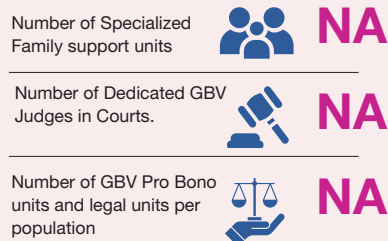


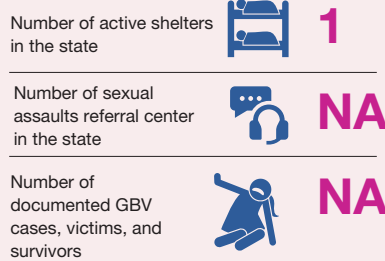
### State Context



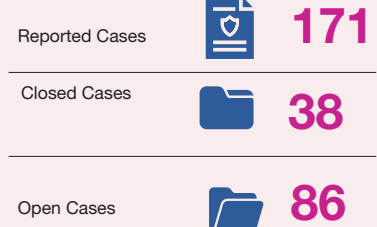
### Access to Legal Justice



### Support Services



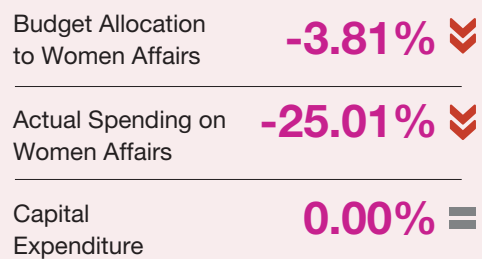
### GBV Cases



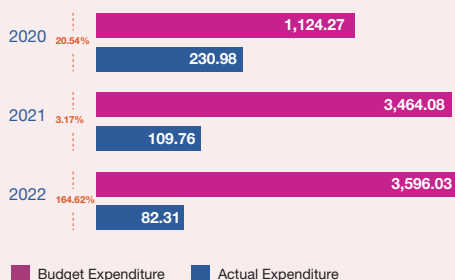
### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



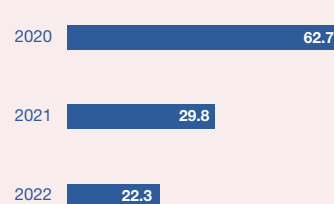
### Year on Year Growth 2022







### 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 exist the Rivers State Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law, 2020; Rivers State Abolition of Female Circumcision Law; Rivers State Child's Rights Law, and the Rivers State Prohibition of the Curtailment of Women's Right to Share in Family Property Law, 2022; but there is limited awareness among the public about these laws</p>	<p>Create and implement consistent GBV awareness programs, including the availability of the laws and policies that prevents and responds to GBV.</p> <p>Implementation and enforcement of the laws by all relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Proper training of relevant personnel about the laws.</p> <p>The Laws and policies should be reviewed when some gaps are identified.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>The duty to address GBV is shared among different Ministries. For instance, reporting and enforcement is to the police and security agencies, and enforcement is the Ministry of Justice, etc</p> <p>The Legal Aid Council proffers legal assistance and pro-bono services to indigent victims, and witness protection program is provided for children, while adults can apply only when they have valid reasons; and this is limited for indigent persons.</p> <p>There is a functional family court in the state but less known by the public.</p> <p>There are informal justice systems in the state which includes alternative dispute resolution centres, justice of peace, council of chiefs, royal highness, etc</p>	<p>Ministries with different functions relating to GBV should take responsibility at every stage of reporting, prosecution, and enforcement.</p> <p>There should be a robust and effective witness protection program which should be accessible to all GBV victims/survivors. Also, there should be sensitization about existence of the pro-bono services for indigent persons to encourage people to seek legal justice.</p> <p>Proper sensitization about the Family Courts should be made to enable people seek justice and preserve more constructive relationships in the families.</p> <p>Accelerated and fair hearing should be given to reported GBV cases, as well as proper punishments of offenders to serve as deterrents to others.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>There is no Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) in the state.</p> <p>There is a temporary safe home for victims of domestic violence, GBV, and other forms of violence.</p> <p>There is a GBV reporting pathway in the state which includes the police, CSOs, NGOs, legal aid, etc, but there is limited knowledge of these.</p> <p>There is a formal support system provided by the state government through the Ministry of Women Affairs, and the Ministry of Social Welfare, while rehabilitation is provided by the Ministry of Health.</p>	<p>SARCs comprising of a holistic structure should be made available in each LGA in the state.</p> <p>More shelters or safe homes should be provided in the state, and empowerment or skill acquisition programs should be provided for the survivors to enable them to integrate back into the society.</p> <p>Sensitization and awareness programs should be carried out to make the GBV reporting pathways known to the public.</p> <p>Sensitization programs should form a primary function for the Ministries allocated to attend to GBV issues to enable awareness of the public on GBV.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>The state disseminates mostly information (sensitization) and not communication materials.</p> <p>There are radio jingles on GBV, sensitization and intervention programs carried out at intervals.</p> <p>Comprehensive sex education is taught in secondary schools within relevant subjects.</p> <p>The GBV awareness programs are not disability friendly.</p>	<p>The state should make provision for IEC materials for sensitization, awareness, and intervention programs.</p> <p>The state should encourage regular sensitization programs.</p> <p>Comprehensive sex education should be included in the school curriculum to be studied as a subject in secondary schools.</p> <p>The GBV awareness programs should be disability friendly to accommodate people living with disability.</p>



## Laws and Policies

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

71.5% Yes 28.4% No -- Not Sure

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

37.0% Strongly Agree 42.2% Agree 8.62% Indifferent 8.62% Disagree 3.45% Strongly Disagree

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

18.1 Yes 55.1 No 26.7 Not Sure

The GBV-related laws that exist in Rivers State are the Abolition of Female Circumcision Law and the VAPP Law, etc., which is also a sexual harassment law that exist in the states' public and private institutions and are regularly used to prosecute GBV cases. 71.5% of the survey participants are aware of the existence of these laws and 42.2% agree that awareness prevents GBV. Some of these laws have been amended. The abolition of harmful customary laws is good practice. No legal reviews have been carried out yet. 55.1% of the survey participants have the perception that customary/religious laws are not effective in preventing and responding to GBV in the state.

