



# IFA 2023 **GENERAL ELECTIONS** *SITUATIONS REPORT*

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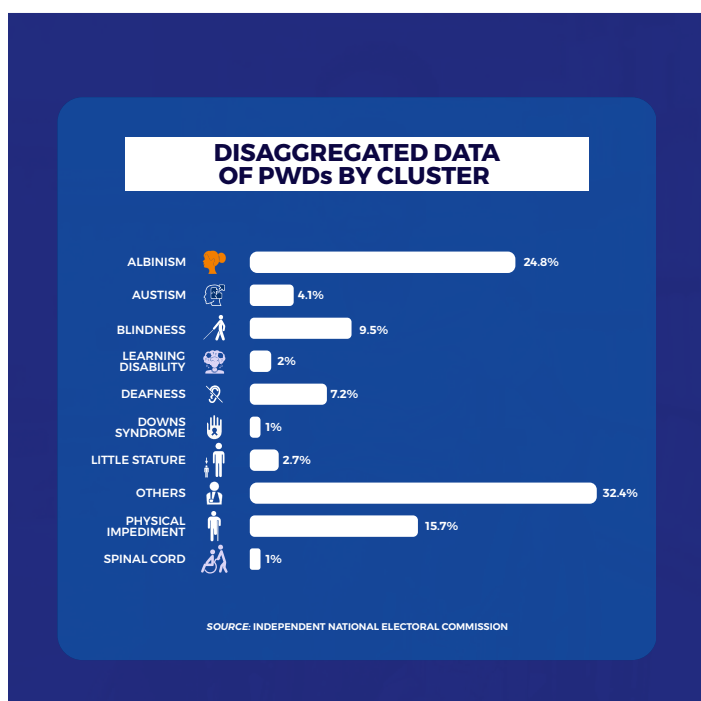
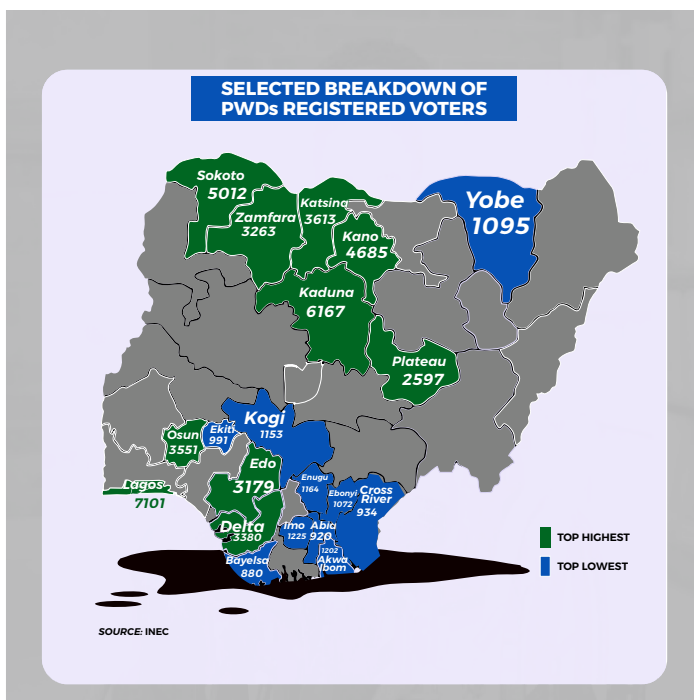
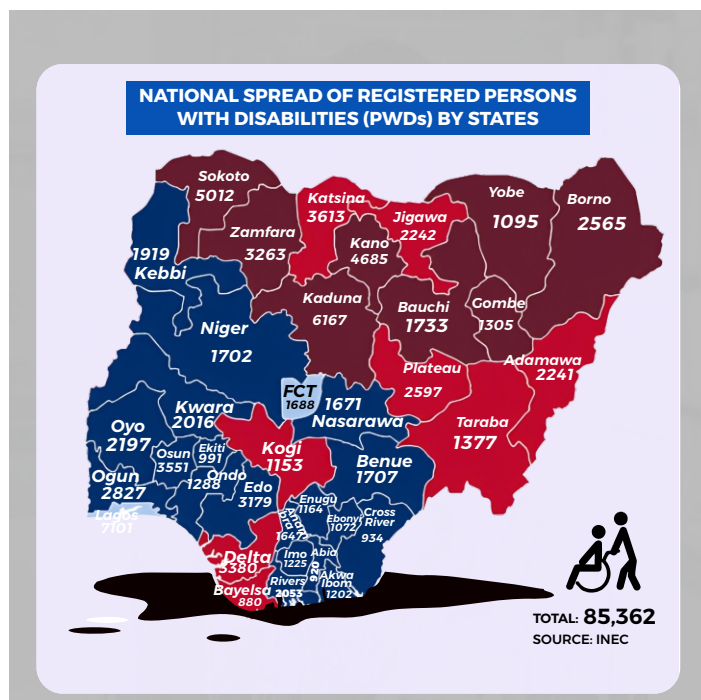
## Introduction

