

PARTICIPATE
TODAY



The Race So Far

A Report on the
Assessment of the
Political Participation of
Persons with Disabilities
in 2019 General Elections



**National Endowment
for Democracy**
Supporting freedom around the world

Table Of Contents

3	Acknowledgements
4	Executive Summary
6	Chapter One
10	Chapter Two
14	Chapter Three
21	Chapter Four





Acknowledgement

Inclusive Friends Association (IFA) wishes to acknowledge the contributions of DEVTrain who conducted the analysis of the data gathered by persons with disabilities (PWD) leaders in this study from the 22 states of the country. Your time and human resources that you brought into the project is greatly appreciated and valued.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to all the PWD leaders under the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD) from the various states that were trained as data enumerators and gathered the data from various PWDs who participated as voters and candidates in the 2019 elections.

Special thanks to the IFA team for working on this assessment report assiduously. I want to acknowledge the contributions of Jesse John, Program Officer and Stephen Idoko Communications Officer who contributed immensely to the training of the PWD data enumerators and participated in the data gathering across various states.

IFA also appreciates the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) for its financial support for the Participate Today project and the production of this report.

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, appearing to read 'Grace Jerry', with a horizontal line above it.

Grace Jerry,
Executive Director,
Inclusive Friends Association



Executive Summary

Active political participation is driven robust and active political party platforms, because political parties are the vehicles through which citizens take power during elections and use the authority of their positions to work in the interest of the people. As a means of realizing their different rights, persons with disabilities may choose a party or a candidate with better policies and programmes that accommodate their different needs in their economic, social, cultural and other affairs of their lives.

The objectives of this study include examining the level of involvement and inclusion of PWDs in the pre, during and post - election period, and to produce a report that clearly identifies gaps, and recommends ways of promoting inclusivity at different thresholds. Despite the fact that the right to political participation is exercised in different ways, most disability advocates share the view that active involvement in politics by PWDs is a 'process' of reducing marginalization.

220 PWDs who voted in the 2019 elections were engaged in this assessment and the following findings came through: All Progressive Congress (APC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP) rejected 24% potential candidates because of issues related to their disability. 68.8% of political parties did not hold campaign events in venues that were accessible to PWDs, while 27.4% political parties like All Progressive Congress (APC), People's Democratic Party (PDP) and Social Democratic Party (SDP) across Kaduna, Plateau, Bayelsa, Cross River and Delta States held such events in accessible venues. 30.3% equally stated that INEC produced information materials in formats that were accessible to voters who were deaf or hard-of- hearing such as subtitled videos or those with sign language interpretation and posters.

The report made some of the following recommendations to key political stakeholders to close the marginalization gap with:

- Political parties should advocate for a quota for candidates with disabilities. This should also be contained in its entire document to protect all PWD politicians in its party from discriminations of any sort, intended or unintended.
- INEC must have a database of voters with disabilities to enhance decision-making and inclusion. Beginning from the next Continues Voter Registration (CVR) process, INEC must ensure that all PWDs who get registered do so according to their disability type.
- The National Assembly must expedite measures to make a legislation that provides at least 3% of seats into state and federal legislative houses be reserved for PWD politicians.
- Civil Society Organizations and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) must always conduct electoral and political education for citizens with disabilities to improve interest level and quality of participation.
- Media houses in Nigeria should incorporate the use of Sign Language Interpreters to correspondence, newscast and live broadcast to interpret content to viewers that are deaf or hard of hearing.

About

The Participate Today is a persons with disabilities (PWDs) focused project that works to enhance their participation in elections, political parties, and broader political space in Nigeria through rights-focused voter education forums, national voter registration campaigns, campaign mentoring, and political party reform campaigns.

"The last three years of this democracy have been the most fruitful as we count 2 persons with disabilities as legislators in Adamawa and Zamfara state houses of Assembly, 7 candidates who were flag bearers of political parties for various offices and over 14 aspirants"

Grace Jerry
Executive Director, IFA



Chapter One



Background

This year, we mark Nigeria's 20 years of unbroken democracy since 1999. As a country, some modest gains have been made in consolidating and keeping Nigeria a working democracy. But sadly these modest gains continue to leave persons with disabilities invisible especially in the political space. While the last three of these 20 years have recorded the introductions of PWD election assistive voting materials like the braille ballot guides, election day

written instructions, magnifying glasses, etc., the active participation of PWDs in Nigeria's governance and politics in Nigeria is highly not seen. Article 29 (a) of the United Nations Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) mandates state parties to ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and be elected¹



