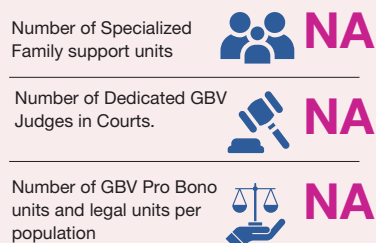


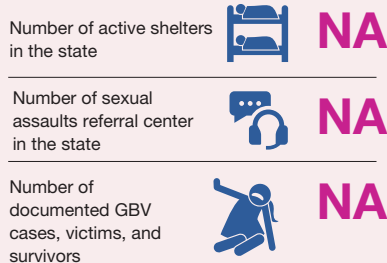
State Context



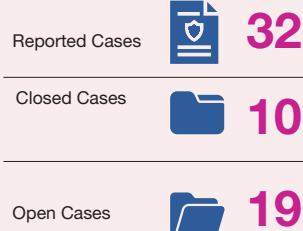
Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



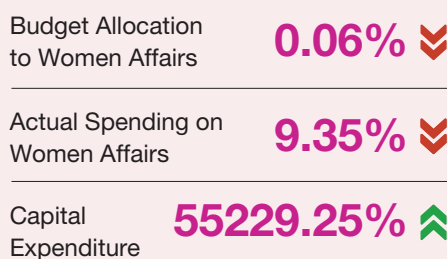
GBV Cases



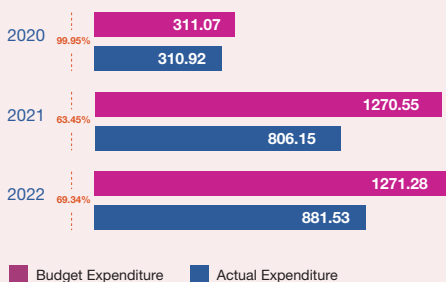
Womaniy Index (GBV) Ranking (out of 36 States)



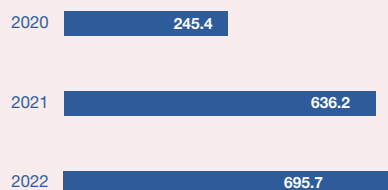
Year on Year Growth 2022







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 **71.8**
Yes 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 **16.5**
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?

73.3 **7.77** **18.5**
Yes No 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 **49.5**
Yes No
13.1
Not Sure

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

24.3 **40.8**
Not at all useful A little bit useful
17.9 **16.9**
Mostly useful Completely useful

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

51.5% **16.5%** **27.7%** **20.4%**
Audio/spoken content Braille printed content Visual content Screen subtitling
27.7% **28.2%** **13.1%** **26.7%**
Sign interpretation Picture-based messages Simplified messages None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 Laws and Policies	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
 Access to Legal Justice	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
 Support Services	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
 Information and Awareness	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
 Budget and Spending	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	1.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	1.0