An appealing democratic character is experienced when all citizens of a nation enjoy equal rights to participate in social and political processes. Since the 4<sup>th</sup> republic began in 1999, there lurks an overwhelming exclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in the electoral and political processes not to overlook their daily interactions with physical and attitudinal barriers during elections. There is no gainsaying that no one vote is greater than the other and all eligible Nigerians, including PWDs, have equal rights to vote and be voted for.

Worthy of note, the UN 1966 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Additionally, the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018's Part IV, Chapter IV of the 1999 Constitution, and Article 29 of the UNCPRD serve as a legal framework to ensure meaningful inclusion and participation of Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) in the social and political processes.

It is important to recognize that INEC together with CSOs and OPDs has made several strides to ensure increased participation of PWDs in the 2023 General Elections. In its meetings with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPD), INEC reiterated its commitment towards ensuring that voters with disabilities are able to participate fully and independently in the 2023 general elections, beginning from registration to accreditation and voting. This is the import of the “INEC Framework on Access and Participation of PWDs in the Electoral Process”. The Framework seeks to “Build on the hopes and aspirations of Nigerians for a truly inclusive, equitable, free and fair electoral process” with the overall goal “to contribute to the facilitation of access and participation of PWDs in all aspects of the Electoral Process”. The Framework also includes a separate operationalization plan. The INEC was able to achieve this with the help of other stakeholders, including but not limited to IFA and other Organizations of Persons With Disabilities (OPDs).

In the electoral history of Nigeria since 1999, no adequate data speak to the inclusion and participation of PWDs in the electoral process. It is imperative to underscore that for the first time in our electoral history, INEC has documented disaggregated data for voters with disabilities. From June 29, 2021 - July 31, 2022, INEC conducted the Continuous Voters' Registration (CVR) exercise to register eligible citizens ahead of the 2023 general elections. The exercise registered 12,298,944 new voters. From 12 to Nov. 25. 2022, the electoral commission displayed the voter register nationwide for claims and objections by citizens. The commission further ran a data clean up in the register and 9,518,188 remained as valid registrants with 85,362 registrants are Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