"My campaign was conducted house to house. We use motorcycles to move from one polling unit to another to campaign. There was a lot of insecurity in Zurmi then, so if you move about with cars freely, you may not return home in one piece"

- Usman Salihu Zurmi

¹<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/ConventionRightsPersonsWithDisabilities.aspx>



“As we celebrate 20 years of Nigeria’s democracy. Our democratic journey has been riddled with so many challenges especially for persons with disabilities who have been advocating for a space to participate in our electoral and political processes”
– Grace Jerry

Political participation generally can be manifested in different ways like participation in elections as a process of formal politics whether voting or being voted for; holding offices at the administrative or executive branch of the government at the local, state or national levels; belonging and forming political parties; participation in decision and policy making process. For persons with disabilities, political participation might involve thinking and developing disability or other social issues at the individual or family level, joining disabled peoples’ organizations (DPOs), joining a political party or standing for elections. While the Participate Today has produced several messages on social media and in the mainstream media to encourage PWDs to vote during the last elections, we have seen very few PWDs who ran

for various elective positions whether the as senators, house of representative members, state governors, state house of assembly members, chairpersons of local government or even appointed into any ministerial positions after the elections.²

Despite the fact that the right to political participation is exercised in different ways, most disability advocates share the view that active involvement in politics by PWDs is a ‘process’ of reducing marginalization. As a means of realizing their different rights, persons with disabilities may choose a party or a candidate with better policies and programmes that accommodate their different needs in their economic, social, cultural and other affairs of their lives. When they participate as candidates, these people may bring disability and its consequences as one agenda in the overall affairs of the country (William Aseka, 2015). It suffices to say that the active participation of PWDs in politics is a useful strategy of mainstreaming the fundamental rights in their public life. Like every citizen, PWDs also should have a room to exercise this right at every level. People with disabilities need to be actors in the process of political participation because people with power make decisions.³

Article 8(2) of the African Democracy Charter tasks state parties to adopt legislation and policies that guarantee the rights of person with disabilities, hence open acceptance that person with disabilities are part of governance



“I started in APC but due to the exorbitant fee placed on the nomination / interest form I couldn’t afford one. I wrote to the leadership of the party through the national dailies to make these forms free for PWDs, but nobody listened”
– Lois Auta

²https://www.researchgate.net/publication/312363831_The_right_to_political_participation_for_people_with_disabilities_in_Africa

³<http://www.adry.up.ac.za/index.php/section-c-regional-developments/william-aseka-oluchina#pgfid-1070152>

⁴https://archives.au.int/bitstream/handle/123456789/1751/African%20Charter%20on%20Democracy_EN.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

⁵R Bellamy Political constitutionalism: A Republican defense of constitutionality of democracy (2007)

processes and structures including political parties.⁴ Active involvement in the political activities of their country would enable people with disabilities to become actors in every decision-making and policy mainstreaming in the general public affairs and in their specific desires. Consequently the playing field should be leveled and should inspire them to aspire for deeper and enhanced political participation. It must be noted that democracy is about numbers.⁵ Therefore people with disabilities who share a considerable number in Nigeria's population must be facilitated and accommodated to realize their political and public goals.

The acknowledgement of the right of 'every citizen' does not entail that persons with disabilities are guaranteed on the same level to compete for seats in government. To be elected would be a strategic but legislative commitments by the federal, state and local government levels. And to create accommodative measures that not only minimize the barriers to participation, encourage inclusive administrative and policy implementation, civic and human rights literacy tactics but also provides quotas for PWDs in both federal and state houses of legislature.

Political parties are means through which citizens can participate in governance directly and also elect their choice representatives into various elective positions. Therefore, ensuring active participation of person with disabilities in Nigeria's political parties is a crucial measure to traverse the very wide margin and exclusion we have in our politics in Nigeria.

This assessment was conducted to identify the political participation gaps through the electoral process and recommend reasonable accommodations to improve the participation of PWDs in more broader political and electoral spaces in Nigeria.

Objective of the study

1. Identify the barriers that exist in Nigerian political parties that hinder them from participating as active members, aspirants and candidates.
2. To examine the level of involvement and inclusion of PWDs in the pre, during and post - election period.
3. Produce a report that clearly identifies gaps, and recommends ways of promoting inclusivity at different thresholds.



