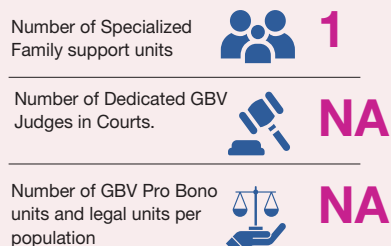


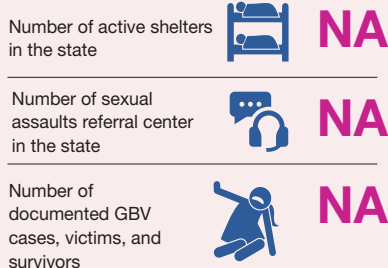
State Context



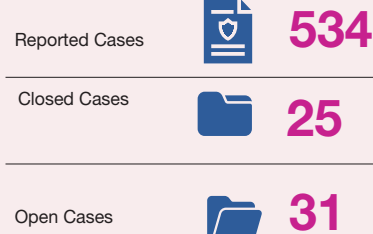
Access to Legal Justice



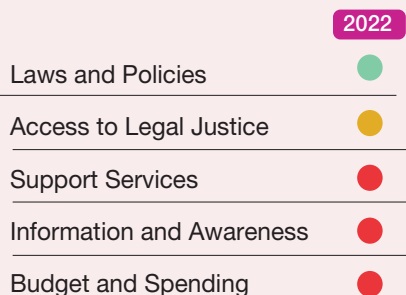
Support Services



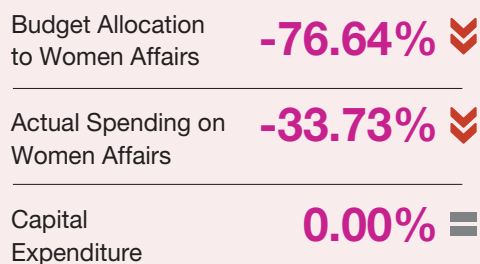
GBV Cases



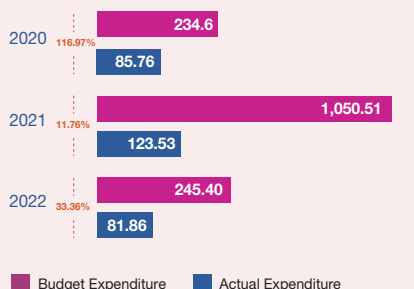
Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



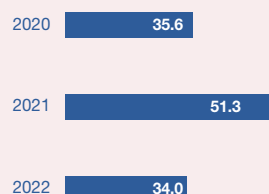
Year on Year Growth 2022





Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	Lack of awareness of GBV-related laws and policies among the public.	Government should invest in sensitizing the public about GBV-related laws and policies in the state.
		Delayed passage of the GEO Act into law	Facilitate the passage of the Gender and Equal Opportunity Bill into law
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	Religious and cultural influences impede access to legal justice.	Regularly engage and sensitize religious/cultural leaders on formal justice system
		Lack of awareness among victims/survivors of their rights and existing reporting and referral pathways	Regularly educate the public on their rights, as well as GBV reporting and referral procedures
		There is widespread fear of stigmatization	Enact policies to prohibit stigmatization of victims/survivors and put measures in place to support GBV victims/survivors who experience stigmatization.
		Lack of robust witness protection programs	Fund witness protection programs and publicize existence of the program in order to encourage reporting of GBV cases.
		Lack of forensic evidence support for prosecution	Set up forensic investigation capabilities
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	No effective shelters or SARCs provided by the state	Establish and fund comprehensive SARCs and shelters in every local government area of the state
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	Extremely low government engagement in awareness programs and distribution of materials for sensitization.	Develop centralized strategy for inclusive GBV education/awareness, implement the strategy, and continuously monitor its impact.
		Low reach of awareness programs.	Use diverse and inclusive channels to disseminate information about GBV.



Laws and Policies

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

70.41% Yes
29.59% No
-- Not Sure

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

27.47% Strongly Agree
48.25% Agree
16.22% Indifferent
7% Disagree
1.06% Strongly Disagree

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

24.92% Yes
52.70% No
22.38% Not Sure

The Plateau State Penal Code, Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law, 2022, and the Gender and Equal Opportunity Law, 2022 exist to address gender-based violence, though over 70% of survey respondents are unaware of their existence. The Plateau State VAPP Law, however, need to be reviewed by, for instance, by making provision for the establishment of a Monitoring Committee. These laws are scarcely implemented in prosecuting GBV cases. Customary laws are informal, with communal/religious leaders administering punishments like flogging and fines. In the last eight years, the Penal Code and the GEO Law were amended to strengthen GBV response, but the public remains uninformed. Over 50% think customary laws are insufficient for preventing GBV. Abolishing them would lead people to rely on the more effective state laws. There are certain punishments, supported by customary or religious laws, meted out to perpetrators of GBV which include corporal punishment and payment of fines. Overall, while some GBV-related laws exist, they are ineffective due to lack of awareness and implementation. Reforming and enforcing laws, combined with public education, is needed.

