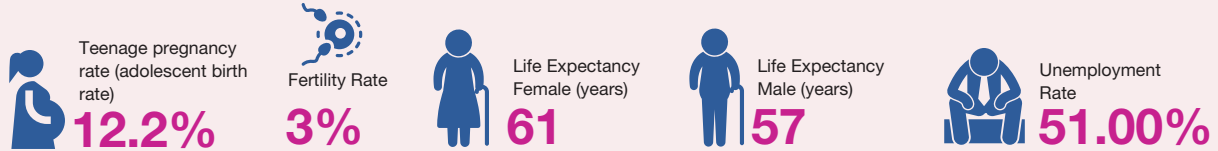
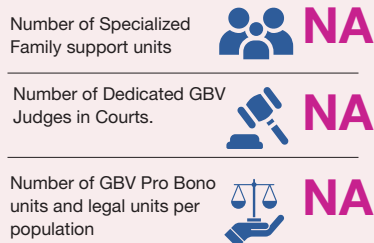


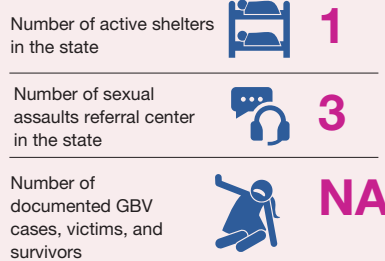
### State Context



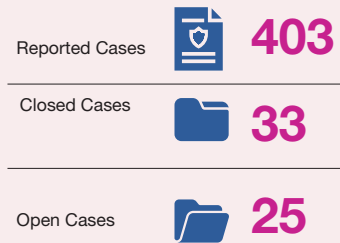
### Access to Legal Justice



### Support Services



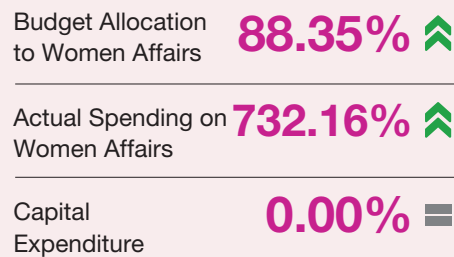
### GBV Cases



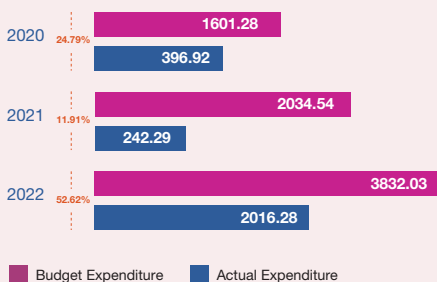
### Womaniy Index (GBV) Ranking (out of 36 States)



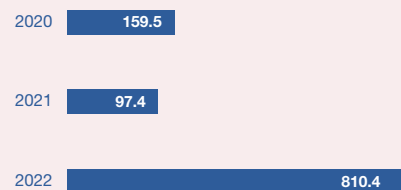
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### 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**



## 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?

**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?

**9%** Not at all useful  
**30%** A little bit useful  
**39%** Mostly useful  
**22%** 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
 <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	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	0.5
	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)	1.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	2.0