4. Generate quick engagements with the National Assembly and Political parties for legislative and administrative actions (affirmations) to address representation deficit of PWDs.

examined emerging issues on the lack of participation and the interviews with candidates, aspirants provided more qualitative data for this study.

PWD data collectors who were drawn from IFA's pool who have been trained collected primary data using the questionnaire instruments on data collection. Data was also collected through one-on-one interviews with candidates, aspirants and other persons without disabilities. Secondary data were collected from literatures, manifesto documents, etc.

Research Methodology

The study adopted both quantitative and qualitative methods⁶ using participatory and combination of methods ranging from questionnaire and key informant interview among others. The study also

S/N	States	No of Households to be sampled
1.	Adamawa State	10
2.	Bayelsa State	10
3.	Benue State	10
4.	Cross River State	10
5.	Delta State	10
6.	Edo State	10
7.	Ekiti State	10
8.	FCT Abuja	10
9.	Gombe State	10
10.	Jigawa State	10
11.	Kaduna State	10
12.	Kano State	10
13.	Kebbi State	10
14.	Kwara State	10
15.	Kogi State	10
16.	Lagos State	10
17.	Nasarawa State	10
18.	Plateau State	10
19.	Osun State	10
20.	Taraba State	10
21.	Yobe State	10
22.	Zamfara State	10
Total		220

Table 1: Sample size:

⁶See Dillman et al. (2008). *Mixed -mode surveys: The tailored design method*. New York: John Wiley.

Chapter Two

PWDs as Aspirants, Candidate and Winning Polls



“So I made up my mind to run under the APC. I bought the nomination / interest form for the House of Assemblies for Mafara Constituency and even printed my posters from Lagos. Just for a party leader to say things have spoilt, even PWDs are running for office”

– Nasiru Abdullahi

The Role of Political Parties in Promoting Inclusion

In modern democracy, the political party structures are the vehicle through which aspirants and candidates take power to govern. They create an environment that not only promotes equality of opportunity but also equality of results (equity) especially for PWDs and other marginalized groups. For Nigeria, our political parties ought to perform the following:

1. Promotion of respect for diversity and individual choices

The essence of establishing political

parties is to provide citizens with alternative platforms that they can align their political ideology with. But even more, the political parties ought to be different in composition, ideology and approach. Amidst all these, political parties ought to be competitive ground like businesses compete for market autonomy. Respect for human rights and opposition will naturally grow in this political environment. They parties increase citizens voices because they represent the people whether at local, state or national levels.

2. Building democratic governance / institutions

The transition of government from one party to another or one individual to another comes through periodic elections. Elections are keenly contested by numerous political parties who by the nature of their activities make elections competitive. This helps to build and encourage democratic governance.

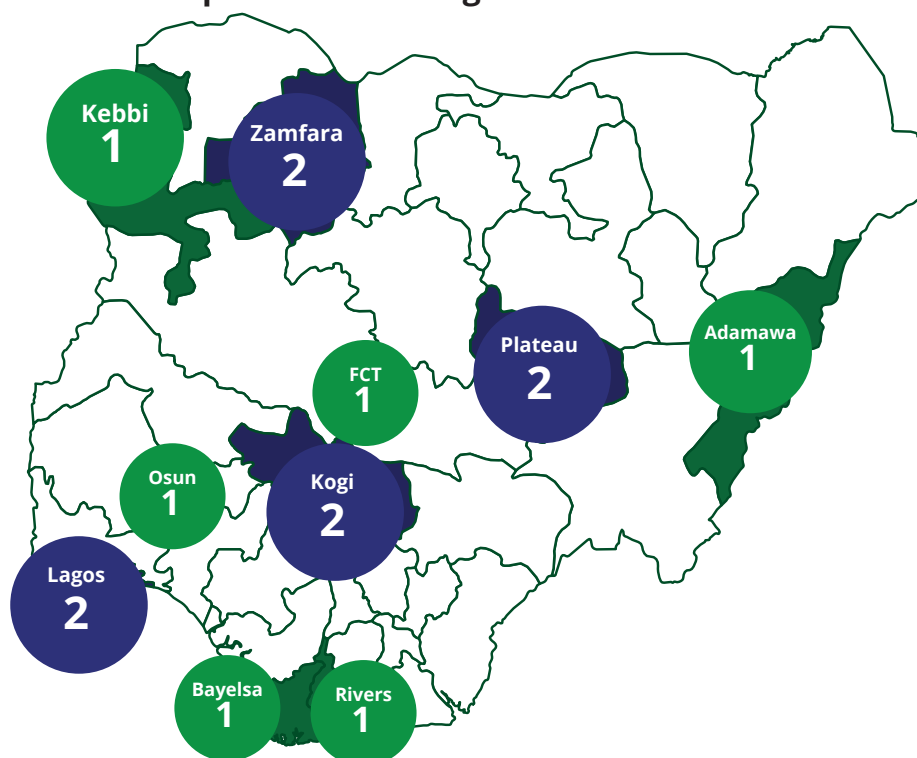
3. Grow the freedom of association

The Nigerian Constitution guarantees freedom of association and allows citizens to join political parties of their choice. Our multiparty identity is supposed to be a ground for options, choice and diversity. While our population is bursting, young people with and without disabilities turn 18 everyday. The Nigerian political party should be the organization that strives to increase the consciousness of citizens regarding politics, governance and should build their parties into institutions that citizens not only respect but identify with regardless of their disability, gender and age.

4. Provision of checks and balances for government

As long as we have multiparty, there will always be the ruling party and opposition parties. Those political parties outside government constitute the opposition in local, state and national assembly. These opposition parties exist to play the watchdog role for the ruling party who hold power in trust for the people, and where they are not performing, the opposition party leaches on their weakness. Because checks and balances are a principle, and the political parties work for its citizens, the effectiveness of ruling party is increased. It's a shadow government that is constantly promising citizens dividends of democracy and works to take advantage of the weakness of the ruling party; a democracy such as this is constantly growing.

Aspirants according to states in 2019



Candidates on the ballot paper in 2019



Yakubu Bilkisu

State of Residence	Position Running	Constituency	Party
Kogi	House of Assembly	Kogi Koton Karfe	Unity Party of Nigeria



Paleowei Ezebri William

State of Residence	Position Running	Constituency	Party
Bayelsa	House of Assembly	Ekeremor 2	Advanced Peoples Democratic Alliance



Osanyin Taiwo

State of Residence	Position Running	Constituency	Party
Lagos	House of Assembly	Eti-osa	Action Democratic Party



Olopade Victor

State of Residence	Position Running	Constituency	Party
Osun	Senate	Osun West District	Better Nigeria Progressive Party



Mkpang Iquo Thomas

State of Residence	Position Running	Constituency	Party
Cross River	House of Assembly	Calabar South 2	All Blending Party



Lois Auta

State of Residence	Position Running	Constituency	Party
FCT-Abuja	House of Representatives	AMAC/Bwari	Accord



Wesley Barhiya

State of Residence	Position Running	Constituency	Party
Adamawa	House of Assembly	HONG (HONG II)	Peoples' Democratic Party



Salihu Usman Zurmi

State of Residence	Position Running	Constituency	Party
Zamfara	House of Assembly	Zurmi East	Peoples' Democratic Party



Vitalis Lanshima

State of Residence	Position Running	Constituency	Party
Plateau	House of Representatives	Jos North / Bassa	Social Democratic Party

Winners in 2019



Wesley Barhiya

State of Residence	Position Running	Constituency	Party
Adamawa	House of Assembly	HONG (HONG II)	Peoples' Democratic Party



Salihu Usman Zurmi

State of Residence	Position Running	Constituency	Party
Zamfara	House of Assembly	Zurmi East	Peoples' Democratic Party



“Having 27 years experience in the civil service, I am sure that I will deliver on my commitments to the people of Zurmi. I have two major responsibilities; one with the people of my constituency and secondly with the PWD community in Zamfara”

– Salihu Usman Zurmi

Chapter Three

Findings and Discussion

The major findings of this assessment provides information about the workings of political parties, campaigns (both physical and media) and the difficulties PWD politicians and voters faced in accessing useful information that would contribute to their participation.

3.1 Gender of Respondents

In the chart below, this assessment had 34.1% female participation and 65.4% male participation as respondents during the study.

