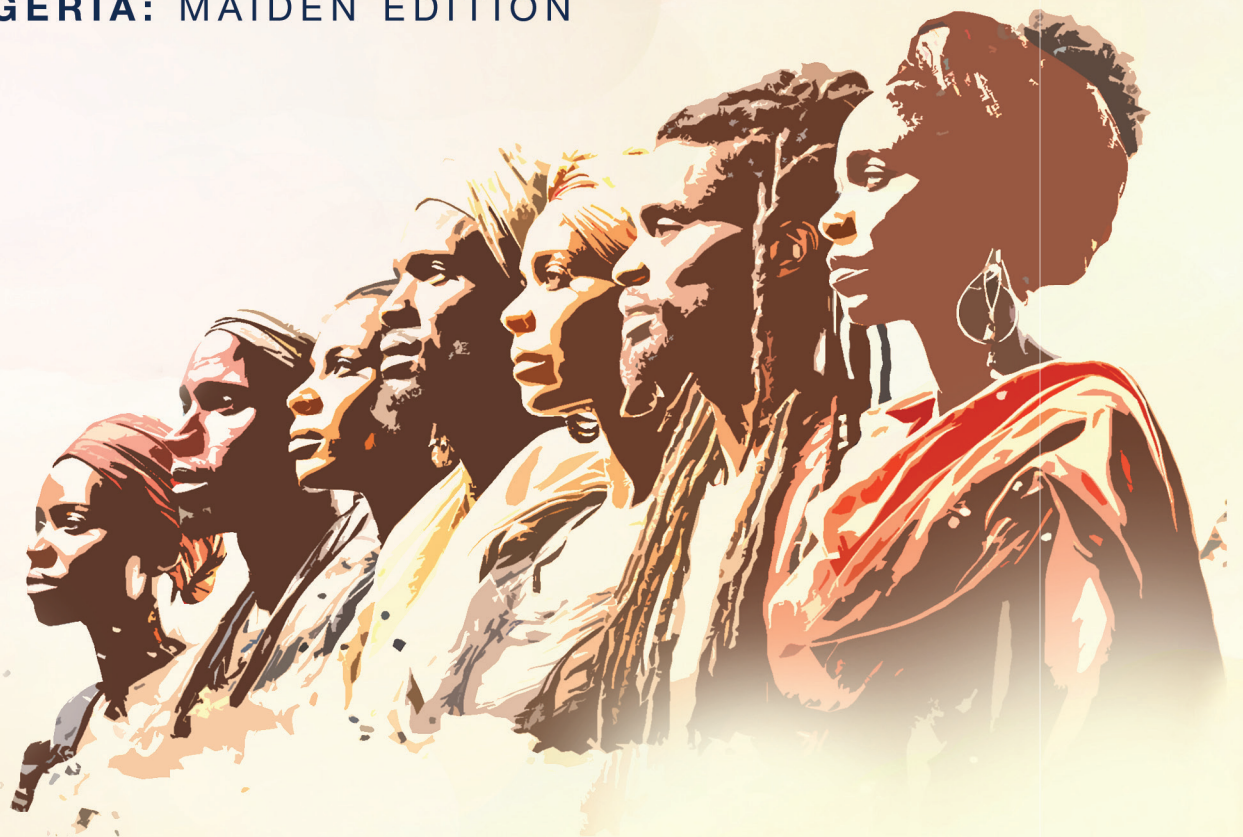


# Gender-Based Violence

## Prevention and Response

A Subnational Assessment

NIGERIA: MAIDEN EDITION



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The Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) is a coalition of the elected Governors of the country's 36 States. The Nigeria Governors Spouses' Forum (NGSF) is a coalition of the First Ladies from the 36 States. Both the NGF and the NGSF are key partners in the Womanity Index (GBV) project.

**Executive Director:** Bukky Shonibare

**Research Team:** Gabriel Okeowo, Iniobong Usen, Oludamilola Onemano, Folahan Johnson, Oluwatosin Iseniyi, Oluwaseyi Adenuga, and 37 State Research Consultants (SRCs) across the 36 States and the FCT.

**Support Team:** Joy Edo, Ebunoluwa Adegbie, Toba Caleb Akanmu, Ashionye Enumah, Samuel Atam

**Visualization and Communications:** Bukola Onwordi, Michael Pabiekun, Ayomide Ilesanmi, Nancy Chukwudumebi, Oladayo Olufowose

**Email:** [info@invictusafrica.org](mailto:info@invictusafrica.org)

**Phone Numbers:** +234 901 910 1011; +234 703 326 3444

**Address:** Plot 54, Cadastral Zone C01, Idu, Karmo District, Abuja.

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In addition, we recognize the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) which, with support from the Ford Foundation, produced a Policy Brief that analyzed the gaps in the VAPP Act and the VAPP/VAPP-related Laws in 34 States, helping in ascertaining the quality of each state's VAPP Laws.

# Methodology

The ranking and assessment of states' performance in preventing and responding to GBV in this maiden edition of Womanity Index (GBV) are based on 18 indicators spread across five indexes - Laws and Policies, Access to Legal Justice, Support Services, Information and Awareness, and Budget and Spending.

## Laws and Policies

This index assesses the existence and quality of relevant state and local government-level laws and policies aimed at preventing and responding to GBV in the State while strengthening extant laws and policies by expunging clauses that perpetuate or advance GBV. It also entails the criminalization of negative customary laws and harmful socio-cultural norms and practices that perpetuate GBV.

Data and evidence of these laws were collected from the State's Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Women Affairs, Special Adviser on Gender, Permanent Secretaries, and other relevant or designated MDAs. Evidence of policies was collected from public and private institutions, including MDAs, State Houses of Assemblies, public secondary schools, public tertiary institutions, courts, etc. Evidence of policies in private institutions was gathered from private secondary schools, financial institutions (commercial banks, microfinance banks, insurance companies), private tertiary education institutions, religious institutions (churches and mosques), and private businesses (real estate firms, law firms, etc.).

LAWS AND POLICIES			
Indicators		Source	
<b>GBV Prevention and Response Laws and Policies</b>			
Existence and usage of State laws that criminalize the GBV	Existence of laws but does not outrightly criminalizes GBV and no evidence of usage	No specific law outrightly criminalizing GBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal and States Ministry of Women Affairs</li> <li>Federal and States Ministry of Justice</li> <li>NAPTIP</li> <li>Relevant MDAs</li> <li>Desk research</li> <li>NGF/NGWF</li> <li>3 KI (1 evidence &amp; story from, each senatorial district)</li> </ul>
<b>Quality of State VAPP Law</b>			
Contains novel provisions that ensures GBV prevention and response	Absent clauses that do not negate the purpose of the VAPP Law	Version of VAPP Law is at variance with parent VAPP Law (2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>News articles</li> <li>KIIs</li> </ul>
<b>Customary and Religious Laws and Practices</b>			
Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	Existence of customary and religious laws and policies but no evidence of usage or outrightly criminalizing GBV	Existence of customary and religious laws and policies that perpetuate GBV	Evidence of law review process in the last 8 years - two administrations
<b>Reviewing and strengthening of GBV-related law, policies, and customs</b>			
Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	Infrequent and/or ineffective process of reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response between eight and 16 years	No effort at reforming or strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response for more than 16 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal and States Ministry of Women Affairs</li> <li>Federal and States Ministry of Justice</li> <li>Relevant MDAs</li> <li>Desk research</li> <li>1 Customary law / or Policy</li> <li>1 religious law / or Policy</li> <li>5 KIIs</li> </ul>

## Access to Legal Justice

This assesses the state's judicial system on its prosecution of GBV cases in ways devoid of bureaucratic processes and other factors that impede legal justice for GBV survivors. It considers the existence of specialized GBV courts and judges and/or designated GBV justice units with specially trained personnel. Also, it assesses the existence of a robust and accessible legal advisory and support for survivors of GBV, an effective witness protection system, enforcement of court judgments, as well as the publication and regular updating of a Sex Offenders' Register. It also assesses community-level informal justice systems in the state in relation to their functioning and alignment with principles of justice.

Data and evidence were collected from NGOs, SARC, courts, survivors, police stations, States' Ministries of Justice, GBV Specialized Courts, etc. Evidence of prosecution rate (at least ten prosecuted cases in the last ten years) was through KIs, court records, Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs), and NGOs. Data on the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of pro-bono legal services was collected from the Ministry of Justice, State High Courts, NGOs, SARC, State Nigeria Bar Associations (NBA), FIDA, and traditional and religious leaders.

ACCESS TO LEGAL JUSTICE			
Indicators		Source	
<b>Reporting, prosecution, and enforcement</b>			
Effective system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	Effective system of reporting and prosecution, but no evidence of enforcement	Ineffective system for GBV prosecution and enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal and States Ministry of Women Affairs</li> <li>Federal and States Ministry of Justice</li> <li>Relevant MDAs</li> <li>NAPTIP</li> <li>Nigeria Police Force</li> <li>Relevant organizations (e.g., Justice Research Institute, PWAN, FIDA, etc.)</li> <li>10 KIs with survivors – ease of reporting GBV case</li> <li>1 KI with local NGOs</li> <li>1 KI with a SARC</li> </ul>
<b>Legal aid and witness protection</b>			
Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	Available but not accessible legal aid service and/or witness protection program	No legal aid services and or witness protection program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessibility: Dedicated phone numbers or email addresses for legal aid</li> <li>Availability: NGOs providing legal aid and/or witness protection services</li> <li>Relevant organizations (e.g., Justice Research Institute, PWAN, FIDA, etc.)</li> <li>NAPTIP</li> <li>Relevant MDAs</li> </ul>
<b>Specialized GBV courts and/or dedicated GBV units</b>			
Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges in the courts	Existence of specialized but non-functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges in the courts	No specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges in the courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal and States Ministry of Women Affairs</li> <li>Federal and States Ministry of Justice</li> <li>Relevant MDAs</li> <li>Relevant organizations (e.g., Justice Research Institute, PWAN, FIDA, etc.)</li> <li>NAPTIP</li> <li>KIs</li> <li>Desk review</li> </ul>
<b>Informal justice system</b>			
Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV	Non-existence of informal justice system with processes and outcomes that perpetuates or advances GBV	Non-existent informal justice system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KIs</li> <li>Traditional leaders</li> <li>Religions leaders</li> </ul>

## Support Services

Holistic and effective support (medical, mental, social, economic, legal) for GBV survivors through structures such as shelters and Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) which are guided by effective Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and that are equally accessible and sufficiently proportionate to the state's population. It entails assessing informal support groups in grassroots communities; as well as the existence of state-level and, where possible, LGA/community-level Reporting and Referral Pathways, which are mapped in easy-to-understand formats and equally accessible to all, especially underserved and at-risk populations who bear unique and intersecting disadvantageous identities.

Data and evidence were gathered through Key Informant Interviews, as well as from government MDAs such as the Ministry of Women Affairs and from local NGOs responding to GBV and supporting survivors, including staff of Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs).

SUPPORT SERVICES			
Indicators	Source		
<b>Shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs)</b>			
Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state.	Availability of an active shelter but not in every local government in a State	No shelter active in the State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>States Ministry of Women Affairs &amp; Social Development</li> <li>Relevant MDAs</li> <li>6 LGAs (2 LGAs per Sen. Dist.)</li> </ul>
<b>GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway</b>			
Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	Existence of GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway, but not accessible or user-friendly	Non-existence GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KIs</li> <li>States Ministry of Women Affairs &amp; Social Development</li> <li>Relevant MDAs</li> <li>SARCs</li> </ul>
<b>Survivor support systems</b>			
Existence of, and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	Existence of holistic victims and survivor support systems but with limited accessibility to the population	Lack of support systems for GBV victims and survivors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KIs</li> <li>States Ministry of Women Affairs &amp; Social Development</li> <li>Relevant MDAs</li> <li>SARCs</li> </ul>
<b>Informal support systems</b>			
Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	Existence but not a holistic informal support systems	Non-existent informal support systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevant MDAs</li> <li>KIs: Community gatekeepers, traditional leaders, religions leaders</li> </ul>

## Information and Awareness

This index assesses the constant provision and dissemination of simple information, education, and communication materials about GBV, such that is user-friendly and equally accessible to all. It also assesses the availability of a comprehensive sex education curriculum in all primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions in the state, such that is regularly updated.

Data was collected through surveys and from community members, television and radio stations, and officials of the State's National Orientation Agency (NOA) under its Ministry of Information.

INFORMATION AND AWARENESS			
Indicators			Source
<b>Simple and accessible GBV materials</b>			
Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	Limitedly available and inaccessible GBV IEC materials	No GBV IECs materials available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KIIs</li> <li>• Surveys</li> </ul>
<b>Comprehensive Sex Education curriculum</b>			
Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	Existence, but unutilised comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	No sex education curriculum used in secondary schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KIIs: Parents, Students</li> <li>• 5 public and private schools</li> <li>• Ministry of Education</li> <li>• Relevant MDAs</li> </ul>
<b>Sensitization and awareness</b>			
Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	Existence of sensitization and awareness programs on GBV but not in all local governments in the State	No GBV sensitization and awareness programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Orientation Agency</li> <li>• Relevant MDAs</li> <li>• TV stations</li> <li>• Radio stations</li> <li>• Social media platforms</li> </ul>
<b>Equally accessible and user-friendly mediums</b>			
Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	Available GBV IEC materials, but not accessible to PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	No GBV IEC materials available for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KIIs: PWDs, and rural dwellers</li> </ul>



## Budget and Spending




This index assesses the spending by the Ministry of Women Affairs and the actual expenditure of the Ministry of Women Affairs as a percentage of the population of women in each state. Secondary data was mined from the budget implementation report and audited financial statements of the states.

BUDGETS AND SPENDING			
Indicators		Source	
<b>Budget Performance</b>			
Budget performance of the Ministry responsible Women and Children Affairs is 85% and above	Budget performance of the Ministry responsible Women and Children Affairs is greater than or equal to 50% but less than 85%	Budget performance of the Ministry responsible Women and Children Affairs is less than 50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audited Financial Statements</li> <li>Budget Implementation Report</li> </ul>
<b>Per Capita Spending</b>			
Actual Spending of the Ministry responsible Women and Children Affairs as a percentage of the female population is 800 naira and above	Actual Spending of the Ministry responsible Women and Children Affairs as a percentage of the female population is greater than or equal 500 naira but less than 800 naira	Actual Spending of the Ministry responsible Women and Children Affairs as a percentage of the female population is less than 500 naira	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audited Financial Statements</li> <li>Budget Implementation Report</li> </ul>





## Rankings

The infographic representation of the index and overall ranking is by colour codes in the order of blue, green, amber, and red. This means states are in bands of colours and arranged alphabetically under each colour code, which does not signify a higher rank of a state over another.

### INDEX RANKING

	Blue:	4
	Green:	$\geq 3$ but $< 4$
	Amber:	$\geq 2$ but $< 3$
	Red:	$< 2$

### OVERALL RANKING

	Blue:	$\geq 17$
	Green:	$\geq 13$ but $< 17$
	Amber:	$\geq 9$ but $< 13$
	Red:	$< 9$

## Method of Research

The research employed mixed methods for data collection using pretested self-administered and interviewer-administered questionnaires and a pre-validated interview guide. Qualitative data was collected through key informant interviews administered via recorded phone calls and physical meetings. Quantitative data was collected via self-administered questionnaires accessed via a Google link, and electronic interviewer-administered questionnaires hosted on an Open Data Kit (ODK) server. A desk review of relevant literature was also carried out to provide contextual underpinnings for the research. Both the survey and KIIs were carried out after obtaining informed consent from the respondents.

The analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data enabled a comprehensive understanding of the research findings. The integration of the survey and key informant interview data allowed for triangulation and validation of the results. The analysis process involved synthesizing the data, identifying commonalities and discrepancies, and drawing meaningful conclusions. The findings were then used to inform the development of the Womanity Index report, including recommendations for policy and programmatic interventions to effectively address Gender Based Violence.

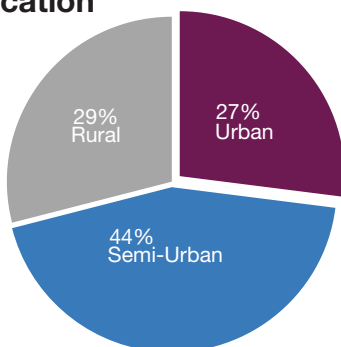
## Areas Covered

The interviewer-administered surveys were conducted across the 36 states of the federation and the FCT comprising 2 local government areas in each senatorial district across the federation.

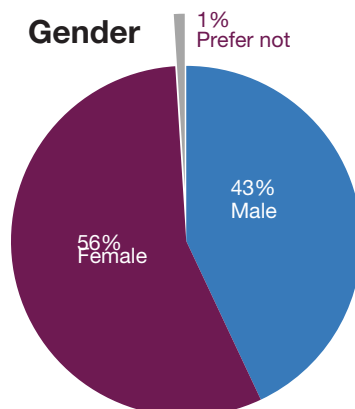
## Sampled Population

This surveyed covered a total of 5,819 persons, drawn from urban (27%), semi-urban (44%), and rural (29%) areas across all three Senatorial Districts in each State. By gender, the respondents were 56% female, 43% male, and 1% who prefer not to say their gender. The highest percentage of the surveyed population by age are those between the ages of 31-45, followed by those ages 18-30 (34%), 46-60 (19%), and 61+ (3%).

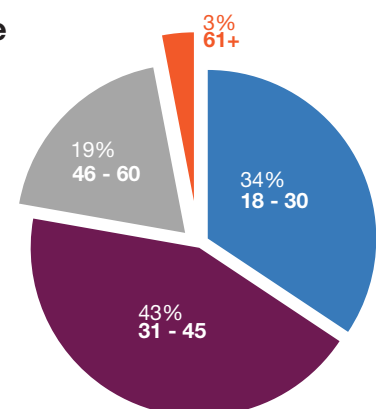
**Location**



**Gender**



**Age**



## Limitations to the Research

The timing of the study within a political transition period marked by high levels of activities and variabilities within the cadre of government officials on the demand side posed a major challenge to the research. In some instances, key stakeholders who were likely to have the most information on the research issues declined to participate due to time and other constraints such that the researchers were limited to those they recommended on the basis of availability, some of whom were constrained in the quality of information they could supply.

Secondly, getting GBV-specific budget information posed a challenge. The presentation of budget lines as aggregates made it difficult to triangulate spending on the four key indicators (laws and policies, access to legal justice, support services, and information and awareness) used in this research. Additionally, there was the challenge of engaging GBV victims/survivors as respondents in the study possibly owing to the sensitive nature of the research topic and the culture of silence prevalent in many parts of the research area.

Cultural sensitivity was prioritized throughout the research process, taking into account local customs and norms to create a safe and comfortable environment for respondents. Confidentiality and anonymity were ensured to encourage open and honest responses. Continuous monitoring and quality control checks were conducted to identify and address any issues that arose during data collection. Despite these efforts, it is important to acknowledge that limitations may persist. The findings should be interpreted within the context of these constraints, recognizing the potential impact they may have on the overall conclusions of the report.

# Definition of Terms

Terms	Definition
Anecdotal	Evidence derived from descriptions of cases or events rather than systematically collected data that can be submitted to formal epidemiological and statistical analysis.
Anonymous	Made or done by someone whose name is not known or not made public
Autism Spectrum Disorder (Autistic)	Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurological and developmental disorder that affects how people interact with others, communicate, learn, and behave.
Braille	Braille is a system of raised dots that can be read with the fingers by people who are blind or who have low vision.
Cohabiting	If two people, especially a man and woman who are not married, cohabit, they live together and have a sexual relationship
Family support units	The Family Support Units (FSUs) are specialised units attached to police station , with a mandate to investigate all forms of child abuse and violence against children (sexual and physical abuse, exploitation, including commercial exploitation, as well as internal and cross-border trafficking).
Forensic	The application of scientific knowledge to legal problems. especially : scientific analysis of physical evidence (as from a crime scene)
Gender-based violence	Violence directed against a person because of that person's gender or violence that affects persons of a particular gender disproportionately.
Genital Mutilation	A traditional harmful practice that involves the partial or total removal of external female genitalia or other injury to female genital organs for non-medical reasons.
Minor	Someone under the age of majority, which is defined as the age that distinguishes between childhood and adulthood in the eyes of the law.

# Definition of Terms

Terms	Definition
Perpetrators	Someone who has committed a crime or a violent or harmful act
Prosecution	The action of charging someone with a crime and putting them on trial.
Rape	Unlawful sexual activity, most often involving sexual intercourse, against the will of the victim through force or the threat of force or with an individual who is incapable of giving legal consent because of minor status, mental illness, mental deficiency, intoxication, unconsciousness, or deception
Referral pathways	Flexible mechanisms that safely link survivors to services such as health, psychosocial support, case management, safety/security, and justice and legal aid.
SARCs	Sexual Assault Referral Centres - commonly known as SARCs - provide crucial services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). SARCs offer confidential medical and practical support to people who have recently been raped or sexually assaulted.
Sexual Assault	Sexual contact or behavior that occurs without explicit consent of the victim
Shelters	A shelter is a place of temporary protection and support for persons escaping domestic violence and intimate partner violence of all forms
Survivors	A survivor is someone who hasn't died: the word is used often about people who have been through a horrible experience, like a plane crash, cancer, holocaust, rape or abuse. They have been through horrible ordeals but are still with us.
Victims	Someone who has suffered as a result of someone else's actions or beliefs, or as a result of unpleasant circumstance
Minor	Someone under the age of majority, which is defined as the age that distinguishes between childhood and adulthood in the eyes of the law.

# Abbreviations

**ACJL:** Administration of Criminal Justice Law

**AGILE:** Adolescent Girls Initiative for Learning and Empowerment

**AMAC:** Abuja Municipal Area Council

**AWLA:** African Women Lawyers Association

**BSAP:** Bayelsa State Action Plan

**BUK:** Bayero University Of Kano

**CBOs:** Community-Based Organizations

**CCN:** Christian Council of Nigeria

**CEWHIN:** Centre for Women's Health and Information

**CITAD:** Center for Information, Technology, and Development

**CLL:** Criminal Law of Lagos

**CMC:** Citizens Mediation Centre

**CPC:** Consumer Protection Council

**CRL:** Child Right Law

**CSA:** Child Sexual Abuse

**CSO:** Civil Society Organizations

**DSVA:** Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency

**DV:** Domestic Violence

**EKSU:** Ekiti State University

**ESLF:** Eunice Spring Of Life Foundation

**FCTA:** Federal Capital Territory Administration

**FGM:** Female Genital Mutilation

**FIDA:** Federación Internacional de Abogadas (The International Federation of Women Lawyers)

**FLHE:** Family Life And Hiv/Aids Education

**FMC:** Federal Medical Centre

**FOMWAN:** Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria

**FSU:** Family Support Units

**FUOYE:** Federal University Oye Ekiti

**GBV:** Gender-Based Violence

**GBVMC:** Gender-Based Violence Management Committee

**GLOHWOC:** Global Hope for Women and Children Foundation

**IEC:** Information, Education and Communication

**INGO:** International Non-Governmental Organisations

**JDPC:** Justice, Development and Peace Commission

**JONAPWD:** Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities

**LGA:** Local Government Area

**LSODA:** Lagos State Office For Disability Affairs

**MDAs:** Ministry Departments and Agencies

**MOJ:** Ministry of Justice

**MoWA:** Ministry of Women Affairs

# Abbreviations

**MOWASD:** Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

**NAPTIP:** National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons

**NASFAT:** Nasrul-Iahi-Ii Fathi Society of Nigeria

**NBA:** Nigerian Bar Association

**NGO:** Non-Governmental Organization

**NGWA-GBV:** Nigerian Governors' Wives Against Gender-Based Violence

**NHRC:** National Human Rights Commission

**NOA:** National Orientation Agency

**NPF:** Nigerian Police Force

**NSAGs:** Non-State Armed Groups

**NSCDC:** Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps

**OPD:** Office of the Public Defender

**OSAA-GBV:** Ondo State Agency Against – Gender-Based Violence

**PWDs:** Persons with Disabilities

**PHC:** Primary Health Care

**RRT-GBV:** Rapid Response Team-Gender-Based Violence

**SACA:** State Action Committee on AIDS

**SARC:** Sexual Assault Referral Centre

**SGBV:** Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

**UNDP:** United Nations Development Programme

**UNFPA:** United Nations Fund for Population Activities

**UNICEF:** United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

**UNSCR:** United Nations Security Council Resolution

**URPRP:** Unified Response Protocol and Referral Pathway

**USAID:** United States Agency For International Development

**VAPP Act:** Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act

**VAW:** Violence Against Women

**WACOL:** Womens Aid Collective

**WARIF:** Women at Risk International Foundation

**WDCs:** Ward Development Committees

**WOTCLEF:** Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation



# Data Sources

Data	Source
Population	Nigeria Population Projections and Demographic Indicators
Fertility Rate	2021 UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
Teenage Pregnancy Rate	2021 UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
Fertility Rate	2021 UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
Life Expectancy	Nigeria Population Projections and Demographic Indicators
Unemployment Rate	National Bureau of Statistics
Number of active shelters in the state	Key Informant Interviews
Number of Sexual Assaults Referral Center(s) in the state	Key Informant Interviews
Number of documented GBV cases, victims, and survivors	National Gender Based Violence Dashboard
Number of Specialized Family support units	Key Informant Interviews
Number of Dedicated GBV Judges in Courts.	Key Informant Interviews
Number of GBV Pro Bono units and legal units per population	Key Informant Interviews
Per Capita Spending	Budget Implementation Reports and Audited Financial Statements of States
Total Allocation to Ministry Responsible for Women and Children Affairs	Budget Implementation Reports and Audited Financial Statements of States

# Executive Summary

The Womanity Index (GBV) 2023 Report provides a comprehensive assessment of Nigeria's 36 state governments and the FCT based on their commitments to preventing and responding to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and creating a safe and inclusive environment for all.

Four states—Abia, Ekiti, Imo, and Lagos—are considered “Blue States” under the Laws and Policies Index, owing to the fact that they have established robust legal frameworks that criminalize GBV, outlawed customary and religious practices that perpetuate GBV and made consistent and result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period. The “Green States” are those that have relevant laws but which have gaps or exclude provisions, which, though problematic and should be reviewed, does not sufficiently invalidate the core purpose of the law. The “Amber” states have relevant laws but with varying degrees of gaps that negatively impact the core purpose that the Law should or seeks to achieve; and, in some cases, relevant provisions for preventing and responding to GBV has been excluded from or watered down in the state's version of the law. The “Red States” are those without a law that outrightly criminalizes GBV. Across board, under the laws and policies index, we considered the existence of negative customary laws and/or harmful cultural/traditional practices that perpetuate or reinforces GBV.

On the Access to Legal Justice Index, six states are ranked “Red States” due to their weak system for GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement, lack of witness protection programs, lack of or insufficient dedicated GBV courts and judges, and/or the existence of informal justice system with processes and outcomes that perpetuates or advances GBV. Overall, there are 21 “Amber States” for this index, while nine states were ranked “Green States” with Lagos State maintaining its place at the top for establishing a robust and functional legal system, specialized courts to deal with GBV cases, regularly building capacity of law enforcement agencies to

handle GBV cases, and reforming their informal justice systems to ensure responsiveness, fairness, and an alignment with human rights principles.

While Lagos State maintains its “Blue” ranking also for the Support Services Index, five states—Ekiti, Rivers, Adamawa, Ogun, and Borno—are ranked “Green States” and 24 states are ranked “Amber States.” These states, per our data and evidence, have at least one active shelter or SARC, where the differentiating factor is the number of these structures to the state's population, as well as their functionality, accessibility, range of services, and their ownership/management by the state government. This states are also assessed on the availability and accessibility of user-friendly, multi-pronged GBV Reporting and Referral Pathways, the existence and access to holistic support systems for all GBV victims and survivors, as well as the recognition of informal support services, provided their activities are not repugnant to human rights.

While no State ranked as a “Blue State” on the “Information and Awareness” index, eight states fell under the category of “Green States”. These “Green States” not only ensured a widespread dissemination of GBV IEC materials, but also frequently carried out sensitisation and awareness campaigns in all local governments within the state. Furthermore, the aforementioned “Green States” were adjudged to have incorporated comprehensive sex education in their secondary school curriculum. Conversely, the 16 “Amber States” and 13 “Red States” under the “Information and Awareness” index had majority of their GBV IEC materials not accessible to persons living with disabilities. Similarly, although the states conducted awareness and sensitisation campaigns and produced GBV IEC materials, both interventions were done sparingly and not disseminated widely across the states.

Relying on budget data available in the audited financial statements and budget implementation reports over the last three budget circles, there was a consistent increase in the average spending per female population of the relevant Ministry responsible for women and children in the 36 states. Over the three-year period under review, there has been a consistent increase from N72.8 in 2020 to N114.1 in 2021, and N231.3 in 2022. However, the ministry responsible for women and children in 25 states spent below the national average of N231.3 in 2022 and same ministry of 26 states spent below the 2021 national average. On budget performance, just 2 states surpassed an 85% execution rate in 2022. 5 states and 6 states surpassed an 85% budget execution rate in 2020 and 2021 respectively. At least 20 states did not execute up to 50% of the budgets of the Ministry responsible for women and children affairs in 2021, 2022 and 2023. As a result, 29 states got the “Red State” status on the “Budget and Spending” index.

Overall, Lagos State stays lonely at the top as the only state to attain the “Blue” status on GBV prevention and response. Close to Lagos, ranked as “Green States”, are Ekiti, Akwa Ibom, Edo, Delta, and Ogun States. While being a “Blue State” does connote perfection, it signifies that in comparison to others, the state is performing well based on the cumulative assessment of its performance across the five indexes.

Summarily, Womanity Index (GBV) adopts qualitative and quantitative approaches by mining data and gathering evidence through field data collection, desk research, expert contributions, and stakeholders’ inputs and validation for better contextual understanding, while identifying gaps and proffering succinct, actionable recommendations. The report is useful to the supply side in developing relevant laws and policies, support services, access to legal justice, information and awareness programs, and adequate budget and spending to GBV prevention and response. For the demand side this report will support the process of empirically engaging duty bearers and relevant stakeholders to ensure needed changes towards a society that abhors all forms of violence against all persons.

# Overall Womanity Index Ranking

States	Ranking
Lagos	Blue
Akwa Ibom	Light Green
Delta	Light Green
Edo	Light Green
Ekiti	Light Green
Ogun	Light Green
Abia	Yellow
Adamawa	Yellow
Anambra	Yellow
Bauchi	Yellow
Bayelsa	Yellow
Borno	Yellow
Cross River	Yellow
Ebonyi	Yellow
Enugu	Yellow
FCT	Yellow
Imo	Yellow
Kaduna	Yellow
Kogi	Yellow
Kwara	Yellow
Nasarawa	Yellow
Niger	Yellow
Ondo	Yellow
Osun	Yellow
Oyo	Yellow
Rivers	Yellow
Sokoto	Yellow
Taraba	Yellow
Yobe	Yellow
Benue	Red
Gombe	Red
Jigawa	Red
Kano	Red
Katsina	Red
Kebbi	Red
Plateau	Red
Zamfara	Red

# Laws and Policies

States	Ranking
Abia	Blue
Ekiti	Blue
Imo	Blue
Lagos	Blue
Adamawa	Green
Akwa Ibom	Green
Bayelsa	Green
Cross River	Green
Edo	Green
Enugu	Green
Kogi	Green
Kwara	Green
Nasarawa	Green
Ogun	Green
Ondo	Green
Osun	Green
Oyo	Green
Plateau	Green
Rivers	Green
Taraba	Green
Anambra	Yellow
Bauchi	Yellow
Benue	Yellow
Borno	Yellow
Delta	Yellow
Ebonyi	Yellow
FCT	Yellow
Jigawa	Yellow
Kebbi	Yellow
Niger	Yellow
Sokoto	Yellow
Yobe	Yellow
Gombe	Red
Kaduna	Red
Kano	Red
Katsina	Red
Zamfara	Red

# Access to Legal Justice

States	Ranking
Lagos	Blue
Adamawa	Light Green
Anambra	Light Green
Bayelsa	Light Green
Delta	Light Green
Edo	Light Green
Ekiti	Light Green
Niger	Light Green
Rivers	Light Green
Yobe	Light Green
Abia	Yellow
Akwa Ibom	Yellow
Bauchi	Yellow
Benue	Yellow
Borno	Yellow
Enugu	Yellow
FCT	Yellow
Gombe	Yellow
Imo	Yellow
Jigawa	Yellow
Kaduna	Yellow
Kano	Yellow
Kogi	Yellow
Kwara	Yellow
Nasarawa	Yellow
Ogun	Yellow
Ondo	Yellow
Osun	Yellow
Plateau	Yellow
Sokoto	Yellow
Taraba	Yellow
Cross River	Red
Ebonyi	Red
Katsina	Red
Kebbi	Red
Oyo	Red
Zamfara	Red

# Support Services


































States	Ranking
Lagos	Blue
Adamawa	Light Green
Borno	Light Green
Ekiti	Light Green
Ogun	Light Green
Rivers	Light Green
Abia	Yellow
Akwa Ibom	Yellow
Anambra	Yellow
Bauchi	Yellow
Cross River	Yellow
Delta	Yellow
Ebonyi	Yellow
Edo	Yellow
Enugu	Yellow
FCT	Yellow
Gombe	Yellow
Kaduna	Yellow
Kano	Yellow
Katsina	Yellow
Kwara	Yellow
Nasarawa	Yellow
Niger	Yellow
Ondo	Yellow
Osun	Yellow
Oyo	Yellow
Sokoto	Yellow
Taraba	Yellow
Yobe	Yellow
Zamfara	Yellow
Bayelsa	Red
Benue	Red
Imo	Red
Jigawa	Red
Kebbi	Red
Kogi	Red
Plateau	Red

# Information and Awareness

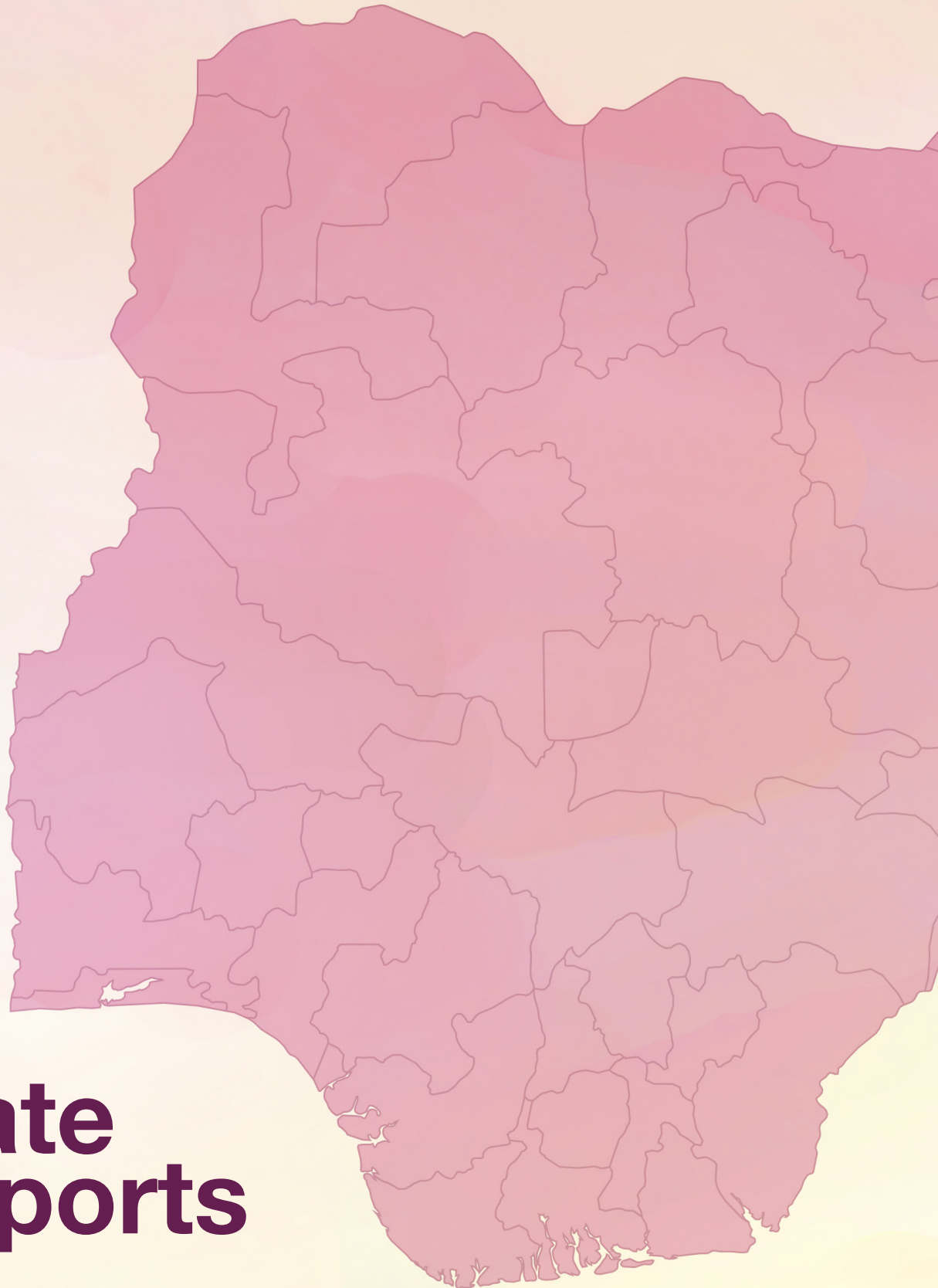
States	Ranking
Akwa Ibom	Green
Anambra	Green
Bayelsa	Green
Edo	Green
Ekiti	Green
FCT	Green
Lagos	Green
Ogun	Green
Abia	Yellow
Bauchi	Yellow
Borno	Yellow
Cross River	Yellow
Delta	Yellow
Ebonyi	Yellow
Enugu	Yellow
Imo	Yellow
Kaduna	Yellow
Kogi	Yellow
Kwara	Yellow
Ondo	Yellow
Oyo	Yellow
Rivers	Yellow
Sokoto	Yellow
Yobe	Yellow
Adamawa	Red
Benue	Red
Gombe	Red
Jigawa	Red
Kano	Red
Katsina	Red
Kebbi	Red
Nasarawa	Red
Niger	Red
Osun	Red
Plateau	Red
Taraba	Red
Zamfara	Red



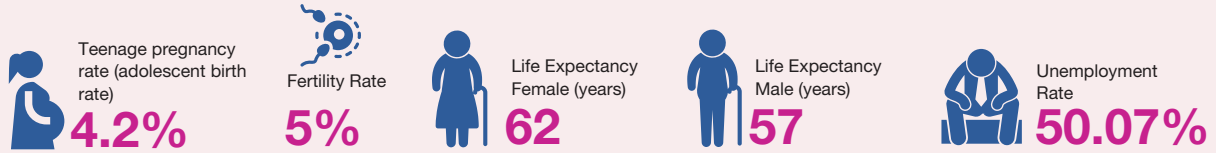
# Budget and Spending

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

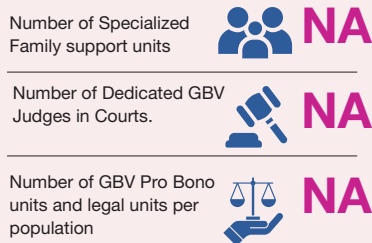
# State Reports



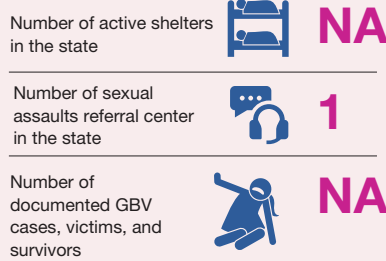
### State Context



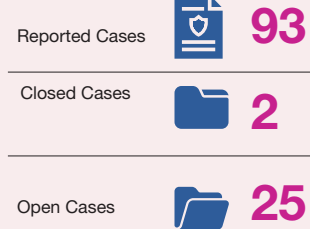
### Access to Legal Justice



### Support Services



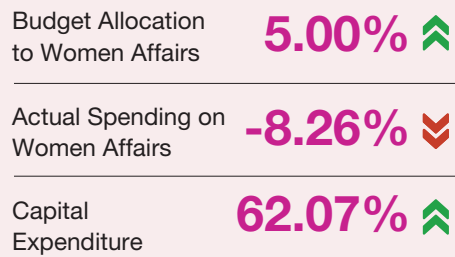
### GBV Cases



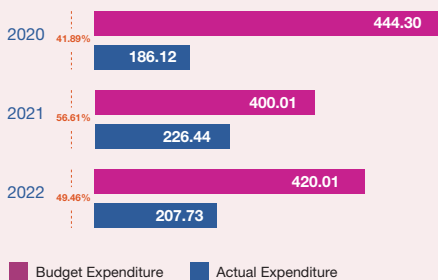
### Womaniy Index (GBV) Ranking (out of 36 States)



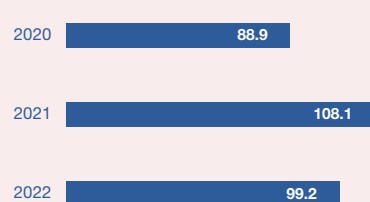
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>The VAPP Law and Child Rights Act are two laws in the State for addressing GBV.</p> <p>Effectiveness of existing laws and policies is hindered by weak implementing institutions and a lack of awareness.</p>	<p>The VAPP Law should be reviewed by addressing problematic sections and updating it in alignment to changing dynamics.</p> <p>Government should engage in collaborative efforts with CBOs/NGOs to increase awareness of Laws and Policies and shore up support for implementing institutions to carry out their duties effectively.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>Robust and dynamic GBV reporting and referral pathway.</p> <p>The limited support by the state for the prosecution of GBV cases.</p> <p>Existence of GBV desks in security agencies but no dedicated GBV judges.</p>	<p>Government should allocate funds to the prosecution of GBV cases and invest in its witness protection program and the training of staff in line with modern technological advancements.</p> <p>Government should make provision for dedicated GBV judges to promote speedy dispensation of justice.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>Presence of a single state-owned SARC which is inaccessible and non-functional.</p> <p>Existence of robust GBV reporting and referral pathways</p> <p>Existence of informal support systems run by CSOs/CBOs, with minimal to no government-provided formal support systems.</p>	<p>Government to establish and equip SARCs in each Local Government Area, ensuring accessibility for GBV victims/survivors.</p> <p>Improved collaboration between government, NGOs/CBOs for the provision of support services.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) initiatives championed by CBOs and NGOs, with limited involvement from the government, leading to reduced effectiveness</p> <p>IEC materials and campaigns are modestly tailored to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities.</p> <p>Comprehensive Sex Education incorporated into the curricula of Secondary and Tertiary institutions.</p>	<p>Government should make annual budgetary allocations for the implementation of comprehensive GBV awareness campaigns and programs in the state.</p> <p>Awareness campaigns to be intensified across formal and informal institutions in the state with more regular radio and tv programming.</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

82.24% **Yes** 17.76% **No** -- **Not Sure**

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

44.74% **Strongly Agree** 33.55% **Agree** 13.16% **Indifference**  
8.55% **Disagree** -- **Strongly Disagree**

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

20.39% **Yes** 31.58% **No** 30.26% **Not Sure**

Abia State has numerous GBV-related laws and policies, including the Abia State Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) (VAPP) Law, 2019, the Abia State Gender Policy 2022, and the Child Rights Act, 2016. The VAPP Law need some amendments by adding grandaunt and granduncles among those who can commit incest (s.2), adding the offence of coercion, expanding the scope/reach of the Protection Order to nationwide (s.35), defining “Harmful Widowhood Practices”, and including “intent to cause distress under section 31.

While some respondents believe these laws are effective, most have not seen successful prosecutions under them, and are unaware of government efforts to reform them. Regardless, there is evidence that the laws have been used to mete out justice. Majority of the respondents are aware of some law or policy addressing GBV in the state. Additionally, there are informal customary and religious GBV-related laws used for arbitration. As of the time of this research, only the Child Rights Act, 2016 has been subjected to review within the past eight years, and although most of the respondents disagree that cultural and religious laws are adequate for GBV prevention and response, there is no recent record of their review in this regard.

The state operates an extensive reporting system involving government entities like the Ministries of Justice, Health, and Women Affairs, as well as law enforcement agencies such as the Police, NAPTIP, NSCDC, NHRC, and CSOs/NGOs like the local FIDA chapter. Among these, the police/security pathway stands out as the most active and accessible, with GBV desks in all 17 Local Government Areas. The police collaborate with various agencies to document, apprehend, and prosecute GBV offenders. However, many cases rely on pro-bono lawyers and face delays due to challenges like inadequate witness protection and a no dedicated

GBV-designated judges. GBV survivors often bear legal fees and logistical expenses. In the realm of informal justice systems, groups like Umuada intervene in matters related to inheritance and similar issues, while the Ezes-in-Council in different communities and the influential “Ikpirikpe” women’s group employ cultural laws to sanction GBV perpetrators. Nevertheless, over half of the surveyed population doubts the effectiveness of these informal justice systems in delivering justice to victims and survivors.

Abia State’s only SARC, Ihunanya Centre, domiciled in the State’s Ministry of Women Affairs and Youth Development was commissioned in December 2022 but is yet to be operational. In its absence, NAPTIP provides emergency shelter for rescued survivors. There is also the Women Development Centre which is accessible but practically non-functional. Reporting and referral pathways are diverse, with the police/security (NAPTIP and NSCDC) pathway being the most utilized and recognized. The NHRC offers support by documenting cases and providing counselling and pro-bono lawyers for GBV victims. The legal pathway, particularly with assistance from FIDA, aids in documentation, arrest, and prosecution. However, the medical pathway faces challenges due to funding shortages. CSOs also contribute to documenting and prosecuting GBV cases. Most of the population agrees that informal support systems provided by the likes of family and religious organisations benefit victims/survivors. Regrettably, aside from the Nigeria for Women Project (a Federal Government and World Bank initiative to enhance women’s livelihoods in targeted communities) between 2020-2022, there appears to be no actual investments in GBV or GBV-related support services in the state.



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

47.37% **Formal justice system** 48.03% **Informal justice system** 4.61% **I will not seek justice**

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

21.05% **Yes** 24.34% **No** 8.55% **Not Sure**  
46.05% **It Depends**

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

12.5% **Yes** 55.26% **No** 32.24% **Not Sure**



## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**11.18%** Yes  
**88.82%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

**6%** Specialized medical healthcare pathway

**8%** Psychosocial/mental health pathway

**56%** Police/security pathway

**28%** Legal pathway  
**2%** None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**80.92%** Yes  
**2.63%** No  
**16.45%** Not Sure

The program, “Ruffles,” airs on seven (7) TV stations monthly, while the NHRC, in collaboration with Flo FM, broadcasts “Know Your Right” every Friday. Unfortunately, the previous state administration rarely created IEC materials for GBV public awareness, and such materials were not sighted in the government offices visited. Among surveyed respondents, 77.63% are aware of information and education programs, with radio programs being the most common source of GBV information. Approximately 42.11% of respondents found this information to be mostly useful. CSOs, NGOs, associations, and security agencies (Abia Gender Technical Crew) are credited with raising awareness in the state, using billboards, and adapting messages for people with disabilities. The state, however, includes comprehensive sex education in the curricula of its secondary and tertiary institutions.

The approved allocations to the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development for 2022, 2021, and 2020 were N420 million, N400 million, and N444.3 million, respectively. However, the actual expenditure during the same period was N207.7 million in 2022, N226.4 million in 2021, and N186.1 million in 2020. Of significance is the state’s high per capita allocation to the Ministry of Women Affairs, ranking as the second highest at N88.9, N108.1, and N99.2 in 2020, 2021, and 2022, respectively. This figure surpasses the regional average of N52.0, N99.0, and N68.7 for the same period. Despite the state’s commendable budgetary provisions for the Ministry, it faces challenges in budget performance. The budget performance stood at 49.46%, 56.61%, and 41.89% in 2022, 2021, and 2020, respectively.



## Human Angle Story

Two sisters, aged 8 and 10, share a troubling story. Their parents cohabited until their father ended the relationship due to jealousy over their mother’s higher income. He secretly entrusted the girls to his sister’s care before eloping with a girlfriend. When their mother sought custody, the girls were moved to Isialangwa, where their cousins, aged 14 to 16, subjected them to servitude and severe physical abuse, including several assaults with a hot, pressing iron. Thankfully, a concerned neighbour reported the abuse, leading to the boys’ arrest and legal action against their mother and her partner. The girls received medical treatment, and an out-of-court settlement was reached, with the aunt providing compensation. Ultimately, the girls were reunited with their mother.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



**77.63%** Yes  
**13.82%** No  
**8.55%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

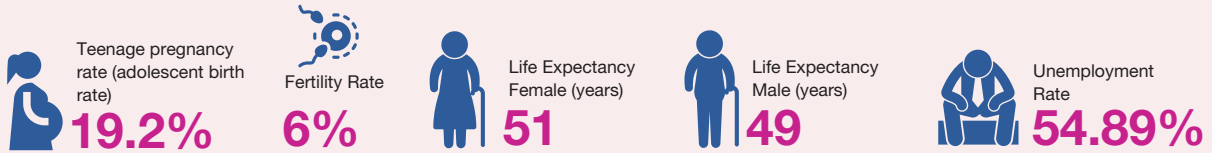
**13.82%** Not at all useful  
**25%** A little bit useful  
**42.11%** Mostly useful  
**19.08%** Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

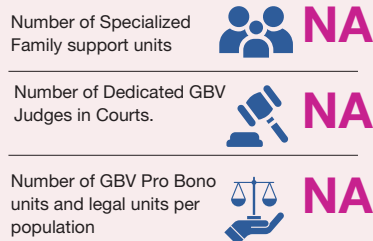
**26%** Audio/spoken content  
**2%** Braille printed content  
**7%** Visual content  
**22%** Screen subtitling  
**27%** Sign interpretation  
**4%** Picture-based messages  
**5%** Simplified messages  
**6%** None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <b>Laws and Policies</b>	The VAPP Law, Child Rights Law, and the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities Law are some of the laws in Abia State for addressing GBV.	<b>1.0</b>
	Effectiveness of existing laws and policies is hindered by weak implementing institutions and a lack of awareness.	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	<b>1.0</b>
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	<b>1.0</b>
 <b>Access to Legal Justice</b>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	<b>1.0</b>
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	<b>0.0</b>
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Support Services</b>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	<b>0</b>
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	<b>0</b>
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	<b>1.0</b>
 <b>Information and Awareness</b>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	<b>1.0</b>
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	<b>0.5</b>
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Budget and Spending</b>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	<b>0.0</b>
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	<b>0.0</b>

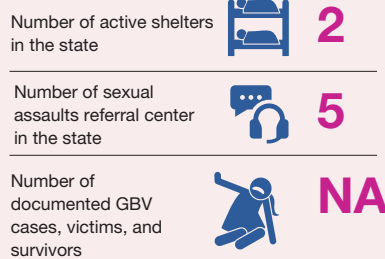
### State Context



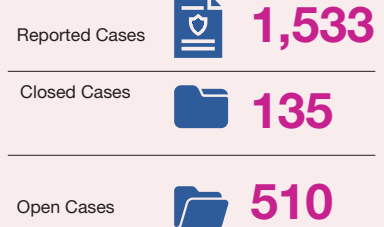
### Access to Legal Justice



### Support Services



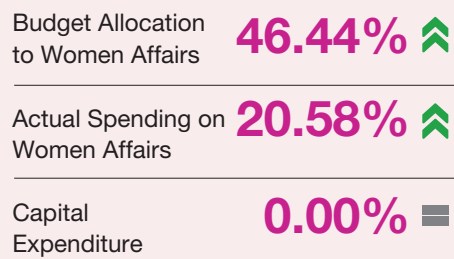
### GBV Cases



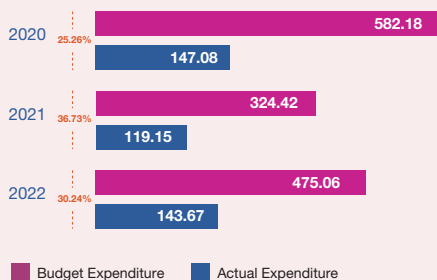
### Womaniy Index (GBV) Ranking (out of 36 States)



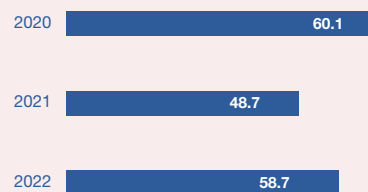
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)





S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>The State's GBV-related laws are the Penal Code, VAPP, and Child Protection Law.</p> <p>Lack of awareness of the existence of laws.</p> <p>Poor investigation of cases by law enforcement compromises GBV cases in court.</p>	<p>Ensure full implementation of GBV-related laws and policies to achieve desired results.</p> <p>Intensify awareness creation efforts and sensitization on existing GBV laws and policies in the state</p> <p>Train and retrain law enforcement agencies to ensure better investigation of GBV cases that will lead to the successful prosecution of offenders.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>Lack of trust in the criminal justice system due to low conviction rate despite a high number of cases charged to court, and the existence of four Judges dedicated to GBV</p> <p>Voluntary withdrawal of cases from court half-way through litigation process by victims/survivors</p> <p>The prolonged trial period of cases through unnecessary adjournment of cases.</p>	<p>Law enforcement agencies and legal assistance service providers should ensure higher success rates in prosecution to restore the confidence of the public in the justice system</p> <p>There is a need for more awareness creation on existing laws, especially at the grassroots level and the need to support victims/survivors and end stigmatization.</p> <p>The government should assign dedicated GBV judges in area courts and upper area courts to facilitate accelerated hearing and dispensation of justice on GBV cases</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>There are five SARCs and two shelters in the state, but there is very little awareness about the support systems.</p> <p>Poor coordination of the support services among providers.</p> <p>Poor funding of support systems.</p>	<p>Create more campaigns and sensitize the populace on the existing support systems in the state.</p> <p>Strengthen, coordinate and improve synergy among different service providers.</p> <p>Increase budgetary allocation and disbursements to MDAs working on GBV.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>Comprehensive sex education is not taught in secondary schools.</p> <p>Programs and IEC materials are not often PWDs sensitive and inclusive.</p> <p>Poor funding of relevant government MDAs.</p>	<p>Incorporated comprehensive sex-related topics in the schools' curriculum and sensitize parents, communities, and religious leaders on the role of comprehensive sex education.</p> <p>IEC materials should be well coordinated and PWDs-friendly and address cultural attitudes based on the inferiority or superiority of wo(men).</p> <p>Prioritize and fund GBV programs and activities of MDAs.</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

68.3% Yes 31.7% No -- Not Sure

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

53.3% Strongly Agree 36.7% Agree 7.5% Indifference 2.5% Disagree -- Strongly Disagree

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

33.3% Yes 51.7% No 15% Not Sure

Adamawa state has three GBV-related laws frequently used to prosecute GBV-related cases. These laws are the VAPP, Child Protection, and Penal Code law, and about 68.3% of the survey participants know their existence. These laws, especially VAPP, are also often used to prosecute sexual harassment cases in the state's public and private institutions. These laws were revisited and reformed recently. In 2018, the Penal Code Law was revised, with further amendments in 2021 to increase penalties for rape and kidnapping in Adamawa state. The VAPP and Child Protection laws were also adapted for the region. Currently, advocacy is underway to address gaps in the VAPP law. In January 2022, a committee was formed to review the state's Penal Code Law. There are no known written GBV-related customary or religious laws, and the absence of customary laws impacts State laws positively, as 90% of the respondents agree that the laws will prevent GBV in the state, and 51.7% revealed that customary/religious laws don't prevent GBV in the state.

The state has robust reporting systems. When survivors disclose their experience, the designated individual accompanies them to a health/psychosocial facility. If the survivor wants to pursue legal action or if there are safety concerns, the individual promptly refers/accompanies the survivor to the security to arrest the perpetrator and conduct an investigation or legal officers for support with referral to the police. Also, the state has four GBV courts with four GBV dedicated judges, and all the Police divisional headquarters have functional FSUs with GBV focal officers. FIDA, Legal Aid Council, and the state's lawyers offer free legal assistance to GBV victims, and their services are accessible to everyone, but there is no robust witness protection program, and the courts don't follow the stated timeframes. Despite these challenges, 79.2% of the respondents prefer to seek justice in the formal

justice system. The Council of Elders utilise the dispute resolution mechanisms (negotiation, reconciliation, and mediation) to resolve GBV-related cases and mandate the perpetrator to apologise or compensate the victim/survivor. However, 54.2% of the respondents are dissatisfied with this process.

The state has five SARCs and two Shelters. International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) fund all the SARCs. One Shelter is owned by a CSO, and the second by the government. SARCs and Shelters provide medical, psychosocial, security, legal assistance, and economic empowerment/livelihood support to the victims/survivors. Moreover, the state government prioritises funding of support services and puts in place standard reporting and referral pathways to facilitate joint action by all actors to respond to GBV.

Adamawa state has three GBV-related laws The Community and Service Providers (SGBV committee members, families, Community leaders, CPCs, agency workers, LGAs), Medical Care, Safety/Security (Civil Defence Corps and Police), Psychosocial support, and Legal Action made up the pathways. Community and Service Providers report/refer GBV victims/survivors to health facilities, and the health facility refers them to the security and then to the Ministry of Justice for Legal Action. But if counseling is needed, the security agents refer the victims/survivors to psychosocial support service providers.

The GBV-related sensitisation and awareness programs used by the states and partners include radio jingles, drama series, talk shows, television shows, and social media platforms, and 64.2% of the survey participants are aware of their availability. The state also collaborates with partners to sensitise the public and carry out awareness creation events in schools, marketplaces, community centres,



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

79.2% Formal justice system 18.3% Informal justice system 2.5% I will not seek justice

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

67.5% Yes 9.2% No 9.3% Not Sure 14.2% It Depends

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

33.3% Yes 54.2% No 12.5% Not Sure



Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**25.8%** Yes  
**74.2%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

**32.5%** Specialized medical healthcare pathway  
**49.2%** Police/security pathway  
**23.3%** Psychosocial/mental health pathway  
**22.5%** Legal pathway  
**22.5%** None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**82.5%** Yes  
**10%** No  
**5%** Not Sure

town halls, and other public places to sensitise the public and raise awareness on GBV during the annual celebration of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV. These sensitisation and awareness programs are sensitive to PwDs, but a lot still needs to be done by the state so that all the groups of PwDs, especially the visually impaired, can be included. Also, the state needs to introduce comprehensive sex education in schools because sex-rated topics are currently not taught in secondary schools and tertiary institutions. Such topics are only taught in courses like health education.

The state's Ministry of Women Affairs got budget approvals of N475.08 million, N324.42 million, and N582.18 million for 2022, 2021, and 2020, respectively. The actual expenditure, on the other hand, for the same period was N143.67 million in 2022, N119.15 million in 2021, and N147.08 million in 2020. The state's per capita allocation for the Ministry of Women Affairs is among the lowest in the region; it ranks third in the north-east region for 2020 at N60.1, fifth in 2021 at N48.7 and the lowest in 2022 at N58.7. The state's 2020 figure is higher than the regional averages of N58.0, while the 2021 and 2022 figure is lower than the regional average of N87.0 and N298.0. The ministry faces budget performance challenges even with the state's little budgetary provisions. In 2022, 2021, and 2020, budget performance was 30.24%, 36.73%, and 25.26%, respectively.



