ELECTORAL RISK MANAGEMENT TOOL

1.0 Background

Electoral Risk Management (ERM) is a tool designed to enhance users' capacities to understand risk factors, analyse risk data, and take action to mitigate election-related violence. It is an early warning tool designed to identify broader risks to an election on several variables spanning the entire election planning and management process, thereby enhancing the capacity of the Commission to understand risk factors, analyse these factors, and take action to prevent or mitigate election-related security threats. The ERM is useful to Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) and concerned security sector agencies in organizing free, fair, credible, inclusive, and peaceful elections. The Commission's resolve to mitigate electoral risks led to the adoption and deployment of the Electoral Risk Management (ERM) Tool in 2014, in collaboration with the international IDEA and African Union. With significant success, the ERM Tool was deployed in the 2015, 2019, and 2023 General Elections and other off-cycle Governorship elections. The ERM tool has since continued to provide early warning security alerts on internal and external risk factors that are capable of impacting negatively on the conduct of elections. With its KPIs for tracking election-related violence/threats, it adopts a systematized approach to tracking internal and external risk factors that could impede the successful implementation of the Commission's activities at every stage of the electoral cycle.

2.0 Coordination of ERM

Domiciled in the Planning and Monitoring Directorate at the National Headquarters, the ERM tool is coordinated by the Director Planning and Monitoring Directorate, who is the ERM's Supervising National Coordinator. The ERM team at the HQ comprises both P&M staff and staff drawn from other departments of the Commission. There exists an ERM Desk Officer at the headquarters, in every state, and the FCT. ERM Desk Officers at the state level and the FCT are responsible for the systematic data collection of electoral risks and reporting same for their respective states.

The ERM tool comprises one of the EMSC tools. It is the arm of the EMSC concerned with early tracking and reporting of election-related risks/threats.
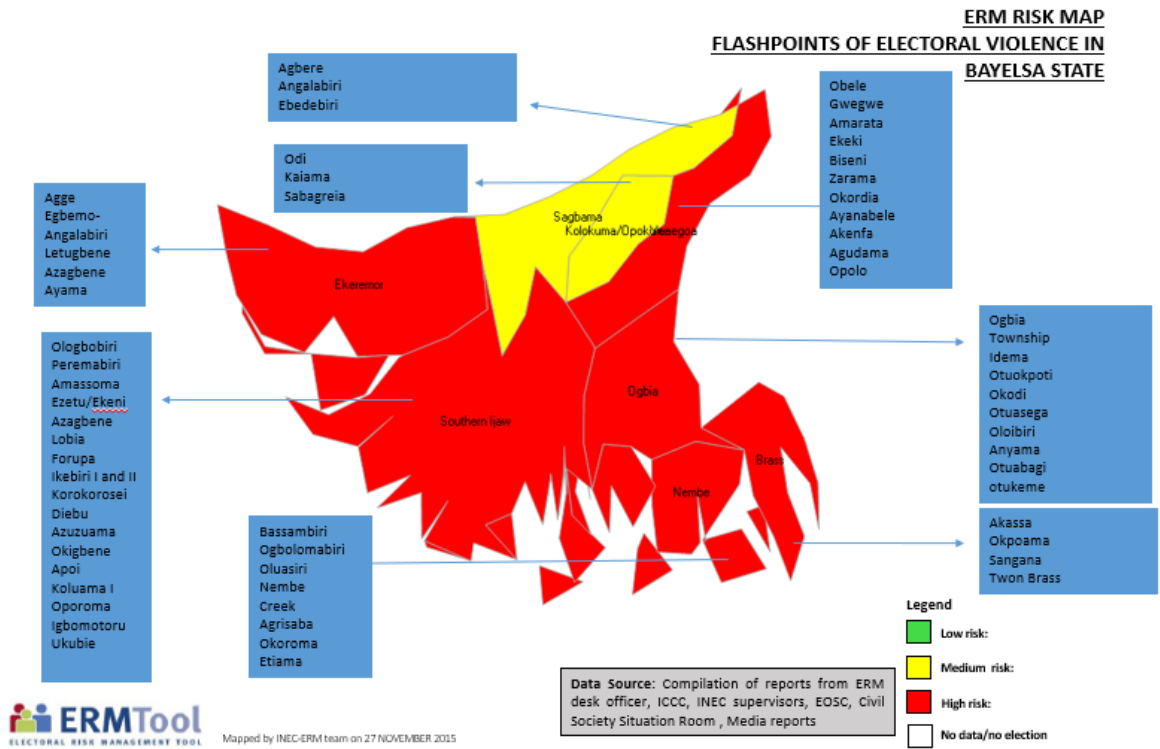
3.0 Electoral Risk Management Tool: 2015-2019 General Elections

INEC piloted the ERM tool in the 2014 Osun State Governorship election where significant success was recorded. Since the 2015 General Election, the tool has become a constant feature of INEC operational activities; it has successfully provided early warning to the Commission and the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) on risk-prone areas ahead of every gubernatorial and off-cycle election. In 2015 and 2019, the ERM sensitization workshop was held in every state. Security agencies at the state levels were involved in identifying risk-prone areas and devised strategies to mitigate the occurrence of predicted risk. At the ERM sensitization workshop, the Commission's staff and security agencies at the state level jointly identified locations and areas that are risk-prone on a scale of low,
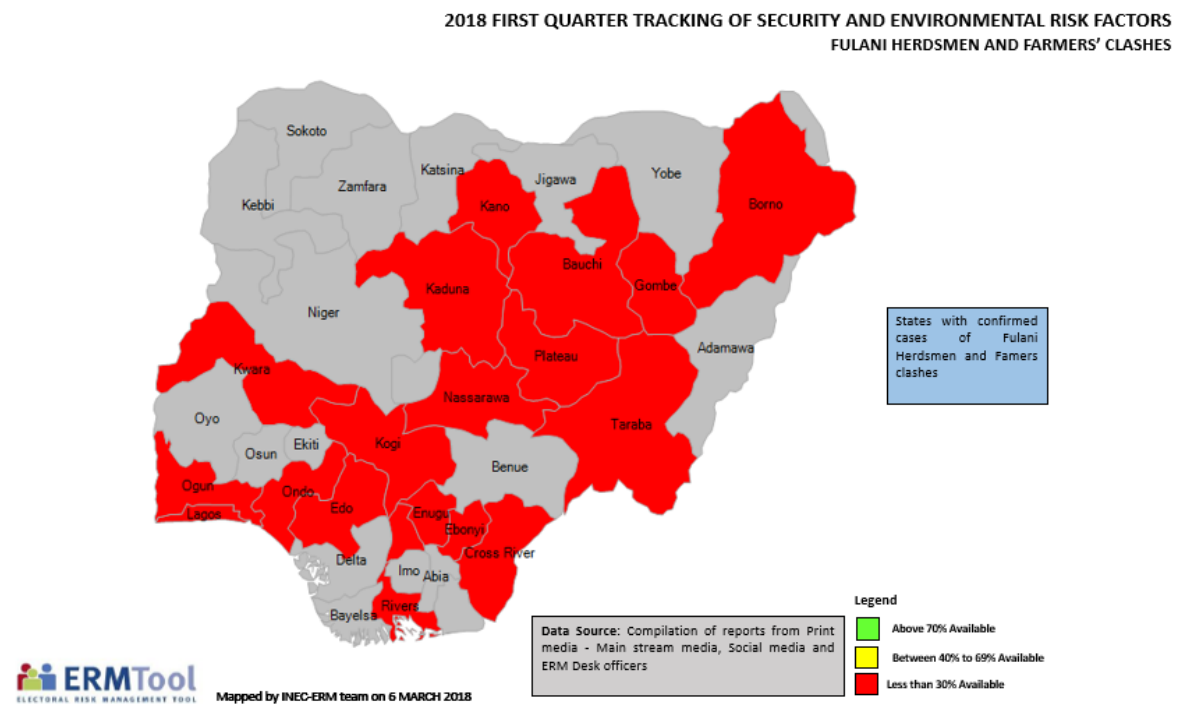
medium, or high risk. Information harvested from ERM sensitization workshops were used to generate a risk map for each state. The ERM tool in 2015 tracked Election Day incidents and post-election activities. For instance, as at 6pm during the conduct of the 11th April, 2015 Governorship/State House of Assembly elections, a total of 66 incidences had been tracked and reported across 20 states. 35 election day incidents such as snatching of poll materials, attack by gunmen, by Boko haram, destruction of materials, etc. were tracked and reported across 20 states during the 28th March Presidential and National Assembly elections. Activities such as the commencement of poll, close of poll and collation of result at the national level were also tracked.

In 2018, the ERM team went beyond tracking security risk to tracking environmental risk. For instance, the ERM tool's map on the scourge of Lassa fever epidemic enabled the Commission to quickly reach out to the Medical Unit to design a protocol for fumigating the RAC environment before deployment of personnel and the provision of First Aid Kits in case of emergencies. This was the first time the Commission looked at the issues of health and safety measures around the electoral environment.

