



TRADE ROUTE INCIDENT MAPPING SYSTEM

NEWSLETTER | September, 2015



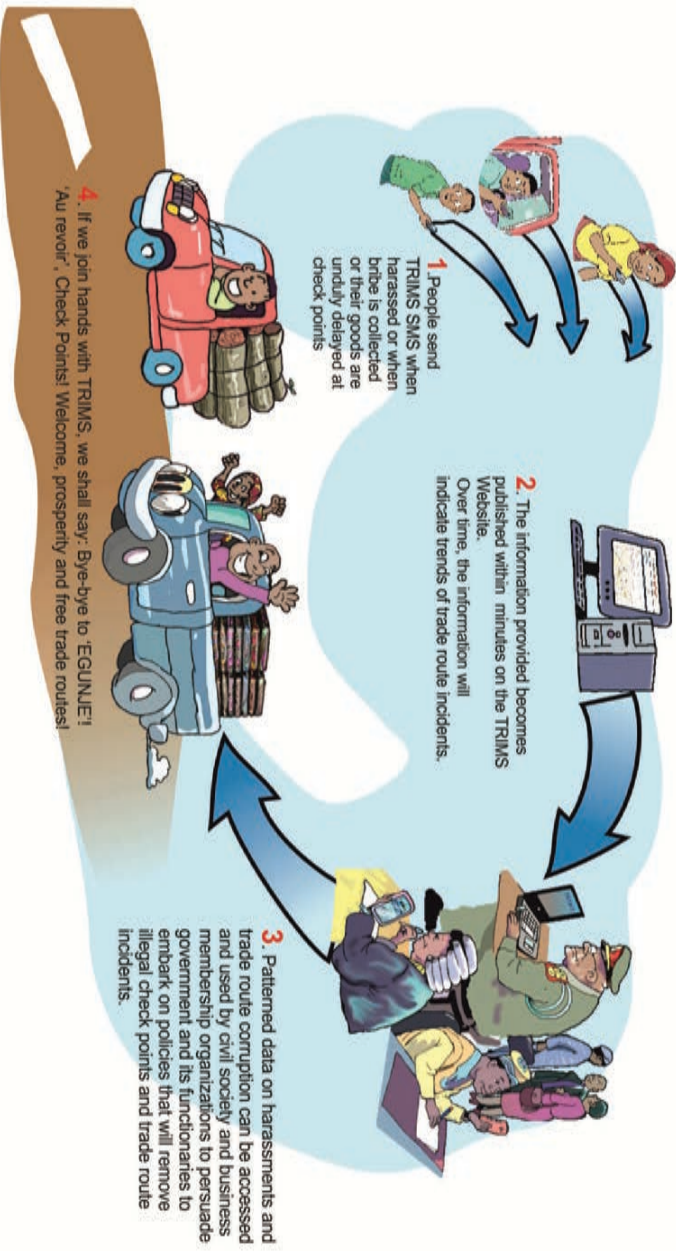


Why **TRIMS**?



Traders and business persons regularly face obstacles in the form of multiple levies, delays and other non-tariff trade barriers' when moving their goods and services along Nigerian trade routes and across borders in the region. These obstacles are created by a number of (often illegal) checkpoints mounted up by various law enforcement agencies where traders are intimidated and forced to make unauthorized payments. Sometimes they even experience physical or sexual harassment. These incidents constitute a violation of human rights, a threat to personal safety and significantly compound the cost of doing business for small traders – a burden which falls most heavily and disproportionately on poor women traders making up the bulk of the traders. This negatively impacts on the competitiveness of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and their ability to provide livelihood for the members of their family.

The TRIMS Logic



How does **TRIMS** work?

