

## **Key Findings of Reporting Period Two**

November 28 - December 12, 2014

### **Summary and Recommendations**

The second Transition Monitoring Group (TMG) PREO report reflects many of the same positive and negative trends as period one. The systematically collected observer data showed that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) continued to prepare for the election, that substantial population movements were localized to the North East and North Central zones and that a democratic campaign environment is undermined by vandalism and hate speech.

Based on information collected during this period, TMG again recommends that INEC and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) identify internally displaced potential voters and partner to provide them with targeted voter education about how, where and why to participate in the electoral process. This reporting period, TMG directly observed INEC election preparations taking place in 34 out of 36 states (including the Federal Capital Territory) and approximately 45 percent of LGAs overall; this is a positive trend and INEC should be encouraged to continue and build on its efforts. Voter education efforts by INEC and NOA should also be sustained and enhanced as election day approaches.

TMG also reiterates the need for a respectful and non-combative campaign environment by all stakeholders. During this PREO reporting period, TMG observed hate speech in 303 LGAs across the country, prevalent in all states except for Ekiti and the FCT. Additionally, vandalism and the destruction of candidate and/or supporter property were widespread across Nigeria. TMG encourages candidates, media houses and citizens to refrain from using incendiary language and to maintain a respectful campaign environment. TMG also recommends that the security forces remain vigilant in enforcing personal property protection laws, as politically motivated destruction of property can be a trigger for election-related violence.

## Methodology

Access to timely and reliable information about the status of electoral preparations and to early warning signs of the outbreak of electoral violence is expected to help mitigate or reduce the spread or escalation of violence. Such information would allow citizens and local communities, security agents, INEC, international and Nigerian non-governmental organizations, and others to take preventative measures and to adapt electoral preparations and activities to a rapidly changing environment. The TMG pre-election observation project leverages the presence of one locally recruited TMG election observer in each of the 774 LGAs of Nigeria to gather systematic information about the 2015 pre-electoral environment, including early warning signs of electoral violence. TMG pre-election observers will remain deployed between November 14, 2014 and February 7, 2015 and will release a series of six reports on the pre-election environment at regular intervals between December 8, 2014 and February 14, 2015.

TMG observers report both on events that they **observed directly/witnessed** - meaning events that they personally witnessed - and events that they **observed indirectly/heard of** - meaning events that were conveyed to them by a credible third party. These credible third parties may include media outlets or other members of the community. Before reporting on an incident as **observed indirectly/heard of**, TMG observers first seek to verify the event using a four-step process. Unlike the TMG Quick Count

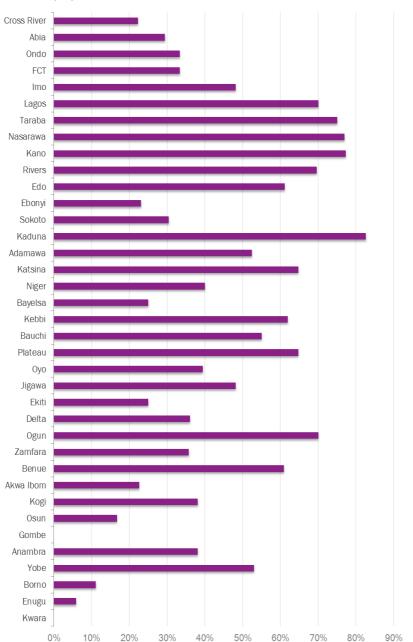
methodology (<a href="http://www.tmgtowards2015.org/about.html">http://www.tmgtowards2015.org/about.html</a>), TMG does not rely on sample-based observation to carry out its pre-election observation efforts. The reported data is therefore not statistically representative of the country as a whole, but does provide an indication of general emerging trends nationally and within geopolitical zones. TMG encourages end users of its reports and data to independently corroborate and respond appropriately to trends identified and discussed in these reports.

### **Election Preparations**

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is mandated to oversee the electoral process in Nigeria, including all logistical and operational preparations. During each reporting period, TMG asked observers to indicate whether they observed evidence of electoral preparations by INEC taking place in their respective LGAs. TMG defined electoral preparations as the training of election officials, briefing meetings with stakeholders (civil society, religious groups, observers, political parties or

**Direct Observation - INEC Preparations by State**By percentage of LGAs in which TMG directly observerd INEC election preparations

candidates) or the distribution of INEC election materials.



