

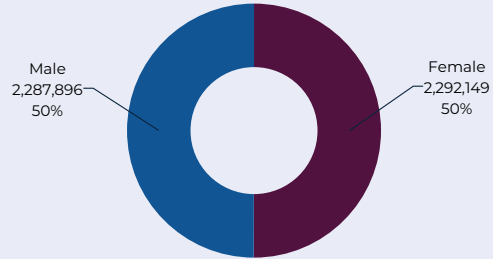


Osun State

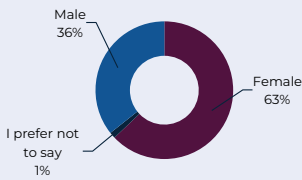




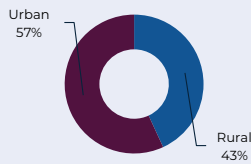
Total Population
4,580,045



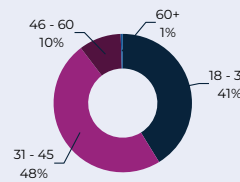
Respondents: 415



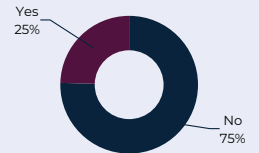
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **12**



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



No. of active shelters **6**



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

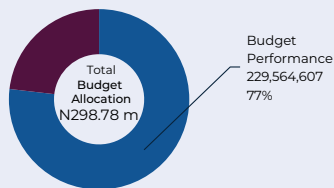


Index Grades

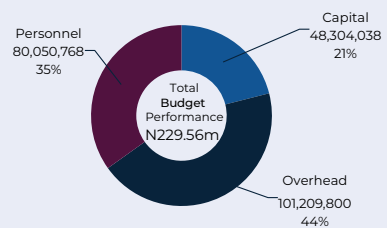
Laws and Policies	●
Access to Legal Justice	●
Support Services	●
Information and Awareness	●
Budget and Spending	●

Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

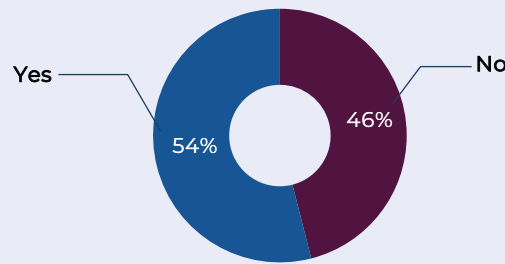


Budget Expenditure (2023)

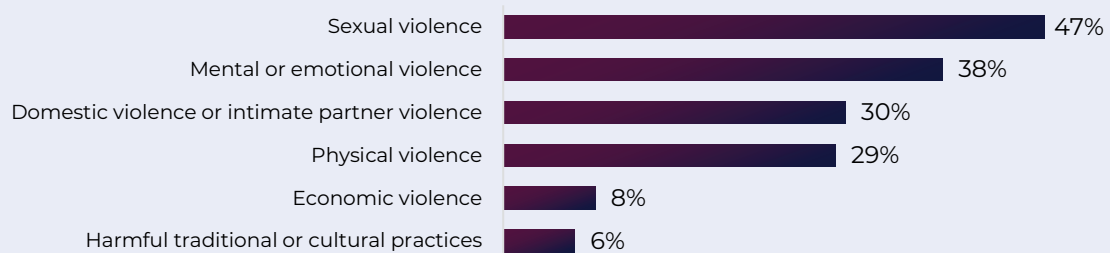


Per Capita Spending **N50.1**

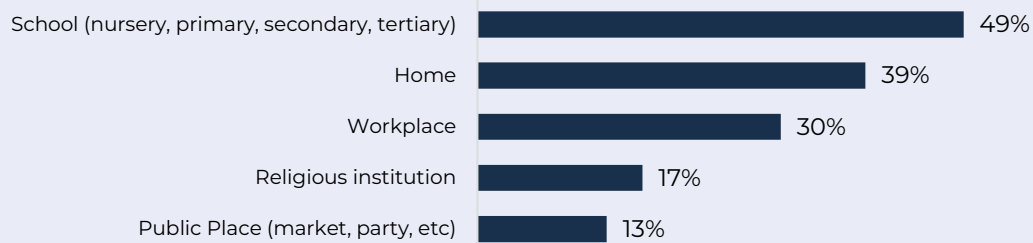
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



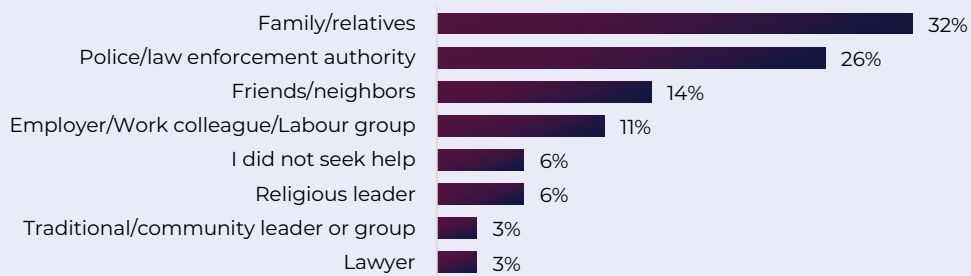
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



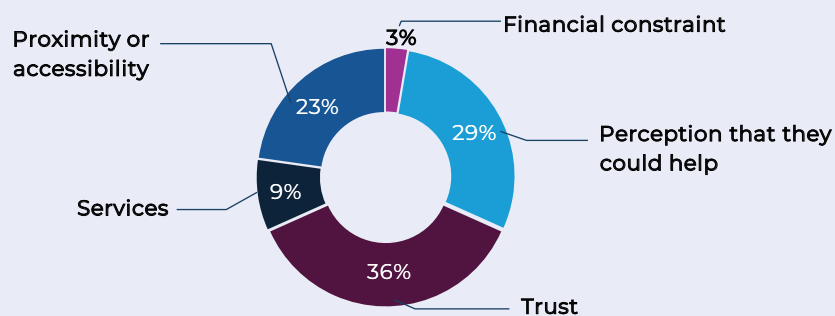
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

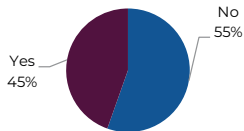


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

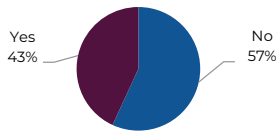


Laws and Policies

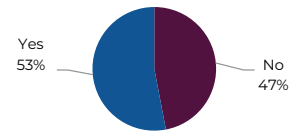
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

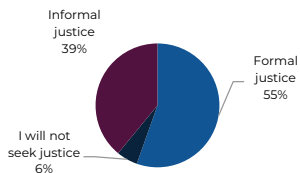


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

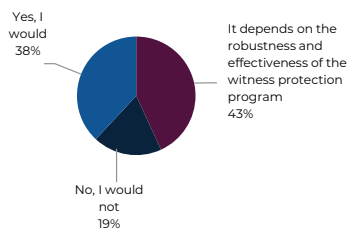


Access to Legal Justice

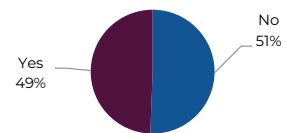
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

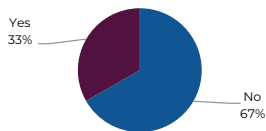


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

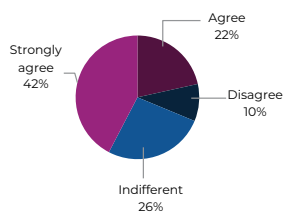


Support Services

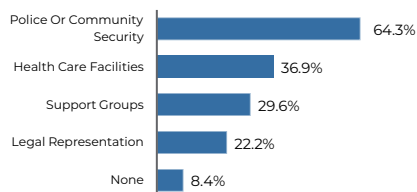
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



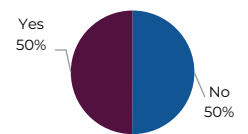
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

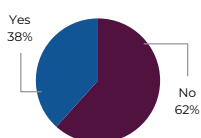


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

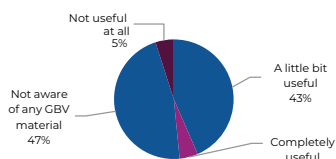


Information and Awareness

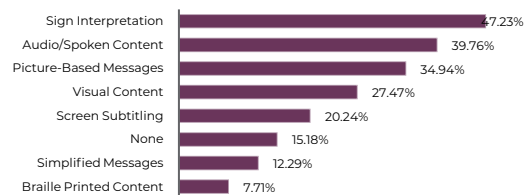
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

GBV-related laws and policies that exist in Osun State include: the Prohibition Law Against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), 2004, Child Rights Law 2007 (domesticated for Osun State), Anti-Domestic Violence Bill, 2013, Protection Against Domestic Violence Law, 2015, Osun State Gender Equity and Social Inclusion Policy 2018, VAPP Law, Criminal Code, Administrative of Criminal Justice Law (ACJL), and Law Against Gender Violence. Public awareness of the policy is low and persists as a gap in the state. 45% of respondents are aware of existing laws and/or policies that address GBV, however, 44% of respondents think formal laws and policies are effective and sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the State.

Osun State's efforts to improve awareness of the state's policy have led to training programs being conducted for law enforcement, judiciary, and social service providers to improve their understanding of GBV and their roles in addressing it. Lack of effective enforcement and utilization of the laws and lack of dedication among political leaders to prioritize and advocate for stringent measures against GBV has resulted in inadequate policy and lack of funding, hindering progress in combating the issue are some of the identified gaps that made GBV laws to be ineffective in Osun State. The informal justice system in Osun State operates through community leaders, religious leaders, and customary courts. 52% of respondents think customary and religious laws and practices help to prevent and respond to GBV in the state.

Access to Legal Justice

Victims can report GBV cases at police stations, Family Support Units (FSUs), and Human Rights Desks dedicated to handling such cases. Civil society organizations (CSOs) and community leaders also provide additional channels for victims to report incidents. The legal framework in Osun State aligns with the provisions of the VAPP Act, adapted to local laws. Special prosecutors are often involved in cases of GBV to streamline and expedite the judicial process. The enforcement of GBV laws is primarily conducted by the state police force, supported by CSOs and local enforcement units. However, cases of police obstructing justice by meddling with cases, either by destroying evidence, collecting bribes from perpetrators, and setting them free, still lingers. This serves as a major deterrent to the justice system in the state and proper measures need to be taken to address this.

There are ongoing partnerships with local NGOs to ensure proper enforcement and public awareness campaigns. 55% of respondents preferred to seek justice through the formal justice system, demonstrating confidence in state-level legal procedures and enforcement, albeit signaling a shift towards modern approaches over traditional practices. Osun State, through its collaboration with legal aid services and non-governmental organizations, offers legal assistance to GBV survivors. Evidence of this includes the provision of free legal representation by government-backed Legal Aid Councils and organizations such as FIDA (Federation of Women Lawyers), which offer pro bono services to victims. Witness protection programs are limited but present, primarily supported by CSOs. There are documented instances where survivors have been relocated temporarily to safe shelters during court proceedings to protect their identities and ensure their safety. There are no dedicated GBV judges or courts in the State. There are family support units in some police stations.

Support Services

Osun State has no SARC, however, there are 6 shelters. The shelter includes the Transit Home managed by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Community Development (MoWASCD), a Juvenile Correction Home in Testing Ground Osogbo. Non-governmental shelters such as the Catholic Shelters and Value Female Network Shelter also provide essential services. These shelters offer temporary accommodation, counseling, and essential support, with the SARC additionally equipped to provide forensic and medical services. Low awareness of these support services serves as a major challenge as only 33% of the study population know of or have visited these centers or shelters. The reporting and referral pathways in Osun State involve healthcare facilities, law enforcement agencies, legal aid, and non-governmental support

groups. Survivors can report cases through hospitals, police stations, or community security groups, with referrals to SARCs for comprehensive support. Despite these systems, 50% of the surveyed population expressed a preference for informal support systems, such as family, friends, religious institutions, and community groups, citing their accessibility and trustworthiness. Medical units and forensic labs have been pivotal in prosecuting GBV cases, providing forensic evidence critical for legal proceedings. However, budgetary allocations remain inadequate. While there are active efforts by NGOs and individual donors, government investments in expanding and improving these services are minimal, highlighting a need for greater prioritization and funding.

Information and Awareness

Osun State employs the use of weekly broadcasts that often discuss GBV issues, inviting guest speakers from civic organizations. Community Workshops are conducted occasionally in partnership with NGOs, these workshops aim to educate specific communities in recognizing and responding to GBV. There are pamphlets and posters in public spaces that provide basic information on identifying and reporting GBV. Despite these efforts, only 38% of respondents know of any GBV IEC materials or awareness programs in the state. Copies of the VAPP law are not given out free and have to be paid for. Only people who have connections get access to VAPP law. The laws are meant to be simplified and widely disseminated even to the grassroots.

Comprehensive sex education in the state has been implemented in varying degrees, with secondary schools incorporating basic sex education topics into health and physical education curricula. Comprehensive sex education in the state has been implemented in varying degrees, with secondary schools incorporating basic sex education topics into health and physical education curricula. Awareness programs exist but often fall short of being comprehensive and accessible to all members of the community, particularly PWDs.

Budget and Spending

In the 2023 fiscal year, Osun State allocated N298.8 million to its Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Affairs, with N229.56 million utilized, representing a 77% budget performance. This achievement ranked Osun as the second-best performing state in the southwestern region. The expenditure was primarily directed towards overhead costs, which accounted for N101.21 million (44.1%), followed by personnel costs at N80.1 million (34.9%) and capital expenditure at N48.3 million (21%). Despite this performance, Osun recorded the lowest per capita spending in the southwestern region, at just N50.1, highlighting the limited reach of the ministry's services. This reflects a significant funding challenge in effectively addressing the needs of women, children, and social affairs.



Human Angle Story



Miriam (real name withheld), a 29-year-old mother of two, recalls her harrowing experience after a domestic incident that left her injured and seeking refuge. With nowhere else to turn, she arrived at the SARC in Asubiaro. "The staff were welcoming," she shares, tears brimming in her eyes. "I wasn't just another case; they listened, and for the first time in weeks, I felt safe." Miriam's journey through the support systems highlighted both the strengths and gaps: while the SARC provided comprehensive medical and psychological help, navigating the legal system was daunting without adequate legal support. "I relied heavily on my community's church group and a women's network to help guide me. Without them, I wouldn't have found the strength to pursue justice," she admits.



Osun State

Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	Poor awareness of the laws and policies guiding GBV, even by personnel in the judiciary and other MDAs.	Training and capacity building of personnel on GBV laws and policies.
	Low/no implementation of the laws on GBV impedes the need for a review of the laws.	Enforcement and implementation of GBV-related laws and policies.
	Lack of political will to enforce the laws, therefore, there are no scapegoats to show the public the effectiveness of the laws.	The government should exercise political will in the enforcement of the laws and policies to generate trust from the public.
	Reportage of GBV, particularly FGM offences is not mandatory	The report of GBV cases should be made compulsory by creating a GBV tracker database and enforcing the sex offenders register as listed in the VAPP law
	Illiteracy and inability to read the laws in the English Language.	The law should be simplified and translated to local dialects or made into audio formats such as radio jingles.
Access to Legal Justice 	There are no budgetary allocations to the Ministry of Women Affairs and other MDAs that handle GBV matters.	There should be funding for the All Citizens Rights and Intervention for Cases of GBV that was set up by the government.
	Law enforcement agencies, especially the police, often frustrate cases deliberately by destroying evidence, collecting bribes from perpetrators, and poor presentation of cases.	Implement strict penalties for police officers and law enforcement personnel found guilty of corruption in GBV cases. Introduce anonymous reporting mechanisms for such misconduct.
	Bureaucratic bottlenecks in state agencies discourage survivors and/or their families, CSOs, and other people who may be assisting victims in accessing justice.	Capacity of public officers to be built through training
	Stigmatization, arising from poor knowledge, culture, and societal disposition toward legal prosecution. This leads to reluctance to go to court or report GBV cases to the appropriate agencies.	Train law enforcement, judiciary, and healthcare providers on trauma-informed care to prevent re-traumatization of victims during investigations and trials.
Support Services 	Non-functioning Sexual Assault Referral Center.	Activate the SARC in Osogbo to get it running while establishing more SARCs across the different senatorial districts and local government areas of the state.
	There are no government shelters. Available support systems are mainly individualistic.	Provision of additional and functional shelters for survivors of GBV.
	Poor security and amenities at private shelters.	Increased collaborative efforts with CSOs and the private sector to improve services offered by the facilities.

Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
<p>Information and Awareness</p> 	<p>Information on GBV is inadequate and occasional. MDAs disseminate information only when they hold special programs or on International Day celebrations.</p>	<p>Develop a consistent and sustained statewide GBV awareness campaign, utilizing diverse communication channels, including traditional media, social media, and community outreach.</p> <p>Empower community-based organizations (CBOs) to deliver localized and culturally sensitive GBV information in underserved areas.</p>
	<p>Lack of political will on the part of government.</p>	<p>Incentivize political leaders to champion GBV-related policies by linking progress to measurable development indicators, such as SDG targets.</p>
	<p>Sex education is not taught in schools and requires the approval of the government to include it in the school curriculum at all levels of education.</p>	<p>Work with the state Ministry of Education to integrate comprehensive sex education into the school curriculum, tailored to each educational level.</p> <p>Engage parents, religious leaders, and community stakeholders in dialogues to address misconceptions and garner support for the inclusion of sex education.</p>
	<p>Budget and Spending</p> 	<p>There is no dedicated budget for critical areas such as awareness campaigns, shelter operations, legal aid, or training for personnel handling GBV cases. This results in fragmented and unsustainable responses to GBV.</p>

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Policy Recommendations
Osun State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1	Engage relevant stakeholders to advocate for increased political will to enforce existing GBV laws, emphasising the importance of political influence in law implementation.	Not Implemented	A pervasive lack of dedication among political leaders to prioritize and advocate for stringent measures against GBV has resulted in inadequate policy support and funding.
2	Allocate adequate funds to the implementation of the existing laws and policies.	Not Implemented	The funds allocated is insufficient
3	Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to simplify and disseminate GBV laws using simplified English or local languages, as well as targeting diverse communication channels.	Not Implemented	some stakeholders that are within the rural areas are not well collaborated with.
4	Organise comprehensive sensitization programs for law enforcement agencies, especially the police, to ensure they are well-versed in GBV laws and their implications.	Partially Implemented	Training programs have been conducted for law enforcement, judiciary, and social service providers to improve their understanding of GBV and their roles in addressing it.
Access to Legal Justice			
5	Increase financial resources from government and NGOs to support prosecution efforts, ensuring survivors have access to justice.	Not Implemented	Insufficient funding persist for police, prosecution, and witness protection services.
6	Conduct specialised training programs for law enforcement agencies, focusing on the handling of GBV cases, evidence preservation, and ethical conduct.	Partially Implemented	While not widespread, there have been efforts to train judges to specialize in GBV cases.
7	Establish oversight mechanisms to address cases of deliberate frustration and corruption within law enforcement agencies.	Not Implemented	Cases of police obstructing justice by meddling with cases, either by destroying evidence, collecting bribes from perpetrators and setting them free, still lingers.
8	Appoint dedicated judges for GBV cases, to ensure a more focused and expedited legal process.	Not Implemented	there is no specific judges for GBV cases within the state
9	Osun state government needs to establish Gender Desks in all police stations, providing specialized support for GBV cases.	Partially Implemented	
Support Services			
10	Conduct extensive awareness campaigns to educate the public about the existing referral centres and reporting pathways for GBV cases.	Fully Implemented	the state government under the ministry of women and children affairs do conduct campaign every quarter of the year across the state.
11	Collaborate with community leaders and influencers to enhance awareness at the grassroots level.	Partially Implemented	The community leaders, eg. the kings are also aware

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER 2023 Policy Recommendations Osun State				
12		Establish government-owned shelters, addressing security concerns and ensuring adequate facilities for survivors.	Partially Implemented	There are shelters but not functioning
13		Collaborate with NGOs and individuals to improve existing shelters and make them more sustainable.	Partially Implemented	Some individuals support by providing food for the victims.
14		Allocate resources to revitalize and expand SARCs within the state, ensuring they are fully equipped and functional with an enhanced medical aid component.	Not Implemented	Nothing is allocated
Information and Awareness				
15		Establish routine information sharing mechanisms for disseminating IEC materials on GBV, ensuring consistent and frequent awareness that goes beyond special occasions.	Partially Implemented	yes,the state government always have a rally on GBV every quarter of the year.
16		Ensure IEC materials are sensitive to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), incorporating diverse formats and engaging PwDs in program designs.	Not Implemented	IEC materials not sensitive to PwDs, and they are often not included in programme designs. There is no routine information sharing mechanisms for PwDs.
17		Ensure the VAPP laws and related information are freely accessible to citizens, eliminating barriers to obtaining crucial legal information.	Not Implemented	VAPP law not given out free and has to be paid for. Only people that have connections get access to VAPP law
18		Work with international organisations to secure funding to facilitate the widespread dissemination of IEC materials, addressing the challenge of inadequate resources.	Not Implemented	



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