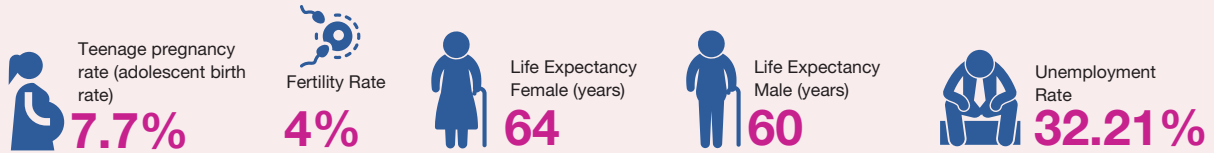
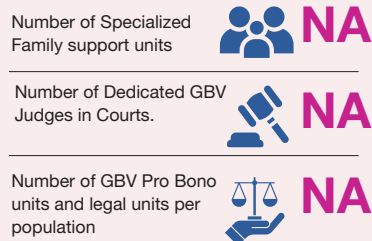


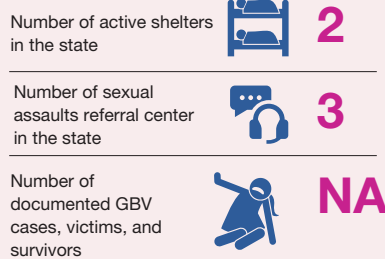
### State Context



### Access to Legal Justice



### Support Services



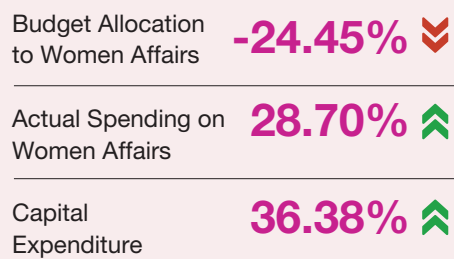
### GBV Cases



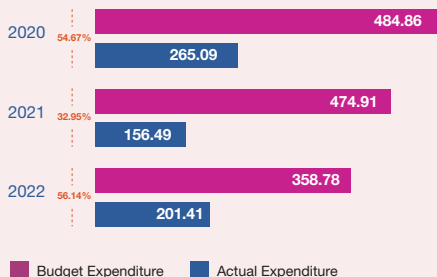
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



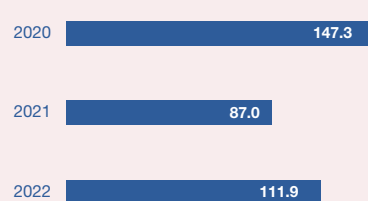
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### 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 Ekiti State Gender-Based Violence (Prohibition) Law, which was enacted in 2011 and amended in 2019, is robust, though it needs to be updated.</p> <p>Unsustained political will to implement GBV-related laws and policies may lead to a decline in GBV prevention and response.</p> <p>Inadequate funding to implement GBV laws and policies.</p> <p>Inaccessibility of GBV laws and policies by the public, including PwDs.</p>	<p>Review the VAPP Law to make provision for periodic (e.g., annual) report on implementation of the law.</p> <p>Engaging with policymakers, legislators, and community leaders to emphasize the importance of sustained efforts in GBV prevention and response.</p> <p>Increase budget allocation for the implementation of GBV laws and policies and collaborate with international organizations, NGOs, and private sector partners to secure additional funding for GBV prevention and response programs.</p> <p>Work on translating GBV laws and policies into local languages and formats accessible to PwDs.</p> <p>Conduct community outreach programs to educate the public about the GBV laws and policies, especially in rural areas.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>Apart from the protection order which must be heard within seven days, there is unspecified timeframe within which cases should be heard, and, by implication, slow judicial processes for other aspects of the GBV Law.</p> <p>There are no functional dedicated GBV courts and judges within the state.</p> <p>Patriarchy, culture, and religion are major challenges that hamper access to justice for GBV victims/survivors and their families</p>	<p>Specify timeframes for hearing cases under different aspects of the GBV Law to ensure prioritization and timely resolution of GBV cases.</p> <p>Collaborate with the judiciary and legal institutions to establish dedicated GBV courts and appoint judges with expertise in gender-based violence.</p> <p>Engage with religious and community leaders to foster understanding and support for legal interventions in GBV cases.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>Inadequate accessible support services to PwDs at all levels: medical, investigations, psychosocial, including counselling, shelter, etc.</p> <p>The SARCs and shelters presently have limited staff.</p> <p>The SARCs and shelters do not have any form of emergency transportation for victims of GBV.</p>	<p>Collaborate with disability advocacy groups to ensure inclusivity in the design and implementation of support services while advocating for the development of comprehensive support services tailored towards their needs.</p> <p>Increased funding and budgetary allocation is needed to strengthen and sustain the SARCs and shelters so as to, for instance, recruit and train permanent staff while creating avenues for step-down trainings to community volunteers.</p> <p>Ekiti State government should work with relevant stakeholders to establish emergency transportation, fueling and maintenance for the SARCs and shelters.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>Lack of adequate funding for information and awareness programmes and activities</p> <p>The few available IEC materials are mostly in English.</p> <p>Sensitization and awareness programs and activities are more at Ado-Ekiti, the state capital, to the disadvantage of the rural communities</p>	<p>Increase funding for information and awareness programs, emphasizing the importance of prevention through education.</p> <p>Explore partnership with media outlets, NGOs, and community organizations to amplify awareness efforts.</p> <p>Translate existing IEC materials into local languages, also making funding provisions for their wide distribution across both urban and, especially, rural areas of the state.</p> <p>Conduct targeted sensitization and awareness programs in rural communities to bridge the information gap through town halls meetings and collaborations with traditional and religious leaders within the communities.</p>



