



Funded by
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EU Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) Programme

2022-2027

**SUPPORT TO THE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL
ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC)**

Reflecting on Progress and Prospects

MAY 2022 - AUGUST 2023 UPDATE

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

“ The support to democracy worldwide is not just consistent with the European Union’s fundamental principles; it is in our clear interest, and remains a crucial tool for our foreign policy engagement. It is our firm belief that only a functioning democracy can address its citizens' needs, meet their demands and fulfil their aspirations. Strong democratic institutions, therefore, are vital for sustainable growth, and for improving a country’s resilience. ”

Ambassador Samuela Isopi

*European Union Ambassador to
Nigeria and ECOWAS*



About the EU-SDGN

The European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) is the EU's flagship democracy support programme in Nigeria. The programme is designed to complement the efforts of the Nigerian government to improve and strengthen democracy.



Overview

The European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) is a comprehensive programme designed to enhance democratic governance and strengthen institutions in Nigeria. The programme aims to address critical areas of governance, such as electoral processes, the rule of law, human rights, and civil society engagement.



Background

Nigeria has held six consecutive General Elections since 1999, with varied outcomes. The 1999 and 2003 elections were flawed, and the 2007 election fell far short of international and regional standards for democratic elections, leading to condemnation. The 2011 and 2015 elections showed strong improvement due to large-scale reforms by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). However, the elections of 2019 and 2023 were viewed as missed opportunities to consolidate the gains made in 2011 and 2015.

Nigeria's ability to play a positive role in governance, security, and stability in the West Africa sub-region and the African continent depends on the unity, representativeness, and health of its democracy. Improving governance structures, democratic institutions, and increasing the limited participation of the majority of the population, particularly women and youth, in governance and decision-making processes is crucial.

The implementation of the EU-SDGN programme fulfills the EU's continued interest in supporting the process of democratic and electoral reforms in Nigeria, with the aim of enhancing the capacity of the country's national institutions.

Our Story

Empowering Nigeria's Electoral Administration:
DAI's ongoing support through the EU-SDGN Programme

In a nation where the democratic process holds immense significance, DAI is embarking on a mission to uplift Nigeria's electoral governance through the European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) programme. With funding from the European Union, DAI's comprehensive efforts are directed towards strengthening the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and enhancing the integrity of the electoral system.

DAI's multifaceted approach is a continuous journey, marked by strategic initiatives that target key areas within INEC. The focus begins with the enhancement of managerial and operational capacities within the Office of the INEC Chairman, recognizing that strong leadership sets the groundwork for effective governance.

Further along the journey, DAI is dedicated to bolstering INEC's Planning and Monitoring Department. This involves the integration of advanced Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC) tools into INEC's daily operations. This infusion of technological innovation facilitates seamless oversight, adaptive decision-making, and efficient navigation of the ever-evolving electoral landscape.

Strategic planning remains a core element of DAI's ongoing efforts. With the formulation and execution of strategic plans, such as the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan and Election Project Plans for the 2023 and 2027 general elections, DAI showcases its commitment to anticipating





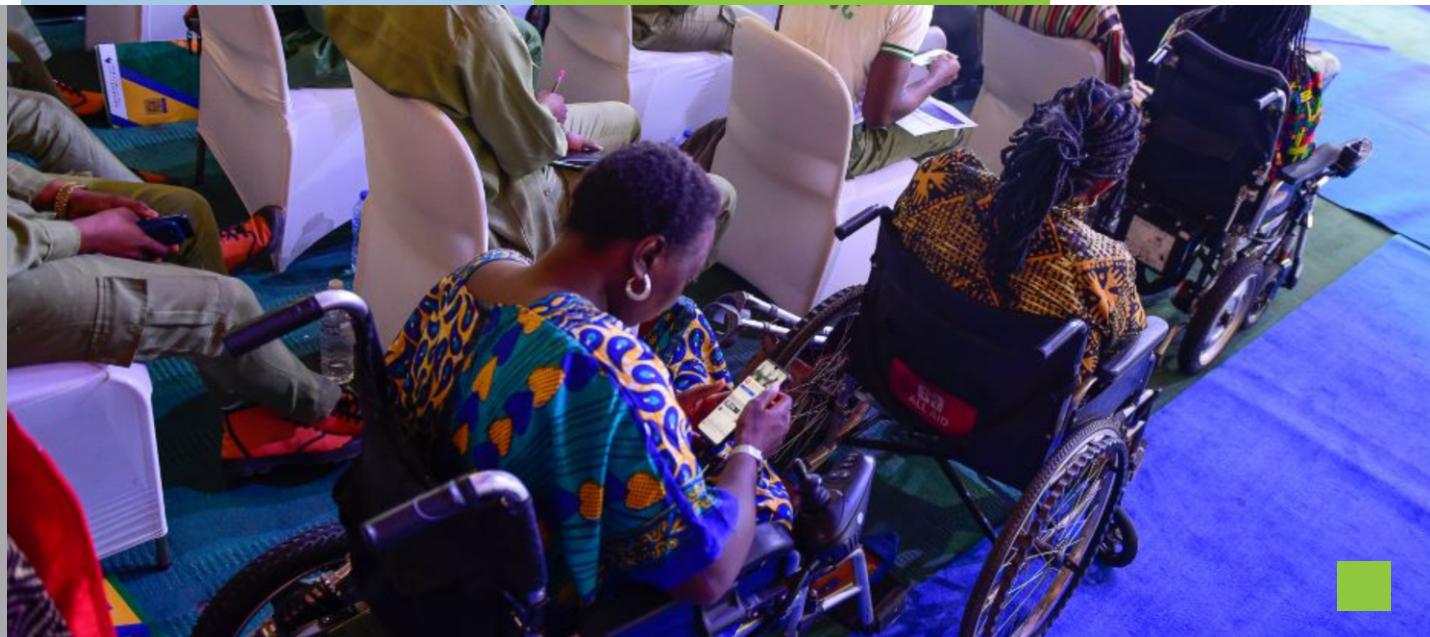
challenges and preparing for the future.

Harnessing the power of technology, DAI is engaged in integrating voter register and polling unit data into an interactive online platform. This forward-looking Geographic Information System (GIS) technology revolutionizes voter engagement by enabling citizens to easily locate their polling units. This integration results in increased voter participation and a stronger democratic voice.

Inclusivity is a fundamental aspect of DAI's journey. The continuous implementation of voter education initiatives aims to strengthen marginalized groups, ensuring their active involvement in the electoral process. Women, youth, persons with disabilities, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are all given a voice through these initiatives.

DAI is a bridge of dialogue and engagement between INEC and various stakeholders. By fostering connections between the judiciary, political parties, and marginalized groups, DAI ensures a balanced and well-informed electoral landscape that serves the interests of all.

Education remains at the forefront of DAI's approach. The continuous crafting and delivery of a comprehensive electoral training curriculum benefits both The Electoral Institute (TEI) and INEC staff. With an emphasis on the deployment of electoral technologies, INEC staff is equipped with the skills needed to navigate modern electoral dynamics.



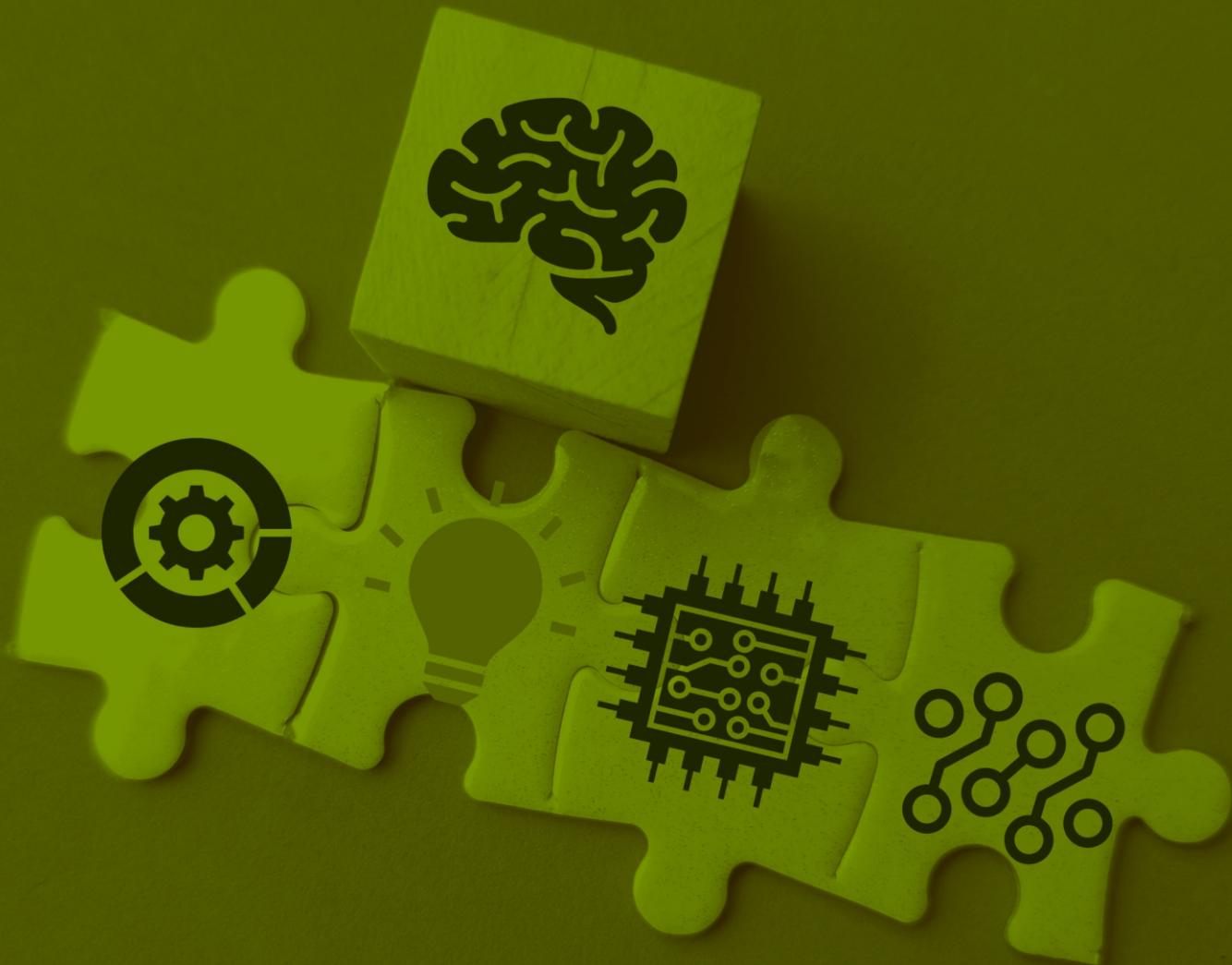
In an era of digital challenges and opportunities, DAI's role is pivotal in supporting INEC's data protection, recovery, and cybersecurity strategies. By safeguarding crucial data, DAI contributes to upholding the credibility and integrity of the electoral process.

