



Interim Report on the Voter Registration Exercise for the 2011 General Elections

by

Project 2011 Swift Count:
an initiative of FOMWAN, JDPC, NBA and TMG

*January 24, 2011
Abuja, Nigeria*

Summary

Project 2011 Swift Count, an initiative of FOMWAN, JDPC, NBA and TMG, trained, accredited and deployed approximately 1,000 observers to all 774 local government areas (LGAs) for the voter registration exercise. During the first half of the voter registration exercise, Project 2011 Swift Count observers were deployed to registration centres nationwide on Saturday January 15, Thursday January 20 and Saturday January 22. Throughout each day observers sent in reports at assigned times via coded text messages using their mobile phones.

Reports from Project 2011 Swift Count observers clearly show that the beginning of the exercise was fraught with registration centres not opening, equipment problems and procedural challenges (such as scanners having difficulty reading registrants finger prints). However, observer reports also indicate that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has taken important steps to address these issues during the first week of the exercise and the number of problems being reported by observers has decreased significantly. Overall, Project 2011 Swift Count observation data suggests that INEC is gaining momentum from a very slow start.

Based on its observer reports, Project 2011 Swift Count found specifically:

- On the first day of voter registration only 16% of centres observed opened. On Thursday January 20 and Saturday January 22, observed centres open increased to 93% (see Chart 3). However, early closing of centres held constant at about 16% throughout the week (see Chart 4).
- Direct Data Capture (DDC) systems properly functioned at 42% of the registration centres on Saturday January 15, but improved to 74% by the following Saturday January 22 (see Chart 16). At 63% of centres observed on the first Saturday, all or most registrants were issued with temporary voter ID cards. By the end of the week, this had increased to approximately 75% of centres observed were issuing all or most registrants with temporary voter ID cards (see Chart 20).
- Attempts to intimidate or harass people at registration centres remained low at just 5% of centres observed throughout the week (see Chart 36). Disruption or interference was observed at only 6% of the centres (see Chart 38).

Significant improvements observed throughout the week in the administration of voter registration points to INEC recognizing and addressing problems promptly. INEC needs to continue these efforts to ensure that all registration centres open and function smoothly. In order to understand the success of the voter registration exercise, INEC should also release daily registration numbers by LGA and state. It is only with such information that the public and political contestants will be able to meaningfully assess the overall success of the exercise and evaluate any possible INEC decision concerning the length of voter registration.

Finally, Nigerian citizens should be congratulated for their conduct and participation to date. However, everyone who is eligible, but has not yet registered must make every effort to ensure they are properly registered. Civil society and political parties must continue to encourage their members and all citizens to remain engaged and to register for the April elections.

Project 2011 Swift Count will continue to observe the voter registration exercise, as well as the display, claims and objections process, and will issue additional reports and statements as appropriate.

Project 2011 Swift Count

Project 2011 Swift Count is a joint initiative of the Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN); Justice, Development and Peace/Caritas Nigeria (JDPC), Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), and Transition Monitoring Group (TMG). Reflecting the diversity of Nigeria, the project brings together civic organizations and religious groups (Christian and Muslim) to promote free, fair, peaceful, credible and legitimate elections through non-partisan, independent citizen observation.

Reflecting the challenging nature of elections in Nigeria, Project 2011 Swift Count employs an innovative approach to election observation. The emphasis is placed on providing the people of Nigeria, political contestants and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) with independent, non-partisan, comprehensive and detailed information on the conduct of the electoral process. Ultimately, these elections belong to the people of Nigeria and it is up to them to decide if the conduct of the elections meets their expectations. However, the only way Nigerians can make an informed decision about the conduct of the elections is with comprehensive information from an independent and non-partisan source.

In order to achieve this goal, Project 2011 Swift Count employs cutting edge observation methodologies and information and communication technologies (ICTs). For election day, Project 2011 Swift Count will deploy approximately 8,000 observers to a representative random sample of polling stations. Each observer will send their reports via coded text messages using mobile phones. This will allow Project 2011 Swift Count to quickly collect, analyse and share detailed and comprehensive information on the conduct of elections with the people of Nigeria, political contestants and INEC and to verify the accuracy of the official results as announced by INEC.

Methodology

For the voter registration exercise, Project 2011 Swift Count partners trained, accredited and deployed nearly 1,000 volunteers. A total of 148 supervisors were deployed to the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) as mobile observers. In addition, 798 observers were deployed to the 774 local government areas (LGAs) with at least one assigned to every single LGA. In a few instances multiple observers were assigned to LGAs.

Zone	LGAs	Supervisors	Observers	Sat Jan 15 % Observers Reporting	Thu Jan 20 % Observers Reporting	Sat Jan 22 % Observers Reporting
North Central	121	28	129	97.7%	97.7%	97.7%
North East	112	24	119	100.0%	99.2%	98.3%
North West	186	28	189	100.0%	98.9%	98.9%
South East	95	20	96	99.0%	99.0%	97.9%
South South	123	24	125	99.2%	99.2%	100.0%
South West	137	24	140	100.0%	99.3%	99.3%
Nigeria	774	148	798	99.4%	98.9%	98.7%

Observers in LGAs were instructed to observe only on specific days (Saturday 15 January, Thursday 20 January and Saturday 22 January). On these days, observers in LGAs went to

only one registration centre and observed from 7:30 am until the registration centre closed. On subsequent days, observers were instructed to go to a different registration centre.

Throughout the day observers sent in their reports via coded text messages using their mobile phones to a National Information Centre in Abuja. In this manner, observer data could be collected from the entire country in a single day. In some instances observers deployed to registration centres where there was no cell phone signal. In these cases, the observers sent in their coded text messages in the evening after the close of the centre and once they were able to move to areas with service.

While observers were not deployed to a random sample of registration centres and hence the findings from their data cannot be easily extrapolated to all centres, they were deployed representatively across the country and the information they provided offers a detailed and comprehensive picture of the voter registration exercise. It also provides clear benchmarks for measuring progress.

Accreditation

INEC's Election Monitoring and Observation Committee (EMOC) did not establish clear procedures or guidelines for the accreditation of observers. A document outlining the process and requirements for accreditation was not produced and forms required for accreditation were posted on INEC's website after the announced closing date for submission. Organisations that applied for accreditation were not informed in writing in a timely fashion of any formal decision on their accreditation status. Accreditation was only issued the night before the registration exercise commenced and insufficient observer ID badges and signs for observer vehicles were provided. Those badges that were provided cover only the period of voter registration and not display, claims and objections slated for February 3 to 8.

Due to the failure of EMOC to establish clear procedures or provide documents in a timely fashion accreditation was secured in Abuja late on Friday January 14 the evening before voter registration commenced. While not informed in writing of the decision the partner organisations learned that they would not be jointly accredited as Project 2011 Swift Count. However, they were individually accredited as FOMWAN, JDPC, NBA and TMG.

Even though the partner organisations submitted the names of approximately 1,000 observers the EMOC only provided a total of 20 accreditation badges. As such INEC badges could not be distributed to observers. The INEC accreditation letter was scanned that night and emailed to all 37 state coordinators and the 111 state deputy coordinators located in all of the states plus the FCT.

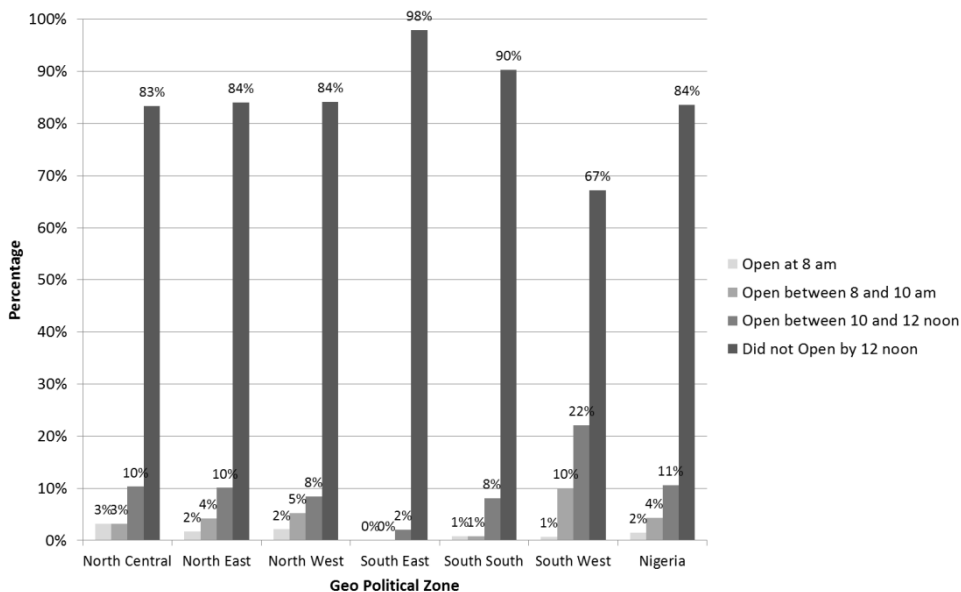
One Project 2011 Swift Count observer from TMG in Kaura LGA in Kaduna state was arrested on Thursday January 20 at the end of voter registration for the day. He was taken to the local police station and put in the cells. Initially the police refused to release him, but after communication from representatives from TMG and NBA as well as the INEC registration officials from the centre the police agreed to release him from the cells. However, as the district police officer (DPO) had gone home for the night and could not be reached by phone the observer was forced to remain at the police station until the middle of the following day when the DPO finally returned.

Findings

Opening of Registration Centres

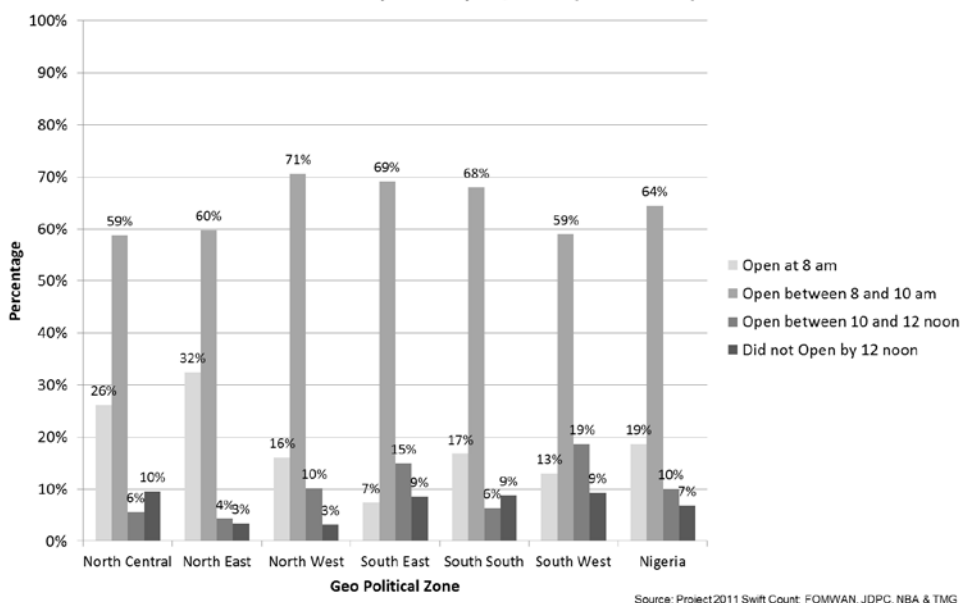
Observers reported large numbers of registration centre across Nigeria failed to open on Saturday January 15 the first day of voter registration (see Chart 1). Overall, only 16% of registration centres with observers opened by 12 noon. This problem was most severe in South East where observers reported only 2% opened by 12 noon. However, in South West observers reported 33% of registration centres opened.

