

Taraba State

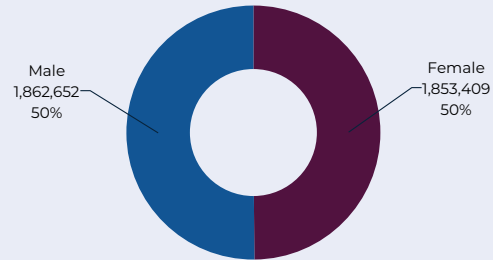
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2024 Edition

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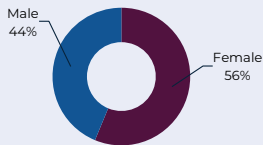




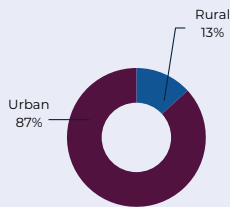
Total Population
3,716,061



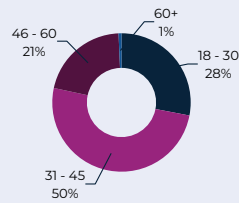
Respondents: 439



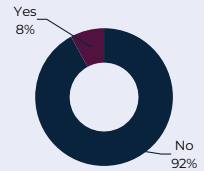
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **N/A**



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



No. of active shelters **1**



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

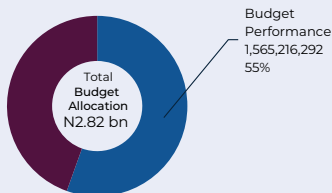


Index Grades

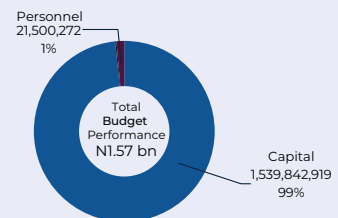
Laws and Policies	●
Access to Legal Justice	●
Support Services	●
Information and Awareness	●
Budget and Spending	●

Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

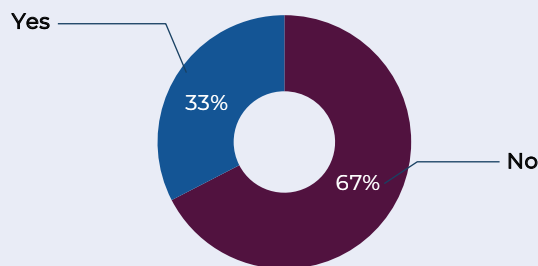


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N421.2**

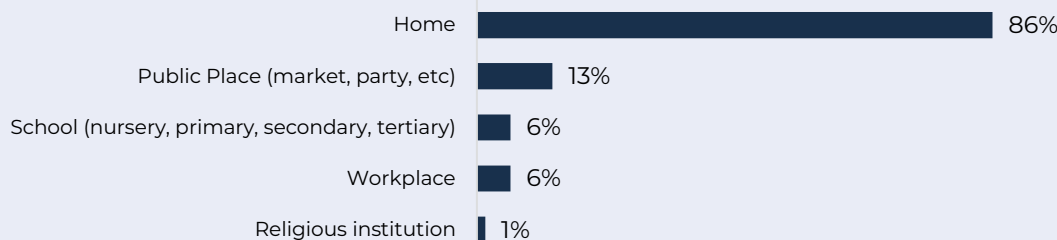
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



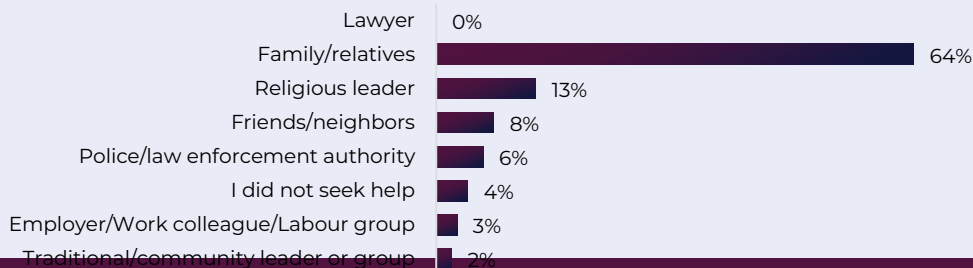
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



