



# Kano State



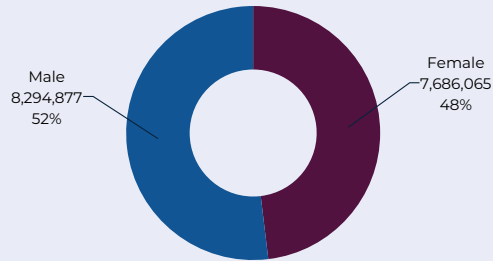
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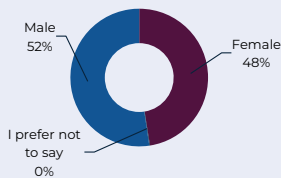




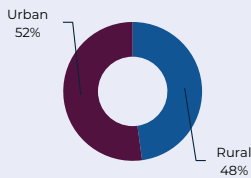
**Total Population**  
**15,980,942**



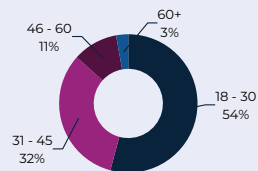
### Respondents: 417



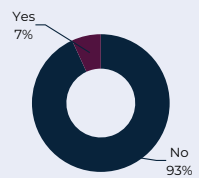
### Location



### Age Group



### Disability Status



### GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **444**



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



No. of active shelters **1**



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs) **1**



### Index Grades

Laws and Policies ●

Access to Legal Justice ●

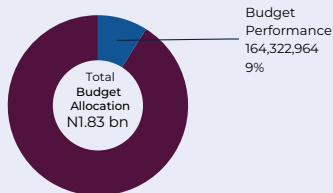
Support Services ●

Information and Awareness ●

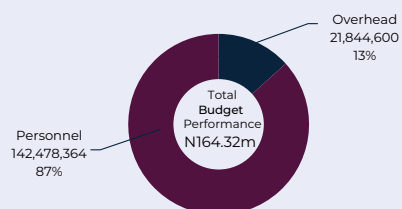
Budget and Spending ●

Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

### Budget Performance (2023)

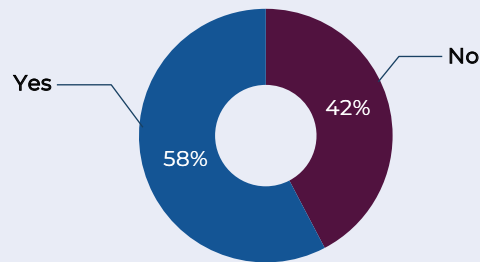


### Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **NI0.3**

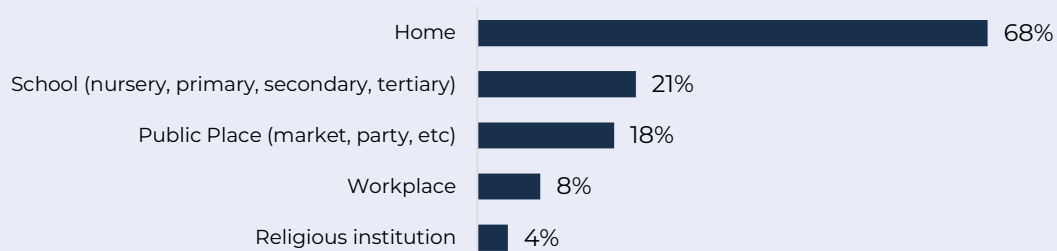
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



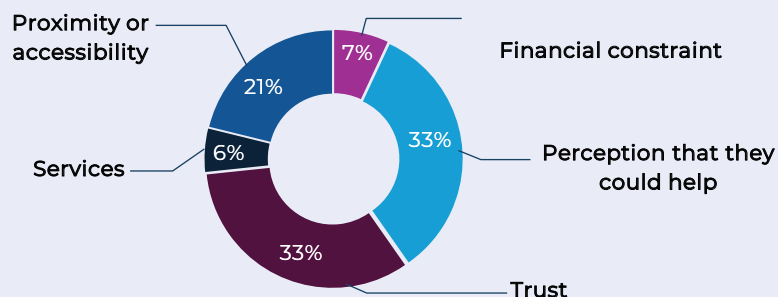
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

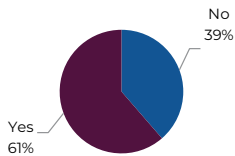


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

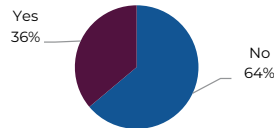


## Laws and Policies

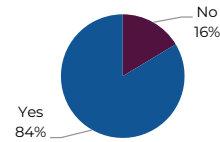
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

