

Civic Education and Participation for Women Project (CEPWOP)

February 2019 Election Monitoring Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Women constitute a larger percentage of the illiterate group in Nigeria. This could be attributed to the fact that in most families, parents prefer to send their sons to school, instead of their daughters whom they feel would eventually get married and get incorporated into another family. The low participation of women in government and politics is often associated with culture, religion and economic constraints amongst other factors. The above problem is one of the issues the Civic Education and Women Participation Project (CEPWOP) is designed to address.

The Civic Education and Participation for Women Project was designed as a means to address the under-representation of women and excluded groups in the political space, giving a voice to citizens' concerns and encouraging participatory governance. CEPWOP activities include seminars, lectures, panel discussions, town hall meetings interactive discussions and pressure group activities by participants with politicians, government officials, legal practitioners and other resource persons. Other activities include the design and distribution of IEC materials and information dissemination using various media. CEPWOP contributes towards the achievement of SDGs 4 and 10 and has engaged 2,842 beneficiaries from 2008 to 2018.

The 2018/2019 CEPWOP activities are supported by [IntiRaymi Fund](#), a Global Human Rights Foundation based in Austin TX, USA.

GOAL(S) AND OBJECTIVES OF CEPWOP

- To advocate for gender mainstreaming in the legislation
- To encourage civic participation of girls and women and contribute to both political and legislative process through capacity, civic education and advocacy

BACKGROUND OF 2018/2019 CEPWOP/PRE-ELECTION ACTIVITIES

Location/setting

The project location is Tum; Kaura Local Government Area and Malali; Kaduna North Local Government Area, Kaduna State. Kaduna is a cosmopolitan state in the northern part of Nigeria with over 60 ethnic groups and two major religions (Christianity and Islam).

In September 2018, a survey was conducted in Tum, a community in Kaura Local Government Area Kaduna State and Malali; Kaduna North Local Government Area, Kaduna state engaging 100 respondents. This survey was conducted to ascertain the level of women participation in politics and the ways of possible intervention to ensure an improved performance in the level of women participation in these communities. The result revealed that the level of women participation in politics was relatively low in these areas.

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3-Day Empowerment Seminar

Following the findings revealed by the survey, a three-day capacity building training was held where selected delegates from each of the communities (Tum and Malali) were rigorously trained in diverse topics including Civic Actions, Monitoring Elections, Engaging Political Aspirants, Evidence-based Advocacy and Community Mobilisation amongst others.

The seminar which held from 10 – 12 October 2018, marked the beginning of the capacity building activities and advocacies on women inclusion in politics.

Step-downs

A step down of activities was held on 20 October in Malali Community where 50 women and youth were engaged and 12 November in Tum community, Kaura Local Government Area of Kaduna State where 40 participants (27 women and 13 men) were enlightened on their civic responsibility.

Here the initial trainees turned delegates became the trainers as they added the local community knowledge to the material, and were able to relate better with their community to tackle the issue of the low representation of women in politics. The sessions which were facilitated mainly by the delegates bordered on topical issues as understanding their roles as citizens, civic education and actions, the causes of political apathy. With the low statistics of women participation/involvement in the political space, attendees were encouraged to show more interest in the politics of their community, as women also have a key role to play.

Town Hall Meeting

A town hall meeting was held for members of the communities. Its aim was to bring female political candidates to interact with members of their constituencies and to talk on women involvement in politics as the 2019 general elections approached. The townhall meeting was held on 7 December 2018 at Hotel 17 Ungwan Rimi Kaduna and 75 persons were in attendance (comprising of 60 women and 15 men) Among those present were 11 female candidates from 10 different political parties contesting for State and Federal legislative positions. The CEPWOP Townhall created an interface between the female candidates contesting for state and federal legislative positions and the citizens from different constituencies, providing a unique opportunity for them to share their visions, engage and answer questions from participants on the most pressing issues they wished to raise.

Training of Election Observers

Every election observation mission is unique, depending on its scope and its structure and available human/financial resources. Usually an observation team is first put together and then trained. The team members are responsible for consolidating reports, pictures and videos on the field.

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In general, training activities for observers pursue two main objectives:

- To improve skills for conducting a comprehensive assessment of various areas of electoral process
- To improve skills for communicating such findings in a meaningful and generally understandable manner, including in tailored formats for different audiences.

EWEI put together a team to form her citizen election observers. They comprised of two CEPWOP delegates (Malali and Tum communities) and six implementation team members (ad hoc) from Malali and Tum. This sensitization seminar was held on Wednesday 30 January 2019 at EWEI Offices. This seminar was to educate the CEPWOP citizen's observers on how to carry out a safe and effective election monitoring. EWEI's citizen's observers were given smart phones and trained on how to use the phones for reporting on election day.

The key objectives of CEPWOP 2019 Elections Citizen Observation included;

- To determine the degree to which the elections meet electoral legal framework and international best practices
- To ascertain the level of women representation at the polls as party representatives and voters
- To observe the voting procedures (setting up of the polls, opening the polls, voting process, closing polls, vote counting and the transmission and tabulation of votes)

The elections were to be observed according to these guidelines;

- Personal safety is of the utmost importance. Do not carry out any actions that will bring about any threat to your person and wellbeing.
- Attentively watch without interfering.
- Examine not only Election Day activities, such as the casting of ballots, but also pre-election and post-election processes.
- Watch such activities as voter registration, testing of voting machines, ballot tabulation and recounts, and much more.
- Gather relevant information about the electoral process and report back to election officials when problems arise.
- Do not get involved in any kind of altercation or violence
- Use personal judgment in the capturing of any media (photos/videos) during observation. Note that any media that unquestionably reveals the identity of the subjects that you capture will not be used publicly except if it is vital evidence required by a court of law and in which case, your identity will not be revealed.