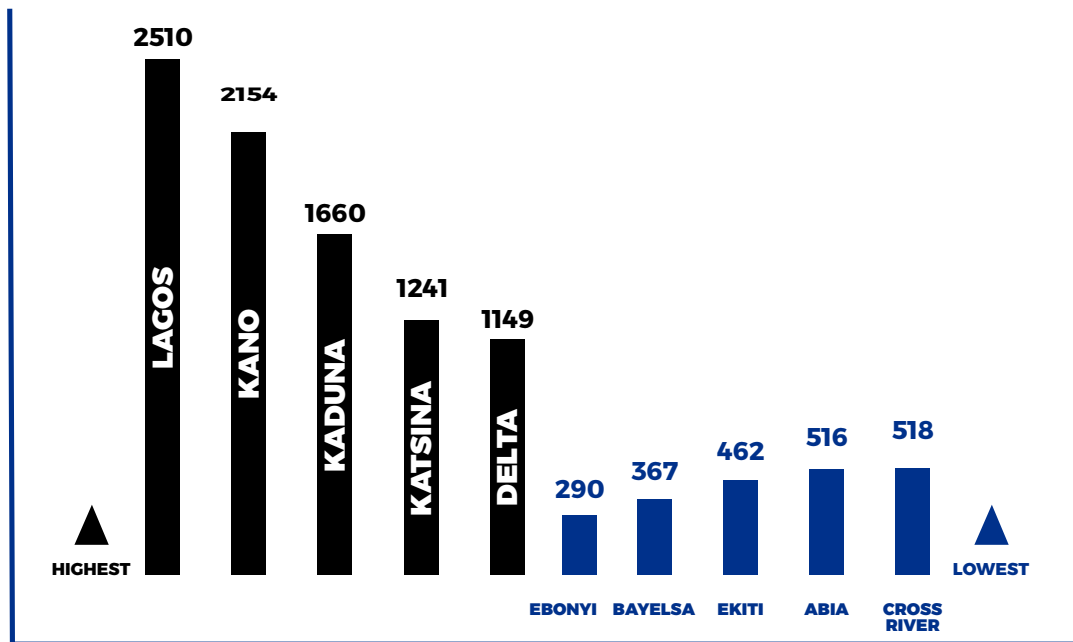


However, given that there are about 30 million PWDs in Nigeria, this may suggest that the number of voters (persons) with disabilities is underreported. It could also be assumed that some voters with disabilities do not disclose their status as such.

On June 2021, the electoral commission converted a total of 56,872 voting points and voting point settlements into polling units making a total of 176,846 polling units (PUs) nationwide.

The Data on PUs reveals that 32,889 PUs have persons with disabilities, with Lagos having the highest number of PUs with PWDs at 2,510. Disaggregating PUs with PWDs by geopolitical zone, the Northwest has the most (8,795), followed by the Southwest (6,869).

## DEMOGRAPHY OF PWDs POLLING UNITS IN SELECTED STATES



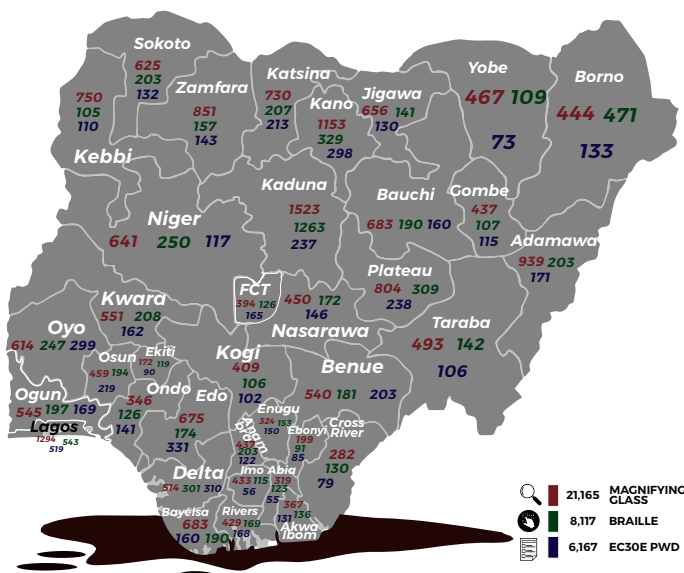
**TOTAL PUs with PWDs: 32,889**

SOURCE: INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC)

## DEPLOYMENT OF (ASSISTIVE) ELECTORAL MATERIALS

In compliance with the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018, and the Electoral Act 2022 (amended), the electoral commission commit efforts to provide assisted materials for PWDs to ensure access and an independent voting process for PWDs in the 2023 general elections. According to the commission's report, 21,165 magnifying glasses will be provided for persons with albinism and low vision, 8,117 Braille ballots for blind voters who are able to read braille; and 6,167 EC30E PWD posters (a pictorial election instruction for deaf voters and other electorates).

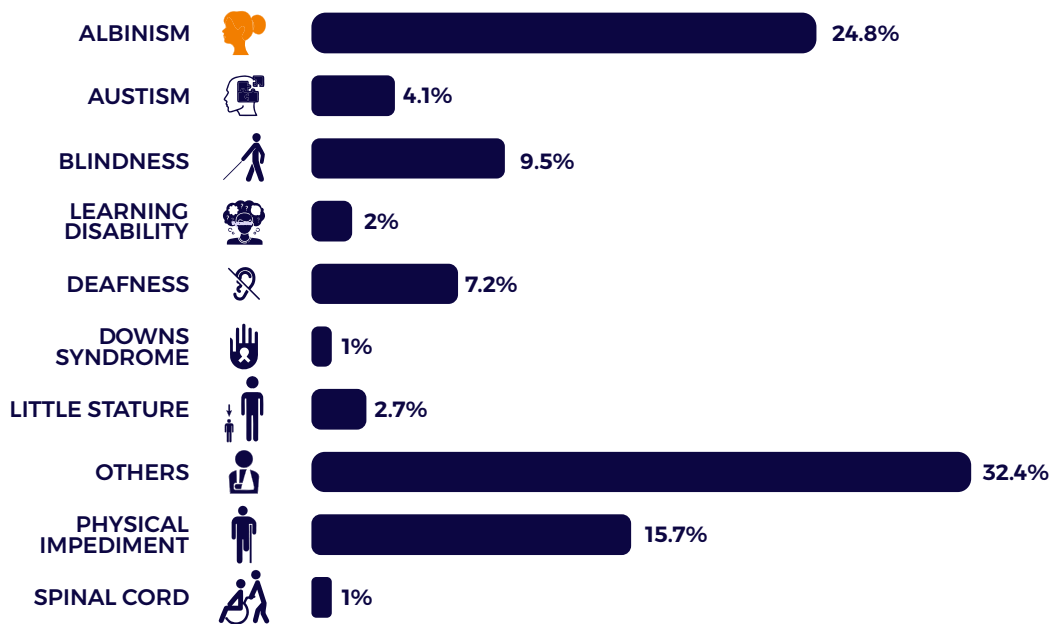
### DEPLOYMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs) ASSISTIVE MATERIALS BY STATES



