

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE:

— Are We Making Progress? —



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Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the invaluable work of the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (RoLAC) program, including its HerStoryOurStoryNG campaign, for the periodic publication of information on Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) in Nigeria. This data has been a critical resource for validating similar information presented in this report.

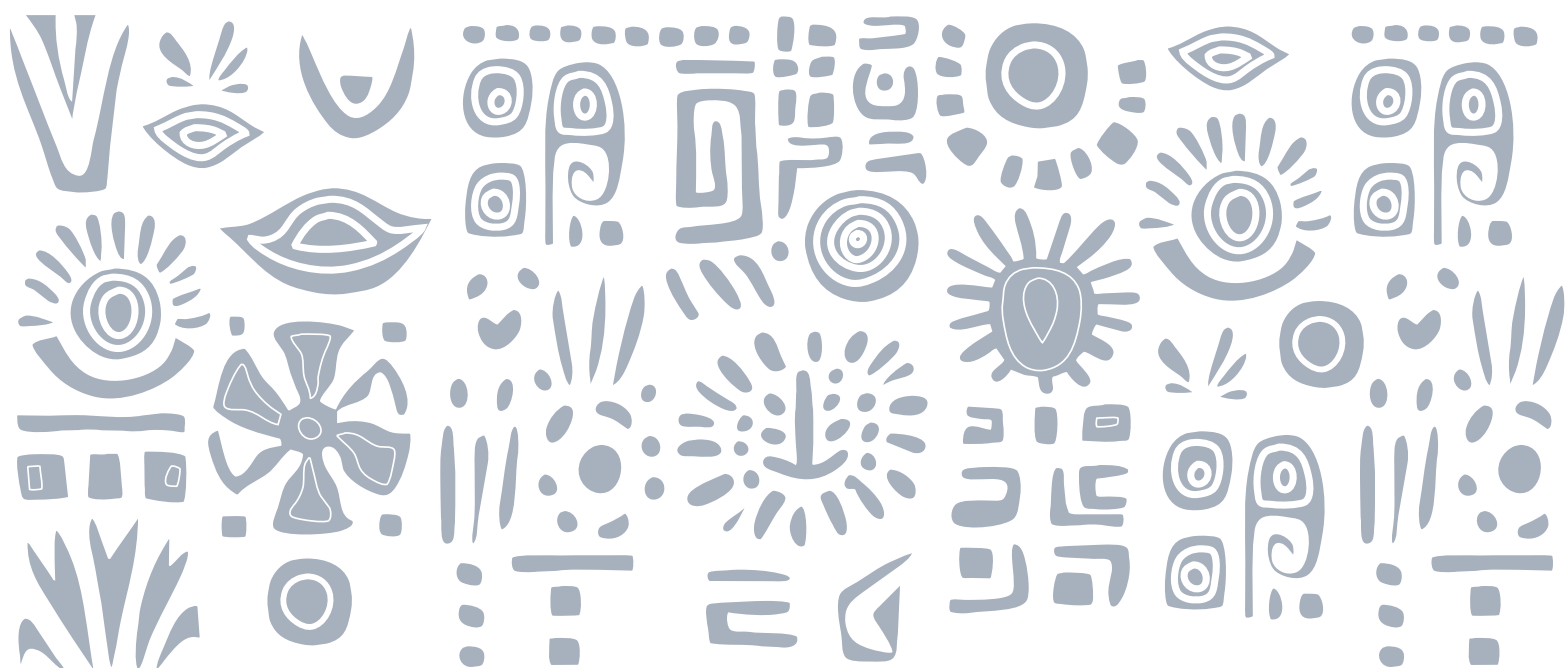
We also recognize the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) for its pivotal work, supported by the Ford Foundation, in producing a Policy Brief that analyzed the gaps in the VAPP Act, 2015 and VAPP-related laws across 34 states in Nigeria. The Policy Brief has been instrumental in assessing the quality of each state's VAPP laws featured in this report.

Our deepest appreciation goes to the 37 State Research Consultants (SRCs) engaged for this project. Your unwavering dedication and perseverance, often in the face of considerable challenges, have been integral to the successful completion of this work.

Finally, we express our profound gratitude to the Ford Foundation for believing in and supporting this initiative.

Our State Research Consultants (SRCs)

Yohanna Akila – Borno, Abubakar Ashiru – Zamfara, Agamalafiya Jonathan – Kebbi, Agu Emeka Earnest – Ebonyi, Aisha Ibrahim Abdullahi – Gombe, Akwa Felicity Asibi – Plateau, Alo Martins – Ondo, Amirah Muhammad – Katsina, Azeez Olamide – Lagos, Dr. Auwal Ahmed Musa – Sokoto, Dr. Endurance Uzobo – Bayelsa, Dr. Ibrahim Adamu Basirka – Jigawa, Dr. Mojisola Akinsanya – Ogun, Dr. Talatu Buba Bello – Taraba, Dr. Victoria Emah-Emah – Cross River, Eghosa Osazee Ogbebor – Edo, Esther Kalu – Abia, Eunice Abimbola Agbogun – Kogi, Ezemba Maryjane Kelechi – Delta, Hussein Adebisi Sherifat – Osun, Ibrahim Bello – Adamawa, John Oluwafemi Olla – Oyo, Margaret Dankaro – Kaduna, Matthew Oluwafemi Oladele – Niger, Mfon Gabriel – Akwa-Ibom, Muhammad Salisu – Kano, Okoroafor Rosemary Ezinne – Rivers, Oluwasegun Olawale Benjamin – Kwara, Oluwaseyi Ayorinde Mohammed – Fct, Onyinye Mamah – Enugu, Prince Chimezie Okoro – Imo, Rita Izilafe Ilevbare – Ekiti, Suunen Atsuwe – Benue, Tersur Shimanyian Collins – Nasarawa, Thamama Keri – Bauchi, Ugochi Agalaba-Ehiahuruike – Anambra, Umar Mohammad Angula – Yobe



About Womanity Index 2024

Womanity Index is an annual, data-driven, and evidence-based assessment of the performance of subnational governments in preventing and responding to gender-based violence. Each state's performance is evaluated based on 18 indicators across five indexes: Laws and Policies, Access to Legal Justice, Support Services, Information and Awareness, and Budget and Spending. Womanity Index addresses the critical need for subnational data that not only reflects the efforts and performance of state governments but also informs policies, funding priorities, and strategic actions for effective prevention and response to gender-based violence.

Aspirational Targets

The aspirational target for each index is as follows:

Laws and Policies:

Existence and quality of state laws and policies that criminalizes GBV, with regular reviews to remove provisions that inadvertently perpetuate GBV, while addressing harmful customary norms and socio-cultural practices that enable GBV.

Access to Legal Justice:

Easy, timely, and equitable access to legal justice through effective reporting, prosecution, and enforcement processes that are free from discrimination and bureaucracy. It entails the existence of specialized GBV courts with trained officials, designated judges, accessible legal aid, effective witness protection, enforcement of court judgments, and the regular publication of a Sex Offenders' Register. The index also examines community-level informal justice systems, evaluating their overall effectiveness and alignment with justice principles.

Support Services:

Availability of comprehensive support services—medical, mental health, legal, economic—for all GBV survivors, provided through state-run Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) and/or shelters that are governed by Standard Operating Procedures, including being accessible across the state and proportionate to the state's population. The index also assesses the presence of user-friendly, subnational-level Reporting and Referral Pathways, including strengthening of informal support networks.

Information and Awareness:

Regular provision and wide dissemination of clear, user-friendly, and equally accessible information, education, and communication (IEC) materials about GBV. It also assesses the availability and usage of a comprehensive sex education curriculum in schools in the state.

Budget and Spending:

Specific budget lines and allocation to address GBV by the state's Ministry of Women Affairs, including actual release and spend as a percentage of the state's female population.

Scoring Formula

Index Score:

- Blue: 4
- Green: ≥ 3 but < 4
- Amber: ≥ 2 but < 3
- Red: < 2

Overall Score:

- Blue: ≥ 13.5 (75%)
- Green: 11.7 - 13.4 (65% - 74%)
- Amber: 9 - 11.6 (50% - 64%)
- Red: ≤ 8.9 ($< 50\%$)

In the 2023 edition, states were “ranked” based on the availability, accessibility, or functionality of the indicators for each index. However, from this year’s methodology states are now “graded” and not ranked, and there has been introduction of additional conditions for each indicator. For example, the availability of functional SARCs and shelters now includes the requirement that they must be present in all three senatorial districts of the state. Similar conditions apply to legal aid services, availability of IEC materials, and other indicators. These new criteria have resulted in shifts in the scores achieved by states compared to the previous year. In this year’s edition, the FCT was ranked out of 15 points, unlike other states, which were ranked out of 18. This discrepancy arises because the FCT was not evaluated in terms of budget and spending, as it lacks autonomy over its budget.

Grading

Based on the assessment of data and evidence, each state is assigned two distinct sets of colour-coded grades: an Overall Grade, reflecting the state’s average score across all indexes and indicators relative to other states, and Index Grades, representing the state’s performance in each of the five indexes. Each colour-coded grade is described thus:

Advancing: Making strong progress toward the aspirational target.

Performing: Performing reasonably well, but gaps remain that hinder full achievement of the aspirational target.

Evolving: Taking gradual steps toward improved performance in reaching the aspirational target.

Struggling: Facing major challenges that prevent progress toward the aspirational target.

Methodology

A combination of quantitative and qualitative methodologies was employed for the Womanity Index research to provide a comprehensive understanding of gender-based violence (GBV) in each state of Nigeria. The quantitative approach focused on collecting data from respondents using structured questionnaires, while the qualitative approach involved engaging key stakeholders to gather in-depth insights into systemic challenges and policy implementation. A team of 37 State Research Consultants (SRCs) were trained and deployed to collect the initial data, while a six-member Report Consolidation Team (RCT) were engaged for report cleaning, validation, and consolidation.

Quantitative Methodology

The quantitative component, which centred on the “demand side” (such as GBV survivors, family, and friends), involved administering structured interview questionnaires to respondents across all 36 states of Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). KoboToolbox facilitated data collection from 16,854 respondents in both urban and rural areas. Its geolocation tracking ensured coverage across all three senatorial districts in each state, with representation from at least two federal constituencies per senatorial district and two Local Government Areas (LGAs) within each constituency. KoboToolbox’s offline functionality enabled data collection in areas with limited internet connectivity, while its customizable forms and real-time data monitoring ensured reliability and accuracy.

Google Forms was used to survey 1,649 respondents through self-administered online questionnaires. The platform's ease of sharing via email, social media, and messaging platforms allowed researchers to reach a diverse and broader audience. Features such as automated data aggregation, cost efficiency, and user-friendly design further enhanced its effectiveness for public engagement.

In total, 18,503 respondents were surveyed, averaging 497 respondents per state. This represents a 218% increase from the 5,819 respondents surveyed in the 2023 edition of the Womanity Index – an increase aimed at enhancing statewide representativeness and creating a more robust national dataset while providing better precision in identifying state-level GBV prevalence and trends. The gradual, yearly increment in sample size is in our quest to ensure even greater data inclusivity, accuracy, and reliability.

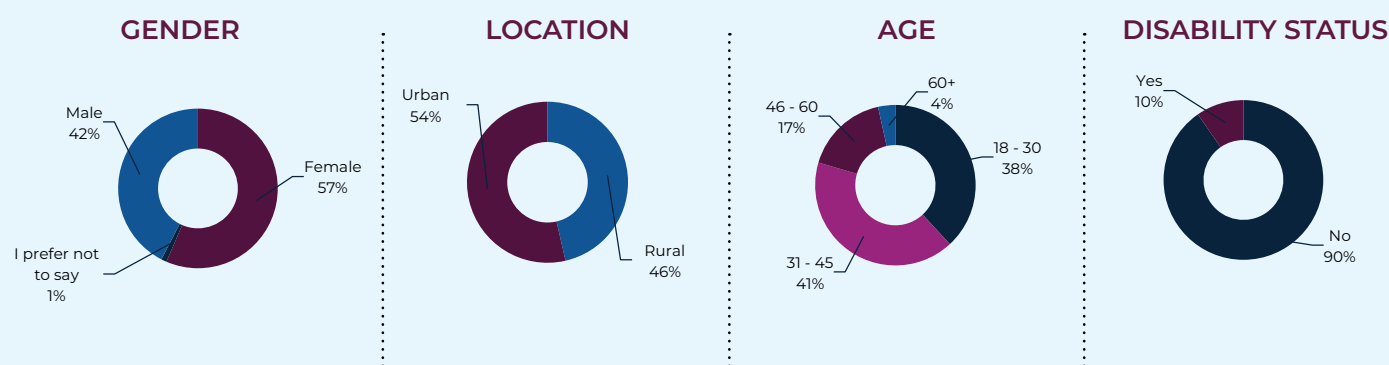
Qualitative Methodology

The qualitative methodology complemented the quantitative data by focusing on the “supply side” of GBV prevention and response. This component involved conducting In-depth Interviews (IDIs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with key stakeholders to gather evidence on government efforts, policy implementation, and systemic challenges. Respondents included officials from relevant Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) such as the Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Budget and Planning, and the Ministry of Information and Communication.

Additionally, KIIs and IDIs were conducted with officials from other relevant government institutions, including the Nigeria Police Force, Legal Aid Council, and the judiciary. Stakeholders from Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), educational institutions, and those who are leaders of faith and culture, were also engaged to provide community-level perspectives on GBV. Interviews were conducted either face-to-face or virtually, depending on the informants' availability and location. The data from these interviews were transcribed, coded, and analyzed thematically to identify recurring patterns and contextualize the quantitative findings, while the human-angle stories helped in humanizing the data.

Demography:

Respondents: 18,503



Limitations of the Study

The Womanity Index 2024 edition faced several limitations that impacted the research process and outcomes. The study was conducted within a four-month period, significantly shorter than the seven-month timeframe of the previous year, despite a 218% increase in the study population. This compressed schedule created challenges for data collection, analysis, and reporting, particularly with tight stakeholder availability. Additionally, critical datasets, such as the number of reported GBV cases, cases in court, and convictions, were unavailable from key informants, affecting scoring in states like Katsina, Oyo, and Osun. Bureaucratic delays further compounded these issues, as multiple visits and meetings were often required before government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) consented to interviews.

Election-related challenges also posed significant obstacles, with gubernatorial elections in Edo and Ondo States and local government elections in Rivers State creating tense environments. These circumstances heightened security risks, discouraged interviews with MDAs, and increased transportation costs. Researchers also encountered reluctance and bias in responses from some government officials, who were hesitant to share accurate data or constrained by internal sensitivities, resulting in limited transparency. Inconsistent record-keeping by agencies and organizations managing GBV cases further complicated efforts, as the lack of centralized and systematic data collection hindered tracking incidences and outcomes.

Insecurity in certain regions, particularly the restrictions imposed by the “Sit-At-Home” order enforced by IPOB, limited access to rural areas and affected data collection in some southeastern states. Access challenges also extended to desk reviews, where respondents often deemed information sensitive and required clearance from other departments. A key informant with access to the 2023 edition of the Womanity Index declined participation, citing dissatisfaction with the absence of intervention programs alongside the state assessment and grading exercise. Finally, the sensitive nature of GBV and the prevailing culture of silence in many areas made engaging survivors as respondents particularly difficult, limiting the collection of first-hand insights. These constraints collectively highlight the challenges encountered in producing the 2024 Womanity Index and underscore areas for methodological refinement in future iterations.

Definition of Terms

Terms	Definition
Abandonment	An act of leaving someone or something behind without care or support.
Acquitted	Legal judgement that indicates that a person charged with a crime is not found guilty by the court of law.
Alternative dispute resolution	A way to settle conflicts outside of a courtroom. It can include methods like negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and conciliation.
Anecdotal	Evidence derived from descriptions of cases or events rather than systematically collected data that can be submitted to formal epidemiological and statistical analysis.
Anonymous	Made or done by someone whose name is not known or not made public.
Autism Spectrum Disorder (Autistic)	Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurological and developmental disorder that affects how people interact with others, communicate, learn, and behave.
Braille	Braille is a system of raised dots that can be read with the fingers by people who are blind or who have low vision.
Budget allocation	The distribution of financial resources to specific departments or ministries within an organization or government.
Cohabiting	If two people, especially a man and woman who are not married, cohabit, they live together and have a sexual relationship.
Comprehensive Sex Education	A comprehensive, age-appropriate curriculum that provides information about sexual and reproductive health.
Conviction	The act or process of finding a person guilty of a crime especially in a court of law.
Customary	Commonly practiced based on or established by custom.
Discrimination	The unfair or prejudicial treatment of people and groups based on characteristics such as race, gender, disability, age.
Dissemination	To spread information, knowledge with the purpose of educating or informing people.
Family Support Units	The Family Support Units (FSUs) are specialised units attached to police station, with a mandate to investigate all forms of child abuse and violence against children (sexual and physical abuse, exploitation, including commercial exploitation, as well as internal and cross-border trafficking).
Forensic	The application of scientific knowledge to legal problems. especially scientific analysis of physical evidence (as from a crime scene).
GBV management committee	A group set up to address and respond to issues relating to gender-based violence.
Gender-based violence	Violence directed against a person because of that person's gender or violence that affects persons of a particular gender disproportionately.
Genital Mutilation	A traditional harmful practice that involves the partial or total removal of external female genitalia or other injury to female genital organs for non-medical reasons.
Harmful Widowhood Practices	Are customs, or rites imposed on women due to the loss of their husbands. These practices include drinking of washings from husband's corpse, disinheritance, hair shaving.
Incest	Sexual intercourse between persons so closely related that they are forbidden by law to marry.

Terms	Definition
Information education and communication	A combination of strategies, approaches, and methods such as posters, videos, pamphlets, booklets and brochures in disseminating information and raising awareness to create a change.
Internally displaced persons	Individuals who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, violence, persecution or disasters.
Intimate partner	Any form of abuse (physical, emotional, sexual, economic) that occurs in a romantic relationship.
Legal Aid	Aid provided by an organization established especially to serve the legal needs of the poor.
Litigation	The process of resolving or settling a dispute in a court.
Minor	Someone under the age of majority, which is defined as the age that distinguishes between childhood and adulthood in the eyes of the law.
Perpetrators	Someone who has committed a crime or a violent or harmful act.
Persons with Disabilities	Individuals who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.
Pictorial	Illustrated by pictures.
Post exposure prophylaxis	An antiretroviral (ARV) treatment administered after an HIV exposure to prevent HIV infection.
Pro bono	Being, involving, or doing professional and especially legal work donated especially for the public good.
Prohibition	An order to restrain or stop.
Prosecution	The action of charging someone with a crime and putting them on trial.
Psychological	Relates to the mental and emotional state.
Rape	Unlawful sexual activity, most often involving sexual intercourse, against the will of the victim through force or the threat of force or with an individual who is incapable of giving legal consent because of minor status, mental illness, mental deficiency, intoxication, unconsciousness, or deception.
Referral pathways	Flexible mechanisms that safely link survivors to services such as health, psychosocial support, case management, safety/security, and justice and legal aid.
Reporting systems	Mechanisms that enable victims or witnesses to report violence and abuse. A reporting system must be safe, easily accessible, and confidential.
SARCs	Sexual Assault Referral Centres - commonly known as SARCs - provide crucial services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). SARCs offer confidential medical and practical support to people who have recently been raped or sexually assaulted.
Screen subtitling	An audiovisual translation of a spoken dialogue into written text on a screen to make the information more accessible to those with hearing impairments.
Sensitization	The process of raising awareness about a specific issue or topic.
Sex offenders register	A database or registry that contains information about individuals convicted of sexual offenses.
Sexual Assault	Sexual contact or behaviour that occurs without explicit consent of the victim.
Shelters	A shelter is a place of temporary protection and support for persons escaping domestic violence and intimate partner violence of all forms.
Spending per capita	An average spending per person used to understand how each individual shares in a country's overall spending.

Terms	Definition
Stigma	A social process that leads to the marginalization or labelling of individuals based on a characteristic or experience. It involves judging, discriminating or shaming.
Survivors	A survivor is someone who hasn't died: the word is used often about people who have been through a horrible experience, like a plane crash. Cancer survivors and Holocaust survivors have one thing in common: they lived through horrible ordeals and are still with us.
Victims	Someone who has suffered as a result of someone else's actions or beliefs, or as a result of unpleasant circumstance.
Vigilante groups	Groups organized to fight crime. It is also a group where concerned citizens have joined for self-protection.
Witness Protection	A legal framework to protect the safety and identity of individuals who provide evidence in a court case.

Abbreviations

ABS:	Anambra Broadcasting Service
ACJA:	Administration of Criminal Justice Act
ACJL:	Administration of Criminal Justice Law
ADR:	Alternative Dispute Resolution
ADRC:	Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee
AGILE:	Adolescent Girls Initiative for Learning and Empowerment
AMAC:	Abuja Municipal Area Council
AWLA:	African Women Lawyers Association
ANWAB:	Anglo-Nigerian Welfare Association for the Blind
BCOS:	Broadcasting Corporation of Oyo State
BHI:	Brave Heart Initiative
BSAP:	Bayelsa State Action Plan
CBOs:	Community Based Organizations
CCROPD:	Center for Citizen Right and Office of the Public Defendant
CCN:	Christian Council of Nigeria
CEDAW:	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEWHIN:	Centre for Women's Health and Information
CID:	Criminal Investigation Department
CITAD:	Center for Information, Technology, and Development
CLL:	Criminal Law of Lagos
CMC:	Citizens Mediation Centre
CPC's:	Consumer Protection Council
CPS:	Central Police Station
CPI:	Challenged Parenthood Initiative
CPN:	Child Protection Network
CRA:	Child's Rights Act
CRL:	Child's Rights Law
CSA:	Child Sexual Abuse
CSE:	Comprehensive Sex Education
CSO:	Civil Society Organizations
DNA:	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
DPP:	Directorate of Public Prosecution
DSVA:	Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency
DV:	Domestic Violence
EKSU:	Ekiti State University
ESLF:	Eunice Spring of Life Foundation
FBOs:	Faith-Based Organizations
FCTA:	Federal Capital Territory Abuja
FGM:	Female Genital Mutilation
FHI:	Family Health International
FIDA:	Federación Internacional de Abogadas (The International Federation of Women Lawyers)
FIRs:	First Information Reports
FLHE:	Family Life and HIV/AIDs Education
FMC:	Federal Medical Centre
FOMWAN:	The Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria
FSP:	Functional Service Provision

FSUs:	Family Support Units
GBV:	Gender-Based Violence
GBVMC:	Gender-Based Violence Management Committee
GLOHWOC:	The Global Hope for Women and Children Foundation
GRIT:	Gender-Response Initiative Team
IDP:	Internally Displaced Person
IEC:	Information, Education and Communication
IHP:	Integrated Health Program
INGO:	International Non-Governmental Organisations
IPE:	Information and Public Enlightenment
IRC:	International Rescue Committee
IPO:	Investigating Police Officer
JDPC:	Justice, Development, and Peace Commission
JIBWIS:	Jama'atu Izalatil Bid'ah Wa Ikamatis Sunnah
JONAPWD:	Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities
LASEMA:	Lagos State Emergency Management Agency
LGA:	Local Government Area
LSODA:	Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs
MCGL:	Momentum Country and Global Leadership
MDAs:	Ministry Departments and Agencies
MHSSD:	Ministry Human Services and Social Development
MOI:	Ministry of Information
MOJ:	Ministry of Justice
MOU:	Memorandum of Understanding
MOWA:	Ministry of Women Affairs
MOWASD:	Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
MSF:	Médecins Sans Frontières
MWAPA:	Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation
MoWASCD:	Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Community Development
NAPTIP:	National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons
NASFAT:	Nasrul-lahi-li Fathi Society of Nigeria
NBA:	Nigerian Bar Association
NCDC:	Nigerian Centre for Disease Control
NDLEA:	National Drug Law Enforcement Agency
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organization
NGSF:	Nigeria Governors Spouses' Forum
NHRC:	National Human Rights Commission
NOA:	National Orientation Agency
NOFIC:	National Obstetric Fistula Centre
NPF:	Nigeria Police Force
NRCS:	Nigerian Red Cross Society
NSAGs:	Non-State Armed Groups
NSCDC:	Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps
OGSTEP:	Ogun State Economic Transformation Project's
OPD:	Office of the Public Defender
OPCRC:	Office of the Public Defender and Citizens Rights Commission
OSAA-GBV:	Ondo State Agency Against – Gender-Based Violence
OWACDO:	Okaha Women and Child Development Organization
PADVL:	Protection Against Domestic Violence Law

PEP:	Post-exposure Prophylaxis
PLAC:	Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre
PWDs:	Persons with Disabilities
PHC:	Primary Healthcare Centre
RRT-GBV:	Rapid Response Team- Gender-Based Violence
RoLAC:	Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption
SACA:	State Action Committee on AIDS
SARC:	Sexual Assault Referral Centre
SEYP:	Society for the Empowerment of Young Persons
SGBV:	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
STRAC:	Safeguarding the Rights of a Child
TWG:	Technical Working Group
UN:	United Nations
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA:	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICEF:	National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons
UNSCR:	United Nations Security Council Resolution
URPRP:	Unified Response Protocol and Referral Pathway
USAID:	United States Agency for International Development
VAPP:	Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act
VAW:	Violence Against Women
VVF:	Vesicovaginal Fistula
WACOL:	Women Aid Collective
WARIF:	Women at Risk International Foundation
WDOs:	Women Development Officers
WARDC:	Women Advocates Research and Documentation Centre
WDCs:	Ward Development Committee
WOPEGEE:	Women for Peace and Gender Initiatives
WOTCLEF:	Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation

Data Sources

Data	Source
Population	Extrapolated from the Nigeria Population Projections and Demographic Indicators 2022
Number of active shelters in the state	Key Informant Interviews
Number of Sexual Assaults Referral Centre(s) in the state	Key Informant Interviews
Number of reported GBV cases, cases in courts, and convicted cases	Key Informant Interviews
Number of Specialized Family support units	Key Informant Interviews
Number of Dedicated GBV Judges in Courts.	Key Informant Interviews
Number of GBV Pro Bono units and legal units per population	Key Informant Interviews
Per Capita Spending	Budget Implementation Reports and Audited Financial Statements of States
Budget Performance	Budget Implementation Reports and Audited Financial Statements of States
Total Allocation to Ministry Responsible for Women and Children Affairs	Budget Implementation Reports and Audited Financial Statements of States
GBV Specific Budget Line Items	2023 Approved Budget Reports



Executive Summary

The 2024 Womanity Index reveals a multifaceted landscape of gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response across Nigeria's subnational governments. Despite persistent challenges, the assessment depicts meaningful progress, with states showing varying levels of commitment and capability in addressing this social menace.

Overall Grades

Three states—Ekiti, Lagos, and Rivers—are categorized as “blue” states, indicating they are “Advancing,” demonstrating strong progress across all indexes and indicators. Eleven states are graded as “green” states, meaning they are “Performing” reasonably well in their efforts to effectively prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV), although some gaps remain. These 11 states are geographically dispersed, with five in the northern region—Adamawa, Kaduna, Kwara, Niger, and Yobe—and six in the southern region—Akwa Ibom, Delta, Ebonyi, Edo, Ogun, and Ondo. Nineteen states are “amber” states—signifying they are “Evolving,” making gradual progress in preventing and responding to GBV. Conversely, four states—Gombe, Zamfara, and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) in the north, along with Enugu in the south—are graded “red” denoting they are “Struggling,” with critical gaps in their GBV prevention and response mechanisms.

Tracking Progress: From 2023 to 2024

The year 2024 marks notable progress for several northern states. Six states—Benue, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, and Plateau—transitioned from struggling “red” to evolving “amber” status, indicating incremental improvements across indexes and indicators. States like Adamawa, Ebonyi, Kaduna, Kwara, Niger, Ondo, and Yobe advanced from being “amber” states in 2023 to “green” states in this 2024 edition, signaling reasonable achievement in preventing and responding to GBV. Notably, Ekiti and Rivers joined Lagos in the advancing “blue” category, depicting strong progress toward the aspirational targets. Gombe and Zamfara continue to be of significant concern, maintaining their “red” status. Of note is the regression of Enugu State, which moved from evolving in 2023 to struggling in 2024 – a backwards step that requires immediate and targeted intervention.

A key driver of progress for some states is the Womanity Index Peer Learning Session (PLS), which bi-annually facilitates knowledge sharing between advancing (blue) states and other states. For instance, states like Kano and Katsina, actively participating in one of the PLS in 2024, directly benefited from this

knowledge transfer, transitioning from a “red” to an “amber” status. Similarly, Adamawa, Kaduna, Niger, and Yobe States, which also attended one of the PLS, demonstrated significant progress by moving from “amber” to “green” states in this 2024 edition. Ekiti’s remarkable progression to the “blue” category further underscores the effectiveness of this collaborative approach.

Index Grades

Laws and Policies

Edo, Ekiti, and Lagos emerged as advancing (blue) states under the Laws and Policies Index, demonstrating strong progress in establishing robust legal frameworks to address GBV. While 15 states are performing (green) and 20 are evolving (amber), no states were categorized as struggling (red)—a marked improvement from 2023, when five states were in the red category. However, the analysis reveals a concerning trend. Many states have experienced a slight regression, primarily due to insufficient efforts to address gaps in existing GBV laws, expunge problematic customary laws, address deeply entrenched negative socio-cultural practices that perpetuate GBV, have data on reported GBV cases and convictions in the year under review, among other reasons.

Access to Legal Justice

In terms of access to legal justice, 11 states are performing (green), 24 states are evolving (amber), and two are struggling (red). Despite the absence of any state achieving the highest advancing (blue) grade, there are encouraging signs. A particularly positive development is that five out of six states previously categorized as struggling in 2023 are now evolving, indicating gradual progress in improving access to justice for GBV survivors.

Support Services

Lagos State has maintained its top position as the only “blue” state under the Support Services Index. Meanwhile, 11 states are graded “green,” and 20 states as “amber.” A comparison with the 2023 Womanity Index reveals a mixed trend, with some states making progress and advancing out of the red to the amber and green categories, while others are regressing, highlighting the need for sustained state-led efforts to provide comprehensive support services for GBV survivors, such as establishing shelters, half-way homes, and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) in each local government area to ensure easy and equal access for all.

Information and Awareness

The Information and Awareness Index reveals eight states are performing (green) and 24 are evolving (amber), meaning they are making gradual progress in disseminating GBV Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials and conducting awareness campaigns. A notable improvement is the reduction in struggling (red) states, from 13 in 2023 to just five in 2024. This decline signals increasing governmental commitment to raising GBV awareness. However, a critical gap remains: no state has achieved the highest “blue” status, primarily due to persistent accessibility challenges for persons with disabilities and marginalized groups.

Budget and Spending

Under the Budget and Spending Index, 12 states are performing (green) relative to other states, and the remaining 25 states are evolving (amber), signifying efforts being made to improve funding for effective GBV prevention and response. No state is graded struggling (red), a significant improvement from 2023 index findings where 29 states were in the red category. Despite this progress, funding remains a critical area for improvement. Analysis of 2023 state budgets showed that only 25 states allocated funding specifically for GBV-related initiatives, totaling ₦3.15 billion. Furthermore, only four states met or exceeded the Womanity Index benchmark of 85% budget implementation, while 13 states achieved above 50%. Per capita spending in 33 states remained below the minimum benchmark of N500, resulting in no state achieving a “blue” status.

GBV Context

Prevalence

The prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV) in Nigeria is alarmingly widespread. Data in this edition of Womanity Index shows that approximately three out of every five (63%) Nigerians have either personally experienced GBV or know someone who has. States with notably high rates include Bayelsa, Cross River, Kwara, Lagos, Nasarawa, Niger, and Rivers. The North Central zone has the highest overall rate of GBV, with 75% of respondents reporting some form of GBV. In contrast, the South-East region had the lowest (53%).

Forms of GBV

The most common forms of GBV include domestic violence (DV) or intimate partner violence (IPV) (46%) and physical violence (41%). The South-East (55%) and South-South (51%) regions recorded the highest rates of DV/IPV. Similarly, the South-South region had the highest rate of physical violence (52%), closely followed by the North Central and North-East regions (44% each). Furthermore, mental or emotional violence (35%) and sexual violence (33%) were also commonly reported, with the North-West and South-West regions exceeding the national average for sexual violence (33%).

Reporting and Seeking Help

The majority of GBV incidents (70%) occurred within the home. And, when seeking help, most victims turned primarily to family/relatives (34%), followed by police/law enforcement authorities (27%), then friends/neighbors (13%). This trend was consistent across all regions. Additionally, the primary factors influencing help-seeking behavior include trust (37%), perceived ability to assist (27%), proximity of accessibility (20%), services rendered (11%), and financial constraint (6%).

Moving Forward

The 2024 Womanity Index highlights a combination of progress and persistent challenges in effectively addressing GBV in Nigeria. While some states show significant improvement, the data underscores the need for comprehensive, locally tailored interventions. Moving forward requires strong political will, sustained commitment, knowledge sharing, and a holistic approach that addresses deeply rooted negative social norms, ensures robust legal protection, removes barriers to access legal justice, improves support services, ensures consistent and equally accessible information and awareness, and improve budget and spending for GBV prevention and response. Womanity Index is more than a statistical assessment – it is a call to action. Each figure represents real lives impacted by GBV, and every improvement offers hope to survivors and every member of the society. As Nigeria continues to evolve its approach to tackle GBV, Womanity Index will continue to serve as a critical tool for data-driven and evidence-based accountability, awareness, and transformative progress.

Data Highlights

National Data Highlights

2 in 3

2 in 3 (or 63%) Nigerians have either experienced gender-based violence themselves or know someone who has, with significantly higher rates reported in Bayelsa (84%), Cross River (81%), Kwara (88%), Lagos (93%), Nasarawa (94%), Niger (85%), and Rivers (82%).

1 in 2

About one in two (46%) survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) in Nigeria report experiencing **domestic violence (DV) or intimate partner violence (IPV)**. States like Ebonyi (73%), Niger (68%), Bayelsa (64%), Plateau (62%), Abia (60%), and Kebbi (60%) report the highest rates.

1 in 3

Approximately one in three (33%) survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) in Nigeria experience **sexual violence** (such as rape, molestation, groping, and sex-for-favours); while about 1 in 2.5 (41%) experience **physical violence** (such as beating, slapping, kicking, and hitting).

1 in 3

Gender-based violence isn't always sexual or physical—one in three (35%) survivors endure **mental or emotional violence**, including verbal abuse, insults, intimidation, and belittling.

1 in 1.5

One in 1.5 (70%) survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) report experiencing the GBV within their own **homes**.

1 in 3

When deciding where to seek help, one in three (37%) GBV survivors prioritize trust, while 27% base their decision on their perception of the provider's ability to meet their specific needs.

1 in 3

One in three (34%) of GBV survivors prefer to seek help from their families or relatives. In comparison, only 27% turn to the police or law enforcement authorities, 13% rely on friends or neighbors, and just 4% seek legal assistance from a lawyer.

Index Data Highlights

Laws and Policies

- 18 states achieved a 75% awareness rate of GBV laws and policies.
- 7 states achieved a 50% awareness of GBV laws and policies.
- Only Kano State has not passed the VAPP law.
- 7 states achieved a 75% conviction rate for GBV cases.



Access to Legal Justice

- 32,472 GBV cases were reported across all states in 2023.
- 378 cases resulted in convictions for GBV in 2023.
- A 1.2% GBV conviction rate was recorded in 2023.
- 3 states lack data on reported GBV cases, and 22 states lack data on convicted cases.
- 6 states recorded no convicted cases despite having reported GBV cases.
- 20 states do not have designated judges for GBV cases.



Support Services

- 11 states have at least 1 SARC or shelter in all 3 senatorial districts.
- 4 states have at least one shelter or SARC in two senatorial district.
- 19 states have at least 1 SARC or shelter in just 1 senatorial district.
- 3 states do not have a SARC or Shelter.



Information and Awareness

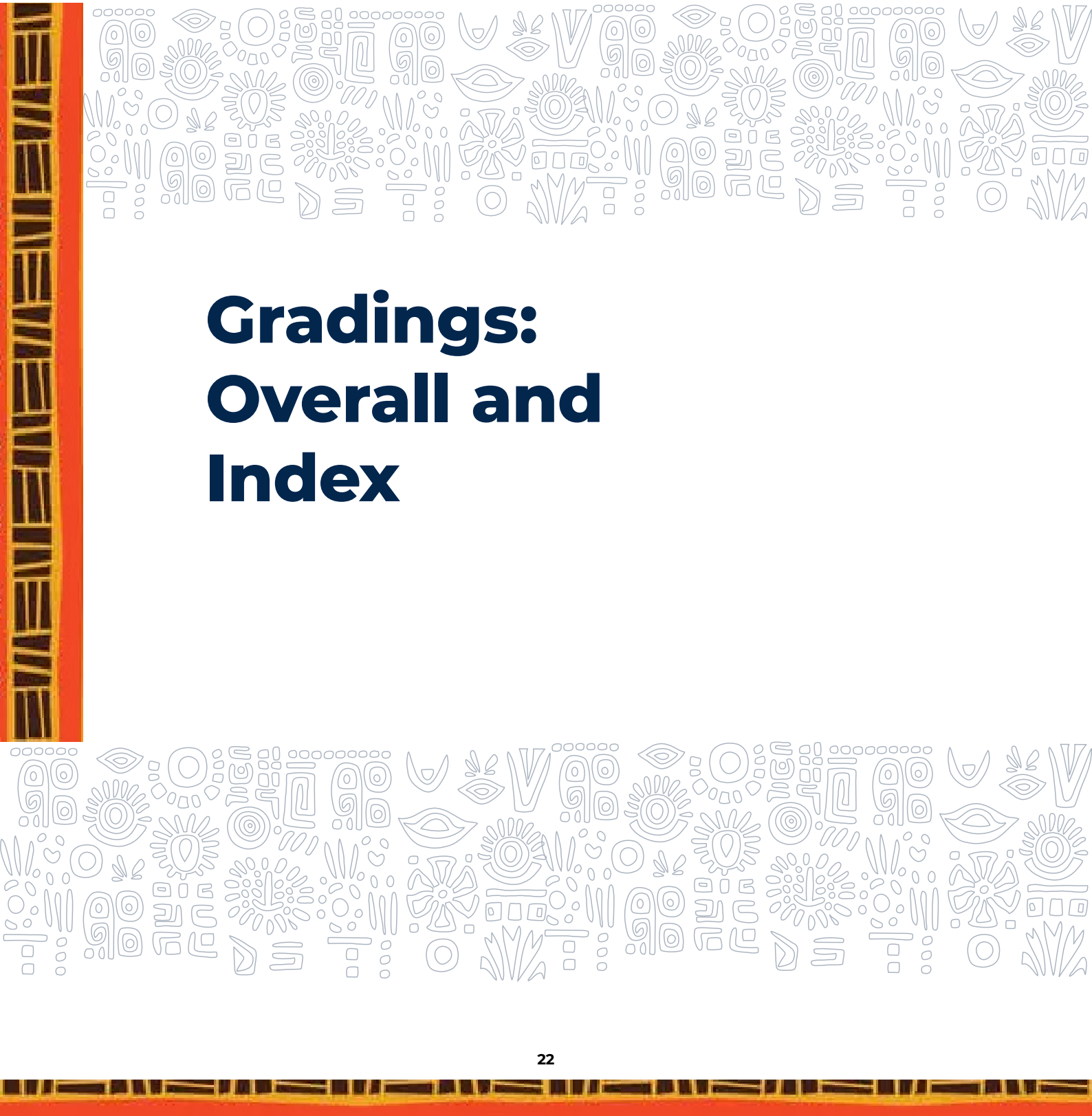
- 8 states have available and widely disseminated robust GBV IEC materials.
- 4 states have a guide or curriculum to teach GBV in schools.
- 15 states carry out public sensitisation and awareness programs in all LGAs.
- 16 states have between 25% - 75% PWD-sensitive materials.



Budget and Spending

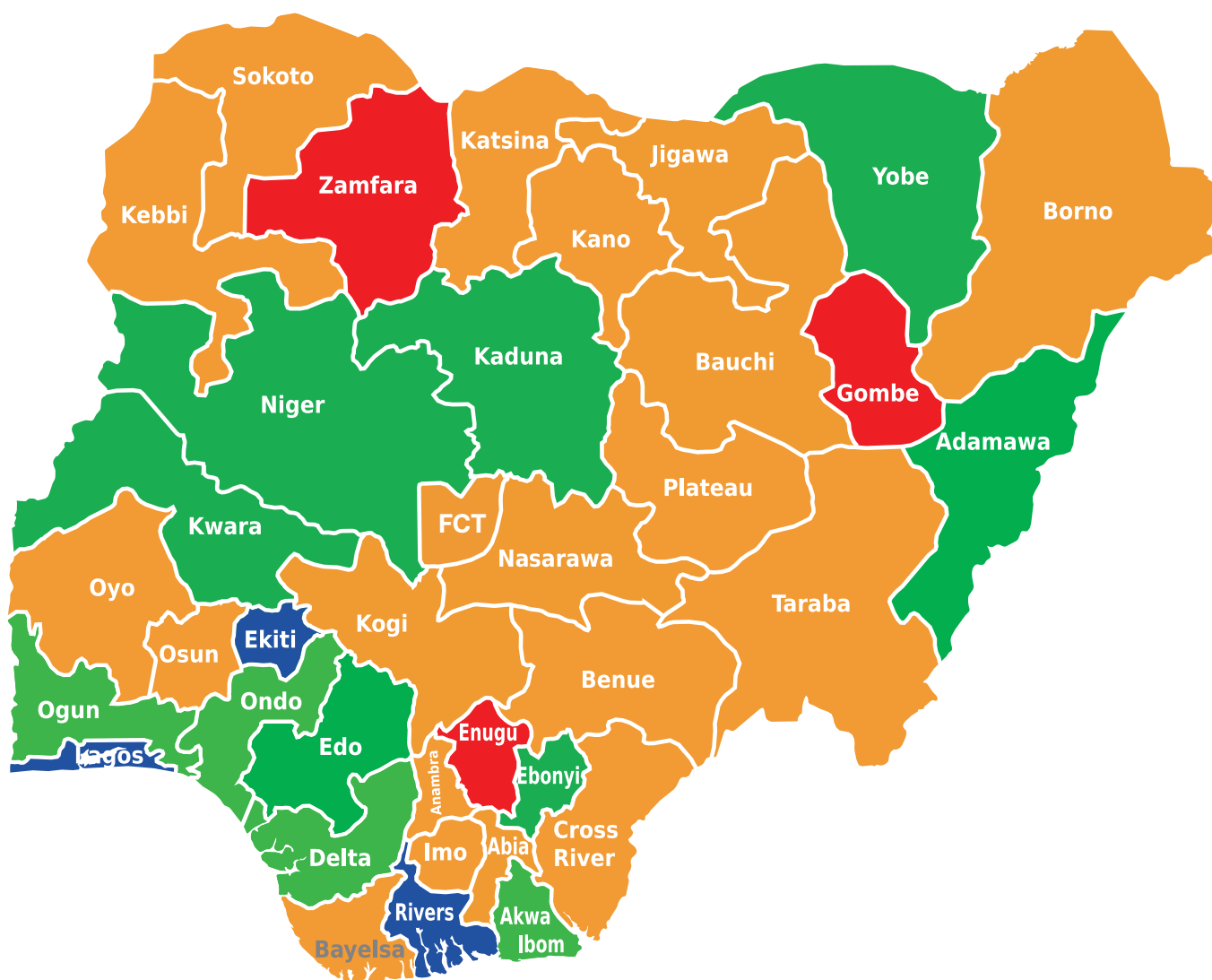
- 25 states have GBV-specific budget allocation. These allocations come up to N3.15bn.
- 4 states have a budget spending performance above 85%.
- 13 states have a budget spending performance of over 50%.
- 7 states have a spending performance of above 30% in their Ministries of Women Affairs.
- 12 states spend less than 30% of their budget for their Ministries of Women Affairs.
- Only Niger State has a spending per capita above N800.
- Bayelsa and Kogi have a spending per capita of above N500.
- 33 states have less than N500 per capita spending.



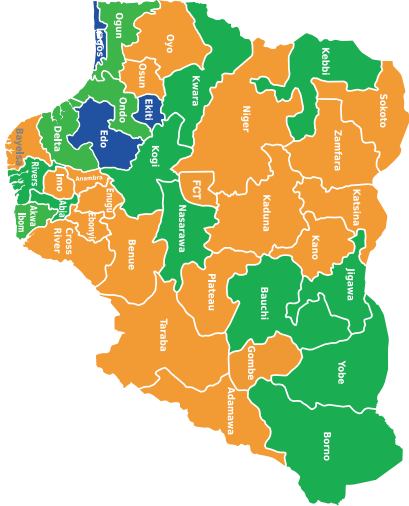


Gradings: Overall and Index

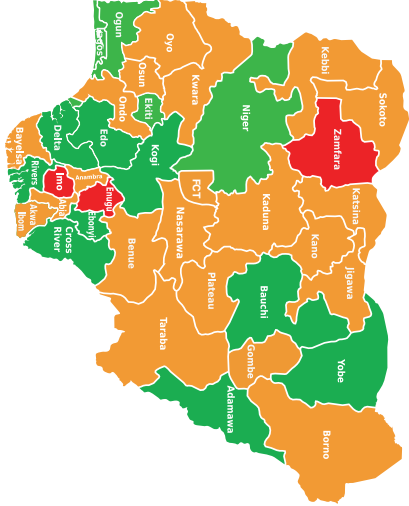
OVERALL GRADES



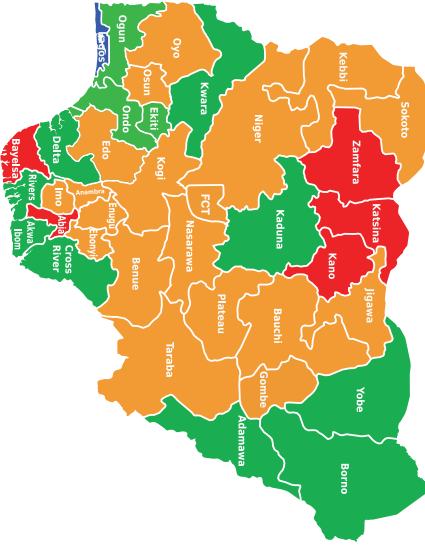
INDEX GRADES



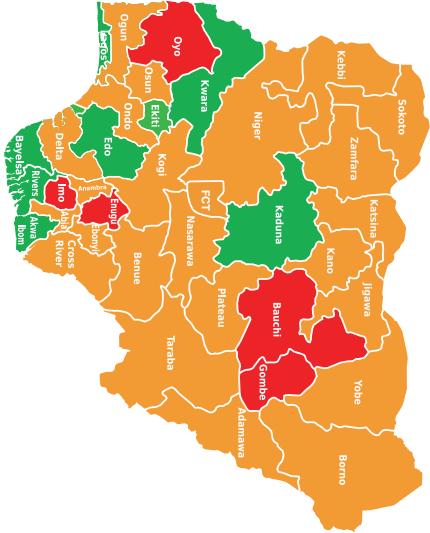
Laws and Policies



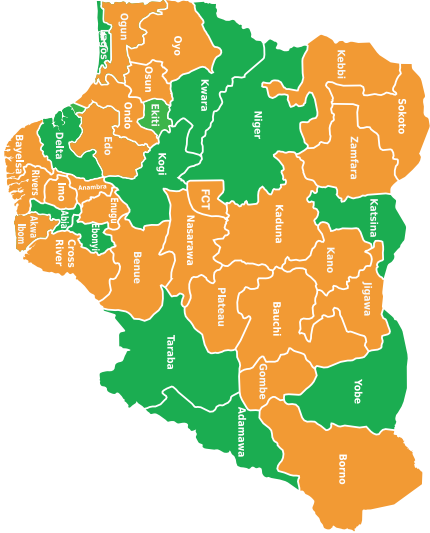
Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



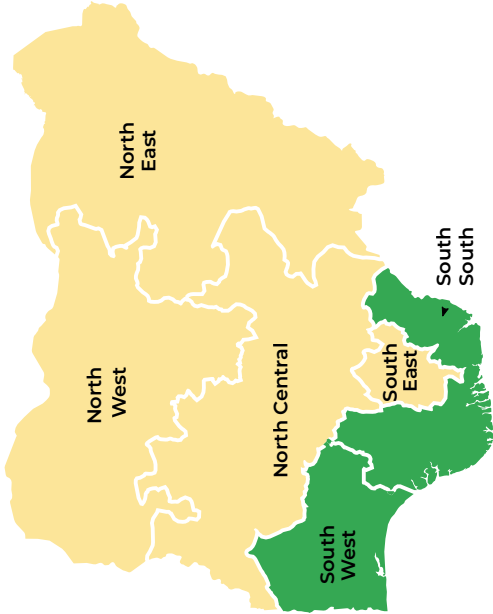
Information and Awareness



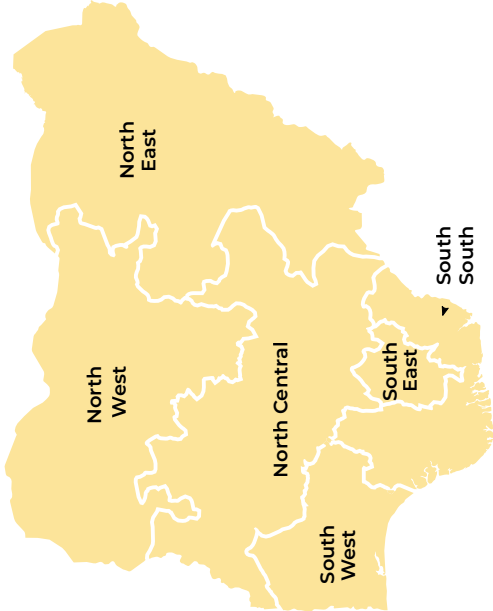
Budget and Spending

REGIONAL GRADES

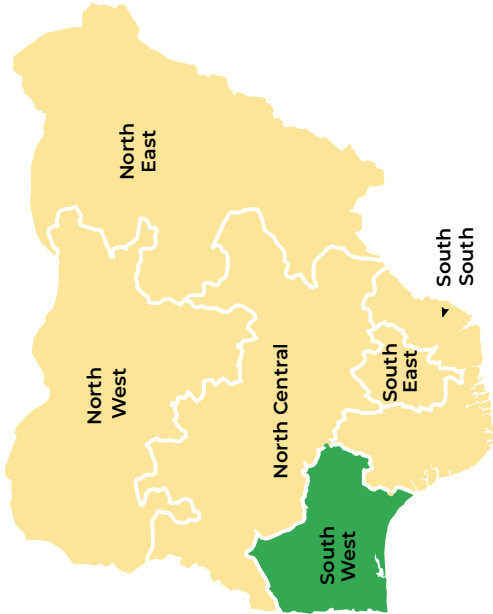
Laws and Policy



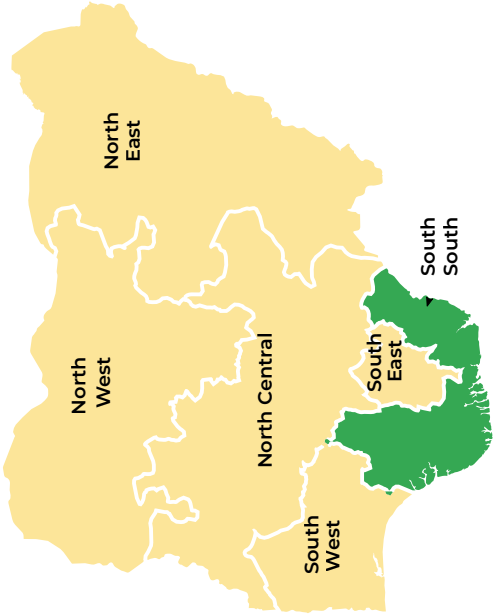
Access to Legal Justice



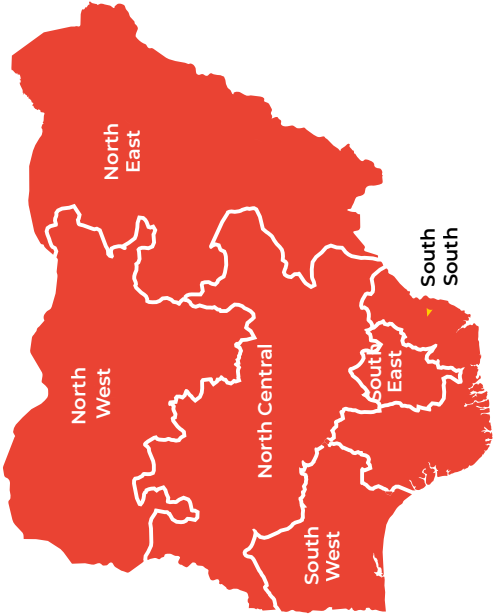
Support Services



Information and Awareness



Budget and Spending



STATE REPORTS





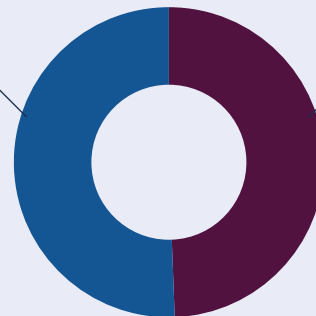
Abia State





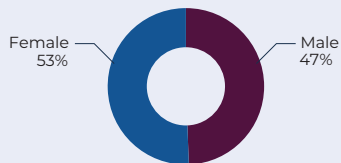
Total Population
4,256,480

Female
50.6%
(2,151,994)

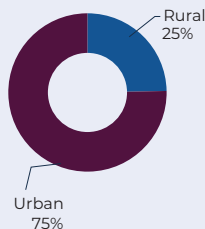


Male
49.4%
(2,104,486)

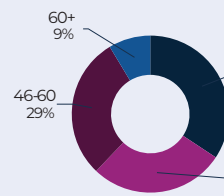
Respondents: 417



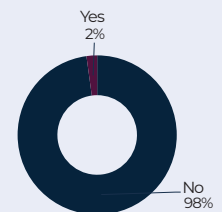
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **1,267**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)s **NA**



No. of active shelters **1**



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs) **4**



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

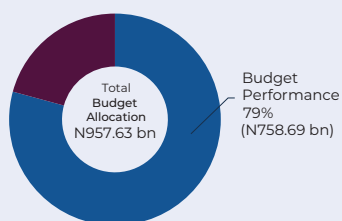


Budget and Spending

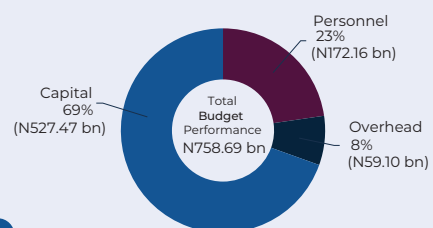


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

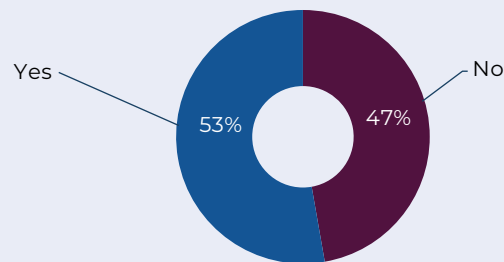


Budget Expenditure (2023)

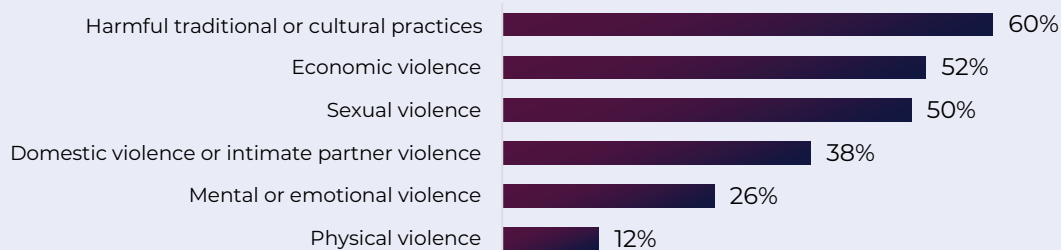


Per Capita Spending **N178.2**

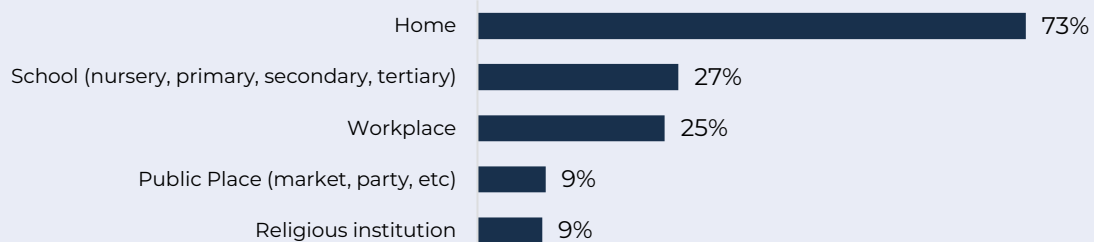
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



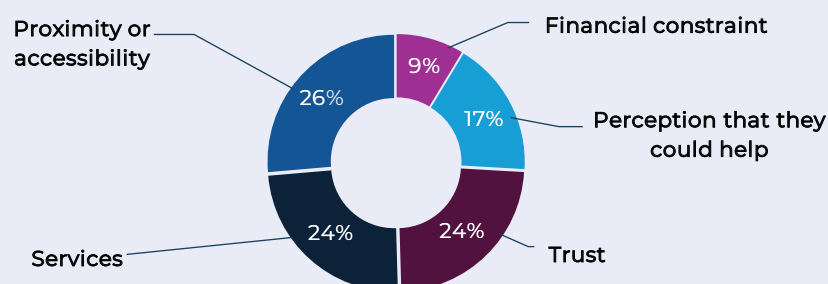
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

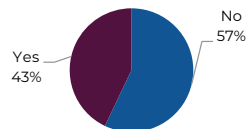


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

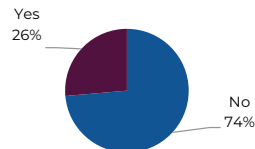


Laws and Policies

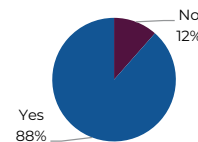
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

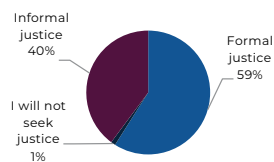


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

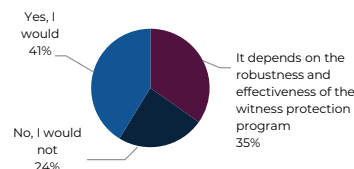


Access to Legal Justice

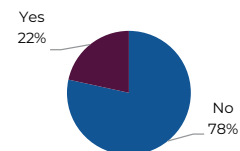
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

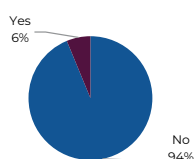


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

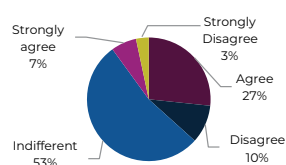


Support Services

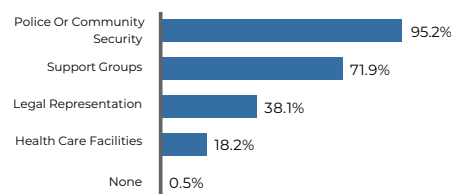
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



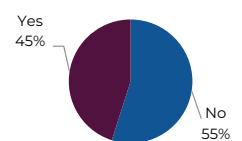
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

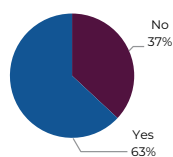


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

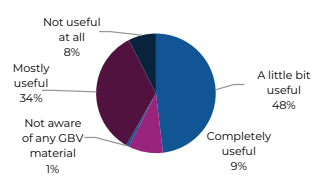


Information and Awareness

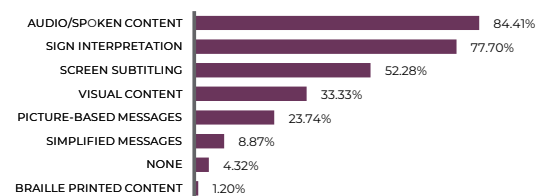
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

The VAPP Law, passed in Abia State in 2019, addresses diverse forms of abuse, including rape, sexual harassment, emotional, psychological, and economic violence, and promotes gender equity. The law is currently under review at the State House of Assembly to address identified gaps, such as the need to define harmful widowhood practices and expand the scope of protection orders. Additional laws, including the Child Rights Law of 2019, the Female Inheritance Law of 2019, and the Standard Operating Procedure for Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response (2021), strengthen protections for women, children, and victims of violence. The state also adheres to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to promote gender equality. Despite the existence of these laws, awareness of them remains low, as only 46% of respondents had knowledge of GBV laws in the state. The VAPP Law requires an amendment to enhance its adequacy in addressing GBV. These include expanding the definition of incest to include grandaunts and granduncles, criminalizing coercion, extending the geographic scope of protection orders nationwide, defining harmful widowhood practices, and including intent to cause distress in property damage offences.

Access to Legal Justice

However, weak enforcement institutions, untrained personnel, poor communication tools, and interference from customary and religious practices impede the effective implementation of these laws. The lack of witness protection, inadequate compensation for victims, and delays in prosecution further undermine justice. In the past 12 months, 1,267 GBV cases were reported across the Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Justice, and NHRC. Only 39 cases were resolved despite progress, highlighting significant gaps in law enforcement and victim support mechanisms. Stricter enforcement and awareness are essential. 88% of respondents believe that religious and customary laws, though majorly unwritten and informal, help address GBV in Abia. Despite reforms to codify informal laws, some remain obnoxious, which must be abolished without further delay.

In Abia State, the Ministry of Women Affairs serves as the primary point of contact for GBV victims. Upon reporting, cases are documented for police investigation, with some settled through mediation at MoWA, while others are escalated to the Ministry of Justice for prosecution, supported by DPP, pro bono lawyers, and NGOs. 59% of Respondents prefer the formal justice system despite its bureaucracy and delay, whereas 40% prefer the informal system because it is more friendly and less adversarial. Free legal services are rendered by government lawyers at the MoJ, though victims often bear transport and logistical costs, which can discourage them from pursuing cases. Abia state lacks a robust witness protection program. However, in some cases, victims and witnesses are not brought into the open court for witnessing as a protective measure. Long prosecutions and delays persist in the state, apparently due to the lack of dedicated GBV judges and courts. Informally, cases are handled by community groups, such as Ezes-in-Council, which adjudicate using punishments like warnings, fines, floggings, movement restrictions, and banishment. However, criminal cases are referred to the police. The informal justice system, though effective in some cases, operates without a written framework, presenting challenges in consistency and enforcement.

Support Services

Abia State has one shelter but no established SARCs for GBV victims, though there is an ongoing effort to construct SARCs in the state's three senatorial zones. Currently, victims are supported through the MoWA and NGOs, who provide temporary shelter, counselling, medical assistance, and vocational training to abused victims they rescue. In addition, community-based organizations, such as Ikpirikpe Women's groups in Ohafia, collaborate with traditional rulers, vigilante groups, and religious leaders to offer informal support. Religious institutions, especially churches, provide counselling, guidance, and financial support and often assist with logistics for legal proceedings. 45% of the population studied believe that the informal systems are effective.

The Ikpirikpe Women are daring, and nobody stands in their way to dispense justice on GBV cases such

as wife battery, assault, rape, child trafficking, et cetera. They collaborate with traditional rulers and Umu Ada, age grade, and vigilante groups. Also, women report GBV matters to their religious leaders, who offer counselling and guidance. Churches also have marriage counselling units and disciplinary committees to handle such cases. Despite agreeing that the informal support systems help, respondents fear they can become unnecessarily biased against victims/survivors on certain matters. Despite these efforts, challenges remain, such as the lack of specific budget lines for GBV and inadequate government commitment to addressing the issue. Victims often face logistical costs that hinder their access to justice. While the government offers some formal support, such as legal representation and witness protection, it falls short in terms of comprehensive, sustainable services like functional SARCs and shelters.



Information and Awareness

Abia State has made some progress in its efforts to raise awareness about GBV through IE materials. The state's sensitization initiatives include a comprehensive tour of secondary schools, seminars, and workshops. Billboards featuring powerful messages like "Say No to Child Exploitation" and "Stop Gender-Based Violence" are strategically placed across the state. The Ministry of Women Affairs, NAPTIP, and NHRC all distribute IEC materials, including posters, handbills, and leaflets. Additionally, weekly radio programs such as "Know Your Rights" on Flo FM help spread awareness. Comprehensive sex education is provided in secondary schools and tertiary institutions and integrated into various courses and events. However, no specific IEC materials are tailored for persons with disabilities (PWDs), though Braille machines and white sticks have been provided for the visually impaired. In collaboration with local women's groups, the state government continues to intensify its outreach efforts, aiming for broader inclusivity and effectiveness in GBV awareness campaigns.



Budget and Spending

Abia has a dedicated budget line for addressing GBV in the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development's 2023 budget. The ministry was allocated a total of N957.62 million, achieving 79% budget performance, with N758.69 million spent. This expenditure includes N172.158 million on personnel, N5.06 million on overhead, and N527.46 million on capital projects. Specific GBV-related allocations included N5 million for COVID-19 sensitization/advocacy on GBV and sexual assault and another N5 million for constructing a state social/children's home. Given the state's population of 4,502,787, per capita spending on Ministry activities amounts to ₦178.2, far from the ideal of N1000. While the ministry's performance reflects substantial progress, increased prioritization of GBV-specific programs is essential to ensure comprehensive support for survivors.



Human Angle Story



Edem was a familiar face at his neighbor's house, Madam Amaka. He used to help them put on their generator. One day he raped the 12-year-old child of Madam Amaka. The woman had a shop opposite the house and came in late that particular day. As the woman entered the house, the perpetrator rushed out of her house. The woman raised the alarm, and the man was arrested and taken to the Police Station in Umuahia. The matter is ongoing. It was initially heard at the Magistrate Court but has now been transferred to the High Court.

Abia State

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	The VAPP Law needs some amendments by adding grandaunts and granduncles among those who can commit incest (s.2), adding the offence of coercion, expanding the scope/reach of the Protection Order to nationwide (s.35), defining "Harmful Widowhood Practices", and including "intent to cause distress under section 31.	Strictly enforce the GBV laws without fear or favour.
	Low awareness of the existing laws and policies.	Revise and expand existing laws to establish a more comprehensive legal framework to protect GBV victims and hold perpetrators accountable, including clearer victim protection laws.
		Ensure funding prioritization for more sensitization and awareness programs to spread across all LGAs and even rural communities in the state.
Access to Legal Justice 	GBV cases are handled through a combination of government institutions, including the Ministry of Women Affairs, NAPTIP, Civil Defense, and the Police, but delays and inefficiencies exist.	There is a need for better coordination of all relevant MDAs handling GBC cases in the state.
	Legal proceedings for GBV cases are often slow, with limited victim support during the trial process.	Increase training for law enforcement and judicial officers on handling GBV cases to improve efficiency and reduce prosecution delays.
	There is a witness protection program in the state. During the prosecution of cases, witnesses' names are not mentioned. They are not allowed to appear in the general courtroom to avoid being recognized. For rape victims, both the victim and witnesses are shelved from public view.	Witness protection programs should be strengthened, while long prosecution should be discouraged.
Support Services 	There is no SARC for victims to access comprehensive care and support.	Expedite the establishment and operationalization of SARCs and shelters in strategic locations to improve victim access to medical, legal, and psychological services.
	Informal support systems, particularly traditional groups, and religious organizations, play a significant role in supporting GBV victims, but there are concerns about bias and lack of accountability.	Create oversight mechanisms to prevent bias and ensure justice, strengthening and formalizing the role of traditional and informal systems in GBV cases.

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Information and Awareness 	The state has made significant progress in GBV awareness through IEC materials and sensitization programs in schools, communities, and media outlets. However, low awareness of these programs persists.	Information and awareness about GBV should be made to penetrate every nook and cranny of the state. Much more is needed to improve on what is currently being done on sensitization and awareness creation.
	There is a lack of PWD-friendly IEC materials.	The frequency of these sensitization programs should be deliberately increased to reach a greater number of people. Multimedia channels should be explored for this purpose.
		Ensure that all awareness programs reflect diverse and inclusive messages, including targeted outreach to marginalized groups and persons with disabilities.
Budget and Spending 	The state budget does not have a specific budget line for GBV information and awareness, which limits dedicated funding for GBV-related campaigns.	Advocate for including a dedicated budget line for GBV within the state's budget to ensure that adequate resources are allocated for implementing GBV policies, services, and awareness programs.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER

2023 Recommendations

Abia State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1	The VAPP Law should be reviewed by addressing problematic sections and updating it in alignment to changing dynamics.	Partially Implemented	VAPP law 2019 is under Review at the State House of Assembly
2	Government should engage in collaborative efforts with CBOs/NGOs to increase awareness of Laws and Policies and shore up support for implementing institutions to carry out their duties effectively.	Partially Implemented	From the local government to state levels, there are collaborative efforts between government, CBOs/NGOs, informal sector to create awareness about GBV laws, policies, and implementation. This was collaborated by the different KI officers at the MDAs
Access to Legal Justice			
3	Government should allocate funds to the prosecution of GBV cases and invest in its witness protection program and the training of staff in line with modern technological advancements.	Partially Implemented	There is witness protection program in the state.
4	Government should make provision for dedicated GBV judges to promote speedy dispensation of justice.	Not Implemented	Responses from KII in MDAs indicate that the state is yet to appoint dedicated judges for GBV cases
Support Services			
5	Government to establish and equip SARCs in each Local Government Area, ensuring accessibility for GBV victims/survivors.	Not Implemented	Currently, there are no Sexual Assault Referral Centres in Abia State but there is an ongoing SARC under construction
6	Improved collaboration between government, NGOs/CBOs for the provision of support services.	Partially Implemented	The GBV Team in Abia comprises of Federal MDAs (Civil Defense, NAPTIP, state MDAs, SA, Judiciary, NGOs, Media and CBOs)
Information and Awareness			
7	Government should make annual budgetary allocations for the implementation of comprehensive GBV awareness campaigns and programs in the state.	Not Implemented	
8	Awareness campaigns to be intensified across formal and informal institutions in the state with more regular radio and tv programming.	Fully Implemented	Abia State is progressing with sensitization tour and conducting seminars in secondary schools. There is improvement in GBV campaigns and sensitization across institutions, schools. Media Houses that host weekly GBV programs include Flo FM, BCA, and weekly meetings of the GBV Teams to chat way forward



Adamawa State



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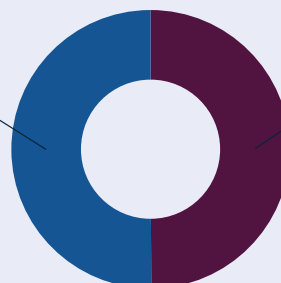
invictus
AFRICA





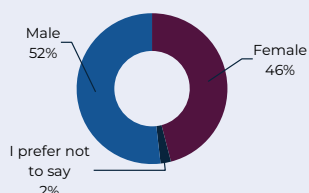
Total Population
5,046,296

Male
2,527,595
50%

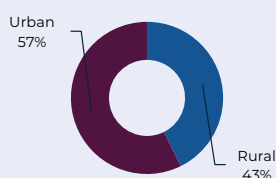


Female
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50%

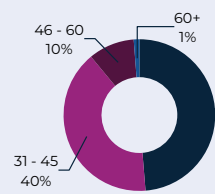
Respondents: 581



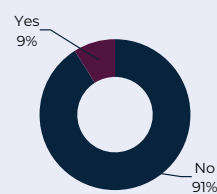
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **1109**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) **3**



No. of active shelters **5**



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs) **12**



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

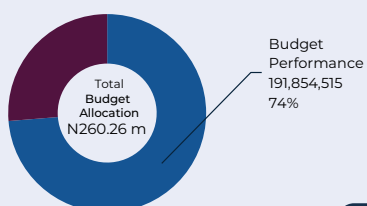


Budget and Spending

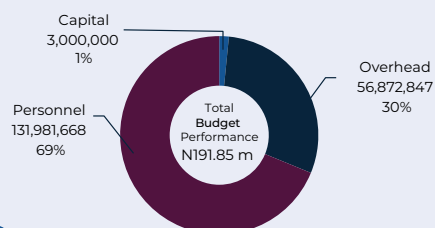


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

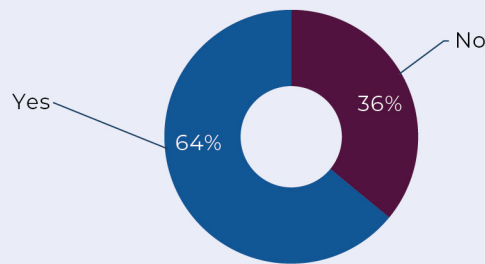


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N38**

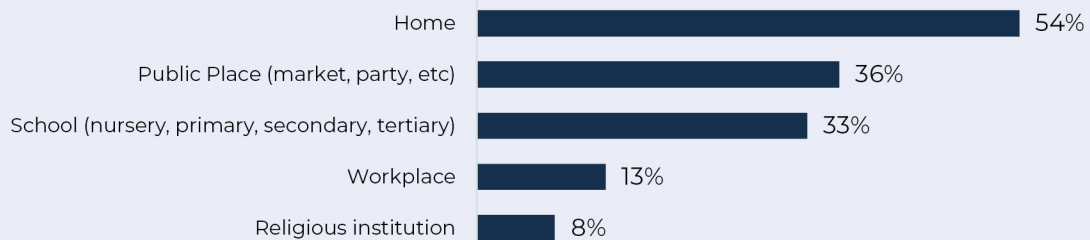
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



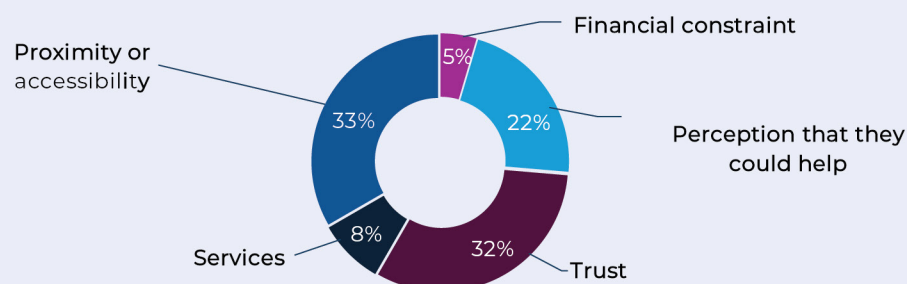
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

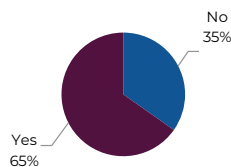


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

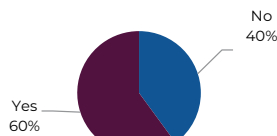


Laws and Policies

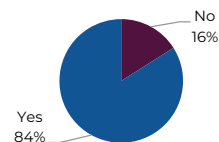
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

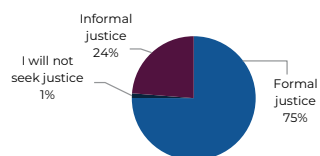


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

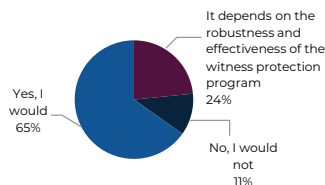


Access to Legal Justice

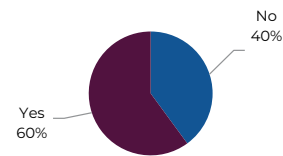
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

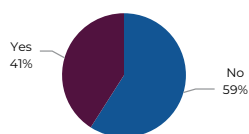


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

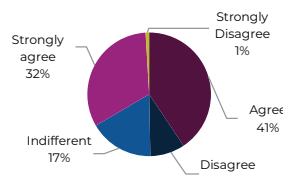


Support Services

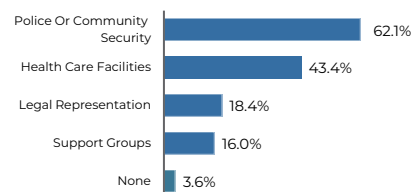
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



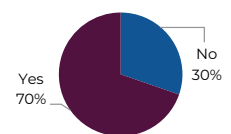
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

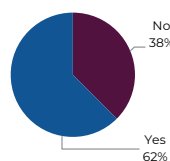


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

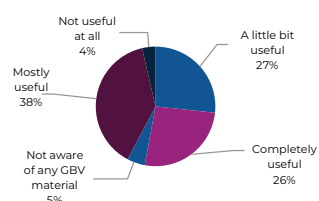


Information and Awareness

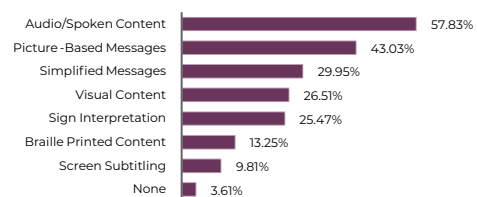
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Adamawa State has enacted several laws to address gender-based violence, including the Penal Code, which defines rape and other forms of violence, the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act (VAPP) for prosecuting offenders, and the Child Protection Act to protect children from harmful practices and violence. 64.4% of respondents are aware of these laws, thus, education and outreach are needed to improve understanding. Most respondents (83.2%) believe in the effectiveness of formal laws, indicating trust in the formal justice system. Advocacy efforts are ongoing to strengthen the VAPP Law. Proposed amendments include explicitly defining “trafficking” as a form of violence against persons and clarifying the “appropriate Government Ministry” responsible for its implementation. In January 2022, a committee was established to review the state’s Penal Code Law, aiming to further enhance legal protections for victims of gender-based violence. Additionally, despite the existence of these laws, challenges in implementation persist due to inadequate funding and the limited capacity of relevant actors and institutions.

Survey results reveal that a significant number (68%) know of GBV-related convictions, indicating some level of enforcement of GBV laws. Further analysis reveals these convictions have deterrent effects. Over the past 12 months, a total of 106 cases have been reported to security agencies, including the police and Civil Defence Corps, of which eight of the cases have been filed in court while ten prosecutions were secured. Although 86.5% of respondents believe that customary and religious laws help prevent and respond to GBV, this belief might not necessarily reflect their actual effectiveness. While these systems may enjoy community trust, their capacity to provide comprehensive justice and support for survivors remains questionable.

Access to Legal Justice

Incidents of gender-based violence in the state can be reported through various channels, including in-person police reports, toll-free telephone numbers, suggestion boxes in safe spaces, one-stop centers, and area offices. NGOs have developed mobile-based applications, such as the Smart RR tool, which allows for anonymous reporting of GBV-related cases. Prosecutors and surveillance teams are responsible for taking reported cases to court and responding promptly to incidents. According to members of the NSCDC, surveillance systems are active and effective, and efforts are made to gather evidence. Family and relatives are often the first point of contact for GBV victims, providing support and help. Friends, neighbors, and employers also play a significant role in supporting victims. Informal networks, such as family and community ties, are crucial in providing accessible and trustworthy support.

Furthermore, CSOs, including FIDA and an NGO owned by Fatima Haraji, offer legal aid, providing standby lawyers at State CID offices to endorse perpetrators’ statements. However, challenges persist in addressing GBV cases. The witness protection mechanism is inadequate, with only private rooms for statement-taking available at police stations. While informal justice systems, such as religious and cultural practices, are effective in administering GBV justice, they often lack capacity, coordination, and documentation. Despite these challenges, a significant percentage (86.5%) of respondents believe that customary and religious laws help prevent and respond to GBV, highlighting the value placed on cultural practices in addressing GBV issues.

Support Services

Adamawa State has five shelters, and three Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs) located in Yola, Mubi, and Numan. These facilities offer a range of services, including psychosocial support, legal aid, referrals, shelter, empowerment, and livelihood training. Although government-owned, many were initially established by NGOs. The services offered are often hindered by funding constraints, drug shortages, and overcrowding. To improve accessibility to a greater number of the population, additional shelters and SARCs should be established in other areas of the state. The primary reporting mechanism for GBV cases in Adamawa State is the police, with victims able to report in person or via a toll-free hotline.

Additionally, NGOs have implemented mobile-based applications for anonymous reporting, and suggestion boxes are available in safe spaces. The Ministry of Women Affairs also serves as a reporting channel. While these systems are effective, challenges such as delayed reporting, which can compromise

evidence, and a lack of coordination and training among stakeholders persist. 78.7% of the respondents believe that informal justice systems, such as traditional and community-based mechanisms, are effective in addressing GBV. This suggests that these systems are trusted and perceived as accessible. However, it is crucial to recognize the limitations of informal systems and ensure that they are complemented by robust formal justice mechanisms.

Information and Awareness

Information, education, and communication (IEC) materials on GBV are disseminated through various channels, including radio, television, and printed materials. However, distribution is often inconsistent and primarily focused on specific communities where NGOs have interventions or during special events like the 16 Days of Activism against GBV and International Women's Day. There is a notable absence of budget lines for GBV-related IEC in the Ministry of Women Affairs' budget, and available IEC materials often fail to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities. While 97.3% of respondents support integrating GBV and child sexual abuse education into school curricula, the current implementation is inconsistent, with sex education often integrated into subjects like Integrated Science. While some efforts have been made to provide GBV information in accessible formats, such as audio and sign language, there are limitations in reaching PWDs who rely on other mediums like braille or screen subtitling. This highlights the need for more inclusive and targeted information and awareness strategies.

Budget and Spending

In 2023, the state's Ministry of Women Affairs spent N191.85 million out of its budgetary allocation of N260.26 million, achieving a 74% execution rate. Out of the funds utilized, N131.98 million (69%) was spent on personnel costs, constituting a significant portion of the total allocation. N56.87 million (30%) and N3 million (2%) were spent on overhead and capital expenditure components of the budget, respectively. The state's per capita spending by the Ministry of Women Affairs was N38, falling below the national average. Despite the limited allocation, the ministry undertook key projects, including the procurement of instructional materials in all 21 local government areas to promote awareness of child rights for N10 million, the rehabilitation of safe and child-friendly spaces statewide for N10 million, and the purchase of banners and billboards for advocacy and sensitization efforts on gender-based violence, also for N10 million. However, the ministry continues to face significant funding challenges, impacting its ability to effectively address GBV.

Human Angle Story



Jamima (real name withheld), a young woman from a small village in Michika LGA of Adamawa State, was a victim of domestic violence. Her husband subjected her to years of physical and emotional abuse. The beatings, the insults, and the constant fear had taken a toll on her physical and mental health. Despite the pain and suffering, Jamima hesitated to seek help. Cultural norms and societal pressures often dictate that women should endure domestic violence in silence. Fear of stigma, shame, and potential retaliation from her abuser further hindered her from reaching out. When she finally mustered the courage to confide in her mother, she was met with disbelief and judgment. Her mother, instead of offering support, advised her to endure the abuse for the sake of her children and the family's honor. Jamima's said lack of access to essential support services, such as counselling, legal aid, and safe shelters, hindered her recovery and perpetuates the cycle of abuse.

Adamawa State

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	Some GBV-related laws are not comprehensive enough to adequately address GBV. For instance, the Penal Code did not provide compensation for GBV survivors, although the VAPP law complemented this by making provision for compensation.	All laws, especially GBV-related ones, should be reviewed to address gaps, ensuring they effectively address GBV.
	Implementation of the VAPP law is limited due to a lack of funding. This is in addition to the low capacity of actors saddled with the responsibility of implementing the law.	Devote funds to activities that aid the implementation of the VAPP Law; and the capacity of judges and prosecutors should be enhanced to aid speedy and just dispensation of justice.
	Some of the informal laws practiced in the state further perpetuate GBV. Patriarchy, linked to culture and religion, is the underlying driver of GBV in the state, depicted in the exclusion of women from decision-making around family planning, marriage, property ownership, and participation in governance.	Intensify oversight reach to ensure that the informal laws and practice align with the formal laws.
Access to Legal Justice 	Government actors require further training and collaboration to effectively deploy the mobile-based application reporting channel. Delays in reporting destroy evidence.	Enhance the capacity of government personnel to collect and preserve evidence and designate courts closer to people to ensure speedy reports.
	The Federation of Female Lawyers (FIDA) is the only entity that provides pro-bono or free legal services to GBV survivors.	Recruit lawyers who can provide free legal assistance to GBV victims and survivors. Lawyers in private practice should be encouraged to provide legal aid to survivors, pro bono.
	Absence of witness protection mechanisms.	Implement robust witness protection system to encourage people to stand as witnesses.
Support Services 	There is a limited number of SARC and shelters, which is situated in the state capital.	Establish more shelters and SARCs to adequately cater to the needs of the population.
	There is a shortage of medical supplies, and healthcare workers are inadequately compensated.	Make adequate budgetary provision for medical supplies and the welfare of health workers and other service providers should be enhanced.
Information and Awareness 	There is limited spread of IEC materials, and they often do not accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities.	Distribution of IEC materials should be coordinated across ministries, should have wider coverage, and should be across ministries, inclusive, and consistent.
	There is no evidence of GBV being integrated into the school curriculum or of teachers receiving adequate training on GBV, indicating a critical need for comprehensive teacher training on GBV prevention, response, and victim support.	The government should Integrate GBV education into the school curriculum and provide comprehensive training to teachers on GBV prevention, response, and support.
	While awareness campaigns have increased knowledge of GBV, social stigma remains a significant barrier to open discussions about the issue. Tangible aid, such as school supplies and medical devices, can help build trust within communities, but sustaining engagement without ongoing benefits is challenging.	<p>Continuous sensitization and advocacy for behavioral change are necessary for sustained impact.</p> <p>Stronger advocacy is needed to address cultural resistance to GBV discussions.</p> <p>Field outreach with practical aids has successfully helped to gain trust, although community interest often wanes when immediate benefits are lacking.</p>

Budget and Spending







Although the Ministry of Women Affairs recorded a relatively high budget execution rate in 2023, 74%, the budgetary allocation to the Ministry was grossly inadequate.

Spending per capita by the Ministry of Women Affairs at N38 is below par.

Improve the budget performance rate of the Ministry by ensuring adequate funds disbursement. Additionally, the budget provision and release should be substantially increased to aid the Ministry in effectively and efficiently dealing with the menace of GBV in the state.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Adamawa State

S/No.		Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies				
1		Ensure full implementation of GBV-related laws and policies to achieve desired results.	Partially Implemented	Although efforts are being made to ensure the full implementation of policies, however challenges still exist, hence the conviction rates are still low
2		Intensify awareness creation efforts and sensitization on existing GBV laws and policies in the state.	Fully Implemented	Many organizations now mainstream GBV awareness into their project interventions
3		Train and retrain law enforcement agencies to ensure better investigation of GBV cases that will lead to the successful prosecution of offenders.	Partially Implemented	The implementation of this is weak as only a few organizations who implement donor-funded GBV project conduct such training with limited scope and coverage
Access to Legal Justice				
4		Law enforcement agencies and legal assistance service providers should ensure higher success rates in prosecution to restore the confidence of the public in the justice system.	Not Implemented	Success rates in terms of prosecution of GBV offenders is still abysmally low.
5		There is a need for more awareness creation on existing laws, especially at the grassroots level and the need to support victims/survivors and end stigmatization.	Partially Implemented	This is currently ongoing, major by local organizations.
6		The government should assign dedicated GBV judges in area courts and upper area courts to facilitate accelerated hearing and dispensation of justice on GBV cases.	Not Implemented	This has not been implemented and constitute a barrier in terms of access to justice for survivors/victims
Support Services				
7		Create more campaigns and sensitize the populace on the existing support systems in the state.	Partially Implemented	A few organizations who have accessed the Nigerian humanitarian fund are currently implementing this.
8		Strengthen, coordinate and improve synergy among different service providers.	Fully Implemented	This is being acheived through the monthly GBV sub-sector working group meetings.
9		Increase budgetary allocation and disbursements to MDAs working on GBV.	Not Implemented	Budgetary allocations and releases are still abysmally low
Information and Awareness				
10		Incorporated comprehensive sex-related topics in the schools' curriculum and sensitise parents, communities, and religious leaders on the role of comprehensive sex education.	Not Implemented	This is yet to be implemented into the curriculum
11		IEC materials should be well coordinated and PWDs-friendly and address cultural attitudes based on the inferiority or superiority of wo(men).	Partially Implemented	Some disability-led organizations are into this.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER 2023 Recommendations Adamawa State			
12	Prioritize and fund GBV programs and activities of MDAs.	Not Implemented	The implementation of this is weak funding for GBV programs comes mostly from donor funding to CSOs and NGOs and are restricted. MDAs suffer from inadequate funding to implement GBV programs



Akwa Ibom State



Womanity
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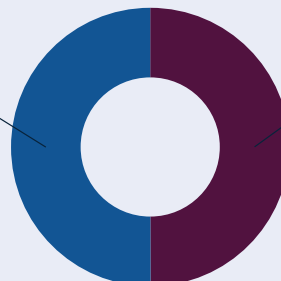
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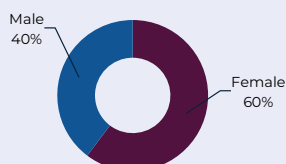
Total Population
5,151,629
5,151,629

Male
2,577,601
50%

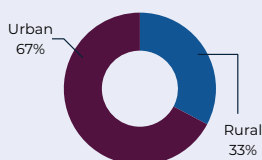


Female
2,574,028
50%

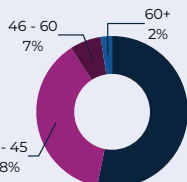
Respondents: 617



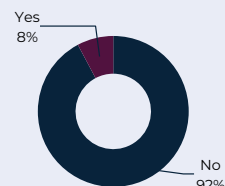
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **264**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)s **2**



No. of active shelters **1**



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs) **11**



Index Grades

Laws and Policies ●

Access to Legal Justice ●

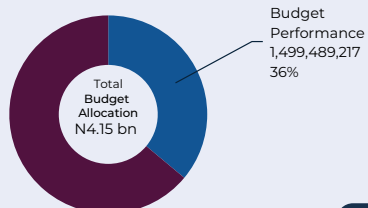
Support Services ●

Information and Awareness ●

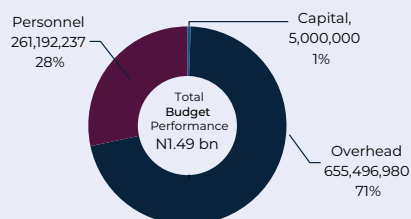
Budget and Spending ●

Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

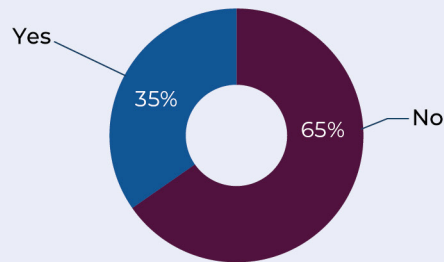


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N291.1**

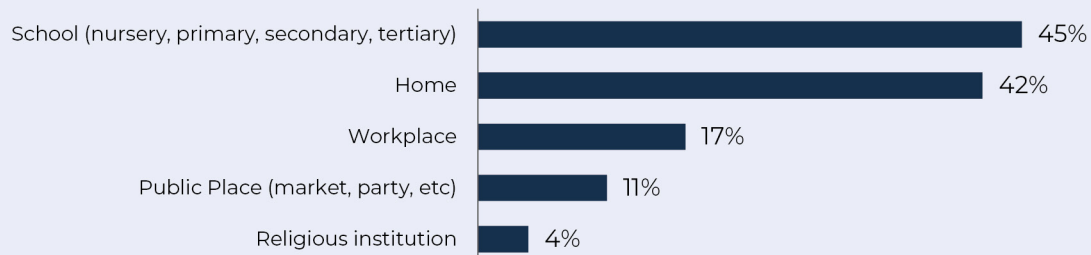
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



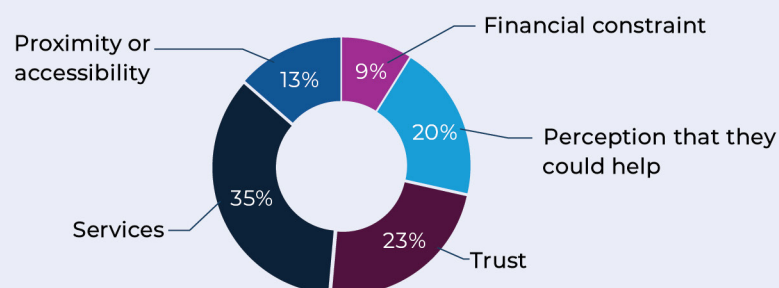
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

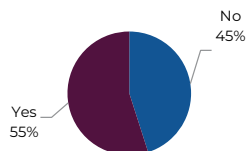


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

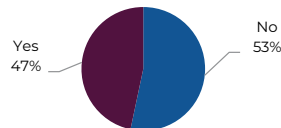


Laws and Policies

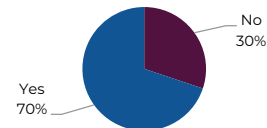
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

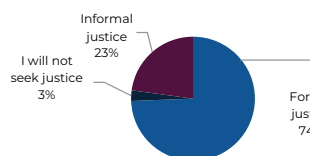


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

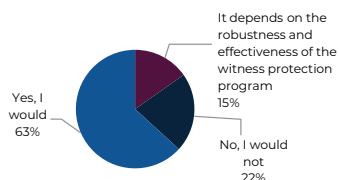


Access to Legal Justice

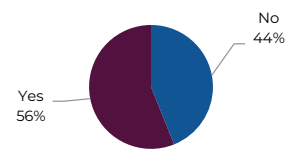
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

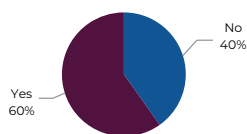


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

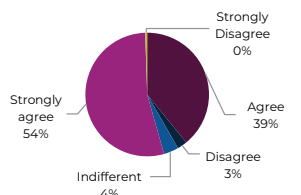


Support Services

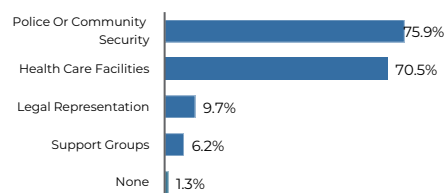
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



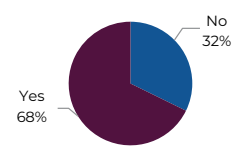
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

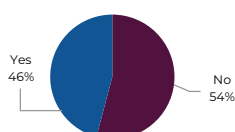


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

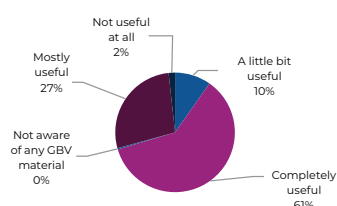


Information and Awareness

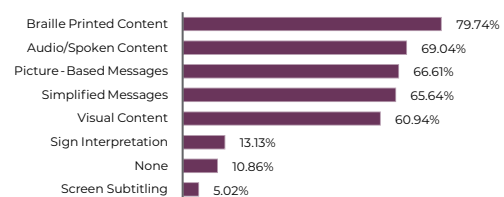
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Laws and policies relating to gender-based violence exist in the state including the Child's Rights Law, Harmful Widowhood Law 2013, VAPP Law 2020, and the Gender Policy. These laws are used often, especially the VAPP Laws 2022, which are very holistic and detailed, although there is an undefined penalty/sanction for those who aid or procure rape or help rapists hide in the VAPP Law. In 2023, the Child Rights Law was amended, and children between the ages of 16 and 18 are now captured in the recent review. To strengthen the VAPP Law, several key gaps need to be addressed. These include expanding the definition of incest in Section 2 to include grandaunts and granduncles, providing a comprehensive definition of harmful traditional practices in Section 51(1), and incorporating provisions for "intent to cause distress" in Section 31. Additionally, the scope of Protection Orders should be broadened to apply beyond state borders, as outlined in Section 35. Finally, the law should explicitly establish coercion as a criminal offence, thereby ensuring a more robust framework for combating gender-based violence.

Of the 617 residents sampled, 55 % are aware of the existence of the laws and policies that address GBV in the State, though efforts such as creating the simplified version of the AKS VAPP Law translated into four local languages of Akwa Ibom State -Ibibio, Annang, Oro, and Eket which is now widely distributed among the relevant communities. 67% find them effective in preventing and responding to GBV. From January to October 2024, 264 Cases of SGBV were reported, and 19 convictions have been secured. There is ongoing modernisation of GBV-related customary laws to make them formal and align with the state's GBV laws. It has been outlawed with the Akwa Ibom State VAPP Law 2020. The seven communities created seven (7) by-laws. This could scale across the 329 political wards of Akwa Ibom State with the support of donor agencies.

Access to Legal Justice

Victims of GBV report cases at police GBV desks, the Ministry of Justice, or the Ministry of Women Affairs. The SGBV Department petitions the police to investigate, and cases are forwarded to the Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP) for court prosecution. Survey results show that 73.47% of respondents would seek formal justice. Specialized police Family Support Units (FSUs) assist victims but face resource shortages. Pro bono legal aid, provided by the state and NGOs, includes filing petitions, securing court orders, and representing victims. However, witness protection under the VAPP Law remains limited, with no formalized program. Even though there is no legal framework for a structured witness protection program in Akwa Ibom State, the SGBV Department, in practice, provides witness protection with a budget line for that purpose.

Informal justice systems, such as traditional and religious councils, should refer GBV cases to formal mechanisms. Efforts to modernize informal practices are underway, with some communities adopting codified by-laws. Notably, 60.9% of respondents believe informal systems contribute to ensuring justice for victims. Advocacy continues for appointing dedicated GBV judges and enhancing resources for the police family unit.

Support Services

The state has one active government-owned shelter, the State GBV Center, a 60-bed facility commissioned in 2022, and a functional shelter owned by FIDA. In the 2023 budget, N25 million was allocated to a safe shelter for survivors, and further allocations for the furnishing and skill acquisition programs in the Transit Camp Shelter Afrique Uyo amounted to N10m. This reflects efforts the state is making to improve its support services. Additionally, two functional SARC centres operate across the senatorial districts, providing medical care without requiring police reports, skill acquisition programs, and accommodation for victims. These facilities play a vital role in offering support and care to GBV victims and survivors. Also, N1.2 million allocation was made for response to SGBV in 2023, N20mn for the Establishment of Trauma Centres in the 3 Senatorial Districts for GBV survivors and facilitators, and the furnishing of three newly established

Rape referral centres at Ituk-Mbang Ikot Ekpene N15m was allocated. If these budgetary efforts are fully implemented, then Akwa Ibom will become one of the postal states with a strong support system for GBV cases in the south-south region.

The state employs a unified referral pathway tailored to the nature of GBV cases, involving security agencies, SARCs, legal representation, and shelters as front liners. Informal support systems, including traditional councils and family groups, are restricted to managing minor cases and are mandated to refer serious cases to formal mechanisms. 68% of the survey population believes informal support systems are more effective than formal ones in addressing GBV. There is no information on forensic lab availability or usage for prosecuting GBV cases. The state allocates budgetary resources for GBV case prosecution. It requires enhancement to meet the growing demands of GBV interventions.

Information and Awareness

The state has developed a simplified version of the VAPP law translated into three major dialectical groupings, though in limited quantity. A GBV training manual has been disseminated among primary and secondary schools, alongside the launch of a unified GBV response protocol and referral pathway targeting schools, traditional leaders, and religious groups. Comprehensive sex education, enhanced by the GBV manual, is part of the curriculum.

Public sensitization includes weekly radio and TV programs across multiple stations and monthly social media campaigns. IEC materials, such as billboards, flyers, and handbills, are used in awareness programs. These materials are PWD-sensitive, featuring sign interpretation, audio content, simplified messages, and screen subtitling, with braille content under production. Despite these efforts, no specific events target PWDs. Survey results reveal only 43.88% of respondents are aware of GBV information and awareness programs, highlighting gaps in outreach and accessibility of sensitization efforts. More than half of the budget is underutilized, and minimal funding is available for capital projects essential for effective GBV interventions. This indicates limited prioritization.

Budget and Spending

In 2023, Akwa Ibom State allocated N4.16 billion to its Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare. However, only 36% (N1.5 billion) of this allocation was spent. While significant funds were directed towards personnel (N261 million) and overhead (N655 million) costs, capital projects and GBV interventions received minimal funding. Despite budget provisions for crucial GBV interventions like trauma centres, rape referral centres, and shelters, amounting to N70 million, the actual spending remains significantly low. With a population of 6.96 million, the per capita spending on GBV issues is a mere N291.1. To effectively address the state's GBV challenges, there's an urgent need to optimize budget allocation and utilization.



Human Angle Story






"After experiencing the trauma of being raped, I was able to take swift action by ensuring the perpetrator was arrested. Though a certain NGO attempted to mediate, I firmly declined and instead sought help from the Gender-Based Violence Department at the Ministry of Justice. Their response was immediate and thorough. Not only did they ensure the suspect was promptly remanded, but they also provided continuous support, offering me shelter when I faced threats from the perpetrator's family. Their intervention has given me renewed hope for justice, and I am profoundly grateful for their dedication. The department has truly restored my faith in the possibility of justice and safety, and for that, I say thank you." - Peace from Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.


Akwa Ibom State

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	The state has key laws like the VAPP Law (2020) and Free Medical Care Law (2022) that protect GBV victims and define various forms of abuse.	A well-structured implementation mechanism would ensure the effective achievement of the provisions outlined in these laws.
	The VAPP Law lacks strict penalties for aiding offenders, witness protection, and measures against false accusations	The VAPP Law should be amended to introduce stringent penalties for aiding offenders, comprehensive witness protection, and clear provisions for addressing false accusations.
	Community leaders often mediate rape cases outside formal legal channels, undermining the rule of law and potentially enabling impunity for perpetrators.	Community leaders need ongoing training on GBV laws and response to strengthen their understanding and commitment, promoting accountability and support for survivors at the grassroots level.
Access to Legal Justice 	There is a lack of a comprehensive witness protection program in the State, leaving witnesses vulnerable and potentially discouraging them from testifying in GBV cases.	Develop and implement a robust witness protection program that guarantees safety, confidentiality, and support for witnesses in GBV cases.
	The state government has allocated budgetary provisions for free legal assistance to support GBV victims, ensuring they have access to justice.	To encourage more victims to seek justice, the public, especially in rural areas, should be more aware of the availability of free legal assistance.
	The state has no dedicated GBV judge;	The state should prioritise appointing and training new judges as GBV-dedicated judges to ensure specialised and efficient case handling.
	Internal issues within the police force, including interference with GBV cases, bribery, extortion, and the release of wealthy perpetrators, undermine the pursuit of justice for victims.	The state must reinstate a dedicated GBV desk within the police, implement robust accountability measures, and provide regular training to ensure prompt and proper handling of GBV cases.
	Delegating GBV-related assignments to lower-ranking officers who cannot handle such cases	Assign GBV cases to only trained officers and provide ongoing specialised training for all personnel.
	Customary law systems are not aligned with formal justice processes, hindering effective handling of GBV cases.	Strengthen the customary law system by modernizing it to align with formal justice processes, improving its response to GBV cases and promoting justice for survivors.
Support Services 	The state has established two functional SARC centres across the three senatorial districts.	Strengthen and expand the reach of the SARC centers by increasing public awareness, improving staffing, and ensuring access to necessary resources for comprehensive victim support and care.
	The state has provided a 60-bed facility shelter, which provides welfare and accommodation and serves as a skill acquisition facility.	The state should increase skill acquisition opportunities, ensure long-term support for survivors, and expand its resources to accommodate more population.
	The state has established a GBV Management Committee tasked with coordinating and responding to GBV-related issues.	Strengthen the Committee by providing more resources to ensure timely and effective responses to GBV cases across the state.

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
Information and Awareness 	The state has developed, launched and disseminated the Akwa Ibom state GBV response training manual for schools.	Ensure expansion of reach and organise frequent training programs for teachers and students. In addition, a system should be created to monitor progress and impact.
	No specific event or workshop targeted at PWDs, though they are invited to GBV programs	The state should create a targeted awareness program specifically made for PWDs
Budget and Spending 	Budget provisions were made for three trauma centres, the furnishing of newly established rape referral centres, and provisions for shelters and transit homes across the state, all amounting to N70mn in the 2023 budget.	Proper utilization of funds provided to implement these support systems in the state. The state government must also ensure up to 100% disbursement of allocated funds to achieve this.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Akwa Ibom State

S/No.		Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies				
1		The state should incorporate witness protection in the laws.	Not Implemented	Either the ACJ Law 2022 or the VAPP Law 2020 be amended to incorporate witness protection or an Akwa Ibom Witness Protection Bill be sent to the House of Assembly for legislation and assent by the Governor. For now, witness protection is missing in our laws.
2		There should be an amendment of the Child Rights Law to accommodate all children under the age of 18.	Fully Implemented	Fully implemented. It was amended in 2023, children between the ages of 16 and 18 are now captured with the Amended Child Rights Law 2023.
3		The government should continue to outlaw informal practices that perpetuate GBV in communities.	Fully Implemented	It has been outlawed with the Akwa Ibom State VAPP Law 2020. Seven (7) by-laws created by the seven 7 communities. This could scaled across the 329 political wards of Akwa Ibom State with support of donor agencies.
Access to Legal Justice				
4		More passionate lawyers need to be recruited in the SGBV Response Department of the Ministry of Justice.	Partially Implemented	The Ministry of Justice, through its SGBV Response Department, needs to recruit more passionate lawyers to match the increasing number of cases reported to it
5		There should be trained and dedicated GBV judges and Special GBV Courts where GBV cases are heard.	Not Implemented	Though, request has been made to the Chief Judge of Akwa Ibom State; we recommend that the judges that will be posted to Akwa Ibom State by the National Judicial Commission, at least 2 should be assigned as dedicated GBV judges for speedy dispensation of justice.
6		There should be a structured witness protection program in the state.	Partially Implemented	Even though there is no legal framework for a structured witness protection program in Akwa Ibom State, the SGBV Department in practice provide witnesses protection, with a budget line for that purpose.
Support Services				
7		SARC/shelters need to be established in all the local government areas in the state.	Partially Implemented	SARCs are established in 3 of the Senatorial Districts in Akwa Ibom State -Uyo, Eket, and Ikot Ekpene LGAs.
8		Sensitization programs should be carried out to enlighten the public of the reporting and referral pathways.	Partially Implemented	This is done through collaboration with CBOs and NGOs at the grassroots.
9		The public should be sensitized and encouraged to equally report GBV cases to the formal authorities.	Partially Implemented	This is done.
Information and Awareness				
10		The VAPP Law should be translated to the three major dialectical groups of the State - Ibibio, Annang, and Oron - and widely distributed among the relevant communities.	Fully Implemented	Excellently done; the simplified version of the AKS VAPP Law translated to four local languages of Akwa Ibom State -Ibibio, Annang, Oro, and Eket.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER				
2023 Recommendations				
Akwa Ibom State				
	11	There should be sustained effort in the dissemination of the state's GBV Response Training manual for schools by the GBV Management Committee.	Partially Implemented	All the Principals of the Public Secondary Schools have copies of the Manual for their schools but this hasn't been replicated to Private Schools
	12	Private radio and TV stations should support or subsidize the cost of the campaign.	Partially Implemented	Some private stations in the State are doing well in this regards but other private stations are yet to comply
	13	Target campaigns should be conducted for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).	Not Implemented	



Anambra State



Womanity
INDEX
2024 Edition

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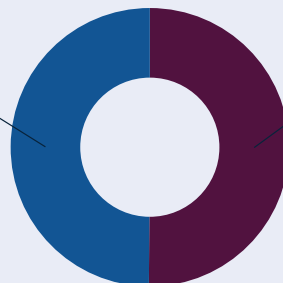




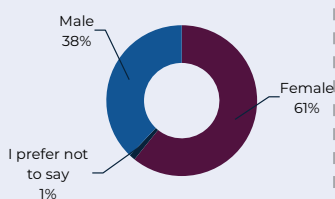
Total Population
6,122,572
6,122,572

Male
3,054,712
50%

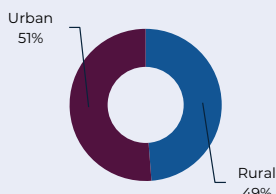
Female
3,067,860
50%



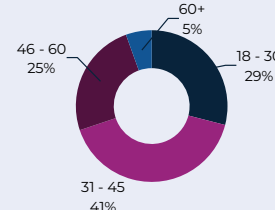
Respondents: 617



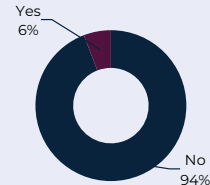
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **1109**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) **4**



No. of active shelters **5**



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs) **12**



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

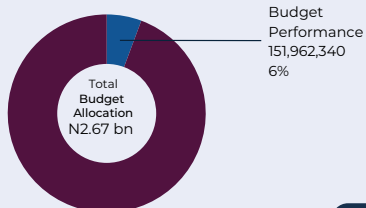


Budget and Spending

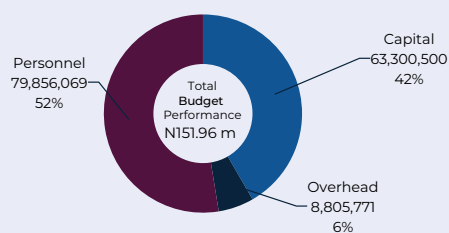


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

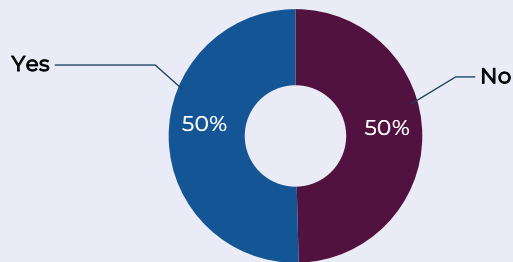


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N24.8**

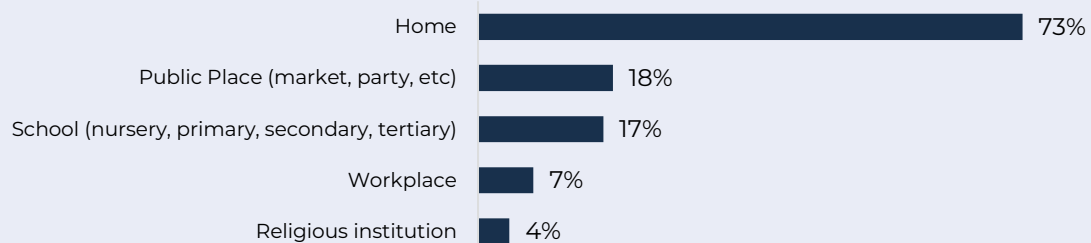
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



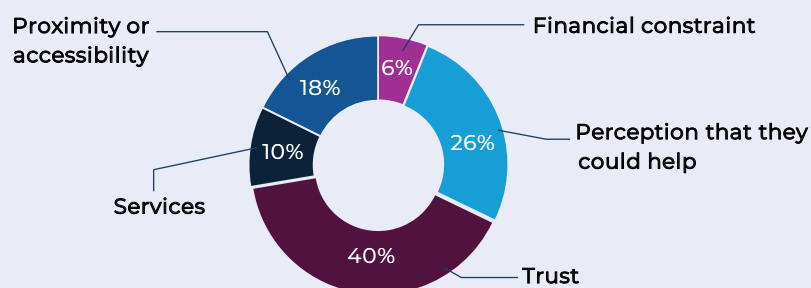
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

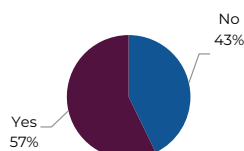


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

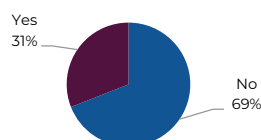


Laws and Policies

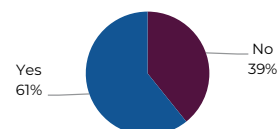
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

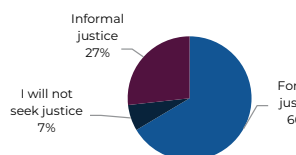


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

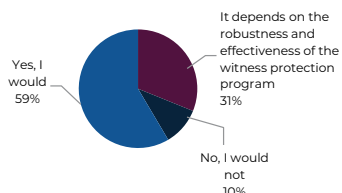


Access to Legal Justice

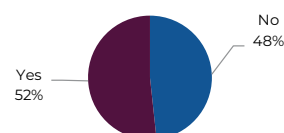
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

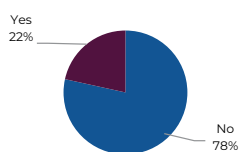


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

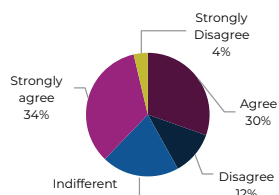


Support Services

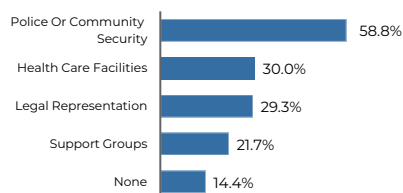
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



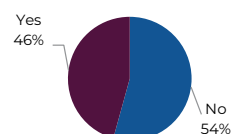
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

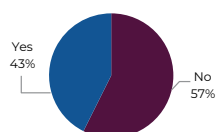


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

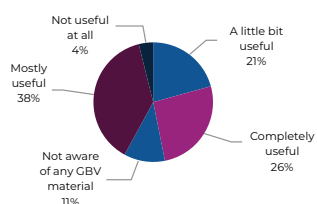


Information and Awareness

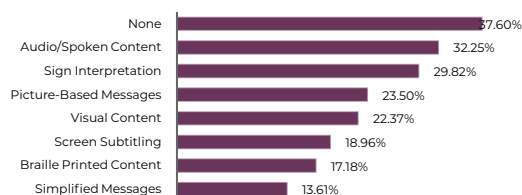
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Anambra State has made significant strides in addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) through comprehensive legal frameworks. The Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law (2017) is the primary legislation tackling various forms of GBV, including sexual violence, harassment, harmful traditional practices, and emotional abuse. It provides for victim protection, accountability for perpetrators, and access to justice. Additionally, the Child Rights Law (2004) criminalizes child abuse, with stringent penalties for offenders, and the Disability Rights Law (2018) prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities (PWDs), offering protection and sanctions for violators.

Gaps in the VAPP law, such as the definition of abandonment that includes all persons to avoid unintended discrimination, the provision for submission of an Annual Report, and the provision for establishing a Sex Offenders Register, still exist, and a review is necessary. However, despite the existence of these laws, implementation remains a challenge. Awareness of the laws among citizens (57%), especially at the grassroots level, is low. Cultural norms, such as the deep-rooted patriarchy, child marriages, and the treatment of widows, have been highlighted as practices that perpetuate GBV in the state, which hinders the effective enforcement of these laws. Furthermore, the Disability Rights Law has seen limited application, as no offender has been prosecuted. The 2023 budget of Anambra State committed N3 million to implement the CEDAW convention; however, the disbursement and implementation have not been reflected in the state.

Access to Legal Justice

In Anambra State, the government and NGOs play critical roles in addressing GBV through legal and support systems. The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Women Affairs are central to handling GBV cases. At the same time, various NGOs, such as Legal Aid, FIDA, and the National Human Rights Commission, provide pro-bono legal assistance. The state has established two specialized courts—Magistrate and High Court—with dedicated judges to fast-track GBV cases. However, there is a pressing need for additional courts due to the increasing number of reported cases. Specialized Family Support Units (FSUs) in police stations have not been fully utilized, with most cases still handled by general investigative units.

While awareness of legal assistance is relatively average at 52%, funding remains a significant challenge, as officers often request mobilization fees from complainants. The state also lacks a clear witness protection program, undermining the prosecution process's confidence. Informal justice systems, such as traditional rulers and community leaders, remain influential, although they sometimes fail to provide justice due to cultural pressures. The growing demand for legal services, coupled with the challenges of limited resources, highlights the urgent need for expanded infrastructure and funding to ensure timely and effective justice for GBV survivors.

Support Services

In Anambra State, there is a critical gap in support services for victims of GBV. Awareness about available services, such as medical, legal, psycho-social, and economic support, remains low, with 55.14% of respondents unaware of these services. The state has only one SARC, located in Enugwu-Ukwu, which is inadequately equipped and reliant on external support from the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (RoLAC) program. While a temporary shelter exists within the Community Children's Home in Awka, there are no government-owned, permanent shelters for GBV survivors. Plans to establish a permanent shelter have been delayed, and the current temporary shelter is insufficient for the growing needs of survivors.

Additionally, there is a lack of adequate medical and forensic facilities, which hampers the effectiveness of GBV interventions. Formal support systems, including the SARC and the Ministry of Women Affairs, collaborate with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health to provide legal and medical services. However, informal support systems, such as families and religious institutions, are often seen as more responsive, though they are less formal and resource dependent. Efforts by the state to address support

services in the states include N35 million for the Anti-Child Abuse & Neglect Program, N3 million Naira for providing shelter for children in conflict with the law, and another. The state also committed N7 million towards the reintegration and care of trafficked children and women and N3 million for establishing a temporary shelter for women and young girls. Although these allocations look promising, disbursement and utilization of funds for proper implementation is a major challenge.

Information and Awareness

Awareness about the campaign against GBV is still relatively low, as 57% of the respondents do not know about the State's information and awareness programs or materials. This underscores the need to intensify awareness creation efforts around GBV. Although various IEC materials on GBV are being used for sensitization and awareness creation purposes in public places like marketplaces, schools, and churches, utilizing various media like fliers, sound systems, TV and radio, posters, and social media by MDAs and NGOs such as FIDA, NHRC, NOA, FIDA, CPN, among others, it has not penetrated all the nooks and crannies of the state because of concerns around frequency and effectiveness.

The state-owned Anambra Broadcasting Service (ABS) plays a key role in disseminating GBV messages, though the lack of consistent funding hinders the frequency and effectiveness. Additionally, there is a gap in reaching Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), with limited IEC materials available in accessible formats like braille, sign language, or easy-to-read content. To improve, there is a pressing need for increased funding for IEC campaigns, prioritizing inclusivity for PWDs, and ensuring consistent, widespread GBV awareness efforts throughout the state.

Budget and Spending

In Anambra State, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Children & Women Affairs had a final budget allocation of N2.67 billion for 2023. However, actual performance significantly lagged, with only N151.96 million expended, marking a budget performance rate of approximately 6%. A closer breakdown of the expenditure shows that N79.85 million was spent on personnel, while N8.80 million went toward overhead costs. Capital expenditure amounted to N63.3 million. Key GBV-related projects in the 2023 budget include anti-child abuse programs, shelters for women and children, and trafficking reintegration, all amounting to N24.8 per capita. Despite the large allocation, the state faced challenges in effectively utilizing its budget, there is a need for improved budgeting processes and stronger efforts to ensure funds are fully disbursed and utilized to address the growing needs of GBV victims and survivors in the state.



Human angle Story






Chidimma, a young and timid housemaid from Igbakwu in Ayamelum LGA, had endured the unthinkable for months as her boss repeatedly harassed her sexually. She felt vulnerable and trapped but eventually anticipated help from her madam. She summoned courage and confided in her. But, rather than respite, her madam unleashed a vicious attack on her. This left her with excruciating physical pains and emotional trauma. "I felt like I'd been punched in the gut," Chidimma recalled. "The person I trusted most turned against me. I was already broken, and she shattered me further." Ejected, Chidinma returned to Igbakwu, where her widowed mother lives. Despite the cruelty she faced, she found the strength to speak out, hoping her voice would echo through the darkness, inspiring others to stand with her against the shadows that haunt us all.


Anambra State


Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	Despite the existence of comprehensive laws like the VAPP Law, Child Rights Law, and Disability Rights Law, their implementation is hindered by low public awareness and deep-rooted cultural norms that perpetuate GBV.	Awareness creation should be intensified across the state using multi-media channels, including radio, television, print, online, and social media.
	Little to no implementation of the Disability Rights Law	Campaigns on gender equity and equality must be intentionally heightened with traditional and religious leaders as targeted.
		There is a need to deliberately ensure that the Disability Rights Law is made fully operational to shield PWDs from various forms of discrimination and stigma.
Access to Legal Justice 	Despite the establishment of dedicated courts, there is a significant gap in the effective enforcement of laws, with slow prosecution processes and low conviction rates.	Improving state funding for GBV-related issues is essential. The state needs more specialized courts and judges to handle the increasing number of GBV cases and scale up pro bono services.
	Lack of a robust witness protection program in the states.	There is a need for the state to finetune and strengthen its victim/witness protection program.
	The prosecution of GBV cases is often slow, and there is a general lack of trust in the legal system due to the prolonged timeframes for case resolution.	Anambra State should strengthen its legal system to expedite the prosecution of GBV cases by fully implementing the Administration of Criminal Justice Law (2022), which was enacted to address delays in criminal proceedings.
Support Services 	Insufficient number of SARCs and shelters to cater to the rising cases of GBV in the state	More SARCs are needed in the state as the cases surge. The state government should look into establishing at least three functional shelters and SARCs for GBV victims/survivors in each of the three senatorial districts of the state with adequate equipment and well-trained staff to render quality services.
	Heavy dependence on RoLAC funding, without a clear sustainability plan for the SARCs without the donor funds.	The state government needs to domestically fund the operations of the SARC, which currently depends on the donor, RoLAC.

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Information and Awareness 	The general population lacks widespread awareness and knowledge of GBV-related laws and policies, especially at the grassroots level.	Information and awareness creation efforts must be intensified to reach more people with GBV messages.
	Inadequate reporting systems for GBV cases, as the state lacks a clear and unified GBV database.	IEC materials must be distributed more frequently and produced in the local language to aid understanding of the issue.
	Inadequate funding for awareness and sensitization in the state with heavy dependence on NGO funding	There is also a need for better data and record-keeping coordination between relevant MDAs handling GBV cases in the state. The state needs to create a sex offenders register and a centralized GBV database to harmonize reported cases and track progress.
Budget and Spending 	There is insufficient budget allocation for implementing GBV laws and policies, leading to inadequate resources for enforcement, victim support, and awareness campaigns.	Anambra needs domestic funding for sensitization programs and greater collaboration between government and NGOs.
		Increased government investment in GBV programs, including allocating specific budget codes for GBV-related activities. Collaboration with international partners, NGOs, and Civil Society Organizations can also channel resources into critical areas of intervention, such as legal aid, victim support services, and public education campaigns.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Anambra State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks	
Laws and Policies				
1		Develop comprehensive awareness campaigns that educate the public on the existing laws and policies related to GBV.	Partially Implemented	The Ministry of Women and Social Welfare of the State is working so hard to develop IEC materials for the awareness creation, and they are also using their social media handle too.
2		Anambra State should improve investment in the effective implementation of GBV laws, ensuring that they are enforced consistently.	Not Implemented	We are still advocating for budget code GBV activities in the state.
3		Regularly evaluate the impact of the existing laws and make necessary amendments to ensure their relevance and effectiveness.	Not Implemented	
Access to Legal Justice				
4		Increase funding for the reporting and prosecution of GBV cases, including support for legal aid services.	Not Implemented	There is a challenge of funding which often leads to officers in charge asking complainants for mobilization either in cash or in kind.
5		Work on building trust in the prosecution and enforcement processes, through transparency and clear communication with survivors.	Partially Implemented	This is still work in progress .
6		Create well-tailored awareness campaigns to inform the public about the legal structures available for.	Not Implemented	
Support Services				
7		Collaborate with non-governmental organizations to create permanent Shelters for GBV survivors, ensuring their safety and well-being.	Partially Implemented	There is a working relationship and collaboration between state and non state on this.
8		Anambra State needs to increase the funding for medical and forensic facilities and services in existing structures, making them more accessible and comprehensive for survivors.	Not Implemented	
9		Increase investments in training programs for law enforcement personnel, social workers, medical professionals, and staff at SARCs specifically on handling GBV cases.	Not Implemented	
Information and Awareness				
10	Increased funding for IEC materials and campaigns to raise awareness about GBV and available support services.	Partially Implemented	The effectiveness of GBV awareness occur at irregular intervals when donor funds are available.	

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER				
2023 Recommendations				
Anambra State				
11		Ensure that IEC materials are prioritized and accessible to PwDs by providing them in formats like braille, sign language, and easy-to-read formats.	Partially Implemented	This was budgeted for, from the PWD Commission of the State. Also, only IEC materials in sign language is available. There are no IEC materials to reach persons with disabilities especially those with visual and hearing impairment.
		Increased advocacy for the inclusion of comprehensive sex education in the curriculum of secondary and tertiary institutions, teaching healthy relationships and consent.	Not Implemented	The discussion is ongoing.
12				



Bauchi State

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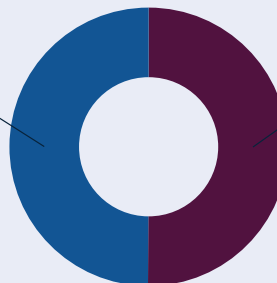
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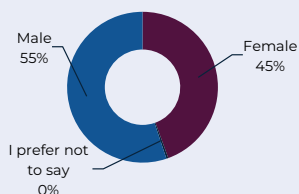
Total Population
8,596,139

Male
4,292,010
50%

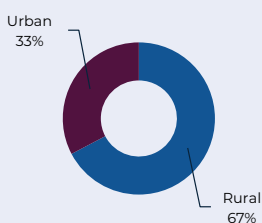


Female
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50%

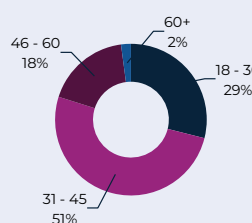
Respondents: 477



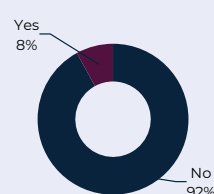
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **1621**



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



No. of active shelters **6**



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs) **1**



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

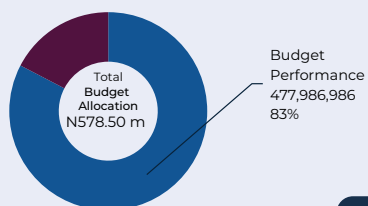


Budget and Spending

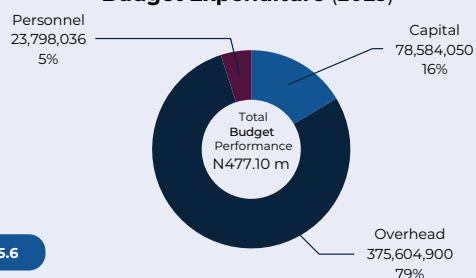


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

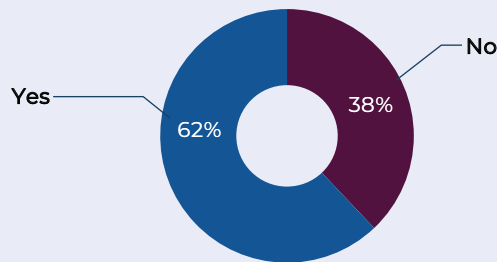


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N55.6**

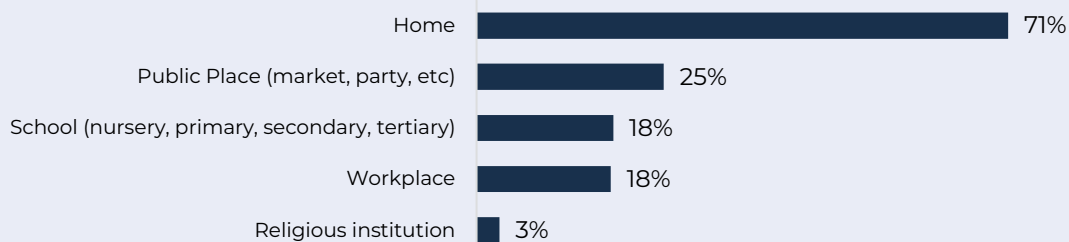
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



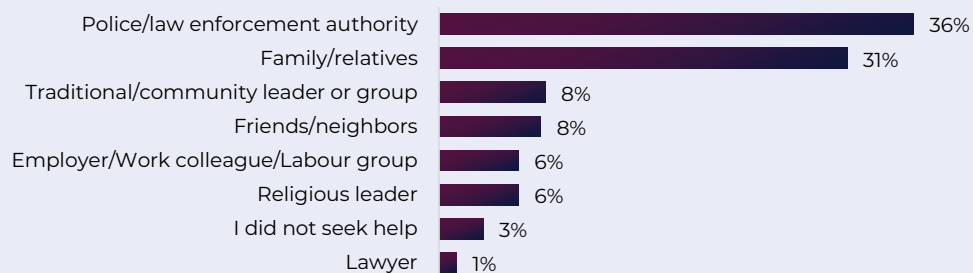
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



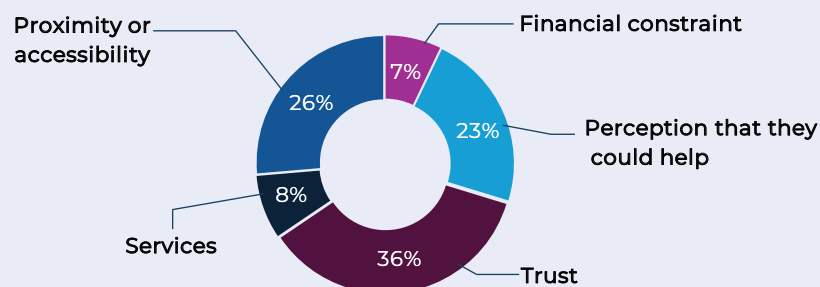
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

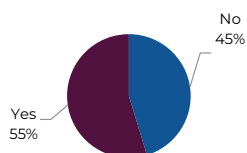


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

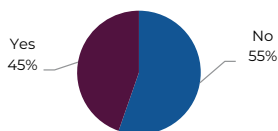


Laws and Policies

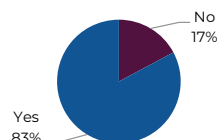
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

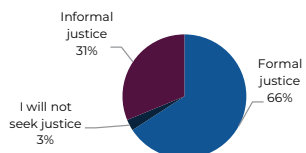


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

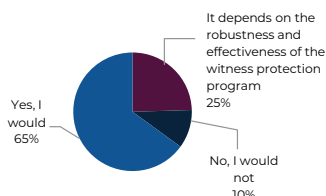


Access to Legal Justice

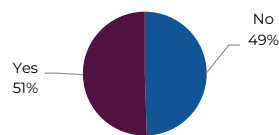
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

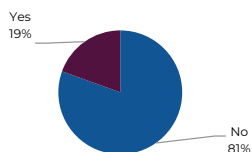


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

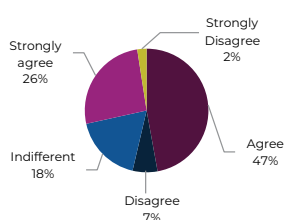


Support Services

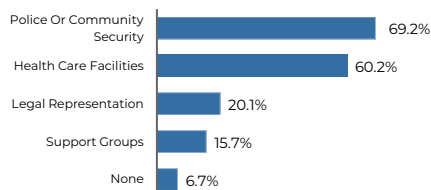
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



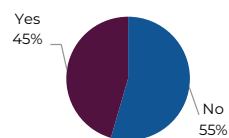
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

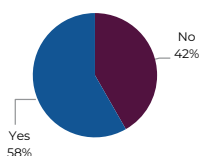


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

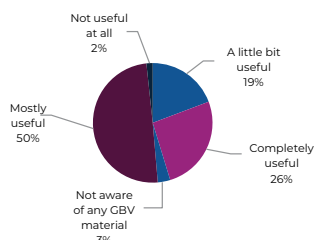


Information and Awareness

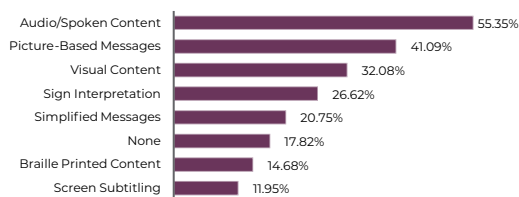
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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) in Bauchi State manifests in various forms, including physical, sexual, and psychological violence. It occurs within diverse settings, such as homes, communities, and institutions, and can be perpetrated by intimate partners, family members, strangers, or even authority figures. Factors contributing to the prevalence of GBV in the state include deeply ingrained social norms that perpetuate gender inequality, limited awareness and education, poverty, harmful cultural practices, and inadequate legal and social support systems.

Bauchi State has enacted several laws to address gender-based violence (GBV), including the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law (2022), the Penal Code, the Administration of Criminal Justice Law, the Child Rights Act and the Anti-Kidnapping Law. The VAPP Law requires several amendments to enhance its effectiveness. Firstly, Section 1(2)(a) should be amended to explicitly recognize spousal rape in cases involving non-consensual sexual intercourse and/or the use of force and violence. Secondly, the numbering and cross-referencing within the law need to be corrected, particularly in Sections 19(2), 19(3)(b), 20(2)(a), and 20(6). Additionally, the specific state government agency responsible for submitting the annual report mentioned in Section 31 should be identified. While 54.2% of respondents are aware of these laws, 72.4% perceive them as effective. However, the relatively low awareness of conviction rates (45.8%) suggests a gap in enforcement and public awareness. Alongside formal legal frameworks, customary and religious practices play a significant role in addressing GBV in the state. 62% of respondents are familiar with these practices, and 83% believe they are effective in prevention and response. This highlights the importance of both legal and cultural mechanisms in ensuring safety and justice for survivors of GBV.

Access to Legal Justice

GBV cases are typically reported to the police, who then refer victims to healthcare providers and initiate legal proceedings. However, some victims may first seek help from traditional or community leaders, who may then involve the police. With support from the IHP, the state has developed a referral pathway to streamline reporting and responding to GBV cases. The prosecution system involves the Ministry of Justice and the Police, while the police are primarily responsible for enforcement. The Ministry of Justice, Women Affairs, and the First Lady's office collaborate to provide legal assistance to victims/survivors. 65.6% prefer formal justice systems, such as the police and courts, while 2.7% would not seek justice at all.

31.7% would rely on informal justice systems, like traditional or religious leaders. Approximately 50.6% of respondents are aware of legal assistance and services provided by the state government to GBV victims/survivors. The state currently lacks a robust witness protection program. While 65.4% of respondents expressed willingness to serve as witnesses, 24.4% indicated their willingness is contingent on the effectiveness of a witness protection program. A significant 10.3% are unwilling to serve as witnesses, highlighting the need for stronger protective measures. Despite the establishment of a 10-man committee to coordinate GBV prevention and response efforts, the employment of vigilante groups, and the creation of GBV desk officers at the Ministry for Women Affairs (MoWA), the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, and in all the LGA secretariat, the state still lacks dedicated family support units and GBV-dedicated judges.

Support Services

Bauchi State has limited GBV support services. There is no SARC, however, there is a government-run shelter, and five NGO-operated shelters (FOMWAN, ASH foundation, and Child is Gold foundation). While these facilities provide essential services, including medical care and safe housing, their capacity is limited, and they are concentrated in the state capital. Expanding access to these services to other regions is crucial to ensure comprehensive support for survivors of GBV.

Information and Awareness

Bauchi State collaborates with partners like UNICEF to create and disseminate GBV awareness materials through various channels, including radio, television, and community outreach programs. These materials are often distributed in collaboration with the Information and Public Enlightenment (IPE) and National Orientation Agency (NOA) to reach diverse communities across the state. While GBV-related topics are integrated into subjects like Biology, Health Education, Integrated Science, and Civic Education, a comprehensive, standardized curriculum on GBV still needs to be developed. Efforts to make GBV information accessible to people with disabilities should be enhanced. The use of sign language interpreters, pictorial messages, audio content, and Braille materials demonstrates a commitment to inclusivity. However, awareness of and utilization of these specialized materials still needs to be improved. 98.5% of the respondents find GBV awareness materials informative and valuable, and 75.4% support the integration of GBV and child sexual abuse education into school curriculum at all levels.

Budget and Spending

In 2023, the Bauchi State Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Development achieved a budget performance rate of 83%. Of its allocated budget of N578.47 million, N477.99 million was utilized, making Bauchi one of the 12 states with a budget utilization rate above 60%. Most of the expenditure, 78.6% (N375.60 million), was directed towards overhead costs, while personnel costs accounted for 5% (N23.80 million). Capital expenditure, vital for GBV prevention and response infrastructure, comprised only 16.4% (N78.58 million) of the actual spending. With a population of 8,596,139, the state's per capita spending on the ministry was just N55.6, indicating limited service reach in addressing social and human development needs. The relatively low capital expenditure and the budget execution rate underscore the need for increased budgetary allocation and disbursement to its Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Development.

Human Angle Story







"The husband no longer communicates with his wife, refuses to eat her food, and always sleeps in the sitting room. This behaviour is a change from how things were when they first got married. He has started ignoring her, even when it comes to important family decisions; instead, he prefers to discuss these matters with others outside their home. Despite his behaviour, he does not physically harm her. Over time, this situation began to affect the woman psychologically." The case described above was reported to a community-based organization, Child is Gold, which took it up. Eventually, the woman was referred to Bauchi State Teaching Hospital through the Sexual Assault Referral Center (SARC), and she is currently receiving care at the Psychiatric Unit.

Bauchi State

Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	Witnesses are often unfamiliar with court proceedings and face financial constraints when attending pretrial hearings, which can negatively impact their psychological well-being and willingness to participate in the legal process.	Witnesses should be provided with adequate financial, psychological and security support to enable them to aid the administration of justice for GBV victims and survivors.
	Some traditional leaders often downplay GBV cases within their communities, discouraging survivors from seeking help. They may attempt to resolve issues internally, even when perpetrators are related to victims, to avoid public scrutiny and potential social disruption.	Intensify oversight over cultural practices that perpetuate GBV and mandate that gatekeepers and traditional and religious leaders align with extant laws.
	Lack of awareness by the public on the existence of laws and policies regarding GBV.	Increase sensitization and awareness of GBV-related laws in the state.
Access to Legal Justice 	The lack of a robust witness protection system makes it difficult for people to testify.	Establish a robust witness protection program to encourage victims and witnesses to come forward and participate in legal proceedings without fear of retaliation.
	People are not very familiar with the reporting and referral pathway.	Democratize access to the reporting and referral pathway by enhancing its publicity.
Support Services 	There are no family support units within the state.	Establish family support units.
	<p>The shelters are not in a safe space, and they lack privacy.</p> <p>While some traditional or religious leaders provide temporary shelter for victims and survivors in some communities, the number of state-owned and NGO-operated Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs) and shelters is insufficient for the population.</p>	Enhance the safety of the current shelters and SARCs by deploying additional security agents to man the centres. Also, establish more shelters and SARCs in safe and secure locations.
Information and Awareness 	Respondents have a moderate level of awareness regarding GBV information and educational materials.	Increase sensitization and awareness efforts by expanding the communication mediums used to cater to the population, including PWDs. Additionally, increase the frequency of sensitization and awareness campaigns.
	The frequency of GBV awareness campaigns, such as radio and television jingles, is inconsistent. The distribution of GBV information materials primarily focuses on healthcare centres, limiting their reach to a wider audience.	
	No guide or curriculum on GBV and child sexual assault in schools.	Develop and deploy a guide to help schools educate children on GBV and sexual abuse.

Budget and Spending 	<p>Bauchi State's Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Development recorded a relatively commendable budget execution rate of 83% in 2023.</p>	<p>Towards the credibility of the budget of the Ministry, ensure timely and adequate fund disbursements to enable the Ministry to implement its GBV prevention and response programs and projects.</p>
	<p>Despite a fairly good budget execution rate, the spending per capita of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Development was below par at N55.6.</p>	<p>Significantly increase the budget allocation and releases to the Ministry to empower it to sufficiently cater to the GBV needs of the population.</p>

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Bauchi State

S/No.		Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies				
1		Devise strategies to enforce and implement the laws in the state.	Not Implemented	Generally, the laws are effective but enforcing and implementing it is the challenge.
2		There should be provision for specific budgetary allocation to GBV and relevant ministries in the law.	Not Implemented	Nothing done yet on that
3		Educate the public regularly on GBV-related laws and policies and publish the contents.	Partially Implemented	The state makes efforts through the Ministry of women affairs to disseminate information about existing laws though not sufficient.
Access to Legal Justice				
4		Establish exclusive GBV Courts with dedicated GBV Judges.	Not Implemented	There are two Judges in the state one in the high court and one in the magistrate that most GBV cases are referred too. But there are no dedicated GBV courts and judges.
5		Create and implement a robust witness protection program.	Not Implemented	
6		The public should be educated on how to seek legal assistance free-of-charge.	Not Implemented	
Support Services				
7		Build shelters in safe environments across the state. The privacy of the survivors should be upheld. SARCs be equipped and adequately staffed with trained personnel.	Partially Implemented	There is one SARC in the whole state though adequately equipped but is not sufficient and there no plan yet on ground for additional shelters by the state. however there are other temporary shelters owned by CBOs and NGOs
8		Establish FSUs and ensure all the support services are accessible to all.	Not Implemented	
9		Create a database to keep records of all reported cases in the state.	Not Implemented	
10		The support service should be enhanced and made available and accessible to victims and survivors of GBV.	Partially Implemented	The SARCs in the state are made available and accessible to victims and survivors of GBV.
Information and Awareness				
11		Educate the teachers and parents on the needs for incorporating sex education at all levels of education in the state.	Not Implemented	
12		Create more awareness among religious groups.	Not Implemented	
13		Increase investment in the production and dissemination of IEC materials.	Not Implemented	



Bayelsa State



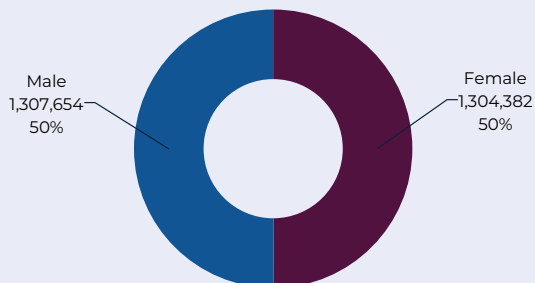
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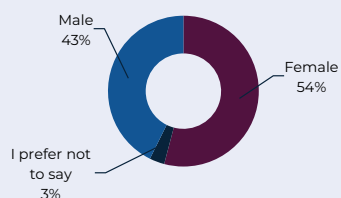




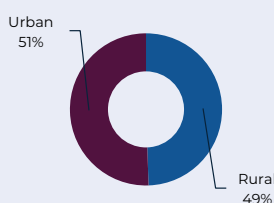
Total Population
2,612,036



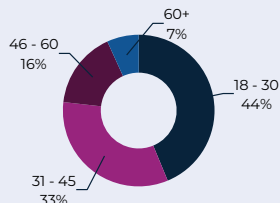
Respondents: 560



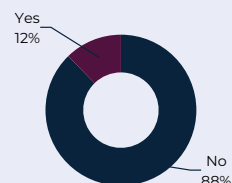
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



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



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)s **1**



No. of active shelters **1**



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



Index Grades

Laws and Policies ●

Access to Legal Justice ●

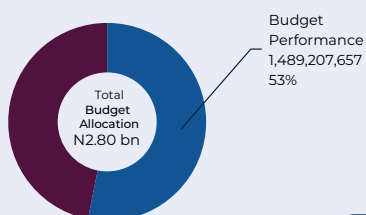
Support Services ●

Information and Awareness ●

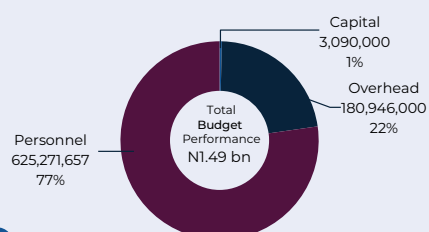
Budget and Spending ●

Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

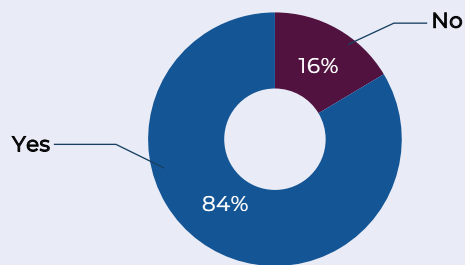


Budget Expenditure (2023)

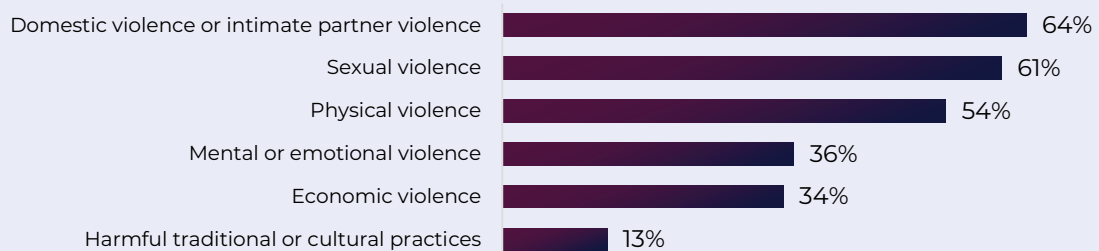


Per Capita Spending **N570.1**

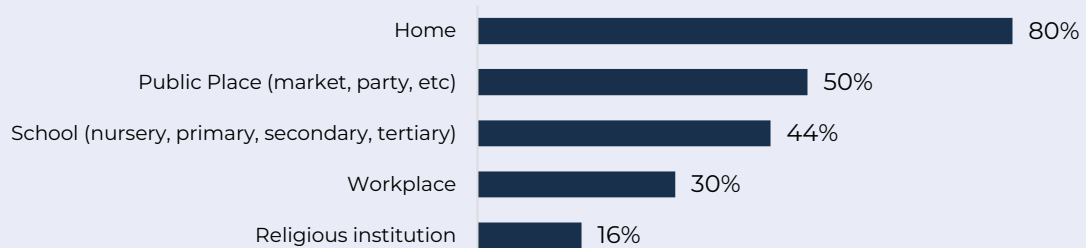
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



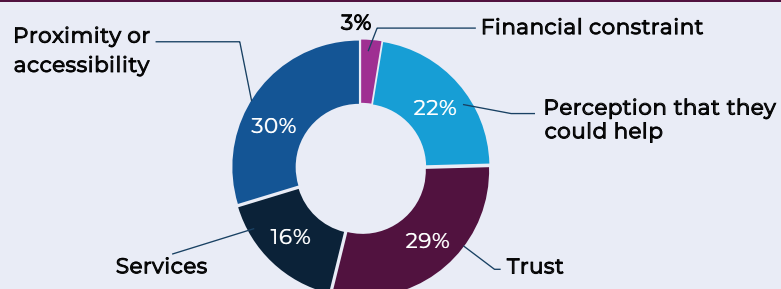
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

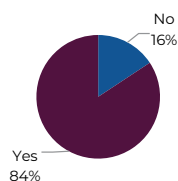


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

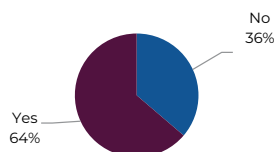


Laws and Policies

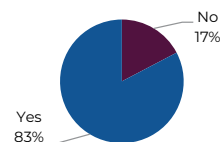
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

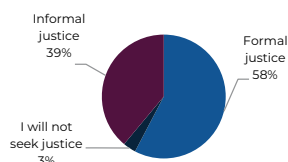


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

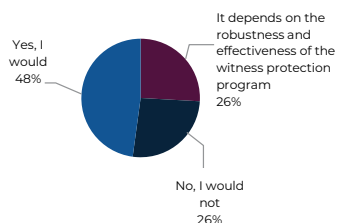


Access to Legal Justice

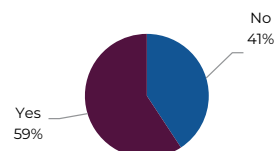
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

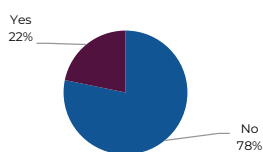


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

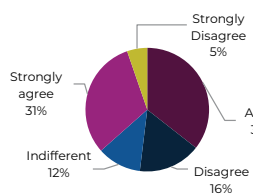


Support Services

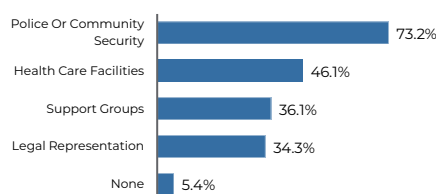
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



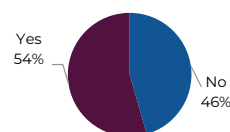
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

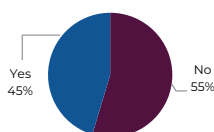


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

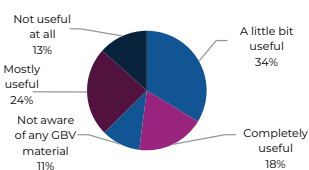


Information and Awareness

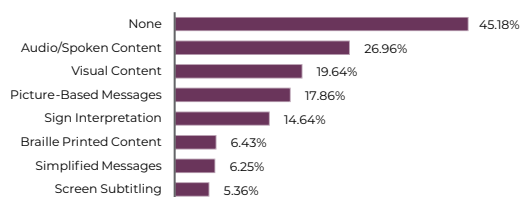
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Bayelsa State has enacted several laws to address GBV, including the Child Rights Law 2022, the VAPP Law, the Criminal Code, and the Widow and Widower Protection Law. Despite these legal frameworks, enforcement remains inconsistent. The state government has made efforts to address the gaps in the laws through the establishment of sexual exploitation, abuse harassment and gender-based violent action plans. Out of 34 GBV cases recorded this year, only four convictions have been secured, with most cases still in court. To improve the effectiveness of the response to GBV in the state, efforts are ongoing to review and amend the VAPP law to enhance its implementation and effectiveness in tackling GBV within the state.

Survey results show that awareness of existing laws and policies in the state grew from 69.9% in 2023 to 84% in 2024. Public awareness campaigns have been partially implemented, with increased involvement of NGOs and the Ministry of Women Affairs in GBV advocacy. Customary laws lack formal regulations for addressing less severe GBV cases. However, in serious offences like rape, community leaders and vigilante groups typically impose punishments on the offender before transferring the case to the police. However, 83% of respondents believe customary laws are effective in addressing and preventing GBV-related issues. Bayelsa State has established GBV reporting systems involving the police, medical facilities, and support organizations like GRIT and FIDA. While mechanisms exist, challenges persist, including victim withdrawal, slow prosecution, and insufficient witness protection. These gaps further reflect the survey results, which show that 58% of the population seeks formal justice while 39% seeks informal justice, showing just a little above-average trust in the formal system.

Access to Legal Justice

Victims typically report to the police and are referred for medical examinations. However, legal aid, including pro bono services, is offered by organizations like the Ministry of Justice, GRIT, and FIDA. However, the state lacks a robust witness protection program, discouraging testimonies. Prosecution is often delayed due to lengthy legal procedures and intimidation of witnesses, weakening cases. Community leaders and local vigilante groups lead informal justice systems, and these groups handle non-severe GBV cases and hand over sexual offenders to the police. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) also exists; it handles all cases, excluding sexual offences. 82.1% of the Survey population perceived the informal justice system as effective in ensuring that GBV victims get justice. Specialized units like Gender and Family Desks and family courts handle GBV cases, but no dedicated GBV judges exist. Recent improvements include professional training for GBV investigators and increased funding facilitated by the First Lady, benefiting MDAs and NGOs like GRIT. Nonetheless, gaps in witness protection, funding, and dedicated GBV judges continue to impede the effectiveness of GBV response efforts in the state.

Support Services

There is one shelter and one active sexual assault referral center (SARC) owned by the Heartland Alliance in Bayelsa State, but it is limited in serving the general population. This center offers essential services, including medical care, psychosocial support, legal aid, HIV testing, STI treatment, emergency contraceptives, and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for HIV. Additionally, a state-owned SARC is under renovation and is currently non-functional. The SARC and shelter play an essential role in victim recovery by providing medical services, shelter, and crucial evidence for prosecution. The medical examination reports are critical for GBV case prosecutions. A state-owned shelter is available for victims, which is insufficient for the population, further reflecting the need for state funding to improve the number of available support centers.

Although the Ministry of Women Affairs made mention of a special fund from the First Lady's office, they are insufficient to cater to the needs of victims. Also, the bureaucracy in accessing the funds is a major problem; furthermore, such funding is not reflected in the state budget, making tracking more difficult. The reporting and referral pathway in the state involves collaboration between law enforcement, health institutions, legal bodies, and support organizations. However, the respondents have low awareness (47%)

of these pathways. It is, however, important to note that state medical facilities charge to attend to GBV victims, further discouraging victims from using the medical pathways. According to the survey, 53.8% of the population perceives informal support systems (family, friends, religious centers, and community groups) as more effective than formal systems in supporting GBV victims.

Information and Awareness

The state employs Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials such as flyers, radio, television, and social media to raise awareness about GBV. Organizations like FIDA play a crucial role in these efforts. Regular campaigns, including the Sixteen Days of Activism and special days for women, involve distributing flyers, screening films, and conducting outreach, particularly targeting disabled individuals. Comprehensive sex education, incorporating GBV prevention and response, is integrated into the secondary school curriculum, taught through Civic and Social Studies using specific lesson notes. While the available IEC materials are generally PWD-friendly, they are not fully inclusive for all disabilities and lack sign language interpretations and audio content. No specific IEC materials are tailored for the disabled community. According to the survey, only 48.5% of the population knows the state's GBV programs and materials.

Budget and Spending





The state's Ministry of Women and Children affairs had a 2023 budget allocation of N2.8 billion, with a budget performance of 53%, spending N1.49 bn. This included N625.27 million for personnel, N180.95 million for overhead, N679.90 million for capital, and N3.09 million for other expenses. With a population of 2.61 million, the actual spending translates to N570.10 per person; this reflects a better per capita investment than some other states in its region and other states in the country but still needs focused allocation for GBV prevention and response. The need to have GBV-specific line items is very crucial to addressing implementation, enforcement and support gaps, as highlighted in the study.

Human Angle Story



A father, separated from his wife, sexually abused and impregnated his daughter. When the horrific incident was reported, the victim was immediately removed from the harmful environment and taken to the SARC for medical attention and treatment. Subsequently, she was transferred to the Ministry of Women Affairs shelter, where she remained until she gave birth. During this time, her siblings were taken in by their uncle. The case file was forwarded to the Ministry of Justice for prosecution. After a thorough legal process, the perpetrator was convicted and sentenced to 14 years in prison. This case received significant media attention, highlighting the gravity of the crime and the importance of justice for victims of sexual abuse.

Bayelsa State

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	Lack of public awareness of the existence of the Law	Increased efforts to create awareness of the existence of these laws
	Inadequate support system for victims, e.g. SARC and Shelters.	Establish a comprehensive support system to enhance GBV responders' efforts and ensure holistic care for victims
	Inconsistency in the application of the Law	Strengthening the enforcement system review processes to ensure consistency in the application of laws to boost people's confidence in the law
Access to Legal Justice 	Delays in the litigation process	Fastening the legal process by recruiting more lawyers and having dedicated judges to preside over GBV-related cases
	Lack of funds to support the logistics of victims and GBV responders	Provision of funds for legal medical assistance, including logistics both for the victims and for the service providers
	Societal pressure on the victim to pursue an informal system or not seek justice due to fear of stigma	Increasing public sensitization to expose the victims, witnesses, and public on their rights and the importance of seeking justice
Support Services 	Insufficient SARC and shelters to serve the population of the state	Provision of more SARC centers by the state by improving budget allocations to the construction of at least one SARC across all state LGAs
	Poor awareness of the reporting and referral pathways in the state	The allocation of proper funding is needed to scale up the information and awareness programs the state is carrying out and those being done by NGOs.
	Poor awareness of the available support services that the state offers	
Information and Awareness 	Insufficient funding to carry out GBV related awareness program	More funds are needed to carry out extensive sensitization targeted not only for secondary school but also primary and all vulnerable groups
	Lack of special inclusive awareness targeted at PWD	Sensitization material should be designed to be inclusive and accommodate all PWD
Budget and Spending 	Bayelsa state lacks any GBV-specific line item in its budget.	The state needs to significantly increase the budget allocation and spending of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
	Its budget performance, alongside its spending per capita, is extremely low.	

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Bayelsa State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1	GBV laws and policies in the state need to be strengthened to address the gaps in the laws.	Fully Implemented	There is the establishment of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment and gender-based violent action plan. Also, the Bayelsa State through the Ministry of Women Affairs have written to the National Assembly to review a section in the Nigeria Constitution which benefits the cause of GBV.
2	Government should provide stiffer sanctions for informal players that try to pervade the course of justice.	Not Implemented	Government still allow local communities to handle most GBV cases that are not life-threatening.
3	Government should increase awareness on existing laws and the formal justice system.	Partially Implemented	There is an intensification of the campaign against GBV in the state with more involvement of NGOs which deal with GBV issues by the Ministry of Women Affairs
Access to Legal Justice			
4	The officials who handle reports and investigations of GBV should undergo professional training on how to handle evidence as well as the proper processes to follow when investigating a GBV-related case.	Fully Implemented	Most officials that handle GBV cases have undergone several professional trainings within and outside the state.
5	Robust witness protection programs and services should be provided by the state.	Not Implemented	The state does not have a witness protection programme
6	More dedicated GBV judges should be added to the already existing family court, while ensuring continuous training.	Partially Implemented	While the existing judges still remains, there have been continuous trainings for them.
7	Sufficient funds should be made available to relevant MDAs and organizations that handle GBV-related cases.	Partially Implemented	Given the involvement of the first lady of the state, most MDAs (e.g GRIT) and NGOs dealing with GBV have received some form of additional funding. Although, they noted that more funding is still needed
Support Services			
8	Government should establish Shelters/SARCs in the state such that is adequate for the state's at-risk population.	Not Implemented	The state government although have established one SARC centre and partner with Heartland to establish another, these two are not sufficient to still deal with the teeming population who experience GBV. Additionally, these two SARC centres are located at the state capital.
9	Special funds should be allocated to the relevant MDAs to enable them to provide the necessary support for victims.	Partially Implemented	While MDAs especially the Ministry of Women affairs made mention of a special fund from the office of the first lady, they are not sufficient to cater for the needs of victims. Also, the bureaucracy involved in accessing the fund is a major problem

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER 2023 Recommendations Bayelsa State			
10	All state-owned hospitals should be directed to provide free medical services to victims of GBV so as to alleviate the strain on the meagre fund of the MDAs and NGOs.	Not Implemented	Government health centres still charge to attend to victims of GBV. Most times, the officials of NGOS and MDAs who prosecute the cases pay for the medical bills of victims
Information and Awareness			
11	More sensitization programs need to be organized especially in rural areas.	Partially Implemented	There have been more sensitisation programmes through community townhall meetings, though it is not enough to create awareness to most persons in the rural areas.
12	Materials on and teaching of sex education should spread across schools in the rural communities.	Partially Implemented	While NGOs in collaboration go with teaching AIDS for GBV in schools, there are still sufficient gaps in the rural areas
13	Sensitization materials should be made more accessible to a diverse range of PwDs and simplified and translated into the various languages spoken in the state.	Not Implemented	PwD still find it hard to access GBV related materials tailored towards their needs.





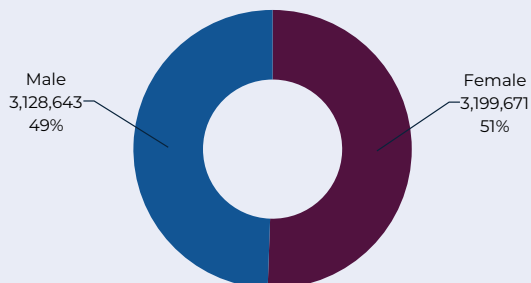
Benue State

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INDEX
2024 Edition

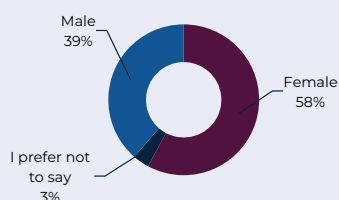
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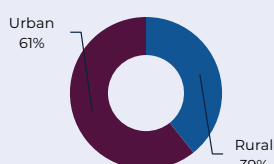
Total Population
6,328,314



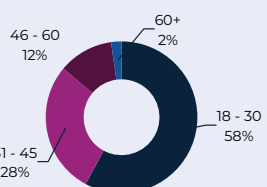
Respondents: 453



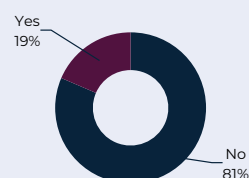
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **36**



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



No. of active Shelters **4**



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



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

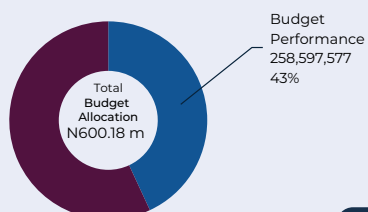


Budget and Spending

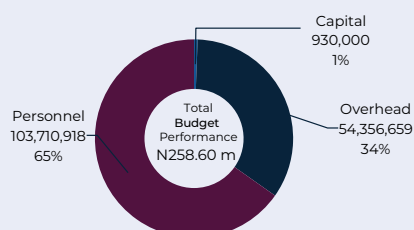


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

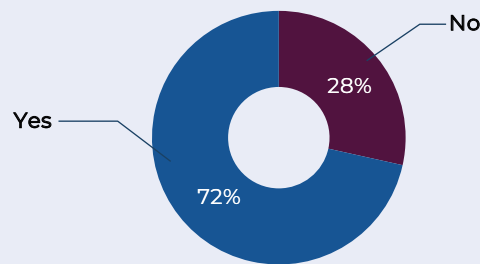


Budget Expenditure (2023)

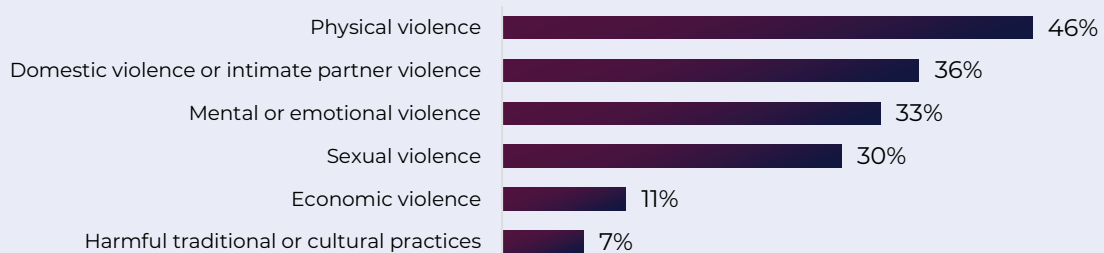


Per Capita Spending **N40.9**

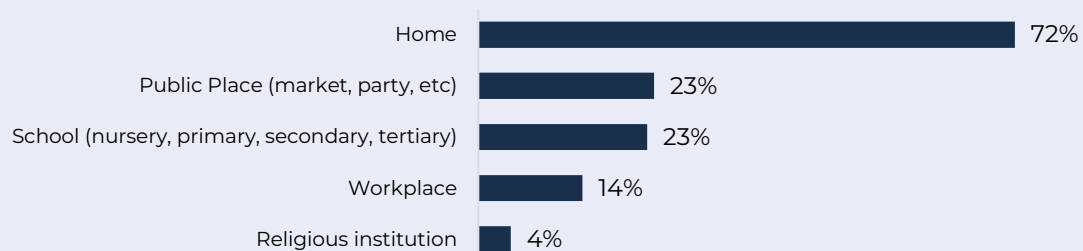
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



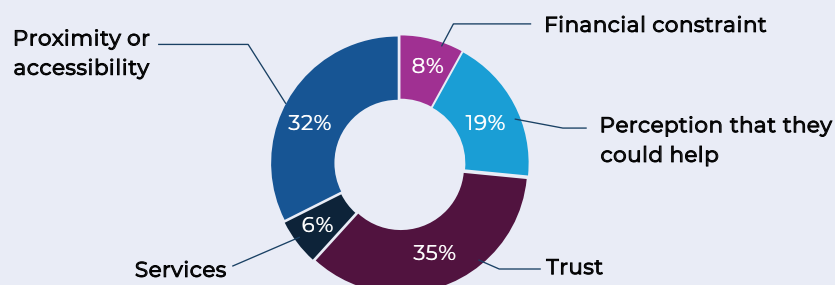
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

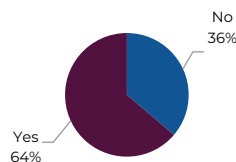


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

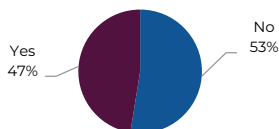


Laws and Policies

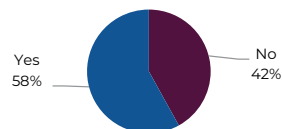
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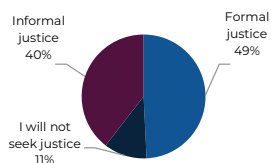


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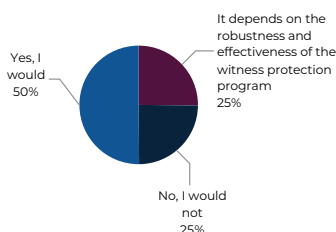


Access to Legal Justice

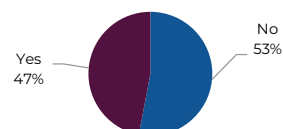
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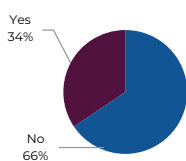


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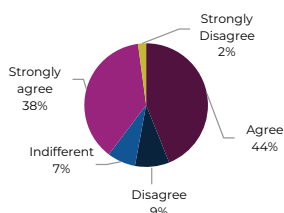


Support Services

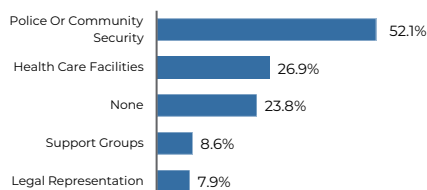
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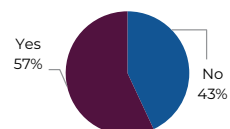
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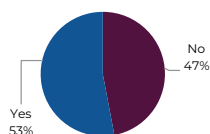


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

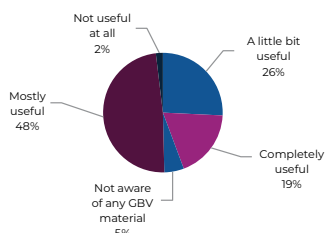


Information and Awareness

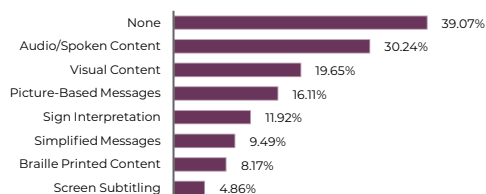
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

To effectively prosecute GBV cases, Plateau State leverages a robust legal framework that includes the Penal Code, the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law (2019), the Administration of Criminal Justice Law (2019), the Child Rights Law (2008), the Human Rights Law (2003), and the Widowhood Protection Law (2022). These laws are designed to safeguard individuals from violence, but their enforcement remains challenging. Survey results indicate that 64% of the population is aware of these laws, a slight increase from the previous year. However, 51% of respondents believe these laws effectively prevent GBV. Identified impediments to the implementation of the laws include bureaucratic delays, non-functioning family courts, and low public awareness.

Customary laws in Benue State are often informal and vary by ethnicity, complicating the enforcement of formal legal mechanisms. Many cultural practices, like forced marriage and child marriage, continue to conflict with state laws. Laws must be revisited periodically, but customary laws continue to hinder progress. A more harmonized approach, strengthening formal and informal systems, is critical. Survey findings reveal that 41% of respondents perceive customary and religious laws as ineffective in preventing and responding to GBV in Benue State. Despite recognizing their cultural importance, many respondents question the capacity of these practices to address modern issues of GBV, particularly in the face of evolving legal frameworks.



Access to Legal Justice

GBV victims and survivors in the state typically report to the Nigerian Police Force (NPF), which handles investigations and prosecutions through First Information Reports (FIRs). The Ministry of Justice offers legal advice on cases, while the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare provides psychosocial support and case referrals. The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) also collaborates on investigations, particularly in sexual violence cases. The survey reveals that 46% of respondents seek justice through formal systems, primarily the police or courts, while 42% opt for informal justice, including traditional and religious leaders. Notably, 12% of participants stated they would not seek justice due to fears of retribution or social stigma.

Legal aid services are available through the state's Legal Aid Council, the NPF, and NGOs such as the Federation of Female Lawyers (FIDA) and Lawyers Alert. The NHRC provides witness protection for those involved in GBV cases, offering measures like anonymous reporting and relocation when necessary. However, concerns about the safety of witnesses persist, as only 50% of respondents felt safe participating in the justice process. The courts struggle to adhere to the prompt timelines stipulated by the VAPP law. Delays in investigation and prosecution are common, especially in cases involving minors. While specialized units, such as the Family Support Unit (FSU) and dedicated Gender Desk Officers within the police, exist, challenges such as lack of resources and training hinder their effectiveness. Informal Justice Systems: Informal justice systems, including community leaders and religious organizations, are prevalent but often ineffective. They may perpetuate GBV by encouraging settlements, which undermine formal legal proceedings. Many respondents have low awareness of these systems and prefer formal judicial channels for GBV cases.



Support Services

In Benue State, there are no functional Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs). Still, shelters like NAPTIP Rest Homes, Mama Abaiyol Orphanage, and facilities by Second Voice Foundation and OWADO provide crucial support for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) survivors. These shelters offer temporary housing, psychosocial assistance, and empowerment programs, ensuring survivors receive essential care. Awareness of these services remains low, with 63% of surveyed individuals unaware of SARCs or shelters. However, informal support systems such as religious organizations, community leaders, and family networks play a significant role, with 58% of respondents viewing them as more effective than formal mechanisms. This preference highlights the cultural trust placed in community-based support.

Medical units like the Red Cross facility at Ikyogen IDP Camp provide basic services and collaborate with law enforcement to handle GBV cases. However, the lack of forensic labs limits the state's capacity for evidence-based prosecution. This gap underscores the need for investment in medical and legal infrastructure. Despite efforts by the government and CSOs, budgetary prioritization for GBV services needs to be improved. Most shelters rely on NGO and donor funding, leaving room for improved public-sector commitment. Strengthening these systems is critical for sustainable GBV response and survivor recovery. Benue State has made progress, yet significant challenges remain in awareness, accessibility, and resource allocation for both formal and informal GBV support systems. Bridging these gaps requires collaborative efforts to ensure survivors receive comprehensive care and justice.

Information and Awareness

Evidence indicates a strategic deployment of IEC materials to address GBV in Benue State. The Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare, in partnership with organizations like the CLEEN Foundation, produces and distributes materials during market campaigns, International Day events, and in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. Agencies like the NOA also facilitate roadshows, seminars, and media campaigns to enhance public knowledge of GBV, complementing their IEC distribution during community sensitization programs. Similarly, NHRC conducts radio and TV advocacy while supporting schools and public campaigns with awareness materials. Survey findings reveal a 55% awareness rate of GBV education programs, a marked increase from previous years. However, accessibility issues persist, particularly for marginalized groups, underlining the need for enhanced inclusivity in public sensitization efforts.

The integration of GBV education within the state's curriculum needs to be improved. While civic education is part of the curriculum, comprehensive sex education topics are often omitted. Civil society organizations (CSOs) have compensated for this gap by establishing school clubs as platforms for targeted GBV education. Survey responses overwhelmingly advocate for policy changes to institutionalize GBV prevention education across all educational levels. The availability of PWD-friendly IEC materials remains limited. The survey results highlight significant gaps, with only 22% of respondents aware of audio content and 14% aware of visual aids tailored for persons with disabilities. Efforts by organizations like NRCS to involve sign language interpreters and PWD representatives during campaigns suggest progress, but they remain insufficient in ensuring accessibility.

Budget and Spending

Benue State allocated N600.18 million to the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare in its 2023 budget. However, only N258.59 million (43%) was actually spent. A significant portion of this expenditure (N103.71 million or 40%) was allocated to personnel costs, while overhead costs consumed N54.36 million (21%). Capital expenditure, crucial for required infrastructure like shelters and SARCs, received a negligible amount of N930,000 (0.4%). With a per capita spending of N40.9, Benue State's investment in GBV prevention and response is insufficient. To effectively address GBV, the state must increase its budgetary allocation, prioritize capital expenditure, and ensure efficient utilization of funds to support essential infrastructure and services.



Human Angle Story







A 30-year-old woman from Makurdi LGA has endured a decade of domestic abuse. Her husband, a Keke rider, consistently fails to provide for their two children and resorts to physical violence when frustrated. Despite support from her family, she chooses to remain in the abusive relationship, hoping for change. In another case, a 23-year-old woman from the same area was sexually assaulted by a man she repeatedly rejected. While the perpetrator was initially arrested, he was later released due to insufficient evidence. This experience has left her disillusioned with the justice system's ability to protect victims of sexual assault.

Benue State

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	Public awareness of formal GBV laws like the VAPP Law and Child's Right Act has improved. Still, many remain unaware of provisions, limiting their ability to seek justice or hold offenders accountable.	Increase public education campaigns focused on the provisions of GBV laws to ensure wider understanding and application.
	The enforcement of SGBV law using the VAPP law is hindered because it is domiciled within the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare (MOWASW), which lacks the operational mandate for enforcement. Additionally, Family Courts remain non-functional despite being mandated by the VAPP Law, contributing to inefficiency in justice delivery.	Transfer enforcement responsibilities to appropriate judicial or law enforcement bodies while keeping MOWASW in a supportive role. Operationalize Family Courts nationwide and provide resources and training for effective functioning.
	Bureaucratic inefficiencies, unclear implementation processes, delays in prosecution, and cultural interference—such as lack of family cooperation—significantly obstruct justice delivery for SGBV cases.	Develop guidelines for implementing SGBV laws and streamline prosecutorial processes to reduce delays. Engage community leaders and families through sensitization programs to mitigate cultural interference and foster cooperation.
	The lack of adequate training of key stakeholders to handle GBV cases is based on professionalism.	Provide targeted, ongoing training for MOWASW staff and law enforcement agencies to improve their capacity to handle GBV cases with professionalism and sensitivity.
Access to Legal Justice 	While formal justice systems have made progress in providing legal recourse for GBV survivors, structural challenges and the growing preference for informal systems impede full access to justice. The declining use of formal systems and increased reliance on informal systems highlight gaps in accessibility, trust, and efficiency in the formal mechanisms. There is limited access to formal justice channels in rural areas.	Strengthen formal justice systems by addressing structural challenges, building trust through community engagement, and improving efficiency to encourage survivors to seek justice through these channels.
	While awareness of legal assistance has improved, insufficient witness protection, limited training and resources for institutions, cultural practices, and court delays hinder access to justice.	Enhance witness protection programs, provide training and resources to institutions, combat harmful cultural practices, and expedite court processes.
	Family Support Units (FSUs) and Gender Desks exist but face resource constraints and capacity gaps. Functional family courts are needed to handle GBV cases.	Establish family courts to enhance prosecution efficiency and strengthen coordination among existing support units and stakeholders.
Support Services 	The State lacks an operational SARC, though functional shelters exist, including NAPTIP (Rest Homes) and CSO-owned shelters such as OWACDO and Second Voice Foundation. Many facilities are overcrowded, and victims/survivors often face abandonment or inadequate care.	Establish an operational SARC in the State and ensure consistent funding for existing shelters. Improve shelter infrastructure and capacity to accommodate more survivors and provide comprehensive care. Deploy trained social workers to shelters and increase staffing at the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare (MOWASW).
	Police and healthcare facilities are the most recognized formal reporting pathways, but awareness of other mechanisms, such as support groups and legal assistance, remains low. Informal systems, though preferred by some survivors, are often ineffective and rooted in traditional practices.	Strengthen formal reporting and referral pathways by enhancing collaboration between government agencies, CSOs, and healthcare providers. Promote multiple reporting options, such as hotlines and digital platforms, to make services more accessible. Provide training for police, healthcare workers, and legal representatives to handle GBV cases sensitively and effectively.
	Many survivors rely on informal support systems such as family, friends, and community groups rather than formal mechanisms, often due to cultural comfort and trust in the community.	Strengthen formal support mechanisms while building community trust through training and collaboration with informal support systems.

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Information and Awareness 	<p>Awareness of GBV education programs has improved significantly, with widespread community support for integrating GBV and Child Sexual Abuse education across all educational levels. However, accessibility remains a critical issue, particularly for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), as many are unaware of or excluded from these materials and campaigns.</p>	<p>Develop and distribute GBV awareness and education materials tailored to the needs of PWDs, including accessible formats such as Braille, sign language, and audio materials. Ensure representation of PWDs in the design and delivery of GBV programs to enhance inclusivity.</p>
	<p>While various campaigns and activities (e.g., radio jingles, roadshows, and IEC materials) have been conducted, they are periodic and often lack reach and engagement with marginalized communities, including PWDs. Programs are also inconsistent with modern educational practices like Comprehensive Sex Education (CSE) in schools.</p>	<p>Institutionalize regular GBV sensitization campaigns, leveraging both traditional and digital media. Integrate Comprehensive Sex Education (CSE) into the school curriculum at all levels and provide adequate training for teachers to deliver these programs effectively. Strengthen collaborations between MOWASW, NOA, CSOs, and other stakeholders to ensure continuous and cohesive public engagement.</p>
	<p>PWDs are not adequately involved in the design, execution, or evaluation of GBV awareness programs. Challenges include exposure to unsuitable environments (e.g., albinos exposed to the sun during campaigns) and lack of accommodations like ambulances for emergencies or tactile learning aids.</p>	<p>Adopt inclusive program design principles by consulting PWD representatives during planning stages to ensure campaigns address their specific needs. Provide logistical support during public campaigns, such as shaded areas, mobility aids, and emergency medical services. Standardize the inclusion of sign language interpreters and other accessibility features in all GBV programs.</p>
Budget and Spending 	<p>The budget execution rate of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare stood at a mere 43% in 2023.</p>	<p>To enhance the capacity of the state to adequately prevent and respond to GBV, the government must significantly increase the budget allocation and disbursement to the Ministry.</p>
	<p>Less than One Million Naira, representing 0.4% of the Ministry's total budget, went to capital expenditure.</p>	<p>To address the huge GBV prevention and response infrastructure gap, the government must prioritize its budgetary resources in financing the capital component of the Ministry's budget.</p>

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Benue State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1		Not Implemented	There is no Family Court in place due to lack of funding in the Ministry of Justice
2		Not Implemented	The Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development and CSOs conduct sensitization on GBV especially during 16 Days of Activism but not on the laws
3		Partially Implemented	The Nigerian Police Force has been enforcing the laws under the Gender Desk in collaboration with Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Women Affairs and CSOs
4		Not Implemented	The Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development who should handle this are not proactive, hence leading to lack of implementation
Access to Legal Justice			
5		Not Implemented	The budget allocation for logistics support to the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) for prosecuting GBV cases is currently insufficient, and the limited resources that are allocated frequently face delays.
6		Not Implemented	This is not implemented due to lack of funding for the NPF
7		Partially Implemented	CSOs mostly carry out these awareness campaigns and often the Ministry of Women Affairs also conduct some campaigns
Support Services			
8		Partially Implemented	The awareness is limited
9		Not Implemented	The SARC Centre available was non-functional
10		Partially Implemented	Most Shelters are owned by CSOs and they partially cater for the needs of PWDs
Information and Awareness			
11		Partially Implemented	
12		Partially Implemented	The Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Ministry of Justice, Nigerian Police Force and Nigerian Human Rights Commission all have GBV Desk in place



Borno State



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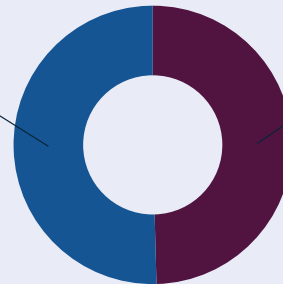
invictus
AFRICA





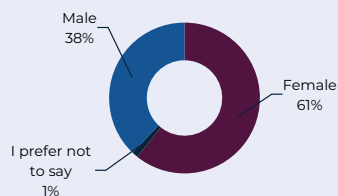
Total Population
6,322,824

Male
3,188,659
50%

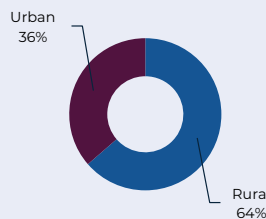


Female
3,134,165
50%

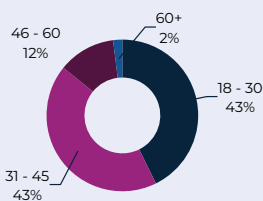
Respondents: 459



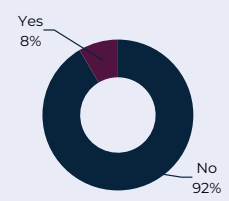
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **215**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)s **1**



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



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



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

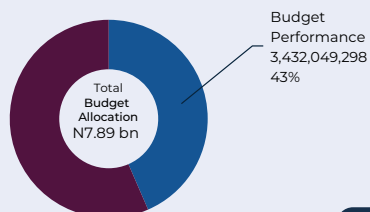


Budget and Spending

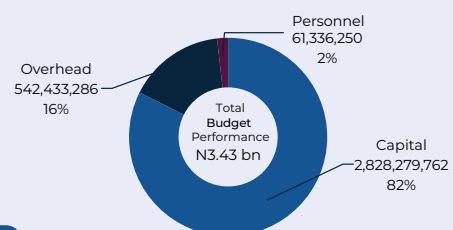


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

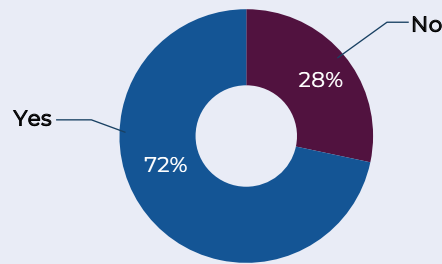


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N542.8**

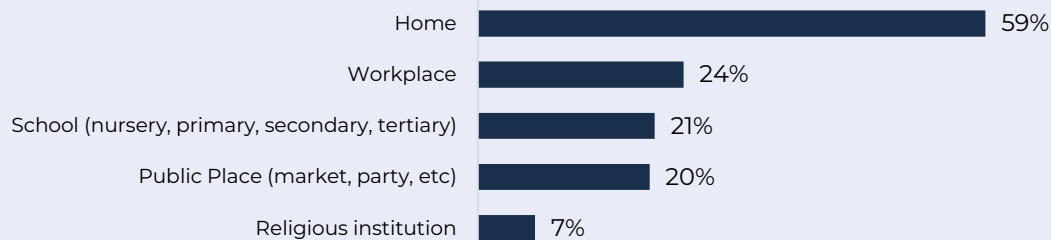
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



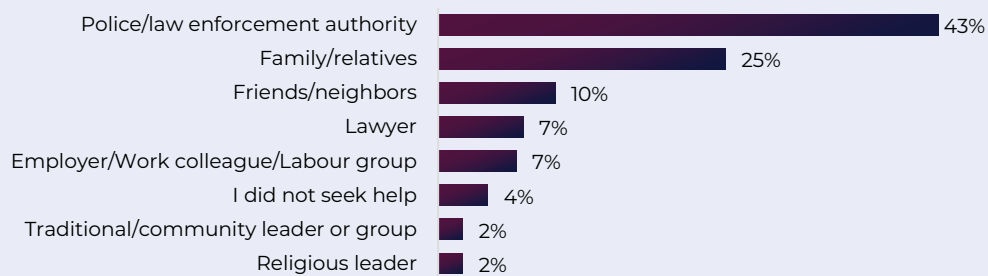
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



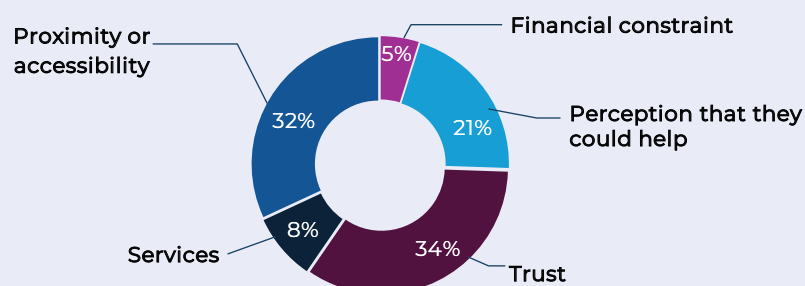
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

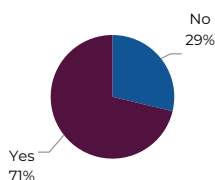


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

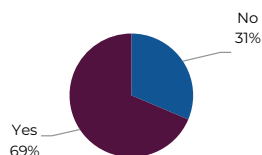


Laws and Policies

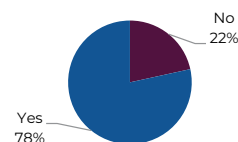
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

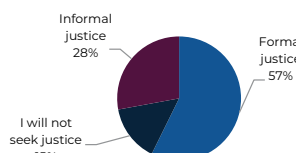


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

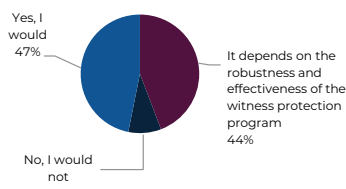


Access to Legal Justice

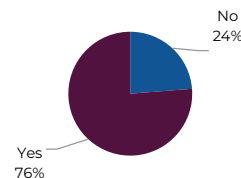
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

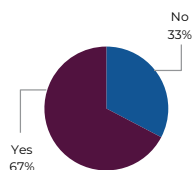


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

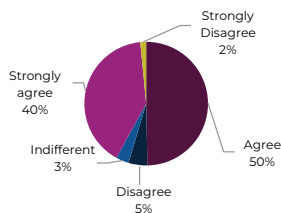


Support Services

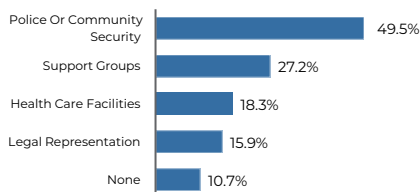
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



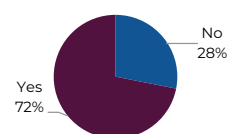
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

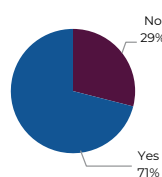


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

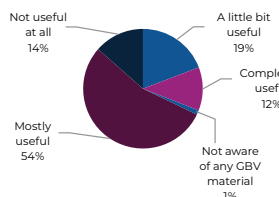


Information and Awareness

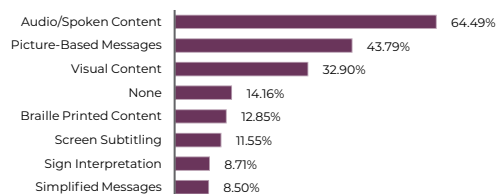
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a pervasive issue in Borno State, fueled by ongoing conflict, societal norms, and economic hardship. Women and girls, who constitute approximately 49% of the population, are particularly vulnerable to GBV, especially in the context of displacement and instability. The prevalence of domestic violence, sexual violence, and harmful traditional practices is exacerbated by the crisis, leading to widespread suffering and trauma among affected communities. To address GBV, the government has enacted various laws and policies, including the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act, the Child Protection Act, the Borno State Gender Policy, and the Local Government Ordinances. While these laws and policies are crucial for prosecuting GBV perpetrators, their full and effective implementation is essential to eliminate GBV in the state.

The Borno State VAPP Law includes state-specific provisions, such as Section 27, which addresses violence perpetrated by non-state actors, including abduction and kidnapping. However, the law needs to be amended to include offences like offensive conduct, damage to property with intent to cause distress, and harmful widowhood practices. Additionally, amendments are needed to establish a Sex Offenders' Register, streamline the prosecution process by removing the Attorney-General's written consent requirement, and clarify the government agency responsible for enforcing the VAPP Law. Additionally, the laws do not address emerging forms of GBV in conflict contexts.

There is a lack of coordination between formal and informal systems in the state in addressing GBV, with informal structures often lacking accountability. While 71.2% of respondents are aware of GBV laws, 24.7% expressed concerns about their effectiveness due to issues bothering on enforcement, access to justice, and corruption. Cultural barriers and resistance also hinder survivors from reporting cases. While 72.3% of respondents know GBV laws, further efforts are needed to improve understanding and promote their effective implementation. 215 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) were reported over the past year. Among these, 123 cases were taken to court, leading to 56 successful convictions. Thirty-four individuals were acquitted, and a staggering 101 cases are still unresolved. This highlights the urgent need for continued efforts to address and combat GBV in our communities. However, many cases went unreported due to stigma and fear of retribution. Notable trends include an increase in reported cases during the insurgency and flooding.

Access to Legal Justice

The reporting and referral system for GBV in Borno State involves a combination of formal and informal structures. Formal channels include the police, while informal networks, such as community and religious leaders, play a crucial role in initial support and referrals. 23.1% of respondents believe that victims often seek help from family or relatives, while 45.2% will seek help from the police. However, accessing justice remains a challenge due to factors like mistrust in the justice system, fear of retaliation, limited legal representation, corruption, and lack of knowledge about legal procedures. The state provides legal, health, and counseling services to survivors through various agencies. Additionally, local women's groups and community leaders offer immediate assistance and shelter, fostering a sense of solidarity. While informal systems can be effective in providing initial support, their capacity to address complex GBV cases may be limited due to a lack of professional training and resources. The absence of dedicated GBV courts and judges in the state is a significant concern. This lack of dedicated judges can hinder the effective prosecution of GBV cases and delay justice for survivors.

Support Services

Borno State has no shelter but has one Sexual Assault Referral Center (SARC), primarily operated by international non-profits such as UNFPA, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the Nigerian Red Cross Society, and Women's Rights Initiative. These facilities are located in Maiduguri and Numan and provide essential services to survivors of GBV. The state's GBV reporting and referral system involves formal structures like the police and NGOs, as well as informal networks

such as community and religious leaders. Survivors are typically referred to medical facilities for initial care and then to legal aid providers for further support. While informal support networks, such as family, community groups, and religious institutions, can be valuable sources of support, 27.4% of respondents reported experiencing negative attitudes or a lack of support from these sources. 72.6% believe that these structures can be helpful in providing support and understanding to survivors of GBV.

Information and Awareness

Survey results show that 71% of respondents are aware of GBV information and awareness programs in Borno State. However, 42.2% of respondents reported limited access to information, particularly in rural areas.

Budget and Spending






Borno State allocated an impressive N7.89 billion to its Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in 2023, making it the highest budgeted among its northeastern counterparts. However, the state faced a low budget implementation rate of just 43%, with only N3.43 billion utilized. Of the expenditure, capital projects accounted for N2.83 billion (85.5%), while overhead and personnel costs amounted to N542.43 million (15.8%) and N61.34 million (17.8%), respectively. With a population of 6,322,825, Borno recorded a per capita spending of N542.8, the highest in the northeastern region. This highlights the state's significant investment relative to its peers despite challenges in budget execution.

Human Angle Story







After years of enduring domestic abuse, Fatima, a 30-year-old woman, sought refuge in a local shelter. The shelter staff provided her with essential medical care, psychological counseling, and legal assistance. Through these services, Fatima regained her self-confidence and learned about her rights. With the support of the shelter, she successfully obtained a restraining order against her abusive husband. Today, Fatima is not only rebuilding her own life but is also actively advocating for other women in her community, sharing her story to inspire others to seek help and support.

Borno State

Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	In some communities, Sharia law is applied to protect women but may also perpetuate gender inequalities. In addition, early marriage and Female Genital Mutilation are also justified through tradition.	A formal mechanism should be implemented to hold traditional and religious leaders accountable.
	The GBV-related laws are not comprehensive as emerging issues on GBV associated with the ongoing insurgency are not addressed in the laws.	The laws should be reviewed to address emerging issues.
	Survivors' protection is not guaranteed by traditional and religious structures.	Close collaboration between informal and formal justice should be ensured to fill the gap.
	Local government ordinances specific to each LGA's context address GBV. However, there is no accountability.	
Access to Legal Justice 	Government commitment to addressing GBV is low as NGOs spearheaded most of the GBV activities.	The government should take the lead in addressing GBV while NGOs support it to ensure sustainability.
	Lack of confidence in formal security actors undermines the reporting process as many GBV incidents go unreported.	Security operatives should be trained on an ongoing basis and made to be accountable for their action.
	Unprofessionalism is associated with religious institutions handling GBV, as some of them perpetuate stigma against GBV survivors.	The capacity of religious institutions should be built to efficiently and effectively provide holistic informal support for GBV victims and survivors.
Support Services 	The informal reporting and referral pathways are associated with perpetuating stigma on survivors due to a lack of training to handle complexities around GBV.	Collaboration between formal and informal structures should be strengthened, and the capacity building for actors should be carried out regularly.
	Insufficient functional shelters and SARCs to meet the needs of population	The government should invest in establishing and equipping more shelters and SARCs.
Information and Awareness 	Borno State has a robust information and awareness-creation medium, which is a result of robust NGO activities.	The government should collaborate with NGOs to sustain GBV sensitization and awareness efforts.
Budget and Spending 	<p>The budget execution rate of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in 2023 was 43%.</p> <p>The spending per capita by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in 2023 was N542.8.</p>	Increase the budgetary allocation and releases to the Ministry to enable it effectively and efficiently implement its plan, programs and projects for effective GBV prevention and response.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Borno State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1		Partially Implemented	The Government has provided partially implimentation sensitisation and awerness about the existing laws and policies in providing justice to GBV victims and survivors in Borno State.
2		Fully Implemented	The government is committed to tackling Gender-Based Violence (GBV) through swift action against perpetrators, strengthening the legal framework, and improving law enforcement ¹ . This aims to hold offenders accountable and support survivors. The goal is to build a safer, more equitable society for everyone.
3		Partially Implemented	The government recognizes education and awareness as key strategies to combat Gender-Based Violence (GBV). They plan to implement nationwide educational campaigns to inform all members of society about GBV laws, rights, and support services, aiming to foster a culture of respect, equality, and accountability.
Access to Legal Justice			
4		Not Implemented	The government acknowledge that a robust witness protection program has not yet been fully implemented, we are aware that such a program is vital for ensuring the safety of those who come forward to testify and assist in securing justice.
5		Not Implemented	The government recognizes the urgent need for specialized legal structures to address Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in regions like Borno, where conflict and displacement have worsened the impact of violence on women and vulnerable groups ¹ . To provide justice for survivors, the government is establishing exclusive GBV courts with dedicated judges who have the expertise to handle sensitive cases with urgency and care.
6		Not Implemented	The government acknowledges that informal practices and customary laws perpetuate Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and undermine the legal framework. To address this, the government is committed to outlawing such practices, aligning traditional justice systems with national laws, and ensuring perpetrators face justice.
7	Different reporting systems should be setup in the rural areas.	Partially Implemented	the government are putting more efforts in the implementation process. Survivors can report incidents to the police, NGOs, or local government offices.
Support Services			
8	SARCs and more Shelters should be established, well-staffed, and equipped.	Partially Implemented	Borno state has 6 SARCs.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER 2023 Recommendations Borno State				
9		For sustainability purposes, government needs to invest resources in building capacity to be the primary provider of support services to GBV victims and survivors.	Partially Implemented	The state government has established formal support systems for GBV victims such as legal aid services, healthcare services and counselling services.
10		Government should improve support services to ensure that persons who have been prisoners of war are given adequate care and re-integrated back into society.	Fully Implemented	The government acknowledges the significant challenge posed by informal practices and customary laws that perpetuate Gender-Based Violence (GBV), particularly in regions like Borno. These practices allow perpetrators to receive lenient punishment, fostering a culture of impunity that undermines the legal framework, exacerbates survivors' suffering, and enables violence to persist unchecked. To address this, the government is committed to ensuring all forms of GBV are met with the full force of the law, outlawing informal practices that perpetuate GBV, and aligning traditional justice systems with national laws that prioritize women's and children's rights and protection.
Information and Awareness				
11		Make GBV sensitization and awareness programs inclusive, equally accessible, and generally PwDs-friendly.	Partially Implemented	The government is fully committed to the wellbeing and rehabilitation of all individuals affected by the ongoing conflict, including those who have been held as prisoners of war. We recognize that the trauma and hardships endured by these individuals have long-lasting effects, and it is our responsibility to ensure that they are provided with the necessary support to heal and reintegrate into society. To this end, we are strengthening our efforts to provide comprehensive care for former prisoners of war, including physical and mental health services, vocational training, and reintegration programs. These services will be tailored to the specific needs of each individual, with a focus on trauma-informed care and restoring dignity and hope. It is essential that these individuals are not only cared for but are also given opportunities to rebuild their lives and contribute positively to their communities

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Borno State

<p>12</p> 	<p>Government should prioritize and sponsor more campaigns on GBV in different local dialects for effective communication.</p>	<p>Not Implemented</p>	<p>The government recognizes the critical need for effective communication in raising awareness about Gender-Based Violence (GBV) across all communities, especially in diverse regions like Borno. We acknowledge that for awareness campaigns to be truly impactful, they must be inclusive and culturally sensitive, ensuring that language is not a barrier to understanding the message. Many communities in Borno speak a variety of local dialects, and it is essential that GBV campaigns are tailored to reach these groups in their own languages.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>Comprehensive sex education should be extended to cover all levels of education, including primary level.</p>	<p>Not Implemented</p>	<p>The government recognizes the urgent need to implement comprehensive sex education across all levels of education, including at the primary school level, to equip young people with the knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible decisions about their health and well-being. We understand that comprehensive sex education is not just about biological aspects; it also includes teaching about respect, consent, healthy relationships, and preventing gender-based violence (GBV).</p> <p>While we have made progress in some areas, we acknowledge that comprehensive sex education has not yet been fully implemented at every level, particularly at the primary school level in regions like Borno. This gap represents a critical opportunity lost in preventing early pregnancies, sexual abuse, and the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).</p>



Cross River State



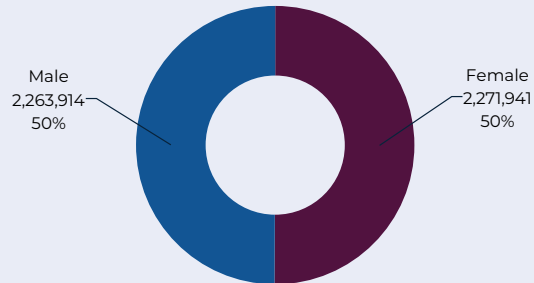
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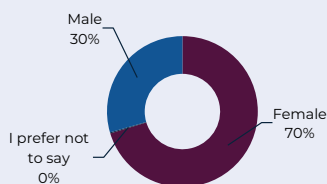




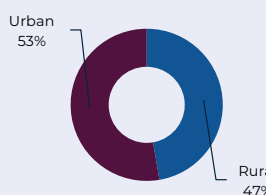
Total Population
4,535,855



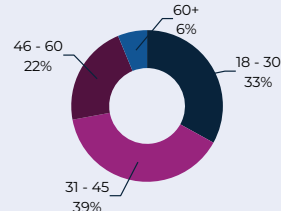
Respondents: 448



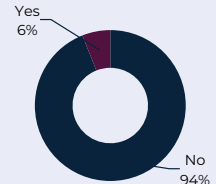
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **1729**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)s **6**



No. of active shelters **2**



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs) **1**



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

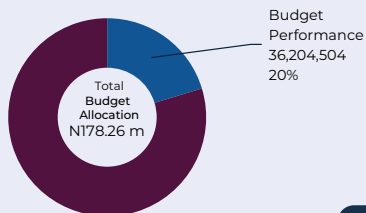


Budget and Spending

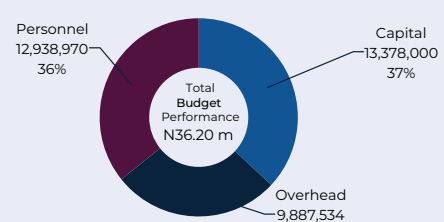


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

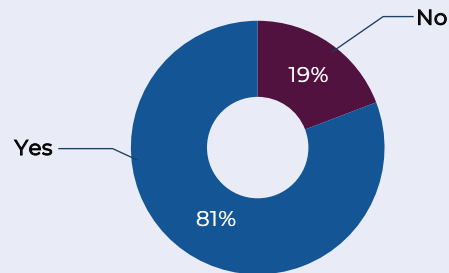


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N8**

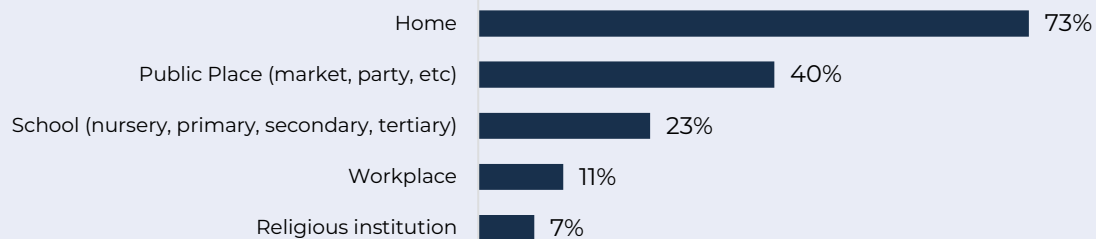
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



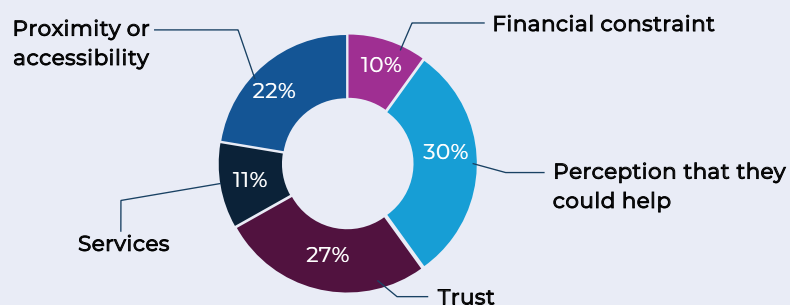
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

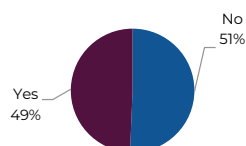


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

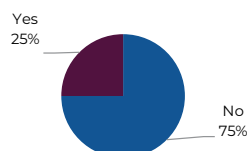


Laws and Policies

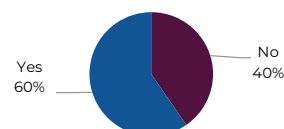
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

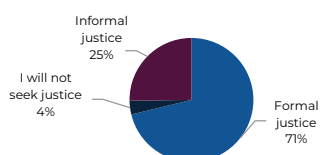


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

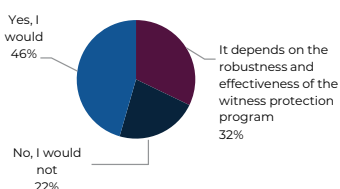


Access to Legal Justice

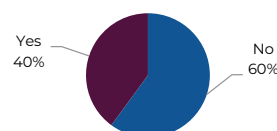
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

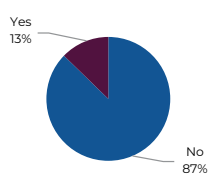


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

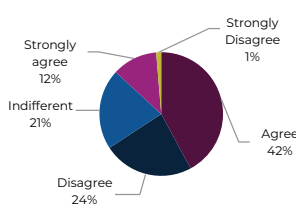


Support Services

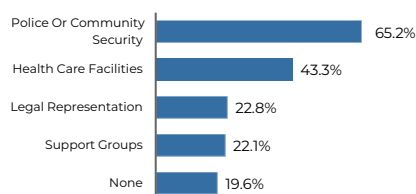
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



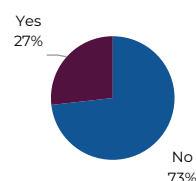
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

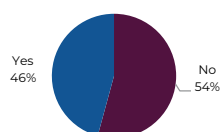


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

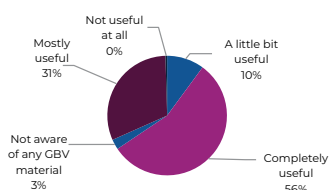


Information and Awareness

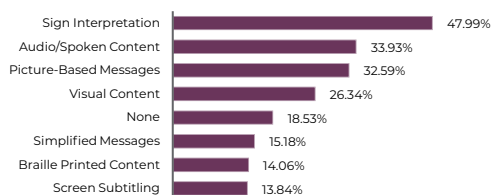
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Cross River State has several GBV-related laws, including the VAPP Law 2023, Child Rights Law 2023, and the Administration of Criminal Justice Law (ACJL) 2017. Despite their existence, only 49% of respondents are aware of these laws, and 63% believe that they effectively prevent GBV and respond. There are cultural hindrances to the effective implementation of these laws, and the law has lenient penalties for some offences, such as stalking. The VAPP Law, however, needs to be reviewed, for instance, by increasing the years of imprisonment for convicted perpetrators of rape in alignment with the parent VAPP Act (2015), as well as stiffening the penalty for the offence of forced financial dependence from just N1m to both imprisonment and an adequate minimum fine in line with necessary considerations.

Twenty six GBV cases have been reported over the past year, with 17 cases in court, nine judgments and nine convictions (NPF-Cross River state). Formal laws are periodically reviewed to suit modern realities, e.g., the Child's Rights Law, amended in 2023. Additionally, the survey showed that 60% of respondents believed customary laws can help address GBV in the state. The state, through MOWA, has made significant efforts to advocate for and sensitize the LGAs that practice money marriage. These efforts have led to the creation of bylaws with the contributions of the leadership of the communities. It is important to note, however, that the Child Rights law was reviewed and amended in 2023. In 2023, the state allocated N50mn for the Training of Women Development Officers (WDOs) on Child Protection Issues. Such training is useful to ensure proper awareness of the laws and understanding of the implementation and enforcement criteria.



Access to Legal Justice

Victims and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) or their relatives can report incidents to various agencies, including CSOs, the Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA), the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), or the police. The MoJ is responsible for prosecution while the police enforce the law. A significant portion of the study population (70.12%) expressed their intention to seek formal justice if they experienced GBV. Free legal aid is available through the state's Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and Citizens' Rights Commission (CCROPD), but awareness of these services among indigent individuals is low. While witness protection is legally mandated, the state lacks formal programs beyond safe houses provided by NGOs.

These NGOs often face financial constraints, limiting their ability to hire police or private security for witness and survivor protection. Court proceedings can be lengthy, hindering access to justice due to extended waiting times. Community leaders, customary courts, and councils of elders play a crucial role in maintaining order in areas with limited government reach. Some GBV cases are referred to formal courts for legal resolution. 57.59% of the study population believes that informal justice systems effectively prevent GBV. The state has established specialized family courts and desk offices within the judiciary and police to handle GBV and rape cases.



Support Services

The state has six Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs), a GBV centre, and two shelters. Due to the non-functionality of state-owned shelters, the state partners with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to provide shelter for GBV victims. Some victims are also referred to safe homes in Akwa Ibom State for safety. These shelters offer victims essential services such as temporary accommodation, medical care, and trauma counselling. CSOs, MOWA, and the police serve as the initial contact points for victims, who are then referred to the police GBV desk for investigation. A significant portion of the population (73%) prefers formal support systems over informal ones. Police investigation reports play a crucial role in the prosecution process. Insufficient budget allocation and delays in fund approval hinder effective GBV response in the state.

Information and Awareness

The state primarily relies on capacity building and community engagement, implemented through CSOs, to conduct sensitization programs. Additionally, IEC materials are utilized during special events like Women's Day and the 16 Days of Activism to raise school awareness. Targeted outreaches are conducted to vulnerable groups, including women, children, and people with disabilities (PWDs). In 2023, Cross River State allocated N1.27 million to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children and N50 million to the Gender-Based Violence Centre for Women and Children Advocacy, Monitoring, and Sensitization. Increased funding for such initiatives would enable more frequent and effective sensitization and awareness programs. While sex education and GBV awareness are not yet formally integrated into the education curriculum, some relevant topics are covered within subjects like biology. Although PWDs have access to sensitization programs and IEC materials, these materials may not be fully inclusive for all disabilities. Sign language interpreters are employed to accommodate PWDs during awareness programs. However, only 44.58% of the study population is aware of GBV information and awareness programs.

Budget and Spending

In 2023, the State's Ministry of Women Affairs received a budget allocation of N178.26 million. However, only 20% of this allocation, amounting to N36.20 million, was spent. Over half of the budget remained unspent. The funds were allocated as follows: N12.94 million for personnel costs, N9.89 million for overhead expenses, and N13.38 million for capital projects. With a population of 4.74 million, the actual spending per person is a mere N7.60, significantly lower than the per capita investment in other states and women-focused interventions, including GBV services. To effectively address GBV-related issues, there is a critical need to improve budget allocation and disbursements.

Human Angle Story



A woman gave birth at a hospital, and her partner paid an initial N100,000 towards the N400,000 hospital bill. However, he subsequently disappeared without completing the payment. The hospital, fearing the woman would abscond, refused to release the newborn baby. Desperate, the woman left her child behind and sought help. She was eventually referred to the Citizens' Rights Commission (CCROPD), which initiated an investigation to locate the child's father. CCROPD successfully tracked down the father and compelled him to settle the outstanding hospital bill. Ultimately, both the mother and child were released, with CCROPD providing additional financial support from non-budgetary sources.

Cross River State

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	Implementing policies like the Child Rights Act faces cultural resistance. Indigents dismiss it as foreign law.	Continuously conduct culturally sensitive awareness campaigns, engaging local leaders and influencers, to promote acceptance and implementation of laws like the Child Rights Act.
	Communities rely on unwritten customary and religious laws, which can change anytime new leadership comes into power, creating inconsistencies	Efforts should be directed towards coordinating the communities to document their customary and religious laws to ensure consistency and prevent arbitrary changes
	Limited awareness and knowledge of the VAPP Act and other GBV-related laws among the general public, law enforcement agencies and Legal practitioners.	Law enforcement, legal practitioners, and agency staff should receive regular training on the provisions, application, and importance of laws like the VAPP laws.
Access to Legal Justice 	Long litigation periods (2-5 years) hinder access to justice, causing frustration, loss of evidence, and witness intimidation.	Due to the high workload, the number of dedicated GBV judges in all courts should increase, and a specialized court should be created to cater to only gender-related cases.
	Laws to protect witnesses are poorly implemented, with inadequate resources to ensure their safety	An increase in funding to provide resources needed for effective implementation of witness protection
	Awareness and services are concentrated in the capital, leaving rural areas underserved despite higher GBV rates.	Establish and properly fund a task force charged with awareness creation will enable evenly targeted awareness creation across the state.
Support Services 	The available SARC centres are insufficient for the population they serve and lack the resources to provide comprehensive services to all survivors.	There should be increased funding to improve SARC and shelter capacity and services.
	SARCs and shelters are overcrowded. Survivors needing services at night face delays due to the requirement for ministry approval before admission.	Provision of more shelter and simplifying admission procedures, especially for emergency cases at night
	Many survivors withdraw cases due to fear and intimidation.	Informing and sensitizing the community would strengthen support systems to protect survivors and ensure follow-through in legal processes.
Information and Awareness 	Programs and materials do accommodate PWDs but not all forms.	Improve effort to accommodate all forms of PWDs for the GBV awareness program
	Sensitization programs lack adequate funding to provide enough resources, such as IEC materials, public address systems, and trained personnel, to ensure impactful outreach.	Increase funding and resources for sensitization campaigns to ensure their impactful outreaches.

Budget and Spending



The budget performance of the Ministry of Women Affairs was extremely low at 20%.

An expenditure per capita of N8 by the Ministry of Women Affairs is acutely inadequate to cater to the GBV needs of the population

The government should significantly increase the budget allocation and disbursements to the Ministry.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Cross River State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1	The VAPP Law, and other GBV-related laws should be amended in line with societal changes.	Partially Implemented	Child Right law has been reviewed and amended as at 2023
2	The government should re-orientate the legislators and push for legislation on rape cases that happen between spouses.	Not Implemented	
3	The state needs to prosecute high-profile offenders to demonstrate that no one is above the law.	Partially Implemented	The previous Commissioner for youth and sports was prosecuted and the court processes were ongoing when he passed out. It is speculated that he may have died due to the stress of the process.
4	The state needs to criminalise and outlaw money marriages in communities where they still exist and establish stiffer sanctions for perpetrators.	Partially Implemented	The state through MOWA, has made significant efforts in advocacies and sensitizations to the LGAs that practice these traditions. These efforts have led to the creation of bye-law with the contribution of the leadership of the communities. However, these bye-laws lack the legal jurisdiction to address criminal acts and rely only on pledges. When such practices are repeated, community leaders refer the case to the relevant government MDAs.
Access to Legal Justice			
5	The state should establish an effective witness protection program.	Not Implemented	Aside the safe houses by NGOs, the state lacks formal witness protection programs. Additionally, NGOs face financial constraints that prevent them from hiring the services of the police or private security to protect both witnesses and survivors.
6	The state should appoint dedicated GBV judges and regularly train them.	Not Implemented	
7	Funding should be made available for seamless performance of the GBV desks.	Partially Implemented	NGOs and CBOs support the GBV Desks with funding. From the government, there is a GBV budget in State Economic Planning and MOWA and Social Welfare and Humanitarian Services. While the budget is available, it is difficult to access the funds.
Support Services			
8	Support services should be prioritized for adequate funding.	Partially Implemented	These are implemented mostly by CSOs and NGOs
9	The government should establish more SARCs, at least one in every Local Government Area.	Partially Implemented	

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Cross River State

10	The government should increase awareness on the reporting and referral pathway.	Partially Implemented	The reporting pathways are widely known and understood by NGOs but knowledge is still low in the communities
Information and Awareness			
11	Sensitisation and awareness on GBV prevention and response should be done on a more frequent basis.	Partially Implemented	Although mostly done during 16 days of activism and relevant international days
12	Sex education should be formally included in the secondary school curriculum.	Partially Implemented	It has been mainstreamed into family life education, a subject in schools. The ministry of education may try to integrate sex education and GBV awareness into other subjects, but this is still in the planning and development stage.
13	Sensitization should be regularly created through various mediums	Partially Implemented	Advocacy and Sensitisation has been central to all activities involving local, foreign and government stakeholders. This unified effort has significantly increased awareness in schools and communities. This collective voice of all relevant bodies has been instrumental in promoting justice for women and ensuring that their rights are recognised and protected
14	There should be more sensitivity and inclusion of the needs of PwD in sensitization programs.	Partially Implemented	Most public messages historically lack accessibility to PwD; they do not include sign languages, pictures or brails. While recent efforts have aimed for higher inclusivity through the incorporation of audio messages and pictures. However, during the planning of statewide sensitisation programs, PwD are now actively included and their opinions valued, venues are selected to be disability friendly reflecting a shift towards more inclusive practices.





Delta State



Womanity
INDEX
2024 Edition

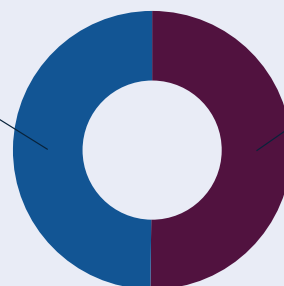
invictus
AFRICA





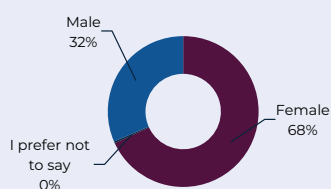
Total Population
5,819,418

Male
2,898,132
50%

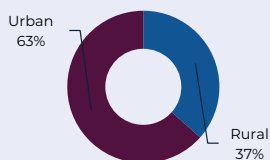


Female
2,921,286
50%

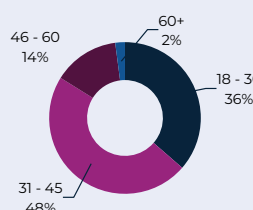
Respondents: 533



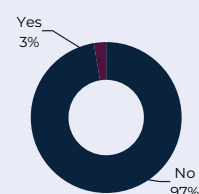
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **150**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) **3**



No. of active shelters **3**



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



Index Grades

Laws and Policies ●

Access to Legal Justice ●

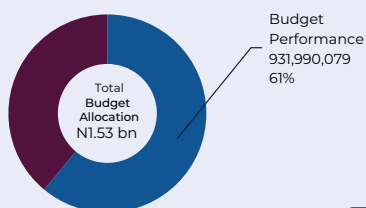
Support Services ●

Information and Awareness ●

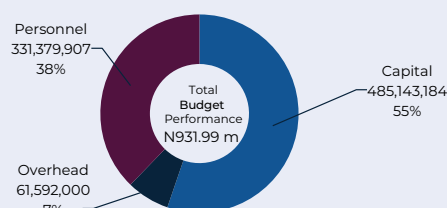
Budget and Spending ●

Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

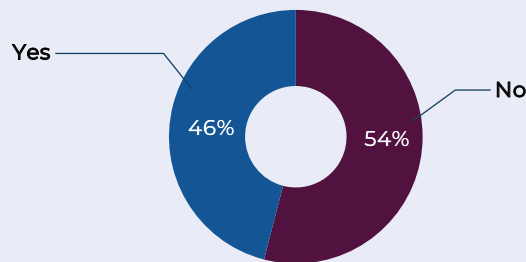


Budget Expenditure (2023)

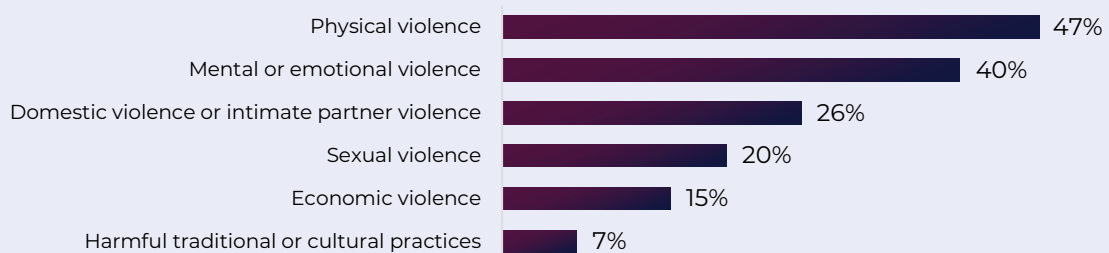


Per Capita Spending **N160.2**

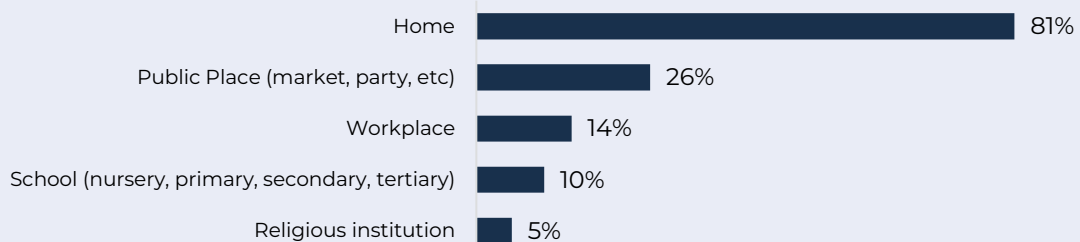
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



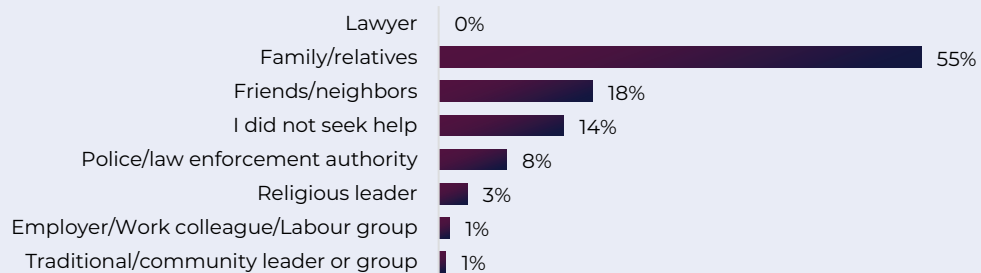
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



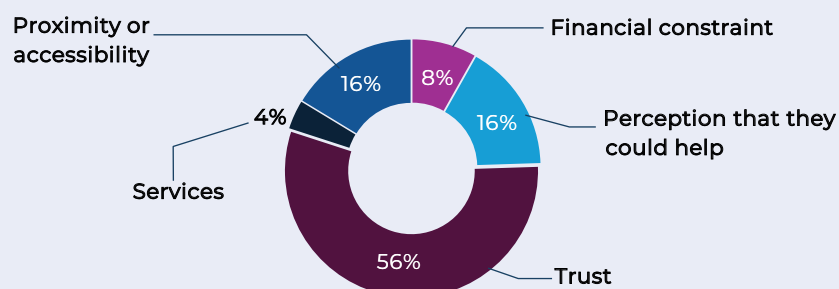
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

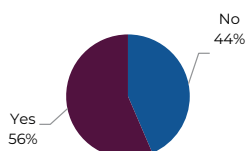


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

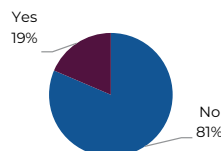


Laws and Policies

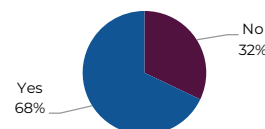
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Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

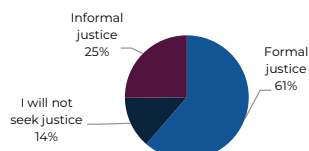


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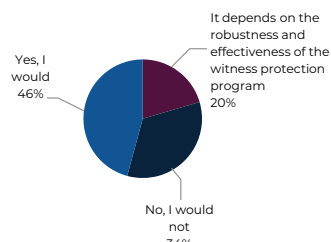


Access to Legal Justice

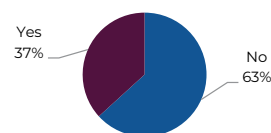
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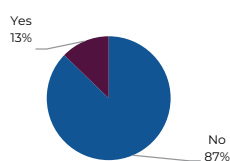


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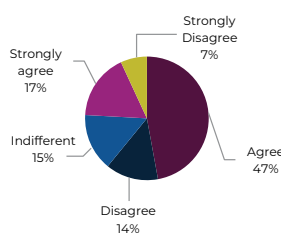


Support Services

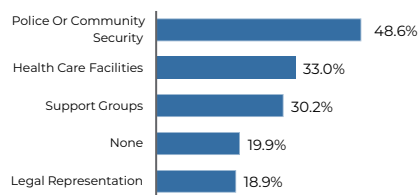
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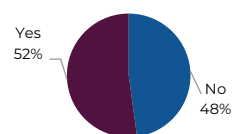
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

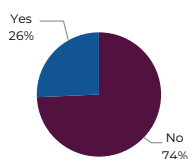


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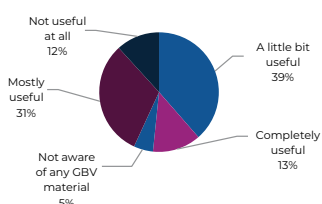


Information and Awareness

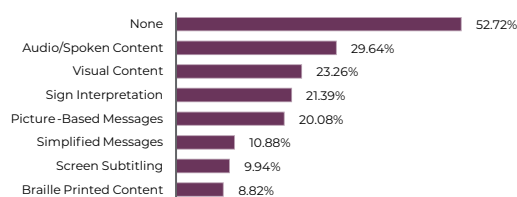
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Delta State has implemented several laws to combat gender-based violence (GBV), including the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law (2020), the Child Rights Law (2009), and relevant sections of the Criminal Code. The VAPP Law is frequently used due to its comprehensive nature, addressing contemporary forms of violence. Despite these legal frameworks, public awareness remains limited, with only 56% of surveyed respondents aware of these laws and perceiving them as effective in preventing GBV. Key challenges in the legal system include delays in case processing, inadequate protection for survivors, and insufficient mechanisms to combat stigmatization and victim-blaming. Moreover, entrenched cultural practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) persist, highlighting the limitations of legal measures in addressing deeply rooted societal norms. To bridge this gap, traditional rulers, in collaboration with FIDA, have developed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) to be used as by-laws in the fight against GBV. 68% of the respondents perceive customary law as helpful in preventing GBV.

Access to Legal Justice

Victims and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) can report incidents through GBV desk officers at police stations, SARCs, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), or via five dedicated hotlines. A GBV technical working committee has been established to expedite response efforts. The prosecution process begins with police and SARCs collecting evidence, followed by arraignment at a Magistrate Court and referral to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). Convictions, particularly for sexual offenses, are enforced by prison wardens or police. Many respondents (60%) indicated they would seek formal justice. Free legal aid is available through government-provided lawyers at SARCs, and the MOJ is accessible to all victims. However, challenges such as appearance fees in remote areas hinder accessibility.

Court proceedings often exceed the timelines outlined in the Administration of Criminal Justice Law (ACJL), with some cases lasting over 12 months. Informal justice systems, rooted in traditional norms, can undermine justice through biased rulings, secondary victimization, and prioritizing family or community reputation over accountability. Yet, 68% of respondents believe that customary laws contribute to GBV prevention. Currently, there is no dedicated family support unit for GBV, and a relevant bill awaits assent. Consequently, there are no specialized GBV judges or dedicated GBV desks in various police commands, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), and other institutions.

Support Services

The state has three shelters funded by CSOs. Currently, the state lacks an operational government-owned shelter. However, a facility is under construction with a 2023 budget allocation of N70 million. In the interim, survivors rely on shelters provided by NGOs like FIDA and Working Fingers International. FIDA's shelter, temporarily donated by a member, offers privacy and support to survivors. Working Fingers International's "Place of Peace" provides transitional housing and empowerment programs. Additionally, the state operates three functional Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs) in Asaba, Ughelli, and Warri, offering essential services such as medical care, counselling, and legal aid.

Reporting and referral pathways include SARCs, GBV desk officers, NGO hotlines, and paralegals trained by FIDA. The newly established GBV Technical Working Group (TWG) further supports coordination, while the Ministry of Health aims to integrate reporting in health facilities once funding is secured. Informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centers, and community groups play a role in aiding survivors, though societal stigma often leads families to favour out-of-court settlements. About 58% of the respondents think the informal support system is better than the formal support. Medical units and forensic evidence provided by SARCs are instrumental in prosecuting GBV cases. However, there is limited budgetary allocation for GBV initiatives.

Information and Awareness

The state employs various IEC materials to raise awareness of GBV, including flyers, posters, audio

messages, radio jingles, and TV programs. These materials are used during public sensitization campaigns in schools, marketplaces, and awareness walks, especially on commemorative days such as Girl Child's Day, Women's Day, and 16 Days of Activism. Stakeholders like CSOs, NOA, MOI, MOJ, and NHRC collaborate in these efforts. The education curriculum includes GBV topics under national values, which are taught in secondary schools through social studies and civic education. Additionally, advocacy for GBV clubs in schools is beginning to gain attention among GBV groups. Programs for persons with disabilities (PWDs) include sign interpreters and audio materials but lack resources like Braille. Specialized GBV programs are organized for PWDs, yet limited awareness persists due to the absence of a comprehensive PWD database. Survey findings reveal only 25.74% of respondents are aware of GBV sensitization programs due to a gap in information dissemination.



Budget and Spending

The State's Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, and Social Development received a N1.5 billion budget in 2023. Of this, 61% (N931.99 million) was spent. The funds were spent as follows: N331.38 million for personnel, N61.59 million for overhead, N485.14 million for capital projects, and N53.87 million for other recurrent expenses. With a population of 7.09 million, the per capita spending on these allocations was N160.20, indicating limited resources for programs and services such as GBV awareness, SARC services, and shelter provision. To improve the impact of these initiatives, the government needs to increase the budget allocation and disbursement to the Ministry of Women's Affairs. The 2023 state budget included specific allocations for GBV interventions, such as N70 million for the construction of a Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) shelter and N5 million for the renovation of transit homes for disabled individuals.



Human Angle Story





A recent sensitization program in the Okpanam community led to a positive outcome. A neighbor, empowered by the program, noticed a young girl struggling with a large water container and reported their concerns about potential child abuse to a hotline. The Technical Working Group (TWG) promptly investigated the matter and discovered that the girl was using a larger container due to the absence of a smaller one. While the situation was a misunderstanding, TWG's swift response demonstrated its commitment to addressing community concerns. This incident reassured residents that their reports would be taken seriously, encouraging them to seek help.

Delta State

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	Delays in the process, from reporting to prosecution, can create room for settlement between the perpetrator and the victim.	To ensure quicker resolution, the process of creating dedicated courts or tribunals to handle SGBV cases exclusively should be fastened.
	The VAPP 2020 law is all-encompassing, redefined rape, and intensified punishment for offenses.	Ensuring full enforcement of the VAPP 2020 law, particularly its provisions on redefined offenses and enhanced punishment.
	The existence of a zero-tolerance policy for GBV does not allow SGBV cases to be settled out of court.	Strengthening enforcement of the zero-tolerance policy to prevent settlement of GBV cases out of court and ensure accountability.
	The law lacks a safe space for minors who may be victims of neglect or lack of parental care.	Introduce provisions for safe spaces and rehabilitation programs for minors who are victims of neglect or abuse.
	Despite the zero-tolerance policy, people still withdraw ongoing cases favoring informal justice systems.	To safeguard victims' interests, implement legal measures to penalize the withdrawal of ongoing cases in favor of informal justice systems.
Access to Legal Justice 	The state has established and introduced a new group, the Technical Working Committee (TWC), to hasten the response to GBV.	Strengthening the committee by ensuring adequate training, resources, and regular coordination meetings to improve effectiveness and speed in addressing GBV cases.
	Absence of a designated Family Support Unit for SGBV cases, though a bill is awaiting assent.	The state should prioritize the assent and implementation of the bill to establish a dedicated Family Support Unit for SGBV cases.
	Interference with the informal justice system may pressure the victim not to seek a formal justice system.	The state should codify a bylaw to guide the informal justice system, mandate that SGBV cases be reported, and establish a monitoring mechanism to ensure compliance.
	Inadequate funding: No easily accessible funding for the response team to take immediate action (e.g., the police need funds for logistics to make arrests).	The state should ensure timely and accessible funding for response teams, including dedicated resources for law enforcement, to facilitate prompt action in addressing GBV cases.
Support Services 	Absence of well-structured and equipped shelter.	The state should prioritize the establishment and speed up the completion of a well-structured and fully equipped safe house for GBV victims in the state.
	Establishment of 3 functional SARC located across the three senatorial districts.	Strengthen the capacity of existing SARC to handle more cases and expand services to an underserved area.
	There is a lack of awareness and confidence in existing support services; some believe only indigenous people can access them.	Conduct widespread awareness campaigns to inform all residents about available GBV support services and their accessibility to everyone.
Information and Awareness 	Lack of dedicated task force charged with awareness creation.	Establish a dedicated task force to coordinate and drive GBV awareness campaigns statewide.
	Inadequate funding is needed to organize and implement targeted awareness programs, particularly those that reach communities outside the state capital.	Allocation of additional resources and prioritize funding for awareness programs to ensure equitable coverage, especially in underserved areas beyond the state capital.
	There is an absence of structured extracurricular activities, such as GBV clubs, to expose children to life-saving skills, etc., in GBV-related situations.	The government can help revive or introduce new extracurricular activities, e.g., a GBV club, in schools that will equip youngsters with lifesaving skills that will help protect them from becoming GBV victims and with the knowledge of where to seek help or provide help.

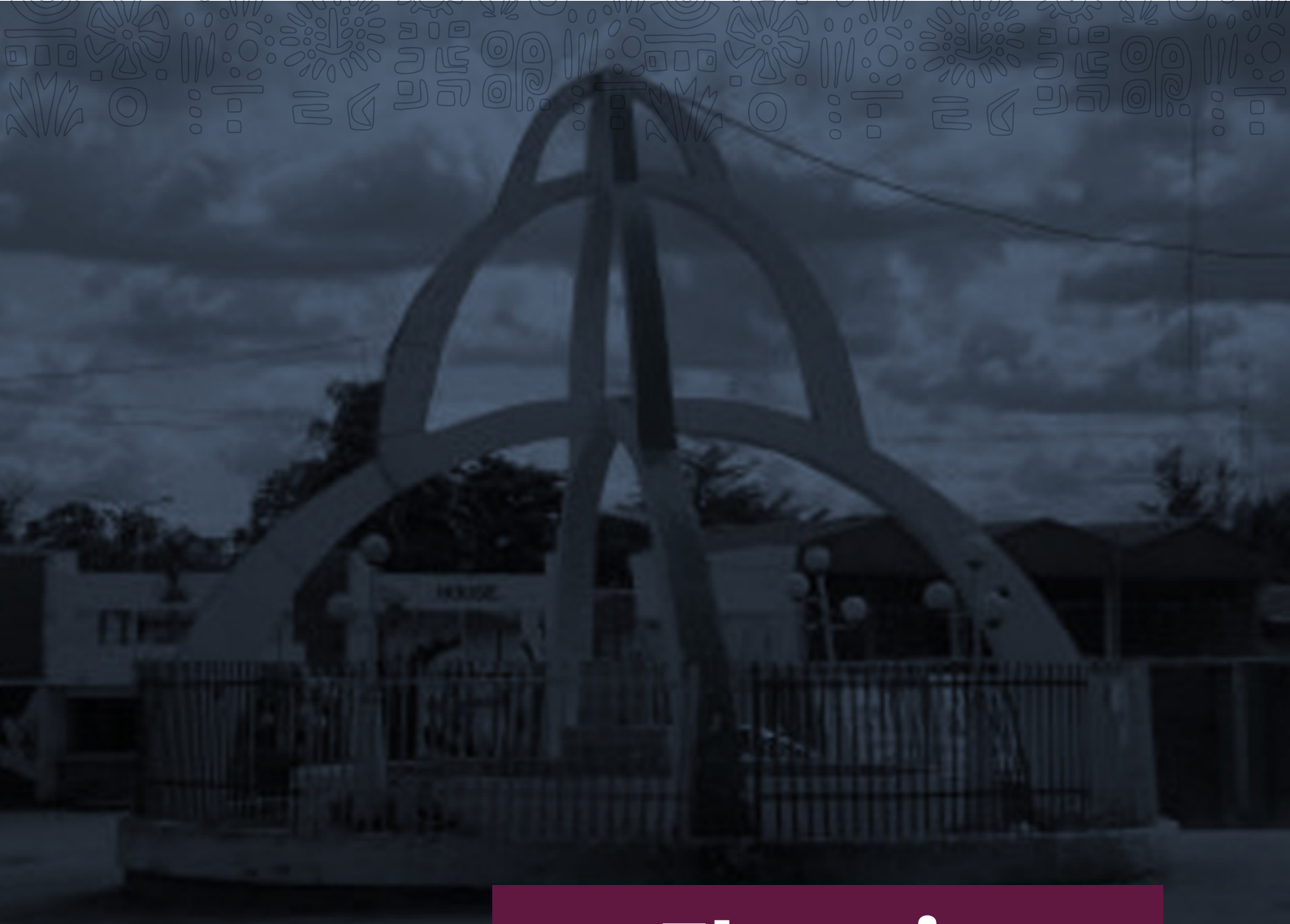
Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
Budget and Spending 	<p>The spending per capita by the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community and Social Development is grossly insufficient to address the GBV prevention and response gaps in the state</p>	<p>The government should substantially increase the budget allocation and releases to the Ministry in a timely manner.</p>

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Delta State

S/No.		Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies				
1		Contraventions of the provisions of the Child's Right Law that criminalizes child marriage should be decisively dealt with.	Partially Implemented	child's right law is currently under review.
2		Establish clear provisions for witness protection in the existing GBV-related laws.	Not Implemented	There is no clear witness protection program yet aside provision made for providing evidence in camera, pre recorded evidence and providing evidence in controlled environment like in the chambers.
Access to Legal Justice				
3		Government should ensure that every person gets access to justice no matter the status of that person.	Partially Implemented	While the state grant access to everyone, there are still individuals who missed out on accessing justice because they could not afford paying the legal appearance fee for cases outside the state
4		Adequate transport and logistic allowance should be provided to law enforcement agents who need to testify in court and present evidence before the judges.	Not Implemented	The GBV responders still complained of lack of funding to support them discharging their duties, which makes them to spend out of pocket money most times to meet up.
5		The government should establish specialised GBV courts with dedicated GBV judges to enable speedy adjudication of cases.	Not Implemented	There is an existing bill toward establishing GBV specialised courts.
Support Services				
6		Provision should be made for adequate funding, staffing, and amenities for the SARCs (e.g., vehicles to aid mobility).	Not Implemented	Nothing has changed from what was existing as of 2023, that include no vehicles to aid movement, providers use their vehicles and still spend out of pocket money for cases.
7		Government should adequately staff the SARC to drive patronage of the SARCs by GBV victims and survivors.	Partially Implemented	There are staff but still not enough. While they work on shift base, they still do not offer a 24 hrs service.
8		There should be increased budget allocation for GBV support services in order to accommodate more GBV survivors, while ensuring proper monitoring.	Not Implemented	There is no GBV budget line in MOH allocation, according to the Dr Francis the Director of public health
Information and Awareness				
9		Funds should be made available for more and consistent GBV awareness programs.	Partially Implemented	The GBV awareness program does not have a widespread yet, schools and community outside head quarter senatorial district have experienced little or no awareness GBV program. Though there is usually awareness program on special days dedicated to girl child.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Delta State

10	There should be dedicated hotline with personnel employed to man it as a GBV Survivors' first respondent service agent.	Not Implemented	There are hotlines but they are not dedicated to GBV and different hotlines for different players. Hot lines are not harmonised yet
11	Comprehensive sex education should be inculcated into the education system.	Partially Implemented	GBV related Issues are discussed under some subjects such as civic education, social studies etc. These subjects are under National value subjects



Ebonyi State



Womankind
INDEX
2024 Edition

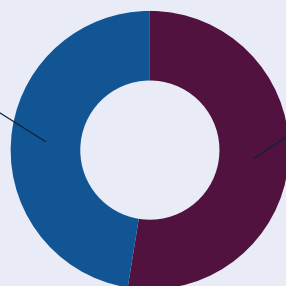
invictus
AFRICA





Total Population
3,334,592

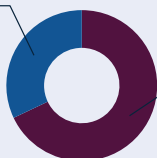
Male
1,582,469
47%



Female
1,752,123
53%

Respondents: 465

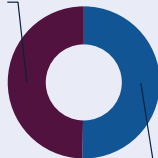
Male
32%



Female
68%

Location

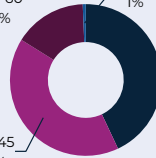
Urban
50%



Rural
50%

Age Group

46 - 60
15%



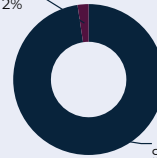
60+
1%

18 - 30
43%

31 - 45
41%

Disability Status

Yes
2%



No
98%



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases

5,575



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)s

1



No. of active shelters

N/A



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs)

N/A



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

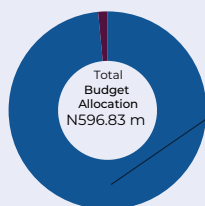


Budget and Spending



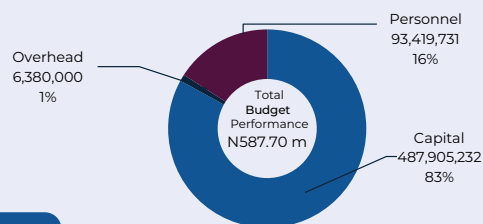
Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)



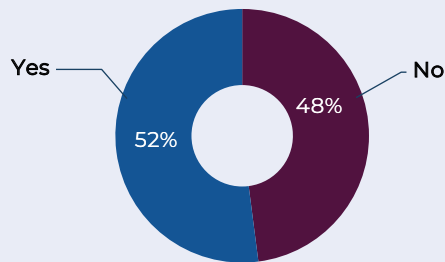
Budget Performance
587,704,963
98%

Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N176.2**

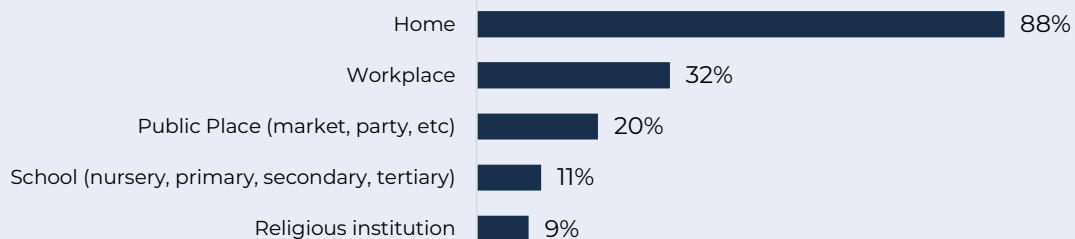
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



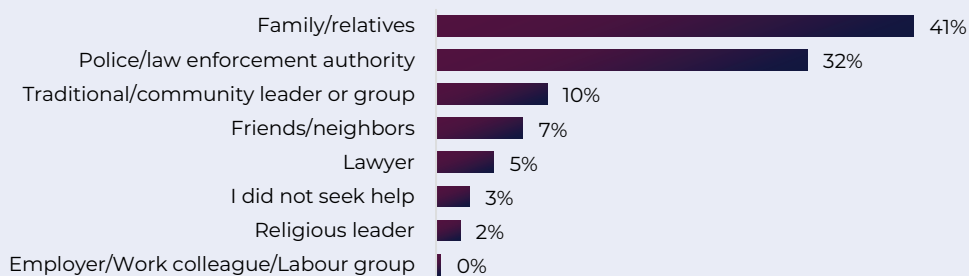
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



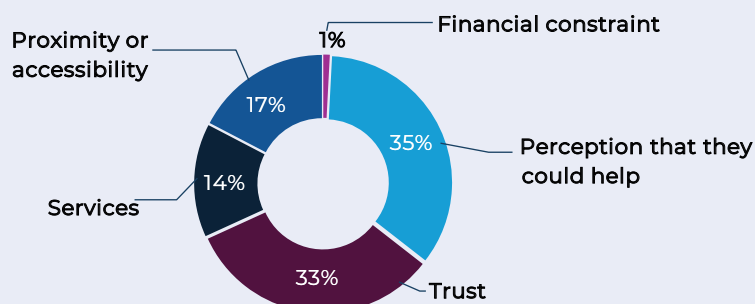
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

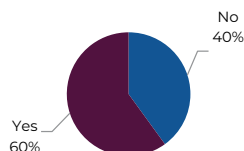


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

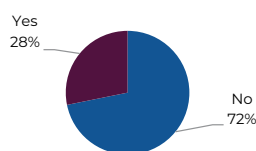


Laws and Policies

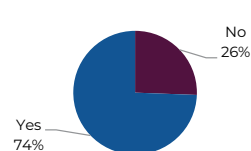
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

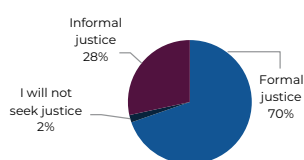


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

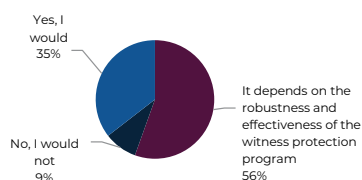


Access to Legal Justice

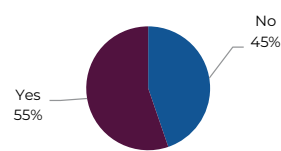
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

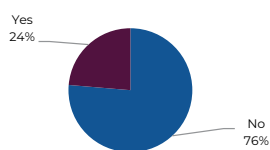


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

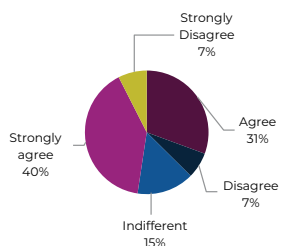


Support Services

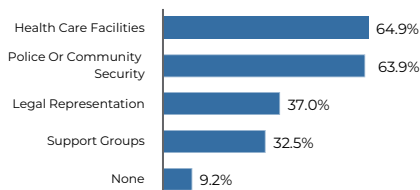
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



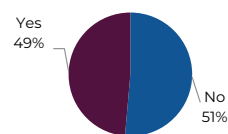
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

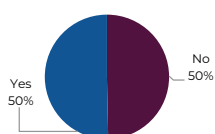


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

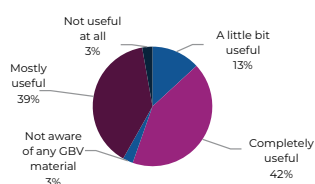


Information and Awareness

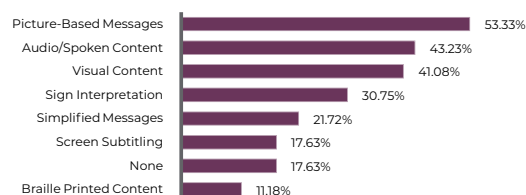
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Ebonyi State has enacted key GBV-related laws, including the VAPP Law (2018, amended in 2022), Child Rights Law (2010), and Criminal Code Law, used in prosecuting GBV-related cases. While GBV prosecutors widely use the VAPP Law, survey data shows that 60% of respondents know its existence, with 70% believing the laws are effective. However, knowledge gaps persist, with no printed copies of the VAPP Law available for public or institutional use, limiting awareness and implementation. The Child Rights Law also addresses violence against children, including abuse, trafficking, and early marriage, but requires updates to reflect current realities. The laws face gaps, such as inadequate punishment for offences like FGM, lack of provisions for survivors' compensation, and absence of laws addressing persons with disabilities. 280 GBV cases were reported in the past year, 63 were prosecuted, and 15 judgments were delivered. Customary laws in Ebonyi are informal and vary across communities. Some bylaws outlaw practices like FGM, but GBV remains normalized in cultural contexts. Survey results show that 74% believe customary or religious practices help prevent GBV. However, reviewing and integrating these informal practices into state laws could strengthen the GBV response.

Access to Legal Justice

Ebonyi State has a cross-cutting GBV reporting and prosecution system. Cases are often reported through various channels, including police GBV desks, the Ministry of Women Affairs, and FIDA. Survivors are referred to specialized facilities like NDURU SARC and NOFIC for medical and psychological care before cases proceed to the Ministry of Justice and the GBV courts. Survey findings reveal that 70% of respondents prefer formal justice channels such as courts and police for GBV cases. However, effective protection for survivors and witnesses is lacking as there are inadequacies in the witness protection offered by the state and delays in police investigations that often hinder justice. Legal aid is accessible through MoJ, MoWA, and NGOs like FIDA, which provide pro bono services for criminal GBV cases. However, no robust witness protection program exists, leaving survivors vulnerable. Cases rarely adhere to the VAPP Act's prescribed timeframes; delays in judgments and certified copies remain significant challenges. The informal justice system, comprised of traditional rulers and kinsmen, mediates in civil GBV cases but lacks enforcement authority. 63% of respondents find it effective in ensuring justice, although it perpetuates harmful cultural norms like victim-blaming.

Support Services

Ebonyi has six GBV courts and trained GBV judges, though judges handle non-GBV cases. Human Rights desks exist in police commands, but specialized Family Support Units are absent. Ebonyi State has limited support services for GBV victims/survivors. The state owns one shelter, established by Momentum Country and Global Leadership (MCGL), but it is non-functional due to its isolated location, lack of fencing, and absence of security. One Sexual Assault Referral Center (SARC) is operational: Nduru SARC at Alex Ekwueme Federal University Teaching Hospital. This SARC offers medical services and psychological care, but limited resources and manpower affect their reach. The state's reporting and referral system involves hospitals, police, civil defence, MoWA, and NGOs. Survivors access treatment or legal aid based on their initial point of contact, ensuring an integrated response. Survey results show that 49% of respondents consider informal support systems of family, friends, religious centers, and community groups as better than formal systems, although such support lacks sustainability. Medical units and forensic labs at SARCs have played crucial roles in prosecuting GBV cases by preserving evidence for court proceedings. However, inadequate budgetary allocation hinders service effectiveness.

Information and Awareness

Information, education, and communication (IEC) materials are available for sensitization and awareness purposes. They include audio systems, fliers, radio, picture charts showing different forms of GBV, T-shirts, face caps, etc. They are occasionally distributed to the public during community outreaches, training, and road work in schools, markets, etc. However, they are limited in number and are often provided by NGOs

and CSOs partnering with the state on GBV issues. Citizens' awareness of these materials and programs remains low, with 49% of respondents being aware of them. During moral instruction on Thursdays, some personnel were trained to use pictorial charts to illustrate GBV to students. Gender health has been added to the school curriculum, and sex education is part of it. In the tertiary institutions, sex education is incorporated into some courses of study. 97% of the surveyed population supported the inclusion of sex education in educational curricula across all levels, emphasizing the need for consistent, inclusive efforts. Efforts to include persons with disabilities (PWDs) in awareness programs are evident in the use of audio and picture message materials and the engagement of sign interpreters. However, significant gaps remain in creating tailored resources for specific disabilities. The braille-developed content has been added to the budget for 2024 but has yet to be approved by the governor.



Budget and Spending

In 2023, the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in Ebonyi State demonstrated significant budgetary performance, achieving a 98.47% execution rate of its N596.83 million final budget, with an actual expenditure of N587.7 million. The ministry prioritized capital projects, spending N487.91 million, reflecting a strong commitment to infrastructure development and program delivery. Personnel expenditure amounted to N93.42 million, while overhead expenditure was significantly lower at N6.38 million. With a per capita of N176.20, Ebonyi state performed below par. Key initiatives included N2 million for equipping GBV centers with furniture and sick beds, N5 million for reconstructing a one-stop shop for GBV survivors, and a N3 million budget commitment for its equipping. These efforts align with the state's focus on addressing gender-based violence and enhancing support services for survivors. However, like every other state, these allocations are insufficient if full disbursement and utilization of committed funds remain a major challenge.



Human Angle Story







A man physically assaulted his wife by burning her with a hot iron. The assault occurred after the woman sold a goat to fund their farmland, as her husband had refused to provide the necessary funds. When the woman became unconscious, she was rushed to a health center. Local authorities intervened, and the woman was transferred to a specialized facility for treatment. The police arrested the husband and detained him for two weeks. Following mediation efforts by family members and religious leaders, the case was resolved at the police station.

Ebonyi State

Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies. 	Laws like the Child Rights Law need revision, though the VAPP law under review addresses some gaps.	Most of the laws need to be reviewed to adequately address their shortcomings in the fight against GBV.
	Penalties for offences like female genital mutilation (FGM) are not commensurate with the severity of the crime.	Although reviewed two years ago, an ongoing review is needed to provide appropriate punishments for all offences and cater to the peculiar needs of certain vulnerable groups. The ongoing review should also ensure adequate compensation for the victims/survivors.
	There is no compensation for GBV survivors in the current legal framework.	
	The VAPP law lacks specific provisions addressing the unique needs of persons with disabilities (PWDs) and other vulnerable groups.	Effective fight against GBV demands that Ebonyi enact its own Disability Rights Law to protect the rights and privileges of PWDs specifically.
	Critical stakeholders like the police lack copies of the VAPP law, hindering awareness and implementation.	Printed copies of the VAPP and other laws should be made available to citizens to aid awareness and knowledge.
Access to Legal Justice 	Inadequate provisions for a robust witness protection program. Most of the witnesses and survivors go back to their homes, and communities where they experienced the violation without protection.	There is an urgent need for an effective and robust witness protection program in Ebonyi state. The ongoing effort to adopt the Lagos State model in this regard should be completed hastily.
	Insufficient pro bono and legal assistance in the state.	Provide more state funding for increased pro-bono legal services, which will ensure that more victims have access to legal services and perpetrators of GBV are promptly brought to book.
	Extremely slow litigation process. Slow investigations keep victims waiting for too long for justice.	Adequate funding for the police, the government's major investigative agency. More funding is also needed for the recruitment of more GBV judges and the creation of more GBV courts.
	Ebonyi State urgently needs functional family support units. While the GBV response team and desk officers in police divisions need to become more efficient.	Prioritize funding to ensure that each police division has a dedicated GBV desk, with well-equipped and trained officers.
Support Services 	Ebonyi State has only one active SARC but no shelter.	The state needs more shelters and SARCs, while the existing ones need to be strengthened to offer the services they were created for.
		Greater sensitization is needed to reap the benefits of the collaborative interplay between the formal and informal justice systems. This will also ensure that communities, not just government or NGOs, help victims or survivors.

Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
Information and Awareness 	IEC materials are available but largely depend on donor funding and NGOs like UNFPA and FIDA. Outside commemorative events, no state-owned GBV programs exist.	The state needs to take ownership of the Awareness and sensitization campaigns to improve reach to all nooks and crannies of the state as well as ensure sustainability of such programs. For this to be achieved, more funding is required.
	Low awareness of available GBV IEC materials and programs done in the state.	There is a need to produce IEC materials in quantum and to distribute them as often as possible. This calls for funding from the state government. Relevant state institutions should produce their materials for use.
	IEC materials do not specifically target PWDs, leaving them vulnerable and underserved.	Disability-sensitive IEC materials are strongly solicited to ensure an inclusive campaign against GBV.
Budget and Spending 	Budgets for MoWA and GBV activities are insufficient, and the GBV task force has no specific allocations. Most IEC materials and GBV activities rely on donor funding, limiting consistency and scope.	A costed budget lines should be developed and implemented to fund GBV issues properly.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Ebonyi State

S/No.		Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies				
1		Review the VAPP Law in line the existing gaps in the law and current realities regarding GBV.	Partially Implemented	The VAPP Law is currently under reveiw by concerned stakeholders
2		Speedily outlaw harmful practices that perpetuate GBV and met out injustice to victim and survivors.	Partially Implemented	Ongoing process
3		The VAPP Law should simplified, printed, and disseminated widely across the state.	Not Implemented	No copy is available in the state for both actors on GBV, and the populates
Access to Legal Justice				
4		The government should empower the Ministry of Women Affairs with adequate budgetary allocation and disbursements to enable it seek justice for victims and survivors.	Partially Implemented	The current administration releases funds on request as stated by the HOD Planning, Research, and statistics MOWA
5		Establish FSUs and introduce human rights desks in police commands.	Partially Implemented	There are human rights desks in police commands, but no established FSUs
6		Appoint, train, and adequately resource dedicate GBV judges and court personnel.	Not Implemented	There is an urgent need for more
Support Services				
7		There should be a separate budget line for MOWASD, for GBV response and service provisions, especially as the ministry need to commence shelter service provisions and it should be captured in the state budget.	Not Implemented	There is no budget line for GBV activities
8		There government should create economic empowerment and skill acquisition programs for GBV victims and survivors in the state.	Not Implemented	None is in existence
9		The government needs to adequately recruit trained and certified psychotherapists and counsellors to cater to the psychosocial needs of GBV victims and survivors in the state.	Not Implemented	Available at the SARCs but limited
Information and Awareness				
10		Government should ensure that the GBV sensitisation and awareness materials caters to PwDs as well as the public.	Fully Implemented	Pictorials and audio messages
11		The government should deliberately incorporate comprehensive sex education in its curriculum.	Fully Implemented	Sex education has been incorporated into the curriculum as a topic in Gender Health
12		Government and other actors in the GBV space should increase sensitisation and awareness on the need for comprehensive sex education in secondary schools.	Partially Implemented	Trained personnels have been deployed to schools to educate students on GBV using pictorials during moral instructions



Edo State

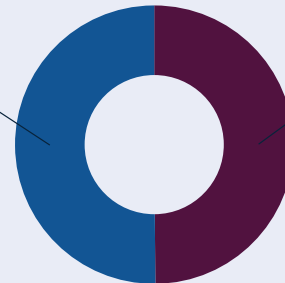
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invictus
AFRICA



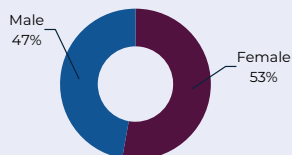
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4,907,779

Male
2,460,430
50%

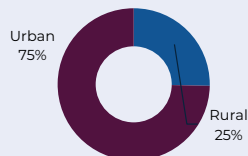


Female
2,447,349
50%

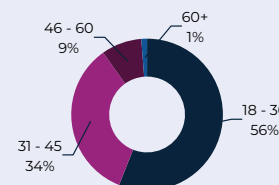
Respondents: 407



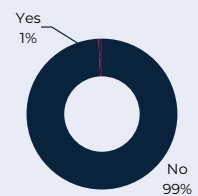
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **110**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)s **1**



No. of active shelters **5**



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs) **1**



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

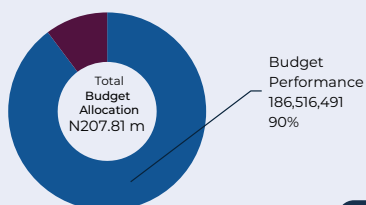


Budget and Spending

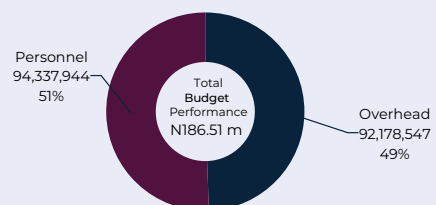


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

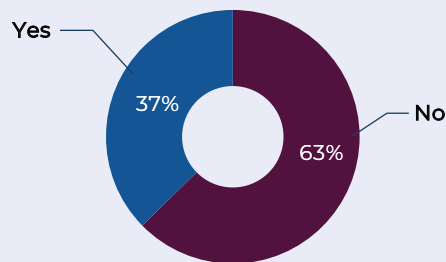


Budget Expenditure (2023)

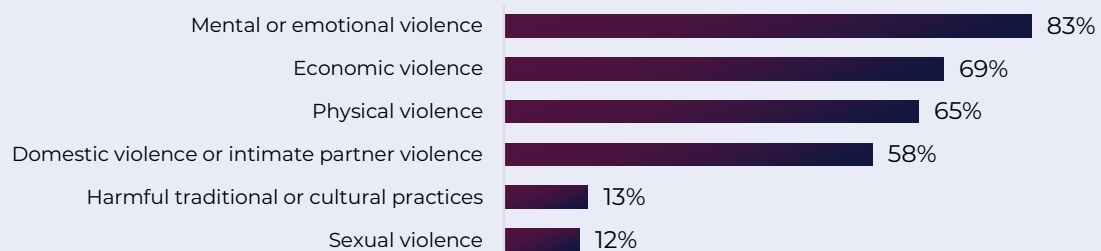


Per Capita Spending **N38**

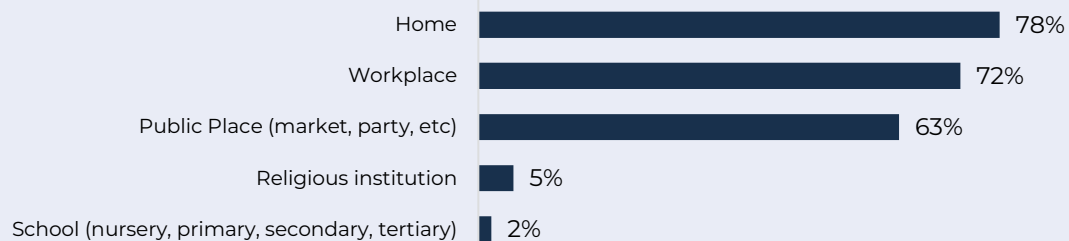
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



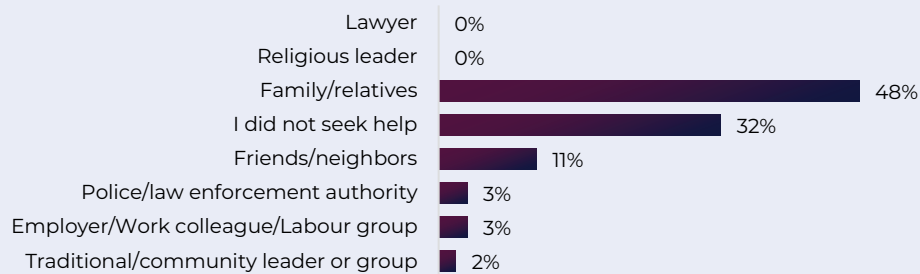
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



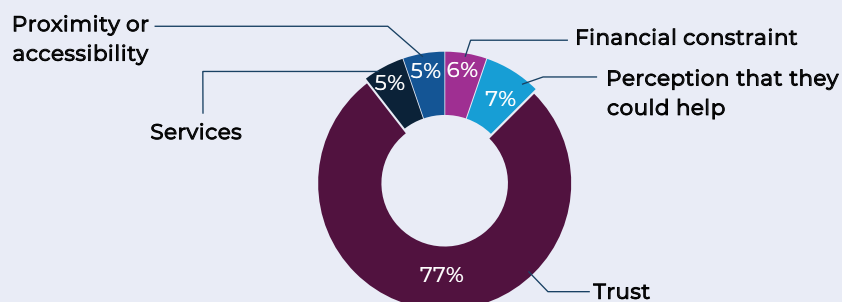
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

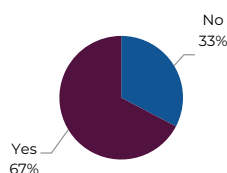


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

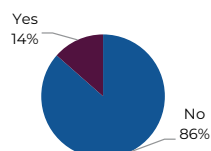


Laws and Policies

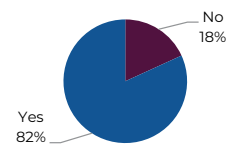
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

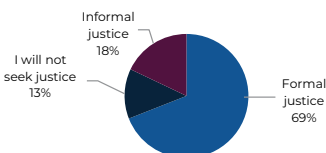


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

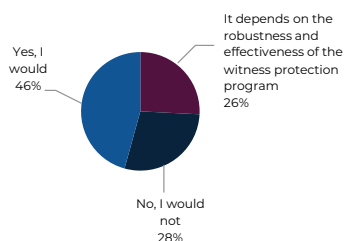


Access to Legal Justice

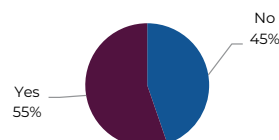
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

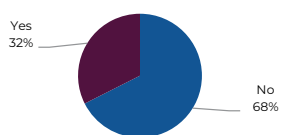


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

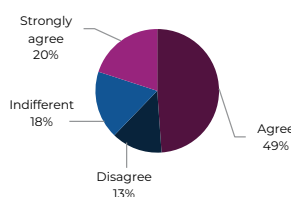


Support Services

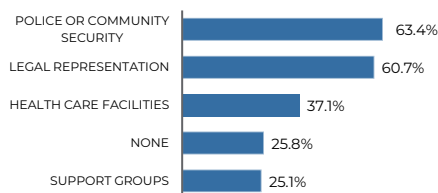
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



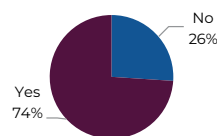
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

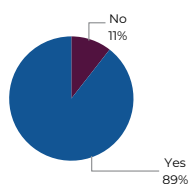


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

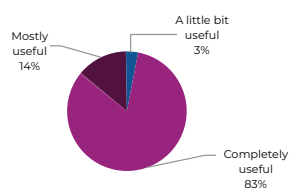


Information and Awareness

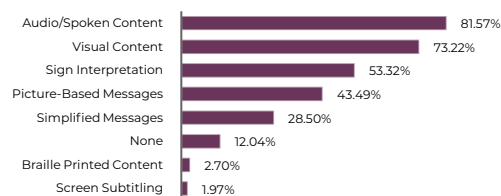
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Key GBV-related laws in Edo state include the FGM Prohibition Law (1999), the Inhuman Treatment of Widows Prohibition Law of 2001, the Child Rights Law of 2007, and the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law 2019 amended in 2021, which is commonly used for GBV cases. Awareness of these laws is above average, with 67% of the study population familiar with them. Additionally, 79% believe these laws are effective in addressing GBV. To ensure continuous sensitization, awareness, and outreaches in urban, semi-urban, and rural communities on the existing GBV laws, the Edo state government is collaborating with some CSOs across the three senatorial districts to conduct sensitization campaigns. However, the VAPP law has gaps, notably the lack of clear definitions for emotional, verbal, and psychological abuse. Other persistent gaps include inadequate enforcement mechanisms, delays in prosecution, and insufficient training for judicial and law enforcement personnel. These gaps further highlight the need for continuous updates and review of the VAPP law and all GBV-related laws. From 2020 to October 2024, 455 SGBV cases were reported, with 447 filed, 363 ongoing, and 84 concluded, resulting in 62 convictions. Customary laws, both formal and informal, also play a role, with 82% of respondents viewing them as beneficial for preventing and addressing GBV. Periodic review of laws led to the VAPP law's adoption in 2021.

Access to Legal Justice

The state has a multiple-entry GBV reporting system involving individuals, families, CSOs, NGOs, police, hospitals, vigilantes, whistleblowers, etc. Reported cases are processed through the Family Support Unit at the State Police Command. According to the survey, 69% of the study population would seek formal justice. Legal aid is accessible to indigents through government-provided lawyers, ensuring no victim incurs legal costs. Witness protection is effective, especially for minors who testify in private chambers. Prosecution proceeds within 72 hours for minors, while adults can pursue legal action or opt for counselling. Specialized units include a Family Support Unit and Gender Desk at the Police Command; all judges handle GBV cases, although no judges are exclusively dedicated to GBV. The litigation process takes a long time, emphasizing the need for a Family Court in the three Senatorial Districts to prevent long-distance travel to the state capital. However, in the past year, the state has made some efforts to recruit more lawyers, but this is still not sufficient for the population. Traditional leaders often head the informal justice system, which lacks enforcement powers even though 84% of the study population believe informal justice systems in the State help in ensuring GBV victims/survivors get justice.

Support Services

Edo State has three private shelters and two government-owned facilities supporting GBV victims. Private shelters include those run by the Society for the Empowerment of Young Persons (SEYP), Living Your Dreams Initiative, and Brave Heart Initiatives (BHI). Government-owned facilities include the NAPTIP shelter and the Vivian Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) in Benin City, with a newly built shelter equipped with modern amenities and 100-bed spaces. Churches and mosques also provide temporary accommodation for victims facing threats. The Vivian SARC provides advisory and support services in the medical, mental/therapeutic, legal, and other fields. They also conduct relevant medical and forensic examinations in rape cases/violations and provide support during investigation, trial and enforcement of court judgements. The state uses specialized medical health care pathways and legal pathways; however, cases can be referred through NGOs, CSOs, police, etc., although consistent police protection for victims remains a gap. The state's referral pathway ensures GBV victims can access legal, medical, and therapeutic care at no cost, with government institutions like the Ministry of Justice and Social Development playing central roles.

Information and Awareness

The state uses Radio and Television jingles, billboards on rape, fliers, etc., to sensitize the public on GBV. They also have IEC materials that are usually distributed at GBV-organized events by the state. Additionally, in 2023, the state signed an MOU with Kada Cinema and Entertainment Center to produce a film on GBV titled “We Will not be Silent”, though the film is not yet in circulation. Based on the survey report, 89.5% of the study population know the state’s GBV information and/or education programs or materials. Sex education is taught in Basic Science and Biology for junior and Senior Secondary School, respectively, though it is not comprehensive. Over 40 schools in the state have anti-GBV clubs, where they educate and sensitize students on GBV. The IEC materials are not PWD-friendly, as not all forms of disability are taken into consideration when designing the materials.

Budget and Spending

In 2023, the Edo State Government allocated N207.81 million to the Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues. While the budget was 90% utilized, with N186.52 million spent on personnel and overhead costs, no funds were allocated to capital projects. With a population of 4.90 million, this translates to a mere N38 per person, highlighting the limited resources available for addressing critical issues like gender-based violence (GBV). A concerning issue is the absence of specific GBV budget lines in the 2023 approved budget. To improve the implementation of GBV laws and enhance support services, the state government should prioritize allocating dedicated funds for GBV initiatives.

Human Angle Story







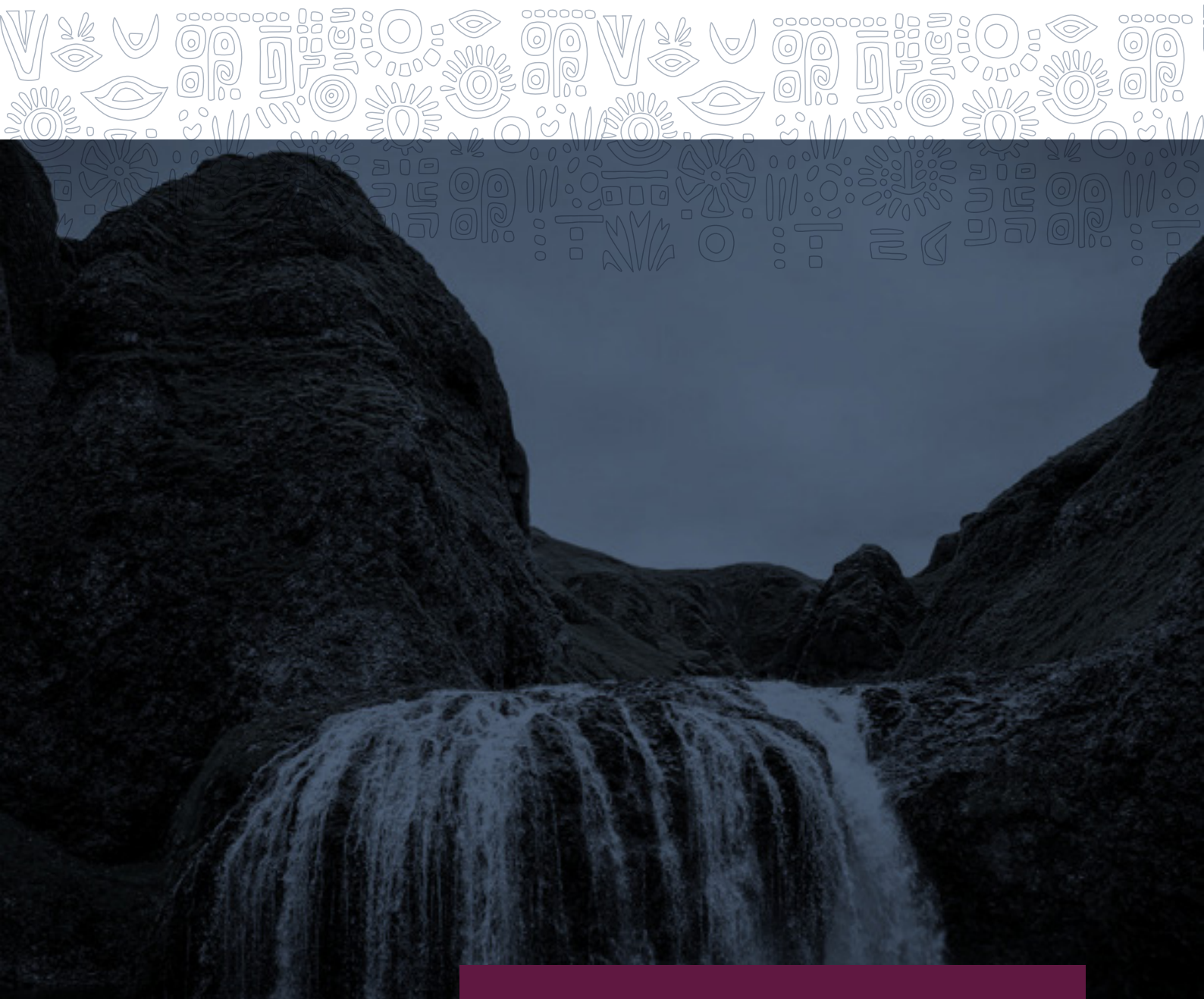
In early 2024, a young girl in Benin City was raped and reported the incident to a local civil society organization that specializes in gender-based violence. The case was subsequently reported to the police and the Vivian Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), where a medical examination was conducted. The matter was then brought before the court. However, the Investigating Police Officer (IPO) from the State Police Headquarters in Benin City failed to appear in court to provide testimony and submit the investigation report. This refusal has significantly delayed the legal process and underscores the challenges associated with prolonged litigation in the state.

Edo State

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	Inadequate implementation of the VAPP law has resulted in only one SARC in Edo State, despite the mandate for centres in all LGAs.	SARCs should be replicated in all the Headquarters of the LGAs
	The lack of clear definitions for emotional, verbal, and psychological abuse makes them difficult to measure.	Review and update the current VAPP law to provide a clear definition that enables accurate assessment and meets current realities.
	Police officers sometimes compromise investigations, while influential perpetrators use intimidation to frustrate justice process.	Reorient police officers and security personnel to prioritize GBV cases and provide incentives to promote professional conduct and accountability.
Access to Legal Justice 	Manpower challenge: the state legal counsels are overwhelmed with cases.	More counsels should be employed across all LGAs in the state and trained to reduce the workload on existing manpower.
	Interference of Informal justice and support system; advising and persuading the victim not to seek justice through the formal justice system.	More community engagement and advocacy are needed to create synergy between Traditional rulers and relevant stakeholders, understand victims, and support them in seeking formal justice.
	Fear of stigmatization backlash to victims hinders and slows victims' will to seek justice in time.	Ensure effective and robust witness protection for adults and children who are witnesses or seeking justice.
Support Services 	Inadequate SARCs and shelters, which are not sufficient for the population.	Improving funding allocation for the construction and equipping of more SARCs and shelters across the state's LGAs.
	Low awareness of the available GBV support system in the state.	More collaboration with GBV actors to increase sensitization campaigns to inform the public of the available support system in the state.
	Understaffing of SARC and Shelter home.	Increase staff strength and train staff of the SARC and shelters.
	Insufficient funds to run the available privately owned shelter.	Provision of monetary support or incentives to support the efforts of NGOs and privately-owned shelters
Information and Awareness 	Low awareness of the existence of GBV response and prevention, especially among semi-urban and rural dwellers.	Increased awareness campaigns were created for semi-urban and rural dwellers to ensure the grassroots are properly sensitized.
	GBV initiatives neglect intersectional needs of persons with disabilities, lacking accessible programs and materials.	Produce IEC materials in accessible formats, accommodating various disabilities.
	Cultural and religious beliefs mitigate against the effective inclusion of comprehensive education in schools.	Integrate comprehensive sex education into school curricula to empower children with life skills and survival strategies.
Budget and Spending 	The capital expenditure component of the budget of the Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues received no funding in 2023.	The government should prioritize the disbursement of funds for the capital expenditure component of the budget.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Edo State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks	
Laws and Policies				
1		There is need for continuous update and review of the VAPP law and all GBV-related laws.	Not Implemented	The last review was done in 2021 that lead to the enactment of the 2021 VAPP Law
2		Ensure continuous sensitization, awareness, and outreaches in both urban, semi-urban, and rural communities on the existing GBV laws.	Partially Implemented	This is done in collaboration with some CSOs across the 3 senatorial districts
Access to Legal Justice				
3		There should be Family Court in the three Senatorial Districts to prevent long-distance travel to the state capital.	Not Implemented	The only functional Family Support Unit is still at the State Police Command
4		The government should adequately recruit lawyers to cater to the population of GBV victims/survivors in the state.	Partially Implemented	More lawyers were recruited though might not be enough for the population
5		There should be an effective witness protection for adults.	Not Implemented	still very poor
6		There should be a collaboration between the informal justice and the formal justice system.	Partially Implemented	Ministry conducting trainings and creating awareness and sensations for community people, religious institutions etc
Support Services				
7		There should be more shelters and SARCs in the state sufficient for the at-risk population in the state.	Partially Implemented	plans ongoing to set up SARCs across the 3 senatorial districts. population size identified,nearness to police station and areas to set them up identified across the 3 senatorial districts.
8		GBV Centres should be located in different state-owned hospitals in the 18 LGAs in Edo State.	Not Implemented	only one Centre exist at the moment in Benin City but currently plans ongoing to partner the centres within the PHCs
9		Government should increase sensitisation and awareness on reporting and referral pathways in the state.	Partially Implemented	Improved sensitization and awareness on reporting and referral paathways but more needed to be done
10		For sustainability purposes, the government should take the lead on providing support services to GBV victims and survivors.	Partially Implemented	This is currently being done as support services is being provided to victims and survivors but no sufficient after care assistance
Information and Awareness				
11		There should be collaboration with necessary bodies for more sensitization and awareness programs and mediums.	Partially Implemented	There was discordance between CSOs government but this year effort was made to resolve it and this created room for robust collaboration in terms of awareness and sensitization
12		The state should continue to use such mediums and other creative ways to constantly create awareness on GBV.	Fully Implemented	There was the market stom, 16 days of activism with government working in collaboration with CSOs and other creative ways for raising awareness
13		Comprehensive sex education should be inclusive in the school curriculum at all levels.	Not Implemented	comprehensive sex education is still being hindered by cultural and religious beliefs
14		All IEC materials should be disability friendly and accessible to persons with all forms of disability.	Not Implemented	Poor social inclusion prfogram and materials still not accessible to all forms of disabilities. Government not also sensitive to intersectionalities



Ekiti State



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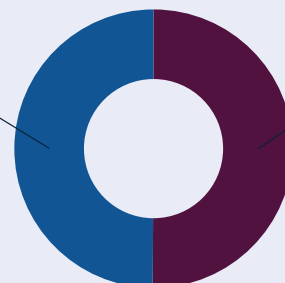
invictus
AFRICA





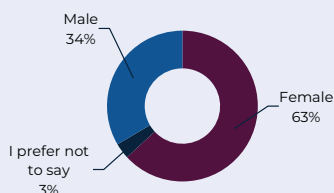
Total Population
3,705,264

Male
1,849,129
50%

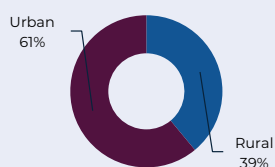


Female
1,856,135
50%

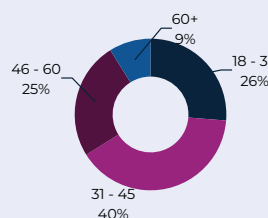
Respondents: 472



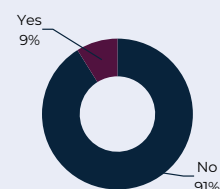
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **3,314**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) **3**



No. of active shelters **2**



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



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

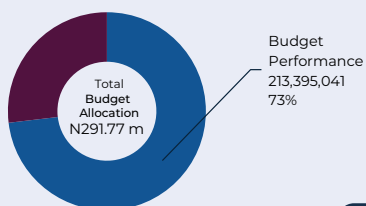


Budget and Spending

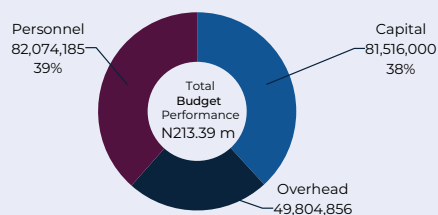


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

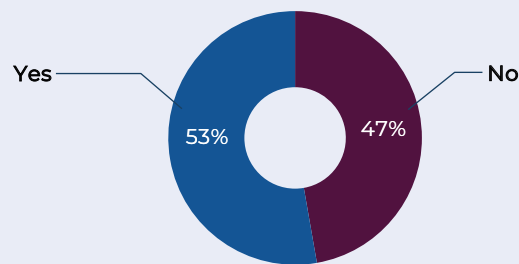


Budget Expenditure (2023)

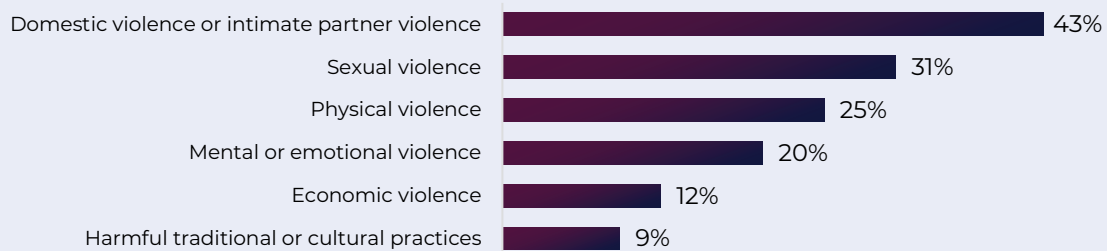


Per Capita Spending **N57.6**

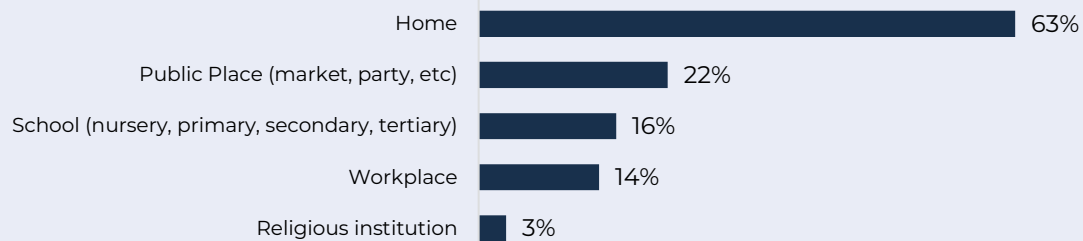
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



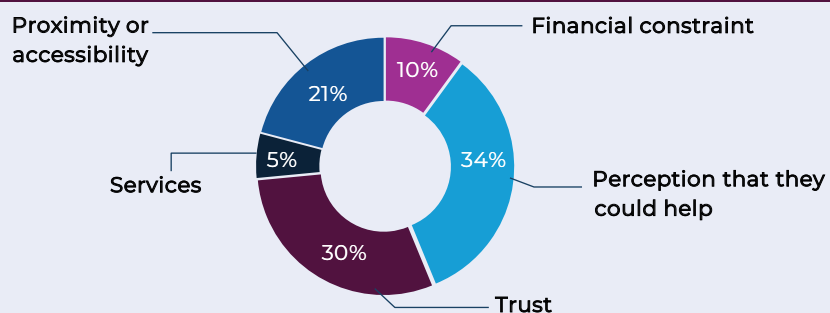
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

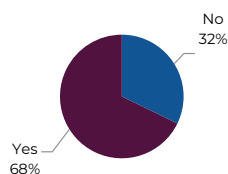


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

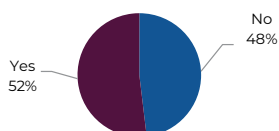


Laws and Policies

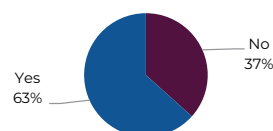
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

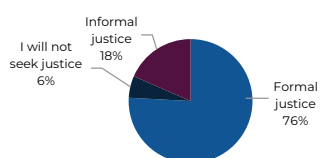


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

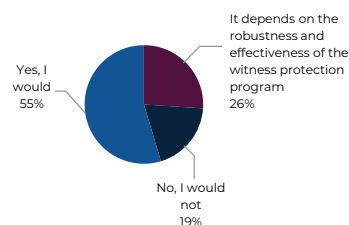


Access to Legal Justice

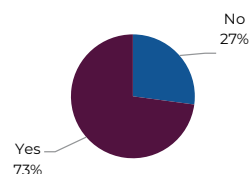
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

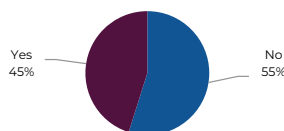


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

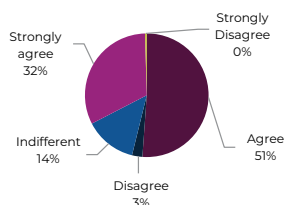


Support Services

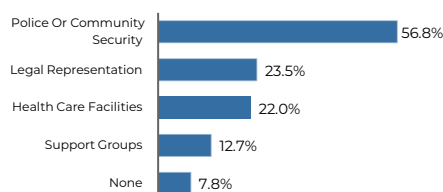
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



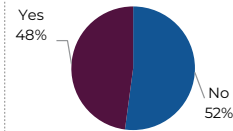
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

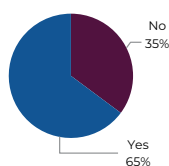


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

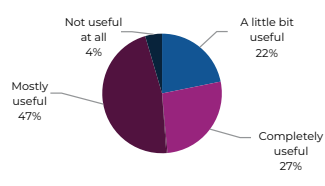


Information and Awareness

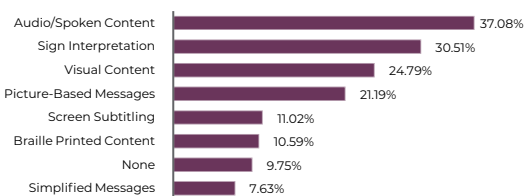
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Ekiti State has laws that speak to GBV, which include Ekiti State Political Offices (Gender Composition) Law, Ekiti State Sexual Violence against Children (Compulsory Treatment & Care) Law, Ekiti State GBV (Prohibition) Law, Ekiti State Gender and Equal Opportunities Law, Ekiti State Child Rights Law, A Law to Prohibit Female Genital Mutilation in Ekiti State and Law to Protect the Rights of Widows in Ekiti State (2002). Despite these, significant challenges hinder the effectiveness of these laws in preventing and responding to GBV. For instance, only a few laws, such as the 2019 GBV Law and the Children Compulsory Treatment Law, are accessible online; this buttresses the survey results on awareness of the law at 68% of the respondents. With improved access to the laws and simplified versions, the level of awareness will improve. Another gap is the limited clarity in Section 27 of the GBV Law regarding the jurisdiction of Gender Courts.

The state has recorded progress in some areas. The Ekiti GBV Management Committee (GBVMC) periodically engages stakeholders, organizes GBV training, and publishes annual reports on GBV issues, fulfilling its mandate under the 2019 GBV Law. There has also been a 400% budget increase for Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs). However, gaps remain, such as translating GBV laws into local languages and making them accessible to persons with disabilities. 63% of the survey population believe that customary or religious laws or practices are sufficient in preventing GBV. However, customary and religious practices often reinforce rather than address GBV, perpetuating harmful norms like female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage. Although Christian and Islamic practices frown at some forms of GBV, like rape, incest, adultery, non-provision of necessities, wife battery, etc., but rarely hold perpetrators accountable and most times the law is not allowed to hold perpetrators accountable.

Access to Legal Justice

Ekiti GBV Standard Operating Procedure provides room for multiple entry reportage (Medical, Police, Line MDAS, First Lady Office, NGOS). However, medical service is prioritized, from where referral can be made as the case demands. For sexual violence, reporting commences from SARC, where clients access multiple services: counseling, medical, legal, and shelter, and after that referral to police for detailed investigations and prosecution in court. If the GBV is sexual or if it results in death, the Police will refer to the Ministry of Justice for prosecution. The judiciary ensures fair trials for victims/survivors as well as perpetrators. Perpetrators may be remanded pending the conclusion of the trial and, if found guilty, would serve jail term at the adult or children Correctional Centre, depending on the perpetrator's age. Ekiti GBV Law, 2019, every convicted sexual offender is registered in the Sexual Offenders.

Support Services

Ekiti State has a sexual offences registration book where perpetrators' names are registered and the photograph and details are made public on and off lines, including the community of the convict (family house, palace, market, etc.). In intimate partner violence cases, notwithstanding where the case was first reported, most cases end up being mediated and not prosecuted in court. The customary laws in Ekiti state are not formal. Witness protection programs exist. Victims/survivors are sheltered at the Transit Home (Shelter) until their cases are resolved. Survivors Support Funds, as provided in the GBV law of 2019, help victims/survivors rebuild their lives or relocate in furtherance of safety or reintegration back into society. Informants, however, think that the protection program should be extended beyond victims/survivors and to other witnesses who would testify in GBV cases.

All residents, including PWDs in need of the services of Transit Home and Children Home, have access to it through the Ministry of Women Affairs, SARC, Court, Ministries of Justice, Health and Education, and Office of the First Lady. All security agents now have access to take victims/survivors to Transit and Children Home without the bureaucracy of passing through the Ministry of Women Affairs as it used to be. Ekiti State provides good support services for GBV survivors, anchored by two shelters: the Transit Home in Ado-Ekiti for women and girls (12 years and above) and the Children's Home for vulnerable children (0-11 years). Additionally, three Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs) are operational in Ado-Ekiti, Ikere-

Ekiti, and Ikole-Ekiti. Ado-Ekiti SARC is the most effective due to its specialized staff and facilities. Plans are ongoing to upgrade SARCs in Ikere and relocate the Ikole SARC to Oye General Hospital for improved access.

Survivors, including persons with disabilities (PWDs), can access these facilities via referrals from agencies such as the Ministry of Women Affairs, the judiciary, and law enforcement. Increased advocacy has ensured the inclusion of PWDs in GBV support mechanisms, with some integration into leadership roles in MDAs. Budgetary support for SARCs and shelters has significantly improved, with a 400% funding increase enabling staff recruitment, training, and community outreach programs. However, the state lacks emergency transportation and maintenance for these facilities, which limits their reach and efficiency. Overall, while strides have been made in strengthening support services, addressing critical gaps like emergency transportation and tailored programs for PWDs is necessary to enhance inclusivity and sustainability.

Information and Awareness

All notable UN GBV/women's/children's Rights such as the 16 days of Activism, Girl Child Day, International Women's Day, and Zero Tolerance FGM Day, etc. are celebrated with IEC materials. These are celebrated with IEC materials including banners usually in English, Yoruba, and Ekiti dialects. GBV Training manuals have also been produced by the state for stakeholder engagement The Adolescent Girls' Initiative for Learning and Empowerment (AGILE) Project, with funding support from the World Bank, printed and distributed GBV IEC material across secondary schools in the state as well as erection of Billboards depicting various GBV messages in schools. NGOs complete government efforts also with the production of IEC materials and GBV programs on radio and TV.

Through the Adolescent Girls' Initiative for Learning and Empowerment (AGILE) Project, with funding support from the World Bank, the Ministry of Education is sensitizing secondary schools across Ekiti to Comprehensive Sex Education. GBV Clubs and Safe Spaces have been established across secondary. For Ekiti-owned higher institutions, Comprehensive Sex Education has been incorporated into orientation programs for new students. Interpreters are usually provided at State GBV sensitizations, training, and capacity-building programs. There are no available Braille ICE materials for the Blind, however, there are posters depicting GBV image messages that are accessible to other categories of PWDs. GBV laws and policies are also not available in braille format.

Budget and Spending

In 2023, Ekiti State allocated N291.78 million to the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender Empowerment, and Social Welfare, but only N213.39 million (73%) was utilized. A significant portion of this spending (N82.07mn) was directed towards personnel costs, while overheads accounted for N49.80 million. Capital expenditure, critical for infrastructure such as shelters and SARCs, received a minimal allocation of N81.5 million. Additionally, per capita spending was N57.6, with N60 million spent on the implementation of the GBV Prohibition Law, N75 million on the renovation and maintenance of sexual assault referral centers, and N20 million allocated for the Ministry of Health's support for SACs centers, including GBV and FGM prevention programs. To improve budget efficiency and effectiveness, Ekiti State should enhance the utilization of allocated funds. Increasing capital expenditure for critical infrastructure will ensure better support for vulnerable populations. Furthermore, bolstering investments in GBV and FGM prevention programs will enhance the support and services available to those affected.




Human Angle Story



A 24-year-old woman, who was sexually abused by her neighbor at the age of 9, recently received justice. The perpetrator, now a pastor, was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment. The victim first reported the abuse 15 years after the incident when the man contacted her on Facebook, confessing to the abuse and expressing a desire to resume their sexual relationship. Due to the existence of the Child Rights Law at the time of the abuse, it was possible to hold the perpetrator accountable. However, the Criminal Code Law limits the prosecution of cases involving minors to within six months of the incident.




Ekiti State

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	There are no current efforts to review existing Ekiti State GBV laws. The last time the Ekiti GBV prohibition law was amended was in 2019. However, in 2020, a new Law named the Sexual Violence Against Children (Compulsory) Treatment and Care Law, 2020 was enacted to make GBV services more accessible to children.	Gender-based violence (Prohibition) Law should be reviewed to reflect the designation of Gender Courts at the Customary, Magistrate, and High levels.
	Lack of adequate funding to properly implement and enforce the GBV laws.	Gender-responsive budgeting in all line MDAs and partners saddled with implementing GBV Laws/ Policies.
	The GBV Laws do not protect from stigma and reprisals attacks.	Reviews of the GBV law/policies to criminalize stigma and protect witnesses and service providers.
	There is no clarity on designated courts as provided by The GBV Law, 2019, on whether they should operate at Customary, Magistrate, High, or all three levels of courts.	The Ekiti state GBV law should be amended to address existing gaps and fit current realities.
	In-school dependents above 18 years are not envisaged to enjoy support from their parents by the Child Rights Law, 2006.	The Child Rights Law should be reviewed with a provision that dependents above 18 years, still in school (secondary) be supported by their parents and guardians to finish their education.
Access to Legal Justice 	Customary practices fuel Patriarchy/Culture/ Religion/Non-Community Ownership.	Increase engagement of Traditional/Religious leaders to own the GBV laws/policies and become the champions of its effectiveness in holding perpetrators accountable.
	Non-Designation of the Gender Courts as envisaged by Section 26 GBV Law, 2019. Also, the Family Court (Magistrate & High Court Levels) only exists in Ado-Ekiti.	The Chief Judge should, as a matter of urgency and following section 26 of the GBV Law, 2019, designate the Gender Courts across the 3 senatorial zones at the High Court, Magistrate Court, and Customary Court levels and decentralize the Family Court to other LGAs to bring justice closer to the people. Police and other Law enforcement agents should designate and train Gender Desk officers across their divisions in Ekiti State.
	Slow Judicial Processes—Apart from the protection order, which must be heard within 7 days, other aspects of the GBV Law, 2019, have no timeframe within which cases should be heard.	Review GBV laws to include timeframes for all GBV matters and offences to speed up justice so that victims/survivors can move on with their lives.
	Lack of adequate access of PWDs to Justice Institutions.	The government should make all justice sector buildings and services accessible to PWDs by immediately providing ramps, designated parking spaces, toilets, and bathrooms, providing interpreters, and producing ICE materials in Braille.
	Acceptance of money by the family of the Victim/Survivor and or succumbing to intimidation of perpetrators due to poverty.	The government should prosecute community enablers, influencers, and beggars who prevent victims and survivors from pursuing justice to a logical conclusion.

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
Support Services 	Lack of adequate funding. However, the monthly running grant to Ado-Ekiti SARC, the Transit Home, and the Children Home has increased by 400 percent, but this has been caught up with inflation.	Institutionalized funding: The SARCs and Transit Home should have their direct budgets instead of receiving funding from the Ministries of Women Affairs and Health.
	Non-decentralization of support services, especially the SARC and the Transit/children Home.	The SARC/Transit Home services should be decentralized to reach more people in the communities.
	Inadequate Personnel, especially at the Ikere and Ikole SARCs.	More trained and permanent staff should be assigned to all 3 SARCs and Transit Home.
	Lack of motivation and care (burnout) of service providers.	The government should provide incentives for all service providers (State and Non-State Actors) as motivation for efficient service delivery.
	Limited capacity/expertise of some service providers.	The government should ensure that GBV services are accessible to all persons, including PWDs, in terms of infrastructure, information, communication, and data management, especially at the treatment, psychosocial support, investigations, and prosecution levels.
Information and Awareness 	Lack of adequate funding.	The government should provide adequate funding for information and awareness activities across the state, including traditional and social media, community engagements, general sensitizations across the board (all stakeholders), training, and capacity building on GBV prevention and response.
	Sensitization and awareness are mostly in the state capital, especially the UN gender-related celebrations.	Sensitization and awareness should be taken to the grassroots for community ownership of GBV prevention and response.
	There are no government Radio and TV information and awareness programs.	Physical or radio and TV information and awareness programs should be inclusive of PWDs with the availability of interpreters.
	The few available IEC materials are mostly in English and are usually not inclusive of PWDs.	In addition to donor-funded GBV sensitizations, the Ministry of Information, by their mandate, should run constant GBV Radio and TV programs.
Budget and Spending 	The spending per capita Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender Empowerment, And Social Welfare at N57.6.	IEE materials should be produced in English, Yoruba, Ekiti, and Braille to ensure accessibility to all persons, including PWDs.
		The government should increase budget allocation and disbursements to the Ministry.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Ekiti State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1	Review the VAPP Law to make provision for periodic (e.g., annual) report on implementation of the law.	Partially Implemented	section 60 of the Ekiti GBV Law, 2019 mandates the GBVMC to submit an annual audited report of the GBV survivors' Support Fund established by section 55 of the Law. In preparing this report, the GBVMC also prepare and publish annual GBV report which is submitted to the Governor as part of activities for 16 days of activism.
2	Engaging with policymakers, legislators, and community leaders to emphasize the importance of sustained efforts in GBV prevention and response.	Fully Implemented	The Ekiti GBV MC periodically engaged all stakeholders, especially during the 16 days of activism. Section 40 of the Ekiti GBV Law provides for GBV training and education
3	Increase budget allocation for the implementation of GBV laws and policies and collaborate with international organizations, NGOs, and private sector partners to secure additional funding for GBV prevention and response programs	Fully Implemented	there has been significant increase in GBV budgetary allocation in all line MDAs. since the establishment of Ekiti SARC, this year has witnessed the prompt release of SARC budget to date and also 400 percent increase in allocation.
4	Work on translating GBV laws and policies into local languages and formats accessible to PwDs.	Not Implemented	
5	Conduct community outreach programs to educate the public about the GBV laws and policies, especially in rural areas.	Partially Implemented	GBVMC, Ministries of Women Affairs, Health, LGA, Education etc with active support and partnership of development partners and NGOs regularly do this
Access to Legal Justice			
6	Specify timeframes for hearing cases under different aspects of the GBV Law to ensure prioritization and timely resolution of GBV cases.	Partially Implemented	the Ekiti GBV law provides that occupation interim protection order be heard within 7 days. however, in practice, this is not usually so. Apart from the interim protection orders, there is no time frame allocated for hearing GBV substantive cases. However, due to the political will in the state, the Ministry of justice ensures that all GBV cases that comes to the Ministry are filled in within 2 weeks of the receipt of such cases including the issuance of legal advice

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER 2023 Recommendations Ekiti State			
7	 <p>Collaborate with the judiciary and legal institutions to establish dedicated GBV courts and appoint judges with expertise in gender-based violence.</p>	Partially Implemented	The Family Court established in accordance with the Child Rights Law, 2006 is fully operational both in the magistrate and high courts levels. presently, most civil GBV cases are heard at the Family court, while criminal GBV cases are heard in the regular courts. However, the GBVMC in collaboration with Ministry of Justice and Women Affairs is leading the advocacy on ensuring that the Gender Courts are inaugurated
8	<p>Engage with religious and community leaders to foster understanding and support for legal interventions in GBV cases.</p>	Fully Implemented	Although the GBV law did not specify in section 46 that traditional and religious leaders be statutory members of the GBVMC, they have been co-opted as members in recognition of their strategic roles in the prevention and response to GBV. Beyond their membership, the GBVMC, Ministries of Women Affairs and Health with active support of NGOs and development partners actively engage community and religious leaders on GBV
Support Services			
9	<p>Collaborate with disability advocacy groups to ensure inclusivity in the design and implementation of support services while advocating for the development of comprehensive support services tailored towards their needs.</p>	Partially Implemented	there is presently increased advocacy to ensure that PWds are included in the State GBVMC. However, at the levels of MDAs leadership or activities concerning GBV, PWds have been fully integrated
10	 <p>Increased funding and budgetary allocation is needed to strengthen and sustain the SARCs and shelters so as to, for instance, recruit and train permanent staff while creating avenues for step-down trainings to community volunteers.</p>	Fully Implemented	There is presently 400percent increased funding to SARC and shelters, promptly released upto date.
11	<p>Ekiti State government should work with relevant stakeholders to establish emergency transportation, fueling and maintenance for the SARCs and shelters.</p>	Not Implemented	
Information and Awareness			
12	 <p>Increase funding for information and awareness programs, emphasizing the importance of prevention through education.</p>	Fully Implemented	There generally increased funding this year for all line MDAs on GBV including sensitisation and education activities

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Ekiti State

13	Explore partnership with media outlets, NGOs, and community organizations to amplify awareness efforts.	Fully Implemented	Ekiti is very huge on this and enjoy the support, partnership and collaboration with NGO on GBV prevention and response. As a matter of Fact the SARC is been coordinated by the NGO sector on behalf of the State government. But all the relevant staff of the SARC are government empowed and the SARC is fully owned by the government but activities is coordinated by the NGOs
14	Translate existing IEC materials into local languages, also making funding provisions for their wide distribution across both urban and, especially, rural areas of the state.	Partially Implemented	This exist but ic can be better with wither coverage
15	Conduct targeted sensitization and awareness programs in rural communities to bridge the information gap through town halls meetings and collaborations with traditional and religious leaders within the communities.	Fully Implemented	This is a recurrent accivity by the Mnistry of Health and Women Affairs especailly on FGM



Enugu State



Womanity
INDEX
2024 Edition

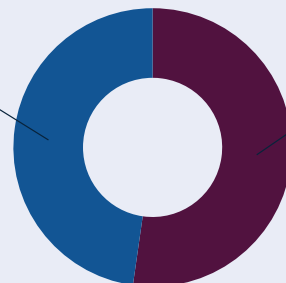
invictus
AFRICA





Total Population
4,832,887

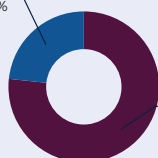
Male
2,307,126
48%



Female
2,525,761
52%

Respondents: 489

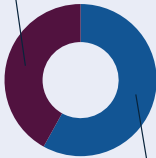
Male
23%



Female
77%

Location

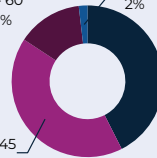
Urban
42%



Rural
58%

Age Group

46 - 60
14%

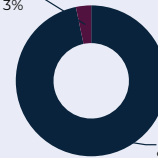


60+
2%

18 - 30
42%

Disability Status

Yes
3%



No
97%



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **112**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)s **2**



No. of active shelters **5**



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



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

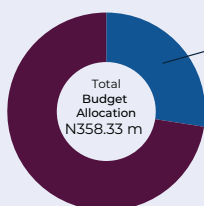


Budget and Spending



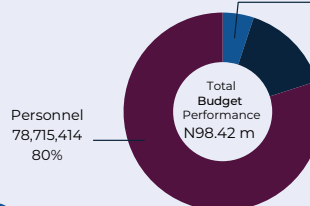
Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)



Budget Performance
98,417,655
27%

Budget Expenditure (2023)

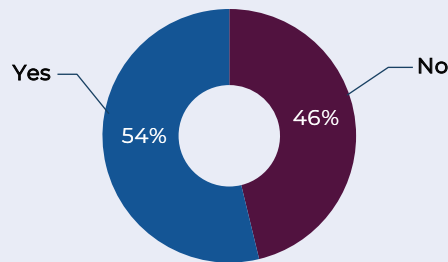


Capital
5,000,000
5%

Overhead
14,702,241
15%

Per Capita Spending **N20.4**

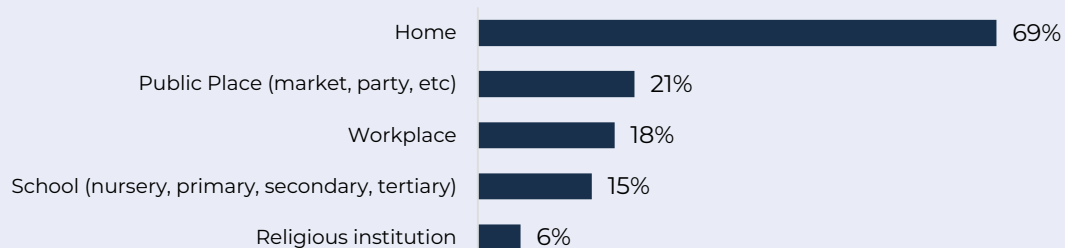
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



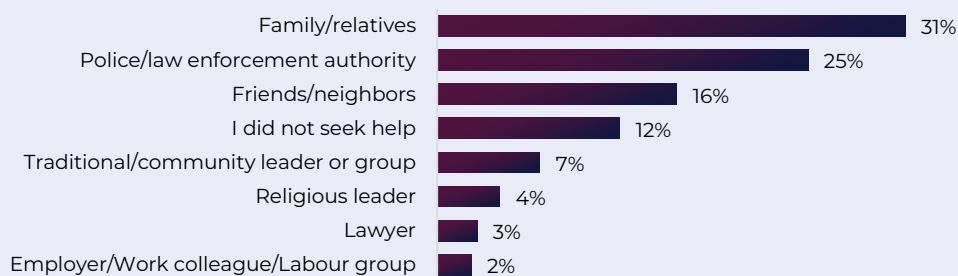
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



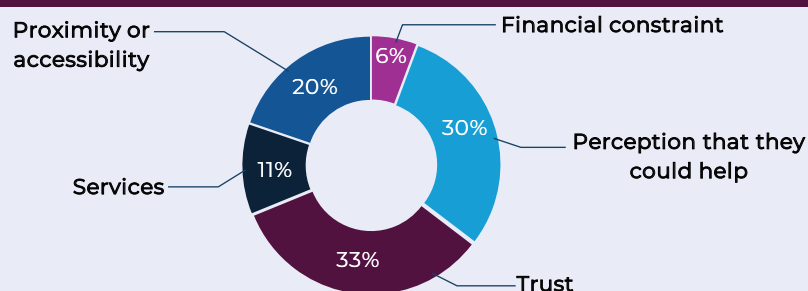
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

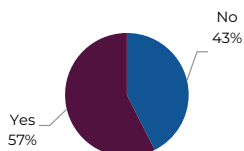


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

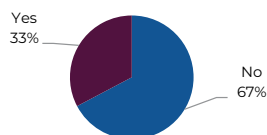


Laws and Policies

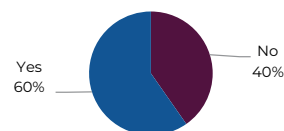
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

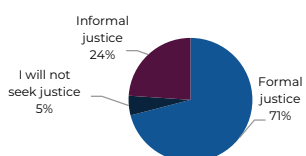


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

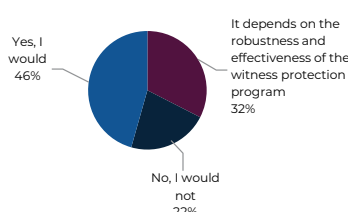


Access to Legal Justice

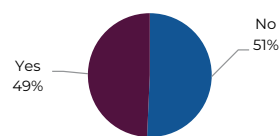
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

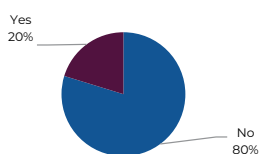


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

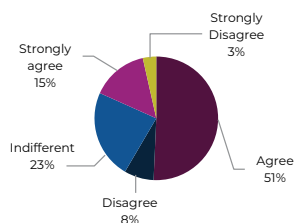


Support Services

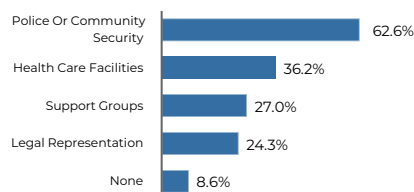
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



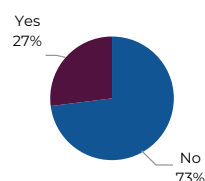
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

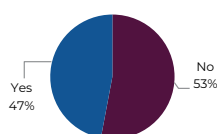


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

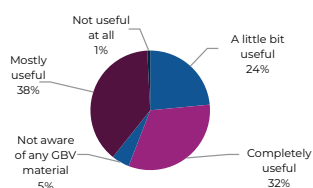


Information and Awareness

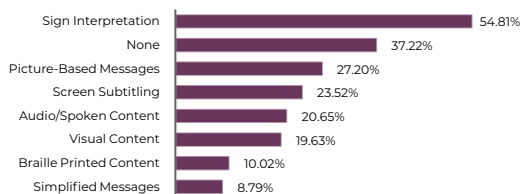
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Enugu State has implemented laws to address GBV, notably the VAPPL 2019, the Marriage Law (Amendment) Law 2016, and the Prohibition of Infringement of Widows and Widowers Fundamental Rights Law 2001. These laws target physical, sexual, and economic violence, harmful traditional practices, and psychological abuse. Despite their potential, the prosecution of GBV cases remains low, with only 6 cases prosecuted using the VAPP between June 2023 and June 2024 despite receiving over 3000 in that time frame. The laws lack critical provisions for false accusations, state-actor violence, and sex offenders register as stated in the VAPP law.

Public awareness of these laws is limited; 57% of survey respondents are unaware of their existence or details, although a 26-man committee on using the VAPP law led by the governor's wife carries sensitisation outreaches on GBV. No articulated customary and religious laws addressing GBV. Religious and customary laws differ in accordance with communities and religions. 60% of the respondents believe that these customary or religious laws help prevent and respond to GBV. State laws have not been reviewed regularly. Many customary laws impact the state laws and policies negatively and need to be changed or improved upon.

Access to Legal Justice

Enugu State has a GBV reporting system, the Protocol, supported by civil society organisations (CSOs) such as Tamar SARC. Despite this system, gaps persist; the SARC hotline is always unreachable, making it inefficient, and the prosecution process is riddled with delays and low conviction rates. Law enforcement's nonchalance and corruption undermine accountability in the system, while the lack of specialized judges and effective family units hinders progress and smooth litigation process. Despite these bottlenecks, 71% of respondents expressed a preference for formal justice systems over informal ones, but the state's inadequate structures discourage their use.

Legal aid services are nearly non-existent as there is no evidence of pro bono legal assistance or even a witness protection program in the state. Victims often face threats and are silenced due to the absence of safety guarantees. While specialized police and human rights desks exist, their inefficiency further impedes justice delivery for GBV victims. Furthermore, cases often exceed the timeframes outlined in the VAPP, ultimately frustrating the process and sometimes leading to cash withdrawals. The informal justice system in Enugu is deeply rooted in harmful cultural norms that often perpetuate GBV. Communities rely on traditional leaders and groups like Nze na Ozos and Umu Adas, whose practices often disregard victims' rights.

Support Services

Enugu State has only two government-owned SARCs called WACOL Tamar SARC and Enugu State Government Tamar SARC, currently located within the Ministry of Gender Affairs due to renovations at its permanent site on FSP Medical Centre Abakaliki Road. Knowledge of the support service is low, as 20% of the respondents are aware of the existence of the SARC. The center provides medical, counselling, financial, administrative, and legal services but is understaffed and under-resourced. Informal shelters and CSOs such as WACOL, Heroine Women Foundation, and Ihuoma Girls complement these efforts by providing counselling, medical support, skills acquisition, and legal services. Tamar SARC is currently non-functional, delaying access to medical tests, counselling, and legal services.

The state's GBV reporting and referral pathways are ineffective, with no standardized protocol or systematic documentation. Informal support systems, including family, friends, and religious canters, often assist victims but sometimes compromise justice due to cultural biases. Medical units and forensic labs in the state are severely constrained. With only one pathologist for child abuse cases, medical and legal delays hinder justice. The state lacks sufficient budgetary allocation for GBV services, with no clear funding for shelters, awareness campaigns, or SARC upgrades.

Information and Awareness

The state uses information, education, and communication (IEC) materials distributed at irregular intervals. Dissemination of GBV information materials is usually activity driven. For example, on World Activism Day. Radio jingles, seminars, and radio/TV shows also sensitize the public on GBV. This happens on commemorative occasions. Such sensitization programs occur in schools, marketplaces, churches, and other public gatherings with government agencies assisted by NGOs. While relevant MDAs and CSOs visit schools irregularly to sensitize the students on GBV issues, such subject matter has not been incorporated into the study curriculum. Sadly, there is also a low capacity for developing inclusive GBV awareness content. GBV awareness content does not include PWDs and is developed by CSOs.

Budget and Spending

In 2023, the Enugu State Ministry of Gender Affairs and Social Development allocated N358.3 million to gender-related programs, with an actual performance of N98.4 million, representing a budget performance of 27%. Spending was disaggregated into N78.7 million for personnel costs, N14.7 million for overhead, and N5 million for capital expenditure. This indicates minimal investment in infrastructure or program development to address gender-based violence (GBV). Based on a population of 20.4 million, per capita spending for Enugu State stands at N20.40, reflecting insufficient financial prioritization for GBV prevention and response services. The absence of a dedicated GBV budget line and low capital expenditure further highlight the lack of robust institutional support to combat GBV effectively.



Human Angle Story






Ngozi (pseudo name), married for a decade with children, experienced domestic violence when her husband began physically abusing her due to unfounded infidelity accusations. The abuse escalated, leading to neglect of their children. After the husband moved out, Ngozi failed to secure child support. She sought help from the National Human Rights Commission, but her husband's refusal to cooperate hindered progress. Despite eventual mediation efforts, the husband has yet to fulfil his obligations. Ngozi continues to struggle with the consequences of the abuse, feeling helpless and disheartened.

Enugu State

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	The VAPPL, 2019, did not have provisions for wilfully making false statements, unwillingness to testify, witness protection, political violence, or violence by State actors.	Review of the VAPPL to prescribe penalties for making false statements and unwillingness to testify and provide protection for witnesses. The law should accommodate political violence and violence by State actors.
	VAPP Law has not been adequately distributed in Enugu State. Only a photocopy of the VAPP was available.	The state government should ensure that it prints several copies of the laws and further simplify them. This should be distributed widely and to the police and other law enforcement agencies
	The implementation agency is not fully functional in ensuring effective law implementation.	The established VAPP implementation committee (a 26-man committee) should ensure full implementation of the VAPP law and establish a trust fund for the award of remedies and compensation for victims.
Access to Legal Justice 	The Tamar SARC in Enugu is understaffed and lacks lawyers and medical personnel, such as laboratory scientists and sufficient forensic experts. Only one pathologist handles child abuse cases across the state, causing significant delays in the medical and legal process.	Recruit and train more legal practitioners, forensic experts, and medical personnel to ensure timely and effective support for survivors.
	There is no established referral protocol for GBV cases in Enugu. Cases are poorly documented, and data on interventions and outcomes are not systematically tracked.	Develop a state-wide referral protocol with clear guidelines for documenting, reporting, and following up on GBV cases. Digitize the reporting process to improve data tracking and accountability.
	The state provides inadequate funding for GBV-related interventions. With only 27% budget performance in 2023 and limited resources for legal and support services, survivors face significant barriers to accessing justice and holistic care.	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 NGO collaboration and donor support.
Support Services 	The existing SARC suffers from an inadequate number of personnel. This center is underfunded and not widespread enough to meet the population's needs.	Funding should be available so SARC can be adequately staffed and properly trained. The state should prioritize funding to establish shelters and more SARCs, at least three in the senatorial zones.
	Inadequate economic support for victims and survivors.	There is a need for a GBV-specific budgetary provision to fuel all plans and activities, including a Reintegration/ rehabilitation program targeted at all survivors.

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Information and Awareness 	Awareness of GBV-related laws and services is low, with many citizens, especially in rural areas, unaware of the legal protections available to them.	Sustained awareness and sensitization programs that are widely disseminated should be championed by the state.
	Unavailability of brailled IEC materials, even the various laws.	There is a need to produce and distribute IEC materials, including disability-sensitive ones, regularly.
	Non-effective and functional GBV hotlines.	Make functional the GBV hotlines.
	Lack of funding: Every activity needs funding, and every department is complaining of its shortage and non-availability, including funding for an awareness program.	GBV campaign needs huge funding, and the government should accept the reality and fund the campaign properly.
Budget and Spending 	Insufficient funding is allocated for implementing GBV laws, services, and awareness campaigns. The lack of dedicated budget lines for GBV-related activities hampers the full realization of the goals set out in the legal frameworks, resulting in limited resources for law enforcement, victim support services, and public education campaigns.	Enugu should prioritize increasing budget allocations for GBV programs, including establishing specific budget codes for GBV-related activities. This should be complemented by efforts to secure additional funding from development partners, NGOs, and international organizations to support GBV prevention and response.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Enugu State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1	 Increase awareness of existing GBV laws and policies among the state's population.	Partially Implemented	A Committee was set up by the wife of the former Governor . The committee was engaged in massive awareness creation on gender-based violence across the State. The members of the Committee as well as the wives of the State chairmen and communities leaders were trained on the VAPP law and gender violence.
2	Reform and strengthen laws to improve GBV prevention and response.	Partially Implemented	A 26-man Committee on use of the VAPP law in prosecution of GBV cases was created. The Ccommittee comprised the Ministries of Gender Affairs, Justice, Education and Health, the Commissioner of Police and four civil society representatives, the National Human Right Commission and Tamar SARC. The VAPP law was gazetted during the last regime and all the Wives of the 17 Local Government Council Chairmen in the State were mandated to strengthen and support gender desks.
3	Improve prosecution rates of GBV perpetrators under the laws.	Not Implemented	The Nigeria Police who have the mandate of prosecution of GBV perpetrators have not been willing in using the VAPP Law in their prosection such that only six cases have been prosecuted using the VAPP Law. Three out of the six occured in Enugu State.
4	Publicize government efforts to reform GBV laws and policies.	Partially Implemented	The committee on GBV led by the wife of the governor carries sensitization outreaches on GBV.
Access to Legal Justice			
5	 Sensitize the public on the importance of formal justice pathways for GBV.	Not Implemented	The public have not been sensitized on formal justice pathways for GBV.
6	Create knowledge resources on accessing legal justice and publicize their availability.	Not Implemented	
7	Improve safety for witnesses in GBV cases by having a robust witness protection program.	Not Implemented	There is no state level safety protection for witnesses in GBV cases.
8	Increase awareness about specialized GBV police and designated judges.	Not Implemented	There is no specialized GBV police and desginated judges.
Support Services			
9	 Create awareness about available support services, including the existence and location of the SARCs.	Not Implemented	
10	Increase number and capacity of shelters and SARCs to at least one SARC and shelter per LGA.	Not Implemented	

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Enugu State

12	Build capacity of informal support systems.	Not Implemented	Poorly developed capacity among the informal support systems, and funding issues
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Information and Awareness

13	Improve awareness of GBV informational programs.	Partially Implemented	GBV informational programs mostly celebrated during international days;
14	Increase dissemination of GBV informational materials.	Partially Implemented	Dissemination of GBV information materials is usually activity driven. For example on World activism day.
15	Develop inclusive and accessible GBV awareness content.	Partially Implemented	Low capacity in developing inclusive GBV awareness content. GBV awareness content are not inclusive of PWDs and are developed by CSOs.
16	Mainstream comprehensive sex education in schools.	Partially Implemented	The CSOs lead school GBV awareness campaigns. Relevant ministries and agencies yet to adopt a harmonised comprehensive sex education agenda in schools





Federal Capital Territory



Womanity
INDEX
2024 Edition

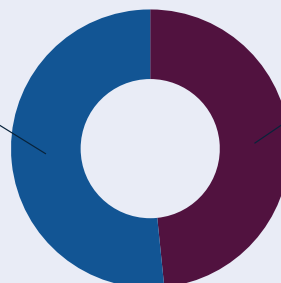
invictus
AFRICA





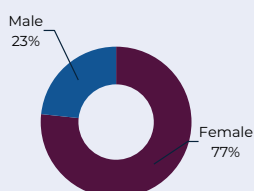
Total Population
3,366,417

Male
1,737,566
52%

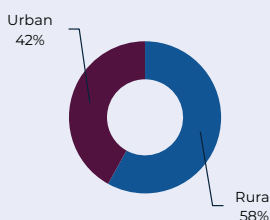


Female
1,628,851
48%

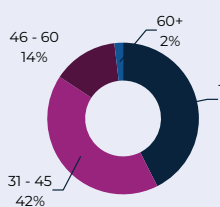
Respondents: 489



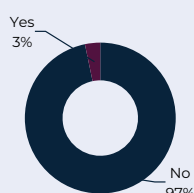
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



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



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)s **2**



No. of active shelters **5**



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



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

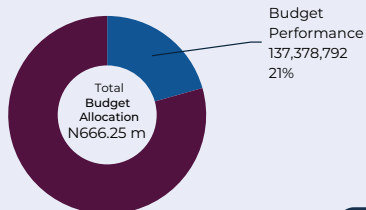


Budget and Spending

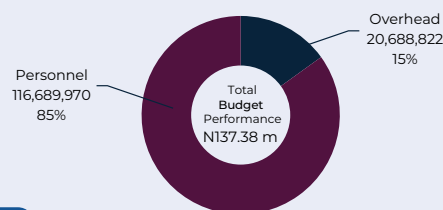


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

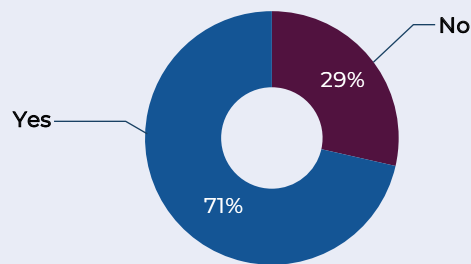


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N33.6**

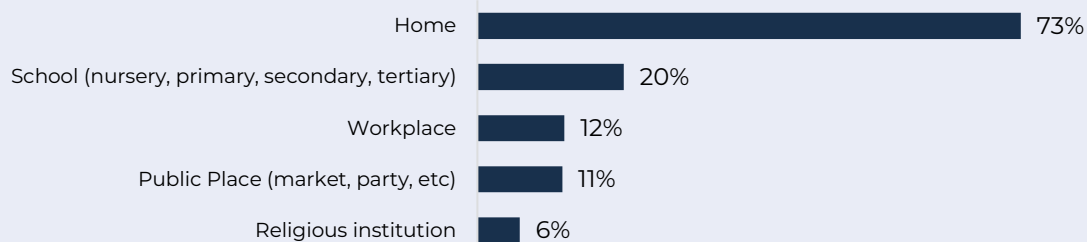
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



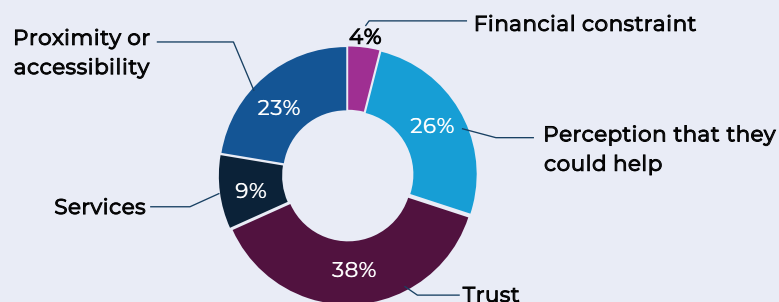
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

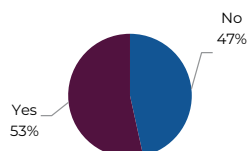


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

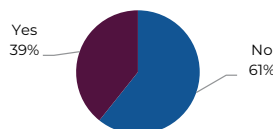


Laws and Policies

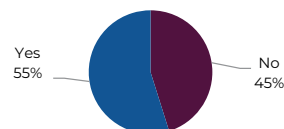
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

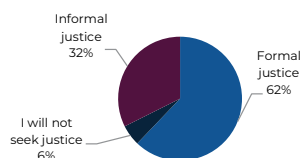


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

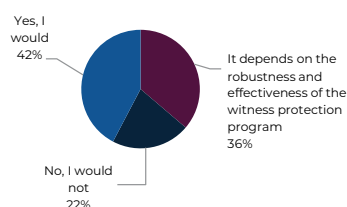


Access to Legal Justice

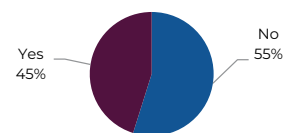
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

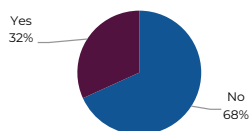


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

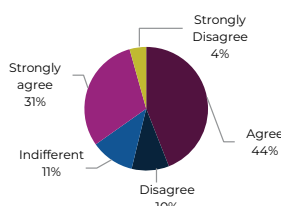


Support Services

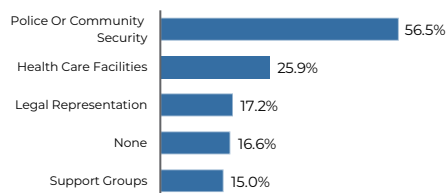
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



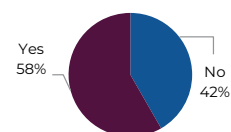
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

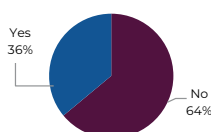


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

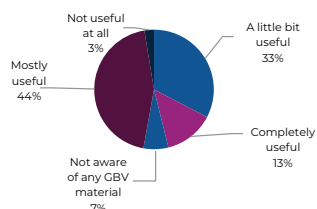


Information and Awareness

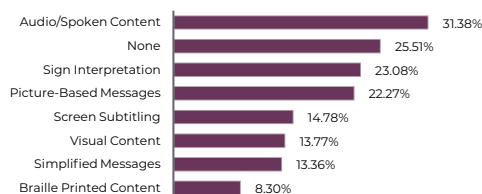
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

According to data from the Association of Wives of Traditional Rulers and the Board Sustainable Women Economic Empowerment and Peace Initiative, nearly 1,200 GBV cases were reported in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) in 2022. Gwagwalada Area Council recorded the highest number of cases (900), followed by Kwali (121), Abuja Municipal (22), Abaji (12), and Bwari (5). However, the FCT Women Affairs Secretariat reported an even higher number of over 3,000 GBV cases in 2023. This significant increase indicates a concerning trend of rising GBV incidents in Abuja. Despite the existence of a range of GBV-related laws including the VAPP Act (2015), Child's Right Act (2003), and Section 383 of the Criminal Code Act. Furthermore, 55% of respondents believe these laws are insufficient in preventing GBV, and 60% are unaware of any GBV convictions, indicating gaps in enforcement and public awareness.

As highlighted in the 2023 Womanity Index report, the VAPP Act requires several amendments to enhance its effectiveness. Firstly, it should explicitly define "harmful widowhood practices." Secondly, the age of minors should be aligned with the Child's Right Act of 2003, setting it at 18 years old. The amendment should also include provisions that mandate the establishment of Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs) and a Victim Support Fund, specifying their funding sources. Additionally, adequate budgetary allocation and funding for the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) are essential for effective implementation of the VAPP Act and providing comprehensive support to survivors.

Other identified gaps include inadequate GBV case documentation in police stations, poor investigative protocols, lack of enforced protection orders, and weak coordination among service providers. Customary laws, predominantly informal, co-exist with formal laws. Customary and religious laws are partially effective; 56% of respondents acknowledge their role in addressing GBV, but they remain largely informal and inconsistent with state laws. Conversely, formal laws are infrequently revisited or reformed, leaving barriers unaddressed. Abolishing customary laws without alignment risks alienating communities, suggesting the need for inclusive assessment and harmonization with state policies.

Access to Legal Justice

The FCT's response to gender-based violence (GBV) primarily relies on formal systems like the Ministry of Women Affairs, the Nigeria Police Force, and human rights organizations. However, numerous challenges hinder access to justice for survivors. Delays in the judicial process often discourage victims from pursuing legal action. Additionally, limited awareness of reporting mechanisms prevents many from seeking help. The survey result revealed that while 60.7% preferred formal justice systems, 33.7% relied on informal structures like traditional or religious leaders. Factors influencing these choices include trust in informal systems (37.4%) and proximity (23.3%). While pro bono legal services are available from state lawyers and civil society organizations, their accessibility remains limited, leaving many survivors without adequate legal support.

While specialized units like Family Support Units (FSUs) and GBV desks within police divisions exist in the FCT, their effectiveness varies. Witness protection services remain limited, posing significant risks to survivors during legal proceedings. The slow pace of the justice system, often failing to adhere to VAPP Act timelines, further hinders access to justice. Informal justice systems, rooted in cultural norms, prioritise reconciliation over justice in many cases. While 59.6% of respondents find these systems helpful, their effectiveness in providing comprehensive justice is questionable. The FCT lacks dedicated GBV judges but has functional Human Rights Desks, Family Support Units (FSUs), and GBV desks in police divisions. The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) also operates a specialized Gender Unit to support survivors.

Support Services

The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) boasts three operational Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs):

Awyetu SARC (Bwari General Hospital), Garki SARC (Social Development Secretariat, Area 10), and the privately-owned Cece Yara Child Advocacy Centre (Wuse II). While these centers offer vital services like medical care, forensic support, legal assistance, and psychosocial counselling, their accessibility remains limited. A significant 67% of survey respondents are unaware of their existence. Government-operated SARCs, such as Awyetu and Garki, have benefited from support from the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (RoLAC) program, enabling them to assist survivors in reporting cases and accessing treatment. While 35% of respondents strongly agree that these facilities are functional and sustainable, 51% believe they are well-equipped, underscoring their importance in addressing GBV.

Awareness of formal GBV reporting and referral pathways remains limited in the FCT. While police and security channels are the most recognized (45%), some respondents (13%) are unaware of any formal pathways. This highlights the need for targeted public awareness campaigns to improve access to critical services. Informal systems, such as family, friends, and religious centres, play a significant role in providing emotional and social support to survivors. However, these systems have limitations in addressing complex needs, emphasizing the importance of complementing them with formal support structures. While 61% of respondents perceive informal systems as effective, it's crucial to recognize their limitations and promote the integration of formal and informal support mechanisms to ensure comprehensive and effective responses to GBV.

Information and Awareness

The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) employs various IEC materials, such as radio jingles, printed materials, toll-free lines, school-based curricula, and community outreach programs, to raise awareness about GBV. While these efforts are commendable, significant gaps remain in reaching the broader population. Survey results revealed that 65% of respondents are unaware of any GBV information and awareness campaign materials, highlighting the need for expanded outreach. Among those aware, 47% found the materials useful, and 91% supported integrating GBV and child sexual abuse education into all school levels. However, the deployment of comprehensive sex education in schools is currently limited, with existing content integrated into subjects like Biology and Home Economics. For persons with disabilities, inclusive IEC materials, such as audio, subtitled, and sign-interpreted content, exist but remain insufficient. Only 16% of respondents know about disability-sensitive GBV materials. Increased collaboration among stakeholders is crucial to expanding awareness and inclusivity.

Medical facilities and forensic laboratories play a crucial role in prosecuting GBV cases by providing essential evidence and expert analysis. These contributions strengthen legal outcomes and enhance justice delivery for survivors. However, inadequate funding for shelters and Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs) limits their capacity to provide comprehensive support services. To optimize GBV support in the FCT, it is essential to prioritize increased funding and resource allocation for these facilities. Furthermore, efforts should be directed towards expanding access to services, raising public awareness, and strengthening formal and informal support pathways.


Human Angle Story






Esther, a young woman with a disability, has faced a lifetime of adversity. A childhood illness left her with paralysis in her left leg and hand. During her teenage years, she was betrayed by a man who promised love and marriage but ultimately abandoned her after impregnating her. Now a single mother, Esther struggles to provide for her child while working at a POS center. Her abuser has vanished, leaving her to shoulder the burden of raising their child alone. As her child nears school age, Esther yearns for justice and stability. Her story is a testament to human resilience, but it also highlights the challenges faced by survivors of abuse and neglect.

Federal Capital Territory

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	The law addressing GBV is operational but lacks adequate funding and awareness for its implementation.	Conduct widespread sensitisation campaigns and allocate a budget for robust implementation of GBV policies, including enforcing restorative measures for survivors.
	Gaps include poor case registration, lack of enforcement of protection orders, and weak coordination mechanisms.	Enhance law enforcement training on GBV case registration and investigation.
	GBV and Femicide Bills are yet to be passed into law, leaving gaps in addressing the most severe GBV cases (e.g., femicide).	Develop robust coordination mechanisms among institutions and service providers.
	The absence of a dedicated GBV Secretariat limits the coordination of GBV response and data management.	Pass and implement the GBV and Femicide Bills to address legislative gaps and ensure accountability for femicide.
	Cultural and religious norms in communities impede gender equality and the enforcement of laws.	Allocate sufficient budgets for GBV interventions and establish GBV Secretariats in all Area Councils for data management and survivor support.
Access to Legal Justice 	Many have experienced different forms of GBV, but there is low awareness of free legal justice services and lack of trust in the formal justice system due to delay.	Engage traditional and religious leaders to advocate for gender equality and cultural shifts in rural communities.
	There are insufficient dedicated GBV Judges in the Area Council, which leads to delays in handling GBV cases.	Employ massive citizen sensitisation through electronic and print media with deployed tollfree lines escalation across the Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory.
	Family Courts, which sometimes handle GBV cases, are overburdened with other legal matters.	Appoint and train more dedicated GBV Judges in all Area Councils.
	Gender Units in the Ministry of Women Affairs and Ministry of Justice lack operational vehicles and funding.	Establish dedicated GBV Courts or empower existing courts (e.g., Family Courts) to prioritise GBV cases.
	Witness protection mechanisms are absent, discouraging survivor testimonies.	Provide funding and logistics (e.g., vehicles) for Gender Units to ensure access to justice.
Support Services 	Though insufficient and underfunded, the FCT has two SARCs and five shelters which lacks permanent staff, trained counsellors, and medical personnel.	Develop witness protection frameworks to safeguard survivors and witnesses during litigation processes.
	Accessibility to SARCs is limited as many individuals are unaware of their existence.	Build and equip more standard shelters and SARCs in all Area Councils. Employ and train permanent staff at SARCs.
	Awareness of formal reporting pathways, including police, healthcare facilities, and legal services, remains low.	Conduct community sensitisation programs to improve awareness and accessibility to SARCs and their services.
		Increase public awareness of formal reporting pathways through targeted campaigns in both urban and rural areas.

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Information and Awareness 	Awareness campaigns on GBV have declined, with fewer media campaigns and jingles.	Increase frequency of media campaigns, including jingles and interactive radio programs, as well as design, produce, and disseminate information, awareness, and communication (IEC) materials.
	Comprehensive sex education is not widely taught in FCT schools; existing curricula include GBV-related topics in subjects like Biology and Home Economics but lack depth.	Develop comprehensive sex education curricula for primary, secondary, and tertiary schools. Collaborate with NGOs and CSOs to expand community-based campaigns in rural and urban areas.
	GBV materials for persons with disabilities are inadequate, with low awareness among survey respondents.	

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Federal Capital Territory

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks	
Laws and Policies				
1		Strong systems, structures and strategy should be adopted to ensure wider awareness about the GBV-related laws and policies in the FCT.	Partially Implemented	Responses from the indepth interview (IDI/KII) indicate that the FCT populace are partially aware of these laws and policies.
2		The laws and policies should be reviewed, and systems put in place for effective implementation.	Not Implemented	Empirical responses from the IDI/KII shows that in the past years the laws and policies have not been reviewed and implementation of the laws is an issue.
3		The laws should be simplified into local languages	Not Implemented	Responses from the field survey and KII/IDI show that the laws have not been simplified into local languages.
4		Inclusion of relevant clauses in the laws and policies to ensure recognition and provision for the peculiar needs of marginalized groups.	Not Implemented	Based on the available information from KII/IDI such clauses have not been included into the laws to safeguard the interest of the marginalized groups.
Access to Legal Justice				
5		Efforts should be made to remove bureaucratic bottlenecks and obstructs access to legal justice, as well as reduce the timeframe for court processes.	Not Implemented	Available information from KII/IDI shows bureaucratic bottlenecks are still much more in existence across the corridor of accessing justice.
6		Establish GBV mobile courts in all Area Councils and communities, as well as appoint and train GBV designated judges.	Not Implemented	Empirical evidence from the demand side (field survey) reported that no mobile courts have been provided by the governments
7		Collaboratively work with relevant stakeholders in gradually shifting or transforming negative cultural norms and patriarchal systems.	Not Implemented	Responses from the KII/IDI interviewees indicate that no such thing has taken place within FCT
8		Strengthen the witness protection program in the FCT, as well as regularly communicate it to build confidence in the populace.	Not Implemented	Participants of the field survey said no structure has been put in place to ensure such implementations.
Support Services				
9		Establish more Shelters and SARCs across the FCT, in all Area Councils and communities.	Partially Implemented	Information available from the participants of the field survey and KII/IDI reported a few existence shelters SARCs across communities in FCT.
10		Ensure easy accessibility of SARCs and Shelters by putting in place PwD-sensitive measures.	Not Implemented	Available information from field survey from the demand side and KII/IDI indicate that accessibility of SARCs and shelters is still much difficult.
11		Allocate budget for and increase spending on the provision of support services to GBV victims/survivors.	Not Implemented	Most of the participants of the field data collection on the demand side reported that little or no support services have been provided by the government at all levels in the FCT.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER 2023 Recommendations Federal Capital Territory			
12	Ensure synergy and partnership between key formal and informal stakeholders to ensure justice systems is in alignment with the principle of legal justice.	Not Implemented	Available information from the demand side says most perpetrators of GBV still walk freely on the streets of FCT without justice being served to them.
Information and Awareness			
13	Strong awareness programs should be carried out by GBV experts and widely spread across all communities.	Partially Implemented	The KII/IDI interviewees as well as the demand side participants reported that there has been little awareness of GBV in FCT but not across rural communities.
15	Sensitize and educate parents, guardians, religious leaders, etc on the content of CSEs, and its benefits to young people.	Partially Implemented	The FCT Abuja area councils, departments, and law enforcement agencies use different awareness and information materials to educate society about GBV. These include radio campaigns, toll-free lines, printed materials, flyers and stickers, poster campaigns, school-based curricula, outreaches, and extracurricular clubs. Others are through school counselling, public engagements, market/street campaigns, and religious centres,
16	The IEC materials should be made available, accessible, and inclusive of/for persons with disabilities. For instance, the materials should be in Braille for the blind.	Partially Implemented	The Ministry of Women's Affairs in partnership with NGOs and some individuals in FCT produces some materials for the PWDs about the dangers of involving in GBV and how to protect themselves. The GBV information, education materials, and awareness programs sensitive to persons with disabilities in FCT state are radio jingles, programs, and sign interpretation.





Gombe State

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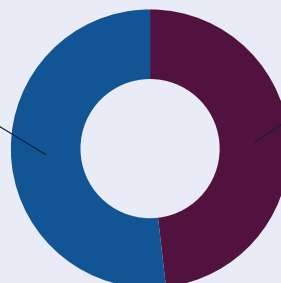
invictus
AFRICA



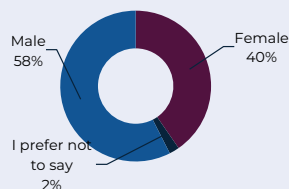
Total Population
4,088,896

Male
2,118,975
52%

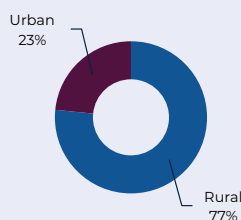
Female
1,969,921
48%



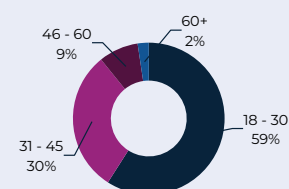
Respondents: 417



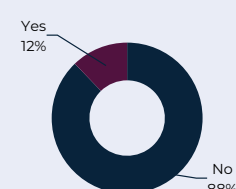
Location



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

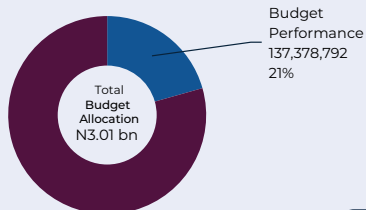


Budget and Spending

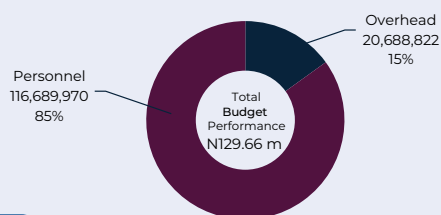


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

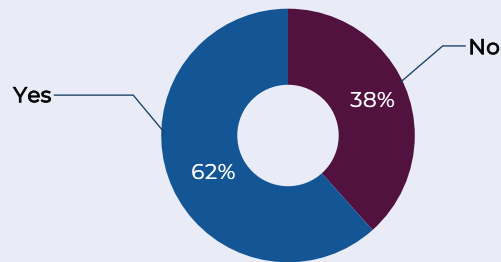


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending N33.6

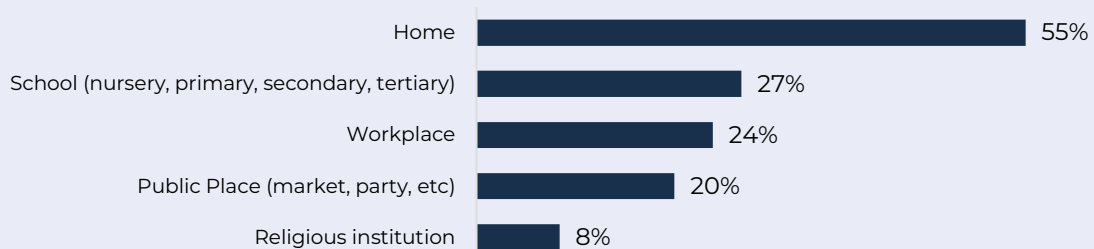
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



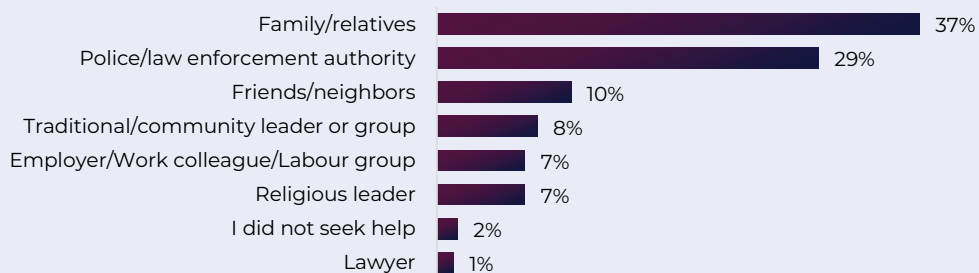
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



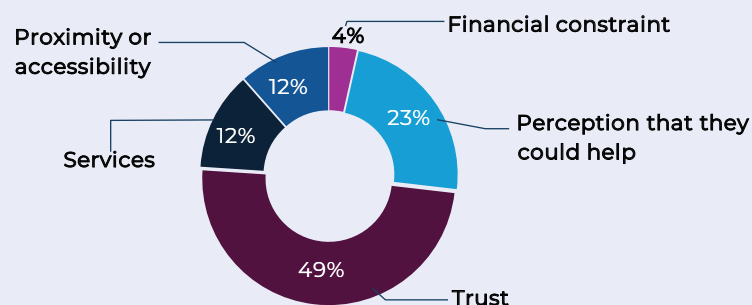
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

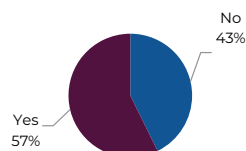


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

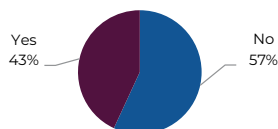


Laws and Policies

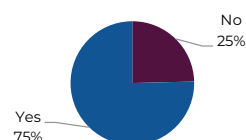
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

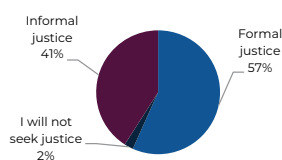


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

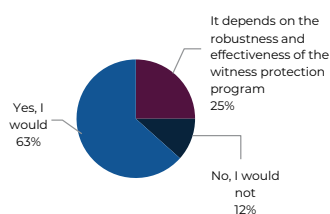


Access to Legal Justice

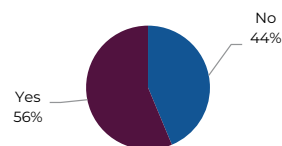
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

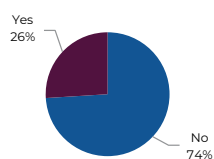


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

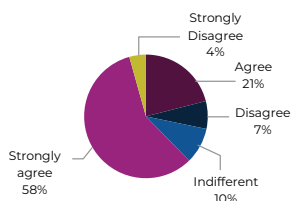


Support Services

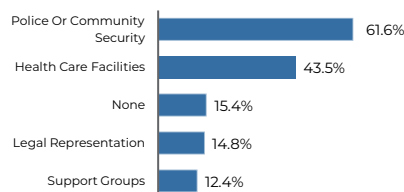
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



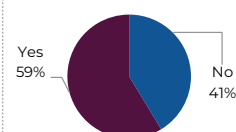
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

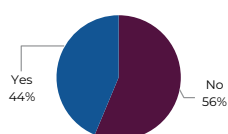


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

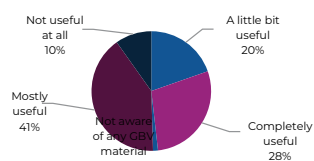


Information and Awareness

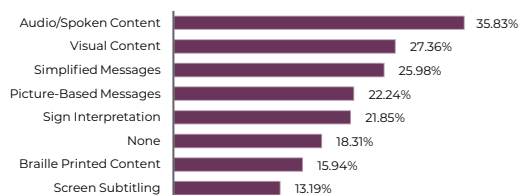
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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) is a significant issue in Gombe State, particularly affecting women and girls. Factors such as the influx of refugees, cultural norms, and economic hardship contribute to its prevalence. Victims, often facing stigma and fear, may hesitate to report abuse. Additionally, practices like early marriage and the exploitation of out-of-school girls increase their vulnerability. Domestic violence and child abuse are common, with boys also being victims of sexual and physical abuse. Addressing these issues requires a multi-faceted approach, including legal reforms, increased awareness, and social support systems.

The state's legal framework addressing gender-based violence (GBV) includes the Child's Right Law and the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law. While 42.7% of respondents are aware of existing laws and policies addressing gender-based violence in the state, a significant 57.3% are unaware. The VAPP Law needs significant review to address its shortcomings. It should explicitly include offences such as coercion, female genital mutilation (FGM), harmful widowhood practices, forced isolation, violence by state actors, and trafficking. The definition of rape should be expanded to include spousal rape. The law should also clarify the definition of "puberty" and reconsider the severity of the prescribed punishments for rape offenders. Survey results reveal a significant lack of confidence in customary and religious laws to address GBV. Only 23.7% of respondents believe these informal systems are effective, while the majority (67.8%) disagree. As of May 2023, 60 GBV cases were reported, resulting in only eight convictions. Despite the justice system's stated commitment to reviewing laws, no such review has been conducted to date.

Access to Legal Justice

In Gombe State, GBV cases can be reported through formal channels like the police GBV desk office and the Criminal Investigation Unit or informal channels like community leaders and religious figures. While the police are the primary point of contact for formal reporting, informal networks often play a crucial role in providing initial support and guidance. Once cases are reported, the police register them and refer them to the appropriate magistrate courts for prosecution. However, the lack of a robust witness protection program and the challenges victims face in navigating the legal system can hinder justice. Additionally, while informal justice systems, such as those led by religious and traditional leaders, may provide immediate support, cultural norms and a lack of specialised expertise limit their capacity to deliver justice. The absence of dedicated GBV courts and judges further exacerbates the issue. While GBV desks exist in all police divisions, concerns about police corruption and bribery remain prevalent.

Support Services

Gombe State has limited resources for addressing gender-based violence (GBV). There is no SARC, but there is a privately-owned shelter in Kaltungo. While this is accessible to some, they are not widely known. The state's GBV reporting and referral pathways involve various actors, including the police, NSCDC, the Ministry of Women Affairs, and informal structures like religious and traditional leaders. However, the lack of clear guidelines and coordination often leads to delays and ineffective responses. While informal support networks, such as family, friends, and community groups, can provide initial support, they may lack the capacity to address complex GBV cases. 59.7% of the respondents believe in the effectiveness of informal systems, but it's crucial to recognize their limitations and strengthen formal support structures.

Information and Awareness

More government-led initiatives are needed to raise awareness about GBV. While radio and television programs occasionally address GBV, NGOs often drive these efforts. GBV education needs to be formally integrated into school curricula, relying on sporadic NGO interventions. Additionally, the specific needs of people with disabilities, particularly the blind, are often overlooked in these awareness campaigns. 56.5% of the respondents reported needing to be made aware of GBV information and awareness materials.

While some materials are available, their distribution and impact are limited. Key informant interviews confirmed the infrequent nature of these awareness programs.

Budget and Spending

Gombe State recorded the lowest budget performance rate in the northeastern region in 2023, with an implementation rate of just 21%. Of the N656.25 million allocated to its Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, only N137.38 million was utilized. The utilized funds were predominantly directed towards administrative expenses, with personnel costs accounting for N116.69 million (84.9%) and overhead costs at N20.29 million (14.8%). Notably, no funds were allocated for capital expenditure. The state also had the second-lowest per capita spending in the northeastern region, at N33.60, reflecting the limited financial commitment to addressing the state's GBV prevention and response needs.

Human Angle Story







Aisha's harrowing experience of sexual abuse by at least 13 men before the age of 10 underscores the devastating long-term consequences of childhood trauma. The lack of support and the pervasive victim-blaming culture further exacerbated her suffering. Her current struggles with intimacy and her husband's behaviour may be rooted in unresolved trauma, making it difficult for her to distinguish between past abuse and present consensual relationships. Her mother's dismissive and blaming response likely contributed to feelings of shame and isolation. Without adequate emotional support or therapy, Aisha's trauma has continued to affect her mental well-being and relationships. Aisha and survivors like her must understand that their feelings are valid and that they are not to blame for the abuse they endured. Therapy can provide a safe space to process trauma, rebuild self-esteem, and reclaim autonomy. Breaking the silence and seeking professional help can be a significant step towards healing.

Gombe State

Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	Although there are laws on GBV, these laws are new and only passed and assented to by the Governor in 2022.	The actors in charge of implementation should expedite implementation processes and identify gaps for onward review.
	Customary laws are mostly explored to address GBV cases; however, for fear of stigma and love for peace, these laws do not guarantee justice for most survivors.	Customary laws should be made to align with the formal laws.
	Although religious laws inflict strict penalties, such as death, for certain offences, the requirement for multiple witnesses often makes it difficult for cases to be pursued.	Robust awareness creation and witness protection mechanisms should be initiated to allow more witnesses to step up.
Access to Legal Justice 	While there are structures (police and legal) that address GBV cases, people's unwillingness to endure the long process of litigation discourages them from exploring the path of justice.	Dedicated judges on GBV should be made available to handle only GBV cases.
	Lack of awareness and fear of stigmatisation are some factors that account for low reporting of cases of GBV.	Members of the public should be sensitised. Traditional, religious, and community leadership should be leveraged to strengthen awareness creation.
	Strict punishments commensurate with the offence of GBV are not prominent.	The expedient process of litigation and penalties based on the provision of the law be made public to serve as deterrence.
Support Services 	Lack of functioning support services for survivors of GBV, in addition to low awareness, poses challenges to the application of the laws on GBV.	Robust awareness creation campaigns should be routinely carried out across LGAs and communities.
	Legal support made available by the state to support GBV survivors at the court is not fully explored by people because of a lack of awareness, and the few people who are aware consider it not worthy for fear of stigma associated with going to court on GBV cases.	Create awareness about legal services for GBV survivors, while encouraging them and their families. Trained professionals should handle the process of addressing GBV to reduce the fear of stigma and build confidence.
	Informal networks such as religious institutions are proactive. However, they can not deliver justice and often promote a culture of silence.	The collaboration capacity of religious institutions should be prioritized to have a robust system.
Information and Awareness 	There is limited availability of information and awareness activities, and the available ones have no consideration for the needs of persons with disabilities.	Prioritize activities to create awareness through different means, meeting the needs of all, including persons with disabilities.
	The state is reluctant to create GBV awareness in schools as NGOs take the lead.	The government should support NGOs in doing more by taking the lead on creating awareness about GBV.
Budget and Spending 	The Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development recorded the lowest budget execution rate, 21%, in the northeast region in 2023.	Increase the budget allocation for the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development and prioritize adequate disbursements to the Ministry.
	The Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development's per capita spending of N33.6 was grossly inadequate.	

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Gombe State

S/No.		Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies				
1		Frequently sensitize the public on GBV-related laws and policies, while ensuring wider coverage.	Partially Implemented	Aside from the 16 days of activism, we do not see such sensitization by the government. NGOs and corporers on the other hand do try on days of commemoration that relate to that
2		Discard customary and religious practices impeding the fight against GBV laws.	Not Implemented	Customary and religious practices are still strongly the first line of action in most communities. Unless the victim can seek justice for themselves and want to or when relatives of the victims really wants justice, that is when the authorities are involved. Otherwise, it is kept hush hush
Access to Legal Justice				
3		Educate the people, including and especially rural dwellers, on the available GBV reporting and referral channels.	Partially Implemented	There is no provision t educate rural dwellers on reporting and referral pathways despite legal madate. awareness efforts rely on NGOs who invite stakeholders and occasionally organise events where the pbic are educated and enlightened. Radio remains the primar medium for outreach in rural areas but consistent government led initiatives are absent in this regard. its present but very often
4		Establish exclusive GBV Courts with dedicated GBV Judges.	Not Implemented	There are no dedicated GBV courts or Judges.
5		Develop robust witness protection programs to increase participation rate.	Not Implemented	There is no known withness protection program in the state although the law mandates.
Support Services				
6		More SARCs and Shelters should be established (at least one per LGA), equipped, staffed, and managed by the government with continuous support from donors, NGOs, and other development partners.	Not Implemented	Gombe State has only one government owned SARC and it is not functional.
7		Ensure frequent and wide publicity on the reporting and referral pathways in the state.	Not Implemented	Aside the occasional radio programs, this has not been ensured by the government
8		Raise awareness about the location and the functions of SARC.	Not Implemented	Both the government-owned SARC and private owned shelter in the state are not well known.
9		Prioritise and fund support services for GBV survivors and their relatives.	Not Implemented	There is no known occasion of such
Information and Awareness				
10		Multiple GBV-related sensitisation and awareness programs (radio jingles, educative pamphlets, seminars, and radio/tv shows) and PwD-friendly material should be used frequently.	Partially Implemented	There is a radio station called Amana FM which aired a jingle on GBV. There are no materials like posters or stickers or any television commercials related to GBV by the state-owned channels. The available materials are not sensitive to all people with disabilities.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER 2023 Recommendations Gombe State			
11		IEC materials should be distributed in public places like markets and schools, especially in rural areas.	Partially Implemented Posters are scantily seen around town in public spaces.
12		Comprehensive sex-related topics should be incorporated in the curriculum of secondary schools and tertiary institutions.	Not Implemented In schools across our state, comprehensive discussions on these topics are lacking, and it's often only non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that step in to fill this gap.



Imo State



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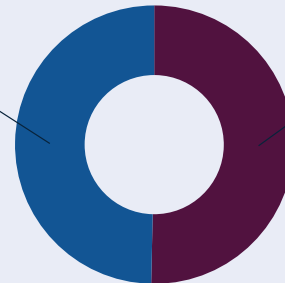
invictus
AFRICA





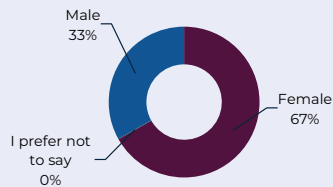
Total Population
5,636,861

Male
2,798,873
50%

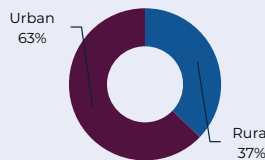


Female
2,837,988
50%

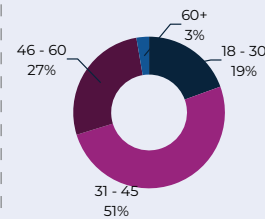
Respondents: 632



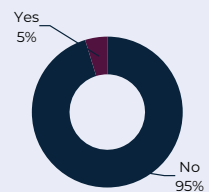
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **504**



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

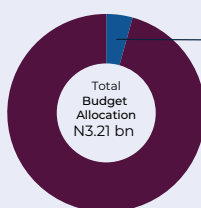


Budget and Spending



Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

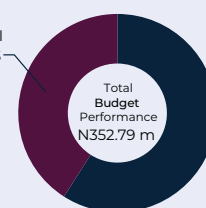
Budget Performance (2023)



Budget Performance
129,661,133
4%

Budget Expenditure (2023)

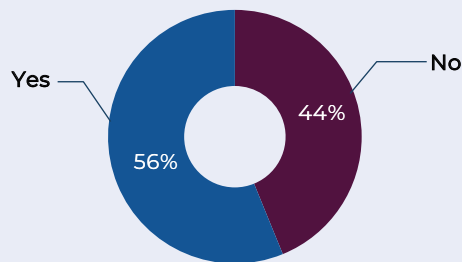
Personnel
40,661,133
41%



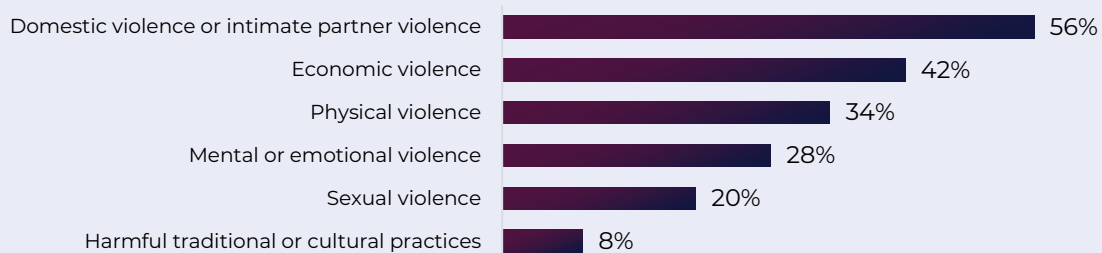
Overhead
58,650,000
59%

Per Capita Spending **N23**

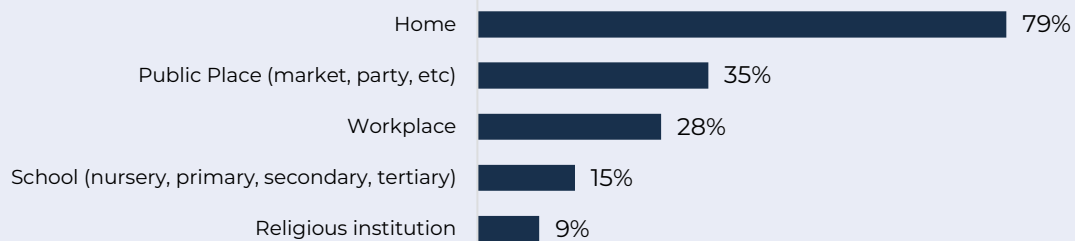
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



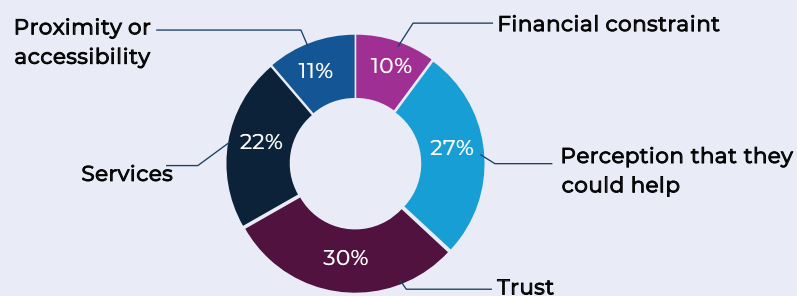
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

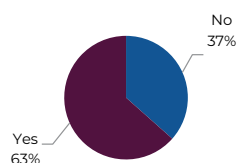


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

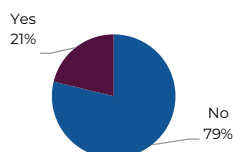


Laws and Policies

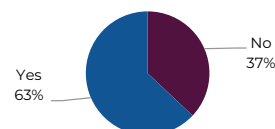
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

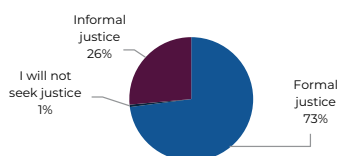


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

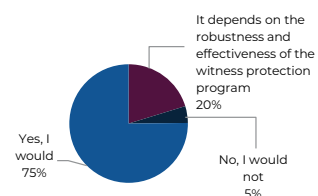


Access to Legal Justice

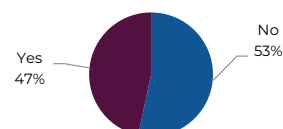
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

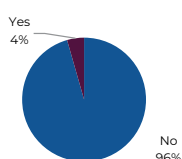


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

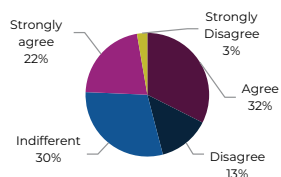


Support Services

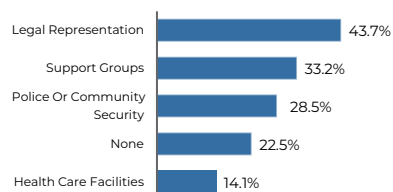
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



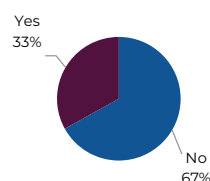
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

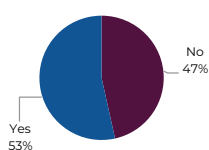


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

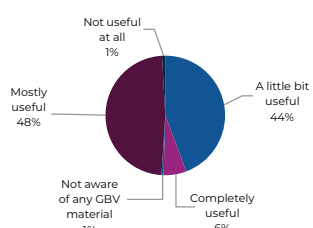


Information and Awareness

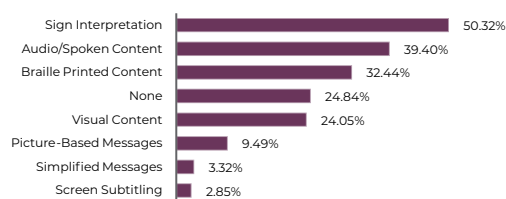
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Imo State has enacted several GBV-related laws and policies, including the VAPP Law (2021), FGM Law (2017), and Child Rights Law (2004). These laws aim to protect citizens against GBV, criminalize harmful practices, and support survivors. However, their application remains limited. Some sections of the law have been used in prosecuting GBV offenders, but a good number of cases are still ongoing. However, the absence of a VAPP Implementing Agency in Imo state impedes implementing and enforcing the VAPP law. While 54 GBV cases were reported in court, only one conviction was secured. Imo state still lacks a comprehensive offenders register, and GBV database, and more efforts are required in this light. Awareness of the GBV laws still poses a challenge, as the survey results show that 63% of respondents are aware of GBV-related laws. However, gaps in awareness persist among judicial and security officers. This limits effective enforcement and reporting. Despite their cultural roots, customary laws often contradict state laws, particularly on widowhood practices and disinheritance.

Access to Legal Justice

73.2% of respondents prefer the formal justice system citing accessibility and enforcement capacity, although certain gaps prevail, while 26.4% chose informal justice avenues. The informal justice system, while culturally embedded, is seen as moderately effective, with 62% acknowledging its responsiveness. 0.5% stated that they would not seek justice at all. The long delay in GBV case determination discourages citizens, especially victims, from seeking redress. 68.7% are aware of customary and religious laws and practices (not coded) that address GBV, while 31.4% are unaware. Most communities have various groups that deal with such cases. A majority, 62.9%, agreed with the effectiveness of customary and religious laws in responding to GBV. Imo State lacks a dedicated GBV reporting system.

The police, with widespread stations across communities, is the most accessible and recognized pathway for reporting GBV. Victims rely on various platforms, including the police, FIDA, CSOs, and ministries such as Women Affairs and Justice, depending on proximity. Legal Aid, FIDA, and the Ministry of MoJ handle prosecution, but the state has no robust witness protection programs. While underage rape victims benefit from chamber hearings, broader witness protection mechanisms remain unimplemented. Only the MoJ and MoWA have specialized FSUs run by their specialized Gender Units. There is no specialized court for GBV. However, a magistrate court in Orlu serves as a “Family Court” with a section for ‘Adoption and GBV’. Imo has no dedicated GBV judges. Magistrates are assigned to various family courts that handle GBV cases. This accounts for the delay in handling such cases in courts as well as the administrative bottlenecks victims faced in obtaining justice.

Support Services

Imo State has no shelter but there is a building called “Deborah House”, in Owerri. However, it is under-equipped, underfunded, and non-functional, having not admitted any victims since its launch. This reflects the low awareness of its existence among the citizens, as 95% of the surveyed population do not know the facility. There are no CSO-owned SARCs, but some CSOs improvise with their office spaces, but these arrangements cannot serve victims adequately. Respondents expressed the need for at least one function. The Deborah House is not very accessible because it is in Owerri Municipal and is not even accessible to people in the Orlu or Okigwe zones of the state. No official support system for GBV victims and survivors, but the MoWA and MoJ said they do their best to support victims, most times from personal pockets. Even when support systems are captured in annual budgets, they don’t get to access funds as there is little to no disbursement or utilization of capital expenditures for the year.

The reporting and referral pathway in Imo State largely relies on the police due to their widespread presence and accessibility. Medical units and forensic services are not prominently used in prosecuting GBV cases due to a lack of investment in such facilities. CSOs, alongside the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA), facilitate referrals, counselling, and case management. Despite their pivotal role, CSOs face challenges such as interference from unprofessional law enforcement officers.

Informal support systems, including family, friends, and community groups, are recognized by 37% of the survey population as essential but limited in effectiveness due to a lack of formal frameworks.

Information and Awareness

Imo State's use of IEC materials for GBV sensitization is largely driven by partnerships with organizations like UNFPA, UNICEF, and USAID, as the government lacks standalone initiatives. These partners produce IEC materials such as radio jingles, pamphlets, and TV shows and occasionally are used by agencies like the MoWA and the National Human Rights Commission NHRC. However, these efforts are sporadic and lack consistent public visibility, as only 53% are aware of such awareness programs. Sex education in schools is limited, taught only as part of subjects like Biology, and does not comprehensively address GBV prevention and response. Efforts to integrate it into the curriculum face resistance due to misconceptions, although 98% of the studied population supports introducing GBV education in schools for better prevention and response. IEC materials for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) are absent, as current resources are limited to audio and visuals, excluding Braille and sign language format.

Budget and Spending




A specific GBV budget line exists in the Ministry of Women Affairs and Vulnerable Groups, with significant allocations to address GBV and support vulnerable populations. Notable allocations include N350 for a psychiatric hospital/referral center, N200 million for a halfway home, N150 million each for the establishment of a SARC in Owerri and capacity development for managing domestic violence shelters, and N100.58 million for constructing 3 VAPP buildings in each of the state zones. However, only 4% of the total N3.01 billion allocated budget was utilized, signaling poor performance. In the 2023 budget, the Ministry of Women Affairs and Vulnerable Groups underperforms significantly. Of the N129.66 million spent, N40.66 million went to personnel costs, N58.65 million to overheads, and N30.35 million to other expenditures, while no capital expenditure was recorded. With a state population of 5,636,861, actual spending per capita amounts to a mere N23, highlighting the urgent need for improved budget implementation and accountability.



Human Angle Story



In Egbu village, Owerri North LGA, a widow was asked to come and drink the water used in bathing her husband's corpse to prove that she was innocent of his death. As this was being discussed in a WhatsApp group, our respondents, who were aware of the Imo VAPP Law, called their attention that what they were doing was wrong. He posted the law and the relevant sections to support his position, and the villagers responded that it was their custom and tradition. He insisted on exposing them to the full weight of the law, and the people abandoned the tradition afterward. The woman was free, and neither has any other woman been forced into such. - Mr. Benjamin Mbakwem (UNICEF FGM and Consultant for SE/SS).


Imo State

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	The absence of a VAPP Implementing Agency, which the law provides for, makes implementation ineffective as offenders escape justice.	Review of obsolete GBV-related laws and policies to reflect current realities.
		Urgent constitution and inauguration of VAPP or GBV implementing Agency for speedy and adequate law implementation.
		Provide dedicated courts and judges for GBV cases only and pro-bono lawyers for free legal services.
	The VAPP Act has not been fully operationalized across the state.	Domesticate and operationalize the VAPP Act across all local government areas in Imo State.
Access to Legal Justice 	Most of the laws lack specific procedures that will make them powerful. They have not been tested, for example, the FGM and C laws.	Strengthen the enforcement of existing GBV laws, ensuring that relevant agencies are trained and equipped to implement them.
		Sensitize communities on formal legal frameworks and the limitations of informal justice systems to improve reporting and adherence to legal processes.
	VAPP law seeks the presence of a secondary witness in the prosecution of rape cases.	Provision of a robust Witness Protection program.
	Lack of dedicated GBV courts and judges in the state.	Creation of dedicated courts and appointment of dedicated judges for GBV cases.
Support Services 	Extortion from victims and survivors by some of the judicial security officers.	More oversight and monitoring of judicial officers.
	Lack of legal representatives provided by the state to victims of GBV.	State provision of pro-bono lawyers and services.
	Forensic and medical evidence crucial for prosecutions is unavailable due to the absence of functional facilities in the state.	Establish forensic labs and medical units in SARCs to strengthen evidence collection and case prosecution.
	No active shelter or SARC. Medical, psychosocial, and financial support systems from the state are lacking.	Active shelters should be provided to house victims and survivors of GBV, while SARC should be made optimally functional. Reporting and referral pathways should be available and affordable to victims and survivors.
	Low awareness rate of GBV support systems across the state.	Awareness level about GBV and the campaign against it must be sold to the nooks and crannies of the state. Such information will constitute support for many victims.
	Medical, psychosocial, and financial support systems from the state are lacking.	Improve funding to ensure that relevant pathways are made available and affordable to victims and survivors.
		Also, making budgetary provisions for trained personnel.

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
Information and Awareness 	Information and awareness about GBV and the VAPP Law are still very low in Imo State.	Expanded awareness programs and activities should be implemented to break the culture of silence, while GBV programs and services should be made available online.
		Intensified awareness and sensitization programs around GBV across all groups in the state, with state/CSO-sponsored media programs running regularly.
	Inclusion for PWDs, especially those with hearing and visual impairment, is low as there are no disability-sensitive IEC materials by the state.	IEC materials should be PWD-friendly and sensitive, while advocacy visits are paid to the commissioner for education to kick-start the process of developing and adding sex and GBV education to the school curriculum.
		Consistent state/CSO-sponsored media campaigns must be run every time. IEC materials should be PWD-friendly and sensitive.
Budget and spending 	Poor performance of budgetary provisions for GBV issues	Establish a monitoring and accountability framework to ensure budgeted funds are disbursed and utilized effectively.
	The lack of budgetary prioritization limits the effectiveness of legal, medical, and support services for GBV survivors.	Partner with international development organizations to secure training, IEC materials, and infrastructure development funding.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Imo State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1	There should be enforcement of the laws.	Partially Implemented	Some sections of the laws have been used in prosecuting GBV offenders a good number of the cases still ongoing. However, the absence of a VAPP Implementing Agency in Imo state impedes the implementation and enforcement of the VAPP law.
2	There should be speedy and adequate implementation of the law.	Partially Implemented	The law has been implemented during the prosecution, conviction and imprisonment of a pastor who raped a female and felt he would go free but with the intervention of CSOs, MoWA, MOJ etc, the man was convicted. Though adequate implementation is tied to the creation of the VAPP implementing agency to oversee and strengthen the implementation of the law.
3	Huge awareness programs and activities should be embarked on by both government and CSOs on the availability of the laws and policies.	Partially Implemented	CSOs are almost the only group that is embarking on awareness programs and activities. From the supply side during the KII, the government is yet to organize awareness programs and activities on GBV.
Access to Legal Justice			
4	Enhancement of reporting and other pathways making them available and affordable to victims and survivors.	Partially Implemented	There are no clear cut GBV reporting systems in Imo state but CSOs in Imo state and security have enhanced their reporting systems by providing phone lines that can be used to report crimes including GBV.
5	There should be provision of a robust 'Witness Protection' program.	Not Implemented	There is nothing like witness protection in Imo state and no efforts to establish one.
6	Provision of dedicated courts and judges for GBV cases.	Partially Implemented	There are no dedicated GBV judges but there are Magistrates assigned to various family courts and they handle GBV cases.
Support Services			
7	There should be provision of more SARCs.	Not Implemented	Imo state have just only one SARC called the Deborah House located Hospital junction road and this is in owerri zone. Imo state have 3 senatorial zones and 27 LGAs and just one SARC. no efforts are made in providing more SARCs.
8	Capacity training for all officers and actors.	Partially Implemented	CSOs like Community and Youth Development Initiatives CYDI, Alliance for Africa have done capacity training where some security persons and actors have been brought together on GBV training.
9	Sensitization on the availability of reporting and referral platforms.	Not Implemented	
Information and Awareness			
10	Sex education should be included in the school curriculum.	Not Implemented	

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER			
2023 Recommendations			
Imo State			
11		Awareness and sensitization programs should be intensified across parts of the state by both the government and CSOs.	<div>Partially Implemented</div> <div>CSOs are the ones doing all the awareness and sensitizations.</div>



Jigawa State



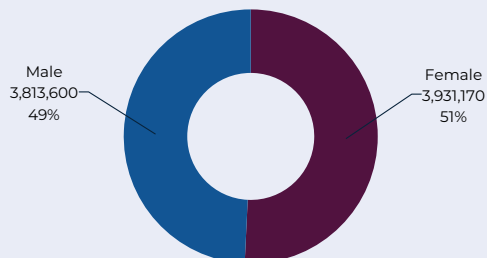
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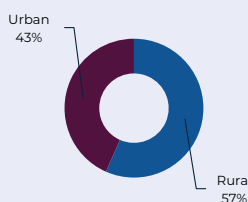
Total Population
7,744,770



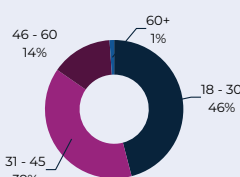
Respondents: 468



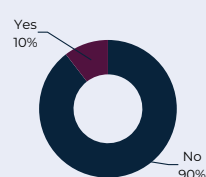
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **108**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)s **1**



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



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs) **1**



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

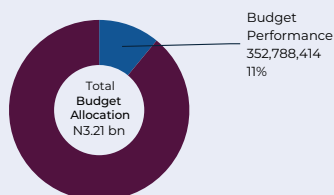


Budget and Spending

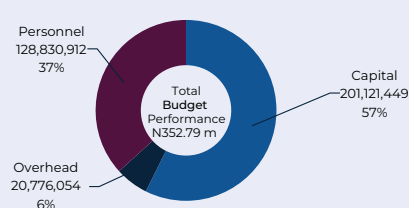


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

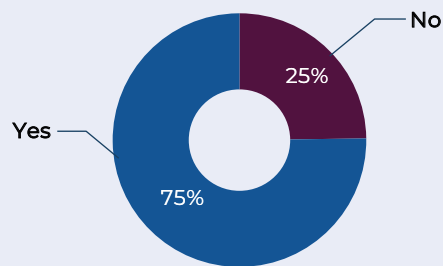


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N45.6**

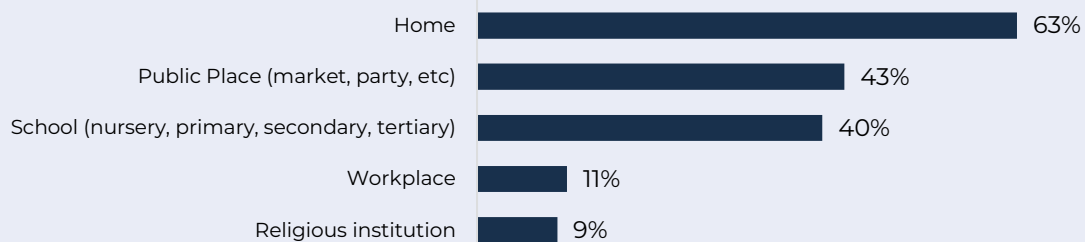
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



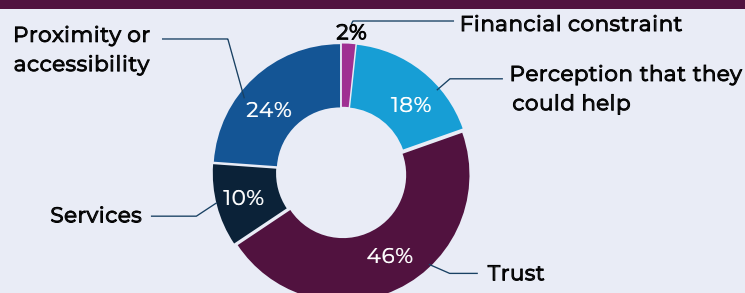
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

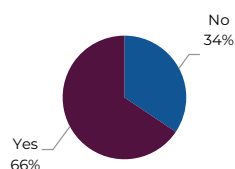


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

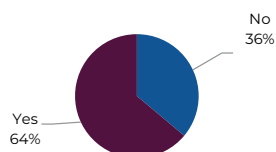


Laws and Policies

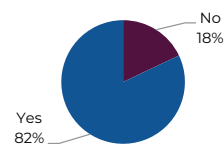
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

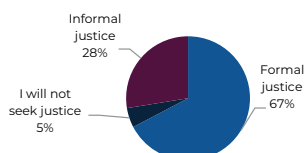


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

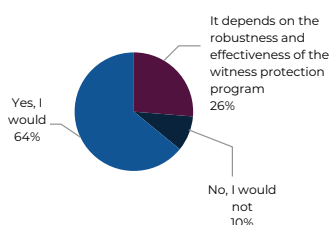


Access to Legal Justice

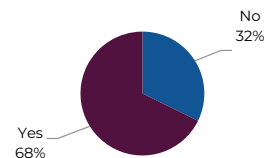
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

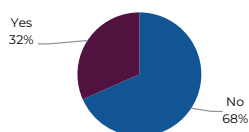


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

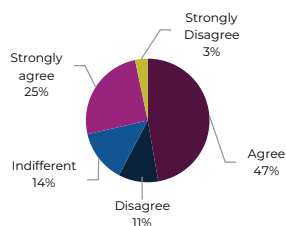


Support Services

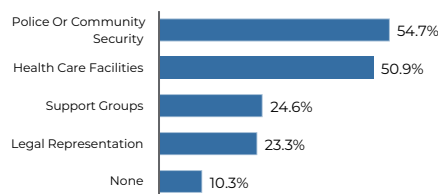
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



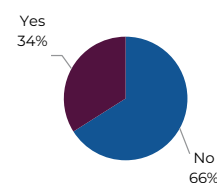
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

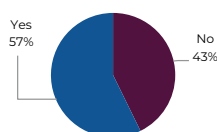


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

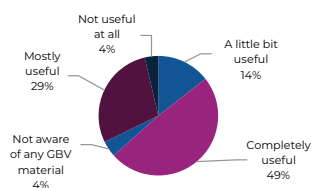


Information and Awareness

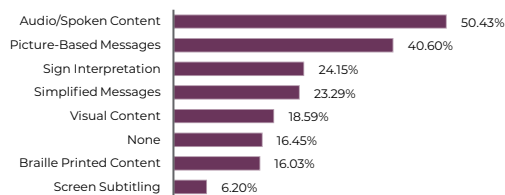
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Jigawa State addresses GBV through the VAPP Law, 2021; Penal Code, Child Rights Protection Law, 2022; Administration of Criminal Justice Law, 2019; Social Protection Law; and religious frameworks like the Shariah Penal Code and HISBAH guidelines. Awareness of these laws is significant, with 65% of respondents informed, though gaps in dissemination hinder broader understanding. Key legal gaps include overly broad definitions in the VAPP Law, such as equating minor acts with rape, and complicating prosecution. The Penal Code permits consent at 14, conflicting with constitutional protections. Inconsistencies between laws, such as conflicting bail provisions for rape cases, also weaken enforcement. Stakeholders advocate for regular reforms, with recent efforts focused on reviewing the VAPP Law. In 2023, 108 GBV cases were handled by the Ministry of Justice, 27 convictions were secured, 291 cases were reported at Sexual Assault Referral Centers, and 120 were recorded by police, with 100 in court. Customary and religious laws, deemed effective by 81% of respondents, often complement formal frameworks.

Access to Legal Justice

GBV cases are reported through diverse channels, including the police, NSCDC, Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARC), the Ministry of Women Affairs, traditional rulers, religious institutions like HISBAH, and CSOs. Women Development Officers in all 27 LGAs aid victims in accessing reporting systems. The prosecution process involves initial reporting at outposts, escalation to divisional and state CID levels for investigations, and medical examinations at SARCs. The Commissioner of Police and DPP review case files before proceeding to trial at the High Court. However, systemic delays and financial constraints hinder adherence to VAPP Act timeframes. State counsel, the Legal Aid Council, FIDA, NGOs, and CSOs offer free legal aid. However, inadequate witness protection makes many reluctant to testify. Traditional justice systems, including HISBAH and the “Zauren Sulhu” mechanism, address domestic violence and mediate disputes, referring severe cases to formal systems. These are considered effective by 77% of respondents. Specialized Gender and Family Support Units in the police and NSCDC, led by senior female officers, further strengthen GBV response. 67% of respondents prefer formal institutions, though informal systems also play a significant role.

Support Services

Jigawa State lacks formal active shelters for GBV victims. However, in some instances, local NGOs and CSOs offer informal temporary shelters during case examinations and prosecutions. The state has one functional Sexual Assault Referral Center (SARC), which provides medical examination services, counseling services, and referrals to specialized hospitals when necessary. The SARC aids prosecution by conducting medical tests to confirm penetration and lab analyses for evidence, which are crucial for legal proceedings. GBV cases are reported to community leaders, religious leaders, CBOs, NGOs, CSOs, police, civil defence, and the Ministry of Women Affairs. Referrals may flow from traditional or religious institutions to the police or civil defence; from the Ministry of Women Affairs to the police; from the CSOs to the Ministry of Women Affairs; or from the police to the SARC for examination and then to the Ministry of Justice for prosecution. Only 31.8% of respondents view informal systems, such as family or religious centres, as effective compared to formal support mechanisms. Most (68.20%) prefer structured support from SARCs and formal institutions.

Information and Awareness

Institutions, including CSOs, NGOs, and FBOs, employ IEC materials like banners, fliers, T-shirts, and radio/TV programs to raise GBV awareness. The Ministry of Women Affairs partners with the Ministry of Information and other stakeholders to periodically organize sensitization programs, including radio phone-in shows. One prominent activity is the 16 Days of Activism, held bi-annually, featuring rallies, awareness campaigns, radio and TV programs, lectures, workshops, advocacy visits, and entertainment. During these events, IEC materials are distributed to the general public and specific groups, such as girls and persons with disabilities. Survey results indicate that 59% of respondents know such programs and

materials. CSOs have established the Jigawa Child-Women Rights Advocates forum to educate the public on GBV dangers. However, GBV or sex education is not explicitly taught in secondary or tertiary curricula, although aspects are integrated into Civic Education. The state prioritizes inclusivity by involving persons with disabilities (PWDs) in planning and implementing GBV campaigns and ensuring these programs are accessible to them.

Budget and Spending

The 2023 budgetary performance for the Jigawa State Ministry of Women Affairs highlights significant challenges in fund utilization and allocation for gender-based violence (GBV) initiatives. Out of a ₦3.21 billion budget, only 11% (₦352.79 million) was spent, leaving 89% of funds unspent. Personnel expenditure accounted for 36.5% of actual spending (₦128.83 million), while overheads comprised 5.9% (₦20.78 million). Capital expenditure dominated the budget utilization at 57% (₦201.12 million), reflecting a focus on infrastructure. Per capita spending for Jigawa's population of 7.14 million was a mere ₦45.60, underscoring the limited impact of these allocations on addressing GBV and advancing women's welfare. The low expenditure levels highlight the need for improved budgetary implementation, prioritization of GBV programs, and enhanced accountability to ensure effective resource use in the future.



Human Angle Story



The reporting system in the state is highly effective, largely due to the active involvement of CSOs. A notable case of rape demonstrates this effectiveness in Kazaure involving the Chairman of a certain political party in Yankwashi LGA. Although politicians initially attempted to suppress the case at the community level, CSOs swiftly mobilized to escalate the matter to the High Court. As a result, the chairman was detained in a correctional facility, and the case remains ongoing. However, not all cases receive similar outcomes. Victims often face challenges in accessing legal justice, including exploitation by private lawyers. One case involved a victim of rape who was exploited by a lawyer who offered free legal aid. Having promised her that he would help her pursue justice, he started to exploit her trust by making inappropriate advances. This incident highlights the need for safeguards to protect victims from secondary victimization.

Jigawa State


Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	Limited sensitization and awareness about the VAPP law remain a challenge in the state.	The government should collaborate with NGOs, CSOs, and community leaders to launch media campaigns, distribute simplified versions of the law in local languages, and organize community outreach programs in rural areas to educate the public on their rights.
	The VAPP law's classification of minor offenses as rape complicates case investigation and prosecution.	The VAPP law should be comprehensively reviewed to address ambiguities and gaps, with a multi-stakeholder technical committee established to ensure a thorough and inclusive process
	Conflicting provisions between the VAPP law, the constitution, and the penal code hinder effective implementation.	
	Customary and religious laws and practices contribute to the perpetuation of gender-based violence.	Religious and customary laws and practices should be reviewed to eliminate those that promote GBV.
	Existing GBV laws and policies lack adequate implementation frameworks.	The government should allocate sufficient funds to enforce GBV laws and policies, establish guidelines through the Ministry of Justice for appointing specialized judges to handle GBV cases and amend the VAPP law to impose stricter penalties on individuals who obstruct legal proceedings.
Access to Legal Justice 	Lack of administrative and logistical support funds hampers case supervision and follow-up by relevant institutions.	Adequate funding should be allocated to provide administrative and logistical support, including transportation and resources, to enhance case supervision and follow-up by relevant institutions.
	Bureaucratic hurdles and an overburdened court system lead to significant delays in prosecuting and adjudicating GBV cases.	Establishing specialized GBV courts or appointing dedicated GBV judges while implementing strict measures to prevent interference should improve the legal justice system.
	Limited awareness of witness roles and the availability of state-sponsored and pro-bono legal aid services discourages witnesses and prevents victims from seeking justice.	The government should enhance grassroots awareness campaigns on existing laws and available legal aid services.
	Traditional and religious leaders lack proper training in modern conflict resolution techniques, affecting their ability to address GBV effectively.	Government should partner with NGOs and CSOs to train religious and traditional leaders in GBV prevention and response.
Support Services 	Insufficient GBV support facilities. The state's only SARC faces challenges, including inadequate facilities, limited office space, staff shortages, and insufficient funding.	The state should collaborate with development partners to rehabilitate the existing SARCs and set up shelters and more advanced SARCs with fully functional forensic laboratories staffed with experts and supported by adequate funding and resources.
	Comprehensive training and sensitization of all GBV response service providers on modern approaches to addressing GBV are needed.	The government should organize regular capacity-building programs on GBV response to equip service providers and response teams with modern approaches to preventing and effectively addressing GBV.
	Lack of a dedicated mechanism to coordinate, fund, and implement comprehensive GBV initiatives across the state, resulting in fragmented efforts and inefficiencies in addressing GBV issues.	The government should establish a dedicated unit within the Ministry of Women Affairs to coordinate GBV-related issues in the state. This unit should be well-funded, empowered, and structured to facilitate the organization, coordination, funding, and implementation of GBV initiatives statewide.

Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
Information and Awareness 	Insufficient funding hampers the sustainability of key sensitization programs, such as weekly radio broadcasts.	The government should allocate dedicated funds to the Ministry for Women Affairs for sensitization programs sensitive to PWD and explore partnerships with NGOs and media for additional support.
	Cultural and religious barriers impede the introduction of GBV and sex education in secondary schools.	The government should engage traditional and religious leaders to support GBV and sex education in secondary schools, introducing pilot programs that respect local values.
Budget and Spending 	The budget performance of the Ministry of Women Affairs was extremely low at 11%	The government should prioritize full and timely budgetary disbursement to the Ministry
	N45.6 per capita spent by Ministry of Woman Affairs per capita is grossly insufficient	The government should increase the allocation and disbursement to the Ministry to enable it to provide the right infrastructure and services sufficient for the population.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Jigawa State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1	The VAPP Law should be updated to make provision for the establishment of a State SARC.	Partially Implemented	The state has one SARC already established and fully functioning, though every inadequate. However, budgetary provision was made to establish four more SARCs across the state
2	The government should allocate adequate funds required to implement existing laws and policies.	Partially Implemented	Certain provision was made in the budget but it is grossly inadequate
3	The government should revise customary laws and practices to eliminate those that perpetuate gender-based violence.	Not Implemented	
4	Government, through the relevant ministries and possible collaboration with NGOs and CBOs, should simplify GBV-related laws and policies and translate them to the indigenous languages for dissemination in rural and peri-urban areas.	Not Implemented	
Access to Legal Justice			
5	In partnership with media houses, the government should create awareness about state-sponsored and pro-bono legal services in the state.	Partially Implemented	This has been in practice in the state, as state-owned radio station has given free airtime for program on GBV awareness creation.
6	There is a need for more awareness creation on existing laws, especially at the grassroots level and the need to support victims/survivors and end stigmatization.	Partially Implemented	This is very limited to only some city centers and major towns and schools
7	The government should reform the legal system by establishing specialized GBV courts or designating GBV judges while implementing measures to enforce a zero-tolerance policy against any form of interference.	Not Implemented	This is not implemented as the state has neither established specialized GBV courts nor Judges dedicated to GBV cases.
Support Services			
8	The government should establish and adequately equip GBV facilities in each local government area within the state.	Not Implemented	This not addressed in the state, though budgetary provision was made to establish four additional SARCs
9	Government to execute a comprehensive training program on GBV for key personnel in the relevant MDAs and other government institutions to ensure a well-informed and responsive workforce.	Partially Implemented	Some few trainings organized by the Ministry of Women Affairs were conducted but with very limited coverage and participants
Information and Awareness			
10	Government to make annual budgetary allocations for the implementation of comprehensive GBV awareness campaigns and programs that are sensitive to PwD in the state.	Not Implemented	No special vote allocated to GBV awareness campaigns aimed at targeting the PwDs in the state. B

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Jigawa State

11		Government to partner with NGOs and CSOs to enlighten religious leaders, traditional leaders, and community leaders on the importance of endorsing the campaign to prevent GBV in the state.	Partially Implemented	A network of key stakeholders for awareness creation was formed by the Ministry of Women Affairs which encompasses members from traditional and religious institutions, CSOs and NGOs
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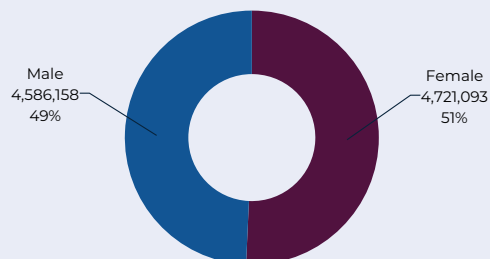
Kaduna State

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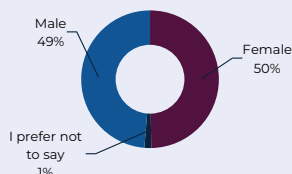
invictus
AFRICA



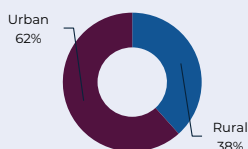
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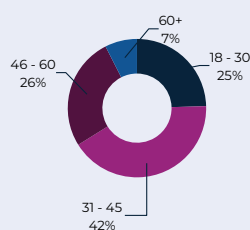
Respondents: 493



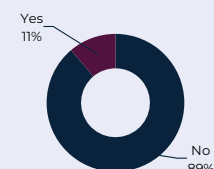
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **1976**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)s **4**



No. of active shelters **4**



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs) **59**



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

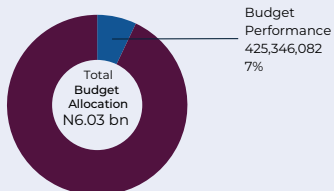


Budget and Spending

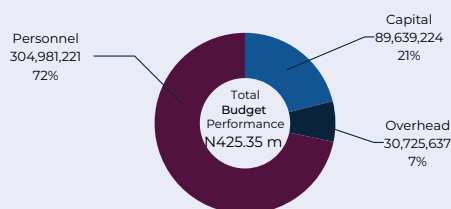


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

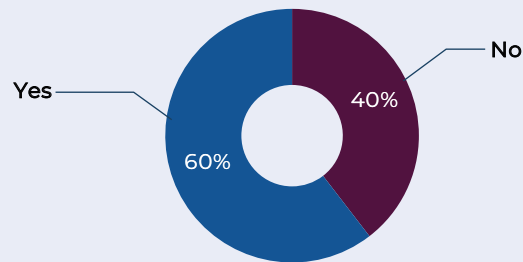


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N45.7**

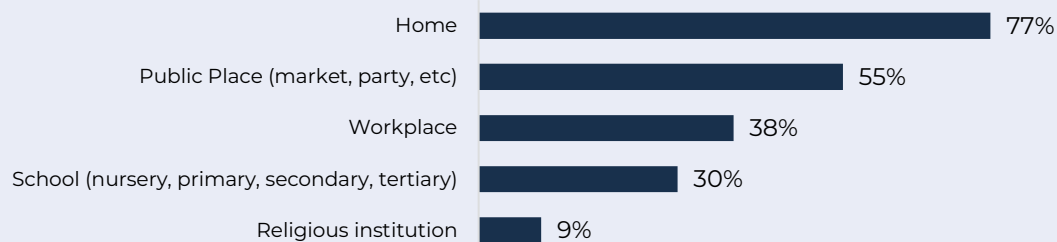
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



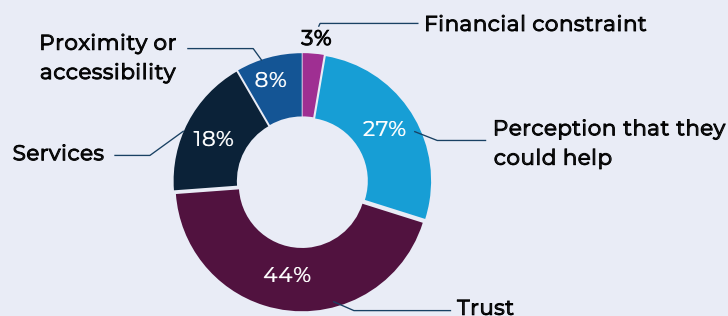
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

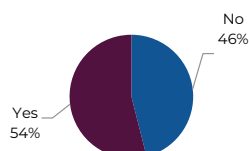


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

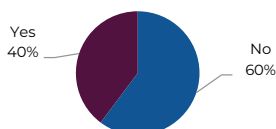


Laws and Policies

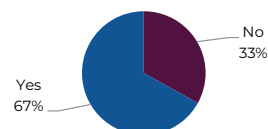
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

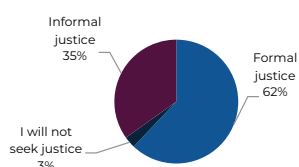


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

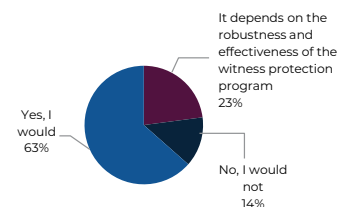


Access to Legal Justice

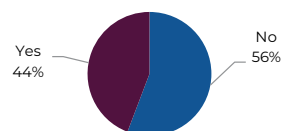
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

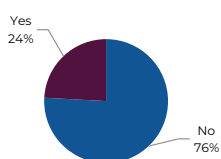


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

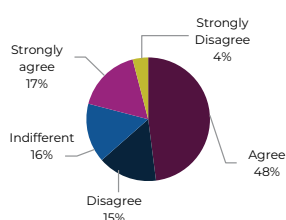


Support Services

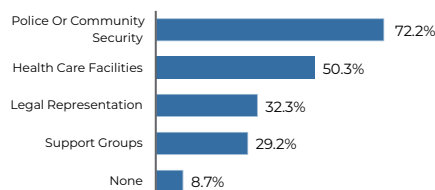
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



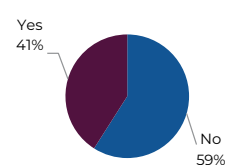
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

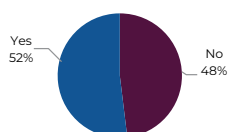


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

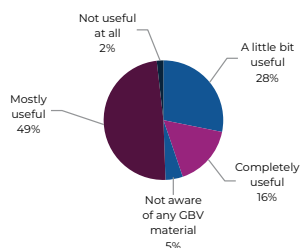


Information and Awareness

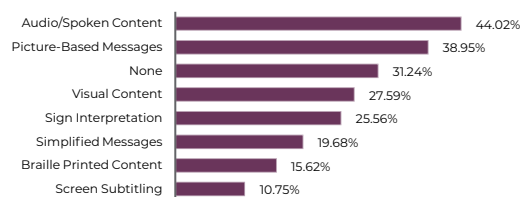
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Kaduna has several GBV-related laws, including the VAPP Law, 2018 and the amended Kaduna State Penal Code Law, 2017. The predominant law employed in addressing GBV cases is the Penal Code Law of 2017, followed by the VAPP Law of 2018. Survey results show a balanced awareness of GBV-related laws, with 48.2% of respondents unaware of their existence, highlighting a need for greater public education. While 65.6% believe these laws effectively address GBV, respondents identified gaps such as insufficient penalties, lack of provisions for rape and maternal health rights, and unclear stakeholder roles. The Law Review Committee has the mandate to review state laws. Between September 2023 and September 2024, the Ministry of Human Services and Social Development recorded 1,766 GBV cases, with an additional 210 cases reported by the police, of which 165 are under prosecution. As a northern state, Kaduna also applies the Shari'a Penal Code Law, which is less adaptable to revision. Although some customary practices perpetuating GBV have been outlawed, their prevalence varies. Notably, 66.2% of respondents agree that customary and religious laws and practices positively contribute to GBV prevention and response.

Access to Legal Justice

The GBV reporting system in Kaduna State is supported by a wide network of actors, including the Ministry of Human Services and Social Development, law enforcement agencies, CSOs, NGOs, the Ministry of Justice, and Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs). The police lead investigations with support from NAPTIP, NSCDC, and SARCs. The Ministry of Justice provides prosecutorial advice for capital offences, while magistrate courts handle non-capital cases. Many victims prefer alternative dispute resolution over court convictions for practical outcomes like stopping abuse or securing financial support. Legal aid is primarily delivered by CSOs, NGOs, and the Citizens' Rights Department of the Ministry of Justice, which offers free mediation services. However, these resources are more accessible in urban areas, leaving rural communities underserved. Witness protection is nearly nonexistent, and delays in prosecution weaken the formal justice system's effectiveness. Traditional and religious leaders are criticized for inadequate responses to capital GBV cases but are seen as more effective in addressing physical violence. Functional Gender and Family Support Units are established in all police stations, yet the state lacks dedicated GBV judges. While 60.4% of respondents preferred formal justice systems, 58.9% also acknowledged the effectiveness of informal mechanisms, reflecting cultural reliance on non-formal justice systems.

Support Services

Kaduna State operates four Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) across its three senatorial districts, with two in Kaduna Central and one each in Kaduna North and South. These centres offer free, multi-sectoral services, including clinical management of rape, medical care, psychosocial counselling, case management, and optional legal aid. Public hotlines ensure accessibility. The state also has two transit shelters providing temporary safe accommodation for sexually assaulted women and children, alongside two NGO-operated shelters. The referral process prioritizes the safety and security of survivors, followed by urgent medical support. As survivors stabilize, they receive psychosocial counselling and, where applicable, legal aid. Throughout this process, shelters and safe spaces remain accessible. The services provided are tailored to the individual needs of survivors. Despite these efforts, 59.6% of respondents believe informal support systems are more effective for survivors, likely due to limited awareness of formal services. A sodomy case confirmed by one of the SARCs highlights the role of medical units in prosecutions. When police misclassified the offence, re-tendering the medical evidence and testimony prompted reconsideration. The need to sometimes send forensic samples out of state for analysis, however, hampers the efficiency of handling cases and exacerbates the strain on existing support systems.

Information and Awareness

The government, CSOs, and NGOs produce and distribute GBV-related Information, Education, and Communication materials in stickers, flyers, and social media posts, often in English and sometimes,

Hausa. Simplified versions of the VAPP Law and Gender Equity and Social Inclusion policy are distributed occasionally. Although GBV prevention is not part of primary and secondary school curriculums, awareness programs include school clubs and educational campaigns for GBV safeguarding. Tertiary institutions like Ahmadu Bello University and Kaduna State University offer gender-focused courses which sometimes address GBV. Other awareness programs include community outreaches and advocacy initiatives. Efforts to include people with disabilities are inconsistent, with limited use of Braille or sign language interpreters. The Ministry of Human Services and Social Development collaborates with the Disability Affairs Board to improve accessibility. Responses indicate a fairly even split in awareness of GBV information- especially those presented in audio form, suggesting that nearly half of respondents (48%) could benefit from greater visibility of GBV-related resources.



Budget and Spending



The 2023 budgetary performance for Kaduna State's Ministry of Human Services and Social Development reveals substantial gaps in resource utilization. Out of a ₦6.03 billion budget, only 7% (₦425.35 million) was utilized, leaving 93% of funds unspent. Personnel costs constituted the majority at 71.7% (₦304.98 million), while overheads accounted for 7.2% (₦30.73 million). Capital expenditure, critical for development projects, represented just 21.1% (₦89.64 million) of the actual spending. With a population of over 9.31 million, per capita spending was a mere ₦45.70, highlighting the limited reach of services in addressing social and human development needs. The low budget execution rate calls for strengthened implementation frameworks and targeted investment in impactful programs to maximize the ministry's potential to drive meaningful social change.



Human Angle Story




A father sexually abused his children, aged four and six, living in his home while their mother remained unaware. The abuse was uncovered by the mother's visiting sister, who observed suspicious signs during the girls' baths. She informed the mother and urged her to report the abuse. Still, the mother, persuaded by her husband and his friends, dismissed it as an "evil spirit" influence and sought traditional remedies. The sister eventually reported the matter to the authorities, prompting the mother to reveal that the husband often isolated the girls at night. The father, a customs officer, leveraged his position and supporters to intimidate the mother during court hearings. Isolated and fearing the loss of her marriage, the mother struggles with limited support.



Kaduna State

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	There is a significant lack of training among judicial and law enforcement personnel on GBV-related laws.	Create a specific budget line with the Ministry of Human Services and Social Development (MHSSD) for the regular training of the judiciary and law enforcement personnel on GBV laws, such as the VAPP Law, to equip them to handle cases effectively.
	Limited public awareness of GBV-related Laws and Policies.	Allocate resources in the MHSSD budget for translating, printing, and distributing simplified handbooks on GBV laws and policies; and for carrying out publicity and awareness activities on the GBV laws and policies in the state.
	CSOs/NGOs advocate for amendments to the VAPP Law, but government support appears weak.	Establish synergy between the Law Review Committee and advocacy groups to enable timely revisions of the laws.
	The existence of multiple GBV-related laws with varying penalties for similar offences creates exploitable loopholes.	Establish a unified legal framework through a comprehensive review of GBV-related laws, especially the VAPP Law, to address the exploitable loopholes.
Access to Legal Justice 	The legal system is bogged down with Judicial delays and case backlogs.	The government should allocate funds to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to establish family courts with dedicated GBV judges.
	Heavy reliance on CSOs/NGOs for legal aid with limited government support and geographic imbalance of existing legal aid service providers.	Create a government-CSO/NGO partnership to formalize and expand legal aid services for GBV survivors across all regions in the state.
	Poor witness protection and management.	The Ministry of Justice, in partnership with other stakeholders, should work to advance the passage and operationalization of the Kaduna State Witness Protection Bill.
	Lack of formal enforcement mechanisms for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).	Designate the MHSSD as the enforcement body for monitoring and enforcing ADR agreements.
	Inadequate resources for the effective operationalization of GBV-related laws and policies.	Improve access to legal justice by budgeting funds in the MHSSD and MoJ to support logistics for GBV cases for NPF Gender Desks and FSUs and the Department of Public Prosecutions, respectively.
Support Services 	Lack of a centralized GBV case management database accessible to all stakeholders.	Allocate resources to the MHSSD as the coordinating body to develop a centralized GBV case database management system to improve case monitoring and inter-stakeholder coordination.
	The lack of a forensic lab creates a logistical strain on investigating teams.	Create a budget line in the Ministry of Health (MoH) to establish a functional forensic lab in the state.
	Insufficient and unevenly distributed support facilities.	<p>Allocate funds to the MHSSD to establish mobile SARCs and satellite support centers across all LGAs and leverage community spaces.</p> <p>Foster government-NGO partnerships to provide essential GBV support services, such as collaborating with the Ministry of Education (MoE) to revitalize vocational centres for training rehabilitated survivors.</p>

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Information and Awareness 	Lack of integration of GBV Education in primary and secondary school curricula.	Develop and pilot teaching guides in selected primary and secondary schools with tailored content on GBV awareness and prevention for possible curriculum adoption.
	Absence of formal monitoring mechanisms of GBV sensitization coverage and impact	Create a formal Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework to assess GBV program reach, effectiveness, and community impact.
	Over-dependence on development partners for GBV-focused Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials and sensitization programs in the state.	Allocate Funds for government-led, inclusive IEC materials and sensitization.
	Need for more inclusive sensitization programs for persons with disabilities.	
Budget and Spending 	The 2023 budget performance, at 7%, is abysmal.	Prioritize budgetary disbursements to the MHSSD to improve the performance of its budget
	The spending per capita, at N45.7, is not adequate to cater to the mandate of MHSSD.	
	Capital expenditure was less than a quarter of the total spending by the MHSSD.	Increase the allocation and spending on capital expenditure to address the GBV infrastructure gaps

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Kaduna State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1	 <p>The government should collaborate with organizations like FIDA and other relevant NGOs to translate and distribute simplified versions of the GBV laws in indigenous languages to raise awareness across urban and rural areas and among diverse age groups.</p>	Partially Implemented	The state partnered with the NGO, LANW to simplify the 2018 VAPP Law and the Gender Equity and Social Inclusion policy but has not translated them into indigenous languages. Meanwhile, although Hadis Foundation, another NGO, simplified and translated the VAPP Law into Hausa in 2021, there is no indication that these simplified materials are being widely distributed by the state.
2	Increased budgetary allocation for infrastructure and systems that facilitate the enforcement of GBV-related laws and policies	Partially Implemented	The 2024 budget has increased funding for existing SARCs compared to 2023. However, it lacks provisions for other infrastructure, such as forensic labs, or resources for the state's Gender and Family Support Units (mobility and IT) or witness protection to support GBV law enforcement.
3	Empower stakeholders, particularly law enforcement, through ongoing capacity building on the VAPP Law to ensure its adoption in prosecuting GBV cases.	Partially Implemented	Capacity-building efforts for stakeholders seem to have increased, however, they are primarily led by NGOs, INGOs, and CSOs rather than the state
Access to Legal Justice			
4	 <p>Regularly train grassroots leaders and key stakeholders on GBV laws and reporting pathways while widely promoting hotlines for easy reporting.</p>	Partially Implemented	Efforts to disseminate GBV reporting hotlines, and train and mobilize grassroots leaders on GBV laws, and reporting pathways, are ongoing and showing some results. However, these efforts need to be intensified and led more actively by the state.
5	Media and government agencies should collaborate to raise awareness about GBV laws, policies, and convictions secured.	Partially Implemented	Media houses and the Ministry of Human Services and Social Development collaborate on GBV awareness, but free airtime is mostly limited to International Days of Activism. Awareness of convictions remains low, with the sex offenders' register, domiciled by the Ministry of Justice, and not widely published to the public.
6	Government to make provision for dedicated GBV judges to promote speedy dispensation of justice and establish GBV knowledge management systems within law enforcement agencies.	Partially Implemented	The state has only a few conventional courts designated as family courts with judges presiding. Fully dedicated family courts, though approved years prior, have yet to be established.
Support Services			
7	Government to establish and equip SARCs in each Local Government Area, and mobile service clinics in rural areas, promoting accessibility for GBV victims/survivors.	Partially Implemented	The five existing SARCs are distributed across the 3 senatorial districts and not in each LGA . There are no mobile clinics to address GBV cases in rural areas.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER				
2023 Recommendations				
Kaduna State				
8		The Ministry of Human Services and Social Development should enhance a service provider mapping tool to avoid unnecessary duplication of services and better allocate scarce resources.	Partially Implemented	The Ministry's current service provider directory needs updating.
9		The Ministry should create a service directory; and translate the directory into indigenous languages.	Partially Implemented	The existing directory has not been translated into indigenous languages.
Information and Awareness				
10		Government should make annual budgetary allocations for implementing comprehensive GBV awareness campaigns and programs in the state.	Not Implemented	No specific budget line for GBV awareness campaigns in the 2024 budget.
11		The proposed GBV intervention database should track program coverage and its impact on public awareness, among other impacts.	Not Implemented	A coordinated system for a database to enable real-time tracking of GBV cases and interventions is still lacking, and no monitoring mechanism exists to assess the impact of public awareness campaigns
12		Educating key stakeholders on the significance of sex education and conducting consultative sessions with them to gather input on an acceptable sex education curriculum.	Not Implemented	There are on-going collaborations between stakeholders in government and from NGOs and CSOs that aim to strengthen schools on GBV - safeguarding but not necessarily on sex education. Although this is yet to be integrated into the curriculum at primary and secondary levels.



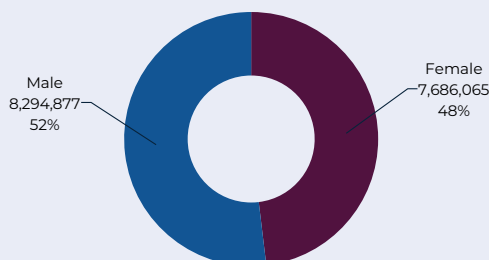
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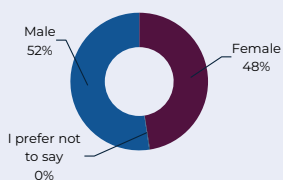
invictus
AFRICA



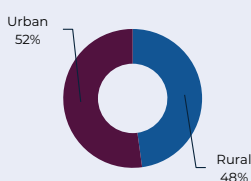
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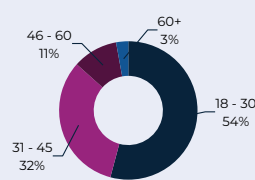
Respondents: 417



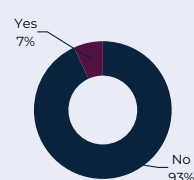
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **444**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)s **1**



No. of active shelters **1**



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs) **1**



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

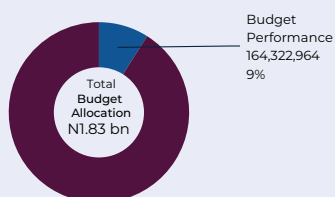


Budget and Spending

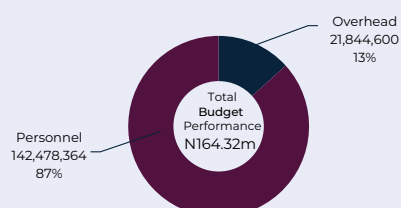


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

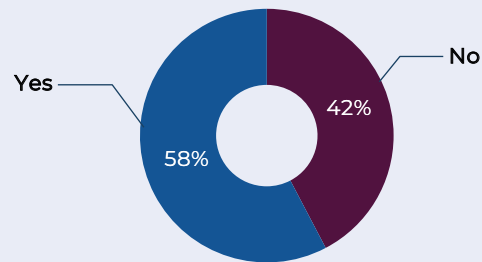


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N10.3**

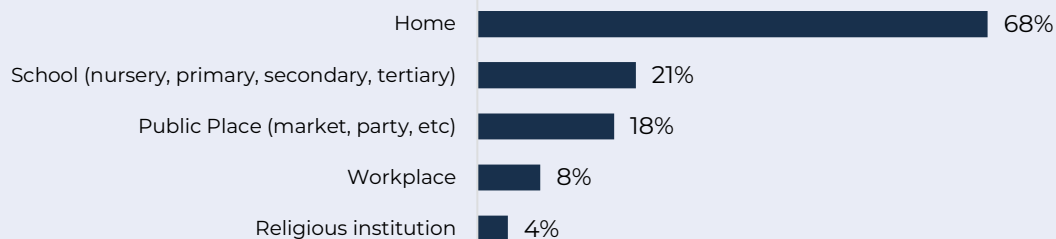
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



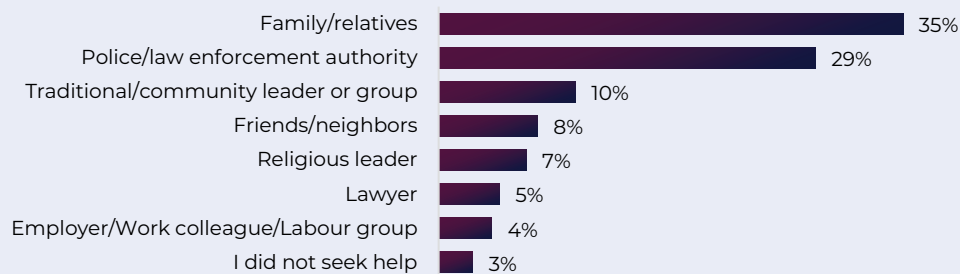
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



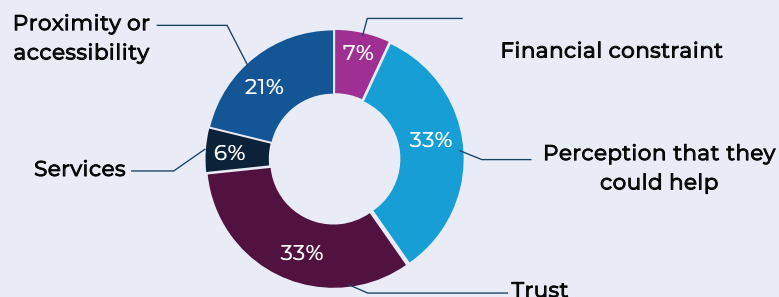
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

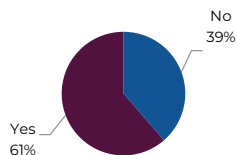


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

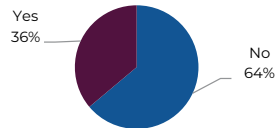


Laws and Policies

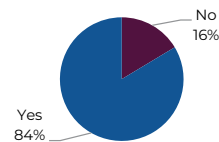
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

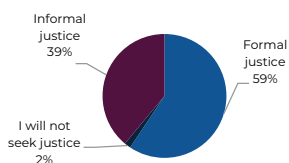


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

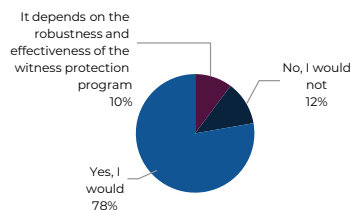


Access to Legal Justice

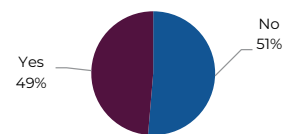
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

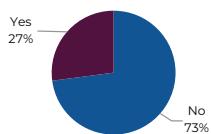


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

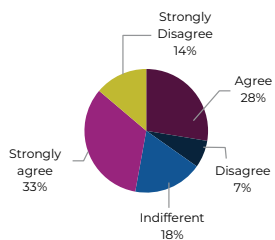


Support Services

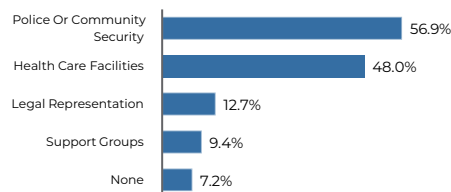
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



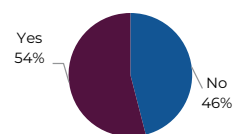
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

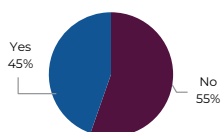


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

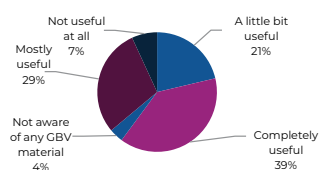


Information and Awareness

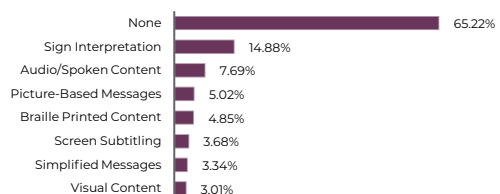
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Key GBV-related laws in Kano State include the Kano State Penal Code, Sharia Penal Code, Petty Trading Prohibition for Females and Juveniles Law (1984), and the Children and Young Persons Law. The survey indicates that 58.7% of the population knows these laws, and 55% believe they effectively address GBV cases. However, gaps persist due to weak enforcement mechanisms, conflicts between the national VAPP Act, 2015, customary and Sharia laws, and delays in domesticating the Act. In 2023, around 244 GBV cases were reported to the state's only SARC, with 60 rape cases received by the judiciary. Of these, 75% were prosecuted, with eight convictions and 15 judgments. Currently, 40 cases are in court. Over the past eight years, advocacy for law reforms, including the VAPP Act, has faced resistance from traditional leaders, and resource constraints have slowed its progress. Meanwhile, without a formal, comprehensive law against GBV, a significant proportion of the surveyed population (82.9%) view the Sharia Law and existing customary practices positively in preventing GBV.

Access to Legal Justice

GBV reporting systems include police stations, Family Support Units (FSUs), and sexual assault referral centres (SARCs). Prosecution is conducted through regular courts, with enforcement handled by the police and other agencies. The Hisbah Corps often mediates cases despite lacking legal authority to prosecute and often undermines the judicial process, perpetuating impunity for perpetrators. Survey results indicate that 57.3% of the population prefers formal justice systems, including police and courts, while 41.5% favour informal systems. Legal aid services, provided by state lawyers and NGOs, remain largely inaccessible in rural areas, leaving vulnerable victims unsupported. The gap in witness protection and resource shortages further restrict access to justice. The informal justice system, dominated by mediation practices, has mixed perceptions—70.7% believe it can aid survivors, while 29.3% doubt its fairness. Specialized GBV units, such as Human Rights Desks and FSUs, exist but are under-resourced. In addition, there are neither dedicated GBV courts nor exclusive judges, further limiting the system's effectiveness and efficiency.

Support Services

There is only one shelter and one Sexual Assault Referral Centre in the state providing essential services such as temporary accommodation, counselling, and basic support, which is currently not active due to limited resources. However, these facilities are insufficient, especially for rural populations, and face significant challenges, including under-resourcing, limited staff, and inadequate funding. Informal support systems, such as community and religious leaders, are not well integrated with formal GBV referral pathways, resulting in fragmented and inconsistent support for survivors. In assessing the effectiveness of support systems, 54.5% of respondents believed informal support systems (family, friends, and community groups) were better than formal systems, indicating a preference for community-based approaches to addressing GBV.

Kano State uses Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, including posters, flyers, and radio programs, to raise GBV awareness. These materials are distributed monthly at clinics, schools, and markets, and some are adapted for persons with disabilities (PWDs). However, accessibility for PWDs remains limited, requiring more inclusive materials and tailored approaches. Quarterly community outreach and radio shows contribute to raising awareness but are constrained by insufficient funding and limited rural access.

Information and Awareness

Some GBV prevention and response education is provided in schools using basic guides, though this practice is not widespread. Limited resources and awareness hinder integration into the state's curriculum. Training teachers and formally incorporating GBV education into the school curriculum could improve coverage. Only 40.9% of the population is aware of these programs, highlighting the need for increased

funding, expanded reach in rural areas, and more inclusive materials to ensure equitable access to GBV education and sensitization.

Budget and Spending



In 2023, the Kano State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development had a final budget of ₦1.83 billion, of which only ₦164.32 million (9%) was utilized, indicating significant underperformance. Personnel costs accounted for 86.7% (₦142.48 million) of the actual expenditure, while overhead expenses were just 13% (₦21.84 million). Notably, no funds were allocated for capital expenditure, which is critical for infrastructure development and program expansion. The per capita spending stood at ₦10.30. This low budget execution rate highlights the need for improved budget management and increased allocation to deliver GBV prevention and support services effectively. With such limited budget utilization, Kano State struggles to address gender-based violence and related social services fully.



Human Angle Story



In Tudun Murtala, Nasarawa LGA, a woman sought refuge with the ward head and chief Imam after a brutal assault by her husband. Weak and in pain, she recounted how her children witnessed the attack and begged their father to stop, but he threatened her instead. The violence occurred after she asked for food to prepare a meal. Carrying a police letter and medication as evidence, she pleaded with the ward head to compel her husband to respond to the police summons he had ignored. The ward head took no decisive action despite knowing the husband as a repeat offender and personal friend. The husband casually stated he would visit the police after work. This case underscores how social connections, apathy, and impunity often leave GBV victims without justice or safety.


Kano State

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	The VAPP Act has not been domesticated, and no legal framework has comprehensively addressed GBV.	<p>The government should expedite the domestication of the VAPP Act.</p> <p>Budgetary allocations should be provided to establish the necessary structures for implementing and enforcing GBV-related laws.</p> <p>Public awareness campaigns on GBV-related laws should be intensified.</p>
	Customary and Sharia laws sometimes conflict with national GBV laws, creating enforcement gaps.	Existing laws should be reviewed to criminalize GBV while ensuring robust prevention and response mechanisms.
Access to Legal Justice 	Access to legal aid in Kano State is limited, particularly in rural communities where the most vulnerable individuals are often victims of GBV.	The government should fund increased investment in legal aid services and judicial infrastructure.
	The Hisbah Corps, which focuses on mediation rather than formal prosecution, undermines the judicial process and enables a culture of impunity for GBV perpetrators.	The Ministry of Human Affairs, in collaboration with NGOs and CBOs, should organize regular capacity-building programs for key informal institutions like the Hisbah Corps involved in GBV case management.
	Limited financial and human resources for Human Rights Desks and Family Support Units (FSUs) severely limit their capacity to address GBV cases effectively.	The government should allocate supplemental funds through the appropriate MDA for logistical resources and regular capacity building for the Human Rights Desks and Family Support Units.
	Prosecution timelines are prolonged due to insufficient court infrastructure, delaying justice for survivors.	The government should appoint dedicated GBV judges to ensure the swift resolution of cases and timely justice delivery.
Support Services 	Single, centralized, non-functional shelter and SARC are resulting in a lack of essential GBV support services for residents and vulnerable populations.	The government should prioritize the reactivation and adequate resourcing of shelters and SARCs and expand their services to rural areas and vulnerable populations through inclusive infrastructure development.
	Informal support systems, such as community and religious leaders, are not well integrated with formal GBV referral pathways, resulting in fragmented and inconsistent support for survivors.	The Ministry of Women Affairs should spearhead initiatives to train and integrate informal support networks into the broader GBV response system.
	Low awareness of available GBV services, especially in rural communities.	The government should improve public awareness of reporting mechanisms and streamline referral pathways for GBV survivors.

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
Information and Awareness 	Resources for GBV prevention education in schools are insufficient, resulting in inadequate coverage and engagement with young people on this issue.	Through the appropriate Ministry, the government should integrate GBV education into school curricula and train teachers to deliver it effectively.
	Insufficient funding and logistical challenges hinder awareness campaigns.	The government should increase funding to expand IEC campaigns and collaborate with NGOs and CSOs to sustain community outreach programs, especially for rural areas and marginalized groups.
	Accessibility of materials for persons with disabilities is lacking, further excluding a vulnerable population from essential information and education.	The Ministry of Women Affairs, in collaboration with other GBV response stakeholders, should develop PWD-inclusive materials to ensure equitable access to GBV education and awareness initiatives..
Budget and Spending 	The budget performance of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, at 9%, is extremely low.	The government should increase budgetary disbursement to the Ministry
	Despite the GBV prevention and response infrastructure needs in the state, no capital expenditure allocation was made.	The government should make provisions for the Ministry's capital expenditure needs to enable the Ministry to address the GVB infrastructure gaps.
	With a spending per capita of ₦10.30, the state ranked last but one in disbursement per capita to its Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development.	The government should significantly increase allocation to the Ministry to enable it to cater to the population's needs.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Kano State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1	The government should adopt the VAPP law in the state.	Not Implemented	Violence against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act was not passed due to cultural differences and merging with the VAPP code. The law has been reviewed and domesticated in addition of local context issues. It is currently awaiting the review of the legal drafting committee before submission to the house of assembly to pass it into law.
2	Review existing laws to criminalize GBV and guarantee GBV prevention and response	Partially Implemented	Kano State Executive Council has approved and signed proposed bill on Child Rights (protection) Act 2010. 24 May 2023 underscoring the state's efforts to strengthen the rights of children."
3	Provide the necessary resources, including adequate budgetary allocation and the establishment of relevant mechanisms, to ensure the effective implementation and comprehensive enforcement of the Child Protection Law.	Not Implemented	
Access to Legal Justice			
4	Government to allocate funds to GBV enforcement and prosecution and revamp Hisbah.	Partially Implemented	Budgetary allocation available for GBV in most MDAs, however fund release is mostly a challenge
5	Government should make provision for dedicated GBV judges to promote speedy dispensation of justice.	Not Implemented	The current announcement by Kano Chief Justice Dije Aboki on state commitment to establish a Special Court aimed at expediting justice and addressing issues related to gender-based violence and child rights abuse will pave way in specifying GBV judges in the state.
6	State to simplify legal processes and remove all bureaucracies that impede access to legal justice for GBV victims/survivors.	Not Implemented	VAPP Act contains the necessary provisions for the punishment of offenders, saying domesticating the Act is the only way to eliminate or mitigate incidences of rape and other sexual assault.
Support Services			
7	Government should allocate funds to GBV support services and take the lead in providing holistic support services to GBV survivors.	Partially Implemented	There is budget line on GBV in ministry for women affair but it is grossly inadequate
8	Government to create more awareness on reporting and referral pathways, simplify and publicize the referral pathways, and constantly train law enforcement personnel on appropriate and professional GBV response.	Partially Implemented	GBV reporting and referral pathways exist, awareness of these systems remains concentrated in urban areas, with low visibility in rural communities.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER 2023 Recommendations Kano State			
9	Government should establish and equip SARCs in each Local Government Council to ensure easier accessibility for GBV victims/survivors.	Not Implemented	This plan is yet to be achieved. There is only one shelter in the state providing essential services such as temporary accommodation, counseling, and basic support which is currently not active with limited resources
Information and Awareness			
10		Not Implemented	No specific budgetary allocation yet for GBV awareness creation in kano state,
11		Not Implemented	Kano state with the support of some non-governmental organization raises awareness on GBV through Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials such as posters, radio programs, and flyers, which are distributed monthly at clinics, markets, and schools.



Katsina State



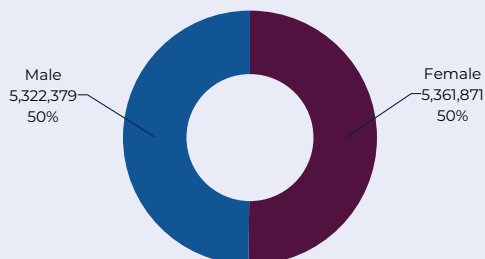
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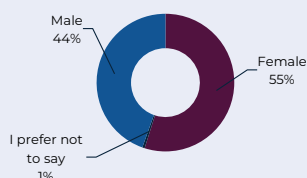




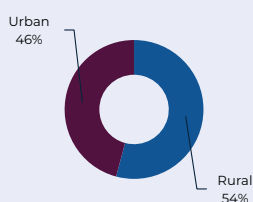
Total Population
10,684,250



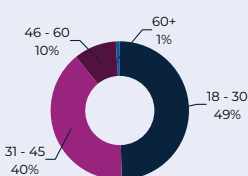
Respondents: 541



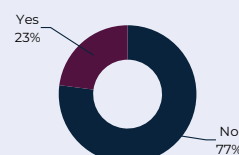
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **150**



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



No. of active shelters **2**



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



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

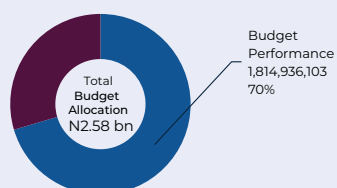


Budget and Spending

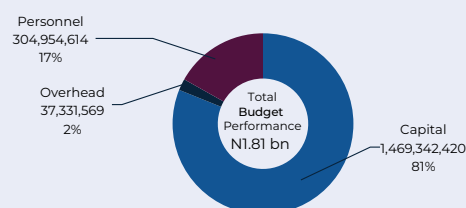


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

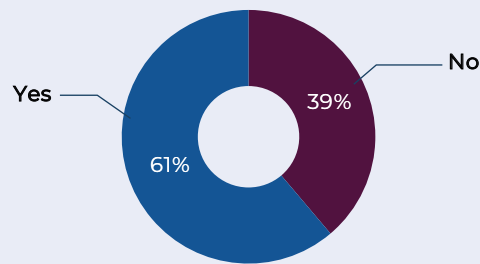


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N169.9**

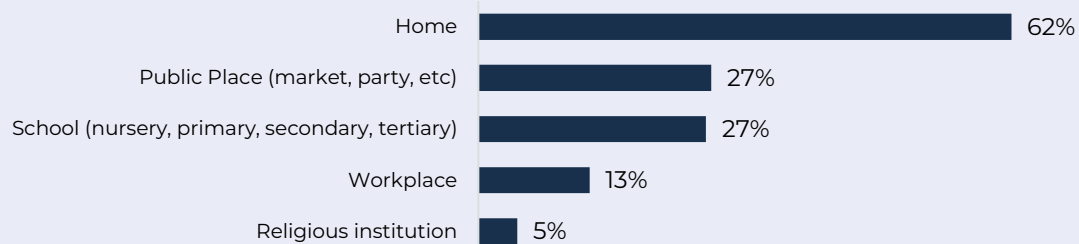
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



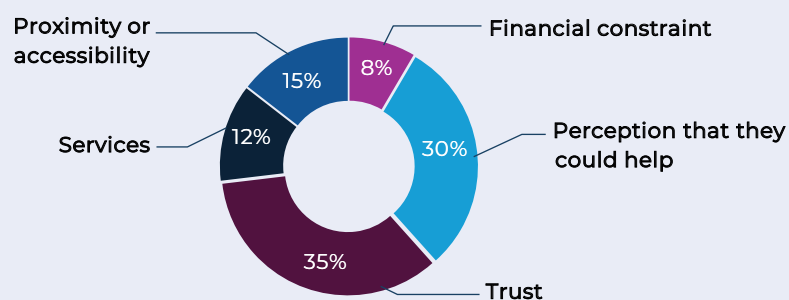
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

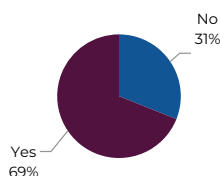


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

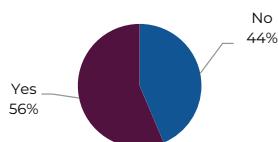


Laws and Policies

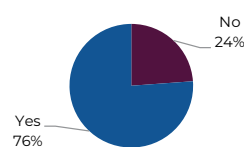
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

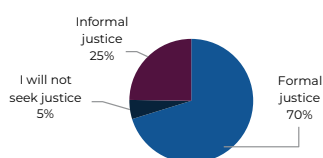


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

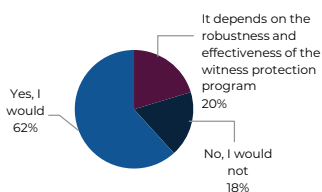


Access to Legal Justice

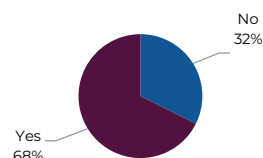
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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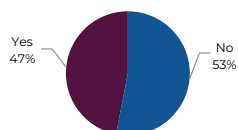


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

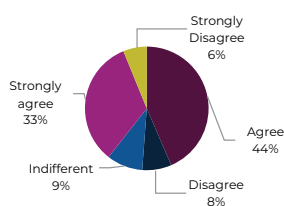


Support Services

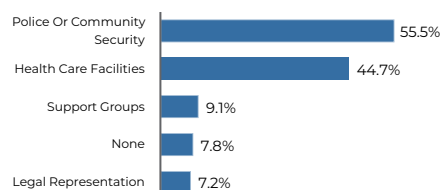
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



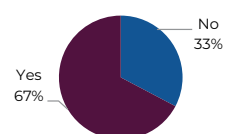
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

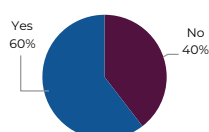


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

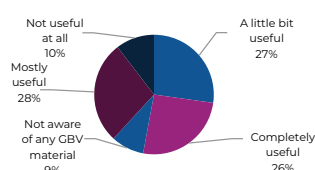


Information and Awareness

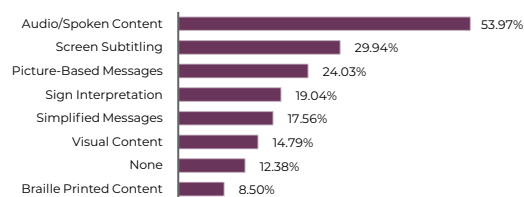
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Katsina State's recent domestication of the Violence Against Persons (VAPP) Law in December 2023 follows the 2023 Womanity Index Report highlighting the state's previous non-compliance. This development, alongside existing laws like the Child Protection Law, Penal Code, Disability Law, Administration of Criminal Justice Law, and Sharia law, demonstrates a legal framework for GBV prevention and response. While a significant portion of respondents (74.41%) are aware of these laws and perceive them as effective (71.36%), enforcement remains a major challenge. Of the 150 reported cases in the past year, only 60 were prosecuted, with no convictions. This highlights critical gaps in human resources, capacity, and law enforcement integrity.

The recent adoption of the VAPP Law suggests a positive step towards strengthening the legal framework for GBV prevention and response by the state. However, more systematic reviews are necessary to ensure future laws align with evolving needs and international standards. Sharia law, as the prevailing religious law, prescribes severe penalties for rape and promotes gender equality in some areas. This aligns with certain aspects of formal law, but regular assessments are crucial to strengthen both systems and ensure their complementary roles in addressing GBV. A significant proportion of respondents (74.9%) view customary and religious laws as effective, emphasizing the need to consider their potential in GBV prevention and response.

Access to Legal Justice

The state has a robust GBV reporting system involving NGOs, law enforcement agencies, and local government representatives. Cases are typically routed through the police regardless of the initial reporting channel, ensuring centralized management. The state response team cooperates with GBV desk offices across agencies like the National Human Rights Commission and SARCs. Survey results show that 70.2% of respondents would pursue formal justice if they or someone they knew experienced GBV. Legal aid services include pro bono lawyers from the International Federation of Female Lawyers (FIDA) and public defenders. While there is no formal witness protection program, witnesses are assured of safety and anonymity to encourage participation. There are also delays in prosecution due to limited resources. Informal justice systems operate under Shariah law, applying retributive justice or fines based on the harm caused. 77% of respondents find these systems effective. Specialized units include family support units, GBV desks in the police force, and social workers in LGAs from the Ministry of Women Affairs. While dedicated GBV judges or courts are not yet operational, a project to establish GBV courts to streamline the prosecution process is underway.

Support Services

Katsina has no SARCs and two active shelters. Shelters include facilities by NAPTIP and NDLEA, with Hisbah and JIBWIS Islamic groups offering temporary safe spaces for GBV survivors. These SARCs provide medical and psychosocial support, legal assistance, and food. FIDA offers pro bono legal aid, while the state covers all medical expenses for survivors, exemplified by the case of a victim who received comprehensive treatment for severe injuries at the Nasiha SARC and a Federal Teaching Hospital. The reporting and referral pathways operate through synergy between MDAs, law enforcement, hospitals, NGOs, and the Ministry of Education. Cases are routed to the police regardless of the reporting channel. Local government representatives escalate cases to the state capital if needed. Survey data shows that 74.4% of respondents value informal support systems such as family, religious centres, and community groups over formal systems, highlighting their vital role in GBV survivor recovery and justice.

Information and Awareness

The state primarily uses verbal methods, such as lectures, public address systems, and radio programs like Mugyara Akidan Mu ("Let's Fix Our Belief System"), for GBV sensitization. Printed IEC materials are scarce,

appearing only through NGO or UNICEF sponsorship. The AGILE project in senior secondary schools is a notable exception, consistently implementing the Safe Space Life Skills curriculum twice weekly in 247 pilot schools, covering gender equality, life skills, and vocational studies. However, these efforts lack specific IEC materials tailored for persons with disabilities (PWD). The general population benefits sporadically from sensitization programs through town criers, mosques, and churches. While 67.14% of the surveyed population knows GBV awareness initiatives, materials remain insufficient and inconsistent, with limited accessibility for PWDs. The AGILE project serves as the state's most structured GBV education intervention. However, broader inclusive IEC efforts and scheduled programs are needed to effectively enhance public awareness and engagement.

Budget and Spending

In 2023, the Katsina State Ministry of Women Affairs, responsible for GBV prevention and response, had a final budget of ₦2,577,171,626, achieving a 70% performance with actual expenditures totaling ₦1,814,936,103. Personnel cost amounted to ₦304,954,614.40 (16.8%), and overhead was ₦37,331,569 (2.1%). A significant % of the budget, 81%, was allocated to capital expenditures, reflecting a strong focus on infrastructure and program development. Personnel costs consumed 16.8% of the budget, while overheads and other expenditures accounted for a modest 2.3%. Given the state's population of 10,684,250, the per capita spending was ₦169.90. The allocation reflects a significant focus on capital projects, indicating priority investment in facilities and programs, while overhead and operational costs remain modest. While the focus on capital projects is commendable, the limited per capita spending suggests a need for increased funding to adequately address the needs of the state's large population. This would ensure sufficient resources for impactful interventions and effective GBV prevention and response programs.


Human Angle Story






Efforts to prevent and respond to GBV include partnerships between organizations like the Danuwa Foundation, UNICEF, and other NGOs, which aim to address the plight of victims in marginalized and insurgency-affected areas. The foundation actively engages in fieldwork to reach survivors, especially those victimized by banditry, offering critical support and hope for justice. Many survivors, including women, impregnated through sexual violence, reported their cases to the police and traditional or religious leaders without any meaningful action taken. However, the Danuwa Foundation has penetrated these communities, not only providing access to medical care and psychosocial services but also advocating tirelessly for justice for the victims. By challenging silence and systemic neglect, the foundation is shedding light on survivors' resilience and the urgent need for sustained GBV prevention and response strategies.


Katsina State

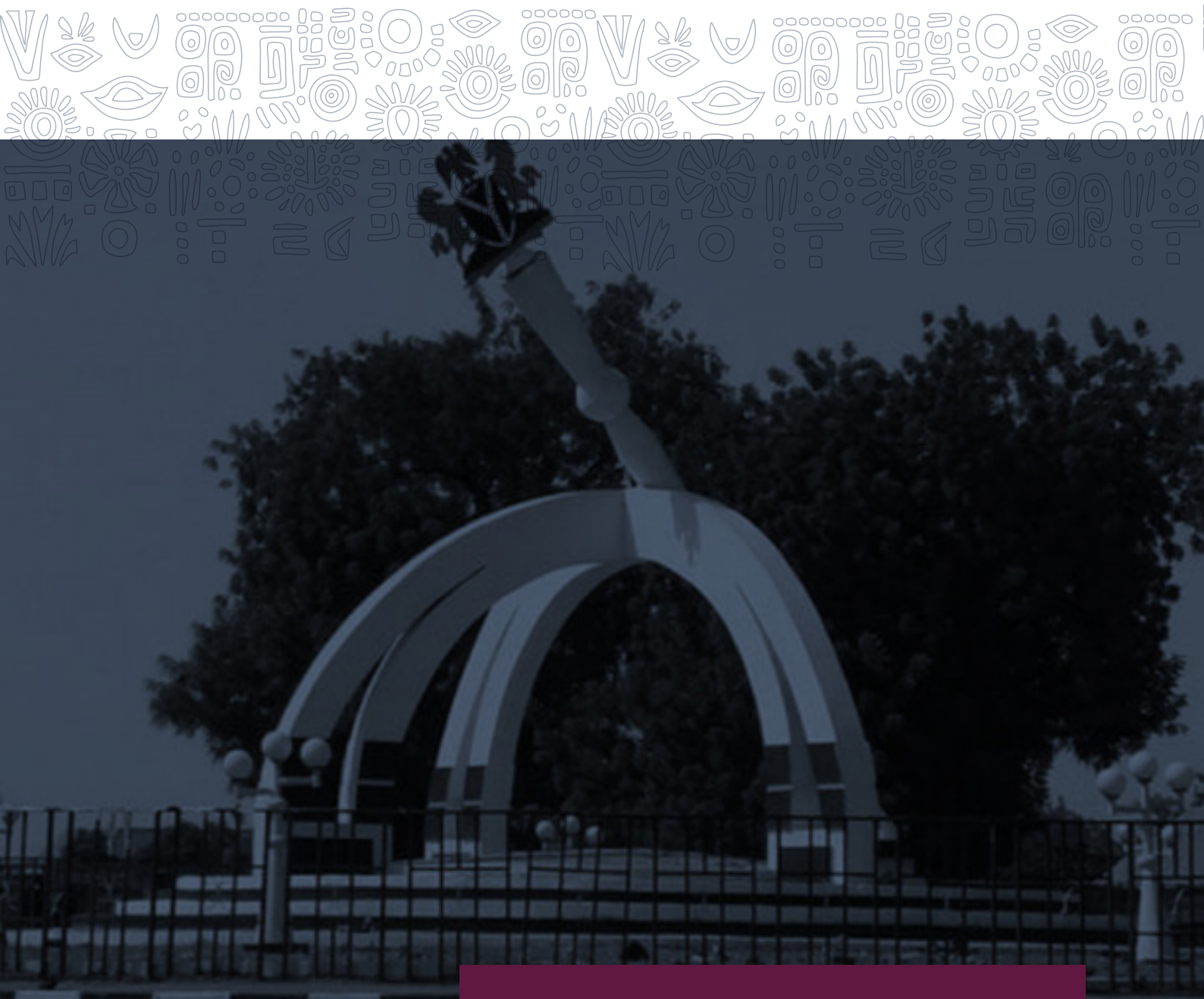
Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	Weak enforcement and limited mechanisms for implementing the VAPP law.	<p>The state should allocate funds to stakeholder MDAs to support the implementation of the VAPP Law.</p> <p>The Ministry of Women Affairs should leverage technical support from NGOs and CSOs to create awareness about the law and facilitate its adoption.</p> <p>The Ministry of Women Affairs and its partners should provide targeted training for law enforcement officers, judicial personnel, and other stakeholders on the provisions and enforcement of the VAPP Law.</p>
	Inefficient institutional mechanisms, insensitive handling of GBV cases and prolonged legal procedures.	The government should allocate funds for trauma-informed training of law enforcement and judiciary personnel and establish specialized courts with designated GBV judges to improve efficiency in handling cases.
	Limited access to key stakeholders impedes the pursuit of legal remedies.	To bridge accessibility gaps, the Ministry of Women Affairs, in partnership with NGOs and CSOs, should facilitate the decentralization of legal and support services to underserved areas.
Access to Legal Justice 	Societal stigmatization and religious and cultural barriers to justice exist.	The Ministry of Women Affairs should leverage community sensitization campaigns involving traditional and religious leaders to address stigma and challenge harmful cultural and religious practices, fostering a supportive environment for survivors to seek justice.
	Shortage of GBV support facilities and services for victims and survivors.	The government should establish additional SARCs and shelters in different areas of Katsina State, particularly in underserved areas, to provide support services and improve their accessibility.
	Lack of adequate GBV knowledge among those working in healthcare, law enforcement, and the judiciary.	The government should provide healthcare professionals, police officers, and judicial personnel with training and information sessions to improve their awareness and understanding of referral and reporting.
Support Services 	Low awareness of support services, including the existence of SARCs and shelters.	The government should establish mechanisms to enhance coordination and collaboration between formal support systems (SARCs, shelters) and informal support systems to provide comprehensive support to survivors.
	Divergent cultural and religious views hinder the acceptance and implementation of comprehensive sex education.	Ministry of Women Affairs should collaborate with community and religious leaders to develop culturally sensitive, age-appropriate sex education frameworks.
	Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials are often insufficient and not sensitive to the culture and language of the target communities and PWDs.	The Ministry of Women Affairs should develop and disseminate culturally sensitive IEC materials, engaging with local stakeholders and PWDs to ensure their relevance and effectiveness.
Information and Awareness 	Awareness efforts are often misunderstood as attempts to impose foreign ideologies or values, leading to resistance or rejection of gender-focused sensitization programs.	The Ministry of Women Affairs should use community-based GBV-sensitization approaches, engaging trusted leaders and groups to deliver tailored messages that align with local values and address misconceptions

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
Budget and Spending 	<p>81% of the Ministry of Women Affairs' budget was earmarked for capital expenditure</p> <p>The Ministry of Women Affairs' Spending per capita was quite low at N169.9.</p>	<p>Government should maintain the prioritization of capital expenditure component of the Ministry's budget to empower it to fulfil its GBV prevention and response mandate.</p> <p>The government should increase the budget allocation and disbursement to the Ministry to aid it in catering adequately to the GBV prevention and response needs of the population.</p>

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Katsina State

S/No.		Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies				
1		Adopt the VAPP Law.	Fully Implemented	The VAAP law was amended and signed by the governor and came into operation on 24th October, 2023
2		Monitor and strengthen the implementation and impact of the Penal Code in preventing and responding to GBV.	Fully Implemented	Penal code laws are being implemented as they should be. When ingredients to crime is proved beyond reasonable doubt, the court imposes the prescribed puishment as stated in the penal code.
Access to Legal Justice				
3		Invest in training for law enforcement officials, judicial personnel, and other stakeholders to ensure they are equipped to handle GBV cases sensitively and efficiently.	Partially Implemented	Trainings are conducted even though not routinely. If trainings are well invested in, this will assist in revamping the strenthening key stakeholders working on GBV.
4		Establish partnerships between formal and informal justice systems to enable a comprehensive and coordinated approach to handling GBV cases.	Not Implemented	
		Government should implement a comprehensive strategy that addresses societal stigmatization, engages religious and traditional leaders to promote gender equality, and conduct targeted awareness programs to educate the public on reporting mechanisms and legal rights.	Not Implemented	
Support Services				
6		Government should provide and improve accessibility of support services by establishing additional SARCs and shelters in different areas of Katsina State, particularly in underserved areas.	Partially Implemented	Aside from the fully functioning government owned NASIHA SARC(under the ministry of girl child education and child development) which was mainly commisioned to render support services to sexually abused minors in the state, the second GBV center/SARC is still a work in progress.
7		Government should provide training and information sessions to healthcare professionals, police officers, and judicial personnel to improve their awareness and understanding of referral and reporting.	Partially Implemented	There is no indepth training to get the 3 main stakeholders to have a very good knowledge of the importance of referral and reporting of GBV cases
8		Government should establish mechanisms to enhance coordination and collaboration between formal support systems (SARCs, shelters) and informal support systems to provide comprehensive support to survivors.	Not Implemented	There are no known informal support systems in the state for GBV victims and survivors.
Information and Awareness				
9		Increase the number and frequency of GBV-related programs and campaigns to reach more people effectively.	Partially Implemented	GBV programs and campaigns are organized less often using audio means to sensitize the public.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER				
2023 Recommendations				
Katsina State				
10		Improve the inclusiveness of PwDs in GBV awareness programs to ensure collaboration with disability-focused organizations and experts to ensure effective inclusion.	Not Implemented	There aren't materials nor information dissemination channels that are sensitive to PwDs. Also, there is no form of synergy with professional facilitators of PwDs.
11		Work closely with experts to determine suitable age for GBV education and develop age-appropriate curricula and training for teachers to ensure proper implementation of comprehensive sex education.	Not Implemented	There is no age-appropriate curriculum developed to teach sex education in the state, except for that organized by the AGILE project which only 247 government/pilot secondary schools were covered.



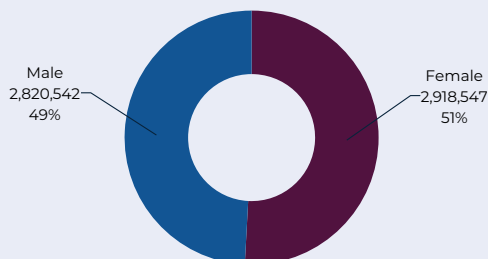
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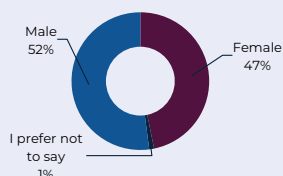
invictus
AFRICA



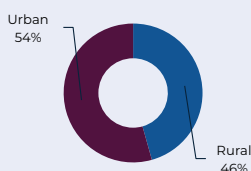
Total Population
5,739,089



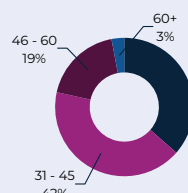
Respondents: 436



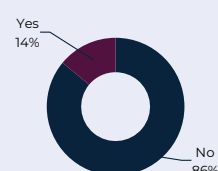
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **94**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)s **1**



No. of active shelters **3**



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



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

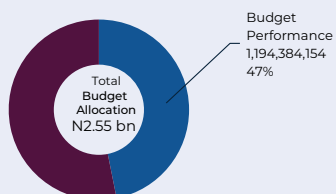


Budget and Spending

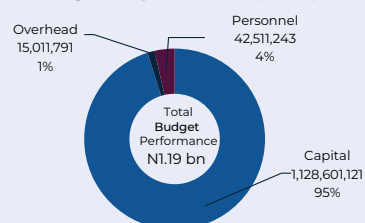


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

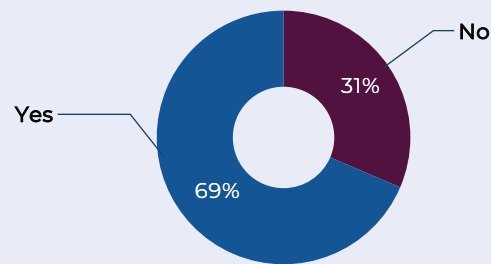


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N208.1**

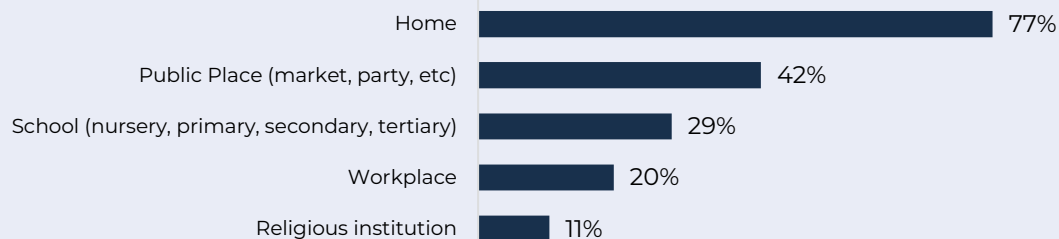
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



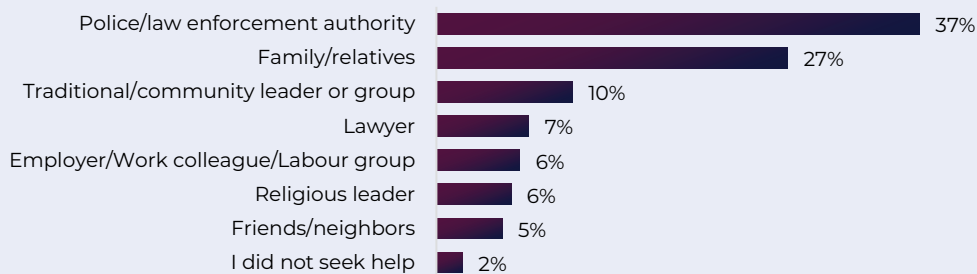
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



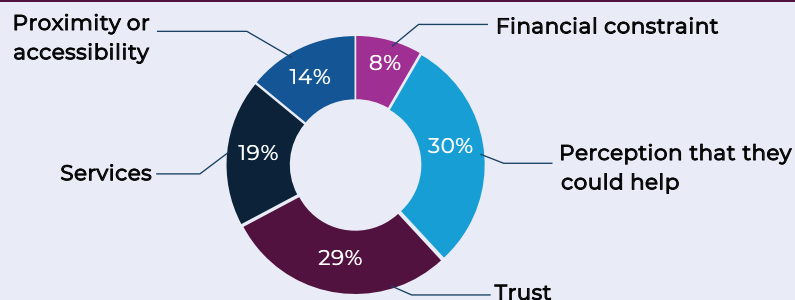
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

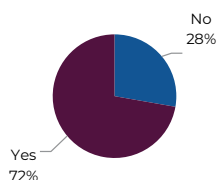


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

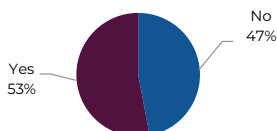


Laws and Policies

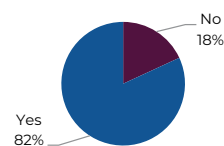
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

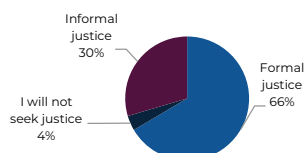


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

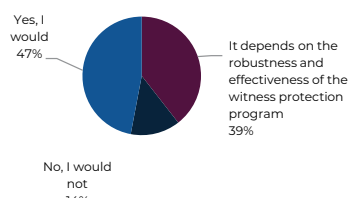


Access to Legal Justice

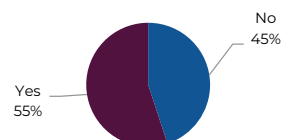
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

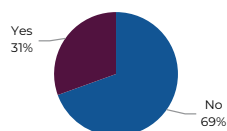


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

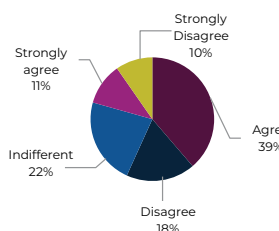


Support Services

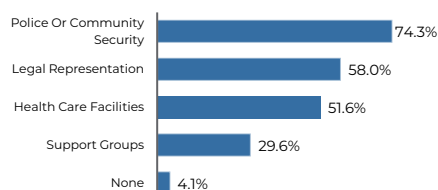
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



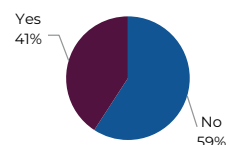
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

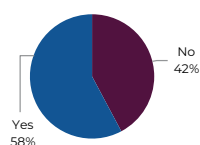


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

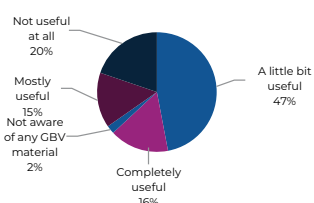


Information and Awareness

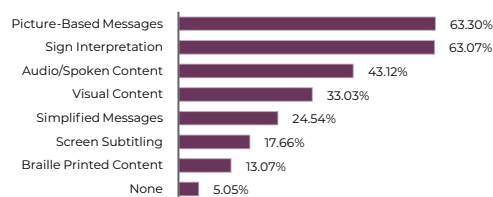
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Kebbi State has enacted several laws to address gender-based violence, including the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law 2021, the Child Rights Law 2021, the Married Woman Property Law, and the Kebbi State Penal Code Law 2021. While 71.5% of respondents are aware of these laws and policies, 28.5% remain unaware. Additionally, 55.3% of respondents have witnessed the successful prosecution of GBV perpetrators using these laws, particularly the VAPP and Child Rights Laws. This suggests that these laws are effective in addressing GBV within the state. To enhance the clarity and effectiveness of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law, Section 27 should be amended to replace “thought” with “throughout”, and Sections 40 and 42 should be amended to specify the “appropriate Government ministry” and the “body vested with the enforcement of the Law,” respectively.

Access to Legal Justice

Over the past one year, several agencies have given several accounts of the number of cases reported, prosecuted and administered judgment: According to the police, 27 cases were reported, 20 in court, seven convictions, and 13 awaiting trials. According to the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), 17 cases have been reported, 15 in court. At the same time, the Ministry of Justice posits that 50 cases have been reported, 45 are currently being prosecuted, 35 judgments administered, and 38 convictions secured. Customary laws, while formally recognized, often complement formal legal systems in certain cases. While 64.62% of respondents prefer to seek justice through formal legal channels, 31.45% rely on informal systems based on customary and religious laws. Some communities are actively working to reform and abolish harmful customary practices. However, certain discriminatory and harmful laws persist.

The effectiveness of GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement in Kebbi State varies depending on the initial point of contact. Cases reported to NGOs are typically referred to the nearest police or the NSCDC station, while direct reporting can be made to the Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA), FIDA, or through dedicated hotlines. Traumatized victims may be sent to shelters, and law enforcement will initiate prosecution. Surveillance teams, including civil society, government, and law enforcement agencies, monitor GBV cases. Both the Ministry of Justice and the police play key roles in prosecution. While 64.3% of respondents prefer the formal justice system, 31.5% opt for the informal system. Free legal services are provided by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), FIDA, and NHRC. However, gaps remain, including the lack of a strong witness protection program and unclear adherence to VAPP Law timeframes for prosecuting offenders.

Support Services

The state currently operates three shelters and one Sexual Assault Referral Center (SARC). The SARC deploys staff to general hospitals to provide medical treatment for GBV victims. Both shelters and the SARC offer essential services, including accommodation, food, clothing, and vocational training. The SARC's medical team comprises a doctor, psychologist, pediatrician, and gynecologist counsellor. However, support services within the state face significant funding challenges. Furthermore, there is no evidence to suggest that medical units and forensic labs play a crucial role in prosecuting GBV cases.

Information and Awareness

While 58.7% of respondents are aware of GBV information and awareness programs in the state, a significant 41.3% still need to be made aware. This highlights the need for increased awareness campaigns. Current efforts include radio programs and the distribution of IEC materials on special occasions. A substantial majority (77.4%) support including sex education in the curriculum at all educational levels. Regarding IEC materials, a variety of formats, including sign language, pictures, audio, visual content, simplified messages, and Braille, are used to reach diverse audiences. However, the consistency and frequency of

these efforts remain a major challenge, with the AGILE project being a notable exception.



Budget and Spending


The Kebbi State Government allocated N2.55 billion to the Ministry of Women Affairs for the 2023 fiscal year but disbursed N1.19 billion, representing 47% of the budget. Interestingly, N1.13 billion, representing 94% of the ministry's actual expenditure, was utilized in implementing the capital expenditure component of the budget, while N42.52 million and N15.02 million were spent on personnel and overheads, respectively. Notably, the 2023 budget of the state had specific budget lines speaking to GBV prevention and response, which include N37 million for the equipping of a Sexual Assault Response Centre at Kalgo Medical Centre and N100 million for the implementation of the Child Protection Policy of the state. The spending per capita of the Ministry stood at N208.1, denoting a grossly inadequate investment per capita in the GBV prevention and response efforts of the state and a need for the state to increase budgetary allocation and disbursement to the ministry significantly.

Human Angle Story







On September 18, 2024, a case of emotional and physical violence against a 14-year-old girl was reported to the NSCDC Kebbi State headquarters. The victim, living with her father and stepmother, was subjected to emotional torment and physical assault. After intervention from the MoWA and the First Lady's office, the girl was offered a scholarship and separated from her abusive family. In a separate incident in July 2024, a man from Argungu Local Government Area trafficked 17 children to Niger Republic. One child lost their life during the trafficking process. The perpetrator was eventually arrested and sentenced to prison, while the remaining 16 children were repatriated to Nigeria through the Nigerian embassy in Niger Republic.

Kebbi State

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	The most prevailing gap that affects the effectiveness of some of these laws is citizens' lack of awareness.	Awareness creation programs must be intensified and sustained across the state.
	There is a capacity deficit regarding the implementation of the laws	The state must invest in and sustain capacity-building programs for law enforcement officials and other stakeholders.
	There is a perception of corruption on the part of law enforcement agencies.	Close monitoring and supervision to ensure that officers involved in the campaign are not taking undue advantage of citizens.
Access to Legal Justice 	Pro bono legal services are mainly limited to urban areas, leaving rural GBV victims without access. Also, financial constraints hinder the response team's ability to effectively address GBV cases.	The government should extend pro bono legal services to rural areas, establish a robust witness protection program, and ensure effective case follow-up to increase confidence in GBV laws.
	45.70% of the surveyed population do not know where and how to seek legal assistance and justice	Increase awareness of the availability of legal services and strengthen the reporting, prosecution, and enforcement system.
	Slow administration of justice	Establish GBV-dedicated courts to address GBV-related cases speedily
Support Services 	The three shelters and one SARC are grossly inadequate for the population	Invest in building more SARCs and/or shelters to cater to victims and survivors of GBV.
	Most respondents (68.80%) are unaware of shelters and Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs) in the state, limiting access to crucial support services.	Increase the sensitization and awareness of the GBV reporting and referral pathway to enable victims and survivors to access the needed help.
	Economic support to victims and survivors remains a major challenge as victims and survivors have to transport themselves to the hospital.	The government should provide economic support to GBV victims and survivors, facilitating their access to justice and recovery.
Information and Awareness 	GBV laws, policies, and IEC materials are predominantly in English, restricting access for many citizens.	GBV laws, policies, and IEC materials should be produced and disseminated in local languages to enhance access
	Access to information and awareness materials is limited for PWDs.	GBV IEC materials should be produced and disseminated using Braille, audiovisuals, simplified messages, screen subtitling and sign languages to improve access for PWDs
	Schools have neither a guide nor a curriculum for teaching GBV prevention and response.	A GBV prevention and response guide should be developed and used to sensitize students.
Budget and Spending 	The budget execution rate of the Ministry of Women Affairs was barely 47%	The government should increase budget allocation to the Ministry of Women Affairs to enhance its GBV prevention and response efforts.
	The Ministry of Women Affairs spending per capita, N208.1, was acutely inadequate.	

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Kebbi State

S/No.		Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies				
1		Government should allocate financial resources to support implementing institutions in carrying out the additional responsibilities arising from the enforcement of GBV-related laws and policies	Not Implemented	
2		Government should establish independent oversight bodies to monitor the activities of the judiciary and law enforcement agencies as well as clear protocols and safeguards to prevent political interference.	Not Implemented	
Access to Legal Justice				
3		Government to invest in a quick response squad dedicated to GBV incidences.	Partially Implemented	The Government have tried at the state level therefore the team need to be stronger at the grassroots level
4		Government should form collaborative partnerships with NGOs and CSOs that have a presence in rural and remote regions and provide legal aid services.	Partially Implemented	KECHEMA have started providing legal aid support services in the rural areas.
5		Government should establish a comprehensive witness protection program.	Not Implemented	There is no comprehensive witness protection program which is highly needed by the State Government to work on.
Support Services				
6		Government to allocate funds for the establishment, equipping, and staffing of SARCs and shelters across the state.	Partially Implemented	The State Government needs to do more in by equipping and staffing of SARCs and shelters across the state.
7		SARCs should offer a comprehensive array of services to survivors, encompassing not only clinical support but also general counselling and referrals for non-clinical assistance.	Partially Implemented	They have started given counselling after clinical supports but more equipments are required in the SARC center for GBV victims to have a comfortable and convinent enviroments with better treatments and counselling.
Information and Awareness				
8		Government should simplify GBV-related legislation and translate GBV information and laws into indigenous languages to ensure accessibility and understanding among rural and remote communities.	Partially Implemented	They have started translating it to hausa but zabarmawa, Yoruba and Igbo languages need to be put into consideration because many of them do speak Hausa nor English.
9		Government should ensure that IEC materials are tailored to accommodate diverse audiences, with a particular focus on making them accessible and suitable for PwDs.	Partially Implemented	they have started making audio own to help the people with visual impairment

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Kebbi State

10	Government should initiate awareness campaigns aimed at educating religious leaders about the advantages of integrating age-appropriate sexual education into the curricula of secondary and tertiary institutions.	Not Implemented	This has not started yet but there is discussion around and advocate through Adolescent Girl's for Initiative Learning and Empowerment (AGILE) within the State.
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Kogi State



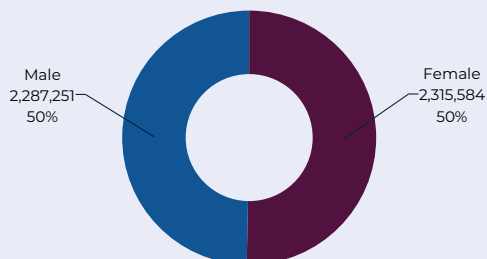
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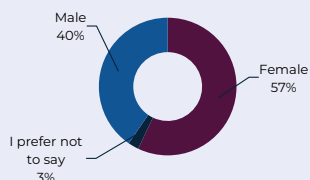




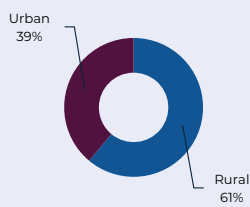
Total Population
4,602,835



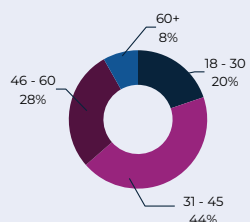
Respondents: 475



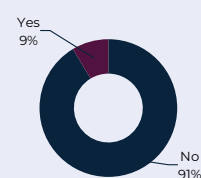
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **150**



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



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



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

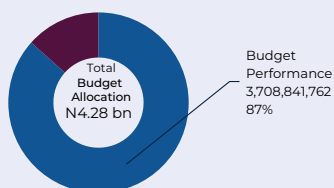


Index Grades

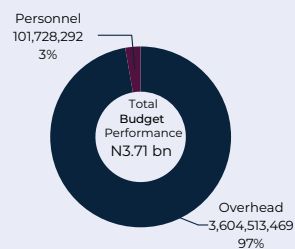
Laws and Policies	●
Access to Legal Justice	●
Support Services	●
Information and Awareness	●
Budget and Spending	●

Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

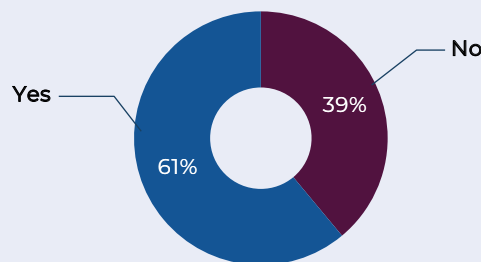


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N805.8**

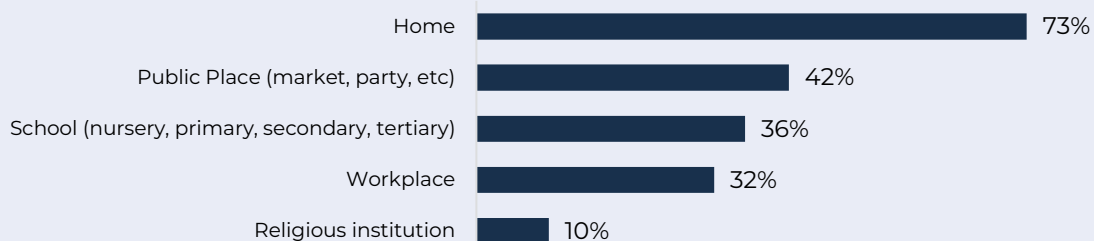
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



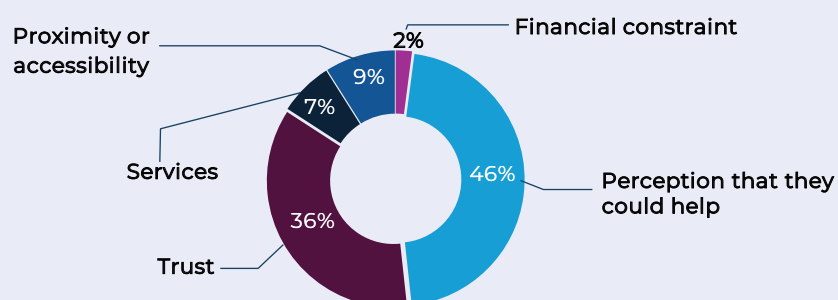
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

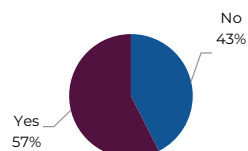


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

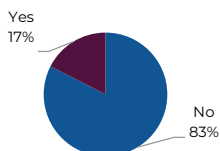


Laws and Policies

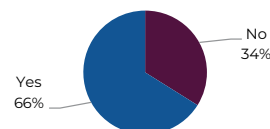
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

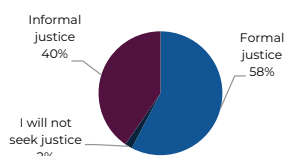


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

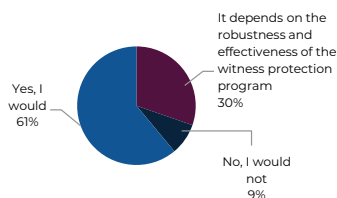


Access to Legal Justice

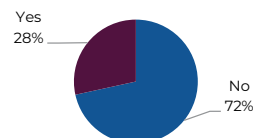
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

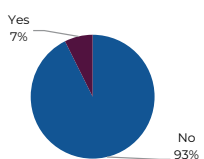


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

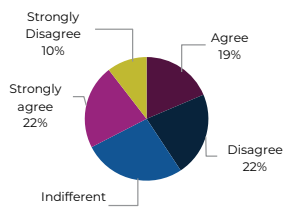


Support Services

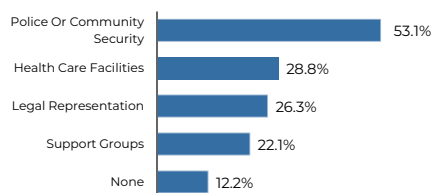
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



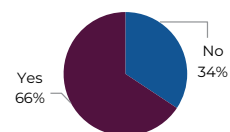
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

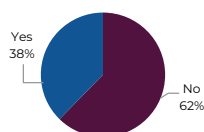


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

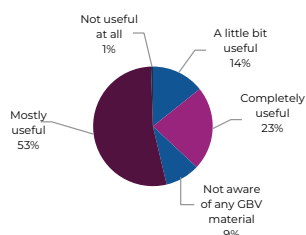


Information and Awareness

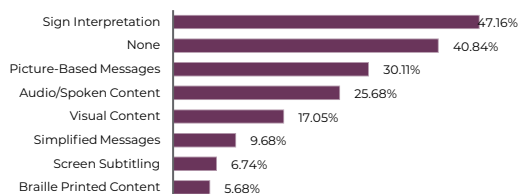
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Kogi State has several legal frameworks addressing GBV, including the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law (2022), the Child Rights Law (2009), and the Disability Law (2019). However, enforcement remains inconsistent. In the last 12 months, approximately 150 GBV cases were reported, with only 15% resulting in prosecution and 20% receiving judgments. Awareness of these laws is limited, with 55.1% of respondents aware of existing laws but only 17.2% aware of any convictions, indicating low visibility of enforcement outcomes. The survey result shows that 52.9% of respondents believe formal laws are adequate, while 47.1% remain unconvinced. Additionally, 67.2% of respondents are aware of customary or religious laws addressing GBV, with 69.3% perceiving them as effective, though they often conflict with formal judicial standards.

The gaps in the GBV-related laws in the state include jurisdictional confusion, overlapping responsibilities, and the absence of provisions addressing cyber-violence. The Child's Right Law, for instance, is managed by the Ministry of Justice rather than the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, hindering its effectiveness. Additionally, the VAPP Law involves multiple institutions, leading to bureaucratic complexities. Furthermore, the lack of provisions addressing online harassment and digital abuse highlights the need for legislative updates to combat emerging forms of gender-based violence.

Customary and religious laws provide informal mechanisms for conflict resolution but often lack alignment with statutory provisions, perpetuating harmful norms in some cases. While 82.9% of respondents reported no awareness of convictions, this highlights the limited visibility of formal justice processes. GBV-related laws in Kogi State have not undergone significant review or reform within the past two years, stressing the need for regular updates to address emerging challenges such as digital or tech-facilitated gender-based violence. Customary laws influence societal norms, with their abolition being debated. While they can provide localized conflict resolution, they often fail to meet the standards of formal judicial processes. An assessment of their impact on GBV prevention has not been systematically conducted.



Access to Legal Justice

Kogi State reporting systems for GBV cases include dedicated hotlines through the Office of the Public Defender and Citizens Rights Commission, gender desk units at police stations, the NSCDC, and various MDAs. The Kogi State Technical Working Group on GBV was established at the Ministry of Women Affairs to coordinate the activities of stakeholders in the state. Survivors can also report through CBOs and legal aid providers such as OPDCRC and the Directorate of GBV at the Ministry of Justice. The prosecution process begins with police investigations, followed by a case presentation in court. Police units handle law enforcement, but response times and consistency remain challenging, particularly in rural areas. Survey results reveal that 55.3% of respondents would seek justice through formal channels such as the police or courts, while 43% would prefer informal mechanisms, including traditional or religious leaders. Notably, 35% would seek help from family members, highlighting trust in personal support systems.

Legal aid services are available but limited, with pro bono support from state lawyers such as the Office of the Public Defender, Directorate of GBV, and civil society organisations like FIDA. While a form of witness protection exists, its implementation is inadequate in urban and rural areas. Courts in Kogi often fail to adhere to the VAPP Act's timeframes, resulting in delays in case proceedings and judgment delivery.

Based on cultural norms, the informal justice system often encourages mediation over formal legal processes, perpetuating GBV. While 60.9% of respondents believe informal justice systems effectively address GBV, 39.1% disagree, citing limitations such as prioritising community harmony over individual justice. These systems often mediate cases without ensuring accountability, and survivors may face stigma for pursuing legal action. Specialized units, such as exclusive SGBV judges, police units, and MDAs, exist but are under-resourced, impeding their effectiveness. For instance, the Directorate of Gender-Based Violence at the Ministry of Justice handles cases related explicitly to SGBV, while the police have Gender Desks at various stations to handle such cases. Despite their presence, both are underfunded and lack sufficient training and resources to function effectively, resulting in delays in case handling and limited access for survivors, especially in rural areas.

Support Services

Kogi State has no Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) or shelter to support GBV victims. This existing facility provides medical care, including post-exposure prophylaxis and emergency contraception. It also provides psychosocial counselling and assists with evidence collection, including medical examinations for prosecution purposes. However, the state lacks shelter facilities for survivors, both from the government and civil society organisations (CSOs), which limits long-term accommodation options. The reporting and referral pathways in Kogi State are loosely structured. Survivors are typically required to report incidents to the police, who initiate investigations and coordinate with legal, medical, and psychosocial service providers. Under the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, the State's GBV Technical Working Group oversees the referral process to prevent duplication of services. Survivors referred by CSOs or the Ministry of Women Affairs must still formally report to the police.

Survey results indicate that informal support systems, including family, friends, religious centres, and community groups, play a significant role in supporting survivors. These systems are often the first line of support, providing emotional and financial assistance. Despite medical units assisting in prosecutions by providing evidence, limited forensic labs limit the scope of prosecution. The Kogi State 2024 GBV budget allocation of ₦50,000,000, representing only 0.019% of the total state budget, is insufficient to meet the growing demand for comprehensive support services for GBV survivors. More funding is needed to improve prevention and support programs.

Information and Awareness

Kogi State utilizes various information, education, and communication (IEC) materials to raise awareness about GBV. These include radio jingles, educational pamphlets, seminars, and radio programs, which the Kogi State government and civil society organisations actively promote. Despite these efforts, survey data revealed that 65% of respondents were unaware of GBV information or awareness programs, while 35% reported some level of awareness. Sex education is part of the curriculum in secondary schools, but its coverage remains inadequate due to concerns from parents and religious groups. Comprehensive discussions about GBV prevention and response are limited, restricting students' understanding of the issue. The state has made efforts to provide disability-inclusive IEC materials, though availability and access for persons with disabilities (PWD) remain limited. Survey results indicate that the general population feels there is a lack of adequate information on GBV prevention and response, especially in rural areas, where access to IEC materials is limited. More targeted campaigns are needed to bridge these gaps.

Budget and Spending

In 2023, the Kogi State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development had a budget of ₦4.28 billion, achieving an 87% performance rate with an actual expenditure of ₦3.71 billion. Of this amount, ₦101.73 million (2.7%) was spent on personnel, ₦3.60 billion (97.2%) on overhead, and ₦2.6 million (0.07%) on capital expenses. With a population size of 5,518,847, the per capita spending was ₦805.80. This analysis reveals an underinvestment per capita in GBV prevention and response. The state should increase capital expenditure for sustainable support structures and improve the distribution of funds across personnel, overhead, and capital needs to ensure effective service delivery.



Human Angle Story



Felicia married in 2014 and had three children. Over time, the marriage deteriorated emotionally and financially, affecting her and the children. Despite mediation attempts by both families, the situation worsened. In 2022, while pregnant with her sixth child, her husband sought to dissolve the union, accusing her of sacrilege and demanding she perform a traditional purification. After failed interventions by social welfare, FIDA, and the Human Rights Commission in Lokoja, Felicia turned to the Challenged Parenthood Initiative (CPI). Her case gained attention during a meeting organized by the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC). The National Human Rights Commission in Lokoja was directed to act, with Senator Tambuwal providing financial support. The case remains active, with a hearing scheduled for December 2024.


Kogi State

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	The state has the VAPP Law, Child's Right Law, and other legal frameworks, but enforcement remains inconsistent, particularly in rural areas.	Strengthen the enforcement of the existing laws through regular monitoring and judicial training on GBV cases.
	Awareness of the VAPP Law is still limited.	Increase awareness campaigns through media and community engagement, particularly in rural areas.
	The Child's Right Law is managed by the Ministry of Justice instead of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, creating a jurisdictional confusion.	Clarify and streamline the roles and responsibilities of Ministries to ensure effective implementation of the Child Rights Law.
	The VAPP Law involves multiple institutions, including the Office of the Public Defender and the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (MWASD), depicting overlapping responsibilities and leading to bureaucratic challenges.	
	Lack of provisions addressing online harassment, digital abuse, and other types of cyber-violence.	Some provisions within the VAPP Law should be amended to stand alone and provide clearer guidance, such as those addressing online harassment and exploitation in digital spaces. Regularly update the VAPP Law to include provisions specifically addressing cyber-violence, online harassment, and digital abuse.
Access to Legal Justice 	There is limited access to justice, especially in rural areas, with only two state operational legal aid offices (OPDCRC and Directorate of GBV) in Lokoja. There is also limited awareness of any legal assistance or services provided for GBV victims in Kogi State.	Establish satellite Office of the Public Defender and Citizens Rights Commission (OPDCRC) and Directorate of GBV offices in rural areas to improve accessibility for survivors.
	Specialized family support units are in urban centres but unavailable in rural locations.	Train vigilantes and local law enforcement on GBV laws and create more specialised family support units in rural areas.
	Informal justice systems, such as religious and traditional councils, still significantly address GBV but often fall short of formal judicial processes and standards.	Strengthen and harmonize informal justice systems in compliant with the formal justice system to ensure fair and timely justice for GBV survivors.
Support Services 	There is no Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and no shelter. Support services are underfunded, and cash transfer programs have not reached most survivors.	Expand SARC services to other senatorial districts to improve service accessibility.
	Survivors face significant barriers in accessing medical support and forensic services due to transportation and logistical issues.	Increase funding, expand medical support services, and improve logistical support for survivors.
	CSOs and government agencies provide vital services, but the coordination challenge persists, resulting in fragmented services and harmonization of GBV-related data in the state.	Foster stronger partnerships between CSOs and government agencies to create a unified referral pathway and meaningfully maintain GBV-related data systems.

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Information and Awareness 	IEC materials are inconsistently distributed, particularly for persons with disabilities (PWDs). Public awareness programs are irregular and there is limited outreach to marginalized communities and groups.	Distribute IEC materials widely in urban and rural areas and ensure they are culturally appropriate and PWD-friendly.
	Public education on GBV prevention is limited, with insufficient programs in schools due to parents' perceptions.	Integrate GBV prevention and awareness programs into school curricula and extracurricular activities across all education levels.
	Sensitization efforts through mediums like radio and town halls are more effective in urban areas but inadequate in rural communities.	Increase the frequency of sensitization programs in rural areas and adopt local languages to improve reach and impact.
Budget and Spending 	While the state ranked among the top five states in terms of budget performance, spending was skewed more to overheads at the expense of personnel and capital components of the budget.	The government should place more priority on the capital expenditure component of the budget as this is required to address GBV prevention and response infrastructure gap in the state.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Kogi State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1	Enhance implementation and enforcement of laws.	Partially Implemented	The establishment of the GBV Technical Working Group, the Directorate of GBV at the Ministry of Justice and GBV desk offices in MDAs shows progress; however, limited funding and weak enforcement persists, limiting effectiveness.
2	Increase public awareness through campaigns and education.	Partially Implemented	There is structural progress with GBV offices in the state but inadequate funding continues to hinder full policy effectiveness and public impact.
3	Review and update legislation to address emerging forms of GBV.	Not Implemented	It is essential to review sections of the VAPP Law, particularly those addressing cyber harassment, and digital violence, to ensure comprehensive protection against evolving GBV forms.
Access to Legal Justice			
4	Establish monitoring and evaluation of GBV response systems.	Partially Implemented	The state judiciary has appointed dedicated GBV judges who are trained to handle GBV cases, ensuring that they are processed more efficiently.
5	Enhance capacity of personnel of GBV units through regular training.	Partially Implemented	While some training initiatives have taken place, limited financial resources hinder the consistency and comprehensiveness of capacity-building efforts, affecting the long-term effectiveness of GBV units.
Support Services			
6	Strengthen availability and accessibility of support services.	Not Implemented	The state should encourage LGAs to establish SARCs and shelters to ensure survivors, regardless of location, can access comprehensive support services, including psychosocial assistance.
7	Strengthen coordination among relevant agencies and support service providers.	Not Implemented	While some level of coordination exists, there is a need for more structured collaboration and clear communication channels between agencies to ensure efficient and effective delivery of services for GBV survivors.
8	Ensure sustainable funding and resources for GBV support services.	Partially Implemented	Although some funding has been allocated in the state budget, inconsistent releases and ongoing resource constraints limit the capacity of GBV services to operate effectively and sustainably.
Information and Awareness			
9	Develop comprehensive awareness campaigns on GBV, and ensure its wide and consistent publicity, especially among populations in rural communities.	Partially Implemented	Comprehensive awareness campaigns have been launched by the state government, but their reach and frequency remain limited due to a lack of funding, particularly in rural areas.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER 2023 Recommendations Kogi State			
<p>10</p> 	Utilize diverse communication channels and inclusive materials	Partially Implemented	Some communication channels have been used, such as sign language, audio-visual media (radio, television), print materials, and social media, though mostly not in local languages. However, the inclusivity and diversity of these materials remain limited, reducing their effectiveness in reaching all segments of the population, particularly marginalized groups.
	Promote comprehensive sex education in schools.	Not Implemented	The recommendation has not been implemented due to concerns from parents and religious groups. However, there is an increasing consensus on the importance of developing and integrating a comprehensive sex education curriculum in schools to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to prevent GBV and foster healthy relationships.



Kwara State

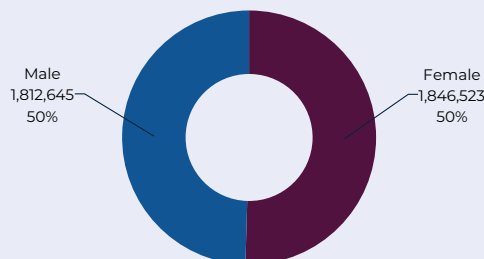
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2024 Edition

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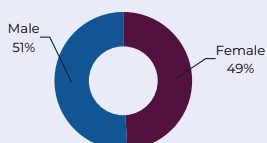




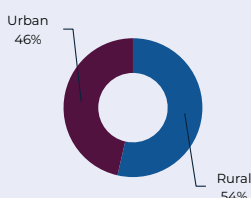
Total Population
3,659,168



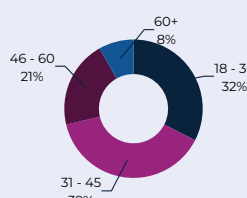
Respondents: 418



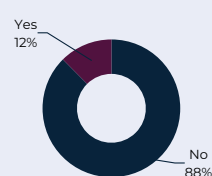
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **3000**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) **1**



No. of active shelters **1**



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs) **1**



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

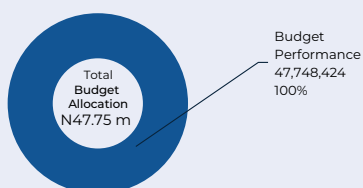


Budget and Spending

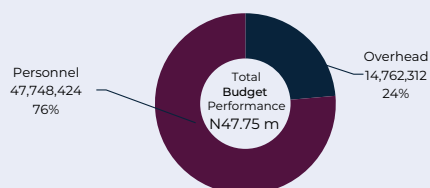


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

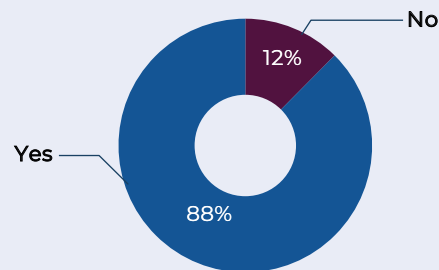


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **NT3**

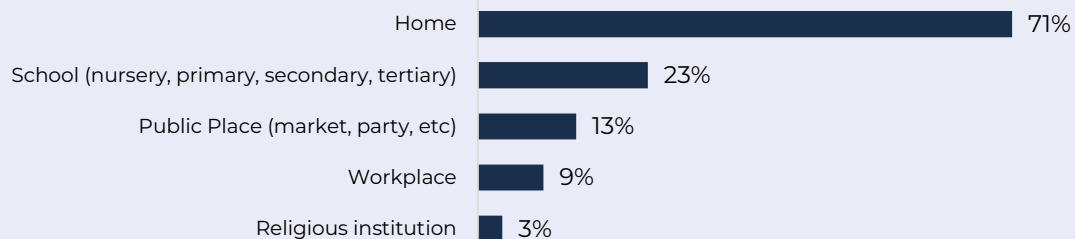
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



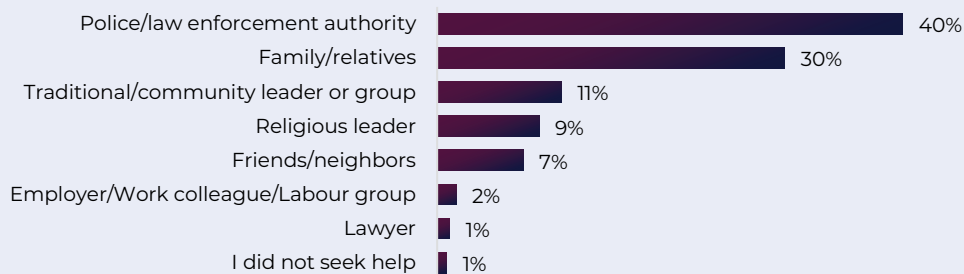
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



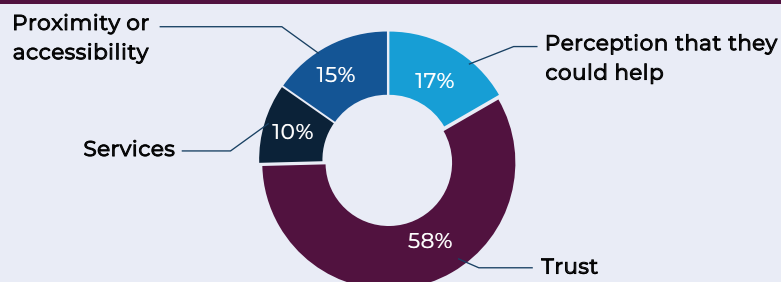
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

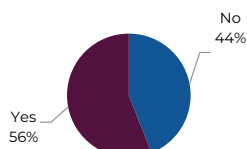


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

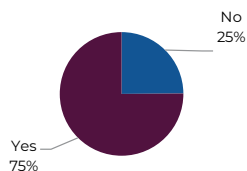


Laws and Policies

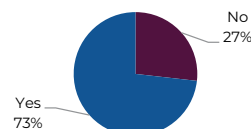
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Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?

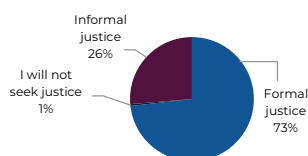


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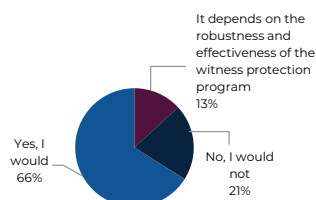


Access to Legal Justice

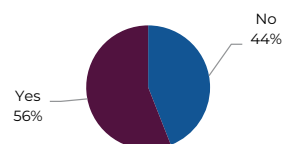
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If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?

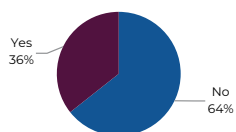


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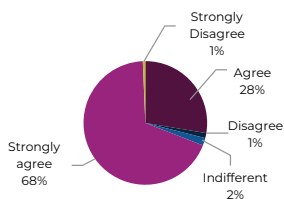


Support Services

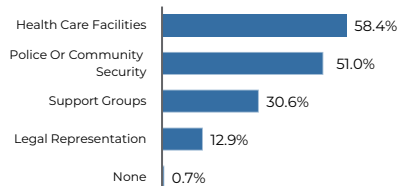
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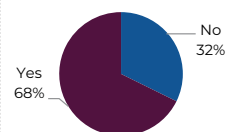
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

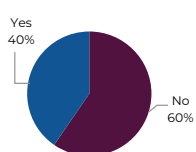


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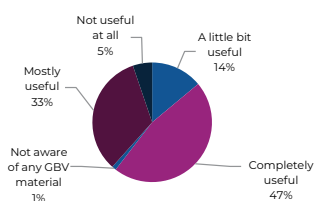


Information and Awareness

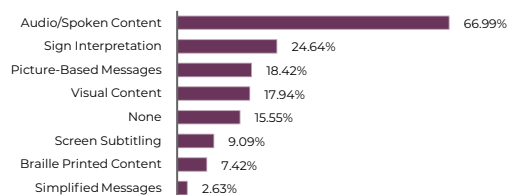
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Kwara State has established significant GBV-related laws, including the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law (domesticated in 2020), the Child's Rights Law (2006), and the Penal Code. These laws aim to prevent and address GBV by providing legal protection and remedies for survivors. Survey findings show that 55.9% of respondents are aware of these laws, and 59.8% perceive them as effective. However, gaps persist, such as inadequate public awareness, lack of dedicated funding for enforcement, and the absence of specialised courts for GBV cases. Additionally, the restriction of jurisdiction to High Courts limits accessibility for many survivors. The VAPP Law requires amendments to enhance its effectiveness. Specifically, it needs to codify the offence of "trafficking" beyond its current definition and clarify the body responsible for administering and enforcing the law, particularly in relation to the "body" mentioned in Section 44. Customary and religious laws significantly influence GBV responses, with 73.9% of respondents believing them effective. However, these informal laws often conflict with formal legal provisions, such as underage marriage. Abolishing customary laws without addressing the underlying socio-economic factors and raising public awareness risks isolating communities and reducing compliance with state policies. A balanced, consultative approach is recommended. Despite over 3,000 reported cases, only 45 are actively prosecuted, nine have been convicted of rape, and nine have been imprisoned for life, revealing weak enforcement mechanisms. Periodic reforms and harmonizing customary practices with state laws are recommended to enhance GBV prevention and response.

Access to Legal Justice

Kwara State has established various reporting systems, including helplines, police stations, and GBV response desks in ministries and agencies like the Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA) and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). Cases are prosecuted through formal courts, primarily the High Court, which has jurisdiction over VAPP Law violations. Law enforcement is carried out by the police and specialized units like the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC). Survey results indicate that 73.2% of respondents would seek justice through formal channels, while 26.3% prefer informal systems, such as traditional or religious leaders. Legal aid services, including pro bono lawyers from state agencies and CSOs, exist but are limited. Witness protection and psychosocial support are underdeveloped. Court adherence to the VAPP Act timeframes varies, with delays common due to insufficient judicial capacity and no specialized SGBV courts. Informal justice systems, rooted in cultural norms, often perpetuate GBV by emphasising reconciliation over accountability. However, 73.9% of the survey population believes these systems effectively resolve GBV cases. Specialized units, such as police gender desks, exist but require better resourcing and training to enhance access to justice.

Support Services

In Kwara State, the composition of support services includes one shelter and one Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC), which play a critical role in providing care and protection for GBV survivors. These SARC and shelter offer survivors needed medical attention, psychological counselling, and legal advice, aiding their recovery and improving access to justice. However, the availability of shelters remains inadequate, leaving many survivors vulnerable to further harm. The reporting and referral pathway in the state involves a multi-sectoral approach, where survivors can report cases through law enforcement, hospitals, and civil society organisations (CSOs). Yet, gaps in coordination and delays often undermine the effectiveness of these pathways.

Informal support systems, such as family, friends, religious centres, and community groups, are pivotal in assisting survivors. According to the survey, many respondents believe these networks provide emotional and financial support when formal systems are inaccessible. Forensic evidence, including medical reports and forensic lab results, has proven instrumental in prosecuting GBV cases. Despite this, budgetary allocations for support services remain low, indicating limited government prioritization. Increasing funding for shelters, SARCs, and forensic units is crucial for a more robust response to GBV in the state.

Information and Awareness

Kwara State employs information, education, and communication (IEC) tools, such as radio jingles, seminars, educative pamphlets, and radio/TV shows, to raise awareness about gender-based violence (GBV). Despite these efforts, survey data reveal that only 46.7% of respondents are aware of GBV education programs or materials, indicating limited reach, especially in rural areas where awareness levels are notably lower. The state's education curriculum includes elements of GBV prevention and response; however, only 39.1% of respondents believe it adequately addresses GBV. This suggests that the curriculum lacks comprehensive coverage, particularly in fostering early education on GBV prevention and response. PWD-friendly (Persons with Disabilities) IEC materials are almost non-existent, as 78.9% of respondents reported not seeing any such resources. This gap highlights the urgent need for inclusive sensitization efforts. Urban respondents (56.2%) were more likely than rural respondents (37.9%) to acknowledge the presence of GBV awareness campaigns. Expanding outreach and ensuring equitable access to information remains a critical priority for the state.

Budget and Spending

Kwara State allocated N110.02 million to the Ministry of Women Affairs in 2023 but spent N62.51 million, which implies 57% budget performance. A disaggregated look at the Ministry's actual expenditure reveals that while N47.75 million was expended on personnel and N14.76 million on overheads, there was no indication of any spending towards capital projects. Although Kwara State spent N5million on the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Programme, the lack of capital investment means critical infrastructure, such as the establishment of shelters or Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs), remains unaddressed. With a population of 3,659,168, the per capita spending on GBV stood at just N15.87, reflecting a significant gap between funding and the population's needs. While the full budget was utilized for operational expenses, the absence of capital expenditure highlights the urgent need for increased and strategically targeted funding to strengthen GBV prevention and response mechanisms across the state.


Human Angle Story







An activist took up an incident involving the alleged sexual assault of a minor. The activist reported it to the authorities and initiated legal proceedings. However, when the matter reached the court, the victim's parents unexpectedly stated that they were acquainted with the accused and denied any allegations of force or coercion. It was later revealed that the accused had allegedly provided financial compensation to the victim's family. As a result, the case was dismissed without further investigation or prosecution. This suggests that economic hardship may sometimes discourage a victim from seeking justice. This compromises the effectiveness of legal protections and underscores the importance of addressing poverty in society.

Kwara State

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	Limited prosecution of GBV cases and insufficient enforcement of existing laws.	Strengthen enforcement mechanisms for GBV laws, ensuring proper prosecution and legal compliance.
	Low public awareness of GBV laws, particularly in rural areas.	Implement extensive public sensitisation campaigns, especially in underserved rural communities.
	Informal customary laws often conflict with formal legal frameworks, undermining GBV prevention efforts.	Harmonize customary laws with formal legal frameworks through community engagement and reform.
Access to Legal Justice 	Limited availability of pro bono legal aid services and inadequate witness protection measures.	Improve access to legal aid services through partnerships with CSOs and state-supported pro bono programs.
	Delays in adhering to VAPP Act timeframes, from case mention to judgment delivery.	Advocate for strict adherence to VAPP Act timelines and strengthen judicial efficiency for prompt case resolutions.
	Survivors often perceive the formal justice system as ineffective in providing justice.	Sensitize communities on the benefits of formal justice systems and improve their accessibility for GBV survivors.
Support Services 	Though Kwara State has made commendable strides in creating a supportive environment for GBV survivors, the sustainability challenges facing these structures, particularly the shelter and SARC, demand urgent attention from the state government to ensure these essential services remain available for survivors.	Establish a dedicated GBV budget line in the state budget to ensure consistent funding for essential services like shelters and SARCs.
	Inconsistent funding and lack of facilities hinder the expansion of medical and forensic support for GBV cases.	Increase budgetary allocation for medical and forensic units to strengthen evidence collection and prosecution processes.
	Limited PWD-friendly IEC materials hinder inclusive GBV sensitisation.	Develop and distribute more inclusive IEC materials (e.g., braille, audio, and sign language) to increase accessibility for persons with disabilities (PWDs).
Information and Awareness 	The available GBV sensitization programs in Kwara State show sensitivity toward persons with disabilities. The materials are accessible through Audio/Spoken Content, Braille-Printed Materials, Visual Content and Picture Messages, Sign Language Interpretation, and Simplified Messages. Despite these efforts, the state government still needs to expand and improve the inclusivity of GBV awareness programs to ensure that persons with disabilities easily access information.	Develop and distribute more inclusive IEC materials to increase accessibility for persons with disabilities (PWDs).
	GBV topics are largely absent in secondary and tertiary education curricula, leaving students inadequately informed.	Incorporate GBV prevention and response topics into secondary school and tertiary institution curricula.
	Community knowledge of available GBV information and resources is inconsistent, especially in remote areas.	Conduct regular, consistent grassroots awareness campaigns using multiple media channels to ensure widespread access to GBV information and resources.

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Budget and Spending 	No consideration was made for capital expenditure in the 2023 budget of the Ministry of Women Affairs.	The government should give more priority to the capital component of the Ministry's budget, which should also cover capital projects related to effective GBV prevention and response.
	Expenditure per person by the Ministry of Women Affairs, at N15.87, was extremely low.	The government should significantly increase the budget allocation and spending of the Ministry to enable it to adequately cater to the state's GBV prevention and spending needs.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Kwara State

S/No.		Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies				
1		The GBV-related laws should be reformed and the reviewed VAPP should be passed into law.	Not Implemented	No significant milestones have been achieved concerning this issue.
2		There should be specific budgetary allocation to GBV and relevant ministries in the VAPP law.	Not Implemented	There is no specific budgetary allocation to GBV in the state.
3		Establish GBV Secretariat to, among other functions, collect and collate and analyze data on GBV incidence and prevalence in the state.	Not Implemented	The government has not established the GBV secretariate.
Access to Legal Justice				
4		Establish specialized and exclusive SGBV or GBV Courts with dedicated SGBV or GBV Judges.	Not Implemented	There is no specialized GBV court in the state. Also, no dedicated GBV Judge.
5		Develop robust witness protection programs to boost victim and witness involvement in the criminal process.	Partially Implemented	The state has made significant progress in protecting victims and witnesses.
6		Publicize across all the stat the availability of FSUs and GBV desks in Police Commands.	Partially Implemented	Some rural people are unaware that GBV desks are available in the Police Commands.
Support Services				
7		More Shelters and SARCs should be established, staffed, and equipped - at least one per LGA.	Partially Implemented	One additional SARC has been established. However, the only Shelter available in the state is facing a sustainability challenge.
8		Prioritize and fund support services so as to provide wide-ranging support services to GBV victims/ survivors, including free medical and mental health assessments and supports.	Not Implemented	The support services are not funded.
9		Sensitize Kwarans on the functions and location of Shelters and SARCs.	Partially Implemented	There is an improvement, but lots still need to be done, especially in the rural areas.
Information and Awareness				
10		Translate GBV-related laws into different local dialects and publicize them across all communities in the state.	Partially Implemented	The VAPP law is only available in Yoruba
11		Comprehensive sex-related topics should be incorporated in the school curriculum.	Not Implemented	The appropriate ministry has not incorporated comprehensive sex-related topics in the school curriculum.
12		Carry out more GBV sensitization and awareness programs which are PwDs-friendly, while ensuring wide education of the society of their legal rights.	Partially Implemented	GBV stakeholders in the state have developed and executed programs to sensitize and educate people on GBV. Meanwhile, local programs targeting the rural part of the state, especially Kwara North, should be prioritized.



Lagos State



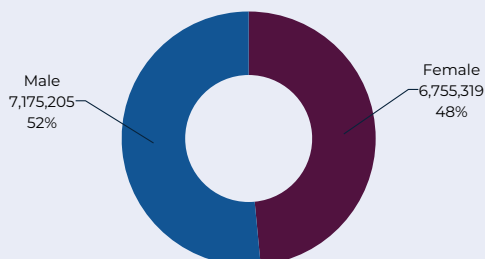
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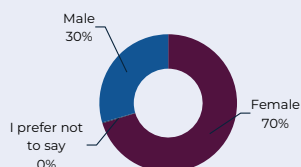




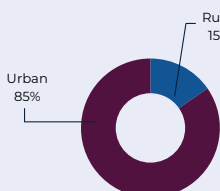
Total Population
13,930,524



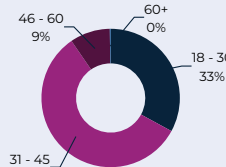
Respondents: 501



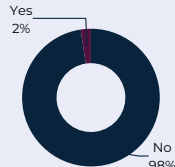
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **6456**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)s **4**



No. of active shelters **8**



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs) **22**



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

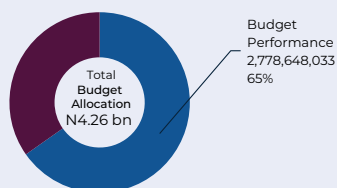


Budget and Spending

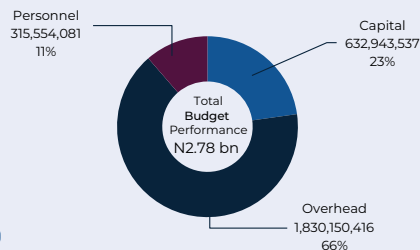


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

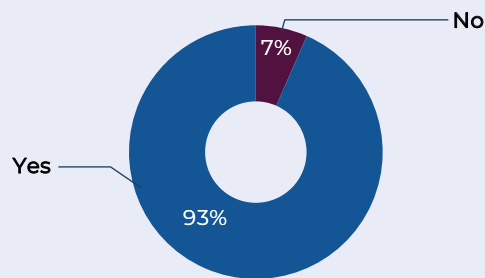


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N199.5**

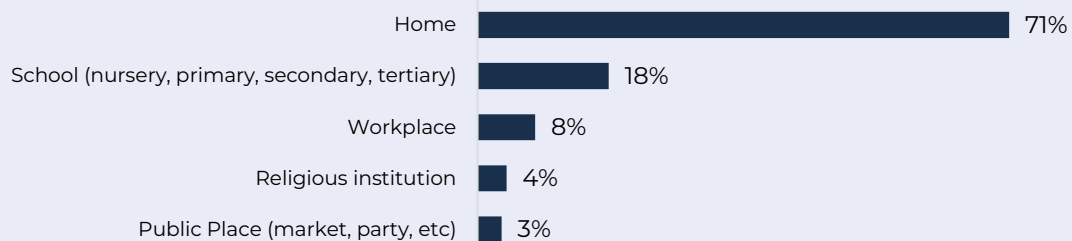
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



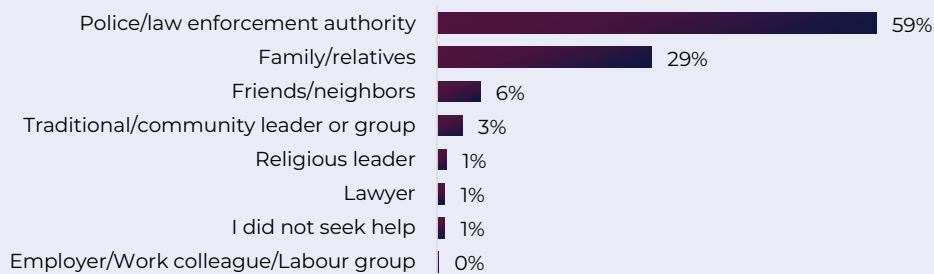
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



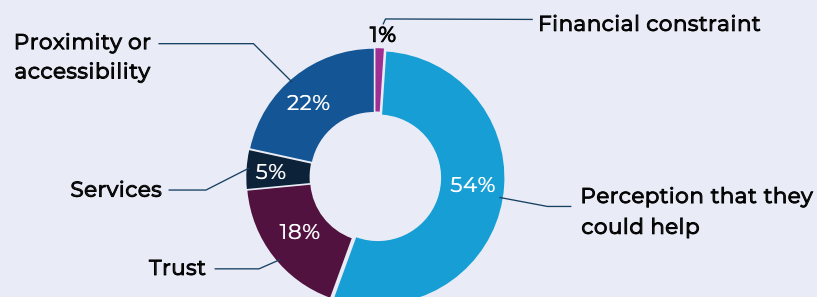
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

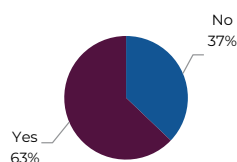


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

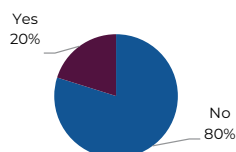


Laws and Policies

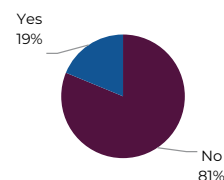
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

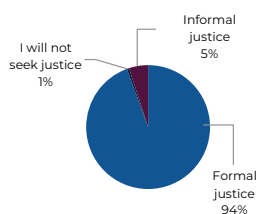


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

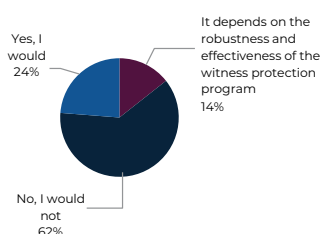


Access to Legal Justice

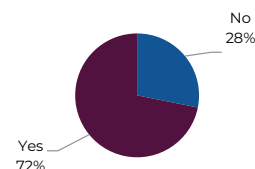
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

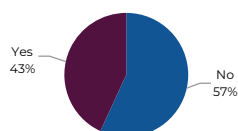


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

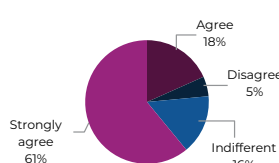


Support Services

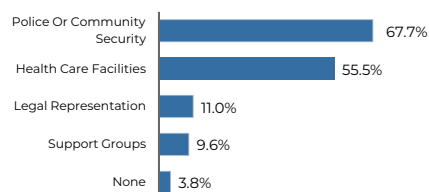
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



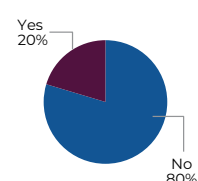
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

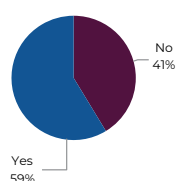


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

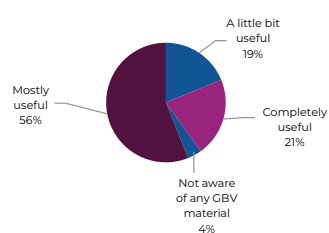


Information and Awareness

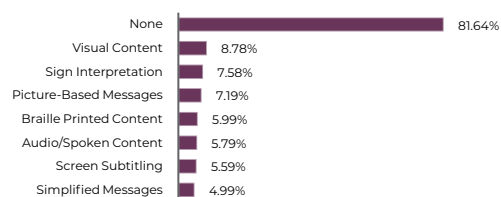
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Some of the laws in Lagos State that address GBV issues are the Protection Against Domestic Violence Law (PADVL), the Criminal Law of Lagos State, The Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency Law, the Child's Right Law, Lagos State Special People's Law, Administration of Criminal Justice Law of Lagos State 2015 (ACJL). However, 37% of respondents are unaware of these laws, with awareness campaigns primarily focused on urban areas, leaving rural communities underserved. Although 89% of respondents consider the laws effective, gaps persist, including limited focus on prevention, weak enforcement mechanisms, and delays in justice delivery. Some of the challenges that made the laws ineffective are; that most of these laws focus on prosecuting offenders after violence has occurred, there is limited focus on prevention strategies, and there is limited awareness: Many victims and the general public are unaware of the existence of laws like the Executive Order on Sex Offenders Register (2014), which limits reporting and the use of these legal protections. Over the past year, 6,456 cases of GBV were reported, with 310 cases currently in court. Judgments were delivered in 56 cases in 2023 and 64 cases in 2024 so far. Harmful traditional practices like female genital mutilation have not been explicitly criminalized. The Lagos State government through the Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) coordinate policy reviews. The SGBV response laws should be reviewed to make it mandatory for periodic monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of police response to SGBV.

Access to Legal Justice

Lagos State has established systems to address GBV cases through collaborative efforts by various ministries and agencies. The Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (MWAPA) provides multiple channels for reporting GBV, including toll-free emergency lines (767 and 112) through its partnership with the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA). MWAPA also maintains offices in all local governments, offering access to trained family social welfare officers who mediate and manage cases. The Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA), under the Ministry of Justice, is the primary government body handling GBV cases. DSVA collaborates with civil society organizations (CSOs), NGOs, and traditional rulers to escalate cases from informal systems to the formal justice system. The agency provides a toll-free helpline (08000333333) and oversees the Domestic and Sexual Violence Unified Response Protocol and Referral Pathway (URPRP) 2021, aimed at eradicating GBV in the state. The citizens have much trust in the formal justice system as 95% indicated that as their preferred choice. Specialized courts, such as the Domestic and Special Offences Court, along with 22 Family Support Units in police divisions, ensure cases are handled effectively. However, more specialized courts and Disability Desks are required across local government areas to enhance justice delivery for persons with disabilities. Finally, the Office of the Public Defender (OPD) and other legal associations offer free legal services to indigent survivors, supporting access to justice. Despite progress, gaps remain in funding, awareness, and service decentralization, requiring further improvements.

Support Services

Lagos State has eight shelters. The Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) has a shelter for survivors of Domestic Violence. The name of the shelter is "Eko Haven". The shelter is located at Ikorodu Lagos, a 30-bed space capacity to provide immediate shelter services to high-risk of domestic violence. The shelter provides accommodation, health, psychosocial support as well as livelihood for survivors. The Shelter was established in 2023. The Agency also makes referrals to other NGOs that provide shelter for survivors. For instance, the Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency liaises with the Cece Yara Child Advocacy Center to provide shelter for child survivors of sexual abuse. There are four SARCs in Lagos State, however, of the 30 General Hospitals in Lagos State, each General Hospital has a focal person who coordinates Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). Medical officers have been trained to offer medical case management and psychosocial support for survivors of domestic and sexual abuse. The Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence has a Unified Response Protocol and Referral Pathway called (URPRP). It is a Multi-Sectoral Survivor-Centered Approach to Responding to Domestic and Sexual Violence. The survey results show that there is rather a low awareness (43%) of the available SARCs and shelters in the state. The results also

show that 71% of respondents strongly agree that these facilities are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time. Lagos state needs to prioritize more funding to increase the number of these facilities across the nooks and crannies of Lagos.

Information and Awareness

Lagos State Government, Ministries, agencies, law enforcement agencies, CSOs, and NGOs use different information and communication (IEC) materials to educate society on GBV, how to avoid it, how to handle it, what to do in a violent situation, and where to report it. These include radio jingle (Radio Lagos) and toll-free line (08000333333); radio campaign; printed materials, including flyers and stickers; poster campaigns; school-based curriculum, outreaches, and extracurricular clubs; school counselor; public engagements, including market/street campaigns and religious centers; and television programs. Lagos State has been able to infuse teachings around Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in its curriculum through civic education and the engagement of programs in schools. The engagement of programs in schools is called STRAC (Safeguarding the Rights of a Child) and the King and Queens Club which is an avenue for students to be aware of Gender Based Violence in secondary schools. 58% of the respondents know GBV information and awareness programs or materials in the state, while 42% do not know any information and awareness programs or materials. There is a need for increased awareness of GBV in the state with the provision of funding to develop suitable competent IEC materials and programs for PWDs.

Budget and Spending





In 2023, Lagos State allocated N4.25 bn to the Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, but only N2.78 bn (65.2%) was utilized. A significant share of this spending (N315.55m or 7.41%) went to personnel costs, while overheads accounted for N1.83 billion (43%). Capital expenditure, essential for infrastructure such as shelters and SARCs, received a minimal amount of N632.94 million (14.9%). Additionally, per capita spending stood at N199.50, with N587.76 million invested in GBV initiatives through the Lagos State Domestic & Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA). To enhance budget efficiency and impact, Lagos State must improve the execution and monitoring of allocated funds. Prioritizing capital expenditure for essential infrastructure will ensure better support for vulnerable populations. Furthermore, increasing investments in GBV initiatives will bolster the support and services available to survivors.

Human Angle Story







The Director at Women Advocates Research and Documentation Center (WARDC) narrated a case of a fourteen-year-old years that was sexually abused by her father and her elder brother. She was noticed by her teacher in school that she was pregnant when she was taken to the health center in Lagos State that is when it was revealed that her father had been sexually molesting her. The case was reported at the police station and the perpetrator were apprehended. The survivors had to be relocated due to shame and stigma in society.

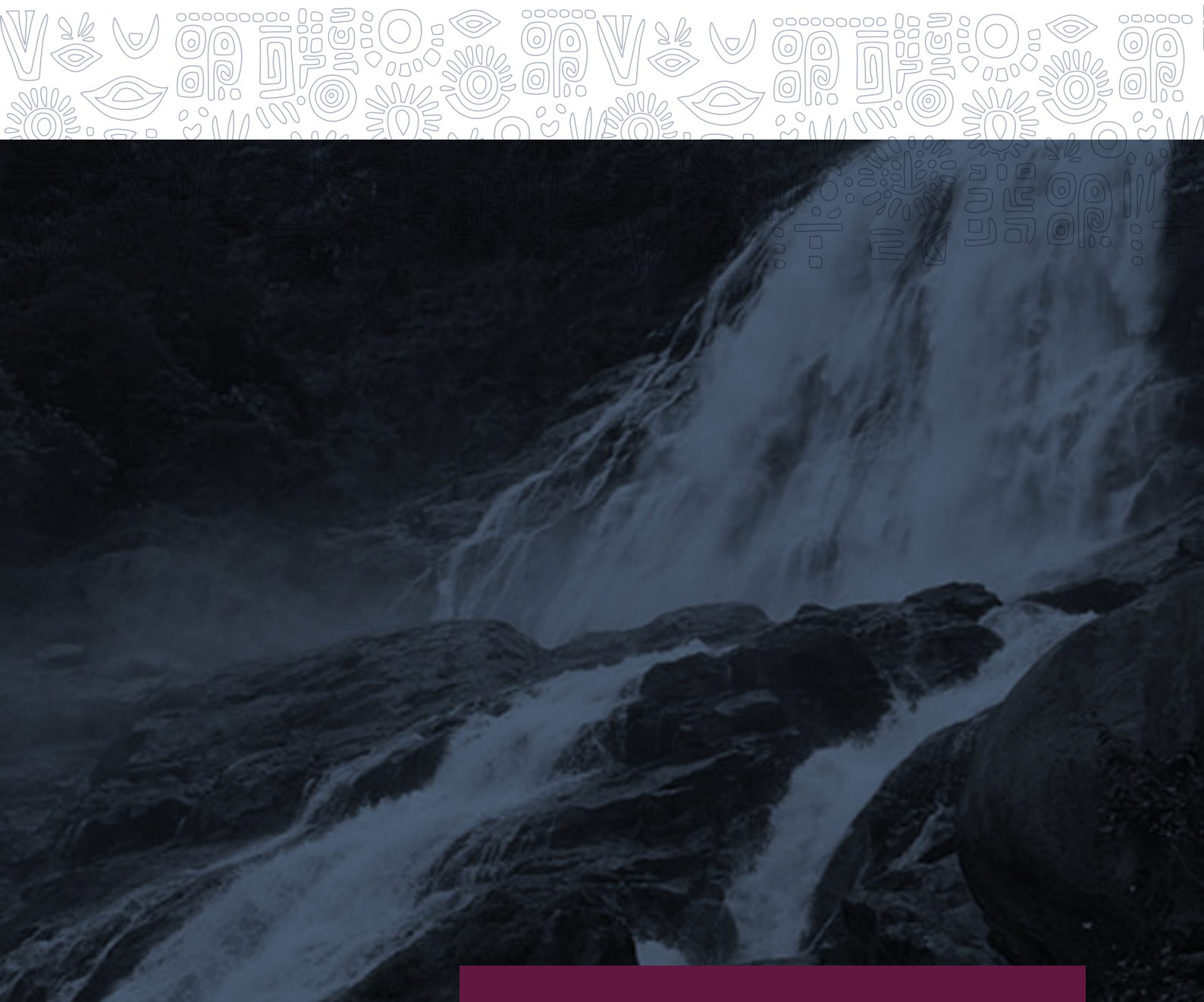
Lagos State

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	The VAPP law does not make provisions for families and clients who want to withdraw cases or settle the matter at the police station.	The law should be amended to capture lenient and stringent measures or provisions to address families and clients that receive incentives from the alleged perpetrator.
	Despite the services provided by the witness protection unit, most survivors are unwilling to testify in court. The law does not address the unwillingness to testify in court by the survivors.	The state government should develop and implement strategies to further educate society on existing GBV laws and policies in rural areas.
	Despite sensitization and dissemination efforts, awareness and understanding of the laws are still low.	There should also be the production and dissemination of simplified versions of GBV laws in local languages.
Access to Legal Justice 	Limited resources and human capacity for investigations and prosecutions. Most of the Family Support units and human rights desks in Lagos State do not have the human capacity to investigate cases related to GBV. When a survivor goes to the police station to report a case, the family support unit and human rights unit sometimes request some funds from the survivor to investigate the case, which might discourage the survivor from pursuing the case.	There is a need for continuous training for law enforcement officers and Judges. Some Judges who do not have training on GBV need to be trained.
	Another challenge is the changing of Judges at the Special Offences Court. When a judge who sits on a GBV case is transferred to another court, justice might be delayed because the new judge might want to start the case afresh.	The Chief Judge of Lagos State should digitize all case files to facilitate the judge's continued involvement in GBV cases. The state should also have more GBV-dedicated judges.
	Lagos State needs to have more Special Offences and Domestic Violence Courts. The courts must cover the three federal constituencies and be closer to rural communities.	Each local government should have more specialized courts and funding to implement them properly.
	Lack of awareness in rural communities on free legal aid	Improve funding required for widespread awareness of the availability of free legal aid
Support Services 	Inadequate training for law enforcement and judicial officials. There is a need for continuous training for law enforcement agencies. Most of the Law enforcement personnel do not have the professional skills to engage the survivors. Some of them are fond of shaming and blaming the survivors of Gender-Based Violence.	There should be more partnerships with CSOs, NGOs, and international organizations for the benefit of the survivors
	Lack of funds for the law enforcement agencies.	Capacity building for service providers Increased funding and resources
Information and Awareness 	Most citizens in Lagos State are not aware of the Support Services the State offers for Gender and Domestic Violence survivors.	The state government should develop and implement strategies to further educate society on existing GBV laws and policies, especially in the low-income community
	There are three SARC in Lagos State which is not enough for the entire population. SARC is not available in rural areas such as Epe, Ikorodu, Badagry.	Enhancing support services for marginalized groups (persons with disabilities)
	Lack of awareness by the Lagos State Office of the Disability Affairs.	There is a need for more advocacy and awareness by the Lagos State Office of Disability Affairs (LASODA).
	The online engagement is not effective.	Strengthen the reporting system through technology (online reporting platforms).

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Lagos State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1		Partially Implemented	The Lagos State government through Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) coordinate policy reviews. DSVA use to have stakeholders meeting and townhall meetings regarding GBV laws and policies
2		Fully Implemented	The Protection against Domestic Violence Law has simplified version. The simplified law is always being shared at awareness and advocacy events by the state
3		Not Implemented	Harmful traditional practices like female genital mutilation are not explicitly criminalized.
4		Partially Implemented	Lagos State is doing alot of awareness in the urban areas but the rural areas lack awareness and advocacy
5		Not Implemented	It has not been implemented
Access to Legal Justice			
6		Partially Implemented	In Lagos State, there is a specialized court that seats on cases related to GBV but there is a need to have more of those courts in other jurisdictions of the state
7		Not Implemented	
Support Services			
8		Not Implemented	Most of the shelters in Lagos State are owned by individuals (NGOs and CSOs).
9		Partially Implemented	Lagos State counsellors are trained and they under go continuous training

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER 2023 Recommendations Lagos State			
10		Lagos State needs to recognize the importance of adequate staffing, allocate adequate funding for recruitment of more trained professionals, and provide training programs for the existing personnel to keep them updated with the evolving dynamics of GBV.	<p>Not Implemented</p> <p>The Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency that coordinate issues related to GBV are short staff. There is a need for more staff and adequate funding</p>
Information and Awareness			
11		Frequent awareness programs for the entire society with increased IEC materials. SGBV should be given the same attention for its prevention and response as that of COVID-19.	<p>Partially Implemented</p> <p>Lagos State through Domestic and Gender Based Violence Agency (DSVA) dedicates every September for awareness and advocacy on GBV</p>
12		There is a need for increased awareness of GBV in the state with the provision of funding to develop suitable competent IEC materials and programs for PwDs.	<p>Partially Implemented</p> <p>The Lagos State Office of the Disability Affairs (LASODA) organize programs for PwDs in Lagos State, The Office also provide some palliative to PwDs</p>



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2024 Edition

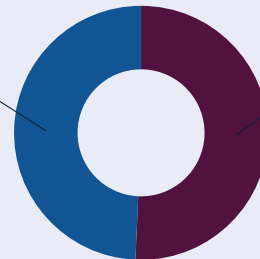
invictus
AFRICA





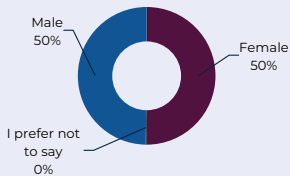
Total Population
2,973,914

Male
1,465,880
49%

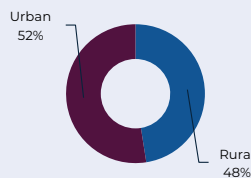


Female
1,508,034
51%

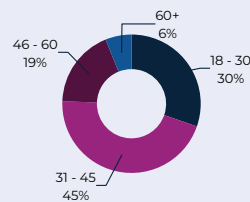
Respondents: 442



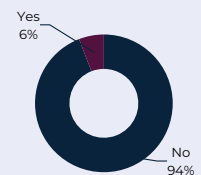
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **400**



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

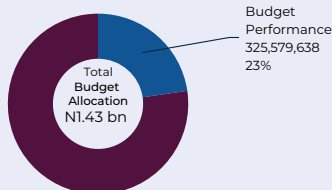


Budget and Spending

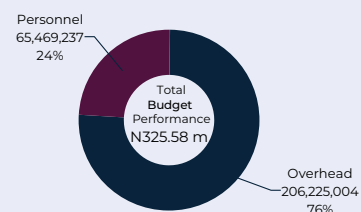


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

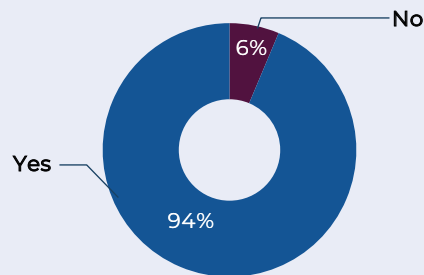


Budget Expenditure (2023)

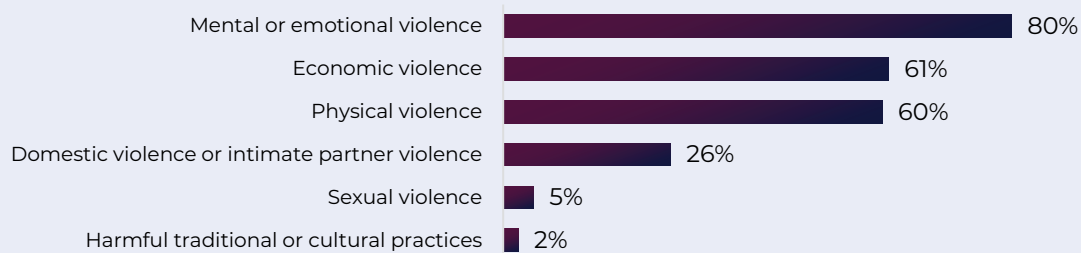


Per Capita Spending **N109.5**

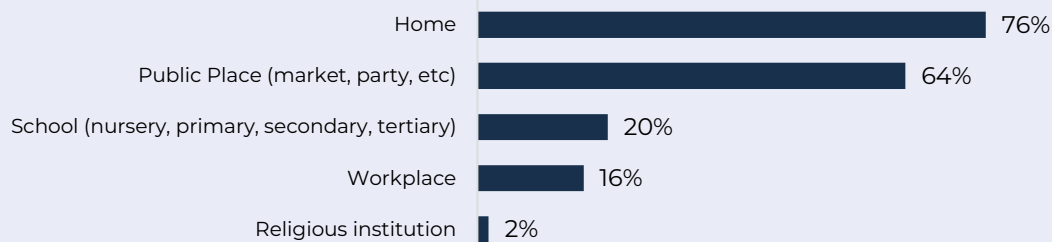
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



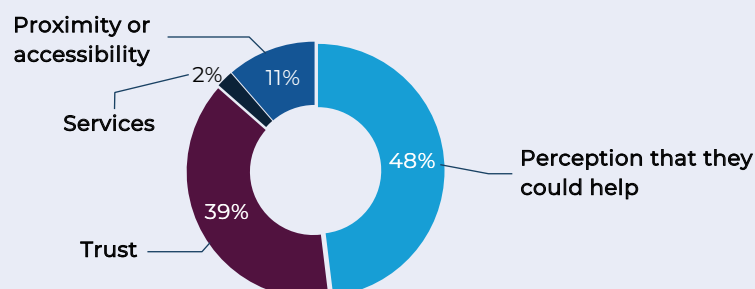
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

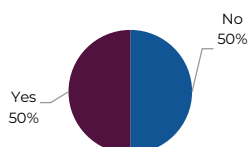


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

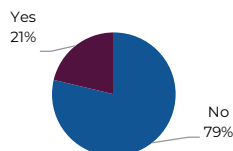


Laws and Policies

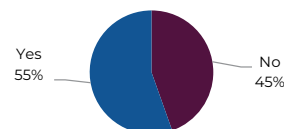
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

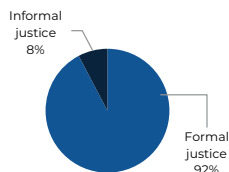


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

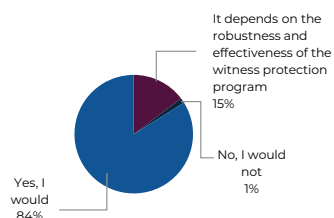


Access to Legal Justice

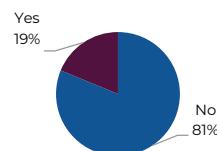
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

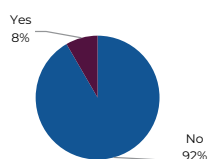


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

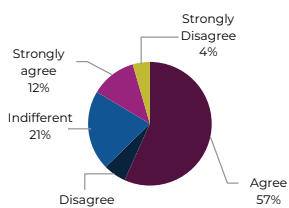


Support Services

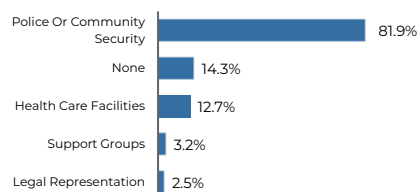
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



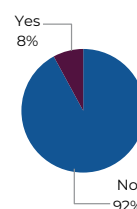
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

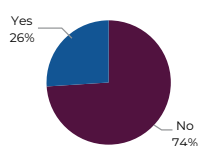


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

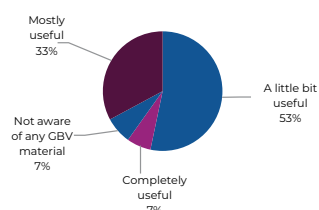


Information and Awareness

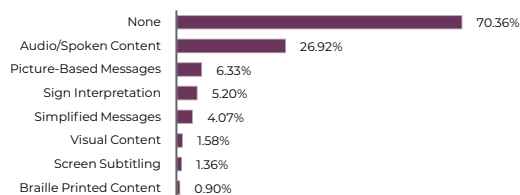
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Nasarawa State has domesticated the VAPP Law since January 2021. The Child's Right Act, also domesticated, complements the VAPP by protecting children from exploitation and abuse and addressing various forms of GBV. However, the state faces challenges in effectively implementing these laws due to low public awareness—48% of respondents know about the laws, but many still lack understanding of its provisions. The VAPP Law requires review, particularly to streamline the numerous service providers listed under Part III. This would help alleviate administrative bottlenecks for GBV survivors. Additionally, the law should provide clearer provisions for the offence of human trafficking, going beyond its current definition. Other key gaps include the absence of clear survivor compensation processes, insufficient forensic guidelines, ineffective accountability mechanisms, and inadequate training for government officials.

Customary laws are informal and subordinate to formal legal systems; although practised, they conflict with formal laws and often obstruct justice. Religious teachings, particularly in Islam and Christianity, offer some support but lack enforceability. Over 400 GBV cases were reported in the past year, more than 200 prosecuted, and over 50 judgments were administered. Improving awareness, enforcement, and formal processes for investigating and prosecuting GBV cases is critical to strengthening the legal framework in the state. While abolishing customary laws could improve consistency, their integration into formal systems may ensure broader societal acceptance and application. Effective periodic law reviews and expanded public sensitisation are critical to enhancing GBV prevention and response mechanisms.

Access to Legal Justice

Nasarawa State employs multiple systems for reporting and prosecuting gender-based violence (GBV). Formal reporting often begins with the police, and the Ministry of Justice has a Citizen's Rights Department that provides legal advice and refers cases to the litigation department for prosecution. Specialized GBV desks exist within police commands and the Ministry of Justice, supported by the Family Support Unit (FSU) and a Gender Unit in the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps. However, there is no standardized reporting protocol, leading to reliance on personal networks or traditional leaders in conservative areas. Survey results indicate that 94.1% of respondents prefer formal justice systems, while 5.9% lean towards informal justice systems, such as traditional or religious methods. Despite cultural norms that sometimes perpetuate GBV, 52.5% of respondents perceive informal systems as effective in delivering prompt resolutions.

FIDA and the Legal Aid Council primarily provide legal aid services. However, awareness remains low, with only 15.4% of respondents aware of these services and 84.6% lacking awareness. Witness protection is informal and relies on stakeholder goodwill, which highlights gaps in security and confidence for witnesses in the state. 52.5% of respondents believe informal systems effectively resolve GBV cases, though many perpetuate harmful practices. These systems are trusted for their accessibility and cultural familiarity but lack enforceable outcomes. Court proceedings sometimes adhere to VAPP Act timeframes, but follow-ups on case resolutions and issuing certified judgments need improvement. Challenges include funding shortages, public unawareness of rights and resources, and mistrust in the legal process. Strengthening public awareness, ensuring witness protection, and improving the efficiency of case follow-ups are essential to enhance justice access for GBV survivors.

Support Services

Nasarawa State has one government-funded active shelter located along Lafia-Makurdi Road, offering food, clothing, weekly psychological support, and medical care for GBV survivors. The shelter operates as a single-room facility within the Federal University Teaching Hospital in Lafia, providing immediate medical attention and legal support referrals. However, awareness about these services is low, with only 7.8% of survey respondents knowing about them and only 12.5% strongly affirming their functionality. Strengthening forensic labs, shelters, and SARCs alongside raising public awareness is critical for a more effective response to GBV in Nasarawa State. The state's GBV reporting and referral pathways are

inconsistent, often starting through informal systems like traditional and religious leaders. Survivors may face delays, such as obtaining police reports before accessing medical care. Formal systems, including the Ministry of Justice and FIDA, offer legal and psychosocial support, while informal systems—primarily religious organizations—play crucial roles in GBV prevention and response. However, 95.8% of respondents prefer formal support over informal systems.

Information and Awareness

The state has employed IEC materials to create awareness of GBV through radio campaigns, printed materials like flyers and stickers, poster campaigns, and outreach programs in schools, religious centres, and marketplaces. However, this survey indicates significant gaps, with 75% of respondents unaware of GBV information programs. Only 23.6% were aware of audio content from radio campaigns, and awareness of PWD-inclusive materials was alarmingly low at 6.7%. Efforts to disseminate information are periodic and lack widespread frequency and inclusivity. Secondary schools incorporate sex education topics within civic education or HIV/AIDS club activities, though these are not comprehensive. In tertiary institutions, only students in relevant fields receive in-depth exposure. Public schools with counselling units often lack resources, and educational materials are not widely distributed, limiting the overall impact. Additionally, PWD-friendly IEC materials remain underdeveloped. While some efforts include sound systems and local languages like Hausa to enhance accessibility, these measures fall short of comprehensive inclusivity. Increased investment in diverse IEC formats, consistent awareness campaigns, and integration of GBV education into curricula could significantly strengthen prevention and response mechanisms.

Budget and Spending


N1.43 billion was allocated to the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in the 2023 fiscal year, but N325.58 million was spent, representing 23% of the allocation. This spending was distributed as follows: N65.47 million in personnel cost, N206.23 million in overheads, N500 million for capital expenditure, and N53.39 million for other recurrent expenses. Given the state's population of 2,973,914, the per capita spending was N109.50. Budget allocations remain insufficient, limiting service quality. The low spending per capita highlights the need for improved allocation, planning, and efficient deployment of resources to address GBV challenges effectively and ensure meaningful outreach, especially to underserved populations. Strategic prioritization of capital projects is essential for sustainable impact.



Human Angle Story







Hauwa (real name withheld) was a woman broken by the hands of the man she once loved. Her husband, a respected lawyer in the state, had repeatedly beaten her, yet no one would believe her. Her family and friends, intimidated by his influence, turned their backs on her, leaving her in a constant state of fear. She felt trapped, isolated, and helpless, with nowhere to turn. However, one day, she heard about the Federation of Female Lawyers Association (FIDA) and sought help. With the support of FIDA, she received counselling, medical treatment, and legal assistance. Their legal team fought for her, securing a restraining order that allowed her to escape to safety. Hauwa could breathe freely for the first time in years, knowing she wasn't alone anymore.

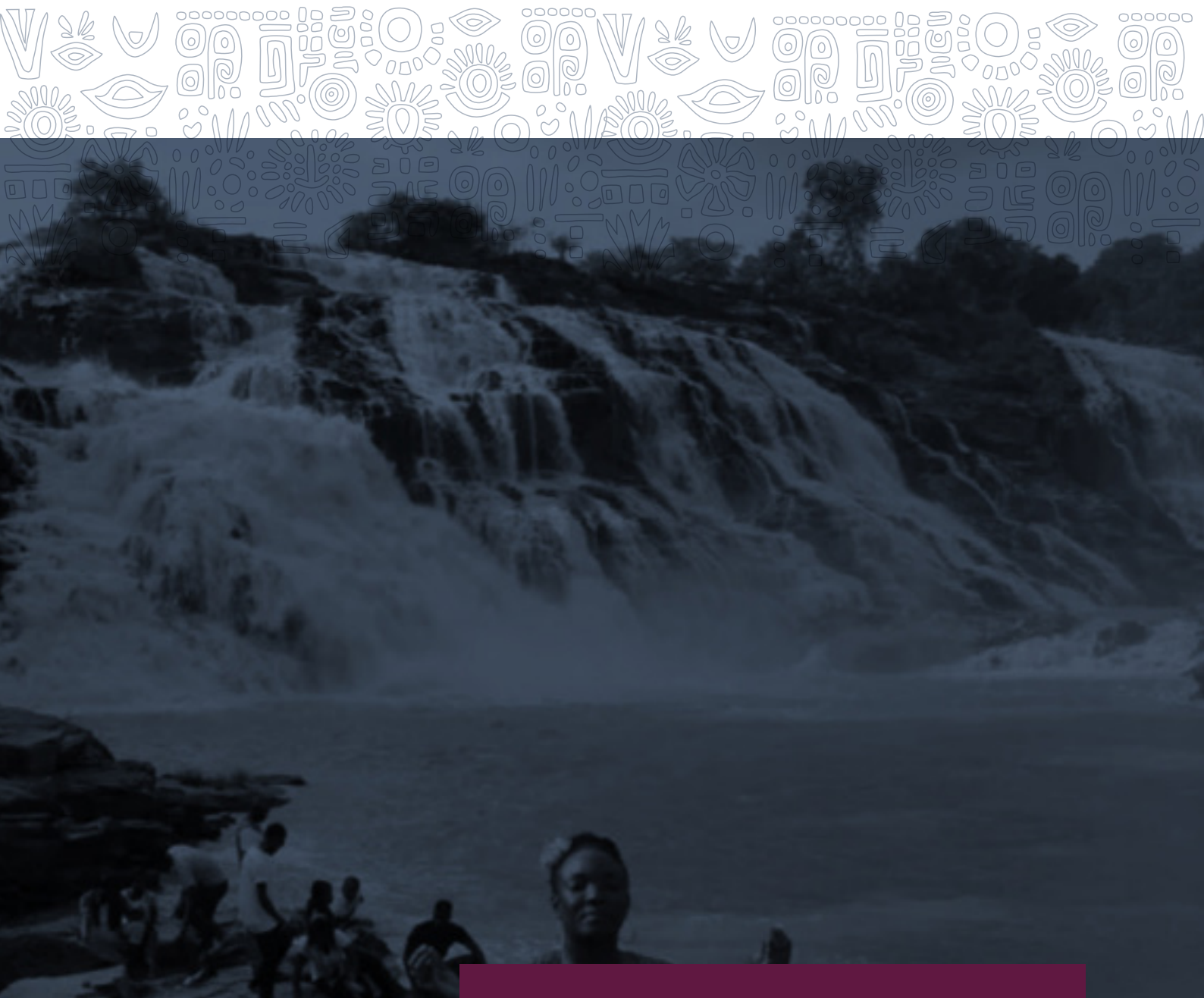
Nasarawa State

Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	The VAPP Law lacks budgetary allocation for GBV initiatives.	Allocate specific budgets to GBV-related activities under the VAPP Law to ensure effective implementation.
	Gaps in the existing laws impede implementation, and the multiplicity of laws allows perpetrators to exploit less stringent laws to evade justice.	Review and harmonize existing laws and policies to eliminate inconsistencies and ensure stricter penalties for GBV offences.
	Forensic and technical gaps in documentation and investigation lead to case dismissals.	Develop clear guidelines and provide forensic training for SGBV case documentation and investigation professionals.
	Weak governance and accountability mechanisms impede the enforcement of GBV laws and policies.	Establish robust governance frameworks with monitoring and accountability mechanisms, ensuring regular reviews of GBV-related interventions.
	There is low awareness among citizens, as 75% of survey respondents are unaware of GBV-related laws and policies.	Improve awareness and capacity by launching widespread sensitization campaigns.
	Poor capacity of government officials to implement the laws.	Conduct targeted training for government personnel, traditional leaders, and community members.
	Develop initiatives that combine formal legal frameworks with local customs and religious practices, fostering a more inclusive and culturally sensitive approach to GBV prevention and response.	Given Nasarawa's strong religious influence, a balanced approach that integrates formal laws with customary and religious practices is needed for more effective GBV prevention and response.
Access to Legal Justice 	There is a strong preference for formal justice systems, reflecting a desire for legal recourse. However, there is still a lack of awareness regarding available legal assistance.	Increase awareness about available legal assistance services, including where and how survivors can seek help.
	Long wait times for judicial proceedings often discourage victims from following through with cases. Education and sensitization efforts are essential to improve public understanding of the justice system and GBV prevention strategies.	Establish family courts to expedite cases and reduce delays in the judicial process. In the interim, educate survivors on timelines. Establish specialised GBV courts with trained judges to expedite the judicial process and ensure survivor-sensitive adjudication.
	The absence of a witness protection program, insufficient evidence, and inadequate law enforcement capacity pose significant hurdles in prosecuting GBV cases.	Establish a comprehensive witness protection program to ensure the safety and security of witnesses during and after trials. Provide specialised training for law enforcement on GBV case handling and invest in advanced forensic technologies to improve evidence gathering.
Support Services 	There is limited awareness of GBV support services, and many individuals are unaware of the available referral pathways, which hinders access to assistance for survivors.	Strengthen reporting pathways through targeted campaigns to educate the public on available reporting and referral pathways, including helplines, police stations, and GBV organizations.
	Barriers such as stigma, fear of retaliation, and lack of confidentiality protocols prevent survivors from accessing support services in a timely and safe manner.	Address barriers like stigma and lack of privacy by creating safe, confidential spaces for survivors and strengthening survivor-centred support protocols.
	Support services are not adequately reaching remote areas, and survivors from villages face difficulties accessing essential services, such as medical care and counselling.	Expand the reach of services by deploying outreach teams to rural areas, ensuring survivors in remote locations can access the nearest SARCs or healthcare facilities.

Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
Information and Awareness 	Awareness of GBV information and education programs in the state is very low, with many individuals in rural areas reporting a lack of exposure to GBV materials.	Intensify efforts to disseminate GBV information more consistently and widely, especially in underserved areas. Ensure that GBV materials are available in various formats, such as audio, visual, Braille, and digital platforms, to reach a wider and more diverse audience, including persons with disabilities.
	Many believe that GBV and Child Sexual Abuse education should be taught in schools (across all education levels). However, capacity constraints in the education system hinder the effective implementation of GBV prevention initiatives, with overburdened teachers struggling to deliver comprehensive education.	Incorporate GBV and Child Sexual Abuse education into the curricula of primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions; and provide teachers with training and resources to deliver GBV prevention education effectively.
	Consultative meetings involving stakeholders (traditional leaders, religious leaders, parents, teachers, and MDAs) are needed to ensure community buy-in on the GBV curriculum.	Hold consultative meetings with stakeholders to aggregate opinions on the scope and content of sex education curricula, ensuring cultural and community sensitivity.
Budget and Spending 	Less than 25% of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development's budget was implemented.	Substantially improve the disbursement of allocated funds to the Ministry to improve the credibility of its budget and increase its capacity to deliver on its GBV prevention and response mandate.
	Spending per capita of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development stood extremely low at N109.5 in 2023.	Significantly increase the budgetary allocation and releases to the Ministry to empower it to address GBV effectively and efficiently.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Nasarawa State

S/No.		Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks	
Laws and Policies					
1		Enhance knowledge and awareness through targeted campaigns and education programs.	Not Implemented	They are just trying to collaborate with several agencies to make this work but alot of work needs to be done	
2		Address perceptions of adequacy by reviewing and strengthening legal frameworks.	Not Implemented		
		Improve prosecution of GBV cases and inform public about ongoing reforms	Partially Implemented	The have tried in persecution unlike in the past were people were not persecuted	
4		Foster partnerships and collaboration between government, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders	Not Implemented	The government is not good at collaborating with other organization but they said they will work towards it	
Access to Legal Justice					
5		Enhance formal justice system's effectiveness and accessibility	Partially Implemented	The formal justice system is not that effective because of limited funds	
6		Strengthen informal justice systems to align with human rights principles	Not Implemented		The don't consider informal justices system in the state
7		Build capacity for evidence gathering and explore alternative methods	Not Implemented		
8		Increase financial support for investigating and prosecuting GBV	Not Implemented		
9		Establish dedicated GBV courts with specialized judges	Partially Implemented		There's a dedicated GBV court with few special judges.
Support Services					
10		Asides increasing the number of SARCs and Shelters to in proportion to the population, there is a need to increase awareness and access to the Shelters and SARCs.	Not Implemented	they have just one SARC and shelter home unlike before where there was no sheltaer home	
		Strengthen knowledge of reporting and referral pathways	Not Implemented		There's not appropriate reporting channel. it all depends on where the care occur
12		Collaborate with informal support systems to enhance their role	Not Implemented		
Information and Awareness					
13		Targeted interventions about GBV in low awareness areas	Not Implemented	They have improve in creating awareness unlike in the pass but alot needs to be done	
14		Enhance accessibility of materials for disabilities	Not Implemented		
15		Increase frequency of dissemination	Partially Implemented	They have tried compare to before.	



Niger State

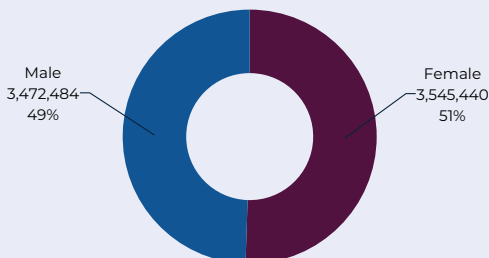


Womani
INDEX
2024 Edition

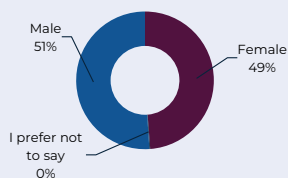
invictus
AFRICA



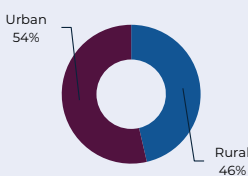
Total Population
7,017,924



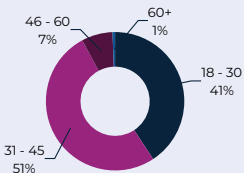
Respondents: 496



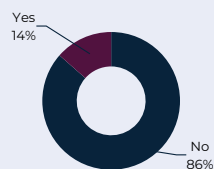
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **1741**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)s **1**



No. of active shelters **1**



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs) **1**



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

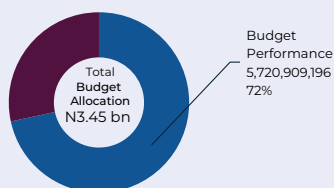


Budget and Spending

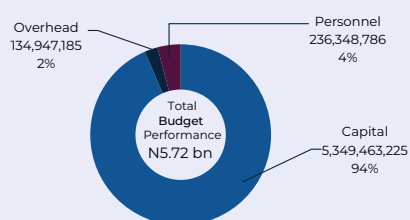


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

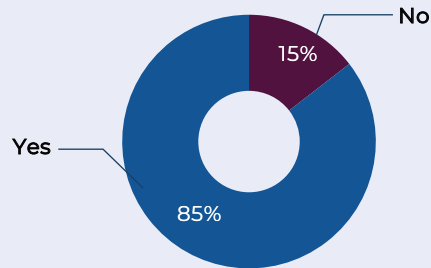


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N815.2**

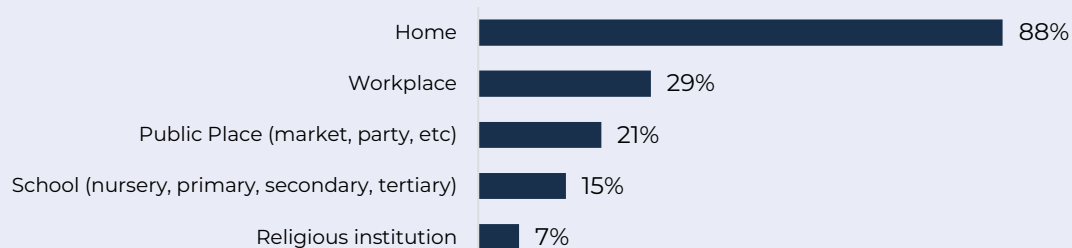
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What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



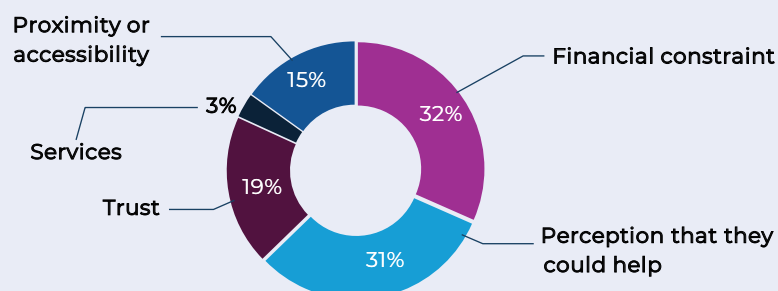
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

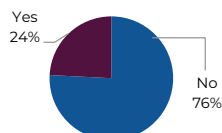


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

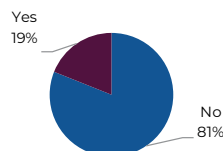


Laws and Policies

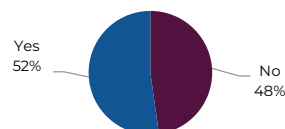
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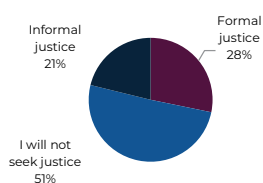


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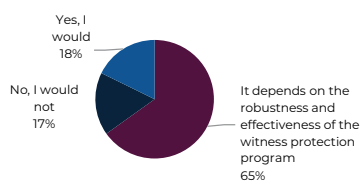


Access to Legal Justice

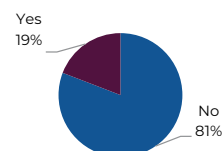
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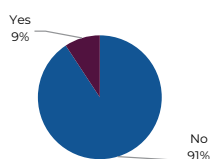


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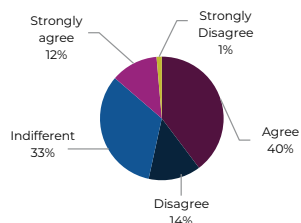


Support Services

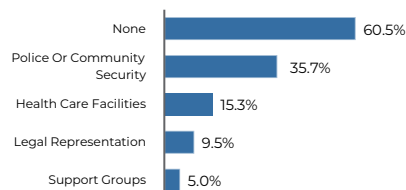
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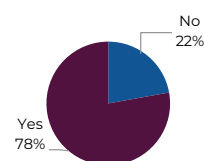
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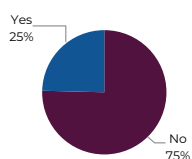


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

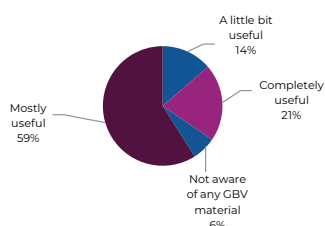


Information and Awareness

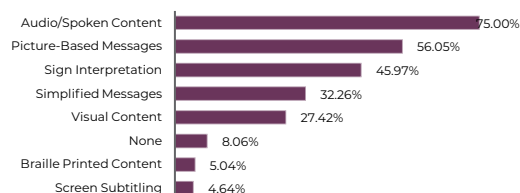
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Niger State has enacted several laws to address gender-based violence, including the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, the Child Rights and Enforcement Law, the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, the Penal Code, and the Sharia Law. While formal laws exist, 82.3% of respondents are unaware of them, and 74.7% believe they are ineffective. Conversely, 50.1% recognize customary and religious laws addressing GBV, with 50.6% deeming them effective in community contexts. The VAPP Law requires amendments to strengthen its provisions. Specifically, the VAPP Law should codify offences such as political violence, violence by non-state actors, and trafficking rather than merely defining them. Additionally, the state should reconsider the severity of the punishment prescribed in Section 4(2)(d) of the VAPP Law, which mandates the severing of a man's genital organ for raping a minor. This provision warrants review to ensure it aligns with international human rights standards and best practices in addressing sexual violence.

Several factors that hinder the effective implementation of GBV-related laws in Niger State include insufficient public awareness, a shortage of specialized GBV courts, conflicts between cultural and religious practices (such as Sharia's stance on underage marriage and VAPP's prohibition), and inadequate funding for law enforcement. Despite the alarming number of reported GBV cases, with over 1,741 incidents in the past year, only a small fraction (32) is currently under prosecution, resulting in a mere five convictions. While customary laws often reflect local cultural practices, they remain largely informal and resistant to reform. Abolishing these laws could potentially align with federal and state laws, but it requires careful consideration to avoid exacerbating local resistance or creating unintended consequences. Resultantly, there is a high prevalence of GBV in the state, with domestic violence being the most common form, followed by economic, physical, sexual, and mental violence. The home is the primary location for GBV, followed by the workplace, public places, and schools. Survivors often turn to community leaders or family members for help, with only small percentage seeking assistance from the police.



Access to Legal Justice

Niger State has established reporting systems through GBV desk officers in police stations, NSCDC divisions, community social workers, and organizations such as FIDA and the Legal Aid Council. The prosecution process involves collaboration between law enforcement and stakeholders like the Ministry of Justice (MOJ). However, poor investigations and familial pressures on victims to withdraw cases often hinder it. Survey results indicate that 56% of respondents would not seek justice, with 22.1% opting for formal channels and 21.9% relying on informal systems. Legal support is provided by MOJ, FIDA, and the Legal Aid Council at no cost. While a witness protection program exists, awareness remains low, with 87.6% of respondents unaware of these services. Financial support for victims is occasionally provided by the Ministry of Gender Affairs. The courts frequently fail to adhere to VAPP Act timelines, with delays from case mention to judgment and the issuance of certified copies. Emirate councils and community leaders handle GBV cases, often through alternative dispute resolution. While 62.1% of respondents view these systems as effective, cultural norms perpetuating GBV remain a concern. The state lacks dedicated GBV courts or specialized judges but operates six SARCs and GBV desks within MDAs. Collaborative efforts by stakeholders compensate for structural gaps, though funding and logistical challenges persist.



Support Services

The state has one SARC and one shelter. These SARC is located in Minna. The SARC in Niger State provide essential medical support, including evaluations and treatments by healthcare professionals. It also offer psychosocial counselling to address victims' post-traumatic stress. Legal advocacy is extended in collaboration with law enforcement and legal aid organizations. However, the empowerment services are informal and primarily rely on financial aid from private individuals and stakeholders. The survey shows low awareness of referral pathways, with only 10.5% of respondents aware of hospitals and healthcare centres as referral points. Informal systems, like reliance on family, friends, and religious leaders, dominate, with 80.8% favoring these over formal systems. The Emirate Councils across the state provide a responsive but non-medical or legal referral structure. Their interventions often prioritize quick settlements, which

can undermine justice for survivors. Medical units conduct essential evaluations, supporting prosecutions through evidence collection and documentation, although there are no forensic labs to aid the investigations. Annual budgetary allocations and partner support are critical for sustainability. Current funding is insufficient, particularly for equipping shelters and ensuring comprehensive care.



Information and Awareness

The state has deployed IEC materials like radio jingles, educative pamphlets, seminars, TV shows, and social media platforms to raise GBV awareness. Partnerships between the government, NGOs, and implementing partners have amplified awareness. However, the frequency of these programs, especially in rural areas, is limited due to funding gaps. The state's education system incorporates some GBV prevention and response initiatives, such as anti-GBV school clubs and teacher training. However, funding challenges have made these programs inactive for the past year. 91% of the surveyed population supports teaching child sexual abuse prevention in schools. Sensitization materials for persons with disabilities are scarce. Available formats include audio/spoken content (29.9%), picture-based messages (22.7%), and sign interpretation (18.8%). Materials like Braille and simplified messages are almost nonexistent. About 80% of respondents were unaware of GBV programs or materials, while 20% were familiar with them, primarily through radio programs. Awareness of persons with special needs still needs to be significantly improved.



Budget and Spending

Niger State allocated N3.45 billion to the Ministry of Gender Affairs in 2023, with a budget performance of 166% (5.72 billion), indicating actual spending exceeded the initial budget by 66%. The Ministry's expenditure breakdown shows that N236.34 million and N134.95 million went to personnel and overhead costs, respectively, while N5.35bn went to capital expenditure and N150,000 to other recurrent expenses. Niger State spent N5 million on the provision of shelter and nutrition for abused children, N4 million on school kits and support equipment for abused children, and N4 million on support to families of abused children. The state's per capita spending of N815.2 suggests a need for more funding deployment relative to the state's population of 7,017,924. This underscores the need for greater financial investment and prioritization to enhance the reach and effectiveness of GBV programs, particularly in underserved areas. Increased budget allocation and strategic planning are crucial for maximizing the impact of GBV interventions across the state.





Human Angle Story





Aisha Ahmed (not real name), an orphan residing in Mokwa town, Niger State, faced a harrowing ordeal. Living with her uncle, Suleiman, who worked night shifts, Aisha was often left alone and vulnerable. At the tender age of nine, she was first raped by a community member. This marked the beginning of a traumatic four-year period during which multiple men repeatedly abused her. As a result, she underwent six abortions and consumed numerous birth control pills. Miraculously, she tested negative for HIV during a health campaign in 2021. With the support of a counsellor, Aisha gained the courage to confront two of her abusers. The police were alerted, leading to both men's arrest and subsequent conviction. One was sentenced to 23 years in prison, while the other received a 14-year sentence. Aisha has since found solace and a better life with her adoptive family.

Niger State

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	Despite the existence of key laws like VAPP, Child's Right Law, Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA), Penal Code, and Sharia Law, their effectiveness is hindered by gaps such as lack of specialized courts, insufficient funding, and cultural and religious conflicts.	Establish specialized courts for GBV cases, with adequate funding and harmonized legal frameworks, to ensure swift justice and resolve conflicts arising from cultural and religious barriers.
	Gaps exist in the current GBV laws, particularly regarding witness protection, survivor's support funds, and the absence of a specialized GBV court.	Strengthen GBV laws by incorporating provisions for witness protection, establishing survivor support funds, and creating specialized courts to ensure effective justice delivery and survivor-centered responses.
Access to Legal Justice 	There is a significant reluctance to seek formal justice, with many survivors opting for informal channels or not pursuing justice at all. A key issue is the lack of awareness about the legal assistance and services available.	Implement consistent state-wide awareness campaigns on available legal assistance and services for GBV survivors, while strengthening community-based outreach programs to build trust in the formal justice system and encourage its utilization.
	The legal system is perceived as slow and unreliable, with police investigations often being poor and delayed court judgments leading to dissatisfaction with formal justice systems. There is a preference for informal justice systems despite their limitations.	Strengthen police investigations and expedite court proceedings to ensure timely and fair justice for GBV victims. Improve efficiency and reduce delays to encourage trust in formal justice systems.
		Establish dedicated GBV courts and family support units to streamline legal processes and enhance service delivery.
		Improve coordination among stakeholders, including law enforcement, NGOs, and the judiciary, to create a more effective and unified approach to GBV cases.
	While witness protection programs are in place, they are not fully utilized, and their effectiveness is hindered by limited funding and a lack of awareness.	Strengthen and expand witness protection programs, ensuring they are well-funded and accessible to all survivors and witnesses.
Support Services 	Legal assistance, including financial aid for survivors, is provided in some cases, but it is inconsistent and not always accessible.	Provide consistent financial assistance to victims to support their participation in the legal process and ensure their safety.
	There is very poor awareness of existing shelters and SARCs in the state. Many also lack awareness of referral pathways, including those to police, community security, or healthcare facilities.	Increase public awareness of SARCs and the support services they offer. Establish information campaigns targeting both the public and victims of GBV to improve engagement with these services.
	Niger State has established one SARC, one shelter, and resource centres to support victims, but these centres require budgetary support and additional investment to ensure effective service delivery.	Allocate annual budgetary funding for SARCs and shelter services, ensuring their sustainability.

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Information and Awareness 	Many respondents are unaware of any GBV programs or materials, with the most common awareness coming from radio programs. Materials for persons with disabilities are scarce, and more inclusive resources, including Braille and simplified messages, are needed for special needs populations.	MoGA, MoJ, and MoI should collaborate to share information through state-owned media outlets (radio, print, and television) to disseminate GBV information at little or no cost, while ensuring disability-friendly content and medium.
	The state government, NGOs, and other stakeholders have worked together to disseminate GBV information through various media platforms, including toll-free helplines, radio jingles, and television campaigns. However, there is a need for increased outreach in rural communities and more simplified messaging, especially for the adolescent population.	Increased collaboration with public and private media for broader outreach, especially in rural areas and among adolescents.
	Due to a lack of funding, the sustainability of awareness programs is at risk. The Ministry of Gender Affairs faces challenges in maintaining regular GBV sensitization programs outside of the annual 16 days of activism.	Allocate funds to ensure continuous awareness efforts and effective implementation of GBV programs across the state. Prioritize the simplification and production of IEC materials in local languages for reaching underserved populations across communities.
Budget and Spending 	Niger State overspent the budget on the Ministry of Gender Affairs by 66%, which may demonstrate a strong interest in preventing and responding to GBV.	Ensure budget allocation and spending of the Ministry is targeted at effectively preventing and responding to GBV.
	With a spending per capita of N815.2, the state ranked tops among the 36 states.	While the spending per capita is commendable, the huge gaps that exist require much more investments and efficient spending to bring GBV to the barest minimum.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Niger State

S/No.		Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies				
1		Allow time for implementation before reviewing laws	Not Implemented	The non budgetary allocation of fund to support the implementation and enforcement of the GBV law undermines its efficiency
2		There is need for frequent and wide public sensitization on GBV laws and policies in the state	Partially Implemented	The rural communities are stil left behind in the public sensitizations. This is still concentrated in the urbans and relatively semi urban.
Access to Legal Justice				
3		Create a legal framework for witness protection by including it in laws.	Not Implemented	Awaiting the review of the Laws
4		Develop and disseminate GBV reporting and referral pathways, as well as establish dedicated GBV courtrooms and judges	Partially Implemented	Referral Pathways developed, and disseminated. Dedicated courtroom and judges not yet established.
Support Services				
5		Establish standard shelters in each Senatorial District and LGA.	Not Implemented	Only the state capital has a partially functional shelter.
6		Strengthen knowledge of reporting and referral pathways	Partially Implemented	A number of state and none state actors trained in reppoting and referral pathways. There is need to conduct similar trainings at cluster LGAs to allow other rural community memebtrs to benefit from the information and concentrate the response in the communities.
Information and Awareness				
7		Use official state media platforms and channels to increase awareness on GBV prevention and response	Not Implemented	There are still no regular GBV programs or airings supported by state owned media platform to create regular awareness on GBV prevention and response in the state.
8		There is a need for community outreaches to increase awareness	Partially Implemented	The outreaches are concentrated in the surbub of the state capital and few major towns in the state.



Ogun State



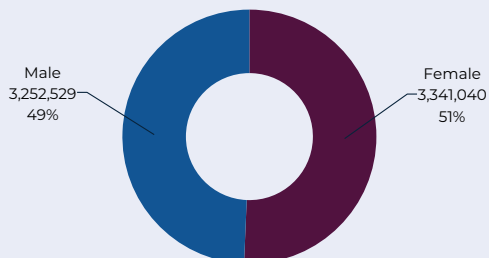
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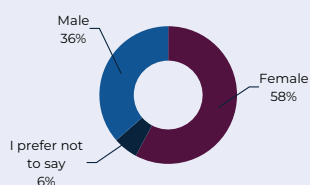




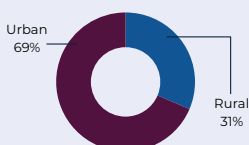
Total Population
6,593,569



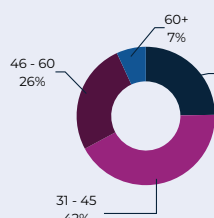
Respondents: 481



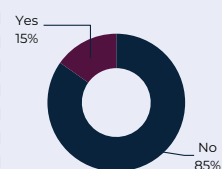
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **32**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)s **2**



No. of active shelters **5**



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



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

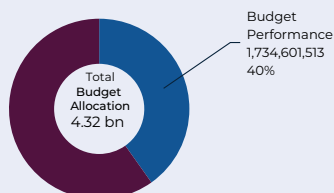


Budget and Spending

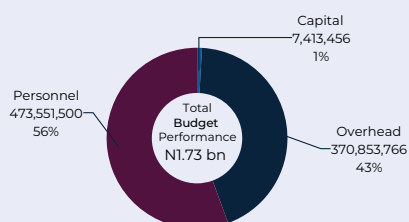


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

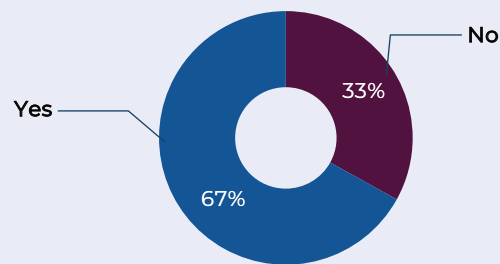


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N263.1**

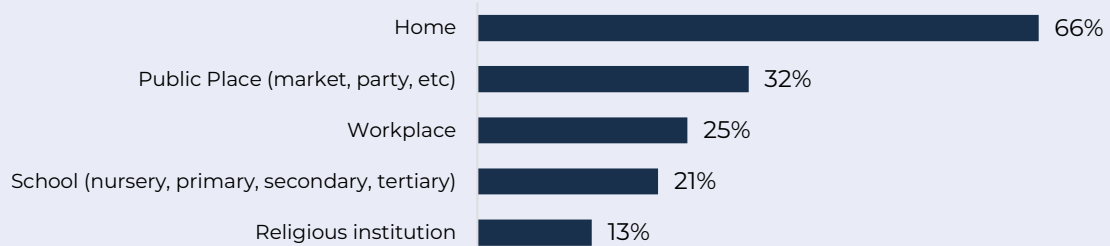
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



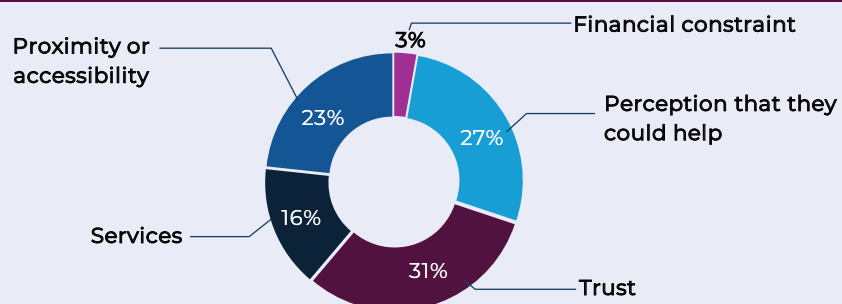
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

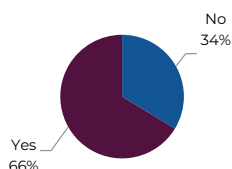


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

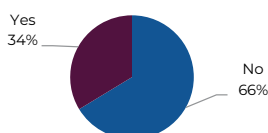


Laws and Policies

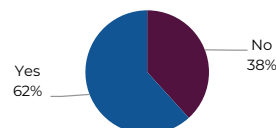
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

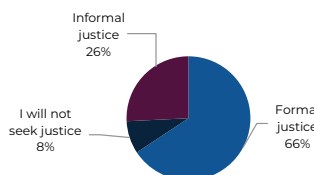


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

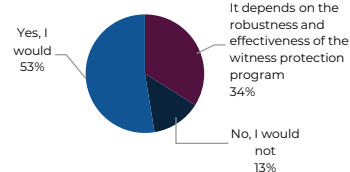


Access to Legal Justice

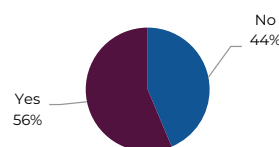
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

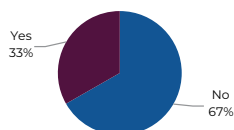


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

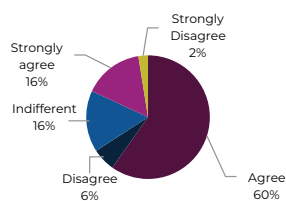


Support Services

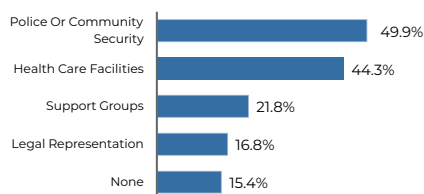
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



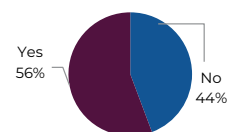
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

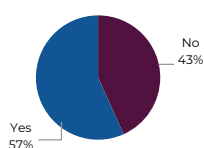


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

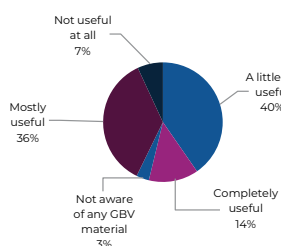


Information and Awareness

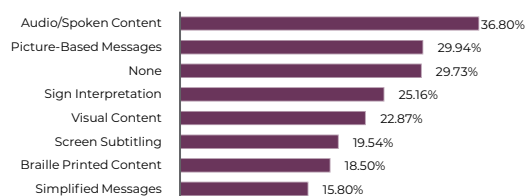
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Ministries of Women Affairs, Justice, Health, and Education: Ogun State has implemented several key laws and policies, such as Child Rights Law (2007, Amended 2015) for child protection, Criminal Code Law (2006, Amended 2011), Administration of Criminal Justice Law (2017), and Violence Against Person Prohibition (VAPP) Law (2017), protecting vulnerable groups against all forms of violence, Persons with Disabilities Law (2017) establishes protections against discrimination. No efforts have been made to review or update the law to address evolving gaps identified by both civil society organizations and government stakeholders. Despite these frameworks, their usage in prosecuting GBV-related cases remains limited. Only 32 GBV cases were reported last year, with just 6 proceeding to court and none resulting in prosecution. These statistics reflect challenges in enforcement and access to justice. A positive 66% of respondents were aware of state laws addressing GBV. However, 35.71% were unaware, indicating room for improved public education on GBV-related policies. During the 2023 16 Days of Activism, Ogun state advocated directly to the governor to leverage social capital in mobilizing resources for the GBV Trust Fund to support the VAPP Law. However, implementation remains limited, with only CSOs like WARDC, JDPC Ijebu-Ode, and CEWHIN securing international funding through proposals to partially advance the law's objectives.

Access to Legal Justice

Ogun State has a structured GBV reporting, prosecution, and enforcement system that operates through four main referral pathways: Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs), law enforcement agencies, health facilities, and GBV Service providers (NGOs registered in the State). These pathways ensure a coordinated response to GBV cases and prioritize victims' support. SARCs, now located across four zones in Ogun State, serve as one-stop centers where victims are encouraged to initiate their journey through the referral system. Legal assistance is available through initiatives like the Public Interest Law Partnership and Police Duty Solicitor Scheme, which provide free legal services to indigent residents. However, the state lacks a formal witness protection program, although NGOs such as JDPC Ijebu-Ode and WARDC offer temporary safety measures. Specialized Family Support Units (FSUs) and GBV desks at police divisions provide targeted assistance to victims. While 66% of survey respondents stated they would seek formal justice, barriers such as prolonged court processes, stigma, and lack of trust in the system persist. The establishment of specialized courts for the prosecution of GBV cases has not yet been implemented, despite advocacy efforts to the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice. Additionally, informal justice mechanisms, though accessible, lack standardization and legal enforcement, limiting their effectiveness. Ogun State's justice system requires strengthened funding, capacity building, and survivor-centered approaches.

Support Services

The state has five active shelters comprising four government-owned facilities one operated by a non-governmental organization and two functional Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs). Although only 33% of the studied population are aware of the existence or have visited these facilities. The government Sexual Assault Referral Centers has a temporary accommodation that can admit 20 clients at a time. They are strategically located in the four zones of the state: Abeokuta, Ijebu-Ode, Ota, and Sagamu. These initiatives have been supported by the World Bank's OGSTEP Project and UNFPA. More efforts to provide support services in the state are reflected in the 2023 budget with a commitment of N57.05mn for the rehabilitation of 1 No. of Juvenile Correctional Home building Asero as Assault Referral Centre (Gender unit). The GBV reporting and referral pathways in the state include five key components: the Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARC)/MoWA, Secondary Health Facilities, Family Support Units (FSUs)/ MoJ, local Police Stations/ Civil Defence, and Registered Service providers (NGOs). Victims are encouraged to begin their journey at the SARC, which offers a one-stop service for documenting evidence and accessing support. FSUs and police stations facilitate immediate assistance and protection for victims, while Health institutions provide essential medical care and treatment.



Information and Awareness

Ogun State actively uses information, education, and communication (IEC) materials to raise GBV awareness, including posters, radio jingles, and TV programs. The Ministry of Women Affairs produces and distributes these materials widely across communities, focusing on prevention, rights awareness, and available support services. However, more efforts are required to ensure more awareness for citizens, as only 56% of respondents have come across an IEC material or awareness program. School-based initiatives under the OGSTEP World Bank Project have introduced GBV education in public schools. Additionally, CSOs like WOPEGEE and JDPC, IPAS, WOPEGEE support these efforts by disseminating simplified VAPP Law content and conducting sensitization campaigns. These combined efforts aim to improve public understanding and engagement in GBV prevention and response.

In Ogun State, comprehensive sex education is included in the curriculum for secondary schools and tertiary institutions, covering topics such as sexual health, consent, and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention. This initiative, supported by the Ministry of Education, aims to equip students with the knowledge to make informed decisions, respect boundaries, and understand the consequences of risky behaviors. Partner organizations and NGOs collaborate with schools to provide resources and workshops, reinforcing these lessons. Ogun State's GBV awareness programs and IEC materials incorporate some inclusive elements for persons with disabilities, including audio content, Braille, and sign interpretation. These adaptations, aimed at enhancing accessibility, are primarily distributed through partnerships with CSOs and specialized organizations. Despite these efforts, gaps remain, as not all disability needs—especially in rural areas—are consistently addressed. Visual aids and simplified messages help improve accessibility, but expanded resources and wider distribution are needed to fully ensure inclusivity across all disability groups.



Budget and Spending

In 2023, Ogun State allocated N4.32 billion to the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, with actual spending amounting to N1.34 billion. A significant share of this expenditure (N473.55 million) was directed towards personnel costs, while overheads accounted for N370.85 million. Capital expenditure, which is crucial for infrastructure like shelters and SARCs, received a minimal allocation of N7.41 million. Additionally, the per capita spending was N263.10, and N57.05 million was invested in the rehabilitation of a juvenile correctional home building in Asero, serving as an assault referral center (Gender unit). To improve budget efficiency and effectiveness, Ogun State should focus on enhancing the utilization of allocated funds. Increasing capital expenditure for essential infrastructure will ensure better support for vulnerable populations. Furthermore, bolstering investments in GBV prevention and support initiatives will enhance the services available to those affected.



Human Angle Story

Aminat, a 29-year-old woman living with disability, has endured unimaginable horrors and a system that struggles to give her justice. Crippled from birth, Aminat lives alone in an unfinished building on Ayetoro Road in Abeokuta. Her life changed forever one evening at around 7 p.m. when a man attacked her, taking advantage of her vulnerable state. He not only raped her but also attempted to mutilate her, trying to harvest parts of her body in a brutal assault. Her piercing cries echoed through the night until passersby heard her and came to her rescue just in time.


The attacker was arrested, and Aminat thought justice would come quickly, but her ordeal was far from over. Since the arrest, the court hearings have been adjourned five times. Each adjournment has forced her to revisit the trauma, recounting the events over and over as if the crime were happening all over again. Each time she tells her story, the familiar knot of fear, humiliation, and frustration grows. Her attacker, meanwhile, remains in the system, awaiting a conviction that seems further away with each delay. The court's excuses range from needing

more evidence to issues with witness scheduling, dragging the case out over months with no end in sight. For Aminat, this process feels like a punishment, as though the system itself questions her truth and humanity. Every adjournment leaves her feeling unheard, wondering if anyone cares enough to bring her justice.

Aminat's story highlights why Ogun State urgently needs a specialized court for gender-based violence cases. A dedicated court could prioritize victims like Aminat, providing a safe space where they won't have to relive their trauma repeatedly. Specialized courts would streamline evidence collection and prosecution, ensuring justice is served swiftly and compassionately. Aminat's case stands as a painful reminder that when justice is delayed, it's not just a case that's left in limbo—it's a life, a person who deserves closure and healing.

Ogun State


Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	Although Ogun State has adopted the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law and established referral pathways for GBV victims, enforcement and awareness of these laws remain weak.	Fully implement the VAPP Law and other GBV-related laws, ensuring adequate enforcement.
	Many citizens are unaware of their legal rights or the existence of free legal services, such as the Public Interest Law Partnership	Increase penalties for GBV offenses to enhance deterrence.
	Law enforcement agencies like the police and civil defense often fail to submit monthly reports to the Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA), affecting monitoring and evaluation efforts.	Conduct state-wide awareness campaigns to educate the public about GBV laws, referral pathways, and free legal services.
Access to Legal Justice 	Victims face delays due to repeated court adjournments, lack of any witness protection in the state, and high logistics costs, causing many to abandon cases midway	Reduce court delays by establishing GBV-specialized courts, provide consistent witness protection, and compensate victims for early recovery.
	Lack of GBV-dedicated judges and courts, resulting in prolonged litigation cases.	Expedite efforts for the establishment of specialized courts for the prosecution of GBV cases.
	Inadequacy in the legal aid service offered as well as inadequate provision of a robust witness protection program	Funding should be prioritized for the recruitment and capacity building of more lawyers as well as make provisions for a suitable robust witness protection program for victims and witnesses
Support Services 	Two SARC centers are still very small for the growing population in Ogun State, especially satellite towns like Mowe, Ibafo, Sango, Ota, Ogunmakin. Resource constraints hinder free medical care, shelter, and counseling services, especially in rural and suburban areas where services are sparse or inaccessible.	Increase funding for SARCs/shelters, free medical care, and counseling, and expand service availability in rural areas through mobile support units. Earmarked funding for service providers.
	Low awareness of the existing support services in the state	Expand the reach of IEC materials on the available support services in the state, particularly in rural areas, by increasing funding and partnering with local organizations.
	Inadequate staff capacity to provide holistic services for victims	Intensive capacity building and training be conducted for staff frequently and proper onboarding to new staff to ensure that their knowledge and skill in dealing with victims are top-notch.
Information and Awareness 	Awareness programs often lack inclusivity for persons with disabilities and are unevenly distributed, leaving rural and suburban communities. minimal GBV education and resources	Enhance disability-inclusive awareness programs and expand outreach in rural and suburban areas.
	There is minimal GBV education and resources in Schools in the state.	Integrate GBV education into schools and community centers for broader impact.
	Existence of GBV/ sex education in school curriculums.	Ensuring a sex education guide or GBV manual is made available.

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
Budget and Spending 	<p>Insufficient budget allocation and spending to GBV prevention and response efforts in the state.</p>	<p>Increase allocation and release to GBV prevention and response activities, including having specific budget lines to address GBV in relevant Ministry's budgets.</p>


WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Ogun State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1	Increased engagements to secure more funding allocation for the implementation of these laws, as well as collaboration with NGOs and international organizations to mobilize resources.	Partially Implemented	During the 2023 16 Days of Activism, we advocated directly to the governor to leverage social capital in mobilizing resources for the GBV Trust Fund to support the VAPP Law. However, implementation remains limited, with only CSO like WARDC, JDPC Ijebu-Ode, CEWHIN securing international funding through proposals to partially advance the law's objectives.
2	Advocate for funding of training programs as well as collaborate with academic institutions, CSOs, and training centres to provide capacity strengthening for relevant duty bearers - government personnel.	Partially Implemented	There has been significant progress through ongoing capacity-building initiatives from and The World Bank OGSTEP project, along with various CSOs in the state, has been actively engaging stakeholders, across Ogun State. Although these efforts indicate partial implementation, continued coordination and funding from these sources are critical to achieving the full impact of the program.
3	Implement comprehensive awareness campaigns to educate the public about existing GBV laws and policies.	Partially Implemented	While a number of CSOs have made significant strides in raising awareness, particularly in tertiary institutions, secondary schools, and rural communities prone to GBV incidents, these efforts have been ongoing. However, while progress has been made, the comprehensive public education campaign remains partially implemented and requires further expansion across all targeted areas.
Access to Legal Justice			
4	Establish clear timelines for the prosecution of GBV cases as well as streamline the legal process to reduce delays.	Not Implemented	The establishment of specialized courts for the prosecution of GBV cases has not yet been implemented, despite advocacy efforts to the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice.
5	Provide adequate funding and training for these specialized units to improve their capacity, resultantly, their effectiveness.	Not Implemented	The judicial system in the state includes regular training and capacity building as part of its work plan and budget, but there is insufficient funding to effectively support these initiatives. As a result, while training is planned, the lack of adequate funding hinders the capacity and effectiveness of specialized units.
6	Provide training for judges and legal professionals on handling GBV cases and then create positions and offices for these trained personnel to serve in that capacity.	Not Implemented	Training for judges and legal professionals on handling GBV cases, along with are not in place. However, establishing specialized court will be part of the framework to strengthen capacity across board.
Support Services			
7	Advocate for increased funding to enhance the capacity of the SARCs and shelters to serve the population of Ogun State.	Partially Implemented	in 2023, Ogun state had only one SARC center, but through successful advocacy by civil society and support from the World Bank OGSTEP project, this has increased to four centers, These four refurbished shelters now each have at least 20 beds and are strategically spread across the zones in Ogun state, significantly enhancing their capacity to serve the population.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Ogun State

8		Enhance advocacy efforts to secure improved and adequate funding for state actors to effectively serve in this capacity.	Partially Implemented	Advocacy efforts to the governor and first lady have pushed for establishing a GBV Trust Fund, enabling stakeholders and service providers to strengthen prevention and response efforts in Ogun State.
9		Encourage partnerships between government agencies, NGOs, and healthcare institutions to establish and strengthen more robust referral systems to ensure victims have access to quality services.	Partially Implemented	In October 2024, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, with support from an international partner and the World Bank, held a validation meeting to strengthen Ogun State's referral pathways. Key inputs were provided, and documents were validated; the next step is to distribute the finalized policy to all stakeholders for effective implementation.

Information and Awareness

10		Explore various channels, including social media, to disseminate GBV Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials.	Fully Implemented	The Ministry of Women Affairs, has significantly expanded GBV information dissemination over the past year, with inclusive materials for people with disabilities and two hotlines supported by UNFPA. NGOs like WOPEGEE, JDPC, WARDC, and CEHWIN have also contributed to IEC efforts, creating a robust awareness network across Ogun State.
11		Collaborate with influencers and online platforms to reach a wider audience.	Fully Implemented	For International Day of the Girl Child, 16 Days of Activism, and International Women's Day, the First Lady has engaged influencers like Olympic athlete Tobi Amusan, Singer and songwriter Teniola Apata, and Nollywood star Aishat Lawal to amplify GBV awareness in Ogun State.
12		Collaborate with organizations specializing in accessibility to ensure inclusivity for PwDs, particularly the visually impaired.	Fully Implemented	Partnerships with accessibility organizations like CEHWIN and WOPEGEE have enhanced inclusivity for people with disabilities, including tailored resources for the visually impaired, ensuring broader access to GBV support and information.
13		Also, translate and produce IEC materials in local languages to cater to the linguistic diversity of the population.	Partially Implemented	Significant progress has been made in translating IEC materials into Yoruba, Egun, and English, led by organizations like IPAS, JDPC, WARDC, and WOPEGEE, with distribution across all 20 local governments to reach diverse communities.



Ondo State



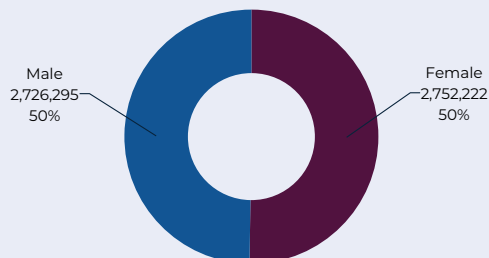
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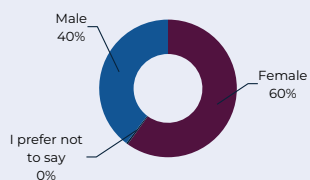




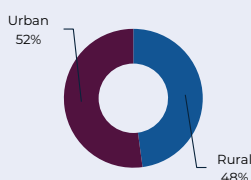
Total Population
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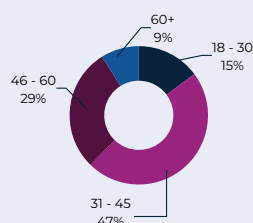
Respondents: 472



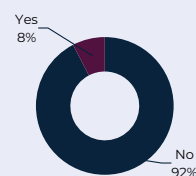
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **100+**



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



No. of active shelters **4**



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



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

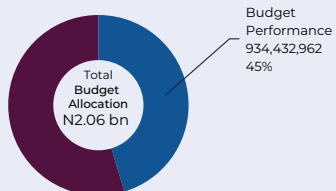


Budget and Spending

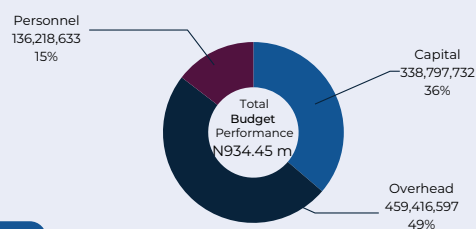


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

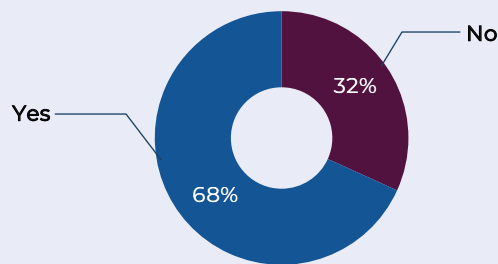


Budget Expenditure (2023)

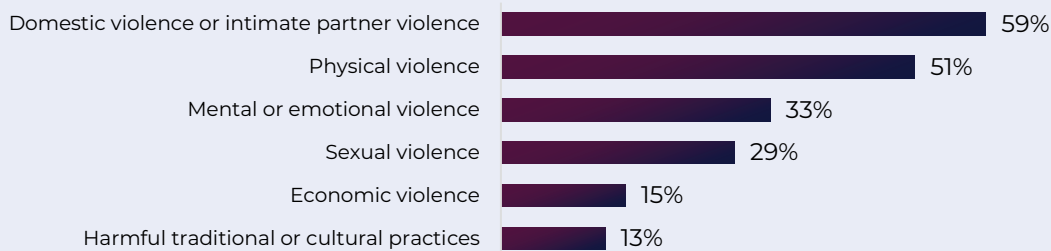


Per Capita Spending **N170.6**

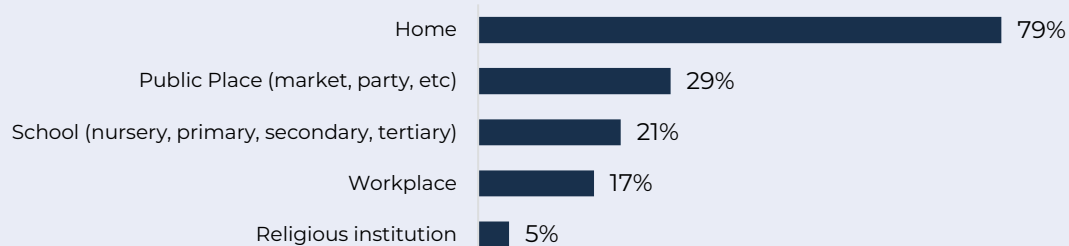
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



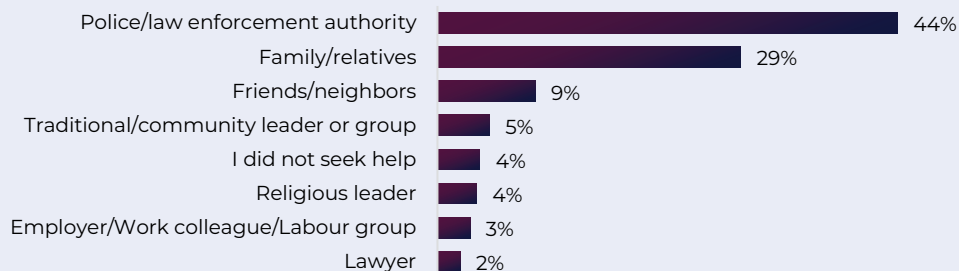
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



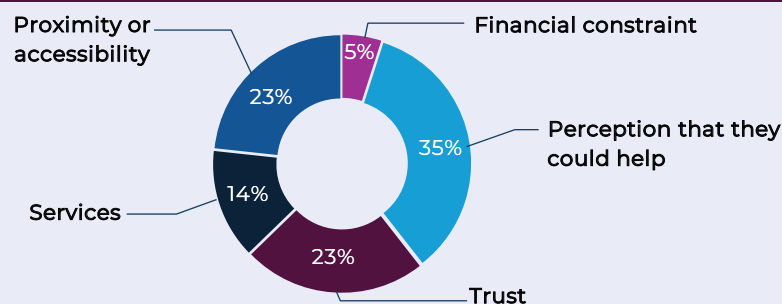
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

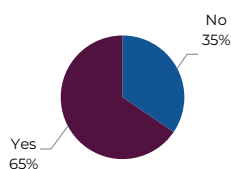


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

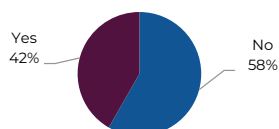


Laws and Policies

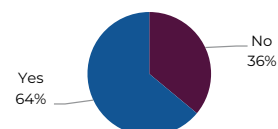
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

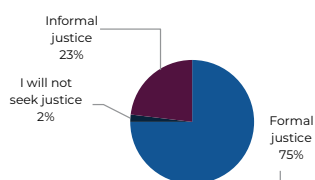


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

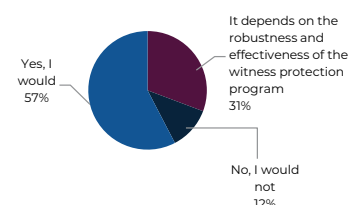


Access to Legal Justice

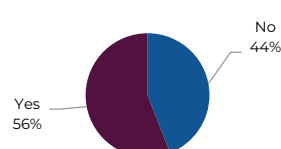
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

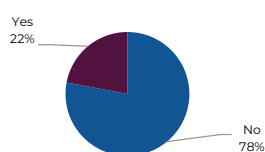


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

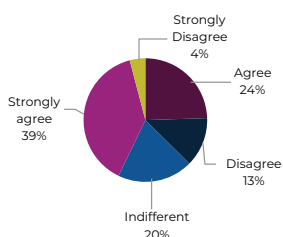


Support Services

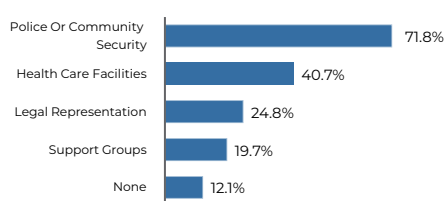
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



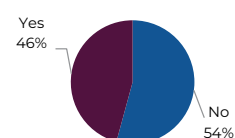
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

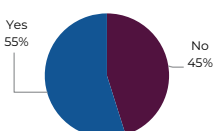


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

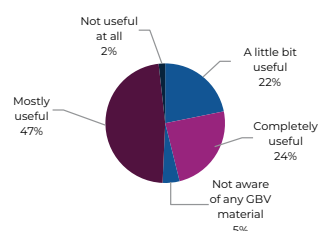


Information and Awareness

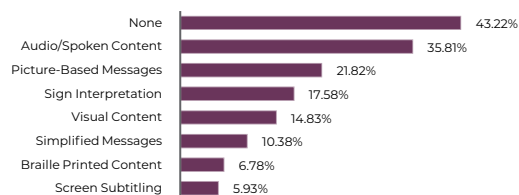
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Sixty-five per cent (65%) of the surveyed population know the Laws that address issues of GBV in Ondo state which include Child Rights Laws 2007, Criminal Code, Ondo State Gender Policy, VAPP Law 2021, and Harmful Traditional Practices Law 2001. Some of the gaps that exist in the laws that impede their effectiveness are: The GBV Law 2021 in Ondo State is just three years, and there has been little to no implementation of the law done, VAPP Law 2021 fails to address the gap between the passage and implementation of the law about the digital world such as sextortion. Despite the existing gap, In the last twelve months, 100 cases were reported and prosecuted, and 20 got judgment. Ondo state needs to establish mechanisms for regular evaluations to measure the impact of these laws in addressing customary practices like FGM and widowhood rites. Efforts are also required for the state government to amend the VAPP Law to explicitly cover cyber GBV, provide for an annual report on the implementation of the law, as well as address the evolving GBV-related challenges in Ondo State.



Access to Legal Justice

Ondo State has established GBV reporting systems through the Police, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), and the Human Rights Commission. Additionally, a GBV dashboard at the Ministry of Women Affairs collates case data. OSAA-GBV plays a vital role in ensuring the coordinated handling of cases. However, prosecution processes face delays due to funding shortages, lack of human resources, and frequent court adjournments. While courts within the state, such as Family Courts, handle GBV cases, they are not exclusively dedicated to these matters, which hampers swift justice. Despite this 75% of the survey's population trust in the formal justice system in the state. Ondo state needs to appoint dedicated GBV judges to expedite the litigation process and discourage victims from abandoning cases. Also, the state needs to collaborate with the judiciary to establish specialized courts for GBV cases, ensuring swift and effective justice.

Legal aid services in the state are accessible through the Legal Aid Council, the Office of Public Defender, FIDA, and NGOs, providing free medical and legal assistance. Despite this, a formal witness protection program is lacking, with 10% of respondents reporting limited collaboration with the NSCDC and 90% stating a lack of witness protection. Specialized GBV desks exist in police divisions, but only partially address victims' needs due to inadequate training and resources for personnel. Informal justice systems, including Customary Courts, Sharia Courts, and Kings' Palaces, are prominent in rural areas. Despite 23% of respondents opting for informal systems due to their recognized accessibility, cultural norms often perpetuate GBV, discouraging formal reporting. Specialized GBV desks exist in police divisions, but only partially address survivors' needs due to inadequate training and resources for personnel.



Support Services

Ondo State has four shelters and no Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs) to support survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). However, state shelters are still under construction, and interim measures like the use of orphanage homes and NGO-run shelters temporarily accommodate survivors. However, awareness of these services is rather low at 22% level of awareness amongst respondents, more campaigns and sensitization are required. The state has a structured reporting and referral system for GBV cases. Survivors can access support through toll-free hotlines, security agencies, NGOs, and the Ministry of Justice. These pathways ensure survivors have multiple options to report incidents and receive referrals to appropriate agencies. However, awareness of these systems needs to improve. 46% of the respondents showed a preference for informal support systems such as family, friends, religious institutions, and community groups that play a significant role in offering emotional support and guidance. These systems, however, are culturally sensitive, lacking professional training and resources, and requiring integration with formal services for maximum impact.

Information and Awareness

Ondo State utilizes IEC materials, such as radio jingles, pamphlets, community meetings, and seminars, to raise public awareness of GBV. Radio jingles were aired three times weekly in the past, but their frequency has reduced significantly over the last year due to funding challenges. Approximately 20% of respondents acknowledged the use of IEC materials, though 80% suggested the need for a more comprehensive approach. Sex education has been introduced into secondary school curriculums as one hour to promote GBV prevention and response. However, tertiary institutions only incorporate limited aspects of sex education through other subjects or guest lectures. Efforts to make IEC materials inclusive for PWDs include Braille transcription of the VAPP Law by NGOs. Nonetheless, the lack of sustained PWD-specific programming and resources highlights the need for further improvements. To enhance inclusiveness, the VAPP Law of Ondo State, 2020 was transcribed into Braille copies and printed by the NGO Anglo-Nigerian Welfare Association for the Blind (ANWAB) but the major inclusiveness government is involved for now is the provision of an interpreter during sensitization and GBV training periodically.

Budget and Spending

In 2023, Ondo State allocated N2.06bn to its Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, ranking third highest in the South-Western region of Nigeria. However, the ministry recorded a budget performance of just 45%, utilizing N934.43 million of the allocation. Overhead costs constituted the largest share of the expenditure at 49.2% (N459.52m), followed by capital expenditure at 36.3% (N338.8m), while personnel costs accounted for 14.6% (N136.22m). The state's per capita expenditure for the ministry was modest at N170.6. Among the notable expenditures was N333m spent on advocating against Gender-Based Violence (OSAA-GBV) across the state. Despite its substantial allocation, the ministry's low budget performance highlights challenges in effectively utilizing funds to address critical social development needs.

Human Angle Story





During a visit to one of the Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs), I spoke with a doctor who highlighted a significant challenge they face: the lack of budget provision for the treatment and consultancy services provided to GBV survivors. Despite this, the medical staff continues to treat survivors free of charge. This situation has created internal challenges between the government and medical personnel. If not addressed properly, it could jeopardize the entire support system.




There are plans for three shelters across the three senatorial districts of the state. However, only one is currently under construction, and it has been abandoned. This lack of fully operational shelters and SARCs has placed additional burdens on government ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs), as well as law enforcement agencies. They are now responsible for providing shelter, medical tests, and feeding for survivors and witnesses, which has significantly reduced their capacity to perform their primary duties.

Ondo State


Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	There is a significant challenge in the judiciary and among prosecutors in fully understanding and effectively implementing the VAPP Law. This gap hinders the law's potential to protect and serve GBV survivors adequately.	Invest in the capacity building of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary. This includes regular training and workshops to enhance their understanding of GBV laws, improve their skills in handling GBV cases, and ensure they are equipped to provide sensitive and effective support to survivors.
	A considerable number of lawyers are unaware of the existence of the VAPP Law. Additionally, most of the public remains uninformed that harmful customs and practices have now been criminalized under this law. This lack of awareness severely limits the law's effectiveness.	Implement comprehensive civic education programs to inform the general populace about the harmful customs and practices that have been criminalized under the VAPP Law of Ondo State. This education should be widespread and accessible, utilizing various platforms such as community meetings, schools, media campaigns, and social media to ensure broad reach and understanding.
	The Child Rights Law (CRL) primarily focuses on issues related to children and does not address domestic violence involving adults. Furthermore, the Criminal Code's provisions on rape are not explicit enough, whereas the VAPP Law provides comprehensive coverage of these issues.	Ensure timely and adequate release of budgeted funds to the agency responsible for the implementation of GBV programs in the state. This will enable the agency to effectively carry out its mandate, including awareness campaigns, support services, and enforcement of GBV laws.
Access to Legal Justice 	Cultural and religious beliefs often interfere with the pursuit of legal justice for GBV survivors. These influences can discourage survivors from seeking help or pressing charges, thereby perpetuating the cycle of violence.	Establish specialized gender courts dedicated to handling GBV cases to ensure swift and effective judgments. These courts could be integrated within the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development to streamline processes and provide focused attention on GBV issues.
	There is a noticeable lack of coordination and cooperation among key stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies and various government ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs). This disjointed approach hampers the effectiveness of legal interventions and support services for GBV survivors.	Demarcate which cases can be resolved through alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and which require criminal prosecution. This respects cultural and family dynamics while ensuring that criminal acts are appropriately addressed by the legal system.
	Sabotage by Security Agencies- Some security personnel undermine the prosecution process by advising survivors to withdraw their cases. They often encourage survivors to write letters and swear affidavits stating they are no longer interested in pursuing legal action, which obstructs justice.	Provide regular training and retraining for law enforcement officers, desk officers at every parastatal, magistrates, and judges who handle GBV cases. This will enhance their understanding of GBV laws and improve their ability to support survivors effectively.
	Often, the survivor's family must provide funds for logistics to arrest the offender. Poverty further impedes access to legal justice, as offenders sometimes settle cases with the survivor's relatives for unreasonable amounts of money, undermining the legal process.	Provide adequate transportation and logistical support for gender rescue missions. This will enable rapid response to GBV incidents and ensure survivors receive timely assistance.

Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
Support Services 	The state currently does not have any government-run shelters for GBV survivors. While NGOs in the state operate four shelters, these are primarily intended for children. Although adults can be accommodated, this requires the government to provide additional security measures.	The state needs to establish well-equipped Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs) and referral centers for medical first aid across communities, particularly at Primary Health Centers. These facilities should be capable of preserving forensic evidence, such as semen, within 24 hours to support legal proceedings.
	There are no Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs) in the state.	It is crucial to ensure that all GBV survivors receive excellent treatment without discrimination. This can be achieved by providing well-equipped shelters and SARCs that offer comprehensive care and support to every survivor.
Information and Awareness 	There is a need for more comprehensive training programs, awareness campaigns, and workshops to educate both the public and professionals about GBV.	Implement comprehensive and aggressive campaigns on gender-based violence (GBV) across all communities in the state. These campaigns should utilize various platforms, including community meetings, social media, radio, and television, to ensure widespread reach and impact.
		Ensure the timely release and proper implementation of budgets allocated for GBV awareness programs.
	One of the primary challenges is the insufficient funding allocated for GBV awareness programs. Without adequate financial resources, it is difficult to sustain effective campaigns and initiatives.	Ensure the timely release and proper implementation of budgets allocated for GBV awareness programs. All stakeholders must be involved in the planning and execution to maximize the effectiveness of these initiatives.
	There is a significant deficiency in the publicity of GBV laws and support services. Many people are unaware of the legal protections and resources available to them.	Partner with the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to extend GBV awareness campaigns to the most remote areas of the state. NOA's extensive network and experience in public education can significantly enhance the reach and effectiveness of these campaigns.


WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Ondo State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1		Not Implemented	There is currently no review or assessment of its effectiveness.
2		Not Implemented	While agencies are enforcing the VAPP Law, there is currently no mechanism in place to evaluate its impact in addressing customary practices.
3		Not Implemented	Although the VAPP law was passed and assented to in July 2021, there is currently no review or assessment of its effectiveness. However, proposals for its evaluation are being considered in some quarters
Access to Legal Justice			
4		Partially Implemented	There are family Court within the High Court and Magistrate Court which are saddled with GBV cases but they also attend to other criminal cases
5		Not Implemented	Within the High Court and Magistrate Court, specialised family courts handle GBV cases, However, there is no specialized courts exclusively for GBV cases.
6		Partially Implemented	There are gender desk officers dedicated to GBV cases.
7		Not Implemented	Partial trainings from some development partners/NGOs
8		Not Implemented	
Support Services			
9		Partially Implemented	State shelter is currently under construction.
10		Partially Implemented	The use of the Orphanage home in the state and shelters from some NGOs.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Ondo State

	11	Implement community-based support programs to complement formal shelter services, reducing the likelihood of victims returning to abusive environments.	Partially Implemented	Informal support systems for GBV survivors exist and it include community networks, family and friends, peer support group and traditional healers.
	12	Advocate for increased funding to expand the capacity of Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) to adequately serve the population.	Not Implemented	
	13	Ensure SARCs are fully equipped to provide comprehensive support, including medical aid and privacy facilities.	Partially Implemented	

Information and Awareness

	14	Design and implement targeted awareness campaigns at the local government level to enhance the spread of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials on GBV.	Not Implemented	IEC materials are disseminated using platforms like community meetings.
	15	Collaborate with community leaders and local influencers for effective grassroots outreach.	Partially Implemented	
	16	Increased production of IEC materials that are accessible to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and available in multiple formats to cater to diverse needs.	Partially Implemented	
	17	Engage with government bodies, NGOs, and private sector partners to secure resources for sustained awareness initiatives.	Partially Implemented	



Osun State



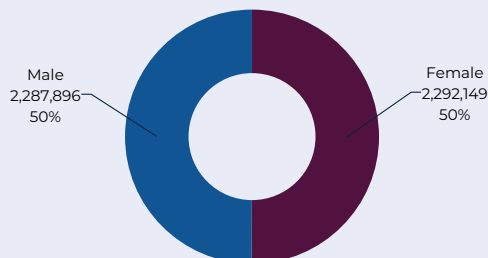
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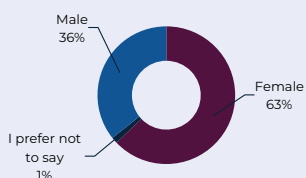




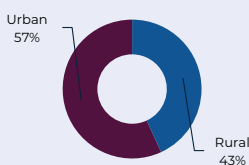
Total Population
4,580,045



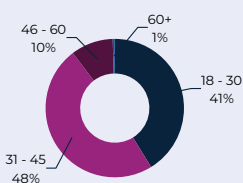
Respondents: 415



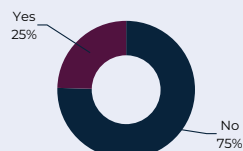
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **12**



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



No. of active shelters **6**



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



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

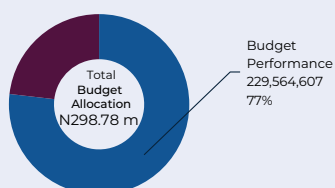


Budget and Spending

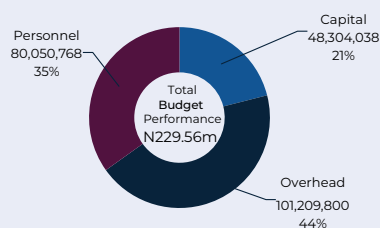


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

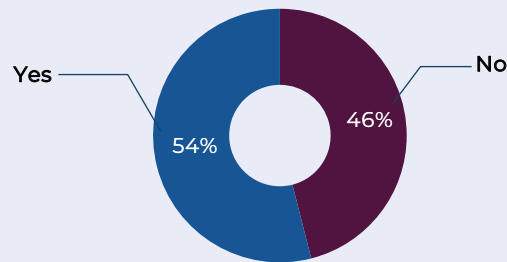


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N50.1**

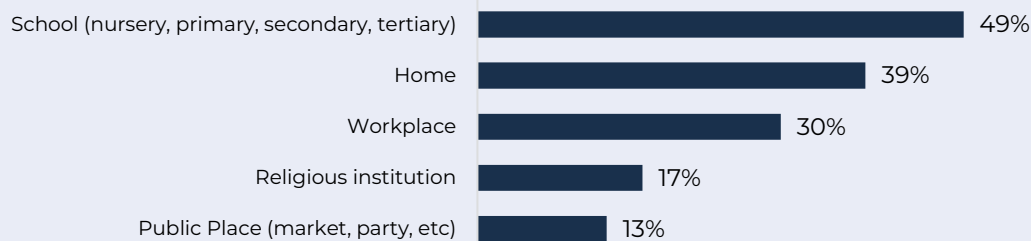
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



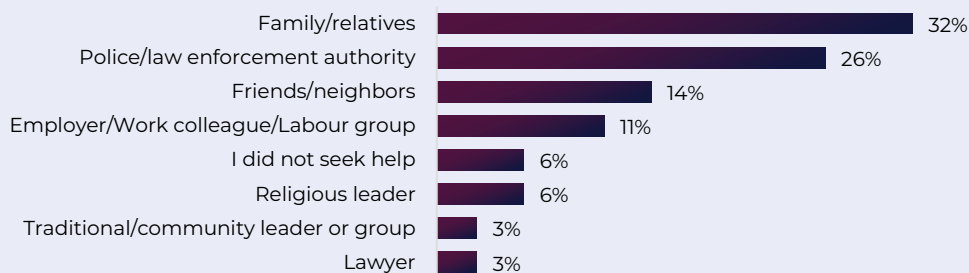
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



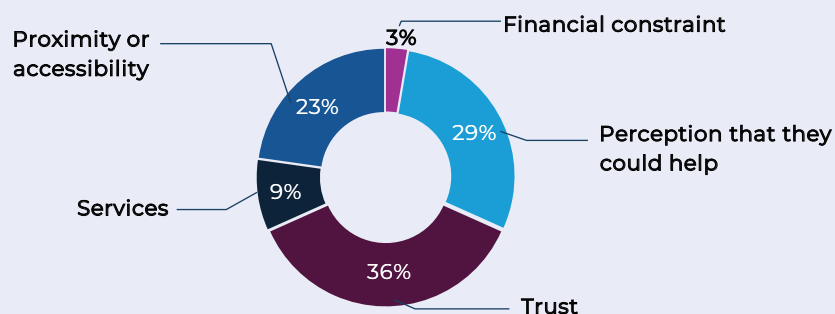
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

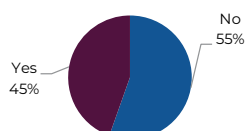


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

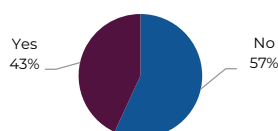


Laws and Policies

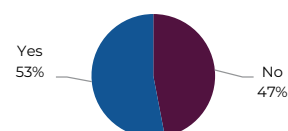
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

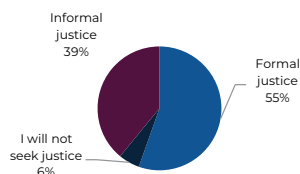


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

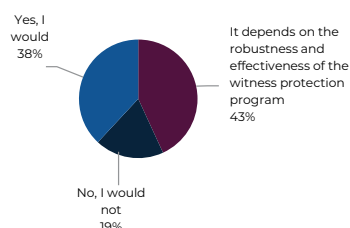


Access to Legal Justice

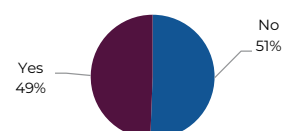
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

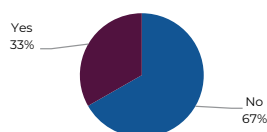


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

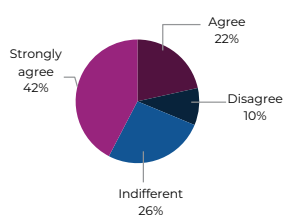


Support Services

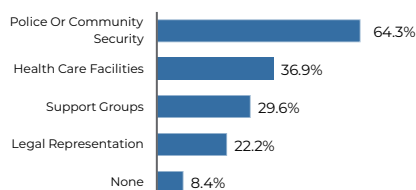
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



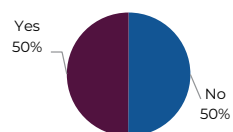
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

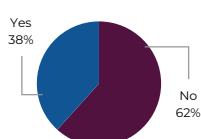


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

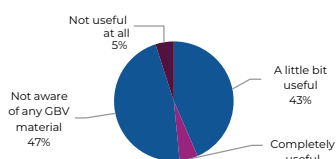


Information and Awareness

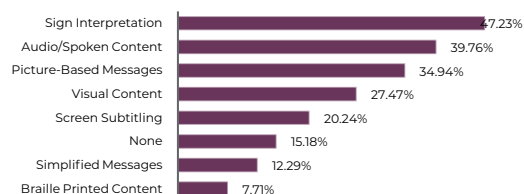
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

GBV-related laws and policies that exist in Osun State include: the Prohibition Law Against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), 2004, Child Rights Law 2007 (domesticated for Osun State), Anti-Domestic Violence Bill, 2013, Protection Against Domestic Violence Law, 2015, Osun State Gender Equity and Social Inclusion Policy 2018, VAPP Law, Criminal Code, Administrative of Criminal Justice Law (ACJL), and Law Against Gender Violence. Public awareness of the policy is low and persists as a gap in the state. 45% of respondents are aware of existing laws and/or policies that address GBV, however, 44% of respondents think formal laws and policies are effective and sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the State.

Osun State's efforts to improve awareness of the state's policy have led to training programs being conducted for law enforcement, judiciary, and social service providers to improve their understanding of GBV and their roles in addressing it. Lack of effective enforcement and utilization of the laws and lack of dedication among political leaders to prioritize and advocate for stringent measures against GBV has resulted in inadequate policy and lack of funding, hindering progress in combating the issue are some of the identified gaps that made GBV laws to be ineffective in Osun State. The informal justice system in Osun State operates through community leaders, religious leaders, and customary courts. 52% of respondents think customary and religious laws and practices help to prevent and respond to GBV in the state.

Access to Legal Justice

Victims can report GBV cases at police stations, Family Support Units (FSUs), and Human Rights Desks dedicated to handling such cases. Civil society organizations (CSOs) and community leaders also provide additional channels for victims to report incidents. The legal framework in Osun State aligns with the provisions of the VAPP Act, adapted to local laws. Special prosecutors are often involved in cases of GBV to streamline and expedite the judicial process. The enforcement of GBV laws is primarily conducted by the state police force, supported by CSOs and local enforcement units. However, cases of police obstructing justice by meddling with cases, either by destroying evidence, collecting bribes from perpetrators, and setting them free, still lingers. This serves as a major deterrent to the justice system in the state and proper measures need to be taken to address this.

There are ongoing partnerships with local NGOs to ensure proper enforcement and public awareness campaigns. 55% of respondents preferred to seek justice through the formal justice system, demonstrating confidence in state-level legal procedures and enforcement, albeit signaling a shift towards modern approaches over traditional practices. Osun State, through its collaboration with legal aid services and non-governmental organizations, offers legal assistance to GBV survivors. Evidence of this includes the provision of free legal representation by government-backed Legal Aid Councils and organizations such as FIDA (Federation of Women Lawyers), which offer pro bono services to victims. Witness protection programs are limited but present, primarily supported by CSOs. There are documented instances where survivors have been relocated temporarily to safe shelters during court proceedings to protect their identities and ensure their safety. There are no dedicated GBV judges or courts in the State. There are family support units in some police stations.

Support Services

Osun State has no SARC, however, there are 6 shelters. The shelter includes the Transit Home managed by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Community Development (MoWASCD), a Juvenile Correction Home in Testing Ground Osogbo. Non-governmental shelters such as the Catholic Shelters and Value Female Network Shelter also provide essential services. These shelters offer temporary accommodation, counseling, and essential support, with the SARC additionally equipped to provide forensic and medical services. Low awareness of these support services serves as a major challenge as only 33% of the study

population know of or have visited these centers or shelters. The reporting and referral pathways in Osun State involve healthcare facilities, law enforcement agencies, legal aid, and non-governmental support groups. Survivors can report cases through hospitals, police stations, or community security groups, with referrals to SARCs for comprehensive support. Despite these systems, 50% of the surveyed population expressed a preference for informal support systems, such as family, friends, religious institutions, and community groups, citing their accessibility and trustworthiness. Medical units and forensic labs have been pivotal in prosecuting GBV cases, providing forensic evidence critical for legal proceedings. However, budgetary allocations remain inadequate. While there are active efforts by NGOs and individual donors, government investments in expanding and improving these services are minimal, highlighting a need for greater prioritization and funding.

Information and Awareness

Osun State employs the use of weekly broadcasts that often discuss GBV issues, inviting guest speakers from civic organizations. Community Workshops are conducted occasionally in partnership with NGOs, these workshops aim to educate specific communities in recognizing and responding to GBV. There are pamphlets and posters in public spaces that provide basic information on identifying and reporting GBV. Despite these efforts, only 38% of respondents know of any GBV IEC materials or awareness programs in the state. Copies of the VAPP law are not given out free and have to be paid for. Only people who have connections get access to VAPP law. The laws are meant to be simplified and widely disseminated even to the grassroots.

Comprehensive sex education in the state has been implemented in varying degrees, with secondary schools incorporating basic sex education topics into health and physical education curricula. Comprehensive sex education in the state has been implemented in varying degrees, with secondary schools incorporating basic sex education topics into health and physical education curricula. Awareness programs exist but often fall short of being comprehensive and accessible to all members of the community, particularly PWDs.

Budget and Spending

In the 2023 fiscal year, Osun State allocated N298.8 million to its Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Affairs, with N229.56 million utilized, representing a 77% budget performance. This achievement ranked Osun as the second-best performing state in the southwestern region. The expenditure was primarily directed towards overhead costs, which accounted for N101.21 million (44.1%), followed by personnel costs at N80.1 million (34.9%) and capital expenditure at N48.3 million (21%). Despite this performance, Osun recorded the lowest per capita spending in the southwestern region, at just N50.1, highlighting the limited reach of the ministry's services. This reflects a significant funding challenge in effectively addressing the needs of women, children, and social affairs.



Human Angle Story






Miriam (real name withheld), a 29-year-old mother of two, recalls her harrowing experience after a domestic incident that left her injured and seeking refuge. With nowhere else to turn, she arrived at the SARC in Asubiaro. “The staff were welcoming,” she shares, tears brimming in her eyes. “I wasn’t just another case; they listened, and for the first time in weeks, I felt safe.” Miriam’s journey through the support systems highlighted both the strengths and gaps: while the SARC provided comprehensive medical and psychological help, navigating the legal system was daunting without adequate legal support. “I relied heavily on my community’s church group and a women’s network to help guide me. Without them, I wouldn’t have found the strength to pursue justice,” she admits.

Osun State



Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	Poor awareness of the laws and policies guiding GBV, even by personnel in the judiciary and other MDAs.	Training and capacity building of personnel on GBV laws and policies.
	Low/no implementation of the laws on GBV impedes the need for a review of the laws.	Enforcement and implementation of GBV-related laws and policies.
	Lack of political will to enforce the laws, therefore, there are no scapegoats to show the public the effectiveness of the laws.	The government should exercise political will in the enforcement of the laws and policies to generate trust from the public.
	Reportage of GBV, particularly FGM offences is not mandatory	The report of GBV cases should be made compulsory by creating a GBV tracker database and enforcing the sex offenders register as listed in the VAPP law
	Illiteracy and inability to read the laws in the English Language.	The law should be simplified and translated to local dialects or made into audio formats such as radio jingles.
Access to Legal Justice 	There are no budgetary allocations to the Ministry of Women Affairs and other MDAs that handle GBV matters.	There should be funding for the All Citizens Rights and Intervention for Cases of GBV that was set up by the government.
	Law enforcement agencies, especially the police, often frustrate cases deliberately by destroying evidence, collecting bribes from perpetrators, and poor presentation of cases.	Implement strict penalties for police officers and law enforcement personnel found guilty of corruption in GBV cases. Introduce anonymous reporting mechanisms for such misconduct.
	Bureaucratic bottlenecks in state agencies discourage survivors and/or their families, CSOs, and other people who may be assisting victims in accessing justice.	Capacity of public officers to be built through training
	Stigmatization, arising from poor knowledge, culture, and societal disposition toward legal prosecution. This leads to reluctance to go to court or report GBV cases to the appropriate agencies.	Train law enforcement, judiciary, and healthcare providers on trauma-informed care to prevent re-traumatization of victims during investigations and trials.
Support Services 	Non-functioning Sexual Assault Referral Center.	Activate the SARC in Osogbo to get it running while establishing more SARCs across the different senatorial districts and local government areas of the state.
	There are no government shelters. Available support systems are mainly individualistic.	Provision of additional and functional shelters for survivors of GBV.
	Poor security and amenities at private shelters.	Increased collaborative efforts with CSOs and the private sector to improve services offered by the facilities.

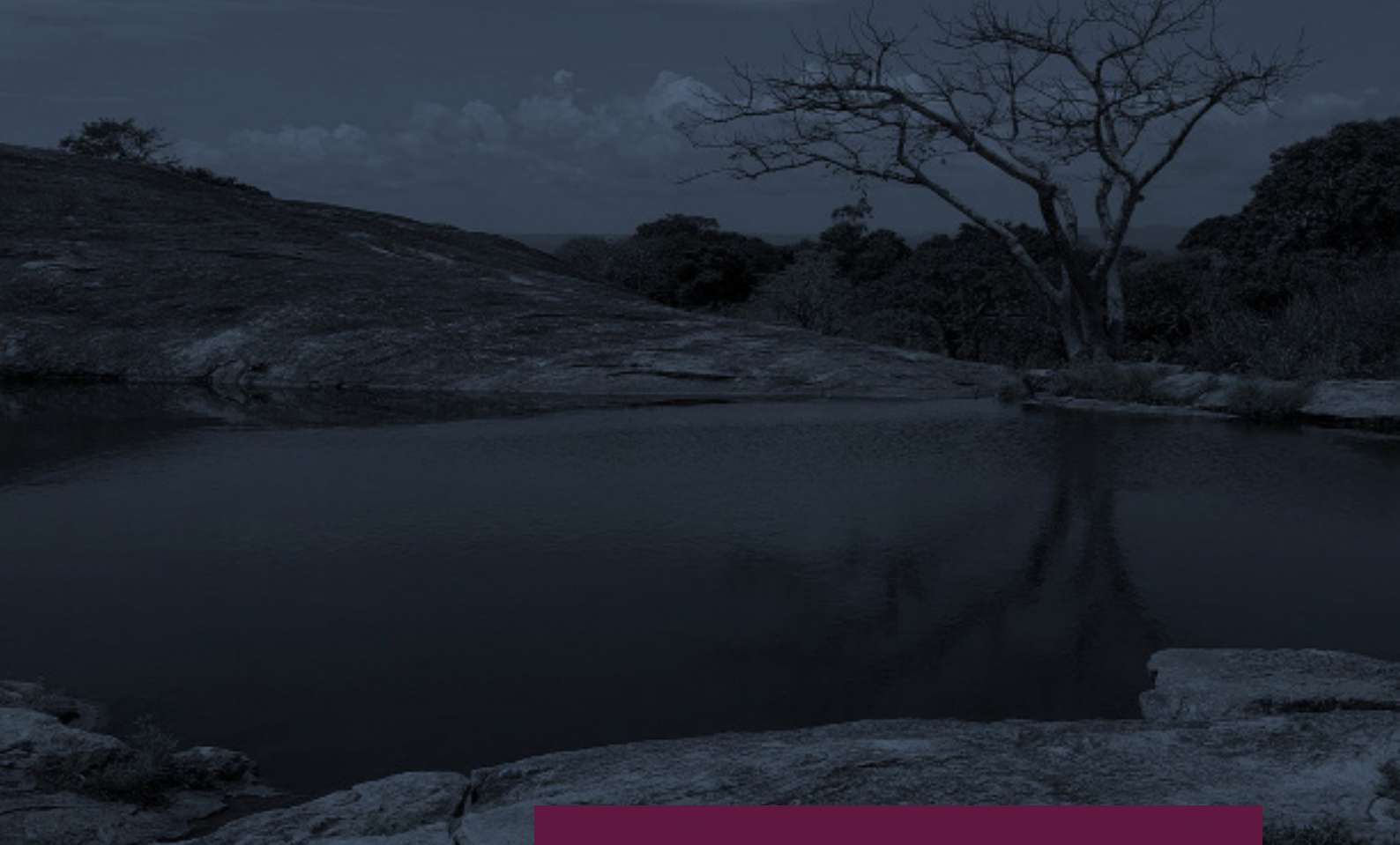
Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
Information and Awareness 	Information on GBV is inadequate and occasional. MDAs disseminate information only when they hold special programs or on International Day celebrations.	Develop a consistent and sustained statewide GBV awareness campaign, utilizing diverse communication channels, including traditional media, social media, and community outreach.
		Empower community-based organizations (CBOs) to deliver localized and culturally sensitive GBV information in underserved areas.
	Lack of political will on the part of government.	Incentivize political leaders to champion GBV-related policies by linking progress to measurable development indicators, such as SDG targets.
	Sex education is not taught in schools and requires the approval of the government to include it in the school curriculum at all levels of education.	Work with the state Ministry of Education to integrate comprehensive sex education into the school curriculum, tailored to each educational level.
Budget and Spending 	There is no dedicated budget for critical areas such as awareness campaigns, shelter operations, legal aid, or training for personnel handling GBV cases. This results in fragmented and unsustainable responses to GBV.	Allocate specific funds for GBV-related activities, including prevention campaigns, survivor support services, legal aid, and staff training, in the state's annual budget.
		Include budgetary provisions for expanding SARCs and establishing government-funded shelters in underserved areas.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Osun State

S/No.		Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies				
1		Engage relevant stakeholders to advocate for increased political will to enforce existing GBV laws, emphasising the importance of political influence in law implementation.	Not Implemented	A pervasive lack of dedication among political leaders to prioritize and advocate for stringent measures against GBV has resulted in inadequate policy support and funding.
2		Allocate adequate funds to the implementation of the existing laws and policies.	Not Implemented	The funds allocated is insufficient
3		Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to simplify and disseminate GBV laws using simplified English or local languages, as well as targeting diverse communication channels.	Not Implemented	some stakeholders that are within the rural areas are not well collaborated with.
4		Organise comprehensive sensitization programs for law enforcement agencies, especially the police, to ensure they are well-versed in GBV laws and their implications.	Partially Implemented	Training programs have been conducted for law enforcement, judiciary, and social service providers to improve their understanding of GBV and their roles in addressing it.
Access to Legal Justice				
5		Increase financial resources from government and NGOs to support prosecution efforts, ensuring survivors have access to justice.	Not Implemented	Insufficient funding persist for police, prosecution, and witness protection services.
6		Conduct specialised training programs for law enforcement agencies, focusing on the handling of GBV cases, evidence preservation, and ethical conduct.	Partially Implemented	While not widespread, there have been efforts to train judges to specialize in GBV cases.
7		Establish oversight mechanisms to address cases of deliberate frustration and corruption within law enforcement agencies.	Not Implemented	Cases of police obstructing justice by meddling with cases, either by destroying evidence, collecting bribes from perpetrators and setting them free, still lingers.
8		Appoint dedicated judges for GBV cases, to ensure a more focused and expedited legal process.	Not Implemented	there is no specific judges for GBV cases within the state
9		Osun state government needs to establish Gender Desks in all police stations, providing specialized support for GBV cases.	Partially Implemented	
Support Services				
10		Conduct extensive awareness campaigns to educate the public about the existing referral centres and reporting pathways for GBV cases.	Fully Implemented	the state government under the ministry of women and children affairs do conduct campaign every quarter of the year across the state.
11		Collaborate with community leaders and influencers to enhance awareness at the grassroots level.	Partially Implemented	The community leaders, eg. the kings are also aware

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Osun State

12		Establish government-owned shelters, addressing security concerns and ensuring adequate facilities for survivors.	Partially Implemented	There are shelters but not functioning
13		Collaborate with NGOs and individuals to improve existing shelters and make them more sustainable.	Partially Implemented	Some individuals support by providig food for the victims.
14		Allocate resources to revitalize and expand SARCs within the state, ensuring they are fully equipped and functional with an enhanced medical aid component.	Not Implemented	Nothing is allocated
Information and Awareness				
15		Establish routine information sharing mechanisms for disseminating IEC materials on GBV, ensuring consistent and frequent awareness that goes beyond special occasions.	Partially Implemented	yes,the state government aiways have a rally on GBV every quater of the year.
16		Ensure IEC materials are sensitive to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), incorporating diverse formats and engaging PwDs in program designs.	Not Implemented	IEC materials not sensitive to PWDs, and they are often not included in programme designs. There is no routine information sharing mechanisms for PWDs.
17		Ensure the VAPP laws and related information are freely accessible to citizens, eliminating barriers to obtaining crucial legal information.	Not Implemented	VAPP law not given out free and has to be paid for. Only people that have connections get access to VAPP law
18		Work with international organisations to secure funding to facilitate the widespread dissemination of IEC materials, addressing the challenge of inadequate resources.	Not Implemented	



Oyo State



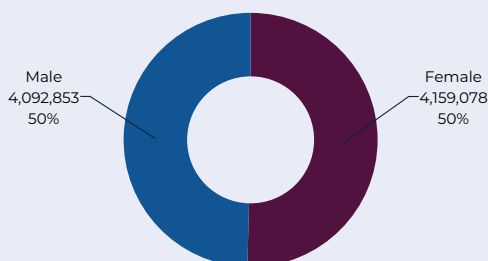
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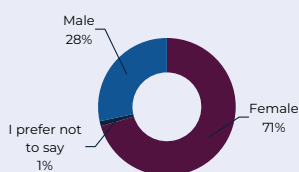




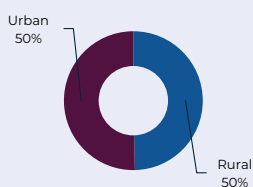
Total Population
8,251,931



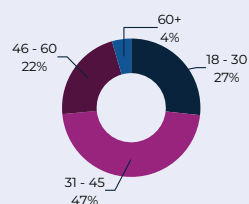
Respondents: 423



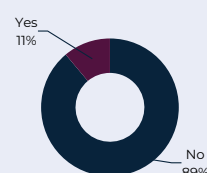
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **50**



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



No. of active shelters **3**



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



Index Grades

Laws and Policies **●**

Access to Legal Justice **●**

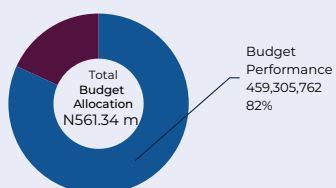
Support Services **●**

Information and Awareness **●**

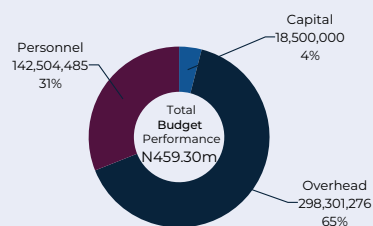
Budget and Spending **●**

Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

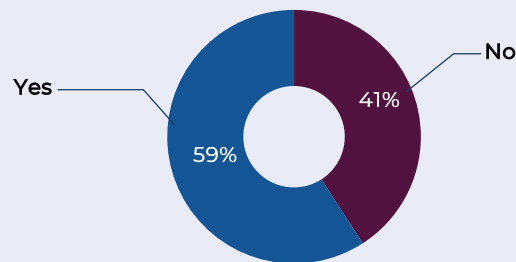


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N55.7**

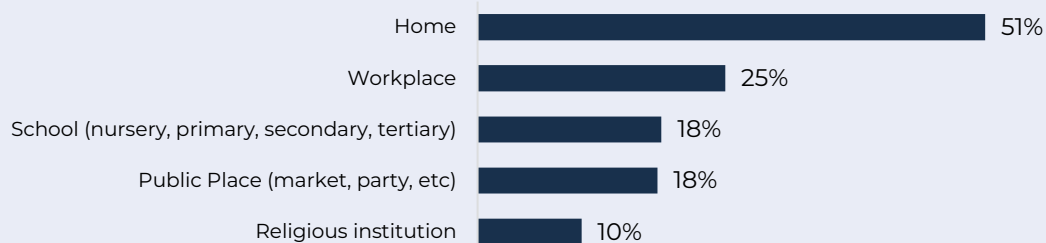
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



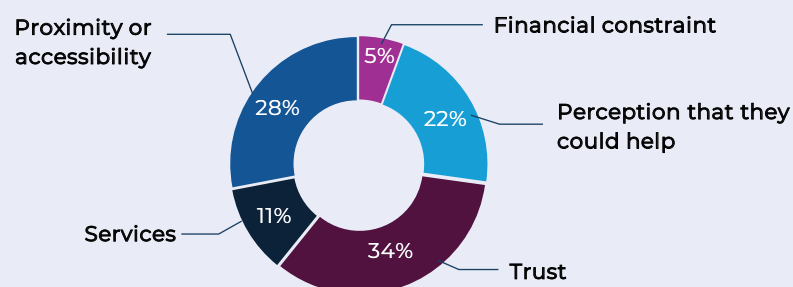
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

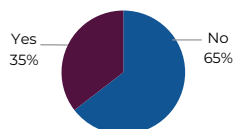


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

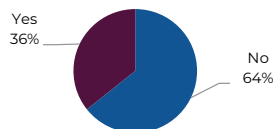


Laws and Policies

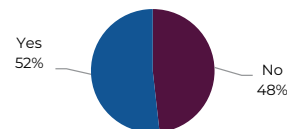
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

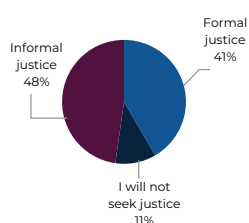


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

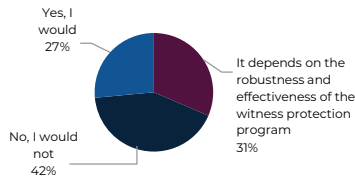


Access to Legal Justice

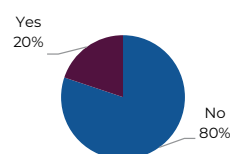
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

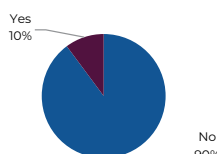


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

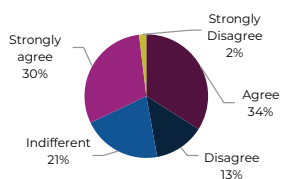


Support Services

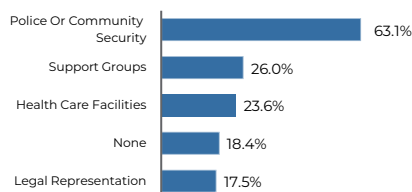
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



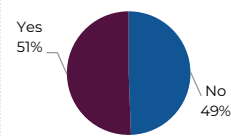
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

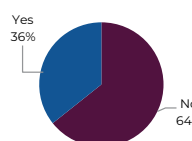


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

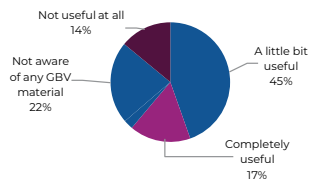


Information and Awareness

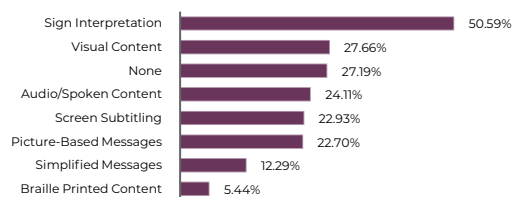
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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 Ogbomoso. 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
Laws and Policies 	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.	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.
	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.	Build capacity for policymakers by organizing training sessions on the importance of prioritizing GBV prevention and response.
	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	Introduce a dedicated GBV budget line in the state's annual budget. Partner with donor agencies and private organizations to provide supplementary funding
	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.	Develop a formalized unified coordination framework with defined roles and responsibilities for all GBV stakeholders, ensuring accountability and streamlined service delivery.
	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.	Establish a centralized, digital GBV case management system to track cases, interventions, and outcomes. Train relevant personnel in data collection and analysis
Access to Legal Justice 	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.	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.
	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.	Implement strict penalties for police officers and law enforcement personnel found guilty of corruption in GBV cases. Introduce anonymous reporting mechanisms for such misconduct.
	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.	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.
	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.	Train law enforcement, judiciary, and healthcare providers on trauma-informed care to prevent re-traumatization of survivors during investigations and trials.
	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.	Establish a state-sponsored witness protection program to safeguard survivors and witnesses from threats or violence during and after legal proceedings.

