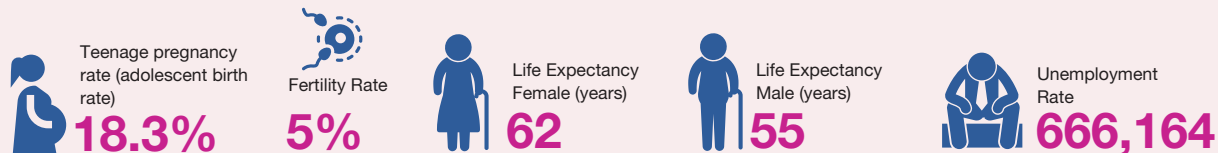
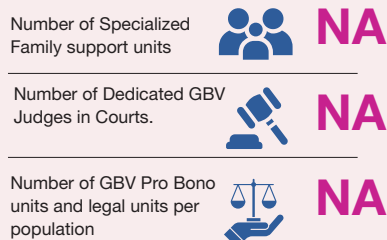


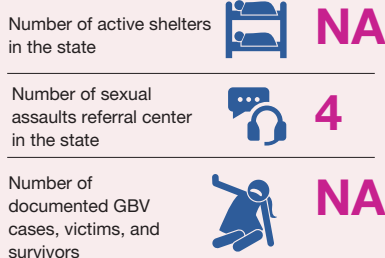
State Context



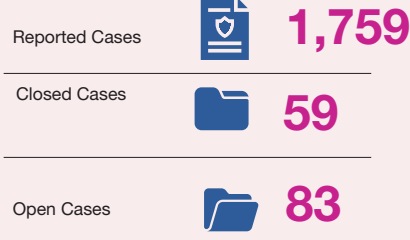
Access to Legal Justice



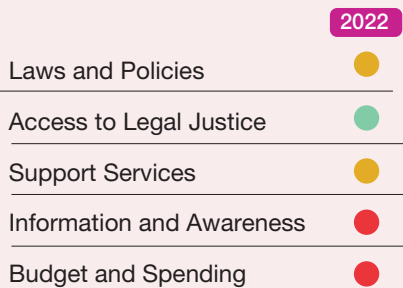
Support Services



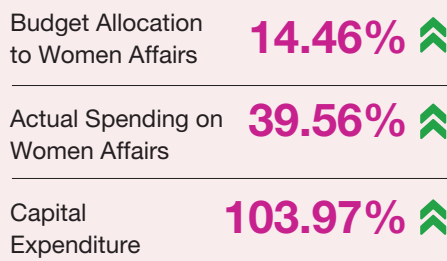
GBV Cases



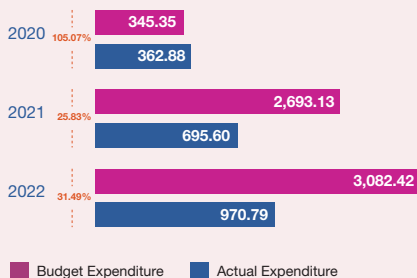
Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



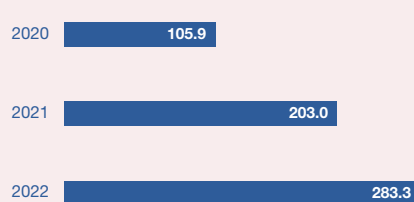
Year on Year Growth 2022







Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>There are existing GBV laws and policies, which were recently reviewed or newly enacted, thus minimal implementation.</p> <p>High awareness of laws and policies, but unsure of effectiveness.</p>	<p>Allow time for implementation before reviewing laws.</p> <p>There is need for frequent and wide public sensitization on GBV laws and policies in the state.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>Legal assistance provided but lacking witness protection.</p> <p>Clear GBV reporting and referral channels and pathways.</p>	<p>Create a legal framework for witness protection by including it in laws.</p> <p>Develop and disseminate GBV reporting and referral pathways, as well as establish dedicated GBV courtrooms and judges.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>Unlike with shelters, SARC services are comprehensive</p> <p>Formal services are limited, providing only legal and medical aid</p>	<p>Establish standard shelters in each Senatorial District and LGA.</p> <p>Strengthen knowledge of reporting and referral pathways</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>Low awareness of GBV materials and programs</p> <p>Information sharing is infrequent</p>	<p>Use official state media platforms and channels to increase awareness on GBV prevention and response</p> <p>There is a need for community outreaches to increase awareness</p>



Laws and Policies

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

91% Yes, 9% No, -- Not Sure

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

54% Strongly Agree, 46% Agree, -- Indifferent, -- Disagree, -- Strongly Disagree

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

32% Yes, 62% No, 6% Not Sure

Laws like the Child Rights Protection Law, VAPP Law, and ACJA address GBV but are newly enacted, so their use is still limited. Although the VAPP Law needs to be amended such as codifying the offence of “political violence”, “violence by non-state actors”, and “trafficking” - beyond merely defining these terms in its interpretation section. Also, the state should consider reviewing s.4(2)(d) of its VAPP Law that prescribes severing the genital organ of a man who rapes a minor.