Figure 1: Flashpoints of Electoral Violence Reports on 2015 Governorship Elections in Bayelsa State

Agbere
Angalabiri
Ebedebiri

Odi
Kaiama
Sabagreia

Agge
Egbemo-
Angalabiri
Letugbene
Azagbene
Ayama

Obele
Gwegwe
Amarata
Ekeki
Biseni
Zarama
Okordia
Ayanabele
Akenfa
Agudama
Opolo

Ologbobiri
Peremabiri
Amassoma
Ezetu/Ekeni
Azagbene
Lobia
Forupa
Ikebiri I and II
Korokorosei
Diebu
Azuzuama
Okigbene
Apoi
Koluama I
Oporoma
Igbomotoru
Ukubie

Bassambiri
Ogbolomabiri
Oluasiri
Nembe
Creek
Agrisaba
Okoroma
Etiama

Ogbia
Township
Idema
Otuokpoti
Okodi
Otuasega
Oloibiri
Anyama
Otuabagi
otukeme

Akassa
Okpoama
Sangana
Twon Brass

Sagbama
Kolokuma/Opokum̄aegos

Ekeremor

Ogbia

Southern Ijaw

Brass

Nembe

Legend

Low risk:
Medium risk:
High risk:
No data/no election

Data Source: Compilation of reports from ERM desk officer, ICCC, INEC supervisors, EOSC, Civil Society Situation Room , Media reports

ERMTool
ELECTORAL RISK MANAGEMENT TOOL

Mapped by INEC-ERM team on 27 NOVEMBER 2015

Figure 2: 2018 First Quarter Tracking of Security and Environmental Risk Factors on Fulani Herdsmen and Farmers' Clashes

2018 FIRST QUARTER TRACKING OF SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK FACTORS
FULANI HERDSMEN AND FARMERS' CLASHES

Sokoto, Katsina, Jigawa, Yobe, Kebbi, Zamfara, Kano, Borno, Niger, Kaduna, Bauchi, Gombe, Kwara, Plateau, Adamawa, Nassarawa, Oyo, Osun, Ekiti, Kogi, Taraba, Ogun, Ondo, Benue, Lagos, Edo, Enugu, Delta, Ebonyi, Imo, Abia, Cross River, Rivers, Bayelsa

States with confirmed cases of Fulani Herdsmen and Famers clashes

Legend

Above 70% Available
Between 40% to 69% Available
Less than 30% Available

Data Source: Compilation of reports from Print media - Main stream media, Social media and ERM Desk officers

ERMTool
ELECTORAL RISK MANAGEMENT TOOL

Mapped by INEC-ERM team on 6 MARCH 2018

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**Figure 3: 2018 First Quarter Tracking of Security and Environmental Risk Factors (Lassa Fever Outbreak)**
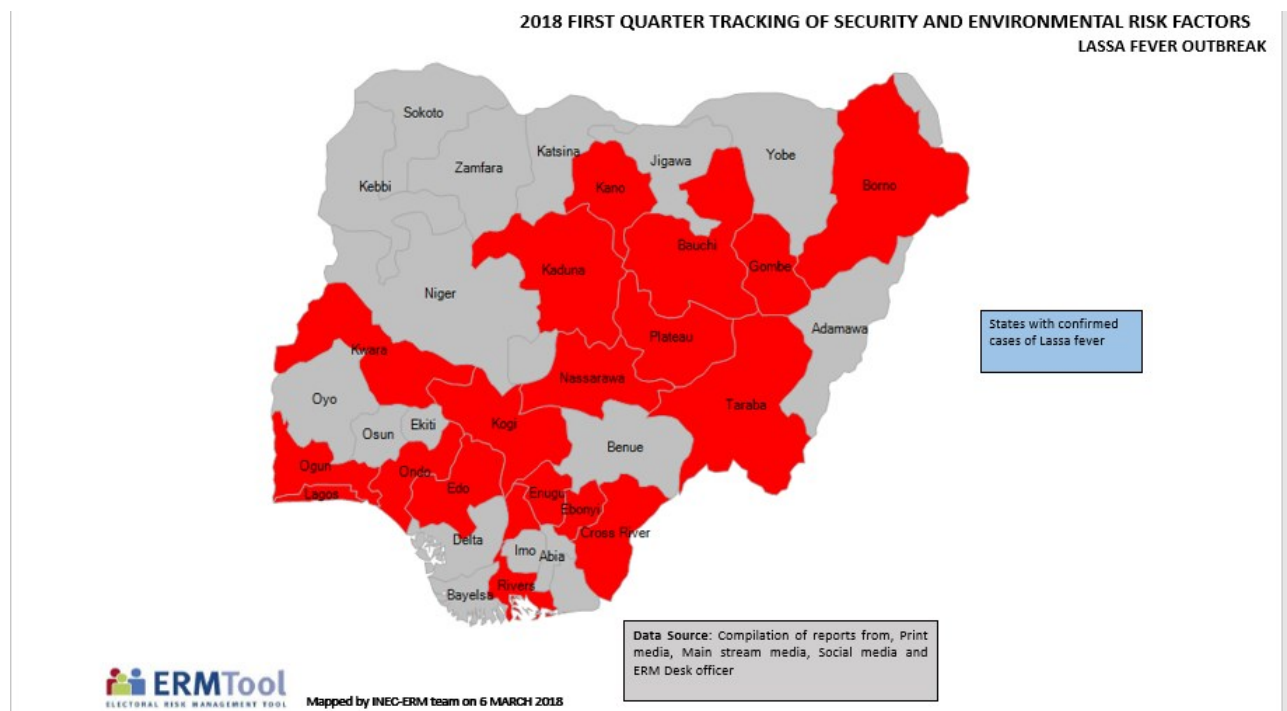
4.0 Electoral Risk Management Tool and the 2023 General Election

In light of heightened political, social, economic, and security concerns and their attendant negative effect on the electoral environment, the ERM tool for the 2023 General Election was re-defined to become more precise and fit-for-purpose in its process of data gathering, analysis and presentation. The re-defined ERM tool allows for geo-referencing, and geo-tagging of specific geographic locations of risk incidences and spatial data for accurate mapping to exact points/locales using the UTM GEO application to acquire coordinates of points, granular level mapping of electoral risks, revision of the existing generic electoral risk factor register to be specific to the Nigerian environment, redesign of the Assessment Checklist to be compatible with electronic database systems, classification of risks, empirical ranking of Risk Factors, GIS,

ground truthing for reliable data gathering, expansion of data sources to include stakeholders such as Security Sector Agencies i.e Nigerian Police and National Orientation Agency (NOA), capability of a meta-data function on points on the risk map. The outcome became a reliable and location specific data of Electoral Risk Factors (ERFs) which was used for a more accurate Electoral Risk Map for the 2023 General Election.

**Figure 4: Nigeria Electoral Risk Map 2023 General Election**
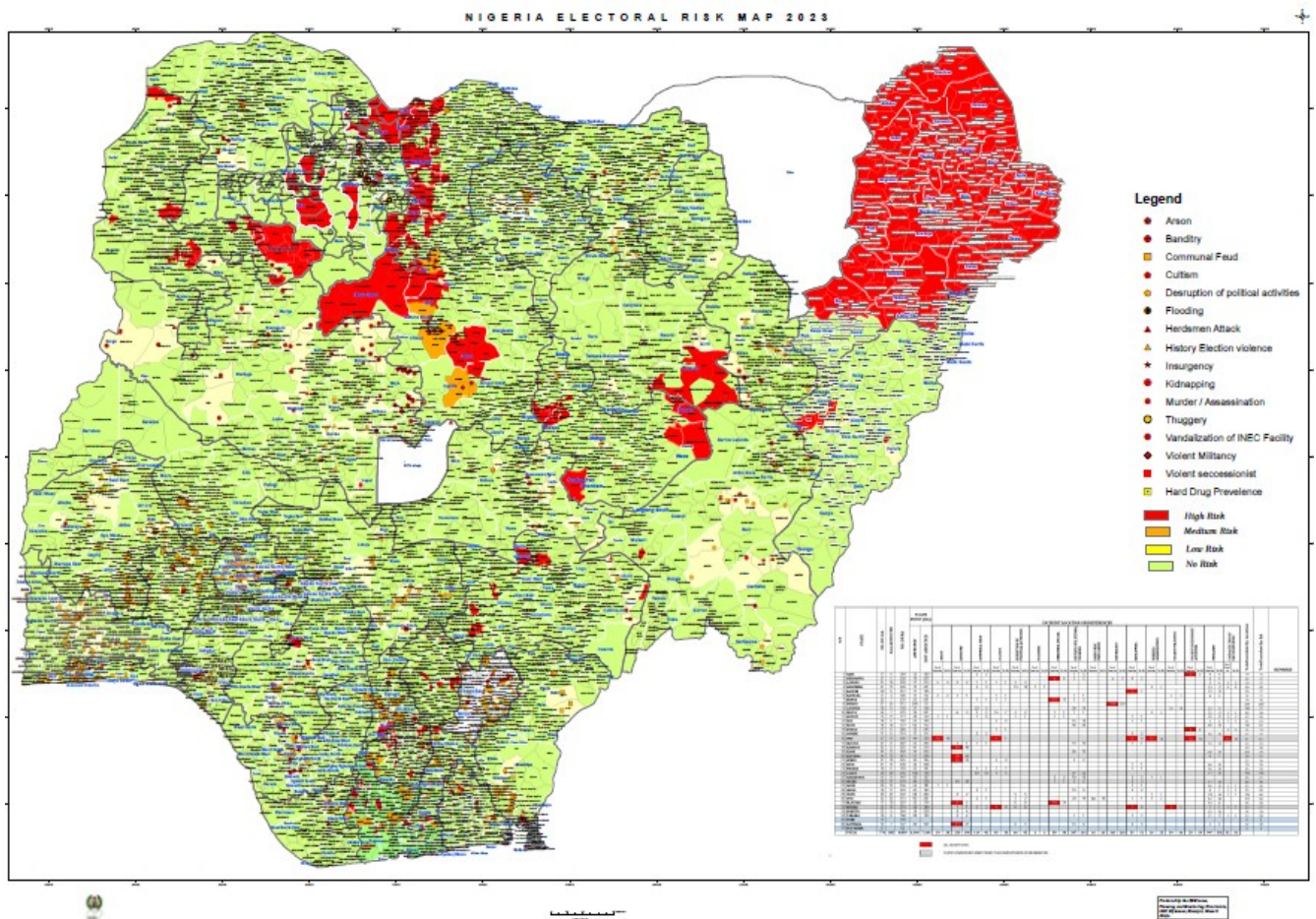
The ERM 2023 matrix and electoral risk map displaying an array of diverse risk factors in varying degrees across 29 states (excluding 7states and the FCT handled by EVMAT during the ground truthing exercise) is displayed above.

