

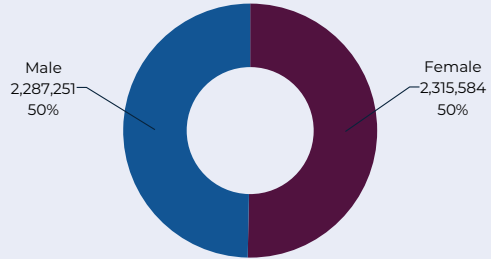


Kogi State

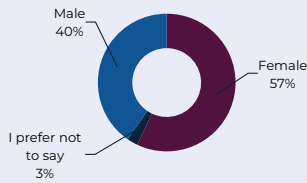




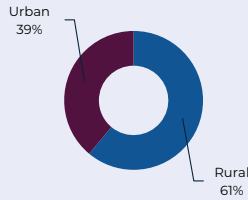
Total Population
4,602,835



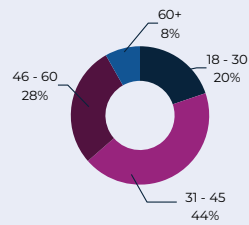
Respondents: 475



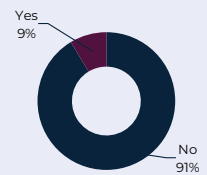
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **150**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)s **N/A**



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



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

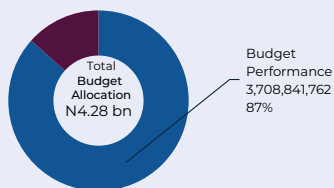


Index Grades

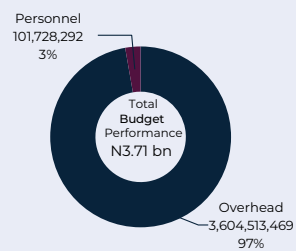
- Laws and Policies ●
- Access to Legal Justice ●
- Support Services ●
- Information and Awareness ●
- Budget and Spending ●

Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

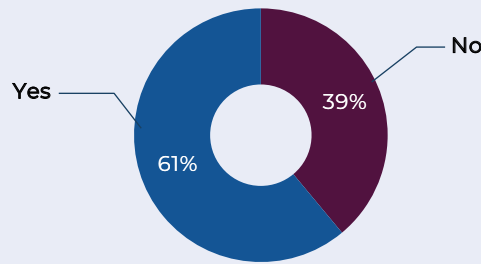


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N805.8**

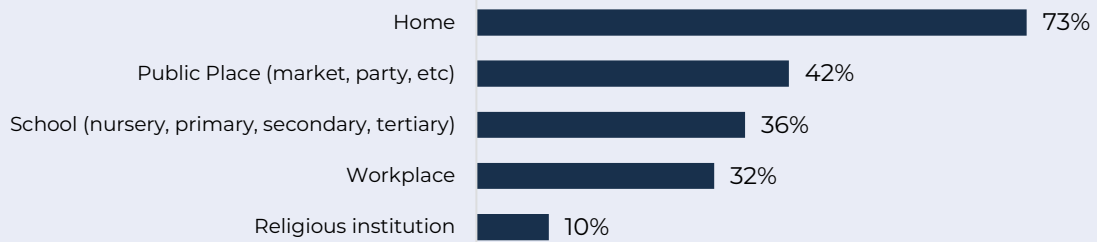
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



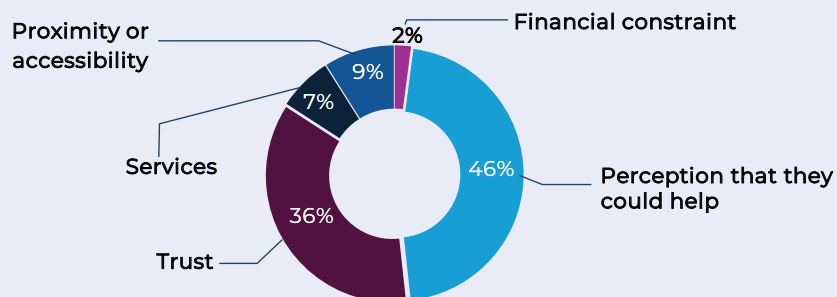
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