## Human Angle Story

A woman whose husband always beats her approached the court for divorce, and the court granted it. However, the man was dissatisfied with the court judgement and is currently challenging the case to claim full ownership of the house they jointly built. Also, a woman handed her daughter to a Mallam for treatment based on his request. The Mallam, who specialises in herbal medicine, raped the 13-year-old girl multiple times before the girl completed the ritual bath. The girl's mother fell sick when the girl narrated her ordeal. The woman later reported the case to an NGO, who counselled them and paid for the girl's medical expenses. The NGO also worked closely with the woman to seek justice.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**64.2%** Yes  
**29.2%** No  
**6.7%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

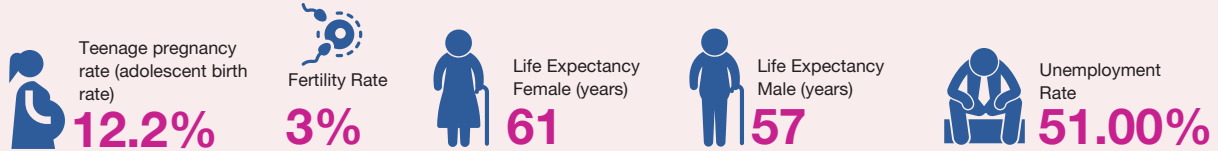
**9.2%** Not at all useful  
**19.2%** A little bit useful  
**36.7%** Mostly useful  
**35%** Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

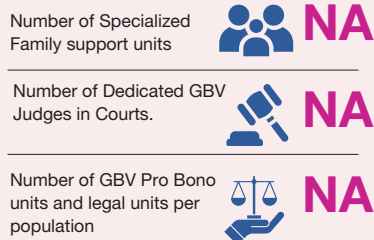
**49.2%** Audio/spoken content  
**18.3%** Braille printed content  
**22.5%** Visual content  
**13.3%** Screen subtitling  
**16.7%** Sign interpretation  
**20.4%** Picture-based messages  
**15%** Simplified messages  
**26.7%** None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <b>Laws and Policies</b>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	<b>1.0</b>
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	<b>0.5</b>
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	<b>1.0</b>
 <b>Access to Legal Justice</b>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	<b>1.0</b>
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Support Services</b>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Information and Awareness</b>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	<b>0.0</b>
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	<b>0.5</b>
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Budget and Spending</b>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	<b>0.0</b>
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	<b>0.0</b>

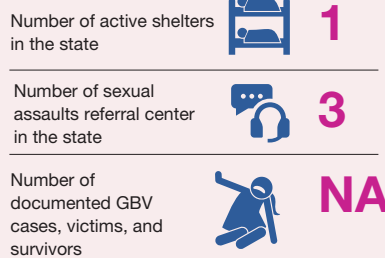
### State Context



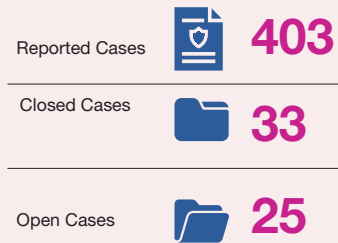
### Access to Legal Justice



### Support Services



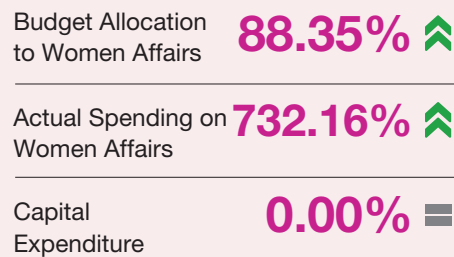
### GBV Cases



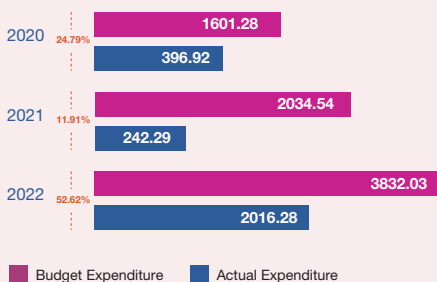
### Womaniy Index (GBV) Ranking (out of 36 States)



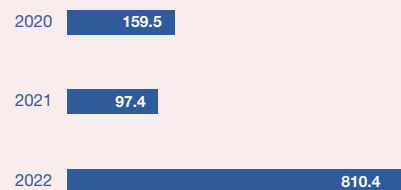
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>Child Rights Law, VAPP Law, and the Harmful Widowhood (Prohibition of Obnoxious Practices) Law are the legal frameworks used to address GBV in the state</p> <p>The Child Right Law, 2008 puts the age limit of a child at 16 years. The law does not cover offenders or victims above 16 but under 18.</p> <p>Hitherto the enactment of the VAPP Law, community judgments were usually not favourable to women, even if the men are the violators and the abusers.</p>	<p>The state should incorporate witness protection in the laws.</p> <p>There should be an amendment of the Child Rights Law to accommodate all children under the age of 18.</p> <p>The government should continue to outlaw informal practices that perpetuate GBV in communities.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>The service of a legal practitioner is provided by the SGBV Response Department especially for indigent clients.</p> <p>There are no dedicated GBV judges in the state, all judges handle GBV cases.</p> <p>There is no structured witness protection program in Akwa-Ibom State.</p>	<p>More passionate lawyers need to be recruited in the SGBV Response Department of the Ministry of Justice.</p> <p>There should be trained and dedicated GBV judges and Special GBV Courts where GBV cases are heard.</p> <p>There should be a structured witness protection program in the state.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>There is one active shelter and three Sexual Assault Referral Centres in the state.</p> <p>There is a unified reporting and referral pathway in the state.</p> <p>The informal support systems in the state are the Traditional Councils, family groups, peer support groups and religious groups.</p>	<p>SARC/shelters need to be established in all the local government areas in the state.</p> <p>Sensitization programs should be carried out to enlighten the public of the reporting and referral pathways.</p> <p>The public should be sensitized and encouraged to equally report GBV cases to the formal authorities.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>The AKS VAPP Law 2020 has a simplified version which is distributed to members of the public during events organized by the GBV Management Committee.</p> <p>Sex Education is taught in both primary and secondary schools.</p> <p>GBV-related radio and TV shows are held weekly across several radio stations in the state, including the Akwa-Ibom State Broadcasting Corporation.</p> <p>Television programs are subtitled for PwDs who cannot read, but there are no specific events targeted at PwDs.</p>	<p>The VAPP Law should be translated to the three major dialectical groups of the State - Ibibio, Annang, and Oron - and widely distributed among the relevant communities.</p> <p>There should be sustained effort in the dissemination of the state's GBV Response Training manual for schools by the GBV Management Committee.</p> <p>Private radio and TV stations should support or subsidize the cost of the campaign.</p> <p>Target campaigns should be conducted for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

59.8% **Yes** 40.2% **No** -- **Not Sure**

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

37.8% **Strongly Agree** 33.9% **Agree** 24.4% **Indifference**  
3.94% **Disagree** -- **Strongly Disagree**

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

40.9% **Yes** 27.6% **No** 31.5% **Not Sure**

The GBV-related laws/policies in existence are Child Rights Law 2008, Gender Policy and VAPP Law 2020, Harmful Widowhood (Prohibition of Obnoxious Practices) Law 2013, and the Administration of Criminal Justice Law 2022. Gaps in the VAPP Law need to be addressed, such as adding grandaunts and granduncles as among those who can commit incest the definition of incest (s.2), holistic definition for harmful traditional practices (s.51(1)), provision for ‘intent to cause distress’ (s.31), expand the scope of the Protection Orders to be applicable outside of the state (s.35), and provision for the offence of coercion. 59.8% of the survey population are aware of the existence of laws/policies that address GBV, and 37.8% strongly agree that awareness prevents GBV. The recently passed laws have aided the state in responding to GBV. 40.9% of the survey population perceives customary/religious laws as effective in preventing and responding to GBV in the state. Nonetheless, the customary laws within the state, which are strictly informal, that perpetuate GBV have been outlawed, giving precedence to the formal laws.

The reporting system in the state is carried out at the GBV-designated desk in Police Commands/Divisions. While enforcement is also done by the police, the Directorate of Public Prosecution at the Police Headquarters prosecutes. 69.9% of the survey participants prefer the formal justice system. There are Family Support Units at the Nigerian Police Commands/Divisions, but no exclusive GBV Judges in the state. Legal aid/pro bono services are provided by the SGBV Response Department especially for indigent victims; but there is no structured witness protection program, as what the laws provide are sketchy and not comprehensive. The informal justice system comprises the village council, traditional rulers, and religious bodies. It has not been effective as men, on most occasions, usually have their way even when they are the

perpetrators of the crime. These cultural norms tend to perpetuate GBV. Notwithstanding, 41.7% of the survey population is of the opinion that informal justice system is effective in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV.

The State Government has prioritized the GBV interventions and campaigns with the allocation to and release of funding of GBV prevention and response. It possesses three equipped SARCs and an active shelter known as ‘The State GBV Centre’, which is a 60-bed facility accommodation. Some of the SARCs are situated at the hospitals which could serve as medical units for supporting GBV survivors in the state, including during prosecution of perpetrators. The shelter is a functional skill acquisition centre, with accommodation for the victims and it is serving its purpose.

There is a unified reporting and referral pathway in the state, which includes frontlines such as security agencies, Shelters/SARCs, and legal system; and are peculiar to the type and nature of the GBV. 72% of the survey population are of the notion that the informal support system components such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups etc are helpful in supporting GBV victims/survivors.



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

66.9% **Formal justice system** 25.2% **Informal justice system** 7.87% **I will not seek justice**

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

49.6% **Yes** 11.0% **No** 13.4% **Not Sure**  
25.9% **It Depends**

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

41.7% **Yes** 29.1% **No** 29.1% **Not Sure**



Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**39.4%** Yes  
**60.6%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

<b>28%</b> Specialized medical healthcare pathway	<b>76%</b> Police/security pathway
<b>13%</b> Psychosocial/mental health pathway	<b>51%</b> Legal pathway
	<b>10%</b> None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**72%** Yes  
**15%** No  
**13%** Not Sure

GBV awareness and sensitisation programs are held on weekly basis across several radio and television stations in the state, including the Akwa-Ibom State Broadcasting Corporation. Sensitization and awareness programs are held in community town halls, schools, churches, markets, parks, at events organized by the GBV Management Committee, and special days marked globally. 50% of respondents are aware of the availability of GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state. also, sex education is taught in both primary and secondary schools.

There are PwD-IEC materials and sign interpreters in every event organized by the GBV Management Committee, also television programs are subtitled for PwDs, but there are no specific events targeted at PwDs.

The state approved N3.83 billion, N2.03 billion, and N1.60 billion for spending by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare in 2022, 2021, and 2020, respectively. The actual expenditure, on the other hand, for the same period was N396.9 million in 2020, N242.3 million in 2021, and N2.07 billion in 2022. The state's high per capita funding for the Ministry of Women Affairs is noteworthy; it ranks third in the region for 2020 and 2021 at N159.5 and N97.4, respectively, and highest for 2022 at N810.4. The state's 2020 and 2022 figures are higher than the regional averages of N112.5 and N3688.8, respectively, while the 2021 figure is lower than the average of N174. The ministry faces budget performance challenges even with the state's commendable budgetary provisions. In 2022, 2021, and 2020, the corresponding performance metrics are 52.62%, 11.91%, and 24.79% respectively.



## Human Angle Story

A girl, who was co-habiting with a man, suffered physical abuse and nearly lost her life. She was referred to the GBV-Centre where she stayed for three months, was given funds to start-up a trade, and was later reunited with her family. Another is that of a 14-year-old girl who was raped by her father, he was on trial on two-count charge of rape and assault where he was convicted and sentenced to 14 years imprisonment. Another respondent suffered economic deprivation and physical abuse/sexual deprivation from her husband, which she reported and was taken to the GBV Centre. She requested for divorce, but the mediation team mediated, and the couple were back together. After staying in the shelter for two months, she returned to the husband.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**50%** Yes  
**28%** No  
**22%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

<b>9%</b> Not at all useful	<b>30%</b> A little bit useful
<b>39%</b> Mostly useful	<b>22%</b> Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

<b>28%</b> Audio/spoken content	<b>17%</b> Braille printed content	<b>9%</b> Visual content	<b>2%</b> Screen subtitling
<b>32%</b> Sign interpretation	<b>9%</b> Picture-based messages	<b>7%</b> Simplified messages	<b>41%</b> None of the above

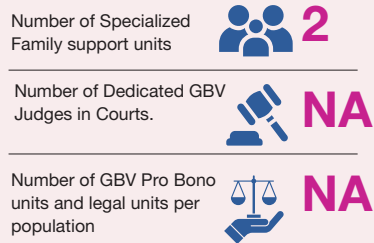


Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <b>Laws and Policies</b>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	<b>1.0</b>
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	<b>1.0</b>
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	<b>1.0</b>
 <b>Access to Legal Justice</b>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	<b>1.0</b>
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Support Services</b>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Information and Awareness</b>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	<b>0.5</b>
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	<b>1.0</b>
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Budget and Spending</b>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	<b>1.0</b>
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	<b>2.0</b>

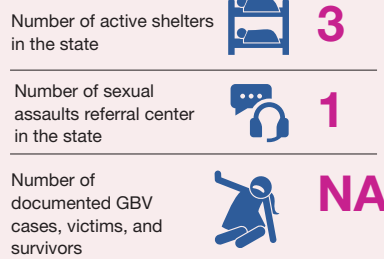
### State Context



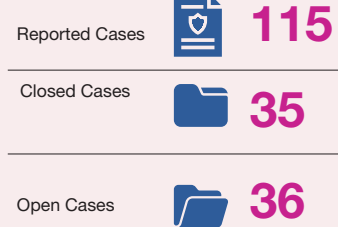
### Access to Legal Justice



### Support Services



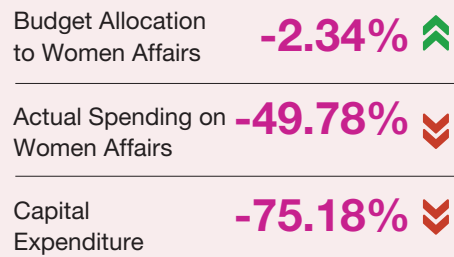
### GBV Cases



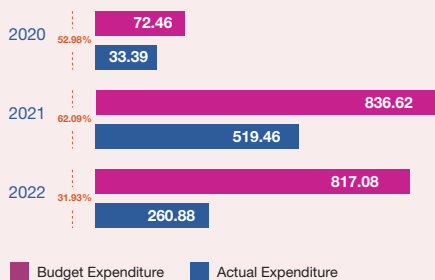
### Womaniy Index (GBV) Ranking (out of 36 States)



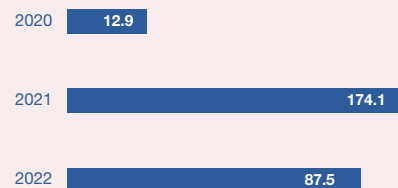
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>There is a low awareness level of the laws and policies in the state.</p> <p>Implementation of the existing laws has proven to be the major lag within the state.</p> <p>The laws have, however, not resulted in preventing GBV cases from occurring.</p>	<p>Develop comprehensive awareness campaigns that educate the public on the existing laws and policies related to GBV.</p> <p>Anambra State should improve investment in the effective implementation of GBV laws, ensuring that they are enforced consistently.</p> <p>Regularly evaluate the impact of the existing laws and make necessary amendments to ensure their relevance and effectiveness.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>Minimal Funding to the reporting and prosecution, despite the state VAPP Law making provision for a Trust Fund for GBV survivors under a Commission on Violence Against Persons in the state.</p> <p>Lack of trust in the prosecution, enforcement, and witness protection program.</p> <p>Lack of widespread awareness of the existing legal structures the state has to prosecute GBV cases.</p>	<p>Increase funding for the reporting and prosecution of GBV cases, including support for legal aid services.</p> <p>Work on building trust in the prosecution and enforcement processes, through transparency and clear communication with survivors.</p> <p>Create well-tailored awareness campaigns to inform the public about the legal structures available for</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>Limited or no permanent Shelters within the state.</p> <p>Inadequacy of medical and forensic facilities in the existing structures.</p> <p>Inadequate number of trained personnel at the SARCs and Police division.</p>	<p>Collaborate with non-governmental organizations to create permanent Shelters for GBV survivors, ensuring their safety and well-being.</p> <p>Anambra State needs to increase the funding for medical and forensic facilities and services in existing structures, making them more accessible and comprehensive for survivors</p> <p>Increase investments in training programs for law enforcement personnel, social workers, medical professionals, and staff at SARCs specifically on handling GBV cases.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>Inadequate funding for IECs and campaigns.</p> <p>Inadequate provision of IECs for PwDs.</p> <p>Non-existence of sex education in the curriculum for both secondary and tertiary institutions.</p>	<p>Increased funding for IEC materials and campaigns to raise awareness about GBV and available support services.</p> <p>Ensure that IEC materials are prioritized and accessible to PwDs by providing them in formats like braille, sign language, and easy-to-read formats.</p> <p>Increased advocacy for the inclusion of comprehensive sex education in the curriculum of secondary and tertiary institutions, teaching healthy relationships and consent.</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

75.0% **Yes** 25.0% **No** -- **Not Sure**

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

52.5% **Strongly Agree** 43.3% **Agree** 2.5% **Indifference**  
1.7% **Disagree** -- **Strongly Disagree**

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

65.0% **Yes** 22.5% **No** 12.5% **Not Sure**

In Anambra State, the government has demonstrated zero tolerance towards GBV, leading to the signing of the VAPP Law in 2017 and adopting the Child Right Law in 2004. There have been minimal efforts of reforms to the laws in the past eight years. Laws, such as the VAPP Law which has some gaps that needs to be addressed, such as to amend the definition of abandonment in a way that includes all persons to avoid unintended discrimination, make provision for submission of an Annual Report, and provide for the establishment of a Sex Offenders Register.

These GBV-related laws are detailed, however, implementation is the key problem in Anambra State. Another challenge is the existence of cultural norms that impedes GBV laws in the state. Cases such as child marriages and the treatment of widows have been highlighted as practices that perpetuate GBV in the state. Out of 521 respondents, 50% consider these mitigating policies and laws adequate and effective, whereas 17% dissented. 46% of respondents affirmed their awareness of the VAPP Law and Child Rights Law as being adequate to prevent GBV, which suggests substantial strides in outreach but requires more effort. Within the traditional structure, customary or religious laws also play a role in GBV prevention and response. Interestingly, 41% of respondents believe these customary/religious laws are sufficient to prevent GBV, though 35% disagree. The state, public, and private institutions have not explicitly adopted GBV laws.

In addressing access to legal justice, the state established the Gender-Based Violence Court under the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare in Awka and a task force specifically assigned to GBV issues as an integral part of its reporting referral pathway. Like Lagos State, Anambra State has a specialized magistrate court for SGBV offenses against children. Anambra State has a department in the

Ministry of Justice called the Sexual Offenses, Domestic Violence, and Child's Rights Unit. As shown by the survey, 44% of 521 respondents claimed to have witnessed a successful prosecution due to existing GBV laws in the state. In addition to having a specialized magistrate court for GBV cases, the state has an SGBV unit and a human rights desk in its police command/divisions. To aid those affected by GBV, the state's Ministry of Justice offers several free legal aid services. Although the nature and process of accessing these services (such as through pro-bono lawyers, state lawyers, or CSO, as well as program for witness protection) are not clear. Also, despite the state not explicitly following the VAPP Act's timeframes in prosecuting GBV cases, there are some measures being put in place by the state government to make provisions in the specialized courts to reduce litigation time to less than two weeks for prompt justice.

Anambra State has one active SARC in Enuguukwu General Hospital, established by RoLAC. Also, in addition to the shelters provided by FIDA, temporary shelters exist in the Ministry of Women Affairs and Orumba. However, it is important to note that the response team usually has a problem with a safe place to keep the adult victims. Most times they use hotels, personal homes, or children's shelters in the state. Concerning reporting and referral pathways, the system appears to be in its nascent stages. Entities such as the SARC and FIDA handle cases, with trained paralegals as first responders. This implies a decentralized and somewhat disjointed system, where NGOs and entities have separate hotlines and varying processes.



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

77.5% **Formal justice system** 17.5% **Informal justice system** 5.0% **I will not seek justice**

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

57.5% **Yes** 7.5% **No** 9.2% **Not Sure**  
25.8% **It Depends**

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

50.8% **Yes** 30.0% **No** 19.2% **Not Sure**



## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**37.5%** Yes  
**62.5%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

**43.3%** Specialized medical healthcare pathway

**21.7%** Psychosocial/mental health pathway

**79.2%** Police/security pathway

**42.5%** Legal pathway  
**10.0%** None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**47.9%** Yes  
**37.8%** No  
**14.3%** Not Sure

NGOs/CBOs organize skill acquisition programs for GBV victims and survivors which includes soap making, perfume making, sewing, etc. In addition, NGOs/CBOs pay for the services of lawyers and foot the logistics bill of victims during litigation. There is also a clear gap in the role of medical units and forensic labs in prosecuting GBV cases, as well as in budgetary allocation/investment and spending for GBV support services. Enhancements to the overall system, including streamlined reporting and referral pathways and increased facility capacity, seem to be a notable focus in the state's ongoing efforts.

Sensitization and awareness programs related to GBV are readily available in the state. Notable programs include activities in marketplaces, schools, and churches, utilizing various media like fliers, sound systems, TV and radio, posters, and social media. The major stakeholders include FIDA, NHRC, NOA, MOI, and MOWA among others, with programs often conducted during special commemorative days. In terms of sex education, unfortunately, the curriculum remains patchy. Sex education is not taught comprehensively in secondary schools or universities in the state, although Biology somewhat tackles topics relating to the reproductive system. The existence of PwD-friendly IEC sensitisation and awareness materials on GBV is not clearly defined leading to a gap in inclusive and equal accessibility. From the surveyed population, 46% feel that awareness of GBV laws and policies can prevent GBV.

Over three years, Anambra State observed fluctuating expenditure in its Ministry of Social Welfare, Children and Women Affairs: 38.39mn in 2020, 519.47mn in 2021, and 260.88mn in 2022, averaging 272.9mn. With a female population of 2.98 million, the state ranked second in per capita spending by the ministry in the South Eastern region

at 87.5. This exceeded the regional average of N68.7 but fell below the national average. The varying spending patterns reflect the need for improved budgetary provision and disbursement of funds to the ministry to bolster its work on GVB prevention and response.



## Human Angle Story

The anecdotal story from the state sheds light on the challenges widows face in the state. Albert Eligbue, a native of Atani in Ogbaru Local Government Area of Anambra, was arraigned for allegedly forcing a widow, Mrs Patricia Eligbue, to drink the water used in washing the husband's corpse. The defendant, who is the brother-in-law of the widow, was arraigned on five-counts charge before the Children, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Court in Awka. He, however, pleaded not guilty to the charges. Meanwhile, a group of women rights activists staged a peaceful protest to condemn the unwholesome widowhood practice of forcing widows to drink the water used in washing the corpse of their husbands in the Atani community of Ogbaru Local Government Area of Anambra State. The women, who gathered at the Children, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Court Awka, Anambra State capital, held placards with inscriptions, such as, "Stop Violence Against Women and Girls in Anambra State", "Ogbaru Men and Women, Allow Our Widows Some Peace", "Stop All Obnoxious Laws and Harmful Widowhood Practices in Anambra State", among other inscriptions.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**58.3%** Yes  
**36.7%** No  
**5.0%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

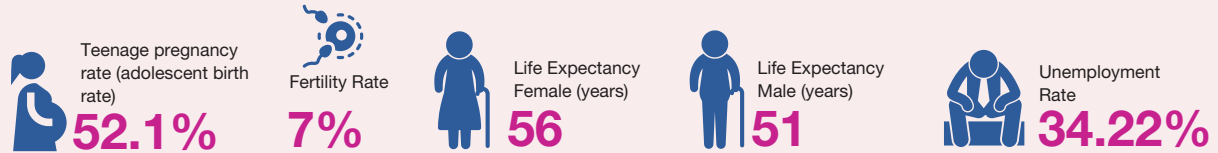
**7.5%** Not at all useful  
**51.7%** A little bit useful  
**31.7%** Mostly useful  
**9.2%** Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

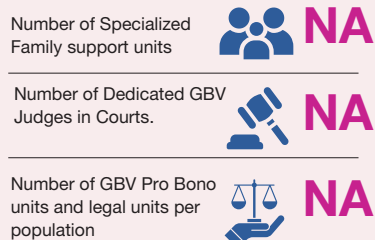
**60.8%** Audio/spoken content  
**34.2%** Braille printed content  
**40.0%** Visual content  
**28.3%** Screen subtitling  
**40.8%** Sign interpretation  
**35.0%** Picture-based messages  
**35.8%** Simplified messages  
**35.8%** None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	1.0
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	0.5
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	0.0
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	0.5
 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	1.0
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	0.5
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	1.0
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	0.5
 <p>Support Services</p>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	0.5
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	0.5
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	0.5
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	0.5
 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	1.0
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	0.5
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	1.0
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	0.5
 <p>Budget and Spending</p>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	0.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	0.0

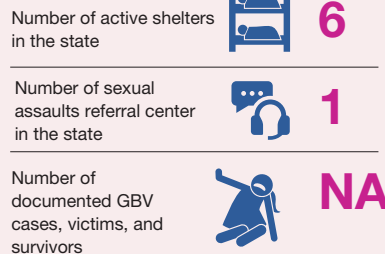
### State Context



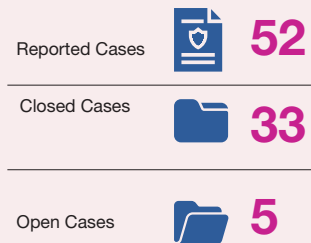
### Access to Legal Justice



### Support Services



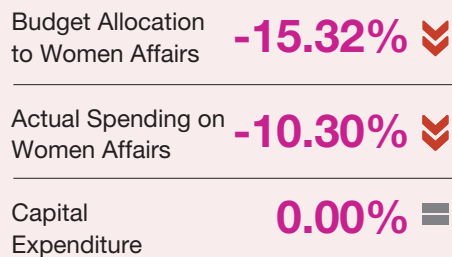
### GBV Cases



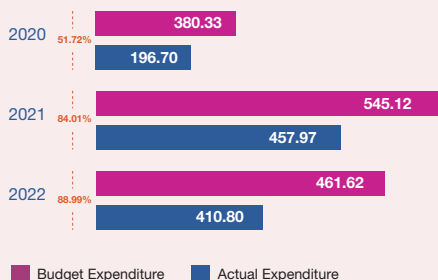
### Womaniy Index (GBV) Ranking (out of 36 States)



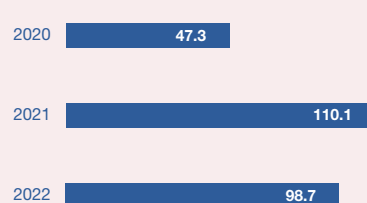
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>VAPP Law, Penal Code, Administration of Criminal Justice Law, and Child Rights Law are the GBV-related laws in the state</p> <p>Poor funding hinders the effectiveness of the GBV-related laws.</p> <p>Witnesses are not conversant with court proceedings and lack funding to transport themselves for pre-trial and other court proceedings.</p>	<p>Devise strategies to enforce and implement the laws in the state.</p> <p>There should be provision for specific budgetary allocation to GBV and relevant ministries in the law.</p> <p>Educate the public regularly on GBV-related laws and policies and publish the contents.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>There are no specialized GBV Courts and dedicated GBV Judges.</p> <p>There is no robust witness protection program in the state.</p> <p>The state provides legal assistance to victims/survivors of GBV.</p>	<p>Establish exclusive GBV Courts with dedicated GBV Judges</p> <p>Create and implement a robust witness protection program.</p> <p>The public should be educated on how to seek legal assistance free-of-charge.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>There is only one active shelter and SARC owned by the state government, and 5 shelters owned by NGOs/CSOs.</p> <p>No family support units within the state. Poor access to support services in the state.</p> <p>There are robust reporting and referral pathways in the state.</p> <p>The formal support system is weak; hence, most GBV victims/survivors are sent to either the shelter or village head.</p>	<p>Build shelters in safe environments across the state. The privacy of the survivors should be upheld. SARCs be equipped and adequately staffed with trained personnel.</p> <p>Establish FSUs and ensure all the support services are accessible to all.</p> <p>Create a database to keep records of all reported cases in the state.</p> <p>The support service should be enhanced and made available and accessible to victims and survivors of GBV.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>Comprehensive sex-related topics aren't taught in the secondary schools and tertiary institutions in the state.</p> <p>Poor sensitization and awareness programs on GBV which gives room for religious misconception.</p> <p>Inadequacy in GBV Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials.</p>	<p>Educate the teachers and parents on the needs for incorporating sex education at all levels of education in the state.</p> <p>Create more awareness among religious groups.</p> <p>Increase investment in the production and dissemination of IEC materials</p>





## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

89.9% **Yes** 10.1% **No** -- **Not Sure**

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

49.6% **Strongly Agree** 48.1% **Agree** 1.6% **Indifference**  
0.8% **Disagree** -- **Strongly Disagree**

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

80.2% **Yes** 11.2% **No** 8.6% **Not Sure**

GBV is a significant issue in Bauchi State, as it is in many parts of Nigeria, and the existing GBV-related laws that have been enacted to address it are the VAPP Law, Penal Code Law, and the Administration of Criminal Justice Law. The VAPP Law needs to be updated, for instance, by amending s.1(2)(a) to recognize spousal rape in situations where the sexual intercourse is without consent and/or with force and violence. The numbering and cross-referencing should also be corrected, such as sections 19(2), 19(3)(b), 20(2)(a), and 20(6)), while specifying the relevant state MDA to submit the Annual Report referred to as stated in s. 31.

89.9% of the survey respondents are aware of the existence of the laws, and 97.7% agreed that awareness of these laws and policies will prevent GBV in the state. These laws are often used to prosecute sexual harassment cases in public and private institutions. Though the laws were reviewed and signed recently, there's still need for continuous collaboration with different organisations to strengthen the laws. 80.2% of the survey population agreed that customary laws effectively prevent and respond to GBV.

With regards to Bauchi State's system of reporting, prosecution, and enforcement, GBV cases are reported first to a police station to enable the police initiate an arrest and conduct an investigation. The Police then sends the victim/survivor to a health facility if he/she needs medical attention, after which it proceeds to the Ministry of Justice to prosecute the perpetrators. Even though there are no Family Support Units (FSUs) and dedicated GBV Judges in the state, the GBV desk at the Ministry of Women Affairs (MOWA), Health, Justice, and Police Headquarters facilitate the prosecution of the perpetrators. Also, the office of the First Lady collaborates with the Ministry of Justice and MOWA to provide legal assistance to GBV victims/survivors and ensure prompt prosecution of

GBV-related court cases. The survey results show that 69.8% of the respondents prefer the formal justice system to informal one. The informal justice system comprises vigilante groups, traditional and religious leaders, Zauren, and other committees. 58.9% of survey population believe that the informal system effectively provide justice for GBV victims/survivors.

There are six Shelters and one SARC in the state. The state owns one Shelter and one SARC, and the other 5 Shelters are owned by NGOs/CSOs. The state's SARC is equipped with drugs and equipment, and the Shelter comprises 6 dormitories, a hall, and training rooms. Moreover, the SARCs provide free medical and psychosocial support services to GBV victims/survivors. At the same time, the Shelter accommodates and provides livelihood support to the GBV victims/survivors to enable them to earn a sustainable living despite the insufficient funding to support services. The informal support systems complement the services provided by these formal support systems and 86.8% of the respondents believe that they are helpful to GBV victims/survivors in the state.



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

69.8% **Formal justice system** 29.5% **Informal justice system** 0.8% **I will not seek justice**

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

73.6% **Yes** 12.4% **No** 3.9% **Not Sure**  
10.1% **It Depends**

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

58.9% **Yes** 27.1% **No** 14% **Not Sure**



## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**44.2%** Yes  
**55.8%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

**30.4%** Specialized medical healthcare pathway  
**6.9%** Psychosocial/mental health pathway

**39.5%** Police/security pathway  
**17.1%** Legal pathway  
**5.8%** None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**86.8%** Yes  
**4.7%** No  
**8.5%** Not Sure

All the units responsible for gender-related issues under the state directorates work with support partners like UNICEF to create awareness materials and programs, including radio jingles and shows on GBV. Also, the state distributes GBV materials through the MOWA to all the health care centres in each LGA and community, and 77.5% of the survey respondents confirmed that the GBV information and/or education programs or materials are available in the state. Moreover, the state uses PwD-friendly IEC sensitisation and awareness materials such as sign language interpreters, audio messages, and recorded content. A few sex-related topics are taught in subjects like Biology, Health Education, Integrated Science, and Civic Education in secondary schools. However, sex education has not been comprehensively incorporated into the curriculum.

The Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Development allocation for the years under review was N380.33 million, N545.19 million, and N461.62 million for 2020, 2021, and 2022, respectively, based on the population of 4.16 million women. Additionally, N196.69 million in 2020, N457.97 million in 2021, and N410.80 million in 2022 were the actual expenses during the same period. The performance metrics for the state budgetary allocation in 2020, 2021, and 2022 are 51.72%, 84.01%, and 88.99%, respectively. From 2020 to 2022, the Ministry's budget performance improved by 41.88%. When it comes to the state's per capita funding for the Ministry of Women Affairs, it comes in fifth place in the region for 2020 at N47.3, second place for 2021 at N110.1, and third place for 2022 at N98.7.



## Human Angle Story

A 13-year-old girl who hawks kolanut in a market was sexually assaulted by a man with three wives and nine children. The man raped the girl multiple times within two years, and she eventually got pregnant. The market committee reported the case to the Governor's wife, who champions GBV cases in the state. The man was prosecuted, and he is currently serving jail time. There was also a case of a 19-year-old mentally impaired girl molested by a herbalist who promised to heal her. The case was reported at the police station and later forwarded to the headquarters. The case was prosecuted in court and the perpetrator is currently in jail.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**77.5%** Yes  
**18.9%** No  
**3.9%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

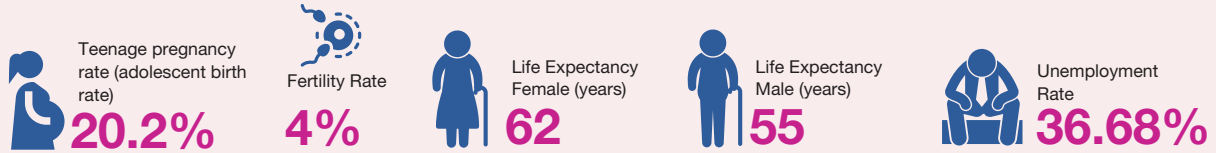
**4.7%** Not at all useful  
**34.9%** A little bit useful  
**40.3%** Mostly useful  
**20.2%** Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

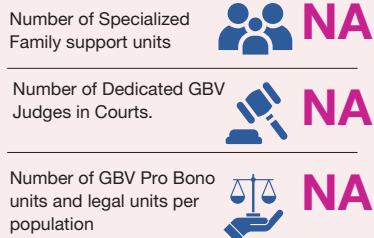
**28.2%** Audio/spoken content  
**6.2%** Braille printed content  
**18.6%** Visual content  
**5.8%** Screen subtitling  
**8.4%** Sign interpretation  
**19.4%** Picture-based messages  
**4.3%** Simplified messages  
**8.7%** None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	1.0
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	0.5
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	0.0
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	0.5
 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	1.0
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	0.5
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	0.5
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	0.5
 <p>Support Services</p>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	0.5
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	0.5
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	0.5
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	0.5
 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	1.0
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	0.5
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	0.5
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	0.5
 <p>Budget and Spending</p>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	2.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	0.0

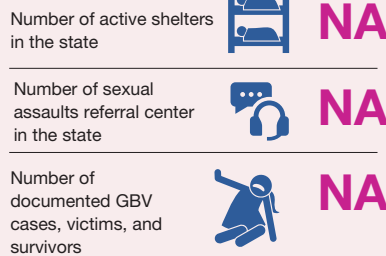
### State Context



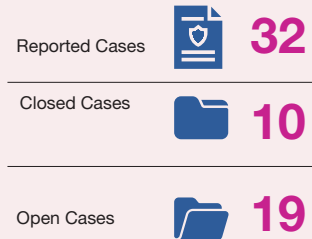
### Access to Legal Justice



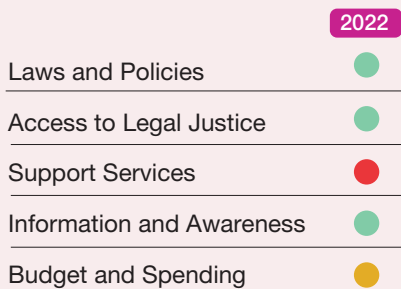
### Support Services



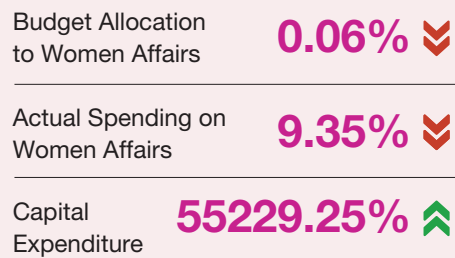
### GBV Cases



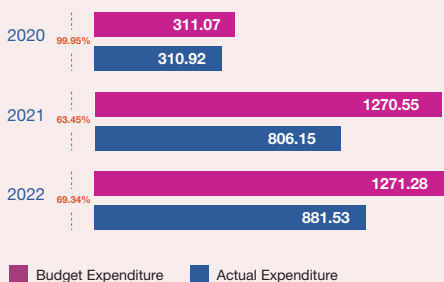
### Womaniy Index (GBV) Ranking (out of 36 States)



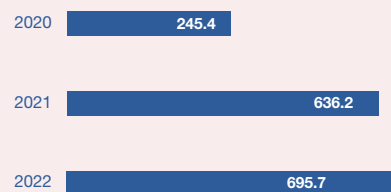
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>The Child Rights Law, Criminal Code Law, VAPP Law, Widows and Widowers Protection Law, and Administration of Criminal Justice Law are legal frameworks that guide the prosecution of GBV cases in the state.</p> <p>Relatives of GBV victims often discourage the survivors from testifying in court and convince them to settle out of court instead.</p> <p>Some key stakeholders are not aware of the existence of the laws that exist to aid GBV prevention and response, especially as the law provides stiffer penalties for GBV.</p>	<p>GBV laws and policies in the state need to be strengthened to address the gaps in the laws.</p> <p>Government should provide stiffer sanctions for informal players that try to pervade the course of justice.</p> <p>Government should increase awareness on existing laws and the formal justice system.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>The reporting, prosecution, and enforcement systems in Bayelsa State have a detailed pathway which it follows.</p> <p>There are no robust witness protection programs and services provided by the state.</p> <p>The state has dedicated Judges for GBV cases in the family court.</p> <p>GBV survivors are given free legal services normally termed as 'pro-bono' services.</p>	<p>The officials who handle reports and investigations of GBV should undergo professional training on how to handle evidence as well as the proper processes to follow when investigating a GBV-related case.</p> <p>Robust witness protection programs and services should be provided by the state.</p> <p>More dedicated GBV judges should be added to the already existing family court, while ensuring continuous training.</p> <p>Sufficient funds should be made available to relevant MDAs and organizations that handle GBV-related cases.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>There are no state-owned active Shelters or SARC, despite the state's VAPP law creating a GBV Referral Centre and a Victims Support Unit.</p> <p>The state government provides formal support systems for GBV survivors such as free legal, medical, and counselling services.</p> <p>The informal support system offers free medical, legal, and counselling services to survivors and settles disputes outside the court.</p>	<p>Government should establish Shelters/SARCs in the state such that is adequate for the state's at-risk population.</p> <p>Special funds should be allocated to the relevant MDAs to enable them to provide the necessary support for victims.</p> <p>All state-owned hospitals should be directed to provide free medical services to victims of GBV so as to alleviate the strain on the meagre fund of the MDAs and NGOs.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>The state employs the use of IEC materials as well as social media to inform and educate the masses on GBV.</p> <p>Comprehensive Sex Education is taught in secondary schools and tertiary institutions in the state.</p> <p>People living with disabilities are rarely put into consideration during sensitization exercises.</p>	<p>More sensitization programs need to be organized especially in rural areas.</p> <p>Materials on and teaching of sex education should spread across schools in the rural communities.</p> <p>Sensitization materials should be made more accessible to a diverse range of PwDs and simplified and translated into the various languages spoken in the state.</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

**69.9%** Yes  
**30.1%** No  
**--** Not Sure

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

**43.2%** Strongly Agree  
**40.3%** Agree  
**8.74%** Indifference  
**7.28%** Disagree  
**0.49%** Strongly Disagree

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

**62.6%** Yes  
**16.9%** No  
**20.4%** Not Sure

Bayelsa State Child Rights Law, Criminal Code Law, Violence Against Persons Prohibition Law Bayelsa State, Widows and Widowers Protection Law, Administration of Criminal Justice Law of Bayelsa State, Bayelsa State Action Plan (BSAP) for the Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, and the Female Genital Mutilation (Prohibition) Law are existing legal frameworks that aid the prosecution of GBV cases in the state. Although no specific GBV-related policies were identified in the public and private institutions assessed in the state, the aforementioned laws are relied upon by the private and public institutions.

69.9% of the survey population are aware of the existence of GBV laws and 43.2% strongly agree that awareness prevents GBV. Although Customary and Religious laws and practices that address GBV in the state are unwritten, different communities have informal laws that address GBV. For instance, in most communities in the state, perpetrators of GBV are either fined, ostracized, or flogged by the youths of the community. 62.6% of the survey population believes that customary/religious laws are effective in preventing and responding to GBV.

The reporting, prosecution, and enforcement systems in Bayelsa State have a detailed pathway in which it follows. After cases are reported, officials are normally sent out to investigate and make reports. However, prosecution is carried out immediately after reports are submitted, which explains why 60.2% of the survey population opt for the formal justice system. There are no robust witness protection services provided by the state, GBV survivors are given accessible free legal services normally termed as 'pro-bono' services. These services are provided by the state through the Gender Response Initiative Team. In addition, there are functional and

specialized Family Support Units, GBV Desks in Police Commands/Divisions, and dedicated GBV Judges in the state. The courts do not follow the timeframe stated in the VAPP Act as the implementation process is quite slow, nonetheless, the state's informal justice system is largely effective in providing justice for victims and survivors of GBV because cases are handled quickly and about 53.4% of the survey participants affirm it.

The state government has not matched her purported priority to support services with significant investment and budgetary allocation of funds as there are no state-owned active or functional shelters or sexual assault referral centres. Although there are few claims of the existence of a privately owned shelter in the state, its existence has not yet been confirmed. Additionally, the state is currently making use of available spaces in the Ministry of Women Affairs, police stations, and some hospitals as substitutes for shelters, major stakeholders are currently working hand-in-hand with the state government to build a state SARC/shelter. The state does not have a specific GBV reporting and referral pathway, survivors either report to the police, the Ministry of Women Affairs, or the Gender Response Initiative Team, following which the case is reported to the police through the Gender Desk Officer. Majority of the survey population which amounts to 73.3% are of the notion that the informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful in supporting GBV victims/survivors.



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

**60.2%** Formal justice system  
**34.5%** Informal justice system  
**5.34%** I will not seek justice

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

**48.5%** Yes  
**15.1%** No  
**9.2%** Not Sure  
**27.2%** It Depends

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

**53.4%** Yes  
**26.7%** No  
**19.9%** Not Sure



## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**28.2**  
Yes

**71.8**  
No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

**14.6**  
Specialized medical healthcare pathway

**7.77**  
Psychosocial/mental health pathway

**64.1**  
Police/security pathway

**31.1**  
Legal pathway

**16.5**  
None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**73.3**  
Yes

**7.77**  
No

**18.5**  
Not Sure

The GBV-related sensitization and awareness programs in the state employs the use of fliers, radio jingles, stage plays, and social media to sensitize, raise awareness, and educate the public on gender-based violence. This, notwithstanding, 49.5% of the survey respondents say they are not aware of any GBV information and/or education materials or programs carried out in the state. Nevertheless, there is sensitivity to and inclusiveness of persons living with disabilities during sensitization exercises carried out in the state. In addition, Comprehensive Sex Education is taught in secondary schools and tertiary institutions in the state; and the education board receives sex educational materials from UNICEF, and this aids them in educating the students.

Over the last three years, the Ministry of Women, Children Affairs and Social Development's allocation grew by 75.53%, from N311.08 million in 2020 to N1.27 billion in 2022. This growth outpaced that of most of its regional counterparts during the same time frame. In addition, N881.53 million was spent in 2022, N806.15 million in 2021, and N310.92 million in 2020 during the same period. In 2020, 2021, and 2022, the budget performance 99.95%, 63.45%, and 69.34%, respectively. Notable is the state's high per capita funding for the Ministry of Women Affairs, ranking second in the region for 2022 at N695.7, after Akwa Ibom, and first in the region for 2020 and 2021 at N245.4 and N636.2, respectively.



## Human Angle Story

A reporter shared about the effectiveness of the Child Rights Law and the Widow/Widower's Law, which made him report when a child was being abused in their neighbourhood. There was a case where a fifteen-year-old girl was raped by her father who was prosecuted and sent to prison, and as a result, the child stopped attending school. The Commissioner of Education was contacted to see how the child could be given free education and it was approved. Another report said that it was through social media, WhatsApp precisely, that she reported a case of a little girl who was being physically and sexually abused by her father to the Gender Response Initiative Team (GRIT) and they immediately sprang into action.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**37.4**  
Yes

**49.5**  
No

**13.1**  
Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

**24.3**  
Not at all useful

**40.8**  
A little bit useful

**17.9**  
Mostly useful

**16.9**  
Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

**51.5%**  
Audio/spoken content

**16.5%**  
Braille printed content

**27.7%**  
Visual content

**20.4%**  
Screen subtitling

**27.7%**  
Sign interpretation

**28.2%**  
Picture-based messages

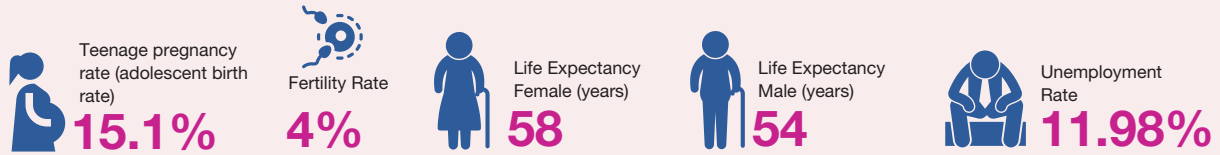
**13.1%**  
Simplified messages

**26.7%**  
None of the above

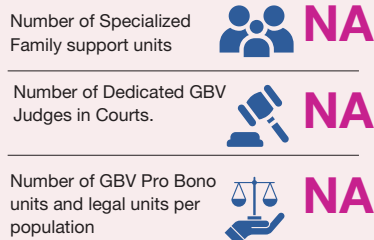
Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	1.0
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	1.0
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	0.5
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	0.5
 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	1.0
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	0.5
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	1.0
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	0.5
 <p>Support Services</p>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	0
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	0.5
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	0.5
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	0.5
 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	0.5
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	1.0
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	1.0
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	0.5
 <p>Budget and Spending</p>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	1.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	1.0



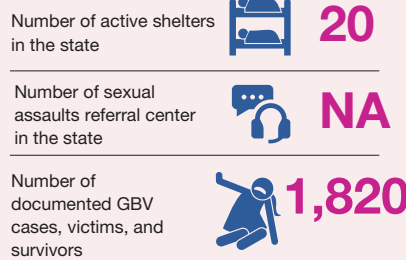
### State Context



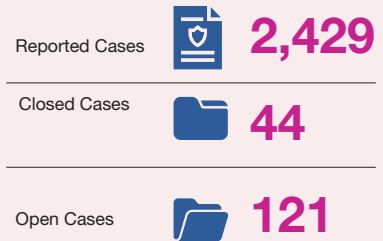
### Access to Legal Justice



### Support Services



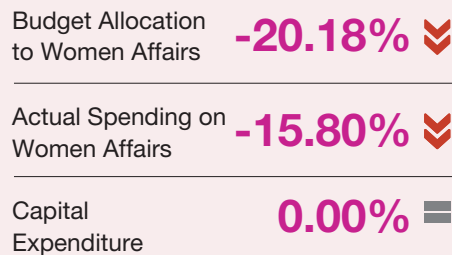
### GBV Cases



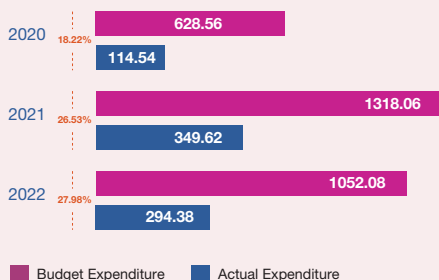
### Womaniy Index (GBV) Ranking (out of 36 States)



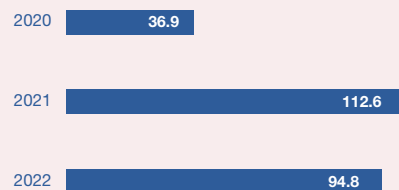
### Year on Year Growth 2022




### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>Non-functioning of Family Courts (Advisory Courts) in the state to try victims.</p> <p>Lack of enforcement of laws in getting justice for victims/survivors</p> <p>Lack of awareness of laws and policies by the public.</p> <p>Inexperienced Police Officers in handling GBV cases.</p>	<p>Establish separate Children's Court with structure, judges, and laws</p> <p>Advocacy and sensitization of people on the laws.</p> <p>Enforcement of laws by stakeholders as deterrent.</p> <p>Provide facilities and monitoring for agencies handling GBV</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>Inadequate logistics support for Police to prosecute GBV cases</p> <p>Inability of Police to prosecute using VAPP law</p> <p>Inexperienced staff to handle GBV cases at Police Commands</p>	<p>Budgetary allocation to the Police and line Ministries for logistics in prosecuting GBV cases.</p> <p>Training for Police personnel on distress lines</p> <p>Educate people that GBV is wrong</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>Lack of awareness on available support services</p> <p>Lack of funding for shelters and homes</p> <p>Abandonment of victims/survivors at shelters</p>	<p>Increased awareness on availability of shelters and homes.</p> <p>Funding support to revitalize Government SARCs and shelters</p> <p>Ensure accessibility of shelters and homes for Persons with Disabilities</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>Exclusion of PwDs in designing projects and campaigns</p> <p>Lack of inclusion of PwDs in awareness campaigns</p>	<p>Capture needs of PwDs in GBV policy implementation</p> <p>Establish GBV Desks in MDAs to address PwDs needs and Make GBV Awareness Campaigns more inclusive</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

74.35% **Yes** 25.65% **No** -- **Not Sure**

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

-- **Strongly Agree** 83.12% **Agree** 3.25% **Indifference**  
-- **Disagree** 13.31% **Strongly Disagree**

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

16.56% **Yes** 65.58% **No** 17.86% **Not Sure**

The Penal Code, Violence Against Persons Prohibition Law (VAPP) 2019, Administration of Criminal Justice Law 2019, Child Rights Law 2008, Human Rights Law 2003, and Widowhood Protection Law 2022 are established legal frameworks that the state uses to prosecute GBV cases. Laudable as this is, there exist gaps that impede the effectiveness of the laws, such as non-functional family courts, lack of enforcement, negative cultural practices, and inadequate public knowledge of the laws. Furthermore, customary, and religious laws contradict conventional laws, contributing to gender inequality and family disputes. Cultural practices like 'Ayam Amough' and 'Aleku' (when a woman is judged for adultery, but a man is not) often lead to GBV incidents, showcasing the need to address these traditions. Legislations like the Widows Protection Law and ongoing reviews of customary laws indicate the state's effort to improve GBV prevention and response. However, challenges exist, such as excluding women in decisions about chieftaincy titles.

The first point of call when a GBV incidence occurs in Benue State is the Nigeria Police Force (NPF). Other institutions that play key roles in reporting, prosecution, and enforcement are NAPTIP, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, and civil society organisations. 74% of the respondents prefer the formal justice system and its ability to effectively administer justice to survivors of GBV. However, the formal justice system is not without its challenges as adequate witness security, resource limitations, and cultural barriers often impede access to justice for GBV victims and survivors. Apart from the legal support provided by FIDA, the state provides free legal services through the Legal Aid, NPF, and Ministry of Justice. The informal justice system, including religious and traditional councils, has been found to be less effective due to their inclination towards

settlements rather than prosecution. Overall, there is necessity for improvements in witness protection, resource allocation, and cultural awareness to enhance access to justice for GBV survivors in the state.

GBV reporting and referral pathways in the state involve entities like NAPTIP, religious organizations, and CSOs, while formal support systems, such as the criminal justice system, Nigerian Police Force, Judiciary, and correctional centres, are accessible to citizens. The state has three government-owned and run SARCs/Shelter, while the three other shelters are run by non-governmental organisations. However, only 26% of the surveyed population are aware of the existence of the shelters and SARCs, indicating low awareness and visibility. The state needs to enhance awareness and accessibility of shelters and SARCs, improve functionality and sustainability, and increase general awareness on its reporting and referral pathways. Informal support systems, including religious organizations, CSOs, and Women's Associations, are perceived as not quite effective due to funding challenges, despite their usage based on different circumstances or incidences. There is a need for comprehensive, tailored support services and the recognition of the valuable role played by informal support networks to strengthen the support system for GBV survivors.



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

69.81% **Formal justice system** 28.25% **Informal justice system** 1.95% **I will not seek justice**

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

75.65% **Yes** 6.49% **No** 7.47% **Not Sure**  
10.39% **It Depends**

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

11.69% **Yes** 71.1% **No** 17.21% **Not Sure**



## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**14.29%** **74%**  
Yes 85.71%

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

**9.74%** **Specialized medical healthcare pathway**  
**7.47%** **Psychosocial/mental health pathway**

**44.81%** **Police/security pathway**  
**35.39%** **Legal pathway** **25.97%** **None of the above**

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**28.9%** **50%** **20.78%**  
Yes No Not Sure

The insights gathered through key informant interviews highlight both the existing efforts and the substantial gaps in addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) awareness and education programs in the state. While bodies like the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) contribute to regular sensitization on GBV through information, education, and communication (IEC) materials, there remains a distinct lack of frequent, inclusive, and comprehensive campaigns. The need for expansive, routine sensitization and a more inclusive approach—particularly concerning Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)—is evident. Despite isolated successful campaigns, there’s a crucial requirement for more frequent, holistic, and accommodating programs, especially considering the recent notable initiative conducted by the Eunice Spring of Life Foundation (ESLF), which, although impactful, lacked due consideration for PwDs. This sheds light on the significant gap in sensitivity and inclusivity within GBV awareness programs, especially in addressing the needs and perspectives of PwDs.

The Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development received N114.54mn in 2020, N349.62mn in 2021 and N294.39 in 2022 as budget allocations. It is safe to say the actual allocation per capita dropped from N112.9 per capita in 2021 to N94.8 in 2022 due to the decrease in allocation between 2021 and 2022, making Benue state the 3rd lowest in per capita allocation in the north central region of Nigeria. Furthermore, the state performed below the regional and national averages of N117.4 and 231.3 respectively.



## Human Angle Story

The report includes two anonymous human angle stories depicting personal experiences with GBV in Benue State. One describes a 22-year-old rape survivor from Makurdi LGA. Though her attacker was initially arrested when reported, he was soon released and only made to vacate his apartment with no criminal charges. The other story is of a 27-year-old domestic violence victim from Oju LGA. Despite repeated beatings from her husband, efforts to involve her family only led to temporary mediation without formal justice or accountability. These first-hand accounts highlight the trauma of GBV, the lack of justice and perpetrators accountability, the common recourse to informal mediation by families, and the cycle of violence this enables, underscoring the need for greater formal justice and enforcement of laws to truly support survivors in the state. The stories put human faces and voices to the survey’s findings.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**18.51%** **54.87%**  
Yes No  
**26.52%** **Not Sure**

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

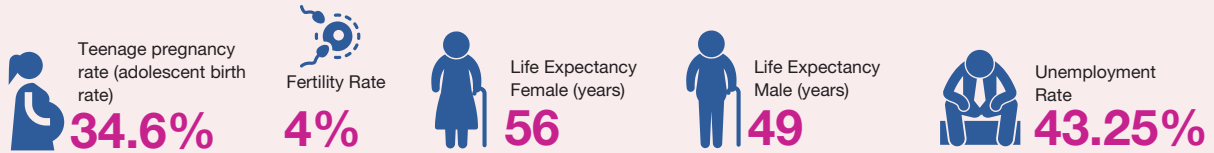
**13.31%** **61.69%**  
**Not at all useful** **A little bit useful**  
**22.08%** **2.92%**  
**Mostly useful** **Completely useful**

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

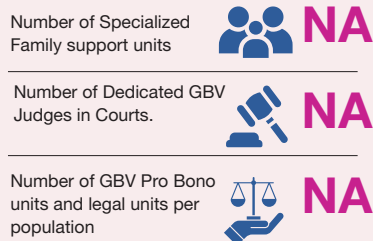
**33.44%** **25.97%** **27.7%** **22.08%**  
**Audio/spoken content** **Braille printed content** **Visual content** **Screen subtitling**  
**19.16%** **12.34%** **6.82%** **42.86%**  
**Sign interpretation** **Picture-based messages** **Simplified messages** **None of the above**

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	1.0
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	0.5
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	0.0
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	1.0
 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	0.5
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	0.5
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	0.5
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	0.5
 <p>Support Services</p>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	0.5
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	0.5
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	0.0
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	0.5
 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	0.5
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	0.5
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	0.5
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	0.0
 <p>Budget and Spending</p>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	0.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	0.0

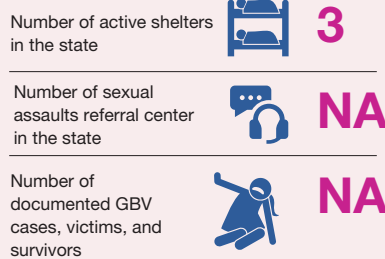
### State Context



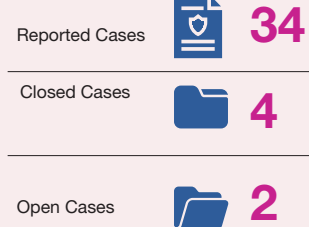
### Access to Legal Justice



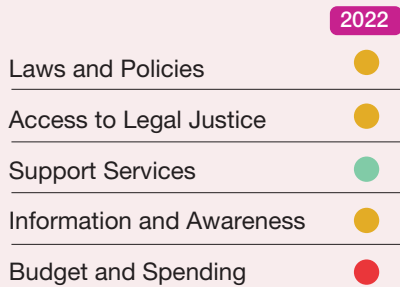
### Support Services



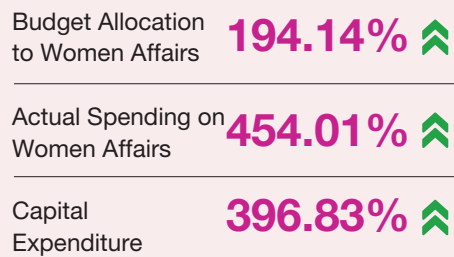
### GBV Cases



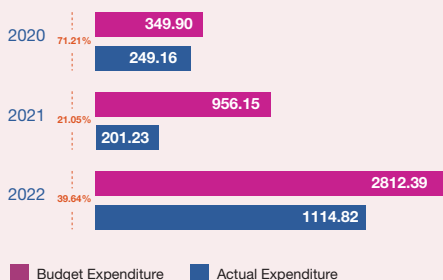
### Womaniy Index (GBV) Ranking (out of 36 States)



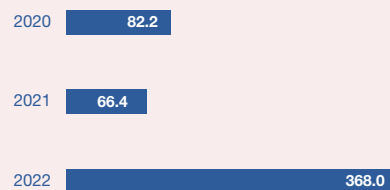
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	65% of the survey population do not know about the existence of the VAPP Law.	Government should increase sensitisation and awareness about the existence and role of the laws in providing justice to GBV victims and survivors.
		The prevalence of GBV is skyrocketing, yet the punishment of GBV perpetrators is not severe.	Government should ramp up the prosecution of GBV cases to serve as deterrent to potential perpetrators.
		People are reluctant to report cases because of stigma and other social pressures.	Educate the public, including rural dwellers, regularly on GBV-related laws and their legal rights.
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	Absence of robust witness protection programs in the state.	Develop robust witness protection programs and educate the public about it.
		Absence of exclusive GBV Courts and dedicated GBV Judges.	Establish exclusive GBV Courts with dedicated GBV Judges and well-trained court personnel.
		Sexual violence perpetrators still enjoy impunity in some communities, which frequently thwarts efforts to hold them accountable for their actions.	Informal practices that perpetuate GBV by punishing the perpetrators with a slap on the wrist should be outlawed.
		Poor access to legal justice in the rural areas.	Different reporting systems should be setup in the rural areas.
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	The state government has two safehouses/shelters, but no SARC.	SARCs and more Shelters should be established, well-staffed, and equipped.
		NGOs are largely responsible for the support services available to victims and survivors.	For sustainability purposes, government needs to invest resources in building capacity to be the primary provider of support services to GBV victims and survivors.
		Upon return to their communities, girls and women formerly associated with non-state armed groups (NSAGs) face significant stigma and rejection due to community perceptions.	Government should improve support services to ensure that persons who have been prisoners of war are given adequate care and re-integrated back into society.
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	Absence of PwDs-friendly GBV sensitization and awareness programs.	Make GBV sensitization and awareness programs inclusive, equally accessible, and generally PwDs-friendly.
		The radio jingles and television campaigns are mostly sponsored by NGOs.	Government should prioritize and sponsor more campaigns on GBV in different local dialects for effective communication.
		There is an ongoing SGBV-related program in junior and senior secondary school.	Comprehensive sex education should be extended to cover all levels of education, including primary level.



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

35% Yes 65% No -- Not Sure

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

19.7% Strongly Agree 56.4% Agree 13.7% Indifference 6.9% Disagree 3.4% Strongly Disagree

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

24.8% Yes 60.7% No 14.5% Not Sure

GBV is one of the most notable social problems in Borno State, and the incidence rate is skyrocketing due to the insurgency. To address this problem, the government has put in place different laws, including VAPP and Child Protection Laws, to prosecute GBV perpetrators. These laws are also used to prosecute sexual harassment in the state's public and private institutions, but a full-fledged implementation will help to eliminate GBV in the state.

The Borno State VAPP Law has some state-specific provisions, such as section 27 which provides for violence perpetrated by non-state actors where the use of force or deceit is employed to abduct or kidnap a person for ransom or any other benefit. There is, however, need to review and update the VAPP Law to include, for instance, offences of offensive conduct, damage to property with intent to cause distress, and harmful widowhood practice. In addition, amend provisions such as s.3 to provide for a Sex Offenders' Register, s.28 which requires the written consent of the state's Attorney-General before proceedings on GBV cases can commence, s.29 which says actions will not commence by direct criminal complaint, and s.43 by specifying the government institution saddled with the responsibility of enforcing the VAPP Law.

65% of the respondents aren't aware of these laws, and 76.1% indicated that increased awareness about the laws would help improve GBV prevention and response in the state. The Governor assented to both laws in 2022; hence, they haven't been revisited, reviewed, or reformed. Furthermore, the customary laws of the state are formal and informal. 60.7% of the survey respondents confirmed that Sharia Law is not effective in preventing GBV in the state.

All GBV cases are reported to the Police. When a case is reported, the Police invite the

perpetrator and thoroughly investigate the incident. After the investigation, they file the case with the court that has the authority to handle it for prosecution of the perpetrator. Even though the state's witness protection program is ineffective, FIDA works with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development to provide legal assistance to victims/survivors, irrespective of the form of the GBV. No wonder 91.5% of the survey participants prefer formal justice systems to informal ones. Though there are no dedicated GBV Judges and Courts in the state, there are functional FSUs and GBV Desks in Police Commands/Divisions. The state's traditional institutions and Sharia Laws are effective in handling cases of GBV, and this is supported by the submissions of 33.3% of the respondents, who indicated that the informal justice systems are effective in providing justice for victims/survivors.

The state has three Safe Houses/Shelters, which are located in Jere, Budum, and Gwoza. Two of the Safe Houses are owned by the government, and they accommodate and care for GBV victims/survivors. Also, the Safehouses provide medical, security, legal assistance, and economic empowerment/livelihood support to the victims/survivors. However, the government must still prioritise and improve budgetary allocation and investments to support services for better delivery. The informal support systems complement the formal support system in the state, and this was confirmed by 61.5% of the survey participants who submitted that the informal support systems effectively support GBV victims/survivors. The state designed GBV reporting and referral pathways with assistance from the state's GBV sub-sector working groups.

The state and stakeholders use different GBV-related sensitisation and awareness programs/materials, including radio jingles



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

91.5% Formal justice system 7.7% Informal justice system 0.6% I will not seek justice

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

53% Yes 7.7% No 8.6% Not Sure 30.8% It Depends

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

33.3% Yes 53.9% No 12.8% Not Sure





## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**35**  
Yes      **65**  
No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

<b>23.1%</b> Specialized medical healthcare pathway	<b>28.2%</b> Police/security pathway
<b>52.1%</b> Psychosocial/mental health pathway	<b>7.7%</b> Legal pathway
	<b>23.1%</b> None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**61.5**  
Yes      **30**  
No      **7.7**  
Not Sure

and programs, television shows, campaigns, and stickers. Unfortunately, only 27.4% of the survey participants are aware of the available GBV information/education programs/materials in the state. Sensitisation and awareness programs/materials are partially PwD-friendly; however, only the visually impaired and a few other groups of the PwDs are included. Efforts of the state to expand the coverage of sex education are yielding results. There is an ongoing GBV-related program in junior and senior secondary schools introduced by the state with support from UNICEF to improve the students' knowledge of GBV.

The state increased the allocation to its Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Development by 87.56% from N349.90 million in 2020 to N2.8 billion in 2022. For the three years, the actual budget implementation was N201.27 million in 2020, N249.16 million in 2022, and N1.1 billion in 2023. After Taraba, the state allocation for 2022 came in second. The state has given the ministry a commendable budgetary allocation, but its budget performance is still below par. In 2022, 2021, and 2020, the corresponding performance metrics are 39.64%, 21.05%, and 71.21%. The state ranked second in the region in 2020 at N82.2, third in 2021 at N66.4, and second in 2022 at N2022, when considering its 3 million female population and per capita. In 2020 and 2022, the state's performance was higher than the regional average of N58.0, N87.0, and N298.0, but it was lower in 2021.



## Human Angle Story

Boko Haram abducted a girl at the age of 11 in her community. While in captivity, she suffered greatly at the hands of the group. She was enslaved, beaten, maltreated, raped, and married off twice to an unknown man, for whom she conceived and gave birth to twins. She attempted to escape from their camp twice when her husband died, but she was recaptured. During an attack by the Cameroonian soldiers on the insurgents in the forest, Habiba escaped from their captivity and ran back to the community. Her family was happy to see her even though her sister, abducted before her, was not yet released. Her parents later moved to the state capital when the community was no longer safe, and an International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) supported the girl.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**27.4%**  
Yes      **18%**  
No  
**27.4%**  
Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

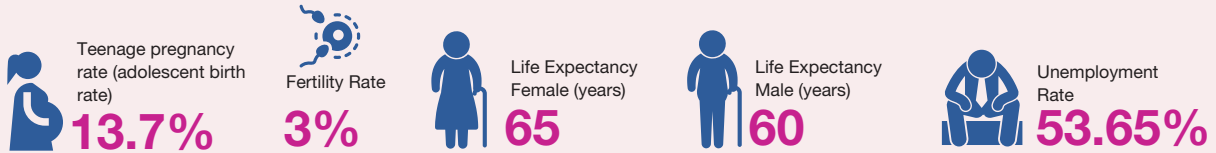
**1.7%**  
Not at all useful      **79.5%**  
A little bit useful  
**18.8%**  
Mostly useful      --  
Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

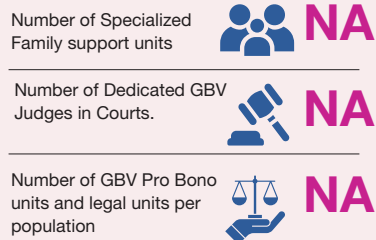
<b>3.4%</b> Audio/spoken content	<b>1.7%</b> Braille printed content	<b>2.6%</b> Visual content	<b>0.9%</b> Screen subtitling
<b>1.7%</b> Sign interpretation	<b>3.4%</b> Picture-based messages	<b>0.9%</b> Simplified messages	<b>94.9%</b> None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <b>Laws and Policies</b>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	<b>1.0</b>
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	<b>0.0</b>
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	<b>1.0</b>
 <b>Access to Legal Justice</b>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	<b>0.5</b>
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Support Services</b>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Information and Awareness</b>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	<b>1.0</b>
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	<b>0.5</b>
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Budget and Spending</b>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	<b>0.0</b>
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	<b>0.0</b>

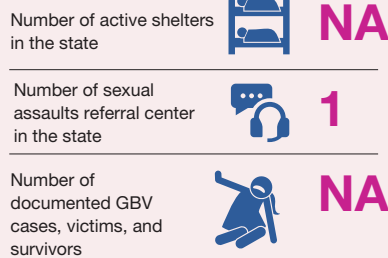
### State Context



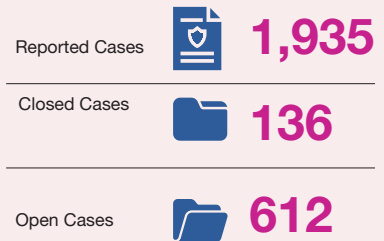
### Access to Legal Justice



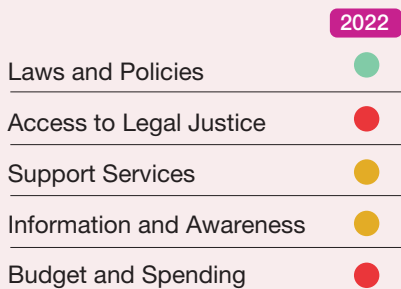
### Support Services



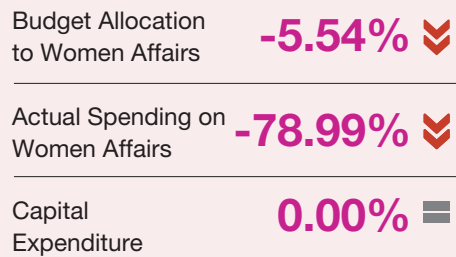
### GBV Cases



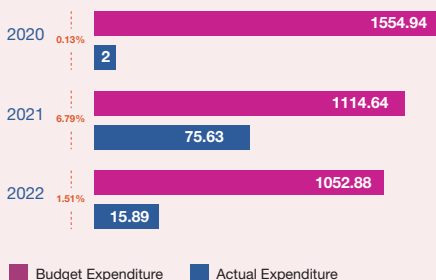
### Womaniy Index (GBV) Ranking (out of 36 States)



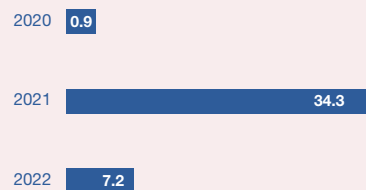
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>The state VAPP law exist to prevent and respond to GBV, although it is fraught with some gaps.</p> <p>The male-dominated House of Assembly posit that rape cannot happen in marriage and have refused to legislate on it.</p> <p>There is the perception that some politically exposed persons seem to be above the law.</p> <p>Money marriages<sup>2</sup> still exists in some communities in the state.</p>	<p>The VAPP Law, and other GBV-related laws should be amended in line with societal changes.</p> <p>The government should re-orientate the legislators and push for legislation on rape cases that happen between spouses.</p> <p>The state needs to prosecute high-profile offenders to demonstrate that no one is above the law.</p> <p>The state needs to criminalise and outlaw money marriages in communities where they still exist and establish stiffer sanctions for perpetrators.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>There is no known witness protection program although legal assistance is provided by the state for survivors of GBV.</p> <p>There are no dedicated judges for GBV in the state.</p> <p>There is an existence of GBV desks in all the police stations in the state.</p>	<p>The state should establish an effective witness protection program.</p> <p>The state should appoint dedicated GBV judges and regularly train them.</p> <p>Funding should be made available for seamless performance of the GBV desks.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>The support services are effective to the extent where the funding permits.</p> <p>There is just one government-owned SARC in the state. Recently, UNFPA established a new SARC in the state.</p> <p>The state has a documented reporting and referral pathway but little accessibility due to lack of awareness.</p>	<p>Support services should be prioritized for adequate funding.</p> <p>The government should establish more SARCs, at least one in every Local Government Area.</p> <p>The government should increase awareness on the reporting and referral pathway.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>IEC materials are infrequently disseminated through the women development centres in all the local government areas.</p> <p>There is an informal injection of sex education in the secondary school curriculum.</p> <p>In the local communities, there is the use of announcers and plays to disseminate GBV information.</p>	<p>Sensitisation and awareness on GBV prevention and response should be done on a more frequent basis.</p> <p>Sex education should be formally included in the secondary school curriculum.</p> <p>Sensitization should be regularly created through various mediums.</p> <p>There should be more sensitivity and inclusion of the needs of PwD in sensitization programs.</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

74% Yes 26% No -- Not Sure

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

60% Strongly Agree 29% Agree 7% Indifference 4% Disagree -- Strongly Disagree

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

48% Yes 22% No 30% Not Sure

Cross River State possesses a very robust framework for ensuring GBV prevention and response. The GBV-related laws and policies that exist in the state are the Gender Policy Strategic and Implementation Framework (2019-2023), Violation Against Persons (Prohibition) Law 2021, Child Right Law 2004, Cross River State Female Persons Inheritance of Property Law 2007, Girl Child Marriage and Female Circumcision (Prohibition) Law 2000, Domestic Violence and Maltreatment of Widows (Prohibition) Law 2004, and the Cross River State Gender and Equal Opportunity Bill, 2015. The VAPP Law, however, needs to be reviewed, for instance, by increasing the years of imprisonment for convicted perpetrators of rape in alignment with the parent VAPP Act (2015), as well as the stiffening of the penalty for the offence of forced financial dependence from just N1m to both imprisonment and an adequate minimum fine in line with necessary considerations.

74% of the survey participants claim to be aware of the existence of the aforementioned laws, and 60% strongly agree that awareness prevents GBV. The state has no written customary or religious law but there are cultural practices that communities use to address GBV cases, one which is corporal punishment meted out on the perpetrator. Bye Laws were passed in some communities on how to report and respond/refer GBV cases. 48% of the survey participants are of the opinion that customary/religious laws are effective in preventing and responding to GBV in the state.

The reporting and referral pathways in the state include CSOs/CBOs and Ministry of Women Affairs, which are often the first point of contact in a lot of cases. After which, the cases get referred to the Gender Desk office in the police stations for investigation. Just as enforcement led by the NSCDC and the police, prosecution, which has been adjudged

to be effective, is carried out by the judiciary. There is an existence of accessible legal assistance from the Ministry of Justice but there is no known witness protection program in the state. The informal justice systems in the state are championed by the religious bodies, Obong councils, and traditional rulers. Perpetrators are issued warnings, made to pay fines, undergo corporal punishment, etc.; hence, the informal system is not sufficient to provide justice for GBV victims and survivors. In addition, some cultural norms, like money marriages, perpetuate GBV. Based on the survey population's notion, 76% would seek formal justice and only 33% think the informal justice system is effective in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV. There are Gender Officers in all police divisions in the state and a family court that addresses some GBV issues, but no dedicated GBV judges.

Cross River State has no state-owned shelter but is home to shelters managed by churches and NGOs. The Heartland Alliance SARC is the only comprehensive Centre recently launched, but it is insufficient for the population. The active shelters in the state are few but accessible to those who are aware or reach out to the appropriate CSOs. There are reporting and referral pathways. Depending on the form of GBV reported at the Gender Desks, cases are referred to the Ministry of Women Affairs, Citizen's Right, or Child Protection Desks. Due to referrals made, survivors can receive comprehensive services although its accessibility is low and mostly depends on the survivor's awareness of the availability of such services or if the survivor knows his/her rights. Based on the survey population's notion, 87% are of the opinion that informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful in supporting GBV victims/survivors.



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

76% Formal justice system 16% Informal justice system 8% I will not seek justice

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

63% Yes 8% No 13% Not Sure 16% It Depends

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

33% Yes 32% No 35% Not Sure



## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**32%**  
Yes

**68%**  
No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

**18.8%**  
Specialized medical healthcare pathway

**15.6%**  
Psychosocial/mental health pathway

**38.5%**  
Police/security pathway

**19.8%**  
Legal pathway

**7.3%**  
None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**87%**  
Yes

**4%**  
No

**9%**  
Not Sure

GBV sensitization and awareness and intervention programs are mostly carried out during dedicated days such as International Women's Day and they are mostly supported by the NGO partners in the state. IEC materials, prints and electronic media, jingles, media houses, or billboards are mostly used. There is an informal injection of sex education in the secondary school curriculum by some teachers. Some NGOs liaise with the president of the PwDs group during the process of producing the IEC materials so that they can be inclusive. GBV messages are accessible to PwDs as it is to other people in the communities. Based on the survey population's response, 64% are aware of the availability of GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state.

The allocation to the State Ministry of Women Affairs decreased by 32.29% over the previous three years, from N1.55 billion in 2020 to N1.05 billion in 2022. In contrast, the actual spending for the same period in 2020, 2021, and 2022 was N2 million, N75.6 million, and N15.9 million. The corresponding budget performance for 2020, 2022, and 2021 are 0.13%, 6.79%, and 1.51%, respectively. For 2020, 2021, and 2022, the state's per capita funding for the Ministry of Women Affairs was N0.9, N34.3, and N7.2, respectively, the lowest in the south-south region. .



## Human Angle Story

A person with disability went to Afokang Health Centre for emergency treatment after an abuse but could not gain access due to the non-disability friendly environment. Her companion, who was a woman, was incapable of lifting her alone; hence, they reached out to few persons at the health centre who lifted her with a wheelchair up to the building. A GBV case that was taken to the Citizens' Right office was ruled unjustly against the victim due to the close relationship that existed between the defence lawyer and the perpetrator.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**64%**  
Yes

**25%**  
No

**11%**  
Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

**13%**  
Not at all useful

**17%**  
A little bit useful

**35%**  
Mostly useful

**35%**  
Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

**20.5%**  
Audio/spoken content

**6.2%**  
Braille printed content

**15.5%**  
Visual content

**6.2%**  
Screen subtitling

**16.3%**  
Sign interpretation

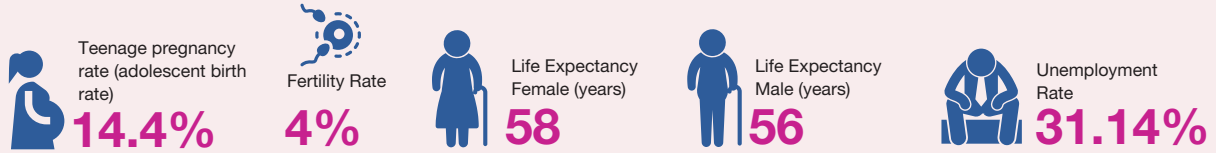
**15.9%**  
Picture-based messages

**8.9%**  
Simplified messages

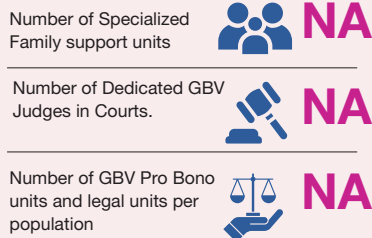
**10.5%**  
None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	1.0
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	1.0
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	0.0
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	1.0
 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	0.5
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	0.5
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	0.5
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	0.0
 <p>Support Services</p>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	0.5
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	0.5
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	0.5
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	0.5
 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	1.0
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	0.5
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	0.5
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	0.5
 <p>Budget and Spending</p>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	0.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	0.0

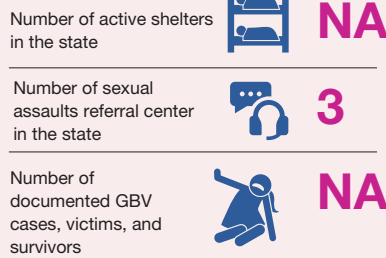
### State Context



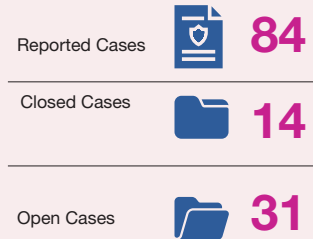
### Access to Legal Justice



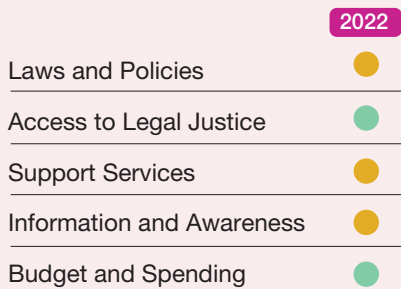
### Support Services



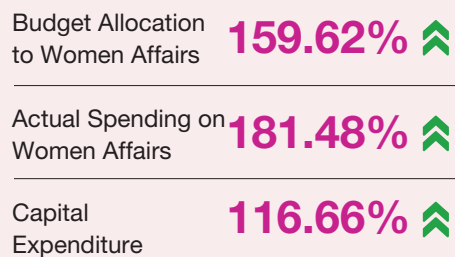
### GBV Cases



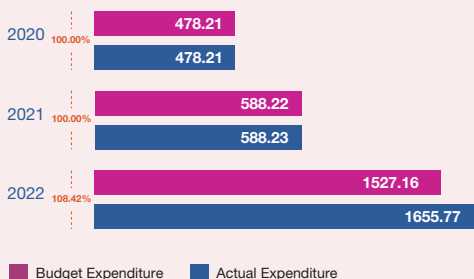
### Womaniy Index (GBV) Ranking (out of 36 States)



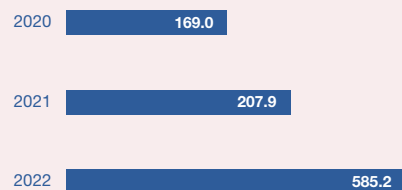
### Year on Year Growth 2022






### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)





S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 Laws and Policies	Despite the existence of relevant laws, child marriages still occur in the state.	Contraventions of the provisions of the Child's Right Law that criminalizes child marriage should be decisively dealt with.
		No provision for witness protection in the law.	Establish clear provisions for witness protection in the existing GBV-related laws.
2	 Access to Legal Justice	Biased law enforcement practices due to power dynamics.	Government should ensure that every person gets access to justice no matter the status of that person.
		Limited funding for transport and logistics during litigation which compromises the presentation of evidence in court	Adequate transport and logistic allowance should be provided to law enforcement agents who need to testify in court and present evidence before the judges.
		Long litigation time	The government should establish specialised GBV courts with dedicated GBV judges to enable speedy adjudication of cases.
3	 Support Services	There are three Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) in the state, one in each senatorial district.	Provision should be made for adequate funding, staffing, and amenities for the SARCs (e.g., vehicles to aid mobility).
		Inadequate number of personnel at the SARC	Government should adequately staff the SARC to drive patronage of the SARCs by GBV victims and survivors.
		The state Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development often empower their survivors.	There should be increased budget allocation for GBV support services in order to accommodate more GBV survivors, while ensuring proper monitoring.
4	 Information and Awareness	Sensitization on GBV is carried out using audio system, fliers, radio, and TV stations.	Funds should be made available for more and consistent GBV awareness programs.
		No dedicated GBV hotlines.	There should be dedicated hotline with personnel employed to man it as a GBV Survivors' first respondent service agent.
		Comprehensive sex education is not taught in the secondary/tertiary institution.	Comprehensive sex education should be inculcated into the education system.



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

51.4% Yes 48.6% No -- Not Sure

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

60.9% Strongly Agree 31.2% Agree 0.7% Indifference 5.07% Disagree 2.17% Strongly Disagree

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

27.5% Yes 67.4% No 5.07% Not Sure

The main GBV-related laws in the state are the Child's Right Law and the VAPP Law which is also an Anti-Sexual Harassment Law that exist in the states' public and private institutions. Policies exist though not documented. The VAPP Law needs to be amended or updated in order to address some gaps. For instance, there is no provision for punishment of relatives/guardians of minors who withdraw ongoing GBV court case to settle out of court. There is, therefore, need to incorporate provisions in the existing laws that criminalise the withdrawal of ongoing GBV court cases by parents, guardians, responsible adults, or relatives of minors and those lacking capacity when the reasons adduced do not serve public policy or the interest of justice.

The VAPP Law also need to be amended to include, among others, provision for a Monitoring Committee to monitor the implementation of the VAPP Law, periodic report on the implementation of the VAPP Law, provisions for the offence of forced financial dependence and intimidation, penalty for incest when consented to by both parties, and the scope of application of the Protection Order.

51.4% of the survey populations are aware of GBV laws, and 60.9% strongly agree that awareness of GBV laws prevents GBV. Some of these laws were recently assented, revisited, and reformed. The customary laws within the state are strictly informal, hence its abolition impacts state laws as some are good practices and there are no assessment reviews. 67.4% of the survey population opines that customary and religious laws are not effective in preventing and responding to GBV.

As regards reporting, the state has a taskforce committee who are charged with responding to GBV cases. The enforcement is carried out by the police and prosecution by the Lawyers

at the Ministry of Justice or the Legal Adviser at the SARCs. Nevertheless, the courts do not follow the timeframe stated in the VAP Act as regards judgment. The Ministry of Justice provides accessible free legal services for the victims, which is been carried out by the state Lawyers. There are informal justice systems in different communities. One of the cultural norms that perpetuate GBV is the 'virgin money system', which hinders the victim from seeking formal justice.

Based on the survey population, 82.6% would seek formal justice, while 65.9% opines that informal justice system are effective in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV. There are no designated Family Support Units and exclusive judges on SGBV. There are also no specialized and exclusive police units, however there are Gender Desks at some of the police divisions and the headquarters.

The SARC located at Asaba is composed of an office, with an inner room and bed for examination, and a reception, while the SARCs located at Warri and Ughelli have only an office and an examination room. When there is a case, the attendants call on the response team who use their personal vehicles most of the times to go on a rescue mission to convey the victims and the suspects, as the case may be.

The reporting and referral pathways in the state includes hotlines, hospitals, emergency unit in hospitals, school counsellors, NGOs/ CSOs, and village vigilante. 55.1% of the survey population have the notion that the informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are not helpful to GBV victims and survivors. Hospitals have been instrumental to prosecuting GBV cases in the state by carrying out tests when needed. The support service in the state has a low level of prioritization with no significant investments and budgetary allocation.



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

82.6% Formal justice system 14.5% Informal justice system 2.89% I will not seek justice

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

42.8% Yes 12.3% No 36.2% Not Sure 10.9% It Depends

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

9.4% Yes 65.9% No 24.6% Not Sure



## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**13%** Yes  
**86.9%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

**9.42%** Specialized medical healthcare pathway  
**2.89%** Psychosocial/mental health pathway

**28.9%** Police/security pathway  
**28.3%** Legal pathway  
**44.2%** None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**34.1%** Yes  
**55.1%** No  
**10.9%** Not Sure

GBV sensitization and awareness programs are executed by the Ministry of Women Affairs and their partners through sharing of fliers, use of sound system, TV and radio station programs, posters, and social media. Only about 13.8% of the survey population are aware of the availability of GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state. Comprehensive sex education is not taught in secondary schools as a subject, but some parts of Biology have some form of topic on sex education, such as reproductive system, but not in relation to GBV, while in the tertiary institution it is not covered. There is no specific sensitization targeting PwDs in totality as most materials are not available though they are sensitive to PwD during awareness. The Ministry of Women Affairs experienced 259.62% growth in its budget allocation, ranking among the highest in the South-South region, from N478.21 million in 2020, N588.22 million in 2021, and N1.53 billion in 2022. A noteworthy budget performance was also seen in the state's budgetary allocation for the ministry. In 2020, 2021, and 2022, the corresponding performance metrics are 100%, 100%, and 108%. Remarkable is the state's per capita funding for the Ministry of Women Affairs, which ranks second in the region for 2020 and 2021 at N169.0 and N207.9, respectively, and third for 2022 at N585.2, behind Akwa Ibom and Bayelsa. The numbers from the state are greater than the N112.5, 174.0, and N368.8 averages for the region.



## Human Angle Story

A man who raped his four-year-old daughter was arrested by the police and was charged and prosecuted. There was another story of Happiness, who came up to speak after an awareness program was carried out in their school. The perpetrator was arrested, prosecuted, and was sentenced in 2022 after two years in court. Aisha was 15 years old when she was given to a man in marriage by the father in a bid to settle the debt he owed. She was later discovered by a good Samaritan who took her to FIDA and was reintegrated to her maternal home. In one of the sensitization programs, teacher Lydia got to learn about the reporting and prosecution system in the state.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**13.8%** Yes  
**77.5%** No  
**8.69%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

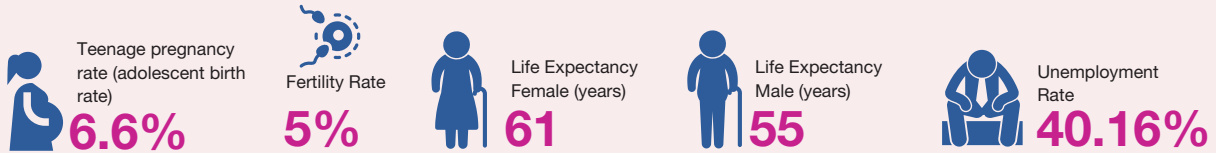
**37.7%** Not at all useful  
**21.0%** A little bit useful  
**37.7%** Mostly useful  
**3.62%** Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

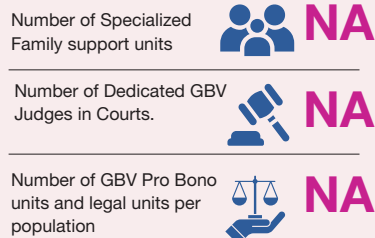
**6.52%** Audio/spoken content  
**2.89%** Braille printed content  
**0.72%** Visual content  
**1.45%** Screen subtitling  
**3.62%** Sign interpretation  
**5.79%** Picture-based messages  
**2.17%** Simplified messages  
**85.5%** None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	1.0
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	0.5
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	0.5
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	0.5
 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	1.0
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	1.0
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	0.5
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	0.5
 <p>Support Services</p>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	0.5
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	0.5
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	0.5
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	1.0
 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	1.0
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	0.0
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	1.0
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	0.5
 <p>Budget and Spending</p>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	2.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	1.0

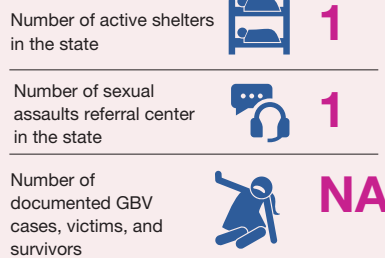
### State Context



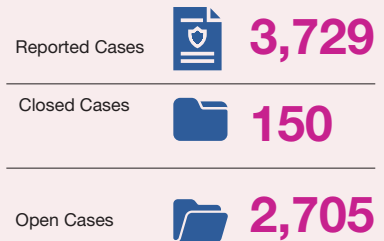
### Access to Legal Justice



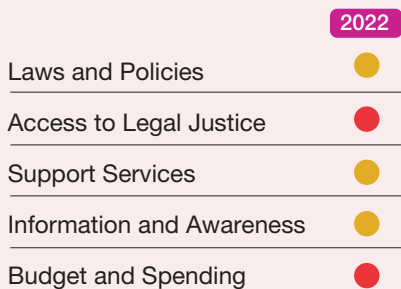
### Support Services



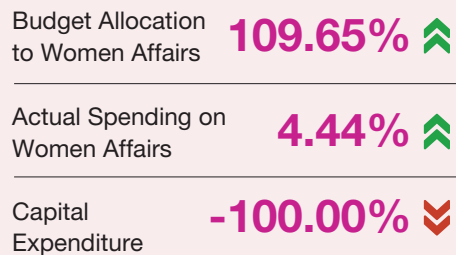
### GBV Cases



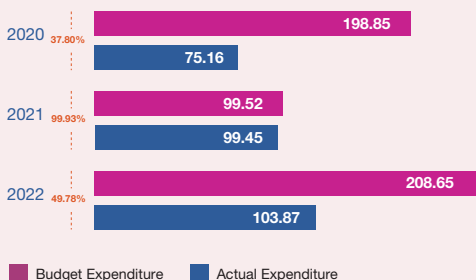
### Womaniy Index (GBV) Ranking (out of 36 States)



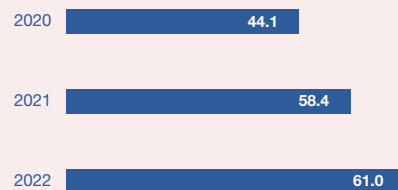
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	The VAPP Law introduced some provisions not in the parent VAPP Act, however, there are few gaps that needs to be reviewed.	Review the VAPP Law in line the existing gaps in the law and current realities regarding GBV.
		Gradual shift from discriminatory cultural/religious practices.	Speedily outlaw harmful practices that perpetuate GBV and met out injustice to victim and survivors.
		Limited hard copies of the VAPP law and poor awareness on the law	The VAPP Law should simplified, printed, and disseminated widely across the state.
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	The Ministry of Women Affairs is constrained financially to take the lead on seeking justice for victims and survivors.	The government should empower the Ministry of Women Affairs with adequate budgetary allocation and disbursements to enable it seek justice for victims and survivors.
		No FSUs, human rights desks in police commands.	Establish FSUs and introduce human rights desks in police commands.
		No dedicated GBV judges/lawyers.	Appoint, train, and adequately resource dedicate GBV judges and court personnel.
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	No funding for the established shelter to enable it commence work. The shelter home cannot commence service provision because there are no cloths, foods stuffs, security, water etc., for the survivors	There should be a separate budget line for MOWASD, for GBV response and service provisions, especially as the ministry need to commence shelter service provisions and it should be captured in the state budget
		The State does not have any economic empowerment and skill acquisition programs for SGBV survivors in the State	There government should create economic empowerment and skill acquisition programs for GBV victims and survivors in the state
		The number of trained and certified psychotherapist and counsellors available in the state is grossly inadequate	The government needs to adequately recruit trained and certified psychotherapists and counsellors to cater to the psychosocial needs of GBV victims and survivors in the state
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	PwDs are rarely catered to during capacity building and sensitization programs in the State, e.g., no special documents are printed for the blind and no vehicle arrangements are made for the physically challenged during sensitizations.	Government should ensure that the GBV sensitisation and awareness materials caters to PwDs as well as the public.
		Some semblance of sex education exists in subjects like biology, but comprehensive sex education isn't incorporated in the curriculum of schools	The government should deliberately incorporate comprehensive sex education in its curriculum
		A lot of parents believe that inclusion of sex education in schools will expose their children into wanting to get involved in sexual lives	Government and other actors in the GBV space should increase sensitisation and awareness on the need for comprehensive sex education in secondary schools.



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

107% Yes    23% No    -- Not Sure

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

47% Strongly Agree    41.5% Agree    6.9% Indifference  
4.6% Disagree    -- Strongly Disagree

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

16.9% Yes    49.2% No    33.9% Not Sure

The Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law exists in Ebonyi State and is the most widely known GBV-related law, though its use in prosecution is still low and it requires some amendments like making provision for offences such as emotional, verbal, and psychological abuse, and include a provision on compensation for GBV survivors. 82% of survey respondents are aware of GBV laws but only 40% feel they are adequate. Customary laws are viewed as insufficient by 64% of respondents. The VAPP Law was amended and revised in 2022 to strengthen response. There are no specific policies on sexual harassment in institutions. Assessments show gradual shifts from discriminatory cultural practices. Abolishing negative customs impacts state laws positively but reviews on existing negative customs/practices are limited. The VAPP Law is not frequently used in prosecution. Printing and distribution is limited. Implementation and enforcement of GBV laws, rather than reform, is the current priority in Ebonyi State.

The formal reporting system involves CSOs and direct reporting to police in Ebonyi State. 57% of survey respondents prefer formal justice. After statements are taken, police investigate and prosecute cases. However, there are no witness protection services and legal aid is limited. The VAPP Act timeframes are not strictly followed. From case mention to judgement takes months due to limited capacity of justice system actors on GBV issues. There are no specialized GBV courts or judges and obtaining copies of judgements is delayed. Informal justice mainly uses mediation and cultural norms which 64% feel perpetuate GBV. Only 21% view informal systems as effective for justice. There are Gender Desk Officers in police commands but no specialized units like Family Support Units or Human Rights Desks. Dedicated capacity building is needed for informal leaders on GBV issues. Specialized police units and courts will

improve justice access by adhering to VAPP timeframes. Prompt judgements and their copies will ensure justice for survivors.

Ebonyi State has one shelter and one SARC, but neither is operational at the time of conducting this research. No budgets exist for operationalizing the shelter or SARC. 95% of survey respondents are unaware of their existence. The shelter was commissioned in 2022 but lacks basic amenities and security. The referral pathway involves CSOs providing psychosocial support and referrals to police, legal, health and empowerment services. However, only two CSOs have certified counsellors. 65% feel informal support like family and religious centres help survivors. There are no forensic labs to aid prosecution. The government provides no specific services for survivors beyond general health, justice, and welfare. Economic empowerment programs are absent, too. Despite CSO efforts, support services remain inadequate. Prioritizing budgets, establishing and equipping shelters/SARCs, improving counsellors and referral linkages, and adding forensic labs and empowerment initiatives will provide comprehensive support and bolster prosecutions. The government needs to make services for survivors a key priority area.



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

57.7% Formal justice system    32.3% Informal justice system    10% I will not seek justice

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

55.4% Yes    8.5% No    7.7% Not Sure  
28.5% It Depends

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

42.3% Yes    37% No    20.8% Not Sure



## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**4.6%** Yes  
**95.4%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

**31.5%** Specialized medical healthcare pathway

**15.4%** Psychosocial/mental health pathway

**29.2%** Police/security pathway

**17.7%** Legal pathway  
**42.3%** None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**64.6%** Yes  
**24.7%** No  
**10%** Not Sure

Radio programs, public engagements, social media, TV, and posters are the main GBV awareness programs in Ebonyi State, as confirmed by 72% of survey respondents. However, comprehensive sex education is not in the school curriculum. 84% support its inclusion from age 13 and above. Despite CSO efforts, sensitization is not frequent or state-wide. Inclusivity for persons with disabilities is lacking in awareness programs and distribution IEC materials. Making radio jingles, pamphlets, SMS and leveraging influential leaders as champions can expand reach. Advocating for comprehensive sex education in schools is crucial for attitude change. Regular state-sponsored programs that are disability-inclusive and interactive can spread awareness extensively. Multi-channel awareness using technology, schools, and influential leaders is key.

Ebonyi State consistently secured the third position in per capita spending for its Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development over three years in the South Eastern region, recording allocations of N44.1, N58.4, and N61.0 in 2020, 2021, and 2022 respectively. These allocations trailed behind the region's per capita spending. Notably, Ebonyi State steadily increased its expenditure annually, marking a gradual 38.2% rise from N75.16mn in 2020 to N103.87mn in 2022. However, despite this growth, budget performance witnessed a decline from 99.9% in 2021 to 49.8%.



## Human Angle Story

A widow was denied inheritance of her late husband's properties and land in Ebonyi State. But after intervention by a CSO, the community leaders had a change of heart and granted her request, overriding the customary law. The widow regained the resources that were rightfully hers. This demonstrates a shift away from discriminatory practices and gives hope. It was made possible by advocacy and engagement of community leaders. In another case, a survivor and her mother had to withdraw a rape case and relocate as the influential perpetrator bribed police and threatened them. Lack of shelter made them even more vulnerable. This shows the lack of protection and support systems. While mindsets are slowly changing, building shelters, sensitizing law enforcers, ensuring protection, and providing economic support are key to empowering survivors, especially from underprivileged backgrounds.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**72.3%** Yes  
**17.7%** No  
**10%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

**24%** Not at all useful  
**18.5%** A little bit useful  
**42.3%** Mostly useful  
**15.4%** Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

**43.1%** Audio/spoken content  
**4.6%** Braille printed content  
**5.4%** Visual content  
**2.3%** Screen subtitling  
**49.2%** Sign interpretation  
**10%** Picture-based messages  
**10%** Simplified messages  
**10.8%** None of the above

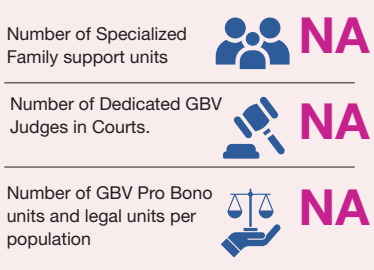


Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	1.0
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	0.5
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	0.5
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	0.5
 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	1.0
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	0.5
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	0.0
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	0.0
 <p>Support Services</p>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	0.5
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	1.0
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	0.5
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	0.5
 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	1.0
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	0.5
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	1.0
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	0.0
 <p>Budget and Spending</p>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	0.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	0.0

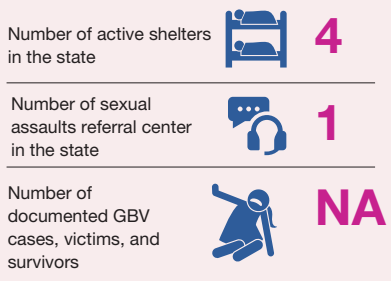
### State Context



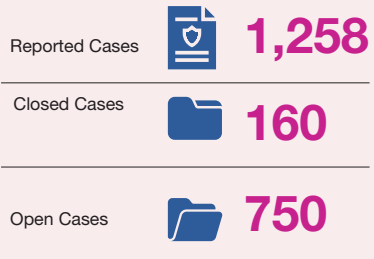
### Access to Legal Justice



### Support Services



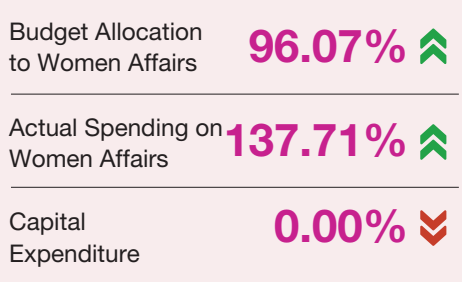
### GBV Cases



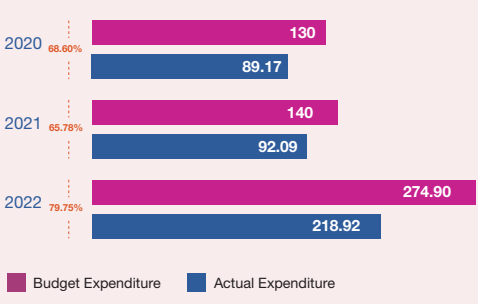
### Womaniy Index (GBV) Ranking (out of 36 States)



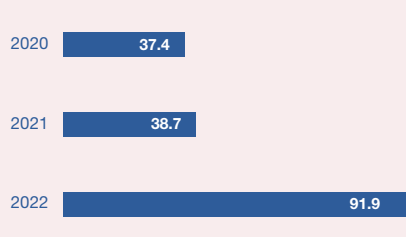
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>There are a number of laws that prevent and respond to GBV in Edo State, while its VAPP Law expands the definition of rape in the parent VAPP Act. The GBV-related laws, however, need continuous review and strengthening.</p>	<p>There is need for continuous update and review of the VAPP law and all GBV-related laws.</p> <p>Ensure continuous sensitization, awareness, and outreaches in both urban, semi-urban, and rural communities on the existing GBV laws.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>There is a functional Family Support Unit at the State Police Command.</p> <p>There is legal assistance provided by the state to GBV survivors, but manpower is inadequate</p> <p>There is an effective witness protection for children.</p> <p>There is informal justice system at the community level in the state.</p>	<p>There should be Family Court in the three Senatorial Districts to prevent long-distance travel to the state capital.</p> <p>The government should adequately recruit lawyers to cater to the population of GBV victims/survivors in the state.</p> <p>There should be an effective witness protection for adults.</p> <p>There should be a collaboration between the informal justice and the formal justice system.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>There are four shelters and one Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) in the state.</p> <p>Poor and low awareness of the reporting and referral pathways in the State</p> <p>Some NGOs and CSOs support in areas of counselling, provide initial safe place and care to GBV victims/survivors.</p>	<p>There should be more shelters and SARCs in the state sufficient for the at-risk population in the state.</p> <p>GBV Centres should be located in different state-owned hospitals in the 18 LGAs in Edo State.</p> <p>Government should increase sensitisation and awareness on reporting and referral pathways in the state.</p> <p>For sustainability purposes, the government should take the lead on providing support services to GBV victims and survivors.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>The medium of sensitization and awareness on GBV in the state by government is usually radio and television jingles as well as billboards and poster campaigns.</p> <p>There is a film on GBV produced by the state titled: 'We will not be silent'.</p> <p>Sex Education is taught in some Secondary Schools.</p> <p>There is poor social inclusion as the IEC materials are not disability friendly.</p> <p>GBV sensitization is as accessible to PwDs as it is to other people in the communities.</p>	<p>There should be collaboration with necessary bodies for more sensitization and awareness programs and mediums.</p> <p>The state should continue to use such mediums and other creative ways to constantly create awareness on GBV.</p> <p>Comprehensive sex education should be inclusive in the school curriculum at all levels.</p> <p>All IEC materials should be disability friendly and accessible to persons with all forms of disability.</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

64% **Yes**    36% **No**    -- **Not Sure**

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

55% **Strongly Agree**    31% **Agree**    12% **Indifference**  
2% **Disagree**    -- **Strongly Disagree**

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

36% **Yes**    48% **No**    16% **Not Sure**

The GBV-related laws that exist in the state are Female Genital Mutilation Prohibition, Child's Right Act, and the VAPP Law which is also a sexual harassment law in the states' public and private institutions, frequently used as a guide for GBV cases. Notably, the Edo State VAPP Law expands the definition of rape from what was provided in the parent VAPP Act (2015). 64% of the survey populations are aware of the existence of these laws, however, 55% strongly agree that awareness prevents GBV.

Frantic effort has been made in revisiting and reforming some GBV laws. Customary laws within the state are strictly informal, the abolition gave recognition to state laws which are good practices and no assessment reviews have been done. Meanwhile, 48% of the survey population perceives customary/religious laws as not effective in preventing and responding to GBV in the state.

The reporting system is multiple-entry, and this can come from CSOs, NGOs, police, hospitals, vigilantes, whistle-blowers, good-spirited individuals, etc., while law enforcement is carried out by the police, and prosecution by the Ministry of Justice, which explains why 78% of the survey population prefers to seek the formal justice system.

There is an accessible legal assistance provided by the state for victims or survivors of GBV through the Ministry of Justice. There is an effective witness protection for children at the chambers. There is also a Gender Desk at the Police Command including dedicated GBV judges.

The courts do not follow the timeframes stated in the VAP Act, making dispensation of justice slow. There is informal justice system at the community level as it relates to women and children and the case end up with the traditional leaders. However, 45% of the survey

population has the notion that the informal justice system is not effective in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV.

The Edo State SARC is well-equipped with a 100-bed space, and the shelter and the SARC are said to provide support to GBV victims and survivors in areas of safety, dedicated care, medical, mental/therapeutic, legal etc.

The GBV reporting and referral pathways are the specialized medical healthcare provided by the SARC and the legal pathway provided by the state. Although there is the presence of a police unit in the SARC, one cannot guarantee police/security pathway.

69% of the survey populations are of the notion that the informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful in supporting GBV victims/survivors.

The medical units have been instrumental to prosecuting cases of GBV as they conduct relevant medical and forensic examination in case of rape and violation, and provide support during investigation, trial and enforcement of court judgments, although there is a low level of prioritization, budgetary allocation and investments to support services in the state.

The State only uses radio and television jingle as well as billboards to sensitize the public on rape and GBV. There is also a film on GBV produced by the state titled: 'We will not be silent.' There is a memorandum of understanding with Kada Cinema to get the movie to a wider audience. Hence, 69% of the survey populations are aware of the availability of GBV information and education programs/materials in the state.



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

78% **Formal justice system**    13% **Informal justice system**    9% **I will not seek justice**

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

57% **Yes**    22% **No**    7% **Not Sure**  
14% **It Depends**

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

35% **Yes**    45% **No**    20% **Not Sure**



## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

13% Yes 87% No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

27% Specialized medical healthcare pathway

14% Psychosocial/mental health pathway

49% Police/security pathway

44% Legal pathway 33% None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

69% Yes 18% No 12% Not Sure

At the time of the research, Sex Education is taught in Basic Science and Home Economics in Junior Secondary and Biology in Senior Secondary Schools, although it is not comprehensive.

The sensitivity and inclusiveness of persons with disability in GBV awareness program and IEC materials is very poor and unsatisfactory.

With N130 million and N140 million, respectively, the state had the lowest allocation to its Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues in the region in 2020 and 2021. N274 million, the allocation for 2022, is the fifth highest in the region, higher than River State. Actual expenditure for 2020, 2021 and 2022 was N89.17 million, N92.09 million and N218.92 million respectively. The budget performance was 79.75% in 2022, 65.78% in 2021, and 68.60% in 2020. The state's per capita funding for the ministry was quite low; it ranked fifth in the region for 2020 at N37.4, and fourth for 2021 and 2022 at N38.7, and N91.9 respectively.



## Human Angle Story

A shop owner was accused of raping a minor, he was arrested, detained, taken to court, and was found guilty, convicted, and imprisoned. The same act was perpetrated by a bricklayer to the house help of a businessman, justice did not prevail as the man was granted bail at the station. Another incidence was that of a lady cohabiting with her fiancé which resulted to the birth of two children; but she was abandoned by the man. After referral was made to social welfare, he was made to be providing monthly upkeep for the children. A two-month-old girl was circumcised and died in the process, and the woman who performed the circumcision was arrested but the issue was resolved at the police station.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

69% Yes 29% No 2% Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

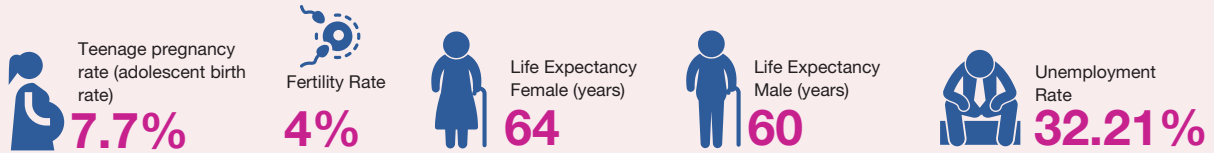
17% Not at all useful 8% A little bit useful 11% Mostly useful 64% Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

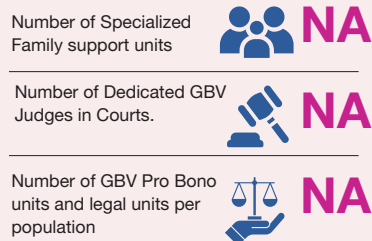
19% Audio/spoken content 8% Braille printed content 19% Visual content 11% Screen subtitling 37% Sign interpretation 31% Picture-based messages 15% Simplified messages 58% None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <b>Laws and Policies</b>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	<b>1.0</b>
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	<b>0.5</b>
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	<b>1.0</b>
 <b>Access to Legal Justice</b>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	<b>1.0</b>
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Support Services</b>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Information and Awareness</b>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	<b>1.0</b>
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	<b>1.0</b>
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Budget and Spending</b>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	<b>1.0</b>
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	<b>0.0</b>

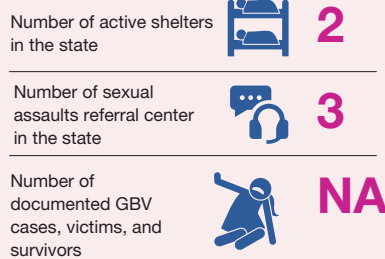
### State Context



### Access to Legal Justice



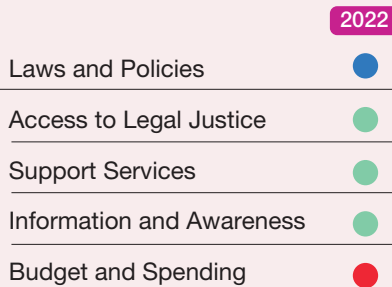
### Support Services



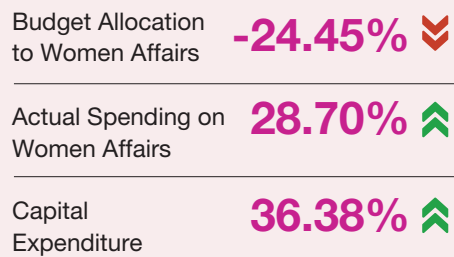
### GBV Cases



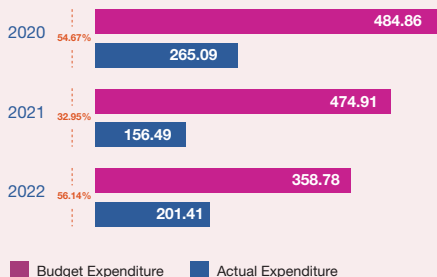
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



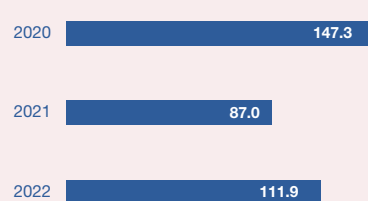
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>The Ekiti State Gender-Based Violence (Prohibition) Law, which was enacted in 2011 and amended in 2019, is robust, though it needs to be updated.</p> <p>Unsustained political will to implement GBV-related laws and policies may lead to a decline in GBV prevention and response.</p> <p>Inadequate funding to implement GBV laws and policies.</p> <p>Inaccessibility of GBV laws and policies by the public, including PwDs.</p>	<p>Review the VAPP Law to make provision for periodic (e.g., annual) report on implementation of the law.</p> <p>Engaging with policymakers, legislators, and community leaders to emphasize the importance of sustained efforts in GBV prevention and response.</p> <p>Increase budget allocation for the implementation of GBV laws and policies and collaborate with international organizations, NGOs, and private sector partners to secure additional funding for GBV prevention and response programs.</p> <p>Work on translating GBV laws and policies into local languages and formats accessible to PwDs.</p> <p>Conduct community outreach programs to educate the public about the GBV laws and policies, especially in rural areas.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>Apart from the protection order which must be heard within seven days, there is unspecified timeframe within which cases should be heard, and, by implication, slow judicial processes for other aspects of the GBV Law.</p> <p>There are no functional dedicated GBV courts and judges within the state.</p> <p>Patriarchy, culture, and religion are major challenges that hamper access to justice for GBV victims/survivors and their families</p>	<p>Specify timeframes for hearing cases under different aspects of the GBV Law to ensure prioritization and timely resolution of GBV cases.</p> <p>Collaborate with the judiciary and legal institutions to establish dedicated GBV courts and appoint judges with expertise in gender-based violence.</p> <p>Engage with religious and community leaders to foster understanding and support for legal interventions in GBV cases.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>Inadequate accessible support services to PwDs at all levels: medical, investigations, psychosocial, including counselling, shelter, etc.</p> <p>The SARCs and shelters presently have limited staff.</p> <p>The SARCs and shelters do not have any form of emergency transportation for victims of GBV.</p>	<p>Collaborate with disability advocacy groups to ensure inclusivity in the design and implementation of support services while advocating for the development of comprehensive support services tailored towards their needs.</p> <p>Increased funding and budgetary allocation is needed to strengthen and sustain the SARCs and shelters so as to, for instance, recruit and train permanent staff while creating avenues for step-down trainings to community volunteers.</p> <p>Ekiti State government should work with relevant stakeholders to establish emergency transportation, fueling and maintenance for the SARCs and shelters.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>Lack of adequate funding for information and awareness programmes and activities</p> <p>The few available IEC materials are mostly in English.</p> <p>Sensitization and awareness programs and activities are more at Ado-Ekiti, the state capital, to the disadvantage of the rural communities</p>	<p>Increase funding for information and awareness programs, emphasizing the importance of prevention through education.</p> <p>Explore partnership with media outlets, NGOs, and community organizations to amplify awareness efforts.</p> <p>Translate existing IEC materials into local languages, also making funding provisions for their wide distribution across both urban and, especially, rural areas of the state.</p> <p>Conduct targeted sensitization and awareness programs in rural communities to bridge the information gap through town halls meetings and collaborations with traditional and religious leaders within the communities.</p>





## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

86.0% Yes  
14.0% No  
-- Not Sure

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

50.4% Yes  
36.4% No  
13.2% Not Sure

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

28.1% Strongly Agree  
54.5% Agree  
13.2% Indifference  
4.1% Disagree  
-- Strongly Disagree

In Ekiti State, various laws and policies exist to address GBV, though the frequency of their usage in prosecuting GBV cases vary among respondents. The Ekiti State GBV Law, 2011 was revised and re-enacted in 2019 to include the VAPP, 2015 Act. The law makes wide-ranging provisions, including specialized “Gender Courts” in each Senatorial Districts (s.26), establishment of SARCs (s.52), regular training of judicial and support officers (s.40), and the establishment of a GBV Support Fund (s.55). It, however, needs to be amended to make provision for periodic (e.g., annual) reports on implementation of the law. Other GBV-related laws in the state are the Ekiti Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Prohibition Law and the Widowhood Law of 2002. The perception of the surveyed population regarding the existence and effectiveness of these laws in addressing GBV shows an 86% level of awareness.

