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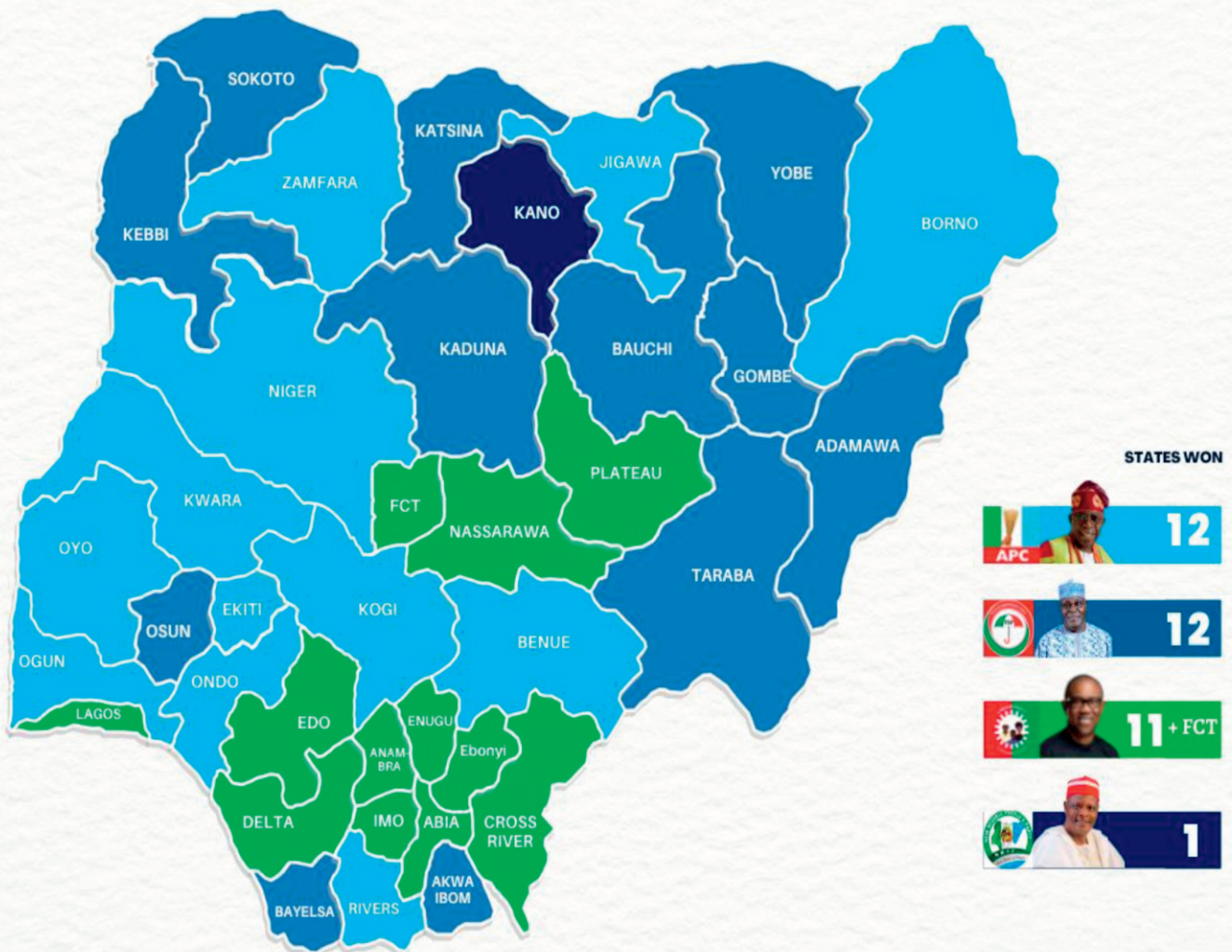


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Gender-Based Security Threat Assessment of 2023 Election in Nigeria: Volume II

2023 Presidential Elections State Results in Nigeria.



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Gender-Based Security Threat Assessment of 2023 Election in Nigeria: Volume II

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Gender-Based Security Threat Assessment of 2023 Election in Nigeria: Volume II is a follow-up on the Gender-Based Pre-2023 Election Security Threat Assessment in Nigeria: Volume 1. It focuses on threats to women's participation as women, as voters, candidates, election security officials, observers and election officials in the February 25, Presidential and National Assembly elections in Nigeria, across the six geopolitical regions of Nigeria between November 2022 and February 2023, which covered the period of electioneering campaigns and the election.

Key findings emerging from the study are:

- Across the country, women and youth constituted about 75 per cent of the total registered voters and less than 10 per cent of the total number of candidates contesting for elective positions in the elections.
- The level of representation of women as female candidates contesting for political offices in the election process is far below the desired number expected to reflect the affirmative action and is at odds with the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, as well as national statutory guarantees for equality and inclusivity.
- The elections, held as scheduled, were partly marred by incidences of violence across the country, especially in Cross River, Lagos, Kano and Rivers States.
- Physical attacks, violence, suppression and intimidation, fuel scarcity as well as the impact of the cash swap, were major threats to women's participation in the election process.

The study recommends that:

- The leadership of security agencies under the aegis of the Inter Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) should evolve a robust contingency and incident response plan to swiftly attend to security breaches, especially those with the potential to compromise the safety and security of women in various capacities in future elections.
- Independence National Electoral Commission (INEC) and security agencies should develop context-sensitive deployment plans that take into consideration the conflict flashpoints or locations in the country and ensure that there is effective security protocol put in place to ensure safety, security of all officials on electoral duties particularly women posted to volatile and sensitive areas in subsequent elections.

- INEC should work towards a seamless voting process, especially for women, by ensuring that election equipment functions effectively, materials are made available, and voting commences and concludes on schedule.
- In recognition of the fact that inclusive governance is a prerequisite for good governance, Civil Society Organisations working on good governance and democratization of the Nigerian space should advocate for reduction of money playing a critical role in political process. This would provide the opportunity for women candidates deploy party agents towards ensuring their votes count during the processes of voting, counting and declaration of results.
- Political parties should adhere to the provisions of the 2018 Political Parties Code of Conduct that commits them to zero tolerance for violence by their functionaries, candidates and supporters.
- Civil Society Organisations should provide legal aid services to women who seek legal redress over the conduct of the elections, with a specific focus on post-election litigations, which are often expensive and almost unaffordable.
- Security agencies should ensure the gender-based disaggregation of personnel to be deployed on election duties, to highlight the gender considerations in such deployments.
- The GBV Laws and other laws enacted should be implemented by the responsible agencies, diligently prosecuted by the prosecutors, interpreted and enforced by the courts to ensure the protection of women from electoral violence.