## Laws and Policies

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

86.0% **Yes** 14.0% **No** -- **Not Sure**

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

50.4% **Yes** 36.4% **No** 13.2% **Not Sure**

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

28.1% **Strongly Agree** 54.5% **Agree** 13.2% **Indifference**  
4.1% **Disagree** -- **Strongly Disagree**

In Ekiti State, various laws and policies exist to address GBV, though the frequency of their usage in prosecuting GBV cases vary among respondents. The Ekiti State GBV Law, 2011 was revised and re-enacted in 2019 to include the VAPP, 2015 Act. The law makes wide-ranging provisions, including specialized “Gender Courts” in each Senatorial Districts (s.26), establishment of SARCs (s.52), regular training of judicial and support officers (s.40), and the establishment of a GBV Support Fund (s.55). It, however, needs to be amended to make provision for periodic (e.g., annual) reports on implementation of the law. Other GBV-related laws in the state are the Ekiti Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Prohibition Law and the Widowhood Law of 2002. The perception of the surveyed population regarding the existence and effectiveness of these laws in addressing GBV shows an 86% level of awareness.

Sexual harassment laws exist within the public and private institutions in the state, such as the Ekiti State University (EKSU) Sexual Harassment Policy and that of Federal University Oye (FUOYE), but their frequency of usage in addressing GBV issues has not been well documented by these institutions. The state government, in 2019, developed a “Operation Keep Girls In School” policy, which bans the expulsion of girls from schools during and after pregnancy. 90% of key informants agreed that no favourable customary laws and policies exist to address GBV, while recognizing that cultural practices and patriarchy fuel GBV.

Customary laws and practices in the state are predominantly informal and can negatively impact the implementation of state laws and policies. The abolition of unfavourable customary laws in the state is seen as a positive move by most informants. Still, comprehensive assessments of customary laws and practices within the state are

yet to be carried out. The existing laws are occasionally revisited and reformed to guarantee the prevention and response to GBV, as evidenced by the eight-year gap between the original and revised versions of the Ekiti GBV Law.

In addressing GBV cases, the state has established both formal and informal reporting systems, engaging actors within the justice sector and law enforcement agencies. However, challenges arise as the attitudes of these state actors often pose difficulties for GBV survivors. Notably, key informant findings indicate that a significant number of GBV survivors have more trust in non-governmental organizations, such as FIDA and GRIP, to take up GBV cases for prosecution.

Within the state, legal aid services are available through pro-bono lawyers and state lawyers/ civil society organizations (CSOs). Despite this, challenges persist, with issues like the absence of witness protection programs hindering the effectiveness and accessibility of these services. Additionally, the timeframes set by the VAPP Act are inconsistently followed, and the lack of clear data on the durations between case mentions and judgments, as well as the delayed issuance of certified true copies of judgments, further complicates the legal process.

There are three SARCs in Ekiti State - one in each of the three Senatorial Districts: Ado-Ekiti (Central), Ikere-Ekiti (South), and Ikole, Ekiti (North). The SARCs are fully operated by the government under the supervision of the Ministry of Women Affairs, with active support from the Ministries of Health, Justice, and Education. It is a one-stop centre that comprises medical, psychosocial, legal, law enforcement, and outreach units in active partnership with NGOs working on GBV.

