



Key Findings of Reporting Period Seven

6 -19 February 2015

Summary and Recommendations

The February 7, 2015 announcement by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) of its decision to reschedule the holding of general elections from February 14 and 28 until March 28 and April 11, respectively, occurred as a major incident during the reporting period. The Transition Monitoring Group (TMG)'s observations in the seventh report reflect national reactions to the announced election delay. TMG observers reported a modest nation-wide decline in the number of LGAs where Nigeria's major political parties organized campaign rallies; sustained voter information efforts by INEC and the National Orientation Agency (NOA); a nation-wide decrease in the percentage of LGAs reporting attacks on or intimidation of candidates and their supporters accompanied by a proportional increase in the percentage of attacks reported by police or military; and increased reports of vote buying. Also in the seventh reporting period, TMG assessed the prevalence of hate speech in South East Nigeria on the basis of gender, origins, age, and religion.

Based on TMG's analysis of trends in the previous seven reporting periods, specific recommendations include:

- As inflammatory language and hate speech remains especially elevated in South East Nigeria, TMG encourages presidential candidates and signatories to the Abuja Agreement to encourage party rank-and-file members to abide by the terms of the agreement and to publicly denounce party members or supporters found in violation.
- INEC and NOA should continue to provide nation-wide voter information to ensure that voters are aware of any changes resulting from the rescheduled election dates and of such measures designed to prevent multiple voting as the permanent voters' card and voters' card reader.
- INEC, NOA and other electoral stakeholders should ensure that voter education and information campaigns are allocated equitably throughout the country, and reach such states as Kwara and Zamfara that have been historically underserved by such campaigns.
- Police forces and security agencies should closely monitor trends in North Central and South South Nigeria, where higher percentages of TMG observers reported attacks on candidates and their supporters between periods six and seven contrary to the overall decrease in such attacks between periods nation-wide.
- As reported attacks by police and military forces are increasing in North East Nigeria, TMG urges security agents to should comport themselves in a professional manner to guarantee a safe campaign environment for candidates of all political persuasions.

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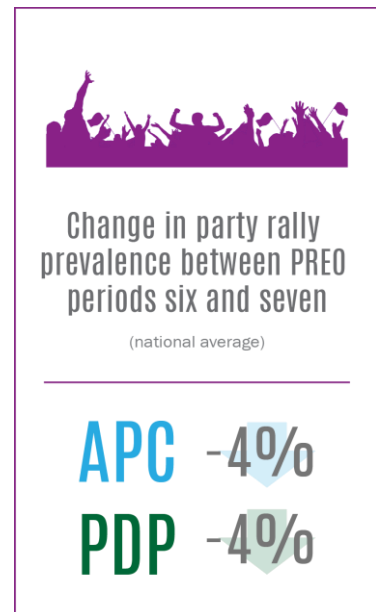
Period 6: 23 Jan. - 5 Feb. 2015

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Electoral Preparations

Political Parties Scale Back Campaigns

In period seven, TMG observers reported a decrease in political party rallies organized nation-wide as Nigeria's major parties reacted to the announced rescheduling of election day. The nation-wide percentages of LGAs reporting rallies for the All Progressives Congress (APC) and rallies for the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) each declined by 4 percent between reporting periods six and seven. On a state by state basis, the TMG data shows relatively similar changes in the percentage of LGAs reporting an APC or a PDP rally between periods six and seven (see **Annex 1: Percentage Change in APC and PDP Rallies by State**) indicating that APC and PDP scaled back their campaigns in a similar manner. For example, in Adamawa and Bauchi states, the percentage of LGAs reporting APC rallies and PDP rallies each decreased by 10 percent between periods six and seven. Among some of the few exceptions to this trend are Borno, where the percentage of LGAs reporting a PDP rally did not change between periods six and seven but the percentage of LGAs reporting an APC rally increased by 10 percent; Benue, where the percentage of LGAs reporting an APC rally increased by 4 percent versus a 4 percent decrease in the number of LGAs reporting a PDP rally; and Ekiti, where the number of LGAs reporting an APC rally decreased by 19 percent as compared to a 6 percent decrease for PDP.



INEC and NOA Continue Voter Information Campaigns

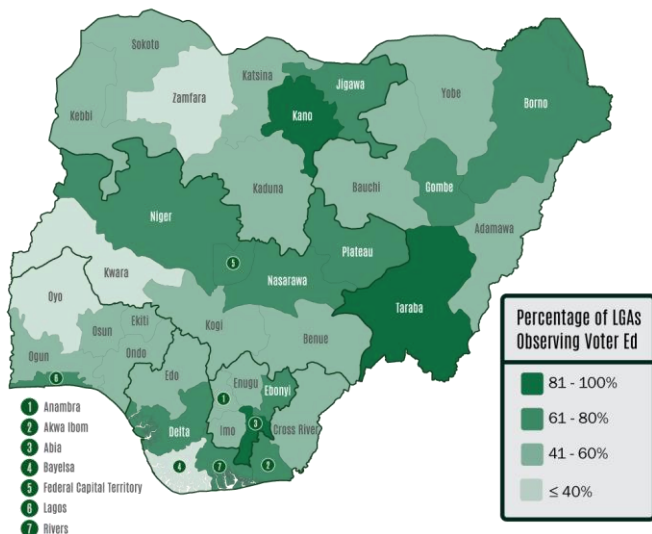
TMG observers reported that both the Independent National Electoral Commission and the National Orientation Agency (NOA) continued voter information campaigns in the majority of LGAs, with overall levels of reported activity remaining relatively constant between periods six and seven. In period six, 59 percent of LGAs nation-wide reported the presence of an INEC voter information campaign, while 61 percent of observers nation-wide in period seven reported the presence of an INEC voter information campaign. Observed levels of INEC preparations¹ likewise remained constant, with 95 percent of observers reporting INEC preparations in their LGAs during period six, and 94 percent of observers reporting INEC preparations in their LGAs during period seven. Similarly, 44 percent of TMG observers reported a voter information campaign by NOA in their LGAs in period six, as compared to 46 percent of observers reporting NOA voter information campaigns in period seven.

Some states, however, have been consistently under-served by nation-wide voter information and education activities. In reporting period seven, 14 percent of LGAs in Kwara reported the presence of an INEC voter information campaign, and only 7 percent of LGAs in Kwara reported a NOA voter information campaign. In Zamfara in period seven, 38 percent of LGAs reported an INEC voter information campaign and 8 percent of LGAs a NOA voter information campaign. There is an urgent need for electoral actors to intensify voter education and information efforts in both Kwara and Zamfara during the weeks remaining before election day.

¹Including training election officials, organizing briefings for key stakeholders, or distributing information and materials

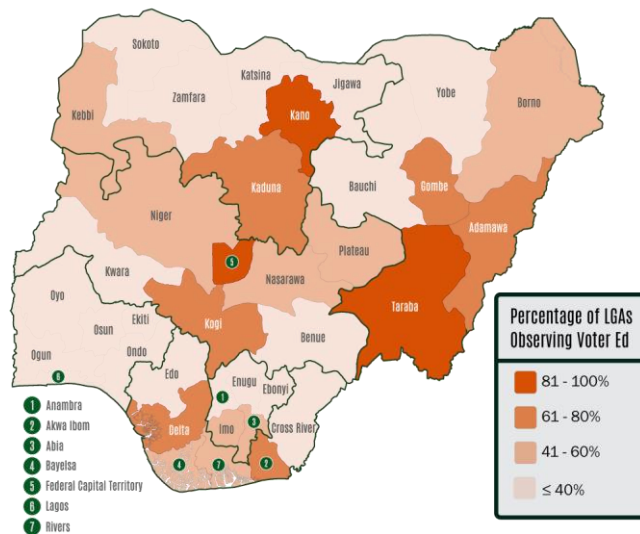
Voter Information Campaigns by INEC in Period 7

States shown by **percentage of LGAs** in which voter education efforts undertaken by INEC were observed by PREO observers directly and indirectly during period seven.



Voter Information Campaigns by the NOA in Period 7

States shown by **percentage of LGAs** in which voter education efforts undertaken by the National Orientation Agency were observed by PREO observers directly and indirectly during period seven.



Early Warning Signs of Violence

Decreased Attacks on and Intimidation of Candidates and Supporters

TMG observers reported a national decline in attacks on and intimidation of candidates and their supporters from nation-wide levels of 28 percent in period six to nation-wide levels of 25 percent in period seven. Only attacks on candidates and supporters in North Central and South South increased modestly between periods. Nation-wide reports of the destruction of candidate property also decreased between periods six and seven, from 28 percent of TMG observers reporting the destruction of candidate property in their LGAs to 24 percent of observers reporting. Similarly, nation-wide percentages of LGAs reporting attacks on a party rally also declined between periods six and seven, from 25 percent of LGAs reporting an attack on a party rally nation-wide in period six to 22 percent of LGAs reporting an attack on a campaign rally nation-wide in period seven. While reported attacks on party rallies decreased markedly in North East, North West, South West, they continued to increase in North Central (from 18 percent to 22 percent of LGAs reporting) and, to a lesser extent, in South East (from 25 percent to 26 percent) and in South South (from 24 percent to 25 percent).

Although overall nation-wide attacks on candidates and supporters declined, the proportionate percentage of reported attacks by members of the police or military increased in nearly all geopolitical zones. The reported percentage of attacks on candidates and their supporters by military or police is also increasing in absolute terms over time in North East. TMG accordingly calls on all members of security agencies to comport themselves professionally around the elections, and to ensure a secure campaign environment for candidates of all political persuasions.

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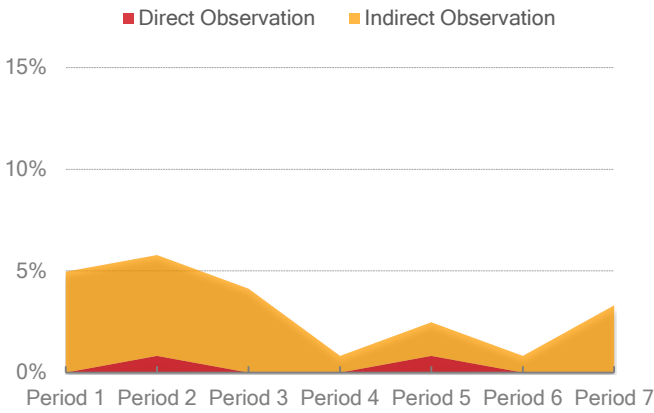
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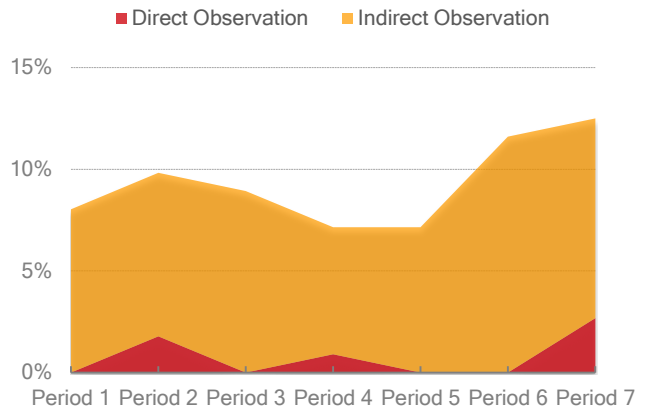
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Reported Attacks on Candidates and Supporters by Military or Police (By Percentage of LGAs Reporting)

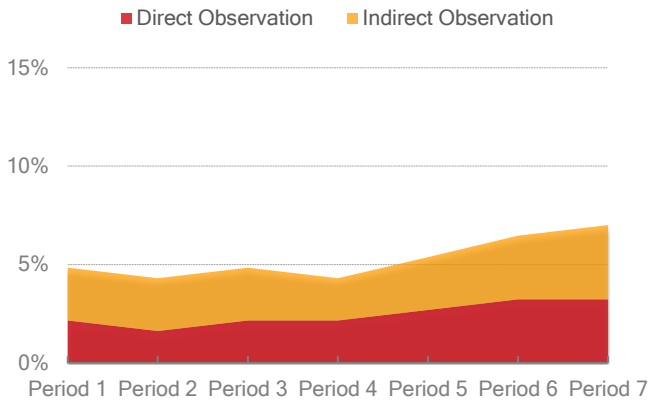
North Central



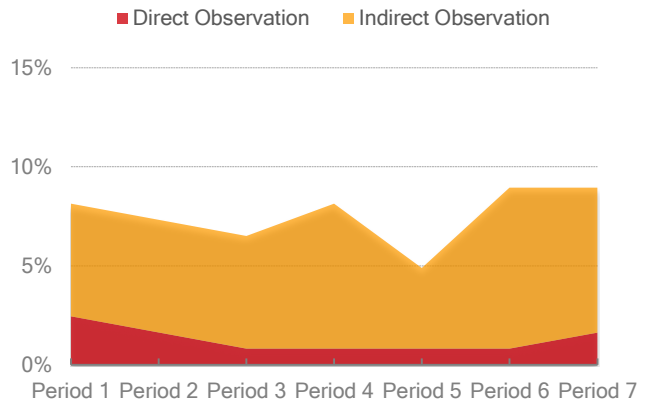
North East



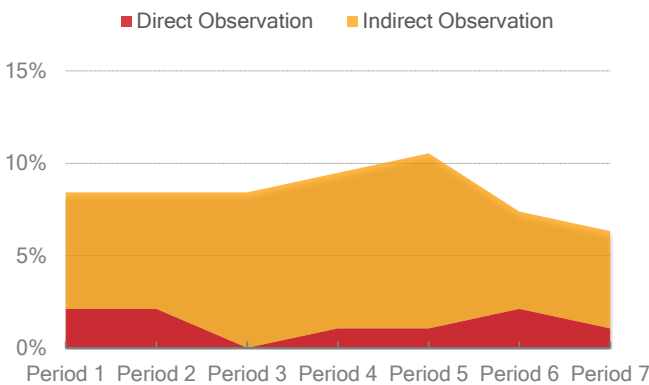
North West



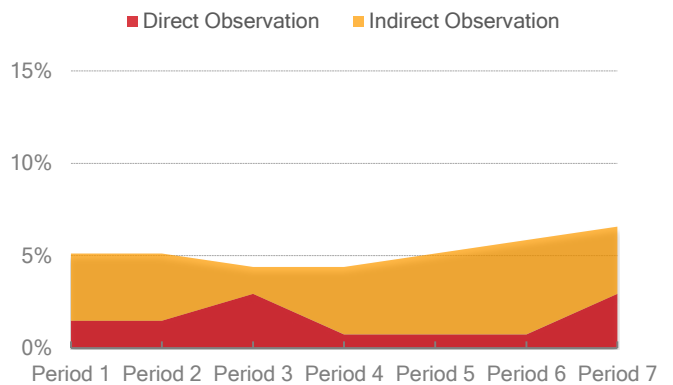
South South



South East



South West



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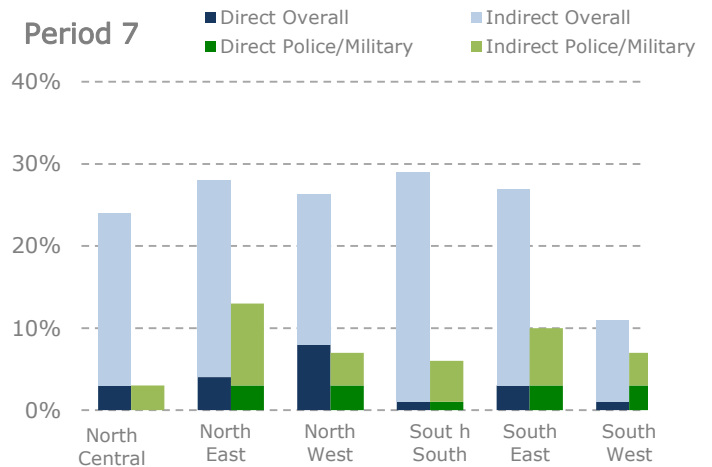
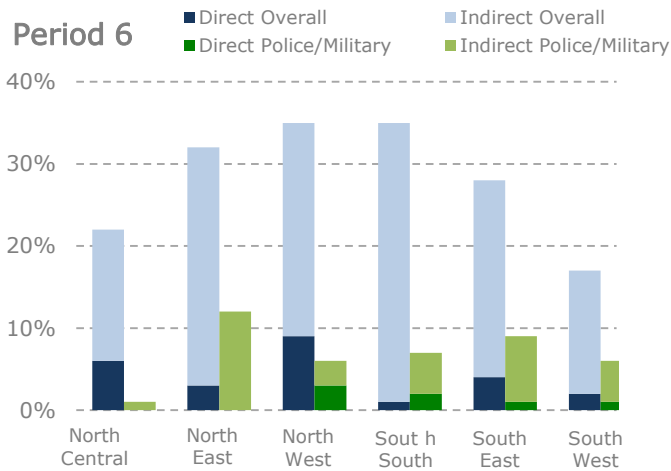
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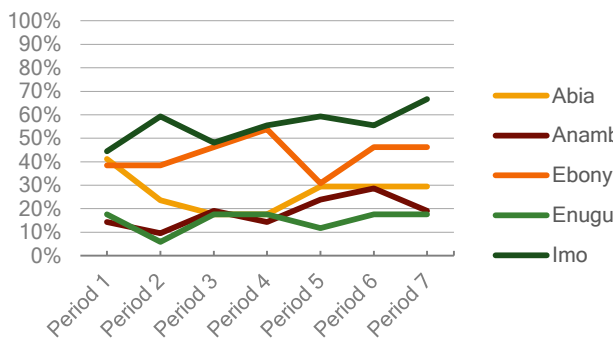
Increased Attacks on Candidates and Supporters by Police and Military in Proportion to Overall Attacks Reported