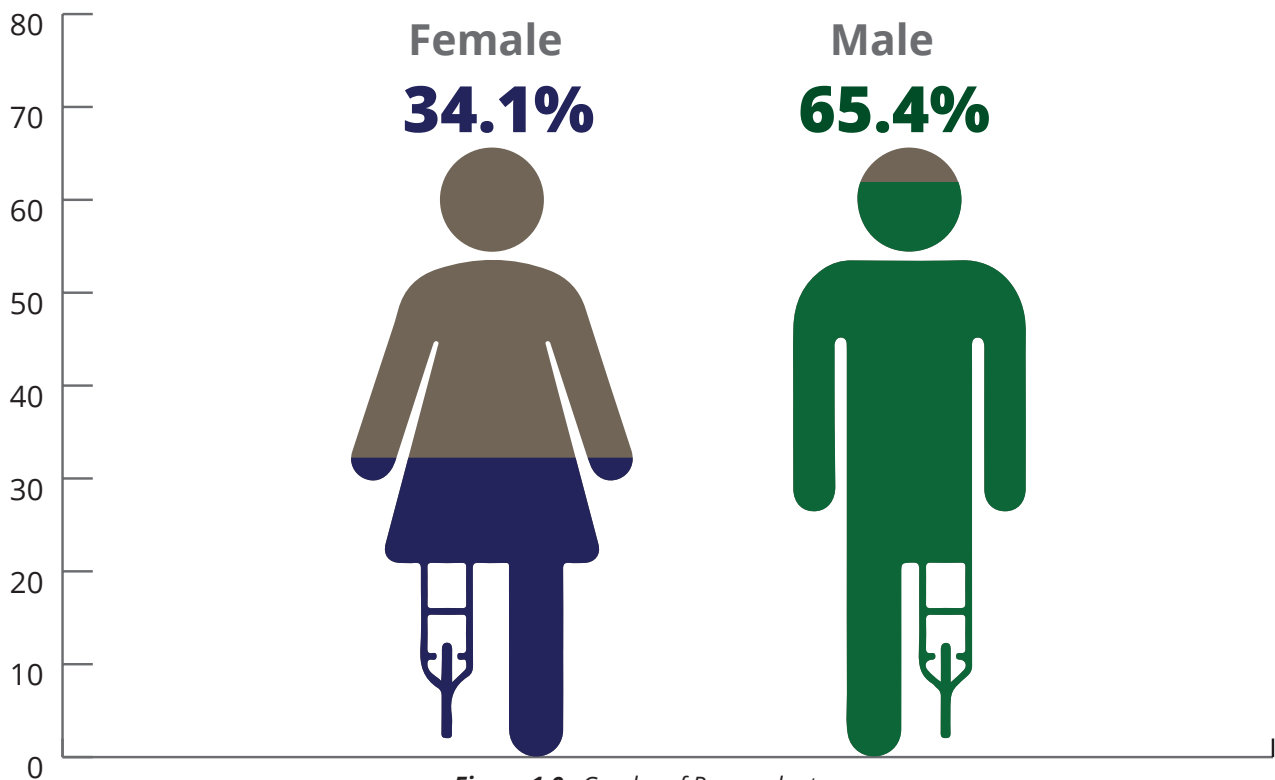
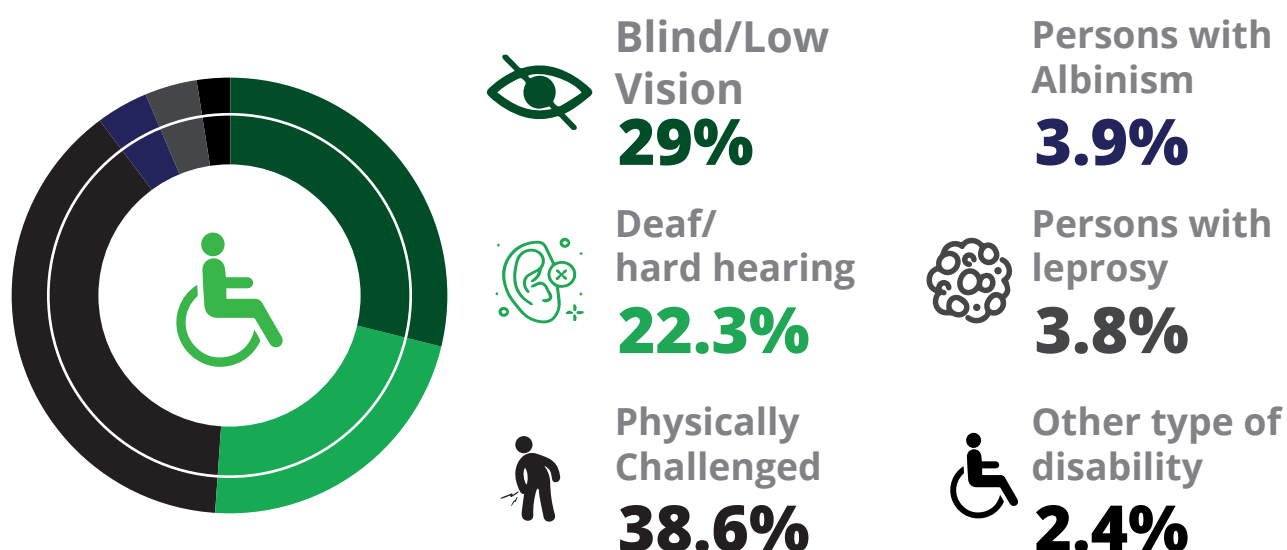