Championing autonomy and independence, DAI's ongoing support extends to the Forum of State Independent Electoral Commissions (FOSIECON) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). This collaborative effort amplifies the collective voice advocating for transparent elections and reinforces the foundations of a fair democratic process.

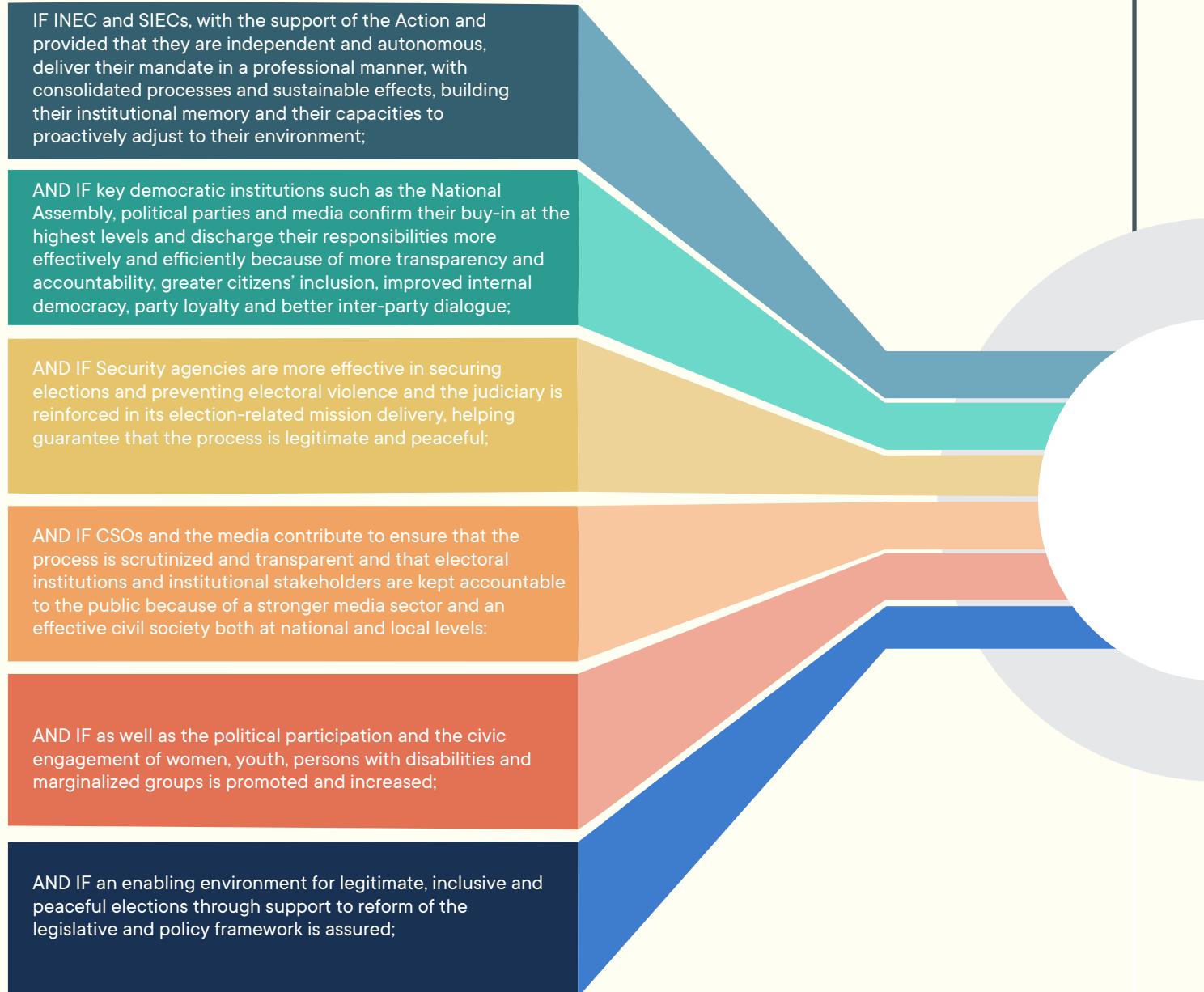
As the journey continues, DAI is poised to

facilitate the development and adoption of model laws and improved legal frameworks among State Independent Electoral Commissions (SIECs) during the second phase of the EU-SDGN programme. This critical step strengthens the legal foundations that underpin Nigeria's democracy.

Through unwavering dedication and strategic initiatives, DAI's ongoing journey to empower Nigeria's electoral administration is transforming challenges into opportunities. With every stride, in collaboration with the European Union, DAI propels the nation toward a future characterized by transparency, inclusivity, and resilience.



EU-SDGN's intervention logic





THEN

THEN this would contribute to the overall efficiency and transparency of the electoral process resulting in a contribution towards functioning pluralistic, inclusive, participatory and representative democracy in Nigeria.

Results

1 INEC's institutional capacities are reinforced, electoral administration, strategic planning and operations strengthened

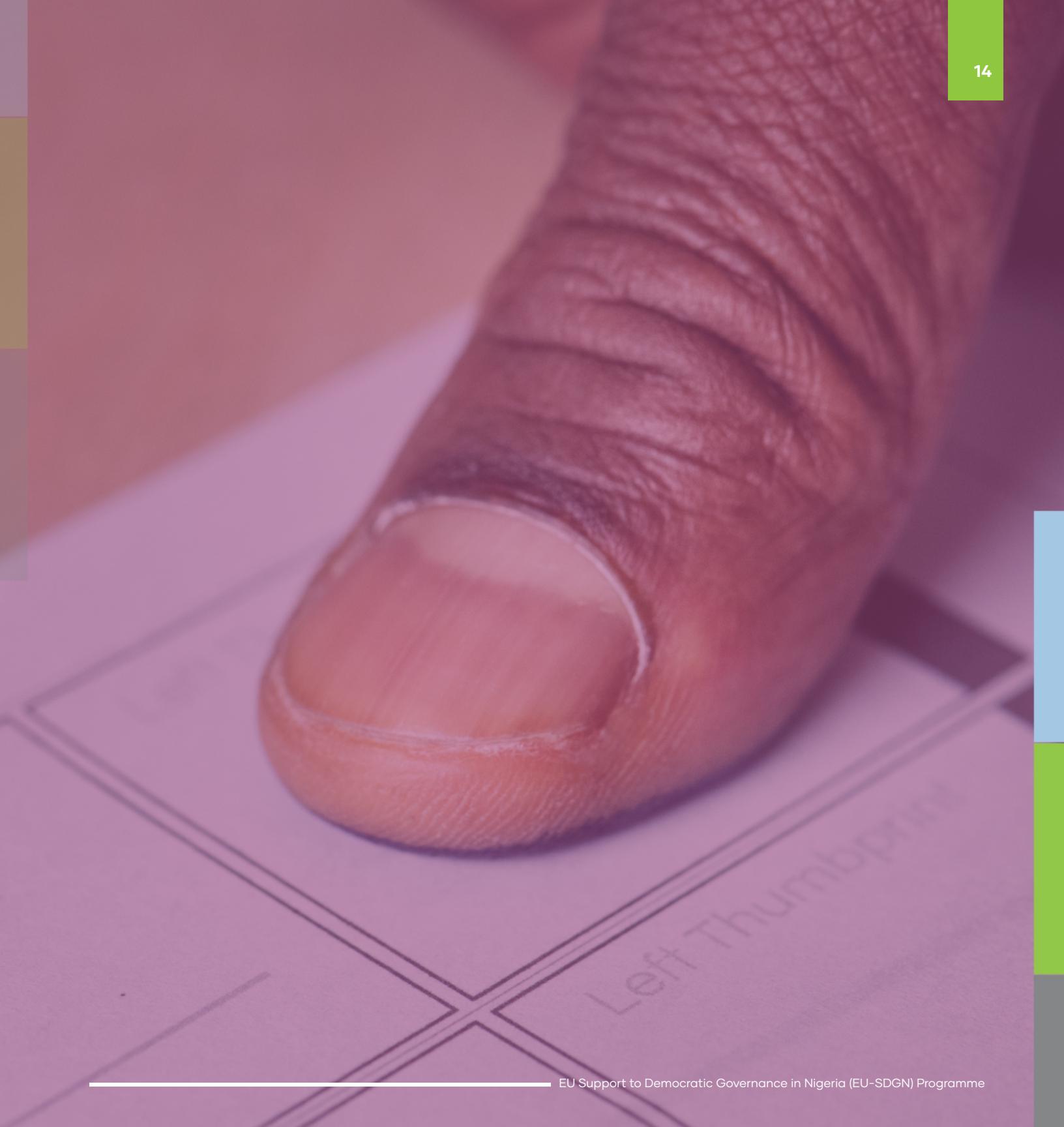
2 INEC's Internal communication and external engagement with stakeholders enhanced

