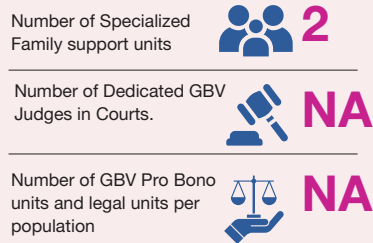


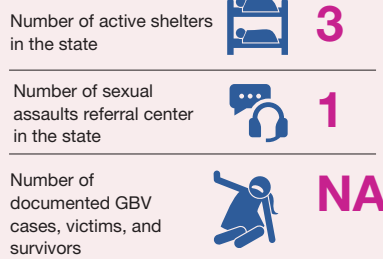
State Context



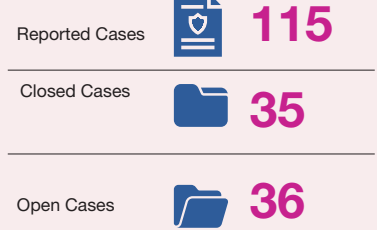
Access to Legal Justice



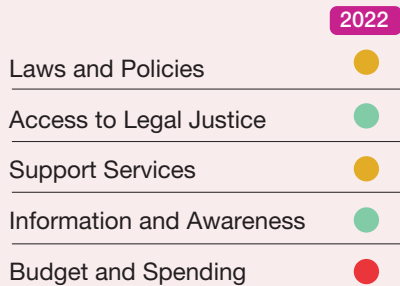
Support Services



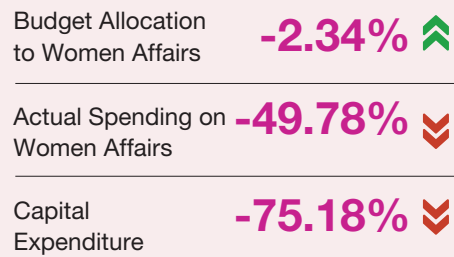
GBV Cases



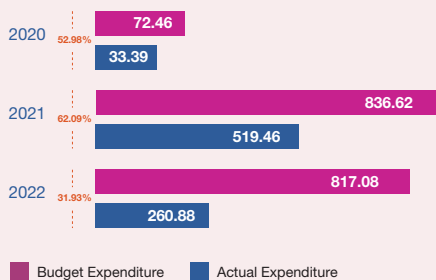
Womaniy Index (GBV) Ranking (out of 36 States)



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