

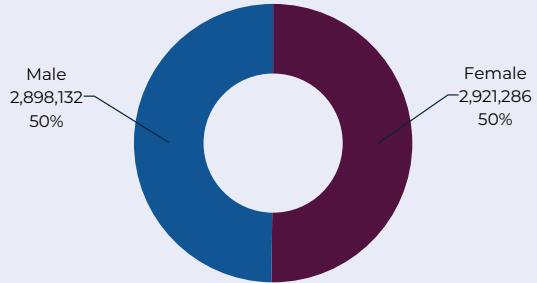


Delta State

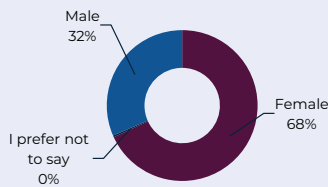




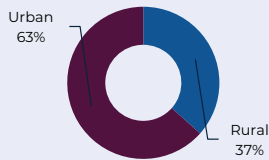
Total Population
5,819,418



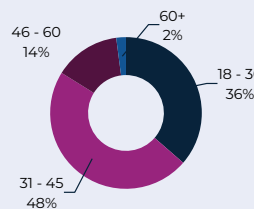
Respondents: 533



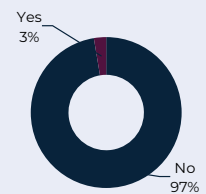
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **150**



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



No. of active shelters **3**



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

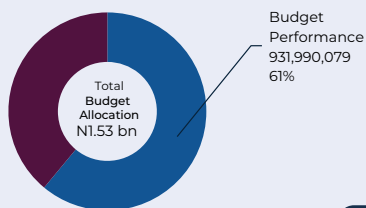


Index Grades

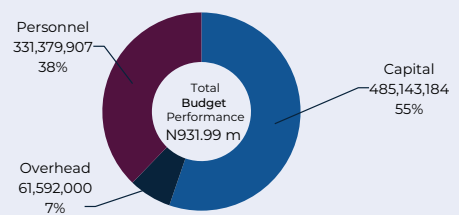
Laws and Policies	●
Access to Legal Justice	●
Support Services	●
Information and Awareness	●
Budget and Spending	●

Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

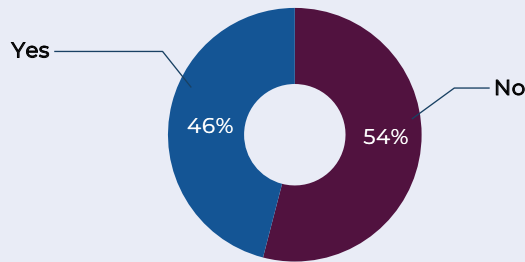


Budget Expenditure (2023)

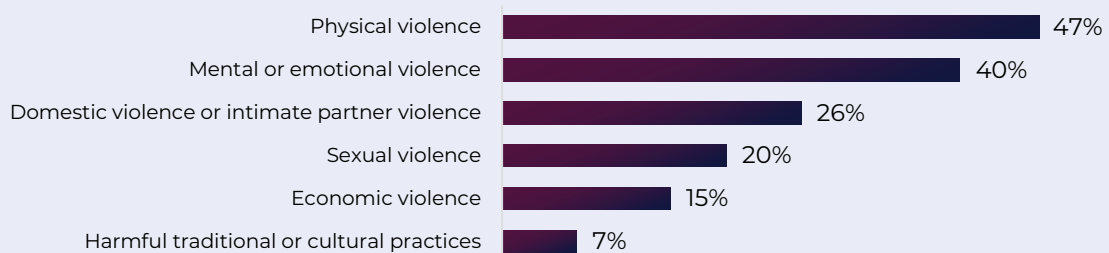


Per Capita Spending **NT160.2**

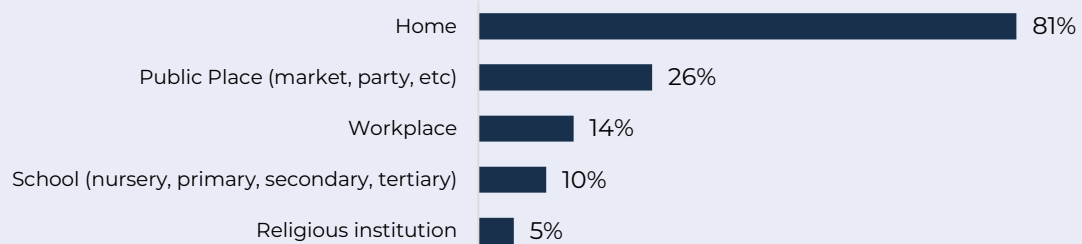
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



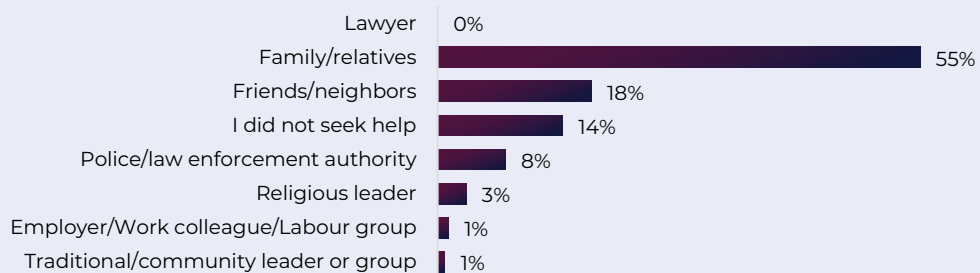
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



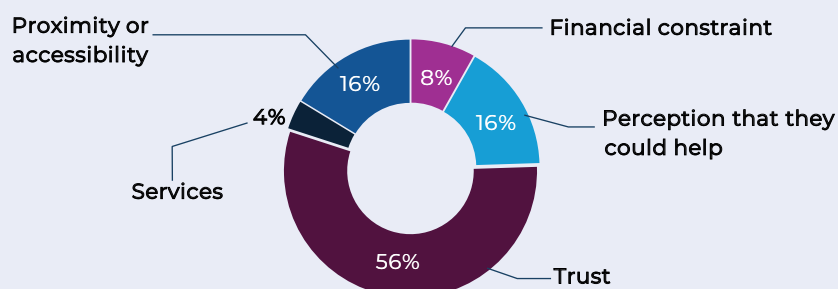
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

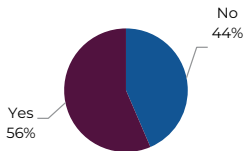


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

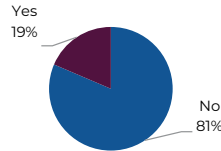


Laws and Policies

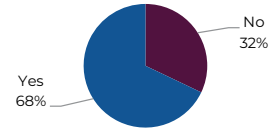
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

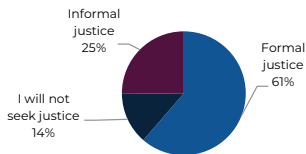


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

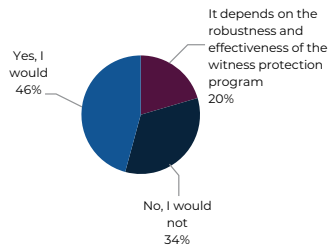


Access to Legal Justice

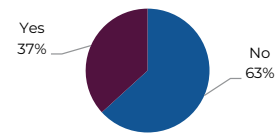
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

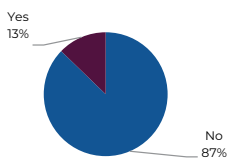


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

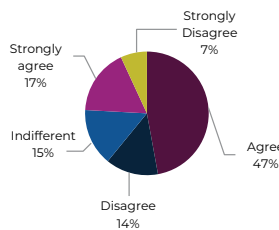


Support Services

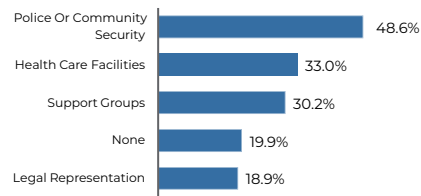
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



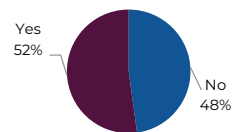
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

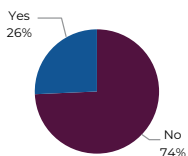


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

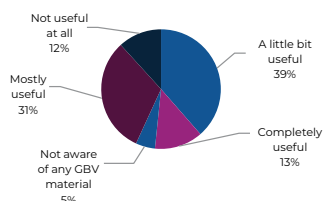


Information and Awareness

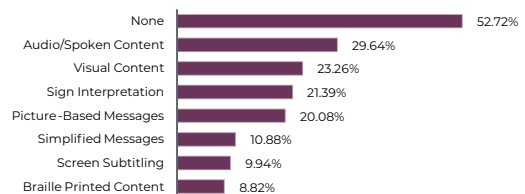
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Delta State has implemented several laws to combat gender-based violence (GBV), including the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law (2020), the Child Rights Law (2009), and relevant sections of the Criminal Code. The VAPP Law is frequently used due to its comprehensive nature, addressing contemporary forms of violence. Despite these legal frameworks, public awareness remains limited, with only 56% of surveyed respondents aware of these laws and perceiving them as effective in preventing GBV. Key challenges in the legal system include delays in case processing, inadequate protection for survivors, and insufficient mechanisms to combat stigmatization and victim-blaming. Moreover, entrenched cultural practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) persist, highlighting the limitations of legal measures in addressing deeply rooted societal norms. To bridge this gap, traditional rulers, in collaboration with FIDA, have developed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) to be used as by-laws in the fight against GBV. 68% of the respondents perceive customary law as helpful in preventing GBV.

Access to Legal Justice

Victims and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) can report incidents through GBV desk officers at police stations, SARCs, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), or via five dedicated hotlines. A GBV technical working committee has been established to expedite response efforts. The prosecution process begins with police and SARCs collecting evidence, followed by arraignment at a Magistrate Court and referral to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). Convictions, particularly for sexual offenses, are enforced by prison wardens or police. Many respondents (60%) indicated they would seek formal justice. Free legal aid is available through government-provided lawyers at SARCs, and the MOJ is accessible to all victims. However, challenges such as appearance fees in remote areas hinder accessibility.

Court proceedings often exceed the timelines outlined in the Administration of Criminal Justice Law (ACJL), with some cases lasting over 12 months. Informal justice systems, rooted in traditional norms, can undermine justice through biased rulings, secondary victimization, and prioritizing family or community reputation over accountability. Yet, 68% of respondents believe that customary laws contribute to GBV prevention. Currently, there is no dedicated family support unit for GBV, and a relevant bill awaits assent. Consequently, there are no specialized GBV judges or dedicated GBV desks in various police commands, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), and other institutions.

Support Services

The state has three shelters funded by CSOs. Currently, the state lacks an operational government-owned shelter. However, a facility is under construction with a 2023 budget allocation of N70 million. In the interim, survivors rely on shelters provided by NGOs like FIDA and Working Fingers International. FIDA's shelter, temporarily donated by a member, offers privacy and support to survivors. Working Fingers International's "Place of Peace" provides transitional housing and empowerment programs. Additionally, the state operates three functional Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs) in Asaba, Ughelli, and Warri, offering essential services such as medical care, counselling, and legal aid.

Reporting and referral pathways include SARCs, GBV desk officers, NGO hotlines, and paralegals trained by FIDA. The newly established GBV Technical Working Group (TWG) further supports coordination, while the Ministry of Health aims to integrate reporting in health facilities once funding is secured. Informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centers, and community groups play a role in aiding survivors, though societal stigma often leads families to favour out-of-court settlements. About 58% of the respondents think the informal support system is better than the formal support. Medical units and forensic evidence provided by SARCs are instrumental in prosecuting GBV cases. However, there is limited budgetary allocation for GBV initiatives.

Information and Awareness

The state employs various IEC materials to raise awareness of GBV, including flyers, posters, audio messages, radio jingles, and TV programs. These materials are used during public sensitization campaigns

in schools, marketplaces, and awareness walks, especially on commemorative days such as Girl Child's Day, Women's Day, and 16 Days of Activism. Stakeholders like CSOs, NOA, MOI, MOJ, and NHRC collaborate in these efforts. The education curriculum includes GBV topics under national values, which are taught in secondary schools through social studies and civic education. Additionally, advocacy for GBV clubs in schools is beginning to gain attention among GBV groups. Programs for persons with disabilities (PWDs) include sign interpreters and audio materials but lack resources like Braille. Specialized GBV programs are organized for PWDs, yet limited awareness persists due to the absence of a comprehensive PWD database. Survey findings reveal only 25.74% of respondents are aware of GBV sensitization programs due to a gap in information dissemination.

Budget and Spending

The State's Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, and Social Development received a N1.5 billion budget in 2023. Of this, 61% (N931.99 million) was spent. The funds were spent as follows: N331.38 million for personnel, N61.59 million for overhead, N485.14 million for capital projects, and N53.87 million for other recurrent expenses. With a population of 7.09 million, the per capita spending on these allocations was N160.20, indicating limited resources for programs and services such as GBV awareness, SARC services, and shelter provision. To improve the impact of these initiatives, the government needs to increase the budget allocation and disbursement to the Ministry of Women's Affairs. The 2023 state budget included specific allocations for GBV interventions, such as N70 million for the construction of a Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) shelter and N5 million for the renovation of transit homes for disabled individuals.

Human Angle Story



A recent sensitization program in the Okpanam community led to a positive outcome. A neighbor, empowered by the program, noticed a young girl struggling with a large water container and reported their concerns about potential child abuse to a hotline. The Technical Working Group (TWG) promptly investigated the matter and discovered that the girl was using a larger container due to the absence of a smaller one. While the situation was a misunderstanding, TWG's swift response demonstrated its commitment to addressing community concerns. This incident reassured residents that their reports would be taken seriously, encouraging them to seek help.

Delta State

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	Delays in the process, from reporting to prosecution, can create room for settlement between the perpetrator and the victim.	To ensure quicker resolution, the process of creating dedicated courts or tribunals to handle SGBV cases exclusively should be fastened.
	The VAPP 2020 law is all-encompassing, redefined rape, and intensified punishment for offenses.	Ensuring full enforcement of the VAPP 2020 law, particularly its provisions on redefined offenses and enhanced punishment.
	The existence of a zero-tolerance policy for GBV does not allow SGBV cases to be settled out of court.	Strengthening enforcement of the zero-tolerance policy to prevent settlement of GBV cases out of court and ensure accountability.
	The law lacks a safe space for minors who may be victims of neglect or lack of parental care.	Introduce provisions for safe spaces and rehabilitation programs for minors who are victims of neglect or abuse.
	Despite the zero-tolerance policy, people still withdraw ongoing cases favoring informal justice systems.	To safeguard victims' interests, implement legal measures to penalize the withdrawal of ongoing cases in favor of informal justice systems.
Access to Legal Justice 	The state has established and introduced a new group, the Technical Working Committee (TWC), to hasten the response to GBV.	Strengthening the committee by ensuring adequate training, resources, and regular coordination meetings to improve effectiveness and speed in addressing GBV cases.
	Absence of a designated Family Support Unit for SGBV cases, though a bill is awaiting assent.	The state should prioritize the assent and implementation of the bill to establish a dedicated Family Support Unit for SGBV cases.
	Interference with the informal justice system may pressure the victim not to seek a formal justice system.	The state should codify a bylaw to guide the informal justice system, mandate that SGBV cases be reported, and establish a monitoring mechanism to ensure compliance.
	Inadequate funding: No easily accessible funding for the response team to take immediate action (e.g., the police need funds for logistics to make arrests).	The state should ensure timely and accessible funding for response teams, including dedicated resources for law enforcement, to facilitate prompt action in addressing GBV cases.
Support Services 	Absence of well-structured and equipped shelter.	The state should prioritize the establishment and speed up the completion of a well-structured and fully equipped safe house for GBV victims in the state.
	Establishment of 3 functional SARC located across the three senatorial districts.	Strengthen the capacity of existing SARC to handle more cases and expand services to an underserved area.
	There is a lack of awareness and confidence in existing support services; some believe only indigenous people can access them.	Conduct widespread awareness campaigns to inform all residents about available GBV support services and their accessibility to everyone.
Information and Awareness 	Lack of dedicated task force charged with awareness creation.	Establish a dedicated task force to coordinate and drive GBV awareness campaigns statewide.
	Inadequate funding is needed to organize and implement targeted awareness programs, particularly those that reach communities outside the state capital.	Allocation of additional resources and prioritize funding for awareness programs to ensure equitable coverage, especially in underserved areas beyond the state capital.
	There is an absence of structured extracurricular activities, such as GBV clubs, to expose children to life-saving skills, etc., in GBV-related situations.	The government can help revive or introduce new extracurricular activities, e.g., a GBV club, in schools that will equip youngsters with lifesaving skills that will help protect them from becoming GBV victims and with the knowledge of where to seek help or provide help.