3 The Electoral Institute's (TEI) capacities are enhanced and its research and training role reinforced

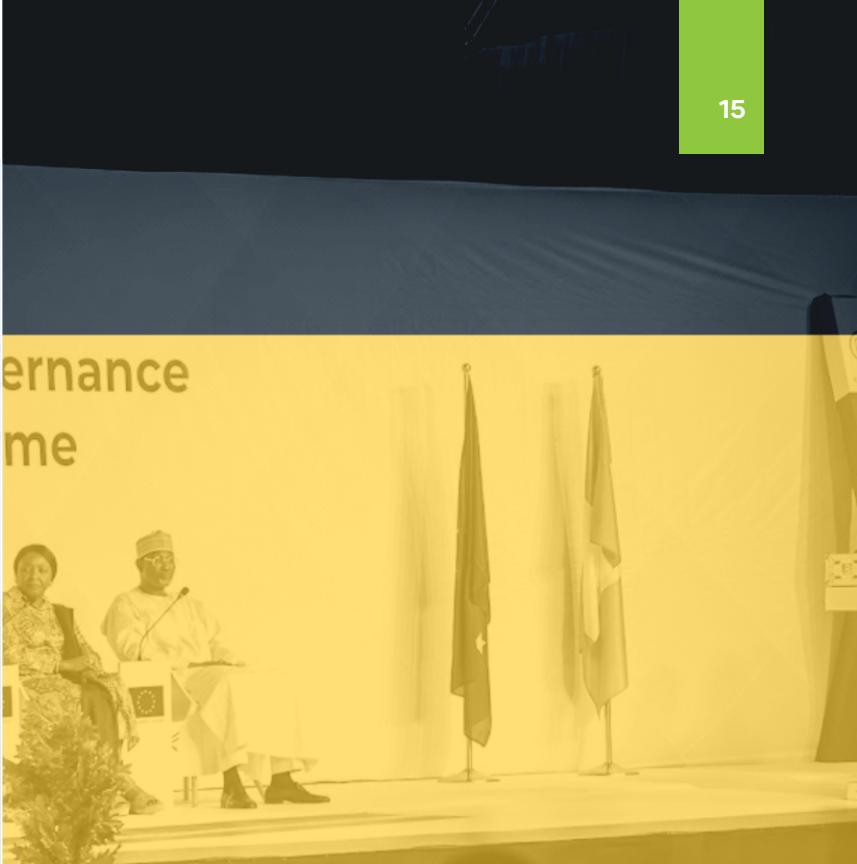
4 Legal and policy framework for elections improved

5 Technology innovations are smoothly incorporated, publicly accepted and owned

6 State Independent Electoral Commissions (SIECs) institutional capacities are strengthened



EU Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) Programme The Next Chapter



How it started...

August 12, 2022



Launch EU-SDGN Phase II



The European Union embarked on the next phase of its commitment to democratic governance in Nigeria as it launched the European Union Support to Democratic Governance Programme Phase II. Appropriately titled "The Next Chapter," this initiative symbolized the EU's ongoing dedication to fostering democratic values and empowering Nigeria's governance landscape. Building on the success of its predecessor, Phase 2 was designed to amplify the impact of democratic institutions, promote transparency, and strengthen civic engagement. With "The Next Chapter," DAI officially began the implementation of its support to Nigeria's electoral umpire with a central objective of helping the European Union reaffirm its collaborative effort to nurture a thriving democratic framework in Nigeria, forging a path toward a brighter democratic future.



Left to Right (L-R): DAI's Associate Director, Governance, European Union Business Unit, Siniša Djurić, with DAI's Team Lead on the EU-SDGN Programme, Rudolf Elbling, at the launch of the second phase of the programme.



L-R: Former National Electoral Commissioner for the Independent National Electoral Commission, and DAI's Deputy Team Lead on the EU-SDGN Programme, Professor Okechukwu Ibeantu, at the launch of the second phase of the programme, with the Special Assistant to the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission, Prof. Mohammed Kuna. Prof Kuna was seconded to work with the INEC Chairman from DAI.



L-R: Chief Press Secretary to the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission, Rotimi Oyekanmi, and the Chief Technical Adviser to the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission, Prof. Bolade Eyinla, at the launch of the EU-SDGN programme. Prof. Eyinla and Mr. Oyekanmi were both seconded to provide support to the INEC Chairman.



L-R: The European Union Ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Amb. Samuela Isopi, with the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission, Prof Mahmood Yakubu, at the launch of the EU-SDGN Phase II Programme



DAI Country Director in Nigeria Dr. Joe Abah joined a panel at the event to discuss the challenges and opportunities presented to those charged with organizing for a credible 2023 General Election in Nigeria.



Cross-section of participants at the launch of EU-SDGN Phase II Programme







A throng of enthusiastic individuals awaiting registration at the Youth Vote Count 2.0 Permanent Voters Card registration drive.



Youth Vote Count: Expanding Political Participation through Pop Culture

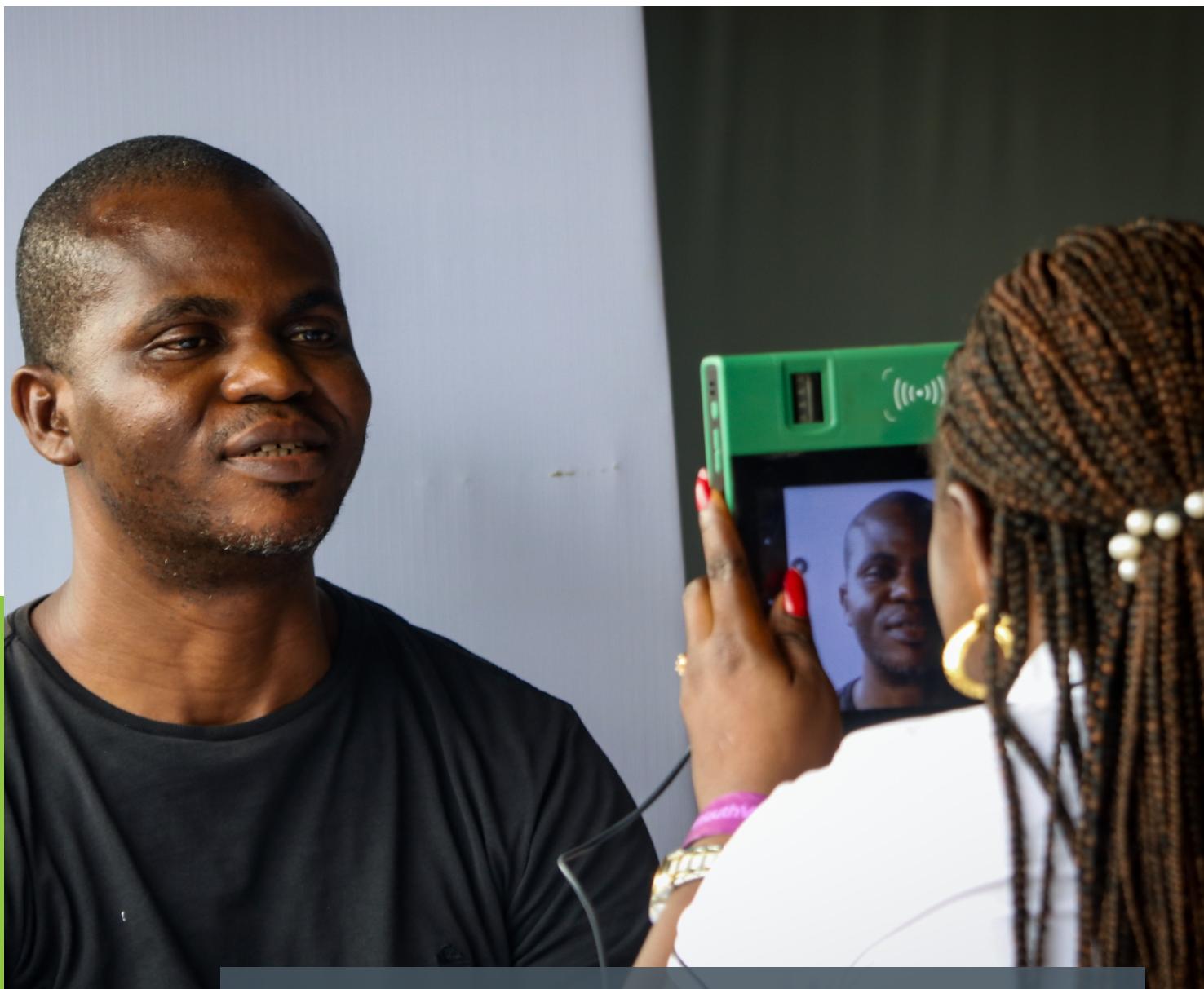


Attendees at the Youth Vote Count 2.0 Mega Music Concert



The European Union Ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Amb. Samuela Isopi addressing the attendees at the Youth Vote Count 2.0 Mega Music Concert

The venue was the historic Tafawa Balewa Square (TBS), a 55,000-capacity open-air event centre in the heart of Africa's most populous city, Lagos. On June 11, 2022, hordes of young Nigerians thronged into TBS to watch some of the country's biggest music artists perform in the Youth Vote Count Mega Concert. The aim of the concert was unique: expand youth political consciousness and participation by leveraging the power of popular culture. The event at TBS was a culmination of 5 days of intense campaign and activities, which provided access to voter registration at a central location, while also publicizing existing registration centres throughout Lagos. A few weeks later, on June 25, a similar event took place in Nigeria's capital city, Abuja. As with Lagos, five consecutive days of voter registration campaign targeting young voters ended with a



An INEC official registering a voter at the Youth Vote Count 2.0 Permanent Voters Card registration drive.