The major activities to observe were:

Environment and Voting

- Do voters have access difficulties to their designated polling stations?

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- The percentage of women and girls involve in the entire process e.g. security personnel, polling units' officers, observers, voters and political party agents
- Are appropriate steps taken to prevent gender-based intimidation or coercion of voters and unlawful interference in the polls?
- Is the right to vote restricted in any way?
- Are voting procedures conducive for women and excluded groups?
- Are there problems with overcrowding, excess delays or queues?
- Are women well represented at the polls?
- Are voting procedures transparent?
- Do polling officials conduct voting efficiently, impartially and in accordance to the law?
- Is there a peaceful atmosphere?
- Are security forces behaving in an appropriate manner? Etc

ACTIVITIES AND ELECTION OBSERVATION

EWEI Citizens Observers Activities

EWEI Election Monitoring took place in Kaura (Mallagum ward) and Kaduna North (Malali/Badarawa ward) LGAs; 3 polling units from each ward. Six women observed the election using the smart phones provided by EWEI to document their report in a unique observation questionnaire developed by EWEI. The wards observed are as follows:

- i. Kaura LGA, Mallagum ward:
 - HEALTH CENTRE TUM (TUM / UNG. SABANET) 008
 - TUM/ UNG. KATUNG 010
 - MALLAGUM I/ UNG. BAKO AKUT 002
- ii. Kaduna North LGA, Malali/Badarawa ward, EWEI observed from:
 - MALALI LOWCOST I/LEA MALALI 028
 - UNG. GADO/K/GIDAN MAI UNG. ISHAYA 035
 - UNG. GADO/K/G MAI UNGUWAN KASUWA 023

Activities observed include; Smart card accreditations; voters' registration, voting proper, sorting, counting and collation of results.

EWEI's citizen's observers also observed during the counting, accumulation and announcement of results.

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Situation Room Activities

EWEL partnered with other sister organisations that voluntarily came together to establish a Situation Room to observe the presidential and gubernatorial elections in Kaduna State, although, EWEL participated only in the presidential elections. This partnership deployed over 612 observers across 255 Wards within the 23 LGAs in Kaduna State. The elections were observed around 5 domains which include; Setting Up, Voting Process, Counting Process, Conduct of Security Agencies, Declaration of Results at Polling Unit as well as Gender and Social Inclusion.

A. Setting Up

- A few polling units were set up early, while several others across the state began quite late, having an average of about 11:30am with extreme cases reaching 4:00pm before setting up commenced. This is in spite of the initial postponement by INEC with assurance that they would sort out the logistical issues and have all polling units begin at the same time. Voters did not have information about what was going on or if they were going to even cast their votes, making them apprehensive and prone to fake news.
- There were reports of some level of compliance by INEC officials even though many centres also recorded lack of adherence to some provisions of the electoral act like none placement of form **EC30** at polling units which was meant to aid voters in locating their polling units with ease. Other violations recorded across the State included; INEC officials' refusal to remove or tear down posters of political parties that were pasted around and within the polling units, absence of stamp pads, inks and high cases of incomplete ballot papers with extreme cases being reported of no ballot paper for the **senatorial elections** from Ungwan Boro, Mando and Giwa.
- There were no voting cubicles for voting secrecy in some polling units
- Some polling units had their ballot papers and other materials taken to a different polling unit causing a lot of confusion and mis-trust in the process.
- Party agents of some political parties especially the All Progressive Congress and Peoples Democratic Party were present in most polling units.

B. Voting Process

- Voting was conducted in a peaceful and orderly manner in most polling units across the State even though there were reports of violence at Ungwan Ali along Abuja Raod in Rigasa, Magajin Gari and Kuyello in Birnin Gwari and Kufana. INEC officials were seen sensitizing the electorate on voting procedures in many centres across the State.
- Party agents in many polling units in Igabi, Kachia, Kaduna South, Kaduna North and Soba were reported to have been carrying the registers and checking the list which is in defiance to what the INEC chairman said.
- Polling officials conducted themselves in a civilized manner in most parts of the States and hardly interfered with the process except in some cases like in Gure; Lere LGA, Arak in Sanga, Kawo in Kaduna North where communities insisted on voting without the use of the card reader either because it failed or because they did not want to be accredited.

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- There was general complaint about the card reader not working, malfunctioning or not available in some centres.

C. Counting

- Counting Started at 2pm in just a few centres while majority went deep into the evening with extreme cases being 2:00am following day. However, it was impressive that electorates waited for their votes to be counted before dispersing.
- Results were properly recorded in appropriate forms and publicly declared in most of the polling units with party agents of major political parties and security agents present although over 90% of the polling units did not paste their results written on form **EC8A** in the polling unit as demanded by the electoral act causing observers to scramble and beg party agents to take a picture of the results.

D. Conduct of Security Agencies

- The security agencies conducted themselves in an appropriate manner in most polling units that they were seen to be present, however there were also reports of no security agents in a few polling units.

E. Gender & Social Inclusion

- Women, Persons with Special Needs and the elderly were given special treatments in most centres as reported, however there are a few cases in Kawo, and Chikun town where women were intimidated.

F. Limitation

- Most observers did not get copies of form **EC8A** which was supposed to capture the result that should have been pasted at the polling unit.

G. Recommendation

- Nigeria need to evolve to an electronic form of voting to curb filling of multiple forms, multiple voting and the cumbersome nature of collation that give room for manipulation
- There should be a set benchmark for political parties willing to contest National and State elections e.g. Political party that do not have candidates should not feature on the ballot papers
- INEC should establish a "Think Tank" made up of the civil society, logistics experts, media, traditional & religious leaders etc. to support them in the planning the process of election.
- The training and deployment of Adhoc staff should be done early enough and INEC should device a means of ensuring that those trained are the ones deployed to the field.
- Political parties should endeavour to sensitize and educate the electorate on thuggery beforehand to avoid election violence
- The use of technology in mapping and tracking logistics and materials must be enhanced.
- INEC officials should be provided with necessary mobility so that they will not have any reason to be compromised when electorates offer to assist.