## PWDs Candidates in the 2023 General Elections

There are about 32 PWDs contesting for various positions in the 2023 general elections. Among the contenders, 16 candidates are persons with albinism, 4 candidates are deaf, 3 candidates are persons with blindness or visually impaired and 9 are persons with other forms of disabilities. No PWD opt in the Presidency race.

## DISAGGREGATED DATA OF PWDs BY CLUSTER



SOURCE: INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION

### PWDs CANDIDATE IN THE 2023 GOVERNORSHIP RACE

**LIMAN IBRAHIM MUHAMMAD**



SOKOTO



ALBINISM



PDP

### PWDs CANDIDATES CONTESTING FOR SENATE IN THE 2023 ELECTIONS



GIWA ALHAJI  
MUSA USMAN



IGUNBOR OLUWAKEMI  
CHRISTIANA



AL-MAKURA  
UMARU TANKO



NWOGU  
CHINOYEREM

NIGER  
ALBINISM  
ADC

EDO  
DEAFNESS  
ADC

NASARAWA  
DEAFNESS  
APC

ABIA  
BLINDNESS  
NRM

### PWDs CANDIDATES DEMOGRAPHY FOR LEGISLATURE

STATE HOUSE  
OF ASSEMBLY

20  
PWDs

17- MALES

03- FEMALES



HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVE

07  
PWDs

06- MALES

01- FEMALES



## PWDS CANDIDATES CONTESTING FOR STATE HOUSES OF ASSEMBLY IN THE 2023 ELECTION

S/No	Name of Candidate	State	Disability type	Party
1	Anyogo Regina Leonard	Cross River	Albinism	PDP
2	Joel Stephen Dogo	Gombe	Albinism	PRP
3	Hafiz Safiyanu	Jigawa	Albinism	ADP
4	Ayuba Kabir Ali	Kano	Albinism	LP
5	Can't Johnson	Kogi	Albinism	LP
6	Akinwale Kolawole Adetokunbo	Lagos	Albinism	ADC
7	Okafor Abraham Oghenero	Lagos	Albinism	ADC
8	Abdullahi Abdul Muni	Niger	Albinism	ADC
9	Isiaka Durojaiye	Ogun	Albinism	ADC
10	John Akuroseokika Gabriel	Rivers	Albinism	ADC
11	Jonathan Taaziya	Taraba	Albinism	APM
12	Abdullahi Ahmad	Zamfara	Albinism	ADC
13	Onwuma Hendrix Achi	Delta	Deaf	PRP
14	Daspan Musa Nandi	Plateau	Deaf	AA
15	Palewei Ezebri William	Bayelsa	Others	AA
16	Yasa Hilaseen Faith	Benue	Others	AAC
17	Ene Nebechi Ikechukwu	Enugu	Others	APGA
18	Yakubu Nazir Abdulhakeem	Kogi	Others	YPP
19	Kienabere Tammy Lucas	Rivers	Others	SDP
20	Obassey Calistus Maduabuchi	Enugu	Visual/Blindness	PRP