A voter completes her registration at the Youth Vote Count 2.0 Permanent Voters Card registration drive.

The European Union through its European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) programme led by DAI and 15 implementing partners, had a clear objective to ease young people's access to voter registration resources ahead of the 2023 National Elections. Nigeria has seen a steady decline in election participation, since 2003.

The EU-SDGN's Youth Vote Count Objectives

1

Increase young people's participation in the voter registration and Permanent Voter Card (PVC) collection.

2

Provide a platform for INEC to engage with young voters ahead of the 2023 general election.

3

Complement and support INEC's voter mobilization interventions.

4

Engender public trust and confidence in the electoral process and promote issue-based participation in 2023 general election.

5

Increase voter turnout in the 2023 general election from an average 35% to 60%.



The European Union Ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Amb. Samuela Isopi, led the staff of the EU to address the attendees at the Youth Vote Count 2.0



The Youth Vote Count 2.0 Campaign

Nigerian pop star, Waje (Aituaje Iruobe), performing at the Mega Music Concert.



Nigerian music sensation, Teni Apata, graced the stage with her electrifying performance at the Mega Music Concert.

During the Youth Vote Count 2.0 Mega Music Concert, a significant moment arose when INEC Chairman, Prof Mahmood Yakubu, took the stage and made an announcement that resonated with the attendees. With a resolute tone, he declared, "On behalf of INEC, let me assure you, e no go end for 30th June. As long as we have you people trying to register to obtain your PVC, we will continue to register you and we will continue to make sure that you get your PVC." His assurance was met with cheers and applause from the enthusiastic crowd, reflecting the commitment to ensuring that the voter registration process extended beyond the initial deadline of June 30.

The partnership between the EU-SDGN and INEC saw to the deployment of 150 INEC officials and 50 voter registration machines to each city. For five days, ahead of the music concert, INEC officials, the EU-SDGN team, other partner CSOs, and over 200 trained volunteers worked on the campaign in each city. The agenda was to reel in young people into the event venues, getting them to register to vote or obtain any of the elections related service offered by the organizers, including replacing existing PVCs and relocation of polling units. The message offered free entry into the mega concert, but only with the evidence of an existing PVC or a temporary document if the registration/alteration occurred either recently or during the course of the campaign. This brilliant strategy provided a strong incentive for registration, given the rarity of a free concert and access to the line-up of performers.



Askae's (Ahmed Ololade) musical performance undoubtedly left an indelible mark on the attendees, making the Mega Music Concert an unforgettable experience for all.

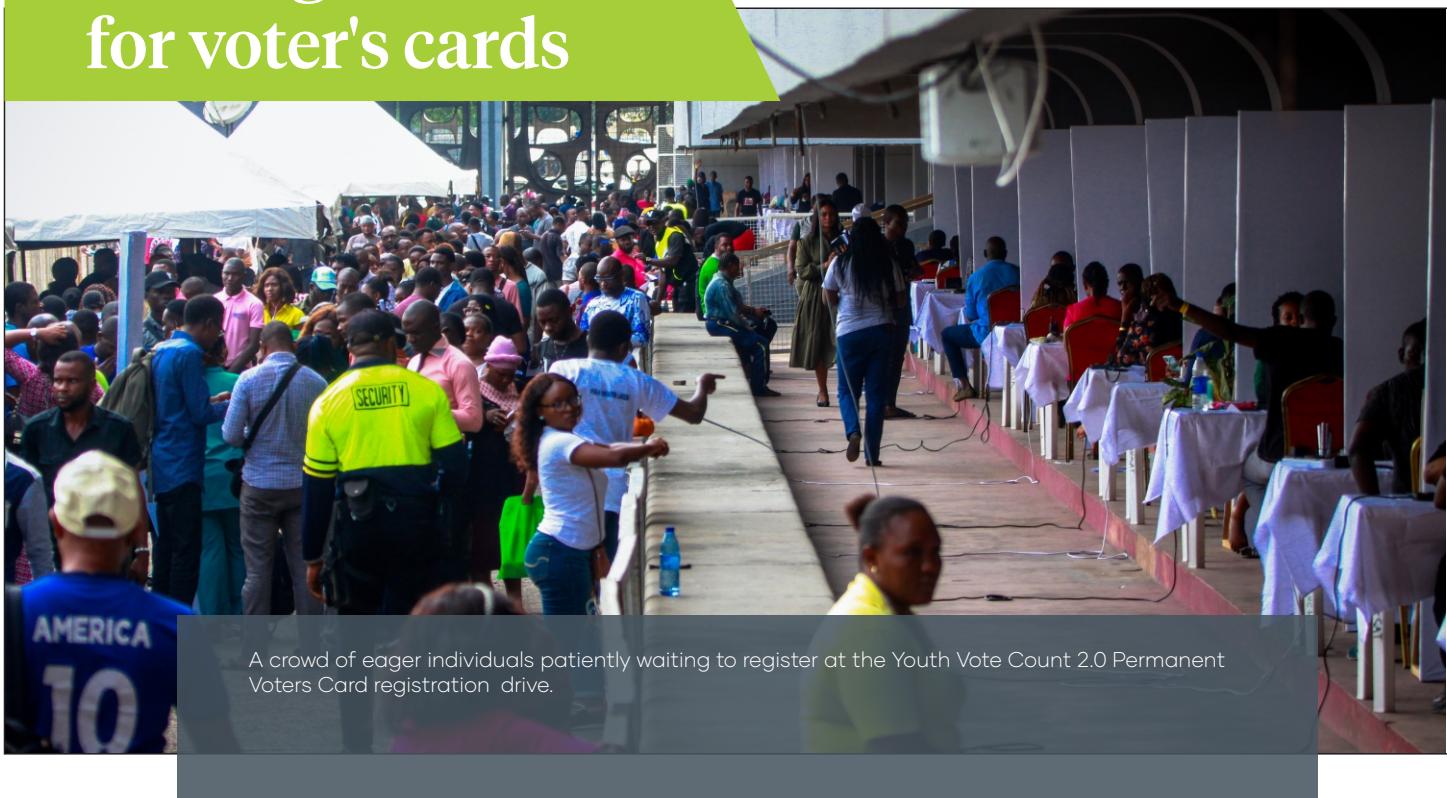
Twenty-eight celebrities and pop culture influencers had been carefully curated to ensure messaging that was non-partisan but focused on encouraging a broad-based political mobilization. Each of the celebrities offered a unique fan base and followership and the campaign leveraged these communities to ensure a broad reach of INEC's final legs of voter mobilization. Headlined by the multi-award-winning sensation, Kizz Daniel, alongside a long list of other award-winning, internationally recognized artist, like TuFace, M.I., Teni, Omawumi, Waje, Falz, Cobhams, and Asake, the concerts were massive coalescence of enormous talent. Nigeria's music entertainment industry remains one of the country's biggest exports and sources of economic and soft power.





Renowned musician Omawumi Megbele delivered a powerful message during her captivating performance. With conviction, she underscored the paramount importance of actively exercising the right to vote, highlighting how each individual's participation plays a crucial role in shaping the nation's trajectory.

Braving odds for voter's cards



A crowd of eager individuals patiently waiting to register at the Youth Vote Count 2.0 Permanent Voters Card registration drive.

For years, things continued to deteriorate in Femi's community in Abuja, Nigeria's capital city, where he lives. The cost of living skyrocketed, basic amenities were lacking, and government's policies piled on the suffering.

He yearned for change, and knew that voting was a powerful tool to make that difference.

But he was not a registered voter.

One day, he stumbled upon a social media post about the 'Youth Vote Count,' a European Union-driven campaign, and everything changed.

The Youth Vote Count is a non-partisan civic campaign designed to mobilise citizens, especially young people, to participate in the electoral process. It leverages youth pop culture, technology, and media to promote positive behavioural attitudes among young people.



An INEC official registering a Nigerian citizen

The Youth Vote Count is a non-partisan civic campaign designed to mobilise citizens, especially young people, to participate in the electoral process. It leverages youth pop culture, technology, and media to promote positive behavioural attitudes among young people.

"After seeing them on social media, I also then saw young men and women wearing their t-shirts around Gwagwalada in Abuja," Femi says.



Despite the rain, Nigerians eager to register for their Permanent Voters Card remain determined to complete the registration process.

"They were doing street dances and distributing fliers. They had buses and they kept playing music."

He reached out to the campaign, seeking assistance in registering as a voter. They responded by providing clear and concise information on the voter registration process, the centralized location for registration, and deadlines.

Armed with that information, Femi headed to the Youth Vote Count permanent voters card registration drive location where he joined a diverse group of people who were all eager to participate in the democratic process. The registration center was vibrant, filled with music, energetic security officials, and a lively atmosphere that resonated with Femi's enthusiasm.

