



EU Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) Programme Phase I

OVERVIEW

The European Union Funded Programme “Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria” (EU-SDGN) Phase I aimed to contribute to the reinforcement of democracy in Nigeria through building strong, effective and legitimate democratic institutions.’

The Programme was implemented from

MAY
2017 - 2022

covering parts of the

2015 - 2019
and the
2019 - 2023

electoral cycles, and articulated through five components aimed at achieving the following specific objectives:



Component 1
Support to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)



Component 2
Support to the National Assembly (NASS)



Component 3
Support to Political Parties



Component 4
Support to Media



Component 5
Support to Civil Society Organisations

Component 5: Support to Civil Society Organisations

It aimed to support the enhancement of security and communication strategies for citizens’ civic and public engagement in elections, electoral, and democratic system initiatives.

The composition of activities under component 5 comprised support in favour of inclusion – Women, PWDs and vulnerable

groups, electoral violence mitigation, peace, fair elections and social media. The overall relevance of these EU-SDGN actions stems in large part from their complimentary added value to the other parts of the EU-SDGN programme and aiming at ensuring that the entire horizon of electoral stakeholders is engaged, in line with the adopted programme approach.

RESULTS

■ Provided stakeholders with the empirical basis for the deployment of manpower and other resources for the 2018 Governorship Elections in Ekiti, Osun, and Kogi states, and the 2019 General Elections. This led to INEC and the security agencies adopting measures and approaches that reduced violence during these elections. For instance, the Nigeria Police invited CLEEN Foundation to compare findings with their internal reports to draw up strategic operational

deployment plans for the elections. The findings were also utilized during the training of security personnel ahead of the elections.

■ 75% compliance with the 15 peace agreements facilitated and signed between political actors at state and national level in the run up to, and during, the 2019 general election supported a substantial drop in violence directly linked to political



European Union

RESULTS

incitement. The agreements were developed through strategic consultations with key actors and aimed to promote issue-based electoral campaigns devoid of divisive religious, ethnic and political rhetoric.

- Improved knowledge and awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities to participate in the election process following series of engagements and advocacy to the National Assembly contributed to embedding provisions for improved representation of persons with disabilities in the new Electoral Act (S. 54 (1) & (2), Electoral Act 2022).
- The programme increased participation of persons with disabilities in politics in Osun, Ekiti and FCT through community town halls and outreach efforts that reached over 1,000 individuals and saw almost half of those register with a political party by the end of 2020.
- The establishment of the first-ever National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Volunteer Voter Education Community Development Service (CDS) supported a fast roll-out of voter engagement training and activities to 2,591 CDS members across Imo, Osun and FCT who in turn reached an estimated 350,000 youth voters and encouraged their participation in the elections. Voter registration increased by 8.9% in the three target states, whilst voter participation increased by 15.8% between 2015 and 2019 in the states.
- The NYSC Voter Education CDS groups in Imo, Osun and the FCT are sustainable structures that are now working with INEC to support peer-to-peer voter education, an example of the improved working relationship between INEC and NYSC.
- Working closely with The Electoral Institute (TEI), and Independent consultants, the series of reports generated during the implementation of the intervention has contributed to enriching the existing body of knowledge on voter education and the Nigeria electoral process.
- The establishment of the Information Analysis Centre ensured real time fact-checking of mis/disinformation during election.
- INEC updated its electoral strategy to enhance the participation of Persons with Disabilities ahead of the 2019 general elections, using data generated by the

mobile App and the Baseline Survey Report developed by the programme. The report also aided INEC's distribution of vital electoral resources to various polling units to enhance the participation of PWDs during the election.

- The Judiciary addressed the rising cases of conflicting judgements by courts of coordinate jurisdictions by sanctioning erring Judges. This development followed two roundtable discussions and six investigative reports on the effect of conflicting judgements on the integrity of the electoral process.
- An estimated 26,559,205 Nigerians (59% increase from previous engagements - 10,760,632) were reached on social media during off-cycle elections in 2020 and 2021. 42% of those reached self-reported knowing a great deal or a fair amount about political happenings in Nigeria that are relevant to them; and findings show that the programme's output has prompted discussion. Many young people commented that the content encouraged them to discuss issues affecting them, including affairs pertaining to how the country's governance system works, and the importance of engaging in political processes.
- End line study showed that the programme's social media content stimulated discussion and action taking around governance and electoral processes. Experts and audiences described the content on our pages as interactive, interesting, engaging and very effective in addressing political issues and encouraging young people to get involved in political activities.
- Due to the capacity strengthening of the 12 media (9 radio and 3 TV) partner stations in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory, over the last 5 years, trainees reported that they improved their capacity to produce and distribute relevant and engaging social media content addressing electoral issues as a result of the capacity building programme, stating that this has helped to improve the quality of their outputs (e.g. different approach to story telling, creating catchy/engaging titles and seeking consent to post pictures from other sources) and inspired their digital audiences to engage and discuss governance/political related issues online.

Implementing Partners:

