

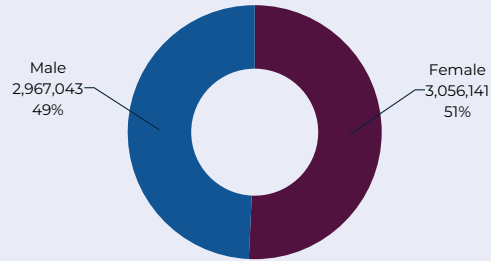


Zamfara State

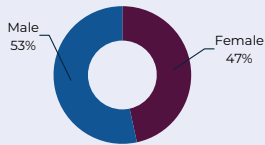




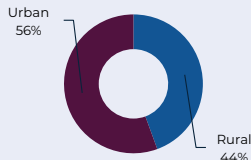
Total Population
6,023,184



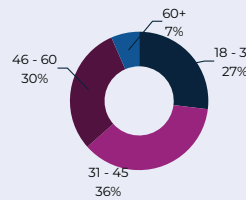
Respondents: 457



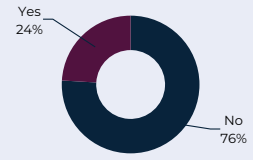
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **36**



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



No. of active shelters **N/A**



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

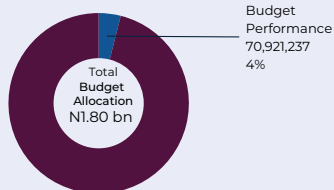


Index Grades

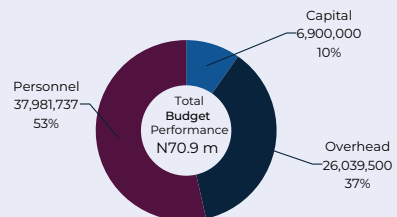
- Laws and Policies ●
- Access to Legal Justice ●
- Support Services ●
- Information and Awareness ●
- Budget and Spending ●

Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

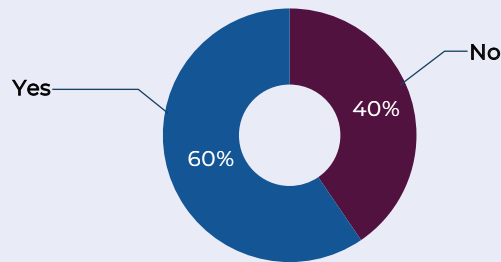


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **NT1.8**

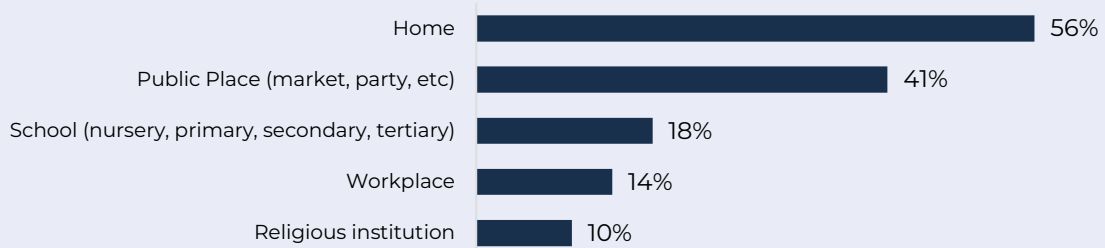
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



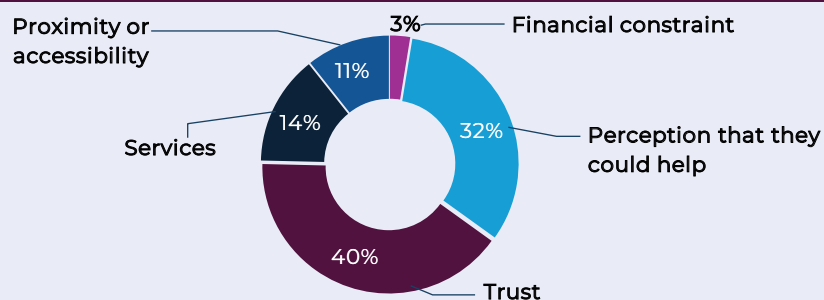
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

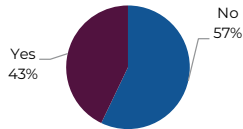


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

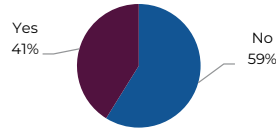


Laws and Policies

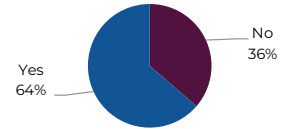
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

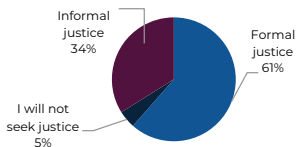


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

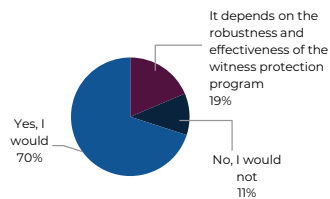


Access to Legal Justice

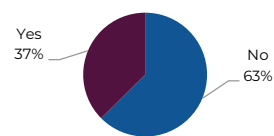
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

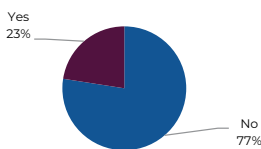


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

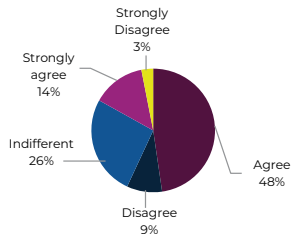


Support Services

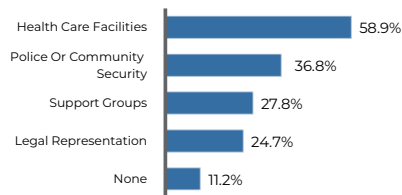
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



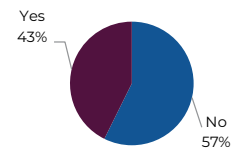
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

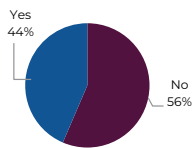


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

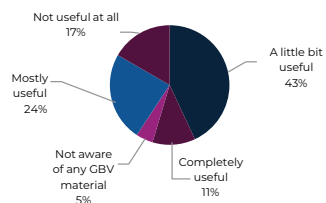


Information and Awareness

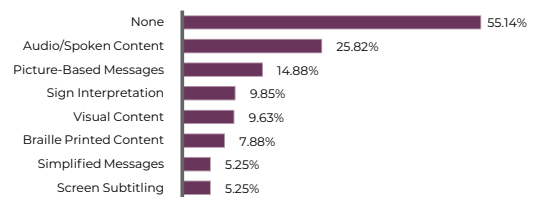
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Zamfara has several GBV-related laws, including the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law 2022, Child Protection Law 2022, Administration of Criminal Justice Law 2023, and Sharia Penal Code 2000. To enhance the effectiveness of the State's VAPP Law, several amendments are required, which include that Section 4(5) be amended to replace “center” with “team” to accurately reflect the role of the State Counsel in the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Offences Response Team; Section 5(2) be amended to explicitly recognize spousal rape in situations involving non-consensual sexual intercourse and/or the use of force and violence; and the terms “grandfather” and “grandaunt” be added to the list of individuals who can be perpetrators of incest in Section 1.

Implementation gaps exist, particularly with the VAPP law, as there is no evidence of its use in the state. These gaps include a lack of government commitment, a lack of clear action plans, insufficient budget allocations for implementation, and inadequate provisions for women's protection; for instance, spousal abuse and early marriage are also not adequately addressed. Only 38.8% of respondents surveyed were aware of these laws, and 71.8% viewed them as effective. The state's Ministry of Justice reported 36 GBV cases, with 25 awaiting trial and 11 convictions. Religious laws (Sharia Law) are formal, while customary practices are informal and significantly influence GBV response. Certain harmful cultural practices like female genital mutilation persist despite awareness efforts. Nonetheless, 60.8% believe religious laws and cultural practices help prevent GBV.

Access to Legal Justice

Zamfara has various systems for reporting and addressing GBV. Survivors often report cases to trusted community leaders, police, civil defence officers, CSOs, and NGOs. In schools, GBV cases are reported to principals, who escalate them to the Ministry of Education for referral to appropriate justice mechanisms. Upon receiving a case, the police initiate documentation, collect evidence, and conduct a comprehensive investigation before referring the matter to the Ministry of Justice for further legal processing. The Department of Public Prosecutions provides legal advice or initiates litigation, with the outcome being conviction or acquittal in court. Despite these processes, delays in adjudication are common due to the lack of specialized GBV courts or judges. Many respondents (61.3%) preferred the formal justice system, citing greater confidence in its ability to deliver justice. However, 51.5% acknowledged the informal justice system's effectiveness. Community leaders sometimes compromise cases due to familial, cultural, or religious biases, undermining formal justice mechanisms. Free legal aid is available through the Legal Aid Council and NGOs like FIDA, though accessibility remains constrained. The NSCDC and the police house the state's family support units.

Support Services

Zamfara State has no Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and shelter. Additionally, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs offers vocational training to survivors, while NGOs like IRC and SIF provide safe spaces, starter kits, and financial assistance for empowerment. GBV reporting and referral pathways vary depending on proximity and service availability. Survivors commonly report to police, legal practitioners, medical professionals, or support groups, while some turn to community and religious leaders for assistance. Police investigate and refer cases to the Ministry of Justice, with additional support available through SARCs and international NGOs. Informal support systems play a significant role, with 38.75% of respondents favouring them over formal systems. Religious groups like FOMWAN provide counselling, referrals, and temporary shelter. Inadequate budgetary allocation and investment in GBV services remain barriers, affecting the functionality and reach of support systems. For instance, the SARC's activities were excluded from the 2023 budget allocation, leading to financial constraints that hindered the effective and efficient execution of its operations.

Information and Awareness

Zamfara State utilizes Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials such as radio programs, TV shows, stickers, flyers, and community outreach campaigns to raise awareness of GBV. Most efforts are spearheaded by CSOs and NGOs. The state government occasionally participates, particularly during the 16 Days of Activism. Notwithstanding that, only 42.50% of survey respondents were aware of GBV-related materials and programs. The state's education curriculum lacks comprehensive sex or GBV education, with no evidence of its inclusion in secondary or tertiary institutions. Some private schools and health-related institutions address aspects of GBV prevention through counselling units and weekly sensitization programs. PWD-friendly IEC materials are limited. Although some materials are produced in local languages, they are not consistently accessible to persons with disabilities. However, certain CSOs visit specialized schools for persons with disabilities, using audio messaging and visual aids to promote awareness in simplified formats, highlighting an area requiring greater investment.

Budget and Spending

In 2023, Zamfara State's Ministry of Women and Children Affairs had a budget allocation of ₦1.8 billion but recorded a significantly lower actual expenditure of ₦70.92 million, representing a meager budget performance of 4%. Of this, personnel costs accounted for ₦37.98 million (53.5%), overhead expenditure was ₦26.04 million (36.7%), and capital expenditure totaled ₦6.9 million (9.7%). With a population of 6,023,185, the ministry's per capita spending stood at ₦11.80, a figure too modest to adequately address the needs of women and children. The disparity between the budgeted and actual expenditures suggests a lack of alignment between policy priorities and financial commitment. This underscores the need for improved budgetary planning and execution to enhance the ministry's impact on its target population.

Human Angle Story



A 13-year-old girl was forced into a polygamous marriage, becoming the third wife. When she became pregnant, her husband denied her access to prenatal care. Her childbirth experience was traumatic, lasting nearly 72 hours without medical intervention, leading to the development of a vesicovaginal fistula (VVF). Despite the ordeal, her husband divorced her two weeks after giving birth, leaving her parents to care for her and manage her medical needs. In another town in western Zamfara, a man assaulted three young girls, ages 5 and 7, infecting them with STDs. Despite this heinous act, the man remains free, while the community, instead of taking action against him, blames the parents for exposing their children. These cases highlight the urgent need to strengthen GBV response mechanisms in the state.