"I was taken aback by the overwhelming crowd. The number of people who showed up was beyond my expectations. I tried to count the cars parked outside the venue, but there were simply too many. It seemed like the entire population of Abuja had come out. I couldn't help but wonder why so many people had waited until the last moment to register. When I arrived, I was greeted by over 5,000 people gathered at different locations within the venue.

At one point, I felt like giving up due to the sheer size of the crowd, but I persisted because giving up would mean either coming back another day or forfeiting my right to vote. I waited for six hours," Femi recounted.





Nigerians are steadfast in their commitment to register for their Permanent Voters Card at the Youth Vote Count 2.0 Permanent Voters Card registration drive.

The campaign organisers had taken great care to ensure a smooth registration process. They partnered with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and set up a registration centre equipped with dedicated staff members and necessary registration materials. Femi was impressed by the efficiency and organisation of the entire operation.

"They offered guidance and support to individuals during the registration process. They provided assistance, answering questions, and addressing concerns that we faced," he says.

The Youth Vote Count team also guided Femi through his own registration process, explaining each step along the way. They provided him with the required information, ensured he had the necessary documentation, and patiently answered his questions.

As Femi submitted completed his registration process, he was given a temporary slip and was told his

Permanent Voters Card will be ready soon. They emphasised the significance of the Permanent Voters Card (PVC) and its role in enabling him to exercise his democratic right.

Four months after, Femi was able to use his temporary slip to collect his PVC from the electoral umpire. With his PVC in hand, Femi felt empowered and ready to participate in the upcoming elections. He knew that the Youth

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Vote Count campaign had played a pivotal role in his journey, guiding and assisting him at every step. Their passion for youth engagement and commitment to fostering an inclusive democratic process had made a profound impact on Femi's life.

As Femi walked away, holding his PVC proudly, he vowed to encourage his peers to register and make their voices heard. He recognized the immense value of his newfound privilege and would forever be grateful to the Youth Vote Count campaign for their unwavering support in shaping a brighter future for the youth of Nigeria.



DAI's Engagement in Ekiti and Osun Off-Cycle Elections Observation



DAI actively participated in the observation of the off-cycle elections in Ekiti and Osun states. This involvement encompassed comprehensive monitoring, analysis, and assessment of the electoral processes. By deploying experienced teams and leveraging advanced observation methodologies, DAI provided valuable insights into the conduct of these elections. Through meticulous data collection and analysis, DAI contributed to a deeper understanding of the electoral dynamics, enabling stakeholders to make informed decisions and fostering transparent and credible electoral processes.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the EU-SDGN website. At the top left is the European Union flag and the text "European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) Programme Phase II". At the top right is a search icon. Below the header is a dark blue navigation bar with links: "WHO WE ARE", "PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES", "PROGRAMME BENEFICIARIES", "EU ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSIONS", "PUBLICATIONS", and "MEDIA CENTRE". The main content area has a dark blue background with a yellow and orange abstract graphic. On the left, the text "What we do" is followed by a large, bold, white text "SUPPORT TO THE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC)". Below this is a horizontal row of colored dots (yellow, blue, red, green). In the center, there is a grey callout box containing the text "The component focuses on improving the quality of electoral administration in Nigeria." To the right of the callout is a yellow button with the text "Read More →". A green rectangular box is positioned on the right side of the main content area.

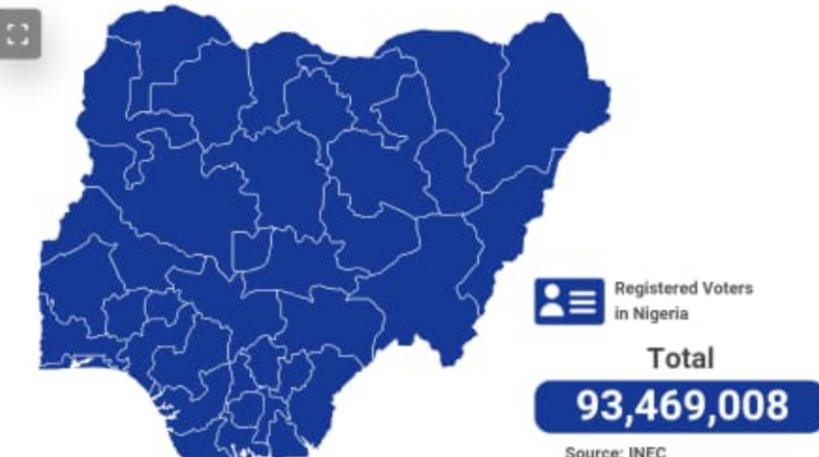
www.eusdgn.org

DAI developed the EU-SDGN portal, seamlessly integrating EU-SDGN's Phase One. This comprehensive platform houses an array of valuable resources, encompassing everything from the European Union Election Observation Mission reports, which ultimately provide the guidelines for what the EU-SDGN implements, to meticulously curated INEC publications. The portal extends its reach by accommodating a rich repository of papers generated by DAI and the 15 other EU-SDGN implementing partners.

Election Dashboard

[View More >](#)

Registered Voters



The portal extends its utility to the public, offering easily accessible downloadable guides that empower voters with critical insights. These encompass a range of election-oriented topics, including unveiling fake news, counterfeit videos, and manipulated images. The portal also equips electorates with vital know-how on election preparedness and the pivotal steps to take on the day of elections.

In addition to its educational role, the portal remains a dynamic hub for staying updated on the activities of the EU-SDGN implementing partners. With careful design and strategic curation, the EU-SDGN portal emerges as a pivotal asset, fostering an informed, engaged, and proactive citizenry.



Empowering Nigerian Electoral Process with Strategic Position Papers on Insecurity and Guidelines for INEC

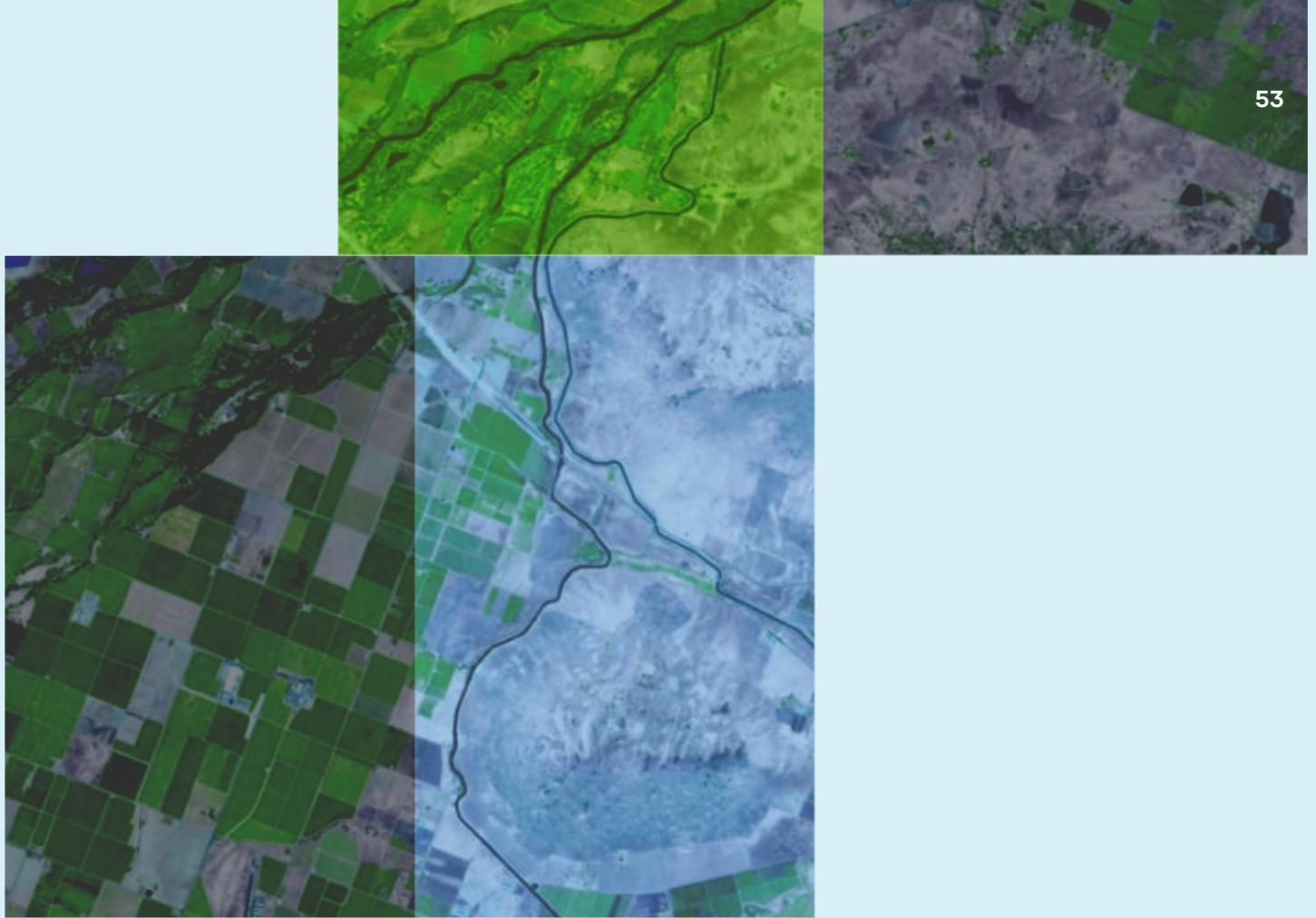


DAI undertook the development of three vital position papers addressing the legal and operational implications of insecurity in Nigerian elections, along with the creation of guidelines for INEC to navigate current conditions effectively. These papers bore the titles: "Insecurity in Nigeria: Analyzing the Impact on the 2023 Election Process," "Assessing Security Threats and Mitigation for the 2023 General Elections in Nigeria," and "Framework for Enhancing Election Security in Nigeria." Each paper offered a comprehensive perspective, delving into the multifaceted aspects of insecurity and offering strategic insights to fortify the electoral process. The papers were presented to stakeholders at a DAI organised seminar.