The reporting and enforcement system in the state are the police/security agencies whereas, the Ministry of Justice and the Legal Aid Council prosecutes while providing legal assistance and pro-bono services to indigent victims. Witness protection is mainly for children, while for adults, it can be done on camera, or they can apply for protective order. The services are accessible to victims/survivors, although the courts do not follow the timeframes stated in the VAPP Act.

The informal justice system in the state is championed by the Justice of Peace, royal highnesses, Council of Chiefs, and Alternate Dispute Resolution Centres. Some of the cultural practices in the community perpetuate GBV in a bid to resolve an issue. Based on the survey population's notion, 89.6% would seek formal justice, nevertheless. 54.3% do not think the informal justice system is effective in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV. There are no specialized and exclusive police units on GBV, however, there are gender desks at some of the police divisions/headquarters and exclusive judges on SGBV/GBV at the family courts.

The state's shelter has an administrative building, two court rooms, living

accommodation, a child-friendly witness room, crèche, library, probation unit, and offices for service providers. The safe home has provided a temporary accommodation and psychosocial support to GBV victims/survivors until proven stable to reintegrate into the society.

GBV reporting pathways in the State are the Police, NGOs that handles GBV issues, CSOs, human rights, Legal Aid, Ministry of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation, Ministry of Women Affairs, and informal justice systems, etc. Depending on the form of GBV reported, there is a referral pathway to ensure they are directed to the appropriate sector and there are specialized health facilities that have been instrumental to prosecuting GBV cases in the state. Based on the survey participant's notion, 75.9% are of the opinion that the informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful in supporting GBV victims/survivors. The state government has not matched her purported priority to support services with significant investment and budgetary allocation of funds.

GBV sensitization and awareness programs/intervention programs are carried out at intervals by some NGOs and the state through radio jingles, TV shows, educative pamphlets, and seminars. Comprehensive sex education is taught in secondary schools and are included in five of the subjects, some schools also created clubs to discuss sex/GBV which is referred to as 'Family Life Education', and efforts has been made to include sex education as an exclusive subject but is yet to be adopted. The GBV information, education, and communication sensitization/awareness materials in the state are not disability friendly. Based on the survey population's response, an average percentage of about 50.9% are aware of the availability of GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state.



## Access to Legal Justice

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

89.6% Formal justice system 8.62% Informal justice system 1.72% I will not seek justice

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

59.4% Yes 14.7% No 17.2% Not Sure 8.62% It Depends

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

14.7% Yes 31.0% No 54.3% 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?

**13.8%** Yes  
**86.2%** No

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

**56.9%** Specialized medical health care pathway

**32.8%** Psychosocial/mental health pathway

**86.2%** Police/security pathway

**6.89%** 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?

**75.9%** Yes  
**12.1%** No  
**12.0%** Not Sure

The Ministry of Women Affairs' allocation saw a 98.56% decrease from 2021 to 2022, with budgets of N1.12 billion in 2020, N3.47 billion in 2021, and N50 million in 2022. Additionally, N230.98 million was spent in 2020, N109.76 million in 2021, and N82.31 million in 2022 were the actual expenses over the same period. The ministry's budgetary allocation performance in the state has been appalling; in 2020, 2021, and 2022, the corresponding performance metrics are 20.54%, 3.17%, and 164.62%. The Ministry of Women Affairs receives low per capita funding from the state; in 2020, it ranks fourth in the region at N62.7, ranks last in 2021 at 29.8, and ranks fifth in 2022 at N22.3. The state's numbers are abysmal in comparison to the N112.5, 174.0, and N368.8 regional averages.



## Human Angle Story

An eye-witness report indicated that a young man killed a seven-year-old girl, he was caught and arraigned before a court, convicted for murder, and was sentenced to death by hanging. According to a testifier, a man sleeping with his daughter, had the custody of the child transferred to the grandmother. Another incident is a situation where the husband pushed away the heavily pregnant wife, but an NGO took care of her till her family came to take her. There was a case of a girl who was a victim of intimate partner violence from the boyfriend whom she was living with. She reported the incidence to an NGO, who supported and enrolled her for skills empowerment, and she is currently stable.



## Information and Awareness

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


**50.9%** Yes  
**36.2%** No  
**12.9%** Not Sure

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

**12.9%** Not at all useful  
**25.9%** A little bit useful  
**46.6%** Mostly useful  
**14.7%** Completely useful

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

**32.8%** Audio/spoken content  
**25.0%** Braille printed content  
**23.3%** Visual content  
**15.5%** Screen subtitling  
**41.4%** Sign interpretation  
**21.6%** Picture-based messages  
**14.7%** Simplified messages  
**50.1%** 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	1.0
	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	1.0
	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	1.0
	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)	0.0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	0.0