Meanwhile, despite these extensive efforts put in place

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by the government of Cross River State, no significant results have been achieved. The question on the lips of many are; to what extent does the provision of medical assistance programmes, cash transfer programmes, and other Social Security programmes promote sustainable development in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State? It is for this purpose that this work was carried out to ascertain whether Social Security Services influence sustainable development in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State.

### **Research Question**

Does Social Security services influence sustainable development in the Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria?

### **Objective of the Study**

To ascertain whether Social Security Services influences Sustainable Development in the Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria.

### **Hypothesis**

Social Security Services do not significantly influence Sustainable Development in the Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria.

### **Literature Review**

#### **Conceptual Clarification**

#### **Social Security**

In development discourse, social security refers to the public measures and entitlements that protect individuals and families against life-course and circumstantial risks (old age, unemployment, illness, disability, loss of a breadwinner, etc.). According to (Alcantara, 2022), it is considered a human right under International Law. For example, the International Labour Organization defines social security as “the protection that a society provides to individuals and households to ensure access to health care and to guarantee income security, particularly in cases of old age, unemployment, sickness, invalidity, work injury, maternity or loss of a breadwinner” (Atkisson, 2019). The right to social security is affirmed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Art. 22), and other covenants, which state that everyone is entitled “to social security” as part of the economic and social rights essential to human dignity (Keyes, 2018). In practice therefore, this encompasses contributory insurance schemes, tax-funded benefits, supporting individuals with disabilities or illness that prevent them from working, cash transfers and services that assure a basic income or welfare for vulnerable groups.

## **Sustainable Development**

In development parlance, sustainable development is defined by the classic Brundtland formulation as, meeting the needs of the present without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs (Al-Doghan, 2022). It is often framed as a balanced approach to human progress that simultaneously pursues economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection (Ikpezu, 2023). For example, UNESCO's glossary defines sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." According to Barrow (2023), the definition emphasizes the interlink between social, economic and environmental pillars. The three mutually reinforcing dimensions of sustainable development (Economic growth, social inclusion, and Environmental protection), was further stressed in the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. Therefore, sustainable development encompasses long-term policies and planning that integrate poverty reduction, public health, quality education clean water and sanitation, climate action, affordable and clean energy, gender equity and environmental stewardship.

## **Social Security and Sustainable Development**

Social security is any programme of social protection by legislation, or any other mandatory arrangement that provides individuals and families with a degree of income and protection when faced with the contingency of old age, survivorship incapacity, disability, or unemployment (Roland, 2015). When well-designed, Social Security play crucial role in promoting sustainable development by reducing: inequality, ensuring human capital development, and promoting social stability. Through the provision of Social Security services, States guarantee the protection of vulnerable members of society, in the event of unemployment, maternity, accident, illness, disability, old age or other life circumstances (Keyes, 2018). Therefore, Social Security is believed to play key role in accelerating progress towards achieving the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and leaving no one behind. In his opinion, Duhim (2010), argued that, the aim of the Social Security services of any Country is to contribute to eradicate poverty and inequality, promote human dignity and social inclusion. This is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals number 1,2,3,4,5,6,7, and 10, which emphasizes: No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy; and Reduced Inequality

In Nigeria, Social Security service encompasses Social Insurance such as Pensions and healthcare, social assistance such as Cash transfers food aid, and labour market policies such as unemployment benefits and training. The International Labour Organization (2020),

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reports that Social Security is essential for sustainable development as it reduces poverty and inequality, promote social justice and human rights, supports economic growth and stability, enhances human well-being and dignity as well as fostering social cohesion and resilience. According to Uko & Nnaji (2017), the International Labour Organization partnership for Social Security, aims to support Countries in building comprehensive, sustainable and inclusive Social Security systems to protect vulnerable groups (children, elderly, women, persons with disabilities), and strengthen community resilience against shocks (e.g., pandemics, economic crises).

