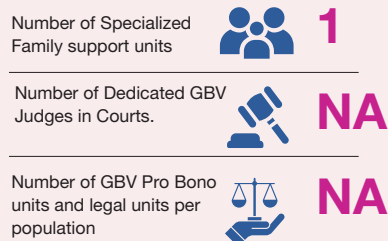


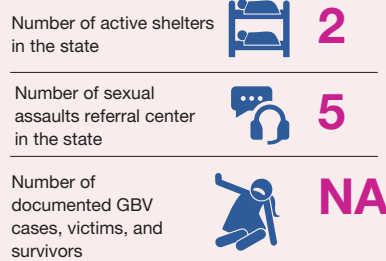
State Context



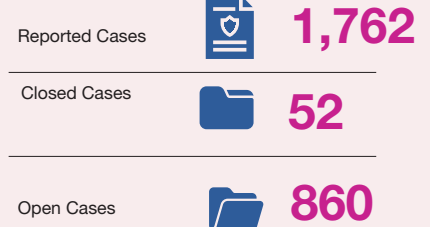
Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



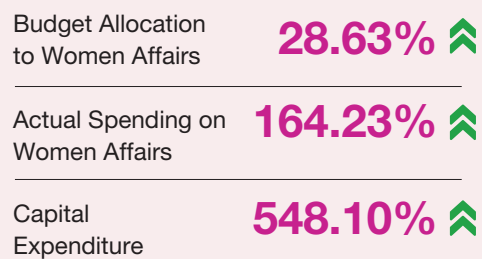
GBV Cases



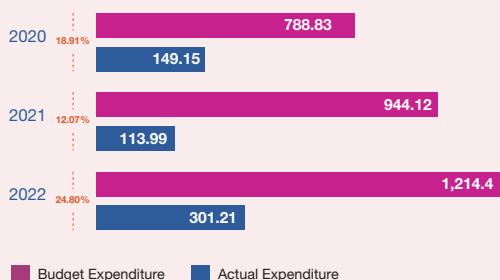
Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



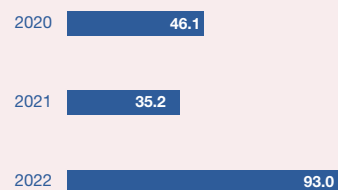
Year on Year Growth 2022







Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>Widespread lack of awareness of the contents of the laws and policies.</p> <p>Weak political will to enforce the law often obstructs effective implementation of GBV-related laws and policies.</p> <p>Existing laws and punishments do not serve as effective deterrents for GBV perpetrators, reinforcing the need for comprehensive reform in the legal and social frameworks.</p>	<p>Comprehensive awareness campaigns should be conducted regularly to educate the public on the GBV-related laws and policies.</p> <p>Strengthen the political will to ensure the effective implementation of GBV-related legal measures.</p> <p>GBV-related laws and policies should be thoroughly reviewed within the legal and social paradigms to ensure that punitive measures are robust enough to dissuade potential perpetrators</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>Coercion, fear, societal pressure, influential interference, and stigmatization, discourage reporting and prosecution of GBV cases and result in undue settlements.</p> <p>Deep-seated scepticism about the ability of the justice system to deliver fair and impartial justice.</p> <p>Lack of a robust witness protection program prevents potential witnesses from coming forward with evidence that could help prosecute GBV perpetrators and ensure fair justice.</p>	<p>Government should enhance awareness campaigns and establish a confidential reporting mechanism to reduce undue settlements in GBV cases and encourage reporting of GBV cases.</p> <p>Government should strengthen the independence of the judiciary, increase transparency by publishing data on caseloads, outcomes, and sentencing, and improve training for legal professionals.</p> <p>Government should allocate funds to the Ministry of Justice for the implementation of a robust witness protection program.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>Insufficient, poorly equipped, and understaffed GBV support facilities.</p> <p>Existing GBV support services that fail to meet the diverse and complex needs of survivors.</p>	<p>Government to allocate funds for the establishment, equipping, and staffing of additional SARC and shelters in different areas of the state, particularly in underserved regions</p> <p>Government should increase budgetary allocations to the Ministries of Women Affairs, and Justice to ensure they can provide comprehensive support for GBV survivors, including empowerment and skills acquisition programs.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>Narrow reach of GBV programs and materials which are heavily sponsored by donor partners.</p> <p>GBV information is disseminated in formats that inadequately accommodate the diverse requirements of PwDs, failing to ensure equitable access to crucial information and support.</p> <p>Limited dissemination of GBV programs on the radio and TV.</p>	<p>Government should increase investment in awareness and sensitisation programs, and collaborate with religious and traditional leaders, NGOs, CSOs, and media organizations to expand awareness campaigns and outreach efforts.</p> <p>Government should improve the inclusiveness of PwDs in GBV awareness campaigns, programs, and materials.</p> <p>Government should increase dissemination of GBV prevention and response programs on radio and TV to help raise awareness and create a more supportive environment for survivors.</p>



Laws and Policies

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

84.92% Yes 15.08% No -- Not Sure

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

31.75% Strongly Agree 61.11% Agree 4.76% Indifferent 1.59% Disagree 0.79% Strongly Disagree

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

78.57% Yes 19.05% No 2.38% Not Sure

In Sokoto State, various legal instruments that address gender-based violence (GBV) have been enacted, such as the Sokoto State Penal Code Law No. 4, 2019, the Sokoto State Child Protection Law No. 13, 2021, the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law No. 6, 2021, and the Sokoto State Administration of Criminal Justice Law No. 8, 2019. The VAPP Law, however, needs some amendments, such as providing penalties for the offence of coercion and violence by state actors, indicate the jurisdiction of court to administer the law, as well as provide for an annual reporting on the implementation of the law. It is also imperative to amend the provision on rape to include the conditions (such as lack of consent and/or the use of force) for when sexual intercourse between spouses can amount to spousal rape.