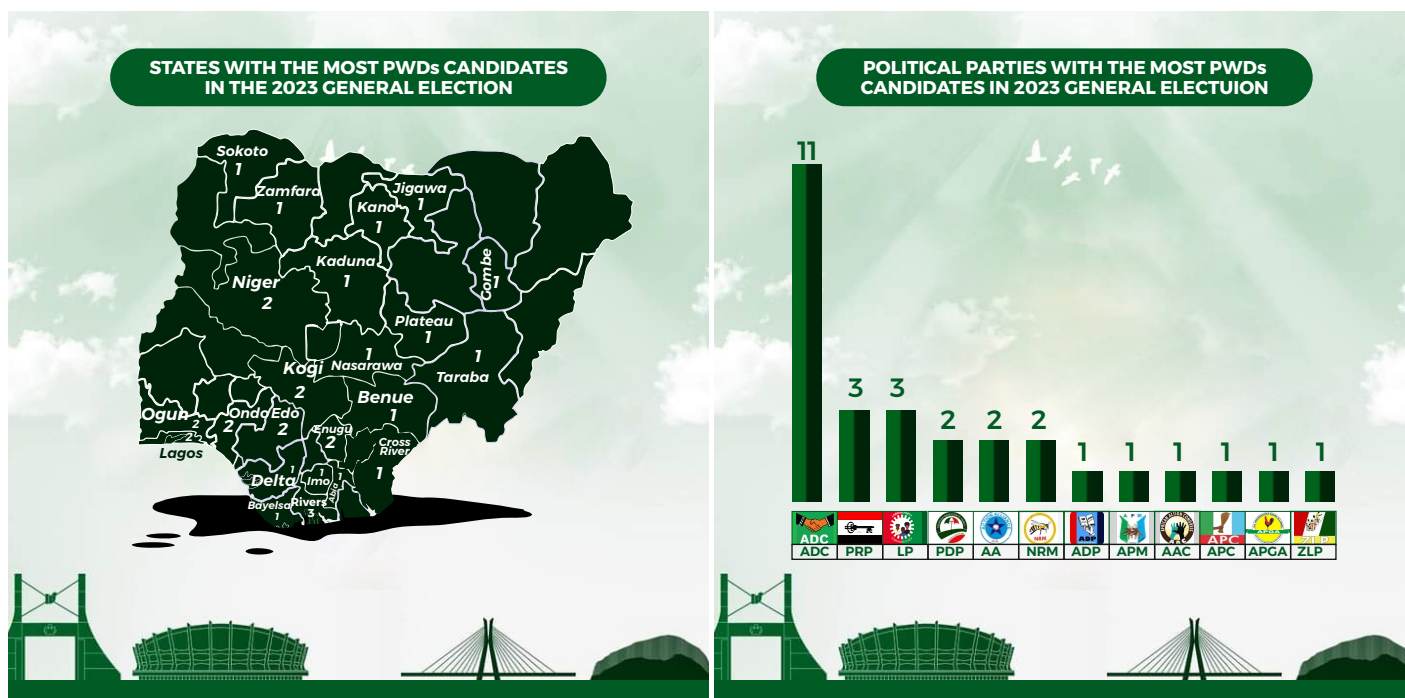
## PWDS CANDIDATES CONTESTING FOR SENATE IN THE 2023 ELECTIONS

S/No	Name of Candidate	State	Disability type	Party
1	Giwa Alhaji Musa Usman	Niger	Albinism	ADC
2	Igunbor Oluwakemi Christiana	Edo	Deaf	ADC
3	Al-Makura Umaru Tanko	Nasarawa	Deaf	APC
4	Nwogu Chinoyerem	Abia	Visual/Blindness	NRM

## PWDS CANDIDATES CONTESTING FOR HOUS OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE 2023 ELECTIONS

S/No	Name of Candidate	State	Disability type	Party
1	Boniface Moses	Ondo	Albinism	ADC
2	Enoch Ebi Naomi	Rivers	Albinism	ADC
3	Obi Paschal Chigozie	Imo	Others	LP
4	Abdullahi Nuraddeen	Kaduna	Others	NNPP
5	Lawal Abolji	Ogun	Others	NRM
6	Nero Myson Adeyemi	Ondo	Others	ADC
7	Odigie Justice	Edo	Visual/Blindness	ZLP





## IFA's Observation preparations

Since 2016, IFA has been consistent in engaging the electoral commission through the Access Nigeria campaign to improve the participation of PWDs in governance, political, and electoral processes. The campaign led to the design of election assistive materials such as the election day written instruction (Form EC30E), the disaggregated CVR form to collect names and disability status of registrants, and the Braille Ballot Guide (BBG) for blind voters, which was adopted by INEC. These assistive materials will be deployed in the 2023 general elections in Nigeria in accordance with Section 54(2) of the Electoral Act 2022 (Amended).