TMG's According to period two PREO reports, begun **INEC** has for the preparations upcoming elections. but preparations are proceeding unevenly across the country. Nation-wide. some 45 percent of TMG observers directly observed INEC election preparations taking place their LGAs. additional 40 percent of TMG observers reported indirect observation election preparations in LGAs. their Overall. TMG observers reported the most robust election preparations in West geopolitical zone with 61 percent observers directly witnessing INEC election preparations compared to 45 percent of observers in North Central, 41 percent of observers in North East, 32 percent of observers in South East, 40 percent of observers in South South and 41 percent of

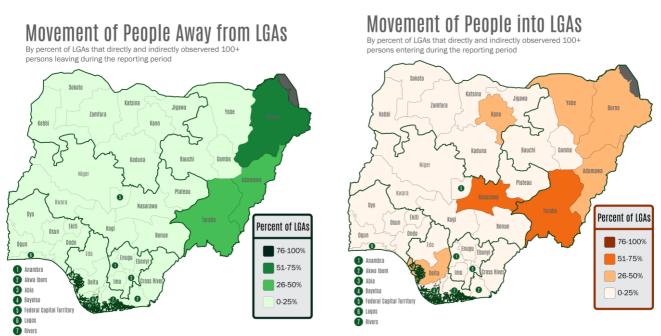
observers in South West.) Between reporting periods one and two, TMG observers noted similar or increased levels of INEC election preparations in each of Nigeria's six geopolitical zones. Several

100%

states in the North East and North Central, however, witnessed a modest decline in reported preparations. It will be important to continue to closely monitor and track the state of INEC election preparations in these regions prior to February 2015 in particular given persistent challenges with insecurity in North East Nigeria and the Middle Belt.

### **Population Displacement**

The movement of people into and out of LGAs continues to affect the north of Nigeria. TMG observers again witnessed the migration of persons both to and from states in the North East and North Central geopolitical zones, specifically Borno, Adamawa, Taraba and Nassarawa. To monitor internal migrations of people, TMG asked observers to note significant population displacement during the reporting period, defined as the movement of 100 persons or more into or out of their LGA. Demographic pressures are often an important early signal of conflict. Conflict situations and insecurity often increase the mobility of populations in affected regions. Significant demographic changes can also exacerbate pre-existing tensions as groups compete for increasingly scarce resources.



A substantial number of observers in North East Nigeria directly observed significant numbers of individuals moving both into and out of their LGA (26 and 30 percent, respectively). As was true during the first reporting period, these reports suggest that most internally displaced persons in North East did not travel outside the geopolitical zone, but relocated to another LGA or state nearby. First-hand reports from significant numbers of observers in Nasarawa (38 percent), Kano (20 percent) and Plateau (18 percent) of persons entering their LGAs during the reporting period also suggests that some internally displaced persons may be migrating a short distance migration into nearby geopolitical zones.

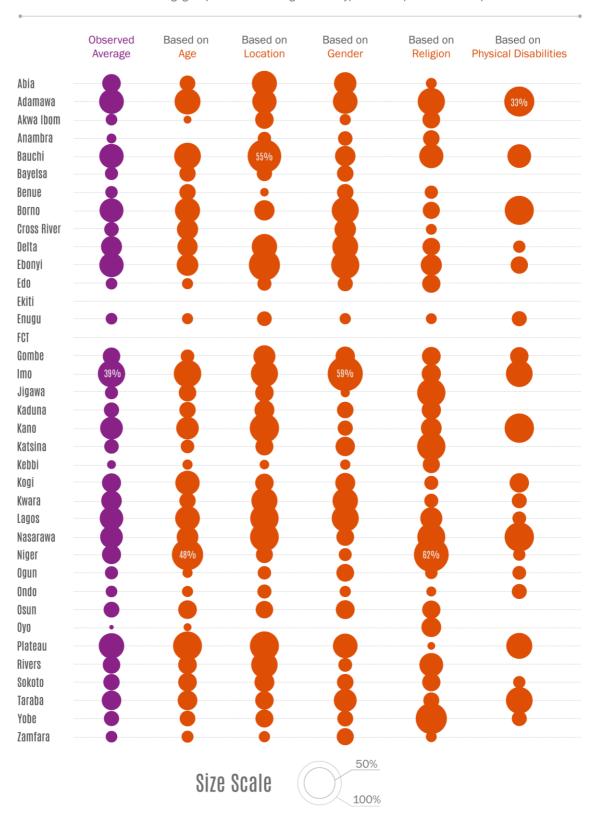
## **Hate Speech**

Hate speech, which constitutes using intimidating or derogatory words of phrases targeted at a specific group, is concerning behavior in the pre-election period and often a signal of closing democratic space for particular demographics. Use of incendiary language that demeans a specific group of people can also serve as an early warning sign for politically motivated conflict. In TMG's PREO effort, observers directly and indirectly observe candidate rallies, political gatherings, media reports and statements by candidates and parties for inflammatory and divisive rhetoric directed at individuals based on age, location, gender, religion and physical disabilities. In particular, TMG asked its observers to define hate speech as any derogatory language intended to incite violence against the targeted individual or group.

# Observed Hate Speech During Reporting Period Two

The comparative percentages of LGAs per state in which hate speech was directly or indirectly observed are represented.

The Observed Avergage represents an average of each type of hate speech observed per state.



During the reporting period, TMG observed widespread use of hate speech across Nigeria. Observed hate speech did not follow a clear geographic pattern, but certain states can be identified as positive and negative outliers. For example, no types of hate speech were observed in Ekiti and FCT LGAs; however, in Imo, Plateau, Adamawa and Bauchi states the behaviour was more widespread. The embedded graphic shows the comparative prevalence of hate speech across the country, and also includes an average of the five types of hate speech observed. This average is not indicative of the

types of incendiary language that may have occurred in each LGA nor should it be taken as a measure of overall levels of hate speech; it is merely a metric to compare states to one another on the five types of hate speech that observers were specifically instructed to monitor.