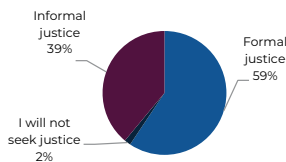


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

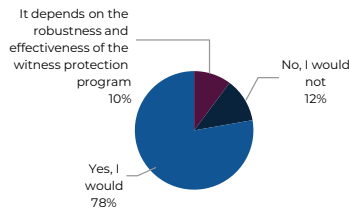


## Access to Legal Justice

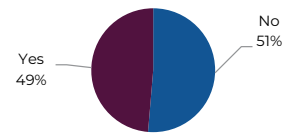
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

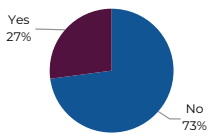


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

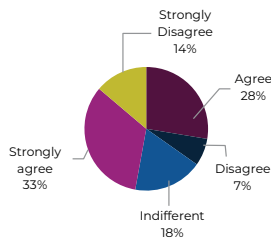


## Support Services

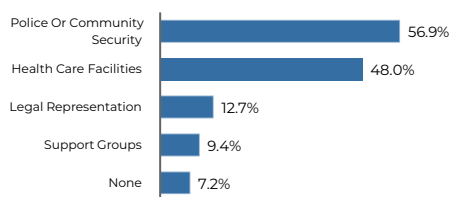
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



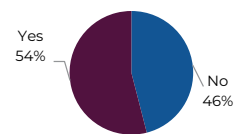
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

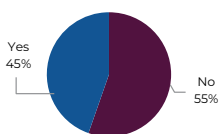


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

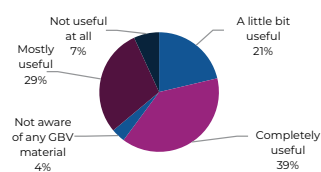


## Information and Awareness

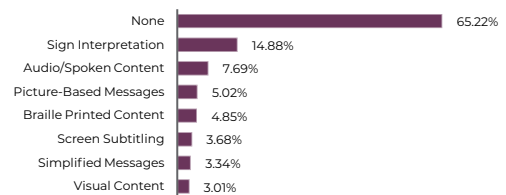
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Key GBV-related laws in Kano State include the Kano State Penal Code, Sharia Penal Code, Petty Trading Prohibition for Females and Juveniles Law (1984), and the Children and Young Persons Law. The survey indicates that 58.7% of the population knows these laws, and 55% believe they effectively address GBV cases. However, gaps persist due to weak enforcement mechanisms, conflicts between the national VAPP Act, 2015, customary and Sharia laws, and delays in domesticating the Act. In 2023, around 244 GBV cases were reported to the state's only SARC, with 60 rape cases received by the judiciary. Of these, 75% were prosecuted, with eight convictions and 15 judgments. Currently, 40 cases are in court. Over the past eight years, advocacy for law reforms, including the VAPP Act, has faced resistance from traditional leaders, and resource constraints have slowed its progress. Meanwhile, without a formal, comprehensive law against GBV, a significant proportion of the surveyed population (82.9%) view the Sharia Law and existing customary practices positively in preventing GBV.

### Access to Legal Justice

GBV reporting systems include police stations, Family Support Units (FSUs), and sexual assault referral centres (SARCs). Prosecution is conducted through regular courts, with enforcement handled by the police and other agencies. The Hisbah Corps often mediates cases despite lacking legal authority to prosecute and often undermines the judicial process, perpetuating impunity for perpetrators. Survey results indicate that 57.3% of the population prefers formal justice systems, including police and courts, while 41.5% favour informal systems. Legal aid services, provided by state lawyers and NGOs, remain largely inaccessible in rural areas, leaving vulnerable victims unsupported. The gap in witness protection and resource shortages further restrict access to justice. The informal justice system, dominated by mediation practices, has mixed perceptions—70.7% believe it can aid survivors, while 29.3% doubt its fairness. Specialized GBV units, such as Human Rights Desks and FSUs, exist but are under-resourced. In addition, there are neither dedicated GBV courts nor exclusive judges, further limiting the system's effectiveness and efficiency.

### Support Services

There is only one shelter and one Sexual Assault Referral Centre in the state providing essential services such as temporary accommodation, counselling, and basic support, which is currently not active due to limited resources. However, these facilities are insufficient, especially for rural populations, and face significant challenges, including under-resourcing, limited staff, and inadequate funding. Informal support systems, such as community and religious leaders, are not well integrated with formal GBV referral pathways, resulting in fragmented and inconsistent support for survivors. In assessing the effectiveness of support systems, 54.5% of respondents believed informal support systems (family, friends, and community groups) were better than formal systems, indicating a preference for community-based approaches to addressing GBV.