The GBV reporting system in Plateau State includes police stations, State Ministries of Justice, and Women Affairs, Federation of Female Lawyers (FIDA), and NGOs. However, only 43% of respondents know where to report GBV. Prosecution happens through these agencies, but enforcement is weak. Most (61%) would seek justice through the formal system, though over 30% prefer informal religious/community resolution. Legal aid is limited - the Justice Ministry partners with FIDA, but no witness protection exists. Court timeframes under the VAPP Law are not followed. Informal justice lacks accountability, and communal punishments like flogging do not amount to prosecution. This is seen as ineffective by most respondents.

Specialized units exist like the FSU at Jos University Teaching Hospital, as well as Gender Desks in police stations and Ministries, but no dedicated GBV judges. Overall, while reporting pathways exist, prosecution and enforcement are hindered by lack of legal aid, preference for informal resolution, non-compliance with VAPP's timeframes, and lack of specialized courts/judges. Stronger formal justice application is needed to increase GBV prosecution and accountability.

There are no active shelters or functional Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) managed by the Plateau State government. Shelter and psychosocial support are entirely provided by NGOs and informal community mechanisms. GBV reporting and referral happens through police, ministries, lawyers, and NGOs, but over 50% say awareness of these pathways is low. With no government shelters, medical/forensic support for prosecution is minimal. Informal support systems like families, religious centres, and community groups are seen as helpful by over 50%, although accountability is limited. The government provides no budget for GBV support services. All costs are borne by victims and informal networks. This shows GBV response is not prioritized by the state. Lack of safe shelters, forensic investigation, and state funding mean victims/survivors have minimal care pathways and evidence needed for prosecution. Urgent GBV budgeting, establishment of SARCs with trained staff, and better referral systems is required to provide services for GBV victims/survivors in order to recover and prosecute GBV cases.

There are minimal GBV awareness programs in Plateau State. Only 37% know of existence of any sensitization medium. 49% have never encountered awareness programs. No comprehensive sex education exists - it is discretionary. No disability-friendly materials are available. The government does not



Access to Legal Justice

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

61.4% Formal justice system
31.18% Informal justice system
7.42% I will not seek justice

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

53.55% Yes
13.79% No
19.51% Not Sure
13.15% It Depends

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

18.66% Yes
58.64% No
22.69% Not Sure



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?

80.49% Yes
19.51% No

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

11.66% Specialized Medical Healthcare	29.48% Police/security pathway	
11.13% Psychosocial/mental health pathway	24.07% Legal pathway	21.95% 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?

52.6% Yes
24.71% No
21.42% Not Sure

produce IEC materials or use channels like TV, radio, social media, or community outreach programs to sensitize the public about GBV. Most education is left to NGOs with limited reach. With no centralized GBV awareness strategy, messages are ineffective and inconsistent. Low knowledge empowers GBV perpetrators. The state must urgently develop inclusive education materials on GBV laws, reporting procedures, and people's rights. Multiple channels like media, schools, public places (e.g., market, religious centres), and health centres should consistently transmit messages to remote areas. Targeted programs that transform social norms are essential to prevention.

Budgetary allocation to GBV

Plateau State's Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development faced reduced funding, dropping from N123.53mn in 2021 to N81.8mn in 2022. This decline led to a notable decrease in per capita spending from N51.3 to N34.0, marking a three-year low. Additionally, this consecutive decrease in disbursement impacted the state's ranking, positioning Niger State with the second-lowest per capita spending in its region. The diminished financial support highlights challenges in sustaining initiatives for women's welfare and underscores the need for increased allocation and disbursement to bolster gender-centric programs in Plateau State, particularly GBV prevention and response.



Human Angle Story

Ms. Jennifer is a widow in her late thirties. She had gotten married and lost her husband after her 3rd baby was born. In a bid to move on with her life, she started dating a man who, unknowing to her, was a serial paedophile. One day, when he was left alone with the children, he sent the two older children on errand to enable him to be alone with the youngest child. Unfortunately for him, the children he sent did not find what they were sent to get and decided to rush back home. On reaching the house, they noticed the door was locked, so the middle child climbed up on a platform near the window at the back of the room to access the key where it is usually placed. To his surprise, he saw the mother's boyfriend molesting his younger sibling. Both children raised an alarm, and the man was caught in the despicable act. The perpetrator confessed to sexually abusing the minor with oral sex over a few months since his relationship with their mother started. He was beaten and taken to the police station, but the case died a natural death as the woman's family and in-laws pleaded with her to let the case go in order to avoid being stigmatized. Ms. Jennifer lives in trauma of this incident till date.



Information and Awareness

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

37.12% Yes
38.28% No
24.60% Not Sure

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

18.39% Not at all useful	25.96% A little bit useful
28.64% Mostly useful	27.01% Completely useful

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

20.14% Audio/spoken content	4.66% Braille printed content	11.29% Visual content	5.12% Screen subtitling
9.9% Sign interpretation	8.96% Picture-based messages	8.27% Simplified messages	59.49% 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	0.0
	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	0.0
	Existence and usage of holistic informal support systems	0.0
 Information and Awareness	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
 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