Additionally, the state upholds Islamic Sharia law, which condemns GBV and prescribes penalties for such offenses. Shariah Courts in the state administer these laws to Muslim individuals. Notably, significant legal advancements have occurred in the last eight years, with the passage of most of the legislation previously outlined. Public awareness regarding the existing GBV laws and policies is widespread (84.92% of respondents), and 71.43% perceive them as effective in preventing and responding to GBV. Moreover, there is a belief that customary and religious laws and practices adequately contribute to GBV prevention and response within the state.

The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative supports a comprehensive GBV reporting approach in the State. At the community level, Surveillance Team members, led by community leaders, are the initial contact for GBV cases who relay such cases to security agencies. The next tier is the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence/ Child Protection Response Team, comprising CSOs, NGOs, and security agencies,

overseen by the Ministry for Women and Children Affairs. Sokoto State has established a GBV referral pathway and a GBV referral list, offering a systematic guide for reporting to various stakeholders. The media also plays a role in reporting. Security agencies handle prosecution and enforcement, while survivors receive legal aid from organizations, primarily coordinated by the Ministry of Justice. Although no witness protection program exists, anonymous reporting options are available. The informal justice system involves traditional, religious, and community leaders who use alternative dispute resolution methods. Families also call for meetings at the community level to resolve certain GBV cases. While perceived as effective by most respondents, many still prefer formal justice mechanisms.

Sokoto State has one operational shelter, the Nana Asmau Shelter, which provides a range of services to survivors of GBV and human trafficking, including skills training. The state also hosts one Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), known as the Nana Khadija Centre, offering counselling, medical treatment, and forensic examination for GBV survivors. DNA testing is not currently available at the Centre. Both the shelter and SARC are situated within the Sokoto metropolis.

The GBV reporting and referral pathway document is a comprehensive resource with contact information for service providers, including CSOs, CBOs, and various government MDAs, and security agencies in the state. It serves as a guide for citizens, outlining where and how to access GBV-related services. Copies of the guide have been printed and widely distributed. Most surveyed participants believe informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, and community groups, are helpful to GBV victims/survivors.



Access to Legal Justice

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

61.90% Formal justice system 37.30% Informal justice system 0.79% I will not seek justice

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

68.25% Yes 15.87% No 7.94% Not Sure 7.94% It Depends

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

65.87% Yes 29.37% No 29.37% 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?

54.76% **45.24%**
Yes No

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

32.54% Specialised medical healthcare pathway	77.78% Police/security pathway	
7.14% Psychosocial/mental health pathway	12.70% Legal pathway	7.94% 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?

83.33% **11.11%** **5.56%**
Yes No Not Sure

The State developed a range of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials through the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative. These materials are available in Hausa, English, and Ajami. They have been widely disseminated to the public. They include contact phone numbers for public inquiries and to report GBV cases. Numerous awareness campaigns on GBV have also been conducted, targeting various groups. Radio and TV stations aired GBV-related jingles in English and indigenous languages. Phone-in TV and radio programs with GBV experts were also part of the Initiative, which ended recently. Most of the surveyed population attested to being aware of these materials and programs. PwDs have also been actively involved in GBV campaigns. However, there is a need to develop IEC materials that can be effectively utilized by those with vision or hearing impairments, as no such materials currently exist. Comprehensive sex education is not taught in secondary or tertiary institutions for religious and cultural reasons. Opinions are divided, with some opposing the term “comprehensive” and others accepting sex education if it aligns with Islamic teachings.



Human Angle Story

A high-profile case in rural Sokoto involved the rape of a 7-year-old girl by a 25-year-old man. The perpetrator’s relatives boasted that no law could charge him and even arrested the victim’s uncle, demanding a bail of N300,000. However, the local government’s GBV surveillance team intervened promptly, citing relevant state laws to the police, and securing the uncle’s release. The perpetrator was eventually arrested, charged, and sentenced to 21 years in prison under the Sokoto State Penal Code.

The Ministry of Women Affairs allocation for the years under review was N788.83 million, N944.12 million, and N1.2 billion for 2020, 2021, and 2022, respectively. In comparison, N149.15 million was disbursed in 2020, N113.99 million in 2021, and N301.21 million in 2022 to the ministry. In 2020, 2021, and 2022, the budget execution rates were 18.91%, 12.07%, and 24.80%, respectively. The Ministry of Women Affairs’ per capita spending was N46.1 in 2020, N35.2 in 2021, and N93.0 in 2022. The ministry’s per capita spending is less than the N46.2, N96.7, and N197.4 regional averages for 2020, 2021, and 2022, respectively.



Information and Awareness

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

75.40% **19.84%**
Yes No
4.76%
Not Sure

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

17.46% Not at all useful	40.48% A little bit useful
28.57% Mostly useful	13.49% Completely useful

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

50.00% Audio/spoken content	11.11% Braille printed content	11.90% Visual content	12.70% Screen subtitling
19.05% Sign interpretation	22.22% Picture-based messages	6.35% Simplified messages	19.05% 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	0.0
	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	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
 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	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	1.0
	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