Kano State uses Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, including posters, flyers, and radio programs, to raise GBV awareness. These materials are distributed monthly at clinics, schools, and markets, and some are adapted for persons with disabilities (PWDs). However, accessibility for PWDs remains limited, requiring more inclusive materials and tailored approaches. Quarterly community outreach and radio shows contribute to raising awareness but are constrained by insufficient funding and limited rural access.

### Information and Awareness

Some GBV prevention and response education is provided in schools using basic guides, though this practice is not widespread. Limited resources and awareness hinder integration into the state's curriculum. Training teachers and formally incorporating GBV education into the school curriculum could improve coverage. Only 40.9% of the population is aware of these programs, highlighting the need for increased funding, expanded reach in rural areas, and more inclusive materials to ensure equitable access to GBV education and sensitization.

## Budget and Spending

In 2023, the Kano State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development had a final budget of ₦1.83 billion, of which only ₦164.32 million (9%) was utilized, indicating significant underperformance. Personnel costs accounted for 86.7% (₦142.48 million) of the actual expenditure, while overhead expenses were just 13% (₦21.84 million). Notably, no funds were allocated for capital expenditure, which is critical for infrastructure development and program expansion. The per capita spending stood at ₦10.30. This low budget execution rate highlights the need for improved budget management and increased allocation to deliver GBV prevention and support services effectively. With such limited budget utilization, Kano State struggles to address gender-based violence and related social services fully.



## Human Angle Story



In Tudun Murtala, Nasarawa LGA, a woman sought refuge with the ward head and chief Imam after a brutal assault by her husband. Weak and in pain, she recounted how her children witnessed the attack and begged their father to stop, but he threatened her instead. The violence occurred after she asked for food to prepare a meal. Carrying a police letter and medication as evidence, she pleaded with the ward head to compel her husband to respond to the police summons he had ignored. The ward head took no decisive action despite knowing the husband as a repeat offender and personal friend. The husband casually stated he would visit the police after work. This case underscores how social connections, apathy, and impunity often leave GBV victims without justice or safety.

# Kano State

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
<b>Laws and Policies</b> 	<p>The VAPP Act has not been domesticated, and no legal framework has comprehensively addressed GBV.</p>	<p>The government should expedite the domestication of the VAPP Act.</p> <p>Budgetary allocations should be provided to establish the necessary structures for implementing and enforcing GBV-related laws.</p> <p>Public awareness campaigns on GBV-related laws should be intensified.</p>
	<p>Customary and Sharia laws sometimes conflict with national GBV laws, creating enforcement gaps.</p>	<p>Existing laws should be reviewed to criminalize GBV while ensuring robust prevention and response mechanisms.</p>
<b>Access to Legal Justice</b> 	<p>Access to legal aid in Kano State is limited, particularly in rural communities where the most vulnerable individuals are often victims of GBV.</p>	<p>The government should fund increased investment in legal aid services and judicial infrastructure.</p>
	<p>The Hisbah Corps, which focuses on mediation rather than formal prosecution, undermines the judicial process and enables a culture of impunity for GBV perpetrators.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Human Affairs, in collaboration with NGOs and CBOs, should organize regular capacity-building programs for key informal institutions like the Hisbah Corps involved in GBV case management.</p>
	<p>Limited financial and human resources for Human Rights Desks and Family Support Units (FSUs) severely limit their capacity to address GBV cases effectively.</p>	<p>The government should allocate supplemental funds through the appropriate MDA for logistical resources and regular capacity building for the Human Rights Desks and Family Support Units.</p>
	<p>Prosecution timelines are prolonged due to insufficient court infrastructure, delaying justice for survivors.</p>	<p>The government should appoint dedicated GBV judges to ensure the swift resolution of cases and timely justice delivery.</p>
<b>Support Services</b> 	<p>Single, centralized, non-functional shelter and SARC are resulting in a lack of essential GBV support services for residents and vulnerable populations.</p>	<p>The government should prioritize the reactivation and adequate resourcing of shelters and SARCs and expand their services to rural areas and vulnerable populations through inclusive infrastructure development.</p>
	<p>Informal support systems, such as community and religious leaders, are not well integrated with formal GBV referral pathways, resulting in fragmented and inconsistent support for survivors.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Women Affairs should spearhead initiatives to train and integrate informal support networks into the broader GBV response system.</p>
	<p>Low awareness of available GBV services, especially in rural communities.</p>	<p>The government should improve public awareness of reporting mechanisms and streamline referral pathways for GBV survivors.</p>

