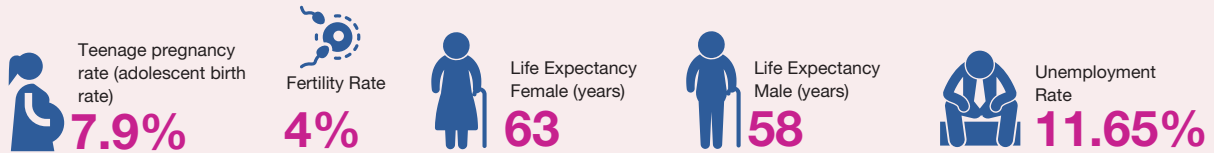
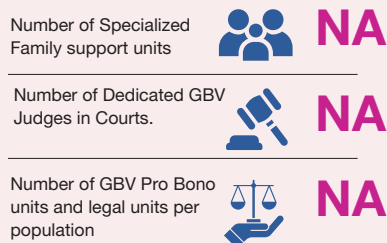


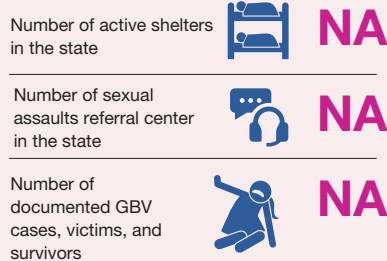
State Context



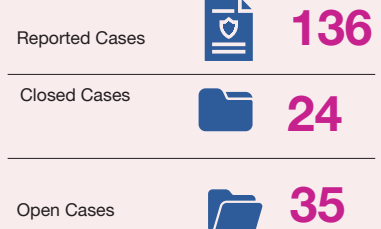
Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



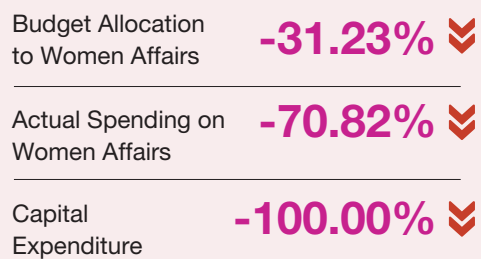
GBV Cases



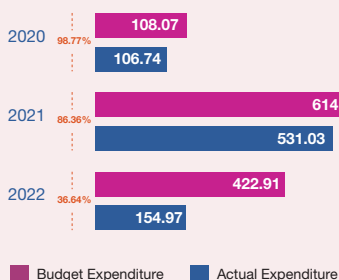
Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



