

European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria



INTRODUCTION

The EU Funded Programme “Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria” (EU-SDGN) aims to contribute to the reinforcement of democracy in Nigeria through building strong, effective and legitimate democratic institutions. It will be implemented from 2017 to 2021, accompanying the 2016-2019 electoral cycle, and is anchored in the priorities of the Nigerian government and the recommendations of the European Union Election Observation Mission on the 2015 General Elections. The Financing Agreement for this programme was signed on 5 June 2017 by the Ministry of Budget and National Planning of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the European Union for a total amount of 26,5 million euro. The programme is composed of five components, namely:

1. **Support to the Independent National Electoral Commission;**
2. **Support to the National Assembly;**
3. **Support to Political Parties;**
4. **Support to Media;**
5. **Support to Civil Society Organisations.**

The first component of EU-SDGN is implemented by the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES) for an amount of 13 million euro with an addition contribution of 5% of the total amount from ECES.

The second component of the programme is implemented by the **Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC)** and to the **Youth Initiative for Advocacy, Growth and Advancement (YIAGA)** for an amount of 3 million euro.

The third component of the programme is implemented by **Political Party Leadership and Policy Development Centre of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS)** for an amount of 2.7 million euro.

The Institute for Media and Society and the **International Press Centre (IPC)** implements the fourth component of EU-SDGN for an amount of 2.6 million euro.

The fifth component will be to support the Civil Society Organisations for an amount of 3 million euro is implemented by **BBC Media Action, CLEEN Foundation, Westminster Foundation and Albino Foundation.**

BACKGROUND

Nigeria is located at the extreme Eastern corner of the tropical zone of West Africa along the Gulf of Guinea. With an estimated population of 177 million composed predominantly of young persons, Nigeria is the seventh most populous country in the world, the most populous in Africa. Nigerian system of governance is premised on a federal system consisting of the Federal government, 36 State governments plus a Federal Capital Territory (FCT) administration and 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs). Following the 1999 elections that returned the country back to civilian rule, Nigeria has conducted four general elections in 2003, 2007, 2011 and 2015 with varied and mixed outcomes. While the 1999 and 2003 general elections were perceived as largely flawed by Nigerians and the international community, the 2007 general election was condemned for falling “far short of basic international and regional standards for democratic elections”.

The implementation of some recommendations of the Electoral Reform Committee and the inauguration of a new EMB in June 2010 brought some noticeable improvements to the 2011 general elections. Although the elections threw up old and new challenges, it was adjudged as “an important step towards strengthening democratic elections in Nigeria”. The 2015 elections meant a significant step forward in the consolidation of the democratic process, seeing the peaceful transition of power from the ruling party to the opposition party for the first time in Nigeria’s history. Nevertheless, the elections were far from perfect, marred by “incidence of violence, abuse of incumbency at state and federal levels, and attempts at manipulation”.

Certainly, some reforms, including key recommendations of the EU EOM on the 2015 general elections are desirable towards the 2019 general elections. These reforms relate to a broad range of issues involving the three arms of government - executive, legislature, judiciary, as well as varied stakeholders such as the Electoral Management Body (EMB), political parties, security agencies, media, religious and traditional institutions, civil society organizations and international development partners.

In this context, the challenge to the international donor community is to complement the efforts of the Government of Nigeria to improve and strengthen democracy. In fact, within the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), national authorities renewed their commitment to cooperate in the pursuit and achievement of the objectives foreseen in the EU Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) 2016 – 2020 Project.

OBJECTIVES

The global objective of this programme is contribute to the reinforcement of democracy in Nigeria through building strong, effective and legitimate democratic institutions. The project is articulated through five components aiming to achieve the following specific objectives:

- **Specific Objective 1:** Improved quality of electoral administration in Nigeria;
- **Specific Objective 2:** The National Assembly effectively discharges its legislative function in compliance with democratic principles and standards;
- **Specific Objective 3:** Pluralism, tolerance, internal democracy and equality of opportunity of political parties and the political party system enhanced;
- **Specific Objective 4:** The Media, including radio and social media, provides fair, accurate and ethical coverage of the electoral process;
- **Specific Objective 5:** CSOs and relevant agencies contribute to enhancing the electoral process.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Component 1: Support to Independent National Electoral Commission



EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR ELECTORAL SUPPORT

The European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES)

ECES is a non-profit private foundation headquartered in Brussels with a global remit. ECES promotes sustainable democratic development through the provision of operational support and management of projects and large basket funds in favour of electoral processes. ECES works with all electoral stakeholders, including EMBs, civil society organizations involved in civic & voter education and election observation, political parties and parliaments dealing with electoral reforms, media, security forces and legal institutions confronted with electoral dispute resolution. Since February 2012, ECES has signed more than 70 contracts in support of electoral processes and the strengthening of democratic institutions in more than 35 countries mainly, but not exclusively, in Africa and the Middle East. In addition, ECES’ activities are informed by specific electoral knowledge stemming from a well-established network in over 70 countries. ECES is a member of the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) and is part of its Board of Directors. EPD is the most important network of European civil and political society organisations working on democracy assistance. It is composed by 14 members from 11 EU Member States. www.eces.eu