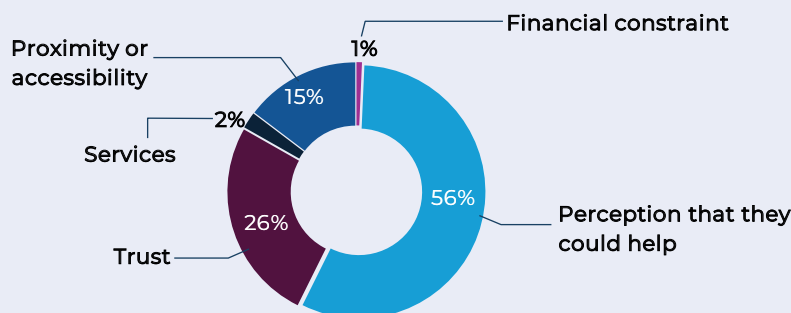
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

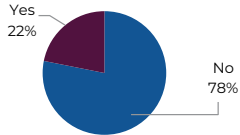


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

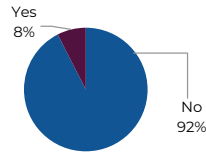


Laws and Policies

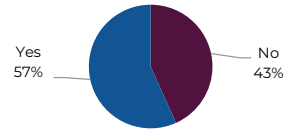
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

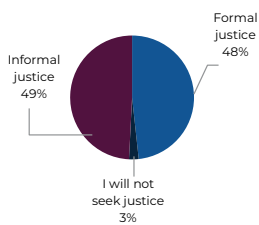


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

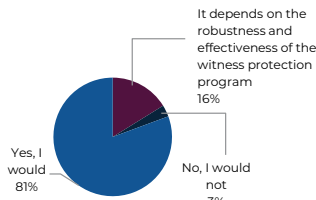


Access to Legal Justice

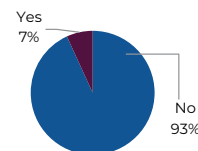
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

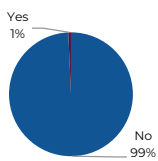


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

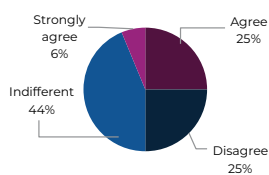


Support Services

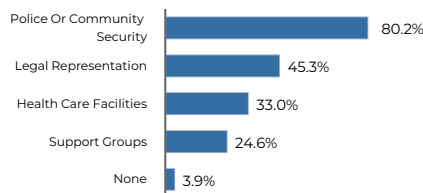
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



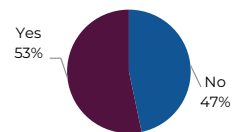
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

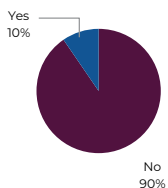


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

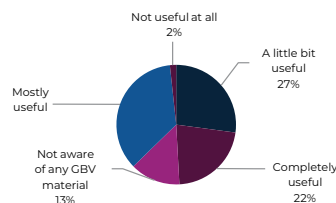


Information and Awareness

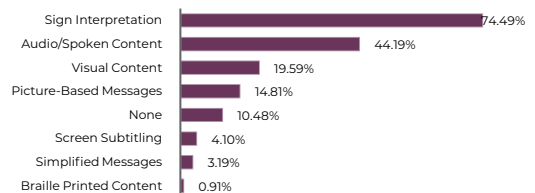
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Taraba State has enacted several laws to address gender-based violence (GBV), including the Violence and Discrimination Against Persons Prohibition Law (2022), the Child Rights Law (2005), the Taraba State Administration of Criminal Justice Law (2021), the Penal Code, and the 1999 Constitution. While these laws provide a legal framework, their effectiveness is hindered by the lack of essential structures like SARCs, shelters, and specialized courts for minors and children. Additionally, limitations such as the trial of children in regular courts and the outdated definition of rape in the Penal Code further compromise the ability of these laws to prevent and respond to GBV effectively. 63% of respondents doubt the effectiveness of existing laws in preventing and responding to gender-based violence (GBV) in the state. This skepticism is supported by the limited number of convictions, with only two confirmed by the Ministry of Justice.

The State's Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law requires significant amendments to enhance effectiveness. Key areas for improvement include explicitly criminalizing trafficking beyond merely defining it. Additionally, the definition of "puberty" needs to be revised as the current definition, which considers anyone below 18 years of age as a minor, is insufficient. While the VAPP Law introduces new offences like sexual intercourse against the order of nature, gross indecency, unlawful detention, sexual harassment, unlawful sex change, and the use of property for sex change, it remains silent on crucial offences from the VAPP Act, including coercion, intimidation, spousal battery, offensive conduct, obstruction of justice, false statements, harmful widowhood practices, attacks with harmful substances, state-sponsored violence, and physical injury. Tracking the number of cases filed in courts is challenging. While often relied upon, informal justice systems appear inadequate in addressing GBV cases. While 56.5% of respondents believe customary and religious laws and practices can help, 43.5% disagree, highlighting a division in perceptions regarding their effectiveness in preventing and responding to GBV.