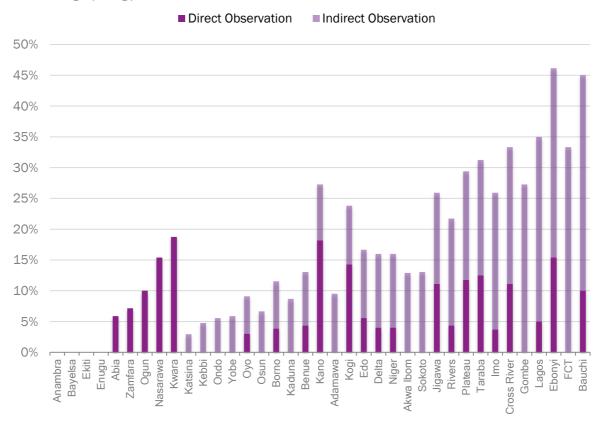
### **Vandalism and Destruction of Property**

A respectful campaign environment is essential for functioning democracies. When candidates and members of political parties are not secure in their persons and/or their personal property is at risk of damage due to their involvement in the election process, the campaign ceases to be fair. A troubling observation by TMG observers during this reporting period was the prevalence of vandalism and destruction of candidate or party property. This behavior was observed both directly and indirectly by TMG across Nigeria, with only four states reporting no incidents.

In 46 per cent of LGAs TMG observers in Ebyoni state observed (directly and indirectly) vandalism and/or the destruction of candidate or supporter property. By way of direct observation, the North Central featured 10% of observers directly witnessing vandalism compared to an average of 4% of LGAs within in the other five zones.

### Vandalism and Destruction of Candidate/Supporter Property by State



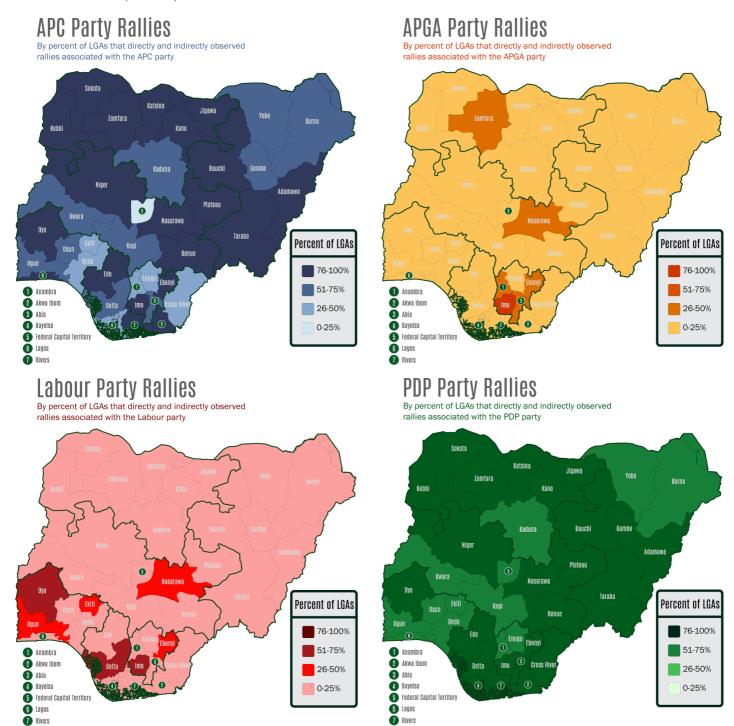


## **Political Party Rallies and Activities**

TMG observers noted high numbers of rallies associated with political campaigns across the country during this reporting period. With the campaign period for presidential and National Assembly elections underway as of November 16, TMG observers found that political parties are organising rallies across the country. However, there are subtle geographic trends to their organization. The maps below highlight where observers are witnessing the highest percentages of rallies associated with APC, APGA, Labour and PDP based on the first two periods of reported campaign data.

Overall, TMG observers directly and indirectly observed rallies associated with the PDP and APC parties at the highest rates (79 and 75 percent, respectively). Of particular interest during this reporting

period was the high percentage (over 90 percent of LGAs) of rallies observed by PDP in Kano, Zamfara, Sokoto, Katsina and Adamawa.



# **Critical Incident Reports**

During the reporting period, TMG observers also texted in a total of 47 verified critical incident reports sent by observers immediately after they witnessed or heard of an incident of election-related violence in their area. Reports confirmed through a call-back process have been visualized on the Nigeria Electoral Early Warning System 2015 (NEEWS2015 CrowdMap at: <a href="https://neews2015.crowdmap.com/">https://neews2015.crowdmap.com/</a>). Nearly half of the confirmed reports related to clashes and tensions between members of the same party during and immediately after primary elections. Observers reported that these tensions resulted from perceptions of lack of transparency or improper procedures during the primaries or dissatisfaction with the outcome.