Indexes

Key Findings

Recommendations

Budget and Spending



The spending per capita by the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community and Social Development is grossly insufficient to address the GBV prevention and response gaps in the state

The government should substantially increase the budget allocation and releases to the Ministry in a timely manner.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Policy Recommendations
Delta State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1	Contraventions of the provisions of the Child's Right Law that criminalizes child marriage should be decisively dealt with.	Partially Implemented	child's right law is currently under review.
2	Establish clear provisions for witness protection in the existing GBV-related laws.	Not Implemented	There is no clear witness protection program yet aside provision made for providing evidence in camera, pre recorded evidence and providing evidence in controlled environment like in the chambers.
Access to Legal Justice			
3	Government should ensure that every person gets access to justice no matter the status of that person.	Partially Implemented	While the state grant access to everyone, there are still individuals who missed out on accessing justice because they could not afford paying the legal appearance fee for cases outside the state
4	Adequate transport and logistic allowance should be provided to law enforcement agents who need to testify in court and present evidence before the judges.	Not Implemented	The GBV responders still complained of lack of funding to support them discharging their duties, which makes them to spend out of pocket money most times to meet up.
5	The government should establish specialised GBV courts with dedicated GBV judges to enable speedy adjudication of cases.	Not Implemented	There is an existing bill toward establishing GBV specialised courts.
Support Services			
6	Provision should be made for adequate funding, staffing, and amenities for the SARCs (e.g., vehicles to aid mobility).	Not Implemented	Nothing has changed from what was existing as of 2023, that include no vehicles to aid movement, providers use their vehicles and still spend out of pocket money for cases.
7	Government should adequately staff the SARC to drive patronage of the SARCs by GBV victims and survivors.	Partially Implemented	There are staff but still not enough. While they work on shift base, they still do not offer a 24 hrs service.
8	There should be increased budget allocation for GBV support services in order to accommodate more GBV survivors, while ensuring proper monitoring.	Not Implemented	There is no GBV budget line in MOH allocation, according to the Dr Francis the Director of public health
Information and Awareness			
9	Funds should be made available for more and consistent GBV awareness programs.	Partially Implemented	The GBV awareness program does not have a widespread yet, schools and community outside head quarter senatorial district have experienced little or no awareness GBV program. Though there is usually awareness program on special days dedicated to girl child.
10	There should be dedicated hotline with personnel employed to man it as a GBV Survivors' first respondent service agent.	Not Implemented	There are hotlines but they are not dedicated to GBV and different hotlines for different players. Hot lines are not harmonised yet

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Policy Recommendations
Delta State

11	Comprehensive sex education should be inculcated into the education system.	Partially Implemented	GBV related Issues are discussed under some subjects such as civic education, social studies etc. These subjects are under National value subjects
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