Sexual harassment laws exist within the public and private institutions in the state, such as the Ekiti State University (EKSU) Sexual Harassment Policy and that of Federal University Oye (FUOYE), but their frequency of usage in addressing GBV issues has not been well documented by these institutions. The state government, in 2019, developed a “Operation Keep Girls In School” policy, which bans the expulsion of girls from schools during and after pregnancy. 90% of key informants agreed that no favourable customary laws and policies exist to address GBV, while recognizing that cultural practices and patriarchy fuel GBV.

Customary laws and practices in the state are predominantly informal and can negatively impact the implementation of state laws and policies. The abolition of unfavourable customary laws in the state is seen as a positive move by most informants. Still, comprehensive assessments of customary laws and practices within the state are

yet to be carried out. The existing laws are occasionally revisited and reformed to guarantee the prevention and response to GBV, as evidenced by the eight-year gap between the original and revised versions of the Ekiti GBV Law.

In addressing GBV cases, the state has established both formal and informal reporting systems, engaging actors within the justice sector and law enforcement agencies. However, challenges arise as the attitudes of these state actors often pose difficulties for GBV survivors. Notably, key informant findings indicate that a significant number of GBV survivors have more trust in non-governmental organizations, such as FIDA and GRIP, to take up GBV cases for prosecution.

Within the state, legal aid services are available through pro-bono lawyers and state lawyers/ civil society organizations (CSOs). Despite this, challenges persist, with issues like the absence of witness protection programs hindering the effectiveness and accessibility of these services. Additionally, the timeframes set by the VAPP Act are inconsistently followed, and the lack of clear data on the durations between case mentions and judgments, as well as the delayed issuance of certified true copies of judgments, further complicates the legal process.

There are three SARCs in Ekiti State - one in each of the three Senatorial Districts: Ado-Ekiti (Central), Ikere-Ekiti (South), and Ikole, Ekiti (North). The SARCs are fully operated by the government under the supervision of the Ministry of Women Affairs, with active support from the Ministries of Health, Justice, and Education. It is a one-stop centre that comprises medical, psychosocial, legal, law enforcement, and outreach units in active partnership with NGOs working on GBV.

The Ekiti Transit Home, located in Ado-Ekiti,



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

85.1% Formal justice system  
11.6% Informal justice system  
3.3% I will not seek justice

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

65.3% Yes  
9.1% No  
9.1% Not Sure  
16.5% It Depends

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

48.8% Yes  
36.4% No  
14.9% Not Sure



## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**69.4%** Yes  
**30.6%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

**22.3%** Specialized medical healthcare pathway  
**8.3%** Psychosocial/mental health pathway

**76.0%** Police/security pathway  
**57.9%** Legal pathway  
**14.0%** None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**88.4%** Yes  
**8.3%** No  
**3.3%** Not Sure

is an established shelter fully operated by the government under the supervision of the Ministry of Women Affairs. It is managed by a matron with the support of social welfare officers, counsellors, and community health extension workers. It has a creche and a skill acquisition section where clients can learn skills and be supported through the GBV Survivors' Support Fund managed by the GBVMC as part of rebuilding their lives. 50% of the informants were aware of the actual address, and only 30% had been there physically. This is because it is only accessible through Women Affairs or SARCs due to the security of victims/survivors.

Despite the challenges posed by inadequate funding, there are existing GBV-related sensitization and awareness programs in the state. Through different platforms such as radio jingles, educational pamphlets, seminars, and radio and TV shows, these initiatives aim to educate the populace on GBV. Some are periodic, such as campaigns for the 16 days of Activism, as continuity depends on the availability of funds either from government or donor organizations.

Comprehensive sex education is part of the education curriculum in secondary schools and is implemented through projects like the Adolescent Girls' Initiative for Learning and Empowerment (AGILE) with funding support from the World Bank. Although 45% of the survey respondents indicated a lack of awareness of its existence, the research also reveals a gap in the curriculum in tertiary institutions.

Ekiti State witnessed a 28.7% boost in allocation from N156.49mn in 2021 to N201.42mn in 2022 for its Ministry of Women Affairs. This increase led to a modest rise in per capita from N87 to N111.9. However, these figures remain notably lower compared to counterparts in the South West region and

the national average of N256.1 and N231.3, respectively, for the 2022 fiscal year. Despite the increase, Ekiti State lags behind its peers, signalling the need for more substantial allocations to fortify support for women's initiatives within the state.



## Human Angle Story

A 14-year-old girl was sexually assaulted for over two years by her guardian (an uncle), a clergyman, and a university lecturer. She participated in a GBV school sensitization that emboldened her to make a report of the assault to her school counsellor, who brought her to the Ado SARC, where she was counselled, treated, and given legal advice. Medical intervention showed that the girl had experienced violent sex, though there was no direct proof as to when because of lack of fresh penetration. It was the girl's word against her uncle's, whom she lived with, being a child from a broken home. The Ado SARC immediately withdrew her from the abusive environment and referred the matter to the NSCDC for investigations.

The uncle was arrested, investigated, charged, and remanded for prosecution. He was granted bail after about two months in custody while prosecution continued. The university granted him leave of absence in line with the zero-tolerance policy of the Ekiti State Government, which all political office holders, public and civil servants, as well as the public should uphold. The girl's biological parents visited the SARC and said their daughter was a liar, and even if it were true that she was sexually abused by her uncle, they were not ready to prosecute their benefactor and requested for the case to be withdrawn. The girl has since been in the custody of the state government, and her education is unhindered. She is a boarder when school is in session and lives at the Shelter during the holidays. No member of her family has visited her since she came into government custody. Even though her uncle has been discharged on technical grounds, her family continues to distance themselves from her while the government continues to provide her with the needed support.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?


**70.2%** Yes  
**20.7%** No  
**9.1%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

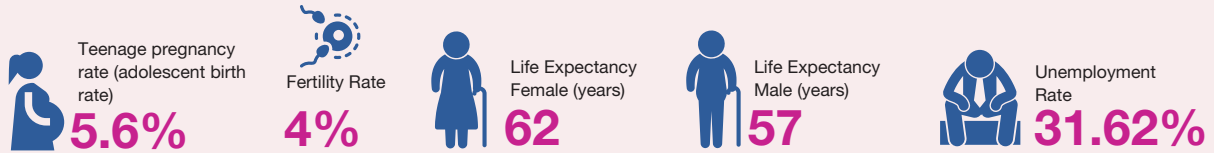
**5.8%** Not at all useful  
**22.3%** A little bit useful  
**43.8%** Mostly useful  
**28.1%** Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

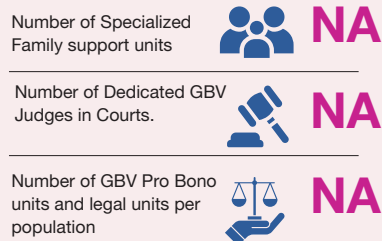
**49.2%** Audio/spoken content  
**15.8%** Sign interpretation  
**1.7%** Braille printed content  
**16.7%** Picture-based messages  
**22.5%** Visual content  
**10.0%** Simplified messages  
**11.7%** Screen subtitling  
**40.8%** None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <b>Laws and Policies</b>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	1.0
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	1.0
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	1.0
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	1.0
 <b>Access to Legal Justice</b>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	1.0
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	1.0
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	1.0
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	0.5
 <b>Support Services</b>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	0.5
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	1.0
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	1.0
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	1.0
 <b>Information and Awareness</b>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	1.0
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	1.0
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	1.0
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	0.5
 <b>Budget and Spending</b>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	1.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	0.0

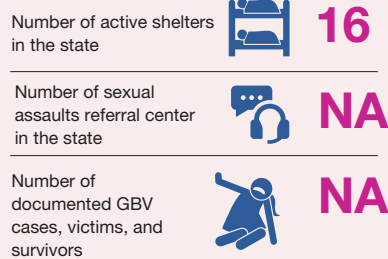
### State Context



### Access to Legal Justice



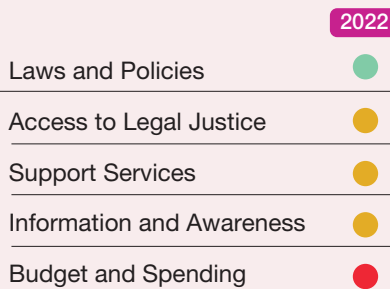
### Support Services



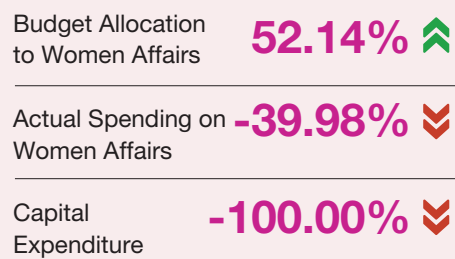
### GBV Cases



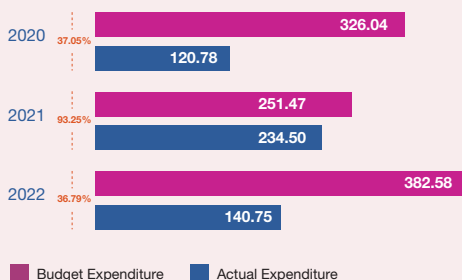
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



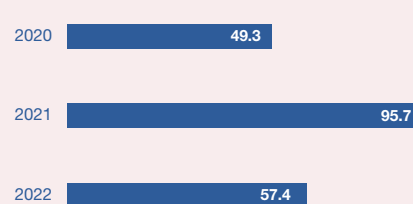
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>Lack of awareness of existing laws and policies on GBV among the state population.</p> <p>Inadequacy of existing laws and policies to prevent and respond to GBV effectively.</p> <p>Low prosecution rates of GBV perpetrators under the existing laws.</p> <p>Majority unaware of government's efforts to reform GBV laws and policies.</p>	<p>Increase awareness of existing GBV laws and policies among the state's population.</p> <p>Reform and strengthen laws to improve GBV prevention and response.</p> <p>Improve prosecution rates of GBV perpetrators under the laws.</p> <p>Publicize government efforts to reform GBV laws and policies.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>Preference for informal over formal justice systems</p> <p>Knowledge gap on where to access legal justice for GBV.</p> <p>Low safety perception for witnesses during GBV investigations and trials.</p> <p>Lack of awareness of specialized GBV police desks and designated judges.</p>	<p>Sensitize the public on the importance of formal justice pathways for GBV.</p> <p>Create knowledge resources on accessing legal justice and publicize their availability.</p> <p>Improve safety for witnesses in GBV cases by having a robust witness protection program.</p> <p>Increase awareness about specialized GBV police and designated judges.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>Low awareness of active shelters and SARCs</p> <p>Insufficient shelters and SARCs for the population.</p> <p>Inaccessibility of support services especially in rural areas</p> <p>Ineffectiveness of informal support systems</p>	<p>Create awareness about available support services, including the existence and location of the SARCs.</p> <p>Increase number and capacity of shelters and SARCs to at least one SARC and shelter per LGA.</p> <p>Increase number and capacity of shelters and SARCs to at least one SARC and shelter per LGA.</p> <p>Build capacity of informal support systems.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>Low awareness of GBV information and education programs</p> <p>Inadequate dissemination of GBV information materials</p> <p>Lack of inclusive GBV awareness content</p> <p>Reluctance to teach comprehensive sex education in schools</p>	<p>Improve awareness of GBV informational programs</p> <p>Increase dissemination of GBV informational materials</p> <p>Develop inclusive and accessible GBV awareness content</p> <p>Mainstream comprehensive sex education in schools</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

17.6% **Yes** 82.4% **No** -- **Not Sure**

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

33.57% **Yes** 52.14% **No** 14.29% **Not Sure**

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

12.86% **Strongly Agree** 50% **Agree** 27.14% **Indifference**  
6.43% **Disagree** 3.57% **Strongly Disagree**

Laws in Enugu State that address gender-based violence includes, but not limited to, the Enugu State Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law, 2019, the Enugu State Prohibition of Infringement of Widows and Widowers Fundamental Rights Law, 2001, and the Enugu State Marriage Causes Act. While the Enugu State VAPP Law has some unique provisions such as, in s.3 where it lowers the standard of proof in a rape case by adding 'no matter how slight' in the definition of the offence, and in not repeating the errors in the parent VAPP Act, there is, however, need to add and amend some sections. There is, however, need to review the Enugu State VAPP Law to include changing male pronouns to gender-neutral pronouns or third-party plural, and making provision for a Sex Offenders Register as in the VAPP Act. Though provided in the Criminal Code Law of Enugu State, the VAPP Law should be updated to include the offences of incest, political violence by state actors, frustrating investigations, wilfully making false statements depriving a person of his/her liberty, and damage to property with intent to cause distress.

The survey shows that most people are unaware of existing laws and policies addressing gender-based violence in the state. Only 19% believe these laws are adequate in prosecuting GBV cases. Customary laws are mainly informal, though some formalization exists. Efforts to reform GBV laws and policies over the past eight years are largely unknown. Abolishing damaging customs may strengthen state laws, but risks backlash without proper assessments. Reviews reveal customary laws reinforce norms allowing GBV. More engagement is needed to transform mindsets while upholding positive customs. Ultimately, awareness-raising, and proper implementation of comprehensive laws, whether state or customary, are key to prosecuting GBV and shifting attitudes.

The survey shows most people prefer informal over formal justice systems when seeking redress for gender-based violence. Knowledge gaps exist on where to access legal justice. Low safety is perceived for witnesses during investigations and trials, further hindered by limited awareness of specialized GBV police desks and judges. Cultural norms persisting in informal systems often perpetuate violence against women. Meanwhile, formal reporting systems and prosecution processes are underutilized, with limited legal aid services for victims. Courts rarely follow recommended timeframes from the VAPP Act. From case mention to judgement, the process drags on for months without prompt access to certified true copies of judgements. Very few specialized police units or judges handle GBV cases exclusively. To increase access to justice, personnel require training on GBV case handling while courts and police stations in rural areas need reinforcement. Robust witness protection programs are essential. Most importantly, education on legal rights and pathways must improve so victims can navigate both formal and informal systems safely.

The survey reveals limited awareness of active Shelters and SARCs in the state. Where they exist, facilities are often understaffed, undersupplied, and inaccessible, especially by rural dwellers. Support services are not sufficiently funded or prioritized. Reporting and referral pathways lack robustness and wide publicity. Informal support systems, like families, community groups, etc, are viewed as unhelpful by 34% of the respondents. However, SARCs and shelters, where functional, provide invaluable legal, medical, psychosocial, and economic support, including reintegration programs. Strong partnerships with medical units and forensic labs have aided evidence collection to prosecute GBV cases. But more investment is urgently needed to strengthen formal pathways. Adequate



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

41.43% **Formal justice system** 52.14% **Informal justice system** 6.43% **I will not seek justice**

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

39.29% **Yes** 34.29% **No** 15% **Not Sure**  
11.43% **It Depends**

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

26.43% **Yes** 47.86% **No** 25.7% **Not Sure**



## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**26.43%** Yes  
**73.57%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

--	--
<b>Specialized medical healthcare pathway</b>	<b>Police/security pathway</b>
--	<b>91%</b>
<b>Psychosocial/mental health pathway</b>	<b>Legal pathway</b>
	<b>6.43%</b>
	<b>None of the above</b>

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**34.29%** Yes  
**43.57%** No  
**20%** Not Sure

budgetary allocation and staffing of support facilities must occur alongside capacity building of informal structures to provide appropriate care. Holistic support systems that integrate both formal and informal networks will give victims greater choice in seeking available services aligned with their needs and comfort levels.

The survey shows limited awareness of GBV educational programs among citizens. Few could identify sensitization materials they had encountered, like radio jingles or pamphlets. Sex education coverage in schools is inadequate. Disability-inclusive awareness materials are scarce. Major knowledge gaps exist, especially in rural areas. Efforts to disseminate information through mass media are hindered by insufficient funding and outdated channels. Reluctance toward comprehensive sex education further restricts GBV consciousness-raising among young people. To combat pervasive norms enabling GBV, regular multimedia campaigns tailored to various demographics are essential. Investing in modern communication channels and inclusive contents, alongside mandating comprehensive GBV/sex education in schools, will help transform mindsets. With greater awareness, victims can better access justice while society actively rejects gender-based violence.

Enugu State experienced a reduction in budgetary allocation to its Ministry of Women Affairs, dropping from N234.51mn in 2021 to N140.75mn in 2022. This decrease led to a decline in per capita funds from N95.7 to N57.4. The state, home to a 2.45 million female population, ranked fourth in per capita spending in 2022, vital for sustaining women-centric programs. However, the decline in budget performance from 93.3% in 2021 to 36.8% signals a pressing need for improved fiscal management. This highlights the necessity for Enugu State to optimize allocated

funds effectively, ensuring sustained progress and development of initiatives focused on women's welfare and empowerment.



## Human Angle Story

Joan's story illustrates the constant threat of sexual violence faced by women. As a vulnerable 16-year-old domestic worker living with relatives, she endured repeated rape by neighbours. Fearful of speaking out, her suffering continued until her aunt discovered her pregnancy and reported the crime. Organizations like WACOL stepped in to pursue justice, utilizing new laws like the VAPP Law to charge the perpetrators. Joan's case highlights how poverty, age, and unequal power dynamics compound women's risk of gender-based violence. But it also demonstrates that with critical support services and legal recourse, survivors can heal. Ensuring adequate psychosocial, medical, and judicial resources for victims is imperative. No one should endure abuse in silence. Justice systems must protect society's most marginalized.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?


**35.71%** Yes  
**41.43%** No  
**22.86%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

**6.43%** Not at all useful  
**50.71%** A little bit useful  
**15.71%** Completely useful  
**Mostly useful**

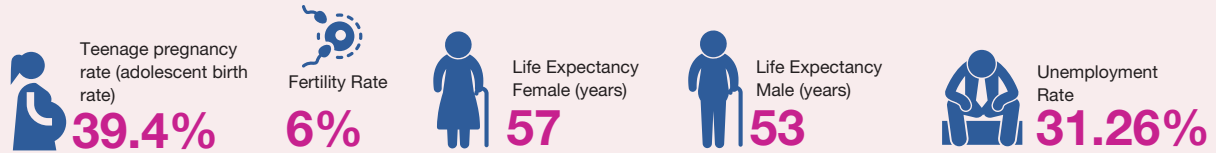
Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

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<b>Audio/spoken content</b>	<b>Braille printed content</b>	<b>Visual content</b>	<b>Screen subtiting</b>
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<b>Sign interpretation</b>	<b>Picture-based messages</b>	<b>Simplified messages</b>	<b>None of the above</b>

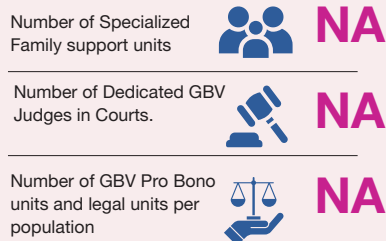
Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	1.0
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	0.5
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	1.0
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	1.0
 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	1.0
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	1.0
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	1.0
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	0.5
 <p>Support Services</p>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	0.5
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	0.5
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	0.5
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	0.5
 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	1.0
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	0.0
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	1.0
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	0.5
 <p>Budget and Spending</p>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	0.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	0.0



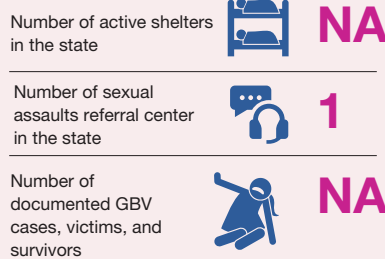
### State Context



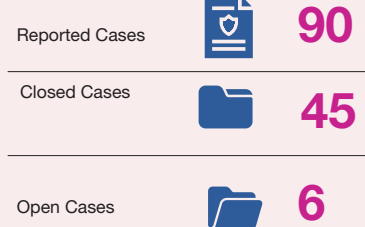
### Access to Legal Justice



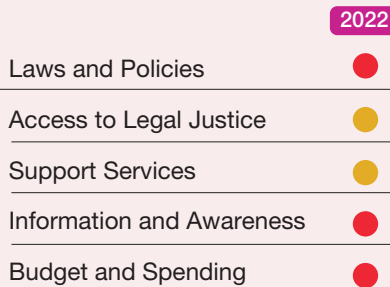
### Support Services



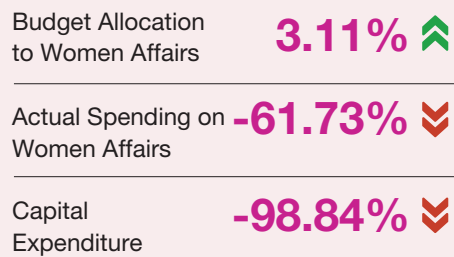
### GBV Cases



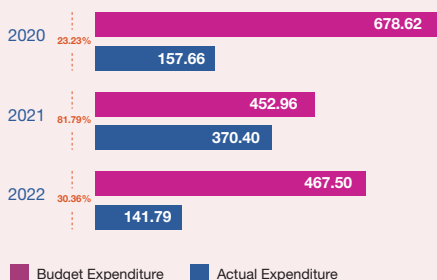
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



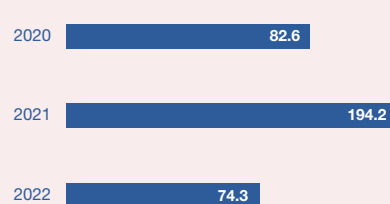
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <b>Laws and Policies</b>	While 62.7% of the surveyed population are aware of existing laws and/or policies that address GBV in the state, there is need to ensure wider awareness.	Frequently sensitize the public on GBV-related laws and policies, while ensuring wider coverage.
		Some customary and religious laws are effective in preventing and responding to GBV in the state.	Discard customary and religious practices impeding the fight against GBV laws.
2	 <b>Access to Legal Justice</b>	The state's reporting channels are not well known by the people.	Educate the people, including and especially rural dwellers, on the available GBV reporting and referral channels.
		No specialized/exclusive GBV Judges and Courts in the state.	Establish exclusive GBV Courts with dedicated GBV Judges.
		60.89% of the surveyed population revealed that they would serve as witnesses during investigation and trial.	Develop robust witness protection programs to increase participation rate.
3	 <b>Support Services</b>	There is only one government owned SARC in the state, which was donated by UNDP.	More SARCs and Shelters should be established (at least one per LGA), equipped, staffed, and managed by the government with continuous support from donors, NGOs, and other development partners.
		Low awareness and accessibility of reporting and referral pathways in the state.	Ensure frequent and wide publicity on the reporting and referral pathways in the state.
		Many are not aware of the existing SARC in the state.	Raise awareness about the location and the functions of SARC.
		Poor funding of support services.	Prioritise and fund support services for GBV survivors and their relatives.
4	 <b>Information and Awareness</b>	Poor GBV-related sensitisation and awareness programs in the state.	Multiple GBV-related sensitisation and awareness programs (radio jingles, educative pamphlets, seminars, and radio/tv shows) and PwD-friendly material should be used frequently. IEC materials should be distributed in public places like markets and schools, especially in rural areas.
		No comprehensive curriculum on sex education in secondary schools and tertiary institutions.	Comprehensive sex-related topics should be incorporated in the curriculum of secondary schools and tertiary institutions.



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

62.87%	37.13%	--
Yes	No	Not Sure

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

52.97%	34.65%	12.38%
Yes	No	Not Sure

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

34.65%	54.95%	5.94%
Strongly Agree	Agree	Indifference
3.96%	0.5%	
Disagree	Strongly Disagree	

The two existing GBV-related laws in the state are the VAPP Law and the Child's Right Law. The VAPP Law needs to be reviewed to include the offence of coercion, FGM, harmful widowhood practices, forced isolation or separation from family and friends, violence by state actors, and - beyond its definition as already provided in the Law, include "trafficking" as a form of violence against persons. S.3(2), which provides that sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife is not rape "if she has attained the puberty," did not provide a definition of puberty. The punishment of rape offenders in sections 3 and 4 which includes the surgical removal of testicles for male convicts or the fallopian tubes for female convicts should be reviewed.

62.87% of the survey participants are aware of these laws, and about 90% indicated that the awareness of the two laws would prevent GBV in the state. Both have been proven to be effective laws in prosecuting GBV-related cases, including sexual harassment issues in the state's public and private institutions. Since these laws were recently assented to, they have yet to be revisited or reformed. 53% of the surveyed population believe that the state's customary and religious laws are effective and sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV.

All GBV cases are reported to law enforcement agencies (Police/Civil Defence) for investigation, and the law enforcement agencies invite the suspect for investigation and escort the GBV victim to the hospital for medical test. After the investigation, they file the case at the Office

of the Chief Registrar, which assigns a court to prosecute the case. The state supports the victim by providing lawyers who handle the case. 70.79% of surveyed respondents indicated that they prefer the formal justice system, signalling that the state's reporting and prosecution systems are effective. No specialised/exclusive GBV Judges/Courts exist in the state, but functional GBV Desks are in place in police stations. Religious and traditional leaders champion the informal justice systems. They rely on Sharia Law and cultural norms, and often convince the survivors to forgive the perpetrators for peace to reign. About 55% of the survey participants agreed that the informal justice system is effective in the state addressing GBV-related issues.

Regarding support services, the state still needs to do more. The state government has not matched her purported priority of GBV to support services with significant investment and budgetary allocation of funds. Currently, the state has no Shelter, and the only government owned SARC was donated and equipped by the UNDP. The SARC provides psychosocial support to victims and ensures that victims are in the right mind. Meanwhile, the informal support systems in the state appear superior. This claim is supported by 77.72% of the survey participants, who indicated that the informal support systems are helpful to GBV victims/survivors than the formal support systems in the state. The state's reporting and referral pathway begins with the desk officer at the police headquarters. When a case is reported at the Police headquarters, the desk officer transfers the case to the nearest divisional



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

70.79%	24.75%	4.46%
Formal justice system	Informal justice system	I will not seek justice

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

60.89%	15.84%	16.34%
Yes	No	Not Sure
--	It Depends	

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

54.46%	31.19%	14.36%
Yes	No	Not Sure

## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**37.13%** Yes  
**62.87%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

**30.2%** Specialized medical healthcare pathway  
**8.42%** Psychosocial/mental health pathway  
**62.87%** Police/security pathway  
**15.35%** Legal pathway  
**14.36%** None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**77.72%** Yes  
**12.38%** No  
**9.41%** Not Sure

headquarters, and the perpetrators and victims are invited. After the investigation, the divisional headquarters transfers the case to the Ministry of Justice, after which the case will be filed at the Office of the Chief Registrar for prosecution. The GBV-related sensitisation and awareness programs in the states are limited. The state only uses radio jingles occasionally broadcasted by Amana FM and displays a few GBV-related posters at the Ministries of Justice, and Health. This explains why 40.1% of the survey participants submitted that GBV information/education programs/materials are unavailable in the state. Moreover, the available IEC sensitisation and awareness materials on GBV in the states are not sensitive to people with disabilities. Also, more effort must be made to incorporate sex-related topics in the state's education curriculum. This is because the coverage of sex education in the state's secondary and higher institutions is still very low and unimpressive despite the increasing incidence of GBV.

The approved state budgets for the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in 2020, 2021, and 2022 fiscal years were N678.63 million, N452.96 million, and N467.05 million, respectively. Between the years 2020 and 2022, the ministry's allotment saw a 31.18% decline. The ministry's actual spending for the same time period was N141.79 million in 2022, N370.46 million in 2021, and N157.67 million in 2020. The ministry budget performance metric went from 81.79% in 2021 to 30.36% in 2022, a drop of more than 50%. For the three-year period, the ministry budget performance metric was

23.23% in 2020, 81.79% in 2021, and 30.36% in 2022. Despite the minimal financial resources provided by the state. For the Ministry of Women Affairs, the state received the highest per capita allocation in the region in 2020 and 2021 (N82.6), the highest in 2021 (N194.2), and the lowest in 2022 (N74.3). The state outperformed the regional average with this number in 2020, 2021, and underperformed in the year 2022

## Human Angle Story

A traditional leader from Dukku raped a girl in the community. The case was reported to the Police, who arrested the traditional leader and investigated the case. After the investigation, the traditional leader was charged to court and prosecuted. He is currently serving his prison sentence. Also, a boy in Billiri who usually raped 5-6-year-old girls daily in the community met his Waterloo the day he raped a young girl whose grandfather insisted that the boy must be arrested and prosecuted. The girl's grandfather reported the case to the appropriate authority, ensuring the boy was arrested and charged.

## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**50.5%** Yes  
**40.1%** No  
**9.41%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

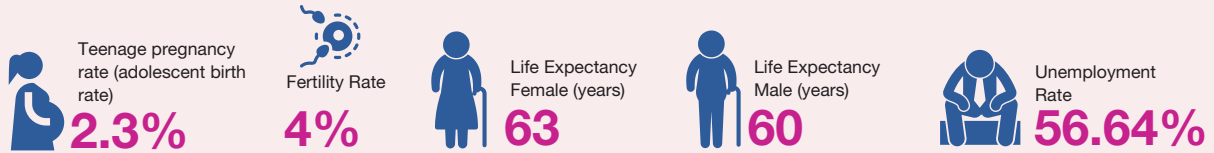
**15.35%** Not at all useful  
**36.14%** A little bit useful  
**30.2%** Mostly useful  
**18.32%** Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

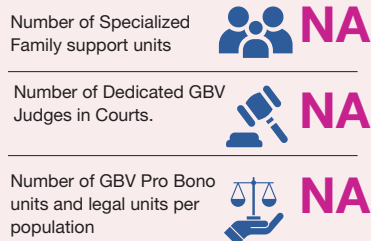
**51.98%** Audio/spoken content  
**25.74%** Sign interpretation  
**18.81%** Braille printed content  
**33.66%** Picture-based messages  
**31.19%** Visual content  
**20.79%** Simplified messages  
**5.45%** Screen subtitling  
**22.28%** None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <b>Laws and Policies</b>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	<b>1.0</b>
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	<b>0.0</b>
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	<b>0.0</b>
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Access to Legal Justice</b>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	<b>1.0</b>
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Support Services</b>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Information and Awareness</b>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	<b>0.0</b>
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	<b>0.5</b>
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	<b>0.0</b>
 <b>Budget and Spending</b>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	<b>0.0</b>
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	<b>0.0</b>

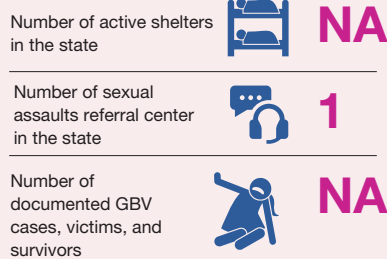
### State Context



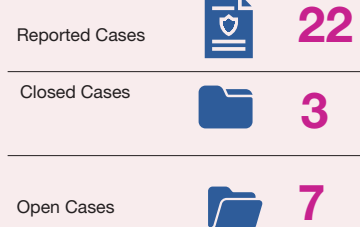
### Access to Legal Justice



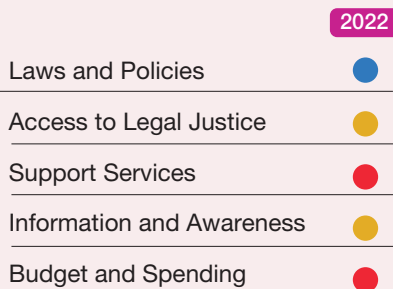
### Support Services



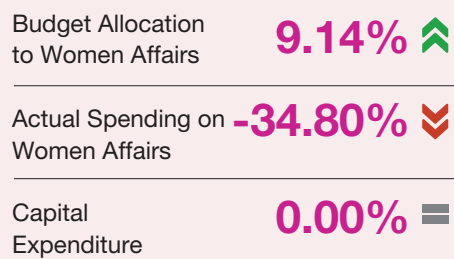
### GBV Cases



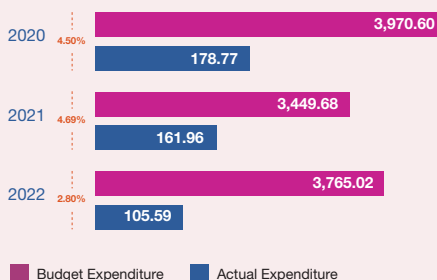
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



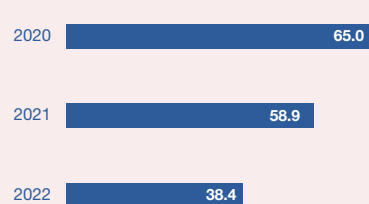
### Year on Year Growth 2022





### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>Among other GBV-related laws in Imo State is the Imo State Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law, which, although it makes novel provisions, needs some amendments.</p>	<p>There should be enforcement of the laws.</p> <p>There should be speedy and adequate implementation of the law.</p> <p>Huge awareness programs and activities should be embarked on by both government and CSOs on the availability of the laws and policies.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>There are clear GBV reporting pathways in the state.</p> <p>There are no robust witness programs in the state.</p> <p>There is a family court; but there are no dedicated GBV judges.</p>	<p>Enhancement of reporting and other pathways making them available and affordable to victims and survivors.</p> <p>There should be provision of a robust 'Witness Protection' program.</p> <p>Provision of dedicated courts and judges for GBV cases.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>There is a recently commissioned SARC.</p> <p>The police and security reporting pathway is most accessed and known.</p> <p>There are gender and human rights desks in most security offices.</p>	<p>There should be provision of more SARCs.</p> <p>Sensitization on the availability of reporting and referral platforms.</p> <p>Capacity training for all officers and actors.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>Sex education is taught in secondary and tertiary institutions.</p> <p>IECs for the state are produced in partnership with organizations like UNFPA, UNICEF, USAID and CSOs.</p> <p>Only audios and visuals are inclusive for Persons with Disability in the GBV awareness programs.</p>	<p>Sex education should be included in the school curriculum.</p> <p>Awareness and sensitization programs should be intensified across parts of the state by both the government and CSOs.</p> <p>IEC materials should be sensitive and friendly to PwD.</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

53% Yes 47% No -- Not Sure

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

30% Yes 50% No 20% Not Sure

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

42% Strongly Agree 43% Agree 10% Indifference 5% Disagree -- Strongly Disagree

The GBV-related laws in Imo State are the Imo State Female Genital Mutilation (Prohibition) Law, Imo State Widowhood (Protection) Law, Imo State Child's Right Law, and the Imo State Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law, which is also a sexual harassment law that exist in the states' public and private institutions regularly used to prosecute GBV issues.

The Imo State VAPP Law makes more GBV-related provisions such as sexual defamation as a form of online GBV (s.2); procurement of person for sexual exploitation (s.5), taking undue advantage of persons living with disability (s.8), deprivation of right to inheritance (s.15), sexual intimidation (s.20), posting of picture or video of sexual violence on the Internet (s.27), and posting nude pictures and videos of current and former partner (s.28). The law extends to a protection order to a third party where there are evidence that such person engaged in a behaviour amounting to SGBV against the victim/survivor (s.41), and made provision for an "Occupation Order" (s.42) mandating a respondent to vacate a matrimonial home or other specified home in the interest of the domestic violence victim and underage children. The law sets a 21-day timeframe after a complaint is brought under the law for the police to take necessary action.

53% of the survey populations are aware of the existence of laws that address GBV, and 43% agree that awareness of GBV laws will prevent GBV. Some of the laws were recently assented and have not been revisited and reformed. The customary laws in the state are strictly informal but, in most cases, they the laws relied on to address

GBV issues 50% of the survey population's opine that the customary laws/religious practices are effective in preventing and responding to GBV.

There are clear GBV reporting pathways in the state, but the Police is the most known, they work with other organizations and enforce the laws while MDAs and CSOs prosecute GBV perpetrators. This explains why 85% of the survey population prefer to seek formal justice. On legal aid services, the Ministry of Justice and FIDA sometimes provide pro-bono services, and this is done for indigent victims and persons with disabilities. There is no robust witness protection program, neither is there designated GBV judges in the state; but there are specialized Family Support Units in the Ministries of Justice, and Women Affairs. The informal justice systems in the state are championed by religious and traditional leaders, who handle GBV issues; but the effectiveness of the informal justice system in some communities has been waning because of injustice and nepotism. Besides, some cultural approaches perpetuate GBV; although 51% of the survey population are of the notion that the informal justice system are effective in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV.

The State recently commissioned a SARC which is not currently functional and has not admitted any victim or survivor since its launch. The state government has not made a significant investment in or budgetary allocation of funds to match her ostensible dedication to GBV support services.

The police and security pathways are



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

85% Formal justice system 13% Informal justice system 2% I will not seek justice

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

39% Yes 12% No 23% Not Sure 26% It Depends

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

24% Yes 25% No 51% Not Sure



## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

10% Yes  
90% No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

14% Specialized medical healthcare pathway  
15% Psychosocial/mental health pathway  
65% Police/security pathway  
41% Legal pathway  
14% None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

77% Yes  
8% No  
15% Not Sure

the most accessed and known reporting pathway in Imo State because of their presence across the state. There are gender and human rights desks in most security offices and station; and CSOs whose thematic areas include GBV seems to be in the middle of all the other pathways. They refer, counsel, follow-up, and ensure that most GBV cases are properly handled within reasonable time. Nevertheless, 77% of the survey population believes that the informal support systems, such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful in supporting GBV victims and survivors. The GBV-related sensitization and awareness programs in the state is quite low, as alluded to by 39% of the survey population. There is no sole state initiative or program to educate the public about GBV through, for instance, the production of IECs materials. These are often done in partnership with donor agencies such as, UNFPA, UNICEF, USAID, etc. Furthermore, the IEC materials are not sensitive and friendly to people living with disabilities, as only audio and visual medium are in existence. Sex Education is taught in both the secondary and tertiary institutions, although it faces lots of challenge from some secondary schools' instructors that frown at it.

Imo State witnessed a slight 9.14% boost in allocation from N3.45bn in 2021 to N3.77bn in 2022 for its Ministry of Women Affairs and Vulnerable Groups. The ministry faces difficulties with budget implementation and performance even with the state's excellent budgetary provisions for it. The actual expenditure for the three years were N178.79mn in 2020,

N161.96mn, and N105.60mn in 2022, while the performance metrics were 2.80%, 4.69% and 4.50% in 2022, 2021, and 2020 respectively. The state's per capita figures for the ministry is not encouraging; with N65.0 in 2020, N58.9 in 2021 and N38.4 in 2022. With the regional average figures at N52.0, N99.0. N68.7 in 2020, 2021 and 2022 respectively, the only year the ministry performed above the regional average was in the year 2020.



### Human Angle Story

There was a case reported to Ministry of Women Affairs by a woman whose father asked her not to marry but stay home and bear children for him. The woman agreed but gave birth to a daughter. As a result of this, her uncles took the landed properties her father left for her. They visited and intervened, and in the end, she recovered all her properties.

A girl-child in secondary school, while returning from school, was constantly stalked by a man who succeeded in defiling her in an abandoned building and continued the affair till she became pregnant. The case was taken to the Family Court. The rapist was arrested and imprisoned, and the girl was taken care of till she was delivered of the baby.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

39% Yes  
39% No  
22% Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

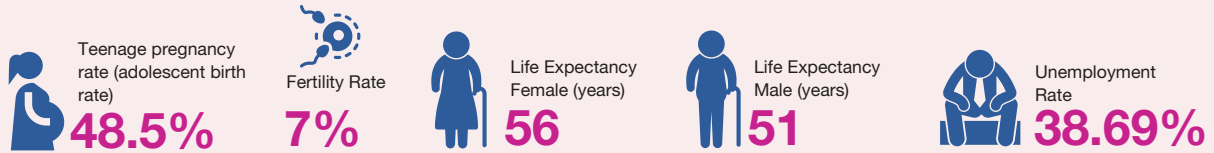
24% Not at all useful  
26% A little bit useful  
34% Mostly useful  
16% Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

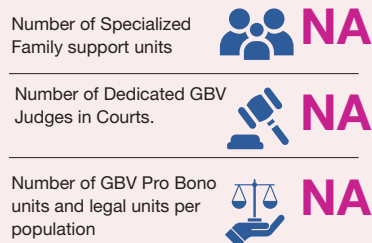
31% Audio/spoken content  
4% Braille printed content  
19% Visual content  
5% Screen subtitling  
22% Sign interpretation  
26% Picture-based messages  
8% Simplified messages  
50% None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	1.0
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	1.0
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	1.0
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	1.0
 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	1.0
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	0.5
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	0.5
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	0.5
 <p>Support Services</p>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	0.5
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	0.5
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	0.0
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	0.5
 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	1.0
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	0.5
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	0.0
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	0.5
 <p>Budget and Spending</p>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	0.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	0.0

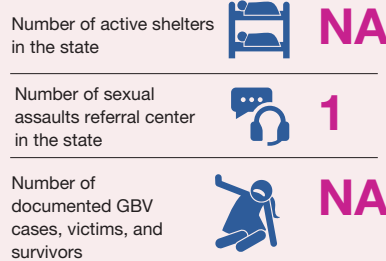
### State Context



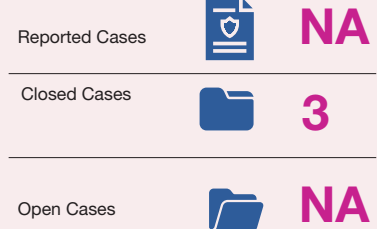
### Access to Legal Justice



### Support Services



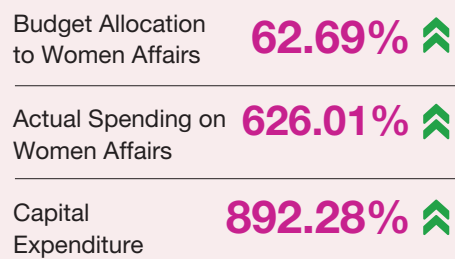
### GBV Cases



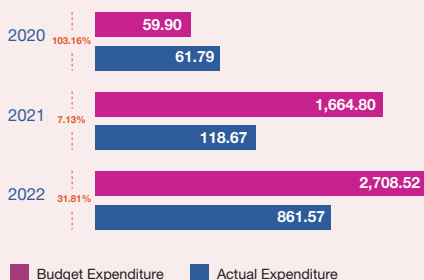
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



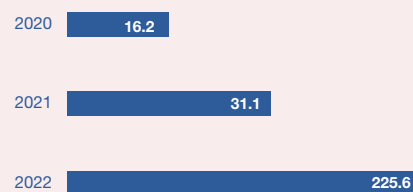
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>There exist GBV-related laws, such as the VAPP Law which needs some amendments.</p> <p>Inadequate implementation frameworks for existing GBV-related laws and policies.</p> <p>There is the existence of customary laws and practices that perpetuate gender-based violence. In some communities, men are allowed to beat their wives if they think the wives committed an offense.</p> <p>Limited awareness of the GBV-related laws and policies in rural and peri-urban areas largely due to illiteracy.</p>	<p>The VAPP Law should be updated to make provision for the establishment of a State SARC.</p> <p>The government should allocate adequate funds required to implement existing laws and policies.</p> <p>The government should revise customary laws and practices to eliminate those that perpetuate gender-based violence.</p> <p>Government, through the relevant ministries and possible collaboration with NGOs and CBOs, should simplify GBV-related laws and policies and translate them to the indigenous languages for dissemination in rural and peri-urban areas.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>Limited awareness about the existence of state-sponsored and pro-bono legal aid services.</p> <p>The existence of prevailing culture of protracted court proceedings, political interference, and victim stigmatization discourage victims from seeking justice.</p> <p>Existence of a judicial system that fails to mete out equitable penalties to perpetrators of Gender-Based Violence.</p>	<p>In partnership with media houses, the government should create awareness about state-sponsored and pro-bono legal services in the state.</p> <p>There is a need for more awareness creation on existing laws, especially at the grassroots level and the need to support victims/survivors and end stigmatization.</p> <p>The government should reform the legal system by establishing specialized GBV courts or designating GBV judges while implementing measures to enforce a zero-tolerance policy against any form of interference.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>Insufficient and under-equipped GBV support facilities.</p> <p>Shortage of trained personnel on GBV across relevant Ministries, Departments, Agencies, and all other government parastatals.</p>	<p>The government should establish and adequately equip GBV facilities in each local government area within the state.</p> <p>Government to execute a comprehensive training program on GBV for key personnel in the relevant MDAs and other government institutions to ensure a well-informed and responsive workforce.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>Insufficient information, education, and communication materials and programs for GBV sensitization across the state.</p> <p>Existence of information and awareness programs that are insensitive to PwD.</p> <p>Populace largely resistant to harmful cultural practices that perpetuate GBV</p>	<p>Government to make annual budgetary allocations for the implementation of comprehensive GBV awareness campaigns and programs that are sensitive to PwD in the state.</p> <p>Government to partner with NGOs and CSOs to enlighten religious leaders, traditional leaders, and community leaders on the importance of endorsing the campaign to prevent GBV in the state.</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

82.86% **Yes** 17.14% **No** -- **Not Sure**

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

79.29% **Yes** 13.57% **No** 7.14% **Not Sure**

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

32.14% **Strongly Agree** 57.14% **Agree** 3.57% **Indifference**  
3.57% **Disagree** 3.57% **Strongly Disagree**

Jigawa State has some laws and policies in place to address Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including the Jigawa State Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law, the Child Protection Law, the Criminal Procedure Law, and the Shariah Penal Code Law. The VAPP Law makes provisions such as death penalty for a person who commits the offence of rape knowing or having reason to believe “he” is HIV positive (s.3), and, in the same section, provides for public shaming of convicted sex offenders including being listed in the sex offenders register. The state made additional offences in its VAPP Law such as the display of pornographic materials (s.26) and kidnap under violence by non-state actors (s.27).

The state is predominantly governed by Islamic principles, upheld by the Hisbah group, which promotes Islamic virtues through Sharia Law. Customary laws, although informal, play a role in the perpetuation of GBV within the state. In recent years, the Jigawa State government has made efforts to review some of its laws, including the VAPP Law, which was recently adopted and amended. A significant portion of the population (82.86%) know about the existing laws and policies and consider them effective and sufficient in addressing GBV. In addition, many surveyed participants express the belief that customary practices and religious laws offer adequate measures for the prevention and response to GBV.

The GBV reporting pathway in the state involves a variety of actors, including

traditional institutions, community leaders, the Hisbah group, law enforcement, and the courts. Typically, when instances of GBV occur, they are first reported to local traditional or religious leaders, as well as the Hisbah group within the community. Subsequently, these cases are escalated to the police, where a thorough investigation is conducted. In the presence of substantial evidence, the perpetrators are brought before the court to face legal proceedings. In many instances, victims of GBV, along with their acquaintances, prefer to engage the formal justice system for the resolution of GBV cases. However, the state’s formal justice system lacks several key areas, including witness protection, specialized Family Support Units, and designated GBV judges. Jigawa State’s informal justice system encompasses traditional and religious institutions. According to a significant portion of the surveyed population, both institutions are deemed effective and adequate in delivering justice for GBV victims and survivors. The informal justice system, however, serves to perpetuate harmful gender norms and practices in some instances.

The state has a single operational Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) responsible for serving all twenty-seven Local Government Areas within the state. However, this SARC faces significant challenges related to insufficient funding, equipment, and understaffing, which impact its effectiveness. Regrettably, there are no operational shelters available for GBV survivors in the state. The state’s reporting and referral pathways encompass medical, psychosocial,



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

75.71% **Formal justice system** 20.00% **Informal justice system** 4.29% **I will not seek justice**

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

77.86% **Yes** 2.86% **No** 5.71% **Not Sure**  
13.57% **It Depends**

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

65.71% **Yes** 21.43% **No** 12.86% **Not Sure**



Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**63.57%** Yes  
**36.43%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

**41.43%** Specialized medical healthcare pathway  
**8.57%** Psychosocial/mental health pathway  
**34.29%** Police/security pathway  
**5.71%** Legal pathway  
**38.58%** None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**85.71%** Yes  
**5.71%** No  
**7.86%** Not Sure

and legal support. Survivors of GBV can receive necessary medical care, psychosocial support from counsellors or therapists, and assistance with their legal cases. In rare cases, survivors receive financial support to address their basic needs.

Jigawa State employs billboards, flyers, audio messages, and sign interpretation as means of disseminating information, facilitating communication, and educating the public about GBV. Nevertheless, the availability of these materials is limited and relatively scarce. Although a significant portion of the surveyed population is cognizant of their existence, their perceived utility remains low. Additionally, these programs and materials often lack sensitivity to individuals with disabilities. Notably, cultural considerations play a role in the limited implementation of comprehensive sex education, which is not taught in primary and secondary schools and only partially taught in tertiary institutions.

The Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development's budget increased by 4421.74%, from N59.9 million in 2020 to N2.7 billion in 2022. Nevertheless, N61.79 million, N118.67 million, and N861.58 million were actually spent during that time in 2022, 2021, and 2022. The budget execution rate was 31.81% in 2022, 7.13% in 2021, and 103.16% in 2020, respectively. The state's per capita performance for the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, which was N16.2 in 2020 and N31.1 in 2021, was below the regional average of N46.2

in 2020 and N96.7 in 2021; however, the execution rate was N225.6 in 2022.



### Human Angle Story

It is encouraging to find that some victims of GBV in the state do not evade justice. This is true of the story of a minor who was subjected to the unspeakable horrors of incest. Her father, who was supposed to protect her, abused her sexually until she became pregnant. The perpetrator, in a cruel and twisted attempt to evade justice, falsely accused an innocent man of impregnating his daughter. But the truth eventually came out. After a thorough investigation, the survivor revealed that she had never known another man except her father. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Jigawa State Police Command, the perpetrator was brought to justice.



### Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**70%** Yes  
**29.52%** No  
**1.48%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

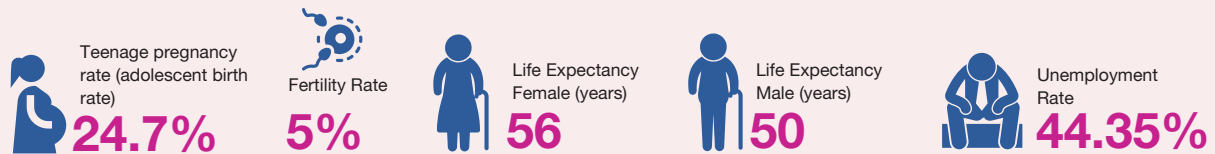
**31.43%** Not at all useful  
**26.43%** A little bit useful  
**30.71%** Mostly useful  
**11.43%** Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

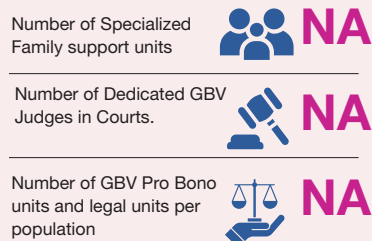
**40%** Audio/spoken content  
**2.14%** Sign interpretation  
**1.43%** Braille printed content  
**12.86%** Picture-based messages  
**11.43%** Visual content  
**0.71%** Simplified messages  
**1.43%** Screen subtitling  
**54.29%** None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <b>Laws and Policies</b>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	<b>1.0</b>
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	<b>0.0</b>
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Access to Legal Justice</b>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	<b>1.0</b>
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	<b>0.0</b>
 <b>Support Services</b>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	<b>0.0</b>
 <b>Information and Awareness</b>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	<b>0.0</b>
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	<b>0.5</b>
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	<b>0.0</b>
 <b>Budget and Spending</b>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	<b>0.0</b>
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	<b>0.0</b>

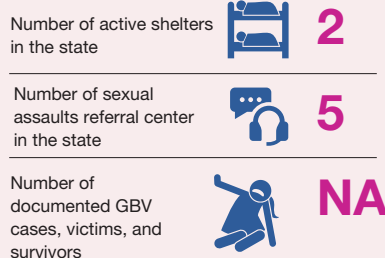
### State Context



### Access to Legal Justice



### Support Services



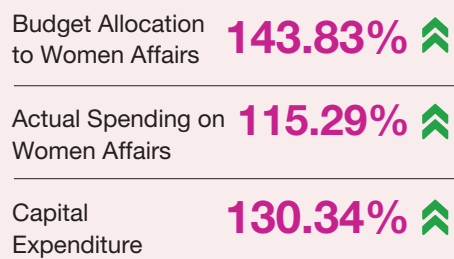
### GBV Cases



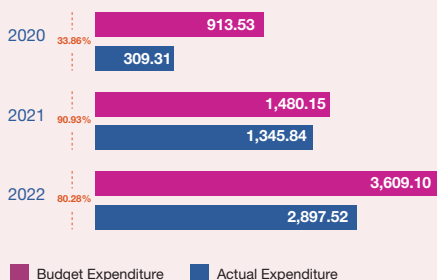
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



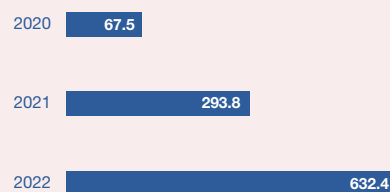
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)





S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>Low awareness and limited understanding of GBV laws and policies among citizens and stakeholders responsible for their enforcement.</p> <p>Insufficient structures in place for the implementation of laws and policies.</p> <p>Multiplicity of GBV laws creates loopholes for wrongdoers to evade stricter penalties.</p>	<p>The government should collaborate with organizations like FIDA and other relevant NGOs to translate and distribute simplified versions of the GBV laws in indigenous languages to raise awareness across urban and rural areas and among diverse age groups.</p> <p>Increased budgetary allocation for infrastructure and systems that facilitate the enforcement of GBV-related laws and policies</p> <p>Empower stakeholders, particularly law enforcement, through ongoing capacity building on the VAPP Law to ensure its adoption in prosecuting GBV cases.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>Lack of awareness about state-sponsored legal assistance and other free legal aid services.</p> <p>Low awareness of successful convictions, discouraging victims from seeking justice.</p> <p>No dedicated GBV judges and the existence of knowledge gaps in Gender and Family Units in law enforcement agencies due to transfer of earlier-trained officers, thus impacting GBV response.</p>	<p>Regularly train grassroots leaders and key stakeholders on GBV laws and reporting pathways while widely promoting hotlines for easy reporting.</p> <p>Media and government agencies should collaborate to raise awareness about GBV laws, policies, and convictions secured.</p> <p>Government to make provision for dedicated GBV judges to promote speedy dispensation of justice and establish GBV knowledge management systems within law enforcement agencies.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>Insufficient GBV support facilities and non-uniform distribution of existing ones.</p> <p>High dependence on CSOs and NGOs for GBV support service provision, which is concentrated in urban areas and skewed toward counselling services.</p>	<p>Government to establish and equip SARCs in each Local Government Area, and mobile service clinics in rural areas, promoting accessibility for GBV victims/survivors.</p> <p>The Ministry of Human Services and Social Development should enhance a service provider mapping tool to avoid unnecessary duplication of services and better allocate scarce resources; create a service directory; and translate the directory into indigenous languages.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>IEC initiatives championed by CBOs and NGOs, overreliance by government on development partners for GBV IEC resulting in sporadic donor-dependent initiatives.</p> <p>No formal mechanisms are in place to track the coverage of GBV-related programs and interventions and their impact on citizens' awareness of GBV.</p> <p>Significant opposition from key stakeholders to integrating sex education into primary, secondary, and tertiary school curricula.</p>	<p>Government should make annual budgetary allocations for implementing comprehensive GBV awareness campaigns and programs in the state.</p> <p>The proposed GBV intervention database should track program coverage and its impact on public awareness, among other impacts.</p> <p>Educating key stakeholders on the significance of sex education and conducting consultative sessions with them to gather input on an acceptable sex education curriculum.</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

77.14% **Yes** 22.86% **No** -- **Not Sure**

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

52.38% **Yes** 31.11% **No** 16.51% **Not Sure**

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

37.46% **Strongly Agree** 52.70% **Agree** 0.63% **Indifference**  
2.54% **Disagree** 3.17% **Strongly Disagree**

Kaduna State's legal framework on GBV includes the VAPP Law 2018, the Child Welfare and Protection Law 2018, and the Kaduna State Penal Code Law 2017, with the Penal Code Law 2017 being the most applied. Kaduna State's Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law, 2018 needs to be updated, for instance, by making provision for the offence of rape and violence against persons committed by state actors. There is also a need to add grandfather and grandaunt among those who may commit incest (s.3); and it should specify its appropriate regulating body, as well as the "appropriate government Ministry" mentioned in s. 32(1). Customary laws remain largely uncodified, while the Shariah Penal Code Law is extensively applied at the Shariah courts. 59.5% of the surveyed population believe that customary or religious laws and practices are adequate for GBV prevention and response. It is noteworthy that with the exception of the Shariah law, which is static, efforts have been undertaken by the Law Review Committee to revisit laws such as the Penal Code Law 2017 which was amended in 2020 to accommodate the new provisions for the punishment of rape. Most of the surveyed population (77.14%) attest to being aware of GBV laws and policies and perceive them as effective. Nevertheless, a significant number of workplaces and educational institutions in the state lack well-articulated sexual harassment laws.

Kaduna State maintains various GBV reporting and referral channels, including government entities like the Ministry of Human Services and Social Development and the Ministry of Justice, law enforcement agencies, and CSOs/ NGOs. Most respondents prefer the formal

justice system. Notably, the Citizen's Rights Department, and Department of Prosecutions within the Ministry of Justice, the Legal Aid Council, and NGOs like FIDA provide free legal assistance to indigents. However, the concentration of service providers in urban areas limits rural and remote access. Despite the existence of Gender and Family Units within law enforcement agencies, the state lacks dedicated GBV judges and although there is the Witness Protection Program Law, 2015, witness protection is practically non-existent. The resultant delays in arraigning accused perpetrators discourage victims/survivors from pursuing prosecutions and enable offenders to evade justice. Traditional, community, and religious leaders, and local vigilante groups, play significant roles in the informal justice system. As certain informal systems still fail to recognize specific acts as GBV and inadvertently perpetuate it, a little less than half of the surveyed population believe them effective and sufficient in delivering justice to GBV victims and survivors.

Kaduna State has diverse reporting and referral pathways, with the police/security pathway being the most widely recognized. It operates five Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) across its three senatorial districts, with three in Kaduna Central and one each in Kaduna North and South districts. These centres provide victims/survivors of sexual assault with free medical services, psychosocial counselling, and legal services. The state also maintains a transit shelter, offering temporary housing and counselling services for up to 20 survivors of SGBV at a time. All primary healthcare centres and clinics in the state promote awareness about GBV and extend



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

82.86% **Formal justice system** 16.51% **Informal justice system** 0.64% **I will not seek justice**

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

76.83% **Yes** 3.17% **No** 7.94% **Not Sure**  
12.06% **It Depends**

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

49.84% **Yes** 29.52% **No** 20.63% **Not Sure**



## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**38.41%** Yes  
**61.59%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

<b>26.98%</b> Specialized medical healthcare pathway	<b>50.79%</b> Police/security pathway
<b>6.03%</b> Psychosocial/mental health pathway	<b>6.35%</b> Legal pathway
	<b>9.84%</b> None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**78.41%** Yes  
**9.84%** No  
**11.75%** Not Sure

initial support to GBV victims and survivors before referring cases to secondary or tertiary healthcare facilities. While efforts have been made to establish a forensic lab in the state, including training Nurses and lab technicians, the lab remains pending. Most of the surveyed population consider informal support systems beneficial for GBV victims/survivors.