Attendees actively engaging and contributing during the seminar.





Mapping GPS Coordinates of Polling Units: DAI's Contribution to INEC's Expansion Efforts

In its partnership with INEC, DAI played a pivotal role in enhancing the electoral landscape of Nigeria through the innovative use of technology. One significant accomplishment was the acquisition and integration of Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates for polling units across all states.

By harnessing the power of geospatial data, DAI enabled INEC to efficiently locate and establish a larger number of polling units. This advancement not only streamlined the election administration process but also increased public access to essential electoral services.

The benefits were multifold. Precise GPS coordinates facilitated the strategic positioning of polling units, ensuring convenient access for voters. This, in turn, encouraged higher voter turnout and engagement. Moreover, the accuracy of polling unit locations minimized confusion and logistical challenges, resulting in smoother election operations.



Navigating the Polling Maze:

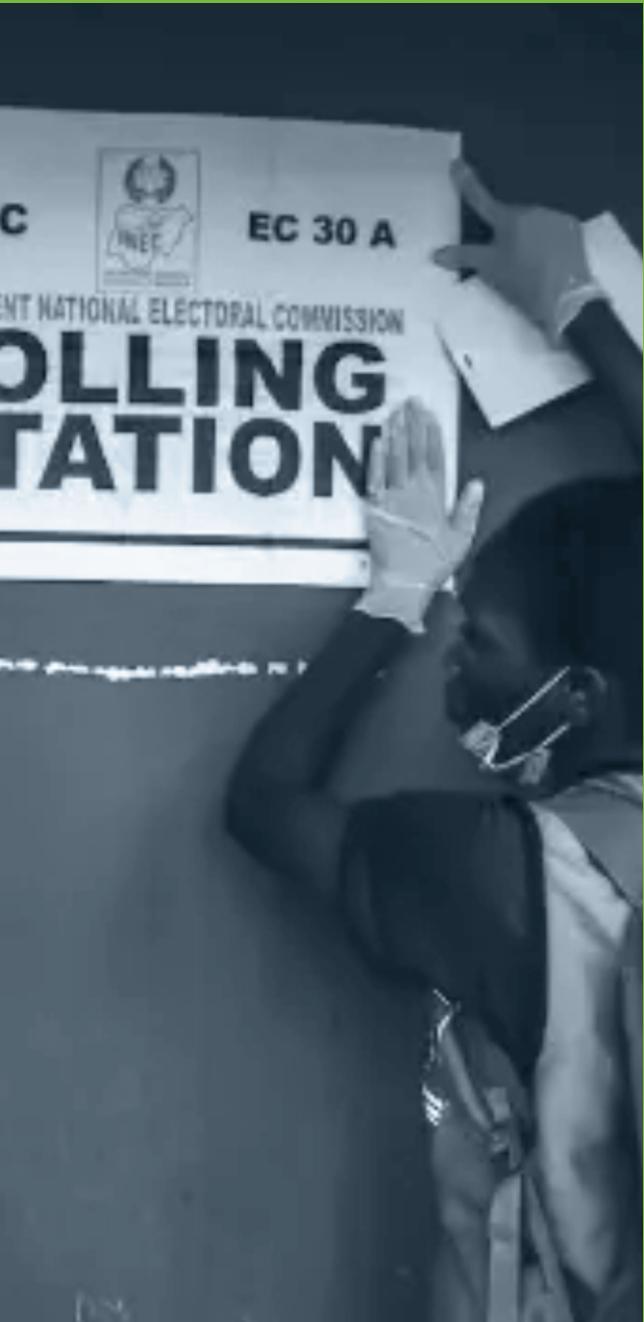
How EU-SDGN initiative helped in locating polling units for 2023 General Elections

With the 2023 general elections fast approaching, Enny Rotimi was uncertain where to cast her polling unit. A new initiative by the Independent National Electoral Commission that decongested overcrowded polling units and split them into two or more polling locations meant she had been moved to a new location. But she had no clue where to go.

Until she watched a television advert, supported by the European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN), which explained the process of locating those new polling units. "They highlighted the steps to find the polling unit, including using the INEC website and helpline," says Enny, who voted for the first time in the 2023 general elections.

"I visited the website and used the helpline to gather information about my specific polling unit based on my residential address."





The EU-SDGN is the EU's flagship democracy support programme in Nigeria. It is designed to complement the efforts of the Nigerian government to improve and strengthen democracy.

Ahead of the elections, INEC created nearly 60,000 additional polling stations, carved out of the existing about 120,000. This was done by splitting overcrowded polling stations into two and transferring voters to the new ones.

The commission also relocated polling units situated in locations such as palaces, churches, mosques, and shrines.

This move, the first since 1996, saw the total number of polling units increase to 176,846.

Enny says reaching an INEC website was initially difficult as the website took a long time to load. But, eventually, she got through and used the details she had seen on the advert to track her polling unit.

Abdulaziz Ahmed, receiving the details of his new polling unit from INEC provided him with clear information about where he would cast his vote. He says knowing the exact location of his polling unit allowed him to effectively plan his day on election day.

"I could determine the best route to reach the polling unit, estimate the travel time, and make necessary arrangements to ensure I arrived at the designated time without any issues," he says.

It also provided Ahmed time to familiarise himself with the environment of his new polling unit as well as enhanced his confidence as a voter.

"Knowing the exact details of the new polling unit instilled a sense of confidence in me as a voter, It assured me that INEC had taken the necessary steps to allocate polling units appropriately, making the voting process more organised and efficient."



59,000+

additional polling stations created by INEC

176,846

total polling units as at 2023

"Knowing the exact details of the new polling unit instilled a sense of confidence in me as a voter," Yakubu says. "It assured me that INEC had taken the necessary steps to allocate polling units appropriately, making the voting process more organised and efficient."

But beyond the television adverts and messages from INEC, finding the exact location of a polling unit involved the use of technology: the Geographic Information System (GIS).

The EU's GIS project had the coordinates of every polling unit, which can be used for polling unit tracking, security and logistics planning, and more.

For first time voters and those recently transferred to new polling units, finding these new units is often a challenge. Before the elections, INEC advised voters to select polling units near their areas of residence due to the restricted movement on election days. Voters used the pace Polling Unit Locator Tool to find the exact location of their polling units.

Yakubu Afuye says having a polling unit closer to his house made a "significant difference" in his voting experience.

"With a polling unit located nearby, I no longer had to endure the physical strain and exhaustion of walking long distances to cast my vote. The reduced travel time and effort made the process much more convenient and accessible."

Afuye says having a polling unit closer to his house contributed to a heightened sense of security during the elections.

"Since the polling unit was located within my residential area, it was easier for security personnel and community members to monitor and ensure the safety of voters," he says.

"This helped to alleviate concerns about safety and encouraged a peaceful voting environment."

176,846

total polling units
as at 2023

8,809

registration areas

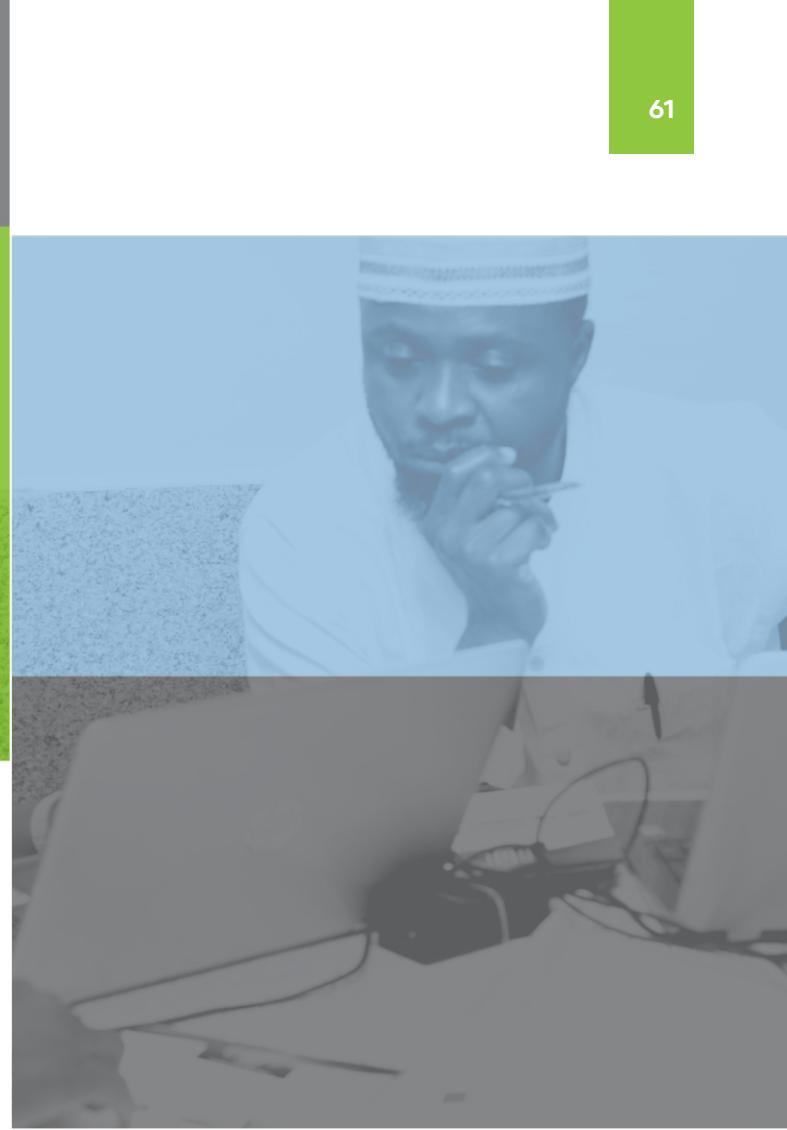


The objective of the GIS project was to help INEC to complete the geo-location of all polling stations, totaling 176,846 across 8,809 registration areas or electoral wards in the country.