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Post-Election Activities

After the elections, Uche Egbe Brown, EWEI's Programme Officer Communication (POC) represented EWEI in an interview on Liberty TV Kaduna. Conversations centered on the outcome of the election, gender mainstreaming as regards to the organization and the activities of the Situation Room. The interview was hosted by Abdull-azeez Ahmed Kadir.

During the interview, EWEI's Programme Officer, Communications explained the CEPWOP project and mentioned EWEI's interest in this election. He stated that the sole reason for observing the election was to monitor the number of women involved in the election.

According to him, reports were gotten while in the situation room, from some wards in Kawo (Kaduna North) and some parts of Chikun, that male voters were preventing the female voters from exercising their civic duty. An immediate call was made to the state security agency who in turn sent security personnel to curtail the situation, in no time the polling unit was calm and women were allowed to cast their votes.

In concluding he explained that from reports gotten in the Situation Room, it is fair to say that the election went smoothly and it was free and fair except in very few locations in Kaduna metropolis.

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Analysis of Observation

Below is the representation and analysis of the data collected from EWEI's citizen election observers from Kaura Local

Government Area (Tum) and Kaduna North Local Government Area (Malali):

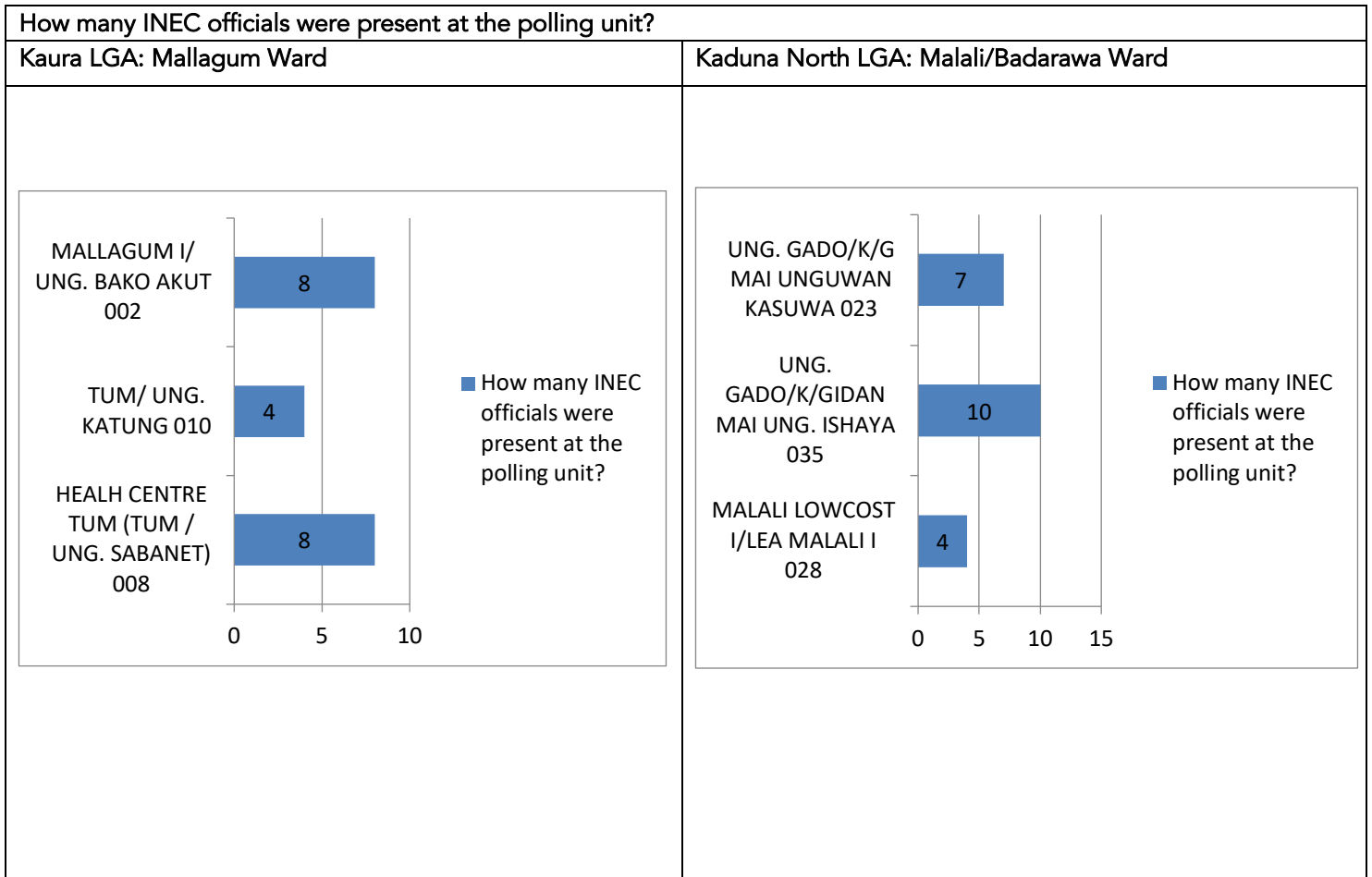


Chart 1 shows that in Kaura LGA, Mallagum ward, the three polling units registered the following amount of INEC officials: Health Center Tum (Tum / Ung. Sabanet) 008, 8 INEC officials, Tum/ Ung. Katung 010, 4 and Mallagum I/ UNG. Bako Akut 002, 8.