Chart 1: Registration Centre Opening Time by Geo Political Zone for Saturday January 15, 2011 (LGAs = 761)



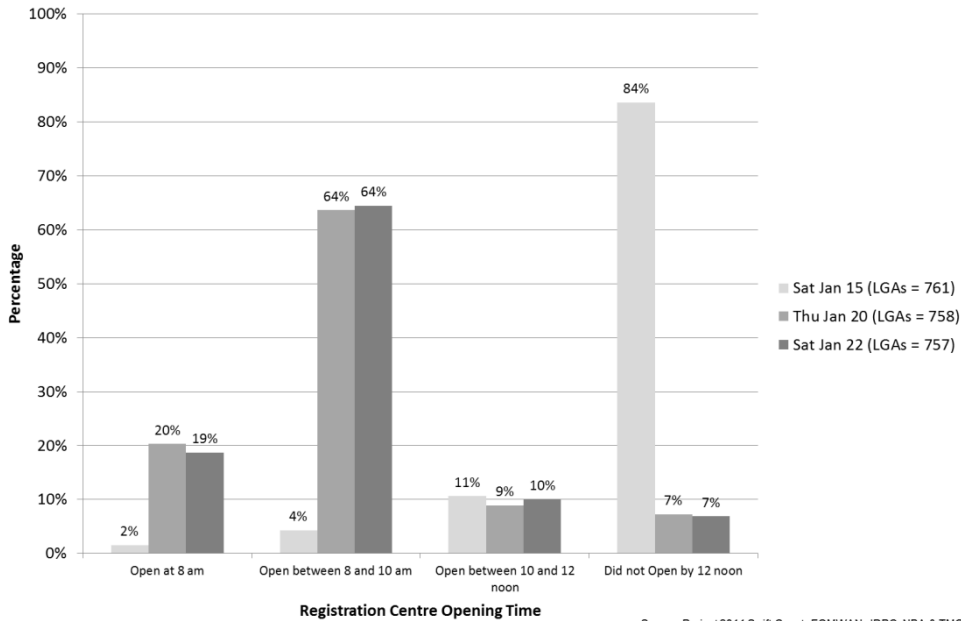
By Saturday January 22 the situation had improved dramatically, 93% of observers reported registration centres opened by 12 noon (see Chart 2). In North East and North West observers reported 96% of centres opened by 12 noon.

Chart 2: Registration Centre Opening Time by Geo Political Zone for Saturday January 22, 2011 (LGAs = 757)



The trend over the three days which were observed was very positive with significantly more centres open by noon on Thursday January 20 and Sunday January 22 than had been open on Saturday January 15 (see Chart 3). The number of centres which failed to open by 12 noon dropped dramatically from 84% to 7% while the number of centres opening at 8 am and between 8 and 10 am rose significantly from 2% to 19% and 4% to 64% respectively.

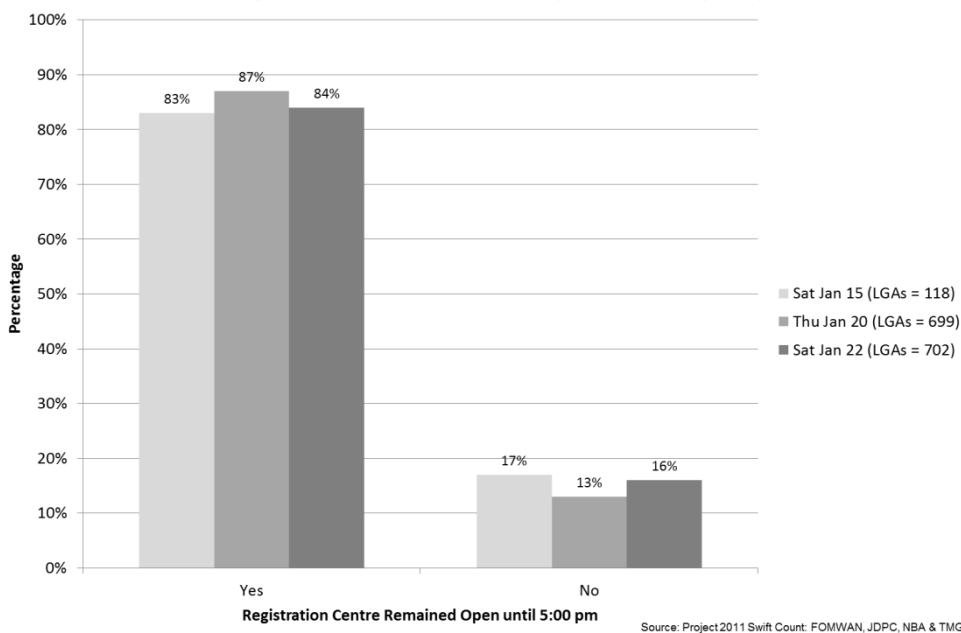
Chart 3: Registration Centre Opening Time by Date



Registration Centres Closing during the Day

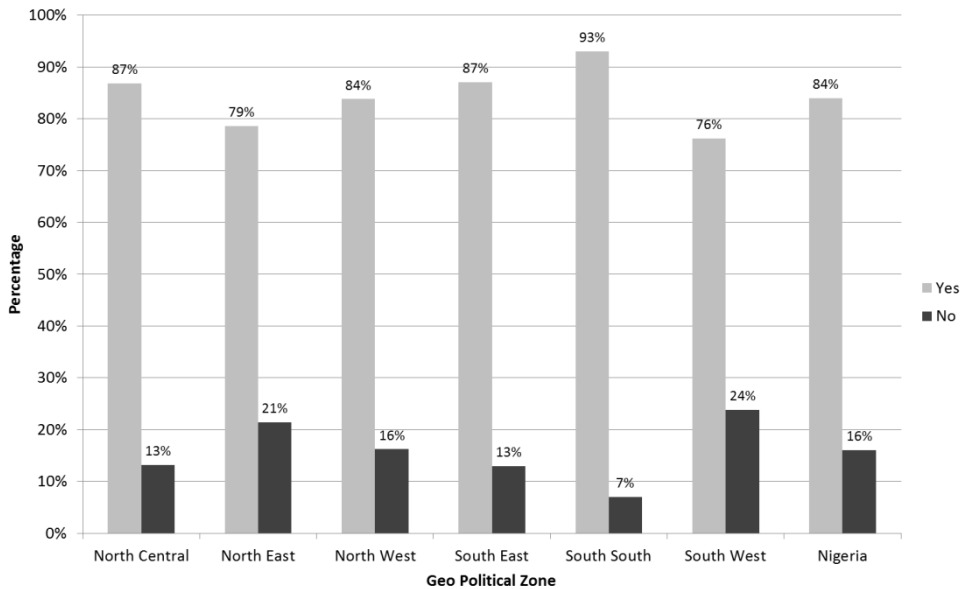
While the majority of registration centres remained opened until 5 pm, observers consistently reported more than 10% of centres closing early (see Chart 4). There was some improvement between Saturday January 15 (17% closing early) and Thursday January 20 (13% closing early), but this trend was reversed on Saturday January 22 (16% closing early).

Chart 4: Registration Centre Remained Open until 5:00 pm by Date



The pattern of centres closing early was similar across Nigeria, but with some variation by geo political zone (Chart 5). On Saturday January 22 observers reported the fewest early closings in South South (7%) and the most in South West (24%) and North East (21%).

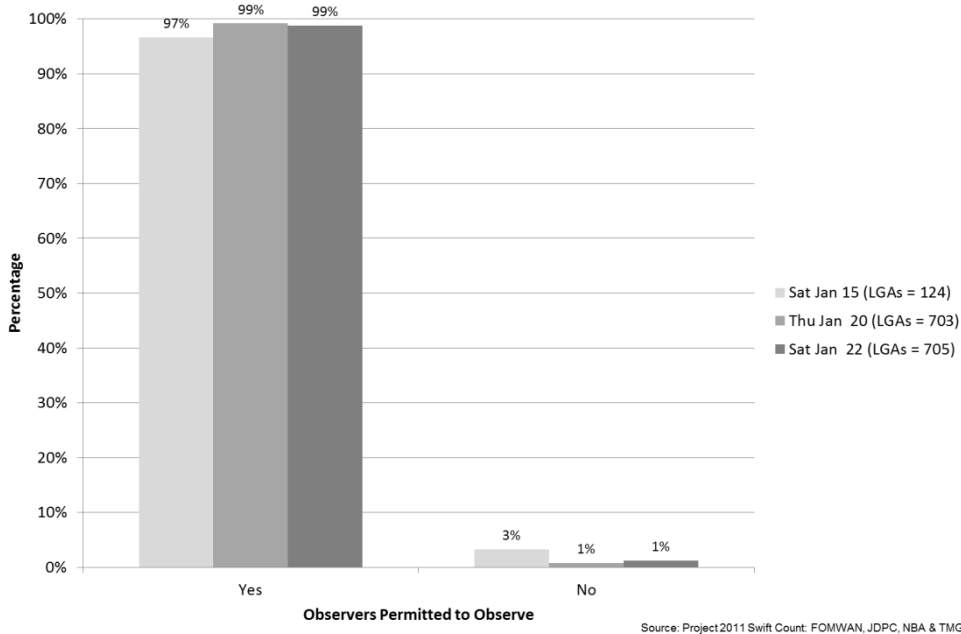
Chart 5: Registration Remained Open until 5:00 pm by Geo Political Zone for Saturday January 22, 2011 (LGAs = 702)



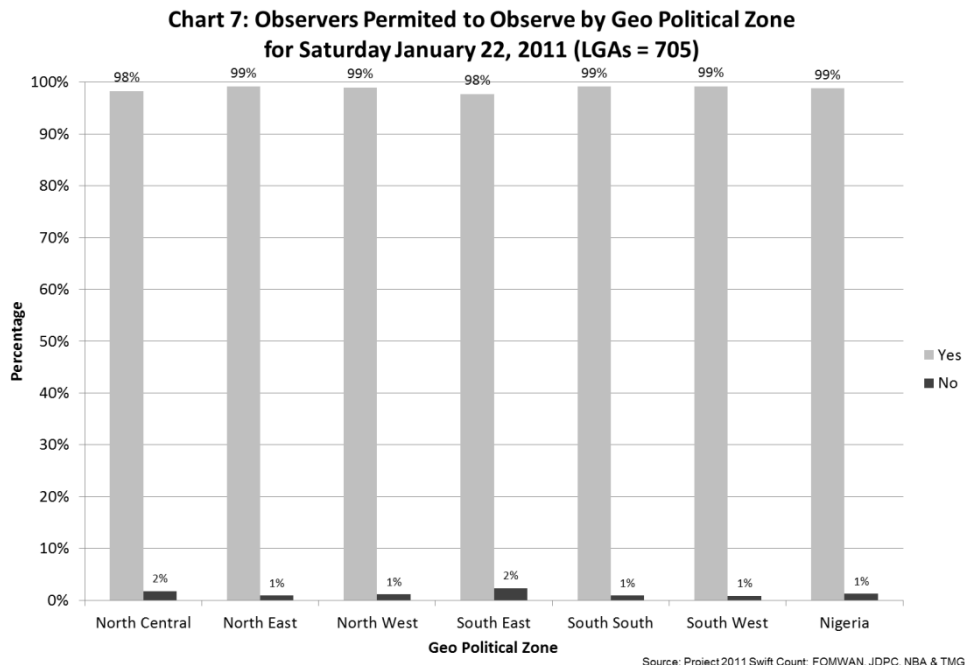
Permitted to Observe at Registration Centres

Despite the challenges with the EMOC accreditation process, access to registration centres has not been a systematic problem (see Chart 6). Consistently more than 95% of observers report that they were permitted to observe at registration centres.

Chart 6: Observers Permitted to Observe by Date

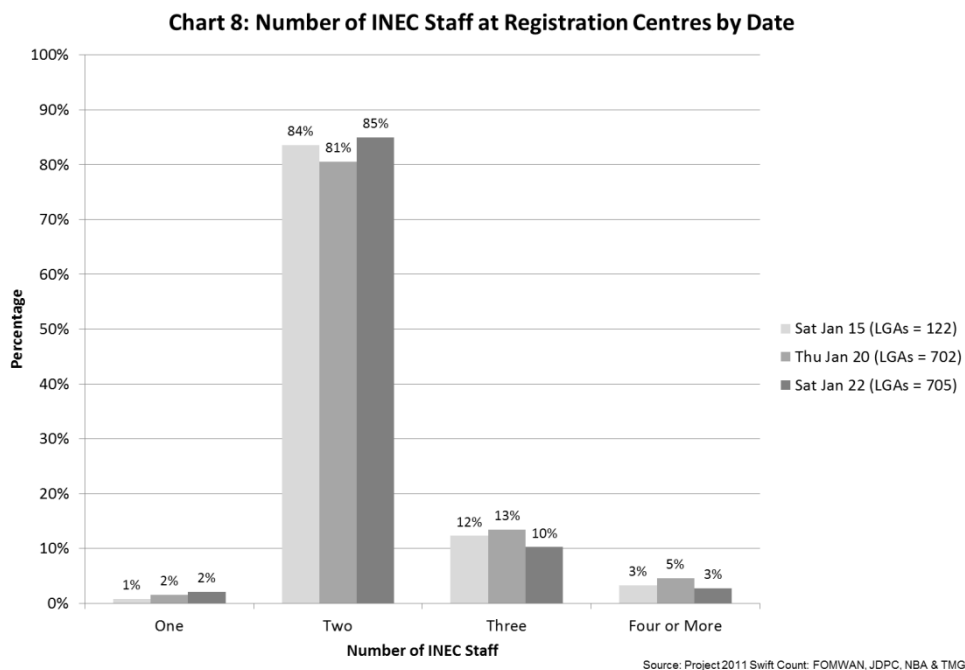


On Saturday January 22, nine observers (1%) reported not being permitted by registration officials to observe at centres (see Chart 7). These cases were dispersed across all the geo political zones.