Access to Legal Justice

Taraba State has established a network of institutions to address gender-based violence (GBV), including the Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Development, civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community leaders. GBV cases are typically reported to the Ministry by community members or authorities. The Ministry then directs cases to appropriate agencies, such as the police, health facilities, or the court. Family-related issues may be referred back to the Ministry for reconciliation, while cases involving serious harm require medical attention or legal action.

A GBV situation room, supported by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and the USAID Rise project, operates within the state Ministry. Its primary function is to document and compile all GBV cases for submission to the National GBV Dashboard. Despite the existence of these structures, the study did not identify any formal legal assistance or witness protection systems in the state. While survey respondents expressed a willingness to testify in court, the conviction rate remains low. The survey results revealed that 96% of respondents lacked awareness of legal assistance available to GBV survivors. This lack of awareness can hinder reporting, redress, and conviction rates. To address this issue, increased awareness campaigns are crucial to encourage reporting and improve the overall response to GBV cases in the state.

Traditional, community and religious leaders address GBV, relying on norms, customs, and religious texts for resolution through negotiation, reconciliation, and compensation. While these customs form the basis of informal laws, key informant interviews reveal that many GBV cases may be dismissed by these leaders, often without granting justice to survivors. As a result, these informal processes frequently lack effectiveness. Although survey respondents are positive about their intention to explore the informal justice system in addressing GBV, in terms of its effectiveness in ensuring GBV survivors get justice, only 50.8% affirm that. The informal justice. While there is a record of GBV desks in the security agencies and Human Rights Commission, the state has no record of a dedicated GBV court.

Support Services

Taraba State currently lacks a Sexual Assault Referral Center (SARC) and only one shelter for victims and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). However, some private organizations, such as FH360 and Jesuit

Refugee Services, provide limited safe spaces and child protection services in specific LGAs bordering Cameroon. The state has established reporting, prosecution, and enforcement structures to address GBV. These include the Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Development, civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community leaders. GBV cases are typically reported to the Ministry, which refers them to appropriate agencies, such as the police, health facilities, or the court.

Family-related issues may be directed back to the Ministry for reconciliation, while cases involving serious harm require medical attention or legal action. A GBV situation room operates within the state Ministry to document and compile all GBV cases for submission to the National GBV Dashboard. Despite these efforts, the state lacks formal legal assistance and witness protection systems. While survey respondents expressed a willingness to testify in court, the conviction rate remains low. 44.6% of the respondents expressed uncertainty about the relative effectiveness of informal support structures (like family, friends, religious centres, and community groups) compared to formal support systems for GBV victims and survivors.

Information and Awareness

NGOs are leading efforts to raise awareness about gender-based violence (GBV) through various media channels. However, these efforts are limited in scope and reach. The state government's participation in awareness creation is inadequate, and GBV prevention and response is not included in the schools' curriculum. Furthermore, the needs of people living with disabilities are not being addressed. As a result, 92.3% of respondents are unaware of any GBV awareness programs or materials, highlighting a substantial gap in awareness creation.

Budget and Spending






In the 2023 fiscal year, the Taraba State Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Development had a relatively poor budget execution rate. Of the N2.82 billion allocated to the ministry, 55% (N1.57 billion) was utilized, leaving 45% unspent. Capital expenditure accounted for most of the utilized funds, consuming N1.54 billion (98.1%), while personnel and overhead costs accounted for N21.5 million and N3.87 million, respectively. The government spent N87.2 million on a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and N30.8 million on community engagement on GBV and HIV. With a population of 3.7 million, Taraba State recorded a per capita spending of N421.20.