5.0 Electoral Risk Management Tool and the 11th November 2023, Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi Governorship Elections

In the same vein, the ERM team using the re-defined ERM Tool generated election risk maps for the 11th November 2023, Bayelsa, Imo, and Kogi governorship elections. Maps on security risk, material and money inducement, environmental hazard, and terrain were produced for the 11th November off-cycle elections in Bayelsa, Imo, and Kogi governorship elections. Dossiers covering risk maps, analysis of data, and recommendations were shared with the Commission at the national and state levels and with security agencies of each state during the ICCES meeting. Information provided by the ERM tool ahead of the election was of significant assistance to both the Commission and members of the ICCESS in the mitigation of security and environmental challenges.

Figure 5: Electoral Risk Map for Bayelsa 2023 Governorship Election (Security)
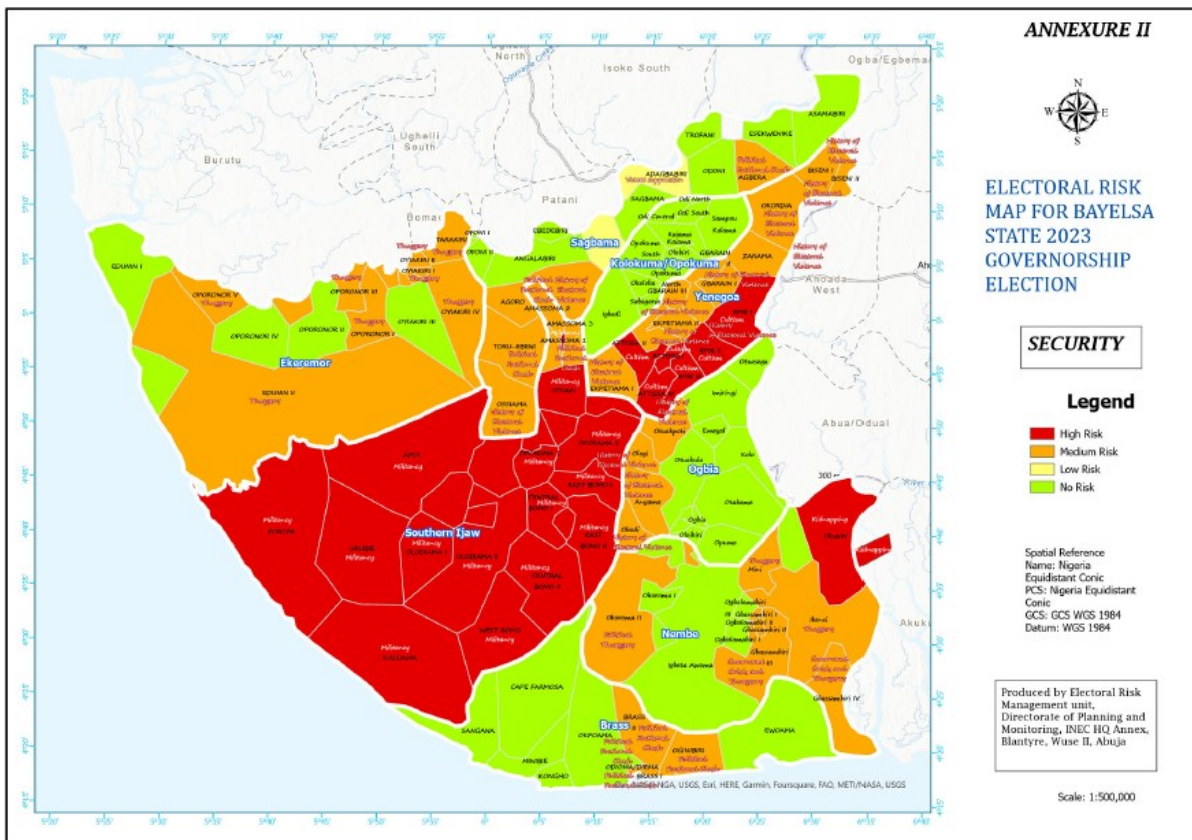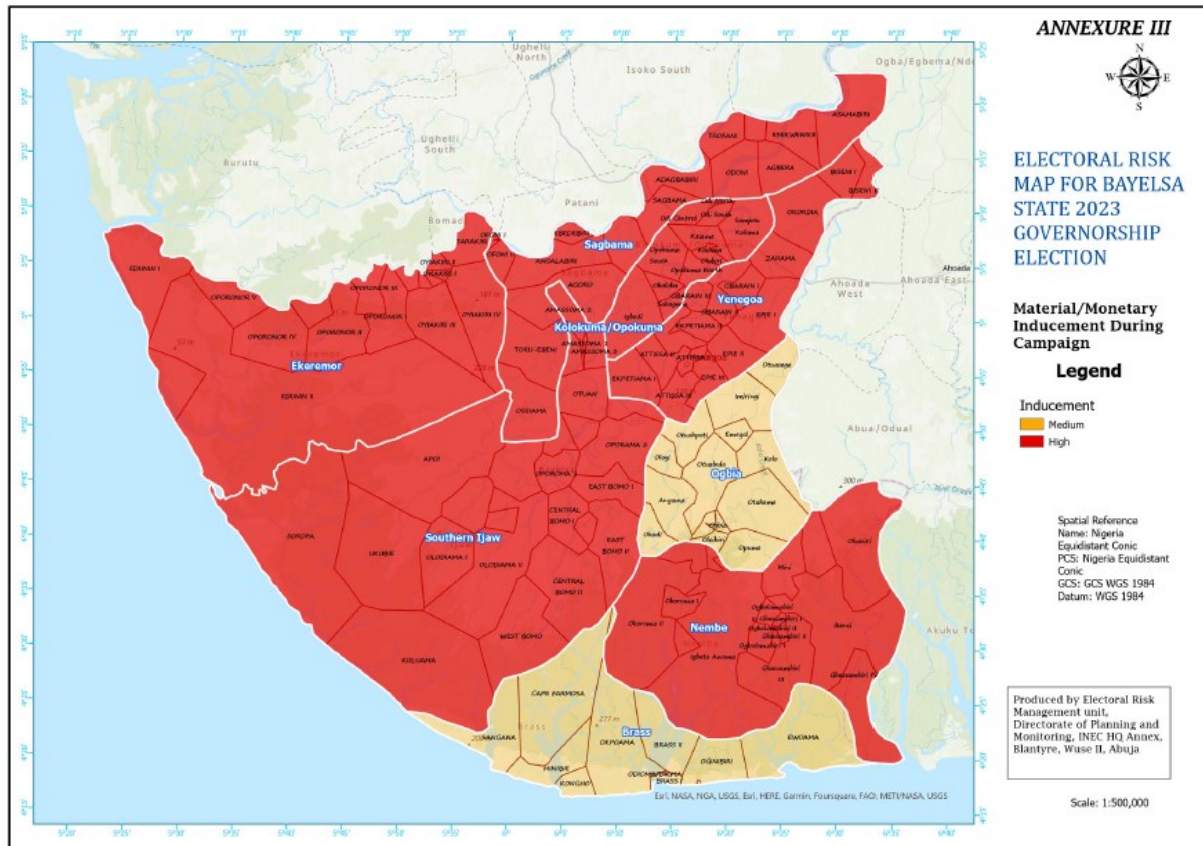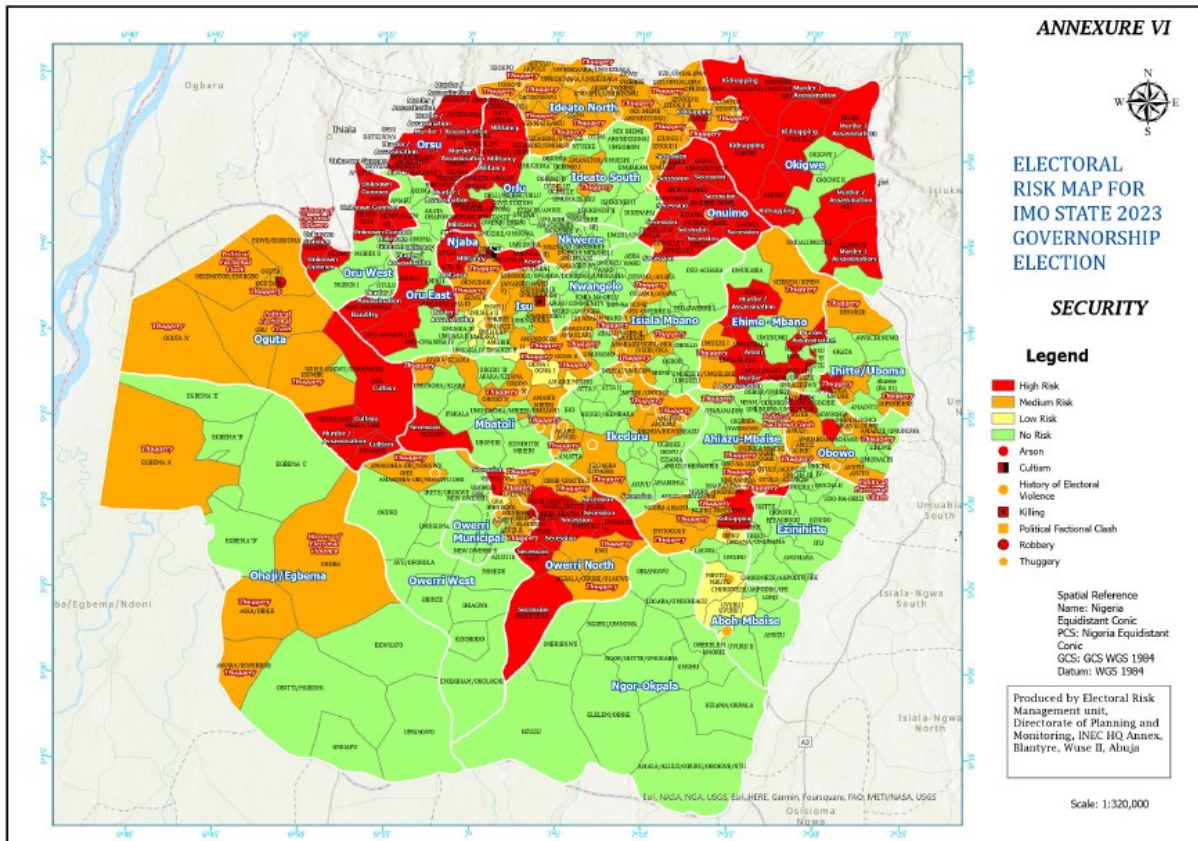
Figure 6: Electoral Risk Map for Bayelsa 2023 Governorship Election (Terrain)
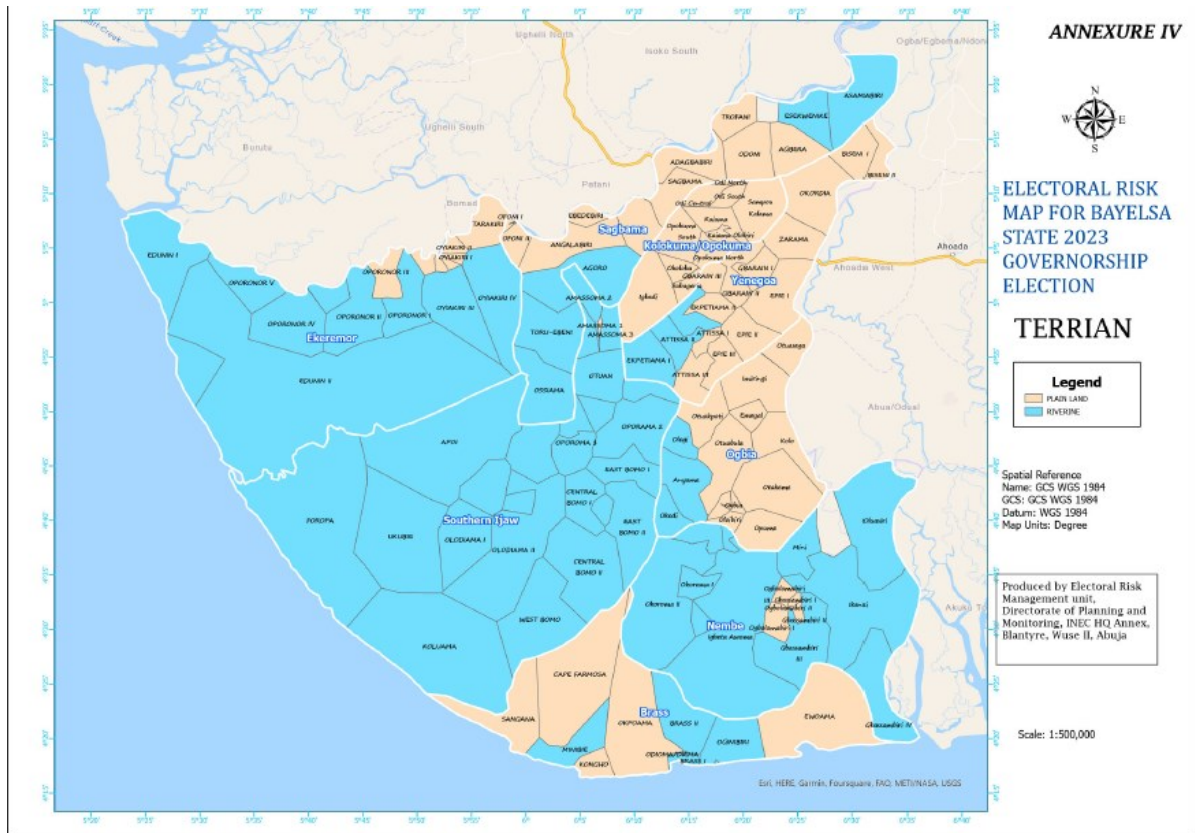
Figure 7: Electoral Risk Map for Bayelsa 2023 Governorship Election (Material/ Monetary Inducement)
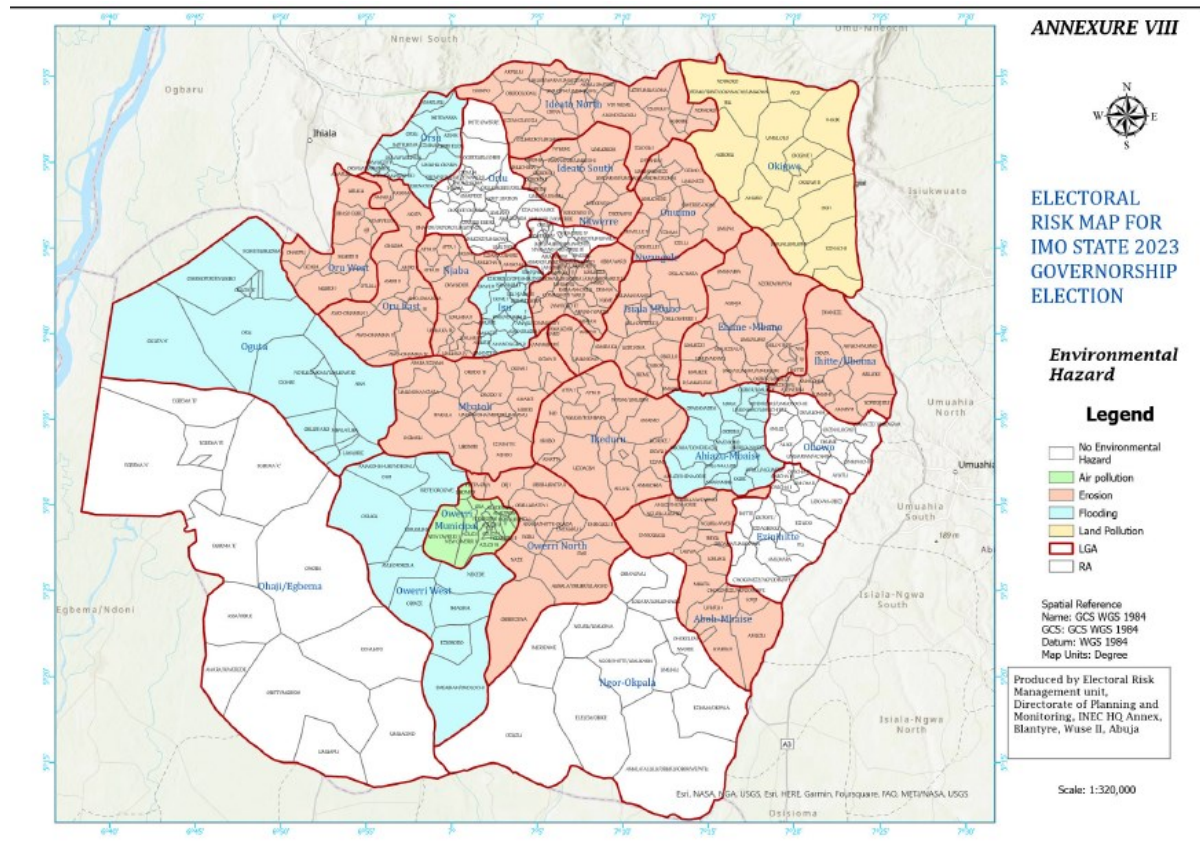
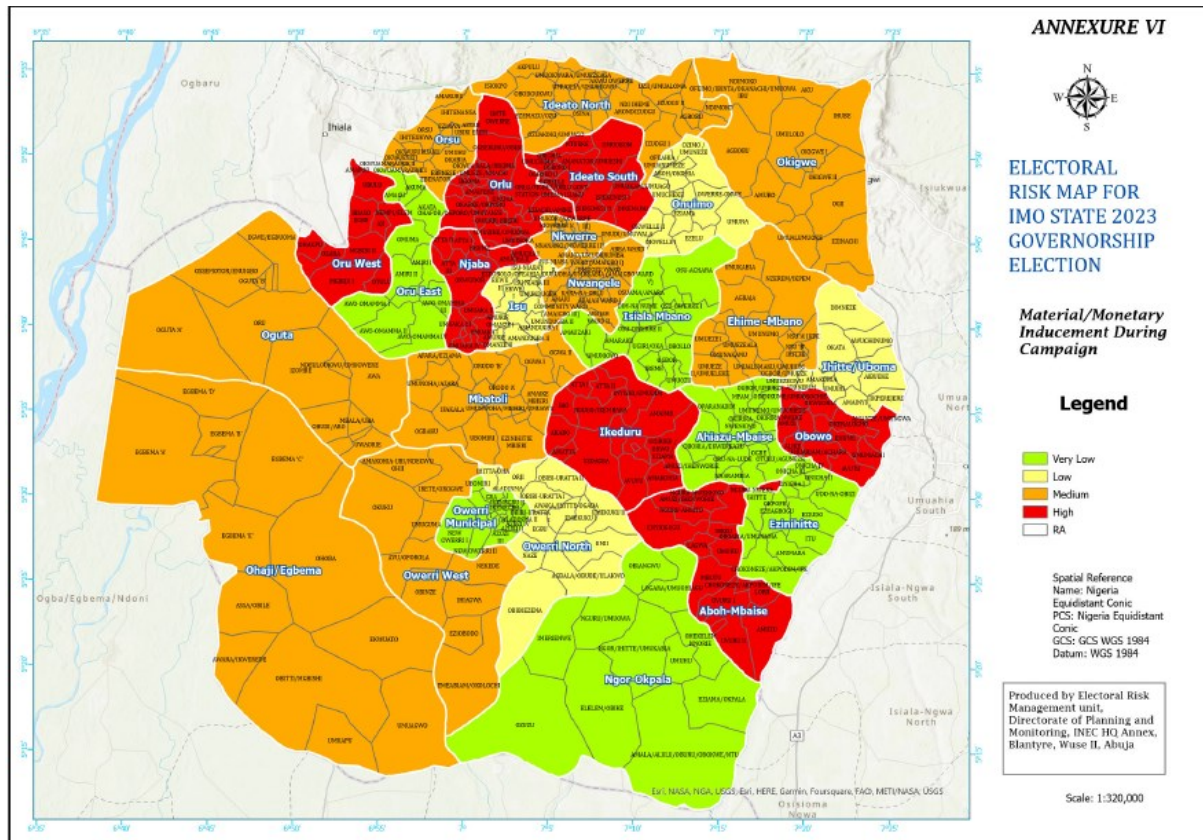**Figure 8: Electoral Risk Map for Imo 2023 Governorship Election (Security)**
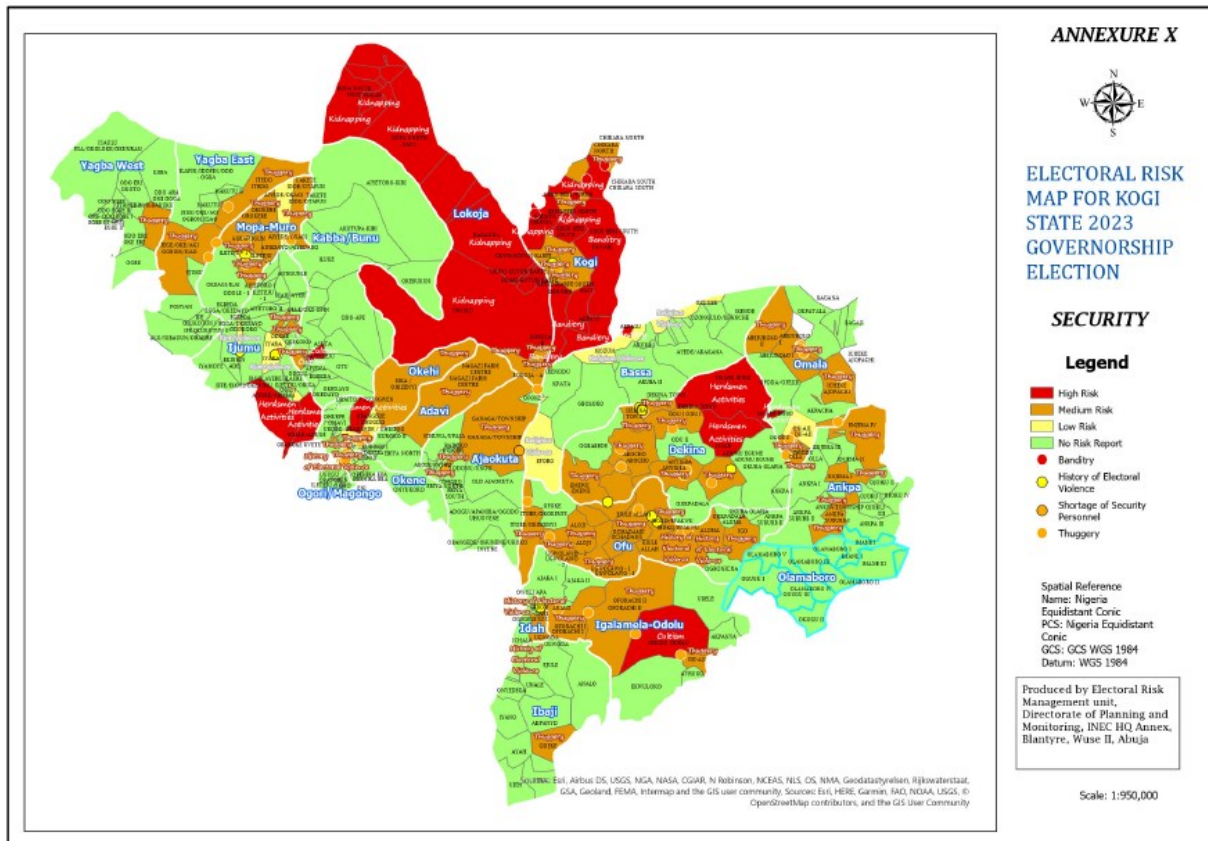
Figure 9: Electoral Risk Map for Imo 2023 Governorship Election (Environmental Hazards)

Figure 10: Electoral Risk Map for Imo 2023 Governorship Election (Material/ Monetary Inducement)
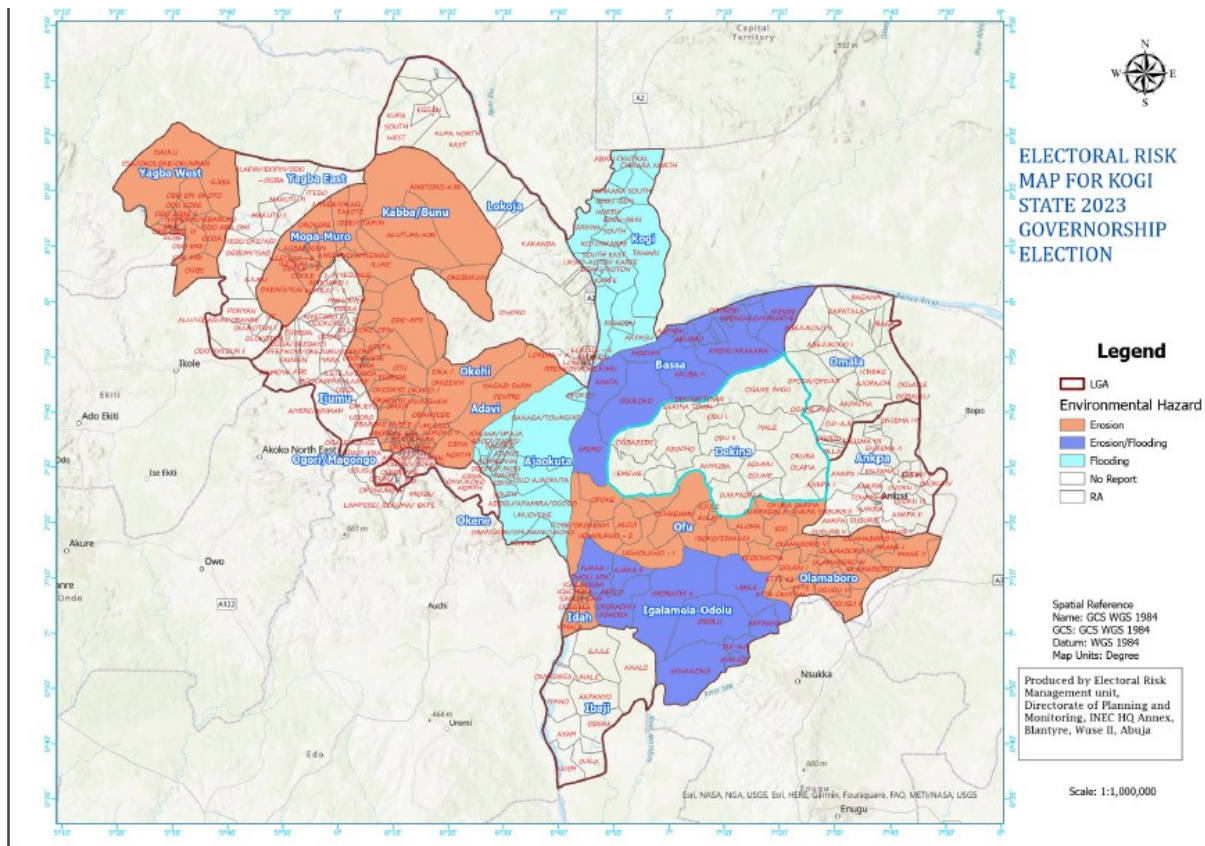
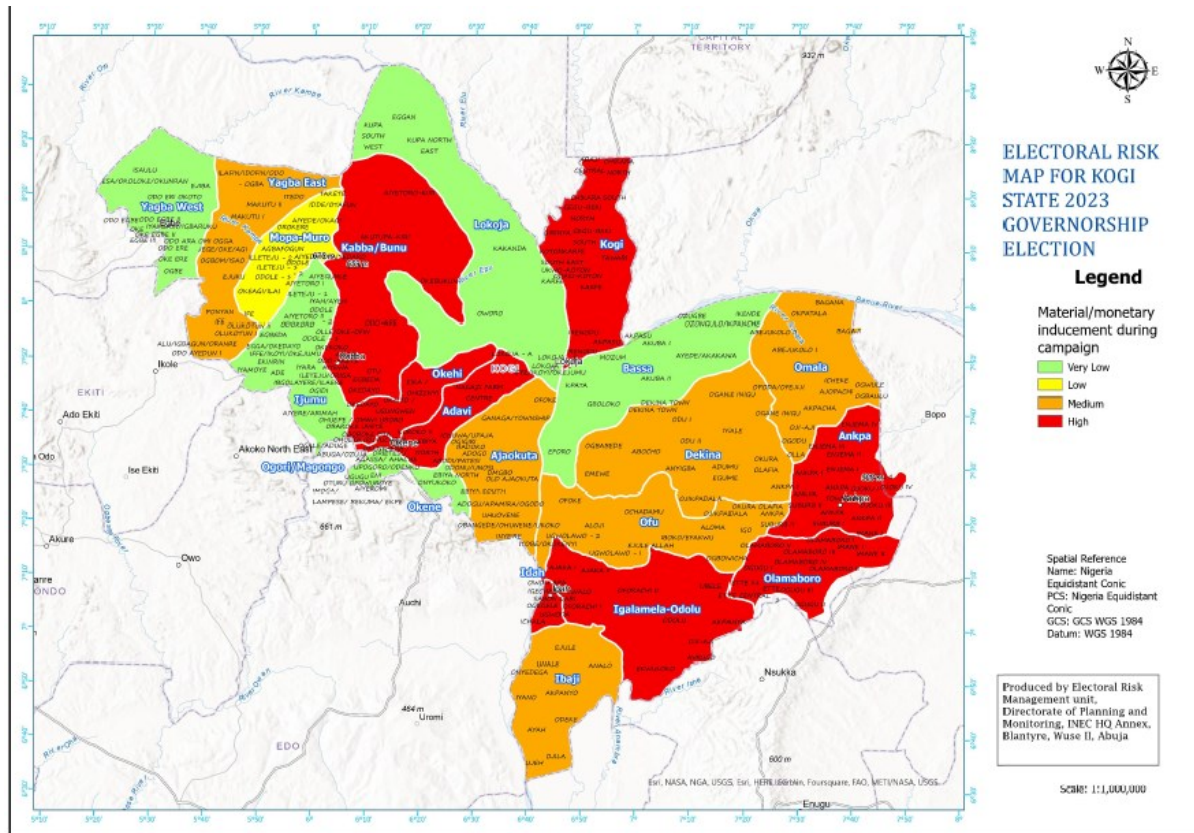**Figure 11:Electoral Risk Map for Kogi 2023 Governorship Election(Security)**