Figure 1.0: Gender of Respondents

3.2 Disability Status

As depicted in Figure 1.1 below, 29% of respondent are Blind / low vision; 22.3% are Deaf/ hard of hearing; physically challenged 38.6%; persons with Albinism 3.9%; persons with Leprosy 3.8%; Other type of disability status 2.4%.

Disability Status



3.3 Candidates, Parties and Campaigns:

3.3.1: The Participate today assessment revealed that consideration was given to selecting candidates with disabilities in various political parties at only 8.2%.

And the All Progressive Congress (APC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP) rejected 24% potential candidates because of issues related to their disability.

3.3.2: 68.8% of political parties did not

hold campaign events in venues that were accessible to PWDs, while 27.4% political parties like All Progressive Congress (APC), People's Democratic Party (PDP) and Social Democratic Party (SDP) across Kaduna, Plateau, Bayelsa, Cross River and Delta States held such events in accessible venues.

3.3.3: From the findings, only 10.6% political parties produced campaign materials in formats that were accessible to blind voters to inform them about party platforms, logos and policies?

Political Parties	States
All Progressive Congress (APC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP)	Abuja FCT
All Progressive Congress (APC), Labour Party and People's Democratic Party (PDP)	Kwara State
All Progressive Congress (APC), All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) and People's Democratic Party (PDP)	Nassarawa State

Table 2 below gives a breakdown of the political parties and states:

3.3.4: The All Progressive Congress (APC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP) from Kaduna State produced campaign materials in formats that are accessible to voters who were deaf or hard-on-hearing, such as videos with subtitles.

3.3.5: The following political parties met with DPOs to discuss policies important to

PWDs as well as have policies that respond to the needs of PWDs: All Progressive Congress (APC), People's Democratic Party (PDP), Social Democratic Party (SDP) and United Democratic Party (UDP) in the following states Yobe, Kaduna, Taraba, Plateau, Bayelsa, Delta, Cross River and Osun.

3.4 Election Management Body

3.4.1:

55.8% of the content of INEC's public sensitization informed PWDs about how to register as a voter in the 2019 election.

3.4.2:

8.5% Only about 8.5% of the states had PWDs selected as poll workers during the 2019 elections.

3.4.3:

38.9% respondents confirmed that there were regulations or guidelines issued by INEC that guaranteed accessibility for PWDs in the 2019 elections



Are there any regulations or guidelines issued by INEC that guarantees accessibility for PWDs in the elections?

Figure 2.0: Regulations or guidelines issued by INEC that guarantees accessibility for PWDs in the elections

3.4.4:

47.6% respondents confirmed that INEC produced information materials in formats that were accessible to voters with visual disabilities & albinism such as audio jingles. 30.3% equally stated that

INEC produced information materials in formats that were accessible to voters who were deaf or hard-of-hearing such as subtitled videos or those with sign language interpretation and posters.

3.4.5:

61.5% respondents stated they were not aware of any database of PWD voters used in the 2019 general elections.

Yes

38.5%



No

61.5%



Figure 3.0: Does INEC have a database of potential voters with disabilities?

3.4.7:

43.3% respondents shared they heard about/attended a voter education event held by INEC on accessible elections.

3.5 Legal Framework

3.5.1:

PWD responded that the INEC Continuous Voters Registration for voters with disabilities did not occur in a timely manner as confirmed by **63.5%** of the respondents.

3.5.3:

69.2% PWDs confirmed that INEC's voters register had no information on their types of disabilities and the type of accommodation they might require



during the elections.

3.9.1:

The study revealed that **70.7%** of PWDs confirmed there are laws or regulations that restrict or could potentially restrict the electoral and political rights of PWDs (section 56(2) of the electoral Act.

3.10 Election Day

3.10.1:

55.8% of the PWD respondents say they were given priority to vote in the 2019 elections and similarly 55.8% of the respondents say poll workers were prepared by INEC to assist voters with disabilities during the elections

3.10.2:

PWDs casted their votes based on the following: Pictures – **45.6%**, Letters – **40.1%** and Numbers – **14.3%**.