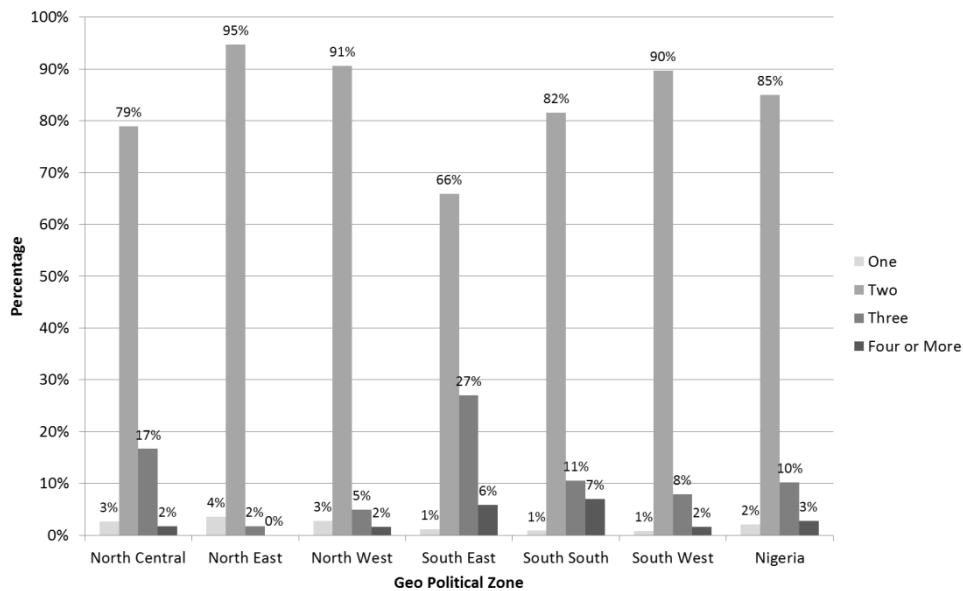
Registration Official, Political Party Agents and Security Personnel

Consistently observers reported more than 80% of centres having two registration officials (see Chart 8). At approximately one in ten centres observers reported there were three officials present.



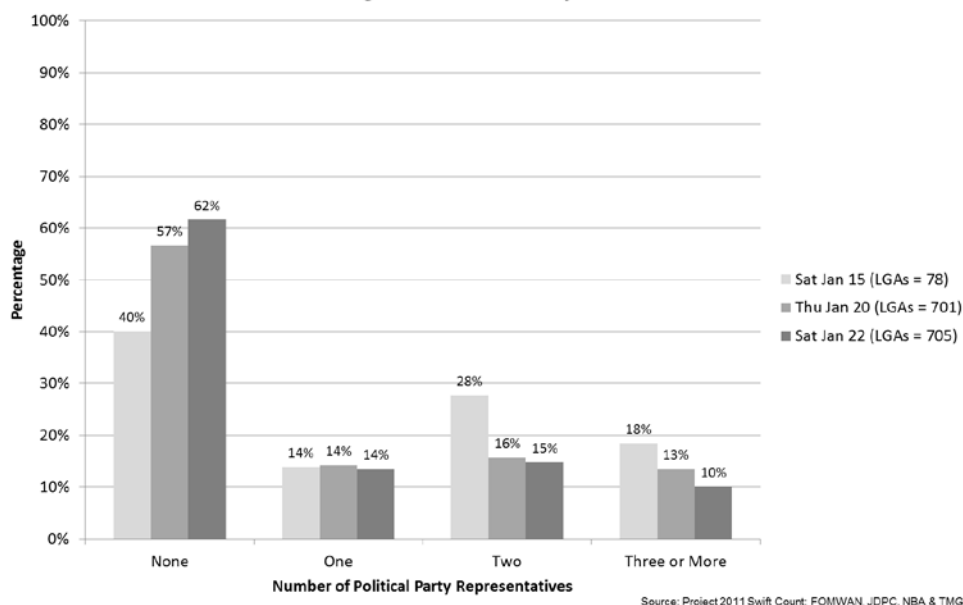
On Saturday January 22, observers report South East and North Central had the largest percentage of registration centres with three officials – 27% and 17% respectively (see Chart 9).

Chart 9: Number of INEC Staff at Registration Centres by Geo Political Zone Saturday January 22, 2011 (LGAs = 705)



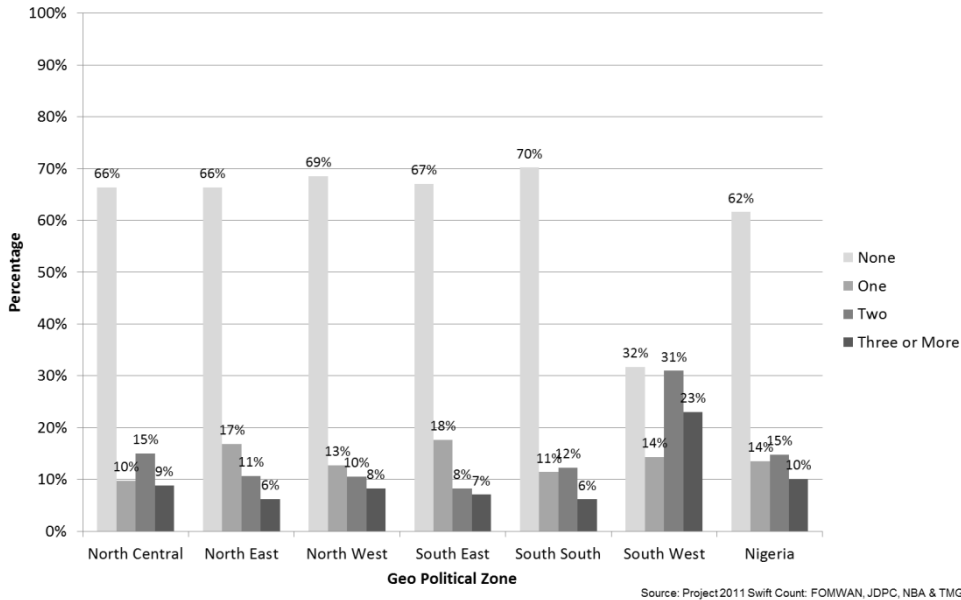
At the start of the voter registration exercise, observers reported one or more political parties deploying agents to 60% of registration centres. However, this figure decreased to 42% by Saturday January 22 (see Chart 10). Further, three or more political party agents were observed at only 18% of centres on Saturday January 15. This figure declined to 13% on Thursday January 20 and 10% on Saturday January 22.

Chart 10: Number of Political Party Representatives at Registration Centres by Date



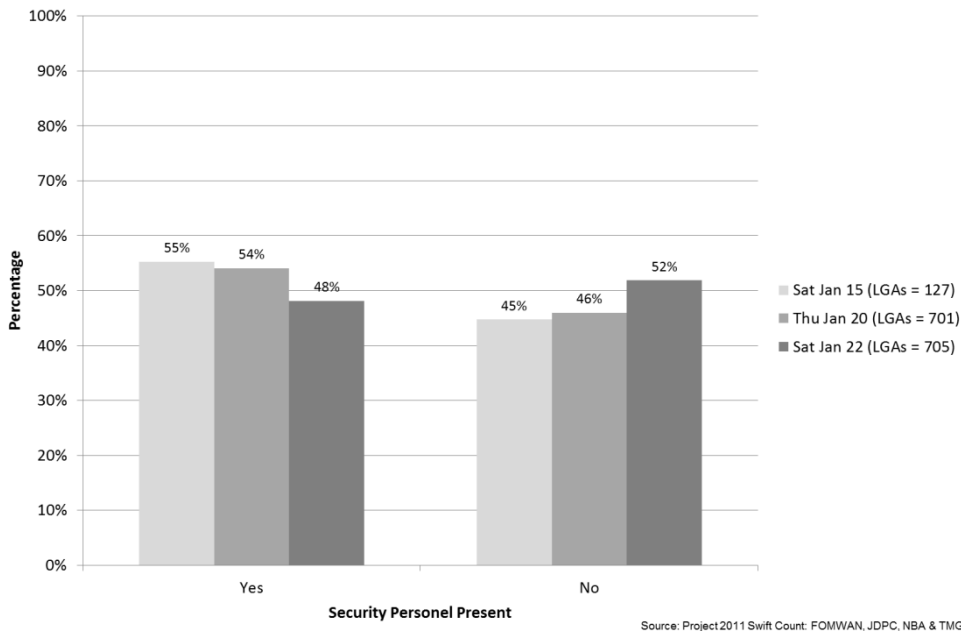
Political party participation was the greatest in South West where observers reported 23% of registration centres had three or more political parties represented while only 32% had no political party agents (see Chart 11). In all of the other geo political zones observers consistently reported 60% or more of the centres had no political party agents.

Chart 11: Number of Political Party Representatives at Registration Centres by Geo Political Zone Saturday January 22, 2011 (LGAs = 705)



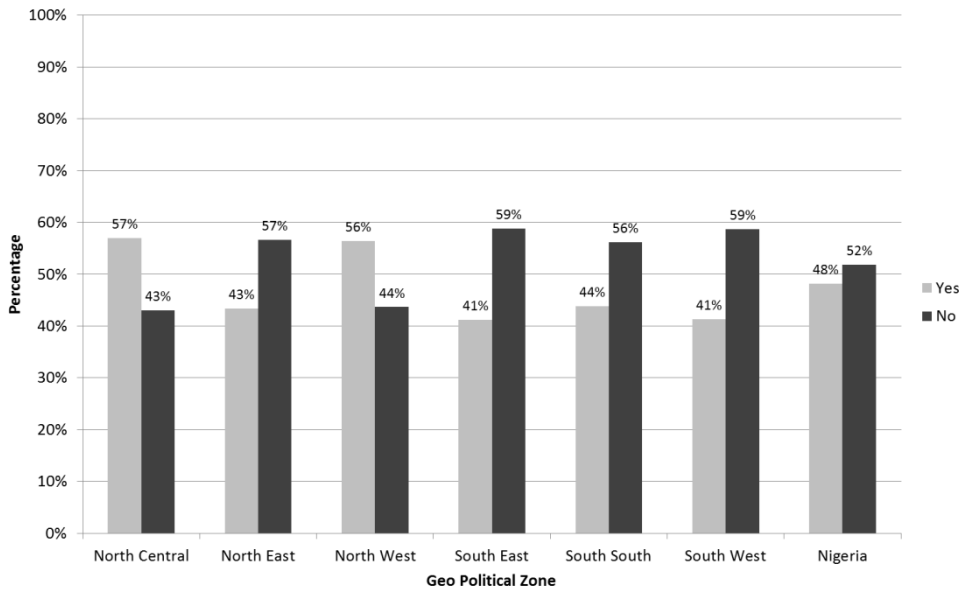
At the start of voter registration, security personnel were observed at just over half (55%) of registration centres, but declined somewhat by Saturday January 22 to 48% (see Chart 12).

Chart 12: Security Personnel Present at Registration Centres by Date



On Saturday January 22, observers reported security personnel being present at more than half of registration centres in North Central and North West, but in less than half the registration centres in the other geo political zones (see Chart 13).