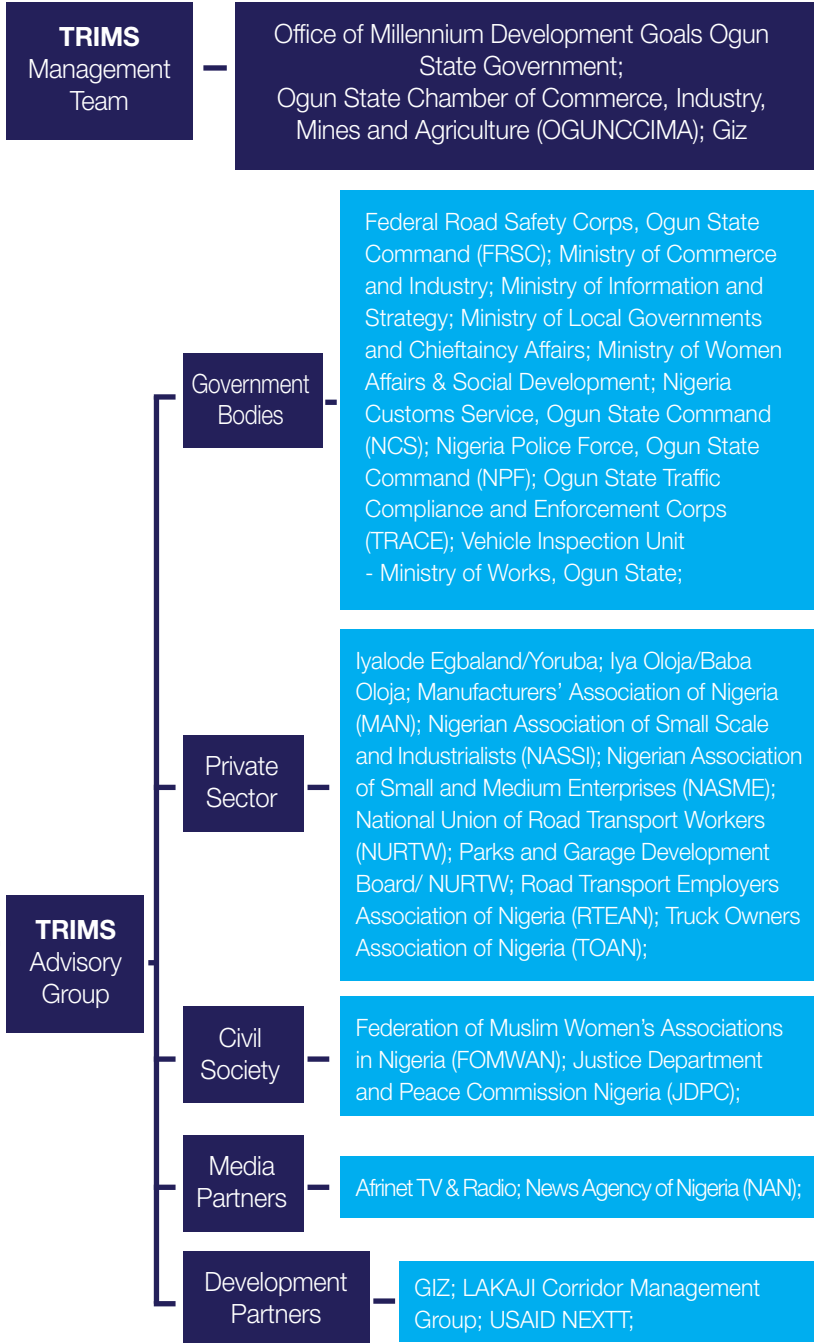
TRIMS is a facility for traders and transporters to send anonymous reports to an automated public website (www.trimsonline.org) via structured text messages (SMS) or using a TRIMS mobile App providing the following information on incidents along trade routes:

1. The agency involved,
2. The costs incurred (e.g. NGN 300),
3. The time delay caused (e.g. 20 minutes),
4. The gender of the trader,
5. Physical harassment or other violence faced,
6. The location where the incidence occurred.



