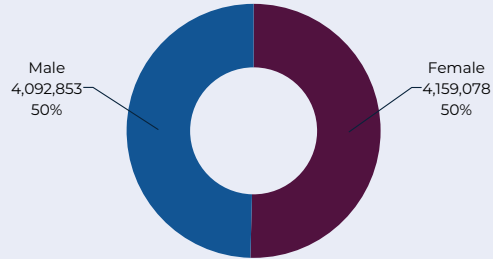


 **Oyo State**

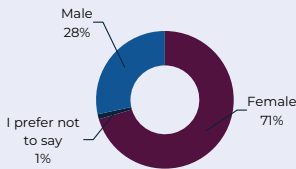




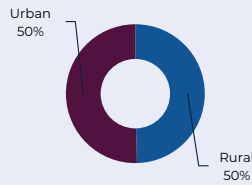
**Total Population**  
**8,251,931**



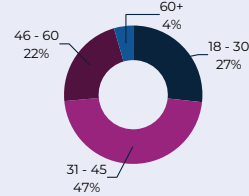
### Respondents: 423



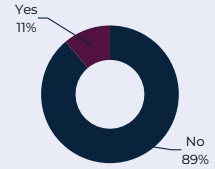
### Location



### Age Group



### Disability Status



### GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **50**



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



No. of active shelters **3**



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs) **5**

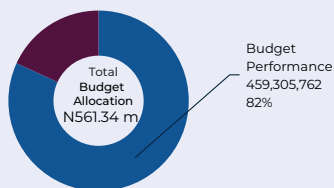


### Index Grades

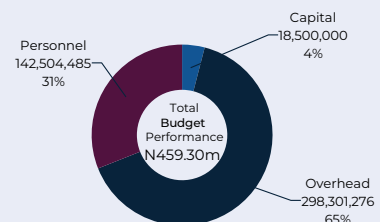
Laws and Policies	●
Access to Legal Justice	●
Support Services	●
Information and Awareness	●
Budget and Spending	●

Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

### Budget Performance (2023)

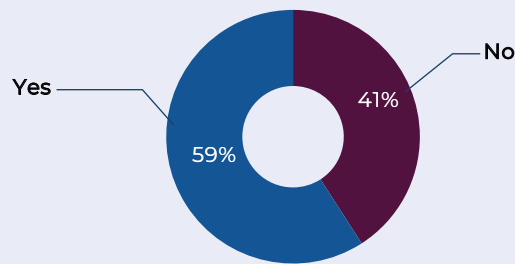


### Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N55.7**

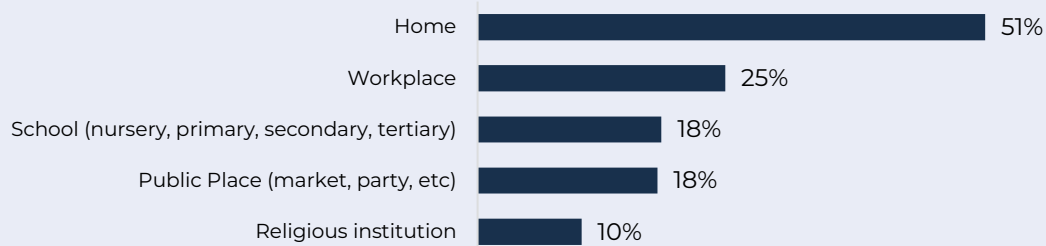
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



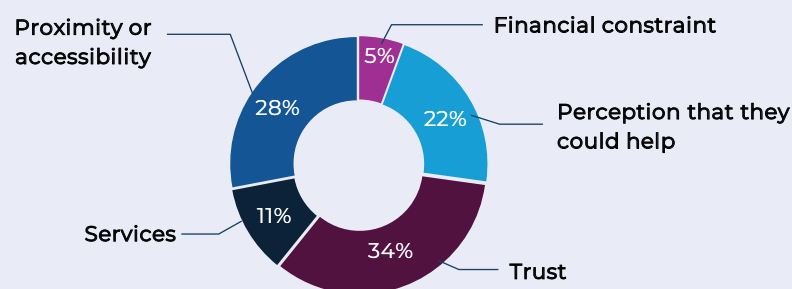
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

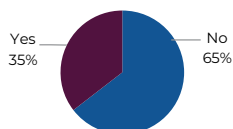


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

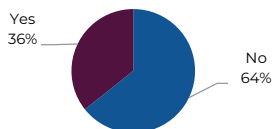


## Laws and Policies

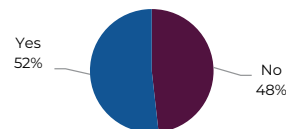
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

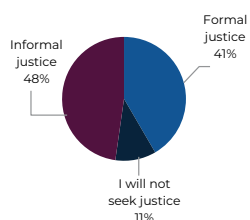


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

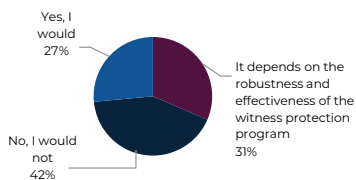


## Access to Legal Justice

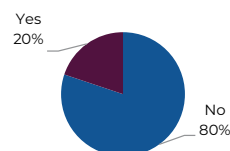
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

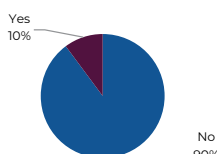


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

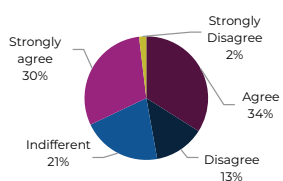


## Support Services

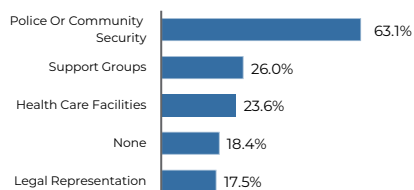
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



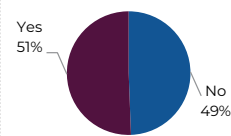
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

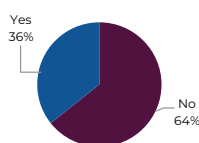


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

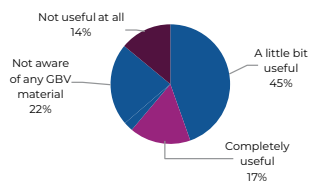


## Information and Awareness

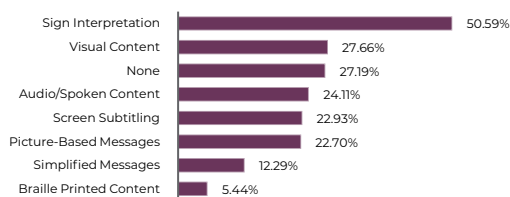
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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**

Oyo State has enacted several laws to address GBV, including the VAPP Law 2021, the Child Rights Law (2007, amended 2015), and the Persons with Disabilities Law (2019). These laws cover a wide range of issues, including domestic violence, rape, and harmful practices. However, their enforcement remains weak, with limited prosecution of GBV cases. There is a significant gap in public awareness of GBV-related laws as 35% of respondents, especially in underserved communities, are unaware of their rights under the law. Existing gaps in the law include the lack of survivor compensation mechanisms, inadequate costed action plans for implementation, and poor coordination among law enforcement agencies. These challenges undermine the effectiveness of GBV prevention and response efforts. The customary laws in the state are strictly informal, including traditional courts and community mediation by elders, which are often the preferred route for dispute resolution in rural areas of Oyo State. While the abolition of harmful customary practices could align with state laws, it requires community buy-in to be effective. 52% of respondents expressed belief in the effectiveness of customary laws.

### **Access to Legal Justice**

Oyo State's GBV reporting system involves multiple agencies, including: - the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Inclusion which coordinates GBV response, with GBV desk officers in most LGAs. Police and Civil Defense serve as first responders to GBV incidents. According to the statistics, 42% of the population would seek justice in the formal system such as police, or court, while 48% would seek justice in the informal justice system. Currently, Oyo State lacks a formal witness protection program for survivors of GBV, leaving many vulnerable to retaliation and intimidation by perpetrators. The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) and legal aid programs provide some pro-bono legal services to survivors, but the coverage is limited and only a low portion (20%) of the respondents is aware of the legal aid service in the state. Oyo State has a family court and Gender Desk also exists within the police force, as well as Gender Desk Officers in some LGAs. However, these units face several challenges, including under-resourcing, gender desks are often understaffed and lack basic resources such as vehicles to transport survivors to court or shelters, and frequent transfers of officers: Key personnel, such as gender desk officers, are frequently transferred, disrupting the continuity and effectiveness of GBV case handling. Some officers of the law compromised justice. There are frequent reports of police officers accepting bribes to settle cases out of court, and many officers are not adequately trained in handling GBV cases.

### **Support Services**

Oyo State has three functional shelters with no Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs). The three shelters are run by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Inclusion and civil society organizations. However, these facilities are often underfunded and lack adequate resources to support survivors for long-term rehabilitation. Awareness of these facilities and their services is still rather limited as only 10% of the respondents know of or have visited any of the SARCs or shelters in the state. Oyo State's GBV reporting system involves multiple agencies, including the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Inclusion: which Coordinates GBV response, with GBV desk officers in most LGAs. - Police and Civil Defense: Serve as first responders to GBV incidents. However, the response is inconsistent, with many cases unreported or not properly handled. - Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs): These centers offer medical, legal, and psychological services to survivors but are only available in a few locations like Ibadan and Ogbomosho. Informal support systems in the state include community-based systems such as community elders, traditional leaders, and family networks for mediation and dispute resolution and Faith-based organizations which are the churches, mosques. 51% of the respondents believe that the informal systems are helpful as they are easily accessible and faster. However, others believe that patriarchal norms dominate informal systems, where they are pressured to return to abusive situations for the sake of family unity.

## Information and Awareness

Oyo State government uses radio jingles, educative pamphlets, and TV shows to create awareness through the Ministry of Women Affairs, supported by the World Bank project. Broadcasts are made via Broadcasting Corporation of Oyo State (BCOS), Ibadan, which has the widest reach across the South-West region, Ajilete FM, and Oyo State FM radio. Although 64% of Oyo population is not aware of any GBV information, education programs, or materials in the state. More work needs to be done for these programs and materials to be widely disseminated.

Ministry of Women Affairs has leveraged the activities of NGOs working in over 30 schools in Oyo State to educate students about gender-based violence and reduce both harassment and bullying in schools. The Ministry of Education confirmed that there is currently no Comprehensive Sex Education being taught in secondary or tertiary institutions. However, NGOs such as One Life, Trailblazers, etc. have developed a Comprehensive Sex Education teaching manual and implemented it in several schools. The Students of Higher institutions of learning in Oyo state have confirmed the nonexistence of a Comprehensive Sex Education curriculum or manual in tertiary institutions in Oyo state. The State does not have persons with Disability IEC materials to create awareness of GBV in the state. Apart from schools, there is also a need for comprehensive training for gender desk officers on the dynamics of GBV, ensuring a thorough understanding of the issues and effective ways to address them.

## Budget and Spending

Oyo State has the second-largest population in the southwestern region of Nigeria at 9.9m, achieving a budget performance of 82%. Of the N561.34m allocated to the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Inclusion, N459.3m was utilized. The largest share of the expenditure went to overhead costs, totaling N298.3m (64.9%), while personnel costs accounted for N142.5m (31%). Capital expenditure was the smallest allocation, at N18.5m (4%). With a per capita spending of just N55.7, Oyo State ranks among the lowest in this regard. This highlights the need for a reevaluation of budget allocations to the ministry, particularly to allow for increased capital expenditure to address critical issues such as gender-based violence.

## Human Angle



A survivor from a rural community in Oyo State, who had been a victim of domestic violence, shared her story of fleeing to Ibadan in search of shelter. However, upon arrival, she found the shelters overcrowded and was put on a waitlist. With no immediate access to housing or services, she returned to her abusive home. Another survivor shared how she was raped but did not report the case to the police because her community elders insisted that the issue be resolved through mediation. Despite the violence, she was pressured into accepting a compensation settlement from the perpetrator's family, leaving her without proper justice or support.






# Oyo State

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
<p><b>Laws and Policies</b></p> 	<p>Weak Implementation of Existing Laws. Government agencies often lack the capacity, coordination, and political will to enforce these laws effectively, leading to gaps in addressing GBV.</p>	<p>The state should develop a comprehensive, costed action plan for the implementation of GBV laws like VAPP Law. This plan should include clear timelines, measurable goals, and sufficient budgetary allocations to ensure that all relevant agencies have the resources they need to enforce the laws effectively.</p>
	<p>Lack of political will to prioritize GBV prevention and response. Government officials and law enforcement agencies are rarely held accountable for their failure to protect survivors or enforce laws.</p>	<p>Build capacity for policymakers by organizing training sessions on the importance of prioritizing GBV prevention and response.</p>
	<p>Lack of funding for GBV prevention and response initiatives in Oyo State. As a result, many GBV programs are unsustainable and fail to reach those in need</p>	<p>Introduce a dedicated GBV budget line in the state's annual budget. Partner with donor agencies and private organizations to provide supplementary funding</p>
	<p>There is poor coordination among key stakeholders and law enforcement resulting in a fragmented response to GBV. This lack of coordination leads to ineffective referrals, delays in service delivery, and a lack of accountability across the GBV response network.</p>	<p>Develop a formalized unified coordination framework with defined roles and responsibilities for all GBV stakeholders, ensuring accountability and streamlined service delivery.</p>
	<p>There are no centralized, automated systems for tracking GBV cases across Oyo State. Data on reported cases, prosecutions, and outcomes are either non-existent or manually recorded, making it difficult to assess the scale of the problem and the effectiveness of interventions.</p>	<p>Establish a centralized, digital GBV case management system to track cases, interventions, and outcomes. Train relevant personnel in data collection and analysis</p>
<p><b>Access to Legal Justice</b></p> 	<p>Prosecution of GBV cases is often delayed due to the overwhelmed judiciary and lack of specialized GBV courts. The slow legal process discourages survivors from pursuing justice, as many cases are adjourned indefinitely, leaving survivors vulnerable and without closure.</p>	<p>Oyo State should establish dedicated courts for handling GBV cases to ensure that cases are processed quickly and that survivors are treated with sensitivity. These courts should have trained personnel who specialize in GBV and trauma-informed care.</p>
	<p>Law enforcement agencies, particularly the police, are known to compromise cases by accepting bribes from perpetrators, coercing survivors to settle out of court, or failing to follow proper protocols for handling GBV cases. This corruption severely impedes survivors' access to justice.</p>	<p>Implement strict penalties for police officers and law enforcement personnel found guilty of corruption in GBV cases. Introduce anonymous reporting mechanisms for such misconduct.</p>
	<p>Oyo State lacks the forensic laboratories and skilled personnel necessary to gather and analyze evidence in GBV cases. This often leads to weak cases, as crucial forensic evidence is either mishandled or unavailable, leading to a high rate of case dismissals or acquittals due to insufficient evidence.</p>	<p>Provide mandatory training for police officers, civil defense, and judiciary personnel on handling GBV cases. This training should focus on trauma-informed care, forensic investigation techniques, and how to apply laws like the VAPP Law.</p>
	<p>Survivors of GBV often face secondary victimization from both their communities and the legal system. This includes being blamed for the violence, ostracized by their families or communities, or re-traumatized by having to repeatedly recount their experiences during court proceedings. This discourages survivors from pursuing justice.</p>	<p>Train law enforcement, judiciary, and healthcare providers on trauma-informed care to prevent re-traumatization of survivors during investigations and trials.</p>
	<p>Many survivors are afraid to report GBV cases because they fear retaliation from perpetrators or their families. Without a witness protection program, survivors and witnesses are often left vulnerable to threats, intimidation, or violence, further discouraging them from seeking justice.</p>	<p>Establish a state-sponsored witness protection program to safeguard survivors and witnesses from threats or violence during and after legal proceedings.</p>

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
<b>Support Services</b>  	The state has three functional shelters and no SARCs (Sexual Assault Referral Centers).	Oyo State needs to establish more shelters and SARCs, especially in underserved rural areas. Existing facilities should be expanded to increase their bed space, and more resources should be allocated to ensure they are equipped and adequately staffed to provide comprehensive services.
	Survivors often lack access to psychological counselling, economic empowerment programs, and vocational training that would help them rebuild their lives.	Introduce long-term rehabilitation programs for survivors, including vocational training, education support, and micro-credit schemes to help them become economically independent. Provide access to mental health services and ongoing psychological counseling.
	Many of the shelters and SARCs are understaffed, and the personnel, including social workers and healthcare providers, often lack adequate training in handling GBV cases.	Organize regular capacity-building workshops for service providers, including social workers and healthcare professionals, to ensure high-quality care for victims.
	The need for a well-established, coordinated referral system means that survivors often fall through the cracks, unable to access the full range of services needed for recovery.	Strengthen referral systems by introducing clear protocols and ensuring stakeholders (e.g., healthcare workers, police, legal teams) are trained on their application.
	Rural communities in Oyo State are underserved, with few healthcare facilities or legal services available for GBV survivors.	Deploy mobile units to provide health and legal services to remote areas. Collaborate with community leaders to ensure awareness and accessibility.
<b>Information and Awareness</b>  	Many residents, especially in rural and underserved communities, are unaware of GBV laws like the VAPP Law or the services available to survivors. The cultural stigma surrounding GBV, particularly cases of rape, incest, and domestic violence, further discourages survivors from reporting cases or seeking help.	Conduct community-based sensitization campaigns leveraging trusted local influencers, religious leaders, and traditional rulers to raise awareness and reduce stigma.
	GBV awareness programs and services rarely consider the specific needs of people with disabilities (PWDs). Information materials are often not produced in accessible formats, and shelters and SARCs lack the infrastructure to accommodate PWDs, leaving this group particularly vulnerable to GBV.	Ensure that all shelters and SARCs are equipped with accessible infrastructure for persons with disabilities. This includes installing ramps, providing sign language interpreters, and training staff on how to cater to the specific needs of PWDs
	Government awareness campaigns often rely on traditional media, such as radio and television, which may not reach younger or more tech-savvy audiences.	Utilize diverse communication platforms, including social media, SMS campaigns, and community-based networks, to disseminate GBV information.
<b>Budget and Spending</b>  	Resistance from conservative and religious groups to the introduction of Comprehensive Sex Education (CSE) in schools means that young people lack the knowledge and skills to recognize and prevent GBV.	Work with parent-teacher associations, religious bodies, and community groups to design culturally sensitive CSE curricula that address GBV prevention.
	No GBV-specific line item in the budget	Allocate specific budget lines for GBV interventions, including legal aid, forensic services, and survivor support. Ensure timely disbursement and implementation to maximize impact. Advocate for increased funding through public-private partnerships and donor support.



WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER  
2023 P Recommendations  
Oyo State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
<b>Laws and Policies</b>			
1	Advocate for the creation of specific budgetary line for different aspects such as awareness campaigns, legal staffing, and support services for the implementation of the existing laws.	Partially Implemented	There is budget allocated for Family Court which handles all the cases of GBV. However, the budget is not sufficient enough to ensure effectiveness.
2	 Collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including NGOs and international partners, to secure funding for the implementation plan.	Partially Implemented	The state is currently partnering with international partners but the support available are pre-tailored by the supporting organization which might not give the state the latitude to address other GBV issue outside of the donor's target.
3	Advocate for an amendment to the existing laws to include a provision for annual reporting on the implementation of GBV laws, similar to the federal-level VAPP Act.	Not Implemented	There is no annual reporting on the implementation of GBV laws currently running in Oyo state.
4	Work with relevant government agencies to establish a monitoring and reporting mechanism to track progress and challenges in the implementation of the laws.	Not Implemented	The government and officers in charge have not established a monitoring and reporting mechanism for tracking implementation progress.
<b>Access to Legal Justice</b>			
5	 There appointment of dedicated GBV judges and the establishment of specialized GBV courts to expedite cases.	Partially Implemented	The appointment of dedicated GBV judges and the establishment of specialized GBV courts was said to have been wrapped into the Family court system of Oyo state.
6	 Prioritize recruitment and training to address the shortage of legal staff and build human resource capacity in GBV-related issues as well as partner with NGO's and INGO's to secure more funding and also get volunteers.	Not Implemented	No verifiable funding are available for this purpose in budget or in donor funded activities
7	Develop and implement a structured witness protection program for victims and their families, ensuring their safety during legal proceedings.	Not Implemented	Currently, Oyo State lacks a formal witness protection program for survivors of GBV, leaving many vulnerable to retaliation and intimidation by perpetrators.
<b>Support Services</b>			
8	 Increase government funding for shelters and SARCs, ensuring sustained financial support for their operation and maintenance.	Partially Implemented	Budget are often allocated to the SARC centers, however the process of getting the releases were said to be cumbersome.
9	 Explore partnerships with private sector entities and NGOs to supplement government funding and enhance the capacity of existing facilities.	Not Implemented	No partnership exist between private sectors and NGOs to supplement government funding.
10	Improve funding for the recruitment and training of additional staff for shelters and SARCs to address the overstretching of existing resources.	Not Implemented	Staff assignment to SARC center in Oyo state are not enough and the funding for health sector are directed towards renovation of PHCs in the 351 wards in the State.

**WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER**  
**2023 P Recommendations**  
**Oyo State**

11	Allocate sufficient funding to strengthen informal support systems, ensuring they have the resources and capacity to effectively complement formal services.	<b>Not Implemented</b>	There is no funding and or technical support made available by government to support informal systems Oyo state.
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**Information and Awareness**

12	Provide comprehensive training for gender desk officers on the dynamics of GBV, ensuring a thorough understanding of the issues and effective ways to address them.	<b>Not Implemented</b>	There is not structured training for GBV desk officers; some have no training at all while others were on the desk because of reshuffling process.
13	Foster a cultural shift through awareness programs to align gender desk officers with values that promote gender equality and sensitivity.	<b>Partially Implemented</b>	There are pockets of state collaboration with NGOs in Oyo state on awareness programmes (e.g. Onelife, Acthub, Trailblazers etc.).





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