In Malali/Badarawa, it registered as follows: Malali Lowcost I/LEA Malali 028, 7, Ung. Gado/K/Gidan Mai Ung. Ishaya 035, 10 and Ung. Gado/K/G Mai Ungwan Kasuwa 023, 4

- **Learning:** There was a good number of INEC officials in all polling units.

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How many were females?																	
Kaura LGA: Mallagum Ward	Kaduna North LGA: Malali/Badarawa Ward																
<table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <caption>Data for Kaura LGA: Mallagum Ward</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Polling Unit</th> <th>How many were females?</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>MALLAGUM I/ UNG. BAKO AKUT 002</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TUM/ UNG. KATUNG 010</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HEALTH CENTRE TUM (TUM / UNG. SABANET) 008</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Polling Unit	How many were females?	MALLAGUM I/ UNG. BAKO AKUT 002	5	TUM/ UNG. KATUNG 010	2	HEALTH CENTRE TUM (TUM / UNG. SABANET) 008	4	<table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <caption>Data for Kaduna North LGA: Malali/Badarawa Ward</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Polling Unit</th> <th>How many were females?</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>UNG. GADO/K/G MAI UNGUWAN KASUWA 023</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNG. GADO/K/GIDAN MAI UNG. ISHAYA 035</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MALALI LOWCOST I/LEA MALALI I 028</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Polling Unit	How many were females?	UNG. GADO/K/G MAI UNGUWAN KASUWA 023	4	UNG. GADO/K/GIDAN MAI UNG. ISHAYA 035	3	MALALI LOWCOST I/LEA MALALI I 028	2
Polling Unit	How many were females?																
MALLAGUM I/ UNG. BAKO AKUT 002	5																
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MALALI LOWCOST I/LEA MALALI I 028	2																

In chart 2, the figures show that polling unit 002 registered 5 out of the 8 INEC officials present, were women. In polling unit 010, women present as INEC officials were 2 out of 4 and in polling unit 008, female INEC officials were 4 out of a total of 8.

For polling unit 023 in Malali/Badarawa Ward, 4 out of 7 INEC officials were women, in polling unit 035, only 3 out of 10 were women and for unit 028, 2 out of 4 were women.

- **Learning:** Females were fairly represented as poll officials.

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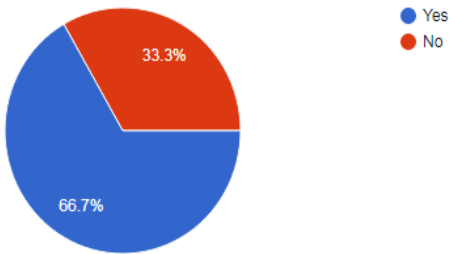
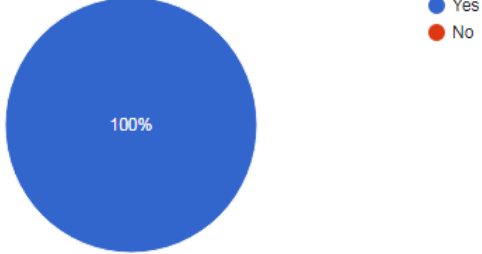
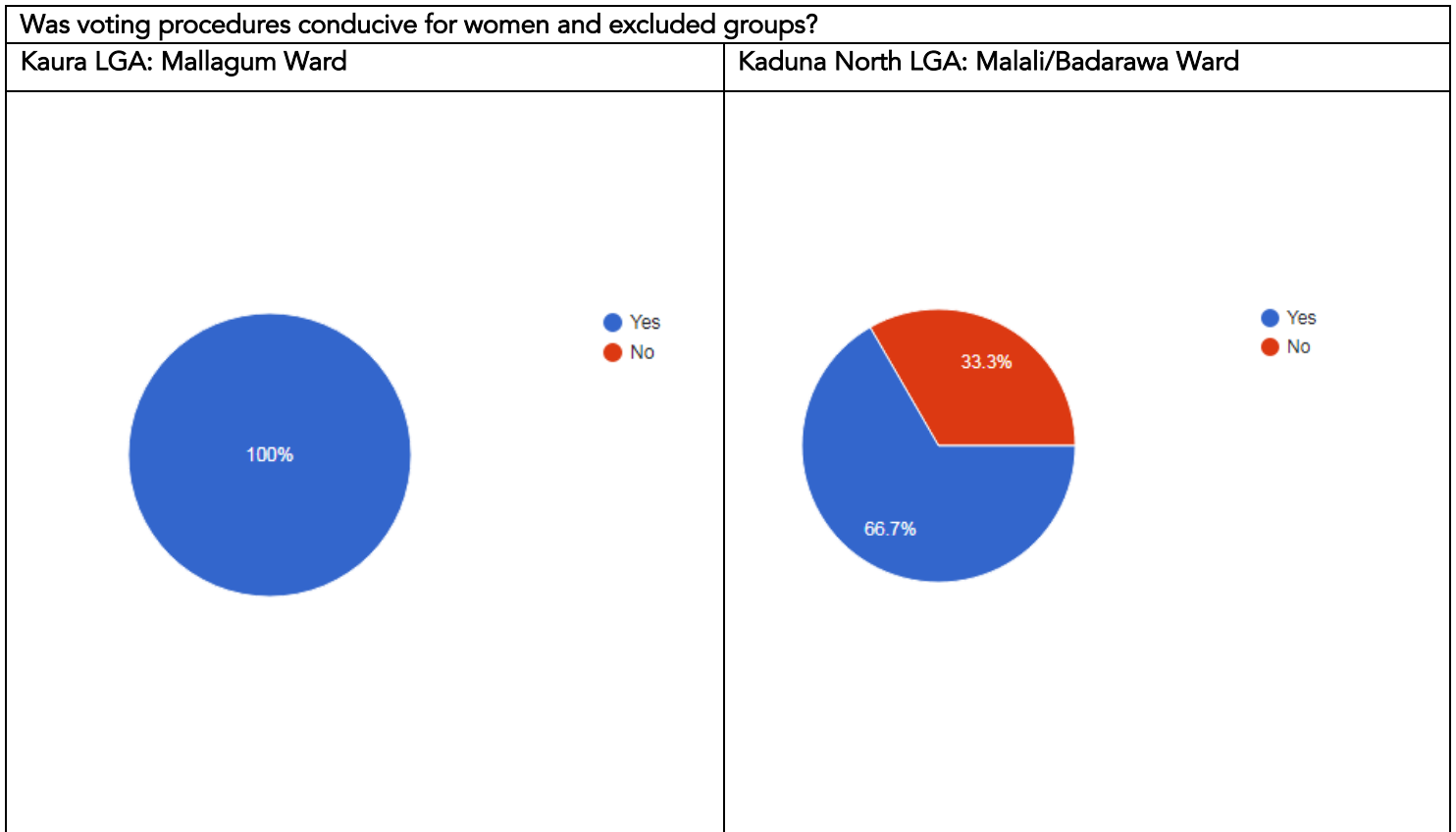
Were female political party agents present at the polls?					
Kaura LGA: Mallagum Ward	Kaduna North LGA: Malali/Badarawa Ward				
 <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td>● Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>● No</td></tr> </table>	● Yes	● No	 <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td>● Yes</td></tr> <tr><td>● No</td></tr> </table>	● Yes	● No
● Yes					
● No					
● Yes					
● No					

