



Sunday,  
September 22nd,  
2024

Delivered at the  
Homeville Hotel,  
Benin, Edo State

# Statement on Voter Turnout Projections in the Edo 2024 Governorship Election

---

## Edo 2024: Voter Turnout Plummet despite high PVC collection rates

### Introduction

On Saturday, September 21, 2024, Yiaga Africa deployed the Process and Results Verification for Transparency (PRVT) methodology to observe the Edo State governorship election. This involved 300 stationary and 25 roving observers, covering a representative sample of polling units across all 18 LGAs. The PRVT enables Yiaga Africa to independently assess the quality of election day processes and verify the accuracy of the official election results as announced by INEC. Yiaga Africa observers also deployed to the State and LGA results collation centers to observe the process, ensuring timely and accurate reporting of the election process. The Yiaga Africa Watching The Vote (WTV) project is "Driven by Data – For All Nigerians – Beholden to None!".

While the state collation process is ongoing, Yiaga Africa assures the citizens of Edo State that it has received and processed its PRVT data from the sampled polling units.

### Turnout

Yiaga Africa estimates that turnout for the Edo State gubernatorial election will be between 21% and 24% (22.5% ±1.6%) based on official turnout figures collected from the PVRT's representative statistical sample of polling units across the 18 LGAs in the State.

### Additional Information

Yiaga Africa noted a slow start to the voting process. Only 17% of the polling units opened for accreditation and voting by 8:30 a.m., while 65% commenced the voting process by 9:30 a.m. The geographical breakdown shows that INEC officials commenced accreditation and voting by 8:30 a.m. in 19% of polling units in Edo North, 25% in Edo Central, and 14% in Edo South. Yiaga notes that 50% of polling units had a queue at 2:30 pm and all voters queued were allowed to vote.

Yiaga Africa observers reported overvoting in 9 of our sampled polling units. In 7 of these polling units, the excess of votes ranged between one and two.

Yiaga Africa received and verified 38 critical incidents. These includes obstruction of voting by partisan polling officials, no conduct of election in 4 polling units, elections not concluded in 2 polling units, BVAS bypass, and vote buying in Akoko Edo, Egor, Esan West, Etsako West, Ikpoba/Okha, Owan West, Uhumwode, and Igueben LGAs. In most cases, APC and PDP party agents were observed giving voters cash incentives ranging from N10,000 to N15,000. Additionally, Yiaga Africa received reports of disruption of the LGA results collation process in Egor, Etsako West, Ikpoba/Okha, and Oredo LGAs.

### **Conclusion**

It is important to remember that the Edo governorship election is not yet over and that this report reflects Yiaga Africa's preliminary findings on the conduct of accreditation, voting, and counting. Yiaga Africa's WTV will continue to observe the entire process and will issue additional statements as appropriate.

Yiaga Africa noted the disruptions in the collation process in some LGAs. We reiterate the call by election observers groups to security agencies to refrain from any form of interference in the collation process and to ensure that accredited party agents, the media, and election observers are granted full access to collation centers. Yiaga Africa calls on INEC to continue to ensure greater transparency of the results collation process and to address all grievances in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Act 2022.

Yiaga Africa calls on all contesting political parties and candidates to allow INEC to finish its work without interference and to urge their supporters to remain calm. Further, Yiaga Africa calls on the people of Edo to be peaceful and reject any calls for violence as the INEC concludes the results of the collation process. Yiaga Africa will also issue a comprehensive report after the election is concluded to share our final findings and recommendations.

Yiaga Africa, through the #WatchingTheVote initiative is committed to promoting more credible elections by providing independent information on the conduct of elections and independently verifying the accuracy of election results.

Thank you, and God Bless the people of Edo State!

**Signed.**

**Dr. Aisha Abdullahi**

Chair of the 2024 Edo Election Mission,  
Yiaga Africa

**Samson Itodo**

Executive Director,  
Yiaga Africa