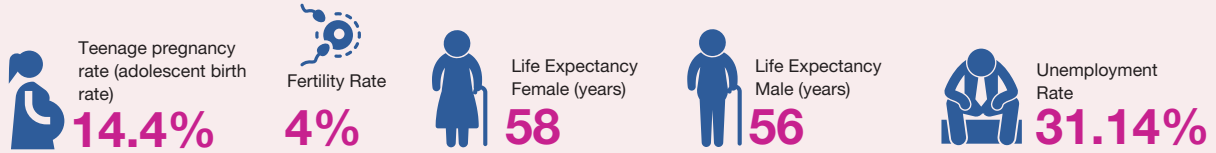
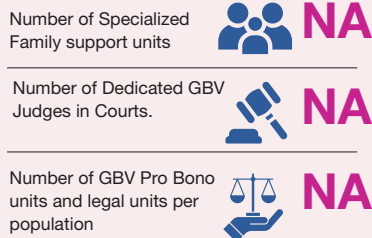


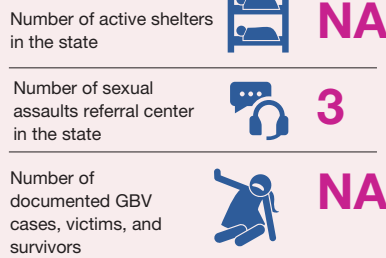
State Context



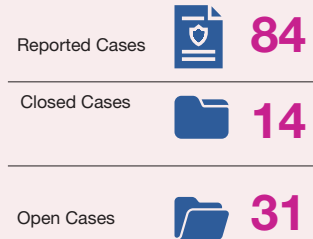
Access to Legal Justice



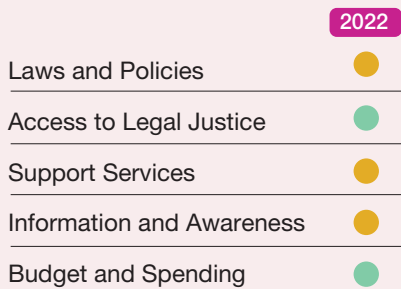
Support Services



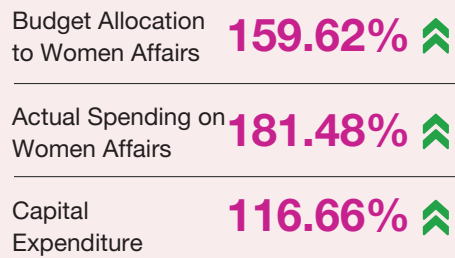
GBV Cases



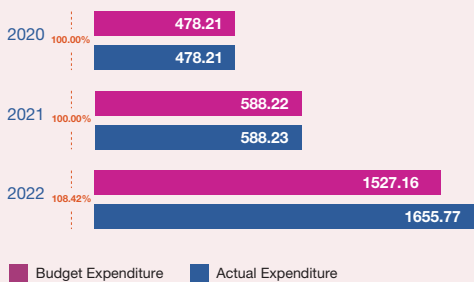
Womaniy Index (GBV) Ranking (out of 36 States)



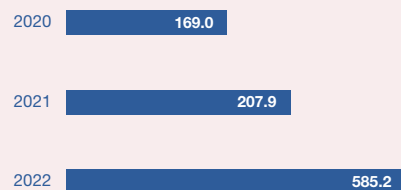
Year on Year Growth 2022




Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



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



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	28.9% Police/security pathway
2.89% Psychosocial/mental health 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