Chart 3: In Malali/Badarawa Ward, it reads 100% because all three polling units had the presence of female political party agents. While in Mallagum Ward, only two polling units had female party agents.

- **Learning:** A good number of party agents were women.

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In Chart 4 the figures show that voting procedures were conducive for women and excluded groups in all polling units in Mallagum ward and for Mallai/Badarawa, only two registered affirmative.

- **Learning:** Voting procedures were not challenging for women.

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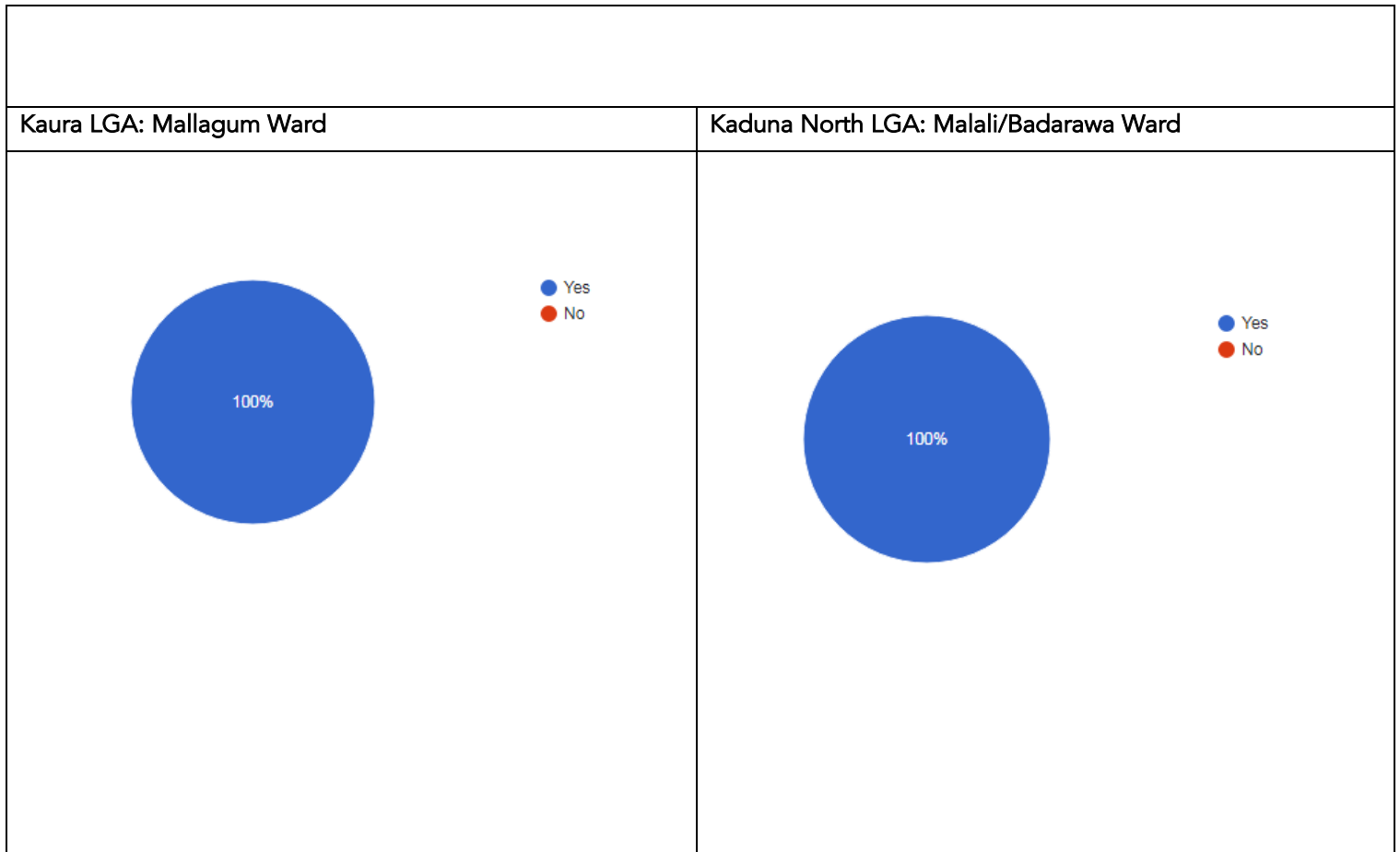
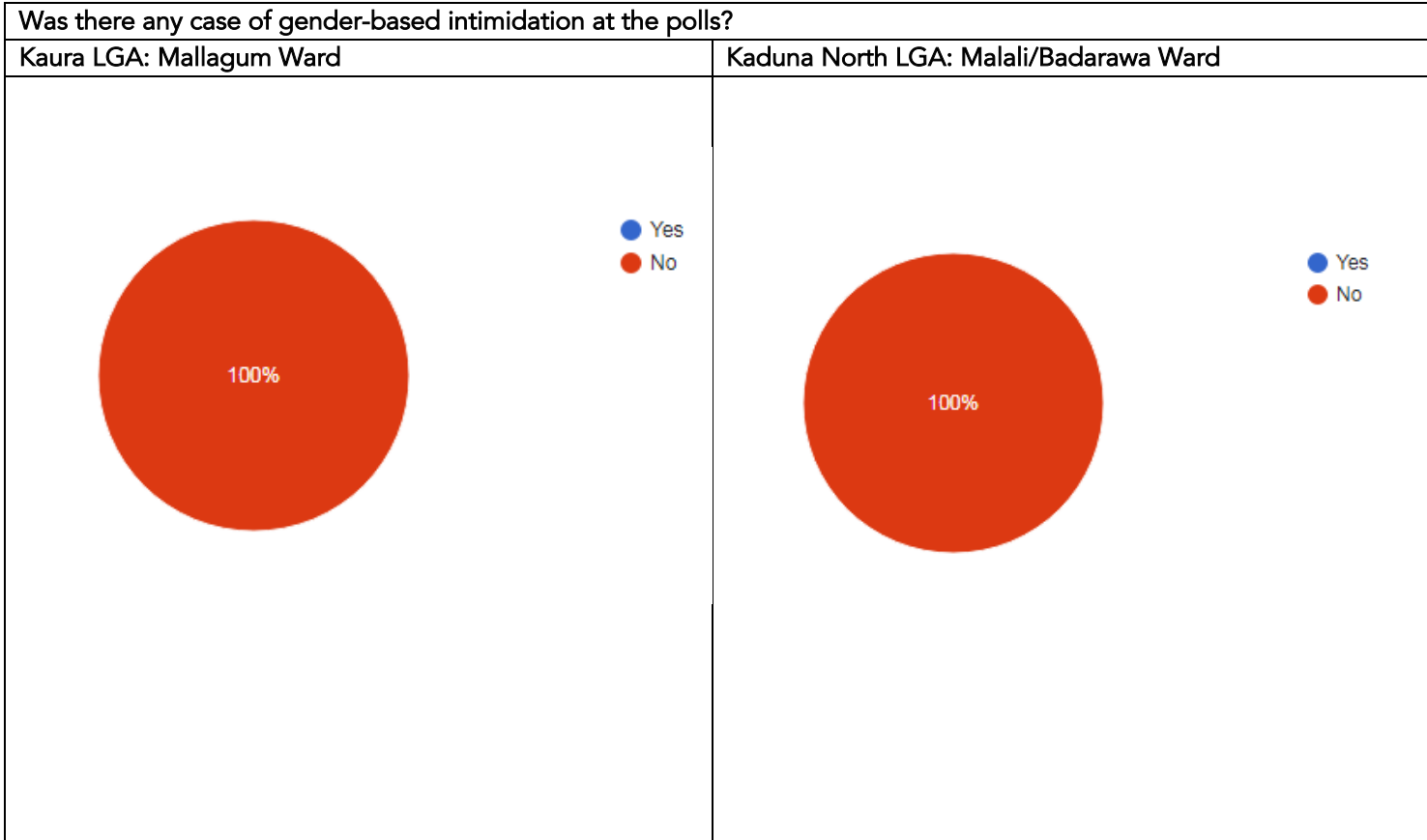


Chart 5: The above chart shows that in both wards, women were well represented

- **Learning:** - An encouraging number of women came out to vote.
- Women are beginning to show interest in the electoral process.

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In chart 6 the percentages show that in all 6 polling units across both wards, there was no record of gender-based intimidation at the polls.

- **Learning:** No case of gender-based intimidation shows some sort of enlightenment.

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How many security agents were women?																	
Kaura LGA: Mallagum Ward	Kaduna North LGA: Malali/Badarawa Ward																
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MALALI LOWCOST I/LEA MALALI I 028	1																

In chart 7, the figures show that 2 security agents were present at unit 002 and 1 each in 010 and 008 in Mallagum ward. While in Mallali, only 1 female registered in each polling unit.

- **Learning:** The number of women to men as security agents present at polling units were less.