In order to increase the participation of PWDs in the 2023 general elections, IFA initiated the #VoteAbility PWD CVR drive to mobilize and register PWDs in the CVR exercise by INEC and also in the collection of Permanent Voters' Card (PVC). This is made possible with support from INEC, National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, and the United Nation Development Program (UNDP) through YIAGA Africa.

While the political atmosphere is getting tense, citizens must be sensitized with composite election information before the election exercise. We devolved to include fun and drama arts in our advocacy (votertainment). With support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), we initiated the Disability Votes Counts campaign in northwest Nigeria to mobilize and provide a comprehensive and sound voter education for citizens most especially, citizens with disabilities through a Radio Community Drama. The Radio Drama tagged "Tasuniyar Zabe" is a PWD voter education radio drama series wrapped with composite voter education information designed to mobilize eligible citizens to vote in the February/March 2023 general elections.

In the drive to increase the participation of PWDs in the coming elections, we held a critical stakeholder meeting with Leaders of the disability communities and relevant stakeholders in Delta and Sokoto States to strategize a result-driven mobilization strategy for PWDs. We also held a Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) voter education outreach to selected special schools to acquaint eligible students with the electoral processes and the tenets of democracy. This is with Support from the USAID, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and the National Democratic Institute (NDI).

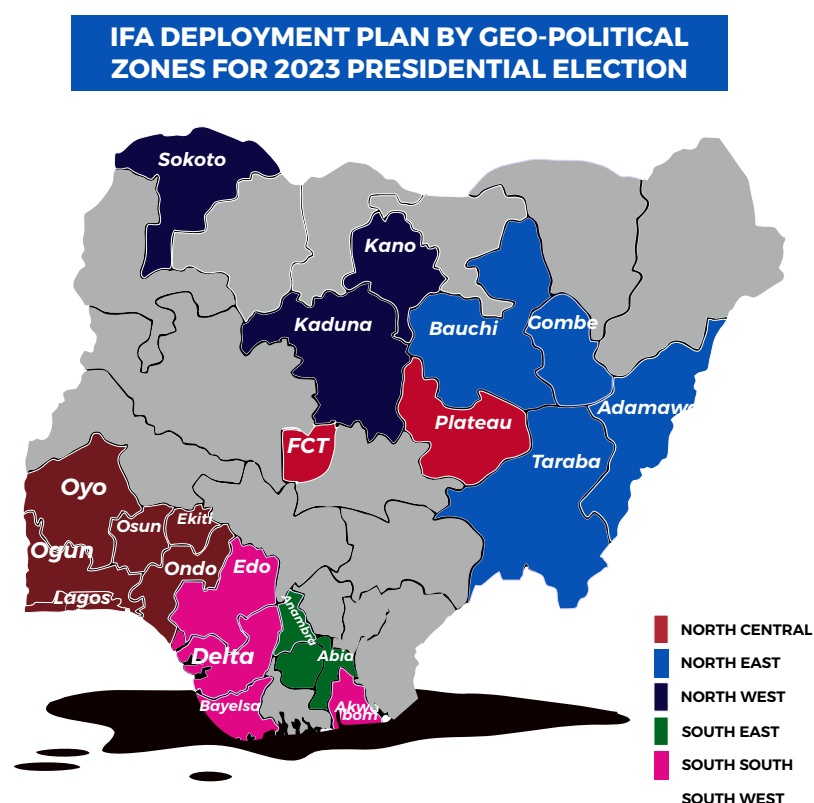
On Saturday, February 25, 2023, IFA will deploy 250 PWD observers, to randomly selected polling units in 21 states including the FCT as part of the states where INEC will be deploying P W D e l e c t o r a l m a t e r i a l s .

The trained PWDs will observe the effective deployment and utilization of the PWD assistive materials. They will also observe the setup and physical accessibility of the polling units.

## **Observation Methodology**

On Saturday, February 25, 2023, IFA will deploy 250 PWD observers, to randomly selected polling units in 21 states including the FCT as part of the states where INEC will be deploying PWD electoral materials.

