

# Lagos State



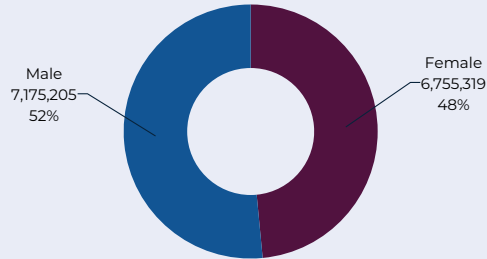
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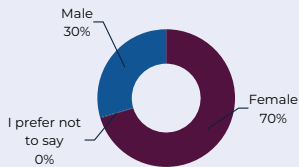




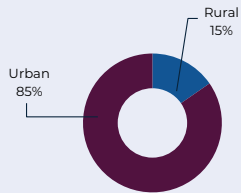
Total Population  
**13,930,524**



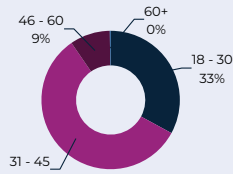
Respondents: 501



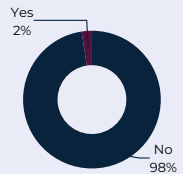
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **6456**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)s **4**



No. of active shelters **8**



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs) **22**

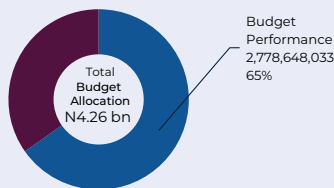


Index Grades

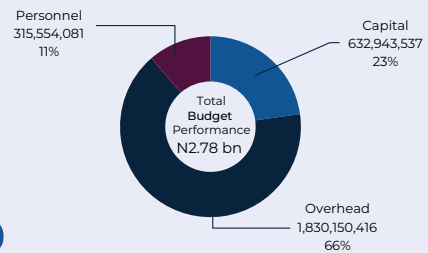
Laws and Policies	<span style="color: blue;">●</span>
Access to Legal Justice	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Support Services	<span style="color: blue;">●</span>
Information and Awareness	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Budget and Spending	<span style="color: green;">●</span>

Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

**Budget Performance (2023)**

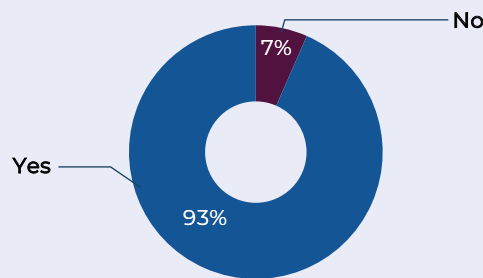


**Budget Expenditure (2023)**



Per Capita Spending **₦199.5**

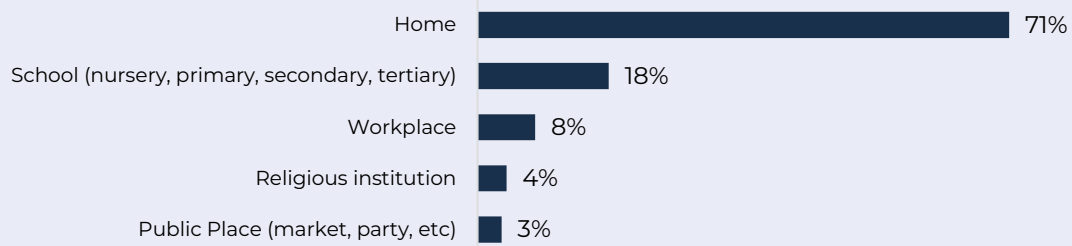
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



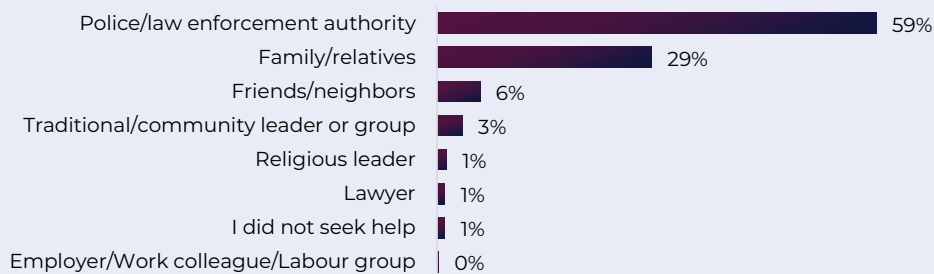
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



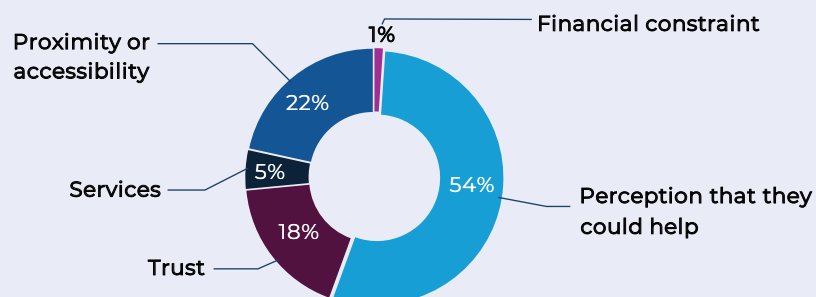
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

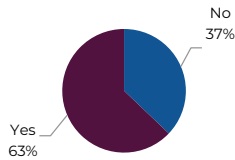


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

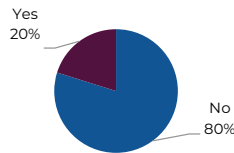


## Laws and Policies

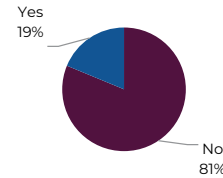
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

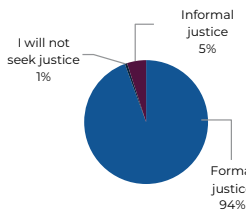


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

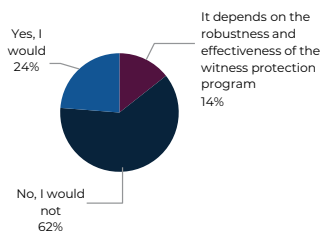


## Access to Legal Justice

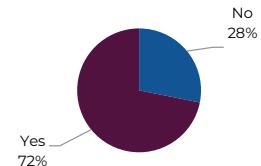
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

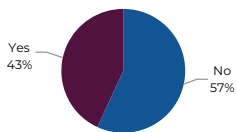


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

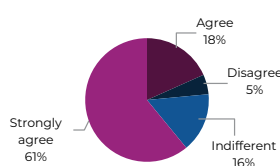


## Support Services

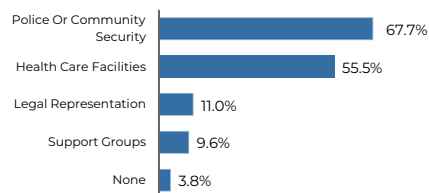
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



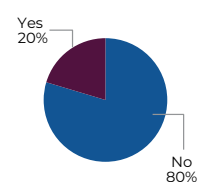
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

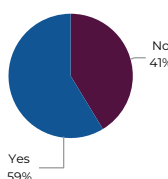


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

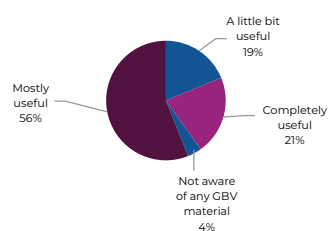


## Information and Awareness

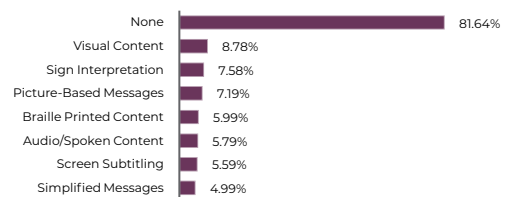
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Some of the laws in Lagos State that address GBV issues are the Protection Against Domestic Violence Law (PADVL), the Criminal Law of Lagos State, The Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency Law, the Child's Right Law, Lagos State Special People's Law, Administration of Criminal Justice Law of Lagos State 2015 (ACJL). However, 37% of respondents are unaware of these laws, with awareness campaigns primarily focused on urban areas, leaving rural communities underserved. Although 89% of respondents consider the laws effective, gaps persist, including limited focus on prevention, weak enforcement mechanisms, and delays in justice delivery. Some of the challenges that made the laws ineffective are; that most of these laws focus on prosecuting offenders after violence has occurred, there is limited focus on prevention strategies, and there is limited awareness: Many victims and the general public are unaware of the existence of laws like the Executive Order on Sex Offenders Register (2014), which limits reporting and the use of these legal protections. Over the past year, 6,456 cases of GBV were reported, with 310 cases currently in court. Judgments were delivered in 56 cases in 2023 and 64 cases in 2024 so far. Harmful traditional practices like female genital mutilation have not been explicitly criminalized. The Lagos State government through the Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) coordinate policy reviews. The SGBV response laws should be reviewed to make it mandatory for periodic monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of police response to SGBV.

### Access to Legal Justice

Lagos State has established systems to address GBV cases through collaborative efforts by various ministries and agencies. The Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (MWAPA) provides multiple channels for reporting GBV, including toll-free emergency lines (767 and 112) through its partnership with the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA). MWAPA also maintains offices in all local governments, offering access to trained family social welfare officers who mediate and manage cases. The Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA), under the Ministry of Justice, is the primary government body handling GBV cases. DSVA collaborates with civil society organizations (CSOs), NGOs, and traditional rulers to escalate cases from informal systems to the formal justice system. The agency provides a toll-free helpline (08000333333) and oversees the Domestic and Sexual Violence Unified Response Protocol and Referral Pathway (URPRP) 2021, aimed at eradicating GBV in the state. The citizens have much trust in the formal justice system as 95% indicated that as their preferred choice. Specialized courts, such as the Domestic and Special Offences Court, along with 22 Family Support Units in police divisions, ensure cases are handled effectively. However, more specialized courts and Disability Desks are required across local government areas to enhance justice delivery for persons with disabilities. Finally, the Office of the Public Defender (OPD) and other legal associations offer free legal services to indigent survivors, supporting access to justice. Despite progress, gaps remain in funding, awareness, and service decentralization, requiring further improvements.

### Support Services

Lagos State has eight shelters. The Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) has a shelter for survivors of Domestic Violence. The name of the shelter is "Eko Haven". The shelter is located at Ikorodu Lagos, a 30-bed space capacity to provide immediate shelter services to high-risk of domestic violence. The shelter provides accommodation, health, psychosocial support as well as livelihood for survivors. The Shelter was established in 2023. The Agency also makes referrals to other NGOs that provide shelter for survivors. For instance, the Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency liaises with the Cece Yara Child Advocacy Center to provide shelter for child survivors of sexual abuse. There are four SARCs in Lagos State, however, of the 30 General Hospitals in Lagos State, each General Hospital has a focal person who coordinates Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). Medical officers have been trained to offer medical case management and psychosocial support for survivors of domestic and sexual abuse. The Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence has a Unified Response Protocol and Referral Pathway called (URPRP). It is a Multi-Sectoral Survivor-Centered Approach to Responding to Domestic and Sexual Violence. The survey results show that there is rather a low awareness (43%) of the available SARCs and shelters in the state. The results also show that 71% of respondents strongly agree that these facilities are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time. Lagos state needs to prioritize more funding

to increase the number of these facilities across the nooks and crannies of Lagos.

## Information and Awareness

Lagos State Government, Ministries, agencies, law enforcement agencies, CSOs, and NGOs use different information and communication (IEC) materials to educate society on GBV, how to avoid it, how to handle it, what to do in a violent situation, and where to report it. These include radio jingle (Radio Lagos) and toll-free line (08000333333); radio campaign; printed materials, including flyers and stickers; poster campaigns; school-based curriculum, outreaches, and extracurricular clubs; school counselor; public engagements, including market/street campaigns and religious centers; and television programs. Lagos State has been able to infuse teachings around Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in its curriculum through civic education and the engagement of programs in schools. The engagement of programs in schools is called STRAC (Safeguarding the Rights of a Child) and the King and Queens Club which is an avenue for students to be aware of Gender Based Violence in secondary schools. 58% of the respondents know GBV information and awareness programs or materials in the state, while 42% do not know any information and awareness programs or materials. There is a need for increased awareness of GBV in the state with the provision of funding to develop suitable competent IEC materials and programs for PWDs.

## Budget and Spending





In 2023, Lagos State allocated N4.25 bn to the Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, but only N2.78 bn (65.2%) was utilized. A significant share of this spending (N315.55m or 7.41%) went to personnel costs, while overheads accounted for N1.83 billion (43%). Capital expenditure, essential for infrastructure such as shelters and SARCs, received a minimal amount of N632.94 million (14.9%). Additionally, per capita spending stood at N199.50, with N587.76 million invested in GBV initiatives through the Lagos State Domestic & Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA). To enhance budget efficiency and impact, Lagos State must improve the execution and monitoring of allocated funds. Prioritizing capital expenditure for essential infrastructure will ensure better support for vulnerable populations. Furthermore, increasing investments in GBV initiatives will bolster the support and services available to survivors.

## Human Angle Story






The Director at Women Advocates Research and Documentation Center (WARDC) narrated a case of a fourteen-year-old years that was sexually abused by her father and her elder brother. She was noticed by her teacher in school that she was pregnant when she was taken to the health center in Lagos State that is when it was revealed that her father had been sexually molesting her. The case was reported at the police station and the perpetrator were apprehended. The survivors had to be relocated due to shame and stigma in society.


# Lagos State

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
<b>Laws and Policies</b>  	The VAPP law does not make provisions for families and clients who want to withdraw cases or settle the matter at the police station.	The law should be amended to capture lenient and stringent measures or provisions to address families and clients that receive incentives from the alleged perpetrator.
	Despite the services provided by the witness protection unit, most survivors are unwilling to testify in court. The law does not address the unwillingness to testify in court by the survivors.	The state government should develop and implement strategies to further educate society on existing GBV laws and policies in rural areas.
	Despite sensitization and dissemination efforts, awareness and understanding of the laws are still low.	There should also be the production and dissemination of simplified versions of GBV laws in local languages.
<b>Access to Legal Justice</b>  	Limited resources and human capacity for investigations and prosecutions. Most of the Family Support units and human rights desks in Lagos State do not have the human capacity to investigate cases related to GBV. When a survivor goes to the police station to report a case, the family support unit and human rights unit sometimes request some funds from the survivor to investigate the case, which might discourage the survivor from pursuing the case.	There is a need for continuous training for law enforcement officers and Judges. Some Judges who do not have training on GBV need to be trained.
	Another challenge is the changing of Judges at the Special Offences Court. When a judge who sits on a GBV case is transferred to another court, justice might be delayed because the new judge might want to start the case afresh.	The Chief Judge of Lagos State should digitize all case files to facilitate the judge's continued involvement in GBV cases. The state should also have more GBV-dedicated judges.
	Lagos State needs to have more Special Offences and Domestic Violence Courts. The courts must cover the three federal constituencies and be closer to rural communities.	Each local government should have more specialized courts and funding to implement them properly.
	Lack of awareness in rural communities on free legal aid	Improve funding required for widespread awareness of the availability of free legal aid
<b>Support Services</b>  	Inadequate training for law enforcement and judicial officials. There is a need for continuous training for law enforcement agencies. Most of the Law enforcement personnel do not have the professional skills to engage the survivors. Some of them are fond of shaming and blaming the survivors of Gender-Based Violence.	There should be more partnerships with CSOs, NGOs, and international organizations for the benefit of the survivors  Capacity building for service providers
	Lack of funds for the law enforcement agencies.	Increased funding and resources
<b>Information and Awareness</b>  	Most citizens in Lagos State are not aware of the Support Services the State offers for Gender and Domestic Violence survivors.	The state government should develop and implement strategies to further educate society on existing GBV laws and policies, especially in the low-income community
	There are three SARCs in Lagos State which is not enough for the entire population. SARC is not available in rural areas such as Epe, Ikorodu, Badagry.	Enhancing support services for marginalized groups (persons with disabilities)
	Lack of awareness by the Lagos State Office of the Disability Affairs.	There is a need for more advocacy and awareness by the Lagos State Office of Disability Affairs (LASODA).
	The online engagement is not effective.	Strengthen the reporting system through technology (online reporting platforms).

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

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
<b>Laws and Policies</b>			
1	Legal experts, policymakers, and advocacy groups should collaborate to create a comprehensive review and simplification of existing GBV laws by identifying and removing the redundant or overly complex provisions in the laws.	Partially Implemented	The Lagos State government through Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) coordinate policy reviews. DSVA use to have stakeholders meeting and townhall meetings regarding GBV laws and policies
2		Fully Implemented	The Protection against Domestic Violence Law has simplified version. The simplified law is always being shared at awareness and advocacy events by the state
3		Not Implemented	Harmful traditional practices like female genital mutilation has not been explicitly criminalized.
4		Partially Implemented	Lagos State is doing alot of awareness in the urban areas but the rural areas lack awareness and advocacy
5	The SGBV response laws should be reviewed to make it mandatory for periodic monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of police response to SGBV.	Not Implemented	It has not been implemented
<b>Access to Legal Justice</b>			
6		Partially Implemented	In Lagos State, there is a specialized court that seats on cases related to GBV but there is a need to have more of those courts in other jurisdictions of the state
7		Not Implemented	LASODA and other SGBV-focused government agencies should be supported to have a Disability Desk in each LGA and LCDA to aid PWD GBV survivors and victims access the justice delivery system.
<b>Support Services</b>			
8		Not Implemented	Most of the shelters in Lagos State are owned by individuals (NGOs and CSOs).
9		Partially Implemented	Lagos State counsellors are trained and they under go continuous training



WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER 2023 Policy Recommendations Lagos State				
10		Lagos State needs to recognize the importance of adequate staffing, allocate adequate funding for recruitment of more trained professionals, and provide training programs for the existing personnel to keep them updated with the evolving dynamics of GBV.	Not Implemented	The Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency that coordinate issues related to GBV are short staff. There is a need for more staff and adequate funding
<b>Information and Awareness</b>				
11		Frequent awareness programs for the entire society with increased IEC materials. SGBV should be given the same attention for its prevention and response as that of COVID-19.	Partially Implemented	Lagos State through Domestic and Gender Based Violence Agency (DSVA) dedicates every September for awareness and advocacy on GBV
12		There is a need for increased awareness of GBV in the state with the provision of funding to develop suitable competent IEC materials and programs for PwDs.	Partially Implemented	The Lagos State Office of the Disability Affairs (LASODA) organize programs for PwDs in Lagos State, The Office also provide some palliative to PwDs



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