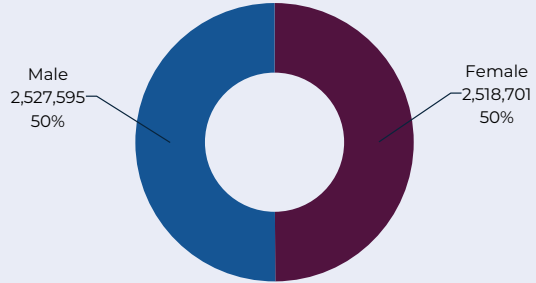


Adamawa State

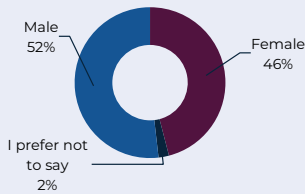




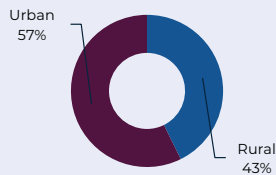
Total Population
5,046,296



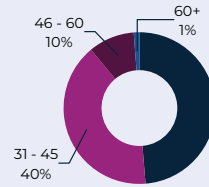
Respondents: 581



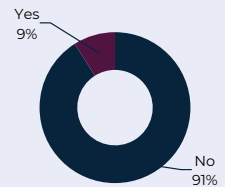
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **1109**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)s **3**



No. of active shelters **5**



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs) **12**



Index Grades

Laws and Policies ●

Access to Legal Justice ●

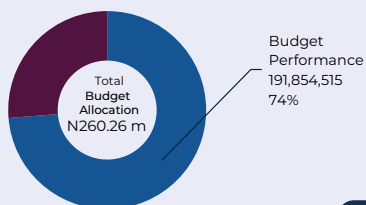
Support Services ●

Information and Awareness ●

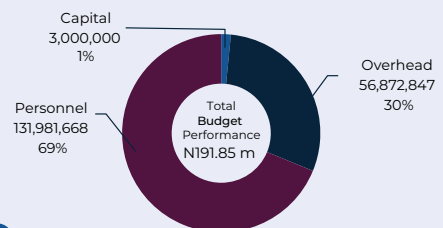
Budget and Spending ●

Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

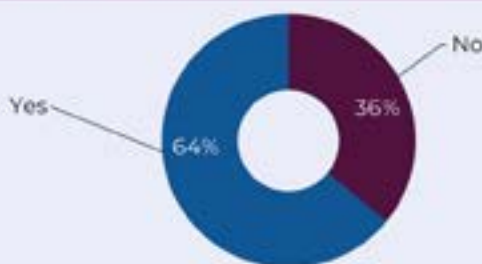


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N38**

Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



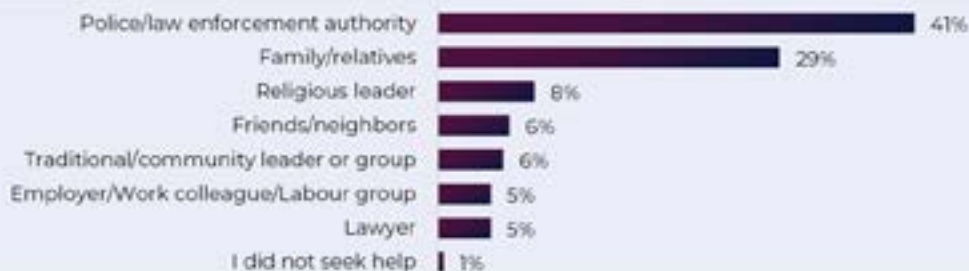
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



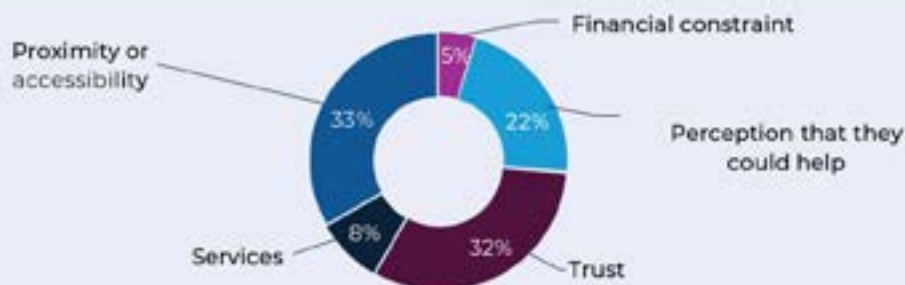
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

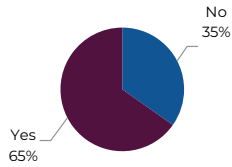


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

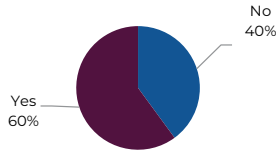


Laws and Policies

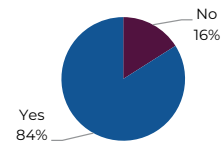
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