Figure 12: Electoral Risk Map for Kogi 2023 Governorship (Environmental Hazard)

Figure 13: Electoral Risk Map for Kogi 2023 Governorship (Material/ Monetary Inducement)

6.0 Electoral Risk Management Tool and the 2024 Edo and Ondo States Governorship Election

The ERM tool was equally deployed for the Edo and Ondo State governorship elections. ERM sensitization workshops were held in both states. In attendance at the ERM sensitization Workshops were members of the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security, representatives of Civil Society Organization, Media and other staff of the Commission at the state and from the headquarters. Ground truthing of electoral risk factors was also held in both states. Arising from the conduct of the ground truthing exercise was the

production of Electoral Risk Maps for both states showing levels of specific security risk factors in affected Registration Areas and LGAs. These maps and reports were submitted to the Commission and shared with ICCES members of both states. The electoral risk form and EMSC threats/risk form filled out by the ERM desk officers of both states keeps the Commission abreast of security situations. Reports and maps from the ground truthing exercise and continuous updates on electoral risk by the State's ERM are considered germane for election security planning in both states.

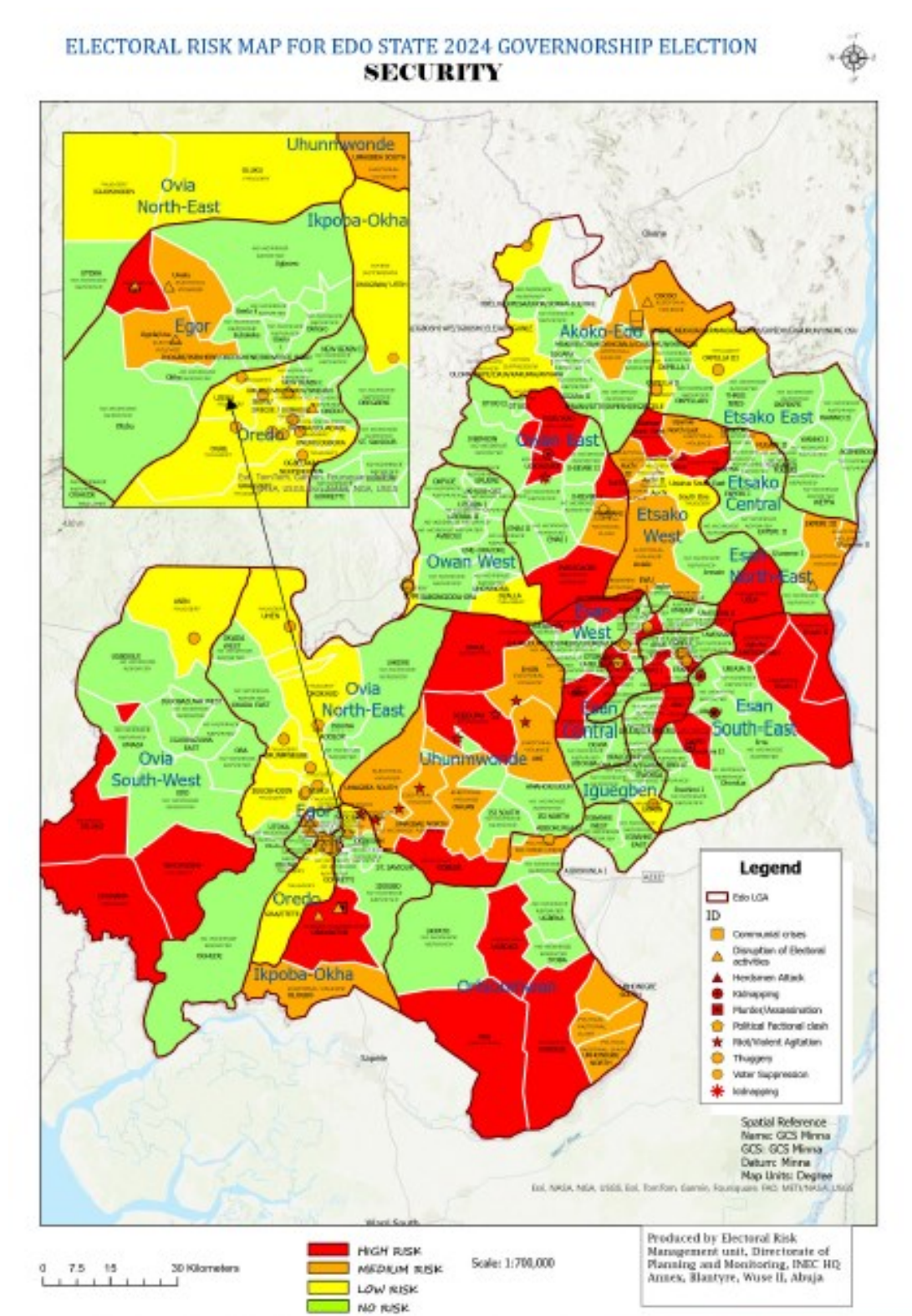**Figure 14: Electoral Risk Map for Edo 2024 Governorship (Security)**

