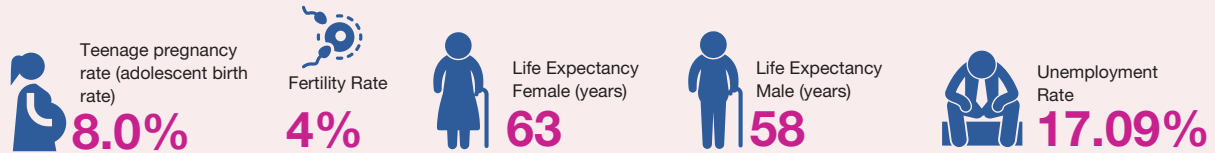
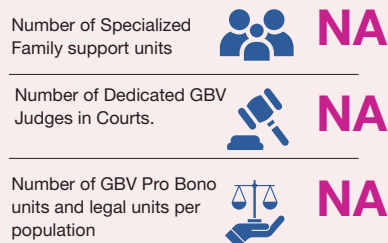


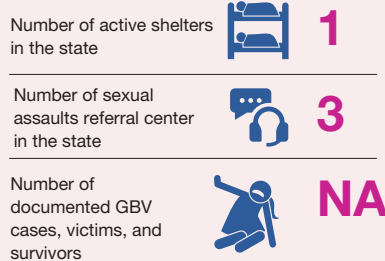
State Context



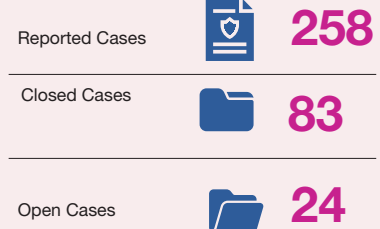
Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



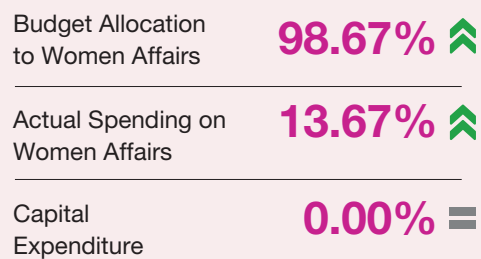
GBV Cases



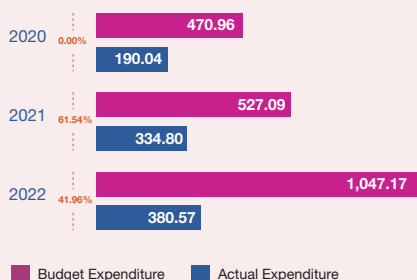
Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



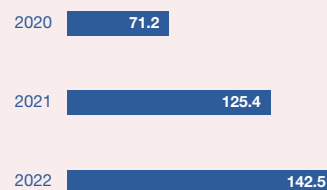
Year on Year Growth 2022



Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N

Indicators

Key Findings

Recommendations

1



Laws and Policies

The existing GBV laws and policies are relatively new in the state, hence the implementation and effectiveness cannot yet be ascertained.

Customary practices like FGM and widowhood rites persist within the state despite being captured in the VAPP law

The VAPP Act does not cover cyber GBV which has become a critical issue and front burner in Ondo State.

Conduct a comprehensive review and assessment of the effectiveness of existing GBV laws and policies within the state to identify gaps and areas for improvement.

Establish mechanisms for regular evaluations to measure the impact of these laws in addressing customary practices like FGM and widowhood rites.

Amend the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law to explicitly cover cyber GBV, provide for an annual reporting on the implementation of the law, as well as address the evolving GBV-related challenges in Ondo State.

2



Access to Legal Justice

Absence of dedicated GBV judges leading to a prolonged litigation process and victims abandoning the case.

Inadequate FSU and dedicated GBV Desks at the police divisions.

Inadequate provision for witness protection and victims' families, which often affect the cases.

Appoint dedicated GBV judges to expedite the litigation process and discourage victims from abandoning cases.
Collaborate with the judiciary to establish specialised courts for GBV cases, ensuring swift and effective justice.

Establish dedicated GBV desks at police divisions and provide adequate resources for the FSU to enhance their capacity.
Prioritise training for law enforcement personnel on GBV issues and survivor-centred approaches to holistic support.