According to Chris (2019), in Nigeria, the National Social Investment Programmes (NSIP), is a Social Security Programme of the Government which began in 2016 and has the N-Power, Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT), Home-Grown School Feeding Programme, and Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme as its components. It has provided: job training and temporary employment for youth, gives stipends to poor households tied to education and health compliance, provide daily meals to school children and gives micro-loans for small businesses. Similarly, the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), started in 2005, provides access to affordable healthcare for civil servants and other formal sector workers. The aim is to reduce out-of-pocket spending for enrollees, and improve maternal and child health outcomes (Abonor, Uzoh, Amokeye, & Takwan, 2024). Empirical evidence shows that, successful Social Security Programmes in Nigeria and globally demonstrate that social protection is a cornerstone of sustainable development. By addressing poverty, inequality, and other vulnerabilities, these programmes empower individuals, families, foster social stability, and contribute to inclusive economic growth. For Nigeria, scaling up and ensuring accountability in programmes like NSIP and NHIS is critical to sustaining their impact.

Ming, Xiaorong and Long (2019), in their study on Social Security and Sustainable Economic Growth in the United States reported that, Social Security is not an exclusive policy for only older adults, but includes the American working class and disabled Americans who have been victims of work injuries and health problems. Supporting this claim, Forte and Salome (2018), argued that, American Social Security promotes sustained economic development and provides for the vulnerable individuals and families in the society. In a similar opinion, Barrow (2023), posits that, in Brazil, the Bolsa Família Programme established in 2003, provides Conditional cash transfer and financial aid to poor families if children attend school and receive vaccinations which has lifted millions out of extreme poverty, reduced child labour and improved literacy.

Although Feldstein (2020), and Kotlikoff (2016), used empirical data to discover that the crowding out effect of saving on social security was greater than its crowding in effect, and concluded that social security is not conducive to savings; and that the substituting effect of social security has a negative influence on savings and sustainable economy. However, many studies have found that there is a positive correlation between the level of social security and the rate of investment saving which is considered to be the key to the current imbalance in investment deficient (Amjad & Asaad, 2022, Lu & Liu, 2017). Supporting this claim, Guo and Gong (2012), in their finding affirmed that, social security promotes economic growth by replacing family support for the aged.

In recent years, the study of the relationship between Social Security and sustainable growth are concentrated on the endogenous growth theory (Ahmed & Alhassan, 2017). In endogenous growth theory, human capital plays an important role in technology progress and sustainable economic growth. According to Barrow (2023), research on how Social Security influences personal saving, labour supply and the distribution of income has become a major growth industry. Universal access to Social Security (or social protection), is a cornerstone of efforts to counter the rising tide of inequality and its negative social and economic impacts. Social Security as Social Welfare provision is critical for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (National Institute of Health, 2022). Nevertheless, large gaps in coverage and access remains. More than half of the World's population still do not have access to Social Security services. Social Security such as food security is one of the fundamental human Rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Human Rights Treaties (Torres, 2013). This is because, Social Security systems do not only protect households from slipping into poverty in precarious life situations, but also pave the way for higher standard of living. It is on records that, low-income families often take their children out of school to use their labour to secure their livelihoods in order to survive (Atkisson, 2011). Therefore, Social Security is an essential instrument for achieving the Global Sustainable Development Goals and the closely related Human Rights to healthy food, healthcare, and better standard of living.

## **Theoretical Framework**

### **Basic Needs Theory**

The Basic Needs Theory emerged essentially from the works of World Bank and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Cassen (1978), stressed that the focus on Basic Needs Theory appeared to follow naturally from the evolution of development, during the 1970s, when emphasis shifted from economic growth towards the issues of poverty and income distribution. This was when it became evident that previous development efforts

largely by-passed the poor and vulnerable, and concentrated on abstract measures of economic growth. The Basic Needs Theory recognises that, if the poor remains deprived of the essential needs required for an economically productive life, they would neither contribute to, nor benefit from economic growth, but will rather remain outside the economic process for all practical purposes. It is important to note that, in development circle, overall economic development cannot occur unless it reaches all sections of the population.

