

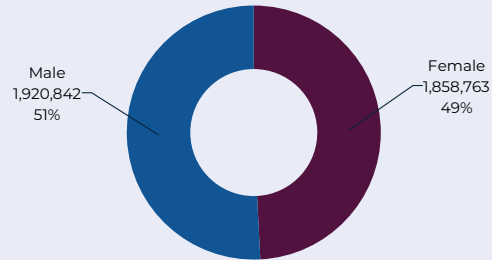


Yobe State

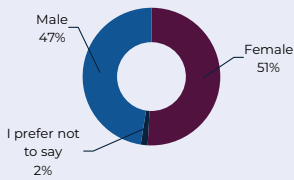
A dark purple rectangular box containing a small, light-colored map of Yobe State on the left and the text "Yobe State" in large, white, bold font in the center. The bottom of the box features a decorative border with African patterns and symbols, similar to the one at the top of the page.



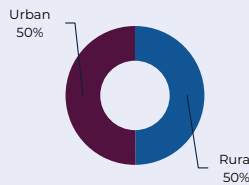
Total Population
3,779,605



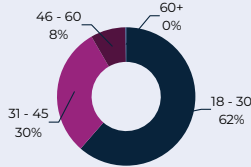
Respondents: 682



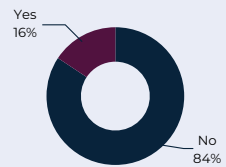
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **45**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) **5**



No. of active shelters **3**



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs) **6**

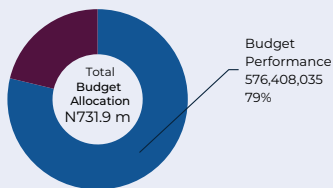


Index Grades

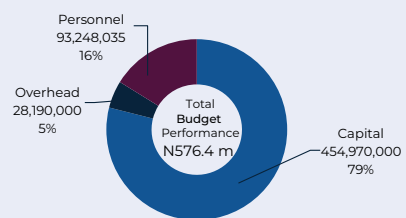
- Laws and Policies ●
- Access to Legal Justice ●
- Support Services ●
- Information and Awareness ●
- Budget and Spending ●

Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

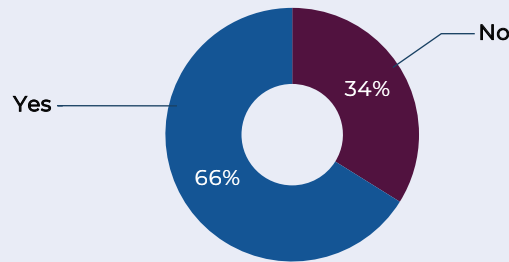


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **NT152.5**

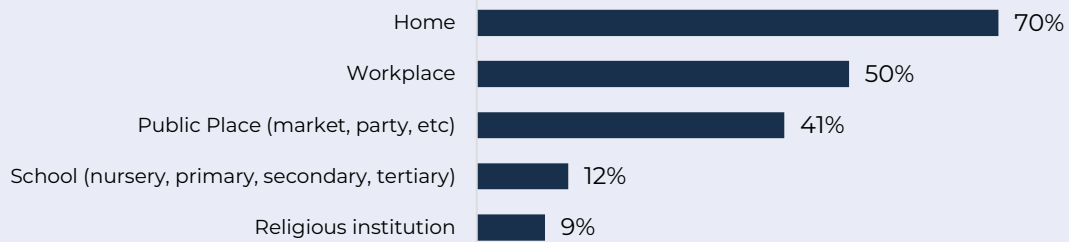
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



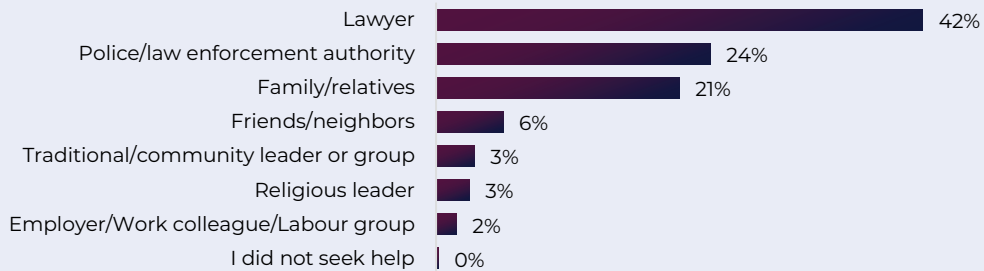
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