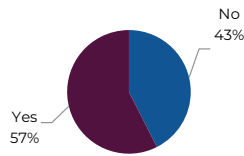


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

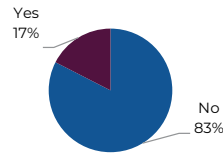


Laws and Policies

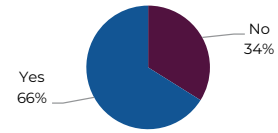
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

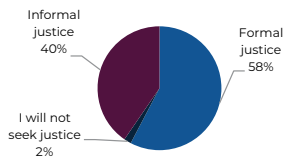


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

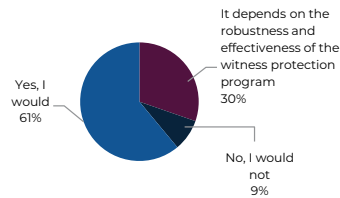


Access to Legal Justice

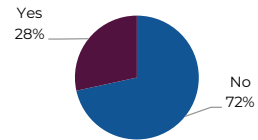
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

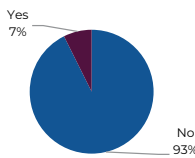


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

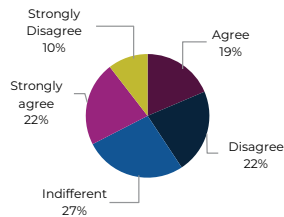


Support Services

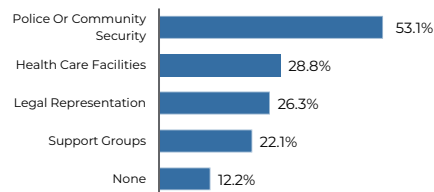
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



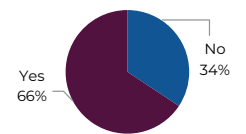
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

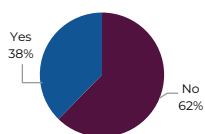


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

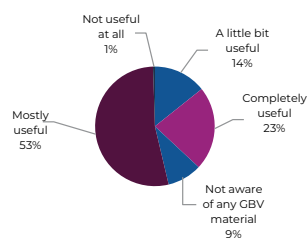


Information and Awareness

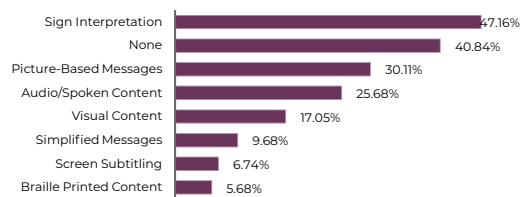
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Kogi State has several legal frameworks addressing GBV, including the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law (2022), the Child Rights Law (2009), and the Disability Law (2019). However, enforcement remains inconsistent. In the last 12 months, approximately 150 GBV cases were reported, with only 15% resulting in prosecution and 20% receiving judgments. Awareness of these laws is limited, with 55.1% of respondents aware of existing laws but only 17.2% aware of any convictions, indicating low visibility of enforcement outcomes. The survey result shows that 52.9% of respondents believe formal laws are adequate, while 47.1% remain unconvinced. Additionally, 67.2% of respondents are aware of customary or religious laws addressing GBV, with 69.3% perceiving them as effective, though they often conflict with formal judicial standards.

The gaps in the GBV-related laws in the state include jurisdictional confusion, overlapping responsibilities, and the absence of provisions addressing cyber-violence. The Child's Right Law, for instance, is managed by the Ministry of Justice rather than the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, hindering its effectiveness. Additionally, the VAPP Law involves multiple institutions, leading to bureaucratic complexities. Furthermore, the lack of provisions addressing online harassment and digital abuse highlights the need for legislative updates to combat emerging forms of gender-based violence.

