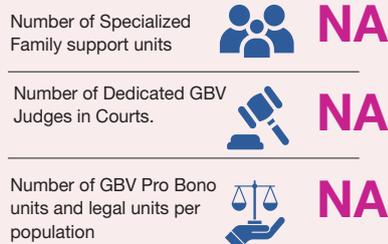


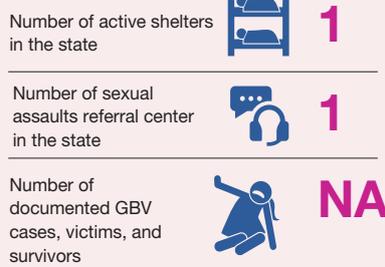
### State Context



### Access to Legal Justice



### Support Services



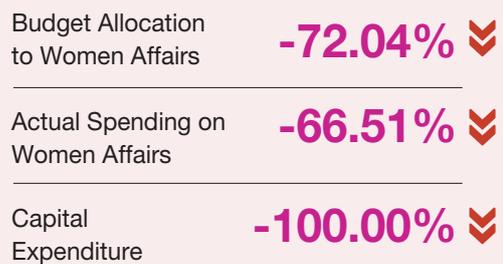
### GBV Cases



### Index Ranking (out of 36 States)



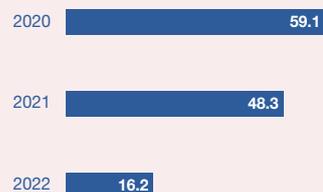
### Year on Year Growth 2022



### Total Allocation to Women Affairs (NGN'm)



### Per Capita Analysis (NGN)



S/N	Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
1	 <p>Laws and Policies</p>	<p>Absence of a comprehensive implementation framework for GBV-related laws and policies and inadequate funding for monitoring and oversight.</p> <p>Weak coordination among the implementing ministries, departments, and agencies.</p> <p>Low public awareness about existing GBV-related laws and policies.</p>	<p>Government to develop comprehensive implementation framework for the laws and policies with a strong focus on monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>Government to strengthen coordination among the implementing government agencies and provide sufficient funding for GBV programs.</p> <p>The state should prioritize comprehensive and consistent public sensitization and awareness campaigns on existing GBV-related laws and policies.</p>
2	 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	<p>Stigmatization, culture of silence, and financial constraints hindering GBV victims/survivors and their families from reporting GBV cases and following up with them.</p> <p>Inadequate investigations, delayed case file submissions to the Ministry of Justice, prolonged legal advice provision, insufficient evidence, lack of trust, frequent adjournments, and similar challenges have collectively discouraged survivors and victims from seeking legal justice when they experience GBV.</p>	<p>Stakeholders to conduct public awareness campaigns addressing the detrimental impacts of stigmatization and the culture of silence. Additionally, provisions should be made to ensure survivors and victims have access to the necessary financial support for reporting and following up on their cases.</p> <p>State to enhance the efficiency and trustworthiness of GBV legal proceedings through thorough investigations, timely case file submissions, prompt provision of legal advice, and strong evidence collection while minimizing adjournments.</p>
3	 <p>Support Services</p>	<p>Insufficient, poorly equipped, and understaffed GBV support facilities.</p> <p>Limited awareness of legal and psychosocial/mental health GBV reporting and referral pathways among the public with a greater knowledge of medical/healthcare and police/security pathways.</p>	<p>Additional Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) should be established, adequately staffed, and equipped across all the senatorial zones and local government areas.</p> <p>Government should implement comprehensive awareness campaigns to promote the legal and psychosocial/mental health GBV reporting and referral pathways, ensuring that individuals are well-informed about them.</p>
4	 <p>Information and Awareness</p>	<p>Over-reliance on donor partner-sponsored IEC projects and programs leading to irregular and unsustainable information dissemination.</p>	<p>The state should limit dependence on external donors and instead allocate sufficient resources for educating the public and disseminating relevant information through radio and TV programs, as well as printed IEC materials.</p> <p>There is need to involve the local theatre group in commemorating international events like the International Day for the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence.</p>



## Laws and Policies

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

94.17% **Yes** 5.83% **No** -- **Not Sure**

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

55% **Strongly Agree** 43.33% **Agree** -- **Indifferent**  
1.67% **Disagree** -- **Strongly Disagree**

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

93.33% **Yes** 5% **No** 2% **Not Sure**

Zamfara State has several laws to combat Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law of 2022, the Child Protection Law of 2022, the Administration of Criminal Justice Law of 2023, and the Sharia Penal Code. The Sharia legal system applies only to Muslims. Most of these laws have been in effect for less than two years, but 66.83% of the population is aware of them and finds them effective. As of the time of this research, the Ministry of Justice was considering a review of the Sharia Penal Code to recognize and address spousal abuse. Regardless, 93.33% of the survey population, finds the customary and religious laws sufficient to address GBV prevention and response. The VAPP Law, however, should be amended to include changing “centre” to “team” in s.4(5) considering the State Counsel to be appointed is for the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Offences Response Team, not the SARC. In addition, s.5(2) of the VAPP law should be amended to recognize spousal rape in situations where the sexual intercourse is, for instance, without consent and/or with force and violence. In s.1, the interpretation section, grandfather and grandaunt should be included as part of those who can commit incest.