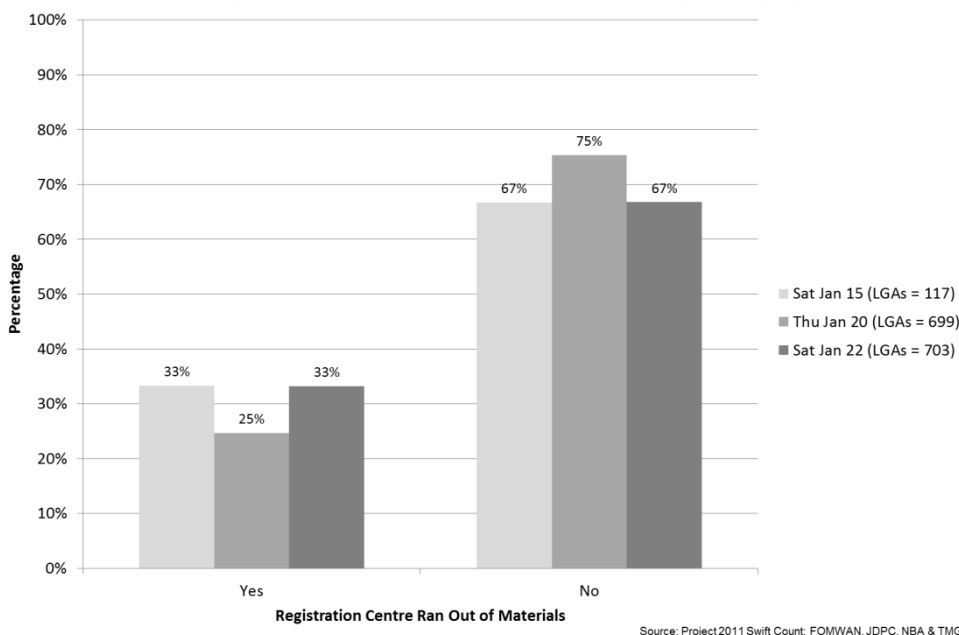
Chart 13: Security Personnel Present at Registration Centres by Geo Political Zone Saturday January 22, 2011 (LGAs = 705)



Materials

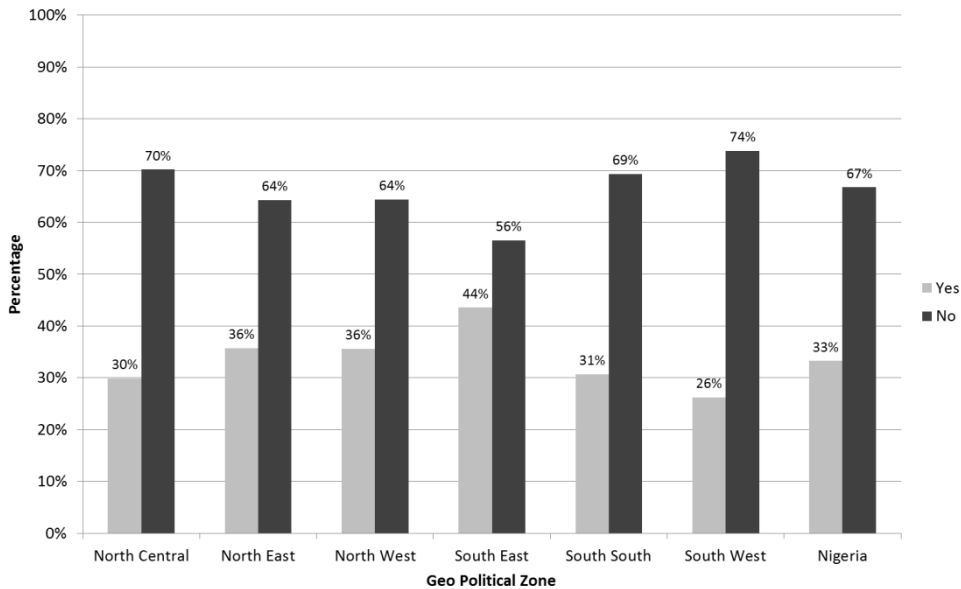
On all three days of observation, observers reported a third of registration centres running out of materials (see Chart 14). On Saturday January 15 observers at 33% of registration centres reported the centre had run out of one or more materials. The situation improved somewhat on Thursday January 20 when 25% of observers reported centres running out of materials, but on Saturday January 22 again observers reported materials had run out at 33% of centres.

Chart 14: Registration Centre Ran Out of Materials during the Day by Date



There was some variation in the pattern of registration centres running out of materials across the geo political zones (see Chart 15). On Saturday January 22, observers reported the largest percentage of centres running out of materials in South East (44%) and the smallest South West (26%).

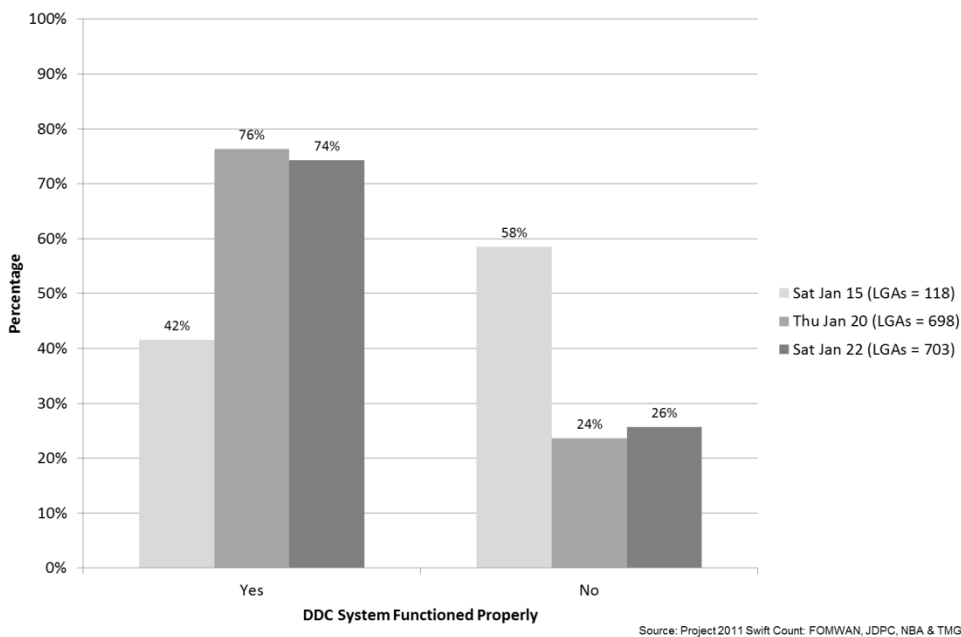
Chart 15: Registration Centre Ran Out of Materials during the Day by Geo Political Zone Saturday January 22, 2011 (LGAs = 703)



Direct Data Capture (DDC) System

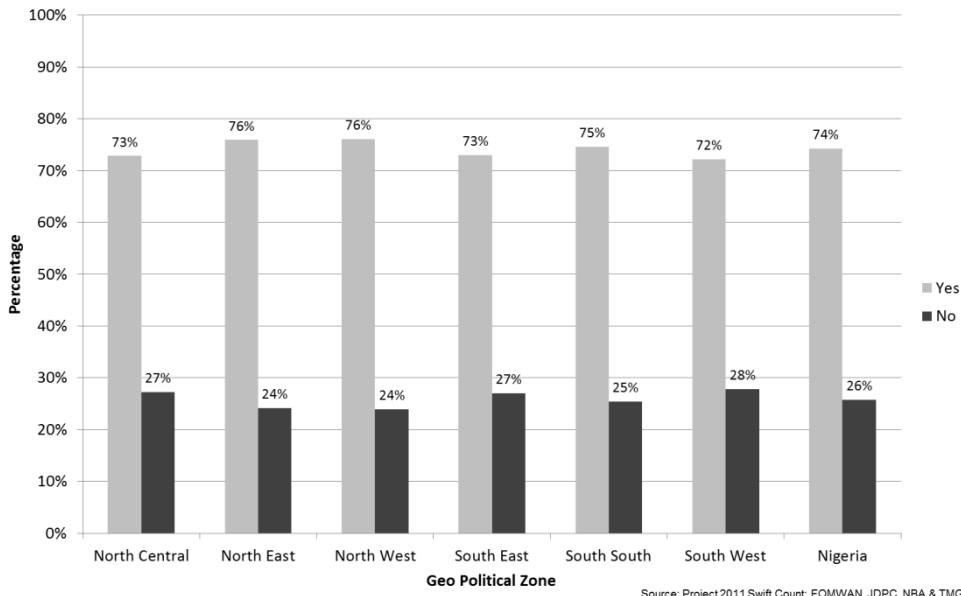
Initially on Saturday January 15, observers reported that at only 42% of registration centres which opened the DDC systems functioned properly throughout the day (see Chart 16). By Thursday January 20, DDC systems at 76% of registration centres functioned properly throughout the day. By Saturday January 22, DDC systems at 74% of registration centres functioned properly throughout the day.

Chart 16: DDC System Functioned Properly throughout the Day by Date



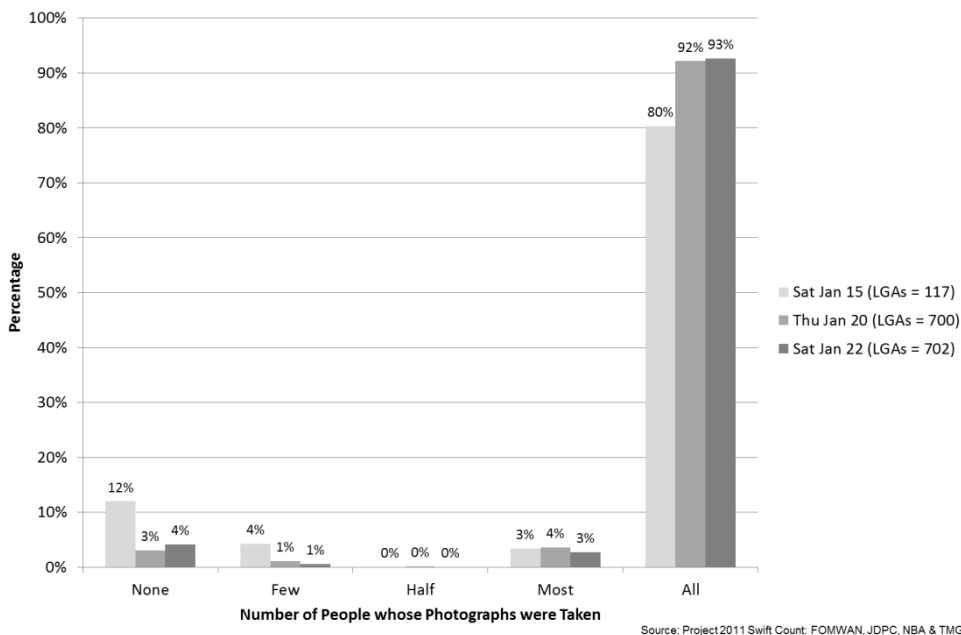
There was little variation across Nigeria in the functioning of DDC systems. On Saturday January 22, approximately 25% of observers in all geo political zones reported that the DDC system did not function properly throughout the day (see Chart 17).

Chart 17: DDC System Functioned Properly throughout the Day by Geo Political Zone for Saturday January 22, 2011 (LGAs = 703)



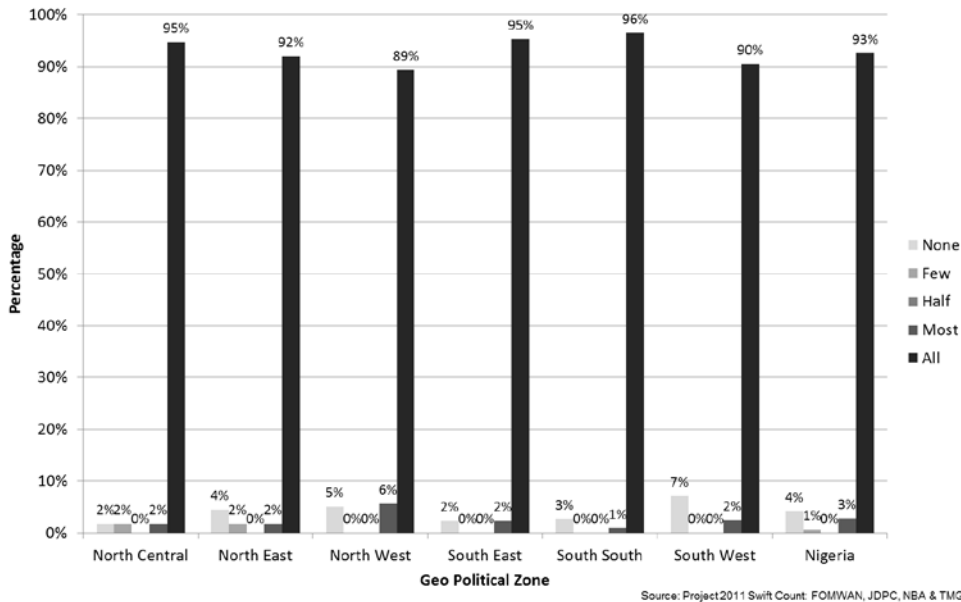
On the first day of voter registration observers reported that at 12% of registration centres photographs were not being taking of registrations (see Chart 18). However, this percentage fell to only 3% on Thursday January 20 and was just 4% on Saturday January 22.