Government entities, CSOs, and NGOs in Kaduna State implement a diverse range of GBV sensitization initiatives. These include radio dramas, social media campaigns, and donor-funded programs, aiming to reach a broad audience. Other sensitization methods include distributing printed materials, organizing community dialogues, training key stakeholders, establishing extracurricular clubs in schools, and engaging the public in various settings. Information and educational materials and programs in the state are somewhat accessible to individuals with disabilities, and a significant portion of the surveyed population confirms their availability. The local FIDA chapter is also simplifying GBV-related laws to improve minors' understanding of them. It is, however, important to note that although sexual and reproductive health education is taught in some schools, comprehensive sex education is generally absent from the curricula of secondary and tertiary institutions in the state.

The Ministry of Human Services and Social Development's budget allocation increased steadily between 2020 and 2022, going from N913.54 million to N1.48 billion and N3.61 billion. For 2020, 2021, and 2022, the budget performance are 33.86%, 90.93%, and 80.28%, respectively. The

Ministry of Human Services and Social Development's per capita figure for the state was N67.5 in 2020, N293.8 in 2021, and N632.4 in 2022. These figures outperformed the regional average, which was N46.2, N96.7, and N197.4 in 2020, 2021, and 2022, respectively, and were the highest in the region over the course of the three years.



### Human Angle Story

A distressing case involving an 18-year-old girl was presented to the Ministry of Justice. The girl's husband had denied her access to antenatal care, citing his mother's successful past without such care. Tragically, when she was eight months pregnant, while ironing his clothes, she suffered an episode of eclampsia, leaving her in agony on the floor with the scorching iron embedded in her lap until a compassionate neighbour intervened. During her hospitalization, the husband displayed a lack of responsibility, neglecting to pay any bills or provide essential supplies, except for a bag of sachet water. She eventually delivered a child who, unfortunately, did not survive. She had to endure temporary blindness for six months following the incident. Ultimately, the marriage was dissolved.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**60.00%** Yes  
**29.52%** No  
**10.48%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

<b>4.67%</b> Not at all useful	<b>31.43%</b> A little bit useful
<b>48.57%</b> Mostly useful	<b>15.24%</b> Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

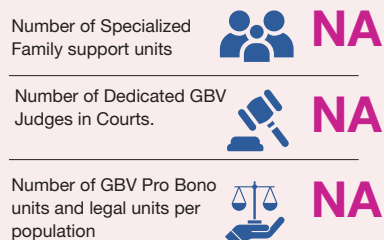
<b>40.76%</b> Audio/spoken content	<b>2.24%</b> Braille printed content	<b>6.36%</b> Visual content	<b>4.46%</b> Screen subtitling
<b>11.48%</b> Sign interpretation	<b>7.32%</b> Picture-based messages	<b>3.18%</b> Simplified messages	<b>24.20%</b> None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <b>Laws and Policies</b>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	<b>1.0</b>
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	<b>0.0</b>
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	<b>0.0</b>
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Access to Legal Justice</b>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	<b>0.5</b>
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Support Services</b>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Information and Awareness</b>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	<b>0.0</b>
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	<b>1.0</b>
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Budget and Spending</b>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	<b>1.0</b>
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	<b>1.0</b>

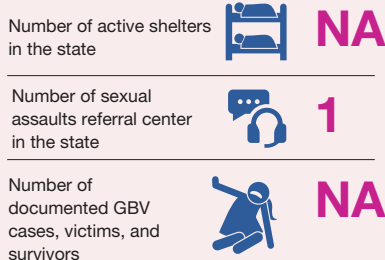
### State Context



### Access to Legal Justice



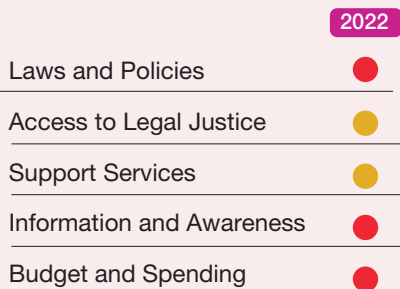
### Support Services



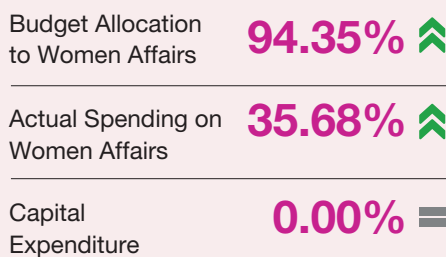
### GBV Cases



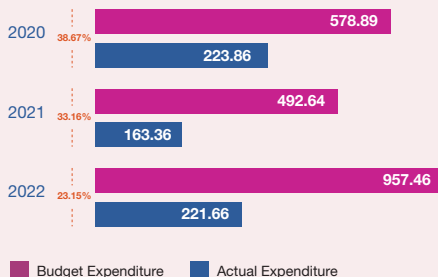
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



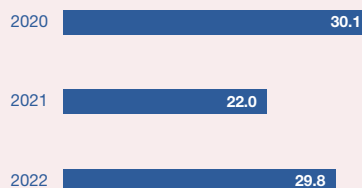
### Year on Year Growth 2022




### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>Kano State is yet to adopt the VAPP Law. There exist legal frameworks that do not outrightly criminalize GBV and sometimes promote it.</p> <p>The Child Rights Act was recently (in June 2023) adopted in the state in form of the Child Protection Law.</p>	<p>The government should adopt the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act in the state.</p> <p>Review existing laws to criminalize GBV and guarantee GBV prevention and response</p> <p>Provide the necessary resources, including adequate budgetary allocation and the establishment of relevant mechanisms, to ensure the effective implementation and comprehensive enforcement of the Child Protection Law.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>Non-robust GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement system, championed by Hisbah</p> <p>Existence of Family Support Units, but no GBV desks in security agencies or dedicated GBV judges.</p> <p>Complex legal processes obstructing access to justice</p>	<p>Government to allocate funds to GBV enforcement and prosecution and revamp Hisbah.</p> <p>Government should make provision for dedicated GBV judges to promote speedy dispensation of justice.</p> <p>State to simplify legal processes and remove all bureaucracies that impede access to legal justice for GBV victims/survivors.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>Predominantly informal GBV support services skewed towards victims or survivors of sexual violence.</p> <p>Complex reporting and referral pathways and lack of professionalism from personnel in the police/security pathway.</p> <p>Insufficient support services infrastructure to cater to the population.</p>	<p>Government should allocate funds to GBV support services and take the lead in providing holistic support services to GBV survivors.</p> <p>Government to create more awareness on reporting and referral pathways, simplify and publicize the referral pathways, and constantly train law enforcement personnel on appropriate and professional GBV response.</p> <p>Government should establish and equip SARCs in each Local Government Council to ensure easier accessibility for GBV victims/survivors.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>GBV information, education, and communication hampered by deeply entrenched cultural and social norms.</p> <p>GBV IEC initiatives are championed by NGOs.</p>	<p>Government should make annual budgetary provisions for the implementation of comprehensive GBV awareness campaigns and programs that are sensitive to the peculiarities of the state and widely publicize for all persons in the state.</p> <p>Government to assume more responsibility, and take the lead, in sensitizing the public on GBV, and GBV prevention and response.</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

62.23% **Yes** 37.77% **No** -- **Not Sure**

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

69.93% **Yes** 25.87% **No** 4.20% **Not Sure**

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

47.55% **Strongly Agree** 38.46% **Agree** 2.10% **Indifference**  
7.69% **Disagree** 4.19% **Strongly Disagree**

In Kano State, the legal framework for addressing GBV-related cases consists of the Administration of Criminal Justice Law, Penal Code Law, Sharia Law, and the recently adopted Child Protection Law. The most frequently applied laws are the Administration of Criminal Justice Law and Sharia Law. Unfortunately, the Penal Code Law inadequately addresses various aspects of gender-based violence. With a predominantly Muslim population, Sharia Law takes precedence over customary practices in prosecuting GBV cases in Kano State. Educational institutions have also implemented harassment policies to address GBV offenses. While efforts have been made to review these laws, the last significant review was that of the Penal Code Law in 1992, rendering some provisions outdated. Nonetheless, a significant portion of the surveyed population, aware of these laws, believe in their effectiveness in preventing and responding to GBV and find customary laws and religious practices effective contributors to GBV prevention and response.

In Kano State, Hisbah serves as the initial point of contact for domestic and GBV cases, offering moral guidance, mediation, and reconciliation services. Hisbah, in Islamic doctrine, is about enforcing “community morals” for the common good based on the Islamic injunction to “uphold good and forbid wrong for Muslims.” The Hisbah Corps in Kano State is a religious police force which, though lacking powers to arrest, enforces Sharia to Muslims in the state and, sometimes, non-Muslims.

Hisbah, which was formed by the state government in 2000, collaborates with agencies like NAPTIP, NSCDC, and human

rights organizations for prosecuting GBV cases. Hisbah also has a legal unit with pro-bono lawyers assisting less privileged victims. Legal aid is available but challenging to access, primarily provided by private practitioners and human rights activists. There is no official structure for witness protection, although Hisbah can detain offenders for up to 24 hours and verify witness identities to ensure their safety. NSCDC also assists with witness protection. Family Support Units (FSUs) exist but are not systemic. There are no GBV Desks in law enforcement agencies or dedicated GBV judges. Local entities like the “special marshal” or “yan-sa-kai” are prevalent and form part of the informal justice system, alongside traditional leaders and local vigilante groups. A significant portion of the surveyed population trusts the informal justice system in responding to GBV and is willing to seek justice from it, on par with the formal system.

Kano State has only one operational SARC, located in Shahuci within a hospital facility. It provides services such as medical examination, counselling, and legal support to survivors of sexual assault but is plagued by inefficiency, poor maintenance, and resource shortages. Survivors encounter long waiting times and complain of limited counselling, and inadequate medical facilities which limit their access to justice and recovery. The urban location of the SARC also poses difficulties for rural residents to access support. Although the legal pathway is the most recognized, the complex nature of reporting and referral further compounds the issue of accessing support. Survivors report frustration due to limited awareness of existing reporting and referral pathways,



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

48.25% **Formal justice system** 48.25% **Informal justice system** 3.50% **I will not seek justice**

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

79.72% **Yes** 7.69% **No** 2.10% **Not Sure**  
10.50% **It Depends**

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

70.63% **Yes** 24.48% **No** 4.89% **Not Sure**



## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**70.63%** **29.37%**  
Yes No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

<b>10.48%</b> Specialized medical healthcare pathway	<b>53.85%</b> Police/security pathway
<b>1.39%</b> Psychosocial/mental health pathway	<b>21.00%</b> <b>6.29%</b> Legal pathway None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**88.81%** **4.89%** **6.29%**  
Yes No Not Sure

indifferent law enforcement personnel, and a lack of confidentiality in handling reported cases. Informal support comes from NGOs, women’s rights groups, and religious organizations, but they struggle to meet rising demand. While most of the surveyed population finds informal support valuable, it cannot replace an effective, well-funded formal system.

CITAD, a non-governmental organization based in Kano State, developed GBV Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials during a 2022 project. These materials were distributed to trained champions who further disseminated them in their communities to raise awareness about gender-based violence. Notably, Persons with Disability were included among the trained champions. Educational institutions like Bayero University, Kano (BUK) also play a role in GBV sensitization. BUK operates an online “whistle-blower platform” allowing students to anonymously report GBV incidents. Many in the surveyed population acknowledge the availability of GBV information and education programs in the state. Nevertheless, GBV remains a sensitive subject due to deeply rooted cultural and religious norms, necessitating a thoughtful approach to handling it.

The state government demonstrates its commitment to GBV response and prevention through the allocation of resources. The Ministry of Women Affairs budget shrunk by 14.9% from N578.90 million in 2020 to N492.64 million in 2021 and rose by 48.55% from N492.64 million in 2021 to N957.46 million in 2022. For the same period, however, the actual expenditure came to N221.66 million in 2022, N163.37 million in 2021, and

N223.86 million in 2020. The ministry’s budget performance in 2022, 2021, and 2020 is dismal, with an execution rate of 38.67%, 33.16%, and 23.15%, respectively. The state has one of the lowest per capita spending for the Ministry of Women Affairs in the region: In 2020, it ranked sixth, in 2021, it ranked lowest at N22.0, and in 2022, it ranked sixth at N29.8. The state’s numbers are significantly below the N46.2, N96.7, and N197.4 regional averages for 2020, 2021, and 2022, respectively.



## Human Angle Story

Politics appears to wield considerable influence in obstructing the administration of justice in GBV cases. Those responsible for such cases involving public figures face the imminent threat of termination or having their efforts thwarted. One respondent conveyed an instance concerning a case her office supervised. The case involved a six-year-old girl who was a victim of abuse by her biological father. This case persisted for over two years without the perpetrator facing prosecution. Subsequently, he was charged with gross indecency, detained, and later released on bail. The Ministry of Justice committed to filing an appropriate charge and initiating proceedings in the high court, but before this could happen, the case file mysteriously disappeared.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**60.84%** **36.36%**  
Yes No  
**2.80%**  
Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

<b>6.29%</b> Not at all useful	<b>27.97%</b> A little bit useful
<b>30.77%</b> Mostly useful	<b>34.97%</b> Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

<b>64.34%</b> Audio/spoken content	<b>6.29%</b> Braille printed content	<b>13.29%</b> Visual content	<b>7.69%</b> Screen subtitling
<b>46.15%</b> Sign interpretation	<b>6.29%</b> Picture-based messages	<b>12.59%</b> Simplified messages	<b>16.78%</b> None of the above

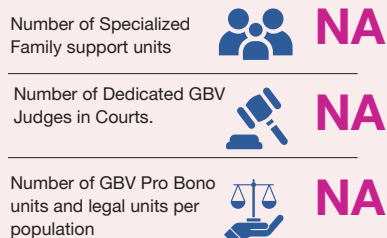


Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <b>Laws and Policies</b>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	<b>0.5</b>
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	<b>0.0</b>
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	<b>0.0</b>
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	<b>0.0</b>
 <b>Access to Legal Justice</b>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	<b>0.5</b>
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Support Services</b>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Information and Awareness</b>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	<b>0.0</b>
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	<b>0.5</b>
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Budget and Spending</b>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	<b>0.0</b>
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	<b>0.0</b>

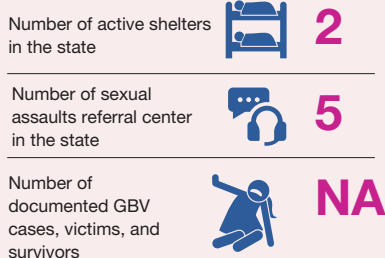
### State Context



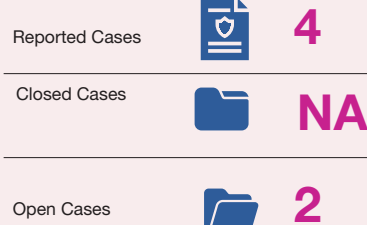
### Access to Legal Justice



### Support Services



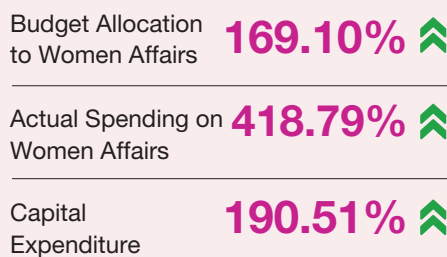
### GBV Cases



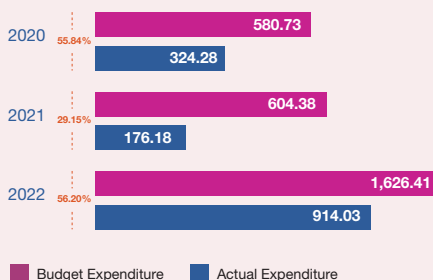
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



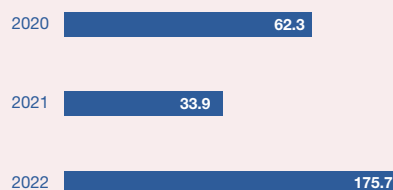
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>The VAPP Law is yet to be adopted in Katsina State. Hence, the Penal Code Law still exists as the legal instrument for addressing GBV.</p>	<p>Adopt the VAPP Law.</p> <p>Monitor and strengthen the implementation and impact of the Penal Code in preventing and responding to GBV.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>Weak institutional response, lack of sensitivity towards GBV cases, and delays in investigations and prosecutions.</p> <p>Existing challenges in accessing key stakeholders impede the pursuit of legal justice.</p> <p>The existence of certain religious teachings and traditional practices that perpetuate attitudes that hinder seeking legal justice for GBV.</p>	<p>Invest in training for law enforcement officials, judicial personnel, and other stakeholders to ensure they are equipped to handle GBV cases sensitively and efficiently.</p> <p>Establish partnerships between formal and informal justice systems to enable a comprehensive and coordinated approach to handling GBV cases.</p> <p>Government should implement a comprehensive strategy that addresses societal stigmatization, engages religious and traditional leaders to promote gender equality, and conduct targeted awareness programs to educate the public on reporting mechanisms and legal rights.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>There is insufficient GBV support facilities and services to cater to the at-risk population in the state.</p> <p>Limited understanding of GBV among healthcare professionals, police officers, and judicial personnel.</p> <p>Existence of robust and effective informal support systems for GBV victims and survivors.</p>	<p>Government should provide and improve accessibility of support services by establishing additional SARCs and shelters in different areas of Katsina State, particularly in underserved areas.</p> <p>Government should provide training and information sessions to healthcare professionals, police officers, and judicial personnel to improve their awareness and understanding of referral and reporting.</p> <p>Government should establish mechanisms to enhance coordination and collaboration between formal support systems (SARCs, shelters) and informal support systems to provide comprehensive support to survivors.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>Infrequency of programming and campaigns vary considerably sometimes hindering the effectiveness of the programs in raising awareness and addressing GBV</p> <p>GBV information is presented in formats that cater to the needs of Persons with Disabilities (PWD)</p> <p>Existence of divergent views regarding the implementation of comprehensive sex education.</p>	<p>Increase the number and frequency of GBV-related programs and campaigns to reach more people effectively.</p> <p>Improve the inclusiveness of PWDs in GBV awareness programs to ensure collaboration with disability-focused organizations and experts to ensure effective inclusion.</p> <p>Work closely with experts to determine suitable age for GBV education and develop age-appropriate curricula and training for teachers to ensure proper implementation of comprehensive sex education.</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

**83.3%** Yes  
**16.7%** No  
**--** Not Sure

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

**54.17%** Yes  
**36.67%** No  
**9.17%** Not Sure

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

**70.83%** Strongly Agree  
**23.33%** Agree  
**4.17%** Indifference  
**0.83%** Disagree  
**0.83%** Strongly Disagree

In Katsina State, since the VAPP Law is yet to be passed, the Penal Code Law is the main legislation that addresses GBV, and there exists a notable level of awareness regarding the law. Most of the surveyed population (83.3%) perceives the Penal Code Law as effective. Regarding the influence of customary laws and practices in GBV prevention and response, a significant portion of the respondents believe in their adequacy. Furthermore, a considerable portion of the surveyed population is knowledgeable about government-initiated efforts aimed at reforming the current legal framework and policies.

In Katsina State, there exist multiple GBV reporting and referral pathways, but a considerable portion of the population lack awareness of them. The effectiveness of law enforcement and prosecution is impeded by several factors, including the lack of sensitivity among law enforcement personnel toward GBV, the challenges in accessing law enforcement services, and the prevalent social stigma associated with GBV. Additionally, limited access to legal representation compounds the issue, as many survivors and victims are unable to secure legal aid services within the state. Some members of the surveyed population seeking justice opt for the formal justice system, while the informal justice system, which encompasses religious and traditional institutions, can, at times, perpetuate GBV and maintain attitudes that hinder the pursuit of legal justice in GBV cases.

In Katsina State, a functional Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and two active shelters are dedicated to

supporting victims/survivors of GBV. The state-operated Katsina State SARC, situated within Katsina State General Hospital, serves as a comprehensive one-stop centre, providing essential services, including medical examinations, forensic evidence collection, counselling, and legal support to GBV victims and survivors. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) independently own and manage these active shelters. The Shamsi Foundation Shelter, located in Katsina State capital, offers temporary accommodation, counselling, and medical assistance to GBV survivors, accommodating up to 30 individuals. It serves as a secure environment for survivors to recover. The Women's Rights Foundation Shelter in Daura specializes in delivering comprehensive support services to women and children impacted by GBV, including temporary housing, legal aid, vocational training, and psychological counselling.

GBV reporting and referral pathways involve stakeholders such as law enforcement agencies, healthcare professionals, and support organizations. Survivors can report GBV cases to the police, responsible for investigations and ensuring survivors' safety. Healthcare providers play a crucial role by offering medical examinations, collecting forensic evidence, and referring survivors to appropriate support services like SARCs and shelters. NGOs and CSOs actively contribute through awareness campaigns, counselling services, and facilitating referrals to support networks. Informal support systems, including assistance from family and friends, are highly valued



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

**81.67%** Formal justice system  
**18.33%** Informal justice system  
**0%** I will not seek justice

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

**91.67%** Yes  
**1.67%** No  
**3.33%** Not Sure  
**3.33%** It Depends

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

**52.5%** Yes  
**37.5%** No  
**10%** Not Sure

## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**59.17%** Yes  
**40.83%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

<b>25%</b> Specialized medical healthcare pathway	<b>83.33%</b> Police/security pathway
<b>2.5%</b> Psychosocial/mental health pathway	<b>9.17%</b> Legal pathway
	<b>1.67%</b> None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**69.17%** Yes  
**22.50%** No  
**8.30%** Not Sure

by most of the surveyed respondents as vital aids for GBV victims and survivors. Notably, support services constitute a significant portion of the state's overall allocation for addressing GBV, ranking second only to programs related to access to legal justice. Based on the survey, Katsina State employs various information, education, and communication (IEC) materials to educate the public about GBV. Commonly encountered materials include printed resources like leaflets and flyers. Other media channels engaged with by respondents encompass arts, drama, movies, short films, radio programs, public awareness campaigns, school-based curricula, hospitals, religious organizations, and billboards. These notwithstanding, respondents do not seem to find the information passed through these media useful. Additionally, findings reflect efforts to enhance the sensitivity and inclusivity of GBV awareness programs and IEC materials for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), underscoring the state's commitment to ensuring that some PwDs can access GBV information in formats tailored to their specific needs. Findings also suggest the public's support for comprehensive sex education in secondary schools and tertiary institutions. The state increased the budget allocation to its Ministry of Women Affairs by 64.29% from N580.74 million in 2020 to N1.6 billion in 2022. For the three years under review, the actual budget implementation was N914.03 million in 2022, N176.19 million in 2020, and N324.29 million in 2020. In 2020, 2021,

and 2022, the budget performance was 55.84%, 29.15%, and 56.20%, respectively. With a per capita spending of N62.3 by the ministry in 2020, the state ranked second on per capita spending in the northwest region. It ranked fifth in 2021 with a per capita spending of N33.9 and fourth in 2022 with a per capita spending of N175.7



### Human Angle Story

A 32-year-old resident of Batagarawa LGA of Katsina State was subjected to domestic violence by her spouse for several years. She could not tell anyone due to fear and a lack of knowledge about the existing laws and policies on GBV in her locality. However, through awareness campaigns organized by a local NGO in her area, she learned about her rights and the legal recourse available to her. Empowered by this newfound knowledge, she sought assistance from a women's rights organization that connected her with legal aid services. With their support, she filed a complaint against her husband, leading to his being apprehended and subsequently prosecuted under the existing GBV-related laws in Katsina State. This case not only highlights the importance of raising awareness about GBV laws and policies but also demonstrates how these measures can empower survivors and hold perpetrators accountable.

## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**80%** Yes  
**11.67%** No  
**8.33%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

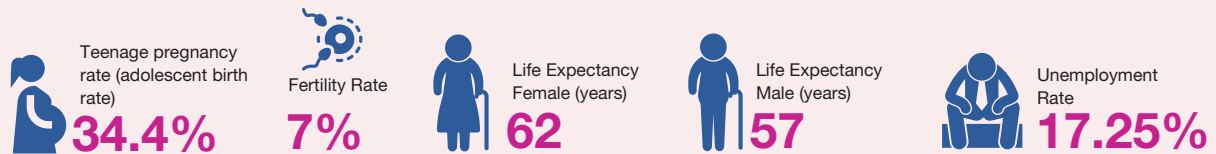
<b>21.67%</b> Not at all useful	<b>35.83%</b> A little bit useful
<b>35.83%</b> Mostly useful	<b>6.67%</b> Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

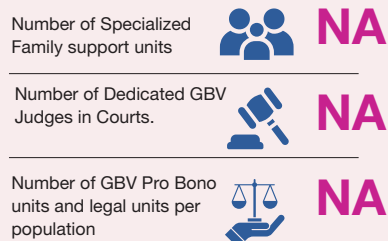
<b>37.50%</b> Audio/spoken content	<b>4.17%</b> Braille printed content	<b>19.17%</b> Visual content	<b>3.33%</b> Screen subtitling
<b>9.17%</b> Sign interpretation	<b>72.50%</b> Picture-based messages	<b>5.00%</b> Simplified messages	<b>10.00%</b> None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	0.5
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	0.0
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	0.0
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	0.0
 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	0.5
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	0.5
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	0.5
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	0.0
 <p>Support Services</p>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	0.5
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	0.5
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	0.5
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	0.5
 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	0.5
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	0.0
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	0.5
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	0.5
 <p>Budget and Spending</p>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	1.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	0.0

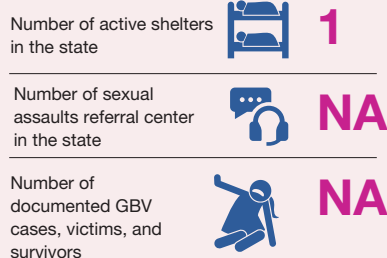
### State Context



### Access to Legal Justice



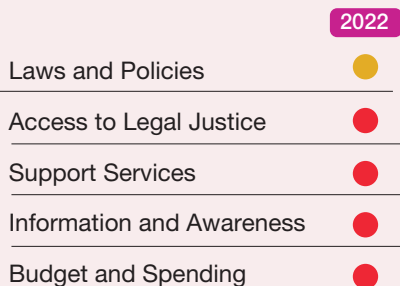
### Support Services



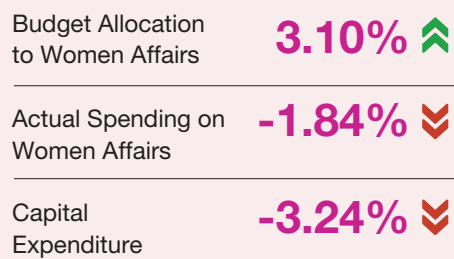
### GBV Cases



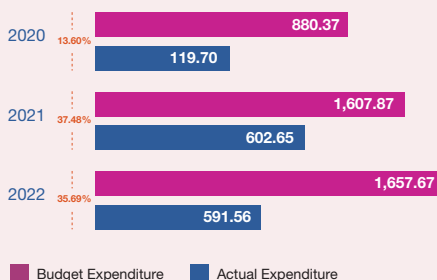
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



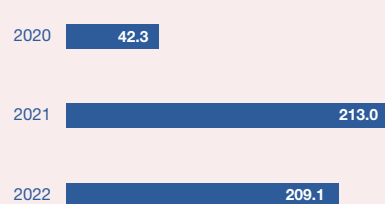
### Year on Year Growth 2022



### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <b>Laws and Policies</b>	Administrative gaps hinder the effective implementation of GBV-related laws and policies in the state.	Government should allocate financial resources to support implementing institutions in carrying out the additional responsibilities arising from the enforcement of GBV-related laws and policies.
		Corruption among the judiciary and law enforcement agents as well as political interference impede the effectiveness of preventing and responding to GBV.	Government should establish independent oversight bodies to monitor the activities of the judiciary and law enforcement agencies as well as clear protocols and safeguards to prevent political interference.
2	 <b>Access to Legal Justice</b>	There exists a lack of immediate law enforcement response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) incidents.	Government to invest in a quick response squad dedicated to GBV incidences.
		Difficulty in accessing legal aid in rural and remote areas.	Government should form collaborative partnerships with NGOs and CSOs that have a presence in rural and remote regions and provide legal aid services.
		Absence of a witness protection program constrains the willingness of potential witnesses to step forward with information that could contribute to the prosecution of GBV offenders and the equitable administration of justice.	Government should establish a comprehensive witness protection program.
3	 <b>Support Services</b>	Insufficient, poorly equipped, and understaffed GBV support facilities.	Government to allocate funds for the establishment, equipping, and staffing of SARCs and shelters across the state.
		Existing support services facilities offer a more restricted scope of services than survivors of GBV require.	SARCs should offer a comprehensive array of services to survivors, encompassing not only clinical support but also general counselling and referrals for non-clinical assistance.
4	 <b>Information and Awareness</b>	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)-related legislation and informational materials are not accessible in formats comprehensible to a diverse audience.	Government should simplify GBV-related legislation and translate GBV information and laws into indigenous languages to ensure accessibility and understanding among rural and remote communities.
		IEC materials not available in formats that are inclusive and accessible to a broad and diverse audience.	Government should ensure that Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials are tailored to accommodate diverse audiences, with a particular focus on making them accessible and suitable for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).
		Resistance from Islamic religious bodies to sex education in schools.	Government should initiate awareness campaigns aimed at educating religious leaders about the advantages of integrating age-appropriate sexual education into the curricula of secondary and tertiary institutions.





## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

82.5% **Yes** 17.5% **No** 0% **Not Sure**

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

84.17% **Yes** 15.83% **No** 0% **Not Sure**

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

52.5% **Strongly Agree** 37.5% **Agree** 0.83% **Indifference**  
9.17% **Disagree** 0.83% **Strongly Disagree**

About six laws and policies are recognized as addressing gender-based violence issues in Kebbi State, with the VAPP Law and Child Rights Law being the most frequently cited. 82.5% of the respondents are well-informed about these laws and policies, and among those aware, 77% consider them sufficient and effective in the prevention and response to gender-based violence. Furthermore, 84.17% of the surveyed population believes that customary or religious laws and practices adequately address gender-based violence in the state. Recent efforts to enhance the state's gender-based violence laws led to the adoption of the VAPP Act and Child Rights Act in 2021, focusing on safeguarding individuals and preventing all forms of violence against women, girls, and children. Notwithstanding, the VAPP Law needs some amendments including replacing "thought" with "throughout" in s.27 and specify the "appropriate Government ministry" as well as the "body vested with the enforcement of the Law" referred to in s.40 and s.42, respectively.

Kebbi State has various reporting and referral pathways for gender-based violence (GBV) cases, depending on the reporting party. These pathways include NGOs/CSOs, law enforcement agencies, Hisbah, the Ministry of Women Affairs, and the Ministry of Justice. Typically, when a case of GBV is reported to the Ministry of Women Affairs, it coordinates with the police to summon the suspect while the victim/survivor tests at the hospital. When necessary, victims are referred to shelters for further support and the Ministry of

Justice takes up the case for prosecution. The Human Rights Commission and NGOs like FIDA provide legal assistance to GBV victims/survivors in urban areas, but this assistance is rarely available to victims/survivors in rural communities. Whereas the state has dedicated GBV judges and in some agencies GBV desks, it has none in police commands or divisions, potentially diminishing support for reported GBV cases. Further to this, the absence of a witness protection program in the state often results in unpunished perpetrators. 23.3% of the population do not find the informal justice system to be effective and sufficient in providing justice for GBV victims and survivors and would rather seek justice from the formal justice system.

Kebbi State features a functional Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and an active Shelter both located in Birnin Kebbi. These facilities provide victims/survivors with shelter, food, clothing, vocational training, and comprehensive medical services. When a case is reported to the SARC, medical professionals conduct tests and treatment. Victims/survivors are also offered counselling and psychosocial support. If necessary, cases are then referred to the Ministry of Women Affairs for further escalation to law enforcement agencies. Legal matters are transferred from the Ministry of Women Affairs to the Ministry of Justice, where necessary. Informal support systems, such as family, friends, religious centres, and community groups play a significant role in aiding GBV victims and survivors, as recognized by 84.17% of the surveyed population.



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

88.33% **Formal justice system** 10% **Informal justice system** 0.83% **I will not seek justice**

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

83.33% **Yes** 5.83% **No** 10% **Not Sure**  
0.83% **It Depends**

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

73.33% **Yes** 23.33% **No** 3.33% **Not Sure**



Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**53.33%** Yes  
**46.67%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

<b>47.50%</b> Specialized medical healthcare pathway	<b>68.33%</b> Police/security pathway	
<b>2.5%</b> Psychosocial/mental health pathway	<b>15.83%</b> Legal pathway	<b>10.83%</b> None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**69.2%** Yes  
**22.5%** No  
**8.3%** Not Sure

The state periodically deploys Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials to foster awareness regarding Gender-Based Violence (GBV). This awareness is further facilitated by the active engagement of NGOs, CSOs, and the National Orientation Agency (NOA) in GBV sensitization and awareness campaigns. Consequently, most of the surveyed population demonstrates awareness of GBV information and educational programs or materials within the state. This notwithstanding, there is the need to enhance the sensitivity of IEC materials on GBV to cater to the needs of persons with disabilities. Sex education remains notably absent from the curricula of secondary schools and tertiary institutions in the state. This is primarily attributed to religious restrictions, particularly from Islamic organizations, which discourage its inclusion in educational settings.

The budget for state's Ministry of Women Affairs for 2020, 2021, and 2022 was N880.38 million, N1.61 billion, and N1.66 billion, respectively. But the actual expenditure over the same period came to N119.70 million in 2020, N602.65 million in 2021, and N591.56 million in 2022. In 2020, 2021, and 2022, its budget performance was 13.60%, 37.48%, and 35.69%, respectively. When examining the state's per capita performance for the Ministry of Women Affairs, N42.3 in 2020 was slightly below the regional average of N46.2, but N213.01 and N209.1 in 2021 and 2022 respectively are above the regional averages of N96.7 and N197.4 for 2021 and 2022, respectively.



### Human Angle Story

In Gidan Kwano village, Ngaski Local Government Area, a horrific crime took place. A young woman was raped, and the perpetrator was reported to the police by the non-governmental organization, MAWDA. However, the wheels of justice were ground to a halt by political intervention and the corrupt attitudes of security agents. The police officer assigned to the case was bribed with N20,000, and went on to cancel the prosecution. The victim was left traumatized and without justice. Her story highlights one of the many challenges in upholding justice and the need to combat the influence of corruption in the legal system.



### Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**84.17%** Yes  
**12.50%** No  
**3.33%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

**25%** Not at all useful  
**16.67%** A little bit useful  
**47.50%** Mostly useful  
**10.83%** Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

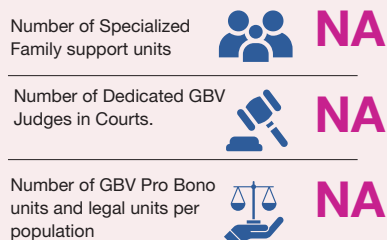
<b>84.17%</b> Audio/spoken content	<b>16.67%</b> Braille printed content	<b>30%</b> Visual content	<b>20.83%</b> Screen subtitling
<b>20.83%</b> Sign interpretation	<b>41.67%</b> Picture-based messages	<b>25%</b> Simplified messages	<b>20%</b> None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	1.0
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	1.0
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	0.0
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	0.5
 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	0.5
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	0.5
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	0.5
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	0.0
 <p>Support Services</p>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	0.5
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	0.5
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	0.0
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	0.0
 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	1.0
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	0.0
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	0.5
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	0.0
 <p>Budget and Spending</p>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	0.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	0.0

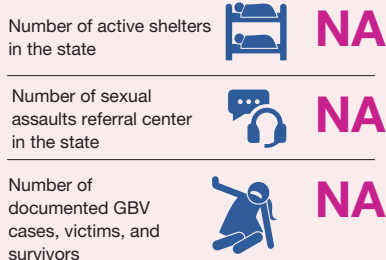
### State Context



### Access to Legal Justice



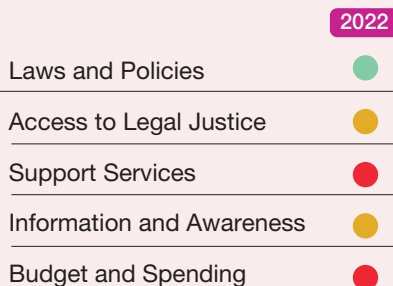
### Support Services



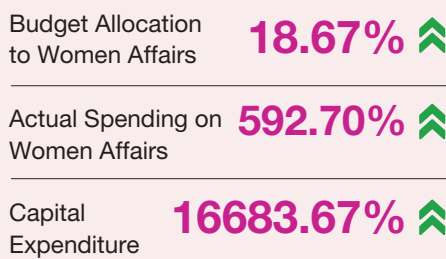
### GBV Cases



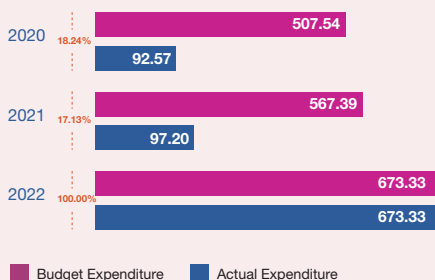
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>Limited implementation and enforcement of existing laws and policies on GBV.</p> <p>Lack of awareness and understanding of existing laws among the public.</p> <p>Inadequate dissemination of laws and policies at the grassroots level.</p>	<p>Enhance implementation and enforcement of laws.</p> <p>Increase public awareness through campaigns and education.</p> <p>Review and update legislation to address emerging forms of GBV.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>Delays in judicial processes.</p> <p>Limited specialized training for legal professionals on GBV.</p> <p>Insufficient legal infrastructure, training, and resources.</p>	<p>Establish monitoring and evaluation of GBV response systems.</p> <p>Enhance capacity of personnel of GBV units through regular training.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>Inadequate availability of and accessibility to support services, particularly in rural areas.</p> <p>Lack of effective coordination between relevant agencies.</p> <p>Limited funding and resources allocated to support services.</p>	<p>Strengthen availability and accessibility of support services.</p> <p>Strengthen coordination among relevant agencies and support service providers.</p> <p>Ensure sustainable funding and resources for GBV support services.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>Low level of awareness on GBV in the state, especially among at-risk population in rural communities.</p> <p>There is a culture of silence and stigma around GBV.</p> <p>Ineffective dissemination of information on GBV.</p>	<p>Develop comprehensive awareness campaigns on GBV, and ensure its wide and consistent publicity, especially among populations in rural communities.</p> <p>Utilize diverse communication channels and inclusive materials.</p> <p>Promote comprehensive sex education in schools.</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

50.83% **Yes** 49.17% **No** -- **Not Sure**

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

35.00% **Yes** 45.00% **No** 20.00% **Not Sure**

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

50.00% **Strongly Agree** 45.83% **Agree** -- **Indifference**  
-- **Disagree** -- **Strongly Disagree**

The Kogi State Penal Code Law and Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) (VAPP) Law exist in the state to address GBV. The VAPP Law provides stiffer punishments for many of the offences. However, survey findings reveal limited awareness and use of these laws in prosecuting GBV cases. Survey respondents were divided on whether customary laws are sufficient to address GBV. Efforts have been made to review and strengthen laws during the past eight years through legislative amendments, new policies, and stakeholder collaboration. However, abolishing customary laws may negatively impact communities. Though some customary practices reinforce harmful norms, they provide culturally resonant justice and reconciliation. Assessments are needed to align customary laws with human rights standards. The survey highlights gaps in implementing formal laws and mixed perceptions of customary practices. More awareness, enforcement, and coordination among justice agencies is required to strengthen the legal framework against GBV.

GBV cases can be reported to police, NGOs, and government agencies; however, survey findings indicate limited awareness of reporting procedures. Prosecution is handled by the police and prosecutors, but delays and family interference were noted. Most survey respondents would seek justice through formal systems, though some prefer informal resolution. Legal aid is provided by groups like FIDA but is constrained by funding and capacity gaps. Shelters

and support services are inadequate, particularly in rural areas. Specialized units exist, like Family Support Units in police commands, but survey respondents display low awareness of these services. Informal justice utilizes community and religious leaders, viewed as culturally resonant but having potential biases. Courts face backlogs and delays in resolving GBV cases within mandated timeframes. Overall, while reporting and legal frameworks exist, strengthening coordination, speed, awareness, and access to justice is needed. Specialized units require more capacity building and resourcing. Formal and informal systems should collaborate to provide comprehensive, timely justice to survivors.

The state currently has no active shelters or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs). A shelter previously existed at the state rehab centre but is no longer operational. Survey findings reveal very low awareness and utilization of such facilities by respondents. Informal support systems like families, religious centres, and NGOs provide frontline assistance, though coordination gaps exist. Reporting pathways are inconsistent, with cases often referred informally between organizations. Most survey respondents believe informal networks are helpful for survivors but recognize their limitations. Investment in formal, comprehensive services is inadequate but efforts are underway to establish a shelter and SARC. Forensic evidence supports prosecution, yet accessing these services is challenging, especially in rural areas. Funding constraints hamper the quality



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

70.83% **Formal justice system** 24.17% **Informal justice system** 5.00% **I will not seek justice**

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

70.00% **Yes** 18.33% **No** 5.83% **Not Sure**  
5.83% **It Depends**

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

31.67% **Yes** 48.33% **No** 20.00% **Not Sure**



Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**13.33%** Yes  
**86.67%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

<b>17.50%</b> Specialized medical healthcare pathway	<b>35.00%</b> Police/security pathway
-- Psychosocial/mental health pathway	<b>39.17%</b> None of the above
-- Legal pathway	

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**75.00%** Yes  
**22.50%** No  
**2.50%** Not Sure

and availability of support across the pathway from reporting to investigation, medical care, psychosocial support, shelters, and legal aid. A survivor-centred, coordinated, and adequately funded support system is essential to improve outcomes for those affected by GBV.

The state uses some IEC materials like radio jingles and pamphlets for GBV awareness, but lack of funding limits their reach and impact. Survey findings show most respondents are unaware of such programs or materials. Sex education in schools exists but lacks comprehensiveness, with concerns over content. Respondents overwhelmingly support introducing age-appropriate lessons on GBV and sexual consent in schools. Sensitization of religious and traditional leaders also occurs, but inconsistently. Inclusivity for disabled persons in awareness programs is limited, indicating a need for targeted, equally accessible outreaches. Overall, while efforts exist, implementing regular, widespread, and innovative campaigns across diverse media is vital to transform social norms and perceptions around GBV. Tailored messaging and platforms are needed to engage youth, rural citizens, and marginalized groups to spur collective action.

Kogi state with a female population of over 2.3 million sits at the second place in the north central region of Nigeria with regards to spending per capita of its Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development. It's Ministry of Women Affairs spent N299.6 per capita in 2022,

which was a huge leap of almost 600% from N43.3 in 2021 to N299.6 in 2022. This huge leap came as a result of an increase of funds disbursement to the ministry in 2021 and 2022 which stood at N97.21million and N673.3 million, respectively.



### Human Angle Story

Maryam Usman's experience highlights the resilience of survivors and the need to improve support systems. As a female political aspirant, she was assaulted while campaigning but initially did not report it due to limited awareness of her rights. With police support, her case reached prosecution, but she faced community interference aiming to settle informally. Despite obstacles, Maryam persevered to obtain accountability and compensation while ensuring her safety. Her journey demonstrates gaps, like lack of awareness, that prevent justice. Maryam now advocates for survivors, spreads awareness, and partners with NGOs to empower women and girls. Her activism is transforming her community, reducing stigma and isolation of survivors. Maryam's story illustrates that with information, support, and solidarity, survivors can overcome barriers and become advocates for change.



### Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**31.67%** Yes  
**61.67%** No  
**6.67%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

**20.83%** Not at all useful  
**26.67%** A little bit useful  
**54.17%** Mostly useful  
**--** Completely useful

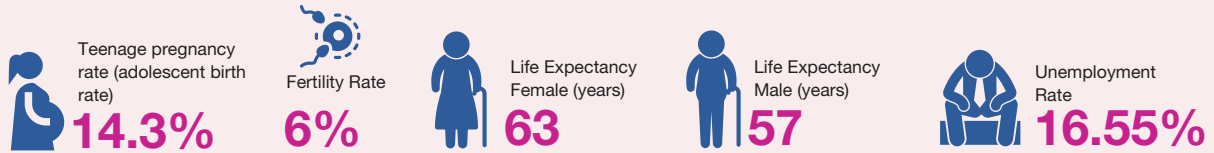
Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

-- Audio/spoken content	-- Braille printed content	-- Visual content	-- Screen subtitling
-- Sign interpretation	-- Picture-based messages	-- Simplified messages	<b>86.67%</b> None of the above

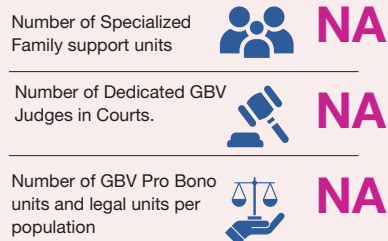
Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <b>Laws and Policies</b>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	<b>1.0</b>
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	<b>0.5</b>
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Access to Legal Justice</b>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	<b>1.0</b>
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Support Services</b>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	<b>0.0</b>
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Information and Awareness</b>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	<b>0.5</b>
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	<b>0.5</b>
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Budget and Spending</b>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	<b>0</b>
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	<b>0</b>



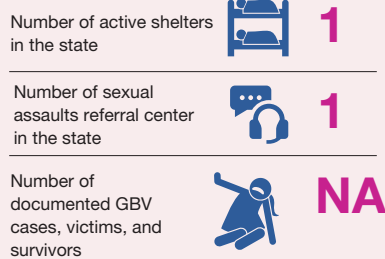
### State Context



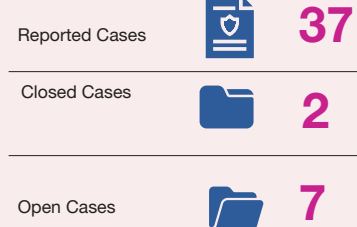
### Access to Legal Justice



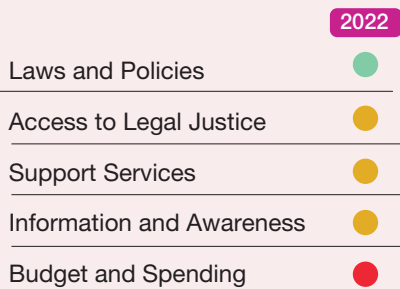
### Support Services



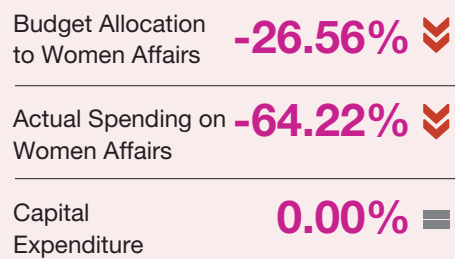
### GBV Cases



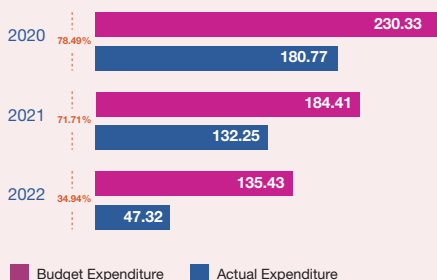
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



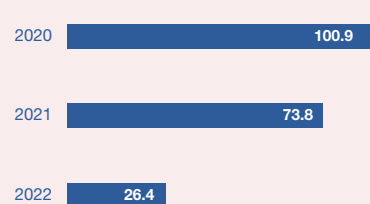
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>The most common GBV-related laws are VAPP and Child Right laws.</p> <p>Absence of budgetary allocation to VAPP law and relevant ministries hinder its implementation and effectiveness in preventing and responding to GBV.</p> <p>There is no adequate data on GBV incidence in the state.</p>	<p>The GBV-related laws should be reformed and the reviewed VAPP should be passed into law.</p> <p>There should be specific budgetary allocation to GBV and relevant ministries in the VAPP law.</p> <p>Establish GBV Secretariat to, among other functions, collect and collate and analyze data on GBV incidence and prevalence in the state.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>The state doesn't have specialized and exclusive SGBV or GBV Courts and dedicated SGBV or GBV Judges.</p> <p>State provides legal assistance but there are no robust witness protection programs in the state.</p> <p>Larger proportion of Kwarans are unaware of FSUs and GBV-designated desks in Police Commands.</p>	<p>Establish specialized and exclusive SGBV or GBV Courts with dedicated SGBV or GBV Judges</p> <p>Develop robust witness protection programs to boost victim and witness involvement in the criminal process.</p> <p>Publicize across all the state the availability of FSUs and GBV desks in Police Commands.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>There is only one active Shelter and one functional SARCs in the state.</p> <p>No budgetary allocation to support services. GBV victims/survivors pay their bills and, in most cases, find it difficult to raise funds.</p> <p>Many Kwarans are not aware of the existing Shelter and SARC in the state.</p>	<p>More Shelters and SARCs should be established, staffed, and equipped - at least one per LGA.</p> <p>Prioritize and fund support services so as to provide wide-ranging support services to GBV victims/survivors, including free medical and mental health assessments and supports.</p> <p>Sensitize Kwarans on the functions and location of Shelters and SARCs.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>GBV-related laws are not available in multiple local dialects, which hinder easy understanding.</p> <p>No wide coverage of sex education in secondary schools and tertiary institutions.</p> <p>Sensitization and awareness programs on GBV are not frequent, PwDs-friendly, and many are not aware of their legal rights.</p>	<p>Translate GBV-related laws into different local dialects and publicize them across all communities in the state.</p> <p>Comprehensive sex-related topics should be incorporated in the school curriculum.</p> <p>Carry out more GBV sensitization and awareness programs which are PwDs-friendly, while ensuring wide education of the society of their legal rights.</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

53.33% **Yes** 46.67% **No** -- **Not Sure**

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

70.83% **Yes** 15% **No** 14.17% **Not Sure**

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

48.33% **Strongly Agree** 49.17% **Agree** 0.83% **Indifference**  
0.83% **Disagree** 0.83% **Strongly Disagree**

Gender-based violence remains a widespread occurrence globally, and different laws and policies have been put in place by countries worldwide to eradicate it. The GBV-related laws in Kwara State are formal and have not been revisited recently. These laws are the Administration of Criminal Justice Law, VAPP Law, Child Rights Law, Penal Code Law, and Married Woman Property Law. The VAPP Law, however, needs some amendments such as codifying the offence of “trafficking” as an offence beyond just defining it, and specifying the body that should administer the Law, which, presumably, is also the “body” referred to in s.44 that is vested with the enforcement of the Law.

Meanwhile, just 54% of the population are aware of the laws, especially the VAPP and Child Rights Laws, which are mostly used to prosecute GBV-related cases in the state. These formal laws override the customary laws, even though 70.83% of the surveyed respondents believe that customary laws would prevent GBV in the state. An overwhelming segment of the population (98%) are confident that existing laws and policies would prevent GBV.

The Police and Civil Defence support the fight against GBV by identifying, deterring, arresting, investigating, and punishing people involved in GBV. The formal reporting pathways (Legal, Law Enforcement, Security, and Ministries) are preferable, as 95% of the respondents indicated. When a case is reported in any of the paths, the GBV Desks in

the Police/Civil Defence commands commence investigation by arresting or inviting the perpetrator, after which the case is transferred to the GBV Desk at the Ministry of Justice for prosecution. Though the witness protection system is weak, the legal aid services, including services provided by FIDA, are accessible to the victims/survivors and, in most cases, judgements are secured within the stipulated timeframes. If GBV Courts are established in the state with dedicated Judges on GBV, more convictions will be secured within the stipulated timeframe.

Kwara State has one Shelter and one SARC but limited budgetary allocation/ investments to support them. GLOHWOC funds the Shelter and pays the worker’s salary. The Shelter has 20+ beddings and provides most of the survivors’ needs, including food, clothing, vocational training, and medical support. However, the location of the Shelter in a rural area makes it unattractive to the victims/ survivors as people have to travel a long distance to get there. The SARC is a single-room office furnished by the Hadis Foundation and located within the General Hospital. The centre provides first aid and guides/counsels GBV victims/survivors. Also, the centre arranges for the medical test of victims/survivors and uses the results in prosecuting GBV cases. There is a clear GBV reporting and referral pathways in the state. All cases reported at the SARC are referred to the Ministry of Women Affairs or law enforcement agencies, from which the Ministry of Justice takes over and files the case in court for prosecution. Also, that all GBV



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

95% **Formal justice system** 4.17% **Informal justice system** 0.83% **I will not seek justice**

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

66.67% **Yes** 9.17% **No** 4.17% **Not Sure**  
20% **It Depends**

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

15% **Yes** 65.83% **No** 19.17% **Not Sure**

## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**35.83%** Yes  
**64.17%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

**20.83%** Specialized medical healthcare pathway  
**15%** Psychosocial/mental health pathway  
**97.5%** Police/security pathway  
**51.67%** Legal pathway  
**1.67%** None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**16.67%** Yes  
**61.67%** No  
**21.67%** Not Sure

cases in the state are monitored by the stakeholders, lending credence to fact that 62% of the respondents downplayed the role of informal support systems in GBV prevention and response in the state.

The state and stakeholders use different media to run GBV-related sensitisation and awareness programs on GBV prevention and response. These include radio jingles, educative pamphlets (flyers, posters, and stickers), television programs, and campaigns (market, streets, religious centres, etc). This is supported by the fact that 70.83% of the respondents indicated knowledge about the state's GBV information/education programs/materials. The available GBV-related sensitisation and awareness programs being currently run are somewhat sensitive to the needs of PwDs, including radio jingles/programs and sign interpretation. Nonetheless, there is more to do to broaden access of the materials to include persons with disabilities (PwD). More must be done to incorporate sex education in the education curriculum because sex education-related topics are only taught under Civic Education.

The Ministry of Women, Children Affairs and Social Welfare budget declined gradually from 2020 to 2022, with performance statistics revealing that 78.49%, 71.71%, and 34.94% of the budget was spent in 2020, 2021, and 2022, respectively. Out of the N230.33 million budgeted for 2020, the Ministry's total spending on personnel, overhead, and capital stood at N99.66m, N32.18

million and N48.94 million respectively. The budget decreased to N184.42 million in 2021. Meanwhile, N103.03 million and N29.23 million were spent on personnel and overhead expenses. In 2022, the budget and actual spending dropped to N135.44 million and N47.32 million respectively. N19.36 million was spent on personnel, N25.96 million on overhead, and N2 million on capital projects.



### Human Angle Story

A child's forced marriage by her father prompted the school's Principal and Counsellor to involve the FIDA. The father defended his actions under Sharia law, but FIDA cited the Child's Right Law and insisted that the child's welfare comes first. The case, with FIDA as a witness, is now in court. Also, a woman with four children remarried after disclosing her past and resigned from her job per her new husband's demand. She invested her gratuity into his business. The man built a house with her money and later threatened divorce amid disputes. Seeking justice, they involved the Police and the Ministry of Justice. The Magistrate Court took the case despite jurisdiction issues. The man later apologised and gave the woman her house and compensation before leaving the marriage.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**70.83%** Yes  
**19.17%** No  
**10%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

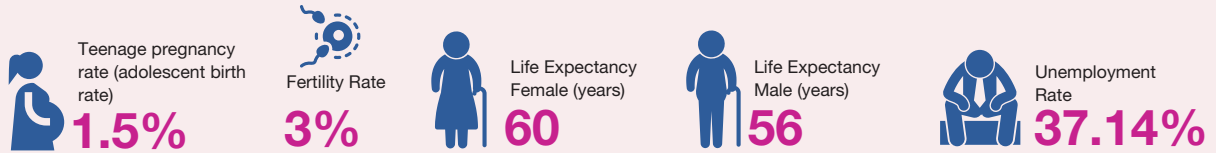
**16.67%** Not at all useful  
**27.5%** A little bit useful  
**34.17%** Mostly useful  
**21.67%** Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

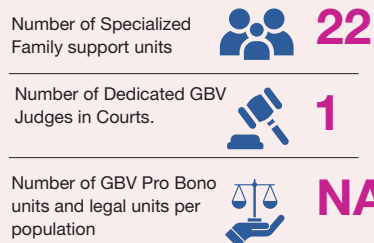
**75%** Audio/spoken content  
**5.83%** Braille printed content  
**13.33%** Visual content  
**1.67%** Screen subtitling  
**7.5%** Sign interpretation  
**34.17%** Picture-based messages  
**9.17%** Simplified messages  
**20.83%** None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	1.0
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	1.0
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	0.5
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	1.0
 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	1.0
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	0.5
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	0.5
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	0.0
 <p>Support Services</p>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	0.5
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	1.0
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	0.5
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	0.5
 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	1.0
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	0.5
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	0.5
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	0.0
 <p>Budget and Spending</p>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	0.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	0.0

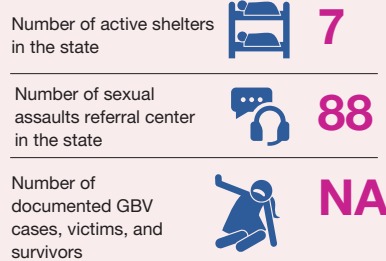
### State Context



### Access to Legal Justice



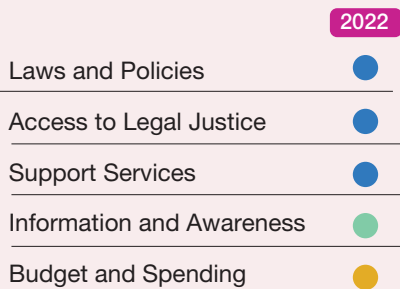
### Support Services



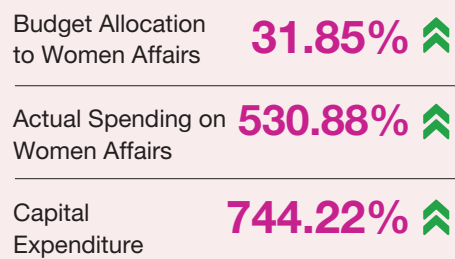
### GBV Cases



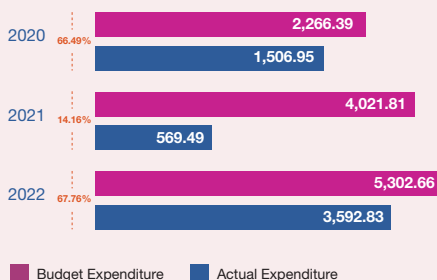
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



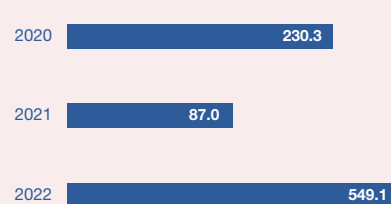
### Year on Year Growth 2022



### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N

Indicators

Key Findings

Recommendations

1



Laws and Policies

The laws are voluminous, which also contributes to the inadequacy in the spread of awareness of the laws across the state.

