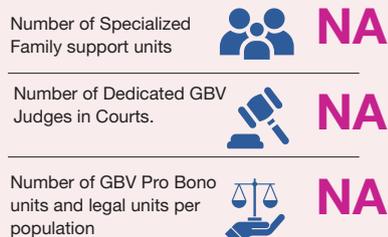


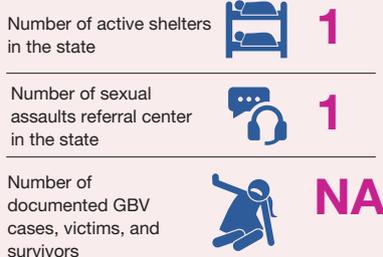
State Context



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



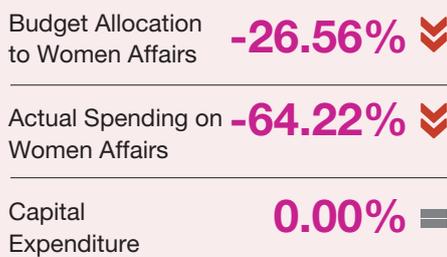
GBV Cases



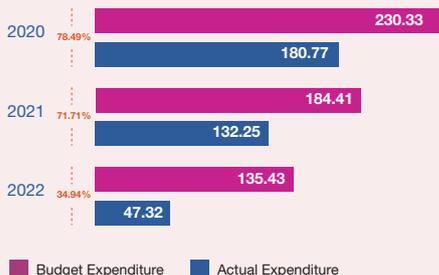
Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



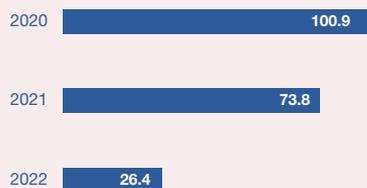
Year on Year Growth 2022



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 most common GBV-related laws are VAPP and Child Right laws.</p> <p>Absence of budgetary allocation to VAPP law and relevant ministries hinder its implementation and effectiveness in preventing and responding to GBV.</p> <p>There is no adequate data on GBV incidence in the state.</p>	<p>The GBV-related laws should be reformed and the reviewed VAPP should be passed into law.</p> <p>There should be specific budgetary allocation to GBV and relevant ministries in the VAPP law.</p> <p>Establish GBV Secretariat to, among other functions, collect and collate and analyze data on GBV incidence and prevalence in the state.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>The state doesn't have specialized and exclusive SGBV or GBV Courts and dedicated SGBV or GBV Judges.</p> <p>State provides legal assistance but there are no robust witness protection programs in the state.</p> <p>Larger proportion of Kwarans are unaware of FSUs and GBV-designated desks in Police Commands.</p>	<p>Establish specialized and exclusive SGBV or GBV Courts with dedicated SGBV or GBV Judges</p> <p>Develop robust witness protection programs to boost victim and witness involvement in the criminal process.</p> <p>Publicize across all the state the availability of FSUs and GBV desks in Police Commands.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>There is only one active Shelter and one functional SARC in the state.</p> <p>No budgetary allocation to support services. GBV victims/survivors pay their bills and, in most cases, find it difficult to raise funds.</p> <p>Many Kwarans are not aware of the existing Shelter and SARC in the state.</p>	<p>More Shelters and SARCs should be established, staffed, and equipped - at least one per LGA.</p> <p>Prioritize and fund support services so as to provide wide-ranging support services to GBV victims/survivors, including free medical and mental health assessments and supports.</p> <p>Sensitize Kwarans on the functions and location of Shelters and SARCs.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>GBV-related laws are not available in multiple local dialects, which hinder easy understanding.</p> <p>No wide coverage of sex education in secondary schools and tertiary institutions.</p> <p>Sensitization and awareness programs on GBV are not frequent, PwDs-friendly, and many are not aware of their legal rights.</p>	<p>Translate GBV-related laws into different local dialects and publicize them across all communities in the state.</p> <p>Comprehensive sex-related topics should be incorporated in the school curriculum.</p> <p>Carry out more GBV sensitization and awareness programs which are PwDs-friendly, while ensuring wide education of the society of their legal rights.</p>



Laws and Policies

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

53.33% **Yes** 46.67% **No** -- **Not Sure**

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

70.83% **Yes** 15% **No** 14.17% **Not Sure**

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

48.33% **Strongly Agree** 49.17% **Agree** 0.83% **Indifference**
0.83% **Disagree** 0.83% **Strongly Disagree**

Gender-based violence remains a widespread occurrence globally, and different laws and policies have been put in place by countries worldwide to eradicate it. The GBV-related laws in Kwara State are formal and have not been revisited recently. These laws are the Administration of Criminal Justice Law, VAPP Law, Child Rights Law, Penal Code Law, and Married Woman Property Law. The VAPP Law, however, needs some amendments such as codifying the offence of “trafficking” as an offence beyond just defining it, and specifying the body that should administer the Law, which, presumably, is also the “body” referred to in s.44 that is vested with the enforcement of the Law.