Component 2: Support to National Assembly



Policy and Advocacy Centre (PLAC)

Founded in 2009, PLAC is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit capacity building organization that works to strengthen democratic governance and citizens' participation in Nigeria. Through broad-based technical assistance and training, PLAC works to promote citizens' engagement with government institutions and to advocate for legal and policy reforms and promote transparency and accountability in policy and decision-making processes. Over its 7 years of history, PLAC has worked and evolved into a foremost and leading institution with capacity to deliver cutting-edge research, policy analysis and advocacy. PLAC promotes citizens participation in public policies and engagement with public institutions, and also promotes elections credibility in Nigeria. PLAC is focused on promoting good governance through building effective public institutions and citizens' access. www.placng.org



Youth Initiative for Advocacy, Growth and Advancement (YIAGA)

YIAGA is a youth-based non-governmental organization that promotes democratic governance, human rights and youth political participation. YIAGA focuses on in-depth research, capacity development and public policy advocacy. Since its inception, the organization has carved a niche for itself as one of Nigeria's frontline youth civil society organization promoting participatory democracy, human rights and active civic participation. To this end, YIAGA focuses on in-depth research, providing critical analysis of key democratic and governance issues, crafting practical solutions, training and situating youth leaders in strategic point of engagements within their community. Using this approach, we implement several innovative programs aimed at stimulating active citizenship, protecting human rights and deepening democratic governance. YIAGA has implemented numerous youth democracy projects with the support of her local and international partners. www.yiaga.org

Component 3: Support to Political Parties and Political Party system



Political Party Leadership and Policy Development Centre of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS)

NIPSS serves as a high level centre for reflection, research and dialogue and aims to be a model institution for achieving the best results from a rational deployment and utilization of resources. The institute conducts courses for top level policy makers and executors, conducts research and organises action-orientated programmes for leaders and potential leaders in the public service. NIPSS also promotes discussions on key national issues aimed at developing recommending policy measures for their solution. NIPSS, Kuru has set up the Political Parties Leadership and Policy Development Centre (PPLPDC). The principal aim of the centre is to help develop capacity of political parties and institutions in order to improve the democratic quality of political engagement. The PPLPDC organises capacity building activities for political party leadership and other stakeholders with a view to enhance their capacities in strategic policy development and intensify their understanding of governance processes while enhancing advocacy, networking and coalition building skills. www.nipskuru.gov.ng

Component 4: Support to Media



Institute for Media and Society (IMS)

The Institute for Media and Society is an independent, non-governmental organization based in Nigeria. The institute was established in April 2000, incorporated in June 2004. It aims to help build and improve the communication capacity and environment of the media, civil society and governance institutions to facilitate popular participation in democracy and development in Nigeria. In particular, the institute has a three-fold mandate: 1) Building the capacity of the media to become a more informed, innovative and competitive institution, well positioned as a central player in today's knowledge societies and economies, and able to provide appropriate interface for civil society and governance institutions; 2) Upskilling the institutions of civil society and governance for appropriate engagement of the media and utilization of other communication resources; 3) Advocating communication rights and the expansion of media/communication resources to all sections of the population. www.imesoimeso.org



International Press Centre (IPC)

The International Press Centre is as a not-for-profit, non-governmental and independent media resource centre. Though based in south western Nigeria its activities extend to the rest of the country and the West African sub-region. It started in October 1999 as a component of the Media-for-Democracy (MFD) In Nigeria project initiated by the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) in partnership with Article 19 (the International Freedom of Expression group), Reporters San Frontiers (Reporters Without Borders), West African Journalists Association (WAJA) and three Nigerian media groups: Media Rights Agenda (MRA), Independent Journalism Center (IJC) and Journalists for Democratic Rights (JODER). IPC's mission derives from the need to strengthen the media and the journalists in fulfilling their traditional and constitutional obligation of monitoring governance, serving as the society's watchdog and promoting democratic values. IPC objectives are to strengthen capacity and professionalism of the media and journalists, improve the knowledge of journalists in information technology tools and support all necessary activities to promote freedom of expression and preserve media independence. IPC also facilitates the reform and upgrading of media laws to bring them into conformity with international rights charters and conventions and provides fora for discourse on the role and responsibilities of the media in democratic dispensations. ICP also support the involvement of the media in conflict management and resolution. www.ipcng.org

Component 5: Support to Civil Society Organisations



BBC Media Action

BBC Media Action was founded in 1999 by the BBC as its international development charity. We apply the editorial standards of the BBC, build on its values and often work closely with the BBC World Service and other BBC departments. However, we are legally and financially independent and work to a distinct mission. Originally known as BBC World Service Trust we changed our name to BBC Media Action in December 2011. As an independent charity, we are not funded by the BBC licence fee. Our work is made possible thanks to the support of our generous donors – governments, foundations, corporations and individuals. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction/where-we-work/africa/nigeria>



