
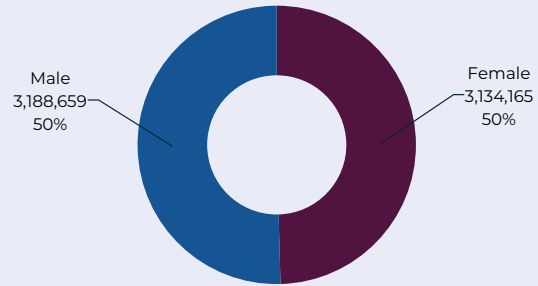


Borno State

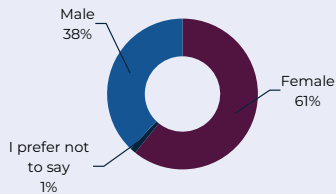
A decorative border at the bottom of the section header, featuring a repeating pattern of traditional African motifs, including stylized eyes, sunbursts, and geometric shapes, rendered in white lines on a dark background.



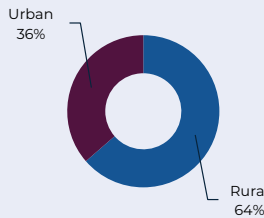
Total Population
6,322,824



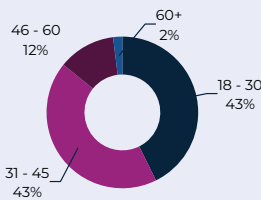
Respondents: 459



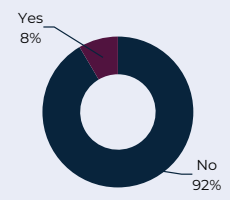
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **215**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)s **1**



No. of active shelters **N/A**



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs) **N/A**

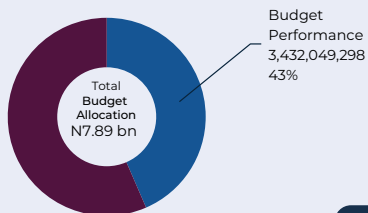


Index Grades

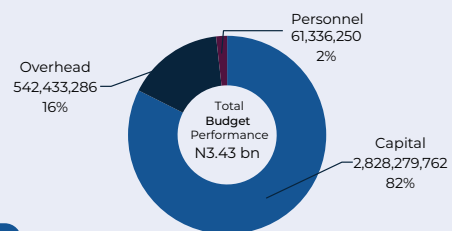
- Laws and Policies ●
- Access to Legal Justice ●
- Support Services ●
- Information and Awareness ●
- Budget and Spending ●

Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

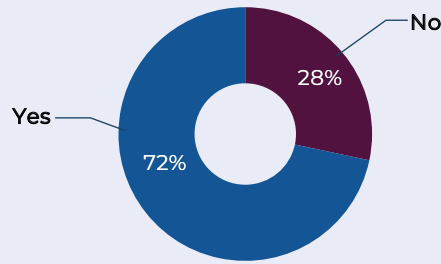


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N542.8**

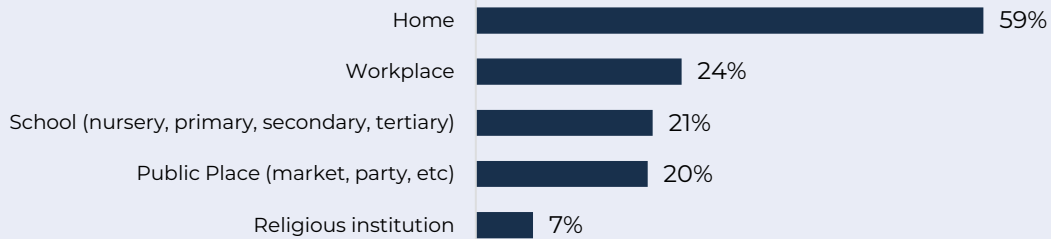
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



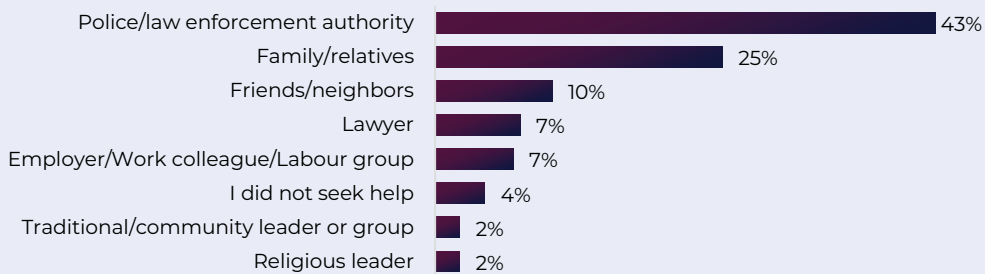
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



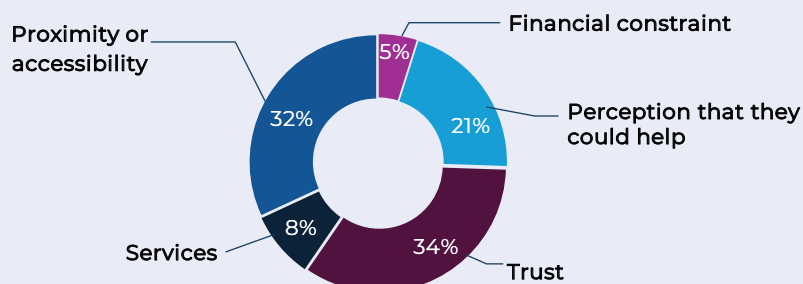
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

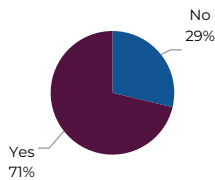


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

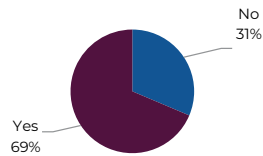


Laws and Policies

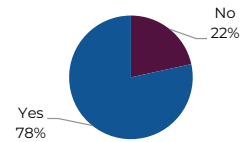
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

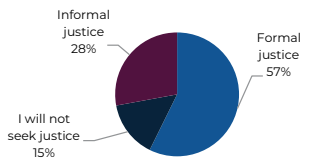


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

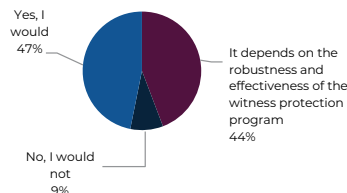


Access to Legal Justice

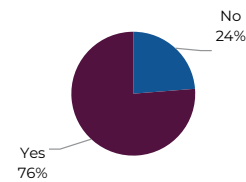
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

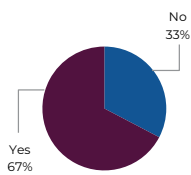


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

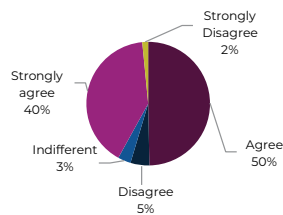


Support Services

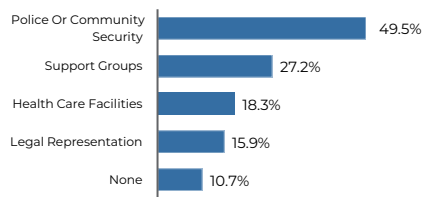
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



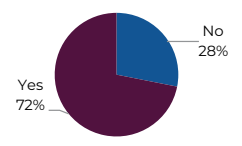
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

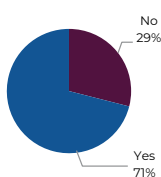


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

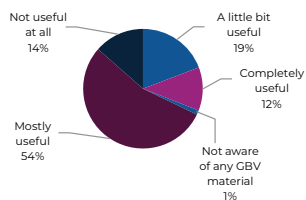


Information and Awareness

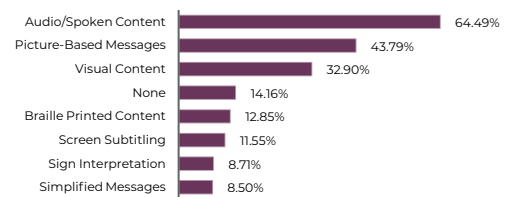
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a pervasive issue in Borno State, fueled by ongoing conflict, societal norms, and economic hardship. Women and girls, who constitute approximately 49% of the population, are particularly vulnerable to GBV, especially in the context of displacement and instability. The prevalence of domestic violence, sexual violence, and harmful traditional practices is exacerbated by the crisis, leading to widespread suffering and trauma among affected communities. To address GBV, the government has enacted various laws and policies, including the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act, the Child Protection Act, the Borno State Gender Policy, and the Local Government Ordinances. While these laws and policies are crucial for prosecuting GBV perpetrators, their full and effective implementation is essential to eliminate GBV in the state.

The Borno State VAPP Law includes state-specific provisions, such as Section 27, which addresses violence perpetrated by non-state actors, including abduction and kidnapping. However, the law needs to be amended to include offences like offensive conduct, damage to property with intent to cause distress, and harmful widowhood practices. Additionally, amendments are needed to establish a Sex Offenders' Register, streamline the prosecution process by removing the Attorney-General's written consent requirement, and clarify the government agency responsible for enforcing the VAPP Law. Additionally, the laws do not address emerging forms of GBV in conflict contexts.

There is a lack of coordination between formal and informal systems in the state in addressing GBV, with informal structures often lacking accountability. While 71.2% of respondents are aware of GBV laws, 24.7% expressed concerns about their effectiveness due to issues bothering on enforcement, access to justice, and corruption. Cultural barriers and resistance also hinder survivors from reporting cases. While 72.3% of respondents know GBV laws, further efforts are needed to improve understanding and promote their effective implementation. 215 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) were reported over the past year. Among these, 123 cases were taken to court, leading to 56 successful convictions. Thirty-four individuals were acquitted, and a staggering 101 cases are still unresolved. This highlights the urgent need for continued efforts to address and combat GBV in our communities. However, many cases went unreported due to stigma and fear of retribution. Notable trends include an increase in reported cases during the insurgency and flooding.

Access to Legal Justice

The reporting and referral system for GBV in Borno State involves a combination of formal and informal structures. Formal channels include the police, while informal networks, such as community and religious leaders, play a crucial role in initial support and referrals. 23.1% of respondents believe that victims often seek help from family or relatives, while 45.2% will seek help from the police. However, accessing justice remains a challenge due to factors like mistrust in the justice system, fear of retaliation, limited legal representation, corruption, and lack of knowledge about legal procedures. The state provides legal, health, and counseling services to survivors through various agencies. Additionally, local women's groups and community leaders offer immediate assistance and shelter, fostering a sense of solidarity. While informal systems can be effective in providing initial support, their capacity to address complex GBV cases may be limited due to a lack of professional training and resources. The absence of dedicated GBV courts and judges in the state is a significant concern. This lack of dedicated judges can hinder the effective prosecution of GBV cases and delay justice for survivors.

Support Services

Borno State has no shelter but has one Sexual Assault Referral Center (SARC), primarily operated by international non-profits such as UNFPA, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the Nigerian Red Cross Society, and Women's Rights Initiative. These facilities are located in Maiduguri and Numan and provide essential services to survivors of GBV. The state's GBV reporting and referral system involves formal structures like the police and NGOs, as well as informal networks such as community and religious leaders. Survivors are typically referred to medical facilities for initial care and then to legal aid providers for further support. While informal support networks, such as family,

community groups, and religious institutions, can be valuable sources of support, 27.4% of respondents reported experiencing negative attitudes or a lack of support from these sources. 72.6% believe that these structures can be helpful in providing support and understanding to survivors of GBV.

Information and Awareness

Survey results show that 71% of respondents are aware of GBV information and awareness programs in Borno State. However, 42.2% of respondents reported limited access to information, particularly in rural areas.

Budget and Spending






Borno State allocated an impressive N7.89 billion to its Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in 2023, making it the highest budgeted among its northeastern counterparts. However, the state faced a low budget implementation rate of just 43%, with only N3.43 billion utilized. Of the expenditure, capital projects accounted for N2.83 billion (85.5%), while overhead and personnel costs amounted to N542.43 million (15.8%) and N61.34 million (17.8%), respectively. With a population of 6,322,825, Borno recorded a per capita spending of N542.8, the highest in the northeastern region. This highlights the state's significant investment relative to its peers despite challenges in budget execution.

Human Angle Story



After years of enduring domestic abuse, Fatima, a 30-year-old woman, sought refuge in a local shelter. The shelter staff provided her with essential medical care, psychological counseling, and legal assistance. Through these services, Fatima regained her self-confidence and learned about her rights. With the support of the shelter, she successfully obtained a restraining order against her abusive husband. Today, Fatima is not only rebuilding her own life but is also actively advocating for other women in her community, sharing her story to inspire others to seek help and support.



Borno State

Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	In some communities, Sharia law is applied to protect women but may also perpetuate gender inequalities. In addition, early marriage and Female Genital Mutilation are also justified through tradition.	A formal mechanism should be implemented to hold traditional and religious leaders accountable.
	The GBV-related laws are not comprehensive as emerging issues on GBV associated with the ongoing insurgency are not addressed in the laws.	The laws should be reviewed to address emerging issues.
	Survivors' protection is not guaranteed by traditional and religious structures.	Close collaboration between informal and formal justice should be ensured to fill the gap.
	Local government ordinances specific to each LGA's context address GBV. However, there is no accountability.	
Access to Legal Justice 	Government commitment to addressing GBV is low as NGOs spearheaded most of the GBV activities.	The government should take the lead in addressing GBV while NGOs support it to ensure sustainability.
	Lack of confidence in formal security actors undermines the reporting process as many GBV incidents go unreported.	Security operatives should be trained on an ongoing basis and made to be accountable for their action.
	Unprofessionalism is associated with religious institutions handling GBV, as some of them perpetuate stigma against GBV survivors.	The capacity of religious institutions should be built to efficiently and effectively provide holistic informal support for GBV victims and survivors.
Support Services 	The informal reporting and referral pathways are associated with perpetuating stigma on survivors due to a lack of training to handle complexities around GBV.	Collaboration between formal and informal structures should be strengthened, and the capacity building for actors should be carried out regularly.
	Insufficient functional shelters and SARCs to meet the needs of population	The government should invest in establishing and equipping more shelters and SARCs.
Information and Awareness 	Borno State has a robust information and awareness-creation medium, which is a result of robust NGO activities.	The government should collaborate with NGOs to sustain GBV sensitization and awareness efforts.
Budget and Spending 	The budget execution rate of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in 2023 was 43%.	Increase the budgetary allocation and releases to the Ministry to enable it effectively and efficiently implement its plan, programs and projects for effective GBV prevention and response.
The spending per capita by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in 2023 was N542.8.		

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Policy Recommendations
Borno State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1	Government should increase sensitisation and awareness about the existence and role of the laws in providing justice to GBV victims and survivors.	Partially Implemented	The Government has provided partially implementation sensitisation and awerness about the existing laws and policies in providing justice to GBV victims and survivors in Borno State.
2	Government should ramp up the prosecution of GBV cases to serve as deterrent to potential perpetrators.	Fully Implemented	The government is committed to tackling Gender-Based Violence (GBV) through swift action against perpetrators, strengthening the legal framework, and improving law enforcement ¹ . This aims to hold offenders accountable and support survivors. The goal is to build a safer, more equitable society for everyone.
3	Educate the public, including rural dwellers, regularly on GBV-related laws and their legal rights.	Partially Implemented	The government recognizes education and awareness as key strategies to combat Gender-Based Violence (GBV). They plan to implement nationwide educational campaigns to inform all members of society about GBV laws, rights, and support services, aiming to foster a culture of respect, equality, and accountability.
Access to Legal Justice			
4	Develop robust witness protection programs and educate the public about it	Not Implemented	The government acknowledge that a robust witness protection program has not yet been fully implemented, we are aware that such a program is vital for ensuring the safety of those who come forward to testify and assist in securing justice.
5	Establish exclusive GBV Courts with dedicated GBV Judges and well-trained court personnel.	Not Implemented	The government recognizes the urgent need for specialized legal structures to address Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in regions like Borno, where conflict and displacement have worsened the impact of violence on women and vulnerable groups ¹ . To provide justice for survivors, the government is establishing exclusive GBV courts with dedicated judges who have the expertise to handle sensitive cases with urgency and care.
6	Informal practices that perpetuate GBV by punishing the perpetrators with a slap on the wrist should be outlawed.	Not Implemented	The government acknowledges that informal practices and customary laws perpetuate Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and undermine the legal framework. To address this, the government is committed to outlawing such practices, aligning traditional justice systems with national laws, and ensuring perpetrators face justice.
7	Different reporting systems should be setup in the rural areas.	Partially Implemented	the government are puting more efforts in the implementation process. Survivors can report incidents to the police, NGOs, or local government offices.
Support Services			
8	SARCs and more Shelters should be established, well-staffed, and equipped.	Partially Implemented	Borno state has 6 SARCs.

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2023 Policy Recommendations
Borno State

9	For sustainability purposes, government needs to invest resources in building capacity to be the primary provider of support services to GBV victims and survivors.	Partially Implemented	The state government has established formal support systems for GBV victims such as legal aid services, healthcare services and counselling services.
10	 <p>Government should improve support services to ensure that persons who have been prisoners of war are given adequate care and re-integrated back into society.</p>	Fully Implemented	The government acknowledges the significant challenge posed by informal practices and customary laws that perpetuate Gender-Based Violence (GBV), particularly in regions like Borno. These practices allow perpetrators to receive lenient punishment, fostering a culture of impunity that undermines the legal framework, exacerbates survivors' suffering, and enables violence to persist unchecked. To address this, the government is committed to ensuring all forms of GBV are met with the full force of the law, outlawing informal practices that perpetuate GBV, and aligning traditional justice systems with national laws that prioritize women's and children's rights and protection.
Information and Awareness			
11	 <p>Make GBV sensitization and awareness programs inclusive, equally accessible, and generally PwDs-friendly.</p>	Partially Implemented	The government is fully committed to the wellbeing and rehabilitation of all individuals affected by the ongoing conflict, including those who have been held as prisoners of war. We recognize that the trauma and hardships endured by these individuals have long-lasting effects, and it is our responsibility to ensure that they are provided with the necessary support to heal and reintegrate into society. To this end, we are strengthening our efforts to provide comprehensive care for former prisoners of war, including physical and mental health services, vocational training, and reintegration programs. These services will be tailored to the specific needs of each individual, with a focus on trauma-informed care and restoring dignity and hope. It is essential that these individuals are not only cared for but are also given opportunities to rebuild their lives and contribute positively to their communities

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2023 Policy Recommendations
Borno State

12

Government should prioritize and sponsor more campaigns on GBV in different local dialects for effective communication.

Not Implemented

The government recognizes the critical need for effective communication in raising awareness about Gender-Based Violence (GBV) across all communities, especially in diverse regions like Borno. We acknowledge that for awareness campaigns to be truly impactful, they must be inclusive and culturally sensitive, ensuring that language is not a barrier to understanding the message. Many communities in Borno speak a variety of local dialects, and it is essential that GBV campaigns are tailored to reach these groups in their own languages.



13

Comprehensive sex education should be extended to cover all levels of education, including primary level.

Not Implemented

The government recognizes the urgent need to implement comprehensive sex education across all levels of education, including at the primary school level, to equip young people with the knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible decisions about their health and well-being. We understand that comprehensive sex education is not just about biological aspects; it also includes teaching about respect, consent, healthy relationships, and preventing gender-based violence (GBV).

While we have made progress in some areas, we acknowledge that comprehensive sex education has not yet been fully implemented at every level, particularly at the primary school level in regions like Borno. This gap represents a critical opportunity lost in preventing early pregnancies, sexual abuse, and the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).



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