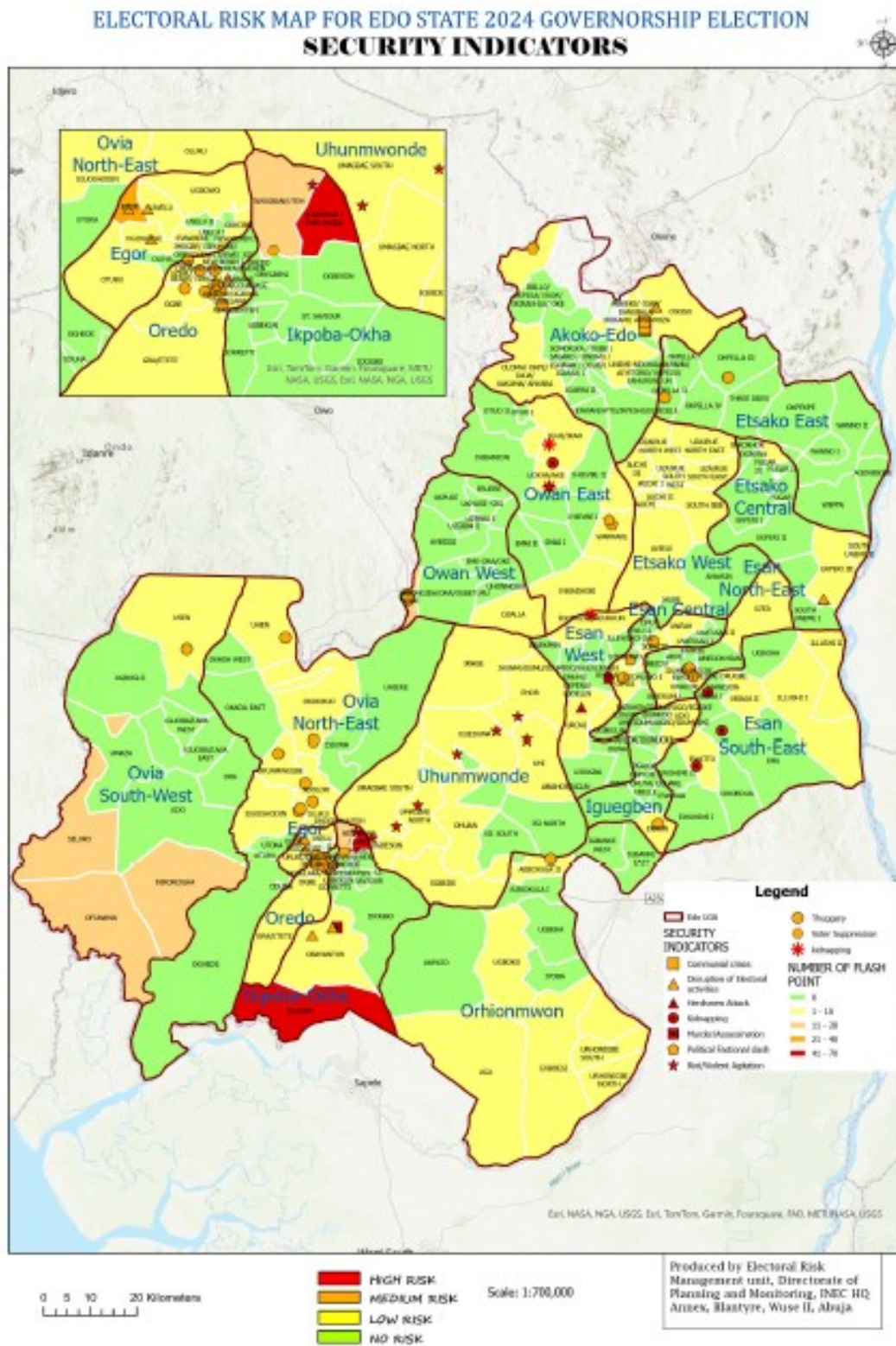**Figure 15: Electoral Risk Map for Edo 2024 Governorship (Security Map for Accessible Locations))**

ELECTORAL RISK MAP FOR EDO STATE 2024 GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION
SECURITY INDICATORS

Figure 16: Electoral Risk Map for Edo 2024 Governorship (Terrain Type)

ELECTORAL RISK MAP FOR EDO STATE 2024 GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION
TERRAIN TYPE

Legend
Edo LGA
TERRAIN TYPE
FLAT
HILLY
RIVERINE
STEEP
UNDULATING

Produced by Electoral Risk
Management unit, Directorate of
Planning and Monitoring, INEC HQ
Annex, Blantyre, Wuse II, Abuja

0 5 10 20 Kilometers

Scale: 1:670,000

Figure 17: Electoral Risk Map for Ondo 2024 Governorship (Security)

ELECTORAL RISK MAP FOR ONDO STATE 2024 GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION
SECURITY MAP FOR ALL RAs

HIGH RISK
MEDIUM RISK
LOW RISK
NO RISK

Scale: 1:700,000

Produced by Electoral Risk Management unit, Directorate of Planning and Monitoring. INEC HQ Annex, Blantyre, Wuse II, Abuja
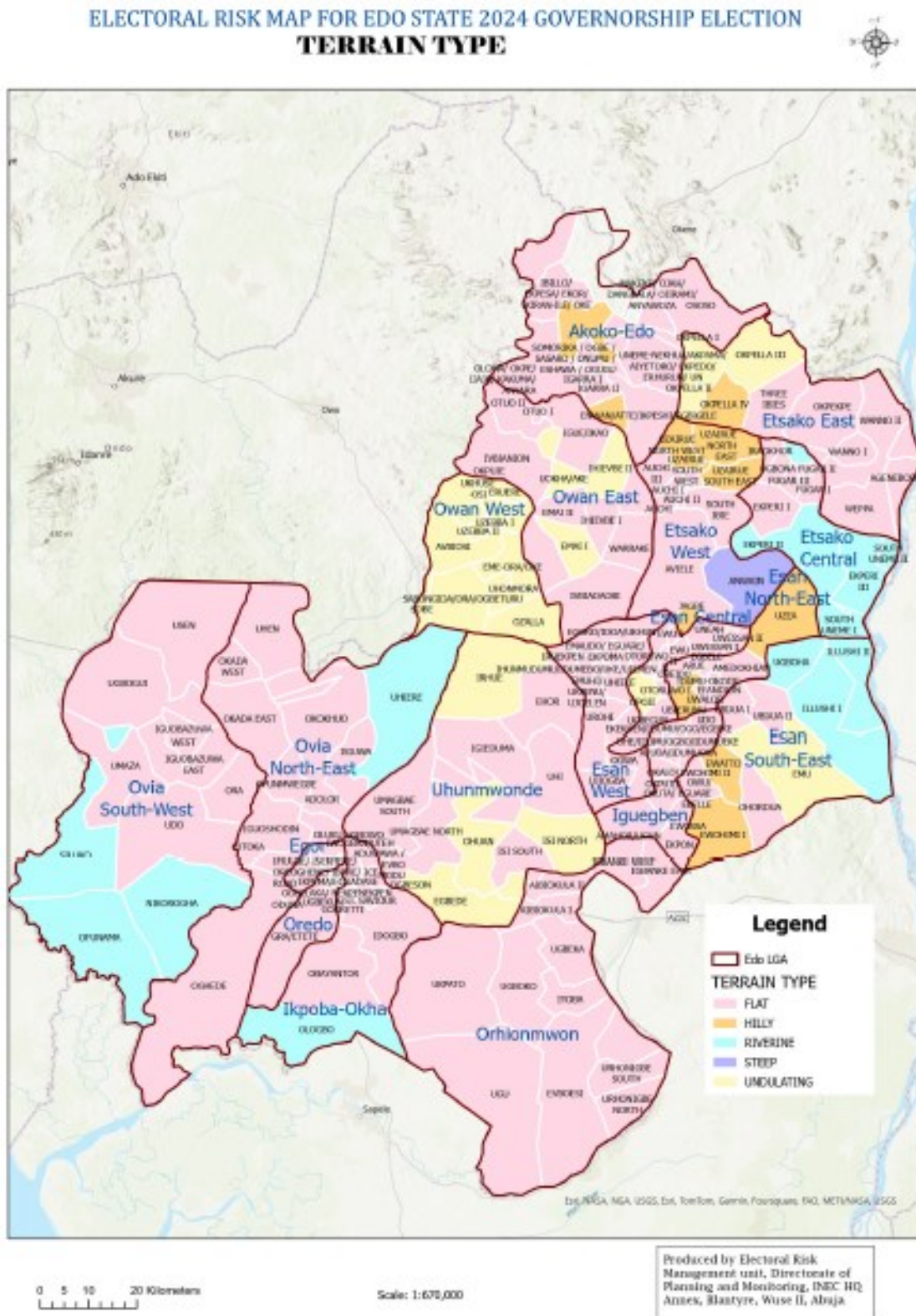
Figure 18: Electoral Risk Map for Ondo 2024 Governorship (Security Map for Accessible Locations)