There are no provisions for forceful ejection from the home, economic abuse, isolation, spousal battery, etc. under the Domestic Violence (DV) Law.

Lack of outright and distinct criminalization of offenses involving harmful traditional practices like female genital mutilation as provided for in the federal VAPP Law.

Legal experts, policymakers, and advocacy groups should collaborate to create a comprehensive review and simplification of existing GBV laws by identifying and removing the redundant or overly complex provisions in the laws. There should also be production and dissemination of simplified versions of GBV laws.

The state should make amendments to the existing legislation to broaden its scope and effectiveness through the inclusion of provisions in the DV Law that explicitly criminalize and address these issues.

Lawmakers need to ensure that harmful traditional practices like female genital mutilation are explicitly criminalized under the VAPP Law, providing clear legal consequences for such offenses. Also, there is need to initiate and support awareness campaigns to educate the public about the key provisions of the DV Law and the VAPP Law.

2



Access to Legal Justice

There is limited data on police responses to SGBV.

The Domestic and Sexual Violence (DSV) Courts are not sufficient for Lagos' large population.

Limited provisions of accessibility for PwDs to the family support units in the state

The SGBV response laws should be reviewed to make it mandatory for periodic monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of police response to SGBV.

There is a need to strengthen the capacity of the existing criminal courts to adjudicate on GBV matters and improve funding for the creation of such courts.

LASODA and other SGBV-focused government agencies should be supported to have a Disability Desk in each LGA and LCDA. To aid PWD GBV survivors and victims access the justice delivery system

3



Support Services

There are insufficient shelters and professional counsellors in all the existing shelters.

Most government SGBV agencies are short-staffed with the staff available in need of continuous training to respond effectively to the changing dynamics of SGBV.

There is a need for improved funding for more shelters to respond to the survivors' housing needs. There is also a need for trained professionals to provide counselling in the shelters.

Lagos State needs to recognize the importance of adequate staffing, allocate adequate funding for recruitment of more trained professionals, and provide training programs for the existing personnel to keep them updated with the evolving dynamics of GBV.

4



Information and Awareness

IEC materials are not disseminated widely enough for underserved groups and marginalized communities.

There is a dearth of IEC materials and programs for PwDs.

Frequent awareness programs for the entire society with increased IEC materials. SGBV should be given the same attention for its prevention and response as that of COVID-19.

There is a need for increased awareness of GBV in the state with the provision of funding to develop suitable competent



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

**72.4%** Yes  
**27.0%** No  
**0.7%** Not Sure

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

**27.6%** Yes  
**63.8%** No  
**8.6%** Not Sure

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

**57.2%** Strongly Agree  
**30.3%** Agree  
**9.2%** Indifference  
**0.7%** Disagree  
**2.6%** Strongly Disagree

Lagos State, as the centre of excellence, is not lagging when it comes to laws and policies that criminalise GBV. Some of the state's laws are the Protection Against Domestic Violence Law, 2007; Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015; and the Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency Law 2021. The Domestic Violence (DV) Law, among others, makes provision for a Sex Offenders Register and establishes the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA). Among others, the DSVA has a "Mandated Reporter Manual" which provides guidance on the state government's requirement that certain persons report to the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice any case of suspected child abuse, molestation, or neglect.

Lagos State has rules and policies that guides against GBV, such as the Lagos State Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy of 2016, the Family Court of Lagos State (Civil Procedure) Rules, 2012, and the Lagos State Special Peoples' Law, 2011 which made Lagos State the first state in Nigeria to pass a Disability Protection Law with a designated Agency to protect PwDs from SGBV. However, the DV Law needs to be amended to make provision for annual reporting on domestic violence, as well as a clause that specifically states the body to keep the Sex Offenders' Register and implements the Law which, by way of its activities, is the Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA).

The state has recorded efforts to strengthen some of its GBV-related laws within the last four years to reflect current realities with frequent amendments and reviews. The Criminal Law of Lagos State (CLL) has been undergoing review for the past four years by the Lagos State Ministry of Justice, while the Child's Right Law of Lagos State (CRL) has also been undergoing review for the past two years by the Lagos State Ministry of Youths and Social Development. The Lagos State Domestic Violence Law is also being reviewed by the DSVA and the Lagos State Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation in partnership with the Law Reform Commission and UNFPA.

There are no documented religious and traditional laws in response to SGBV in the state, but religious organisations like the Christian Council

of Nigeria (CCN) and NASFAT have signed pacts with international organisations like UNICEF and other UN agencies with strong partnerships with the DSVA of Lagos State to respond to SGBV. Both religious organisations have SGBV response teams and contact telephone numbers for their members to call. However, any cases received by these organisations are escalated to DSVA for professional service intervention. Also, DSVA is in strong engagement with traditional and community leaders. The Agency representatives conduct periodic visits to palaces to train traditional rulers on the dynamics of SGBV and engage them to know the limits of the informal justice sector to mediation. They attend mediation sessions in the palace to ensure cases are cascaded to the agency to facilitate access to justice.

The Domestic and Sexual Violence Unified Response Protocol and Referral Pathway (URPRP) 2021 was signed by relevant agencies. The Protocol is the first of its kind, being a pronouncement on Lagos State's government's commitment to eradicate SGBV. Lagos State, in its efforts to address GBV, records a Domestic and Special Offences Court and about 22 Family Support Units within the police, with each having designated contact numbers through which victims can call in, and the cases are documented with the police, who will conduct their investigations, including medical treatment and evaluation and forensic interviews for cases involving children.

The DSVA, OPD, CMC, FIDA, AWLA, NBA, and all the aforementioned agencies render pro-bono legal services to victims. The government has also established a Domestic Violence Trust Fund as provided by the DSVA Law to address the cost of police investigations of SGBV cases. The DSVA is in strong collaboration with traditional rulers, which ensures that cases reported to traditional institutions are cascaded to the agency. The agency conducts periodic SGBV-informed training for the traditional rulers and participates in mediation sessions on cases brought to the Obas' palaces. This has ensured that cases reported in the informal justice system are eventually ploughed into the formal justice system.

Lagos State records seven active shelters in the



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

**80.3%** Formal justice system  
**9.2%** Informal justice system  
**10.5%** I will not seek justice

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

**42.1%** Yes  
**21.1%** No  
**20.4%** Not Sure  
**16.4%** It Depends

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

**11.8%** Yes  
**71.1%** No  
**17.1%** Not Sure





## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**25.0%** Yes  
**75.0%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

<b>39.5%</b> Specialized medical healthcare pathway	<b>67.8%</b> Police/security pathway	
<b>23.0%</b> Psychosocial/mental health pathway	<b>53.3%</b> Legal pathway	<b>8.6%</b> None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**60.7%** Yes  
**26.0%** No  
**13.3%** Not Sure

state for adults. Six of the shelters are owned by NGOs, while the newly commissioned "EKO HAVEN" is owned by DSVA. The Cece Yara Foundation also has a children's shelter, with which it provides housing support and advocacy for children who have been sexually abused or at risk alongside their non-offending families. The shelter is the state government's prompt response to the burgeoning demand, ensuring the preservation of life, safety, stability, empowerment, and subsequently the reintegration of survivors back into society.

With regards to active SARCs in the states, 57 of the over 300 Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs), 26 General Hospitals, Federal Medical Center (FMC), Mirabel Center, WARIF, the Cece Yara Foundation, and Idera SARC are present. These are available in all the LGAs, which makes them very accessible to all. The services rendered include medical and psychosocial support, collection, and preservation of evidence. The state has a Domestic Violence Trust Fund for high-risk survivors, i.e., survivors of incest, destitute victims, and public interest cases, with which it gives grants to survivors, including grants for accommodation, scholarships, and medical and business grants. In 2022, the government gave grants to 160 high-risk survivors, ranking between N250,000 to N400,000. The government funded the cost of investigating 122 cases in 2022, which were later charged to the court.

The state employs various sensitization and awareness programs related to GBV. Various organisations use IEC materials, social media, and toll-free hotlines to create public awareness of GBV issues. One approach includes the use of town hall meetings by the Lagos State Government through DSVA to educate the public on how to seek justice and the negative effects of GBV. The state's education curriculum includes sex education, implemented as a co-curriculum under Family Life and Health Education (FLHE) by Lagos State Public Schools, with the aim to mitigate the incidence of child sexual abuse (CSA). The MOH provides health programs in primary and secondary schools to educate on issues such as nutrition and sexual health. IEC materials for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) are being

developed in collaboration with LASODA to ensure inclusivity in the fight against GBV.

Over three years, Lagos State allocated a cumulative N5.67 billion to its Ministry of Women Affairs and poverty alleviation, surpassing the total disbursed by its South Western counterparts in 2022. With a female population of 6.5 million, Lagos ranked second in per capita allocation at N549.1, exceeding regional and national averages of N256.1 and N231.3, respectively, in 2022. Notably, Lagos State's allocation to the ministry surged from N569.5 million in 2021 to a staggering N3.59 billion in 2022, marking a remarkable 531% increase year-on-year, reflecting a robust commitment to enhancing support for women's initiatives.



## Human Angle Story

A tragic human story emerged in the state involving a 14-year-old autistic girl. The young girl, who had limited speech, was horrifically defiled, and impregnated. In order to bring the perpetrator to justice, a sign language interpreter was called in to provide the necessary support for the investigation. This specialist's involvement became pivotal in identifying the offender. Through their tireless efforts and persistent questioning, the girl was able to identify her abuser - a young male adult who was, shockingly, a neighbour. This disturbing event shed light on the extent of abuse within the community, especially of PwDs, and highlighted the importance of developing comprehensive and inclusive systems of support, referrals, prevention, and justice for GBV victims.

## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**57.9%** Yes  
**33.6%** No  
**8.6%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

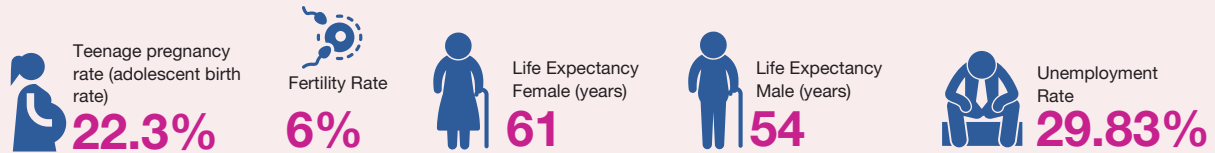
<b>28.9%</b> Not at all useful	<b>14.5%</b> A little bit useful
<b>39.5%</b> Mostly useful	<b>17.1%</b> Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

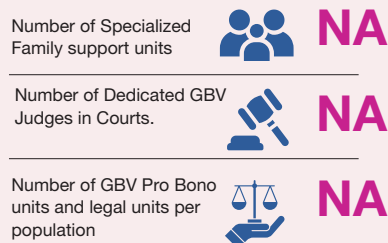
-- Audio/spoken content	-- Braille printed content	-- Visual content	-- Screen subtitles
-- Sign interpretation	-- Picture-based messages	-- Simplified messages	-- None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	1.0
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	1.0
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	1.0
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	1.0
 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	1.0
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	1.0
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	1.0
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	1.0
 <p>Support Services</p>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	1.0
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	1.0
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	1.0
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	1.0
 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	1.0
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	1.0
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	1.0
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	0.5
 <p>Budget and Spending</p>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	1.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	1.0

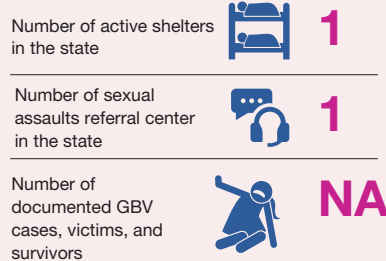
### State Context



### Access to Legal Justice



### Support Services



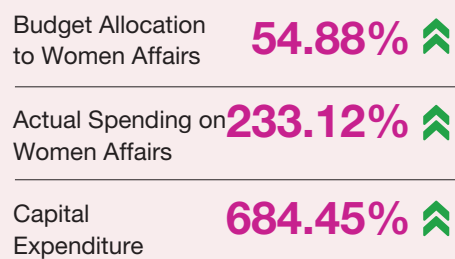
### GBV Cases



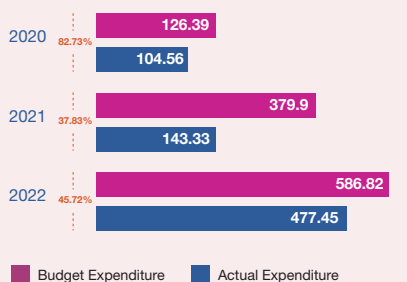
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



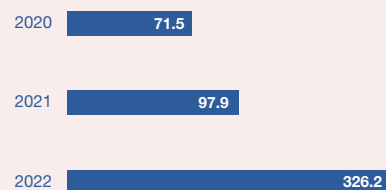
### Year on Year Growth 2022






### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>Varying levels of knowledge and awareness of existing GBV laws and policies across different local governments.</p> <p>Mixed perceptions regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of laws and policies in addressing GBV.</p> <p>Inconsistent experiences with successful prosecution of GBV cases under existing laws</p> <p>Divided opinions on sufficiency of customary and religious laws in addressing GBV</p>	<p>Enhance knowledge and awareness through targeted campaigns and education programs.</p> <p>Address perceptions of adequacy by reviewing and strengthening legal frameworks.</p> <p>Improve prosecution of GBV cases and inform public about ongoing reforms</p> <p>Foster partnerships and collaboration between government, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>Weaknesses in formal justice system's handling of GBV cases</p> <p>Limitations and accountability issues in informal justice systems</p> <p>Challenges in gathering sufficient evidence in GBV cases</p> <p>Insufficient financial support for investigating and prosecuting GBV</p> <p>Lack of specialized GBV courts and judges</p>	<p>Enhance formal justice system's effectiveness and accessibility</p> <p>Strengthen informal justice systems to align with human rights principles</p> <p>Build capacity for evidence gathering and explore alternative methods</p> <p>Increase financial support for investigating and prosecuting GBV</p> <p>Establish dedicated GBV courts with specialized judges</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>Low awareness and limited access to shelters and SARCs</p> <p>Limited knowledge of GBV reporting and referral pathways</p> <p>Negative perceptions and limited use of informal support systems</p>	<p>Asides increasing the number of SARCs and Shelters to in proportion to the population, there is a need to increase awareness and access to the Shelters and SARCs.</p> <p>Strengthen knowledge of reporting and referral pathways</p> <p>Collaborate with informal support systems to enhance their role</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>Lack of awareness about GBV in specific local governments</p> <p>Limited accessibility of materials for persons with disabilities</p> <p>Insufficient dissemination of GBV information</p>	<p>Targeted interventions about GBV in low awareness areas</p> <p>Enhance accessibility of materials for disabilities</p> <p>Increase frequency of dissemination</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

65% **Yes** 35% **No** -- **Not Sure**

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

32% **Strongly Agree** 61% **Agree** 6% **Indifferent**  
1% **Disagree** -- **Strongly Disagree**

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

27% **Yes** 53% **No** 20% **Not Sure**

The Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) (VAPP) Act and the Child's Right Act are the main GBV-related laws in Nasarawa State, though awareness and utilization vary across local governments. The VAPP Law, however, needs to be reviewed, for instance, by reducing the many service providers under Part III to avoid administrative bottlenecks for GBV survivors, as well as make provision for the offense of "trafficking" beyond just defining it. While 50.58% of the respondents believe these laws prevent GBV if properly implemented, experiences with successful prosecution are inconsistent. Regarding sexual harassment policies, limited details are provided during the survey. Informal customary laws exist, but opinions are divided on their effectiveness in addressing GBV. Efforts have been made over the past eight years to review and strengthen GBV laws and policies through stakeholders' engagements. Customary laws still require further assessment to ensure alignment with human rights, as their abolition could impact state laws significantly. Overall, strengthening formal laws and policies while improving informal justice systems is key to enhancing GBV response in the state. Continued reform, monitoring, and targeted awareness campaigns are needed for effective prevention.

The formal justice system, including police and courts, is the preferred avenue for seeking justice for GBV cases, according to 75.58% of the respondents. The state recently developed a dashboard domiciled in the Ministry of Women Affairs for reporting GBV cases. However, the system faces challenges in efficiency, delays in court processes, limited legal aid and witness protection services, and poor handling of evidence. Prosecution timeframes per the VAPP Law are unclear. Informal justice systems like traditional/religious authorities are viewed as ineffective among respondents in certain areas, especially in prosecuting GBV crimes fairly while

protecting survivors' rights. Concerns exist about self-interest and lack of knowledge among informal system leaders. Specialized units like Family Support Units (FSUs), GBV Desks at Police Commands, and dedicated GBV judges do exist, but awareness is low among respondents. Their effectiveness is uncertain. Overall, strengthening the formal justice system's capacity and accountability in handling GBV cases is crucial. This involves providing comprehensive legal support and protection services for victims/survivors, enforcing prompt prosecution timeframes, building capacity for gathering evidence, and fostering collaboration between formal and informal systems to ensure fair, unbiased, and human rights-aligned justice.

The availability of active shelters and functional Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) in Nasarawa State is limited according to survey findings. Recently, the state established a new SARC at the Dalhatu Araf Specialist Hospital in Lafia. Details on their composition, accessibility, and support provision are unclear. Reporting and referral pathways like the Ministry of Women Affairs and NGOs exist, but utilization is hampered by reluctance and confidentiality concerns. Regarding informal support systems, opinions vary on their helpfulness for GBV victims/survivors, with regional disparities in perceptions. The role of medical units and forensic labs is uncertain due to limited examples of their effectiveness in prosecuting GBV cases. The state government provides some support systems alongside civil society organizations, but their reach is inadequate. Overall, the survey reveals gaps in awareness, accessibility, and effectiveness of support services. Addressing these requires targeted interventions to increase public knowledge of available services, improving delivery and funding of support programs, building capacity of service providers, and fostering collaborations between formal and informal systems. Proactive efforts by the



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

76% **Formal justice system** 12% **Informal justice system** 12% **I will not seek justice**

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

14% **Yes** 62% **No** -- **Not Sure**  
24% **It Depends**

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

38% **Yes** 38% **No** 24% **Not Sure**



## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**29%** Yes  
**71%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

**91%** Specialized medical healthcare pathway

**80%** Psychosocial/mental health pathway

**85%** Police/security pathway

**58%** Legal pathway  
**23%** None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**58%** Yes  
**33%** No  
**10%** Not Sure

state government and stakeholders can help enhance support provision for GBV victims/survivors in Nasarawa State.

GBV awareness programs by NGOs face financial constraints, while state dissemination of information, education, and communication (IEC) materials is limited according to findings. Comprehensive sex education coverage in schools is unclear. Accessibility of awareness materials for persons with disabilities requires improvement. Overall, there are knowledge gaps among survey respondents regarding GBV programs and materials in the state. Awareness levels vary significantly across local governments, with lower levels concentrated in certain areas. Findings reinforce the need for widespread, targeted interventions to increase GBV information dissemination through diverse channels, making content disability-inclusive, integrating sex education in schools, and conducting regular evaluations to enhance effectiveness. A multi-pronged approach can help bridge information gaps, counter misconceptions, equip individuals to prevent and respond to GBV, and ultimately foster a culture of respect and equality across Nasarawa State.

Nasarawa State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development had the highest per capita spending in the north central region of Nigeria at N326.2 per capita in 2022. This figure is higher than the regional and national average at N177 and 213.3 respectively. Furthermore, this is a 190% increase from the previous year of N97.9 per capita. The ministry's budget performance was 82.73% in 2020, 37.83% in 2021, and 81.36% in 2022.



## Human Angle Story

Maryama, a young woman from Lafia, was a victim of domestic violence at the hands of her husband. Unaware of support services available, she suffered silently for years, as her husband controlled her finances and movements. One day, listening to a radio program, she heard about a new shelter for abused women that had opened in her community. Mustering courage, she escaped with her children to the shelter. For the first time, Maryama received medical aid, counselling, legal help, and skills training at the shelter. Staff assisted her in filing for divorce and custody of her children. "I regained my dignity and my rights. The shelter gave me hope and empowered me to rebuild my life," she shares. Maryama's story illustrates the need for accessible information, support services, and justice pathways for GBV victims. With awareness and access, more women like Maryama can be empowered to escape abuse.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**55%** Yes  
**38%** No  
**8%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

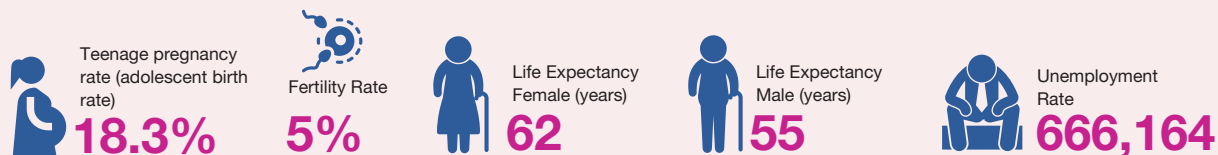
**2%** Not at all useful  
**27%** A little bit useful  
**47%** Mostly useful  
**25%** Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

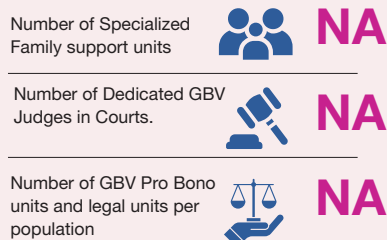
**71%** Audio/spoken content  
**12%** Braille printed content  
**23%** Visual content  
**20%** Screen subtitling  
**54%** Sign interpretation  
**55%** Picture-based messages  
**26%** Simplified messages  
**80%** None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <b>Laws and Policies</b>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	<b>1.0</b>
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	<b>0.5</b>
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Access to Legal Justice</b>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	<b>0.5</b>
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Support Services</b>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Information and Awareness</b>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	<b>0.0</b>
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	<b>0.5</b>
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Budget and Spending</b>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	<b>1.0</b>
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	<b>0.0</b>

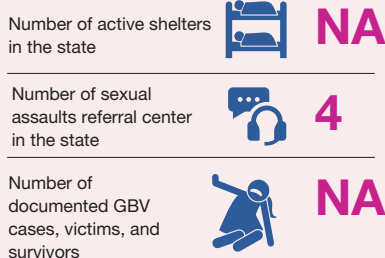
### State Context



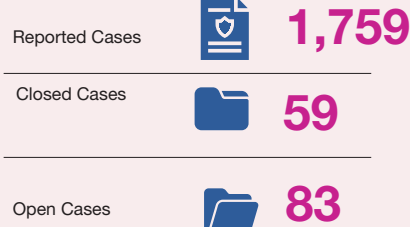
### Access to Legal Justice



### Support Services



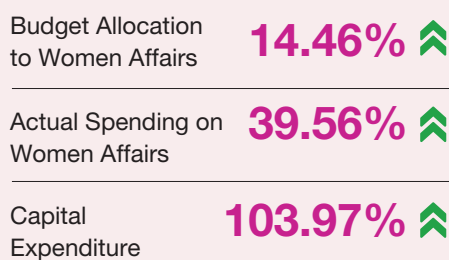
### GBV Cases



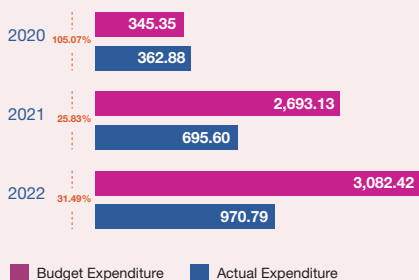
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



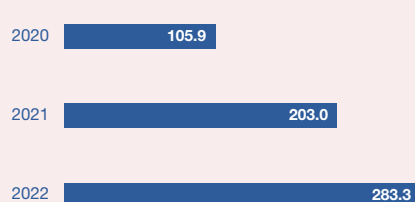
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)





S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>There are existing GBV laws and policies, which were recently reviewed or newly enacted, thus minimal implementation.</p> <p>High awareness of laws and policies, but unsure of effectiveness.</p>	<p>Allow time for implementation before reviewing laws.</p> <p>There is need for frequent and wide public sensitization on GBV laws and policies in the state.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>Legal assistance provided but lacking witness protection.</p> <p>Clear GBV reporting and referral channels and pathways.</p>	<p>Create a legal framework for witness protection by including it in laws.</p> <p>Develop and disseminate GBV reporting and referral pathways, as well as establish dedicated GBV courtrooms and judges.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>Unlike with shelters, SARC services are comprehensive</p> <p>Formal services are limited, providing only legal and medical aid</p>	<p>Establish standard shelters in each Senatorial District and LGA.</p> <p>Strengthen knowledge of reporting and referral pathways</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>Low awareness of GBV materials and programs</p> <p>Information sharing is infrequent</p>	<p>Use official state media platforms and channels to increase awareness on GBV prevention and response</p> <p>There is a need for community outreaches to increase awareness</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

91% Yes, 9% No, -- Not Sure

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

54% Strongly Agree, 46% Agree, -- Indifferent, -- Disagree, -- Strongly Disagree

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

32% Yes, 62% No, 6% Not Sure

Laws like the Child Rights Protection Law, VAPP Law, and ACJA address GBV but are newly enacted, so their use is still limited. Although the VAPP Law needs to be amended such as codifying the offence of “political violence”, “violence by non-state actors”, and “trafficking” - beyond merely defining these terms in its interpretation section. Also, the state should consider reviewing s.4(2)(d) of its VAPP Law that prescribes severing the genital organ of a man who rapes a minor.

Of the surveyed population, 91% indicates that they know of the laws but only 42% have seen prosecutions based on the laws. 76% believe the laws can prevent GBV. Customary laws are informal and 62% of the respondents say they are insufficient for GBV. The laws are too new to be reformed often. No reform of these laws has happened in the last eight years. Abolishing customary laws forces reliance on state laws but risks losing communal dispute resolution. 32% still favour customary laws. There are focal persons that strictly respond to GBV issues in the communities and refer cases to appropriate channels for the law to take its course. Overall, GBV-related laws exist but are largely untested. More prosecutions are needed to build confidence in the law. Gradual reform of customary laws while introducing state laws may improve acceptance.

Most (85%) seek formal justice and reporting channels like SARC, police, and NGOs exist. Legal aid is available but lacks robust witness protection. Only 42% have seen successful prosecutions. Timeframes under VAPP Act are not properly followed, causing cases to drag on for long period of time. The only dedicated GBV judge sits just twice weekly. Informal systems like community elders often pressure victims to drop cases, perpetuating GBV. 80% see informal systems as ineffective. Specialized services exist like FSUs and GBV police desks, but awareness is low—only 20% know of them. Overall, services exist to

prosecute GBV but procedural delays, lack of witness protection, overburdened GBV judge, persistence of informal systems, and insufficient support for survivors impair access to robust and timely justice. More dedicated GBV courtrooms, designated judges, strong witness protection, and gradual reform of informal customary laws are needed to improve access to legal justice.

The state has four (4) SARCs offering comprehensive services. Shelters are underfunded and poorly managed. 93% know of SARCs and use them, valuing their medical, legal, justice services. Referral pathways are robust. Formal support beyond SARCs is limited - families and communities provide more psychosocial and economic support. Medical units provide critical evidence but budgeting for holistic support services is inadequate. Shelters need improved investment and more SARCs are needed to cover the large number of at-risk, underserved population. GBV response toll-free lines would help, too. Family support is invaluable but unstructured; hence, the state should engage with informal systems constructively. Overall, clinical services are relatively strong but shelter services, data collection, and constructive outreach to informal support systems need improvement through better budgeting and monitoring.

Awareness programs are inadequate—only 36% know of any. Radio is the main information source. Materials exist but are not tailored for PwDs. Information sharing is infrequent, it happens quarterly at best. The limited information dispensed is only somewhat useful as alluded to by 65% of the respondents. Comprehensive sex education including GBV is not provided in schools, which highlights a major gap. 88% want sex education to be administered from age five but suggest that it be made more comprehensive for teenagers. Overall, while some awareness



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

85% Formal justice system, 15% Informal justice system, -- I will not seek justice

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

20% Yes, 38% No, 10% Not Sure, 32% It Depends

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

12% Yes, 80% No, 8% Not Sure



## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

93% Yes  
7% No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

80% SARC

58% Psychosocial/mental health pathway

91% Police/security pathway

85% Legal pathway  
-- None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

80% Yes  
12% No  
8% Not Sure

programs and materials exist, investment is lacking to develop effective content, wide dissemination via radio, TV, social media, tailored to the need of PwDs, and integrated in schools. Constructive engagement of media and education system is needed to spread useful GBV information state-wide.

The Ministry of Gender Affairs in Niger State received disbursements of N362.89 million, N695.60 million, and N970.8 million in 2020, 2021, and 2022 correspondingly. From 2021 to 2022, while the ministry's budget grew by 13.36%, actual expenditure grew by 39.56%. Capital expenditure also grew commendable by 103.97% between 2021 and 2022. The ministry's per capita spending increased from N105.9 in 2020 to N283.3 in 2022, empowering the state's women, surpassing the regional averages.



## Human Angle Story

Amina was raped by three men for refusing marriage proposals in her community. Her family disowned her instead of reporting it. She lost her fiancé and had to move away to find a husband, while still bearing the stigma years later. She wishes services were accessible so she would have reported it. Meg, on her part, endured an abusive marriage for three years. Though her neighbour kept intervening, her husband, being a lawyer, evaded consequences. Finally, on reporting to a GBV platform, legal stakeholders got her justice and compensation, securing her freedom from abuse, though the process was arduous. The stories show how women bear the brunt of stigmatization and inadequate response to reported GBV cases. Improving awareness, reporting channels, legal aid, and social support services could have spared them from years of suffering. Justice delayed was justice denied.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?


36% Yes  
62% No  
2% Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

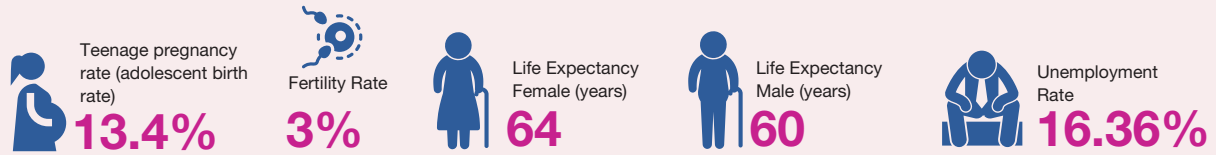
65% Not at all useful  
33% A little bit useful  
6% Mostly useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

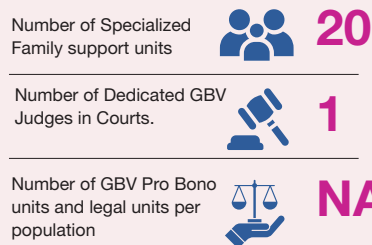
4% Audio/spoken content  
4% Braille printed content  
1% Tactile  
3% Screen subtitling  
8% Sign interpretation  
- Picture-based messages  
73% None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <b>Laws and Policies</b>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	<b>1.0</b>
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	<b>0.0</b>
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	<b>1.0</b>
 <b>Access to Legal Justice</b>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	<b>1.0</b>
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Support Services</b>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Information and Awareness</b>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	<b>0.0</b>
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	<b>0.5</b>
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	<b>0.0</b>
 <b>Budget and Spending</b>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	<b>0.0</b>
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	<b>0.0</b>

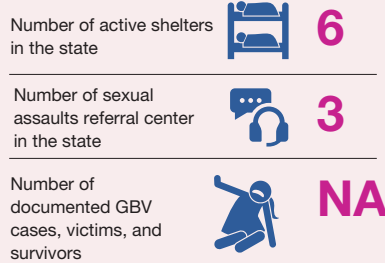
### State Context



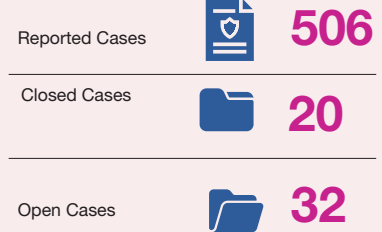
### Access to Legal Justice



### Support Services



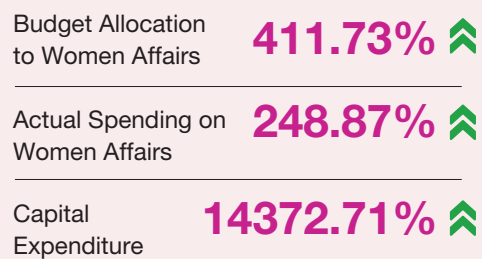
### GBV Cases



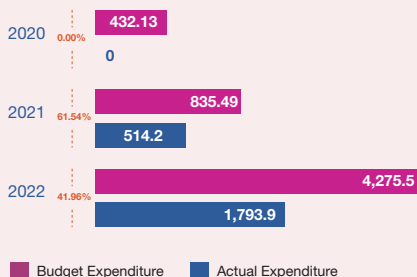
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



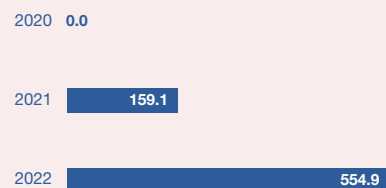
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <b>Laws and Policies</b>	Lack of funding, no proper governance structures, and a lack of will for the implementation of the existing laws and policies that criminalize GBV.	Increased engagements to secure more funding allocation for the implementation of these laws, as well as collaboration with NGOs and international organizations to mobilize resources.
		Limited capacity of government personnel tasked with the implementation of the laws.	Advocate for funding of training programs as well as collaborate with academic institutions, CSOs, and training centres to provide capacity strengthening for relevant duty bearers - government personnel.
		Low awareness of the existing laws and policy across the state.	Implement comprehensive awareness campaigns to educate the public about existing GBV laws and policies.
2	 <b>Access to Legal Justice</b>	Delay in prosecuting cases, which limits implementation of the laws and discourages survivors from accessing justice.	Establish clear timelines for the prosecution of GBV cases as well as streamline the legal process to reduce delays.
		Specialized police units, prosecution departments, Courts and/or alternative tribunals hold promise but their effectiveness depends on many factors, including quality of staff, amount of funding, and relationship to other legal institutions.	Provide adequate funding and training for these specialized units to improve their capacity, resultantly, their effectiveness.
		The state lacks the presence of dedicated GBV judges and courts for the prosecution of GBV cases, hence the delay in judgment.	Provide training for judges and legal professionals on handling GBV cases and then create positions and offices for these trained personnel to serve in that capacity.
3	 <b>Support Services</b>	The capacity of the existing SARCs and shelters to serve the current population is relatively low, as they do not have adequate number of staff, bedding, or space.	Advocate for increased funding to enhance the capacity of the SARCs and shelters to serve the population of Ogun State.
		Poor funding of government agencies tasked with responding and lack of funding for CSOs who often are the first to respond and provide care and support for the survivors.	Enhance advocacy efforts to secure improved and adequate funding for state actors to effectively serve in this capacity.
		Weak service support and referrals for victims/survivors, limiting their access to quality services.	Encourage partnerships between government agencies, NGOs, and healthcare institutions to establish and strengthen more robust referral systems to ensure victims have access to quality services.
4	 <b>Information and Awareness</b>	Low awareness of the existing GBV IEC information and materials	Explore various channels, including social media, to disseminate GBV Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials.
		Complete dependence on traditional medium of sharing IEC despite the public shift towards social media.	Collaborate with influencers and online platforms to reach a wider audience.
		Inadequate provision of IEC material for PwDs, especially the visually impaired, and a lack of IEC material in local languages.	Collaborate with organizations specializing in accessibility to ensure inclusivity for PwDs, particularly the visually impaired. Also, translate and produce IEC materials in local languages to cater to the linguistic diversity of the population.



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

54.1% **Yes** 45.9% **No** -- **Not Sure**

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

51.9% **Strongly Agree** 41.4% **Agree** 1.5% **Indifferent**  
4.5% **Disagree** 0.8% **Strongly Disagree**

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

31.6% **Yes** 51.1% **No** 17.3% **Not Sure**

In Ogun State, a combination of both state and customary laws exists to address GBV. Laws that address GBV comprise the Child Rights Law 2007 (amended in 2015), the VAPP Act 2017, the Female Genital Mutilation Law, the Criminal Code of Ogun State 2006 (amended in 2011), and the Persons with Disabilities Law 2017, amongst many others. These laws are reviewed periodically, as indicated by the eight-year review of the Child Right law and the review of the VAPP law, which, however, needs further review to provide for an annual reporting on the implementation of the law.

There are efforts in place, particularly by NGOs, to build awareness of the existing laws and policies. Some notable gaps in the implementation of the existing laws and policies include a lack of effective coordination to collect GBV data, discarding of evidence due to forensic technicalities, and slow case processes. However, to support the implementation of the state's VAPP Law, plans are underway to launch a Referral Pathway and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for GBV, carry out a validation of a Costed Action Plan for the VAPP Law, and open a transit home for GBV survivors in Asero, Abeokuta.

Ogun State boasts a structural system for reporting, prosecuting, and enforcing GBV cases. The Ministry of Women Affairs promptly responds to sexual and GBV instances, ensuring fair case referrals. The existence of GBV Desk Officers across all 20 LGAs embraces the citizens' input and directives for addressing these cases. NGO/CBOs registered as service providers with the Ministry also report GBV cases; institutions like SARC Centers and the Ministry of Health and Justice also receive reported cases, which are then channelled to the Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA) for a proper referral pathway. The Police and Civil Defense also get reported cases, directly. GBV prosecution is undertaken by Family Courts at the magistrate level in

LGAs. Ministry of Justice, under the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP), prosecutes cases of GBV at the state level with the collaboration of Police, Civil Defense, and MoWA that bring cases to the court.

The state does not have a known witness program, nor does it provide legal aid services or pro-bono lawyers. However, there are certain inefficiencies in the referral pathway for GBV cases, resulting in a need for improved coordination. Survivors are not adequately accommodated during court proceedings, leading to a slow, traumatising process with minimal victories. Although it's unclear whether the state meets the VAPP Act's timeframes from case mention to judgement issuance, a push for specialised units is evident. Efforts for the creation of specialised and exclusive judges for SGBV Cases, as well as specialised police units is of utmost priority in Ogun State.

In terms of shelter and SARCs' provisions, the composition shows that there are six active and functional shelters - two owned by the government and four owned by NGOs. There are three active SARCs - two owned by the government and one by an NGO. These SARCs and Shelters are accessible to the population, although access for PwDs is very low without sign language staff or special needs experts. There is also a low awareness (19%) among the public of the existence of these support structures.

The Ogun State GBV Referral Pathway has five entry points. Survivors or community complainants can use any services that are convenient and accessible to them. Most reported cases of rape at tertiary institutions use the GBV tete-a-tete application developed by CEHWIN as an entry point. The Ministry of Women Affairs supports GBV victims with microcredit for small businesses called "Okowo Dapo" in all 20 LGAs across the state. The Director of Women Empowerment Services



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

79.7% **Formal justice system** 14.3% **Informal justice system** 6.0% **I will not seek justice**

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

54.1% **Yes** 12.0% **No** 15.0% **Not Sure**  
18.8% **It Depends**

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

33.8% **Yes** 42.9% **No** 23.3% **Not Sure**



## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**19.5%** Yes  
**80.5%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

**18.8%** Specialized medical healthcare pathway  
**13.5%** Psychosocial/mental health pathway

**64.7%** Police/security pathway  
**30.8%** Legal pathway  
**18.0%** None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**48.9%** Yes  
**36.1%** No  
**15.0%** Not Sure

confirmed the distribution of tear gas canisters as a protection and defence mechanism against rapists to 200 female students in tertiary institutions.

While formal GBV service structures are evident, there is the presence of some informal support systems—such as family, friends, religious centres, women groups, or community groups—and their involvement or contribution to supporting GBV victims or survivors. They are, however, not as effective due to structural barriers like poverty, patriarchy, and cultural/religious norms.

The state actively utilises various mediums in its GBV-related awareness programs. Notable efforts include those of the Ministry of Women Affairs in sponsoring quarterly GBV awareness advertisements, and several NGOs are contributing to the cause with educational materials, seminars, and media interventions. The Ministry demonstrates remarkable initiative, making an impact in over 90 schools and carrying out a taskforce to reduce school-hour street loitering.

The education system within the state lacks comprehensive sex education. A decade ago, the Ministry of Education's Family Life Education was used in secondary schools in Ogun State, but currently, only subjects like Biology, Basic Science, and Home Economics briefly touch upon sex education.

The existence of PwD-friendly IEC sensitization materials for GBV in the state is present and has been in existence for more than eight years. An initiative called "Vision Spring" just ended a one-year project on a GBV awareness program for adolescent female PwDs in Ogun State. However, work is still required in the state for the visually impaired. The survey results regarding the populace's awareness of GBV programs or materials within the state show that 37% affirm knowledge of

GBV information, materials, and educational programs.

Ogun State leads the Southwest in per capita spending by its Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, reaching N554.9 in 2022, 217% higher than the national average of N256.1. The substantial rise in allocated funds, totaling 2.3 billion between 2021 and 2022 for Ogun's ministry, drove this impressive increase. However, the ministry's budget performance dipped to 41.96% implementation in 2022 from 62% in 2021, indicating a need for improvement. While the ministry's in per capita spending was fairly okay, attention to budget execution is crucial to ensure effective utilization of funds for women's welfare initiatives.



## Human Angle Story

The heart-wrenching tale of Fausat (not her real name) brings attention to the harrowing instances of GBV in the state. Living with her father due to a broken home, she was subjected to unspeakable abuse when he began trading her body for money. Sharing her plight with a friend eventually led to a report being raped to a local NGO. This action spurred a two-year-long legal battle, during which her father was arrested and convicted. Throughout this entire ordeal, Fausat, who was only 14, had no shelter in her senatorial district and was discriminated against and ostracised in her community. This real-life case underscores the failure of protective services and highlights multi-dimensional issues faced by GBV survivors in the state.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**37.6%** Yes  
**48.9%** No  
**13.5%** Not Sure


How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

**26.3%** Not at all useful  
**36.1%** A little bit useful  
**30.1%** Mostly useful  
**7.5%** Completely useful

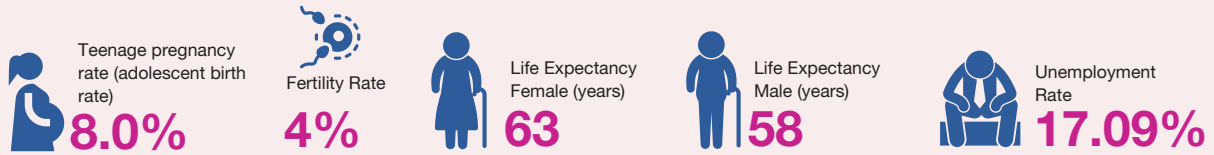
Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

**35.0%** Audio/spoken content  
**17.5%** Braille printed content  
**22.5%** Visual content  
**5.0%** Screen subtitling  
**28.3%** Sign interpretation  
**25.8%** Picture-based messages  
**15.8%** Simplified messages  
**52.5%** None of the above

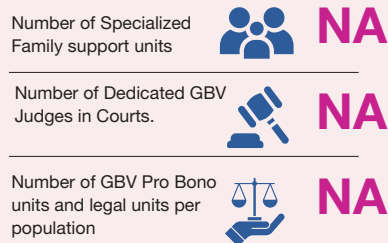


Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <b>Laws and Policies</b>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	<b>1.0</b>
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	<b>0.5</b>
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	<b>1.0</b>
 <b>Access to Legal Justice</b>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	<b>1.0</b>
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Support Services</b>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Information and Awareness</b>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	<b>0.5</b>
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	<b>1.0</b>
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Budget and Spending</b>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	<b>0.0</b>
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	<b>1.0</b>

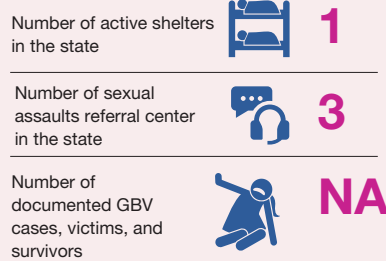
### State Context



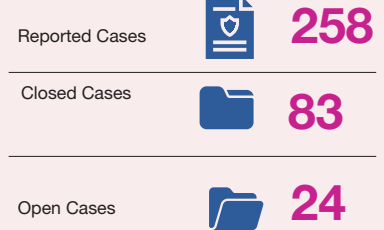
### Access to Legal Justice



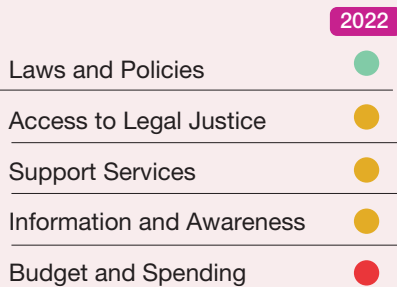
### Support Services



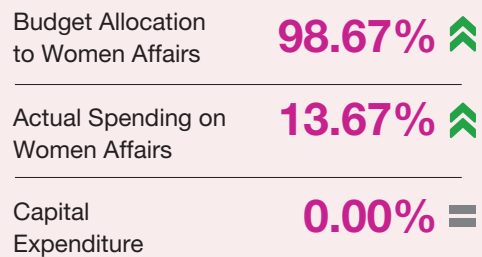
### GBV Cases



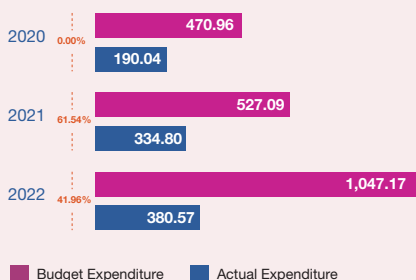
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



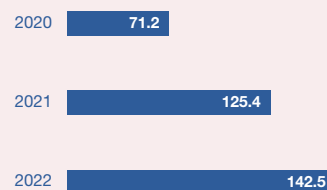
### Year on Year Growth 2022



### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



## S/N

## Indicators

## Key Findings

## Recommendations

1



## Laws and Policies

The existing GBV laws and policies are relatively new in the state, hence the implementation and effectiveness cannot yet be ascertained.

Customary practices like FGM and widowhood rites persist within the state despite being captured in the VAPP law

The VAPP Act does not cover cyber GBV which has become a critical issue and front burner in Ondo State.

Conduct a comprehensive review and assessment of the effectiveness of existing GBV laws and policies within the state to identify gaps and areas for improvement.

Establish mechanisms for regular evaluations to measure the impact of these laws in addressing customary practices like FGM and widowhood rites.

Amend the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law to explicitly cover cyber GBV, provide for an annual reporting on the implementation of the law, as well as address the evolving GBV-related challenges in Ondo State.

2



## Access to Legal Justice

Absence of dedicated GBV judges leading to a prolonged litigation process and victims abandoning the case.

Inadequate FSU and dedicated GBV Desks at the police divisions.

Inadequate provision for witness protection and victims' families, which often affect the cases.

Appoint dedicated GBV judges to expedite the litigation process and discourage victims from abandoning cases.  
Collaborate with the judiciary to establish specialised courts for GBV cases, ensuring swift and effective justice.

Establish dedicated GBV desks at police divisions and provide adequate resources for the FSU to enhance their capacity.  
Prioritise training for law enforcement personnel on GBV issues and survivor-centred approaches to holistic support.

Work with relevant agencies to develop and implement witness protection measures for victims and their families, addressing the deterrent effect on case proceedings.

3



## Support Services

Ondo State government does not have an active shelter, although the construction of one is ongoing, implying that victims and survivors will continue to return to their places of abuse.

The existing SARCs, though accessible to all, is insufficient for the population of Ondo State and far for many people in the state.

The SARCs are not fully equipped to provide the facilities to fully support victims in an emergency especially with medical aid and providing privacy.

Collaborate with stakeholders to expedite the construction of the active shelters, ensuring victims have a safe haven.  
Establish interim measures to accommodate victims/survivors during the construction phase.  
Implement community-based support programs to complement formal shelter services, reducing the likelihood of victims returning to abusive environments.

Advocate for increased funding to expand the capacity of Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) to adequately serve the population.

Ensure SARCs are fully equipped to provide comprehensive support, including medical aid and privacy facilities.

4



## Information and Awareness

Low awareness of the IEC material and Information, as a result of low spread across the local government

Inadequate provision of GBV-related IEC materials for PwD.

Inadequate funding for trainings, campaigns, workshops, and publicity of GBV IEC materials and information.

Design and implement targeted awareness campaigns at the local government level to enhance the spread of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials on GBV.  
Collaborate with community leaders and local influencers for effective grassroots outreach.

Increased production of IEC materials that are accessible to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and available in multiple formats to cater to diverse needs.

Engage with government bodies, NGOs, and private sector partners to secure resources for sustained awareness initiatives.



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

62.3% **Yes** 37.7% **No** 0.0% **Not Sure**

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

1.6% **Strongly Agree** 44.3% **Agree** 5.7% **Indifferent**  
6.6% **Disagree** 41.8% **Strongly Disagree**

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

34.4% **Yes** 52.5% **No** 13.1% **Not Sure**

In Ondo State, several laws and policies connected to GBV exist, such as the Child Rights Laws 2007, the Criminal Code Law, the Ondo State Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law 2021, and the Ondo State Gender Policy. The frequency of their usage in prosecuting GBV-related cases is not fully established, suggesting a huge implementation gap in their use especially as the VAPP Law 2021 in Ondo State is just two years old. There has been no revisiting and reforming of the existing laws to strengthen the prevention of and response to GBV within an eight-year period; however, consistent engagement and follow-ups with concerned MDAs and reps suggest ongoing adjustments.

61% of the survey population are aware of the existing laws and/or policies, while 44% strongly affirm that awareness of the existing laws and policies will prevent GBV. About 93% of critical informants recognized the laws but could not precisely gauge their effectiveness, particularly with the two-year-old GBV agency.

Customary laws within the state are not clearly categorised as strictly formal or informal. Nevertheless, customary practices do exist that are deemed an infringement on people's rights, like female genital mutilation and widowhood rites, which perpetuates the subordination of women. The VAPP Law condemns such practices but there is no implementation to prosecute such acts.

The state's system for reporting GBV includes channels through law enforcement agencies and a GBV dashboard at the Ministry of Women Affairs. Ondo State Agency Against Gender-Based Violence (OSAA-GBV) is also an agency saddled with the responsibility of GBV cases, with support from bodies like FIDA, CSOs, and several human rights lawyers. Despite these, the effectiveness of the agency cannot be measured as it is still relatively new. Regarding legal aid assistance for survivors

and defenders in the state, there is provision through State/Federal Legal Aid Counsel, Office of Public Defender, FIDA, and NGOs who provide medical aid and legal assistance. With witness protection, Ondo state Civil Defence provide some witness protection, especially in rape cases, and more particularly when the victim is a minor.

Ondo State needs more specialised GBV units within the state. Measures to be considered include creating FSUs and dedicated desks at all police divisions, as well as specialised units at High Court and Magistrate Court Divisions. However, a dedicated court for GBV is not yet available in the state, necessitating additional judges on GBV cases, and suggesting unmet needs in the current justice system. In terms of the existing informal justice system, Ondo State operates an ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) system as an acceptable method for settling non-criminal matters, as it is perceived that not all cases should be reported to the police or go to court, especially spousal agreement. Customary Court is one of the informal justice structures and regarded as lower judiciary offices, such as the Sharia court where some family issues have been resolved. Such resolutions also happen in the churches, mosques, and the King's Palace. Still, the Palace permanently attached fines, penalties, obliteration etc.

Ondo State has no active shelters as of the time of this survey but has plans for three shelters across the three senatorial districts. Currently, only one shelter is under construction. Strategically located across the three senatorial districts, three active SARCs stand as beacons of support in Okitipupa, Ikare-Akoko, and Akure.

The reporting and referral pathway for GBV in the state is acknowledged by 98% of the key informants. They involve various stakeholders like NGOs, State Security Agencies, and



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

77.9% **Formal justice system** 20.5% **Informal justice system** 1.6% **I will not seek justice**

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

61.5% **Yes** 12.3% **No** 6.6% **Not Sure**  
19.7% **It Depends**

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

19.7% **Yes** 59.8% **No** 20.5% **Not Sure**



## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**11.5%** Yes  
**88.5%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

**10.7%** Specialized medical healthcare pathway  
**7.4%** Psychosocial/mental health pathway

**62.3%** Police/security pathway  
**14.8%** Legal pathway  
**28.7%** None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**86.1%** Yes  
**9.0%** No  
**4.9%** Not Sure

the Ministry of Justice, who document the cases and forward them to OSAA-GBV, the responsible department. The role of informal systems like family, friends, religious groups, and community organisations in supporting GBV victims serve a great deal in providing informal support. Reporting pathways in the state also include toll free lines and hotlines of some organisations that handle GBV in the state, the security agencies, NGOs, and the Ministry of Justice.

Sensitization and awareness programs on GBV abound in the state, with 70% of key informants acknowledging weekly radio jingles on some media stations. Nevertheless, it suggested that a more aggressive and holistic campaign should be made across the state, involving key stakeholders, and ensuring improved funding with regards to IEC materials. Additionally, working with the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to further reach the state's nooks and crannies is imperative. The state's education curriculum barely covers sex education, with over 95% of key informants admitting there is none in secondary or tertiary institutions. However, two topics on this subject exist within the physical education subject, and professionals are known to give talks in some schools about sex.

About 98% of the key informants agreed that the VAPP law in the state is Persons with Disability (PwDs) friendly. For more PwDs inclusiveness, the braille copy of the VAPP Law was printed for the visually impaired persons, and they always go out with a signed professional person for the interpretation. Unfortunately, the state government does not utilise the major TV stations in the state to have dedicated programs for PwDs on GBV.

In the past three years, the budget allocation for Ondo State's Ministry of Women Affairs has seen a substantial rise, climbing from N527

million in 2021 to N1.01 billion in 2022—an impressive 98.67% increase. Despite this, the state's budget performance has been disappointing, with actual spending for the ministry dropping to 36.34% in 2022 from the previous year's 63.52%. Additionally, there was a significant rise in the average per capita allocation, soaring from N71.2 in 2021 to N142.5 in 2022. Comparatively, Ogun State has performed moderately in per capita allocation within the South-South region.



## Human Angle Story

There is the tainting story of Amina, a mother, whose husband raped his two daughters, and the case was charged to court. But the woman got tired along the way because of case postponement and overwhelming transportation cost to the court as they needed to get legal advice from the Ministry of Justice before the case could be transferred to the High Court for hearing, which led her to abandon the case. If there is a special court set aside with dedicated magistrates and judges, it will fast-track all judgement about the GBV cases. Suffice to mention that these delays make the survivors/victims lose confidence at times in the law, thus emboldening the perpetrators to move freely and use all powers at their disposal to trample the case by coercing the relatives and victims with money or threat.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**44.3%** Yes  
**48.4%** No  
**7.4%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

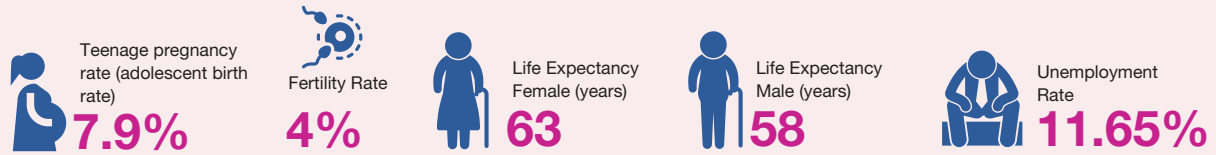
**18.9%** Not at all useful  
**26.2%** A little bit useful  
**31.1%** Mostly useful  
**23.8%** Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

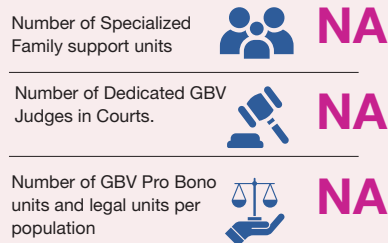
**28.3%** Audio/spoken content  
**5.8%** Braille printed content  
**10.0%** Visual content  
**7.5%** Screen subtitling  
**20.0%** Sign interpretation  
**15.8%** Picture-based messages  
**5.8%** Simplified messages  
**58.3%** None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <b>Laws and Policies</b>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	<b>1.0</b>
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	<b>0.5</b>
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Access to Legal Justice</b>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	<b>0.5</b>
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Support Services</b>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Information and Awareness</b>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	<b>0.5</b>
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	<b>1.0</b>
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Budget and Spending</b>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	<b>0.0</b>
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	<b>0.0</b>

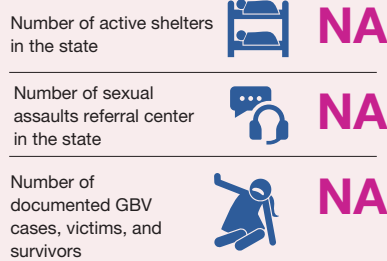
### State Context



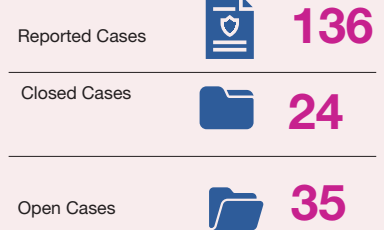
### Access to Legal Justice



### Support Services



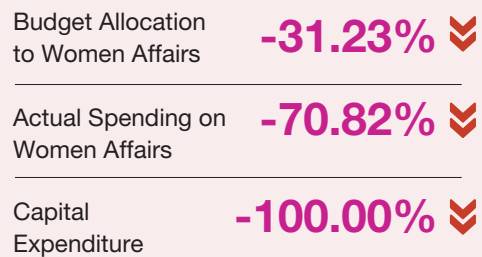
### GBV Cases



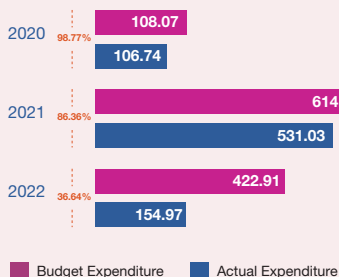
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



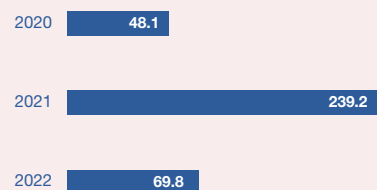
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>No evidence of implementation or utilisation of the existing laws that criminalises GBV in Osun state sometimes resulting from a lack of political will, often time political influence that overrides the implementation of the law.</p> <p>Low awareness of the existing laws and policies as a result of the laws being too cumbersome to read and understand. The illiteracy and inability to read the laws by some of the state's population further impedes the awareness level.</p> <p>The Police has not been sensitised enough on GBV laws and most would refer to past laws when faced with GBV matters and often constitute a bottleneck in the implementation of the laws.</p>	<p>Engage relevant stakeholders to advocate for increased political will to enforce existing GBV laws, emphasising the importance of political influence in law implementation. Allocate adequate funds to the implementation of the existing laws and policies.</p> <p>Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to simplify and disseminate GBV laws using simplified English or local languages, as well as targeting diverse communication channels.</p> <p>Organise comprehensive sensitization programs for law enforcement agencies, especially the police, to ensure they are well-versed in GBV laws and their implications.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>There are inadequate financial resources for prosecution, both on the side of government, CSOs and survivors, who seek access to justice.</p> <p>Law enforcement agencies, especially the police often frustrate cases deliberately by destroying evidence, collecting bribes from perpetrators and poor presentation of cases</p> <p>No dedicated judges for GBV cases, and not all police stations have Gender Desks and/or FSUs.</p>	<p>Increase financial resources from government and NGOs to support prosecution efforts, ensuring survivors have access to justice.</p> <p>Conduct specialised training programs for law enforcement agencies, focusing on the handling of GBV cases, evidence preservation, and ethical conduct. Establish oversight mechanisms to address cases of deliberate frustration and corruption within law enforcement agencies.</p> <p>Appoint dedicated judges for GBV cases, to ensure a more focused and expedited legal process. Osun state government needs to establish Gender Desks in all police stations, providing specialized support for GBV cases.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>Low awareness of the existing referral centres and reporting pathways that exist within the state</p> <p>There are no government owned shelters in the state, the existing shelters are owned by individuals and NGOs, which faces the challenge of security and inadequate facilities.</p> <p>Non-functioning and insufficient SARCs within the state.</p>	<p>Conduct extensive awareness campaigns to educate the public about the existing referral centres and reporting pathways for GBV cases. Collaborate with community leaders and influencers to enhance awareness at the grassroots level.</p> <p>Establish government-owned shelters, addressing security concerns and ensuring adequate facilities for survivors. Collaborate with NGOs and individuals to improve existing shelters and make them more sustainable.</p> <p>Allocate resources to revitalize and expand Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) within the state, ensuring they are fully equipped and functional with an enhanced medical aid component.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>IEC materials and Information on GBV are inadequate and occasional. MDAs disseminate information only when they hold special programmes or on International Day celebrations.</p> <p>IEC materials are not sensitive to PwDs, and they are often not included in programme designs. There are no routine information sharing mechanisms for PwDs.</p> <p>Inadequate funding for disseminating the IEC materials, and, sometimes, the GBV-related laws are shared to citizens at a fee.</p>	<p>Establish routine information sharing mechanisms for disseminating IEC materials on GBV, ensuring consistent and frequent awareness that goes beyond special occasions.</p> <p>Ensure IEC materials are sensitive to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), incorporating diverse formats and engaging PwDs in program designs.</p> <p>Ensure the VAPP laws and related information are freely accessible to citizens, eliminating barriers to obtaining crucial legal information. Work with international organisations to secure funding to facilitate the widespread dissemination of IEC materials, addressing the challenge of inadequate resources.</p>





## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

68.1% **Yes** 31.9% **No** 0.0% **Not Sure**

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

47.2% **Strongly Agree** 39.9% **Agree** 7.4% **Indifferent**  
3.1% **Disagree** 2.5% **Strongly Disagree**

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

65.0% **Yes** 28.2% **No** 6.7% **Not Sure**

In Osun State, the Protection Against Domestic Violence Law and the VAPP law address GBV, and they were passed in 2015 and 2021, respectively. Prohibition Law Against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), 2004, Child Rights Law 2007 Anti-Domestic Violence Bill, 2013, Protection Against Domestic Violence Law, 2015, and the Osun State Gender Equity and Social Inclusion Policy 2018. These laws are often used to prosecute GBV-related cases, with close collaboration between CSOs and various other agencies. However, the awareness amongst the population on the existence and effectiveness of these laws stands at 68%.