Zamfara State

| Indexes | Key Findings | Recommendations |
|---|--|--|
| Laws and Policies  | Absence of a clear action plan for the effective implementation of the VAPP Law in the state. | Relevant MDAs should collaborate to draft and operationalize an action plan for the VAPP Law. |
| | Poor coordination among ministries, departments, and agencies responsible for GBV response and implementation. | Establish a robust coordination platform for ministries, departments, and agencies involved in GBV prevention and response, ensuring regular meetings and joint planning. |
| | Limited public awareness of existing GBV-related laws and policies. | The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs should conduct targeted awareness campaigns in the major local languages to educate the public on GBV-related laws and policies. |
| Access to Legal Justice  | Stigma, financial barriers, and a culture of silence deter GBV victims and families from reporting and pursuing cases. | Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, in collaboration with other stakeholders, should Implement public awareness campaigns to reduce stigma and train community leaders to foster open discussions and support for GBV victims. |
| | Poor investigation, delays in case processing, insufficient evidence, and frequent adjournments undermine trust and discourage victims from seeking justice. | The Government should strengthen law enforcement and judicial capacity. |
| | Low awareness of successful convictions and case outcomes discourages GBV survivors from seeking justice. | The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice should publicize successful convictions through media and community platforms, collaborate with leaders to share justice outcomes, and use anonymized success stories in IEC materials to encourage survivors. |
| Support Services  | Insufficient, poorly equipped, and understaffed GBV support facilities. | Funds should be allocated to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs budget to upgrade existing support facilities with necessary equipment and ensure staffing with adequately trained professionals. The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs should implement targeted skill acquisition programs to equip GBV survivors with market-relevant skills and foster their economic empowerment. |
| | Low awareness of legal referral pathway | Additional SARCs and shelters should be established in underserved areas to improve access and service quality. |
| | | |
| Information and Awareness  | Excessive dependence on external donors has limited state investment in public awareness and dissemination of GBV-related information. | The government should create and fund a specific budget line for state-owned IEC programs in the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs to ensure continuous and reliable GBV awareness campaigns. |
| | The state lacks an established medium of dissemination of GBV IEC Materials. | The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs should establish and manage a dissemination framework to effectively distribute GBV IEC materials across communities. |
| | Comprehensive sex and GBV education is not taught in secondary and tertiary institutions. | The Ministry of Education should integrate comprehensive sex education into the curricula of secondary and tertiary institutions, focusing on GBV prevention and response while ensuring culturally sensitive and age-appropriate content delivery. |

Indexes

Key Findings

Recommendations

| Indexes | Key Findings | Recommendations |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Budget and Spending</p>  | <p>Having implemented just 4% of its budget, the state recorded the lowest budget implementation of its Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.</p> <p>An actual capital expenditure of N6.9 million is grossly inadequate to address the GBV infrastructure needs of the state.</p> | <p>The government should increase budgetary disbursement to the Ministry to improve the credibility of the budget and enable the Ministry to deliver on its GBV prevention and response-related mandate.</p> <p>The State should prioritize hundreds of millions to adequately meet its GBV prevention and response infrastructure needs.</p> |

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Policy Recommendations
Zamfara State

| S/No. | Recommendations | Implementation Status | Remarks |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| Laws and Policies | | | |
| 1 | Government to develop comprehensive implementation framework for the laws and policies with a strong focus on monitoring and evaluation. | Not Implemented | there is no established protocols to monitor and evaluate the progress of the implementation of these laws and policies. |
| 2 | Government to strengthen coordination among the implementing government agencies and provide sufficient funding for GBV programs. | Partially implemented | There is budgetary allocation for these MDAs but not sufficient. |
| 3 | The state should prioritize comprehensive and consistent public sensitization and awareness campaigns on existing GBV-related laws and policies. | Not Implemented | The public sensitization and awareness campaigns are usually implemented by dono agencies |
| Access to Legal Justice | | | |
| 4 | Stakeholders to conduct public awareness campaigns addressing the detrimental impacts of stigmatization and the culture of silence. | Partially Implemented | This is only done by the support partners in the state. |
| 5 | Provisions should be made to ensure survivors and victims have access to the necessary financial support for reporting and following up on their cases. | Partially Implemented | This is mostly done through donor agencies in the state |
| 6 | State to enhance the efficiency and trustworthiness of GBV legal proceedings through thorough investigations, timely case file submissions, prompt provision of legal advice, and strong evidence collection while minimizing adjournments. | Not Implemented | The legal proceedings of GBV related cases and investigations in the state is very slow with many adjournments and delayed justice. |
| Support Services | | | |
| 7 | Additional SARCs should be established, adequately staffed, and equipped across all the senatorial zones and local government areas. | Not Implemented | The state has only one SARC centre located in the state capital, this made it difficult for survivors from far LGAs to access this centre |
| 8 | Government should implement comprehensive awareness campaigns to promote the legal and psychosocial/mental health GBV reporting and referral pathways, ensuring that individuals are well-informed about them. | Not Implemented | most of the awareness campaigns are usually sponsored by donor agencies, CBOs and CSOs, the Government has less established referral pathway for GBV survivors. |
| Information and Awareness | | | |
| 9 | The state should limit dependence on external donors and instead allocate sufficient resources for educating the public and disseminating relevant information through radio and TV programs, as well as printed IEC materials. | Not Implemented | the state mostly depend on external donors for public awareness and sensitization campaigns |

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Policy Recommendations
Zamfara State

10



There is need to involve the local theatre group in commemorating international events like the International Day for the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence.

Partially Implemented

the state through the office of the first lady joined other local groups to commemorate international events like 16 days of activism which were celebrated to raise voice on violence against women.



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