Chart 18: Number People whose Photographs were Taken by Date



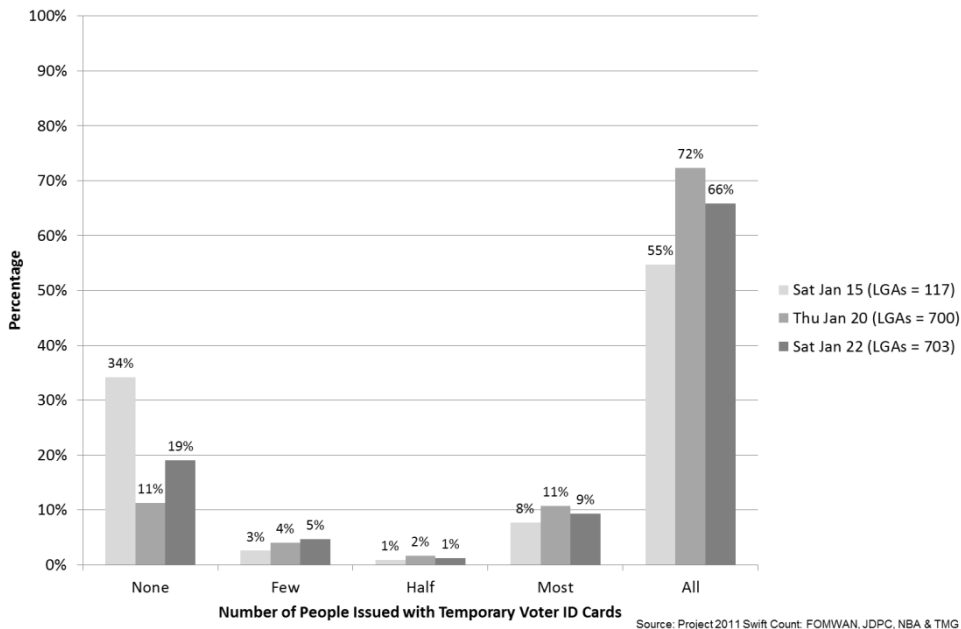
On Saturday January 22, approximately 90% or more of observers from all geo political zones reported that photographs were taken of all registrants (see Chart 19).

Chart 19: Number of People whose Photographs were Taken by Geo Political Zone for Saturday January 22, 2011 (LGA = 702)



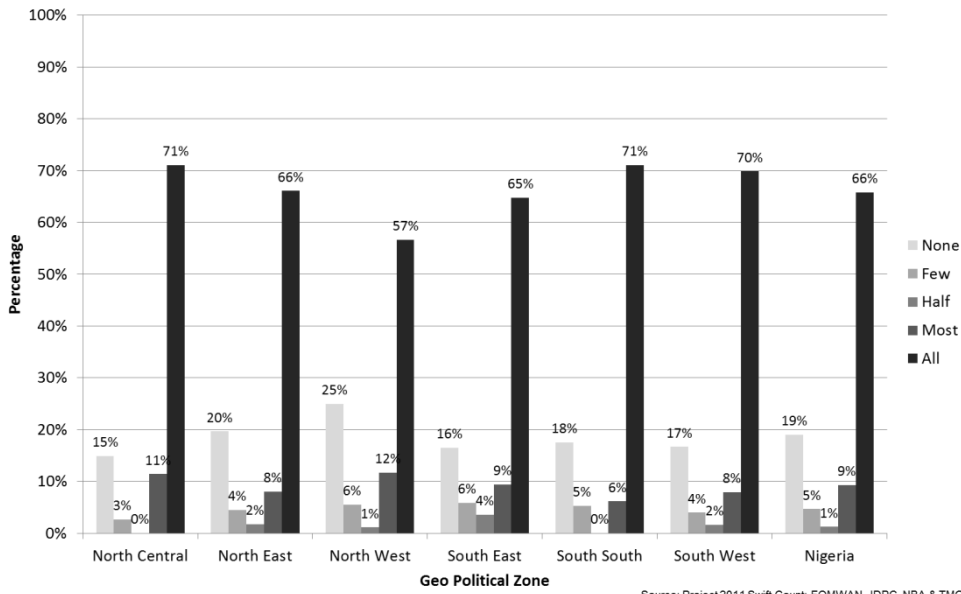
Challenges remain with the issuing of registrants with temporary voter ID cards (see Chart 20). On the first day of voter registration, observers at 34% of centres reported registrants were not issued with temporary voter ID cards. While this figure fell to 11% on Thursday January 20, it rose again on Saturday January 22 to 19%.

Chart 20: Number of People issued with Temporary Voter ID Cards by Date



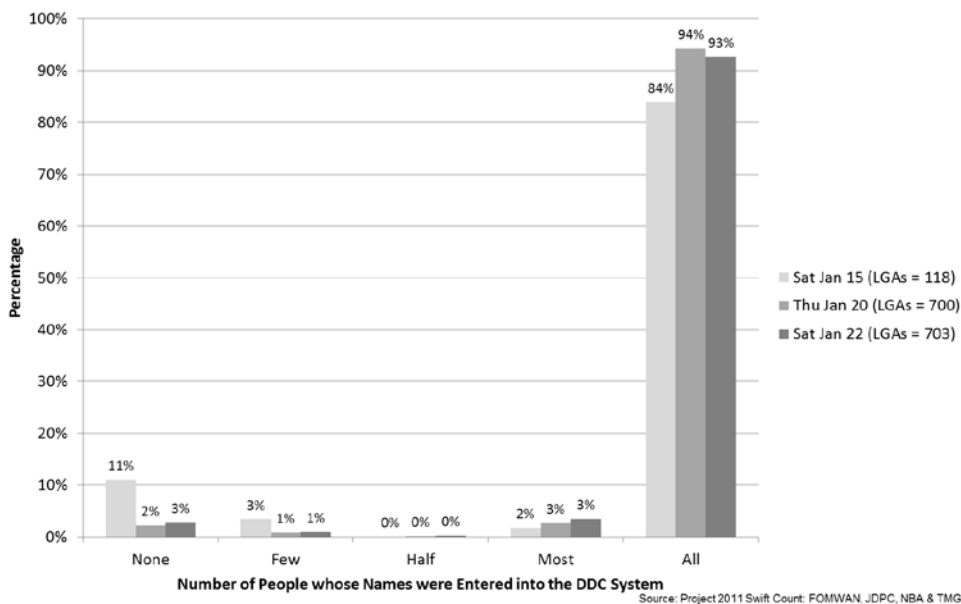
There was some variation in the issuing of temporary voter ID cards by geopolitical zone (see Chart 21). The most problems were reported by observers in North West where only 57% of registration centres issued all registrants with temporary voter ID cards.

Chart 21: Number of People issued with Temporary Voter ID Cards by Geo Political Zone for Saturday January 22, 2011 (LGAs = 703)



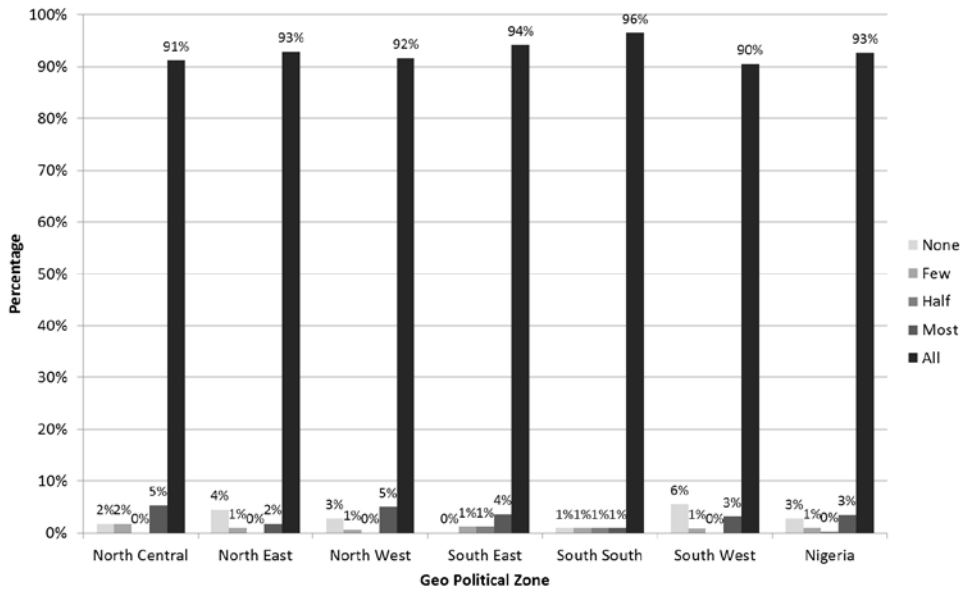
Registrants' names were consistently entered into the DDC system (see chart 22). While 11% of observers reported that names were not entered into the DDC system on the first day of registration this number fell to 2% on Thursday January 20 and remained at 3% on Saturday January 22.

Chart 22: Number of People whose Names were Entered into the DDC System by Date



Across all the geo political zones observers reported that more than 90% of registration centres all registrants names were entered into the DDC system (see Chart 23).

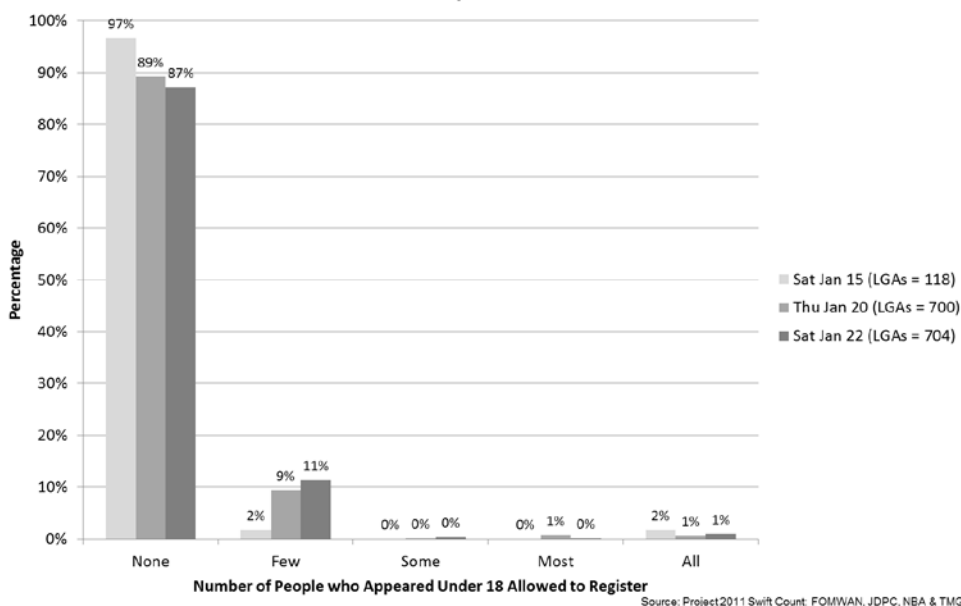
Chart 23: Number of People whose Names were Entered into the DDC System by Geo Political Zone for Saturday January 22, 2011 (LGAs = 703)



Registration Process

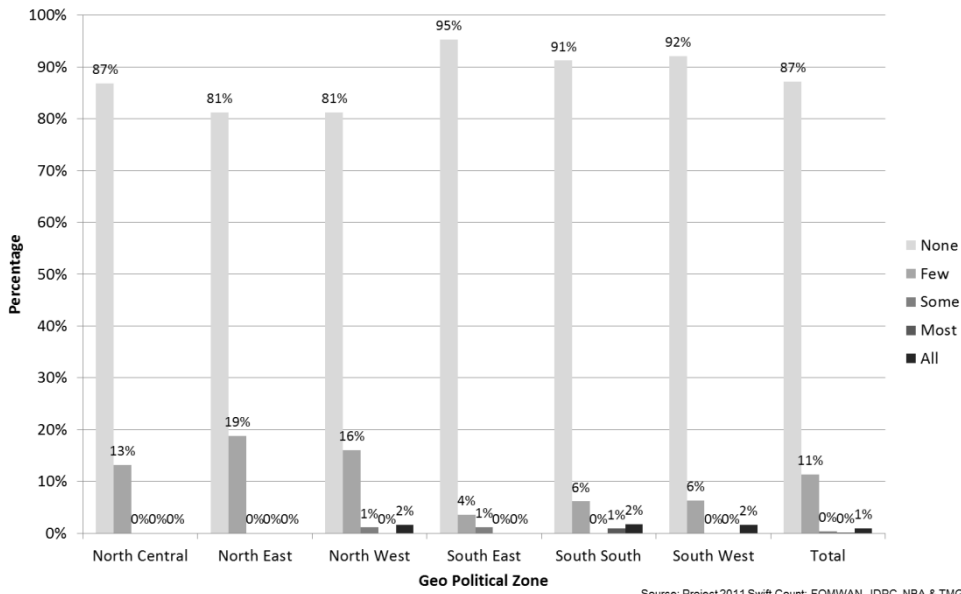
Observers reported few instances of people who appeared to be under 18 being permitted to register (see Chart 24). On Saturday January 15 observers at 97% of centres reported no instances of underage registration. However, as voter registration continued more cases were reported. Thus, on Saturday January 22 observers at 11% of registration centres reported a few instances of registration by people who appeared to be underage.