Figure 6.0: Choice of voting



3.10.3:

50% of respondents affirmed that poll workers offered non-verbal communication to assist them with impaired hearing such as sign language, tapping them on the shoulder to get their attention & writing things down during election.

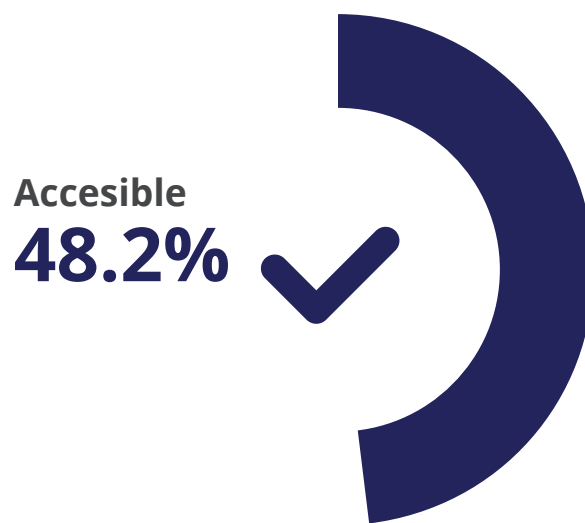
3.10.4:

49.5% of voters with intellectual

disabilities had difficulties in understanding the words on the ballot paper.

Respondents shared the following with respect to INEC's polling unit materials that were accessible to persons with

disabilities: **48.2 %** of the respondents confirmed that INEC provided braille ballot guides, Election Day Written Instructions and Magnifying glasses during the presidential elections.



INEC polling unit materials that are accessible to PWDs

3.6 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Organization of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)

3.6.1: The respondents shared that the following CSOs namely Inclusive Friends

Associates, NAPVID, Albino Foundation, Kpakkwando Foundation, LEADS, V2P, Christian Aid, JONAPWD, CCD and PERL conducted electoral education and advocacy for electoral rights of PWDs.

3.6.1: While the following CSOs conducted electoral education campaigns for PWDs using the media content as shown in Table 3:

CSO Name	Content, Media & Format
JONAPWD KD	Radio
Inclusive Friends Associates Access Nigeria Campaign Participate Today Campaign	Rally, Jingle, Radio and TV (TSBS, NTA, TTV) Channels TV, social media
PERL	Radio and newspaper
Albino Foundation – News	News content on TV and Radio
LEADS	Radio
Centre for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD)	TV & print media
V2P	Social media
Christian Aid	Television, Radio and Seminar

3.7 Political Campaign

3.7.1: Regarding information about the campaigns been provided in accessible formats such as braille, audio, sign language or easy-to-read version, **67.3%** respondents they were not accessible.

3.7.2: Respondents shared accessibility transportation to campaigns and location as seen below:

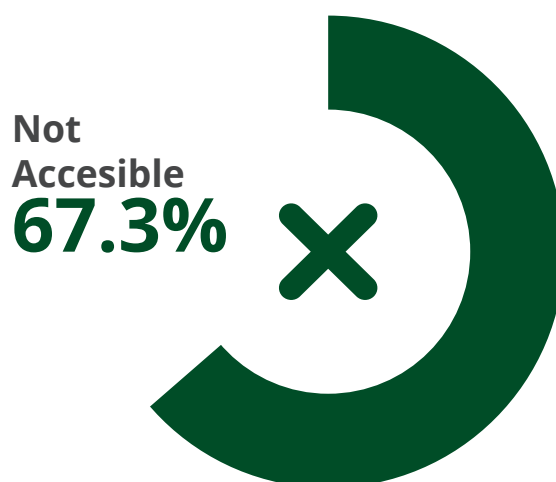


Figure 5.0: Accessible transport to campaigns and location

3.7.3:

25% of speakers at the campaigns focused on issues related to disability right. While only 30.8% politicians' targeted PWD issues in their political manifestos

3.7.4:

25% of the campaigns included sign language interpreter or live captions so that people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing could participate. Also, 30.8% campaign materials were in accessible format to people living with blindness or low vision.