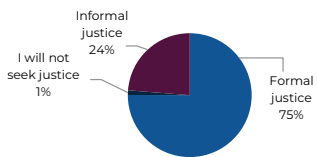


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

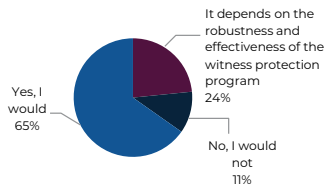


Access to Legal Justice

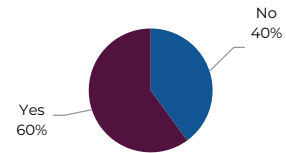
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

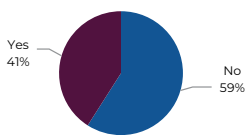


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

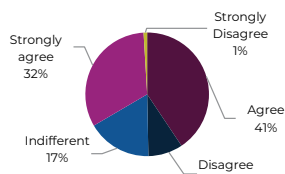


Support Services

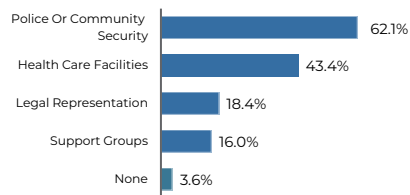
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



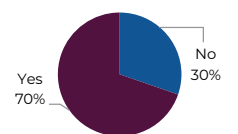
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



Which of these processes and procedures for reporting GBV-related incidents are you aware of? (Referral Pathways)

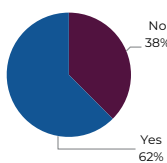


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

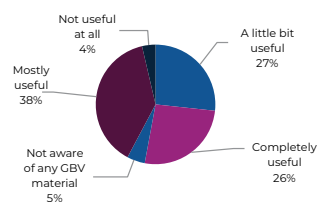


Information and Awareness

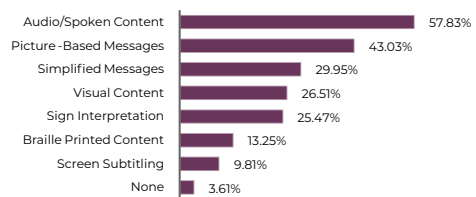
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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



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



Key Insights

Laws and Policies

Adamawa State has enacted several laws to address gender-based violence, including the Penal Code, which defines rape and other forms of violence, the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act (VAPP) for prosecuting offenders, and the Child Protection Act to protect children from harmful practices and violence. 64.4% of respondents are aware of these laws, thus, education and outreach are needed to improve understanding. Most respondents (83.2%) believe in the effectiveness of formal laws, indicating trust in the formal justice system. Advocacy efforts is ongoing to strengthen the VAPP Law. Proposed amendments include explicitly defining “trafficking” as a form of violence against persons and clarifying the “appropriate Government Ministry” responsible for its implementation. In January 2022, a committee was established to review the state’s Penal Code Law, aiming to further enhance legal protections for victims of gender-based violence. Additionally, despite the existence of these laws, challenges in implementation persist due to inadequate funding and the limited capacity of relevant actors and institutions.

Survey results reveal that a significant number (68%) know of GBV-related convictions, indicating some level of enforcement of GBV laws. Further analysis reveals these convictions have deterrent effects. Over the past 12 months, a total of 106 cases have been reported to security agencies, including the police and Civil Defence Corps, of which eight of the cases have been filed in court while ten prosecutions were secured. Although 86.5% of respondents believe that customary and religious laws help prevent and respond to GBV, this belief might not necessarily reflect their actual effectiveness. While these systems may enjoy community trust, their capacity to provide comprehensive justice and support for survivors remains questionable.

Access to Legal Justice

Incidents of gender-based violence in the state can be reported through various channels, including in-person police reports, toll-free telephone numbers, suggestion boxes in safe spaces, one-stop centers, and area offices. NGOs have developed mobile-based applications, such as the Smart RR tool, which allows for anonymous reporting of GBV-related cases. Prosecutors and surveillance teams are responsible for taking reported cases to court and responding promptly to incidents. According to members of the NSCDC, surveillance systems are active and effective, and efforts are made to gather evidence. Family and relatives are often the first point of contact for GBV victims, providing support and help. Friends, neighbors, and employers also play a significant role in supporting victims. Informal networks, such as family and community ties, are crucial in providing accessible and trustworthy support.

Furthermore, CSOs, including FIDA and an NGO owned by Fatima Haraji, offer legal aid, providing standby lawyers at State CID offices to endorse perpetrators’ statements. However, challenges persist in addressing GBV cases. The witness protection mechanism is inadequate, with only private rooms for statement-taking available at police stations. While informal justice systems, such as religious and cultural practices, are effective in administering GBV justice, they often lack capacity, coordination, and documentation. Despite these challenges, a significant percentage (86.5%) of respondents believe that customary and religious laws help prevent and respond to GBV, highlighting the value placed on cultural practices in addressing GBV issues.

