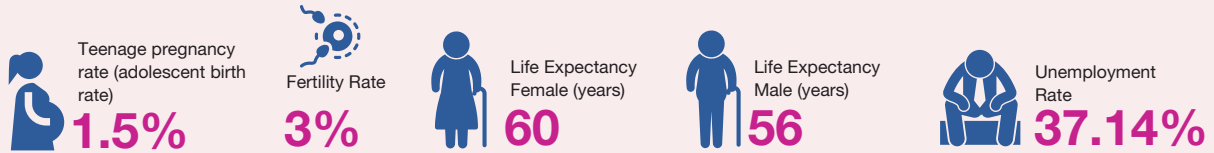
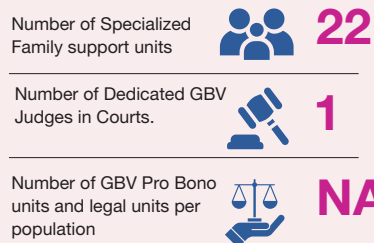


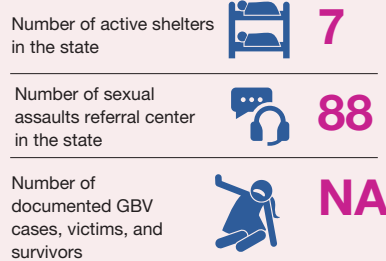
State Context



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



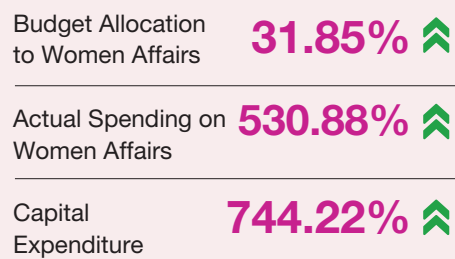
GBV Cases



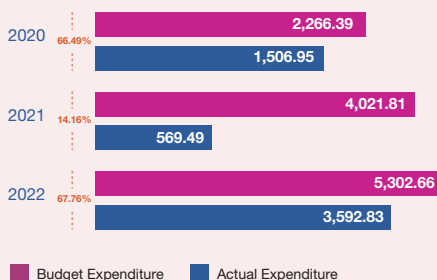
Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



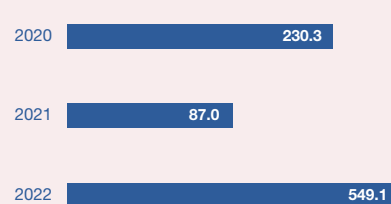
Year on Year Growth 2022



Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N

Indicators

Key Findings

Recommendations

1



Laws and Policies

The laws are voluminous, which also contributes to the inadequacy in the spread of awareness of the laws across the state.

There are no provisions for forceful ejection from the home, economic abuse, isolation, spousal battery, etc. under the Domestic Violence (DV) Law.

Lack of outright and distinct criminalization of offenses involving harmful traditional practices like female genital mutilation as provided for in the federal VAPP Law.

Legal experts, policymakers, and advocacy groups should collaborate to create a comprehensive review and simplification of existing GBV laws by identifying and removing the redundant or overly complex provisions in the laws. There should also be production and dissemination of simplified versions of GBV laws.

The state should make amendments to the existing legislation to broaden its scope and effectiveness through the inclusion of provisions in the DV Law that explicitly criminalize and address these issues.

Lawmakers need to ensure that harmful traditional practices like female genital mutilation are explicitly criminalized under the VAPP Law, providing clear legal consequences for such offenses. Also, there is need to initiate and support awareness campaigns to educate the public about the key provisions of the DV Law and the VAPP Law.

2



Access to Legal Justice

There is limited data on police responses to SGBV.

The Domestic and Sexual Violence (DSV) Courts are not sufficient for Lagos' large population.

Limited provisions of accessibility for PwDs to the family support units in the state

The SGBV response laws should be reviewed to make it mandatory for periodic monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of police response to SGBV.

There is a need to strengthen the capacity of the existing criminal courts to adjudicate on GBV matters and improve funding for the creation of such courts.

LASODA and other SGBV-focused government agencies should be supported to have a Disability Desk in each LGA and LCDA. To aid PWD GBV survivors and victims access the justice delivery system

3



Support Services

There are insufficient shelters and professional counsellors in all the existing shelters.