The Ekiti Transit Home, located in Ado-Ekiti,



## Access to Legal Justice

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

85.1% **Formal justice system** 11.6% **Informal justice system** 3.3% **I will not seek justice**

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

65.3% **Yes** 9.1% **No** 9.1% **Not Sure**  
16.5% **It Depends**

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

48.8% **Yes** 36.4% **No** 14.9% **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?

**69.4%** **30.6%**  
Yes No

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

**22.3%** **8.3%**  
Specialized medical healthcare pathway Psychosocial/mental health pathway

**76.0%** **57.9%** **14.0%**  
Police/security pathway 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?

**88.4%** **8.3%** **3.3%**  
Yes No Not Sure

is an established shelter fully operated by the government under the supervision of the Ministry of Women Affairs. It is managed by a matron with the support of social welfare officers, counsellors, and community health extension workers. It has a creche and a skill acquisition section where clients can learn skills and be supported through the GBV Survivors' Support Fund managed by the GBVMC as part of rebuilding their lives. 50% of the informants were aware of the actual address, and only 30% had been there physically. This is because it is only accessible through Women Affairs or SARCs due to the security of victims/survivors.

Despite the challenges posed by inadequate funding, there are existing GBV-related sensitization and awareness programs in the state. Through different platforms such as radio jingles, educational pamphlets, seminars, and radio and TV shows, these initiatives aim to educate the populace on GBV. Some are periodic, such as campaigns for the 16 days of Activism, as continuity depends on the availability of funds either from government or donor organizations.

Comprehensive sex education is part of the education curriculum in secondary schools and is implemented through projects like the Adolescent Girls' Initiative for Learning and Empowerment (AGILE) with funding support from the World Bank. Although 45% of the survey respondents indicated a lack of awareness of its existence, the research also reveals a gap in the curriculum in tertiary institutions.

Ekiti State witnessed a 28.7% boost in allocation from N156.49mn in 2021 to N201.42mn in 2022 for its Ministry of Women Affairs. This increase led to a modest rise in per capita from N87 to N111.9. However, these figures remain notably lower compared to counterparts in the South West region and

the national average of N256.1 and N231.3, respectively, for the 2022 fiscal year. Despite the increase, Ekiti State lags behind its peers, signalling the need for more substantial allocations to fortify support for women's initiatives within the state.



## Human Angle Story

A 14-year-old girl was sexually assaulted for over two years by her guardian (an uncle), a clergyman, and a university lecturer. She participated in a GBV school sensitization that emboldened her to make a report of the assault to her school counsellor, who brought her to the Ado SARC, where she was counselled, treated, and given legal advice. Medical intervention showed that the girl had experienced violent sex, though there was no direct proof as to when because of lack of fresh penetration. It was the girl's word against her uncle's, whom she lived with, being a child from a broken home. The Ado SARC immediately withdrew her from the abusive environment and referred the matter to the NSCDC for investigations.

The uncle was arrested, investigated, charged, and remanded for prosecution. He was granted bail after about two months in custody while prosecution continued. The university granted him leave of absence in line with the zero-tolerance policy of the Ekiti State Government, which all political office holders, public and civil servants, as well as the public should uphold. The girl's biological parents visited the SARC and said their daughter was a liar, and even if it were true that she was sexually abused by her uncle, they were not ready to prosecute their benefactor and requested for the case to be withdrawn. The girl has since been in the custody of the state government, and her education is unhindered. She is a boarder when school is in session and lives at the Shelter during the holidays. No member of her family has visited her since she came into government custody. Even though her uncle has been discharged on technical grounds, her family continues to distance themselves from her while the government continues to provide her with the needed support.



## Information and Awareness

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

**70.2%** **20.7%**  
Yes No  
**9.1%**  
Not Sure

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

**5.8%** **22.3%**  
Not at all useful A little bit useful  
**43.8%** **28.1%**  
Mostly useful Completely useful

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

**49.2%** **1.7%** **22.5%** **11.7%**  
Audio/spoken content Braille printed content Visual content Screen subtitling  
**15.8%** **16.7%** **10.0%** **40.8%**  
Sign interpretation Picture-based messages Simplified messages 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	1.0
	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	1.0
	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	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