Support Services

Adamawa State has five shelters, and three Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs) located in Yola, Mubi, and Numan. These facilities offer a range of services, including psychosocial support, legal aid, referrals, shelter, empowerment, and livelihood training. Although government-owned, many were initially established by NGOs. The services offered are often hindered by funding constraints, drug shortages, and overcrowding. To improve accessibility to a greater number of the population, additional shelters and SARCs should be established in other areas of the state. The primary reporting mechanism for GBV cases in Adamawa State is the police, with victims able to report in person or via a toll-free hotline.

Additionally, NGOs have implemented mobile-based applications for anonymous reporting, and suggestion boxes are available in safe spaces. The Ministry of Women Affairs also serves as a reporting channel. While these systems are effective, challenges such as delayed reporting, which can compromise evidence, and a lack of coordination and training among stakeholders persist. 78.7% of the respondents

believe that informal justice systems, such as traditional and community-based mechanisms, are effective in addressing GBV. This suggests that these systems are trusted and perceived as accessible. However, it is crucial to recognize the limitations of informal systems and ensure that they are complemented by robust formal justice mechanisms.

Information and Awareness

Information, education, and communication (IEC) materials on GBV are disseminated through various channels, including radio, television, and printed materials. However, distribution is often inconsistent and primarily focused on specific communities where NGOs have interventions or during special events like the 16 Days of Activism against GBV and International Women's Day. There is a notable absence of budget lines for GBV-related IEC in the Ministry of Women Affairs' budget, and available IEC materials often fail to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities. While 97.3% of respondents support integrating GBV and child sexual abuse education into school curricula, the current implementation is inconsistent, with sex education often integrated into subjects like Integrated Science. While some efforts have been made to provide GBV information in accessible formats, such as audio and sign language, there are limitations in reaching PWDs who rely on other mediums like braille or screen subtitling. This highlights the need for more inclusive and targeted information and awareness strategies.

Budget and Spending

In 2023, the state's Ministry of Women Affairs spent N191.85 million out of its budgetary allocation of N260.26 million, achieving a 74% execution rate. Out of the funds utilized, N131.98 million (69%) was spent on personnel costs, constituting a significant portion of the total allocation. N56.87 million (30%) and N3 million (2%) were spent on overhead and capital expenditure components of the budget, respectively. The state's per capita spending by the Ministry of Women Affairs was N38, falling below the national average. Despite the limited allocation, the ministry undertook key projects, including the procurement of instructional materials in all 21 local government areas to promote awareness of child rights for N10 million, the rehabilitation of safe and child-friendly spaces statewide for N10 million, and the purchase of banners and billboards for advocacy and sensitization efforts on gender-based violence, also for N10 million. However, the ministry continues to face significant funding challenges, impacting its ability to effectively address GBV.

Human Angle Story







Jamima (real name withheld), a young woman from a small village in Michika LGA of Adamawa State, was a victim of domestic violence. Her husband subjected her to years of physical and emotional abuse. The beatings, the insults, and the constant fear had taken a toll on her physical and mental health. Despite the pain and suffering, Jamima hesitated to seek help. Cultural norms and societal pressures often dictate that women should endure domestic violence in silence. Fear of stigma, shame, and potential retaliation from her abuser further hindered her from reaching out. When she finally mustered the courage to confide in her mother, she was met with disbelief and judgment. Her mother, instead of offering support, advised her to endure the abuse for the sake of her children and the family's honor. Jamima's said lack of access to essential support services, such as counselling, legal aid, and safe shelters, hindered her recovery and perpetuates the cycle of abuse.