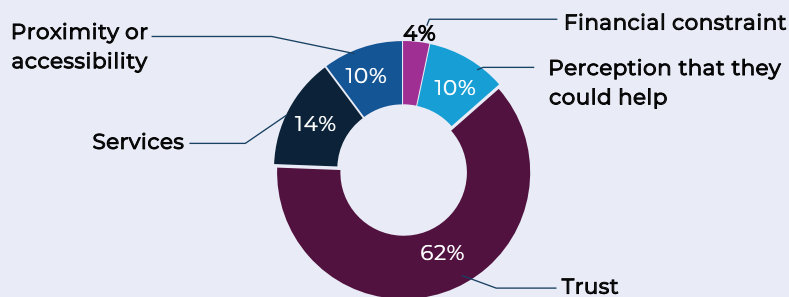
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

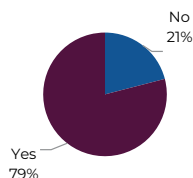


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

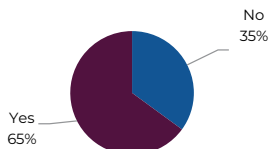


Laws and Policies

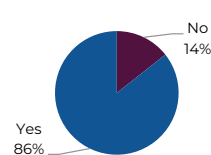
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

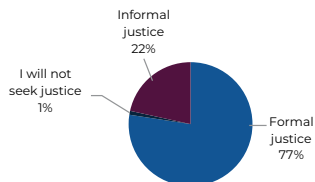


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

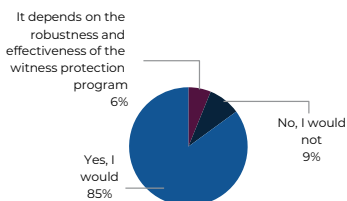


Access to Legal Justice

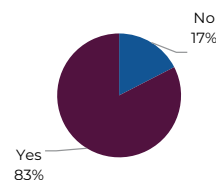
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

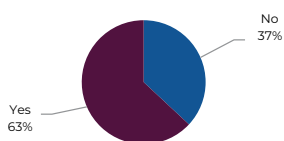


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

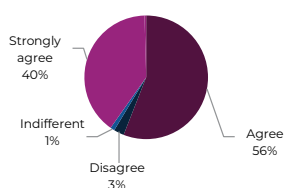


Support Services

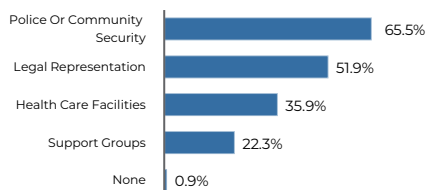
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



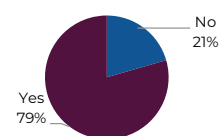
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

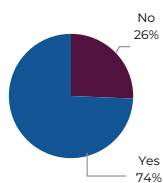


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

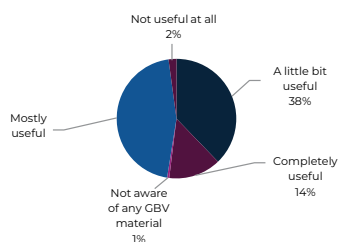


Information and Awareness

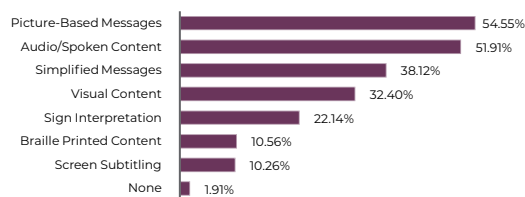
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?



Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?



Key Insights

Laws and Policies

Gender-based violence (GBV) has become exacerbated in Yobe State, particularly since the Boko Haram insurgency. The displacement and vulnerability caused by the conflict have led to a rise in GBV cases, including rape, domestic violence, and sexual slavery. Women and girls, in particular, are at heightened risk. Despite the prevalence of GBV, many cases remain unreported due to societal norms, stigma, and inadequate response mechanisms. Over 490 GBV cases were reported in the state from January to April 2024, highlighting the urgent need for effective prevention and response strategies. To address these, Yobe State enacted the Child Protection Law and the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law and embarked on the Administration of Criminal Justice Reform.

79.1% of the respondents are aware of laws and policies addressing gender-based violence (GBV) in the state, demonstrating a solid foundation of public knowledge of the laws. However, 20.9% remain unaware, highlighting the need for increased awareness campaigns and educational initiatives. Most 79.7% believe that existing laws are effective and sufficient in addressing GBV, underscoring the importance of these legal frameworks. Nevertheless, 20.3% disagree, suggesting potential gaps in the implementation or enforcement of these laws. A concerning 65.6% of respondents know someone convicted of GBV-related offences, revealing the widespread nature of the issue within communities. Despite the existence of laws and policies, limited resources continue to hinder the timely administration of justice.

