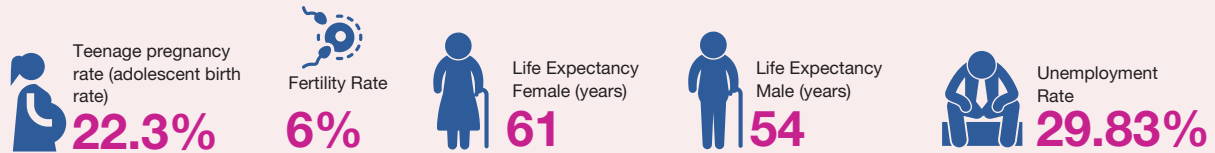
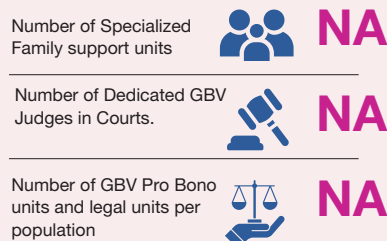


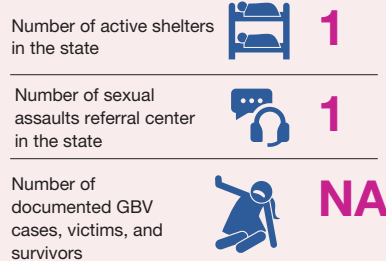
State Context



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



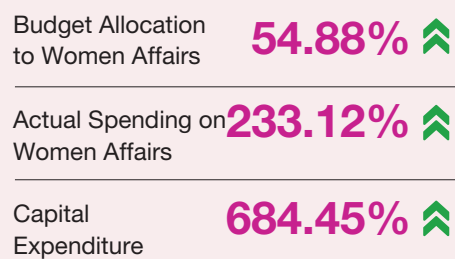
GBV Cases



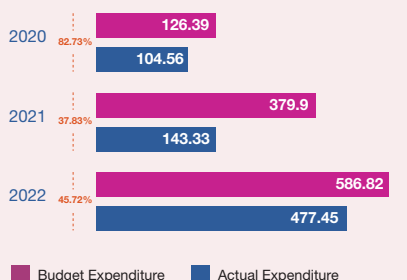
Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



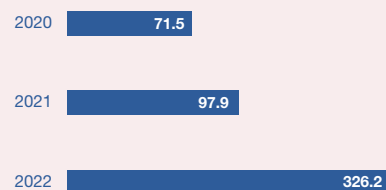
Year on Year Growth 2022







Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



| S/N | Indicators | Key Findings | Recommendations |
|-----|--|--|--|
| 1 |  <p>Laws and Policies</p> | <p>Varying levels of knowledge and awareness of existing GBV laws and policies across different local governments.</p> <p>Mixed perceptions regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of laws and policies in addressing GBV.</p> <p>Inconsistent experiences with successful prosecution of GBV cases under existing laws</p> <p>Divided opinions on sufficiency of customary and religious laws in addressing GBV</p> | <p>Enhance knowledge and awareness through targeted campaigns and education programs.</p> <p>Address perceptions of adequacy by reviewing and strengthening legal frameworks.</p> <p>Improve prosecution of GBV cases and inform public about ongoing reforms</p> <p>Foster partnerships and collaboration between government, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders</p> |
| 2 |  <p>Access to Legal Justice</p> | <p>Weaknesses in formal justice system's handling of GBV cases</p> <p>Limitations and accountability issues in informal justice systems</p> <p>Challenges in gathering sufficient evidence in GBV cases</p> <p>Insufficient financial support for investigating and prosecuting GBV</p> <p>Lack of specialized GBV courts and judges</p> | <p>Enhance formal justice system's effectiveness and accessibility</p> <p>Strengthen informal justice systems to align with human rights principles</p> <p>Build capacity for evidence gathering and explore alternative methods</p> <p>Increase financial support for investigating and prosecuting GBV</p> <p>Establish dedicated GBV courts with specialized judges</p> |
| 3 |  <p>Support Services</p> | <p>Low awareness and limited access to shelters and SARCs</p> <p>Limited knowledge of GBV reporting and referral pathways</p> <p>Negative perceptions and limited use of informal support systems</p> | <p>Asides increasing the number of SARCs and Shelters to in proportion to the population, there is a need to increase awareness and access to the Shelters and SARCs.</p> <p>Strengthen knowledge of reporting and referral pathways</p> <p>Collaborate with informal support systems to enhance their role</p> |
| 4 |  <p>Information and Awareness</p> | <p>Lack of awareness about GBV in specific local governments</p> <p>Limited accessibility of materials for persons with disabilities</p> <p>Insufficient dissemination of GBV information</p> | <p>Targeted interventions about GBV in low awareness areas</p> <p>Enhance accessibility of materials for disabilities</p> <p>Increase frequency of dissemination</p> |



Laws and Policies

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

65% **Yes** 35% **No** -- **Not Sure**

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

32% **Strongly Agree** 61% **Agree** 6% **Indifferent**
1% **Disagree** -- **Strongly Disagree**

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

27% **Yes** 53% **No** 20% **Not Sure**

The Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) (VAPP) Act and the Child's Right Act are the main GBV-related laws in Nasarawa State, though awareness and utilization vary across local governments. The VAPP Law, however, needs to be reviewed, for instance, by reducing the many service providers under Part III to avoid administrative bottlenecks for GBV survivors, as well as make provision for the offense of "trafficking" beyond just defining it. While 50.58% of the respondents believe these laws prevent GBV if properly implemented, experiences with successful prosecution are inconsistent. Regarding sexual harassment policies, limited details are provided during the survey. Informal customary laws exist, but opinions are divided on their effectiveness in addressing GBV. Efforts have been made over the past eight years to review and strengthen GBV laws and policies through stakeholders' engagements. Customary laws still require further assessment to ensure alignment with human rights, as their abolition could impact state laws significantly. Overall, strengthening formal laws and policies while improving informal justice systems is key to enhancing GBV response in the state. Continued reform, monitoring, and targeted awareness campaigns are needed for effective prevention.