Moreover, the state has been proactive in conducting awareness campaigns to enlighten the public about the laws and policies against GBV. This includes "The Role of Women in Society" radio program, held every Thursday to discuss various GBV issues. Yet, the awareness and understanding of these laws amongst law enforcement and the judiciary are limited, presenting a crucial challenge. Other challenges include lack of political will to enforce the laws, cultural dispositions, and low-to-no implementation of the GBV laws, hindering their review and enhancement.

The state has a formal justice system for addressing GBV, with 72.29% of the respondents preferring to report cases through this system. However, 49.08% indicated a lack of awareness regarding the judicial process or where to report cases, despite 87.12% claiming to know where to report GBV instances in general. This reveals a need for improved awareness and understanding of the formal reporting and prosecution process, which could involve pro-bono private lawyers and state lawyers/CSOs. Although legal aid services exist in the state, it is not clear how accessible they are to GBV victims and survivors. Also, the survey did not provide specific information regarding adherence to

the timeframes stipulated in the VAPP Act, so further investigation is needed here.

On the topic of the informal justice system, 65.03% of respondents believe in the effectiveness of customary or religious practices in preventing and responding to GBV. This suggests that cultural norms play a significant role in how GBV is addressed within the state. The survey also revealed an existing dichotomy between formal and informal systems of justice. While some respondents opted for formal systems due to the lack of trust in the informal ones, others found customary or religious practices sufficient or did not seek justice at all. Hence, the informal justice system in the state has a significant influence on the handling of GBV cases.

There are established Shelters and SARCs that support GBV victims and survivors. Notably, NGOs such as Justice for Survivors and Value Female Network are known to provide structured support systems, including accommodations and psychosocial support. These facilities have significantly powered the state's response to GBV, providing pivotal interventions, thereby ensuring that victims received appropriate care. Value Female Network, for instance, is credited with a versatile operational model that notably includes a shelter and trained officers offering comprehensive support to the victims.

The state has an outlined reporting and referral pathway primarily through the police and security agencies. Consequently, there's a significant need for reforms and capacity building within this sector to streamline and enhance the pathway to justice for GBV victims and survivors.

When it comes to informally providing support to the victims, family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., play an indispensable role. However, some respondents highlighted



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

72.4% **Formal justice system** 19.6% **Informal justice system** 8.0% **I will not seek justice**

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

58.3% **Yes** 25.8% **No** 6.1% **Not Sure**  
9.8% **It Depends**

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

71.2% **Yes** 24.5% **No** 4.3% **Not Sure**



## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**82.8%** Yes  
**17.2%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

**20.2%** Specialized medical healthcare pathway

**4.3%** Psychosocial/mental health pathway

**68.7%** Police/security pathway

**22.7%** Legal pathway  
**13.5%** None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**82.8%** Yes  
**3.1%** No  
**14.1%** Not Sure

a lack of structured informal support systems dedicated to GBV survivors.

There is limited information on the impact of medical units and forensic labs on the prosecution of GBV instances. There is need for continuous training and capacity building for implementing officers and institutions, which could ostensibly include these units. Lastly, significant investments in support services are much needed, particularly in budget allocation towards the Ministry of Women Affairs. Including GBV as a costed item in the state's budget, alongside these recommendations, would mark a positive advancement in the fight against GBV within the state.

The state provides various GBV-related sensitisation and awareness programs such as radio jingles, TV programmes, stakeholders' meetings, market sensitisation, and school programs. These efforts are sponsored by both the State government and several NGOs working on GBV. The survey population indicated mixed responses regarding the effectiveness of the current GBV sensitisation and awareness programs. While they acknowledged the existence of such efforts, they also highlighted the need for increased frequency and resource investment to enhance awareness.

In terms of education, most of the respondents (89.57%) believe that comprehensive sex education should be included in secondary and tertiary institutions. While it is clear there is a level of sex education happening, the specific breadth or depth of this education is not detailed in the document. However, when it comes to offering PwD-friendly IEC materials on GBV, the state is identified as lacking. 71.78% of the respondents pointed out that awareness and sensitisation materials were predominately offered through audio content for PwDs, while 15.34% noted the absence of

any available materials for GBV survivors who are PwDs.

Osun State witnessed a significant reduction in allocation between 2021 and 2022. The Ministry of Women Affairs received N531.03mn in 2021, plunging to N154.97mn in 2022 a 71% decline. As of 2022, the state struggled with a low per capita allocation of N69.8, the lowest in the South-West region and notably below the national average of N256.1 per capita. This drastic decrease highlights challenges in sustaining support for women's initiatives, urging a closer examination of budgetary provisions to uplift women's welfare programs in Osun State.



## Human Angle Story

In Ido-Osun, a chilling situation unravels as a prophet stands accused of exploiting women and girls in his congregation, compelling them into disturbing sexual relationships and forcing abortions when they fall pregnant. A brave whistle-blower took the case to the High Court, seeking justice before Justice Nathaniel Idowu. However, things take a sinister turn when a high-ranking political figure intervenes, urging that the case be dropped with some financial incentives. Undeterred, the whistle-blower reports the interference to the Commissioner of Police and the Department of State Services, only to be met with silence. This disturbing account exposes the level of political influence and political will in the execution and prosecution of offenders.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**62.6%** Yes  
**36.2%** No  
**1.2%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

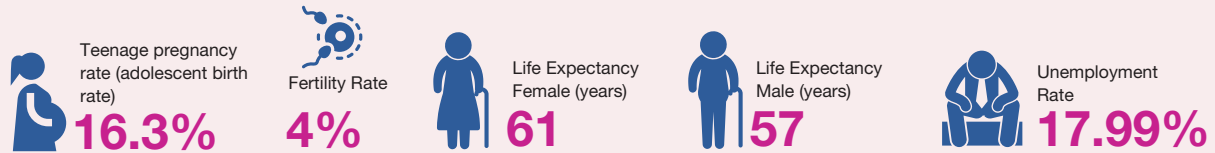
**4.9%** Not at all useful  
**29.4%** A little bit useful  
**39.9%** Mostly useful  
**25.8%** Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

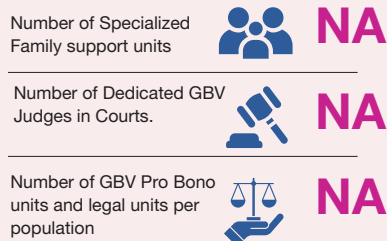
**97.5%** Audio/spoken content  
**0.8%** Braille printed content  
**4.2%** Visual content  
**0.0%** Screen subtitling  
**17.5%** Sign interpretation  
**6.7%** Picture-based messages  
**2.5%** Simplified messages  
**20.8%** None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <b>Laws and Policies</b>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	<b>1.0</b>
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	<b>0.5</b>
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	<b>1.0</b>
 <b>Access to Legal Justice</b>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	<b>1.0</b>
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Support Services</b>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Information and Awareness</b>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	<b>0.0</b>
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	<b>0.5</b>
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	<b>0.0</b>
 <b>Budget and Spending</b>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	<b>0.0</b>
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	<b>0.0</b>

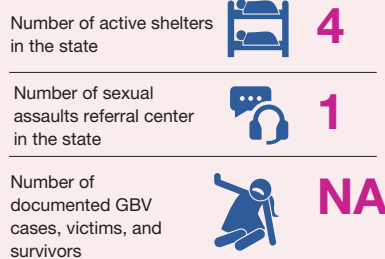
### State Context



### Access to Legal Justice



### Support Services



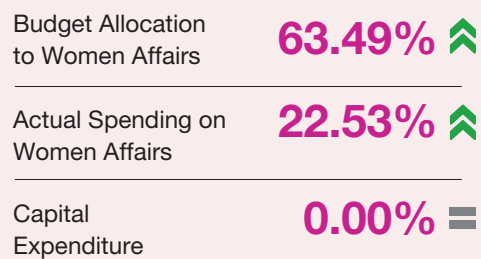
### GBV Cases



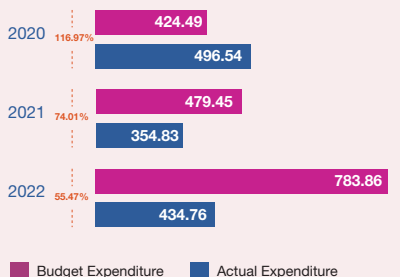
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



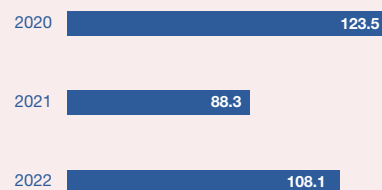
### Year on Year Growth 2022






### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>There is no costed plan for the implementation of the laws available to criminalise GBV</p> <p>The law is silent on the need for an annual reporting on the implementation of the law as is provided in the federal-level VAPP Act</p>	<p>Advocate for the creation of specific budgetary line for different aspects such as awareness campaigns, legal staffing, and support services for the implementation of the existing laws Collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including NGOs and international partners, to secure funding for the implementation plan.</p> <p>Advocate for an amendment to the existing laws to include a provision for annual reporting on the implementation of GBV laws, similar to the federal-level VAPP Act. Work with relevant government agencies to establish a monitoring and reporting mechanism to track progress and challenges in the implementation of the laws.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>No dedicated GBV Judges due to lack of sufficient human resources, there are no dedicated GBV courts as well.</p> <p>Inadequate legal staffing and low human resource capacity, dedicated to work on GBV</p> <p>Oyo state cannot boast of a structured witness protection program for victims and their families</p>	<p>There appointment of dedicated GBV judges and the establishment of specialized GBV courts to expedite cases.</p> <p>Prioritize recruitment and training to address the shortage of legal staff and build human resource capacity in GBV-related issues as well as partner with NGO's and INGO's to secure more funding and also get volunteers</p> <p>Develop and implement a structured witness protection program for victims and their families, ensuring their safety during legal proceedings.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>Inadequate funding for the provision of shelter and SARCs and the existing ones also suffer poor funding for sustenance</p> <p>The existing shelter and SARCs do not have sufficient manpower and capacity to handle the daily reported cases, making them over stretched</p> <p>The informal support systems are often overstretched, suffer inadequate funding, insufficient capacity and lack adequate support from government</p>	<p>Increase government funding for shelters and SARCs, ensuring sustained financial support for their operation and maintenance. Explore partnerships with private sector entities and NGOs to supplement government funding and enhance the capacity of existing facilities.</p> <p>Improve funding for the recruitment and training of additional staff for shelters and SARCs to address the overstretching of existing resources.</p> <p>Allocate sufficient funding to strengthen informal support systems, ensuring they have the resources and capacity to effectively complement formal services.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>Most of the information and awareness programs of the government are often project tied and not for the continuous education of the citizens about GBV</p> <p>Most of the gender desk officers do not have full understanding of what GBV is and many of them still hold cultural values that impedes the success of messages against gender-based advocacies</p>	<p>Provide comprehensive training for gender desk officers on the dynamics of GBV, ensuring a thorough understanding of the issues and effective ways to address them.</p> <p>Foster a cultural shift through awareness programs to align gender desk officers with values that promote gender equality and sensitivity.</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

**72.7%** Yes  
**27.3%** No  
**0.0%** Not Sure

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

**48.8%** Strongly Agree  
**45.5%** Agree  
**5.0%** Indifference  
**0.8%** Disagree  
**0.0%** Strongly Disagree

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

**45.5%** Yes  
**39.7%** No  
**14.9%** Not Sure

Oyo State's Violence Against Women (VAW) Law, 2017 is primary law for GBV-related cases. However, the title of the Law is, in and of itself, biased against men; thus, should be corrected to "Violence Against Persons." The offences in the Law, which, in line with its title, focuses on women, presupposes that men are not victims or not at risk of gender-based violence. Further, the law is silent on the need for an annual reporting on the implementation of the law as is provided in the federal-level VAPP Act. The use of the VAW Law and a community punishment approach for offenders prevail as the dominant methods for prosecuting GBV-related cases in Oyo State.

The survey reveals that 72% of respondents affirm awareness of the existing laws and policies, with 92% of the respondent also affirming that the laws and policies are adequate and effective in preventing and responding to GBV cases. However, the absence of a cost plan for the laws' implementation hinders its full and effective usage.

Regarding customary laws in Oyo State, the citizens see churches and mosques as sources of unwritten laws, affirming that customary laws are informally put into practice rather than formally instituted. There is no present data on the frequency of reviews and reforms of these laws within an eight-year period or the impacts of abolishing customary laws on state laws and policies. The perception of the survey population on the effectiveness of customary practices in preventing and responding to GBV in Oyo State shows that they further perpetuate GBV. By way of reporting and referral pathways, the state utilises a combination of police/security, legal, and special pathways like medical healthcare and psychosocial/mental health pathways. The police, Civil Defense and other law enforcement agencies in the state are saddled with the responsibilities to enforce

the law in Oyo state. According to most respondents Civil Defense and Amotekun are the most outstanding in terms of response. As per the survey results, amongst those mentioned, the police/security pathway was most recognized by the population (55.4%), suggesting this is the most common avenue through which individuals seek justice. Legal aid services within the state, including those provided by pro-bono private lawyers, state lawyers, or CSOs are provided within the state, however there are no provisions for a witness protection program. Furthermore, the informal justice systems prevalent in the state include the Landlord Association, Community Development Council (CDC), Community Development Association (CDA), Ward Development Council (WDC), Churches, and Mosques are identified as potentially perpetuating GBV. An estimated 49.59% of respondents do not believe these systems to be effective or sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV, with claims of bias and a lack of deterrent for recurring offenses. The identified challenge of lack of dedicated Judges for GBV alludes to an area where improvement is needed.

The survey data conveys that most of the respondents 87% are unaware of any active shelters and/or SARCs for GBV victims and survivors that exist within the state. This indicates a low level of awareness and accessibility with 46% of the individuals surveyed categorising the access to these lodging and support facilities as 'low' and 24% as 'very low'.

For those who have knowledge about shelters and SARCs, only 4% agree that they are effectively functional, adequately equipped, well-maintained, and exhibit sustainability over time. They encompass various support services, with most of the respondents (69.42%) suggesting that these facilities offer comprehensive assistance. The services noted



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

**91.7%** Formal justice system  
**1.7%** Informal justice system  
**6.6%** I will not seek justice

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

**63.6%** Yes  
**13.2%** No  
**3.3%** Not Sure  
**19.8%** It Depends

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

**39.7%** Yes  
**49.6%** No  
**10.7%** Not Sure



Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**87.6%** Yes  
**12.4%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

**13.2%** Specialized medical healthcare pathway  
**47.1%** Police/security pathway  
**7.4%** Psychosocial/mental health pathway  
**29.8%** Legal pathway  
**24.0%** None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**49.6%** Yes  
**40.5%** No  
**9.9%** Not Sure

include legal and medical consultations, mental and economic or financial aid, provision of emergency contraceptives, and facilitating a safe space dedicated to care, healing, and recovery for victims of GBV. Despite this, the survey reveals that the support services may not be as accessible to the victims and survivors as one would hope, considering the limited budgetary allocation and investment for this purpose.

In Oyo State, there are various sensitization and awareness programs related to GBV. These programs utilize a variety of mediums such as radio jingles, educative pamphlets, and seminars, as well as radio and television shows. Notable among these is the quarterly advert focusing on the fight against GBV by BCOS TV sponsored by the Ministry of Women Affairs.

The state also has an education curriculum that covers sex education. Notably, organisations such as JDPC, Act Hub Africa, Critical Path Leadership Initiative, FOMWAN Trailblazer have incorporated Sex Education into their school-based sensitization in secondary schools and tertiary institutions in the state. Moreover, there are unique GBV information and education materials tailored for persons with disabilities. These include audio/spoken content, sign language interpretation, picture-based messages, visual content, screen subtitling, simplified messages, and braille printed content.

Oyo State witnessed a notable year-on-year rise in its allocation to the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Inclusion, climbing from N354.83mn in 2021 to N434.78mn in 2022. This increment elevated the per capita spending from N88.3 to N108.1. However, despite the increase, Oyo State remained below the regional average of N256.1 in 2022, securing the second-lowest per capita

allocation in the region. While the uptick in funds signifies progress, it highlights the need for further improvements in budgetary allocation and disbursements.



### Human Angle Story

A poignant human angle story involves Alhaja H from FOMWAN, Akobo. She recounts her experience with a distressing case of a man who violated her 12-year-old daughter. The tireless dedication of Alhaja in pursuing justice for the young girl can be felt intensely through the passion in her voice as she narrates the story. She spearheaded the home tracing of the offender and ensured the case was handed over to the appropriate bodies - GBV Response Team at the Ministry of Justice and their legal team. This story puts forward the everyday struggles and hurdles faced by those on the front lines combating GBV, creating a stark picture of the reality in Oyo State.



### Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**45.5%** Yes  
**44.6%** No  
**9.9%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

**19.0%** Not at all useful  
**38.8%** A little bit useful  
**34.7%** Mostly useful  
**7.4%** Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

**43.3%** Audio/spoken content  
**10.0%** Braille printed content  
**31.7%** Visual content  
**29.2%** Screen subtitling  
**40.0%** Sign interpretation  
**38.3%** Picture-based messages  
**17.5%** Simplified messages  
**25.0%** None of the above

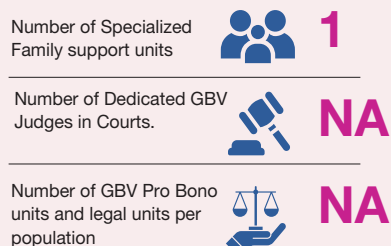
Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	1.0
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	1.0
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	0.5
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	0.5
 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	0.5
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	0.5
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	0.5
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	0.0
 <p>Support Services</p>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	0.5
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	0.5
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	0.5
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	0.5
 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	0.5
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	1.0
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	0.5
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	0.5
 <p>Budget and Spending</p>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	1.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	0.0



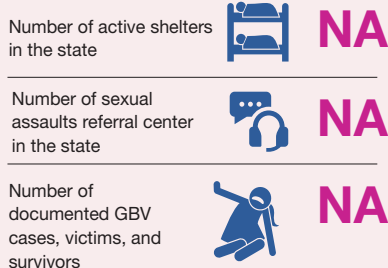
### State Context



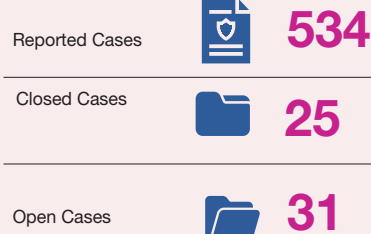
### Access to Legal Justice



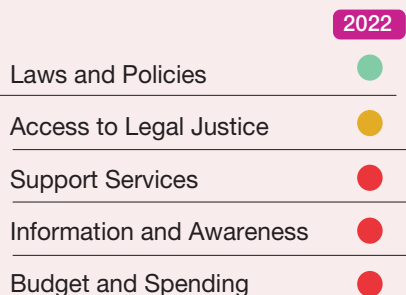
### Support Services



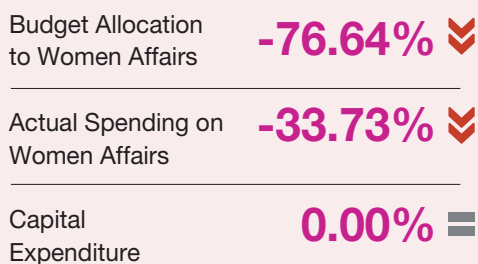
### GBV Cases



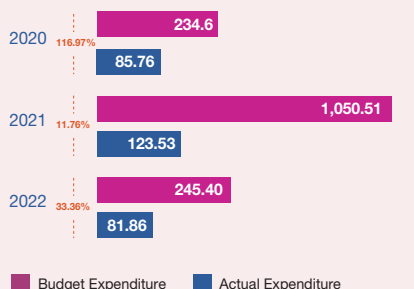
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



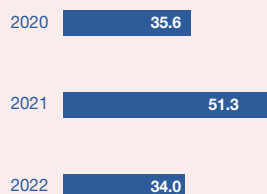
### Year on Year Growth 2022




### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	Lack of awareness of GBV-related laws and policies among the public.	Government should invest in sensitizing the public about GBV-related laws and policies in the state.
		Delayed passage of the GEO Act into law	Facilitate the passage of the Gender and Equal Opportunity Bill into law
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	Religious and cultural influences impede access to legal justice.	Regularly engage and sensitize religious/cultural leaders on formal justice system
		Lack of awareness among victims/survivors of their rights and existing reporting and referral pathways	Regularly educate the public on their rights, as well as GBV reporting and referral procedures
		There is widespread fear of stigmatization	Enact policies to prohibit stigmatization of victims/survivors and put measures in place to support GBV victims/survivors who experience stigmatization.
		Lack of robust witness protection programs	Fund witness protection programs and publicize existence of the program in order to encourage reporting of GBV cases.
		Lack of forensic evidence support for prosecution	Set up forensic investigation capabilities
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	No effective shelters or SARCs provided by the state	Establish and fund comprehensive SARCs and shelters in every local government area of the state
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	Extremely low government engagement in awareness programs and distribution of materials for sensitization.	Develop centralized strategy for inclusive GBV education/awareness, implement the strategy, and continuously monitor its impact.
		Low reach of awareness programs.	Use diverse and inclusive channels to disseminate information about GBV.



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

**70.41%** Yes  
**29.59%** No  
**--** Not Sure

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

**27.47%** Strongly Agree  
**48.25%** Agree  
**16.22%** Indifferent  
**7%** Disagree  
**1.06%** Strongly Disagree

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

**24.92%** Yes  
**52.70%** No  
**22.38%** Not Sure

The Plateau State Penal Code, Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law, 2022, and the Gender and Equal Opportunity Law, 2022 exist to address gender-based violence, though over 70% of survey respondents are unaware of their existence. The Plateau State VAPP Law, however, need to be reviewed by, for instance, by making provision for the establishment of a Monitoring Committee. These laws are scarcely implemented in prosecuting GBV cases. Customary laws are informal, with communal/religious leaders administering punishments like flogging and fines. In the last eight years, the Penal Code and the GEO Law were amended to strengthen GBV response, but the public remains uninformed. Over 50% think customary laws are insufficient for preventing GBV. Abolishing them would lead people to rely on the more effective state laws. There are certain punishments, supported by customary or religious laws, meted out to perpetrators of GBV which include corporal punishment and payment of fines. Overall, while some GBV-related laws exist, they are ineffective due to lack of awareness and implementation. Reforming and enforcing laws, combined with public education, is needed.

The GBV reporting system in Plateau State includes police stations, State Ministries of Justice, and Women Affairs, Federation of Female Lawyers (FIDA), and NGOs. However, only 43% of respondents know where to report GBV. Prosecution happens through these agencies, but enforcement is weak. Most (61%) would seek justice through the formal system, though over 30% prefer informal religious/community resolution. Legal aid is limited - the Justice Ministry partners with FIDA, but no witness protection exists. Court timeframes under the VAPP Law are not followed. Informal justice lacks accountability, and communal punishments like flogging do not amount to prosecution. This is seen as ineffective by most respondents.

Specialized units exist like the FSU at Jos University Teaching Hospital, as well as Gender Desks in police stations and Ministries, but no dedicated GBV judges. Overall, while reporting pathways exist, prosecution and enforcement are hindered by lack of legal aid, preference for informal resolution, non-compliance with VAPP's timeframes, and lack of specialized courts/judges. Stronger formal justice application is needed to increase GBV prosecution and accountability.

There are no active shelters or functional Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) managed by the Plateau State government. Shelter and psychosocial support are entirely provided by NGOs and informal community mechanisms. GBV reporting and referral happens through police, ministries, lawyers, and NGOs, but over 50% say awareness of these pathways is low. With no government shelters, medical/forensic support for prosecution is minimal. Informal support systems like families, religious centres, and community groups are seen as helpful by over 50%, although accountability is limited. The government provides no budget for GBV support services. All costs are borne by victims and informal networks. This shows GBV response is not prioritized by the state. Lack of safe shelters, forensic investigation, and state funding mean victims/survivors have minimal care pathways and evidence needed for prosecution. Urgent GBV budgeting, establishment of SARCs with trained staff, and better referral systems is required to provide services for GBV victims/survivors in order to recover and prosecute GBV cases.

There are minimal GBV awareness programs in Plateau State. Only 37% know of existence of any sensitization medium. 49% have never encountered awareness programs. No comprehensive sex education exists - it is discretionary. No disability-friendly materials are available. The government does not



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

**61.4%** Formal justice system  
**31.18%** Informal justice system  
**7.42%** I will not seek justice

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

**53.55%** Yes  
**13.79%** No  
**19.51%** Not Sure  
**13.15%** It Depends

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

**18.66%** Yes  
**58.64%** No  
**22.69%** Not Sure



Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**80.49%** Yes  
**19.51%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

<b>11.66%</b> Specialized Medical Healthcare	<b>29.48%</b> Police/security pathway	
<b>11.13%</b> Psychosocial/mental health pathway	<b>24.07%</b> Legal pathway	<b>21.95%</b> None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**52.6%** Yes  
**24.71%** No  
**21.42%** Not Sure

produce IEC materials or use channels like TV, radio, social media, or community outreach programs to sensitize the public about GBV. Most education is left to NGOs with limited reach. With no centralized GBV awareness strategy, messages are ineffective and inconsistent. Low knowledge empowers GBV perpetrators. The state must urgently develop inclusive education materials on GBV laws, reporting procedures, and people's rights. Multiple channels like media, schools, public places (e.g., market, religious centres), and health centres should consistently transmit messages to remote areas. Targeted programs that transform social norms are essential to prevention.

### Budgetary allocation to GBV

Plateau State's Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development faced reduced funding, dropping from N123.53mn in 2021 to N81.8mn in 2022. This decline led to a notable decrease in per capita spending from N51.3 to N34.0, marking a three-year low. Additionally, this consecutive decrease in disbursement impacted the state's ranking, positioning Niger State with the second-lowest per capita spending in its region. The diminished financial support highlights challenges in sustaining initiatives for women's welfare and underscores the need for increased allocation and disbursement to bolster gender-centric programs in Plateau State, particularly GBV prevention and response.



### Human Angle Story

Ms. Jennifer is a widow in her late thirties. She had gotten married and lost her husband after her 3rd baby was born. In a bid to move on with her life, she started dating a man who, unknowing to her, was a serial paedophile. One day, when he was left alone with the children, he sent the two older children on errand to enable him to be alone with the youngest child. Unfortunately for him, the children he sent did not find what they were sent to get and decided to rush back home. On reaching the house, they noticed the door was locked, so the middle child climbed up on a platform near the window at the back of the room to access the key where it is usually placed. To his surprise, he saw the mother's boyfriend molesting his younger sibling. Both children raised an alarm, and the man was caught in the despicable act. The perpetrator confessed to sexually abusing the minor with oral sex over a few months since his relationship with their mother started. He was beaten and taken to the police station, but the case died a natural death as the woman's family and in-laws pleaded with her to let the case go in order to avoid being stigmatized. Ms. Jennifer lives in trauma of this incident till date.



### Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**37.12%** Yes  
**38.28%** No  
**24.60%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

<b>18.39%</b> Not at all useful	<b>25.96%</b> A little bit useful
<b>28.64%</b> Mostly useful	<b>27.01%</b> Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

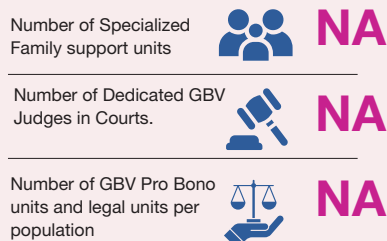
<b>20.14%</b> Audio/spoken content	<b>4.66%</b> Braille printed content	<b>11.29%</b> Visual content	<b>5.12%</b> Screen subtitling
<b>9.9%</b> Sign interpretation	<b>8.96%</b> Picture-based messages	<b>8.27%</b> Simplified messages	<b>59.49%</b> None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	1.0
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	1.0
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	0.5
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	0.5
 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	0.5
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	0.5
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	0.5
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	0.5
 <p>Support Services</p>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	0.0
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	0.5
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	0.0
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	0.0
 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	0.5
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	0.0
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	0.5
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	0.0
 <p>Budget and Spending</p>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	0.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	0.0

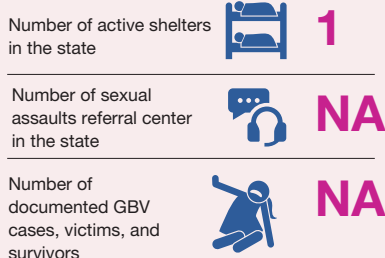
### State Context



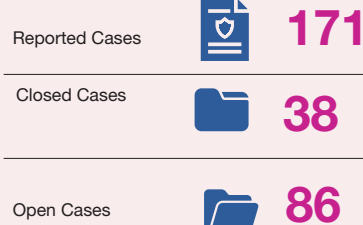
### Access to Legal Justice



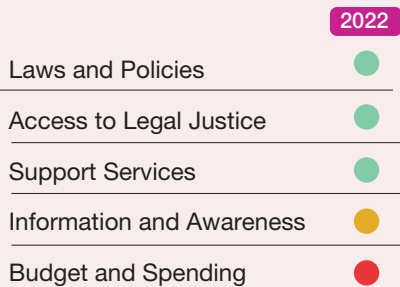
### Support Services



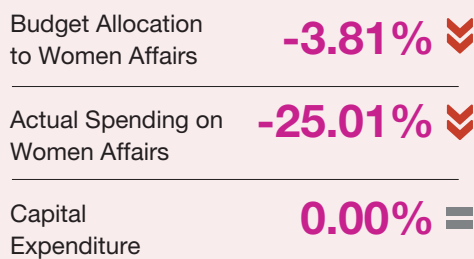
### GBV Cases



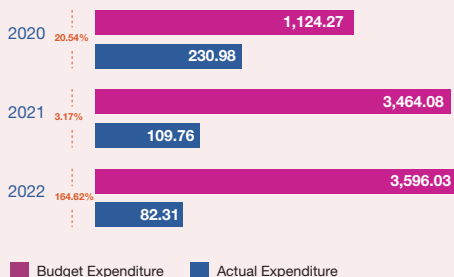
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



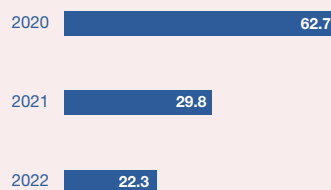
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>There exist the Rivers State Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law, 2020; Rivers State Abolition of Female Circumcision Law; Rivers State Child's Rights Law, and the Rivers State Prohibition of the Curtailment of Women's Right to Share in Family Property Law, 2022; but there is limited awareness among the public about these laws</p>	<p>Create and implement consistent GBV awareness programs, including the availability of the laws and policies that prevents and responds to GBV.</p> <p>Implementation and enforcement of the laws by all relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Proper training of relevant personnel about the laws.</p> <p>The Laws and policies should be reviewed when some gaps are identified.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>The duty to address GBV is shared among different Ministries. For instance, reporting and enforcement is to the police and security agencies, and enforcement is the Ministry of Justice, etc</p> <p>The Legal Aid Council proffers legal assistance and pro-bono services to indigent victims, and witness protection program is provided for children, while adults can apply only when they have valid reasons; and this is limited for indigent persons.</p> <p>There is a functional family court in the state but less known by the public.</p> <p>There are informal justice systems in the state which includes alternative dispute resolution centres, justice of peace, council of chiefs, royal highness, etc</p>	<p>Ministries with different functions relating to GBV should take responsibility at every stage of reporting, prosecution, and enforcement.</p> <p>There should be a robust and effective witness protection program which should be accessible to all GBV victims/survivors. Also, there should be sensitization about existence of the pro-bono services for indigent persons to encourage people to seek legal justice.</p> <p>Proper sensitization about the Family Courts should be made to enable people seek justice and preserve more constructive relationships in the families.</p> <p>Accelerated and fair hearing should be given to reported GBV cases, as well as proper punishments of offenders to serve as deterrents to others.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>There is no Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) in the state.</p> <p>There is a temporary safe home for victims of domestic violence, GBV, and other forms of violence.</p> <p>There is a GBV reporting pathway in the state which includes the police, CSOs, NGOs, legal aid, etc, but there is limited knowledge of these.</p> <p>There is a formal support system provided by the state government through the Ministry of Women Affairs, and the Ministry of Social Welfare, while rehabilitation is provided by the Ministry of Health.</p>	<p>SARCs comprising of a holistic structure should be made available in each LGA in the state.</p> <p>More shelters or safe homes should be provided in the state, and empowerment or skill acquisition programs should be provided for the survivors to enable them to integrate back into the society.</p> <p>Sensitization and awareness programs should be carried out to make the GBV reporting pathways known to the public.</p> <p>Sensitization programs should form a primary function for the Ministries allocated to attend to GBV issues to enable awareness of the public on GBV.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>The state disseminates mostly information (sensitization) and not communication materials.</p> <p>There are radio jingles on GBV, sensitization and intervention programs carried out at intervals.</p> <p>Comprehensive sex education is taught in secondary schools within relevant subjects.</p> <p>The GBV awareness programs are not disability friendly.</p>	<p>The state should make provision for IEC materials for sensitization, awareness, and intervention programs.</p> <p>The state should encourage regular sensitization programs.</p> <p>Comprehensive sex education should be included in the school curriculum to be studied as a subject in secondary schools.</p> <p>The GBV awareness programs should be disability friendly to accommodate people living with disability.</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

71.5% Yes 28.4% No -- Not Sure

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

37.0% Strongly Agree 42.2% Agree 8.62% Indifferent 8.62% Disagree 3.45% Strongly Disagree

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

18.1 Yes 55.1 No 26.7 Not Sure

The GBV-related laws that exist in Rivers State are the Abolition of Female Circumcision Law and the VAPP Law, etc., which is also a sexual harassment law that exist in the states' public and private institutions and are regularly used to prosecute GBV cases. 71.5% of the survey participants are aware of the existence of these laws and 42.2% agree that awareness prevents GBV. Some of these laws have been amended. The abolition of harmful customary laws is good practice. No legal reviews have been carried out yet. 55.1% of the survey participants have the perception that customary/religious laws are not effective in preventing and responding to GBV in the state.

The reporting and enforcement system in the state are the police/security agencies whereas, the Ministry of Justice and the Legal Aid Council prosecutes while providing legal assistance and pro-bono services to indigent victims. Witness protection is mainly for children, while for adults, it can be done on camera, or they can apply for protective order. The services are accessible to victims/survivors, although the courts do not follow the timeframes stated in the VAPP Act.

The informal justice system in the state is championed by the Justice of Peace, royal highnesses, Council of Chiefs, and Alternate Dispute Resolution Centres. Some of the cultural practices in the community perpetuate GBV in a bid to resolve an issue. Based on the survey population's notion, 89.6% would seek formal justice, nevertheless. 54.3% do not think the informal justice system is effective in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV. There are no specialized and exclusive police units on GBV, however, there are gender desks at some of the police divisions/headquarters and exclusive judges on SGBV/GBV at the family courts.

The state's shelter has an administrative building, two court rooms, living

accommodation, a child-friendly witness room, crèche, library, probation unit, and offices for service providers. The safe home has provided a temporary accommodation and psychosocial support to GBV victims/survivors until proven stable to reintegrate into the society.

GBV reporting pathways in the State are the Police, NGOs that handles GBV issues, CSOs, human rights, Legal Aid, Ministry of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation, Ministry of Women Affairs, and informal justice systems, etc. Depending on the form of GBV reported, there is a referral pathway to ensure they are directed to the appropriate sector and there are specialized health facilities that have been instrumental to prosecuting GBV cases in the state. Based on the survey participant's notion, 75.9% are of the opinion that the informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful in supporting GBV victims/survivors. The state government has not matched her purported priority to support services with significant investment and budgetary allocation of funds.

GBV sensitization and awareness programs/intervention programs are carried out at intervals by some NGOs and the state through radio jingles, TV shows, educative pamphlets, and seminars. Comprehensive sex education is taught in secondary schools and are included in five of the subjects, some schools also created clubs to discuss sex/GBV which is referred to as 'Family Life Education', and efforts has been made to include sex education as an exclusive subject but is yet to be adopted. The GBV information, education, and communication sensitization/awareness materials in the state are not disability friendly. Based on the survey population's response, an average percentage of about 50.9% are aware of the availability of GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state.



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

89.6% Formal justice system 8.62% Informal justice system 1.72% I will not seek justice

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

59.4% Yes 14.7% No 17.2% Not Sure 8.62% It Depends

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

14.7% Yes 31.0% No 54.3% Not Sure





## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**13.8%** Yes  
**86.2%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

**56.9%** Specialized medical health care pathway

**32.8%** Psychosocial/mental health pathway

**86.2%** Police/security pathway

**6.89%** Legal pathway  
**--** None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**75.9%** Yes  
**12.1%** No  
**12.0%** Not Sure

The Ministry of Women Affairs' allocation saw a 98.56% decrease from 2021 to 2022, with budgets of N1.12 billion in 2020, N3.47 billion in 2021, and N50 million in 2022. Additionally, N230.98 million was spent in 2020, N109.76 million in 2021, and N82.31 million in 2022 were the actual expenses over the same period. The ministry's budgetary allocation performance in the state has been appalling; in 2020, 2021, and 2022, the corresponding performance metrics are 20.54%, 3.17%, and 164.62%. The Ministry of Women Affairs receives low per capita funding from the state; in 2020, it ranks fourth in the region at N62.7, ranks last in 2021 at 29.8, and ranks fifth in 2022 at N22.3. The state's numbers are abysmal in comparison to the N112.5, 174.0, and N368.8 regional averages.



## Human Angle Story

An eye-witness report indicated that a young man killed a seven-year-old girl, he was caught and arraigned before a court, convicted for murder, and was sentenced to death by hanging. According to a testifier, a man sleeping with his daughter, had the custody of the child transferred to the grandmother. Another incident is a situation where the husband pushed away the heavily pregnant wife, but an NGO took care of her till her family came to take her. There was a case of a girl who was a victim of intimate partner violence from the boyfriend whom she was living with. She reported the incidence to an NGO, who supported and enrolled her for skills empowerment, and she is currently stable.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**50.9%** Yes  
**36.2%** No  
**12.9%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

**12.9%** Not at all useful  
**25.9%** A little bit useful  
**46.6%** Mostly useful  
**14.7%** Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

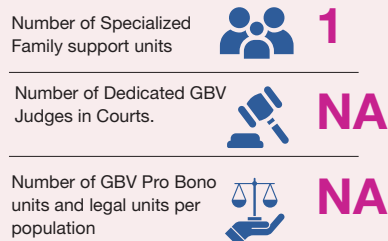
**32.8%** Audio/spoken content  
**25.0%** Braille printed content  
**23.3%** Visual content  
**15.5%** Screen subtitling  
**41.4%** Sign interpretation  
**21.6%** Picture-based messages  
**14.7%** Simplified messages  
**50.1%** None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <b>Laws and Policies</b>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	1.0
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	1.0
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	0.5
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	1.0
 <b>Access to Legal Justice</b>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	1.0
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	1.0
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	1.0
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	0.5
 <b>Support Services</b>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	0.5
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	1.0
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	1.0
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	0.5
 <b>Information and Awareness</b>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	0.5
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	1.0
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	0.5
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	0.5
 <b>Budget and Spending</b>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	0.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	0.0

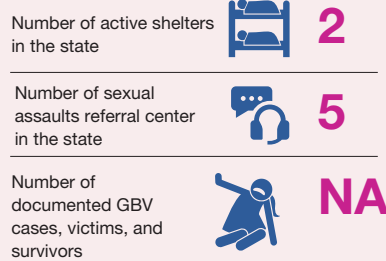
### State Context



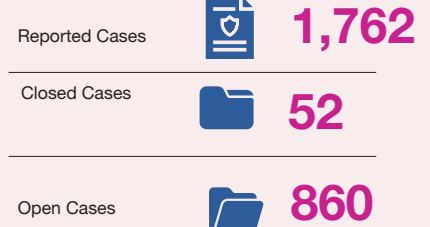
### Access to Legal Justice



### Support Services



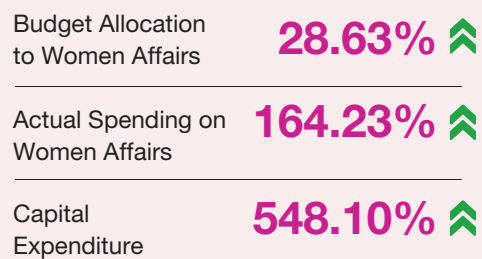
### GBV Cases



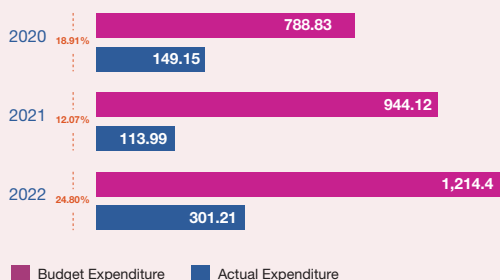
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



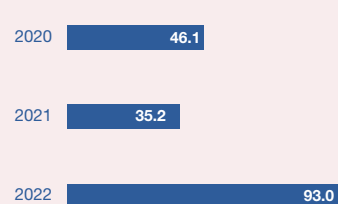
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>Widespread lack of awareness of the contents of the laws and policies.</p> <p>Weak political will to enforce the law often obstructs effective implementation of GBV-related laws and policies.</p> <p>Existing laws and punishments do not serve as effective deterrents for GBV perpetrators, reinforcing the need for comprehensive reform in the legal and social frameworks.</p>	<p>Comprehensive awareness campaigns should be conducted regularly to educate the public on the GBV-related laws and policies.</p> <p>Strengthen the political will to ensure the effective implementation of GBV-related legal measures.</p> <p>GBV-related laws and policies should be thoroughly reviewed within the legal and social paradigms to ensure that punitive measures are robust enough to dissuade potential perpetrators</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>Coercion, fear, societal pressure, influential interference, and stigmatization, discourage reporting and prosecution of GBV cases and result in undue settlements.</p> <p>Deep-seated scepticism about the ability of the justice system to deliver fair and impartial justice.</p> <p>Lack of a robust witness protection program prevents potential witnesses from coming forward with evidence that could help prosecute GBV perpetrators and ensure fair justice.</p>	<p>Government should enhance awareness campaigns and establish a confidential reporting mechanism to reduce undue settlements in GBV cases and encourage reporting of GBV cases.</p> <p>Government should strengthen the independence of the judiciary, increase transparency by publishing data on caseloads, outcomes, and sentencing, and improve training for legal professionals.</p> <p>Government should allocate funds to the Ministry of Justice for the implementation of a robust witness protection program.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>Insufficient, poorly equipped, and understaffed GBV support facilities.</p> <p>Existing GBV support services that fail to meet the diverse and complex needs of survivors.</p>	<p>Government to allocate funds for the establishment, equipping, and staffing of additional SARC and shelters in different areas of the state, particularly in underserved regions</p> <p>Government should increase budgetary allocations to the Ministries of Women Affairs, and Justice to ensure they can provide comprehensive support for GBV survivors, including empowerment and skills acquisition programs.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>Narrow reach of GBV programs and materials which are heavily sponsored by donor partners.</p> <p>GBV information is disseminated in formats that inadequately accommodate the diverse requirements of PwDs, failing to ensure equitable access to crucial information and support.</p> <p>Limited dissemination of GBV programs on the radio and TV.</p>	<p>Government should increase investment in awareness and sensitisation programs, and collaborate with religious and traditional leaders, NGOs, CSOs, and media organizations to expand awareness campaigns and outreach efforts.</p> <p>Government should improve the inclusiveness of PwDs in GBV awareness campaigns, programs, and materials.</p> <p>Government should increase dissemination of GBV prevention and response programs on radio and TV to help raise awareness and create a more supportive environment for survivors.</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

84.92% Yes 15.08% No -- Not Sure

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

31.75% Strongly Agree 61.11% Agree 4.76% Indifferent 1.59% Disagree 0.79% Strongly Disagree

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

78.57% Yes 19.05% No 2.38% Not Sure

In Sokoto State, various legal instruments that address gender-based violence (GBV) have been enacted, such as the Sokoto State Penal Code Law No. 4, 2019, the Sokoto State Child Protection Law No. 13, 2021, the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law No. 6, 2021, and the Sokoto State Administration of Criminal Justice Law No. 8, 2019. The VAPP Law, however, needs some amendments, such as providing penalties for the offence of coercion and violence by state actors, indicate the jurisdiction of court to administer the law, as well as provide for an annual reporting on the implementation of the law. It is also imperative to amend the provision on rape to include the conditions (such as lack of consent and/or the use of force) for when sexual intercourse between spouses can amount to spousal rape.

Additionally, the state upholds Islamic Sharia law, which condemns GBV and prescribes penalties for such offenses. Shariah Courts in the state administer these laws to Muslim individuals. Notably, significant legal advancements have occurred in the last eight years, with the passage of most of the legislation previously outlined. Public awareness regarding the existing GBV laws and policies is widespread (84.92% of respondents), and 71.43% perceive them as effective in preventing and responding to GBV. Moreover, there is a belief that customary and religious laws and practices adequately contribute to GBV prevention and response within the state.

The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative supports a comprehensive GBV reporting approach in the State. At the community level, Surveillance Team members, led by community leaders, are the initial contact for GBV cases who relay such cases to security agencies. The next tier is the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence/ Child Protection Response Team, comprising CSOs, NGOs, and security agencies,

overseen by the Ministry for Women and Children Affairs. Sokoto State has established a GBV referral pathway and a GBV referral list, offering a systematic guide for reporting to various stakeholders. The media also plays a role in reporting. Security agencies handle prosecution and enforcement, while survivors receive legal aid from organizations, primarily coordinated by the Ministry of Justice. Although no witness protection program exists, anonymous reporting options are available. The informal justice system involves traditional, religious, and community leaders who use alternative dispute resolution methods. Families also call for meetings at the community level to resolve certain GBV cases. While perceived as effective by most respondents, many still prefer formal justice mechanisms.

Sokoto State has one operational shelter, the Nana Asmau Shelter, which provides a range of services to survivors of GBV and human trafficking, including skills training. The state also hosts one Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), known as the Nana Khadija Centre, offering counselling, medical treatment, and forensic examination for GBV survivors. DNA testing is not currently available at the Centre. Both the shelter and SARC are situated within the Sokoto metropolis.

The GBV reporting and referral pathway document is a comprehensive resource with contact information for service providers, including CSOs, CBOs, and various government MDAs, and security agencies in the state. It serves as a guide for citizens, outlining where and how to access GBV-related services. Copies of the guide have been printed and widely distributed. Most surveyed participants believe informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, and community groups, are helpful to GBV victims/survivors.



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

61.90% Formal justice system 37.30% Informal justice system 0.79% I will not seek justice

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

68.25% Yes 15.87% No 7.94% Not Sure 7.94% It Depends

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

65.87% Yes 29.37% No 29.37% Not Sure

## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**54.76%** **45.24%**  
Yes No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

<b>32.54%</b> Specialised medical healthcare pathway	<b>77.78%</b> Police/security pathway	
<b>7.14%</b> Psychosocial/mental health pathway	<b>12.70%</b> Legal pathway	<b>7.94%</b> None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**83.33%** **11.11%** **5.56%**  
Yes No Not Sure

The State developed a range of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials through the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative. These materials are available in Hausa, English, and Ajami. They have been widely disseminated to the public. They include contact phone numbers for public inquiries and to report GBV cases. Numerous awareness campaigns on GBV have also been conducted, targeting various groups. Radio and TV stations aired GBV-related jingles in English and indigenous languages. Phone-in TV and radio programs with GBV experts were also part of the Initiative, which ended recently. Most of the surveyed population attested to being aware of these materials and programs. PwDs have also been actively involved in GBV campaigns. However, there is a need to develop IEC materials that can be effectively utilized by those with vision or hearing impairments, as no such materials currently exist. Comprehensive sex education is not taught in secondary or tertiary institutions for religious and cultural reasons. Opinions are divided, with some opposing the term “comprehensive” and others accepting sex education if it aligns with Islamic teachings.

The Ministry of Women Affairs allocation for the years under review was N788.83 million, N944.12 million, and N1.2 billion for 2020, 2021, and 2022, respectively. In comparison, N149.15 million was disbursed in 2020, N113.99 million in 2021, and N301.21 million in 2022 to the ministry. In 2020, 2021, and 2022, the budget execution rates were 18.91%, 12.07%, and 24.80%, respectively. The Ministry of Women Affairs’ per capita spending was N46.1 in 2020, N35.2 in 2021, and N93.0 in 2022. The ministry’s per capita spending is less than the N46.2, N96.7, and N197.4 regional averages for 2020, 2021, and 2022, respectively.



## Human Angle Story

A high-profile case in rural Sokoto involved the rape of a 7-year-old girl by a 25-year-old man. The perpetrator’s relatives boasted that no law could charge him and even arrested the victim’s uncle, demanding a bail of N300,000. However, the local government’s GBV surveillance team intervened promptly, citing relevant state laws to the police, and securing the uncle’s release. The perpetrator was eventually arrested, charged, and sentenced to 21 years in prison under the Sokoto State Penal Code.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**75.40%** **19.84%**  
Yes No  
**4.76%**  
Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

<b>17.46%</b> Not at all useful	<b>40.48%</b> A little bit useful
<b>28.57%</b> Mostly useful	<b>13.49%</b> Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

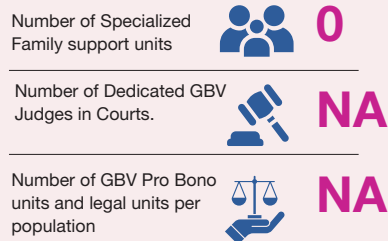
<b>50.00%</b> Audio/spoken content	<b>11.11%</b> Braille printed content	<b>11.90%</b> Visual content	<b>12.70%</b> Screen subtitling
<b>19.05%</b> Sign interpretation	<b>22.22%</b> Picture-based messages	<b>6.35%</b> Simplified messages	<b>19.05%</b> None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	1.0
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	1.0
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	0.0
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	0.5
 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	1.0
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	0.5
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	0.5
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	0.5
 <p>Support Services</p>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	0.5
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	1.0
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	0.5
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	0.5
 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	1.0
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	0.0
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	1.0
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	0.0
 <p>Budget and Spending</p>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	0.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	0.0

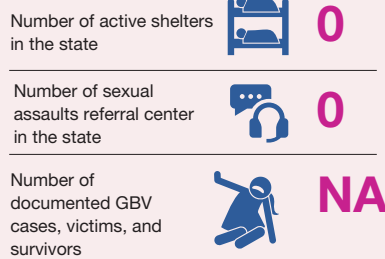
### State Context



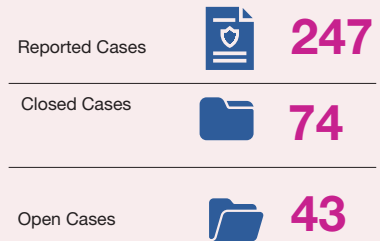
### Access to Legal Justice



### Support Services



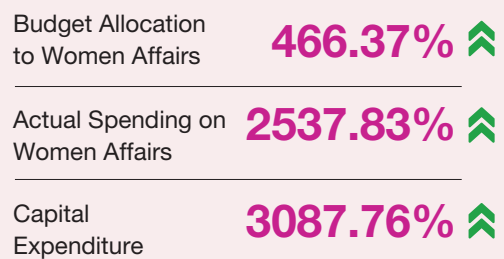
### GBV Cases



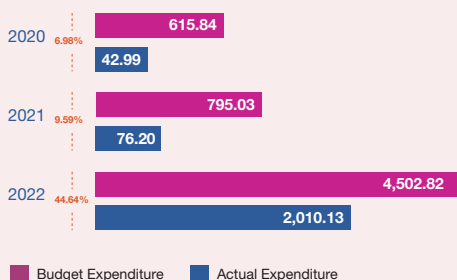
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



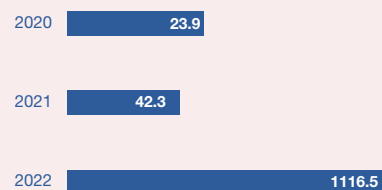
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)





S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>The existing GBV-related laws are the Child's Right Law, Penal Code, Administration of Criminal Justice Law, and the VAPP Law, but they have not proven to be effective in preventing GBV by merely existing.</p> <p>The laws should be fully implemented by the government to serve as deterrent to potential perpetrators of GBV.</p> <p>There is no relevant facility, adequate condition, and regular training for judges on GBV.</p>	<p>The laws should be fully implemented by the government to serve as deterrent to potential perpetrators of GBV.</p> <p>Educate the public regularly on GBV-related laws and policies.</p> <p>Regular and on-the-job training and retraining for all government officials who work to prevent and respond to GBV.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>Delay in conviction and prosecution of GBV perpetrators.</p> <p>There are no robust GBV-related witness protection programs in the state.</p> <p>Majority of the populace are not aware of the existence of GBV-related laws and their legal rights, limiting their access to legal justice.</p>	<p>Establish specialized SGBV courts and judges should be designated to handle GBV issues.</p> <p>Design and implement GBV-related robust witness protection programs.</p> <p>The population, especially those in rural communities, should be adequately informed of the existence of GBV-related laws and their legal rights.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>There is no functional Shelter or SARCs owned by the state.</p> <p>No budgetary allocation to support services and most of the people are not aware of the existence of the support services in the state.</p> <p>There is a lack of synergy and coordination among stakeholders handling service delivery to GBV survivors in the state.</p>	<p>SARCs and shelters should be established, equipped, and staffed by the state government.</p> <p>Prioritize and fund support services and adequately inform the public of the existence of the support services.</p> <p>There should be a robust and coordinated system to harmonize the activities of all stakeholders who work to prevent and respond to GBV in the state.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>GBV-related laws are not available in local dialects, which hinder its easy understanding.</p> <p>Sex education is not included in the curricula of secondary school and tertiary institutions in the state.</p> <p>IEC materials are not sensitive to the peculiar and intersecting needs of PwDs.</p>	<p>Translate GBV-related laws into different local languages and ensure wide dissemination and sensitization on them.</p> <p>Age-appropriate comprehensive sex-related topics should be incorporated in the school curriculum at all levels.</p> <p>PwDs-friendly awareness and programs should be carried out on a regular basis.</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

60% **Yes** 40% **No** -- **Not Sure**

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

57% **Strongly Agree** 28% **Agree** 9% **Indifferent**  
3% **Disagree** 3% **Strongly Disagree**

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

46% **Yes** 46% **No** 8% **Not Sure**

The Violence and Discrimination Against Persons (Prohibition) Law, 2021, the Child's Rights Law, the Penal Code Law, and the Administration of Criminal Justice Law are used by the state to address GBV. Though some are new, these laws have not been revisited/reformed in the last eight years, but the government has widely used the VAPP to address sexual harassment in the state's institutions. The VAPP Law, however, needs to be amended, for instance, to provide for the offence of trafficking beyond merely defining it, as well as properly define puberty which is not what is currently in the law wherein puberty is defined as a person not below 18 years of age.

Notably, the VAPP law provided for some offences not in the VAPP Act such as, sexual intercourse against the order of nature (s.4), gross indecency (s.5), unlawfully detaining another person (s.6), sexual harassment (s.7), unlawfully transposing a person to an opposite sex (s.8), and use of landed property for the transposition of another person into to the opposite sex (s.9). The law, however, is silence on some offences in the VAPP Act, such as coercion, intimidation, spousal battery, offensive conduct, frustrating investigation, willfully making false statement, harmful widowhood practices, attack with harmful substance, violence by state actors, and inflicting physical injury.

The GBV-related laws are relatively well known by 60% of the surveyed population, and 85% of the respondents submitted that the laws would prevent GBV in the state. Taraba uses formal and informal customary laws, but only 46% of the survey participants agree that they are effective in preventing and responding to GBV in the state. The state's Area, Magistrate, and Customary courts respond to GBV issues. Also, the Traditional, Religious, and Community Leaders address GBV issues at the community level based on their practices, norms, and traditions. They sometimes hand over the case

to the Police, health system, or the Ministry of Justice.

