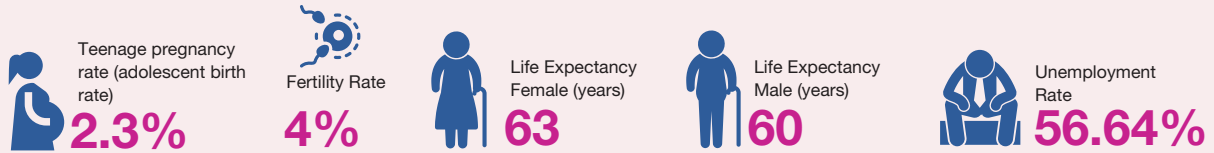
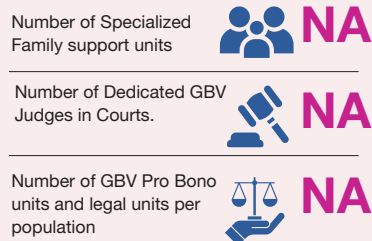


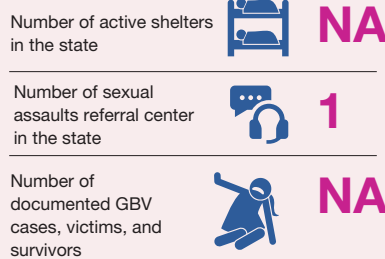
State Context



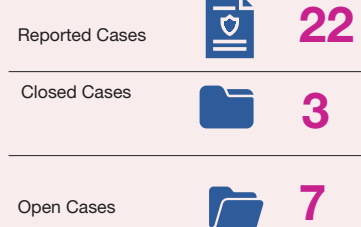
Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



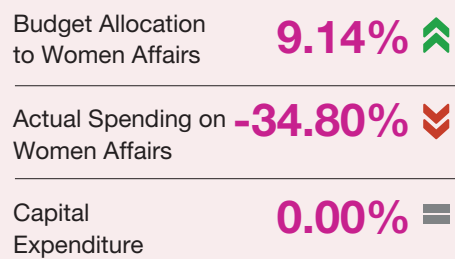
GBV Cases



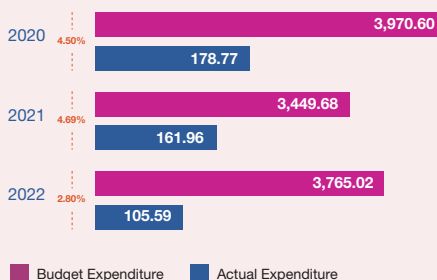
Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



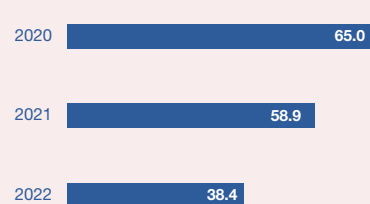
Year on Year Growth 2022




Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>Among other GBV-related laws in Imo State is the Imo State Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law, which, although it makes novel provisions, needs some amendments.</p>	<p>There should be enforcement of the laws.</p> <p>There should be speedy and adequate implementation of the law.</p> <p>Huge awareness programs and activities should be embarked on by both government and CSOs on the availability of the laws and policies.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>There are clear GBV reporting pathways in the state.</p> <p>There are no robust witness programs in the state.</p> <p>There is a family court; but there are no dedicated GBV judges.</p>	<p>Enhancement of reporting and other pathways making them available and affordable to victims and survivors.</p> <p>There should be provision of a robust 'Witness Protection' program.</p> <p>Provision of dedicated courts and judges for GBV cases.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>There is a recently commissioned SARC.</p> <p>The police and security reporting pathway is most accessed and known.</p> <p>There are gender and human rights desks in most security offices.</p>	<p>There should be provision of more SARCs.</p> <p>Sensitization on the availability of reporting and referral platforms.</p> <p>Capacity training for all officers and actors.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>Sex education is taught in secondary and tertiary institutions.</p> <p>IECs for the state are produced in partnership with organizations like UNFPA, UNICEF, USAID and CSOs.</p> <p>Only audios and visuals are inclusive for Persons with Disability in the GBV awareness programs.</p>	<p>Sex education should be included in the school curriculum.</p> <p>Awareness and sensitization programs should be intensified across parts of the state by both the government and CSOs.</p> <p>IEC materials should be sensitive and friendly to PwD.</p>



Laws and Policies

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

53% Yes 47% No -- Not Sure

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

30% Yes 50% No 20% Not Sure

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

42% Strongly Agree 43% Agree 10% Indifference 5% Disagree -- Strongly Disagree

The GBV-related laws in Imo State are the Imo State Female Genital Mutilation (Prohibition) Law, Imo State Widowhood (Protection) Law, Imo State Child's Right Law, and the Imo State Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law, which is also a sexual harassment law that exist in the states' public and private institutions regularly used to prosecute GBV issues.

