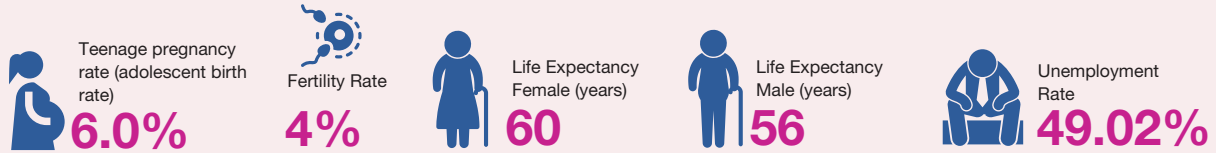
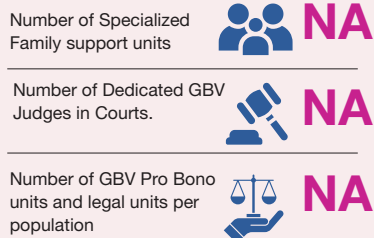


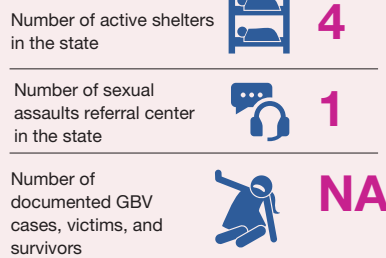
State Context



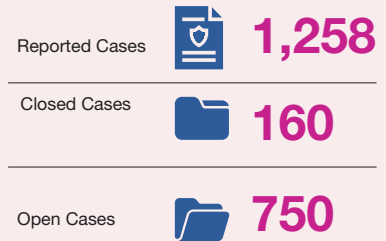
Access to Legal Justice



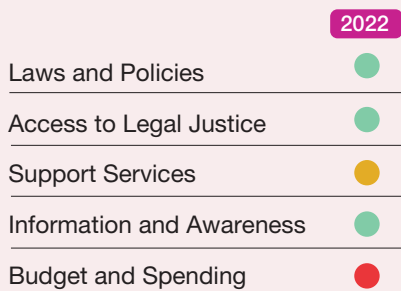
Support Services



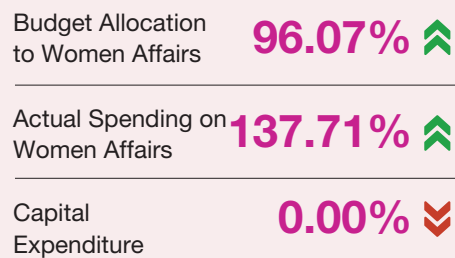
GBV Cases



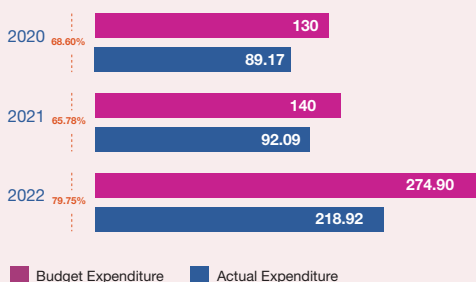
Womaniy Index (GBV) Ranking (out of 36 States)



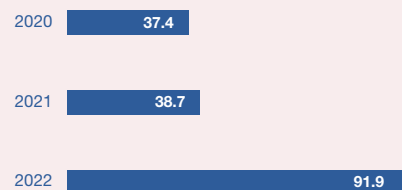
Year on Year Growth 2022







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 are a number of laws that prevent and respond to GBV in Edo State, while its VAPP Law expands the definition of rape in the parent VAPP Act. The GBV-related laws, however, need continuous review and strengthening.</p>	<p>There is need for continuous update and review of the VAPP law and all GBV-related laws.</p> <p>Ensure continuous sensitization, awareness, and outreaches in both urban, semi-urban, and rural communities on the existing GBV laws.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>There is a functional Family Support Unit at the State Police Command.</p> <p>There is legal assistance provided by the state to GBV survivors, but manpower is inadequate</p> <p>There is an effective witness protection for children.</p> <p>There is informal justice system at the community level in the state.</p>	<p>There should be Family Court in the three Senatorial Districts to prevent long-distance travel to the state capital.</p> <p>The government should adequately recruit lawyers to cater to the population of GBV victims/survivors in the state.</p> <p>There should be an effective witness protection for adults.</p> <p>There should be a collaboration between the informal justice and the formal justice system.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>There are four shelters and one Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) in the state.</p> <p>Poor and low awareness of the reporting and referral pathways in the State</p> <p>Some NGOs and CSOs support in areas of counselling, provide initial safe place and care to GBV victims/survivors.</p>	<p>There should be more shelters and SARCs in the state sufficient for the at-risk population in the state.</p> <p>GBV Centres should be located in different state-owned hospitals in the 18 LGAs in Edo State.</p> <p>Government should increase sensitisation and awareness on reporting and referral pathways in the state.</p> <p>For sustainability purposes, the government should take the lead on providing support services to GBV victims and survivors.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>The medium of sensitization and awareness on GBV in the state by government is usually radio and television jingles as well as billboards and poster campaigns.</p> <p>There is a film on GBV produced by the state titled: 'We will not be silent'.</p> <p>Sex Education is taught in some Secondary Schools.</p> <p>There is poor social inclusion as the IEC materials are not disability friendly.</p> <p>GBV sensitization is as accessible to PwDs as it is to other people in the communities.</p>	<p>There should be collaboration with necessary bodies for more sensitization and awareness programs and mediums.</p> <p>The state should continue to use such mediums and other creative ways to constantly create awareness on GBV.</p> <p>Comprehensive sex education should be inclusive in the school curriculum at all levels.</p> <p>All IEC materials should be disability friendly and accessible to persons with all forms of disability.</p>



Laws and Policies

Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?