Customary and religious laws provide informal mechanisms for conflict resolution but often lack alignment with statutory provisions, perpetuating harmful norms in some cases. While 82.9% of respondents reported no awareness of convictions, this highlights the limited visibility of formal justice processes. GBV-related laws in Kogi State have not undergone significant review or reform within the past two years, stressing the need for regular updates to address emerging challenges such as digital or tech-facilitated gender-based violence. Customary laws influence societal norms, with their abolition being debated. While they can provide localized conflict resolution, they often fail to meet the standards of formal judicial processes. An assessment of their impact on GBV prevention has not been systematically conducted.

Access to Legal Justice

Kogi State reporting systems for GBV cases include dedicated hotlines through the Office of the Public Defender and Citizens Rights Commission, gender desk units at police stations, the NSCDC, and various MDAs. The Kogi State Technical Working Group on GBV was established at the Ministry of Women Affairs to coordinate the activities of stakeholders in the state. Survivors can also report through CBOs and legal aid providers such as OPDCRC and the Directorate of GBV at the Ministry of Justice. The prosecution process begins with police investigations, followed by a case presentation in court. Police units handle law enforcement, but response times and consistency remain challenging, particularly in rural areas. Survey results reveal that 55.3% of respondents would seek justice through formal channels such as the police or courts, while 43% would prefer informal mechanisms, including traditional or religious leaders. Notably, 35% would seek help from family members, highlighting trust in personal support systems.

Legal aid services are available but limited, with pro bono support from state lawyers such as the Office of the Public Defender, Directorate of GBV, and civil society organisations like FIDA. While a form of witness protection exists, its implementation is inadequate in urban and rural areas. Courts in Kogi often fail to adhere to the VAPP Act's timeframes, resulting in delays in case proceedings and judgment delivery.

Based on cultural norms, the informal justice system often encourages mediation over formal legal processes, perpetuating GBV. While 60.9% of respondents believe informal justice systems effectively address GBV, 39.1% disagree, citing limitations such as prioritising community harmony over individual justice. These systems often mediate cases without ensuring accountability, and survivors may face stigma for pursuing legal action. Specialized units, such as exclusive SGBV judges, police units, and MDAs, exist but are under-resourced, impeding their effectiveness. For instance, the Directorate of Gender-Based Violence at the Ministry of Justice handles cases related explicitly to SGBV, while the police have Gender Desks at various stations to handle such cases. Despite their presence, both are underfunded and lack sufficient training and resources to function effectively, resulting in delays in case handling and limited

access for survivors, especially in rural areas.

Support Services

Kogi State has no Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) or shelter to support GBV victims. This existing facility provides medical care, including post-exposure prophylaxis and emergency contraception. It also provides psychosocial counselling and assists with evidence collection, including medical examinations for prosecution purposes. However, the state lacks shelter facilities for survivors, both from the government and civil society organisations (CSOs), which limits long-term accommodation options. The reporting and referral pathways in Kogi State are loosely structured. Survivors are typically required to report incidents to the police, who initiate investigations and coordinate with legal, medical, and psychosocial service providers. Under the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, the State's GBV Technical Working Group oversees the referral process to prevent duplication of services. Survivors referred by CSOs or the Ministry of Women Affairs must still formally report to the police.

Survey results indicate that informal support systems, including family, friends, religious centres, and community groups, play a significant role in supporting survivors. These systems are often the first line of support, providing emotional and financial assistance. Despite medical units assisting in prosecutions by providing evidence, limited forensic labs limit the scope of prosecution. The Kogi State 2024 GBV budget allocation of ₦50,000,000, representing only 0.019% of the total state budget, is insufficient to meet the growing demand for comprehensive support services for GBV survivors. More funding is needed to improve prevention and support programs.