Work with relevant agencies to develop and implement witness protection measures for victims and their families, addressing the deterrent effect on case proceedings.

3



Support Services

Ondo State government does not have an active shelter, although the construction of one is ongoing, implying that victims and survivors will continue to return to their places of abuse.

The existing SARCs, though accessible to all, is insufficient for the population of Ondo State and far for many people in the state.

The SARCs are not fully equipped to provide the facilities to fully support victims in an emergency especially with medical aid and providing privacy.

Collaborate with stakeholders to expedite the construction of the active shelters, ensuring victims have a safe haven.
Establish interim measures to accommodate victims/survivors during the construction phase.
Implement community-based support programs to complement formal shelter services, reducing the likelihood of victims returning to abusive environments.

Advocate for increased funding to expand the capacity of Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) to adequately serve the population.

Ensure SARCs are fully equipped to provide comprehensive support, including medical aid and privacy facilities.

4



Information and Awareness

Low awareness of the IEC material and Information, as a result of low spread across the local government

Inadequate provision of GBV-related IEC materials for PwD.

Inadequate funding for trainings, campaigns, workshops, and publicity of GBV IEC materials and information.

Design and implement targeted awareness campaigns at the local government level to enhance the spread of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials on GBV.
Collaborate with community leaders and local influencers for effective grassroots outreach.

Increased production of IEC materials that are accessible to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and available in multiple formats to cater to diverse needs.

Engage with government bodies, NGOs, and private sector partners to secure resources for sustained awareness initiatives.



Laws and Policies

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

62.3% **Yes** 37.7% **No** 0.0% **Not Sure**

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

1.6% **Strongly Agree** 44.3% **Agree** 5.7% **Indifferent**
6.6% **Disagree** 41.8% **Strongly Disagree**

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

34.4% **Yes** 52.5% **No** 13.1% **Not Sure**

In Ondo State, several laws and policies connected to GBV exist, such as the Child Rights Laws 2007, the Criminal Code Law, the Ondo State Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law 2021, and the Ondo State Gender Policy. The frequency of their usage in prosecuting GBV-related cases is not fully established, suggesting a huge implementation gap in their use especially as the VAPP Law 2021 in Ondo State is just two years old. There has been no revisiting and reforming of the existing laws to strengthen the prevention of and response to GBV within an eight-year period; however, consistent engagement and follow-ups with concerned MDAs and reps suggest ongoing adjustments.

61% of the survey population are aware of the existing laws and/or policies, while 44% strongly affirm that awareness of the existing laws and policies will prevent GBV. About 93% of critical informants recognized the laws but could not precisely gauge their effectiveness, particularly with the two-year-old GBV agency.

Customary laws within the state are not clearly categorised as strictly formal or informal. Nevertheless, customary practices do exist that are deemed an infringement on people's rights, like female genital mutilation and widowhood rites, which perpetuates the subordination of women. The VAPP Law condemns such practices but there is no implementation to prosecute such acts.

The state's system for reporting GBV includes channels through law enforcement agencies and a GBV dashboard at the Ministry of Women Affairs. Ondo State Agency Against Gender-Based Violence (OSAA-GBV) is also an agency saddled with the responsibility of GBV cases, with support from bodies like FIDA, CSOs, and several human rights lawyers. Despite these, the effectiveness of the agency cannot be measured as it is still relatively new. Regarding legal aid assistance for survivors

and defenders in the state, there is provision through State/Federal Legal Aid Counsel, Office of Public Defender, FIDA, and NGOs who provide medical aid and legal assistance. With witness protection, Ondo state Civil Defence provide some witness protection, especially in rape cases, and more particularly when the victim is a minor.

Ondo State needs more specialised GBV units within the state. Measures to be considered include creating FSUs and dedicated desks at all police divisions, as well as specialised units at High Court and Magistrate Court Divisions. However, a dedicated court for GBV is not yet available in the state, necessitating additional judges on GBV cases, and suggesting unmet needs in the current justice system. In terms of the existing informal justice system, Ondo State operates an ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) system as an acceptable method for settling non-criminal matters, as it is perceived that not all cases should be reported to the police or go to court, especially spousal agreement. Customary Court is one of the informal justice structures and regarded as lower judiciary offices, such as the Sharia court where some family issues have been resolved. Such resolutions also happen in the churches, mosques, and the King's Palace. Still, the Palace permanently attached fines, penalties, obliteration etc.