Meanwhile, just 54% of the population are aware of the laws, especially the VAPP and Child Rights Laws, which are mostly used to prosecute GBV-related cases in the state. These formal laws override the customary laws, even though 70.83% of the surveyed respondents believe that customary laws would prevent GBV in the state. An overwhelming segment of the population (98%) are confident that existing laws and policies would prevent GBV.

The Police and Civil Defence support the fight against GBV by identifying, deterring, arresting, investigating, and punishing people involved in GBV. The formal reporting pathways (Legal, Law Enforcement, Security, and Ministries) are preferable, as 95% of the respondents indicated. When a case is reported in any of the paths, the GBV Desks in

the Police/Civil Defence commands commence investigation by arresting or inviting the perpetrator, after which the case is transferred to the GBV Desk at the Ministry of Justice for prosecution. Though the witness protection system is weak, the legal aid services, including services provided by FIDA, are accessible to the victims/survivors and, in most cases, judgements are secured within the stipulated timeframes. If GBV Courts are established in the state with dedicated Judges on GBV, more convictions will be secured within the stipulated timeframe.

Kwara State has one Shelter and one SARC but limited budgetary allocation/ investments to support them. GLOHWOC funds the Shelter and pays the worker’s salary. The Shelter has 20+ beddings and provides most of the survivors’ needs, including food, clothing, vocational training, and medical support. However, the location of the Shelter in a rural area makes it unattractive to the victims/ survivors as people have to travel a long distance to get there. The SARC is a single-room office furnished by the Hadis Foundation and located within the General Hospital. The centre provides first aid and guides/counsels GBV victims/survivors. Also, the centre arranges for the medical test of victims/survivors and uses the results in prosecuting GBV cases. There is a clear GBV reporting and referral pathways in the state. All cases reported at the SARC are referred to the Ministry of Women Affairs or law enforcement agencies, from which the Ministry of Justice takes over and files the case in court for prosecution. Also, that all GBV



Access to Legal Justice

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

95% **Formal justice system** 4.17% **Informal justice system** 0.83% **I will not seek justice**

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

66.67% **Yes** 9.17% **No** 4.17% **Not Sure**
20% **It Depends**

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

15% **Yes** 65.83% **No** 19.17% **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?

35.83% Yes
64.17% No

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

20.83% Specialized medical healthcare pathway
15% Psychosocial/mental health pathway
97.5% Police/security pathway
51.67% Legal pathway
1.67% 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?

16.67% Yes
61.67% No
21.67% Not Sure

cases in the state are monitored by the stakeholders, lending credence to fact that 62% of the respondents downplayed the role of informal support systems in GBV prevention and response in the state.

The state and stakeholders use different media to run GBV-related sensitisation and awareness programs on GBV prevention and response. These include radio jingles, educative pamphlets (flyers, posters, and stickers), television programs, and campaigns (market, streets, religious centres, etc). This is supported by the fact that 70.83% of the respondents indicated knowledge about the state's GBV information/education programs/materials. The available GBV-related sensitisation and awareness programs being currently run are somewhat sensitive to the needs of PwDs, including radio jingles/programs and sign interpretation. Nonetheless, there is more to do to broaden access of the materials to include persons with disabilities (PwD). More must be done to incorporate sex education in the education curriculum because sex education-related topics are only taught under Civic Education.

The Ministry of Women, Children Affairs and Social Welfare budget declined gradually from 2020 to 2022, with performance statistics revealing that 78.49%, 71.71%, and 34.94% of the budget was spent in 2020, 2021, and 2022, respectively. Out of the N230.33 million budgeted for 2020, the Ministry's total spending on personnel, overhead, and capital stood at N99.66m, N32.18

million and N48.94 million respectively. The budget decreased to N184.42 million in 2021. Meanwhile, N103.03 million and N29.23 million were spent on personnel and overhead expenses. In 2022, the budget and actual spending dropped to N135.44 million and N47.32 million respectively. N19.36 million was spent on personnel, N25.96 million on overhead, and N2 million on capital projects.



Human Angle Story

A child's forced marriage by her father prompted the school's Principal and Counsellor to involve the FIDA. The father defended his actions under Sharia law, but FIDA cited the Child's Right Law and insisted that the child's welfare comes first. The case, with FIDA as a witness, is now in court. Also, a woman with four children remarried after disclosing her past and resigned from her job per her new husband's demand. She invested her gratuity into his business. The man built a house with her money and later threatened divorce amid disputes. Seeking justice, they involved the Police and the Ministry of Justice. The Magistrate Court took the case despite jurisdiction issues. The man later apologised and gave the woman her house and compensation before leaving the marriage.



Information and Awareness

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

70.83% Yes
19.17% No
10% Not Sure

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

16.67% Not at all useful
27.5% A little bit useful
34.17% Mostly useful
21.67% Completely useful

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

75% Audio/spoken content
5.83% Braille printed content
13.33% Visual content
1.67% Screen subtitling
7.5% Sign interpretation
34.17% Picture-based messages
9.17% Simplified messages
20.83% None of the above

Index	Indicators	Result Justification
 Laws and Policies	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
 Access to Legal Justice	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	0.0
 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	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
 Information and Awareness	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	0.5
	Equally accessible GBV IEC materials especially for PWDs and those in remote or rural communities	0.0
 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