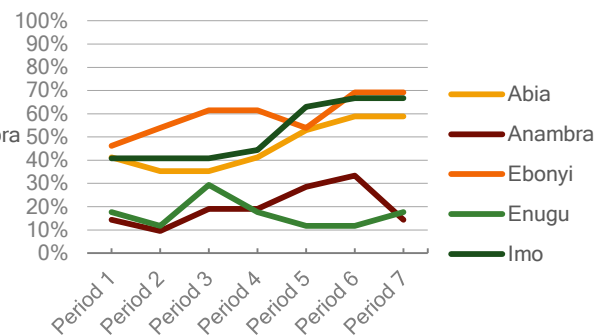
Hate Speech in South East Nigeria

Over the past three reporting periods, TMG observers have documented increased levels of hate speech in South East Nigeria. South East now records the highest levels of hate speech nation-wide in four out of the five categories that TMG has observed: gender-based hate speech, religious-based hate speech, hate speech on the basis of regional origins, and age-based hate speech. Although hate-speech on the basis of physical disability has also increased in South East over the last three reporting periods, it remains more prevalent in North East Nigeria. Notably, TMG reports lower levels of hate

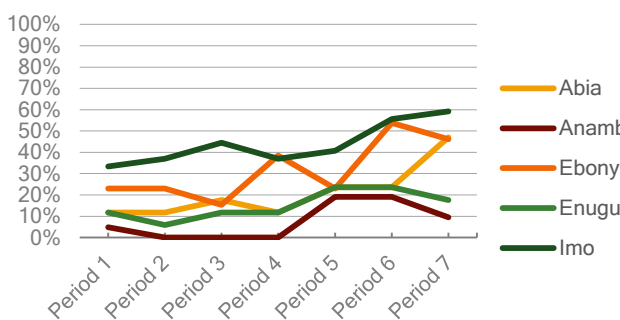
Hate Speech Based on Gender



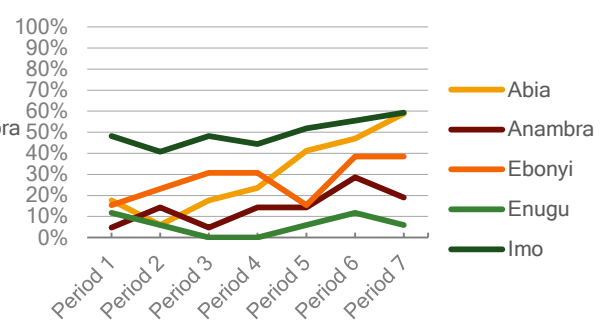
Hate Speech Based on Origins



Hate Speech Based on Age



Hate Speech Based on Religion



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speech in Enugu and Imo that are more in line with national averages, while observers have reported higher levels of hate speech in Ebonyi, Abia, and Imo throughout all seven reporting periods. In both periods six and seven, In addition, reports of candidates encouraging their supporters to commit acts of violence have been consistently higher in South East, with 19 percent of LGAs in South East reporting incitement to violence in period seven compared to a national average of 13 percent.

TMG calls on candidates and their supporters in South East Nigeria to refrain from using inflammatory language, and urges senior party officials to denounce any party members using hate speech as a basis for their campaigns.