Chart 24: Number of People who Appeared Under 18 Allowed to Register by Date



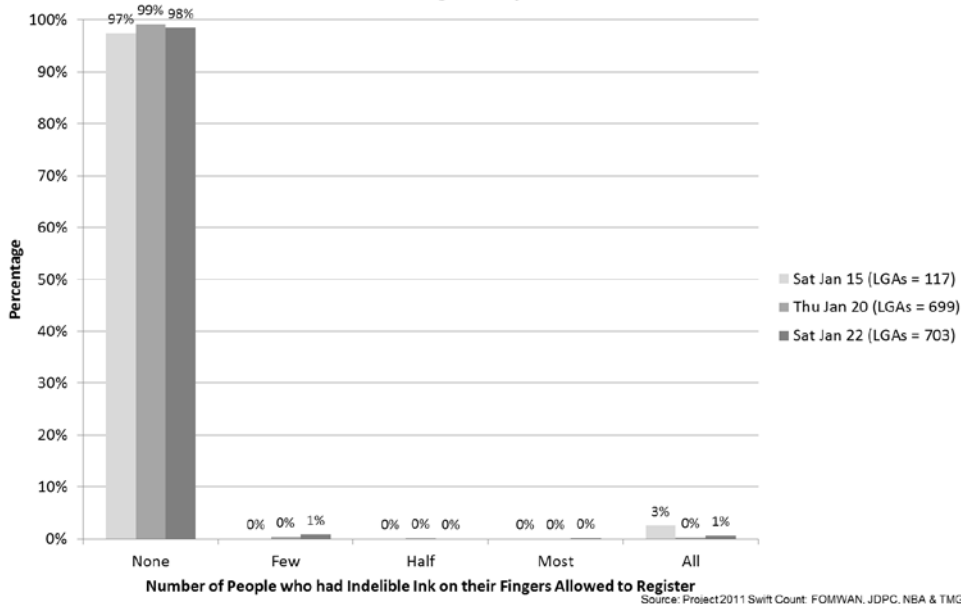
The issue of underage registration appeared to be somewhat more pronounced in North Central, North East and North West where 13%, 19% and 16% of observers reported a few instances of registration by people who appeared under 18 years old (see Chart 25).

Chart 25: Number of People who Appeared Under 18 Allowed to Register by Geo Political Zone for Saturday January 22, 2011 (LGAs = 704)

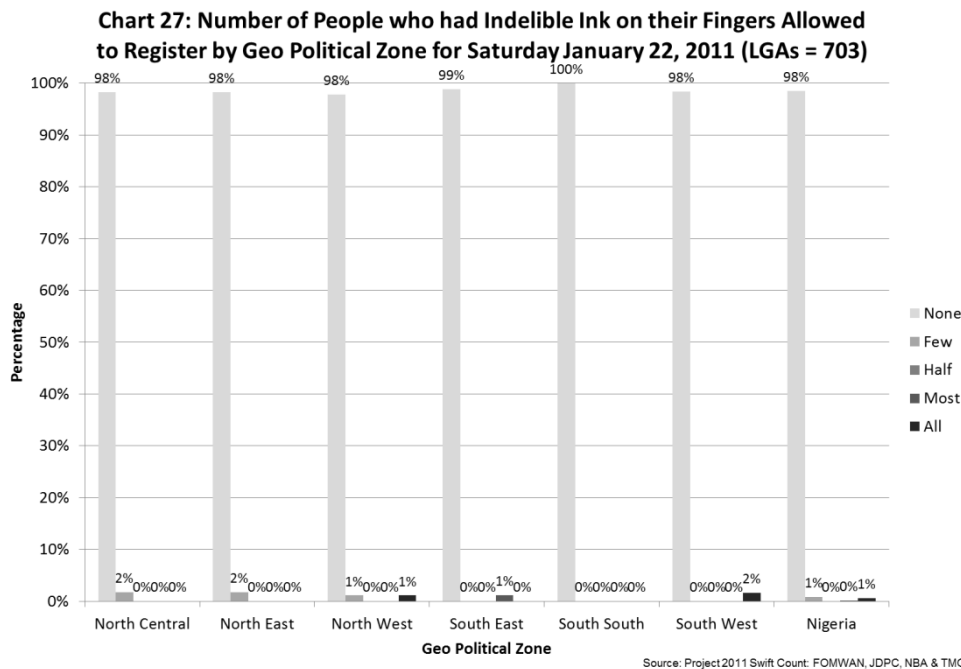


Very few cases of people registering who had indelible ink on their fingers were observed (see Chart 26). On all three days of observation over 95% of observer reported that no one registered who had indelible ink on his her fingers.

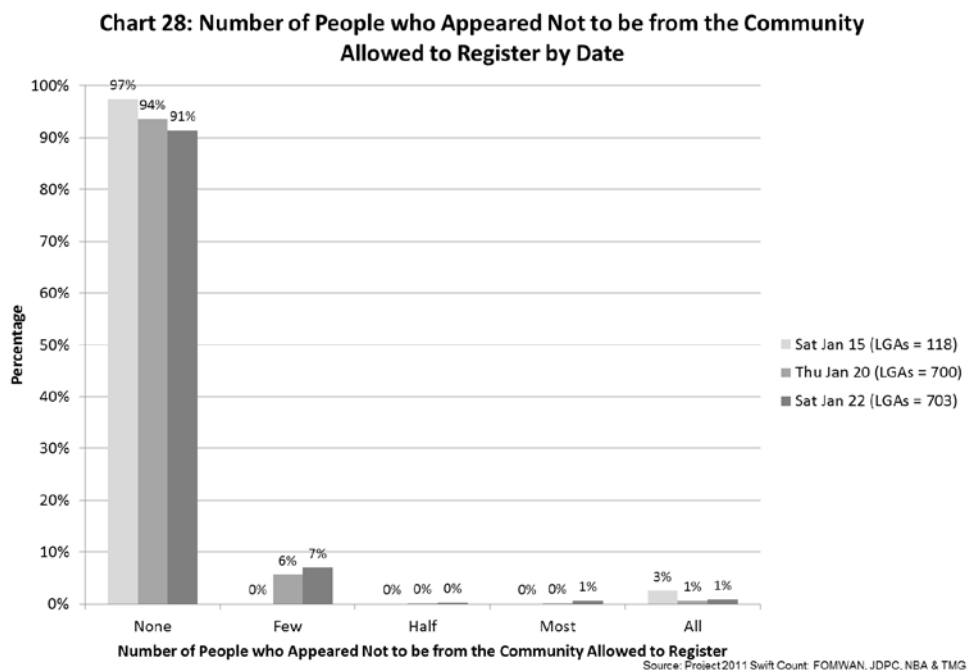
Chart 26: Number of People who had Indelible Ink on their Fingers Allowed to Register by Date



Observers in none of the geo political zones reported significant problems with people being permitted to register who had indelible ink on their fingers (see Chart 27).

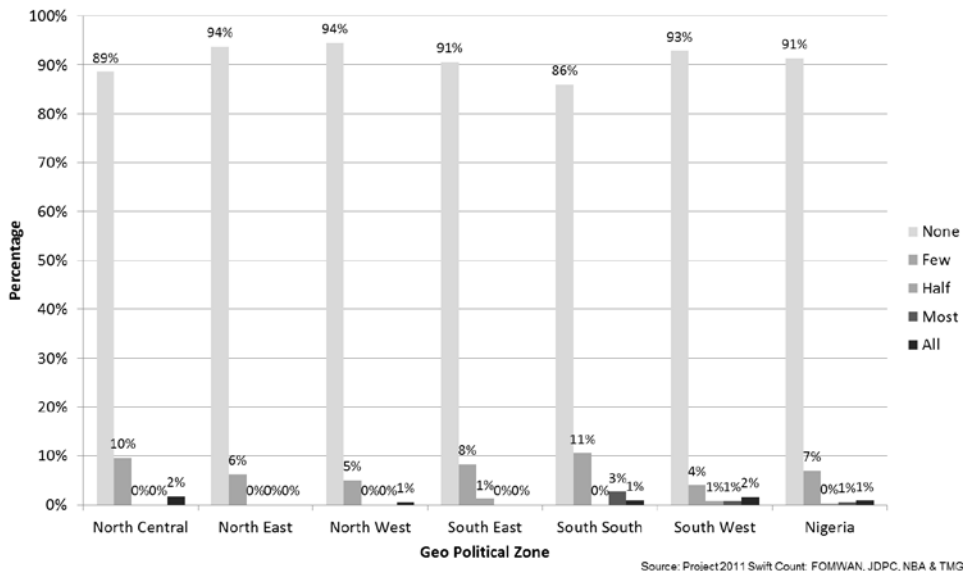


Initially there were almost no incidents of registration by people who did not appear to be from the community (i.e. those who do not work, live or originate in the LGA) (see Chart 28). On the first day of registration 97% of observers reported no instances of registration by people who did not appear to be from the community. On Saturday January 22, observers reported in 7% of centres that a few people who appeared not to be from the community were permitted to register.



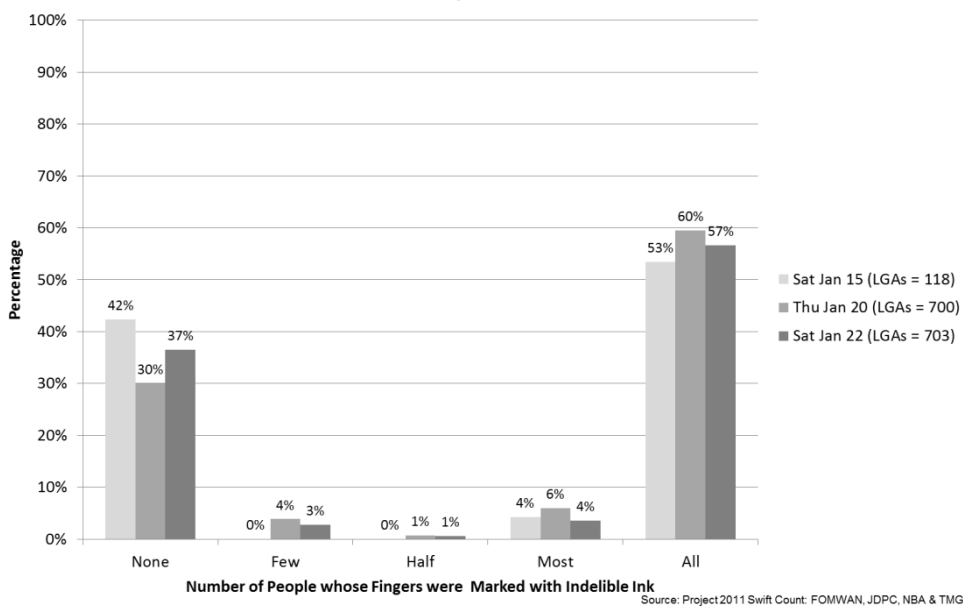
Across all the geo political zones more than 85% of observers reported no instances of people being permitted to register who were not from the community (see Chart 29). The number of cases of registration by persons not from the community was marginally greater in North Central and South South where respectively 10% and 11% of observers reported a few people who appeared to not be from the community were allowed to register to vote.

