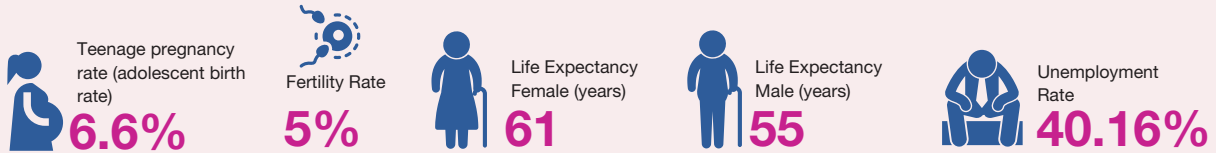
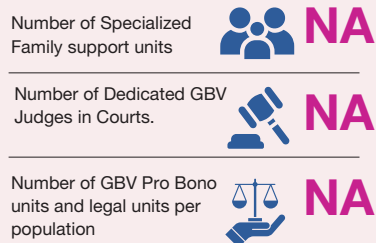


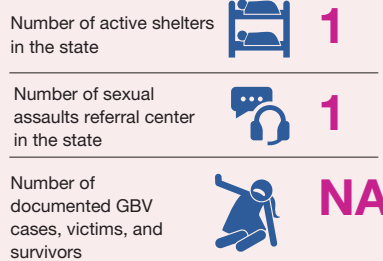
### State Context



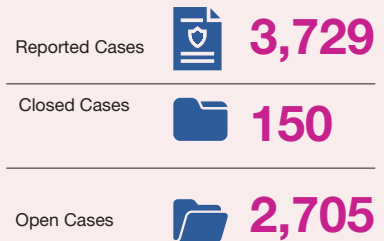
### Access to Legal Justice



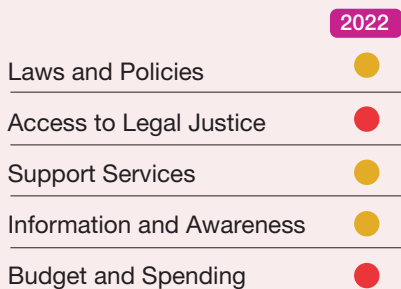
### Support Services



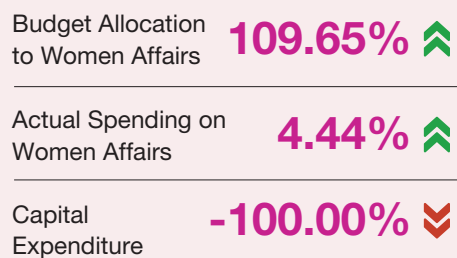
### GBV Cases



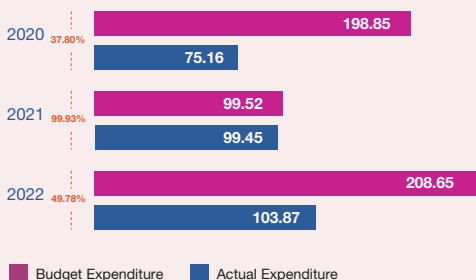
### Womaniy Index (GBV) Ranking (out of 36 States)



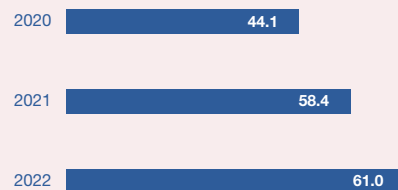
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### 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  
**42.3%** Mostly useful  
**18.5%** A little bit useful  
**15.4%** Completely useful

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

**43.1%** Audio/spoken content  
**49.2%** Sign interpretation  
**4.6%** Braille printed content  
**10%** Picture-based messages  
**5.4%** Visual content  
**10%** Simplified messages  
**2.3%** Screen subtitling  
**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