Chapter Four

Recommendations and Conclusion

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made to ensure Strategic approaches of PWDs participation in electoral processes:

Recommendations to Political Parties

- 1. Policy Direction and advocacy:** Political parties should advocate for a quota for candidates with disabilities. This should also be contained in its entire document to protect all PWD politicians in its party from discriminations of any sort, intended or unintended.
- 2.** Additionally, the code of conduct for political parties should also provide very clear measures to administratively review political party provisions for all PWDs in various political parties therefore, a clear policy direction on inclusion is required from political parties
- 3. Campaign materials:** Political parties must be deliberate about the production of its campaign materials to ensure they are in accessible

formats to reach different clusters of PWDs. E.g. braille forms, audio, sign language / subtitled videos, etc.

- 4. Accessible transportation and Campaign venues:** Political parties must ensure that venues for meetings and campaign activities are accessible to all PWDs. This oversight function of the political parties can be facilitated through the National Assembly.
- 5. Speaking Engagements:** Beyond having PWDs in their numbers as participants during political party rallies, having specific local, state and national PWD leaders also addressing the PWD community in such rallies would not only increase the confidence of PWDs towards such party, but also give them a sense of belonging.
- 6. Encourage and Support PWD candidates:** Political parties must encourage more PWDs to run for elective positions. Very few PWDs have been elected in different political parties to serve at the National, State or Local Government Areas.



Recommendation to INEC

- 1. Information materials:** There is need for INEC to make available more information materials specifically targeting persons with disabilities e.g. audio, braille, magnifiers – for persons with visual disabilities and those with albinism as well as subtitles or sign languages for deaf or persons with hard-of-hearing.
- 2. Record of persons with disabilities:** There is need for INEC to have a database of voters with disabilities to enhance decision-making and inclusion. Beginning from the next Continues Voter Registration (CVR) process, INEC must ensure that all PWDs who get registered do so according to their disability type.
- 3. Be loud about Access and Inclusion for PWDs:** INEC must make deliberate efforts to make public the steps it is taking to promote PWD participation through pieces of legislation in the Electoral Act that support political parties to provide candidates with disabilities in all elections.
- 4. Voting by persons with physical disabilities:** There was no provision for voters with leprosy and amputees on Election Day, we encourage INEC to provide alternative voting methods for all forms of disabilities.

Recommendations to National Assembly

1. The National Assembly must expedite measures to make a legislation that provides at least 3% of seats into state and federal legislative houses be



reserved for PWD politicians.

2. The National Assembly must amend section 56(2) of the Electoral Act to make it mandatory for INEC to provide disability-voting materials in all elections.
3. The National Assembly should also perform its oversight functions on various ministries especially regarding the building codes to ensure that buildings are made accessible to all PWDs to promote PWD participation at political parties meetings, campaign and rallies.

Recommendations to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Organization of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)

- 1. Electoral Education Campaigns:** While this assessment indicated a number of CSOs and OPDs to have

conducted voter education and forums for PWDs, the participation of PWDs in politics and elections rests on massive electoral and political education for the community of PWDs.

2. **Advocacy and influencing:** CSOs must also advocate for the rights all persons in the political and electoral spaces irrespective of gender, disability and age. Inclusion like gender and youth must be mainstream in all our programs so that the margins of exclusion are reduced.

Media

1. There is relatively low independent media political party and electoral information targeting PWDs. Media houses and Political parties can support and ensure there is adequate electoral information that is accessible to PWDs before, during and after the elections.
2. Media houses in Nigeria should incorporate the use of Sign Language Interpreters to correspondence, newscast and live broadcast to interpret content to viewers that are deaf or hard of hearing.



“A lot of people think that disability is the kiss of death. And so they see persons with disabilities as incapable of doing well in politics. We must challenge these misconceptions!”

– Ayuba Gofwan

4.2 Conclusion:

The recommendations made in this report provides a clear path for political parties, the National Assembly and other stakeholders to implement actions that would bring about the total inclusion of persons with disabilities in Nigerian politics on an incremental basis. It is also important to note that eliminating barriers that hinder PWDs from active participation in our political parties would not only promote diversity which is a necessary ingredient in a democracy but would also increase the dynamism of our political parties.

In the long term, a clear legislative action is required to promote uniformity of action

across the broad spectrum of political parties we have whether for local, state or national elections. A legislative active that provides a specific quota or percentage of seats reserved for PWDs would be a major action towards equality of result in the long run.

This study has also revealed the importance of collaboration among various stakeholders, which Inclusive Friends Association is open to have a sustained partnership to implement these recommendations to further the provisions of the Disability Act to promote the participation of PWDs in political and public life.



   @inclusivefriends
+234 803 586 5905
info@inclusivefriends.org
www.inclusivefriends.org