



European Commission United Nations Development Programme

SUPPORT TO THE 2003-07 AND 2007-11 NIGERIAN ELECTORAL CYCLES CASE STUDY

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STRUCTURE OF PRESENTATION

- **NASCENT AND FRAGILE NIGERIAN DEMOCRACY.**
- **ISSUES AROUND 2003 GENERAL ELECTIONS.**
- **POST 2003 GENERAL ELECTIONS DEVELOPMENTS.**
- **STRATEGY FOR 2007 GENERAL ELECTIONS.**
- **2007 GENERAL ELECTIONS : LESSONS LEARNT.**
- **POST 2007 GENERAL ELECTIONS DEVELOPMENTS.**



NASCENT AND FRAGILE DEMOCRACY

- Of 47 years of independence – Nigeria remained under **Military rule for over 30 years** except for the periods 1960-66, 1979-93 and 1999 onwards.
- 2007 General Elections **only third** since civilian transition in 1999.
- **CHALLENGE : TO HOLD CREDIBLE ELECTIONS.**



2003 GENERAL ELECTIONS

- Overall assessment : 2003 Elections flawed.

Pointed, *inter alia*, to

- Delayed funding from the Government of Nigeria
- Insufficient political will to follow a proper timetable.
- Inadequate legal framework.
- Flawed voters' registration.
- Absence of institutionalized arrangement to channel International support.



POST 2003 GENERAL ELECTIONS

- July 2003 - INEC assessed conduct of 2003 Elections.
- Nov. 2003 - INEC-CSO forum discussed Agenda for Electoral Reforms.
- July 2005 - EU, DFID, CIDA and UNDP agreed to contribute to Joint Donor Basket Fund (JDBF).
- Nov. 2005 - INEC submitted revised statement of needs.



POST 2003 GENERAL ELECTIONS

- May 2006 - JDBF Project to support 2007 Nigerian Elections was signed after protracted negotiations **with limited activities but with electoral cycle approach in mind and intention to stay engaged.**
- June 2006 - Project started.



SUPPORT FOR 2007 GENERAL ELECTIONS

Two pronged strategy :

- Strengthen INEC's institutional development and technical ability to conduct elections.
- Enhance civil society engagement.



SUPPORT FOR 2007 GENERAL ELECTIONS

- JDBF support amounted to only approx. 5% of the total election budget (of around USD 435 ml).
- Donors had limited leverage to influence decisions.
- National Ownership challenge – ‘we know it all syndrome on one hand and Paris Declaration principles on the other’.



SUPPORT FOR 2007 GENERAL ELECTIONS

- INEC **'NOT KEEN'** on technical and advisory support and could **'VETO'** selection of experts.
- INEC was reluctant to share full information.
- Ambiguity in the areas of support became issue between the Donors and INEC.
- UNDP walked a tight rope – **being the HONEST BROKER.**



2007 GENERAL ELECTIONS

- Overall assessment : 2007 Elections also flawed.

Minuses :

- Flawed voters' registration.
- **Lack of will** on the part of EMB to improve technical and operational capacity.
- **Perceived influence of party in power** over EMB.
- **Inadequacies in Legal framework.**
- Delay in programming International support.
- **International support too focussed towards elections.**



2007 GENERAL ELECTIONS

PLUSES :

- **Schedule for general elections followed.**
- Modern technology adopted for voters' registration.
- New voters' I-cards facility set up.
- Effort made for electronic transmission of results.
- Media and Judiciary played **more** constructive roles.
- **Civil Society Organisations became more vocal.**
- Less violent when compared to 2003.



2007 GENERAL ELECTIONS

- **DEMOCRACY SURVIVED** – first transition of civilian power.
- **Development Partners still have 'foot in the door'.**



2007 DONOR SUPPORT – KEY ISSUES

- Donor support on the eve of elections.
- Support too focussed towards elections.
- EMB not enthusiastic to receive support in core areas.
- Support areas and activities not clearly defined.
- **How to maximize leverage in a financially independent state.**



DONOR COORDINATION - KEY ISSUES

- Micro - management of project.
- Trust in Implementing Partner.
- **Visibility**
 - External visibility to public.
 - **INFLUENCE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.**
 - Share in the Basket vs visibility proportion.



2007 DONOR SUPPORT – KEY VALUE

- Common and strong voice.
- Synergy.
- Cost effectiveness - reduction in transaction and operational costs.



WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER

- International support provided immediately after 2003 Elections for the next Electoral Cycle.
- Donor support aimed at strengthening wider democratic and electoral regime.



WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER

- Clear understanding **ON SUPPORT** with willing EMB.
- **Donors** not micro-managing the project and showing trust in the Implementing Partner.



COMPARISON OF POST GENERAL ELECTION 2003 AND 2007 EVENTS

1 st Year after 2003 Elections	1 st Year after 2007 Elections
<p>July 03 - INEC assessed conduct of 2003 Elections.</p>	<p>Sept. 07 - INEC assessed conduct of 2007 Elections.</p> <p>Nov. 07 - JDBF conducted lessons learning exercise.</p>
<p>Nov. 2003 - INEC-CSO forum discussed Agenda for Electoral Reforms.</p>	<p>Aug. 2007 - Presidential Electoral Reform Committee Constituted.</p>



COMPARISON OF POST GENERAL ELECTION 2003 AND 2007 EVENTS

2 nd Year after 2003 Elections	2 nd Year after 2007 Elections
<p>2004 - INEC prepares strategic plan for 2007 elections.</p>	<p>Aug. 08 – Electoral Reform Committee’s report expected.</p>
<p>April 05 - Development Partner discuss electoral support.</p>	<p>June 08 - JDBF Partners Retreat to discuss the way forward.</p> <p><i>Advantage 10 months</i></p>



JDBF RETREAT FOR WAY FORWARD 'A BEST PRACTICE'

- Discussed lessons learned.
- Analysed partners priorities and limitations.
- Highlighted partners concerns.
- Debated strategy for future support.
- **A CLEAR PICTURE EMERGED**
 - **WHERE WE STAND TOGETHER.**



HOPE 2011

- Reform Agenda will be successful.
- Donors will engage in time realising **risks of not engaging early.**
- **Multi pronged approach will be followed to strengthen democratic and electoral regime.**
- The Government and EMB will become willing partners.



HOPE 2011

NIGERIA WILL HOLD
CREDIBLE 2011 GENERAL ELECTIONS
THAT ARE NATIONALY AND INTERNATIONALLY
ACCEPTED



HOPE 2011

HOPE IS NEVER LOST

THANK YOU