Violations of the Electoral Code

Increased Reports of Buying of Voters' Cards

In the seventh reporting period, TMG observers continued to report, both directly and indirectly, increased reports of buying and selling of voters' cards over time. In the seventh reporting period, 2 percent of observers nationwide directly witnessed the selling or buying of voters' cards. In addition, 32 percent of TMG observers nationwide reported indirect observations of voters' cards being sold or bought in their LGAs: a 6 percent increase nationally over the previous reporting period. In addition to encouraging parties and private citizens to desist from illegal activities, TMG reiterates that INEC and other electoral actors engaged in voter education and outreach should intensify information campaigns to advise citizens about measures in place to deter illegal voting, including the use of the permanent voters' card and electronic card readers.

Critical Incident Reports

During the seventh reporting period, TMG observers texted 20 verified critical incident reports, a decline from the 33 reports recorded in period six.. Reports confirmed through a call-back process have been visualized on the Nigeria Electoral Early Warning System 2015 (NEEWS2015 CrowdMap at: <https://neews2015.crowdmap.com/>). All of the 20 verified reports came from observers in the three northern geopolitical zones with observers in the North East reporting nine incidents, while observers in the North West and North Central reported six and five incidents respectively.

While the checklist reports indicated a nation-wide reduction of attacks on rallies, TMG observers did report on attacks on rallies in Kaduna, Kogi, Zamfara, Taraba, and Sokoto states. Observers also reported witnessing or verifying reports of individuals buying or selling voters' cards in Taraba and Jigawa states. Continuing the trend seen in previous periods, TMG observers reported that acts of election-related violence against property or individuals affiliated with a party - such as the destruction of posters or campaign vehicles - are often responded to with violence against those perceived as perpetrating to have committed the act. For example, in Gwaram, Jigawa state, an attack on a party member led to his fellow party members responding by destroying billboards and posters. This re-emphasizes the need for political parties and candidates to urge their supporters to not respond to violence with more violence, and instead, cooperate with authorities to hold accountable those who perpetrate criminal acts or acts of election-related violence.

In Plateau state, TMG observer reported the killing of two local political party officials, one in Barkin Ladi and one in Riyom LGA, in attacks by unknown gunmen within a two day period (February 16 and 17). These two LGAs have experienced an escalation of violence and attacks on communities by unknown gunmen over the past year. While it is not known if the attacks were related or if they were specifically targeted because of their political affiliation, it is an indication that the potential for violence remains

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high in these areas and emphasize the need for increased security presence and vigilance by communities to ensure the safety of candidates, their supporters and voters.

Annex 1: Percentage Change in APC and PDP Rallies by State

Change in Reported Political Party Rallies by State Between Periods 6 and 7 (as percentage of LGAs reporting)		
State	APC Change P6 to P7	PDP Change P6 to P7
Abia	0%	0%
Adamawa	-10%	-10%
Akwa Ibom	-6%	0%
Anambra	-14%	-10%
Bauchi	-10%	-10%
Bayelsa	0%	0%
Benue	4%	-4%
Borno	11%	0%
Cross River	-6%	-11%
Delta	-8%	-12%
Ebonyi	-15%	-8%
Edo	-11%	-11%
Ekiti	-19%	-6%
Enugu	0%	-6%
FCT	-17%	-17%
Gombe	0%	0%
Imo	-4%	0%
Jigawa	-15%	-11%
Kaduna	-4%	0%
Kano	-7%	-7%
Katsina	-3%	-12%
Kebbi	-5%	-5%
Kogi	-5%	0%
Kwara	0%	0%
Lagos	-5%	-15%
Nasarawa	0%	0%

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Niger	-4%	-8%
Ogun	-10%	-5%
Ondo	-11%	-17%
Osun	-3%	0%
Oyo	-12%	-6%
Plateau	-6%	-6%
Rivers	-17%	-17%
Sokoto	4%	0%
Taraba	0%	0%
Yobe	0%	-6%
Zamfara	0%	-8%

Methodology

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 until March 16, 2015 and are releasing a series of nine reports on the pre-election environment from December 2014 to March 2015.

TMG observers report both on events that they **observed directly/witnessed** (events personally witnessed) and events that they **observed indirectly/heard of** (events that were conveyed by a credible third party). These third parties may include credible 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 (www.tmgowards2015.org/about), 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.**

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