Information and Awareness

Kogi State utilizes various information, education, and communication (IEC) materials to raise awareness about GBV. These include radio jingles, educational pamphlets, seminars, and radio programs, which the Kogi State government and civil society organisations actively promote. Despite these efforts, survey data revealed that 65% of respondents were unaware of GBV information or awareness programs, while 35% reported some level of awareness. Sex education is part of the curriculum in secondary schools, but its coverage remains inadequate due to concerns from parents and religious groups. Comprehensive discussions about GBV prevention and response are limited, restricting students' understanding of the issue. The state has made efforts to provide disability-inclusive IEC materials, though availability and access for persons with disabilities (PWD) remain limited. Survey results indicate that the general population feels there is a lack of adequate information on GBV prevention and response, especially in rural areas, where access to IEC materials is limited. More targeted campaigns are needed to bridge these gaps.

Budget and Spending



In 2023, the Kogi State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development had a budget of ₦4.28 billion, achieving an 87% performance rate with an actual expenditure of ₦3.71 billion. Of this amount, ₦101.73 million (2.7%) was spent on personnel, ₦3.60 billion (97.2%) on overhead, and ₦2.6 million (0.07%) on capital expenses. With a population size of 5,518,847, the per capita spending was ₦805.80. This analysis reveals an underinvestment per capita in GBV prevention and response. The state should increase capital expenditure for sustainable support structures and improve the distribution of funds across personnel, overhead, and capital needs to ensure effective service delivery.



Human Angle Story



Felicia married in 2014 and had three children. Over time, the marriage deteriorated emotionally and financially, affecting her and the children. Despite mediation attempts by both families, the situation worsened. In 2022, while pregnant with her sixth child, her husband sought to dissolve the union, accusing her of sacrilege and demanding she perform a traditional purification. After failed interventions by social welfare, FIDA, and the Human Rights Commission in Lokoja, Felicia turned to the Challenged Parenthood Initiative (CPI). Her case gained attention during a meeting organized by the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC). The National Human Rights Commission in Lokoja was directed to act, with Senator Tambuwal providing financial support. The case remains active, with a hearing scheduled for December 2024.

Kogi State

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	The state has the VAPP Law, Child's Right Law, and other legal frameworks, but enforcement remains inconsistent, particularly in rural areas.	Strengthen the enforcement of the existing laws through regular monitoring and judicial training on GBV cases.
	Awareness of the VAPP Law is still limited.	Increase awareness campaigns through media and community engagement, particularly in rural areas.
	The Child's Right Law is managed by the Ministry of Justice instead of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, creating a jurisdictional confusion.	Clarify and streamline the roles and responsibilities of Ministries to ensure effective implementation of the Child Rights Law.
	The VAPP Law involves multiple institutions, including the Office of the Public Defender and the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (MWASD), depicting overlapping responsibilities and leading to bureaucratic challenges.	
Lack of provisions addressing online harassment, digital abuse, and other types of cyber-violence.	Some provisions within the VAPP Law should be amended to stand alone and provide clearer guidance, such as those addressing online harassment and exploitation in digital spaces.	
		Regularly update the VAPP Law to include provisions specifically addressing cyber-violence, online harassment, and digital abuse.
Access to Legal Justice 	There is limited access to justice, especially in rural areas, with only two state operational legal aid offices (OPDCRC and Directorate of GBV) in Lokoja. There is also limited awareness of any legal assistance or services provided for GBV victims in Kogi State.	Establish satellite Office of the Public Defender and Citizens Rights Commission (OPDCRC) and Directorate of GBV offices in rural areas to improve accessibility for survivors.
	Specialized family support units are in urban centres but unavailable in rural locations.	Train vigilantes and local law enforcement on GBV laws and create more specialised family support units in rural areas.
	Informal justice systems, such as religious and traditional councils, still significantly address GBV but often fall short of formal judicial processes and standards.	Strengthen and harmonize informal justice systems in compliant with the formal justice system to ensure fair and timely justice for GBV survivors.
Support Services 	There is no Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and no shelter. Support services are underfunded, and cash transfer programs have not reached most survivors.	Expand SARC services to other senatorial districts to improve service accessibility.
	Survivors face significant barriers in accessing medical support and forensic services due to transportation and logistical issues.	Increase funding, expand medical support services, and improve logistical support for survivors.
	CSOs and government agencies provide vital services, but the coordination challenge persists, resulting in fragmented services and harmonization of GBV-related data in the state.	Foster stronger partnerships between CSOs and government agencies to create a unified referral pathway and meaningfully maintain GBV-related data systems.