Of the surveyed population, 91% indicates that they know of the laws but only 42% have seen prosecutions based on the laws. 76% believe the laws can prevent GBV. Customary laws are informal and 62% of the respondents say they are insufficient for GBV. The laws are too new to be reformed often. No reform of these laws has happened in the last eight years. Abolishing customary laws forces reliance on state laws but risks losing communal dispute resolution. 32% still favour customary laws. There are focal persons that strictly respond to GBV issues in the communities and refer cases to appropriate channels for the law to take its course. Overall, GBV-related laws exist but are largely untested. More prosecutions are needed to build confidence in the law. Gradual reform of customary laws while introducing state laws may improve acceptance.

Most (85%) seek formal justice and reporting channels like SARC, police, and NGOs exist. Legal aid is available but lacks robust witness protection. Only 42% have seen successful prosecutions. Timeframes under VAPP Act are not properly followed, causing cases to drag on for long period of time. The only dedicated GBV judge sits just twice weekly. Informal systems like community elders often pressure victims to drop cases, perpetuating GBV. 80% see informal systems as ineffective. Specialized services exist like FSUs and GBV police desks, but awareness is low—only 20% know of them. Overall, services exist to

prosecute GBV but procedural delays, lack of witness protection, overburdened GBV judge, persistence of informal systems, and insufficient support for survivors impair access to robust and timely justice. More dedicated GBV courtrooms, designated judges, strong witness protection, and gradual reform of informal customary laws are needed to improve access to legal justice.

The state has four (4) SARCs offering comprehensive services. Shelters are underfunded and poorly managed. 93% know of SARCs and use them, valuing their medical, legal, justice services. Referral pathways are robust. Formal support beyond SARCs is limited - families and communities provide more psychosocial and economic support. Medical units provide critical evidence but budgeting for holistic support services is inadequate. Shelters need improved investment and more SARCs are needed to cover the large number of at-risk, underserved population. GBV response toll-free lines would help, too. Family support is invaluable but unstructured; hence, the state should engage with informal systems constructively. Overall, clinical services are relatively strong but shelter services, data collection, and constructive outreach to informal support systems need improvement through better budgeting and monitoring.

Awareness programs are inadequate—only 36% know of any. Radio is the main information source. Materials exist but are not tailored for PwDs. Information sharing is infrequent, it happens quarterly at best. The limited information dispensed is only somewhat useful as alluded to by 65% of the respondents. Comprehensive sex education including GBV is not provided in schools, which highlights a major gap. 88% want sex education to be administered from age five but suggest that it be made more comprehensive for teenagers. Overall, while some awareness



Access to Legal Justice

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

85% Formal justice system, 15% Informal justice system, -- I will not seek justice

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

20% Yes, 38% No, 10% Not Sure, 32% It Depends

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

12% Yes, 80% No, 8% 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?

93% Yes 7% No

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

80% SARC

58% Psychosocial/mental health pathway

91% Police/security pathway

85% Legal pathway -- 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?

80% Yes 12% No 8% Not Sure

programs and materials exist, investment is lacking to develop effective content, wide dissemination via radio, TV, social media, tailored to the need of PwDs, and integrated in schools. Constructive engagement of media and education system is needed to spread useful GBV information state-wide.

The Ministry of Gender Affairs in Niger State received disbursements of N362.89 million, N695.60 million, and N970.8 million in 2020, 2021, and 2022 correspondingly. From 2021 to 2022, while the ministry's budget grew by 13.36%, actual expenditure grew by 39.56%. Capital expenditure also grew commendable by 103.97% between 2021 and 2022. The ministry's per capita spending increased from N105.9 in 2020 to N283.3 in 2022, empowering the state's women, surpassing the regional averages.



Human Angle Story

Amina was raped by three men for refusing marriage proposals in her community. Her family disowned her instead of reporting it. She lost her fiancé and had to move away to find a husband, while still bearing the stigma years later. She wishes services were accessible so she would have reported it. Meg, on her part, endured an abusive marriage for three years. Though her neighbour kept intervening, her husband, being a lawyer, evaded consequences. Finally, on reporting to a GBV platform, legal stakeholders got her justice and compensation, securing her freedom from abuse, though the process was arduous. The stories show how women bear the brunt of stigmatization and inadequate response to reported GBV cases. Improving awareness, reporting channels, legal aid, and social support services could have spared them from years of suffering. Justice delayed was justice denied.



Information and Awareness

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

36% Yes 62% No 2% Not Sure

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

65% Not at all useful 33% A little bit useful 6% Mostly useful

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

4% Audio/spoken content 4% Braille printed content 1% Tactile 3% Screen subtitling 8% Sign interpretation - Picture-based messages 73% 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	0.5
	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	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	1.0
	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	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
 <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	0.0
 <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