Most government SGBV agencies are short-staffed with the staff available in need of continuous training to respond effectively to the changing dynamics of SGBV.

There is a need for improved funding for more shelters to respond to the survivors' housing needs. There is also a need for trained professionals to provide counselling in the shelters.

Lagos State needs to recognize the importance of adequate staffing, allocate adequate funding for recruitment of more trained professionals, and provide training programs for the existing personnel to keep them updated with the evolving dynamics of GBV.

4



Information and Awareness

IEC materials are not disseminated widely enough for underserved groups and marginalized communities.

There is a dearth of IEC materials and programs for PwDs.

Frequent awareness programs for the entire society with increased IEC materials. SGBV should be given the same attention for its prevention and response as that of COVID-19.

There is a need for increased awareness of GBV in the state with the provision of funding to develop suitable competent



Laws and Policies

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

72.4% Yes
27.0% No
0.7% Not Sure

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

27.6% Yes
63.8% No
8.6% Not Sure

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

57.2% Strongly Agree
30.3% Agree
9.2% Indifference
0.7% Disagree
2.6% Strongly Disagree

Lagos State, as the centre of excellence, is not lagging when it comes to laws and policies that criminalise GBV. Some of the state's laws are the Protection Against Domestic Violence Law, 2007; Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015; and the Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency Law 2021. The Domestic Violence (DV) Law, among others, makes provision for a Sex Offenders Register and establishes the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA). Among others, the DSVA has a "Mandated Reporter Manual" which provides guidance on the state government's requirement that certain persons report to the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice any case of suspected child abuse, molestation, or neglect.

Lagos State has rules and policies that guides against GBV, such as the Lagos State Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy of 2016, the Family Court of Lagos State (Civil Procedure) Rules, 2012, and the Lagos State Special Peoples' Law, 2011 which made Lagos State the first state in Nigeria to pass a Disability Protection Law with a designated Agency to protect PwDs from SGBV. However, the DV Law needs to be amended to make provision for annual reporting on domestic violence, as well as a clause that specifically states the body to keep the Sex Offenders' Register and implements the Law which, by way of its activities, is the Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA).

The state has recorded efforts to strengthen some of its GBV-related laws within the last four years to reflect current realities with frequent amendments and reviews. The Criminal Law of Lagos State (CLL) has been undergoing review for the past four years by the Lagos State Ministry of Justice, while the Child's Right Law of Lagos State (CRL) has also been undergoing review for the past two years by the Lagos State Ministry of Youths and Social Development. The Lagos State Domestic Violence Law is also being reviewed by the DSVA and the Lagos State Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation in partnership with the Law Reform Commission and UNFPA.

There are no documented religious and traditional laws in response to SGBV in the state, but religious organisations like the Christian Council

of Nigeria (CCN) and NASFAT have signed pacts with international organisations like UNICEF and other UN agencies with strong partnerships with the DSVA of Lagos State to respond to SGBV. Both religious organisations have SGBV response teams and contact telephone numbers for their members to call. However, any cases received by these organisations are escalated to DSVA for professional service intervention. Also, DSVA is in strong engagement with traditional and community leaders. The Agency representatives conduct periodic visits to palaces to train traditional rulers on the dynamics of SGBV and engage them to know the limits of the informal justice sector to mediation. They attend mediation sessions in the palace to ensure cases are cascaded to the agency to facilitate access to justice.

The Domestic and Sexual Violence Unified Response Protocol and Referral Pathway (URPRP) 2021 was signed by relevant agencies. The Protocol is the first of its kind, being a pronouncement on Lagos State's government's commitment to eradicate SGBV. Lagos State, in its efforts to address GBV, records a Domestic and Special Offences Court and about 22 Family Support Units within the police, with each having designated contact numbers through which victims can call in, and the cases are documented with the police, who will conduct their investigations, including medical treatment and evaluation and forensic interviews for cases involving children.

The DSVA, OPD, CMC, FIDA, AWLA, NBA, and all the aforementioned agencies render pro-bono legal services to victims. The government has also established a Domestic Violence Trust Fund as provided by the DSVA Law to address the cost of police investigations of SGBV cases. The DSVA is in strong collaboration with traditional rulers, which ensures that cases reported to traditional institutions are cascaded to the agency. The agency conducts periodic SGBV-informed training for the traditional rulers and participates in mediation sessions on cases brought to the Obas' palaces. This has ensured that cases reported in the informal justice system are eventually ploughed into the formal justice system.