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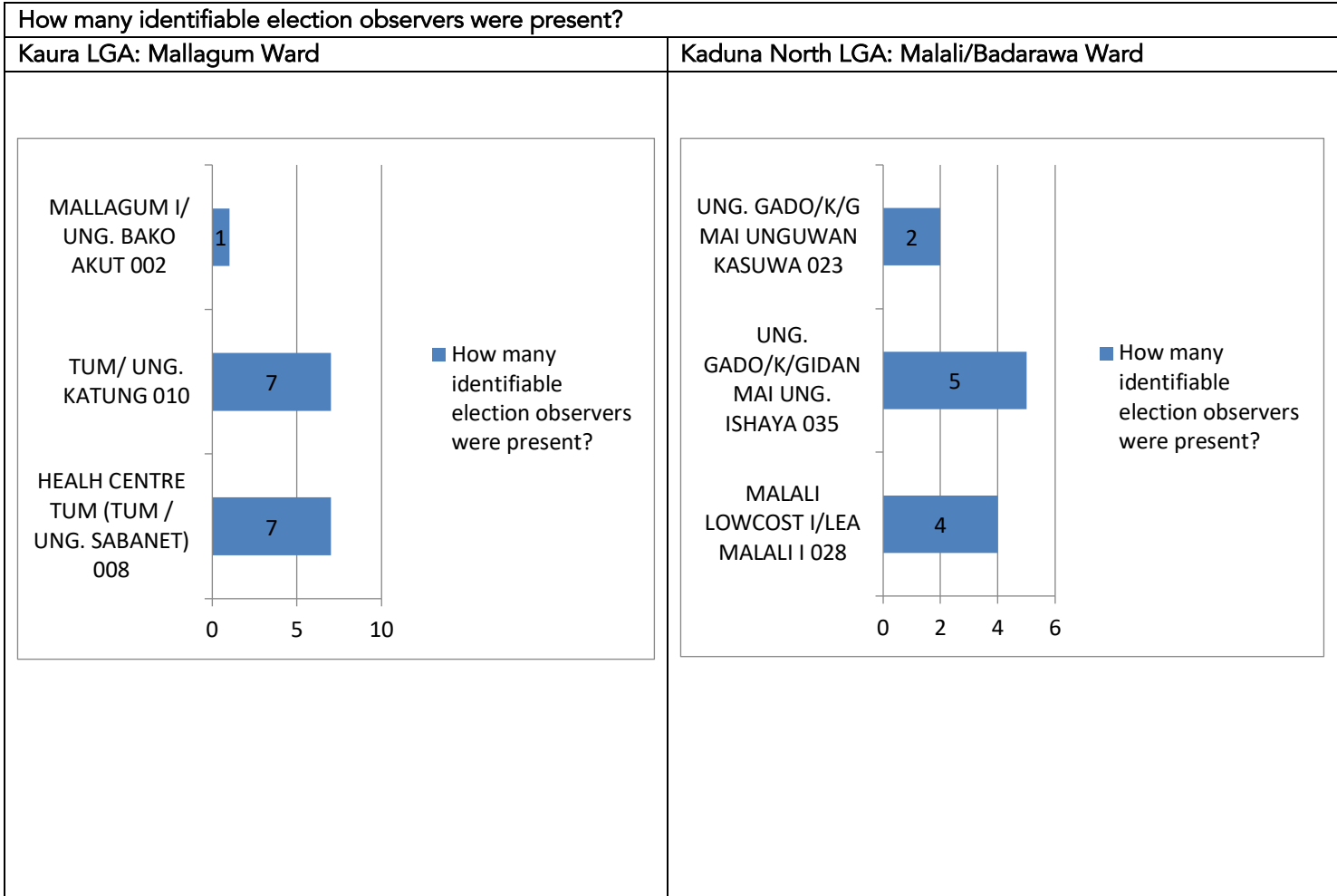


Chart 8: Election observers present were 1 in 002 unit and 7 in both 010 and 008 units. In Malali ward, it records 2 in 023, 5 in 035 and 4 in 028 units.

➤ **Learning:** A good number of election observers were present in most polling units.

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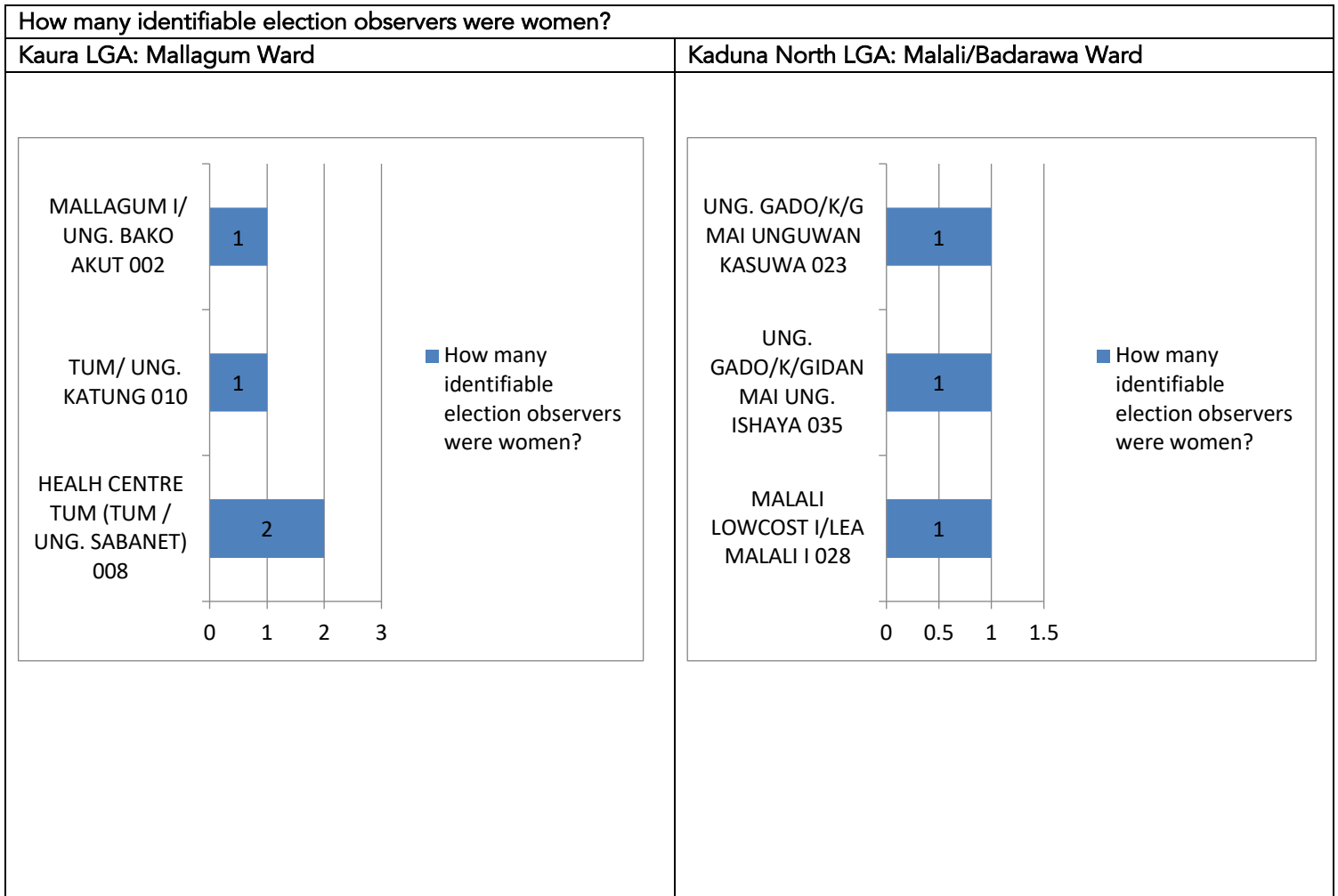


