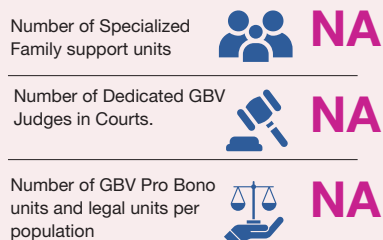


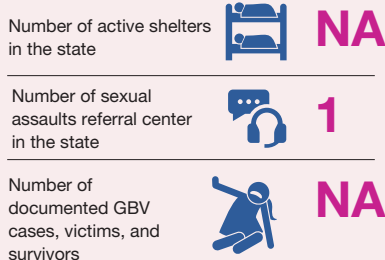
State Context



Access to Legal Justice



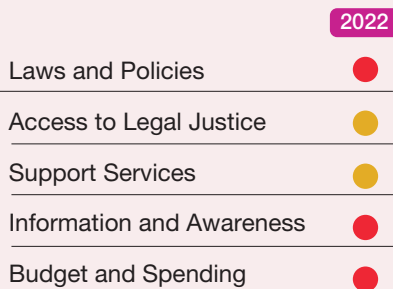
Support Services



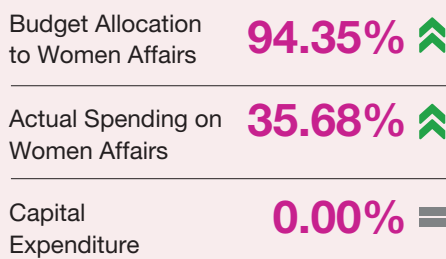
GBV Cases



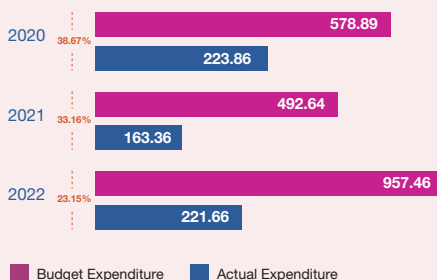
Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



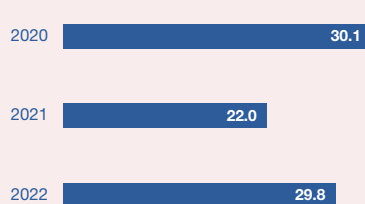
Year on Year Growth 2022






Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>Kano State is yet to adopt the VAPP Law. There exist legal frameworks that do not outrightly criminalize GBV and sometimes promote it.</p> <p>The Child Rights Act was recently (in June 2023) adopted in the state in form of the Child Protection Law.</p>	<p>The government should adopt the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act in the state.</p> <p>Review existing laws to criminalize GBV and guarantee GBV prevention and response</p> <p>Provide the necessary resources, including adequate budgetary allocation and the establishment of relevant mechanisms, to ensure the effective implementation and comprehensive enforcement of the Child Protection Law.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>Non-robust GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement system, championed by Hisbah</p> <p>Existence of Family Support Units, but no GBV desks in security agencies or dedicated GBV judges.</p> <p>Complex legal processes obstructing access to justice</p>	<p>Government to allocate funds to GBV enforcement and prosecution and revamp Hisbah.</p> <p>Government should make provision for dedicated GBV judges to promote speedy dispensation of justice.</p> <p>State to simplify legal processes and remove all bureaucracies that impede access to legal justice for GBV victims/survivors.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>Predominantly informal GBV support services skewed towards victims or survivors of sexual violence.</p> <p>Complex reporting and referral pathways and lack of professionalism from personnel in the police/security pathway.</p> <p>Insufficient support services infrastructure to cater to the population.</p>	<p>Government should allocate funds to GBV support services and take the lead in providing holistic support services to GBV survivors.</p> <p>Government to create more awareness on reporting and referral pathways, simplify and publicize the referral pathways, and constantly train law enforcement personnel on appropriate and professional GBV response.</p> <p>Government should establish and equip SARC in each Local Government Council to ensure easier accessibility for GBV victims/survivors.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>GBV information, education, and communication hampered by deeply entrenched cultural and social norms.</p> <p>GBV IEC initiatives are championed by NGOs.</p>	<p>Government should make annual budgetary provisions for the implementation of comprehensive GBV awareness campaigns and programs that are sensitive to the peculiarities of the state and widely publicize for all persons in the state.</p> <p>Government to assume more responsibility, and take the lead, in sensitizing the public on GBV, and GBV prevention and response.</p>



Laws and Policies

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

62.23% **Yes** 37.77% **No** -- **Not Sure**

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

69.93% **Yes** 25.87% **No** 4.20% **Not Sure**

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

47.55% **Strongly Agree** 38.46% **Agree** 2.10% **Indifference**
7.69% **Disagree** 4.19% **Strongly Disagree**

In Kano State, the legal framework for addressing GBV-related cases consists of the Administration of Criminal Justice Law, Penal Code Law, Sharia Law, and the recently adopted Child Protection Law. The most frequently applied laws are the Administration of Criminal Justice Law and Sharia Law. Unfortunately, the Penal Code Law inadequately addresses various aspects of gender-based violence. With a predominantly Muslim population, Sharia Law takes precedence over customary practices in prosecuting GBV cases in Kano State. Educational institutions have also implemented harassment policies to address GBV offenses. While efforts have been made to review these laws, the last significant review was that of the Penal Code Law in 1992, rendering some provisions outdated. Nonetheless, a significant portion of the surveyed population, aware of these laws, believe in their effectiveness in preventing and responding to GBV and find customary laws and religious practices effective contributors to GBV prevention and response.