The state has effective reporting, prosecution, and enforcement structures. When the community reports a GBV case at the police station, they invite the perpetrator and investigate the case. If the case is a family issue that requires reconciliation, they will refer it to the Ministry of Women Affairs, but if it is a rape, physical, or mental harm case, they will refer it to the health facility for medical attention and then to Ministry of Justice for legal action. The state does not have a standard witness protection program, but it provides lawyers to handle the cases in a few instances. FIDA and the Legal Aid Council offer free legal support to survivors, but the failure of the court to adhere to the timeframes makes it difficult to achieve great success. Despite this limitation, 65% of the participants prefer the formal justice system. The state does not have GBV designated judges, but all the security agencies have gender desks. Also, informal justice systems are addressing GBV-related cases in the community.

Taraba State does not have any functional Shelter or SARC. No wonder 62% of the survey participants believe that the informal support systems are helpful to GBV victims/survivors. FHI360 and UMCN, however, operate a shelter and orphanage home, respectively. Even though there is no budgetary allocation/investment to these support systems, they still accommodate GBV victims/survivors, especially trafficked children intercepted by the security, providing them with food and medical support.

On reporting and referral pathways, all GBV cases from the community, CSOs or NGOs are referred to or reported at the Police station. The Police refer the case to the health facility if the victim needs medical attention and then to the Ministry of Justice for prosecution after



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

65% **Formal justice system** 37% **Informal justice system** 1% **I will not seek justice**

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

56% **Yes** 19% **No** 6% **Not Sure**  
18% **It Depends**

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

44% **Yes** 52% **No** 4% **Not Sure**



## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**45%** Yes  
**55%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

**32%** Specialized medical healthcare pathway  
**45%** Psychosocial/mental health pathway

**48%** Police/security pathway  
**28%** Legal pathway  
**19%** None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**62%** Yes  
**33%** No  
**3%** Not Sure

investigation. Family matters that need to be reconciled are referred to the Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Development.

About 60% of the survey participants indicated that GBV information/education programs/materials are unavailable. The state only uses GBV-related sensitisation materials such as educational pamphlets and conducts awareness programs, including seminars and radio/TV shows, when marking special events. Moreover, the Ministry of Women Affairs collaborates with USAID to produce and distribute IEC materials to communities during meetings and training. NAPTIP produces and shares some materials to sensitise the communities on GBV. Unfortunately, the IEC materials are not PwD-friendly. Furthermore, sex education-related topics are not included in the state's secondary and tertiary institution curriculum.

The Ministry of Women, Children Affairs and Social Welfare's budget increased annually. Still, the performance rates of 6.98% and 9.59% were unimpressive as they show that the Ministry spent less than one-third of the budget in 2020 and 2021, indicating low prioritization of GBV issues in the state. The rate, however, jumped to 44.64% in 2022. Of the N615.84 million budget in 2020, personnel and overhead spending was N13.99 million (2.3%) and N29, million (4.7%), respectively. In 2021, capital gulped N62.63 million (7.8%) of the N795.03 million budget, while N11.,67 million (1.5%) and N1.9 million (0.2%) were recorded for personnel and overhead. The ministry spent N11,424,732.96 (0.3%) on personnel out of the N4.5 million budget for 2022, while N1.99 million (44.3%) and N2.15 million (0.05%) were recorded as overhead and capital spending.



## Human Angle Story

In February 2020, a distressing incident unfolded in the Bali Local Government Area. Security forces intercepted 73 trafficked children, both boys and girls. Shockingly, one of the children had special needs/disability. It was uncovered that these children were lured away from their families with the false promise of education in distant locations. At that time, the state lacked appropriate shelter or safe spaces for the rescued children. To address this, the government rented a hotel and stationed armed security personnel to safeguard them. However, the hotel was ill-suited to cater to the children's specific needs and lacked essential safety standards, resulting in 38 of them going missing. Fortunately, they were later reunited with their families. Recognising its negligence in managing the situation, the state government replaced the Commissioner for Women Affairs who was to oversee the children's care. Subsequently, the remaining 35 children were relocated to the UMCM orphanage home in Jalingo, the state capital.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?


**36%** Yes  
**59%** No  
**5%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

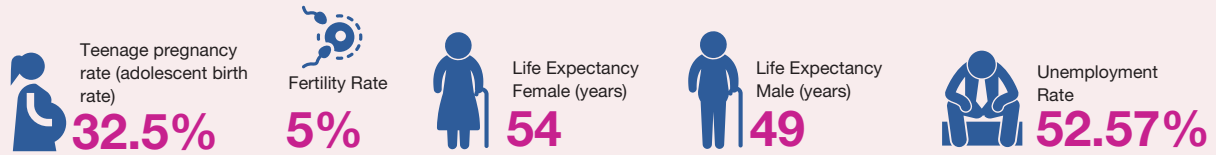
**36%** Not at all useful  
**22%** A little bit useful  
**24%** Mostly useful  
**18%** Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

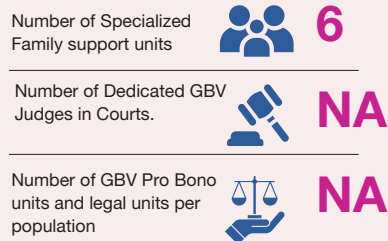
**37%** Audio/spoken content  
**32%** Braille printed content  
**51%** Visual content  
**40%** Screen subtitling  
**39%** Sign interpretation  
**37%** Picture-based messages  
**24%** Simplified messages  
**26%** None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <b>Laws and Policies</b>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	<b>1.0</b>
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	<b>0.5</b>
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	<b>1.0</b>
 <b>Access to Legal Justice</b>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	<b>1.0</b>
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	<b>0</b>
 <b>Support Services</b>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Information and Awareness</b>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	<b>0.0</b>
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	<b>0.5</b>
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	<b>0.0</b>
 <b>Budget and Spending</b>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	<b>0.0</b>
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	<b>2.0</b>

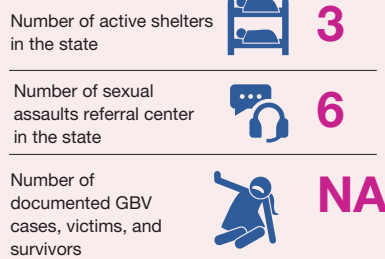
### State Context



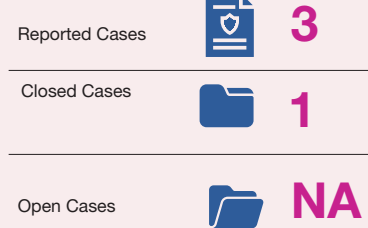
### Access to Legal Justice



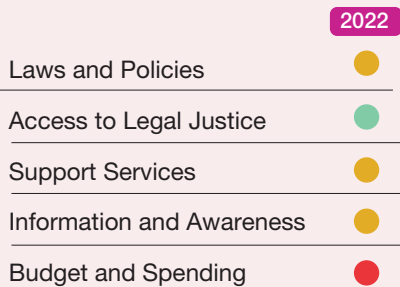
### Support Services



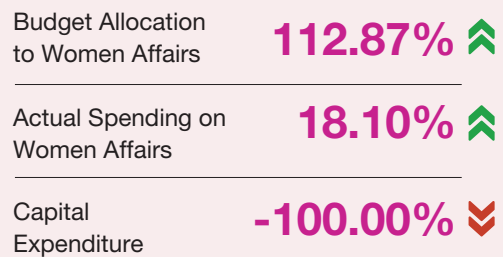
### GBV Cases



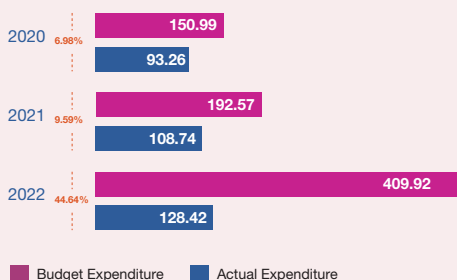
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



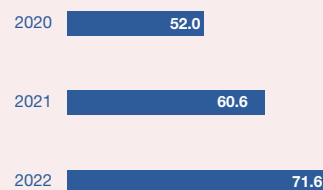
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>The GBV-related laws are VAPP Law, Child Protection Law, and the Administration of Criminal Justice Law</p> <p>Poor funding limits the implementation and effectiveness of the GBV-related laws and policies.</p> <p>Awareness of GBV laws and policies is minimal, though it will prevent GBV in the state.</p>	<p>The GBV-related laws should be reformed and made more operational.</p> <p>Significant budget provision for the implementation of all GBV-related laws and policies.</p> <p>Educate the public regularly on GBV-related laws and policies.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>Wrong cultural and societal disposition to GBV hinder the success rate of addressing GBV issues.</p> <p>There is an effective GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement system in the state.</p> <p>Lack of financial support limits the victims/survivors' access to legal justice.</p>	<p>Develop new structures to address cultural context and sensitivity issues of GBV using religious institutions, local committee/ community leaders, and other bodies.</p> <p>The GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement systems should be further strengthened to increase prosecution rate.</p> <p>Provide funds to support GBV survivors, and more enlightenment programs on access to legal justice by GBV victims should be vigorously pursued.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>There are six SARCs and three Shelters in the state but they lack necessary infrastructure, personnel, facilities, etc.</p> <p>Partners support services are discontinued after the project life cycle.</p> <p>Majority of the rural dwellers are not aware of the support services provided by Shelters and SARCs in the state.</p>	<p>The existing SARCs and Shelters should be made more effective by prioritizing and funding them.</p> <p>Strategic approach to sustain partners' support services and impact.</p> <p>Educate the people on the availability, location, and operations of the Shelters and SARC as well as the reporting pathways.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>There are different GBV-related sensitisation and awareness programs in the state, and they are PwDs-friendly.</p> <p>Comprehensive sex education is not taught in secondary schools and tertiary institutions.</p> <p>Low level of allocation to GBV information dissemination sector.</p>	<p>Ensure GBV-related sensitisation and awareness programs are available in local context using localized approaches.</p> <p>Comprehensive sex-related topics should be incorporated in the secondary school and tertiary institutions' curriculum.</p> <p>Fund GBV-related sensitisation and awareness programs.</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

89% **Yes** 11% **No** -- **Not Sure**

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

-- **Strongly Agree** 100% **Agree** -- **Indifferent**  
-- **Disagree** -- **Strongly Disagree**

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

11% **Yes** 47% **No** 42% **Not Sure**

The massive increase in GBV in the state can be attributed to the displacement caused by insurgency in the country's north-east region. To address this social problem, the state government introduced and regularly used the Administration of Criminal Justice Law, the Child Protection Law, and the VAPP Law to prosecute GBV-related cases. These laws have gained huge popularity in the state, as 89% of the respondents are aware of their existence. These laws have not been revisited and reformed because they are still new. The VAPP law, specifically, is widely used to prosecute sexual harassment in the state's public and private institutions. The VAPP Law, however, needs to be amended to add more violence-related offences as provided for in the VAPP Act (such as incest, political violence, violence by state actors, harmful substance attack, intimidation, indecent exposure, frustrating investigation, depriving a person of his/her liberty, wilfully making false statement, wilfully placing a person in fear of physical injury, inflicting physical injury, damage to property with intent to cause distress), as well as the offence of "trafficking" beyond its definition. There is also a need to specify the government Ministry that will appoint protection officers and enforce the law as stated in s.35 and s.36, respectively.

The abolition of customary laws strengthens the State laws as 100% of the survey respondents agree that the formal laws prevent GBV in the state, as against 11%, who indicated that customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state.

To report GBV-related cases in the state, the first point of contact is the Police Force or Security and Civil Defence Corps. These law enforcement agencies invite the perpetrator and the victim to conduct a thorough investigation and examine the available evidence. Law enforcement agents work

closely with the State Ministry of Health to conduct medical tests, when necessary. After the investigation, the case is transferred to the Ministry of Justice for prosecution, and a dedicated GBV Judge promptly handles the case, irrespective of the victim's background. The Ministry also has witness protection programs enabling victims and witnesses to participate in the court process safely. This explains why 100% of survey participants prefer the formal justice system. Besides the dedicated Judge, the state has functional Family Support Units and GBV desks in the divisional headquarters. The state's informal justice system, including the Sharia, is weak. This finding is supported by the 60% who indicated that the informal justice system cannot effectively handle GBV in the state.

Yobe State has six functional SARC and three Shelters spread across the state, and the SARC provide free medical, psychosocial, security, and legal justice support services to GBV victims and survivors. In addition to the services offered by SARC, the Shelter accommodates and provides livelihood support to the GBV victims and survivors to enable them to earn a safe and sustainable living. The government has a special budget for the SARC and Shelters to improve the welfare of the victims. The reporting and referral pathways in the state start with the security system. When a case is reported to the Police by the victim or NGOs, they will escort the victim to the hospital for medical tests and refer the case to the Ministry of Justice for prosecution. Though the informal justice system is weak, the evidence obtained from the survey revealed that the informal support systems are effective, as 100% of the survey participants indicated that support systems are helpful to GBV victims/survivors.

The GBV-related sensitisation and awareness programs used by the state include banners, shirts, hijabs, and stickers. Also, the state



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

100% **Formal justice system** -- **Informal justice system** -- **I will not seek justice**

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

99% **Yes** 1% **No** -- **Not Sure**  
-- **It Depends**

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

10% **Yes** 60% **No** 30% **Not Sure**



## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**92%** Yes  
**8%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

<b>7%</b> Specialized medical healthcare pathway	<b>18%</b> Police/security pathway
<b>53%</b> Psychosocial/mental health pathway	<b>21%</b> Legal pathway
	<b>1</b> None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**100%** Yes    **--** No    **--** Not Sure

frequently uses radio jingles to disseminate information and sensitise the public on GBV, and 89% of the survey participants attested to the use of GBV-related sensitisation and awareness programs in the state. The IEC materials used by the state are PwD-friendly, and they are also included in the state's sensitisation and awareness programs to improve their knowledge of GBV. Unfortunately, the coverage of sex education in the state falls below expectations as the state still struggles to incorporate comprehensive sex-related topics in the education curriculum of secondary school and tertiary institutions.

The Ministry of Women, Children Affairs and Social Welfare's budget increased from N151 million in 2020 to N192.57 million in 2021 and then to N409.92 million in 2022, but the performance rate declined from 61.76% through 56.47% to 31.33% in the respective year. Though the Ministry disbursed over 55% of the budget in 2020 and 2021. The Ministry specifically spent N86.2 million, N84.35 million and N82.52 million on personnel in 2020, 2021, and 2022, respectively. Also, the overhead expenses increased from N7 million in 2020 to N12.56 million in 2021 to N45.9 million in 2022. Capital expenditure, however, gulped only N6.83 million in 2021.



## Human Angle Story

A girl was raped by a young man, her neighbour. She decided to confide in a close friend about the assault two days later. This friend, recognising the seriousness of the situation, strongly encouraged the survivor and her mother to report the case to the Police. When the case was reported to the Police, they conducted a comprehensive investigation. The Police took the victim to the hospital for medical examination and gathered all the relevant evidence to build a strong case. Subsequently, the Police presented the case in court, where the perpetrator was ultimately sentenced to 10 years imprisonment, ensuring that justice was served.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**89%** Yes  
**10%** No  
**1%** Not Sure


How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

**10%** Not at all useful  
**1%** A little bit useful  
**5%** Mostly useful  
**84%** Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

<b>--</b> Audio/spoken content	<b>--</b> Braille printed content	<b>29%</b> Visual content	<b>--</b> Screen subtitling
<b>9%</b> Sign interpretation	<b>47%</b> Picture-based messages	<b>2%</b> Simplified messages	<b>13%</b> None of the above

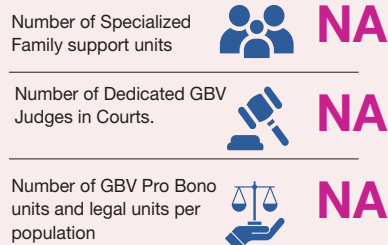


Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	1.0
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	0.0
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	0.0
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	0.5
 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	1.0
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	0.5
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	1.0
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	0.5
 <p>Support Services</p>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	0.5
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	1.0
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	0.5
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	0.5
 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	1.0
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	0.0
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	0.5
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	0.5
 <p>Budget and Spending</p>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	0.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	0.0

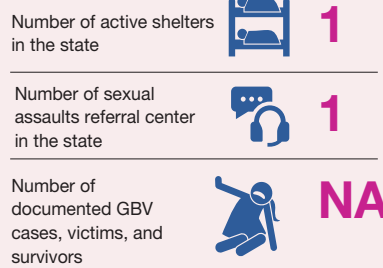
### State Context



### Access to Legal Justice



### Support Services



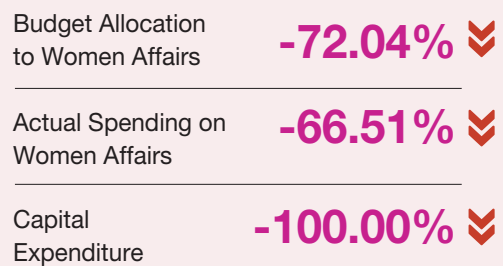
### GBV Cases



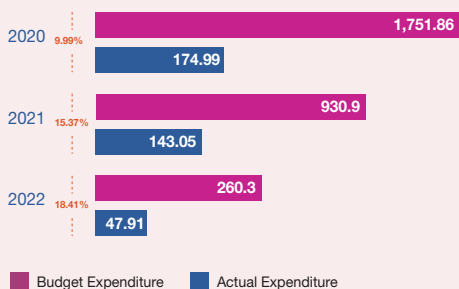
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



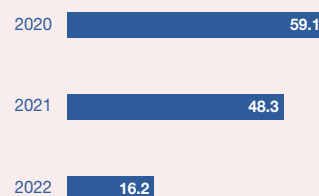
### Year on Year Growth 2022





### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>Absence of a comprehensive implementation framework for GBV-related laws and policies and inadequate funding for monitoring and oversight.</p> <p>Weak coordination among the implementing ministries, departments, and agencies.</p> <p>Low public awareness about existing GBV-related laws and policies.</p>	<p>Government to develop comprehensive implementation framework for the laws and policies with a strong focus on monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>Government to strengthen coordination among the implementing government agencies and provide sufficient funding for GBV programs.</p> <p>The state should prioritize comprehensive and consistent public sensitization and awareness campaigns on existing GBV-related laws and policies.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>Stigmatization, culture of silence, and financial constraints hindering GBV victims/survivors and their families from reporting GBV cases and following up with them.</p> <p>Inadequate investigations, delayed case file submissions to the Ministry of Justice, prolonged legal advice provision, insufficient evidence, lack of trust, frequent adjournments, and similar challenges have collectively discouraged survivors and victims from seeking legal justice when they experience GBV.</p>	<p>Stakeholders to conduct public awareness campaigns addressing the detrimental impacts of stigmatization and the culture of silence. Additionally, provisions should be made to ensure survivors and victims have access to the necessary financial support for reporting and following up on their cases.</p> <p>State to enhance the efficiency and trustworthiness of GBV legal proceedings through thorough investigations, timely case file submissions, prompt provision of legal advice, and strong evidence collection while minimizing adjournments.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>Insufficient, poorly equipped, and understaffed GBV support facilities.</p> <p>Limited awareness of legal and psychosocial/mental health GBV reporting and referral pathways among the public with a greater knowledge of medical/healthcare and police/security pathways.</p>	<p>Additional Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) should be established, adequately staffed, and equipped across all the senatorial zones and local government areas.</p> <p>Government should implement comprehensive awareness campaigns to promote the legal and psychosocial/mental health GBV reporting and referral pathways, ensuring that individuals are well-informed about them.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>Over-reliance on donor partner-sponsored IEC projects and programs leading to irregular and unsustainable information dissemination.</p>	<p>The state should limit dependence on external donors and instead allocate sufficient resources for educating the public and disseminating relevant information through radio and TV programs, as well as printed IEC materials.</p> <p>There is need to involve the local theatre group in commemorating international events like the International Day for the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence.</p>



## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

94.17% **Yes** 5.83% **No** -- **Not Sure**

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

55% **Strongly Agree** 43.33% **Agree** -- **Indifferent**  
1.67% **Disagree** -- **Strongly Disagree**

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

93.33% **Yes** 5% **No** 2% **Not Sure**

Zamfara State has several laws to combat Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law of 2022, the Child Protection Law of 2022, the Administration of Criminal Justice Law of 2023, and the Sharia Penal Code. The Sharia legal system applies only to Muslims. Most of these laws have been in effect for less than two years, but 66.83% of the population is aware of them and finds them effective. As of the time of this research, the Ministry of Justice was considering a review of the Sharia Penal Code to recognize and address spousal abuse. Regardless, 93.33% of the survey population, finds the customary and religious laws sufficient to address GBV prevention and response. The VAPP Law, however, should be amended to include changing “centre” to “team” in s.4(5) considering the State Counsel to be appointed is for the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Offences Response Team, not the SARC. In addition, s.5(2) of the VAPP law should be amended to recognize spousal rape in situations where the sexual intercourse is, for instance, without consent and/or with force and violence. In s.1, the interpretation section, grandfather and grandaunt should be included as part of those who can commit incest.

The reporting system for GBV in Zamfara State operates through both formal and informal channels. GBV cases can be reported to authorities such as the police, Civil Defence, SARCs, traditional institutions, religious leaders, Community Dispute Resolution Committees, and various community-based organizations. The informal justice mechanisms include traditional institutions, religious leaders, and Community Dispute Resolution Committees. Just 12.5% of the surveyed population think the informal justice system in the state is effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV, most people would rather seek justice from the formal justice system.

The prosecution process typically begins with the police and proceeds to the court through the Ministry of Justice for legal proceedings, with the involvement of relevant government agencies to ensure enforcement. Zamfara State has organizations like the Legal Aid Council and FIDA, which provide legal assistance to GBV survivors and victims, when needed. However, the state does not currently have a witness protection program in place. Though the State Police Command has established GBV Desks to address GBV cases, it is worth noting that the state lacks specialized Family Support Units (FSUs) and dedicated GBV Judges. The lapses in legal proceedings as they pertain to GBV cases need to be tackled with urgency to restore confidence in the formal justice system.

In Zamfara State, the sole operational Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) is situated within the King Fa’ad Women and Children Hospital in the state capital of Gusau. The centre is staffed by a team comprising a Coordinator/Manager, a doctor, counsellors, an administrator, clinical personnel including nurses, a pharmacist, and medical records personnel. The SARC offers a range of essential services, including medical examinations, treatment, and counselling.

For reporting Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases, multiple pathways are available, such as reporting to the police, Civil Defence, SARC, traditional leaders, religious figures, Community Dispute Resolution Committees, and various community-based organizations (CBOs). However, findings indicate that respondents are predominantly more aware of the healthcare and law enforcement channels, with a preference for these pathways. A significant majority of those surveyed hold the belief that informal support systems, encompassing family, friends, religious institutions, and community groups, play a crucial role in assisting GBV victims and survivors.



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

100% **Formal justice system** -- **Informal justice system** -- **I will not seek justice**

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

98.33% **Yes** -- **No** -- **Not Sure**  
1.67% **It Depends**

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

12.50% **Yes** 73.33% **No** 14.17% **Not Sure**



## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**58.33%** Yes  
**41.67%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

**96.67%** Specialised medical healthcare pathway

**37.50%** Psychosocial/mental health pathway

**96.67%** Police/security pathway

**52.50%** Legal pathway  
**--** None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**94.17%** Yes  
**4.17%** No  
**1.67%** Not Sure

The state predominantly relies on Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, primarily in the form of radio programs and printed materials such as leaflets, flyers, pamphlets, and posters to promote awareness about Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Notably, a significant portion of these radio programs and printed materials are sponsored by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) dedicated to addressing GBV-related issues. While most of the surveyed population has encountered some form of GBV information and educational programs or materials in the state, the most encountered sources are radio programs, with the least exposure reported for social media infographics and explainer videos. However, there is a noteworthy gap in awareness and education about GBV among individuals with disabilities. Survey data indicates that most of the respondents think comprehensive sex education that includes lessons on GBV be taught in secondary and tertiary institutions.

With a female population of 2.96 million, the Ministry of Women Affairs's allocation for the years under review has experienced decline. There was a 46.86% decline from N1.75 billion in 2020 to N930.90 million in 2021 and also a decrease of 72.04% from N930.90 in 2021 to N260.30 million in 2022. The same is also for actual expenditure during the same period, which decreased year on year, from N175 million in 2020, to N143.05 million in 2021, and N47.91 million in 2022. To cap it all, the budget performance was so abysmal, with an execution rate of 9.99%, 15.37%, and 18.41% in 2020, 2021, and 2022, respectively. The state's per capita spending for the Ministry of Women Affairs was N59.1 in 2020, N48.3 in 2021 and N16.2 in 2022. With the regional average figures at N46.2, N96.7, N197.4 in 2020, 2021 and 2022 respectively, the only year the ministry performed above the regional average was in the year 2020.



## Human Angle Story

A young girl narrated her sordid ordeal thus. She was raped by an older person in an unfinished building near her home on her way to school. She says will never forget that day because she missed school. She went home and told her older brother, who immediately called the police. The perpetrator was arrested and taken to court. He was remanded in prison while the case was ongoing but despite assurances that he would face the consequences, and even though the medical examination confirmed penetration, he was later granted bail. She felt sick when she saw him in public for the first time. She justly questioned the ability of the laws to protect her after the way the crime was handled.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

**96.67%** Yes  
**1.67%** No  
**1.67%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

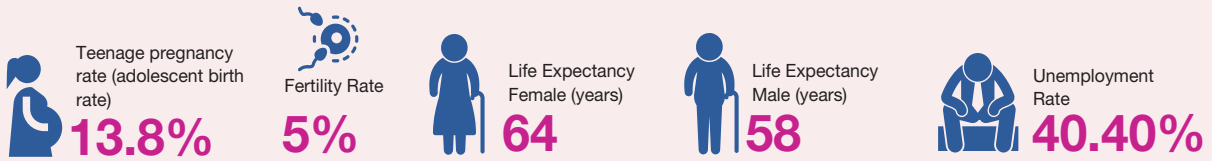
**--** Not at all useful  
**2.50%** A little bit useful  
**75.83%** Mostly useful  
**21.67%** Completely useful

Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

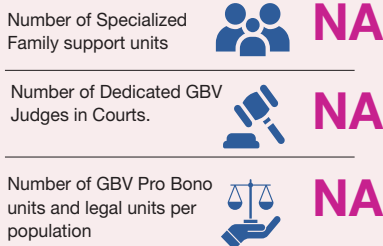
**18.33%** Audio/spoken content  
**--** Braille printed content  
**3.33%** Visual content  
**0.83%** Screen subtitling  
**0.83%** Sign interpretation  
**25.00%** Picture-based messages  
**--** Simplified messages  
**68.33%** None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <b>Laws and Policies</b>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	<b>1.0</b>
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	<b>0.0</b>
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	<b>0.0</b>
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Access to Legal Justice</b>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	<b>0.5</b>
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	<b>0.0</b>
 <b>Support Services</b>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	<b>0.5</b>
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	<b>0.5</b>
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	<b>0.5</b>
 <b>Information and Awareness</b>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	<b>1.0</b>
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	<b>0</b>
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	<b>0.5</b>
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	<b>0</b>
 <b>Budget and Spending</b>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	<b>0</b>
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	<b>0</b>

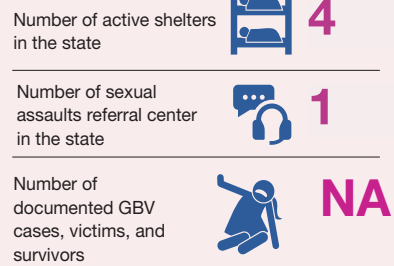
### State Context



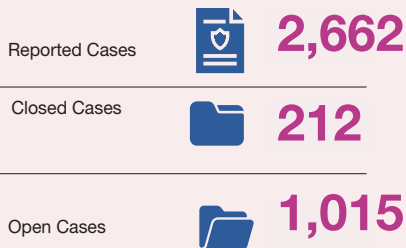
### Access to Legal Justice



### Support Services







### GBV Cases



### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>Few people know about the laws on GBV in the FCT, which are, primarily, the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015, and the Child's Right Act, 2003.</p> <p>Weak systems and lack of implementation of the laws.</p> <p>Illiteracy and language barriers in understanding the laws and using them.</p> <p>Exclusion of some vital issues and groups in the provisions of the laws and policies.</p>	<p>Strong systems, structures and strategy should be adopted to ensure wider awareness about the GBV-related laws and policies in the FCT.</p> <p>The laws and policies should be reviewed, and systems put in place for effective implementation.</p> <p>The laws should be simplified into local languages</p> <p>Inclusion of relevant clauses in the laws and policies to ensure recognition and provision for the peculiar needs of marginalized groups.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>Accessing legal justice in the court can be complex and long.</p> <p>Dire implications of negative cultural and patriarchal systems on access to legal justice</p> <p>Witness protection programs are ineffective</p>	<p>Efforts should be made to remove bureaucratic bottlenecks and obstructs access to legal justice, as well as reduce the timeframe for court processes.</p> <p>Establish GBV mobile courts in all Area Councils and communities, as well as appoint and train GBV designated judges.</p> <p>Collaboratively work with relevant stakeholders in gradually shifting or transforming negative cultural norms and patriarchal systems.</p> <p>Strengthen the witness protection program in the FCT, as well as regularly communicate it to build confidence in the populace.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>Insufficient number of Shelters and SARC to cater to the FCT population.</p> <p>The shelters and SARC are not easily accessible for GBV victims/survivors with disabilities</p> <p>Inadequate funds and facilities to provide holistic support services to GBV victims and survivors.</p> <p>There is need to strengthen both the formal and informal justice systems.</p>	<p>Establish more Shelters and SARCs across the FCT, in all Area Councils and communities.</p> <p>Ensure easy accessibility of SARCs and Shelters by putting in place PwD-sensitive measures.</p> <p>Allocate budget for and increase spending on the provision of support services to GBV victims/survivors.</p> <p>Ensure synergy and partnership between key formal and informal stakeholders to ensure justice systems is in alignment with the principle of legal justice.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>Lack of adequate and proper knowledge and information about GBV.</p> <p>Some families and religious leaders do not want comprehensive sex education to be taught in schools.</p> <p>GBV-related IEC materials are not sufficiently inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities.</p>	<p>Strong awareness programs should be carried out by GBV experts and widely spread across all communities.</p> <p>Sex education should be encouraged and made compulsory in schools. However, there is first a need to sensitize and educate parents, guardians, religious leaders, etc on the content of CSEs, and its benefits to young people.</p> <p>The IEC materials should be made available, accessible, and inclusive of/for persons with disabilities. For instance, the materials should be in Braille for the blind.</p>





## Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

82.14% **Yes** 17.85% **No** -- **Not Sure**

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

44% **Strongly Agree** 8% **Agree** 7% **Indifferent**  
74% **Disagree** 7% **Strongly Disagree**

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

30% **Yes** 20% **No** 90% **Not Sure**

The Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015 and the Child’s Right Act, 2003 are the key GBV-related laws applicable in the FCT, though they are not frequently used in prosecuting cases. The VAPP Act needs some amendments, including defining “Harmful Widowhood Practices” and changing the age of minors to be under 18 years old (not under 14 years old) in alignment with the provision of the Child’s Right Act, 2003. There is also need for adequate budgetary allocation and funding of NAPTIP to ensure effective implementation of the VAPP Act and in achieving sustained, holistic support for victims/survivors of GBV. In addition, the reviewed VAPP Act should provide for the establishment of SARCs and Victim Support Fund, as well as specify the funding sources for the implementation of the Act.

Sexual harassment policies exist in public and private institutions but are rarely enforced. Customary laws are informal and handled by community leaders. Over the past eight years, some progress has been made in developing laws to strengthen GBV prevention and response, like the enactment of the federal VAPP Act in 2015. However, customary laws that condone GBV persist. Abolishing these could positively impact state laws, but more assessment is needed. Many survey respondents believe customary/religious laws are ineffective in preventing or responding to GBV. Overall, more awareness of and reforms to strengthen laws and policies are needed in FCT.

The justice system for GBV victims/survivors in the FCT is inadequate. NAPTIP, police, and agencies have reporting systems but weak prosecution due to many impeding factors. Most people seek justice through legal means, in comparison to customary approach. Legal aid is limited, as some approach NGOs, FIDA, and, sometimes, private lawyers. Legal services are not very accessible, especially

for disabled persons. Witness protection is weak. Courts do not follow the timeframe stipulated in the VAPP Act; hence, cases drag on for years. Certified judgements also take very long to be obtained from the court. Informal justice by community leaders persists, who sometimes uphold norms and practices that perpetuate often GBV. Many survey respondents believe informal systems are ineffective for justice. Progress are being made, however, including the presence of NAPTIP officers in all Area Councils, establishment of the FCTA GBV Response Centre, and having Family Support Units in police stations. But specialized GBV courts and GBV designated judges are needed. Access to justice for GBV survivors in the FCT remains a challenge. More reporting, speedier trials, legal aid, witness protection, informal system reform, and specialized GBV courts/units are, therefore, required.

The FCT has some shelters and one SARC but limited for survivors’ needs. NAPTIP, Ministry of Women Affairs, CSOs like WOTCLEF, and hospitals operate shelters providing refuge, rehabilitation, and reintegration. Services are not very disability inclusive. The SARC in Bwari Hospital offers medical treatment, counselling, and referral for legal aid. Referral pathways exist but awareness about them is limited, although there is a dashboard system that connects agencies and service providers. Informal supports like families, religious centres, and communities provide emotional aid but sometimes uphold norms and practices that perpetuate GBV. Medical units give critical care, yet forensics services are limited. The FCTA Gender SGBV Response Centre coordinates activities; but inadequate budget allocation and investment hinders effectiveness. Many survey respondents believe informal systems are ineffective for support. Budgets for shelters, SARCs, forensics, training medical staff on GBV management, public awareness on pathways,



## Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

16.42% **Formal justice system** 77.85% **Informal justice system** 5.71% **I will not seek justice**

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

70.71% **Yes** 14.28% **No** 6.42% **Not Sure**  
8.57% **It Depends**

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

40.71% **Yes** 37.85% **No** 21.40% **Not Sure**



## Support Services

Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?

**24.28%** Yes  
**75.71%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

**15.71%** Specialised medical healthcare pathway

**3.57%** Psychosocial/mental health pathway

**41.42%** Police/security pathway

**10%** Legal pathway  
**29.28%** None of the above

Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

**94.17%** Yes  
**4.17%** No  
**1.67%** Not Sure

and informal system reform are needed to improve support for GBV victims/survivors in the FCT.

The FCT uses media like radio, TV, billboards, and social media for GBV awareness but there is insufficient reach, especially for disabled persons. NAPTIP had TV programs but discontinued due to inadequate funding. Some education on sex and GBV happens in schools, but comprehensive sex education is largely lacking. IEC materials exist but often are not disability-friendly or in accessible formats like braille or simplified language. Many survey respondents confirmed limited awareness programs and materials on GBV. More inclusive education curriculum, multimedia campaigns using local languages, and specialized materials for all residents of the FCT, especially those in rural communities and disabled persons, are needed to ensure widespread knowledge of GBV as well as the available reporting and referral mechanisms and support services in FCT. When emplaced, this will help prevent GBV and empower survivors to seek assistance.



## Human Angle Story

There is the story of a physically challenged woman who suffered sexual, physical, and economic violence from her alcoholic husband in AMAC Area Council. He would beat her, force her for sex, and steal her money, as she was the breadwinner of the family. She is a Fashion Designer. After intervention by the Network of Women with Disabilities, he was arrested and given an undertaking never to abuse his wife again. This allowed the survivor to regain her peace. The story illustrates how disabled women can be especially vulnerable to intimate partner violence due to dependency and lack of economic empowerment. But with access to justice and support services, they can escape abuse. This story also shows that with the right interventions, there is hope for restoring dignity and justice for GBV survivors.



## Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



**45%** Yes  
**46.42%** No  
**9.57%** Not Sure

How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?

**13.57%** Not at all useful  
**33.57%** A little bit useful  
**29.28%** Mostly useful  
**23.57%** Completely useful

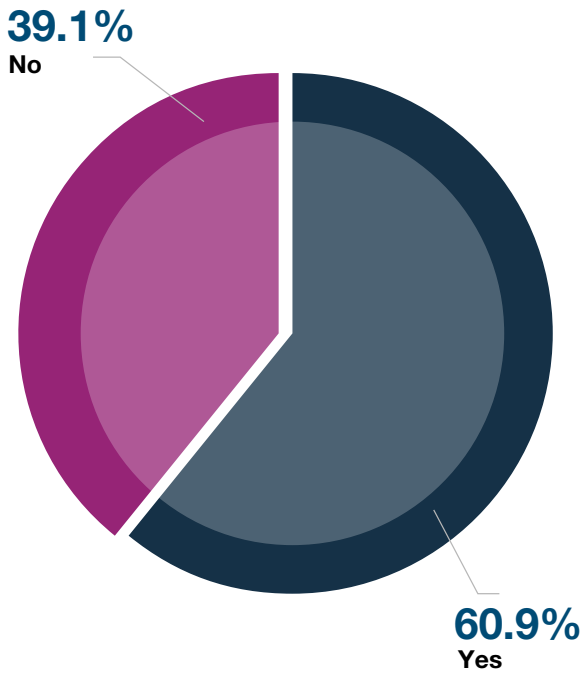
Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

**50%** Audio/spoken content  
**8.57%** Braille printed content  
**15%** Visual content  
**8.57%** Screen subtitling  
**23.57%** Sign interpretation  
**25.71%** Picture-based messages  
**18.57%** Simplified messages  
**17.14%** None of the above

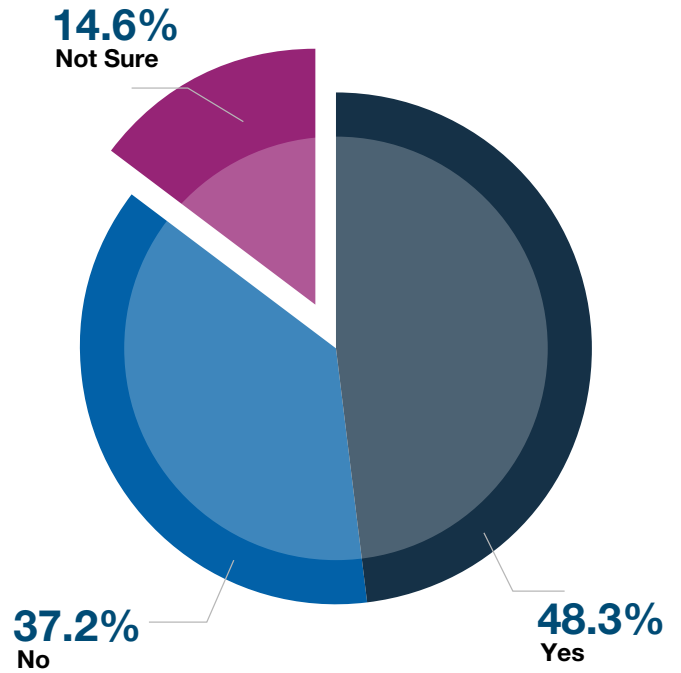
Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	1.0
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	0.5
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	0.5
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	0.5
 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	0.5
	Availability and accessibility to legal aid services; with/or witness protection program	1.0
	Existence of functional specialized Family Support Units (FSUs), Human Rights Desks in Police Commands or Divisions, or dedicated GBV Judges	0.5
	Existence of informal justice system, with processes and outcomes that does not perpetuate or advance GBV in the courts	0.5
 <p>Support Services</p>	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	0.5
	Availability of accessible and user-friendly GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	0.5
	Existence of and access to holistic support systems for GBV victims and survivors	0.5
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	0.5
 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	1.0
	Existence and usage of comprehensive sex education curriculum in secondary schools	1.0
	Frequent sensitization and awareness programs on GBV across all local governments in the State	0.5
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	0.5
 <p>Budget and Spending</p>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	0

# National Aggregates: Laws and Policies

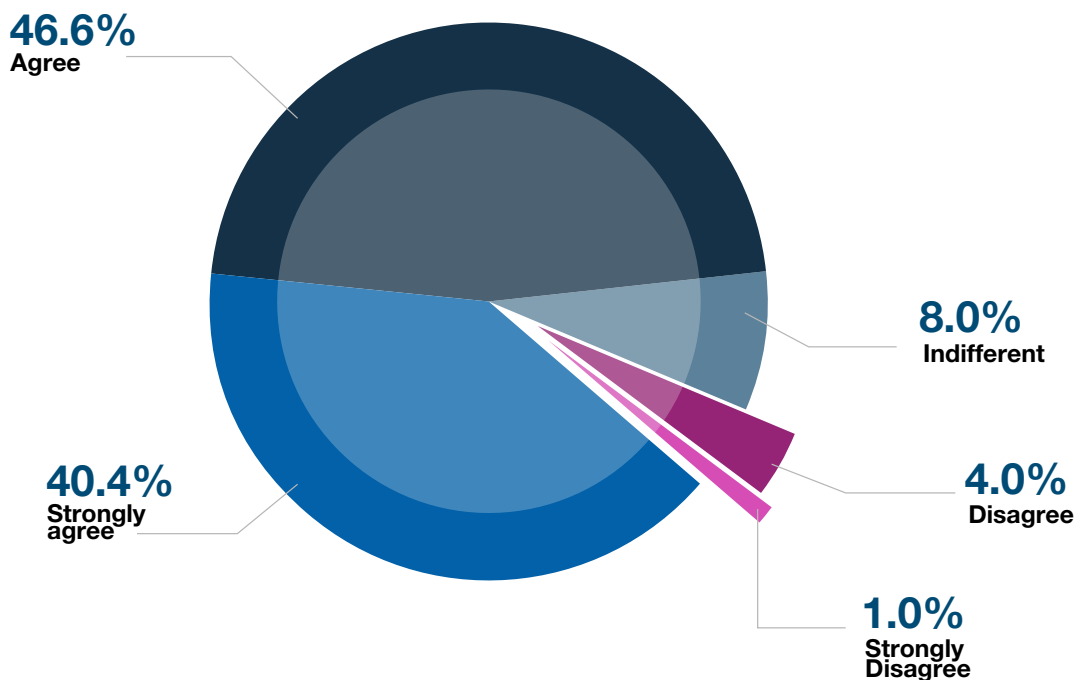
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?



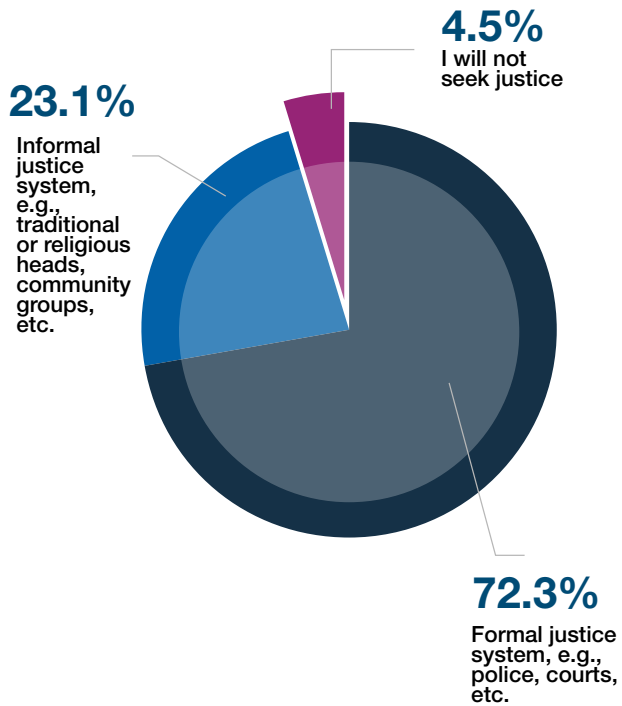
Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?



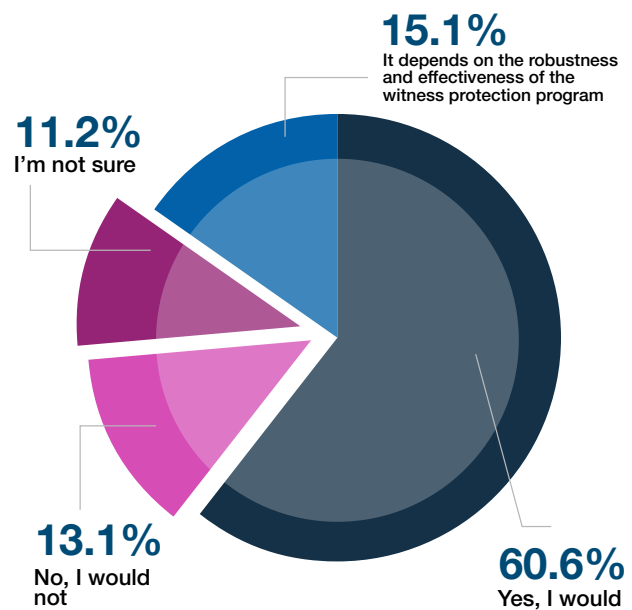
## National Aggregates:

# Access to Legal Justice

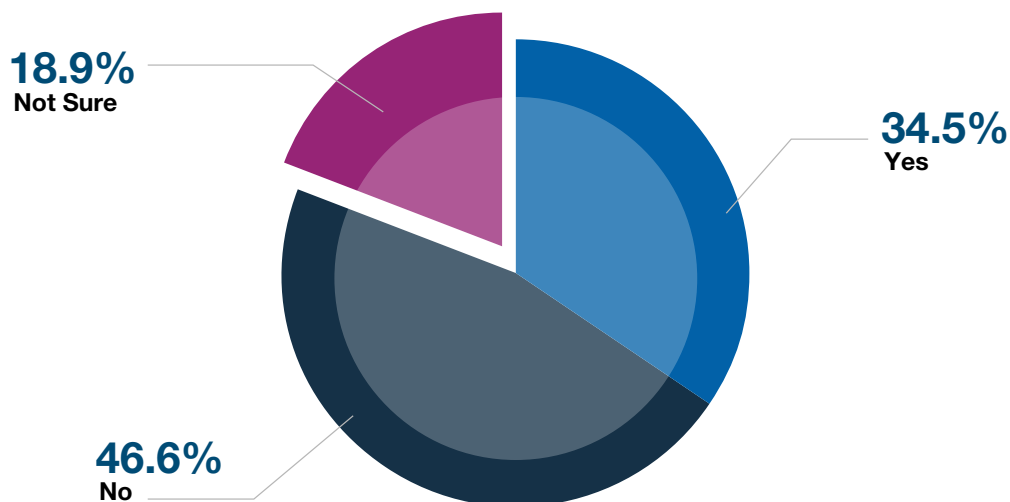
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?



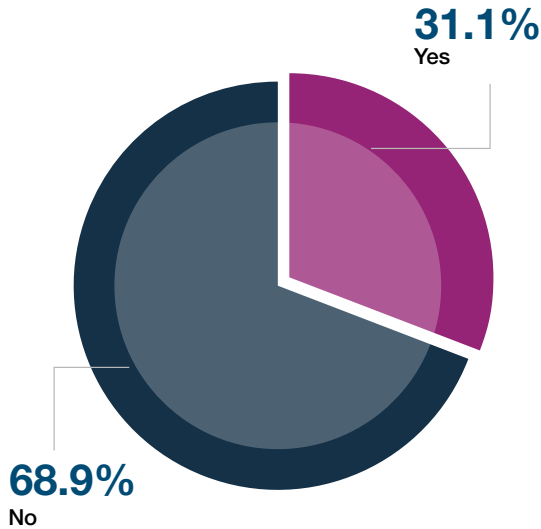
Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?



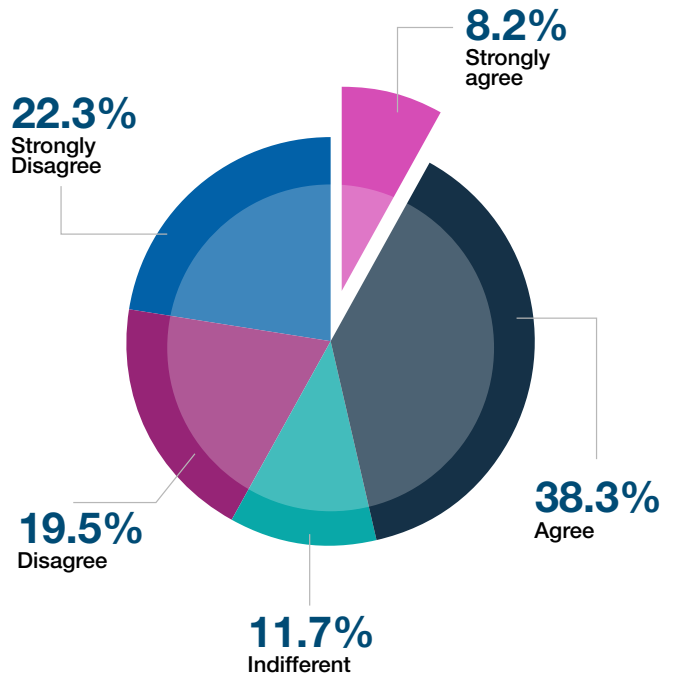
National Aggregates:

# Support Services

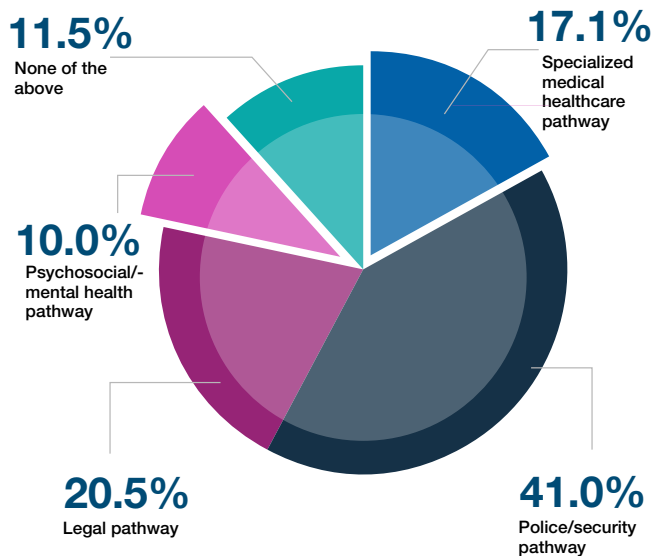
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



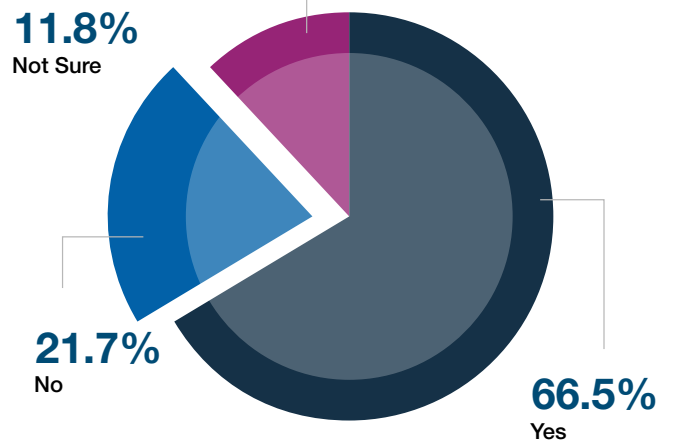
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?



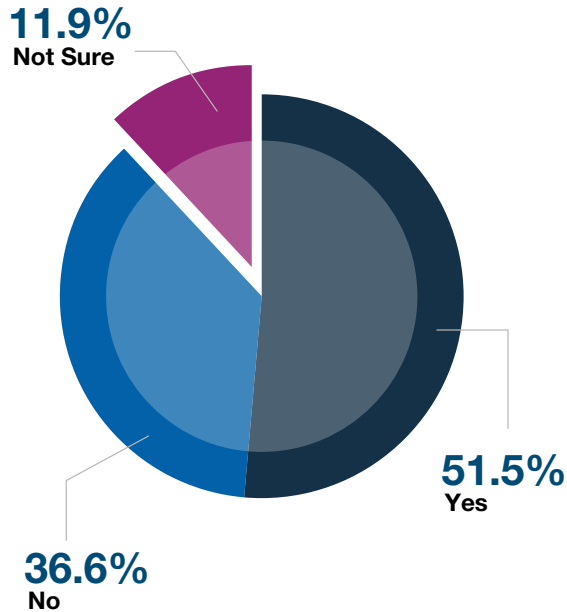
Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?



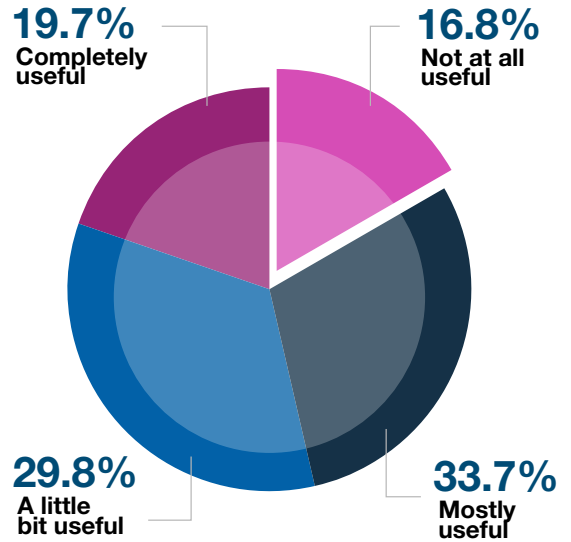
National Aggregates:

# Information and Awareness

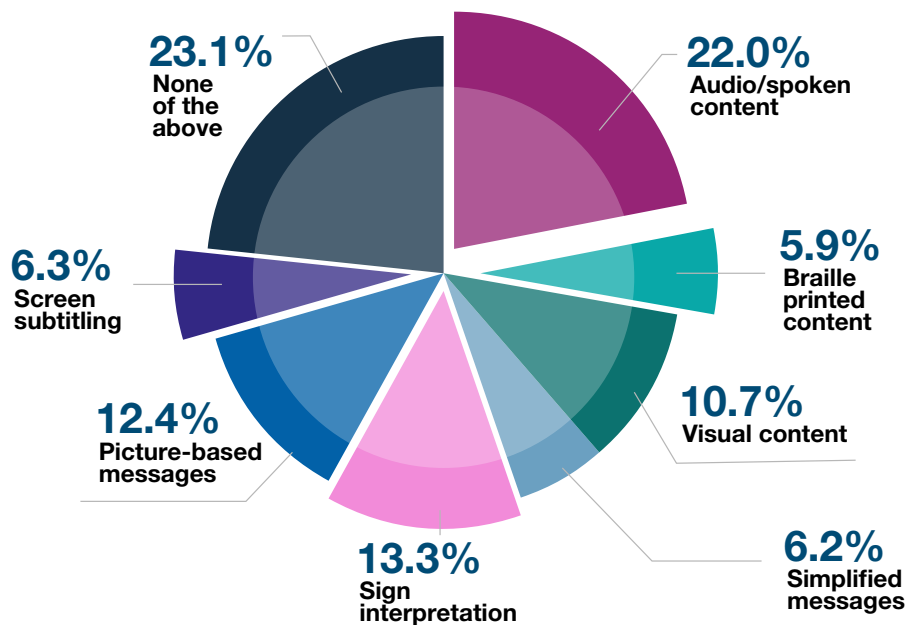
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?



Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?



## Budget Performance and Spending by State Ministries of Women Affairs (MoWA)

State	2022		2021		2020	
	Budget Performance (% of Budget Spent)	Spending Per Female Population by State MoWA (Naira)	Budget Performance (% of Budget Spent)	Spending Per Female Population by State MoWA (Naira)	Budget Performance (% of Budget Spent)	Spending Per Female Population by State MoWA (Naira)
Abia	49.5%	N99.2	56.6%	N108.1	41.9%	N88.9
Adamawa	30.2%	N58.7	36.7%	N48.7	25.3%	N60.1
Akwa Ibom	52.6%	N810.4	11.9%	N97.4	24.8%	N159.5
Anambra	31.9%	N87.5	62.1%	N174.1	53.0%	N12.9
Bauchi	89.0%	N98.7	84.0%	N110.1	51.7%	N47.3
Bayelsa	69.3%	N695.7	63.4%	N636.2	99.9%	N245.4
Benue	28.0%	N94.8	26.5%	N112.6	18.2%	N36.9
Borno	39.6%	N368	21.0%	N66.4	71.2%	N82.2
Cross River	1.5%	N7.2	6.8%	N34.3	0.1%	N0.9
Delta	108.4%	N585.2	100.0%	N207.9	100.0%	N169
Ebonyi	49.8%	N61	99.9%	N58.4	37.8%	N44.1
Edo	79.8%	N91.9	65.8%	N38.7	68.6%	N37.4
Ekiti	56.1%	N111.9	33.0%	N87	54.7%	N147.3
Enugu	36.8%	N57.4	93.3%	N95.7	37.0%	N49.3
Gombe	30.4%	N74.3	81.8%	N194.2	23.2%	N82.6
Imo	2.8%	N38.4	4.7%	N58.9	4.5%	N65
Jigawa	31.8%	N225.6	7.1%	N31.1	103.2%	N16.2
Kaduna	80.3%	N632.4	90.9%	N293.8	33.9%	N67.5
Kano	23.2%	N29.8	33.2%	N22	38.7%	N30.1
Katsina	56.2%	N175.7	29.2%	N33.9	55.8%	N62.3
Kebbi	35.7%	N209.1	37.5%	N213	13.6%	N42.3
Kogi	55.5%	N299.6	17.1%	N43.3	18.2%	N41.2
Kwara	34.9%	N26.4	71.7%	N73.8	78.5%	N100.9
Lagos	67.8%	N549.1	14.2%	N87	66.5%	N230.3
Nassarawa	81.4%	N326.2	37.8%	N97.9	82.7%	N71.5
Niger	31.5%	N283.3	25.8%	N203	105.1%	N105.9
Ogun	42.0%	N554.9	61.5%	N159.1	0.0%	NA
Ondo	36.3%	N142.5	63.5%	N125.4	40.4%	N71.2
Osun	36.6%	N69.8	86.4%	N239.2	98.8%	N48.1
Oyo	55.5%	N108.1	74.0%	N88.3	117.0%	N123.5
Plateau	33.4%	N34	11.8%	N51.3	36.6%	N35.6
Rivers	2.3%	N22.3	3.2%	N29.8	20.5%	N62.7
Sokoto	24.8%	N93	12.1%	N35.2	18.9%	N46.1
Taraba	44.6%	N1116.5	9.6%	N42.3	7.0%	N23.9
Yobe	31.3%	N71.6	56.5%	N60.6	61.8%	N52
Zamfara	18.4%	N16.2	15.4%	N48.3	10.0%	N59.1
<b>National Average</b>		<b>N231.3</b>		<b>N114.1</b>		<b>N72.8</b>



# Appreciating Our State Research Consultants (SRCs)

**WomaniTY**  
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GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



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