



Kwara State

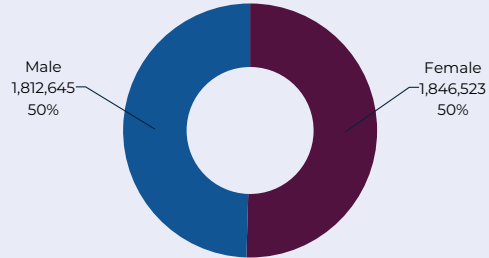
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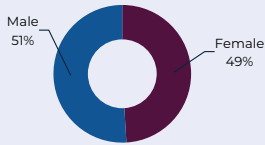




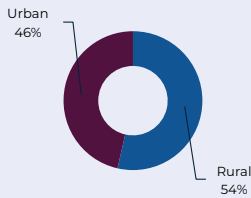
Total Population
3,659,168



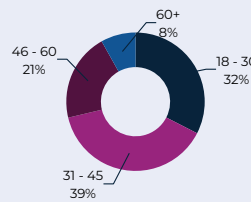
Respondents: 418



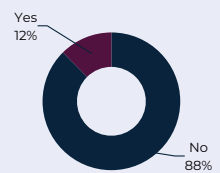
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **3000**



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 ●

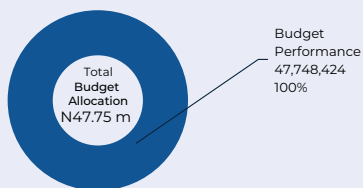
Support Services ●

Information and Awareness ●

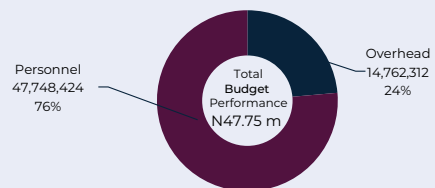
Budget and Spending ●

Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

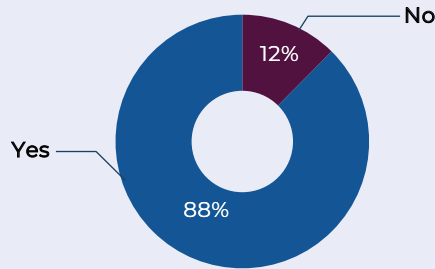


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **NT3**

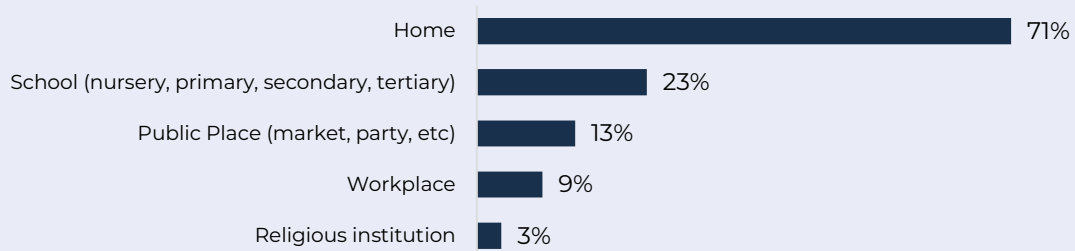
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



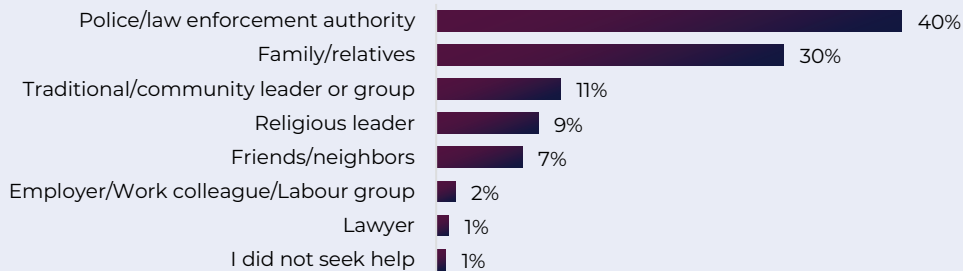
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



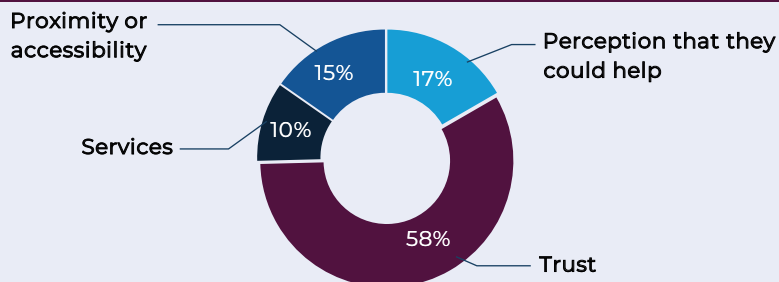
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

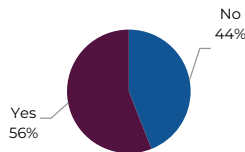


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

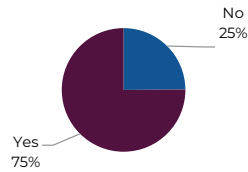


Laws and Policies

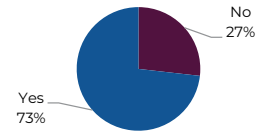
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

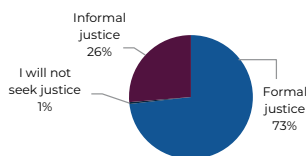


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

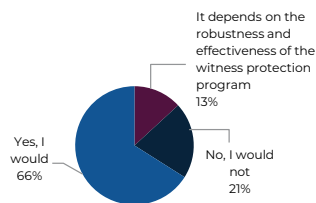


Access to Legal Justice

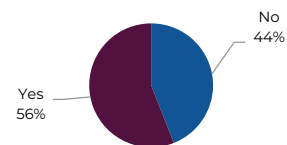
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

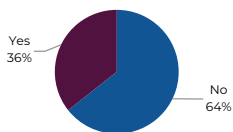


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

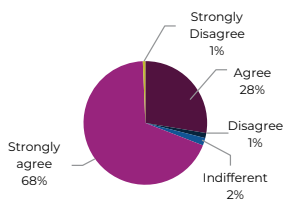


Support Services

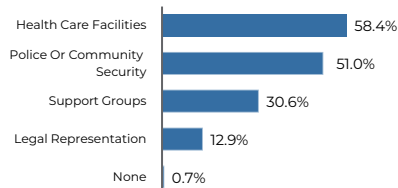
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



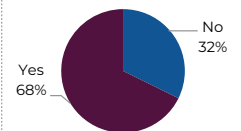
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

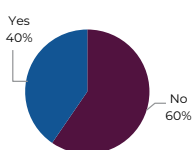


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

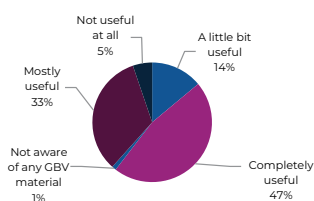


Information and Awareness

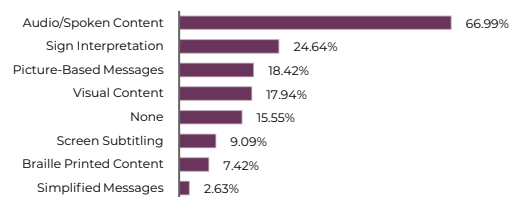
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Kwara State has established significant GBV-related laws, including the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law (domesticated in 2020), the Child's Rights Law (2006), and the Penal Code. These laws aim to prevent and address GBV by providing legal protection and remedies for survivors. Survey findings show that 55.9% of respondents are aware of these laws, and 59.8% perceive them as effective. However, gaps persist, such as inadequate public awareness, lack of dedicated funding for enforcement, and the absence of specialised courts for GBV cases. Additionally, the restriction of jurisdiction to High Courts limits accessibility for many survivors. The VAPP Law requires amendments to enhance its effectiveness. Specifically, it needs to codify the offence of “trafficking” beyond its current definition and clarify the body responsible for administering and enforcing the law, particularly in relation to the “body” mentioned in Section 44. Customary and religious laws significantly influence GBV responses, with 73.9% of respondents believing them effective. However, these informal laws often conflict with formal legal provisions, such as underage marriage. Abolishing customary laws without addressing the underlying socio-economic factors and raising public awareness risks isolating communities and reducing compliance with state policies. A balanced, consultative approach is recommended. Despite over 3,000 reported cases, only 45 are actively prosecuted, nine have been convicted of rape, and nine have been imprisoned for life, revealing weak enforcement mechanisms. Periodic reforms and harmonizing customary practices with state laws are recommended to enhance GBV prevention and response.

Access to Legal Justice

Kwara State has established various reporting systems, including helplines, police stations, and GBV response desks in ministries and agencies like the Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA) and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). Cases are prosecuted through formal courts, primarily the High Court, which has jurisdiction over VAPP Law violations. Law enforcement is carried out by the police and specialized units like the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC). Survey results indicate that 73.2% of respondents would seek justice through formal channels, while 26.3% prefer informal systems, such as traditional or religious leaders. Legal aid services, including pro bono lawyers from state agencies and CSOs, exist but are limited. Witness protection and psychosocial support are underdeveloped. Court adherence to the VAPP Act timeframes varies, with delays common due to insufficient judicial capacity and no specialized SGBV courts. Informal justice systems, rooted in cultural norms, often perpetuate GBV by emphasising reconciliation over accountability. However, 73.9% of the survey population believes these systems effectively resolve GBV cases. Specialized units, such as police gender desks, exist but require better resourcing and training to enhance access to justice.

Support Services

In Kwara State, the composition of support services includes one shelter and one Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC), which play a critical role in providing care and protection for GBV survivors. These SARC and shelter offer survivors needed medical attention, psychological counselling, and legal advice, aiding their recovery and improving access to justice. However, the availability of shelters remains inadequate, leaving many survivors vulnerable to further harm. The reporting and referral pathway in the state involves a multi-sectoral approach, where survivors can report cases through law enforcement, hospitals, and civil society organisations (CSOs). Yet, gaps in coordination and delays often undermine the effectiveness of these pathways.

Informal support systems, such as family, friends, religious centres, and community groups, are pivotal in assisting survivors. According to the survey, many respondents believe these networks provide emotional and financial support when formal systems are inaccessible. Forensic evidence, including medical reports and forensic lab results, has proven instrumental in prosecuting GBV cases. Despite this, budgetary allocations for support services remain low, indicating limited government prioritization. Increasing funding for shelters, SARCs, and forensic units is crucial for a more robust response to GBV in the state.

Information and Awareness

Kwara State employs information, education, and communication (IEC) tools, such as radio jingles, seminars, educative pamphlets, and radio/TV shows, to raise awareness about gender-based violence (GBV). Despite these efforts, survey data reveal that only 46.7% of respondents are aware of GBV education programs or materials, indicating limited reach, especially in rural areas where awareness levels are notably lower. The state's education curriculum includes elements of GBV prevention and response; however, only 39.1% of respondents believe it adequately addresses GBV. This suggests that the curriculum lacks comprehensive coverage, particularly in fostering early education on GBV prevention and response. PWD-friendly (Persons with Disabilities) IEC materials are almost non-existent, as 78.9% of respondents reported not seeing any such resources. This gap highlights the urgent need for inclusive sensitization efforts. Urban respondents (56.2%) were more likely than rural respondents (37.9%) to acknowledge the presence of GBV awareness campaigns. Expanding outreach and ensuring equitable access to information remains a critical priority for the state.

Budget and Spending

Kwara State allocated N110.02 million to the Ministry of Women Affairs in 2023 but spent N62.51 million, which implies 57% budget performance. A disaggregated look at the Ministry's actual expenditure reveals that while N47.75 million was expended on personnel and N14.76 million on overheads, there was no indication of any spending towards capital projects. Although Kwara State spent N5million on the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Programme, the lack of capital investment means critical infrastructure, such as the establishment of shelters or Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs), remains unaddressed. With a population of 3,659,168, the per capita spending on GBV stood at just N15.87, reflecting a significant gap between funding and the population's needs. While the full budget was utilized for operational expenses, the absence of capital expenditure highlights the urgent need for increased and strategically targeted funding to strengthen GBV prevention and response mechanisms across the state.

Human Angle Story







An activist took up an incident involving the alleged sexual assault of a minor. The activist reported it to the authorities and initiated legal proceedings. However, when the matter reached the court, the victim's parents unexpectedly stated that they were acquainted with the accused and denied any allegations of force or coercion. It was later revealed that the accused had allegedly provided financial compensation to the victim's family. As a result, the case was dismissed without further investigation or prosecution. This suggests that economic hardship may sometimes discourage a victim from seeking justice. This compromises the effectiveness of legal protections and underscores the importance of addressing poverty in society.

Kwara State

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	Limited prosecution of GBV cases and insufficient enforcement of existing laws.	Strengthen enforcement mechanisms for GBV laws, ensuring proper prosecution and legal compliance.
	Low public awareness of GBV laws, particularly in rural areas.	Implement extensive public sensitisation campaigns, especially in underserved rural communities.
	Informal customary laws often conflict with formal legal frameworks, undermining GBV prevention efforts.	Harmonize customary laws with formal legal frameworks through community engagement and reform.
Access to Legal Justice 	Limited availability of pro bono legal aid services and inadequate witness protection measures.	Improve access to legal aid services through partnerships with CSOs and state-supported pro bono programs.
	Delays in adhering to VAPP Act timeframes, from case mention to judgment delivery.	Advocate for strict adherence to VAPP Act timelines and strengthen judicial efficiency for prompt case resolutions.
	Survivors often perceive the formal justice system as ineffective in providing justice.	Sensitize communities on the benefits of formal justice systems and improve their accessibility for GBV survivors.
Support Services 	Though Kwara State has made commendable strides in creating a supportive environment for GBV survivors, the sustainability challenges facing these structures, particularly the shelter and SARC, demand urgent attention from the state government to ensure these essential services remain available for survivors.	Establish a dedicated GBV budget line in the state budget to ensure consistent funding for essential services like shelters and SARCs.
	Inconsistent funding and lack of facilities hinder the expansion of medical and forensic support for GBV cases.	Increase budgetary allocation for medical and forensic units to strengthen evidence collection and prosecution processes.
	Limited PWD-friendly IEC materials hinder inclusive GBV sensitisation.	Develop and distribute more inclusive IEC materials (e.g., braille, audio, and sign language) to increase accessibility for persons with disabilities (PWDs).
Information and Awareness 	The available GBV sensitization programs in Kwara State show sensitivity toward persons with disabilities. The materials are accessible through Audio/Spoken Content, Braille-Printed Materials, Visual Content and Picture Messages, Sign Language Interpretation, and Simplified Messages. Despite these efforts, the state government still needs to expand and improve the inclusivity of GBV awareness programs to ensure that persons with disabilities easily access information.	Develop and distribute more inclusive IEC materials to increase accessibility for persons with disabilities (PWDs).
	GBV topics are largely absent in secondary and tertiary education curricula, leaving students inadequately informed.	Incorporate GBV prevention and response topics into secondary school and tertiary institution curricula.
	Community knowledge of available GBV information and resources is inconsistent, especially in remote areas.	Conduct regular, consistent grassroots awareness campaigns using multiple media channels to ensure widespread access to GBV information and resources.
Budget and Spending 	No consideration was made for capital expenditure in the 2023 budget of the Ministry of Women Affairs.	The government should give more priority to the capital component of the Ministry's budget, which should also cover capital projects related to effective GBV prevention and response.
	Expenditure per person by the Ministry of Women Affairs, at N15.87, was extremely low.	The government should significantly increase the budget allocation and spending of the Ministry to enable it to adequately cater to the state's GBV prevention and spending needs.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Policy Recommendations
Kwara State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks	
Laws and Policies				
1		The GBV-related laws should be reformed and the reviewed VAPP should be passed into law.	Not Implemented	No significant milestones have been achieved concerning this issue.
2		There should be specific budgetary allocation to GBV and relevant ministries in the VAPP law.	Not Implemented	There is no specific budgetary allocation to GBV in the state.
3		Establish GBV Secretariat to, among other functions, collect and collate and analyze data on GBV incidence and prevalence in the state.	Not Implemented	The government has not established the GBV secretariate.
Access to Legal Justice				
4		Establish specialized and exclusive SGBV or GBV Courts with dedicated SGBV or GBV Judges.	Not Implemented	There is no specialized GBV court in the state. Also, no dedicated GBV Judge.
5		Develop robust witness protection programs to boost victim and witness involvement in the criminal process.	Partially Implemented	The state has made significant progress in protecting victims and witnesses.
6		Publicize across all the stat the availability of FSUs and GBV desks in Police Commands.	Partially Implemented	Some rural people are unaware that GBV desks are available in the Police Commands.
Support Services				
7		More Shelters and SARCs should be established, staffed, and equipped - at least one per LGA.	Partially Implemented	One additional SARC has been established. However, the only Shelter available in the state is facing a sustainability challenge.
8		Prioritize and fund support services so as to provide wide-ranging support services to GBV victims/ survivors, including free medical and mental health assessments and supports.	Not Implemented	The support services are not funded.
9		Sensitize Kwarans on the functions and location of Shelters and SARCs.	Partially Implemented	There is an improvement, but lots still need to be done, especially in the rural areas.
Information and Awareness				
10		Translate GBV-related laws into different local dialects and publicize them across all communities in the state.	Partially Implemented	The VAPP law is only available in Yoruba
11		Comprehensive sex-related topics should be incorporated in the school curriculum.	Not Implemented	The appropriate ministry has not incorporated comprehensive sex-related topics in the school curriculum.
12		Carry out more GBV sensitization and awareness programs which are PwDs-friendly, while ensuring wide education of the society of their legal rights.	Partially Implemented	GBV stakeholders in the state have developed and executed programs to sensitize and educate people on GBV. Meanwhile, local programs targeting the rural part of the state, especially Kwara North, should be prioritized.



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