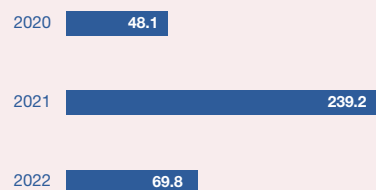
Year on Year Growth 2022







Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 Laws and Policies	No evidence of implementation or utilisation of the existing laws that criminalises GBV in Osun state sometimes resulting from a lack of political will, often time political influence that overrides the implementation of the law.	Engage relevant stakeholders to advocate for increased political will to enforce existing GBV laws, emphasising the importance of political influence in law implementation. Allocate adequate funds to the implementation of the existing laws and policies.
		Low awareness of the existing laws and policies as a result of the laws being too cumbersome to read and understand. The illiteracy and inability to read the laws by some of the state's population further impedes the awareness level.	Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to simplify and disseminate GBV laws using simplified English or local languages, as well as targeting diverse communication channels.
		The Police has not been sensitised enough on GBV laws and most would refer to past laws when faced with GBV matters and often constitute a bottleneck in the implementation of the laws.	Organise comprehensive sensitization programs for law enforcement agencies, especially the police, to ensure they are well-versed in GBV laws and their implications.
2	 Access to Legal Justice	There are inadequate financial resources for prosecution, both on the side of government, CSOs and survivors, who seek access to justice.	Increase financial resources from government and NGOs to support prosecution efforts, ensuring survivors have access to justice.
		Law enforcement agencies, especially the police often frustrate cases deliberately by destroying evidence, collecting bribes from perpetrators and poor presentation of cases	Conduct specialised training programs for law enforcement agencies, focusing on the handling of GBV cases, evidence preservation, and ethical conduct. Establish oversight mechanisms to address cases of deliberate frustration and corruption within law enforcement agencies.
		No dedicated judges for GBV cases, and not all police stations have Gender Desks and/or FSUs.	Appoint dedicated judges for GBV cases, to ensure a more focused and expedited legal process. Osun state government needs to establish Gender Desks in all police stations, providing specialized support for GBV cases.
3	 Support Services	Low awareness of the existing referral centres and reporting pathways that exist within the state	Conduct extensive awareness campaigns to educate the public about the existing referral centres and reporting pathways for GBV cases. Collaborate with community leaders and influencers to enhance awareness at the grassroots level.
		There are no government owned shelters in the state, the existing shelters are owned by individuals and NGOs, which faces the challenge of security and inadequate facilities.	Establish government-owned shelters, addressing security concerns and ensuring adequate facilities for survivors. Collaborate with NGOs and individuals to improve existing shelters and make them more sustainable.
		Non-functioning and insufficient SARCs within the state.	Allocate resources to revitalize and expand Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) within the state, ensuring they are fully equipped and functional with an enhanced medical aid component.
4	 Information and Awareness	IEC materials and Information on GBV are inadequate and occasional. MDAs disseminate information only when they hold special programmes or on International Day celebrations.	Establish routine information sharing mechanisms for disseminating IEC materials on GBV, ensuring consistent and frequent awareness that goes beyond special occasions.
		IEC materials are not sensitive to PwDs, and they are often not included in programme designs. There are no routine information sharing mechanisms for PwDs.	Ensure IEC materials are sensitive to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), incorporating diverse formats and engaging PwDs in program designs.
		Inadequate funding for disseminating the IEC materials, and, sometimes, the GBV-related laws are shared to citizens at a fee.	Ensure the VAPP laws and related information are freely accessible to citizens, eliminating barriers to obtaining crucial legal information. Work with international organisations to secure funding to facilitate the widespread dissemination of IEC materials, addressing the challenge of inadequate resources.



Laws and Policies

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

68.1% **Yes** 31.9% **No** 0.0% **Not Sure**

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

47.2% **Strongly Agree** 39.9% **Agree** 7.4% **Indifferent**
3.1% **Disagree** 2.5% **Strongly Disagree**

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

65.0% **Yes** 28.2% **No** 6.7% **Not Sure**

In Osun State, the Protection Against Domestic Violence Law and the VAPP law address GBV, and they were passed in 2015 and 2021, respectively. Prohibition Law Against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), 2004, Child Rights Law 2007 Anti-Domestic Violence Bill, 2013, Protection Against Domestic Violence Law, 2015, and the Osun State Gender Equity and Social Inclusion Policy 2018. These laws are often used to prosecute GBV-related cases, with close collaboration between CSOs and various other agencies. However, the awareness amongst the population on the existence and effectiveness of these laws stands at 68%.

Moreover, the state has been proactive in conducting awareness campaigns to enlighten the public about the laws and policies against GBV. This includes "The Role of Women in Society" radio program, held every Thursday to discuss various GBV issues. Yet, the awareness and understanding of these laws amongst law enforcement and the judiciary are limited, presenting a crucial challenge. Other challenges include lack of political will to enforce the laws, cultural dispositions, and low-to-no implementation of the GBV laws, hindering their review and enhancement.

The state has a formal justice system for addressing GBV, with 72.29% of the respondents preferring to report cases through this system. However, 49.08% indicated a lack of awareness regarding the judicial process or where to report cases, despite 87.12% claiming to know where to report GBV instances in general. This reveals a need for improved awareness and understanding of the formal reporting and prosecution process, which could involve pro-bono private lawyers and state lawyers/CSOs. Although legal aid services exist in the state, it is not clear how accessible they are to GBV victims and survivors. Also, the survey did not provide specific information regarding adherence to

the timeframes stipulated in the VAPP Act, so further investigation is needed here.

On the topic of the informal justice system, 65.03% of respondents believe in the effectiveness of customary or religious practices in preventing and responding to GBV. This suggests that cultural norms play a significant role in how GBV is addressed within the state. The survey also revealed an existing dichotomy between formal and informal systems of justice. While some respondents opted for formal systems due to the lack of trust in the informal ones, others found customary or religious practices sufficient or did not seek justice at all. Hence, the informal justice system in the state has a significant influence on the handling of GBV cases.