64% **Yes** 36% **No** -- **Not Sure**

Do you agree that awareness of GBV laws and policies will prevent GBV?

55% **Strongly Agree** 31% **Agree** 12% **Indifference**
2% **Disagree** -- **Strongly Disagree**

Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

36% **Yes** 48% **No** 16% **Not Sure**

The GBV-related laws that exist in the state are Female Genital Mutilation Prohibition, Child's Right Act, and the VAPP Law which is also a sexual harassment law in the states' public and private institutions, frequently used as a guide for GBV cases. Notably, the Edo State VAPP Law expands the definition of rape from what was provided in the parent VAPP Act (2015). 64% of the survey populations are aware of the existence of these laws, however, 55% strongly agree that awareness prevents GBV.

Frantic effort has been made in revisiting and reforming some GBV laws. Customary laws within the state are strictly informal, the abolition gave recognition to state laws which are good practices and no assessment reviews have been done. Meanwhile, 48% of the survey population perceives customary/religious laws as not effective in preventing and responding to GBV in the state.

The reporting system is multiple-entry, and this can come from CSOs, NGOs, police, hospitals, vigilantes, whistle-blowers, good-spirited individuals, etc., while law enforcement is carried out by the police, and prosecution by the Ministry of Justice, which explains why 78% of the survey population prefers to seek the formal justice system.

There is an accessible legal assistance provided by the state for victims or survivors of GBV through the Ministry of Justice. There is an effective witness protection for children at the chambers. There is also a Gender Desk at the Police Command including dedicated GBV judges.

The courts do not follow the timeframes stated in the VAP Act, making dispensation of justice slow. There is informal justice system at the community level as it relates to women and children and the case end up with the traditional leaders. However, 45% of the survey

population has the notion that the informal justice system is not effective in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV.

The Edo State SARC is well-equipped with a 100-bed space, and the shelter and the SARC are said to provide support to GBV victims and survivors in areas of safety, dedicated care, medical, mental/therapeutic, legal etc.

The GBV reporting and referral pathways are the specialized medical healthcare provided by the SARC and the legal pathway provided by the state. Although there is the presence of a police unit in the SARC, one cannot guarantee police/security pathway.

69% of the survey populations 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.

The medical units have been instrumental to prosecuting cases of GBV as they conduct relevant medical and forensic examination in case of rape and violation, and provide support during investigation, trial and enforcement of court judgments, although there is a low level of prioritization, budgetary allocation and investments to support services in the state.

The State only uses radio and television jingle as well as billboards to sensitize the public on rape and GBV. There is also a film on GBV produced by the state titled: 'We will not be silent.' There is a memorandum of understanding with Kada Cinema to get the movie to a wider audience. Hence, 69% of the survey populations are aware of the availability of GBV information and education programs/materials in the state.



Access to Legal Justice

Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?

78% **Formal justice system** 13% **Informal justice system** 9% **I will not seek justice**

If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

57% **Yes** 22% **No** 7% **Not Sure**
14% **It Depends**

Do you think the informal justice systems in the state are effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV?

35% **Yes** 45% **No** 20% **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 **87%** No

Which GBV reporting and referral pathways are you aware of currently available in the state?

27% Specialized medical healthcare pathway

14% Psychosocial/mental health pathway

49% Police/security pathway

44% Legal pathway **33%** 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?

69% Yes **18%** No **12%** Not Sure

At the time of the research, Sex Education is taught in Basic Science and Home Economics in Junior Secondary and Biology in Senior Secondary Schools, although it is not comprehensive.

The sensitivity and inclusiveness of persons with disability in GBV awareness program and IEC materials is very poor and unsatisfactory.

With N130 million and N140 million, respectively, the state had the lowest allocation to its Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues in the region in 2020 and 2021. N274 million, the allocation for 2022, is the fifth highest in the region, higher than River State. Actual expenditure for 2020, 2021 and 2022 was N89.17 million, N92.09 million and N218.92 million respectively. The budget performance was 79.75% in 2022, 65.78% in 2021, and 68.60% in 2020. The state's per capita funding for the ministry was quite low; it ranked fifth in the region for 2020 at N37.4, and fourth for 2021 and 2022 at N38.7, and N91.9 respectively.



Human Angle Story

A shop owner was accused of raping a minor, he was arrested, detained, taken to court, and was found guilty, convicted, and imprisoned. The same act was perpetrated by a bricklayer to the house help of a businessman, justice did not prevail as the man was granted bail at the station. Another incidence was that of a lady cohabiting with her fiancé which resulted to the birth of two children; but she was abandoned by the man. After referral was made to social welfare, he was made to be providing monthly upkeep for the children. A two-month-old girl was circumcised and died in the process, and the woman who performed the circumcision was arrested but the issue was resolved at the police station.



Information and Awareness

Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?

69% Yes **29%** No **2%** Not Sure

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

17% Not at all useful **8%** A little bit useful **11%** Mostly useful **64%** Completely useful

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

19% Audio/spoken content **8%** Braille printed content **19%** Visual content **11%** Screen subtitling **37%** Sign interpretation **31%** Picture-based messages **15%** Simplified messages **58%** 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	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	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	1.0
	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	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	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
 <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	0.0