



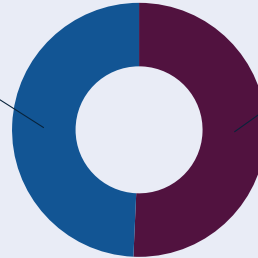
 **Nasarawa
State**





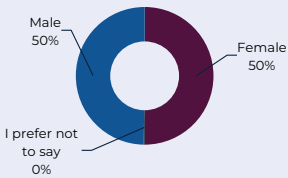
Total Population
2,973,914

Male
1,465,880
49%

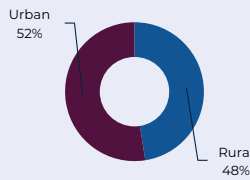


Female
1,508,034
51%

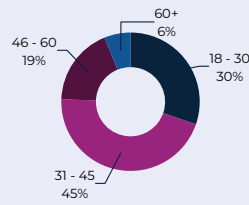
Respondents: 442



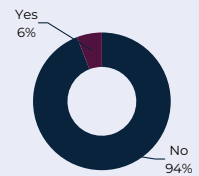
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **400**



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



No. of active shelters **1**



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



Index Grades

Laws and Policies ●

Access to Legal Justice ●

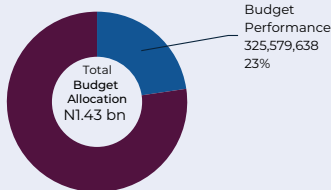
Support Services ●

Information and Awareness ●

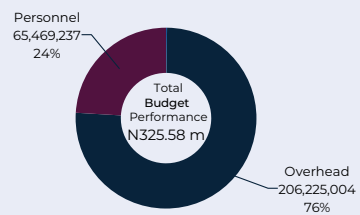
Budget and Spending ●

Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

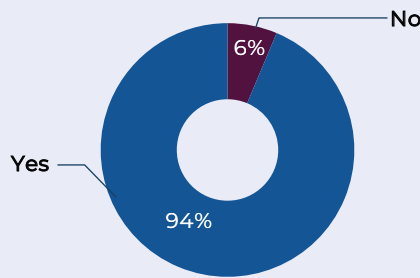


Budget Expenditure (2023)

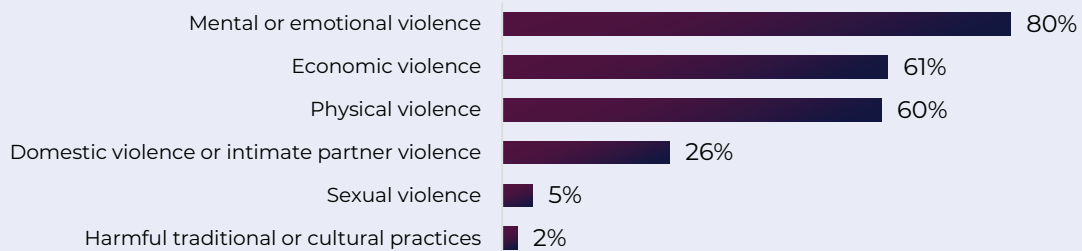


Per Capita Spending **NT109.5**

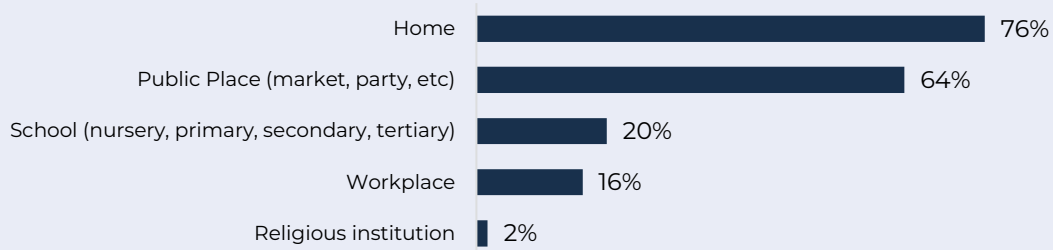
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



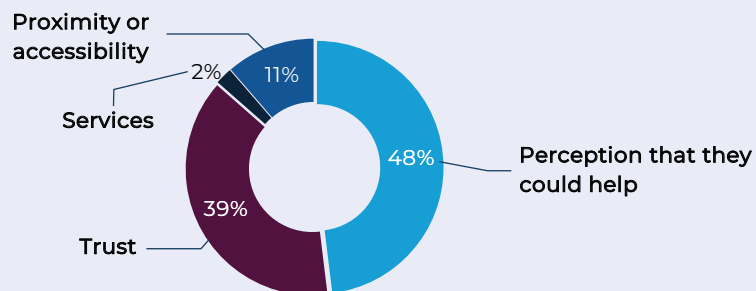
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

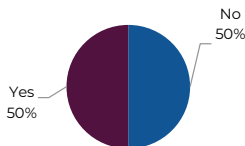


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

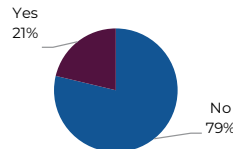


Laws and Policies

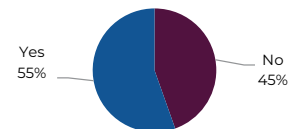
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

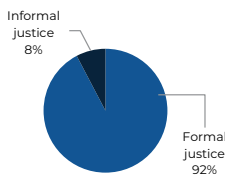


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

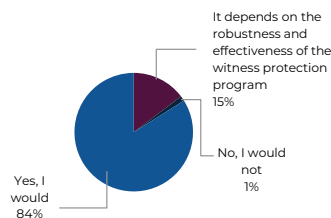


Access to Legal Justice

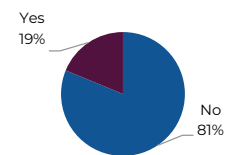
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

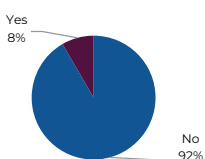


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

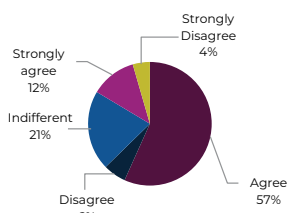


Support Services

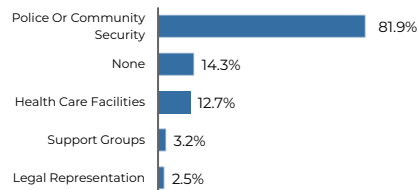
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



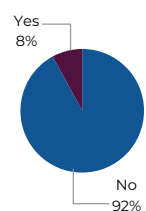
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

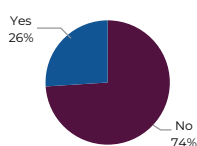


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

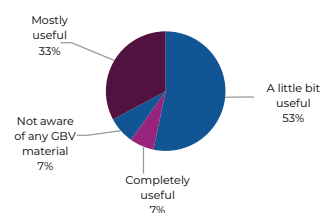


Information and Awareness

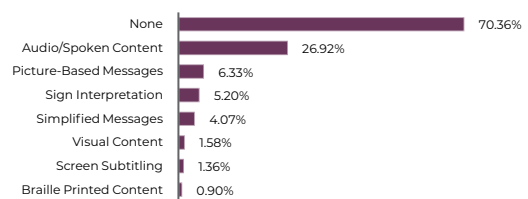
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Nasarawa State has domesticated the VAPP Law since January 2021. The Child's Right Act, also domesticated, complements the VAPP by protecting children from exploitation and abuse and addressing various forms of GBV. However, the state faces challenges in effectively implementing these laws due to low public awareness—48% of respondents know about the laws, but many still lack understanding of its provisions. The VAPP Law requires review, particularly to streamline the numerous service providers listed under Part III. This would help alleviate administrative bottlenecks for GBV survivors. Additionally, the law should provide clearer provisions for the offence of human trafficking, going beyond its current definition. Other key gaps include the absence of clear survivor compensation processes, insufficient forensic guidelines, ineffective accountability mechanisms, and inadequate training for government officials.

Customary laws are informal and subordinate to formal legal systems; although practised, they conflict with formal laws and often obstruct justice. Religious teachings, particularly in Islam and Christianity, offer some support but lack enforceability. Over 400 GBV cases were reported in the past year, more than 200 prosecuted, and over 50 judgments were administered. Improving awareness, enforcement, and formal processes for investigating and prosecuting GBV cases is critical to strengthening the legal framework in the state. While abolishing customary laws could improve consistency, their integration into formal systems may ensure broader societal acceptance and application. Effective periodic law reviews and expanded public sensitisation are critical to enhancing GBV prevention and response mechanisms.

Access to Legal Justice

Nasarawa State employs multiple systems for reporting and prosecuting gender-based violence (GBV). Formal reporting often begins with the police, and the Ministry of Justice has a Citizen's Rights Department that provides legal advice and refers cases to the litigation department for prosecution. Specialized GBV desks exist within police commands and the Ministry of Justice, supported by the Family Support Unit (FSU) and a Gender Unit in the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps. However, there is no standardized reporting protocol, leading to reliance on personal networks or traditional leaders in conservative areas. Survey results indicate that 94.1% of respondents prefer formal justice systems, while 5.9% lean towards informal justice systems, such as traditional or religious methods. Despite cultural norms that sometimes perpetuate GBV, 52.5% of respondents perceive informal systems as effective in delivering prompt resolutions.

FIDA and the Legal Aid Council primarily provide legal aid services. However, awareness remains low, with only 15.4% of respondents aware of these services and 84.6% lacking awareness. Witness protection is informal and relies on stakeholder goodwill, which highlights gaps in security and confidence for witnesses in the state. 52.5% of respondents believe informal systems effectively resolve GBV cases, though many perpetuate harmful practices. These systems are trusted for their accessibility and cultural familiarity but lack enforceable outcomes. Court proceedings sometimes adhere to VAPP Act timeframes, but follow-ups on case resolutions and issuing certified judgments need improvement. Challenges include funding shortages, public unawareness of rights and resources, and mistrust in the legal process. Strengthening public awareness, ensuring witness protection, and improving the efficiency of case follow-ups are essential to enhance justice access for GBV survivors.

Support Services

Nasarawa State has one government-funded active shelter located along Lafia-Makurdi Road, offering food, clothing, weekly psychological support, and medical care for GBV survivors. The shelter operates as a single-room facility within the Federal University Teaching Hospital in Lafia, providing immediate medical attention and legal support referrals. However, awareness about these services is low, with only 7.8% of survey respondents knowing about them and only 12.5% strongly affirming their functionality. Strengthening forensic labs, shelters, and SARCs alongside raising public awareness is critical for a more effective response to GBV in Nasarawa State. The state's GBV reporting and referral pathways are inconsistent, often starting through informal systems like traditional and religious leaders. Survivors may face delays, such as obtaining police reports before accessing medical care. Formal systems, including

the Ministry of Justice and FIDA, offer legal and psychosocial support, while informal systems—primarily religious organizations—play crucial roles in GBV prevention and response. However, 95.8% of respondents prefer formal support over informal systems.

Information and Awareness

The state has employed IEC materials to create awareness of GBV through radio campaigns, printed materials like flyers and stickers, poster campaigns, and outreach programs in schools, religious centres, and marketplaces. However, this survey indicates significant gaps, with 75% of respondents unaware of GBV information programs. Only 23.6% were aware of audio content from radio campaigns, and awareness of PWD-inclusive materials was alarmingly low at 6.7%. Efforts to disseminate information are periodic and lack widespread frequency and inclusivity. Secondary schools incorporate sex education topics within civic education or HIV/AIDS club activities, though these are not comprehensive. In tertiary institutions, only students in relevant fields receive in-depth exposure. Public schools with counselling units often lack resources, and educational materials are not widely distributed, limiting the overall impact. Additionally, PWD-friendly IEC materials remain underdeveloped. While some efforts include sound systems and local languages like Hausa to enhance accessibility, these measures fall short of comprehensive inclusivity. Increased investment in diverse IEC formats, consistent awareness campaigns, and integration of GBV education into curricula could significantly strengthen prevention and response mechanisms.

Budget and Spending




N1.43 billion was allocated to the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in the 2023 fiscal year, but N325.58 million was spent, representing 23% of the allocation. This spending was distributed as follows: N65.47 million in personnel cost, N206.23 million in overheads, N500 million for capital expenditure, and N53.39 million for other recurrent expenses. Given the state's population of 2,973,914, the per capita spending was N109.50. Budget allocations remain insufficient, limiting service quality. The low spending per capita highlights the need for improved allocation, planning, and efficient deployment of resources to address GBV challenges effectively and ensure meaningful outreach, especially to underserved populations. Strategic prioritization of capital projects is essential for sustainable impact.



Human Angle Story



Hauwa (real name withheld) was a woman broken by the hands of the man she once loved. Her husband, a respected lawyer in the state, had repeatedly beaten her, yet no one would believe her. Her family and friends, intimidated by his influence, turned their backs on her, leaving her in a constant state of fear. She felt trapped, isolated, and helpless, with nowhere to turn. However, one day, she heard about the Federation of Female Lawyers Association (FIDA) and sought help. With the support of FIDA, she received counselling, medical treatment, and legal assistance. Their legal team fought for her, securing a restraining order that allowed her to escape to safety. Hauwa could breathe freely for the first time in years, knowing she wasn't alone anymore.

Nasarawa State

Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	The VAPP Law lacks budgetary allocation for GBV initiatives.	Allocate specific budgets to GBV-related activities under the VAPP Law to ensure effective implementation.
	Gaps in the existing laws impede implementation, and the multiplicity of laws allows perpetrators to exploit less stringent laws to evade justice.	Review and harmonize existing laws and policies to eliminate inconsistencies and ensure stricter penalties for GBV offences.
	Forensic and technical gaps in documentation and investigation lead to case dismissals.	Develop clear guidelines and provide forensic training for SGBV case documentation and investigation professionals.
	Weak governance and accountability mechanisms impede the enforcement of GBV laws and policies.	Establish robust governance frameworks with monitoring and accountability mechanisms, ensuring regular reviews of GBV-related interventions.
	There is low awareness among citizens, as 75% of survey respondents are unaware of GBV-related laws and policies.	Improve awareness and capacity by launching widespread sensitization campaigns.
	Poor capacity of government officials to implement the laws.	Conduct targeted training for government personnel, traditional leaders, and community members.
	Develop initiatives that combine formal legal frameworks with local customs and religious practices, fostering a more inclusive and culturally sensitive approach to GBV prevention and response.	Given Nasarawa's strong religious influence, a balanced approach that integrates formal laws with customary and religious practices is needed for more effective GBV prevention and response.
Access to Legal Justice 	There is a strong preference for formal justice systems, reflecting a desire for legal recourse. However, there is still a lack of awareness regarding available legal assistance.	Increase awareness about available legal assistance services, including where and how survivors can seek help.
	Long wait times for judicial proceedings often discourage victims from following through with cases. Education and sensitization efforts are essential to improve public understanding of the justice system and GBV prevention strategies.	Establish family courts to expedite cases and reduce delays in the judicial process. In the interim, educate survivors on timelines. Establish specialised GBV courts with trained judges to expedite the judicial process and ensure survivor-sensitive adjudication.
	The absence of a witness protection program, insufficient evidence, and inadequate law enforcement capacity pose significant hurdles in prosecuting GBV cases.	Establish a comprehensive witness protection program to ensure the safety and security of witnesses during and after trials. Provide specialised training for law enforcement on GBV case handling and invest in advanced forensic technologies to improve evidence gathering.
Support Services 	There is limited awareness of GBV support services, and many individuals are unaware of the available referral pathways, which hinders access to assistance for survivors.	Strengthen reporting pathways through targeted campaigns to educate the public on available reporting and referral pathways, including helplines, police stations, and GBV organizations.
	Barriers such as stigma, fear of retaliation, and lack of confidentiality protocols prevent survivors from accessing support services in a timely and safe manner.	Address barriers like stigma and lack of privacy by creating safe, confidential spaces for survivors and strengthening survivor-centred support protocols.
	Support services are not adequately reaching remote areas, and survivors from villages face difficulties accessing essential services, such as medical care and counselling.	Expand the reach of services by deploying outreach teams to rural areas, ensuring survivors in remote locations can access the nearest SARCs or healthcare facilities.

Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
<p>Information and Awareness</p> 	<p>Awareness of GBV information and education programs in the state is very low, with many individuals in rural areas reporting a lack of exposure to GBV materials.</p>	<p>Intensify efforts to disseminate GBV information more consistently and widely, especially in underserved areas. Ensure that GBV materials are available in various formats, such as audio, visual, Braille, and digital platforms, to reach a wider and more diverse audience, including persons with disabilities.</p>
	<p>Many believe that GBV and Child Sexual Abuse education should be taught in schools (across all education levels). However, capacity constraints in the education system hinder the effective implementation of GBV prevention initiatives, with overburdened teachers struggling to deliver comprehensive education.</p>	<p>Incorporate GBV and Child Sexual Abuse education into the curricula of primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions; and provide teachers with training and resources to deliver GBV prevention education effectively.</p>
	<p>Consultative meetings involving stakeholders (traditional leaders, religious leaders, parents, teachers, and MDAs) are needed to ensure community buy-in on the GBV curriculum.</p>	<p>Hold consultative meetings with stakeholders to aggregate opinions on the scope and content of sex education curricula, ensuring cultural and community sensitivity.</p>
<p>Budget and Spending</p> 	<p>Less than 25% of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development's budget was implemented.</p>	<p>Substantially improve the disbursement of allocated funds to the Ministry to improve the credibility of its budget and increase its capacity to deliver on its GBV prevention and response mandate.</p>
	<p>Spending per capita of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development stood extremely low at N109.5 in 2023.</p>	<p>Significantly increase the budgetary allocation and releases to the Ministry to empower it to address GBV effectively and efficiently.</p>

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Policy Recommendations
Nasarawa State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1	Enhance knowledge and awareness through targeted campaigns and education programs.	Not Implemented	They are just trying to collaborate with several agencies to make this work but alot of work needs to be done
2	Address perceptions of adequacy by reviewing and strengthening legal frameworks.	Not Implemented	
	Improve prosecution of GBV cases and inform public about ongoing reforms	Partially Implemented	The have tried in persecution unlike in the past were people were not persecuted
4	Foster partnerships and collaboration between government, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders	Not Implemented	The government is not good at collaborating with other organization but they said they will work towards it
Access to Legal Justice			
5	Enhance formal justice system's effectiveness and accessibility	Partially Implemented	The formal justice system is not that effective because of limited funds
6	Strengthen informal justice systems to align with human rights principles	Not Implemented	The don't consider informal justices system in the state
7	Build capacity for evidence gathering and explore alternative methods	Not Implemented	Always difficult getting evidence because of religious belief and stigmatization
8	Increase financial support for investigating and prosecuting GBV	Not Implemented	The government doesn't support financially in the cause of carrying out an investigation
9	Establish dedicated GBV courts with specialized judges	Partially Implemented	There's a dedicated GBV court with few special judges.
Support Services			
10	Asides increasing the number of SARCs and Shelters to in proportion to the population, there is a need to increase awareness and access to the Shelters and SARCs.	Not Implemented	they have just one SARC and shelter home unlike before where there was no sheltaer home
	Strengthen knowledge of reporting and referral pathways	Not Implemented	There's not appropriate reporting channel. it all depends on where the care occur
12	Collaborate with informal support systems to enhance their role	Not Implemented	there's no regard for informal support system in the state
Information and Awareness			
13	Targeted interventions about GBV in low awareness areas	Not Implemented	They have improve in creating awareness unlike in the pass but alot needs to be done
14	Enhance accessibility of materials for disabilities	Not Implemented	The government try to engage people with disability but not all due limited funds
15	Increase frequency of dissemination	Partially Implemented	They have tried compare to before.



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