According to Todaro (2021), all people have certain basic needs without which life would be impossible. These life-sustaining needs include food, shelter, healthcare, education, security, and sanitation. When any of these is absent or is critically short in supply, there would be a condition of absolute underdevelopment. Therefore, without sustained and continuous economic progress at the individual level as well as at the societal level, the realization of the human potential would not be possible.

The Basic Needs Theory was therefore adopted for this study bearing in mind that social security services are the bed-rock of sustainable development in every society. basic needs of all members of the society. The theory posits that once the basic needs of all members of a society, be it food, medical assistance, education, cash assistance and employment are fulfilled, then sustainable development is possible.

The Basic Needs Theory has been criticized. Critics have often stated that the basic needs approach sacrifices savings, productive investment and incentives to work for the sake of current consumption and social welfare. However, the theory is relevant to this study, believing that, development cannot say to have taken place in any human settlement if the basic needs of the people are ignored

## **Methodology**

### **Research Design**

The descriptive survey research design was adopted since it permits generalization and supports the use of questionnaire and the study of sample from a large population.

### **Area of Study**

The study area was Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria. The Southern Senatorial District is situated within the tropics and shares boundary with the Republic of Cameroon in the east, Yakurr Local Government Area in the north, and the Calabar River and Akwa Ibom State in the south, and in the north west by Ebonyi State. It has estimated population of 1,692,527 people (Population estimates, 2023). Southern Senatorial District of



Cross River State spans from the coastal area of the Atlantic Ocean through the fresh water swamp of Akpabuyo, Calabar Municipality, Bakassi and Odukpani Local Government Areas with its mangrove vegetation through the thick gigantic virgin forest of Akamkpa (Cross River State Government, 2020). It lies within tropical climate with a lengthy rainy season spanning from march to September and a short dry season from October to February. The Efiks, Efuts, Quas, Ejagham and Erei are the dominant cultural groups that occupied the Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State. Predominantly, the people of the southern senatorial district are mostly farmers, traders, artisan and few in the civil service. Christianity is the major religion of the people.

### Population of the Study

The population of the study consists of all adult male and female inhabiting Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State. The targeted population consists of 75,000 residents of age ranging from 18 to 65 years old, selected from Bakassi, Calabar South, and Calabar Municipality Local Government Areas. The total population of people in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State stood at 1,692,527 people (state bureau of statistics, 2023). It is from this targeted population that the representative sample was selected for the study.

**Table 1:** Showing The Population Of The Selected Local Government Areas In Cross River State, Nigeria

S/N	Local Government Areas	Male	Female	Total
1.	Bakassi	8825	7210	16035
2.	Calabar South	15960	12755	28715
3.	Calabar Municipality	19620	10630	30250
	Total	44405	30595	75000

**Source:** Field data, 2025

### Sample Size determination

In order to determine appropriate size of sample from the population of the study, the Taro Yamane (1967), formula for sample determination:  $n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$  was used. The sample size adopted was 400 respondents randomly selected from each of the local government area involved in the study.

### Sampling procedure

A multi sampling procedure was used to select sample for the study. These were the purposive, stratified random sampling and systematic. Three local government areas out of