The reporting system for GBV in Zamfara State operates through both formal and informal channels. GBV cases can be reported to authorities such as the police, Civil Defence, SARCs, traditional institutions, religious leaders, Community Dispute Resolution Committees, and various community-based organizations. The informal justice mechanisms include traditional institutions, religious leaders, and Community Dispute Resolution Committees. Just 12.5% of the surveyed population think the informal justice system in the state is effective and sufficient in providing justice for victims/survivors of GBV, most people would rather seek justice from the formal justice system.

The prosecution process typically begins with the police and proceeds to the court through the Ministry of Justice for legal proceedings, with the involvement of relevant government agencies to ensure enforcement. Zamfara State has organizations like the Legal Aid Council and FIDA, which provide legal assistance to GBV survivors and victims, when needed. However, the state does not currently have a witness protection program in place. Though the State Police Command has established GBV Desks to address GBV cases, it is worth noting that the state lacks specialized Family Support Units (FSUs) and dedicated GBV Judges. The lapses in legal proceedings as they pertain to GBV cases need to be tackled with urgency to restore confidence in the formal justice system.

In Zamfara State, the sole operational Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) is situated within the King Fa’ad Women and Children Hospital in the state capital of Gusau. The centre is staffed by a team comprising a Coordinator/Manager, a doctor, counsellors, an administrator, clinical personnel including nurses, a pharmacist, and medical records personnel. The SARC offers a range of essential services, including medical examinations, treatment, and counselling.

For reporting Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases, multiple pathways are available, such as reporting to the police, Civil Defence, SARC, traditional leaders, religious figures, Community Dispute Resolution Committees, and various community-based organizations (CBOs). However, findings indicate that respondents are predominantly more aware of the healthcare and law enforcement channels, with a preference for these pathways. A significant majority of those surveyed hold the belief that informal support systems, encompassing family, friends, religious institutions, and community groups, play a crucial role in assisting GBV victims and survivors.



## Access to Legal Justice

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

100% **Formal justice system** -- **Informal justice system** -- **I will not seek justice**

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

98.33% **Yes** -- **No** -- **Not Sure**  
1.67% **It Depends**

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

12.50% **Yes** 73.33% **No** 14.17% **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?

**58.33%** **41.67%**  
Yes No

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

**96.67%** **37.50%**  
Specialised medical healthcare pathway  
Psychosocial/mental health pathway

**96.67%** **52.50%** **--**  
Police/security pathway  
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?

**94.17%** **4.17%** **1.67%**  
Yes No Not Sure

The state predominantly relies on Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, primarily in the form of radio programs and printed materials such as leaflets, flyers, pamphlets, and posters to promote awareness about Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Notably, a significant portion of these radio programs and printed materials are sponsored by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) dedicated to addressing GBV-related issues. While most of the surveyed population has encountered some form of GBV information and educational programs or materials in the state, the most encountered sources are radio programs, with the least exposure reported for social media infographics and explainer videos. However, there is a noteworthy gap in awareness and education about GBV among individuals with disabilities. Survey data indicates that most of the respondents think comprehensive sex education that includes lessons on GBV be taught in secondary and tertiary institutions.

With a female population of 2.96 million, the Ministry of Women Affairs's allocation for the years under review has experienced decline. There was a 46.86% decline from N1.75 billion in 2020 to N930.90 million in 2021 and also a decrease of 72.04% from N930.90 in 2021 to N260.30 million in 2022. The same is also for actual expenditure during the same period, which decreased year on year, from N175 million in 2020, to N143.05 million in 2021, and N47.91 million in 2022. To cap it all, the budget performance was so abysmal, with an execution rate of 9.99%, 15.37%, and 18.41% in 2020, 2021, and 2022, respectively. The state's per capita spending for the Ministry of Women Affairs was N59.1 in 2020, N48.3 in 2021 and N16.2 in 2022. With the regional average figures at N46.2, N96.7, N197.4 in 2020, 2021 and 2022 respectively, the only year the ministry performed above the regional average was in the year 2020.



## Human Angle Story

A young girl narrated her sordid ordeal thus. She was raped by an older person in an unfinished building near her home on her way to school. She says will never forget that day because she missed school. She went home and told her older brother, who immediately called the police. The perpetrator was arrested and taken to court. He was remanded in prison while the case was ongoing but despite assurances that he would face the consequences, and even though the medical examination confirmed penetration, he was later granted bail. She felt sick when she saw him in public for the first time. She justly questioned the ability of the laws to protect her after the way the crime was handled.



## Information and Awareness

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

**96.67%** **1.67%**  
Yes No  
**1.67%**  
Not Sure

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

**--** **2.50%**  
Not at all useful A little bit useful  
**75.83%** **21.67%**  
Mostly useful Completely useful

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

**18.33%** **--** **3.33%** **0.83%**  
Audio/spoken content Braille printed content Visual content Screen subtitling  
**0.83%** **25.00%** **--** **68.33%**  
Sign interpretation Picture-based messages Simplified messages 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	0.0
	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
 <p>Access to Legal Justice</p>	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	0.0
 <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	0.5
	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
	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
 <p>Budget and Spending</p>	Women Affairs Ministry budget allocations and spending (85% and above execution rate)	0
	Women Affairs Ministry spending per capita	0