The formal justice system, including police and courts, is the preferred avenue for seeking justice for GBV cases, according to 75.58% of the respondents. The state recently developed a dashboard domiciled in the Ministry of Women Affairs for reporting GBV cases. However, the system faces challenges in efficiency, delays in court processes, limited legal aid and witness protection services, and poor handling of evidence. Prosecution timeframes per the VAPP Law are unclear. Informal justice systems like traditional/religious authorities are viewed as ineffective among respondents in certain areas, especially in prosecuting GBV crimes fairly while

protecting survivors' rights. Concerns exist about self-interest and lack of knowledge among informal system leaders. Specialized units like Family Support Units (FSUs), GBV Desks at Police Commands, and dedicated GBV judges do exist, but awareness is low among respondents. Their effectiveness is uncertain. Overall, strengthening the formal justice system's capacity and accountability in handling GBV cases is crucial. This involves providing comprehensive legal support and protection services for victims/survivors, enforcing prompt prosecution timeframes, building capacity for gathering evidence, and fostering collaboration between formal and informal systems to ensure fair, unbiased, and human rights-aligned justice.

The availability of active shelters and functional Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) in Nasarawa State is limited according to survey findings. Recently, the state established a new SARC at the Dalhatu Araf Specialist Hospital in Lafia. Details on their composition, accessibility, and support provision are unclear. Reporting and referral pathways like the Ministry of Women Affairs and NGOs exist, but utilization is hampered by reluctance and confidentiality concerns. Regarding informal support systems, opinions vary on their helpfulness for GBV victims/survivors, with regional disparities in perceptions. The role of medical units and forensic labs is uncertain due to limited examples of their effectiveness in prosecuting GBV cases. The state government provides some support systems alongside civil society organizations, but their reach is inadequate. Overall, the survey reveals gaps in awareness, accessibility, and effectiveness of support services. Addressing these requires targeted interventions to increase public knowledge of available services, improving delivery and funding of support programs, building capacity of service providers, and fostering collaborations between formal and informal systems. Proactive efforts by the



Access to Legal Justice

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

76% **Formal justice system** 12% **Informal justice system** 12% **I will not seek justice**

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

14% **Yes** 62% **No** -- **Not Sure**
24% **It Depends**

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

38% **Yes** 38% **No** 24% **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?

29% Yes 71% No

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

91% Specialized medical healthcare pathway

80% Psychosocial/mental health pathway

85% Police/security pathway

58% Legal pathway 23% 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?

58% Yes 33% No 10% Not Sure

state government and stakeholders can help enhance support provision for GBV victims/survivors in Nasarawa State.

GBV awareness programs by NGOs face financial constraints, while state dissemination of information, education, and communication (IEC) materials is limited according to findings. Comprehensive sex education coverage in schools is unclear. Accessibility of awareness materials for persons with disabilities requires improvement. Overall, there are knowledge gaps among survey respondents regarding GBV programs and materials in the state. Awareness levels vary significantly across local governments, with lower levels concentrated in certain areas. Findings reinforce the need for widespread, targeted interventions to increase GBV information dissemination through diverse channels, making content disability-inclusive, integrating sex education in schools, and conducting regular evaluations to enhance effectiveness. A multi-pronged approach can help bridge information gaps, counter misconceptions, equip individuals to prevent and respond to GBV, and ultimately foster a culture of respect and equality across Nasarawa State.

Nasarawa State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development had the highest per capita spending in the north central region of Nigeria at N326.2 per capita in 2022. This figure is higher than the regional and national average at N177 and 213.3 respectively. Furthermore, this is a 190% increase from the previous year of N97.9 per capita. The ministry's budget performance was 82.73% in 2020, 37.83% in 2021, and 81.36% in 2022.



Human Angle Story

Maryama, a young woman from Lafia, was a victim of domestic violence at the hands of her husband. Unaware of support services available, she suffered silently for years, as her husband controlled her finances and movements. One day, listening to a radio program, she heard about a new shelter for abused women that had opened in her community. Mustering courage, she escaped with her children to the shelter. For the first time, Maryama received medical aid, counselling, legal help, and skills training at the shelter. Staff assisted her in filing for divorce and custody of her children. "I regained my dignity and my rights. The shelter gave me hope and empowered me to rebuild my life," she shares. Maryama's story illustrates the need for accessible information, support services, and justice pathways for GBV victims. With awareness and access, more women like Maryama can be empowered to escape abuse.



Information and Awareness

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

55% Yes 38% No 8% Not Sure

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

2% Not at all useful 27% A little bit useful 47% Mostly useful 25% Completely useful

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

71% Audio/spoken content 12% Braille printed content 23% Visual content 20% Screen subtitling 54% Sign interpretation 55% Picture-based messages 26% Simplified messages 80% 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 | 0.5 |
| | Consistent, result-producing efforts at reforming and strengthening laws, policies, and customs on GBV prevention and response within an eight-year period | 0.5 |
|  <p>Access to Legal Justice</p> | 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 |
|  <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 | 0.5 |
| | Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems | 0.5 |
|  <p>Information and Awareness</p> | 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 |
|  <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 |