Currently, INEC has the GIS coordinates of every polling unit, which can be used for polling unit tracking, security and logistics planning, and more.

The support to the INEC efforts to collect the GIS coordinates of all polling units is an intervention under the component one of the European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN), the EU's flagship democracy support programme in Nigeria that provides support to Nigeria's electoral umpire, the Independent National Electoral Commission. The component that provides support to Nigeria's electoral umpire is implemented by DAI Global. The EU-SDGN, implemented by 16 organizations, is designed to complement the efforts of the Nigerian government to improve and strengthen democracy.





Enhancing INEC Officials' Skills with EMSC Amber Zone Training



DAI facilitated the Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC) Amber Zone Training with utmost effectiveness. This comprehensive programme was meticulously designed to enhance the capabilities of stakeholders, particularly INEC officials, operating within the challenging EMSC Amber Zone. Through a tailored curriculum, encompassing interactive workshops, scenario simulations, and practical case studies, DAI provided participants with a comprehensive skillset to navigate complex electoral environments.

Facilitators and subject matter experts created an engaging and immersive learning experience. The aim was to equip participants with the tools needed to make informed decisions, ensure the security of electoral proceedings, and bolster the credibility of elections within the Amber Zone.

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Cross-section of participants at the EMSC Amber Zone training.



Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC) Amber Zone National Launch Workshop



Special Adviser to the INEC Chairman, Prof Muhammad Kuna with the Lagos INEC Resident Electoral Commissioner, Mr Olusegun Agbaje at the EMSC Amber Zone Training





Collaborative Coordination: Meetings with IFES and UNDP Elections Projects



DAI fostered collaboration by convening coordination meetings with International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) elections projects. Through these sessions, stakeholders shared insights, strategies, and best practices in the realm of democratic processes. These meetings facilitated the exchange of valuable knowledge, ensuring synergy and harmonization of efforts. DAI, IFES, and UNDP collectively explored ways to enhance electoral systems, strengthen institutions, and promote credible elections.



Promoting Dialogue: Facilitating Collaborative Meeting Between INEC and Media Managers from Across Nigeria



INEC Chairman, Prof Mahmood Yakubu led his team to the meeting with the media managers



DAI's facilitation ensured that critical topics were explored, including the role of media in elections, information dissemination, and promoting transparency. The meeting marked an important step in enhancing communication between INEC and media stakeholders, ultimately contributing to a more informed and engaged electorate in Nigeria's democratic processes.



DAI played a pivotal role in fostering constructive engagement by orchestrating a significant meeting between INEC and media managers hailing from various corners of Nigeria. This strategic gathering served as a platform for open dialogue, enabling both parties to exchange insights, perspectives, and innovative strategies.

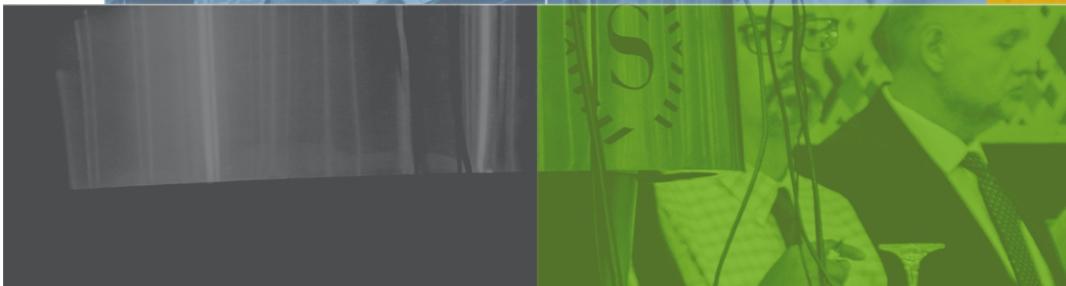


Participants engaged in a facilitated session orchestrated by DAI, which served as a dynamic platform for constructive dialogue and interaction between media managers and representatives of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).



A cross-section of Media Managers.

DAI's Voter Education Initiatives



DAI employed diverse strategies to educate voters about the electoral process, enhancing engagement and awareness. Noteworthy initiatives included:

Electoral Hubs: DAI established hubs in Lagos, Abuja, and Kano, offering voters accessible guidance on their Permanent Voters Cards.

Educational Content: Informative TV and radio commercials explained INEC's BVAS technology, boosting understanding among Nigerians.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Powered Communication: DAI used AI bots on Facebook and WhatsApp, aiding users in accessing INEC's FAQs for essential information.



DAI Co-Facilitates INEC's Stakeholder Validation Meeting for Revised IDP Framework and Regulations in Abuja





DAI played a crucial role in organizing the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Stakeholder Validation meeting for the Revised Framework and Regulations for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) voting. The event, held in Abuja, aimed to ensure the inclusivity and fairness of electoral processes for IDPs.



The Commission initially introduced a policy and framework for IDP voting prior to the 2015 General Election. This framework underwent revision and validation in 2018 for the 2019 General Election. In preparation for the 2023 elections, INEC undertook another review and validation, considering developments since the previous exercise. The facilitation was held in collaboration with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems

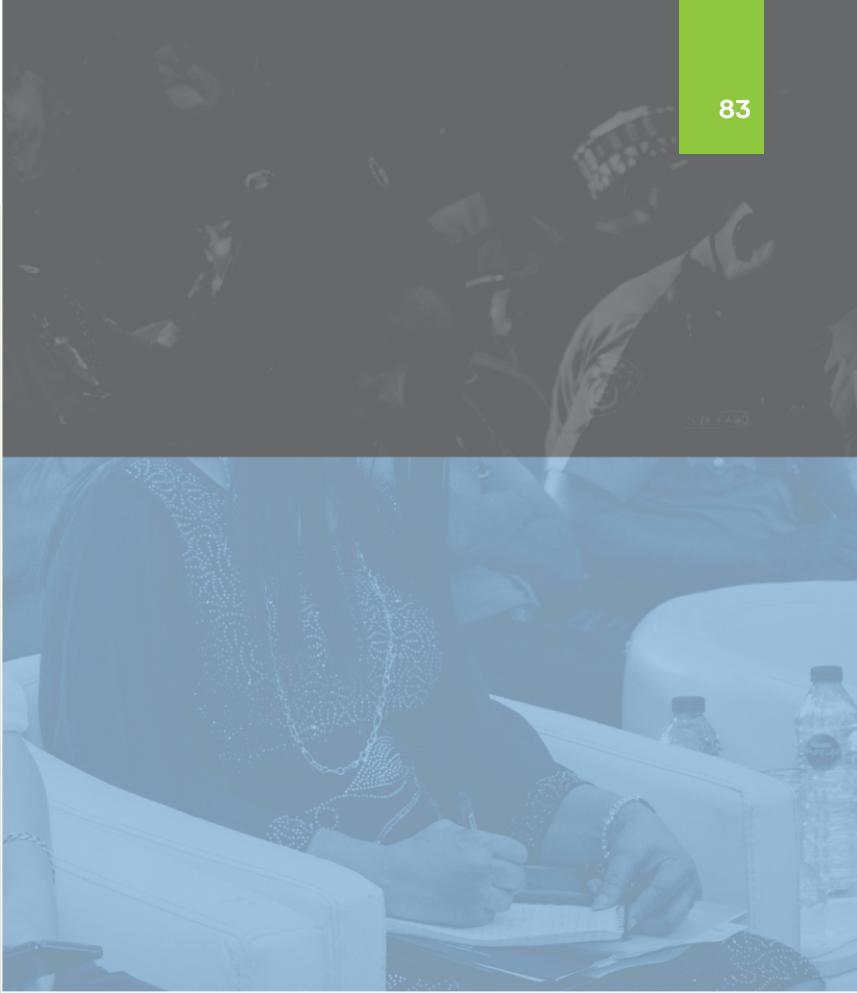


Cross-section of participants at the meeting.





Attendees at INEC's stakeholder validation meeting for revised IDP Framework and Regulations



DAI and TAF Africa Host Inclusive Election Security Conference



DAI and TAF Africa successfully organized an election inclusive security conference with the aim of enhancing security agencies' understanding of issues concerning persons with disabilities and the electoral process. The conference also prioritized ensuring that individuals with disabilities receive the necessary considerations during elections. This event brought together experts and stakeholders for insightful discussions and strategic planning to improve the inclusivity and security of electoral processes.



DAI's Team Lead on the EU-SDGN programme, Rudolf Elbling, participated in the Inclusive Election Security Conference.



Security personnel and Persons with Disabilities participated in the Inclusive Election Security Conference.