Adamawa State

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	Some GBV-related laws are not comprehensive enough to adequately address GBV. For instance, the Penal Code did not provide compensation for GBV survivors, although the VAPP law complemented this by making provision for compensation.	All laws, especially GBV-related ones, should be reviewed to address gaps, ensuring they effectively address GBV.
	Implementation of the VAPP law is limited due to a lack of funding. This is in addition to the low capacity of actors saddled with the responsibility of implementing the law.	Devote funds to activities that aid the implementation of the VAPP Law; and the capacity of judges and prosecutors should be enhanced to aid speedy and just dispensation of justice.
	Some of the informal laws practiced in the state further perpetuate GBV. Patriarchy, linked to culture and religion, is the underlying driver of GBV in the state, depicted in the exclusion of women from decision-making around family planning, marriage, property ownership, and participation in governance.	Intensify oversight reach to ensure that the informal laws and practice align with the formal laws.
Access to Legal Justice 	Government actors require further training and collaboration to effectively deploy the mobile-based application reporting channel. Delays in reporting destroy evidence.	Enhance the capacity of government personnel to collect and preserve evidence and designate courts closer to people to ensure speedy reports.
	The Federation of Female Lawyers (FIDA) is the only entity that provides pro-bono or free legal services to GBV survivors.	Recruit lawyers who can provide free legal assistance to GBV victims and survivors. Lawyers in private practice should be encouraged to provide legal aid to survivors, pro bono.
	Absence of witness protection mechanisms.	Implement robust witness protection system to encourage people to stand as witnesses.
Support Services 	There is a limited number of SARC and shelters, which is situated in the state capital.	Establish more shelters and SARCs to adequately cater to the needs of the population.
	There is a shortage of medical supplies, and healthcare workers are inadequately compensated.	Make adequate budgetary provision for medical supplies and the welfare of health workers and other service providers should be enhanced.
Information and Awareness 	There is limited spread of IEC materials, and they often do not accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities.	Distribution of IEC materials should be coordinated across ministries, should have wider coverage, and should be across ministries, inclusive, and consistent.
	There is no evidence of GBV being integrated into the school curriculum or of teachers receiving adequate training on GBV, indicating a critical need for comprehensive teacher training on GBV prevention, response, and victim support.	The government should Integrate GBV education into the school curriculum and provide comprehensive training to teachers on GBV prevention, response, and support.
	While awareness campaigns have increased knowledge of GBV, social stigma remains a significant barrier to open discussions about the issue. Tangible aid, such as school supplies and medical devices, can help build trust within communities, but sustaining engagement without ongoing benefits is challenging.	Continuous sensitization and advocacy for behavioral change are necessary for sustained impact.
		Stronger advocacy is needed to address cultural resistance to GBV discussions.
	Field outreach with practical aids has successfully helped to gain trust, although community interest often wanes when immediate benefits are lacking.	
Budget and Spending 	Although the Ministry of Women Affairs recorded a relatively high budget execution rate in 2023, 74%, the budgetary allocation to the Ministry was grossly inadequate.	Improve the budget performance rate of the Ministry by ensuring adequate funds disbursement. Additionally, the budget provision and release should be substantially increased to aid the Ministry in effectively and efficiently dealing with the menace of GBV in the state.
	Spending per capita by the Ministry of Women Affairs at N38 is below par.	

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Adamawa State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1	 Ensure full implementation of GBV-related laws and policies to achieve desired results.	Partially Implemented	Although efforts are being made to ensure the full implementation of policies, however challenges still exist, hence the conviction rates are still low
2	Intensify awareness creation efforts and sensitization on existing GBV laws and policies in the state.	Fully Implemented	Many organizations now mainstream GBV awareness into their project interventions
3	Train and retrain law enforcement agencies to ensure better investigation of GBV cases that will lead to the successful prosecution of offenders.	Partially Implemented	The implementation of this is weak as only a few organizations who implement donor-funded GBV project conduct such training with limited scope and coverage
Access to Legal Justice			
4	 Law enforcement agencies and legal assistance service providers should ensure higher success rates in prosecution to restore the confidence of the public in the justice system.	Not Implemented	Success rates in terms of prosecution of GBV offenders is still abysmally low.
5	There is a need for more awareness creation on existing laws, especially at the grassroots level and the need to support victims/survivors and end stigmatization.	Partially Implemented	This is currently ongoing, major by local organizations.
6	The government should assign dedicated GBV judges in area courts and upper area courts to facilitate accelerated hearing and dispensation of justice on GBV cases.	Not Implemented	This has not been implemented and constitute a barrier in terms of access to justice for survivors/victims
Support Services			
7	 Create more campaigns and sensitize the populace on the existing support systems in the state.	Partially Implemented	A few organizations who have accessed the Nigerian humanitarian fund are currently implementing this.
8	Strengthen, coordinate and improve synergy among different service providers.	Fully Implemented	This is being achieved through the monthly GBV sub-sector working group meetings.
9	Increase budgetary allocation and disbursements to MDAs working on GBV.	Not Implemented	Budgetary allocations and releases are still abysmally low
Information and Awareness			
10	 Incorporated comprehensive sex-related topics in the schools' curriculum and sensitise parents, communities, and religious leaders on the role of comprehensive sex education.	Not Implemented	This is yet to be implemented into the curriculum
11	IEC materials should be well coordinated and PWDs-friendly and address cultural attitudes based on the inferiority or superiority of wo(men).	Partially Implemented	Some disability-led organizations are into this.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Adamawa State

12	Prioritize and fund GBV programs and activities of MDAs.	Not Implemented	The implementation of this is weak funding for GBV programs comes mostly from donor funding to CSOs and NGOs and are restricted. MDAs suffer from inadequate funding to implement GBV programs
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