Chart 29: Number of People who Appeared Not to be from the Community Allowed to Register by Geo Political Zone for Saturday January 22, 2011 (LGAs = 703)



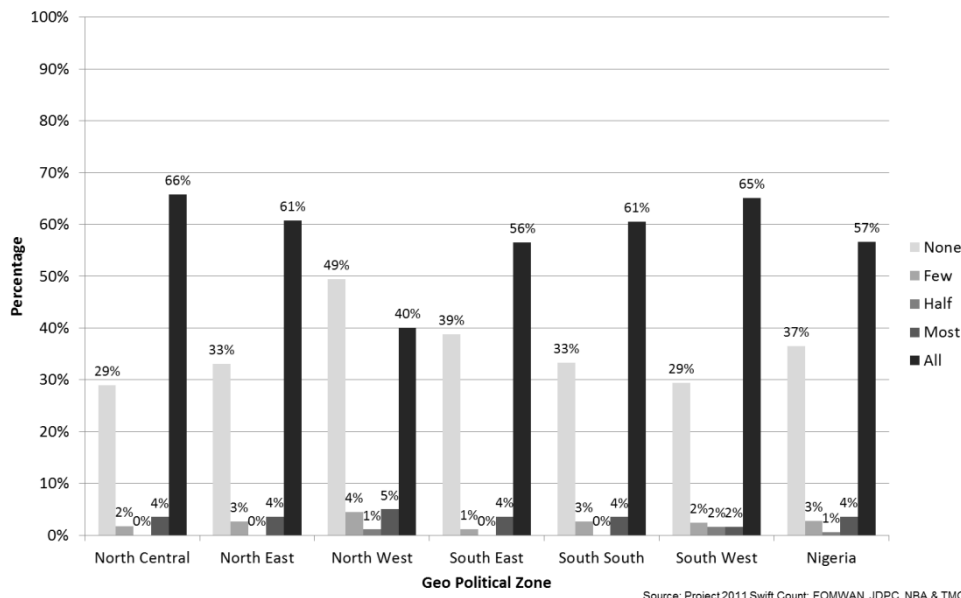
The marking of registrant fingers with indelible ink was inconsistent (see Chart 30). On the first day of registration, observers reported at 53% of centres fingers of all registrants were marked with indelible ink. However, observers also reported at 42% of centres where the fingers of no registrants were marked with indelible ink. There was little change in this pattern on either Thursday January 20 or Saturday January 22.

Chart 30: Number of People whose Fingers were Marked with Indelible Ink by Date



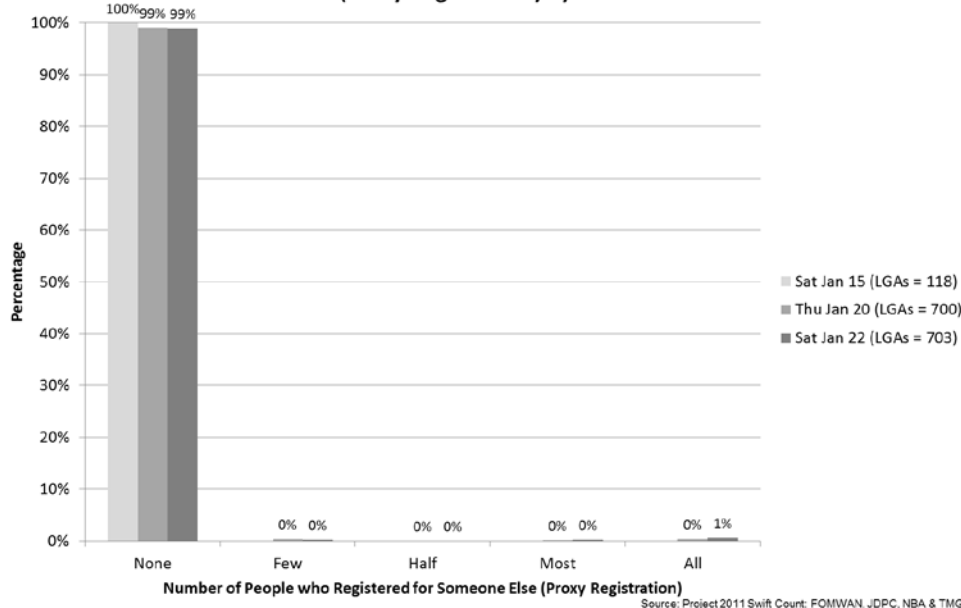
The lack of indelible ink on registrants' fingers was an issue in all of the geo political zones (see Chart 31). Observers reported the highest percentage of centres where no registrants fingers were marked with indelible ink in North West (49%) and South East (39%).

Chart 31: Number of People whose Fingers were Marked with Indelible Ink by Geo Political Zone for Saturday January 22, 2011 (LGA = 703)



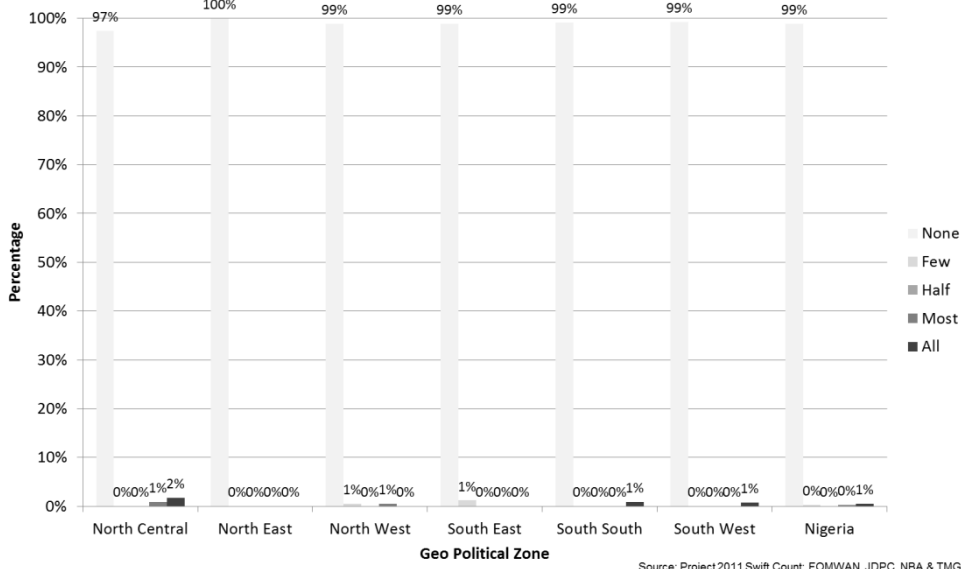
Overwhelmingly, observers did not report problems with people registering on behalf of others (proxy registration) (see Chart 32). On the first day of registration 100% of observers reported no incidences of proxy registration. Similarly on Thursday January 20 and Saturday January 22, observers at 99% of centres reported no cases of proxy registration.

Chart 32: Number of People who Registered for Someone Else (Proxy Registration) by Date



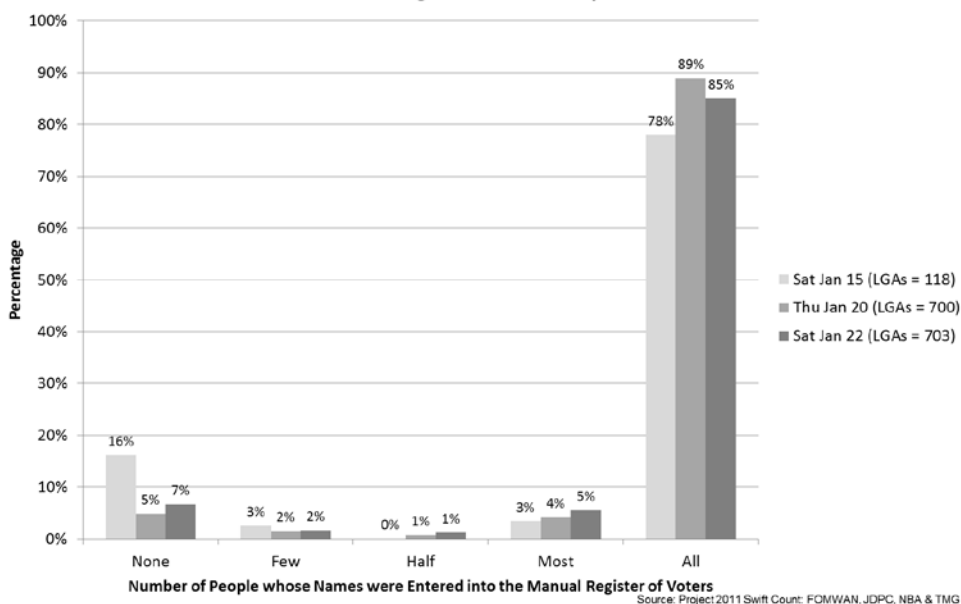
Proxy registration was not a problem in any geo political zone (see Chart 33). Observers in all geo political zones on Saturday January 22 reported at either 100% or 99% of centres no cases of proxy registration.

Chart 33: Number of People who Registered for Someone Else (Proxy Registration) by Geo Political Zone for Saturday January 22, 2011 (LGAs = 703)



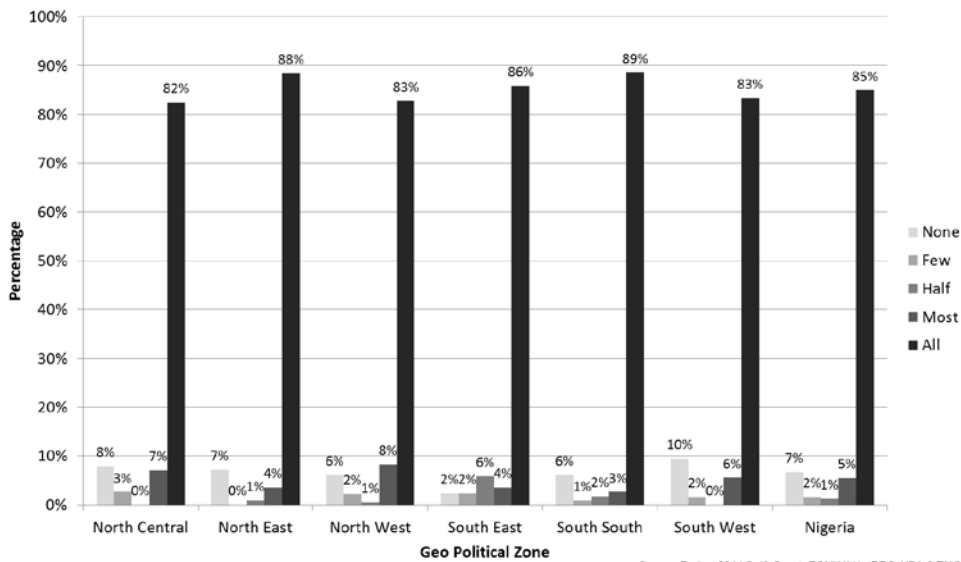
Generally, registration officials entered names of registrants into the Manual Register of Voters (MRV) (see Chart 34). On the first day of voter registration only 16% of observers reported names of registrants were not entered into the MRV. This percentage fell to 7% on Saturday January 22.

Chart 34: Number of People whose Names were Entered into the Manual Register of Voters by Date



Use of the MRV was consistent across the country (see Chart 35). In all geo political zones more than 80% of observers reported that registration officials entered the names of registrants in the MRV.