In Kano State, Hisbah serves as the initial point of contact for domestic and GBV cases, offering moral guidance, mediation, and reconciliation services. Hisbah, in Islamic doctrine, is about enforcing “community morals” for the common good based on the Islamic injunction to “uphold good and forbid wrong for Muslims.” The Hisbah Corps in Kano State is a religious police force which, though lacking powers to arrest, enforces Sharia to Muslims in the state and, sometimes, non-Muslims.

Hisbah, which was formed by the state government in 2000, collaborates with agencies like NAPTIP, NSCDC, and human

rights organizations for prosecuting GBV cases. Hisbah also has a legal unit with pro-bono lawyers assisting less privileged victims. Legal aid is available but challenging to access, primarily provided by private practitioners and human rights activists. There is no official structure for witness protection, although Hisbah can detain offenders for up to 24 hours and verify witness identities to ensure their safety. NSCDC also assists with witness protection. Family Support Units (FSUs) exist but are not systemic. There are no GBV Desks in law enforcement agencies or dedicated GBV judges. Local entities like the “special marshal” or “yan-sa-kai” are prevalent and form part of the informal justice system, alongside traditional leaders and local vigilante groups. A significant portion of the surveyed population trusts the informal justice system in responding to GBV and is willing to seek justice from it, on par with the formal system.

Kano State has only one operational SARC, located in Shahuci within a hospital facility. It provides services such as medical examination, counselling, and legal support to survivors of sexual assault but is plagued by inefficiency, poor maintenance, and resource shortages. Survivors encounter long waiting times and complain of limited counselling, and inadequate medical facilities which limit their access to justice and recovery. The urban location of the SARC also poses difficulties for rural residents to access support. Although the legal pathway is the most recognized, the complex nature of reporting and referral further compounds the issue of accessing support. Survivors report frustration due to limited awareness of existing reporting and referral pathways,



Access to Legal Justice

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

48.25% **Formal justice system** 48.25% **Informal justice system** 3.50% **I will not seek justice**

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

79.72% **Yes** 7.69% **No** 2.10% **Not Sure**
10.50% **It Depends**

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

70.63% **Yes** 24.48% **No** 4.89% **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?

70.63% **29.37%**
Yes No

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

10.48% Specialized medical healthcare pathway	53.85% Police/security pathway
1.39% Psychosocial/mental health pathway	21.00% Legal pathway
	6.29% 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?

88.81% **4.89%** **6.29%**
Yes No Not Sure

indifferent law enforcement personnel, and a lack of confidentiality in handling reported cases. Informal support comes from NGOs, women's rights groups, and religious organizations, but they struggle to meet rising demand. While most of the surveyed population finds informal support valuable, it cannot replace an effective, well-funded formal system.

CITAD, a non-governmental organization based in Kano State, developed GBV Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials during a 2022 project. These materials were distributed to trained champions who further disseminated them in their communities to raise awareness about gender-based violence. Notably, Persons with Disability were included among the trained champions. Educational institutions like Bayero University, Kano (BUK) also play a role in GBV sensitization. BUK operates an online "whistle-blower platform" allowing students to anonymously report GBV incidents. Many in the surveyed population acknowledge the availability of GBV information and education programs in the state. Nevertheless, GBV remains a sensitive subject due to deeply rooted cultural and religious norms, necessitating a thoughtful approach to handling it.

The state government demonstrates its commitment to GBV response and prevention through the allocation of resources. The Ministry of Women Affairs budget shrunk by 14.9% from N578.90 million in 2020 to N492.64 million in 2021 and rose by 48.55% from N492.64 million in 2021 to N957.46 million in 2022. For the same period, however, the actual expenditure came to N221.66 million in 2022, N163.37 million in 2021, and

N223.86 million in 2020. The ministry's budget performance in 2022, 2021, and 2020 is dismal, with an execution rate of 38.67%, 33.16%, and 23.15%, respectively. The state has one of the lowest per capita spending for the Ministry of Women Affairs in the region: In 2020, it ranked sixth, in 2021, it ranked lowest at N22.0, and in 2022, it ranked sixth at N29.8. The state's numbers are significantly below the N46.2, N96.7, and N197.4 regional averages for 2020, 2021, and 2022, respectively.



Human Angle Story

Politics appears to wield considerable influence in obstructing the administration of justice in GBV cases. Those responsible for such cases involving public figures face the imminent threat of termination or having their efforts thwarted. One respondent conveyed an instance concerning a case her office supervised. The case involved a six-year-old girl who was a victim of abuse by her biological father. This case persisted for over two years without the perpetrator facing prosecution. Subsequently, he was charged with gross indecency, detained, and later released on bail. The Ministry of Justice committed to filing an appropriate charge and initiating proceedings in the high court, but before this could happen, the case file mysteriously disappeared.



Information and Awareness

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

60.84% **36.36%**
Yes No
2.80%
Not Sure

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

6.29% Not at all useful	27.97% A little bit useful
30.77% Mostly useful	34.97% Completely useful

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

64.34% Audio/spoken content	6.29% Braille printed content	13.29% Visual content	7.69% Screen subtitling
46.15% Sign interpretation	6.29% Picture-based messages	12.59% Simplified messages	16.78% None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 Laws and Policies	Existence of State laws that criminalize the GBV	0.5
	Quality of State VAPP Laws	0.0
	Existence and usage of customary and religious laws and policies that criminalizes GBV	0.0
	Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period	0.0
 Access to Legal Justice	Available system of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement	0.5
	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
 Support Services	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	0.5
 Information and Awareness	Availability and widely disseminated GBV IECs materials	0.5
	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	0.5
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	0.5
 Budget and Spending	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	0.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	0.0