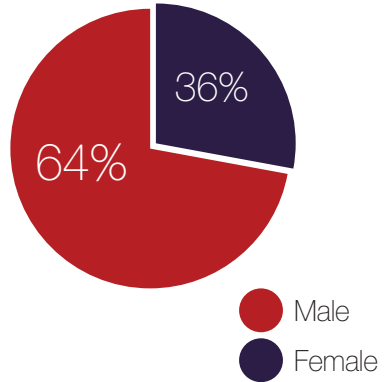
Since the information is crowd-sourced, over time, patterns will emerge and data gathered will provide useful information to the private sector and civil society in engaging government and other state actors in advocacy and dialogue for reforms towards positive change. At the same time, it will allow for understanding of the nature, source, depth and extent of the obstacles faced by traders in moving their goods. TRIMS is currently piloted in Ogun State. Of recent, collaboration with LAKAJI Corridor Management Group has started along the route Lagos—Kano—Jibya. This is a first step towards gradually extending TRIMS to other regions in Nigeria.

Partner Structure

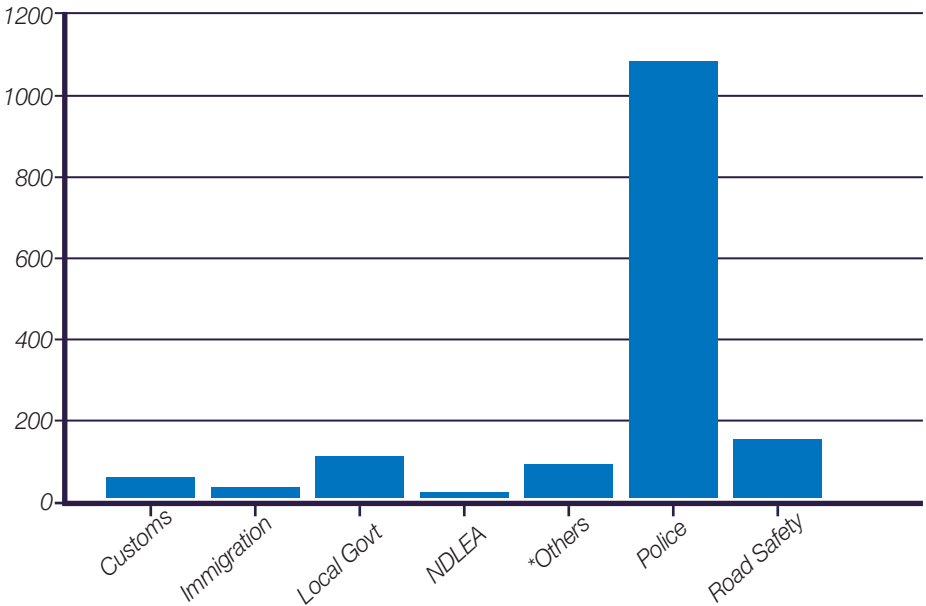


Gender of reporting persons

First results after 1,546 reports.

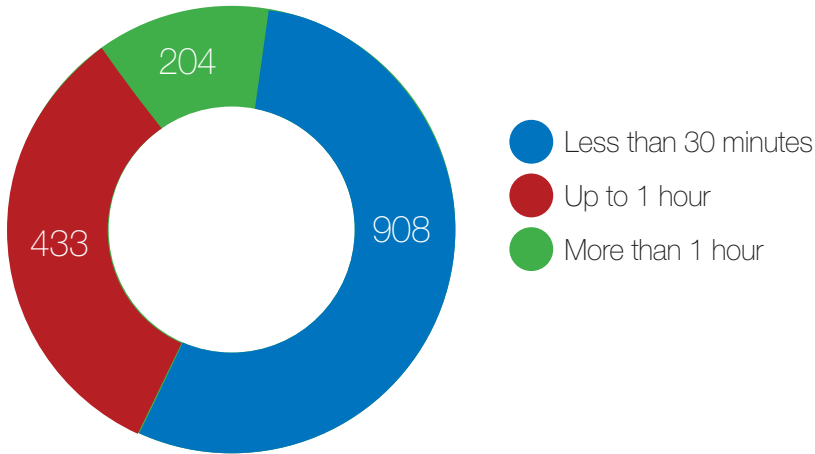


Who stopped you?

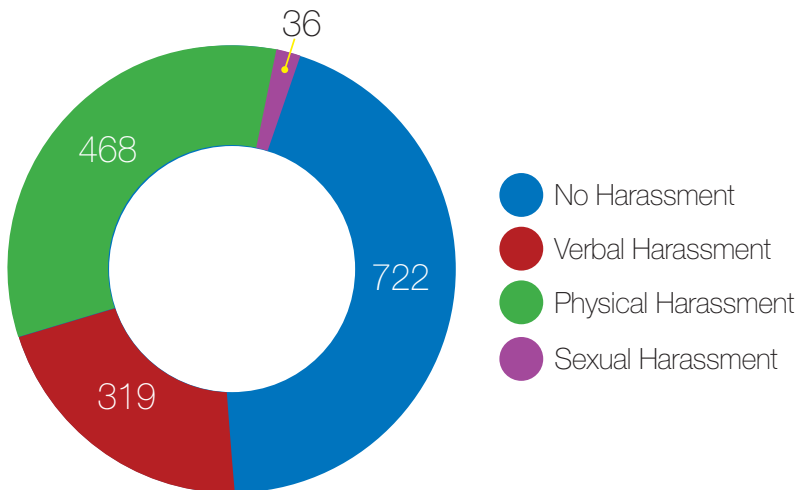


* Others could, for example, be VIO, TRACE or individuals.

How much time did you waste?

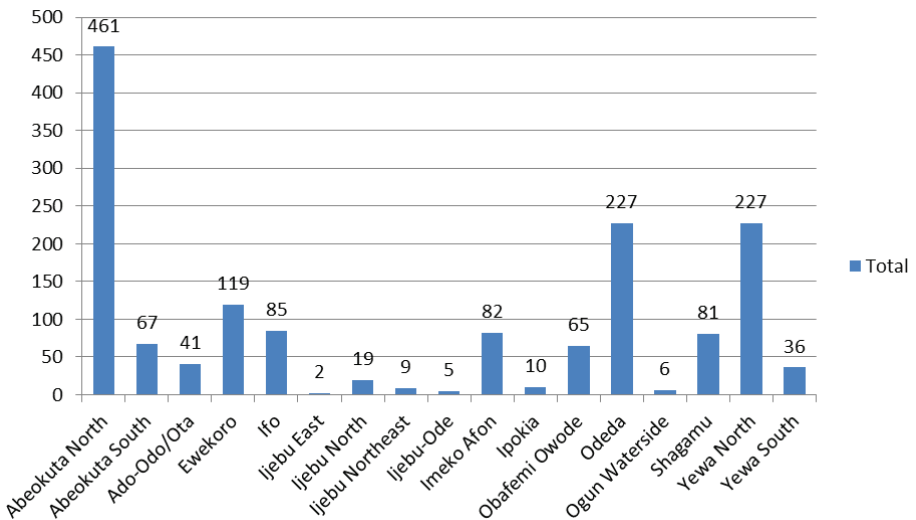


Where you harassed?