Enhancing Judicial Capacity: DAI and PLAC Collaborate to Build Skills for Justices and Election Tribunal Members



Cross-section of Judges

DAI, in collaboration with PLAC as a member of the EU-SDGN cohort, worked together to enhance the capacity of justices from the Court of Appeal and members of the election tribunals. This initiative was undertaken to equip these judicial professionals with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively adjudicate electoral matters. Through comprehensive training and interactive sessions, DAI and PLAC aimed to strengthen the capabilities of these key stakeholders, ensuring fair and informed decisions within the electoral process.



Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), Olukayode Ariwoola



INEC Chairman, Prof Mahmood Yakubu



Cross-section of Judges



European Union Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Deputy Head of Mission,
Alexandre Borges Gomes

Enhancing Progress: DAI Hosts Monitoring and Evaluation Retreat for EU-SDGN Cohort









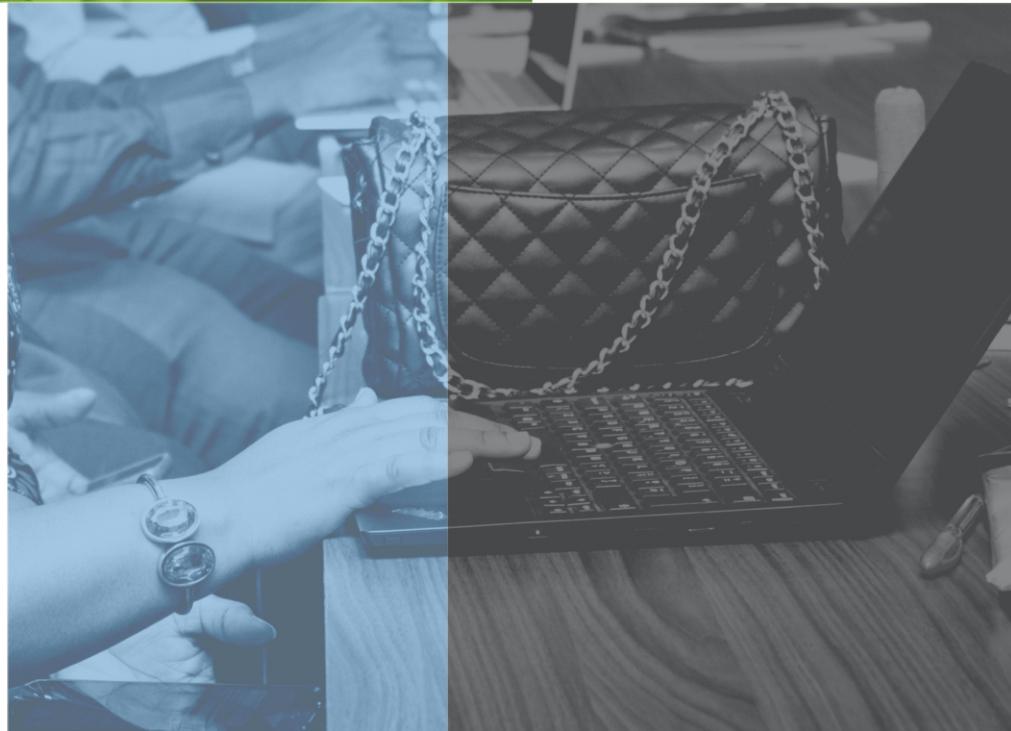
Cross-section of the EU-SDGN Monitoring and Evaluation Officers and Programme Officers from the 16 implementing cohorts.

DAI successfully organised a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) retreat for the 16 members of the EU-SDGN cohort. This retreat served as a crucial platform to reinforce progress tracking and assessment methodologies. By gathering the cohort together, DAI aimed to foster knowledge exchange, share best practices, and strengthen the M&E framework.





The retreat was skillfully implemented by Dennis Mutabazi, DAI's expert in Monitoring and Evaluation on the EU-SDGN Phase II Programme



DAI Joins Cohort Retreat for Post-Election Evaluation



DAI actively engaged in a retreat designed for the EU-SDGN cohort, with a central focus on post-election evaluation. This significant gathering not only facilitated the exchange of innovative ideas and strategic insights but also provided a dedicated platform for a comprehensive analysis of both achievements and challenges encountered during the 2023 election period. The retreat played a pivotal role in pinpointing priorities and essential adjustments necessary for future initiatives. The event witnessed the presence of all 16 implementing partners, led by the European Union's management team. This collective participation underscored a shared dedication to collaborative efforts and the pursuit of transparent and effective democratic processes. The retreat's outcomes will undoubtedly contribute to further strengthening the cohesion and impact of the EU-SDGN cohort in advancing sustainable development and inclusive governance in Nigeria.



During the retreat, DAI's Team Lead for the EU-SDGN Programme delivered a comprehensive presentation focusing on the support provided to INEC, lessons learned; changes and priorities.









Building Capacity: DAI Conducts Training for 16 EU-SDGN Cohort Members on Communication, Knowledge Management, and Visibility



EU-SDGN Communication Officers

DAI successfully conducted a comprehensive training programme for the 16 members of the EU-SDGN cohort. This training was held as a side activity during the programme's retreat held in Lagos. The training covered essential areas such as communication strategies, effective knowledge management practices, and enhancing programme visibility. By equipping the cohort with these crucial skills, DAI aims to strengthen their capacity to effectively communicate, manage information, and increase the visibility for the donor.





Some Communication Officers from the EU-SDGN programme participating in the retreat

Revolutionising Electoral Dynamics: DAI Project Management Team Unveils Six Cutting-Edge Technology Tools





L-R: Former National Electoral Commissioner for the Independent National Electoral Commission, and DAI's Deputy Team Lead on the EU-SDGN Programme, Professor Okechukwu Ibeantu, Head of Cooperation at the European Union Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ruben Alba-Aguilera alongside INEC Chairman, Prof Mahmood Yakubu

The DAI project management team led the development of six game-changing technology tools: Collation and Returning Officers Management System (CROMS), Election Results Management System (ERMS), Mapping GPS Coordinates of Polling Units in Nigeria, Media Monitoring and Analysis Tool, Political Parties Financial Reporting and Audit System (PFRAS), and the Election Monitoring Support Centre (EMSC) dashboard.

Each of these cutting-edge tools was developed to address specific challenges that arose during electoral processes, providing ingenious solutions that amplified efficiency and engendered trust in the democratic process.

CROMS effectively streamlined the collation and management of election results, while ERMS marked a revolution in result management, ensuring real-time accuracy while eliminating manual data handling. The mapping GPS Coordinates of Polling Units in Nigeria proved indispensable, providing essential geospatial insights that enhanced voter accessibility. The Media Monitoring and Analysis Tool guaranteed impartial media coverage analysis, a cornerstone of unbiased information dissemination. PFRAS ushered in essential transparency to political party financing, while the EMSC dashboard emerged as the nerve center for real-time monitoring and analysis of the electoral process.

The suite of tools, a result of DAI's commitment to innovation, stood as a testament to the power of technology in shaping the future of electoral dynamics.



Election Result Management System (ERMS) User's Manual

The Election Result Management System (ERMS) is designed to facilitate the efficient and transparent management of election results. This manual provides a comprehensive guide to the system, its features, and best practices for effective use.

Collation and Returning Officers Management System (CROMS)

The Collation and Returning Officers Management System (CROMS) holds significant importance for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as it aims to streamline and enhance the process of recruiting election officers, ensuring the deployment of competent and qualified officers during elections. CROMS offers a suite of tools that enhance the recruitment process, database management, and deployment of election officers, contributing to the overall success of elections in Nigeria.

Media Monitoring and Analysis Tool

The media plays a crucial role in shaping public perception, influencing opinions, and disseminating information. As such, effective media monitoring and analysis are vital for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to stay informed about the media coverage of its activities and electoral processes. The implementation of a media monitoring and analysis tool offers numerous benefits, including timely detection of negative coverage, enabling proactive response, crisis management, and strategic communication. This tool is essential for INEC to monitor and manage its reputation effectively.

Political Parties Financial Reporting and Audit System (PFRAS)

The services provided to build the INEC Political Parties Financial Reporting and Audit System (PFRAS) include assistance in drafting financial policies, accountability, and efficiency in monitoring and auditing political parties' financial statements. PFRAS helps in ensuring transparency and accountability in political party financial management, which is crucial for maintaining public trust and credibility.

Mapping GPS Coordinates of Polling Units in Nigeria

The location and utilization of GPS coordinates of Polling Units in all the States of Nigeria hold significant importance for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Among other things, it is crucial to have a reliable and accurate database of polling units to ensure smooth and efficient election processes. This infographic highlights the key benefits of the GPS coordinate mapping system and the steps followed to achieve this.



Technical Meetings for EU Cohort Members









DAI provides crucial support to the European Union (EU) by supporting the facilitation of monthly technical meetings. These gatherings hold immense importance as they serve as a platform for in-depth discussions, collaboration, and knowledge exchange among cohort members. This continuous interaction enhances coordination, ensures clear communication, and promotes a unified approach towards programme objectives.

The technical meetings foster a deeper understanding of project progress, allowing for timely adjustments and optimizations. Ultimately, these meetings empower the EU and its partners to navigate complexities, make informed decisions, and achieve collective goals efficiently.





The EU-SDGN programme is articulated through six thematic components:



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



Component 2:
Support to the
National Assembly
and Judiciary



Component 3:
Support to Political
Parties



Component 4:
Support to Media



Component 5:
Support to Women,
Youth, and Persons
with Disabilities



Component 6:
Support to Civil
Society Organisations



DAI's President and CEO Visits Nigeria







DAI Global Technology Team Visits the EU-
SDGN Project Office