Figure 19: Electoral Risk Map for Ondo 2024 Governorship (Terrain)

ELECTORAL RISK MAP FOR ONDO STATE 2024 GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION
TERRAIN TYPE

Legend

LGA

TERRAIN TYPE
FLAT
HILLY
RIVERINE
STEEP
UNDULATING

Produced by Electoral Risk Management unit,
Directorate of Planning and Monitoring, INEC
HQ Annex, Blantyre, Wuse II, Abuja
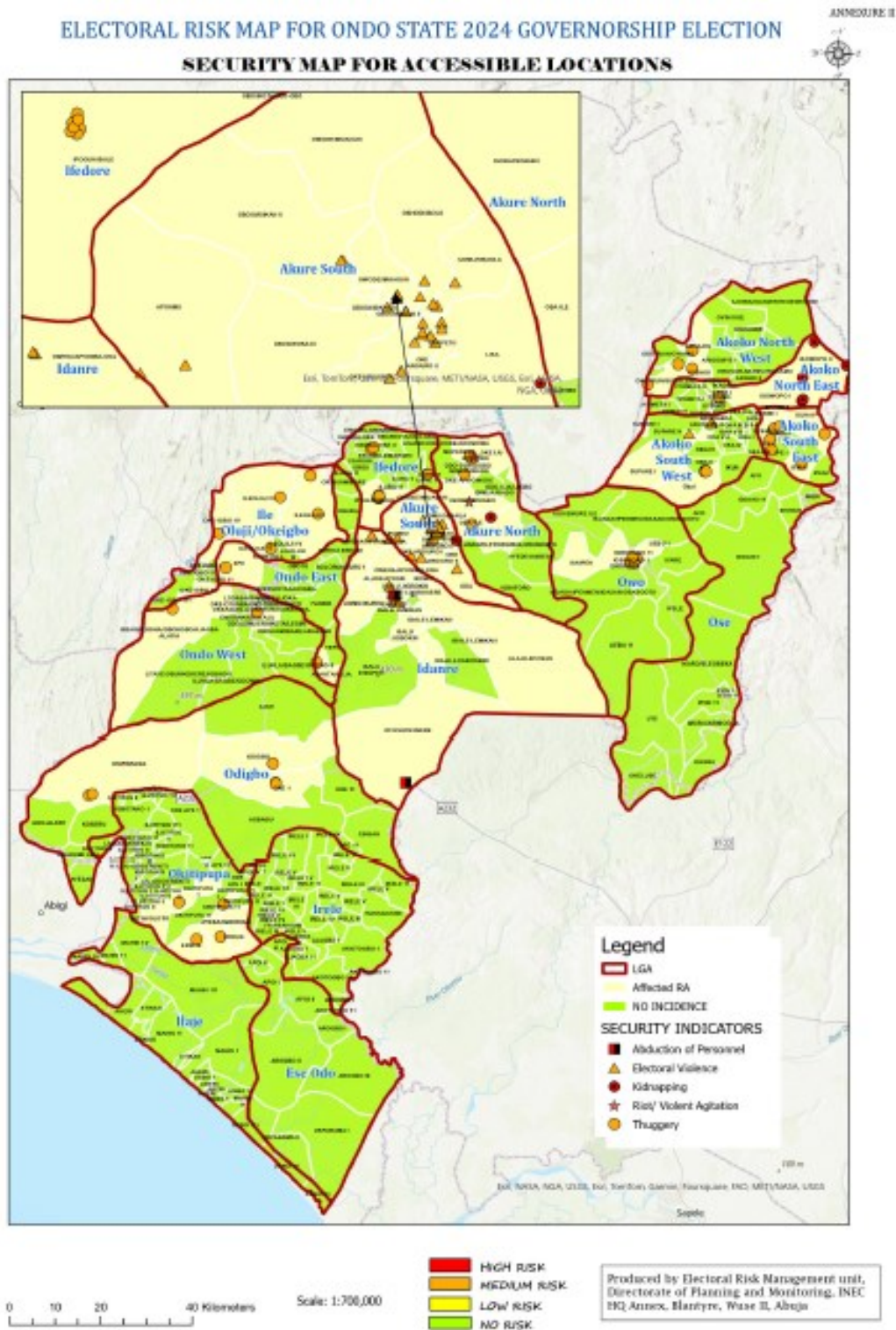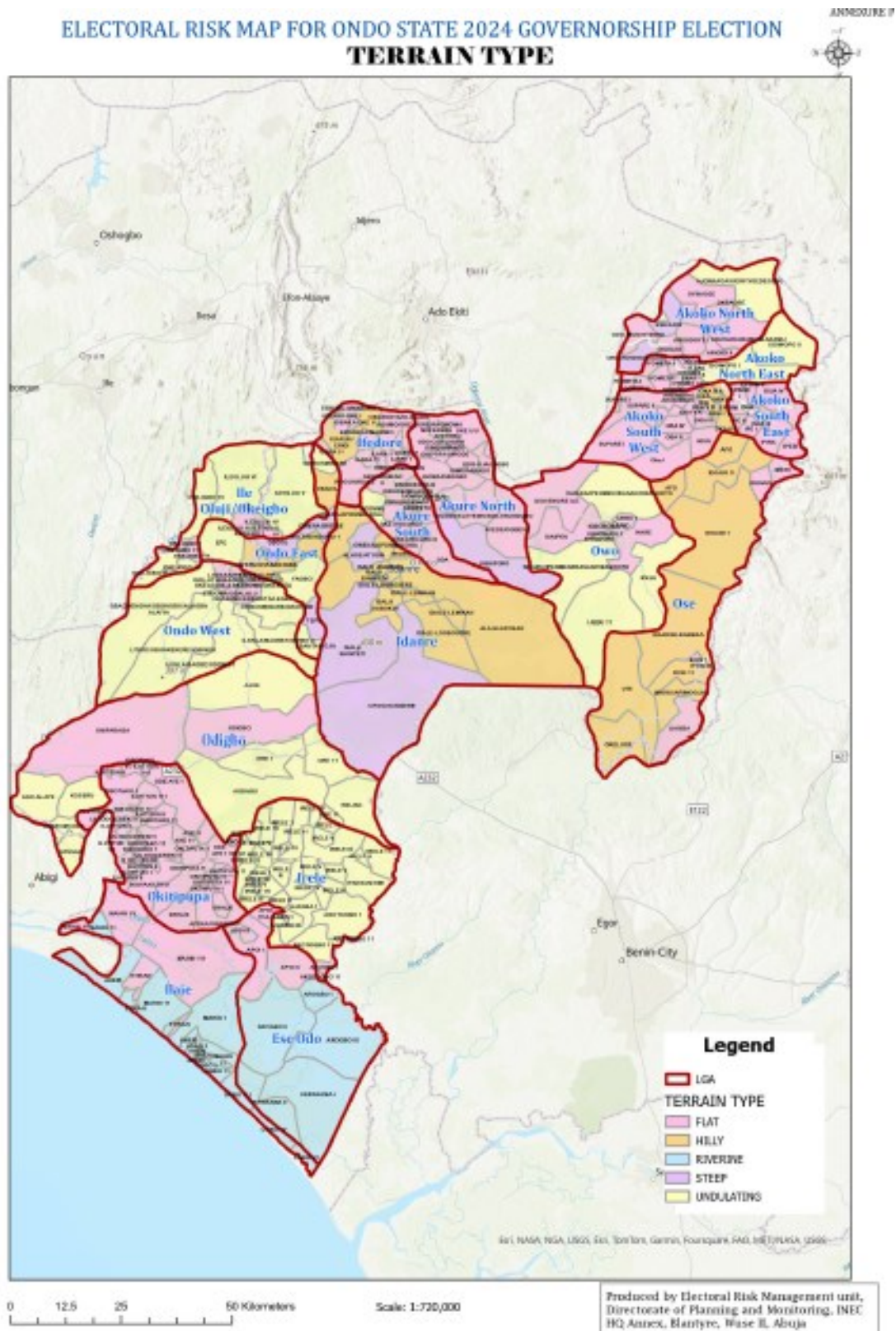
7.0 Conclusion

An extreme shift is observed from the mapping nomenclature of Electoral risk maps of 2015, 2018, and 2019 to those of 2023 and 2024 as presented in Figure 1 to Figure 19. Electoral risk maps before the 2023 general election were not location-specific and lacked geo-referencing features as well as geo-tagging of specific geographic locations of risk incidences as the UTM GEO application was not in use at the time. However, the 2023 general election risk maps, the Bayelsa, Imo, and Kogi state risk maps, and the 2024 Edo and Ondo electoral risk maps are fundamental improvements on ERM's hitherto existing mapping nomenclature as closest landmarks were used for inaccessible locations. The Commission remains committed to enhancing the effectiveness of the ERM tool in mitigating identified and predicted election-related risks and securing a relatively safe electoral space suitable for the conduct of free, fair, credible, and inclusive elections in Nigeria.