There are established Shelters and SARCs that support GBV victims and survivors. Notably, NGOs such as Justice for Survivors and Value Female Network are known to provide structured support systems, including accommodations and psychosocial support. These facilities have significantly powered the state's response to GBV, providing pivotal interventions, thereby ensuring that victims received appropriate care. Value Female Network, for instance, is credited with a versatile operational model that notably includes a shelter and trained officers offering comprehensive support to the victims.

The state has an outlined reporting and referral pathway primarily through the police and security agencies. Consequently, there's a significant need for reforms and capacity building within this sector to streamline and enhance the pathway to justice for GBV victims and survivors.

When it comes to informally providing support to the victims, family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., play an indispensable role. However, some respondents highlighted



Access to Legal Justice

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

72.4% **Formal justice system** 19.6% **Informal justice system** 8.0% **I will not seek justice**

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

58.3% **Yes** 25.8% **No** 6.1% **Not Sure**
9.8% **It Depends**

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

71.2% **Yes** 24.5% **No** 4.3% **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?

82.8% Yes
17.2% No

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

20.2% Specialized medical healthcare pathway

4.3% Psychosocial/mental health pathway

68.7% Police/security pathway

22.7% Legal pathway
13.5% 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?

82.8% Yes
3.1% No
14.1% Not Sure

a lack of structured informal support systems dedicated to GBV survivors.

There is limited information on the impact of medical units and forensic labs on the prosecution of GBV instances. There is need for continuous training and capacity building for implementing officers and institutions, which could ostensibly include these units. Lastly, significant investments in support services are much needed, particularly in budget allocation towards the Ministry of Women Affairs. Including GBV as a costed item in the state's budget, alongside these recommendations, would mark a positive advancement in the fight against GBV within the state.

The state provides various GBV-related sensitisation and awareness programs such as radio jingles, TV programmes, stakeholders' meetings, market sensitisation, and school programs. These efforts are sponsored by both the State government and several NGOs working on GBV. The survey population indicated mixed responses regarding the effectiveness of the current GBV sensitisation and awareness programs. While they acknowledged the existence of such efforts, they also highlighted the need for increased frequency and resource investment to enhance awareness.

In terms of education, most of the respondents (89.57%) believe that comprehensive sex education should be included in secondary and tertiary institutions. While it is clear there is a level of sex education happening, the specific breadth or depth of this education is not detailed in the document. However, when it comes to offering PwD-friendly IEC materials on GBV, the state is identified as lacking. 71.78% of the respondents pointed out that awareness and sensitisation materials were predominately offered through audio content for PwDs, while 15.34% noted the absence of

any available materials for GBV survivors who are PwDs.

Osun State witnessed a significant reduction in allocation between 2021 and 2022. The Ministry of Women Affairs received N531.03mn in 2021, plunging to N154.97mn in 2022 a 71% decline. As of 2022, the state struggled with a low per capita allocation of N69.8, the lowest in the South-West region and notably below the national average of N256.1 per capita. This drastic decrease highlights challenges in sustaining support for women's initiatives, urging a closer examination of budgetary provisions to uplift women's welfare programs in Osun State.



Human Angle Story

In Ido-Osun, a chilling situation unravels as a prophet stands accused of exploiting women and girls in his congregation, compelling them into disturbing sexual relationships and forcing abortions when they fall pregnant. A brave whistle-blower took the case to the High Court, seeking justice before Justice Nathaniel Idowu. However, things take a sinister turn when a high-ranking political figure intervenes, urging that the case be dropped with some financial incentives. Undeterred, the whistle-blower reports the interference to the Commissioner of Police and the Department of State Services, only to be met with silence. This disturbing account exposes the level of political influence and political will in the execution and prosecution of offenders.



Information and Awareness

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

62.6% Yes
36.2% No
1.2% Not Sure

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

4.9% Not at all useful
29.4% A little bit useful
39.9% Mostly useful
25.8% Completely useful

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

97.5% Audio/spoken content
0.8% Braille printed content
4.2% Visual content
0.0% Screen subtitling
17.5% Sign interpretation
6.7% Picture-based messages
2.5% Simplified messages
20.8% 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	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	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	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	1.0
	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