CLEEN Foundation

The CLEEN Foundation (formerly known as Centre for Law Enforcement Education) is a non-governmental organization established in January 1998 with the mission of promoting public safety, security and accessible justice through the strategies of empirical research, legislative advocacy, demonstration programmes and publications, in partnership with government, civil society and the private sector. www.cleen.org



Westminster Foundation

WFD shares the full breadth of the UK's democratic experience by bringing together UK expertise on parliaments, political parties and elections. After 25 years cultivating relationships and evolving its programming, WFD has the institutional access and robust methodologies to strengthen democracies around the world. WFD was established in 1992 after the fall of the Berlin Wall as an arms-length non-departmental public body which operates closely with, but is independent of, the UK Government. Our vision is of the universal establishment of legitimate and effective multi-party representative democracy. We can contribute to this by supporting inclusive governance which strengthens policy-making, accountability, representation and citizen participation. Many countries around the world are keen to engage with WFD because they want to hear about the British experience. Rather than engaging in large, one-size-fits-all programmes with expensive components, we tailor bespoke programmes which make small but significant improvements to that country's democracy – and pave the way for bigger changes. www.wfd.org



Albino Foundation

Established in 2006, the Albino Foundation (TAF) is principally an organisation established for persons with albinism and other vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities. The foundation is an independent non-governmental organization registered in Nigeria with the Corporate Affairs Commission. TAF is a special focus organization advocating for the recognition and respect of the rights and socio-economic inclusion of people living with albinism. The Foundation works to create awareness of the social challenges that Persons with albinism face in Nigeria and the world, by working with governments, development institutions in Programme areas that improve the health, education and social wellbeing of persons with albinism in Nigeria; as well as assist and empower them to find their rightful place in society. The Foundation now bears national spread cut across the 36 states of the federation and FCT-Abuja. The foundation equally partners with some disability organisations and institutions in Nigeria to ensure that persons with albinism and other vulnerable groups are socially and economically empowered. www.albinofoundation.org

COMPONENT 1 ACTIVITIES

1.1.1 Secondment of high level technical and advisory electoral expertise

- 1.1.2 Integration and strengthening the Electronic Management System (EMS) tool and training on its efficient use
- 1.1.3 Staff capacity audit and needs assessment of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Departments and Units to determine competency level and training requirements
- 1.1.4 Integration of operational, procurement and logistics systems for seamless deployment and retrieval of electoral personnel and materials
- 1.1.5 Assessment and training on electronic collation of results
- 1.1.6 Support the mapping and reconfiguration of Polling Unit

1.2.1 Support INEC media monitoring and external communication

- 1.2.2 Support Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) engagement with stakeholders
- 1.2.3 Support to innovative voter and education outreach, in particular for women, youth and marginalized groups
- 1.2.4 Civic and Voter education harmonization platform
- 1.2.5 Training of the staff in charge of the Contact Centre
- 1.2.6 Training of trainers for youth in the National Youth Service Corp
- 1.2.7 BRIDGE training of Sokoto State Independent Electoral Commission (SIEC) Gender desk officers
- 1.2.8 Support the engagement of marginalized groups in the electoral process

1.3.1 In depth assessment of VR

- 1.3.2 Capacity building for INEC's technical staff

1.4.1 Technical support to strengthen the INEC Political Party Monitoring mechanism

- 1.4.2 Training of INEC staff on political party monitoring
- 1.4.3 Review and validation of the Political Parties' Code of conduct
- 1.4.4 Support regular engagement between INEC, Inter-party Advisory Committee (IPAC) and Political parties
- 1.4.5 Design, development and dissemination of INEC standardized reporting template and timeline for political parties
- 1.4.6 International Conference on Election Management Bodies (EMBs) engagement with political parties

1.5.1 Training of Police and Legal Officers on investigation and prosecution of electoral offences

- 1.5.2 Training in global legal practices for legal officers
- 1.5.3 Compilation of landmark decisions in the electoral process
- 1.5.4 The law library of INEC is supported
- 1.5.5 Fostering Inter-agency engagements and collaboration on election security
- 1.5.6 Foster better understanding and use of Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) by training INEC staff

1.6.1 LEAD and bridge curriculum for INEC and FOSIECON

- 1.6.2 Workshop on the use of technology for The Forum of State Independent Electoral Commissions of Nigeria (FOSIECON)
- 1.6.3 Training on the harmonization of regulations for FOSIECON
- 1.6.4 Peer exchange program for FOSIECON
- 1.6.5 Pilot support to targeted SIEC

ECES OFFICE NIGERIA

ECES Office is located at No. 12 Charles de Gaulle Street, Off Jimmy Carter Street in the district of Asokoro of the Federal Capital Territory. Among others companies and organisations, the building houses the French and Japanese Development Agencies (respectively AFD and JICA).

It is located to the east of Garki district and south of Central district close to many of the Federal Cabinet Ministries, the Presidential Palace, ECOWAS Secretariat and the Police Headquarter hence making it one of the most secured area of the city.



For more information please visit: www.democracy-support.eu/nigeria