The Imo State VAPP Law makes more GBV-related provisions such as sexual defamation as a form of online GBV (s.2); procurement of person for sexual exploitation (s.5), taking undue advantage of persons living with disability (s.8), deprivation of right to inheritance (s.15), sexual intimidation (s.20), posting of picture or video of sexual violence on the Internet (s.27), and posting nude pictures and videos of current and former partner (s.28). The law extends to a protection order to a third party where there are evidence that such person engaged in a behaviour amounting to SGBV against the victim/survivor (s.41), and made provision for an "Occupation Order" (s.42) mandating a respondent to vacate a matrimonial home or other specified home in the interest of the domestic violence victim and underage children. The law sets a 21-day timeframe after a complaint is brought under the law for the police to take necessary action.

53% of the survey populations are aware of the existence of laws that address GBV, and 43% agree that awareness of GBV laws will prevent GBV. Some of the laws were recently assented and have not been revisited and reformed. The customary laws in the state are strictly informal but, in most cases, they the laws relied on to address

GBV issues 50% of the survey population's opine that the customary laws/religious practices are effective in preventing and responding to GBV.

There are clear GBV reporting pathways in the state, but the Police is the most known, they work with other organizations and enforce the laws while MDAs and CSOs prosecute GBV perpetrators. This explains why 85% of the survey population prefer to seek formal justice. On legal aid services, the Ministry of Justice and FIDA sometimes provide pro-bono services, and this is done for indigent victims and persons with disabilities. There is no robust witness protection program, neither is there designated GBV judges in the state; but there are specialized Family Support Units in the Ministries of Justice, and Women Affairs. The informal justice systems in the state are championed by religious and traditional leaders, who handle GBV issues; but the effectiveness of the informal justice system in some communities has been waning because of injustice and nepotism. Besides, some cultural approaches perpetuate GBV; although 51% of the survey population are of the notion that the informal justice system are effective in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV.

The State recently commissioned a SARC which is not currently functional and has not admitted any victim or survivor since its launch. The state government has not made a significant investment in or budgetary allocation of funds to match her ostensible dedication to GBV support services.

The police and security pathways are



Access to Legal Justice

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

85% Formal justice system 13% Informal justice system 2% I will not seek justice

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

39% Yes 12% No 23% Not Sure 26% It Depends

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

24% Yes 25% No 51% 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?

10% Yes
90% No

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

14% Specialized medical healthcare pathway
15% Psychosocial/mental health pathway
65% Police/security pathway
41% Legal pathway
14% 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?

77% Yes
8% No
15% Not Sure

the most accessed and known reporting pathway in Imo State because of their presence across the state. There are gender and human rights desks in most security offices and station; and CSOs whose thematic areas include GBV seems to be in the middle of all the other pathways. They refer, counsel, follow-up, and ensure that most GBV cases are properly handled within reasonable time. Nevertheless, 77% of the survey population believes that the informal support systems, such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful in supporting GBV victims and survivors. The GBV-related sensitization and awareness programs in the state is quite low, as alluded to by 39% of the survey population. There is no sole state initiative or program to educate the public about GBV through, for instance, the production of IECs materials. These are often done in partnership with donor agencies such as, UNFPA, UNICEF, USAID, etc. Furthermore, the IEC materials are not sensitive and friendly to people living with disabilities, as only audio and visual medium are in existence. Sex Education is taught in both the secondary and tertiary institutions, although it faces lots of challenge from some secondary schools' instructors that frown at it.

Imo State witnessed a slight 9.14% boost in allocation from N3.45bn in 2021 to N3.77bn in 2022 for its Ministry of Women Affairs and Vulnerable Groups. The ministry faces difficulties with budget implementation and performance even with the state's excellent budgetary provisions for it. The actual expenditure for the three years were N178.79mn in 2020,

N161.96mn, and N105.60mn in 2022, while the performance metrics were 2.80%, 4.69% and 4.50% in 2022, 2021, and 2020 respectively. The state's per capita figures for the ministry is not encouraging; with N65.0 in 2020, N58.9 in 2021 and N38.4 in 2022. With the regional average figures at N52.0, N99.0. N68.7 in 2020, 2021 and 2022 respectively, the only year the ministry performed above the regional average was in the year 2020.



Human Angle Story

There was a case reported to Ministry of Women Affairs by a woman whose father asked her not to marry but stay home and bear children for him. The woman agreed but gave birth to a daughter. As a result of this, her uncles took the landed properties her father left for her. They visited and intervened, and in the end, she recovered all her properties.

A girl-child in secondary school, while returning from school, was constantly stalked by a man who succeeded in defiling her in an abandoned building and continued the affair till she became pregnant. The case was taken to the Family Court. The rapist was arrested and imprisoned, and the girl was taken care of till she was delivered of the baby.



Information and Awareness

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

39% Yes
39% No
22% Not Sure

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

24% Not at all useful
26% A little bit useful
34% Mostly useful
16% Completely useful

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

31% Audio/spoken content
4% Braille printed content
19% Visual content
5% Screen subtitling
22% Sign interpretation
26% Picture-based messages
8% Simplified messages
50% 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	0.5
	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	0.0
	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	0.0
	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)	0.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	0.0