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
<p><b>Information and Awareness</b></p> 	<p>Resources for GBV prevention education in schools are insufficient, resulting in inadequate coverage and engagement with young people on this issue.</p>	<p>Through the appropriate Ministry, the government should integrate GBV education into school curricula and train teachers to deliver it effectively.</p>
	<p>Insufficient funding and logistical challenges hinder awareness campaigns.</p>	<p>The government should increase funding to expand IEC campaigns and collaborate with NGOs and CSOs to sustain community outreach programs, especially for rural areas and marginalized groups.</p>
	<p>Accessibility of materials for persons with disabilities is lacking, further excluding a vulnerable population from essential information and education.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Women Affairs, in collaboration with other GBV response stakeholders, should develop PWD-inclusive materials to ensure equitable access to GBV education and awareness initiatives..</p>
<p><b>Budget and Spending</b></p> 	<p>The budget performance of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, at 9%, is extremely low.</p>	<p>The government should increase budgetary disbursement to the Ministry</p>
	<p>Despite the GBV prevention and response infrastructure needs in the state, no capital expenditure allocation was made.</p>	<p>The government should make provisions for the Ministry's capital expenditure needs to enable the Ministry to address the GVB infrastructure gaps.</p>
	<p>With a spending per capita of ₦10.30, the state ranked last but one in disbursement per capita to its Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development.</p>	<p>The government should significantly increase allocation to the Ministry to enable it to cater to the population's needs.</p>



**WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER**  
2023 Policy Recommendations  
Kano State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
<b>Laws and Policies</b>			
1	The government should adopt the VAPP law in the state.	Not Implemented	Violence against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act was not passed due to cultural differences and merging with the VAPP code. The law has been reviewed and domesticated in addition of local context issues. It is currently awaiting the review of the legal drafting committee before submission to the house of assembly to pass it into law.
2	Review existing laws to criminalize GBV and guarantee GBV prevention and response	Partially Implemented	Kano State Executive Council has approved and signed proposed bill on Child Rights (protection) Act 2010. 24 May 2023 underscoring the state's efforts to strengthen the rights of children."
3	Provide the necessary resources, including adequate budgetary allocation and the establishment of relevant mechanisms, to ensure the effective implementation and comprehensive enforcement of the Child Protection Law.	Not Implemented	
<b>Access to Legal Justice</b>			
4	Government to allocate funds to GBV enforcement and prosecution and revamp Hisbah.	Partially Implemented	Budgetary allocation available for GBV in most MDAs, however fund release is mostly a challenge
5	Government should make provision for dedicated GBV judges to promote speedy dispensation of justice.	Not Implemented	The current announcement by Kano Chief Justice Dije Aboki on state commitment to establish a Special Court aimed at expediting justice and addressing issues related to gender-based violence and child rights abuse will pave way in specifying GBV judges in the state.
6	State to simplify legal processes and remove all bureaucracies that impede access to legal justice for GBV victims/survivors.	Not Implemented	VAPP Act contains the necessary provisions for the punishment of offenders, saying domesticating the Act is the only way to eliminate or mitigate incidences of rape and other sexual assault.
<b>Support Services</b>			
7	Government should allocate funds to GBV support services and take the lead in providing holistic support services to GBV survivors.	Partially Implemented	There is budget line on GBV in ministry for women affair but it is grossly inadequate
8	Government to create more awareness on reporting and referral pathways, simplify and publicize the referral pathways, and constantly train law enforcement personnel on appropriate and professional GBV response.	Partially Implemented	GBV reporting and referral pathways exist, awareness of these systems remains concentrated in urban areas, with low visibility in rural communities.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER 2023 Policy Recommendations Kano State			
9	Government should establish and equip SARCs in each Local Government Council to ensure easier accessibility for GBV victims/survivors.	Not Implemented	This plan is yet to be achieved. There is only one shelter in the state providing essential services such as temporary accommodation, counseling, and basic support which is currently not active with limited resources
<b>Information and Awareness</b>			
10	Government should make annual budgetary provisions for the implementation of comprehensive GBV awareness campaigns and programs that are sensitive to the peculiarities of the state and widely publicize for all persons in the state.	Not Implemented	No specific budgetary allocation yet for GBV awareness creation in kano state,
11	Government to assume more responsibility, and take the lead, in sensitizing the public on GBV, and GBV prevention and response.	Not Implemented	Kano state with the support of some non-governmental organization raises awareness on GBV through Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials such as posters, radio programs, and flyers, which are distributed monthly at clinics, markets, and schools.





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