Over the past year, 45 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) were reported. Of these, 14 cases proceeded to prosecution, demonstrating the legal system's commitment to addressing GBV. This achievement signifies a concerted effort to hold perpetrators accountable and provide justice to victims. The VAPP Law necessitates comprehensive amendments to bolster its efficacy in combating gender-based violence. To achieve this, the law should be expanded to encompass additional offences stipulated in the VAPP Act, including incest, political violence, violence perpetrated by state actors, and attacks with harmful substances. Moreover, the definition of "trafficking" should be broadened to include a wider range of exploitative practices. Additionally, the law should designate the government ministry responsible for appointing protection officers and enforcing its provisions, as outlined in Sections 35 and 36. By addressing these gaps, the VAPP Law can evolve into a more potent instrument in the fight against gender-based violence.

Access to Legal Justice

Survivors of gender-based violence in Yobe State can access justice through both formal and informal channels. Formal referral systems include the Nigerian Police Force (NPF), Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), Yobe State Ministry of Justice, Yobe State Ministry of Health, and various non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Informal support systems, such as the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee (ADRC) or Zauren Sulhu, along with community and religious leaders and vigilante groups, also play a role in addressing GBV. However, a significant challenge lies in the limited capacity of these systems to effectively respond to GBV cases.

When seeking help for gender-based violence, respondents primarily prefer formal channels. 43% of respondents said they would consult lawyers, while 23% claimed they would report to the police or law enforcement. Informal support systems were also utilized, with 21% of respondents turning to family or relatives. A smaller percentage sought help from friends or neighbours (5%), religious leaders (3%), or traditional/community leaders (3%). Notably, no respondent reported not seeking help, suggesting a strong desire to seek help. Additionally, the state's Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee (ADRC), known as Zauren Sulhu in Hausa, provides an alternative avenue for resolving disputes. Furthermore, 91.5% of the respondents believe that informal justice systems in the state contribute to ensuring justice for GBV victims/survivors. However, 8.5% disagree with this assessment. To further strengthen the response to GBV, GBV desks have been established in all police divisions across the 17 local government areas of the state.

Support Services

Yobe State has established five Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs) and three shelters to provide comprehensive support services for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). These services include medical care, sexual health services, emotional support, and aftercare. All five SARCs, located in major hospitals across the state, are accessible to GBV victims and survivors. However, the current number of SARCs and shelters is insufficient to meet the needs of the entire state's population. Additionally, the long-term sustainability of these services is uncertain, particularly if support from NGOs ceases.

Victims and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) in the state can report incidents to various formal agencies, including the State Ministry of Justice, the Nigerian Police Force (NPF), FIDA, and the Civil Defense Corps. These agencies then refer victims to the Ministry of Health and SARC Centers for medical examinations and to the Ministry of Justice for legal action. Informal support systems, such as the State Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee (ADRC) or Zauren Sulhu, along with community and religious leaders, also play a role in addressing GBV. 80% of the respondents believe that informal support systems are more beneficial to GBV victims and survivors than formal systems. However, 20% of respondents disagree with this assessment.

Information and Awareness

State and NGO-led initiatives have developed and distributed various Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, including flyers, posters, billboards, and radio and TV programs, to raise awareness about gender-based violence (GBV). These materials are designed to be accessible, using local dialects and visual aids, and are sometimes adapted for people with disabilities. However, challenges persist, including the limited use of multiple languages in GBV awareness campaigns and insufficient funding. A significant gap exists in the state's education system, as GBV prevention and response are not formally taught at the secondary school level.

This omission is largely due to societal sensitivities surrounding GBV and a lack of awareness about its various aspects. To address this, civil society organizations, NGOs, and development partners can advocate for the incorporation of GBV education into school curricula at all levels. While a notable proportion of respondents (23.6%) are aware of GBV information and education materials in audio/spoken formats, accessibility remains a concern. Relatively fewer respondents are aware of materials in Braille, sign language, or simplified formats. To enhance accessibility, it is essential to develop and distribute materials in diverse formats tailored to the specific needs of individuals with disabilities.

Budget and Spending






Out of a total budget of N731.86 million allocated to the Ministry of Women Affairs in 2023, N576.41 million was utilized, representing a 79% execution rate. Capital expenditure accounted for the largest portion, amounting to N454.97 million, representing 78.9% of the total utilized funds. Personnel costs totaled N93.24 million, constituting 16.2%, while overhead costs stood at N28.19 million, making up 5% of the total expenditure. For the 2023 financial year, Yobe State's per capita spending on the Ministry was N152.50.