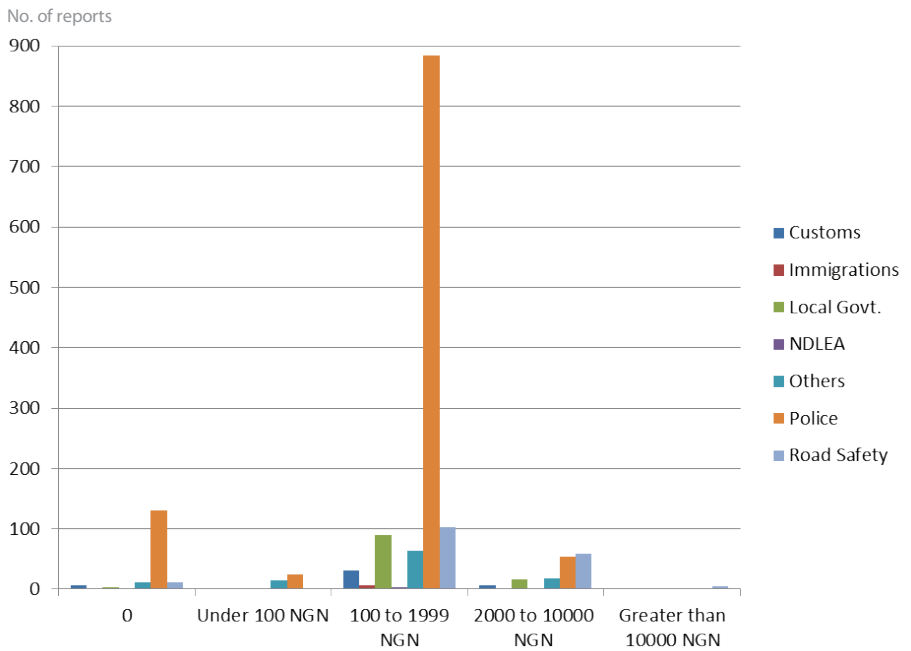
Local Government in Ogun State

First results after 1,546 reports.



At this point, the location of the incidents reported reflects the sensitisation efforts undertaken. Not all LGAs have been visited for a specific **TRIMS Training**.

Bribe amount per agency



*The average bribe amount is 757 NGN;
the median is 200 NGN.*

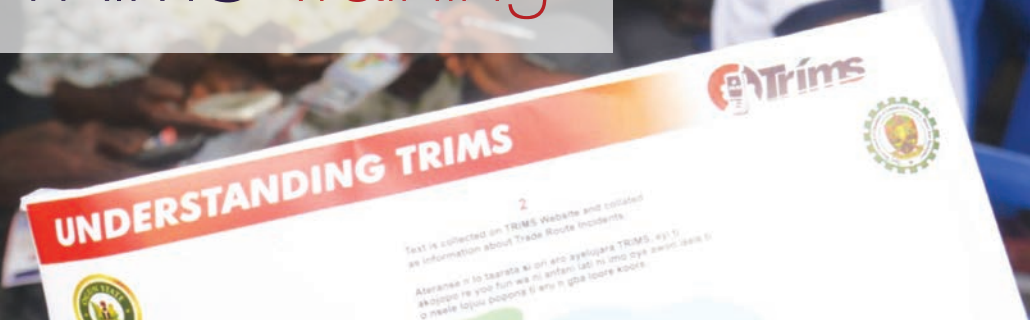
Jabata, Mama Funke and the Police

This story is based on true reports given during interviews at Igbo Ora Market.

Mama Funke was protesting loudly, she did not like night travel. But this was an exception she understood clearly. Jabata had issues to sort out with other drivers at the market and he was delayed. However, the trip from Igbo Ora to Abeokuta was supposedly short. They would be in Abeokuta in 15 minutes after the Igbo Ora/Abeokuta border.

Just as they were approaching the border, Jabata noticed a white Hilux parked, facing the highway. Boldly written on the van was the inscription “Shaki Border Patrol”. Mama Funke saw it and wondered what the van was doing at the Abeokuta border, over 200 kilometres to Shaki town itself. This clearly was a vehicle that was supposed to be manning the border area. “How did they even get the fuel to travel all the way down here? I thought there was no fuel.” “Stop the truck!”, the officer ordered. “No dey think I carry Alien o! The whole truck is full with cassava, officer!” The officer said he was not interested and couldn’t care less if Jabata had moon citizens in his truck. All he wanted was for Jabata to perform. The woman replied: “We no dey Nollywood now! How you wan make we perform?” Jabata however was not prepared for any long story, he had experienced this too many times and knew there was no way out. He got down and approached the vehicle. He dipped his hand into his pocket and... he performed. Common sense reminded him it was night and this was a very desperate team, that could have driven 200 kilometres to mount a road block at a time of acute fuel shortage.

TRIMS Training



1000 traders and transporters in Ogun State have been educated on how to use TRIMS, as well as on issues around contraband products, their obligations, and HIV/AIDS.



No road block...*No wahala!*



Visit www.trimsonline.org and download the **TRIMS** App for free!

This Project is supported by OGUNCCIMA and Ogun State Government, implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), and funded by the German Federal Government.