Lagos State records seven active shelters in the



Access to Legal Justice

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

80.3% Formal justice system
9.2% Informal justice system
10.5% I will not seek justice

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

42.1% Yes
21.1% No
20.4% Not Sure
16.4% It Depends

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

11.8% Yes
71.1% No
17.1% 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?

25.0% Yes
75.0% No

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

39.5% Specialized medical healthcare pathway	67.8% Police/security pathway	
23.0% Psychosocial/mental health pathway	53.3% Legal pathway	8.6% 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?

60.7% Yes
26.0% No
13.3% Not Sure

state for adults. Six of the shelters are owned by NGOs, while the newly commissioned "EKO HAVEN" is owned by DSVA. The Cece Yara Foundation also has a children's shelter, with which it provides housing support and advocacy for children who have been sexually abused or at risk alongside their non-offending families. The shelter is the state government's prompt response to the burgeoning demand, ensuring the preservation of life, safety, stability, empowerment, and subsequently the reintegration of survivors back into society.

With regards to active SARCs in the states, 57 of the over 300 Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs), 26 General Hospitals, Federal Medical Center (FMC), Mirabel Center, WARIF, the Cece Yara Foundation, and Idera SARC are present. These are available in all the LGAs, which makes them very accessible to all. The services rendered include medical and psychosocial support, collection, and preservation of evidence. The state has a Domestic Violence Trust Fund for high-risk survivors, i.e., survivors of incest, destitute victims, and public interest cases, with which it gives grants to survivors, including grants for accommodation, scholarships, and medical and business grants. In 2022, the government gave grants to 160 high-risk survivors, ranking between N250,000 to N400,000. The government funded the cost of investigating 122 cases in 2022, which were later charged to the court.

The state employs various sensitization and awareness programs related to GBV. Various organisations use IEC materials, social media, and toll-free hotlines to create public awareness of GBV issues. One approach includes the use of town hall meetings by the Lagos State Government through DSVA to educate the public on how to seek justice and the negative effects of GBV. The state's education curriculum includes sex education, implemented as a co-curriculum under Family Life and Health Education (FLHE) by Lagos State Public Schools, with the aim to mitigate the incidence of child sexual abuse (CSA). The MOH provides health programs in primary and secondary schools to educate on issues such as nutrition and sexual health. IEC materials for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) are being

developed in collaboration with LASODA to ensure inclusivity in the fight against GBV.

Over three years, Lagos State allocated a cumulative N5.67 billion to its Ministry of Women Affairs and poverty alleviation, surpassing the total disbursed by its South Western counterparts in 2022. With a female population of 6.5 million, Lagos ranked second in per capita allocation at N549.1, exceeding regional and national averages of N256.1 and N231.3, respectively, in 2022. Notably, Lagos State's allocation to the ministry surged from N569.5 million in 2021 to a staggering N3.59 billion in 2022, marking a remarkable 531% increase year-on-year, reflecting a robust commitment to enhancing support for women's initiatives.



Human Angle Story

A tragic human story emerged in the state involving a 14-year-old autistic girl. The young girl, who had limited speech, was horrifically defiled, and impregnated. In order to bring the perpetrator to justice, a sign language interpreter was called in to provide the necessary support for the investigation. This specialist's involvement became pivotal in identifying the offender. Through their tireless efforts and persistent questioning, the girl was able to identify her abuser - a young male adult who was, shockingly, a neighbour. This disturbing event shed light on the extent of abuse within the community, especially of PwDs, and highlighted the importance of developing comprehensive and inclusive systems of support, referrals, prevention, and justice for GBV victims.



Information and Awareness

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

57.9% Yes
33.6% No
8.6% Not Sure

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

28.9% Not at all useful	14.5% A little bit useful
39.5% Mostly useful	17.1% Completely useful

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

-- Audio/spoken content	-- Braille printed content	-- Visual content	-- Screen subtitles
-- Sign interpretation	-- Picture-based messages	-- Simplified messages	-- 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	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
 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	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	1.0
 Support Services	Availability of at least one active shelter in each local government in a state in the courts	1.0
	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
 Information and Awareness	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
 Budget and Spending	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	1.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	1.0