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## Observation Methodology

IFA will adopt a purposive sampling technique using the disaggregated data of polling units in the target states where INEC will be deploying assistive materials. A stationary observation pattern will be adopted to achieve the aim of the exercise. Each observer will be deployed to a pre-assigned polling unit using a specialized checklist to observe through the lenses of PWDs, documents, and reports.

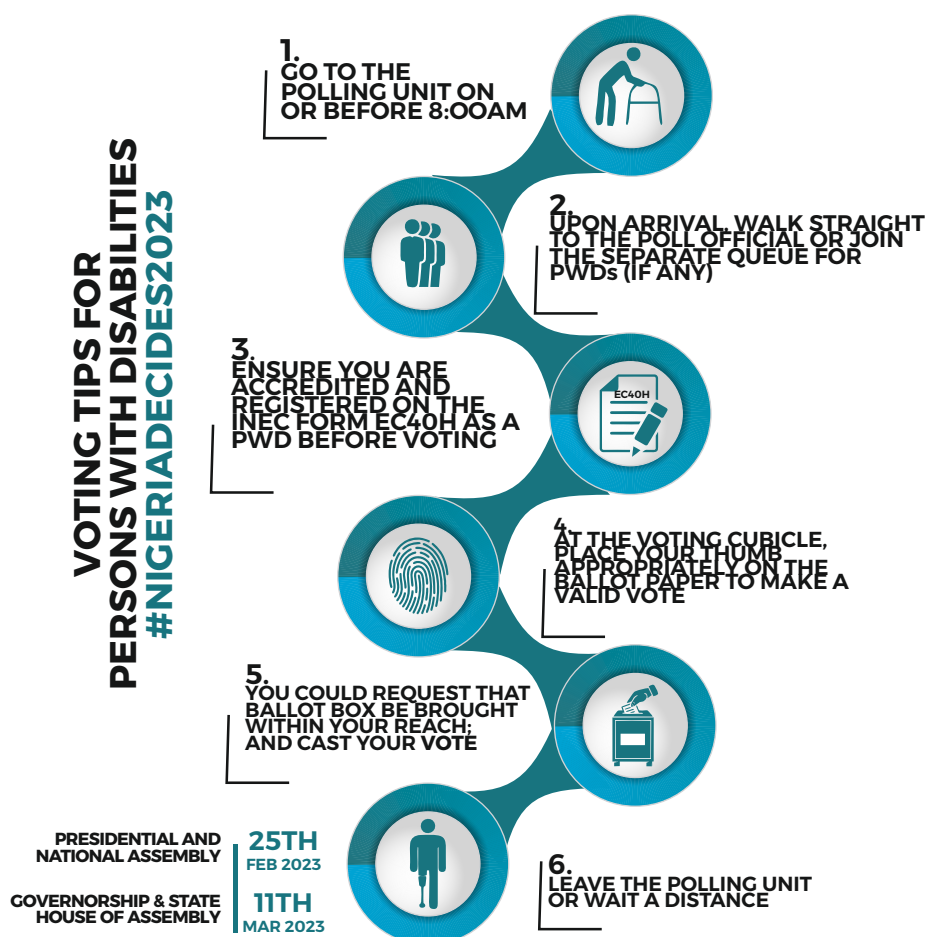
To complement the observers' efforts, the IFA team will deploy to rove and observe the election process within the FCT.

The observation checklist contains 30 questions. Observers are expected to send in 4 text messages to provide 1000 pieces of information.

To ascertain the level of comprehension of observers and the data center systems' readiness, 2 simulation exercises will be carried out by all the 250 PWD observers.

### **Data Collection Tools**

IFA will use Apollo (An on-the-spot data-sharing tool) to collect real-time reports from the field while WhatsApp and google Forms will serve as backup platforms to share reports where inconsistencies persist on the side of the field observer. Data clerks will be fully equipped and stationed at the data centre to validate data shared by the observers.



## Here are six (6) voting tips for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) on election day.

1. Go to your polling unit on or before 8:00 am
2. Upon arrival, walk straight to the poll official or join the separate queue for PWDs (if any)
3. Ensure you are accredited and registered on the INEC form EC40H as a PWD before voting
4. At the voting cubicle, place your thumb appropriately on the ballot paper to make a valid vote
5. You could request that the ballot box be brought within your reach, and cast your vote.
6. Leave the polling unit or wait a distant

Click [here](#) to get a copy of our ["Get Out The Vote" \(GOTV\) Basic Voter Information, Civic Education, and Sensitization Manual for Persons with Disabilities](#).



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