seven were purposely selected for the study; these are Bakassi, Calabar Municipal, and Calabar South. The selected LGAs was based on accessibility. The three (3) selected local government areas in the Southern Senatorial District formed the three (3) major clusters of the study, such as Bakassi local government area represents cluster one (with ten political wards), Calabar Municipal local government area represents cluster two (with ten political wards), and Calabar South local government area represents cluster three (with twelve political wards). From these stratified clusters, simple random sampling technique was used to select wards for the study. The simple random sampling procedure involving the Hat and Draw method to pick two political wards (or communities) from each cluster. This method involves writing “Yes” and “No” on pieces of papers according to the number of political wards (or communities) per local government area. Field Assistants were asked to hypothetically represent the wards in the local government areas, and to pick the folded pieces of paper which were thoroughly mixed in the Hat. The folded papers were drawn with replacement to maintain the stability of the Hat until the required numbers of wards to include in the study were selected. In all, six (6) political wards (or communities) were selected (see table 2). Once the wards were selected, the next stage was the selection of respondents. For this purpose, the Household Enumeration Register (HHER) available in the Primary HealthCare Centres were used as the sample frame. Given the sample size of 400 respondents and 6 political wards, each political ward (or community) had 66 respondents, except in Calabar Municipal with 68 respondents for the sake of levelling the figure. In other to select the respondents from each ward, the HHER was used as the sample universe to systematically select the households per ward.

**Table 2: Sample Distribution by Cluster/LGA/Community**

<b>Clusters LGA</b>	<b>Community (or Ward)</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Community (or Ward)</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bakassi	Nsidung Ekipiri Ikang	66	Inua Esighi	66	132
Calabar Municipal	Anantigha	68	Efut	68	136
Calabar South	Akim Qua	66	Big Qua	66	132
TOTAL	THREE	200	THREE	200	400
TOTAL	FOUR	200	FOUR	200	400

**Source: Researcher computation, 2025**

### **Sources of Data Collection**

Data was collected basically through primary and secondary sources. The primary source of data was through questionnaire distributed to the respondents. The secondary source was through the review of textbooks, periodicals and journal articles.

### **Instrument of Data Collection**

The main instrument used to collect data was structured questionnaire. It was categorized into two sections: A and B. Section A elicited information from the respondents regarding their personal data such as sex, age, level of education, marital status and occupation. Section B was classified into four (4) sub-sections to gather necessary information on the independent and dependent variables of the study. A 4 points likert type scale which include strongly agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree options was used to measure the respondents' opinion. Cronbach coefficient alpha internal consistency reliability method was used to establish reliability of the scale. In order to achieve this, a pilot test of the questionnaire was carried out using a sample of 40 respondents in the three selected local government areas in the study. These respondents were not part of the sample of this study. Responses from the respondents were elicited and analysed using Cronbach alpha approach.

### **Method of Data Analysis**

Data analysis was done by testing the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance with appropriate degree of freedom. Data collected were properly checked to make sure all items were responded to before they were edited, coded and analysed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis (rxy). The elicited data was presented in tables, using absolute figures and the comparative percentages capable of self-explanation and further analysis.

**Table 3:** Responses on social security and sustainable development (N=400)

S/N	ITEM	SA (%)	A(%)	D(%)	SD(%)
16	Social security contributed to poverty reduction and economic development.	187 (46.8%)	160 (40%)	38 (9.5%)	15 (3.7%)
17.	Social security plays key role in accelerating social and economic progress in the society.	193 (48.3%)	152 (38%)	36 (9%)	19 (4.7%)
18.	Social security promotes sustainable economic growth.	184 (46%)	160 (40%)	34 (8.5%)	22 (5.5%)

19.	Social security make provision for the community to strive towards development.	169 (42.3%)	199 (49.7%)	12 (3%)	20 (5%)
20.	Social security enhances the condition of low-income earners and encourages saving in community.	194 (48.5%)	166 (41.5%)	24 (6%)	16 (4%)

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Source: Field data, 2025

Table 3 shows the respondents responses on social security and sustainable development in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria. Responses on question 16 shows that 46.8 percent (N=187) of respondents strongly agreed that social security contributes to poverty reduction and economic development in their area, 40 percent (N=160) of respondents agreed; 9.5 percent (N=38) of respondents disagreed while 3.7 percent (N=15) of respondents strongly disagreed with this statement.