Chart 9: Identifiable election observers who were women in Mallagum ward were 1 each in unit 002 and 010, then, 2

In 008 unit. For Malali 2, 5 and 4 respectively in 023, 035 and 028 polling units.

- **Learning:** Majority of the polling units had a low figure for the number of female election observers.

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CHALLENGES

Although EWEI's citizen's election observers did a commendable job, it was not without challenges.

- i. Firstly, EWEI faced challenges in getting information in good time from INEC concerning being a registered observer. This therefore resulted in EWEI acting as a citizen's observer.
- ii. There was a limitation to places where EWEI could observe. From the onset, EWEI with Init Rymi Fund, have been working with only two communities in two local government areas in Kaduna State and therefore, selected wards were observed in these two communities.
- iii. EWEI citizen election observers encountered some challenges in Mallagum ward and were not able to send their situational reports in good time and also, they were not able to send good thematic pictures.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The analysis of the data received from EWEI's citizens' observers' show that women are beginning to become aware of their civic responsibilities and have started acting on it. Therefore, the following recommendations have been made:

- i. More sensitization programmes on civic duties and female participation should take place in different parts of the state (Kaduna State) similar to what EWEI's Civic Education and Participation for Women's Project (CEPWOP) activities. This project aims to educate women on their civic duties and the need to be part of the political space.
- ii. Women would make a difference when they take active part in all electoral processes. There is a need for further education for women on their strengths and not their weaknesses. This is the sole aim of EWEI to empower the women and girls to achieve sustainable growth in their society, which is done through their various activities: ESP, EEP, CEPWOP, Getting Involved and Know and Say No.
- iii. More capacity building activities to build women's confidence in breaking the cultural norms working against women in this part of the world in other to enable them to take up professions that are male dominated (e.g. security agents).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it is clear that EWEI CEPWOP programmes has brought about positive change in Tum and Malali communities: as more women took the initiative to come and exercise their civic duties. This was seen in the large turnout of women in all polling units observed.



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APPENDIXES

Questionnaire

STATE:	LGA:
WARD:	POLLING UNIT:

Arrival/Materials				
Observation on Arrival of Poll Officials and Materials				
1	Polling unit is within a neutral environment	Yes	No	
2	Security personnel were present at the polling unit	Yes	No	
3	INEC officials arrived between 7:00am and 8:00am	Yes	No	
4	Elections materials arrived polling unit between 7:00am and 8:00am	Yes	No	
5	Election materials were equal or above the number of registered voters	Equal	Above	Below
6	How many INEC officials were present at the polling unit?			
7	How many were female?			
8	Were political parties 'agents present at the polling unit?	Yes	No	
9	Was it easy to identify them?	Yes	No	
10	If the answer to question 9 is yes, how did you identify them?			
11	Were female political party agents present at the polls?	Yes	No	

If answer to question 8 is yes, list the political parties present



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Accreditation and Voting			
12	Accreditation of voters started by 8:00am	Yes	No
13	Were eligible voters with valid PVC refused accreditation because their names were not on the voters' register?	Yes	No
14.	Were there <i>reports</i> of failed finger' authentication? -----		
15	Were voting procedures conducive for women and excluded groups?	Yes	No
16	Was the right to vote restricted in any way?	Yes	No
17	Were women well represented at the polls?	Yes	No
18	Was there any case of gender-based intimidation at the polls?	Yes	No
If yes to question 16, state case			
19	Were appropriate steps taken to prevent gender-based intimidation or coercion of voters and unlawful interference in the polls?	Yes	No
20	Was there a peaceful atmosphere?	Yes	No



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21	Were security forces behaving in an appropriate manner?	Yes	No
22	How many security agents were women? -----		
23	Was there any tension within or around the polling unit?	Yes	No
24	Were voting procedures transparent?	Yes	No
25	Was there a problem with overcrowding, excess delays or queues?	Yes	No
26.	How many identifiable election observers were present? -----		
27.	How many identifiable election observers were women? -----		
Counting and announcement of results			
28	Did counting officials act in an impartial manner?	Yes	No
29	Was the counting of votes and recording of results honest and accurate?	Yes	No
30	Were party candidates' representatives able to observe all aspects of the counting process?	Yes	No
31	Were there discrepancies between the counted votes and the published results?	Yes	No
32	Were there any other incidents observed at this stage of the process?	Yes	No



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33	If yes to question 32, please describe the incident.		
34	Were you able to capture and send media (photos/videos) from your polling both?	Yes	No
35	Any other comments		

Name of Citizen Election Observer/Monitor:

Date: