



Plateau State



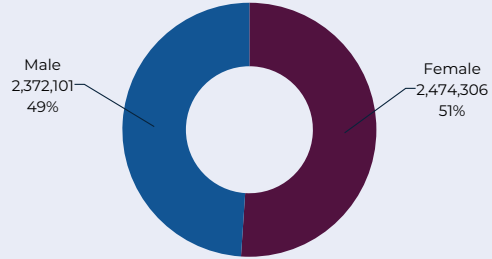
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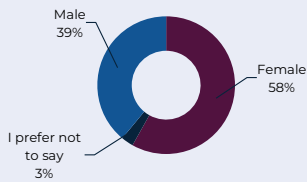




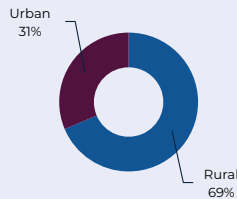
Total Population
4,846,407



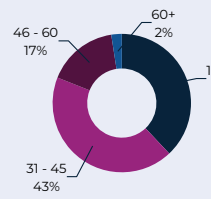
Respondents: 695



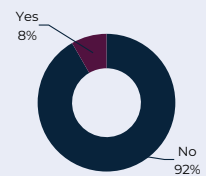
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **365**



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



No. of active shelters **24**



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs) **2**

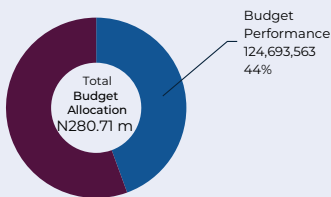


Index Grades

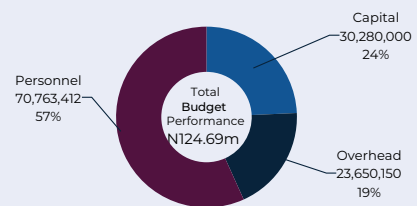
- Laws and Policies ●
- Access to Legal Justice ●
- Support Services ●
- Information and Awareness ●
- Budget and Spending ●

Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

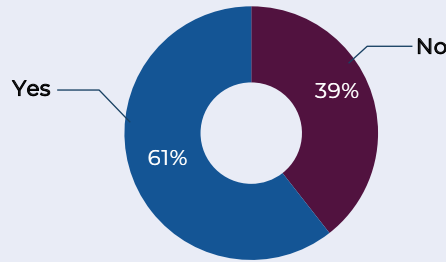


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N25.7**

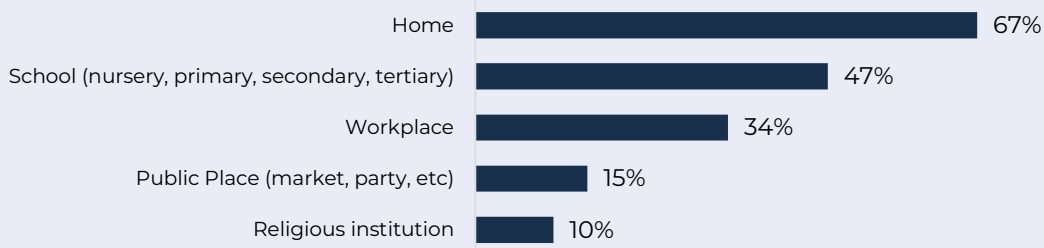
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



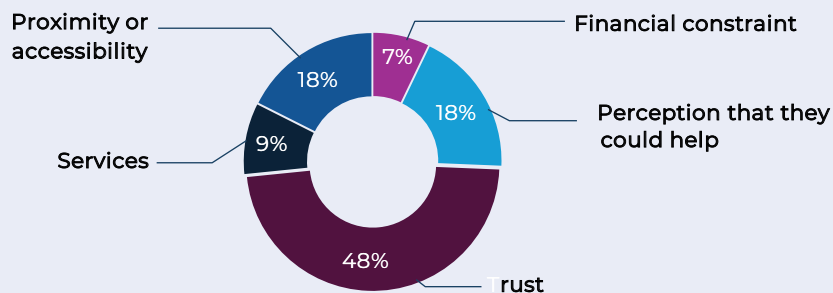
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

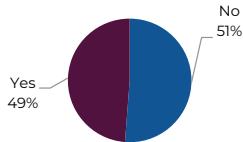


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

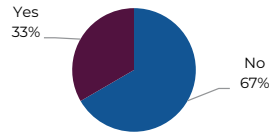


Laws and Policies

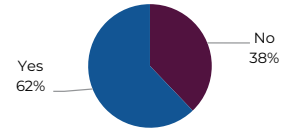
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

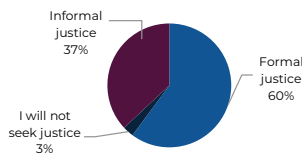


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

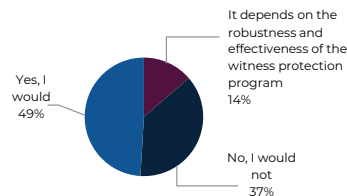


Access to Legal Justice

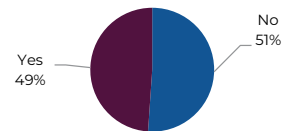
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

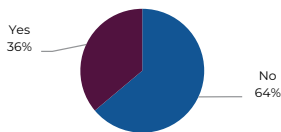


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

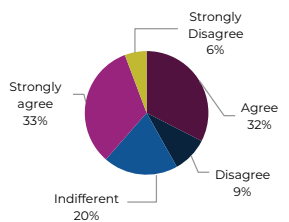


Support Services

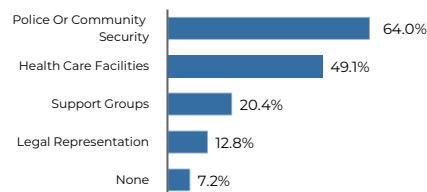
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



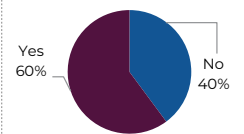
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

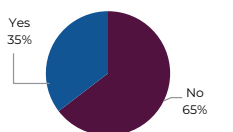


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

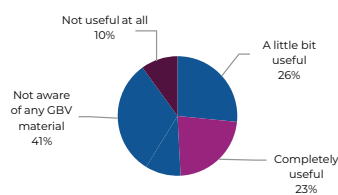


Information and Awareness

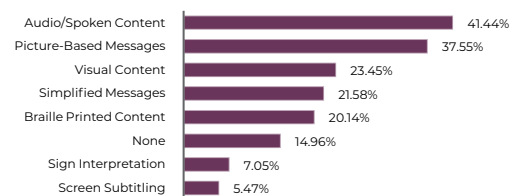
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Gender-based violence against women and girls in Plateau State is frequently connected to communal violence, which sees women and girls caught up in the conflict between various groups and also includes the destruction of homes and businesses. Women have also been the target of reprisal attacks over perceived injustices related to land and livestock. To address GBV in the state, the government has enacted several laws, including the amended Plateau State Penal Code (2018), the amended Gender and Equal Opportunity Act (2018), the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law (2022), and the Child's Right Law (2005). To strengthen the VAPP Law of the state, it should be amended to include a provision for the establishment of a dedicated monitoring committee to oversee the law's enforcement and effectiveness.

Despite the existence of the laws, 53.4% of respondents do not know of their existence, while 49.4% believe they are ineffective. Conversely, 52.8% recognize customary and religious laws addressing GBV, with 63.9% deeming them effective in community contexts. Impediments to the effective implementation of the laws include insufficient grassroots sensitization, limited stakeholder engagement, and inadequate empowerment programs for survivors. The lack of a unified approach to customary laws and their informal nature also challenges consistency in GBV prevention and response. Over the past year, 365 GBV cases were documented, but the number of prosecutions and convictions is unknown. Customary laws are informal and vary across communities, often relying on penalties like fines, flogging, or counselling. Their abolition could strengthen formal laws but requires comprehensive reviews to address potential resistance and ensure alignment with local contexts.

Access to Legal Justice

Plateau State uses multiple GBV reporting mechanisms, including hotlines, gender desks at the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, the Ministry of Justice, police stations, and local whistleblowing systems. Prosecution occurs primarily through Family Courts and the VAPP Law Court, but challenges still need to be improved in enforcement. According to the survey, 55.8% of respondents prefer formal justice systems, while 41.1% would seek informal justice, and 3.2% would not pursue justice at all. The Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development partners with the Ministry of Justice to offer legal aid and witness protection. However, only 48.8% of respondents are aware of these services.

A significant portion of respondents (48.4%) expressed confidence in serving as witnesses, while others expressed doubts or conditional willingness, highlighting the need for robust witness protection programs. Courts often struggle to adhere to the timelines stipulated in the VAPP Act, and there is a lack of consistent data on case processing times. Informal justice systems, such as councils of elders and Sharia courts, handle some GBV cases but have limited prosecutorial power. While 54.1% of respondents believe these systems contribute to justice, 45.9% disagree. Cultural norms often perpetuate GBV, further hindering access to justice. Family Support Units and Gender Desks in hospitals and police stations, respectively, offer support services. However, these units are often underfunded and inaccessible, limiting their effectiveness. Cultural and religious influences, victim unawareness, stigmatization, and inadequate witness protection programs pose significant barriers to survivors seeking justice and hinder the effectiveness of prosecution systems.

Support Services

Plateau State has no Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) but it has 24 shelters, which are mostly concentrated in Jos. Unregistered shelters also operate across the state. These facilities offer counselling, mental health support, medical services, and empowerment programs, including skill acquisition. However, their functionalities vary, and resources remain stretched due to demand. 43.2% of respondents believe these centres are adequately functional and sustainable, 7.6% disagree, and others hold mixed opinions. Reporting systems include hotlines, gender desks at government offices, police stations, and the GBV Emergency Joint Task Force. Referral pathways include hospitals (24.8% aware), police/community security (43.6% aware), support groups (11% aware), and legal representation (13.9% aware). Families, friends, religious centres, and community groups play a significant role, with 63.3% of respondents perceiving them as more effective than formal systems. However, their capacity to prosecute GBV cases is minimal.

Medical units, particularly at the SARC, have been instrumental in collecting forensic evidence to support GBV prosecutions. The state has made some investments in shelters and SARCs through the Ministry of Women Affairs, but long-term sustainability and adequate funding remain challenges.

Information and Awareness

Plateau State employs various IEC materials, including brochures, posters, flyers, radio and television programs, and social media campaigns, to raise awareness about GBV. Radio talk shows, community outreach initiatives, and workshops organized by CSOs, and government agencies contribute to public education, particularly during the 16 Days of Activism. Some secondary schools incorporate GBV topics into their curriculum, but a standardized, comprehensive approach still needs to be developed. A strong majority (87%) of the surveyed population support including GBV education in schools. Tertiary institutions primarily rely on NGO-led awareness campaigns. While efforts are made to make IEC materials accessible to people with disabilities, particularly through audio content, the availability of Braille, sign language, and simplified messages remains limited. A significant proportion of respondents (65.4%) are unaware of GBV information and awareness materials, highlighting the need for increased outreach.

Budget and Spending

In 2023, Plateau State allocated N280.72 million to the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development. However, only N124.69 million (44.4%) of this budget was actually spent. A significant portion of the expenditure, 56.7%, was allocated to personnel costs, while 18.9% went to overheads and 24.3% to capital expenditure. With a per capita spending of N25.70 and a capital investment per capita of N6.88, the state's investment in GBV prevention and response infrastructure appears inadequate. To improve the situation, the state should introduce a dedicated GBV budget line, increase capital investment, enhance budget execution, and establish a regular monitoring system to assess the impact of spending.

Human Angle Story







Hauwa, a young mother of three from a rural town in Plateau State, endured a horrific ordeal. Her husband, a laborer, struggled to provide for their family, leaving them often on the brink of starvation. One day, while doing laundry, Hauwa discovered ₦3,500 in her husband's trousers. Desperate to feed her children, she used the money to buy food. However, when her husband returned home, her honest confession sparked a violent outburst. In a fit of rage, he attacked Hauwa with a machete, severing her arm and leaving her bleeding and helpless. Fortunately, neighbors intervened, saving Hauwa's life and reporting the incident to the authorities. Her husband was subsequently imprisoned, and an NGO stepped in to support Hauwa's recovery. With their help, she began to rebuild her life. Although she is now free from abuse, Hauwa continues to grapple with the trauma and physical and emotional scars from that fateful day.

Plateau State

Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	Low awareness of the existence of laws and policies addressing GBV, and enforcement remains weak due to societal barriers, limited judicial responses, and prolonged court processes.	Conduct sensitization campaigns to educate the public about GBV laws and protections in the state, strengthen judicial responses for timely prosecutions, and build the capacity of the constituted SGBV Emergency Task Force to improve effectiveness.
	Many GBV cases go undocumented, and a lack of robust data collection systems hinders effective tracking of reported, prosecuted, and resolved cases. This gap makes it difficult to assess the full scale of the issue and implement targeted interventions.	Establish a comprehensive and centralized data collection and management system to document GBV cases, monitor prosecution outcomes, and analyze trends. Regularly publish data to inform policy decisions and program planning.
	Lack of robust witness protection programs discourages individuals from serving as witnesses in GBV cases, leading to challenges in prosecuting offenders and ensuring justice for survivors.	Develop and implement comprehensive witness protection programs that include legal safeguards, anonymity measures, and financial or psychosocial support to encourage witnesses to come forward and participate in GBV cases without fear of retaliation.
Access to Legal Justice 	Limited awareness about available legal assistance and justice systems, which hinders GBV survivors' ability to seek justice.	Enhance public awareness campaigns to inform communities about available legal assistance and justice systems.
	Fear of stigmatization and cultural influences prevent survivors from seeking help and accessing legal justice.	Develop targeted sensitization programs to reduce stigma and cultural barriers and encourage survivors to seek justice without fear of social repercussions.
Support Services 	Shortage of Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs) and shelters, and existing facilities are often under-equipped and insufficient to meet the needs of the population.	Build additional SARCs and shelters across the state, ensuring they are adequately equipped and sustainable.
	Empowerment programs for GBV survivors are not widespread, with few opportunities for survivors to gain self-sufficiency through skill acquisition or entrepreneurship.	Develop and implement comprehensive empowerment programs that focus on skill acquisition, entrepreneurship, and other forms of support to help survivors become self-sustaining.
	Referral pathways for GBV survivors are not widely known or utilized, with many respondents unaware of how to report or access services.	Promote awareness about referral pathways (e.g., legal, health, and security) and ensure that these pathways are accessible and well-known within communities.
Information and Awareness 	Government and CSOs utilize various IEC materials (brochures, posters, radio jingles, etc.), but these materials have limited reach, particularly in rural areas.	Expand the distribution of IEC materials to reach rural and underserved communities more effectively, ensuring that these resources serve all areas of the state.
	Limited awareness of accessible content for persons with disabilities, such as audio, braille, or visual materials, with many unaware of such resources.	Develop and distribute accessible GBV awareness materials in formats sensitive to persons with disabilities, such as Braille, audio content, sign interpretation, and simplified messages.
	Cultural resistance, limited funding, and lack of collaboration between key stakeholders (e.g., traditional leaders and religious institutions) hinder the effectiveness of awareness campaigns.	Foster better collaboration between government, CSOs, traditional leaders, and religious institutions to ensure cultural acceptance and broader community involvement in GBV awareness campaigns.

Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
<p>Budget and Spending</p> 	<p>The budget allocation and disbursement to the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (MOWASD) are grossly inadequate. Just 44% of the already insufficient budget provision was disbursed and spent.</p>	<p>Increase the budget provision and disbursements to the Ministry as low budget performance cripples the capacity of the Ministry to adequately and sufficiently combat GBV in the state.</p>
	<p>On a per capita basis, the total spending by the MOWASD was N124.69b, while the capita spending was N25.7.</p>	
	<p>No specific budget line on GBV prevention and response was identified in the MOWASD's 2023 budget.</p>	<p>Create specific budget lines that cater to GBV prevention and response.</p>

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Policy Recommendations
Plateau State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1	 Government should invest in sensitizing the public about GBV-related laws and policies in the state.	Fully Implemented	The plateau state government has created a GBV Emergency Joint Task Force in the state, which is now responsible for sensitization at the grassroots levels.
Access to Legal Justice			
3	Regularly engage and sensitize religious/cultural leaders on formal justice system	Partially Implemented	The plateau state government has created a GBV Emergency Joint Task Force in the state, which is now responsible for sensitization at the grassroots levels.
4	 Regularly educate the public on their rights, as well as GBV reporting and referral procedures	Partially Implemented	The plateau state air several programmes on TV and radio to sensitize the public on the reporting and referral pathways.
5	Enact policies to prohibit stigmatization of victims/survivors and put measures in place to support GBV victims/survivors who experience stigmatization.	Not Implemented	
6	Fund witness protection programs and publicize existence of the program in order to encourage reporting of GBV cases.	Not Implemented	
7	Set up forensic investigation capabilities	Not Implemented	
Support Services			
8	 Establish and fund comprehensive SARGs and shelters in every local government area of the state	Partially Implemented	There is 1 government-owned SARC and 2 Shelters to cater for GBV victims and survivors in the state.
Information and Awareness			
9	Develop centralized strategy for inclusive GBV education/awareness, implement the strategy, and continuously monitor its impact.	Partially Implemented	TV and radio programmes are periodically aired to sensitize the public
10	 Use diverse and inclusive channels to disseminate information about GBV.	Partially Implemented	TV and radio programmes are periodically aired to sensitize the public



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