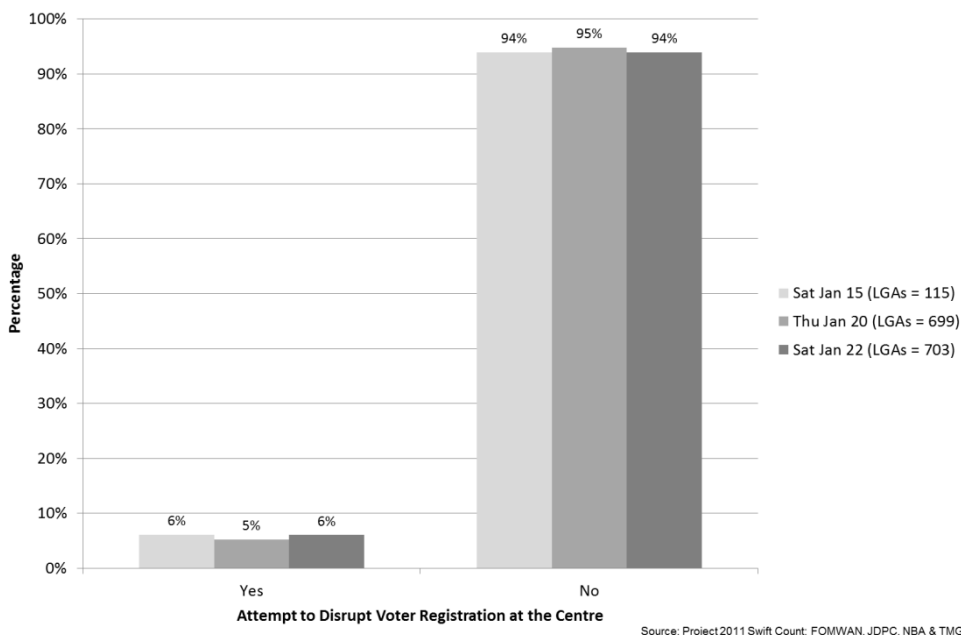
Chart 35: Number of People whose Names were Entered into the Manual Register of Voters by Geo Political Zone for Saturday January 22, 2011 (LGAs = 703)



Disruptions and Intimidation/Violence

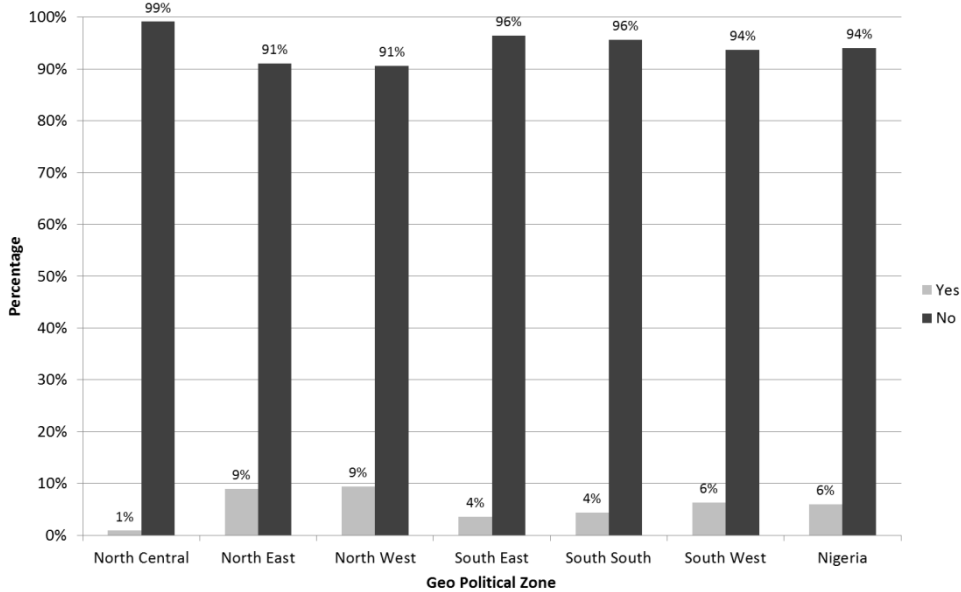
There have been very few incidents of individuals attempting to disrupt the registration exercise (see Chart 36). Observers reported attempts to disrupt the exercise at only 6% of centres on the first day of voter registration. This figure essentially did not change on Thursday January 20 and Saturday January 22.

Chart 36: Attempt to Disrupt Voter Registration at the Centre by Date



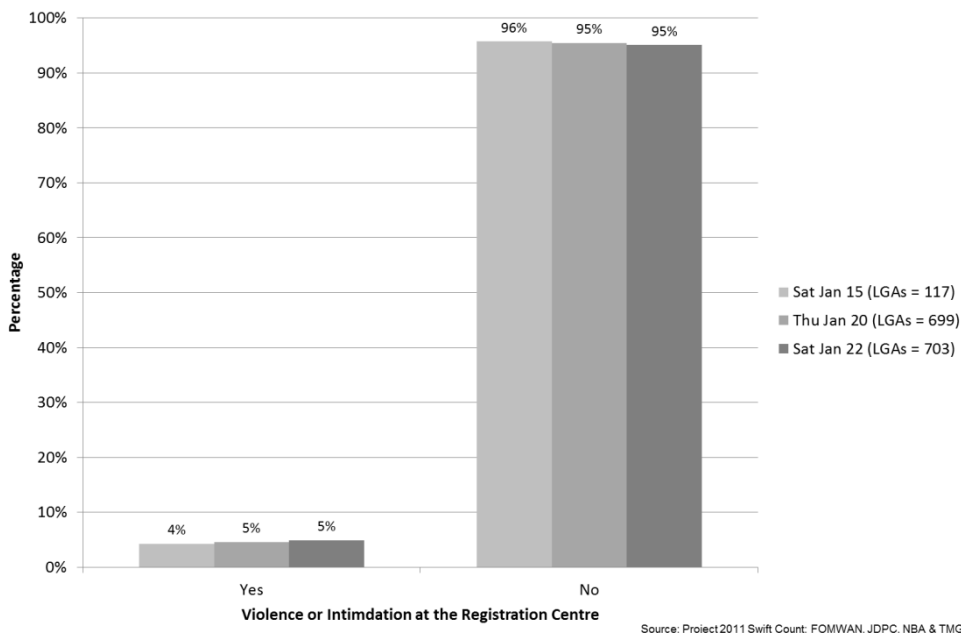
There were marginally more attempts to disrupt voter registration in North East and North West (9% of centres in both zones) than in the other geo political zones (see Chart 37).

Chart 37: Attempt to Disrupt Voter Registration at the Centre by Geo Political Zone for Saturday January 22, 2011 (LGAs = 703)



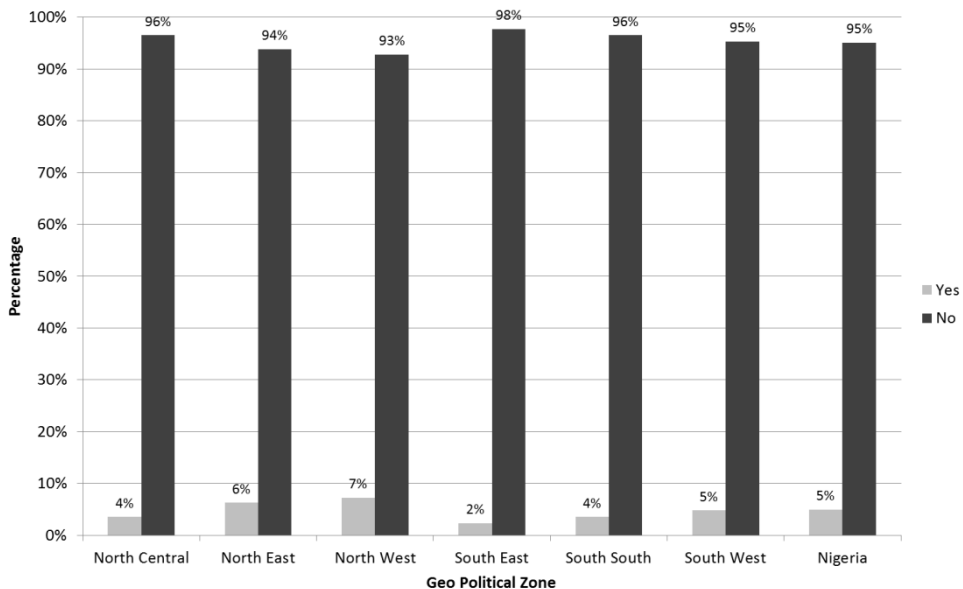
Similarly, there were very few incidents of violence or intimidation at registration centres (see Table 38). Observers reported on the first day of voter registration that 96% of centres had no incidents of violence or intimidation. On Saturday January 22, observers at 95% of registration centre reported no cases of violence or intimidation.

Chart 38: Violence or Intimidation at Registration Centre by Date



Across all the geo political zones observers consistently reported that at more than 90% of centres there were no incidents of violence or intimidation (see Chart 39).

Chart 39: Violence or Intimidation at Registration Centre by Geo Political Zone for Saturday January 22, 2011 (LGAs = 703)



Project 2011 Swift Count Background Information

Our Vision: A Nigeria where elections are free, fair, peaceful, credible and legitimate.

Mission Statement: To promote free, fair, peaceful, credible and legitimate elections for Nigerians through the active and committed partnership of FOMWAN, JDPC, NBA and TMG.

Project 2011 Swift Count involves comprehensive observation of the 2011 general election including systematic observation of voting and counting at a representative random sample of polling using the PVT methodology and employing information and communication technologies (ICTs). The partner organizations will jointly deploy and receive reports from a total of 8,000 observers who will be stationed at 4,000 polling stations located in all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) as well as in all 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs).

There is a lack of confidence among Nigerians in the conduct of elections and the accuracy of the results following successive elections that have failed to meet international and regional standards. However, in response to the public commitment of the President to genuine elections and the appointment of a new Chair for the Independent National Election Commission (INEC), Project 2011 Swift Count is being undertaken to promote free, fair, peaceful, credible and legitimate elections for all Nigerians. This endeavour is being jointly implemented by: Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN); Justice, Development and Peace/Caritas Nigeria (JDPC), Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) and Transition Monitoring Group (TMG).

This initiative involves comprehensive observation of the general elections (beginning with voter registration) using advanced observation methodologies. As part of the project, observers are deployed to a representative random sample of polling stations in all 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs). It is possible to draw a statistically sound sample because, in accordance with the Section 46 of the Electoral Act 2010, INEC provides a comprehensive list of all polling stations. Project 2011 Swift Count also employs information and communication technologies (ICTs) to rapidly transmit observer reports. Observers send coded text messages via mobile phones directly into a computer database located at a national information centre.

Deploying observers to a sample of polling stations and rapidly transmitting their reports using text messages, permits the initiative to use time-tested statistical principles to provide quick, precise and representative information on voting and counting. In addition, because observers record the individual results from sampled polling stations, Project 2011 Swift Count can independently verify the accuracy of the official results as announced by INEC in Abuja. The project will not announce official results. This is the responsibility of INEC.

As this is the first time the methodology is being used in Nigeria, Swift Counts are being undertaken for the presidential election and six gubernatorial elections (one in each geo-political zone).

Project 2011 Swift Count will carry out its observations in accordance with the "Declaration of Global Principles for Nonpartisan Election Observation and Monitoring by Citizen Organizations".

Goal of Project 2011 Swift Count

Project 2011 Swift Count's vision is a Nigeria where elections are free, fair and peaceful as well as viewed as credible and legitimate by its citizens. To achieve this goal, the project seeks to enhance the confidence of the public and political contestants in the electoral process and the official results as announced by INEC. By providing more precise and representative information on voting and counting as well as independent verification of the official results as announced by INEC, Project 2011 Swift Count can: deter possible electoral fraud; increase transparency in the electoral process; and ensure that the elections truly reflect the will of the people.

Use of the Swift Count Methodology

The Swift Count methodology was first developed by citizen observers in the Philippines in 1986. It has been used in numerous countries in the Americas, Africa, Asia and Europe. In Africa, the Swift Count approach was recently employed for the Constitutional Referendum in Kenya in August 2010. It has also been used in Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. For Project 2011 Swift Count, the methodology is being adapted to the unique conditions present in Nigeria.

Project 2011 Swift Count Leadership

National Steering Committee (NSC) is led by 1st Co-Chair is Dafe Akpedeye (SAN) and the 2nd Co-Chair is Mashood Erubami. The other NSC members are: Dr. Aisha Akanbi; Rev. Fr. Zacharia Samjumi; Priscilla Achakpa; Rev. Fr. Bernard Asogo; Reuben James; and Farida Sada Yusuf. In addition, Olisa Agbakoba (SAN), Prof. Bolanle Awe and Hajia Bikisu are honorary members.

Project 2011 Swift Count Structures

A joint National Secretariat, headed by Victor Agbogun, is responsible for the day-to-day management of Project 2011 Swift Count. The structure includes State Coordinating Committees in all 36 states plus the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) as well as LGA Supervisors in all 774 LGAs. For the general elections, Project 2011 Swift Count is deploying thousands of volunteer observers to polling stations located in every LGA. All staff and observers are recruited from the four partner organization; trained through Project 2011 Swift Count; and accredited by INEC.

Support to Project 2011 Swift Count

Project 2011 Swift Count partners are responsible for the design, implementation and conduct of the initiative as well as the content of all observation statements.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) provide support for Project 2011 Swift Count. The project receives technical assistance from the National Democratic Institute (NDI). A Memorandum of Understanding exists to ensure ownership of the initiative by the Project 2011 Swift Count partners.