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
<p>Information and Awareness</p> 	<p>IEC materials are inconsistently distributed, particularly for persons with disabilities (PWDs). Public awareness programs are irregular and there is limited outreach to marginalized communities and groups.</p> <p>Public education on GBV prevention is limited, with insufficient programs in schools due to parents' perceptions.</p> <p>Sensitization efforts through mediums like radio and town halls are more effective in urban areas but inadequate in rural communities.</p>	<p>Distribute IEC materials widely in urban and rural areas and ensure they are culturally appropriate and PWD-friendly.</p> <p>Integrate GBV prevention and awareness programs into school curricula and extracurricular activities across all education levels.</p> <p>Increase the frequency of sensitization programs in rural areas and adopt local languages to improve reach and impact.</p>
<p>Budget and Spending</p> 	<p>While the state ranked among the top five states in terms of budget performance, spending was skewed more to overheads at the expense of personnel and capital components of the budget.</p>	<p>The government should place more priority on the capital expenditure component of the budget as this is required to address GBV prevention and response infrastructure gap in the state.</p>

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Policy Recommendations
Kogi State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1	Enhance implementation and enforcement of laws.	Partially Implemented	The establishment of the GBV Technical Working Group, the Directorate of GBV at the Ministry of Justice and GBV desk offices in MDAs shows progress; however, limited funding and weak enforcement persists, limiting effectiveness.
2	Increase public awareness through campaigns and education.	Partially Implemented	There is structural progress with GBV offices in the state but inadequate funding continues to hinder full policy effectiveness and public impact.
3	Review and update legislation to address emerging forms of GBV.	Not Implemented	It is essential to review sections of the VAPP Law, particularly those addressing cyber harassment, and digital violence, to ensure comprehensive protection against evolving GBV forms.
Access to Legal Justice			
4	Establish monitoring and evaluation of GBV response systems.	Partially Implemented	The state judiciary has appointed dedicated GBV judges who are trained to handle GBV cases, ensuring that they are processed more efficiently.
5	Enhance capacity of personnel of GBV units through regular training.	Partially Implemented	While some training initiatives have taken place, limited financial resources hinder the consistency and comprehensiveness of capacity-building efforts, affecting the long-term effectiveness of GBV units.
Support Services			
6	Strengthen availability and accessibility of support services.	Not Implemented	The state should encourage LGAs to establish SARCs and shelters to ensure survivors, regardless of location, can access comprehensive support services, including psychosocial assistance.
7	Strengthen coordination among relevant agencies and support service providers.	Not Implemented	While some level of coordination exists, there is a need for more structured collaboration and clear communication channels between agencies to ensure efficient and effective delivery of services for GBV survivors.
8	Ensure sustainable funding and resources for GBV support services.	Partially Implemented	Although some funding has been allocated in the state budget, inconsistent releases and ongoing resource constraints limit the capacity of GBV services to operate effectively and sustainably.
Information and Awareness			
9	Develop comprehensive awareness campaigns on GBV, and ensure its wide and consistent publicity, especially among populations in rural communities.	Partially Implemented	Comprehensive awareness campaigns have been launched by the state government, but their reach and frequency remain limited due to a lack of funding, particularly in rural areas.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Policy Recommendations
Kogi State

10



Utilize diverse communication channels and inclusive materials

Partially Implemented

Some communication channels have been used, such as sign language, audio-visual media (radio, television), print materials, and social media, though mostly not in local languages. However, the inclusivity and diversity of these materials remain limited, reducing their effectiveness in reaching all segments of the population, particularly marginalized groups.

11

Promote comprehensive sex education in schools.

Not Implemented

The recommendation has not been implemented due to concerns from parents and religious groups. However, there is an increasing consensus on the importance of developing and integrating a comprehensive sex education curriculum in schools to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to prevent GBV and foster healthy relationships.





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INDEX
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