Human Angle Story







“Since our last interview regarding the state of GBV in our region, unfortunately, little has changed. Despite our ongoing advocacy efforts, the family court we desperately need has yet to be established. However, I want to highlight the positive strides made by the Comfort Human Rights Foundation, which has developed a simplified version of the VAPP law and is actively raising awareness through workshops and community meetings. I would happily provide you with a copy of this important resource after our interview if you're interested.” (Interview with Barrister Comfort Yukbin, October 2024)

Taraba State

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	While laws on GBV exist, the structures that support the implementation of existing laws, such as designated family court and monitoring teams, are absent. There is also violation of children's rights by revealing their identity while they stand under trial in a normal court. The penal code is not comprehensive in its definition of rape as it did not identify other forms of rape other than penetration of female genitals.	A special court should be designated, and practitioners' capacity should be built in line with global best practice. Capacity of actors should be built in line with global best practices. And laws should be reviewed regularly.
	Due to the absence of functioning shelters, children are kept in private orphanages, which could not guarantee full protection.	Shelters should be established and spread across LGAs and communities for easy reach.
	Traditional, religious and community structures are complacent in handling GBV cases.	Awareness creation and capacity building of actors in informal structures should be prioritized. Collaboration between formal and informal structures should be strengthened.
Access to Legal Justice 	An established process of reporting, prosecution, and enforcement involving both formal and informal structures exists; however, respondents show a gruesome lack of awareness.	More awareness creation programs should target people, communities, and traditional and religious leaders.
	There is no robust witness protection mechanism despite 82.8% of respondents indicating interest. This survey showed there are limited witnesses in court due to the lack of protection mechanisms.	Develop and implement strong witness protection policy and program, as it is an opportunity that can be leveraged to generate more convictions, which will serve as deterrence.
	The study finds active referral pathways supported by NGOs, but the government is not committed to providing the necessary structures and environment.	Provide structures like family courts, shelters, and legal monitoring teams to support effective implementation.
Support Services 	The study finds limited commitment from the government as a result of minimal support for GBV survivors.	Establish the necessary structures to support GBV survivors.
	There is a lack of coordination among service providers.	Government should lead convening and coordination of stakeholders who work to prevent and respond to GBV in the state.
	The government leverages private orphanage homes, which may not guarantee safety to keep vulnerable children.	Establish more shelters to accommodate vulnerable children.
Information and Awareness 	There is limited effort by the government to create information and awareness.	The government should take the lead in information and awareness with the support of NGOs.
	92.3% of respondents are unaware of any GBV awareness programs or materials	The state should increase the sensitization and awareness efforts on GBV in the state.
Budget and Spending 	The Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Development prioritized capital expenditure, as 98.1% of its total spending went to capital components of the budget.	The government should continue to prioritize the Ministry's capital expenditures to help the Ministry attain its GBV prevention and response mandate.
	The budget execution rate of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Development at 55% was inadequate.	The government should improve disbursement to the Ministry to enhance the credibility of its budgets, plans and programs.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Policy Recommendations
Taraba State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1	 The laws should be fully implemented by the government to serve as deterrent to potential perpetrators of GBV.	Not Implemented	there is never effort from the side of the government to implement their part of commitment in order to enhance application of available laws in a way that it deter others from violating the law.
2	Educate the public regularly on GBV-related laws and policies.	Partially Implemented	Partners such as Comfort Right Foundation made effort to simplify the VAPP law. During the launch, they created awareness on the existence of the law in the state.
3	Regular and on-the-job training and retraining for all government officials who work to prevent and respond to GBV.	Partially Implemented	some level of training have been given to government officials working in the GBV space.
Access to Legal Justice			
4	 Establish specialized SGBV courts and judges should be designated to handle GBV issues.	Not Implemented	Nothing has been done by the state in terms of this .
5	Design and implement GBV-related robust witness protection programs.	Not Implemented	Nothing has been done by the state in terms of this .
6	The population, especially those in rural communities, should be adequately informed of the existence of GBV-related laws and their legal rights.	Partially Implemented	Partners working around GBV create awareness in their implementation site. Nothing from the side of the government in relation to this.
Support Services			
7	 SARCs and shelters should be established, equipped, and staffed by the state government.	Not Implemented	Nothing has been done by the state in terms of this .
8	Prioritize and fund support services and adequately inform the public of the existence of the support services.	Not Implemented	Nothing has been done by the state in terms of this .
9	There should be a robust and coordinated system to harmonize the activities of all stakeholders who work to prevent and respond to GBV in the state.	Not Implemented	Nothing has been done by the state in terms of this .
Information and Awareness			
10	 Translate GBV-related laws into different local languages and ensure wide dissemination and sensitization on them.	Partially Implemented	some translations into few languages have been done on issues of GBV by the previous first lady.
11	Age-appropriate comprehensive sex-related topics should be incorporated in the school curriculum at all levels.	Not Implemented	Nothing has been done by the state in terms of this .
12	PwDs-friendly awareness and programs should be carried out on a regular basis.	Not Implemented	Nothing has been done by the state in terms of this .



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