Responses on question 17 shows that 48.3 percent (N=193) of respondents strongly agreed that social security plays key role in accelerating social and economic progress in the society; 38 percent (N=152) of respondents agreed; a percent (N=36) of respondents disagreed while 4.7 percents (N=19) of respondents strongly disagreed with this assertion.

The responses on question 18 shows that 46 percent (N=184) of respondents strongly agreed that social security promotes sustainable economic growth in their area; 40 percent (N=160) of respondents agreed; 8.5 percent (N=34) of respondents disagreed while 5.5 percents (N=22) of respondents strongly disagreed with this statement.

Responses on question 19 shows that 42.3 percent (N=169) of respondents strongly agreed that social security make provision for the community to strive towards development; 49.7 percent (N=199) of respondents agreed; 3 percent (N=12) of respondents disagreed while 5 percent (N=20) of respondents strongly disagreed with this assertion.

Finally, the responses on question 20 shows that 48.5 percent (N=194) of respondents strongly agreed that social security enhance the condition of low-income earner and encourages savings in community; 41.5 percent (N=166) of respondents agreed; 6 percent (N=24) of respondents disagreed while 4 percent (N=16) of respondents strongly disagreed with this assertion.

### Test of Hypothesis

**H<sub>0</sub>:** Social Security Services do not significantly influence Sustainable Development in the Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria.

**H<sub>01</sub>:** Social Security Services significantly influence Sustainable Development in the Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State.

The independent variable is Social Security while the dependent variable is Sustainable Development. Pearson Product- Moment Correlation Coefficient analysis was considered most appropriate to test this hypothesis. The result of the analysis is as presented in Table 4

**Table 4:** Pearson product-moment correlation analysis of the influence of social security on sustainable development in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State (N=400).

Variable	$\sum X$ $\sum Y$	$\sum X^2$ $\sum XY$ $\sum Y^2$	r-cal
Social security (X3)	1529	5849	0.793
Sustainable development (Y)	1525	5822	

Significant at  $p < 0.05$ ,  $df = 398$ ,  $\text{crit-}r = 0.113$

The result in Table 4 shows that the calculated –r-value of 0.793 was found to be greater than the critical r-value of 0.113 needed at 0.05 level of significance with 398 degrees of freedom. With this result, the null hypothesis is rejected. This therefore implied that there is a significant relationship between Social Security and Sustainable Development in the study area. It also implies that there is a positive correlation between Social Security services and Sustainable Development in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria.

### Discussion of Findings

The result of the hypothesis revealed that Social Security has a significant effect on Sustainable Development in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria. The finding is in line with the view of Duhim (2010), which argued that, Social Security plays key role in accelerating progress toward achieving the 2030 sustainable development goals and leaving no one behind. The findings also supported the view of Lu and Liu (2017), who pointed out that the expansion of social security leads to increase in government intervention as an adverse impact on market efficiency and government spending has a crowding out effect on private investment which hinders economic growth.

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The findings also affirmed the earlier studies of Barrow (2023), that the social security as social welfare provision is critical for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development goals.

### **Conclusion**

The statistical analyses have affirmed the argument in the body of the work that Social Security Services correlate with sustainable development in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State. Social Security Services in terms of provision of poverty alleviation programmes, healthcare, and Cash Transfer, significantly promote sustainable socio-economic development in both rural and urban communities. The provision of social security services is essential for sustainable development in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria. The social security issues are thus the significant predictors of sustainable socio-economic development, and achieving sustainable development is the goal of any society. Over the years, the idea of managing sustainable development has become a concept that has a link to social welfare provisions globally. Social Security Services where there are provided have been acceptable approach to sustainable socio-economic development in Nigeria.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. All necessary authorities (Government, NGOs, etc) should make adequate provision for Social Security Services in their yearly budget, since Social Security Services engenders economic development.
2. The United Nations SDGs can only be achieved through the provision of Social Security Services, Government should therefore expand and reactivate all Social Security Programmes to carry everybody along in her Renewed Hope Agenda, to boost economic activities in the Country.

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