Human Angle Story







"It is evident that mass information has reached us through radio programs, raising awareness about gender-based violence (GBV). Our community is becoming increasingly informed about these issues. In the past, when incidents related to rape occurred, families often chose not to seek justice or report them. However, now people are more inclined to report such incidents, and they are beginning to understand the importance of taking action." (Community Leader)

Yobe State

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	Poor funding limits the implementation and effectiveness of GBV-related laws.	Increase budget allocation and implementation of all GBV-related laws, policies, and programs.
	There is a low level of awareness of GBV laws.	Carry out campaigns through media, town hall meetings, IEC materials, and other effective means of reaching the public to raise awareness of GBV and laws addressing GBV in the state.
	Customary and religious laws in Yobe are not effective in addressing GBV; as a result, many people prefer the formal justice systems.	Promote collaboration between the custodians of customary/informal law and the custodians of formal law to leverage strengths and effectively tackle GBV.
Access to Legal Justice 	Cultural and societal attitudes towards GBV hinders effort to address the issue effectively.	Develop new structures, such as partnerships with religious institutions, local committees/community leaders, and other relevant bodies, to address cultural and sensitivity issues related to GBV.
	While there are pathways to access justice, the study finds that a lack of capacity building across some reporting pathways, which affects the quality of service they render.	Prioritize capacity building for various stakeholders across the value chain.
	Long distances to the SARC and shelters prevent many people from visiting.	Establish more SARC and shelters across LGAs and communities commensurate with the population size.
Support Services 	Lack of funding affects the delivery of quality services.	Make funding available to augment the contribution of NGOs.
	There are five SARC and three shelters in the state, but they lack the necessary infrastructure, personnel, facilities, etc.	Prioritize and fund existing SARC and shelters to ensure improvement and effectiveness.
	The majority of rural dwellers are not aware of the support services provided by shelters and SARC in the state.	Educate the people on the availability, location, and operations of the shelters and SARC and the reporting pathways.
Information and Awareness 	The study finds reluctance among members of the public to discuss GBV subject matter. This is because GBV-related terms are considered sensitive, and speaking about them publicly does not sit well with people.	Strengthen the capacity of religious and traditional leaders, as custodians of culture, to understand the ills of GBV and the importance of tackling it. Messages on GBV should be translated into different dialects.
	There were no disability-sensitive IEC materials or programs.	Strengthen information sharing and education activities and include persons with disabilities in the team.
	GBV prevention and response is not taught in secondary schools and tertiary institutions.	Incorporate GBV prevention and response-related topics into the secondary school and tertiary institutions' curriculum.
Budget and Spending 	The 2023 budget execution performance of the State's Ministry of Women Affairs was 79%.	Maintain a high budget execution rate of at least 95% to adequately reduce the incidence of GBV in the state.
	The expenditure per capita of the Ministry of Women Affairs was N152.5.	Significantly increase budget allocation and spending of the Ministry to sufficiently cater to the population's GBV needs.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Policy Recommendations
Yobe State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1	 The GBV-related laws should be reformed and made more operational.	Partially Implemented	Yobe state Government has taken steps to address gender based violence include the review of laws and policies. The impacts include GBV policy reform.
2	Significant budget provision for the implementation of all GBV-related laws and policies.	Not Implemented	Lack of adequate funding to the overall GBV sector in the state
3	Educate the public regularly on GBV-related laws and policies.	Not Implemented	
Access to Legal Justice			
4	 Develop new structures to address cultural context and sensitivity issues of GBV using religious institutions, local committee/ community leaders, and other bodies.	Not Implemented	
5	The GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement systems should be further strengthened to increase prosecution rate.	Not Implemented	
6	Provide funds to support GBV survivors, and more enlightenment programs on access to legal justice by GBV victims should be vigorously pursued.	Partially Implemented	Legal services are accessed free of charge to all GBV survivors.
Support Services			
7	 The existing SARCs and Shelters should be made more effective by prioritizing and funding them.	Not Implemented	
8	Strategic approach to sustain partners' support services and impact.	Not Implemented	
9	Educate the people on the availability, location, and operations of the Shelters and SARC as well as the reporting pathways.	Not Implemented	
Information and Awareness			
10	Ensure GBV-related sensitisation and awareness programs are available in local context using localized approaches.	Not Implemented	
11	 Comprehensive sex-related topics should be incorporated in the secondary school and tertiary institutions' curriculum.	Not Implemented	The state has no provision for teaching GBV prevention and response at secondary school level and there is no teaching guide for GBV prevention and response at the secondary school level.
12	Fund GBV-related sensitisation and awareness programs.	Not Implemented	



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