Ondo State has no active shelters as of the time of this survey but has plans for three shelters across the three senatorial districts. Currently, only one shelter is under construction. Strategically located across the three senatorial districts, three active SARCs stand as beacons of support in Okitipupa, Ikare-Akoko, and Akure.

The reporting and referral pathway for GBV in the state is acknowledged by 98% of the key informants. They involve various stakeholders like NGOs, State Security Agencies, and



Access to Legal Justice

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

77.9% **Formal justice system** 20.5% **Informal justice system** 1.6% **I will not seek justice**

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

61.5% **Yes** 12.3% **No** 6.6% **Not Sure**
19.7% **It Depends**

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

19.7% **Yes** 59.8% **No** 20.5% **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?

11.5% Yes
88.5% No

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

10.7% Specialized medical healthcare pathway
7.4% Psychosocial/mental health pathway

62.3% Police/security pathway
14.8% Legal pathway
28.7% 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?

86.1% Yes
9.0% No
4.9% Not Sure

the Ministry of Justice, who document the cases and forward them to OSAA-GBV, the responsible department. The role of informal systems like family, friends, religious groups, and community organisations in supporting GBV victims serve a great deal in providing informal support. Reporting pathways in the state also include toll free lines and hotlines of some organisations that handle GBV in the state, the security agencies, NGOs, and the Ministry of Justice.

million in 2021 to N1.01 billion in 2022—an impressive 98.67% increase. Despite this, the state's budget performance has been disappointing, with actual spending for the ministry dropping to 36.34% in 2022 from the previous year's 63.52%. Additionally, there was a significant rise in the average per capita allocation, soaring from N71.2 in 2021 to N142.5 in 2022. Comparatively, Ogun State has performed moderately in per capita allocation within the South-South region.

Sensitization and awareness programs on GBV abound in the state, with 70% of key informants acknowledging weekly radio jingles on some media stations. Nevertheless, it suggested that a more aggressive and holistic campaign should be made across the state, involving key stakeholders, and ensuring improved funding with regards to IEC materials. Additionally, working with the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to further reach the state's nooks and crannies is imperative. The state's education curriculum barely covers sex education, with over 95% of key informants admitting there is none in secondary or tertiary institutions. However, two topics on this subject exist within the physical education subject, and professionals are known to give talks in some schools about sex.



Human Angle Story

There is the tainting story of Amina, a mother, whose husband raped his two daughters, and the case was charged to court. But the woman got tired along the way because of case postponement and overwhelming transportation cost to the court as they needed to get legal advice from the Ministry of Justice before the case could be transferred to the High Court for hearing, which led her to abandon the case. If there is a special court set aside with dedicated magistrates and judges, it will fast-track all judgement about the GBV cases. Suffice to mention that these delays make the survivors/victims lose confidence at times in the law, thus emboldening the perpetrators to move freely and use all powers at their disposal to trample the case by coercing the relatives and victims with money or threat.

About 98% of the key informants agreed that the VAPP law in the state is Persons with Disability (PwDs) friendly. For more PwDs inclusiveness, the braille copy of the VAPP Law was printed for the visually impaired persons, and they always go out with a signed professional person for the interpretation. Unfortunately, the state government does not utilise the major TV stations in the state to have dedicated programs for PwDs on GBV.

In the past three years, the budget allocation for Ondo State's Ministry of Women Affairs has seen a substantial rise, climbing from N527



Information and Awareness

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

44.3% Yes
48.4% No
7.4% Not Sure

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

18.9% Not at all useful
26.2% A little bit useful
31.1% Mostly useful
23.8% Completely useful

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

28.3% Audio/spoken content
5.8% Braille printed content
10.0% Visual content
7.5% Screen subtitling
20.0% Sign interpretation
15.8% Picture-based messages
5.8% Simplified messages
58.3% 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	0.5
 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	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	0.5
	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	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)	0.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	0.0