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Support Services 	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.
Information and Awareness 	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.
	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.
Budget and Spending 	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 Recommendations
Oyo State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1		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		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		Not Implemented	There is no annual reporting on the implementation of GBV laws currently running in Oyo state.
4		Not Implemented	The government and officers in charge have not established a monitoring and reporting mechanism for tracking implementation progress.
Access to Legal Justice			
5		Partially Implemented	The appointment of dedicated GBV judges and the establishment of specialized GBV courts to expedite cases.
6		Not Implemented	No verifiable funding are available for this purpose in budget or in donor funded activities
7		Not Implemented	Currently, Oyo State lacks a formal witness protection program for survivors of GBV, leaving many vulnerable to retaliation and intimidation by perpetrators.
Support Services			
8		Partially Implemented	Budget are often allocated to the SARC centers, however the process of getting the releases were said to be cumbersome.
9		Not Implemented	No partnership exit between private sectors and NGOs to supplement government funding.
10		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 Recommendations
Oyo State

11	Allocate sufficient funding to strengthen informal support systems, ensuring they have the resources and capacity to effectively complement formal services.	Not Implemented	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.	Not Implemented	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.	Partially Implemented	There are pockets of state collaboration with NGOs in Oyo state on awareness programmes (e.g. Onelife, Acthub, Trailblazers etc.).





Plateau State



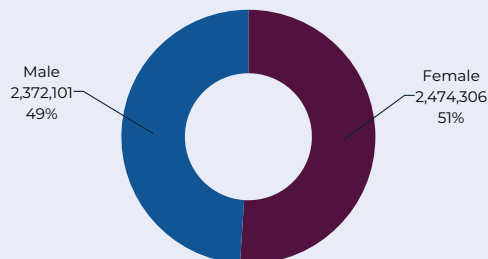
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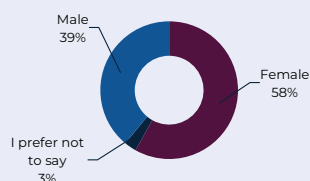




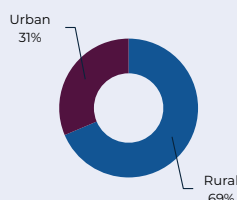
Total Population
4,846,407



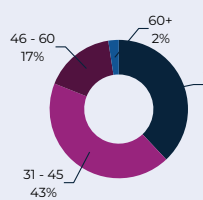
Respondents: 695



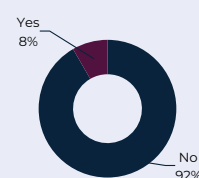
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **365**



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

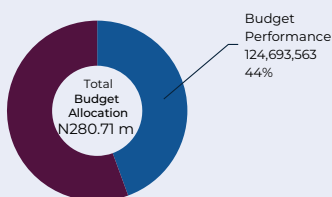


Budget and Spending

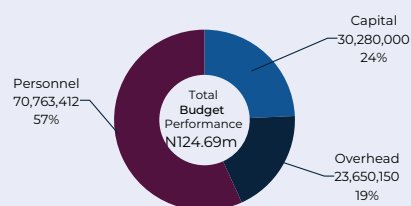


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

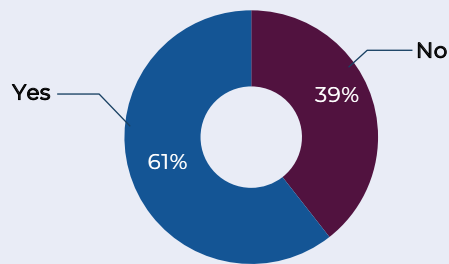


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N25.7**

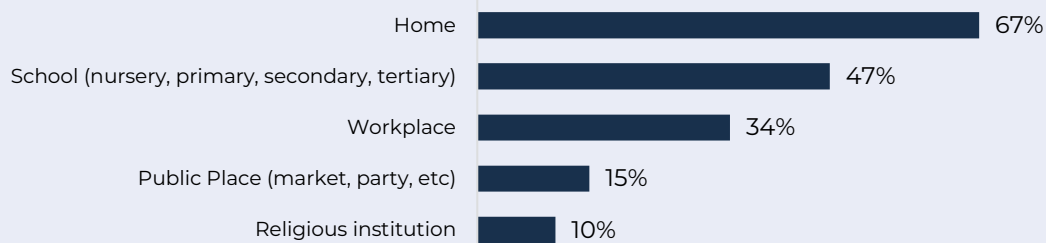
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



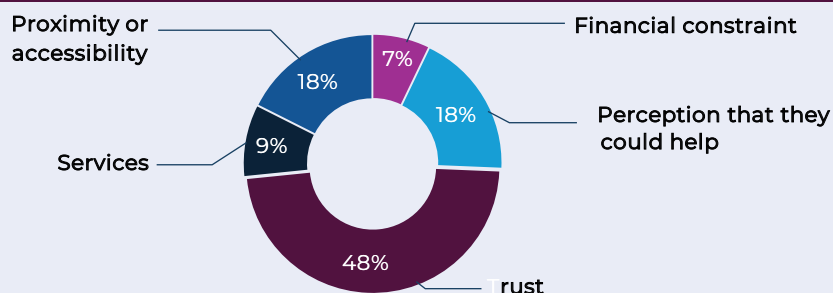
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

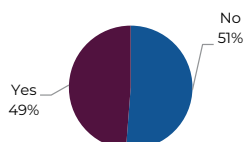


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

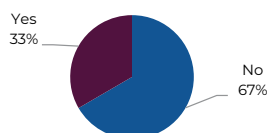


Laws and Policies

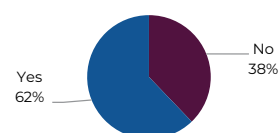
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

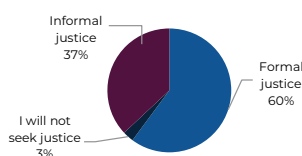


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

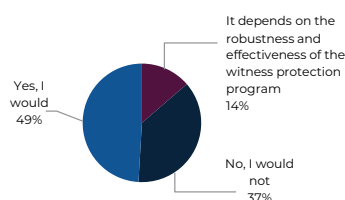


Access to Legal Justice

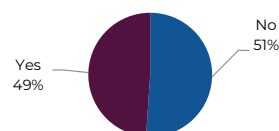
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

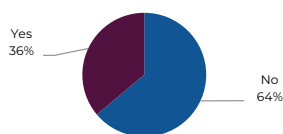


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

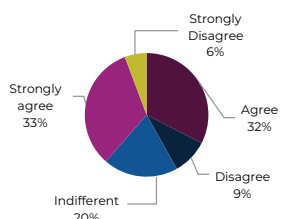


Support Services

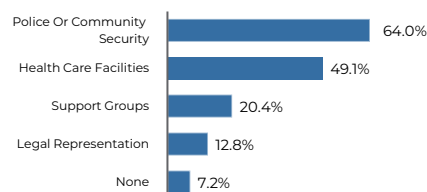
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



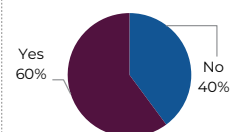
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

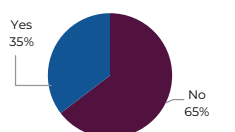


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

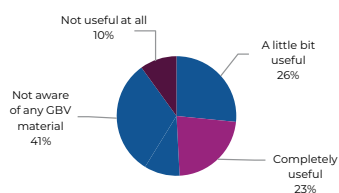


Information and Awareness

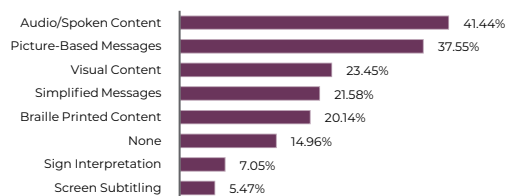
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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. Adequately fund the Department of Citizens Right and Law Reform within the Ministry of Justice to facilitate a robust witness protection program that encourages victims and survivors of GBV to be more confident and outspoken in reporting cases of GBV.
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.

Indicators	Key Findings	Recommendations
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.
Budget and Spending 	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.	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.
	On a per capita basis, the total spending by the MOWASD was N124.69b, while the capita spending was N25.7.	
	No specific budget line on GBV prevention and response was identified in the MOWASD's 2023 budget.	Create specific budget lines that cater to GBV prevention and response.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 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 SARCs 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



Rivers State



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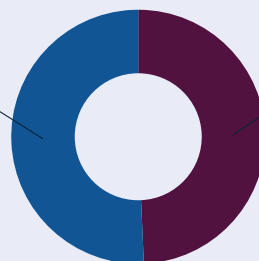
invictus
AFRICA





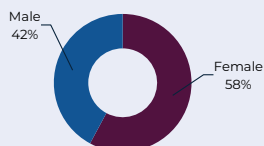
Total Population
7,735,387

Male
3,922,356
51%

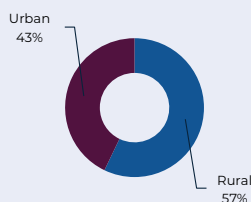


Female
3,813,031
49%

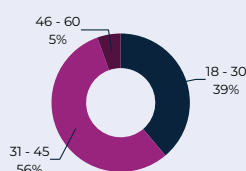
Respondents: 420



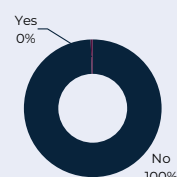
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **1100**



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



No. of active shelters **4**



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs) **1**



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

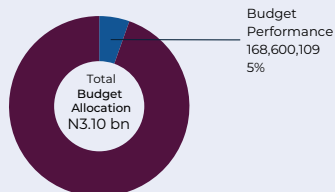


Budget and Spending

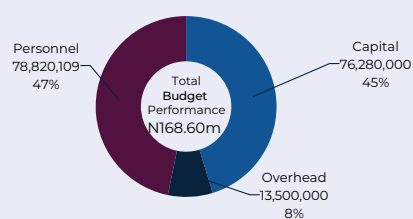


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

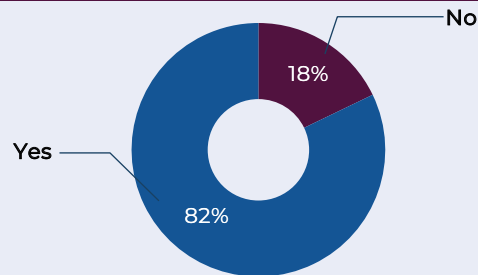


Budget Expenditure (2023)

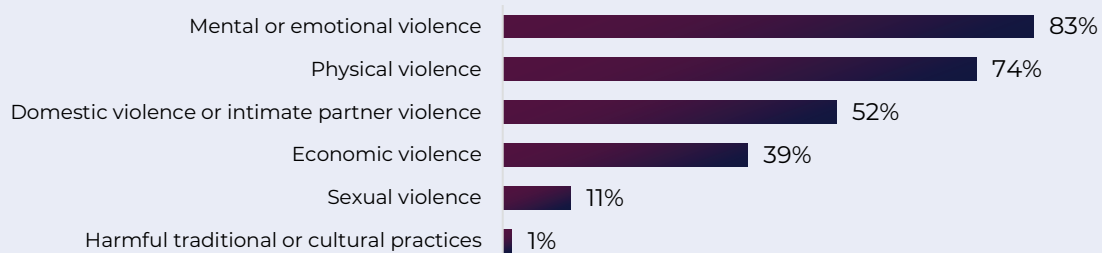


Per Capita Spending **N21.8**

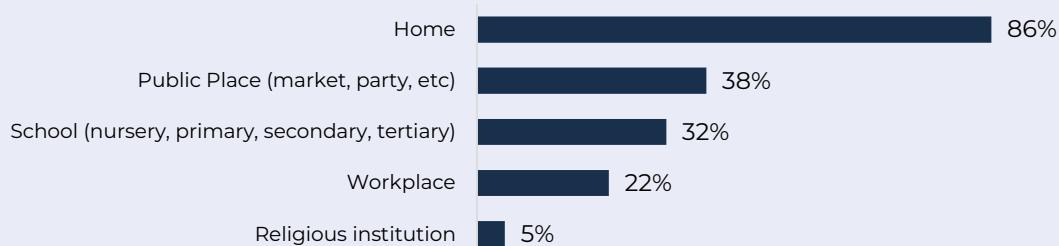
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



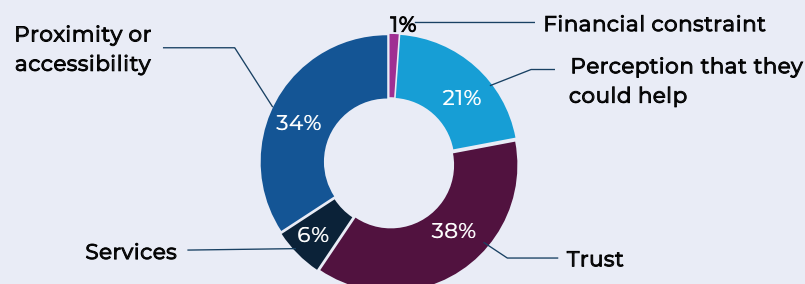
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

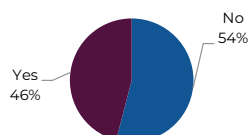


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

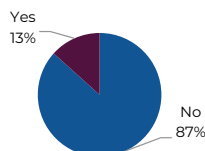


Laws and Policies

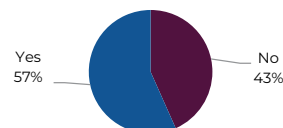
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

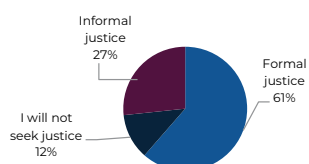


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

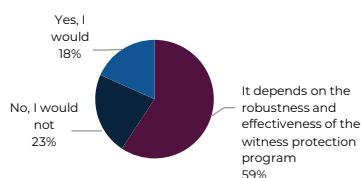


Access to Legal Justice

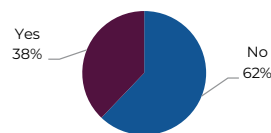
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

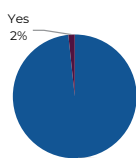


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

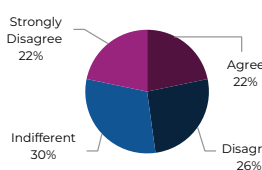


Support Services

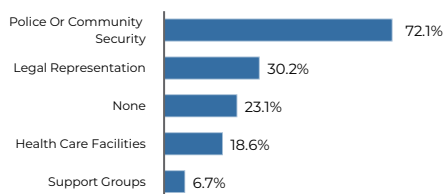
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



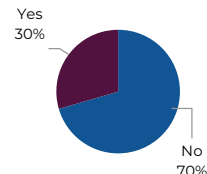
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

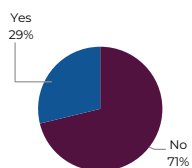


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

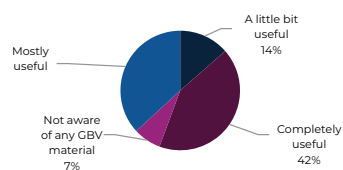


Information and Awareness

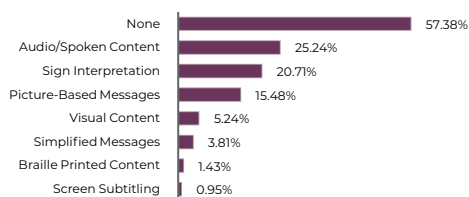
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Rivers State witnessed a significant surge in reported gender-based violence (GBV) cases in 2023, with 800 incidents reported. While 300 cases were prosecuted, 25 are still pending in court. Despite several laws, including the VAPP Law of 2020 and the Child Rights Law, effective implementation and enforcement remain major challenges. Survey results reveal that only 46% of the public is aware of these laws and policies, and only 13% are aware of GBV cases resulting in convictions. To address this issue, Rivers State needs to prioritize increased funding for GBV prevention and response programs, enhanced sensitization and training for public and law enforcement agencies, strengthened law enforcement, and legal reforms to ensure clarity and effectiveness in addressing GBV. Despite enacting the Rivers State Dehumanizing and Harmful Practices Abolition Law No. 11 of 2023, which explicitly prohibits harmful practices against widows, these practices persist. This is largely due to the weak implementation and enforcement of the law and its associated penalties. To address this issue, Rivers State is actively reviewing the Rivers State Administration of Criminal Justice Law to strengthen legal frameworks and enhance the response to gender-based violence.

Access to Legal Justice

The state has a comprehensive GBV reporting system that includes the Police, NSCDC, NAPTIP, the Ministry of Social Welfare, NGOs like FIDA, and the Family Court. Reports can also come from whistleblowers, social media, and journalists. Prosecution is carried out by the Police, NSCDC, the Ministry of Justice, and private attorneys, with cases often escalating from the Magistrate Court to the High Court after investigations and filings by the Department of Public Prosecution. These same bodies supported by NGOs spearhead law enforcement, although their effectiveness is moderate. The survey shows that 61% of the population would seek formal justice. Legal aid services are accessible, with state and NGO-provided pro bono legal representation, including support from the Legal Aid Council, FIDA, and public defenders. Witness protection is not robust, with options like safe houses and private family court proceedings, especially for children. Informal justice systems include traditional rulers, religious councils, and alternate dispute resolution centres. While these systems can resolve disputes, respondents criticized their lack of legal training, inconsistent practices, and bias. There are no specialized and exclusive police units; however, there are human rights desks at some of the police divisions/headquarters and exclusive judges on SGBV/GBV at the family court, which require capacity building to enhance their effectiveness and also improve the long litigation process which persists as a gap in the justice system making people lose interest in reporting and after reporting, withdraw or abandon their cases.

Support Services

Rivers State has no established Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC). However, there are 25 GBV Centres staffed with trained healthcare professionals. These centres are strategically located in 21 of the 23 Local Government Areas, ensuring wider accessibility. The GBV Centres offer a range of services, including counselling, HIV testing, pregnancy testing, and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for rape victims. They also facilitate referrals to other relevant agencies like the Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, and NGOs. The state currently operates four active shelters, with the Safe Home in Borokiri, Port Harcourt, being the most accessible. However, the distance from other LGAs to the state capital poses a challenge for accessing this shelter. The Safe Home provides comprehensive services, including accommodation, a child-friendly witness room, a crèche, a library, a probation unit, a counselling unit, and dedicated courtrooms. In Rivers State, GBV cases can be reported to various agencies, including the Police, NSCDC, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women Affairs, and Ministry of Justice. Depending on the nature of the GBV incident, appropriate referrals are made to ensure victims receive the necessary support. Within communities, traditional leaders, religious leaders, police, community security groups, and health facilities often serve as initial points of contact for reporting GBV. These entities may handle cases directly or refer them to formal agencies. The state operates two dedicated hotlines managed by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation. However, 71.07% of the respondents believe that informal support systems, such as family, friends, religious centres, and community groups, are ineffective in

supporting GBV victims and survivors.

Information and Awareness

GBV sensitization campaigns are periodically conducted in the state by government agencies and civil society organizations (CSOs/NGOs). These campaigns utilize various IEC materials, including audio, radio, TV, print media, and social media. However, only 29% of the surveyed population is aware of available GBV information and education programs. In secondary schools, comprehensive sex education, GBV prevention, and response are taught in collaboration with gender-based coalition organizations, the National Orientation Agency, and the Ministry of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation. While these efforts are commendable, GBV awareness programs and IEC materials often lack inclusivity for persons with disabilities. While materials are available in audio, visual, and simplified formats, Braille-printed content and screen subtitling are absent. Adequate funding is essential to improve the effectiveness of GBV awareness campaigns. This includes increasing frequency, expanding coverage to all local government areas, and ensuring the inclusion of diverse formats to cater to the needs of persons with disabilities.

Budget and Spending

In 2023, the Rivers State Ministry of Women Affairs received a budget allocation of N3.11 billion. However, the ministry only spent N168.6 million, resulting in a low budget performance of 5%. This low-budget execution reflects a de-prioritization of issues affecting women, children and vulnerable members of the society. The expenditure was allocated as follows: N78.82 million for personnel, N13.5 million for overhead, and N76.28 million for capital projects. With a population of 9.27 million, this translates to a meagre N21.80 per person, highlighting the urgent need for improved budget allocation and spending to address critical needs, including gender-based violence (GBV). Some specific GBV-related budget allocations for 2023 included N90 million for the rehabilitation of the Safe Home in Port Harcourt, N26 million for transportation for rapid response to rape incidents, and N14 million for the construction of a women's safe haven.



Human Angle Story






Following a GBV awareness program in a community, a girl approached an NGO's Executive Director to disclose a harrowing ordeal of sexual abuse by her father. The girl expressed fear of returning home. Upon further inquiry, it was revealed that the mother was aware of the abuse but had failed to report it due to threats from the father. Despite the mother's reluctance, the NGO, led by a human rights lawyer, took up the case. The girl was placed in a safe shelter, and legal proceedings were initiated. The case is currently ongoing in court.

Rivers State

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	Rivers State Prohibition of the Curtailment of Women's Rights to Share in Family Property Law, No.2 of 2022.	Improving the willpower of the government and stakeholders will help establish these laws by going the extra mile to ensure their implementation.
	Rivers State repealed and replaced the Dehumanizing and Harmful Practices (Abolition) (Amendment) bill, 2019 to strengthen penalties and clarify protections for widows. Despite this, harmful practices persist.	<p>Adequate training should be carried out for effective enforcement and implementation.</p> <p>More efforts are encouraged to ensure a wider spread of awareness of the intricacies of this policy.</p>
	Domesticated laws fail to reach grassroots levels, stagnating at state level, leaving LGAs and communities uninformed.	<p>Funding should be available to ensure the state properly implements these laws.</p> <p>Stakeholders should conduct regular awareness programs across all LGAs, utilizing diverse channels such as roadshows, radio programs, town hall meetings, and community outreaches to educate the public on existing laws and policies.</p>
		More funding should also be made available for proper sensitization and awareness programs.
Access to Legal Justice 	The current allocation of GBV judges is insufficient, with only a few designated judges in regular courts and two dedicated judges in the family court, hindering efficient trial processing.	Increase the number of designated GBV judges in courts statewide and allocate necessary funding to establish specialized GBV courts with dedicated judges, ensuring timely and effective justice for GBV survivors.
	Delays in GBV case hearings and external pressures lead to report withdrawals, compromising justice for survivors.	accelerated hearings should be allotted to reported cases, and victims' families should be educated and supported to resist pressures to withdraw reports or accept monetary compensation, thereby holding perpetrators accountable.
	A pro bono legal assistance program exists for indigent GBV survivors, but awareness is lacking.	Promote pro bono legal aid through targeted awareness campaigns to empower indigent GBV survivors to access justice.
Support Services 	The state lacks a functional Sexual Assault Referral Centre and has insufficient GBV shelters and service centers, leaving survivors without adequate support.	Establish more GBV shelters and service centers, increase funding for existing ones, and activate the SARC to ensure survivors receive necessary care and support.
	Inadequate funding for GBV survivor support programs, hindering livelihood enhancement and recovery efforts.	The government should partner with CSOs/NGOs to attract donor organizations to fund projects that will enhance the livelihood of GBV survivors.
	Low awareness of GBV referral pathway.	Increase staff strength to distribute awareness programs and sensitize the public about the various referral pathways.

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
Information and Awareness 	GBV IEC materials lack accessibility features for people with disabilities, limiting their reach and effectiveness.	Develop and disseminate disability-friendly GBV IEC materials, incorporating diverse accessibility features and media formats to ensure inclusive awareness and support.
	Lack of sex education in school curricula and inadequate training for teachers on addressing sexual harassment, leaving students vulnerable to GBV.	There should be consultative meetings involving the stakeholders on the need for sex education to be incorporated into the school curriculum and comprehensive training for the teachers on sexual harassment.
	Inconsistent and limited GBV awareness programs, with inadequate coverage of local governments, except for radio broadcasts.	Expand coverage of GBV awareness programs to reach all local governments, utilizing diverse channels, including traditional and non-traditional.
Budget and Spending 	The Ministry of Women Affairs recorded the third lowest budget execution rate, 5%, among the 36 states.	The government should ensure that allocated funds to the Ministry are fully disbursed to enable the Ministry to respond sufficiently to GBV.
	A spending per capita of ₦21.8 by the Ministry of Women Affairs is grossly inadequate.	The government should increase budget allocation and spending to the Ministry to enable it to adequately address the GBV needs of the state.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Rivers State

S/No.	Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies			
1		Partially Implemented	GBV awareness programs is available on the special days and other times and are been carried out by the various MDAs and organizations.
2		Partially Implemented	The law enforcement agencies do not fully implement and enforce these laws.
3		Not Implemented	The law does not envisage that there should be provision for budget and training, and most of the relevant personnel lack capacity building to carry out the duties stated in the laws.
4		Partially Implemented	Some laws where gaps were identified have been reviewed and efforts are been made to review the Rivers State Administration of Criminal Justice laws.
Access to Legal Justice			
5		Partially Implemented	There is lack of enforcement system.
6		Partially Implemented	The witness protection program is not robust and effective but it is in existence, and one of the reasons the family court was established.
7		Partially Implemented	Pro-bono services for indigent persons is in existence though sensitization and awareness is low.
8		Partially Implemented	The Family court is functional and has helped to presrve more constructive relationships in th families though there is low sensitization about its existence.
9		Not Implemented	There are long litigation process which make people lose interest in reporting and after reporting, withdraw or abandon their cases.
Support Services			
10		Not Implemented	There is a functional SARC comprising of a holistic structure in the State capital though not available in all LGAs.
11		Not Implemented	There is a Safe home and active shelters though not sufficient for the population. CSOs/organizations that collaborate with the government supports with skill acqisition programs though not sufficient for the population.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER 2023 Recommendations Rivers State			
12	Sensitization and awareness programs should be carried out to make the GBV reporting pathways known to the public.	Partially Implemented	Sensitization and awareness programs are been carried out but not taken to the grassroots as most of the people living in the rural communities are not aware of the appropriate GBV reporting pathways.
13	Sensitization programs should form a primary function for the Ministries allocated to attend to GBV issues to enable awareness of the public on GBV.	Partially Implemented	Sensitization programs are been carried out but more work needs to be done.
Information and Awareness			
14	The state should make provision for IEC materials for sensitization, awareness, and intervention programs.	Partially Implemented	The MDAs uses IEC materials through collaboration with NGOs/ CSOs.
15	The state should encourage regular sensitization programs.	Not Implemented	Sensitization programs are carried out in the State though not regularly.
16	Comprehensive sex education should be included in the school curriculum to be studied as a subject in secondary schools.	Not Implemented	Sex education is taught in secondary schools in a collaborative manner with gender based coalition organizations and National Orientation Agency but not as a subject imbded in the school curriculum.
17	The GBV awareness programs should be disability friendly to accommodate people living with disability.	Partially Implemented	it is not completely disability friendly as pictures and audio messages are used but other forms of disabilities are not put into consideration.





Sokoto State



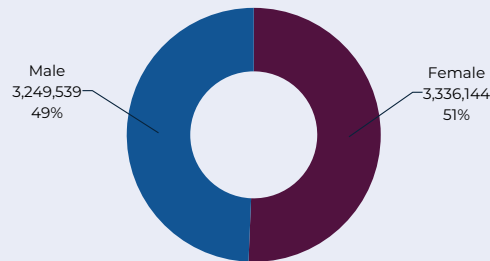
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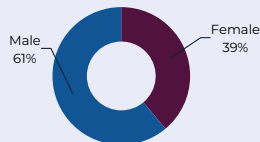




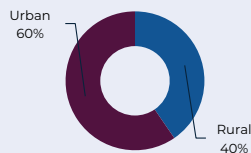
Total Population
6,585,683



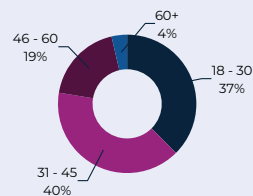
Respondents: 522



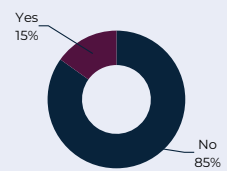
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **67**



No. of active Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC)s **1**



No. of active shelters **1**



No. of Family Support Units (FSUs) **1**



Index Grades

Laws and Policies



Access to Legal Justice



Support Services



Information and Awareness

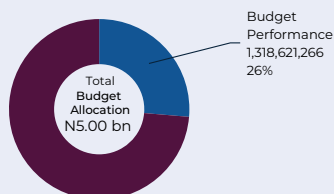


Budget and Spending

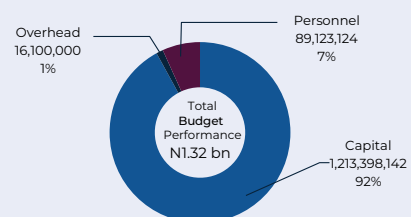


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

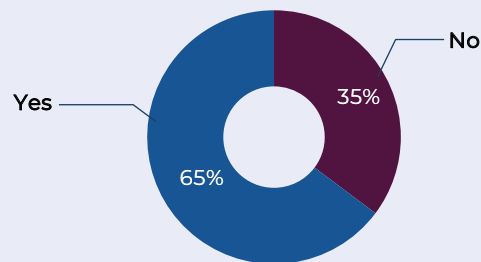


Budget Expenditure (2023)

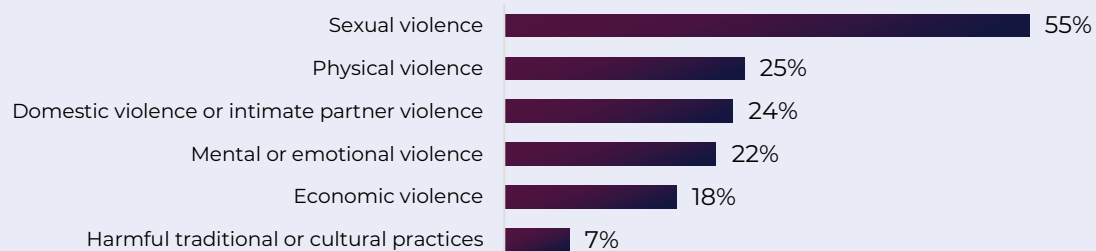


Per Capita Spending **N200.2**

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?



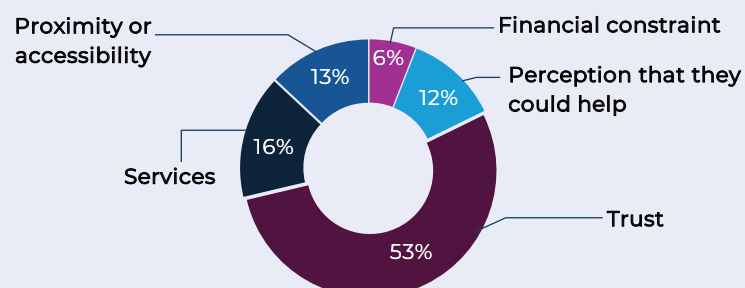
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

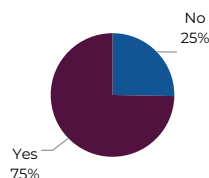


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

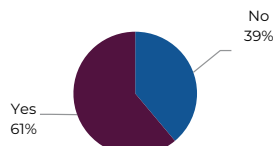


Laws and Policies

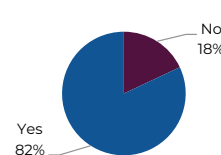
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

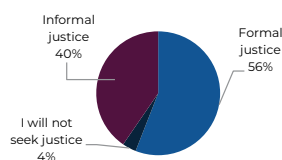


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

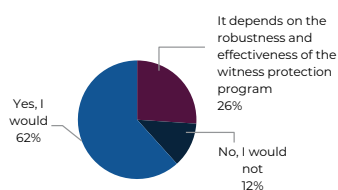


Access to Legal Justice

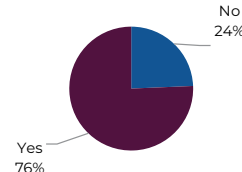
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

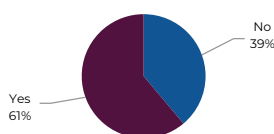


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

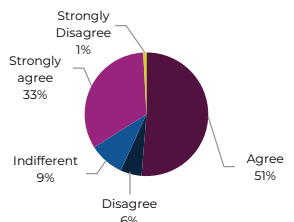


Support Services

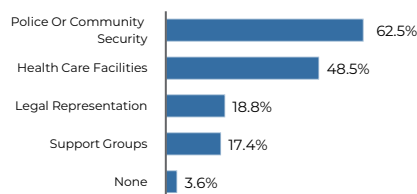
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



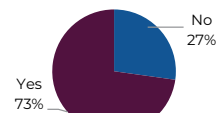
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

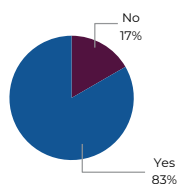


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

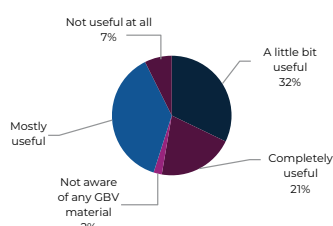


Information and Awareness

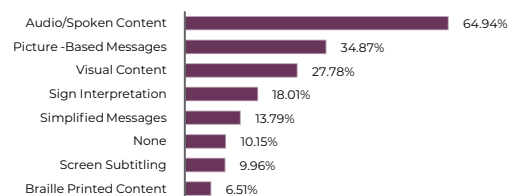
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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

Sokoto State's GBV-related laws include the Violence Against Persons (Prohibitions) Law 2021, Penal Code Law 2019, Child Protection Law 2021, and Administration of Criminal Justice Law 2019. The States' VAPP law requires amendments to contain penalties for coercion and violence committed by state actors, clearly indicate which courts have jurisdiction to administer the law and require annual reporting on its implementation to ensure accountability and transparency. Furthermore, the provision on rape should be amended to explicitly include the conditions under which sexual intercourse between spouses can be considered spousal rape, which include the absence of consent from one spouse and the use of force or coercion by one spouse against the other. While 70.5% of the population is aware of the GBV laws and policies in the state, and 74.7% perceive them as effective, enforcement remains a significant challenge due to factors such as low political commitment, cultural and religious barriers, and underreporting. Civil society organizations have played a crucial role in advocating for stronger laws, as evidenced by the review of the state's Penal Code in 2019. In the past year, 67 GBV cases were reported to the Ministry of Justice. While 20 cases are still pending, 30 have been adjudicated, and 20 convictions have been secured. Sharia law, administered in Sharia courts, is widely accepted and supports GBV prevention, with 79.2% of respondents viewing these practices as effective. As the state's spiritual and traditional leader, the Sultan of Sokoto has taken a strong stance against GBV, threatening to strip the titles of traditional leaders who undermine these efforts.

Access to Legal Justice

Sokoto State employs a multi-tier GBV reporting system, starting with community Surveillance Teams and escalating to the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence/Child Protection Response Team, which comprises CSOs, security agencies, and NGOs and is supervised by the Ministry for Women and Children Affairs. Security agencies, including the police, NSCDC, and NAPTIP, handle prosecution, while the response team serves as a follow-up mechanism. A referral pathway and list simplify reporting across the state. 48.6% of the surveyed population indicated they would seek formal justice. Survivors receive legal aid from the Ministry of Justice, Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), and pro bono lawyers, though no witness protection program exists. Efforts are made to ensure confidentiality and safety. Courts in Sokoto State lack dedicated judges or timelines for GBV cases, causing judgment delays. Informal justice systems, including traditional and religious leaders, resolve disputes through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) but need more enforcement powers and confidentiality, leading to limited survivor engagement. Police Family Support Units and trained desk officers across agencies handle GBV cases, but there are no specialized GBV courts or judges. The community considers the informal justice system effective but lacks documentation, perpetuating stigma and underreporting.

Support Services

Sokoto State has one functional shelter—the Nana Asmau Shelter—jointly managed by the Ministry for Women and Children Affairs and NAPTIP. It supports survivors of GBV and human trafficking with services such as counselling, skills training, and empowerment. Additionally, the state has one Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), which provides counselling, medical treatment, and forensic examinations. General hospitals and primary healthcare centres also offer psychosocial first aid before referring cases. The state employs a tiered reporting and referral pathway. At the community level, Surveillance Teams, comprising representatives from various groups, report and follow up on cases.

The Sokoto State Sexual and Gender-Based Violence/Child Protection Response Team, which includes CSOs, security agencies, and NGOs, coordinates services like legal aid, medical care, and empowerment. This team conducts monthly and quarterly reviews. It is worth noting that with the ending of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative project in December 2023, reporting and response to cases of GBV has drastically reduced, and sustaining the gains of the project has proven to be a challenge. Most of the surveyed population (80.7%) prefer informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, and community groups over formal mechanisms for assisting survivors. Medical units and forensic labs play a limited role due to the lack of DNA testing facilities, reducing their contribution to effective GBV prosecutions.

Information and Awareness

Sokoto State uses Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials developed by the Ministry for Women and Children Affairs, development partners, and CSOs to raise GBV awareness. These materials, produced in Hausa, English, and Ajami, include banners, pamphlets, flyers, and posters with images and messages about GBV prevention and reporting. They also provide helpline numbers. Materials are distributed in schools, places of worship, markets, and during workshops, though they lack Braille formats for the visually impaired. The state's education curriculum does not include GBV prevention and response topics, mainly due to cultural and religious sensitivities, often conflating them with sex education. Efforts by CSOs aim to clarify these misconceptions and promote inclusion. Among the surveyed population, 81.9% are aware of GBV information and awareness materials. Although PWDs can engage with some materials, more inclusive formats like Braille are needed to ensure equitable access.

Budget and Spending





The 2023 budget for the Sokoto State Ministry of Women Affairs highlights significant gaps in execution. Of ₦5.01 billion allocated, only ₦1.32 billion was utilized, reflecting a 26% budget performance. This shortfall hinders the ministry's ability to deliver critical programs effectively. Personnel costs amounted to 6.8% (₦89.12 million), and overhead expenses were 1.2% (₦16.1 million), leaving most funds—92% (₦1.21 billion)—dedicated to capital projects. While this suggests focusing on infrastructure, operational and administrative needs remain underfunded. With a population of 6,585,683, per capita spending by the ministry was ₦200.20, indicating limited impact relative to the needs of women, children, and other vulnerable groups. Improved financial accountability, strategic resource utilization, and enhanced budgetary provisions are essential to maximize the ministry's role in addressing gender-based violence, empowerment, and social welfare.


Human Angle Story







The VAPP Law has enhanced justice delivery in Sokoto State, with judges imposing maximum punishments. In 2024, a State High Court judge sentenced two perpetrators to life imprisonment, including a 70-year-old man who assaulted two young girls and his neighbors' children. Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials on GBV have also been widely distributed alongside live phone-in programs sharing rapid response numbers. During the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative Project, a 16-year-old assault survivor from a rural LGA used a flyer with the SARC contact to seek help. She received medical treatment at the SARC and was referred to a teaching hospital for specialized care due to pregnancy complications. These efforts highlight the growing impact of awareness campaigns and legal frameworks in addressing GBV cases effectively.

Sokoto State

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Laws and Policies 	There is a widespread lack of awareness and understanding of the laws and policies, as they are not easily accessible or comprehensible to many community members, particularly those who cannot read or understand English.	Regular awareness campaigns should be conducted to educate the public on GBV-related laws and policies, with translations of the laws provided in Hausa and Ajami for wider accessibility.
	The limited application of the VAPP Law in prosecuting GBV cases hinders the enforcement of comprehensive legal protections and justice for victims.	Public prosecutors and the police should adopt and consistently apply the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law in the prosecution of GBV cases.
	The current laws and penalties fail to effectively deter GBV perpetrators, highlighting the need for a review of the legal frameworks.	GBV-related laws and policies should be thoroughly reviewed to strengthen punitive measures and effectively deter potential perpetrators
Access to Legal Justice 	Societal pressure, stigmatization, and political interference undermine the prosecution of GBV cases, often leading to inappropriate settlements and obstructing justice.	The government should allocate funds for promoting public awareness, implementing confidential reporting systems, and improving judicial independence to minimize undue settlements and guarantee fair prosecution.
	Prolonged legal proceedings result in undue delays that discourage survivors and impede the resolution of cases.	The government should establish specialized courts or judges and improve transparency by tracking caseloads and outcomes to expedite case resolution.
	Inadequate funding and limited capacity among law enforcement and judiciary stakeholders hinder thorough investigations and effective prosecution of GBV cases.	The government should allocate adequate funding for specialized training for law enforcement and judiciary stakeholders to improve GBV investigations and prosecution.
	The absence of a comprehensive witness protection program discourages witnesses from providing critical evidence, weakens perpetrators' prosecution, and jeopardizes fair justice outcomes.	The government should implement a robust witness protection program under the Ministry of Justice to safeguard witnesses and encourage their participation in GBV cases.
Support Services 	The state's SARCs and shelters are insufficient, underfunded, lack manpower, and not easily accessible to all communities.	The government should allocate resources to establish, equip, and staff additional SARCs and shelters, prioritizing underserved areas across the state.
Information and Awareness 	GBV information is not effectively designed to address the diverse needs of persons with disabilities (PwDs).	The government should ensure the development and dissemination of inclusive GBV materials in accessible formats, such as Braille, sign language, and audio resources, to effectively reach PwDs.
	Awareness campaigns are insufficient, with no dedicated budgetary allocation in Sokoto State.	The Ministry of Women Affairs should allocate a specific budget for sustained GBV awareness campaigns targeting urban and rural communities to ensure broad coverage.
	There are no GBV teaching guides, and misconceptions about sex education due to cultural and religious beliefs.	There is a need to clear such misconceptions around GBV and sex education through advocacy and capacity building primarily targeted at traditional and religious leaders.
	Most awareness initiatives are driven and implemented by development partners, limiting sustainability.	The Ministry of Women Affairs should take ownership of GBV awareness programs to build local capacity and ensure long-term funding for these initiatives.

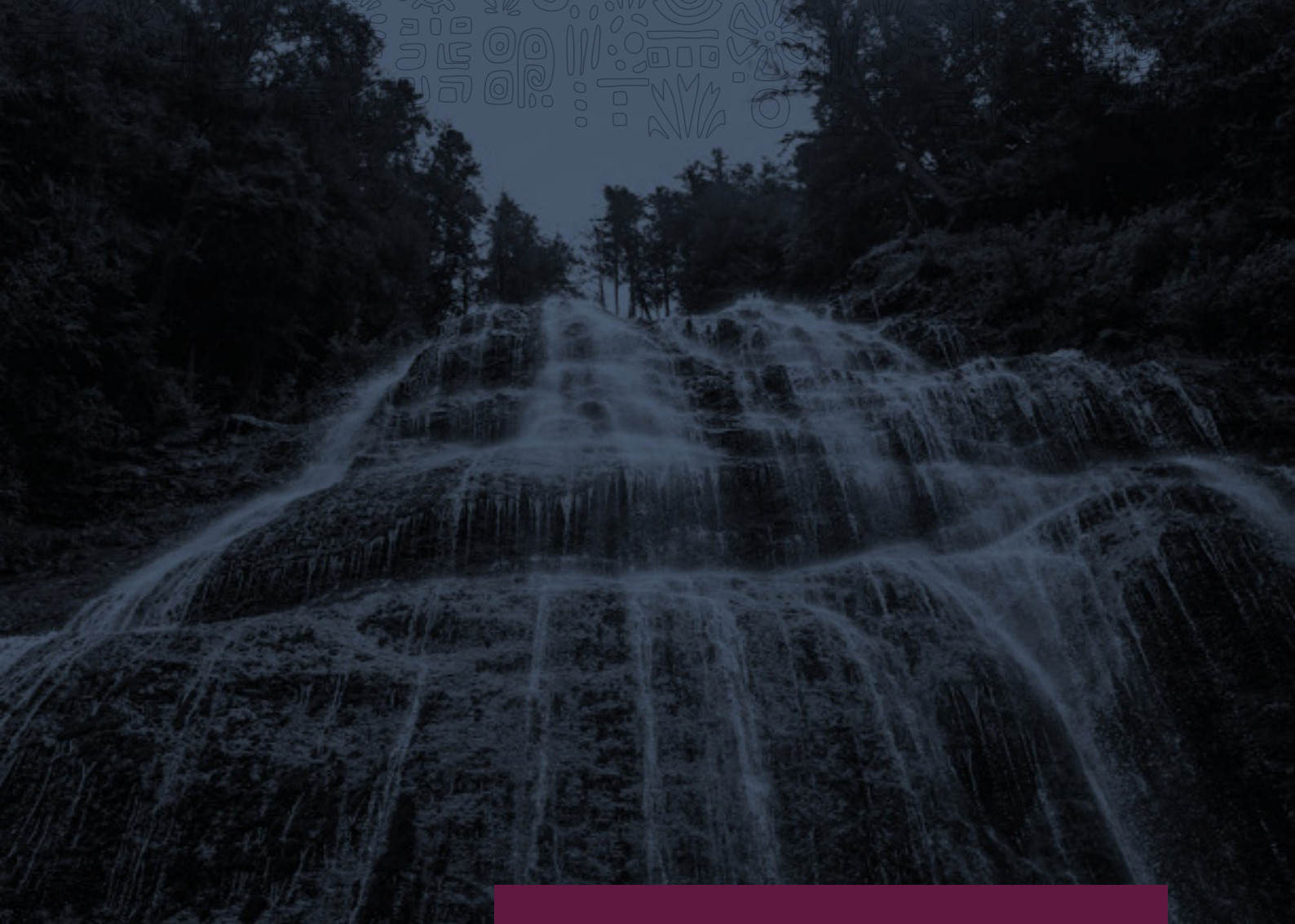
Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Budget and Spending 	<p>Having attained a budget performance of 26%, the budget credibility of the State Ministry of Women Affairs is below-par.</p> <p>The expenditure per person (N200.20) by the Ministry of Women Affairs is too low to cater to the population of the state.</p>	<p>The government should increase the budgetary allocation, disbursement, and releases to the Ministry of Women Affairs to ensure its planned program of activities geared towards GBV prevention and response are effectively and efficiently carried out.</p>

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Sokoto State

S/No.		Recommendations	Implementation Status	Remarks
Laws and Policies				
1		Comprehensive awareness campaigns should be conducted regularly to educate the public on the GBV-related laws and policies.	Not Implemented	No increase in awareness of GBV-related laws was observed. Furthermore, awareness levels decreased from 84.9% in 2023 to 70.5% in 2024.
2		Strengthen the political will to ensure the effective implementation of GBV-related legal measures.	Not Implemented	There is no budgetry provision for GBV response and legal measures
3		GBV-related laws and policies should be thoroughly reviewed within the legal and social paradigms to ensure that punitive measures are robust enough to dissuade potential perpetrators.	Not Implemented	
Access to Legal Justice				
4		Government should enhance awareness campaigns and establish a confidential reporting mechanism to reduce undue settlements in GBV cases and encourage reporting of GBV cases.	Partially Implemented	Reporting mechanisms are in place but not as active as required.
5		Government should strengthen the independence of the judiciary, increase transparency by publishing data on caseloads, outcomes, and sentencing, and improve training for legal professionals.	Not Implemented	Cases and data are not been published
6		Government should allocate funds to the Ministry of Justice for the implementation of a robust witness protection program.	Not Implemented	No budgetry provision and therefore no releases
Support Services				
7		Government to allocate funds for the establishment, equipping, and staffing of additional SARCs and shelters in different areas of the state, particularly in underserved regions.	Partially Implemented	Funds have been allocated in the budget but there is no release
8		Government should increase budgetary allocations to the Ministries of Women Affairs, and Justice to ensure they can provide comprehensive support for GBV survivors, including empowerment and skills acquisition programs.	Partially Implemented	There are provisions for empowerment and skills acquisition programs
Information and Awareness				
9		Government should increase investment in awareness and sensitisation programs, and collaborate with religious and traditional leaders, NGOs, CSOs, and media organizations to expand awareness campaigns and outreach efforts.	Not Implemented	Most of these investments are done by partners and since the ending of the EU UN Spotlight Initiative the activities have significantly reduced
10		Government should improve the inclusiveness of PwDs in GBV awareness campaigns, programs, and materials.	Partially Implemented	PwDs are being invited to programs and trainings on GBV but materials for PwDs are not readily available e.g brailles

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Sokoto State

11	Government should increase dissemination of GBV prevention and response programs on radio and TV to help raise awareness and create a more supportive environment for survivors.	Not Implemented	This activity is mainly donor driven. Dissemination and response by government is not fully implemented
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Taraba State



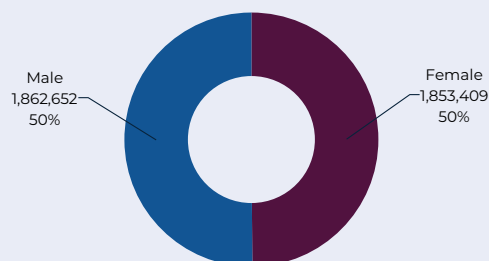
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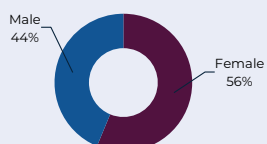




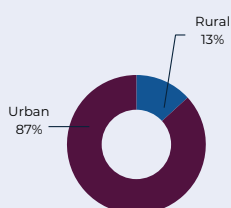
Total Population
3,716,061



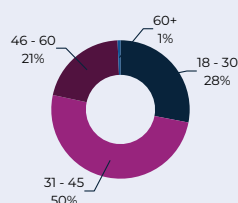
Respondents: 439



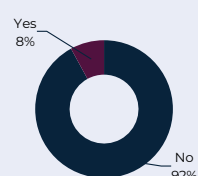
Location



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

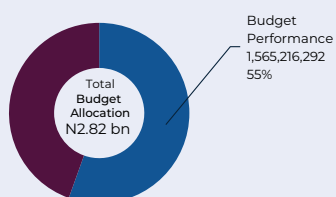


Budget and Spending

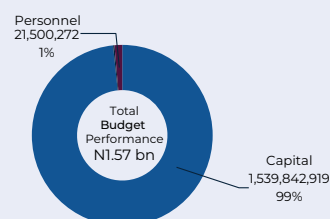


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

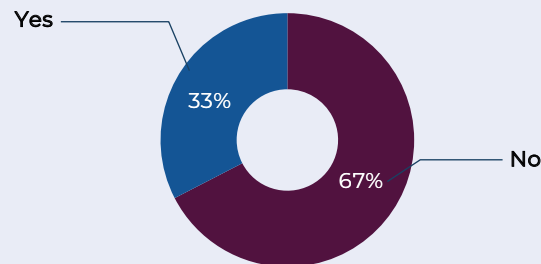


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N421.2**

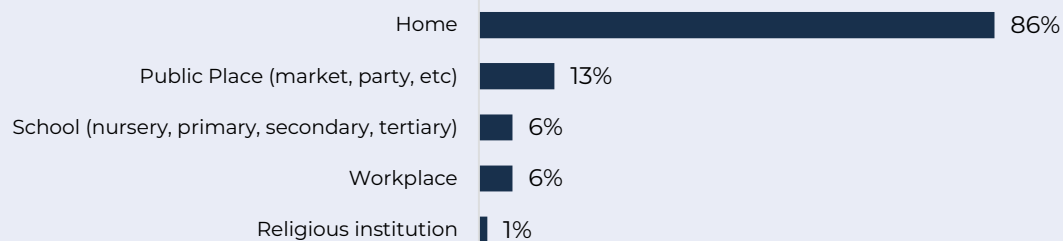
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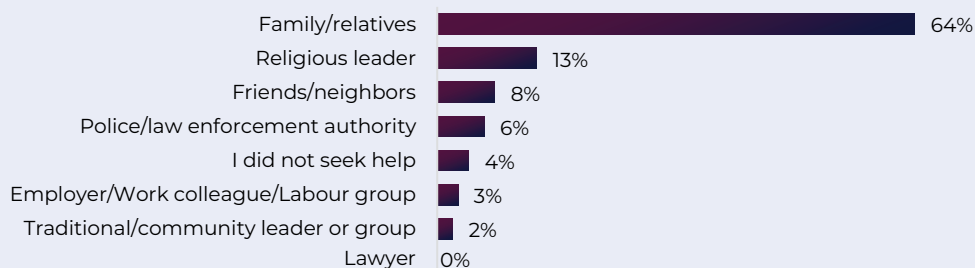
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



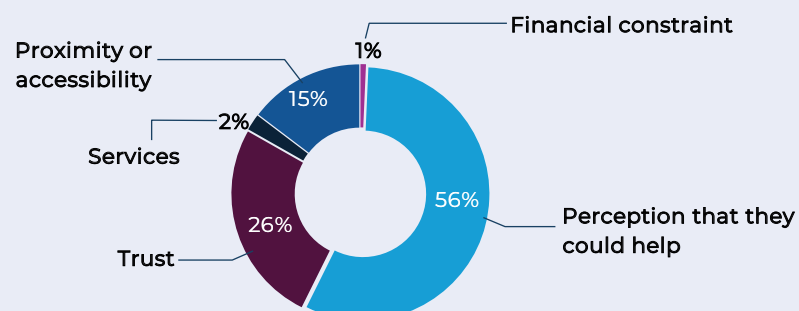
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

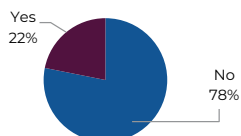


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

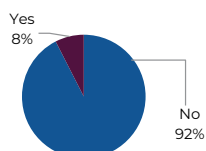


Laws and Policies

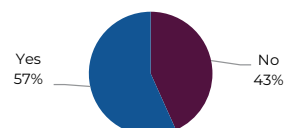
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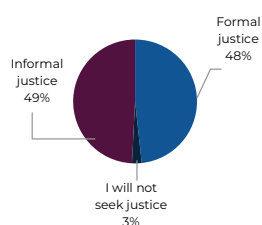


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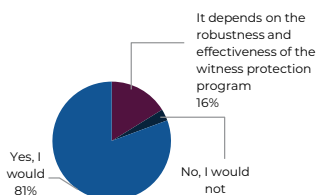


Access to Legal Justice

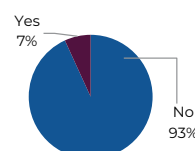
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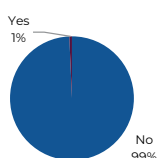


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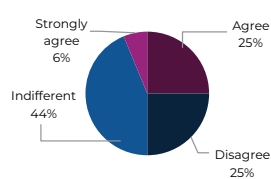


Support Services

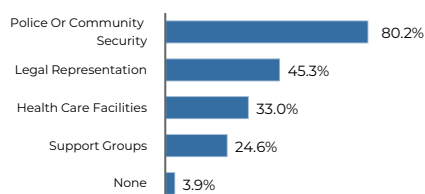
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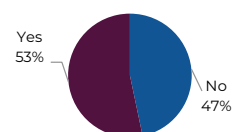
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

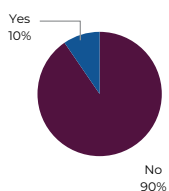


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

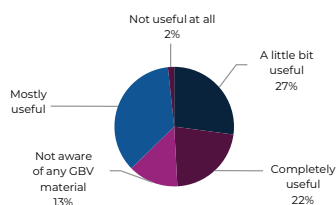


Information and Awareness

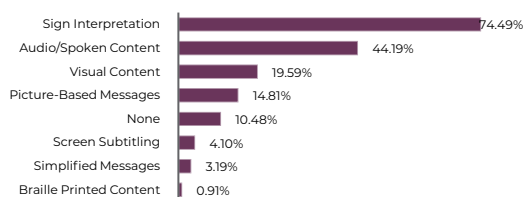
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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.

Index	Key Findings	Recommendations
Budget and Spending 	<p>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.</p>	<p>The government should continue to prioritize the Ministry's capital expenditures to help the Ministry attain its GBV prevention and response mandate.</p>
	<p>The budget execution rate of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Development at 55% was inadequate.</p>	<p>The government should improve disbursement to the Ministry to enhance the credibility of its budgets, plans and programs.</p>

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 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 opf commitment in orther 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 preveious 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 .



Yobe State



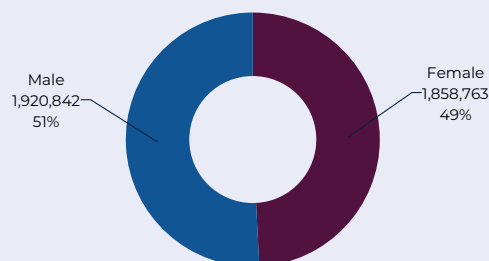
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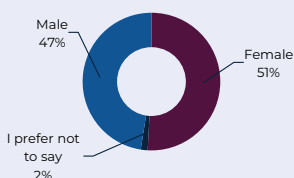




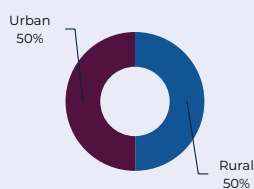
Total Population
3,779,605



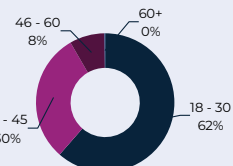
Respondents: 682



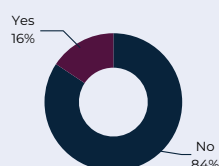
Location



Age Group



Disability Status



GBV Context



No. of GBV cases **45**



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

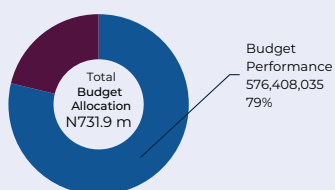


Budget and Spending

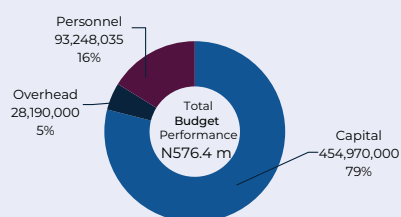


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

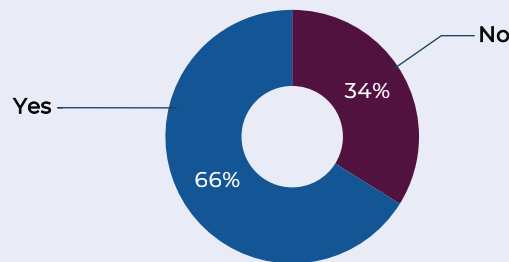


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N152.5**

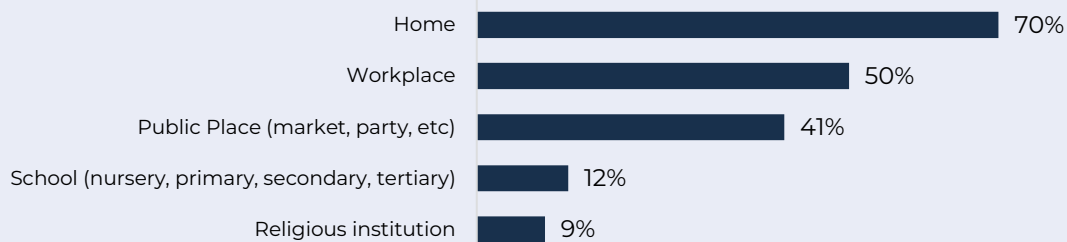
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



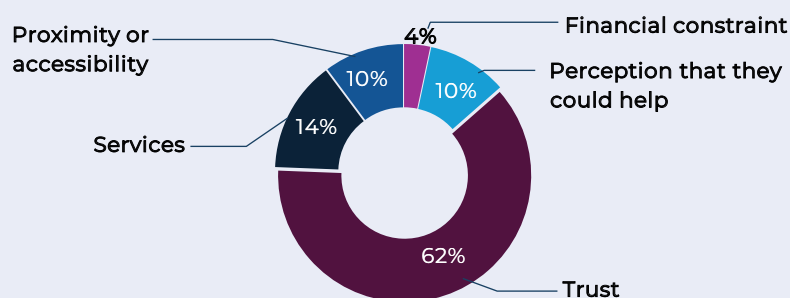
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

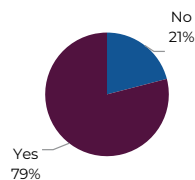


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

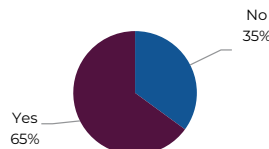


Laws and Policies

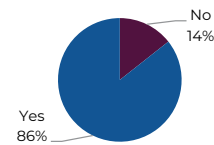
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

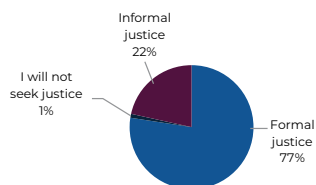


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

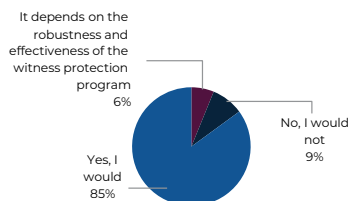


Access to Legal Justice

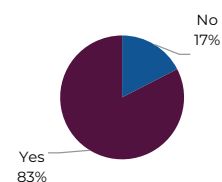
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

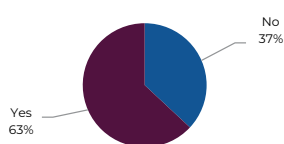


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

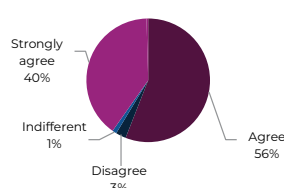


Support Services

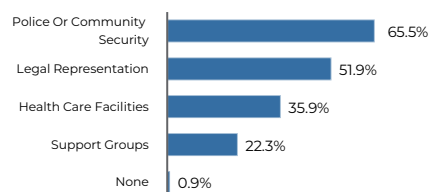
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



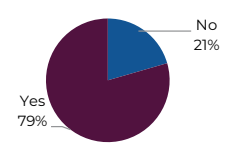
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

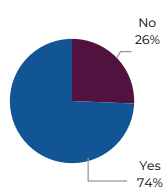


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

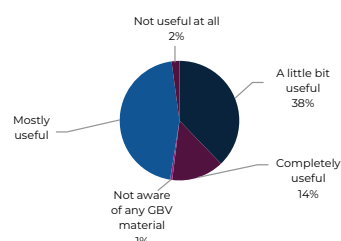


Information and Awareness

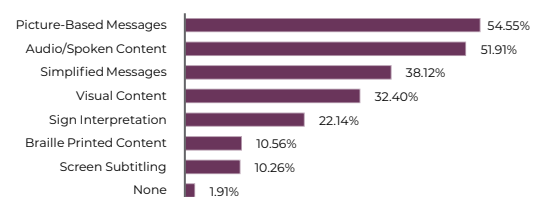
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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 Zauran 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 	<p>Poor funding limits the implementation and effectiveness of GBV-related laws.</p> <p>There is a low level of awareness of GBV laws.</p> <p>Customary and religious laws in Yobe are not effective in addressing GBV; as a result, many people prefer the formal justice systems.</p>	<p>Increase budget allocation and implementation of all GBV-related laws, policies, and programs.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Promote collaboration between the custodians of customary/informal law and the custodians of formal law to leverage strengths and effectively tackle GBV.</p>
Access to Legal Justice 	<p>Cultural and societal attitudes towards GBV hinders effort to address the issue effectively.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Long distances to the SARCs and shelters prevent many people from visiting.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Prioritize capacity building for various stakeholders across the value chain.</p> <p>Establish more SARCs across LGAs and communities commensurate with the population size.</p>
Support Services 	<p>Lack of funding affects the delivery of quality services.</p> <p>There are five SARCs and three shelters in the state, but they lack the necessary infrastructure, personnel, facilities, etc.</p> <p>The majority of rural dwellers are not aware of the support services provided by shelters and SARCs in the state.</p>	<p>Make funding available to augment the contribution of NGOs.</p> <p>Prioritize and fund existing SARCs and shelters to ensure improvement and effectiveness.</p> <p>Educate the people on the availability, location, and operations of the shelters and SARCs and the reporting pathways.</p>
Information and Awareness 	<p>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.</p> <p>There were no disability-sensitive IEC materials or programs.</p> <p>GBV prevention and response is not taught in secondary schools and tertiary institutions.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Strengthen information sharing and education activities and include persons with disabilities in the team.</p> <p>Incorporate GBV prevention and response-related topics into the secondary school and tertiary institutions' curriculum.</p>

Indexes	Key Findings	Recommendations
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 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	



Zamfara State



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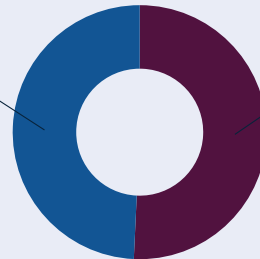
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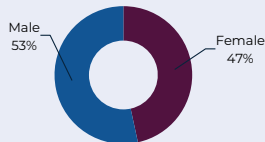
Total Population
6,023,184

Male
2,967,043
49%

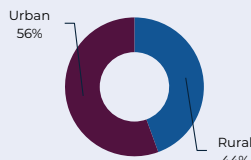


Female
3,056,141
51%

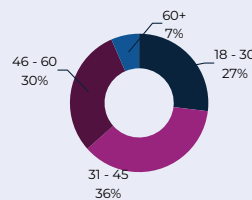
Respondents: 457



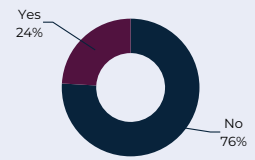
Location



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

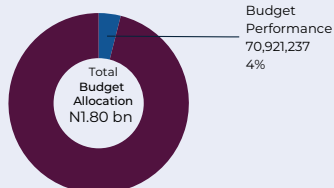


Budget and Spending

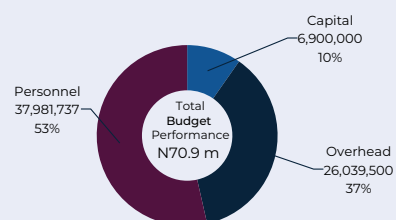


Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Budget Performance (2023)

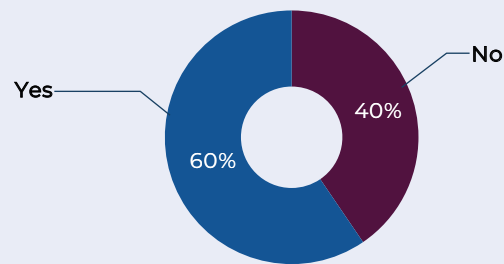


Budget Expenditure (2023)



Per Capita Spending **N11.8**

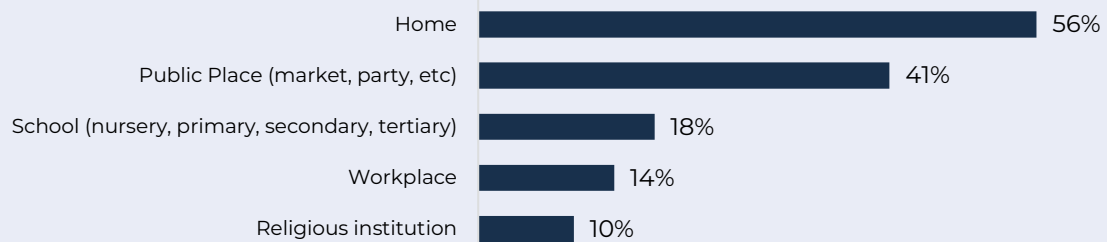
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



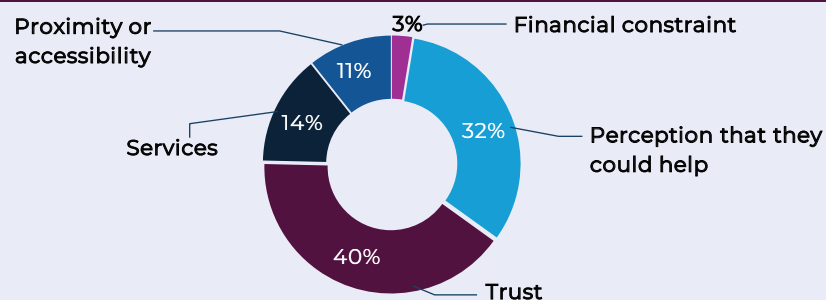
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

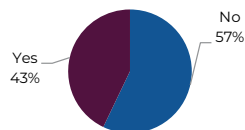


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

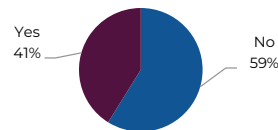


Laws and Policies

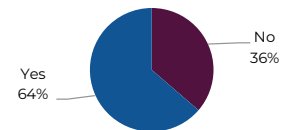
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

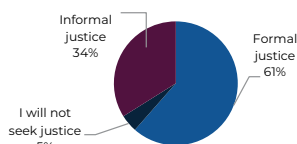


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

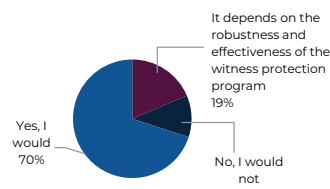


Access to Legal Justice

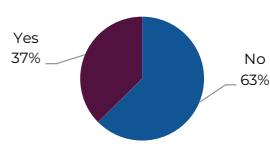
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

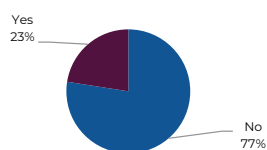


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?

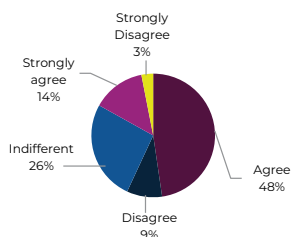


Support Services

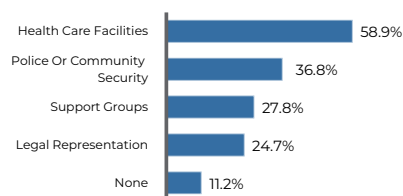
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



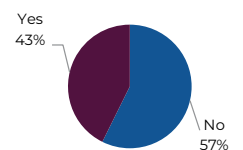
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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

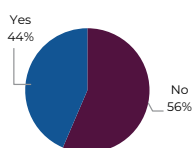


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

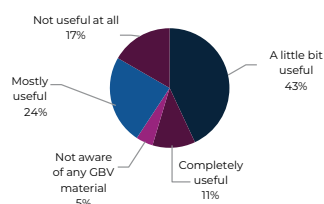


Information and Awareness

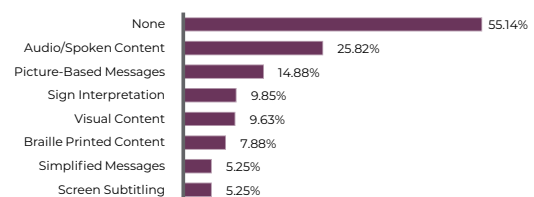
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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 SARC 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
Budget and Spending 	Having implemented just 4% of its budget, the state recorded the lowest budget implementation of its Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.	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.
	An actual capital expenditure of N6.9 million is grossly inadequate to address the GBV infrastructure needs of the state.	The State should prioritize hundreds of millions to adequately meet its GBV prevention and response infrastructure needs.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 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.

WOMANITY INDEX IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER
2023 Recommendations
Zamfara State

Information and Awareness

<p>9</p> 	<p>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.</p>	<p>Not Implemented</p>	<p>the state mostly depend on external donors for public awareness and sensitization campaings</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>There is need to involve the local theatre group in commemorating international events like the International Day for the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence.</p>	<p>Partially Implemented</p>	<p>the state throught the office of the first lady joined other local groups to commemorates international events like 16 days of activism which were celebrated to raise voice on violence against women.</p>



APPENDIX



Womanity Index 2024 Grading																								
GBV Laws and Policies	Laws and Policies			Access to Legal Justice				Support Services				Information and Awareness				Budget and Spending				Overall Grade				
	Conviction Rate	Customary and Religious Laws and Practices	Index Grade	Reporting, Prosecution, and Enforcement	Legal Aid Services	Designated Courts and Judges	Informal Justice Practices	Index Grade	Referral Centres (SARCs) and Shelters	GBV Reporting and Referral Pathway	Survivor Support Services	Internal Support Services	Index Grade	GBV IEC Materials	GBV and Child Sexual Abuse Guide	Public Sentitization and Awareness	Information for PWDBs and Marginalized Persons	Index Grade	GBV-Specific Budget Lines and Allocations		Budget Performance	Per Capita Spending	Index Grade	
11	12	13		21	22	23	24		31	32	33	34		41	42	43	44		51	52	53			
Abia	0.5	1	0.5	2	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	2.5	0.25	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.75	0.75	0.5	1	0.25	2.5	1	0.75	0.25	2	10.75
Adamawa	1	0.25	0.5	1.75	1	0.5	1	0.5	3	1	1	1	0.5	3.5	0.75	0.25	1	0.5	2.5	1	0.75	0.25	2	12.75
Akwa Ibom	0.75	1	0.5	2.25	0.75	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.25	1	0.75	0.75	0.75	3.25	1	1	1	0.75	3.75	1	0.5	0.25	1.75	13.25
Anambra	0.5	0.25	0.5	1.25	0.5	0.75	0.5	0.5	2.25	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2	0.5	0.25	1	0.25	2	1	0.25	0.25	1.5	9
Bauchi	0.5	1	0.5	2	1	0.75	0.5	0.5	2.75	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.75	2.25	0.75	0.25	0.5	0.25	1.75	0.25	0.75	0.25	1.25	10
Bayelsa	1	0.25	0.5	1.75	0.75	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.25	0.25	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.75	0.75	0.75	1	0.5	3	0.25	0.75	0.5	1.5	10.25
Benue	0.75	0.25	0.5	1.5	0.5	0.75	0.5	0.5	2.25	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2	0.75	0.25	1	0.25	2.25	0.25	0.5	0.25	1	9
Borno	0.75	1	0.5	2.25	0.75	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.25	0.5	1	1	0.5	3	0.5	1	0.5	0.25	2.25	0.25	0.5	0.25	1	10.75
Cross River	0.75	0.5	0.5	1.75	0.75	1	0.5	1	3.25	0.75	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.25	0.5	0.75	0.25	2	1	0.25	0.25	1.5	10.75	
Delta	0.75	1	0.5	2.25	0.75	1	0.5	1	3.25	1	0.75	0.5	0.75	3	0.75	0.5	0.75	0.5	2.5	1	0.75	0.25	2	13
Ebonyi	0.75	0.5	0.5	1.75	0.75	0.5	1	1	3.25	0.5	0.75	0.5	0.5	2.25	0.75	0.5	0.75	0.5	2.5	1	1	0.25	2.25	12
Edo	1	1	1	3	0.75	0.75	0.5	1	3	0.5	0.5	0.75	0.5	2.25	1	0.75	1	0.5	3.25	0.25	1	0.25	1.5	13
Ekiti	1	1	1	3	0.5	0.5	1	1	2.5	1	0.75	0.75	0.75	3.25	0.75	0.75	1	0.5	3	1	0.75	0.25	2	13.5
Enugu	0.75	0.5	0.5	1.75	0.25	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.75	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2	0.5	0.5	0.25	1.75	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.75	8	
FCT	0.5	0.25	0.5	1.25	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2	0.75	1	0.75	0.25	2.75	0	0	0	8	
Gombe	0.5	0.75	0.5	1.75	1	0.75	0.5	0.5	2.75	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2	0.5	0.25	0.5	0.25	1.5	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.75	8.75
Imo		0.25	0.5	1.75	0.75	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.25	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2	0.5	0.5	0.25	1.75	1	0.25	0.25	1.5	9.25	
Jigawa	1		0.5	2.5	0.75	0.5	1	0.5	2.75	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2	0.75	0.5	1	0.25	2.5	1	0.25	0.25	1.5	11.25
Kaduna	0.75	0.5	0.5	1.75	0.5	0.75	0.5	0.5	2.25	1	0.75	0.75	0.75	3.25	1	0.75	1	0.5	3.25	1	0.25	0.25	1.5	12
Kano	0.25	1	0.5	1.75	0.75	0.75	0.5	0.5	2.5	0.5	0.25	0.25	0.25	1.25	0.5	0.5	0.5	2	1	0.25	0.25	1.5	9	
Katsina	1	0.25	0.5	1.75	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2	0.5	0.25	0.5	0.5	1.75	0.5	0.75	0.75	0.25	2.25	1	0.75	0.25	2	9.75
Keabi	0.75	1	0.5	2.25	0.75	1	0.5	0.5	2.75	0.5	0.75	0.5	0.5	2.25	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.25	2.5	1	0.5	0.25	1.75	11.5
Kogi	1	0.5	0.5	2	1	0.5	1	0.5	3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2	0.5	0.5	0.75	0.25	2	1	1	0.5	2.5	11.5
Kwara	0.75	1	0.5	2.25	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.5	0.75	1	0.75	0.5	3	1	0.25	1	0.75	3	1	0.75	0.25	2	12.75
Lagos	1	1	1	3	1	1	0.75	1	3.75	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	0.75	3.75	1	0.75	0.25	2	16.5
Nasarawa	0.75	1	0.5	2.25	0.25	0.5	1	0.5	2.25	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2	0.5	0.75	0.75	0.25	2.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.75	9.5
Niger	0.75	0.5	0.5	1.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	1	3.25	1	0.75	0.5	0.5	2.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.25	2.5	1	1	0.75	2.75	13
Ogun	0.75	0.5	1	2.25	0.75	0.5	0.75	1	3	1	0.75	1	0.5	3.25	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.5	2.75	1	0.5	0.25	1.75	13
Ondo	1	1	0.5	2.5	0.75	1	0.5	0.5	2.75	1	0.75	0.75	0.5	3	0.5	0.5	0.75	0.5	2.25	1	0.5	0.25	1.75	12.25
Osun	1	0.25	0.5	1.75	0.75	0.5	1	0.5	2.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.5	2.75	0.5	0.5	0.75	0.5	2.25	0.25	0.75	0.25	1.25	10.75
Oyo	0.75	0.25	0.5	1.5	0.75	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.25	0.75	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.25	0.5	0.5	0.25	1.75	0.25	0.75	0.25	0.25	1.25	9
Plateau	0.75	0.25	0.5	1.5	0.75	0.5	1	0.5	2.75	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2	0.5	0.75	0.75	0.25	2.25	0.25	0.5	0.25	1	9.5
Rivers	1	1	0.5	2.5	0.75	0.75	0.75	1	3.25	1	0.5	1	0.5	3	1	0.75	1	0.5	3.25	1	0.25	0.25	1.5	13.5
Sokoto	0.75	0.25	0.5	1.5	0.75	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.25	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.5	1	0.25	1	0.25	2.5	1	0.25	0.25	1.5	10.25
Taraba	0.75	0.25	0.5	1.5	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.5	0.25	0.75	0.5	0.5	2	0.5	0.75	0.5	0.25	2	1	0.75	0.25	2	10
Yobe	0.5	1	0.5	2	1	1	1	0.5	3.5	1	1	0.5	0.5	3	1	0.25	1	0.25	2.5	1	0.75	0.25	2	13
Zamfara	0.5	0.75	0.5	1.75	0.25	0.75	0.25	0.5	1.75	0.5	0.25	0.5	0.5	1.75	0.75	0.25	0.75	0.25	2	1	0.25	0.25	1.5	8.75

2023 Recommendations

National Total	461	28	6%	213	46%	220	48%
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States with the highest percentage of FULLY Implemented recommendations

States with the highest percentage of FULLY Implemented recommendations

Akwa Ibom - 23%

States with the highest percentage of PARTIALLY implemented recommendations

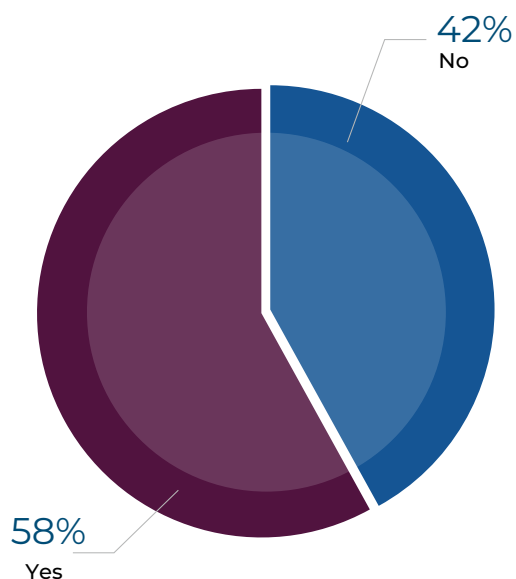
Kaduna - 75%

States with the highest percentage of recommendations with NO ACTION

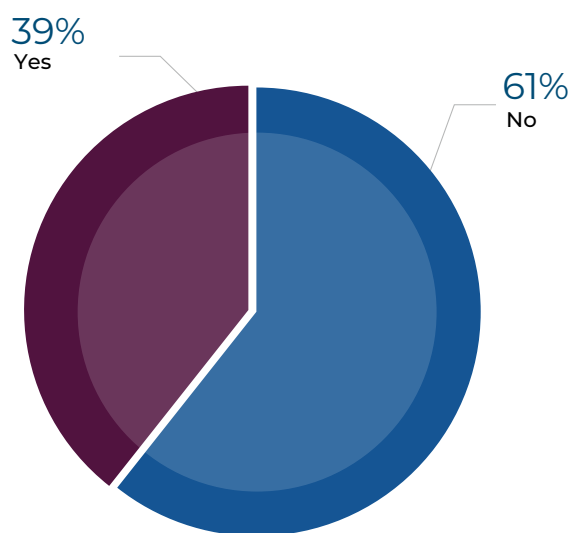
Bauchi - 77%

Nasarawa - 73%

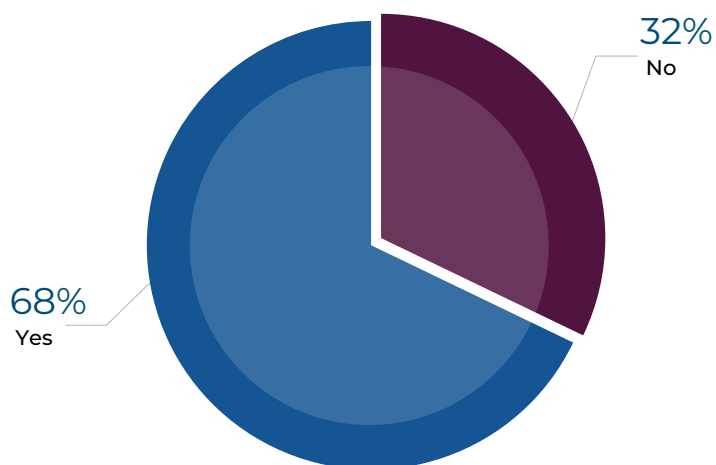
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



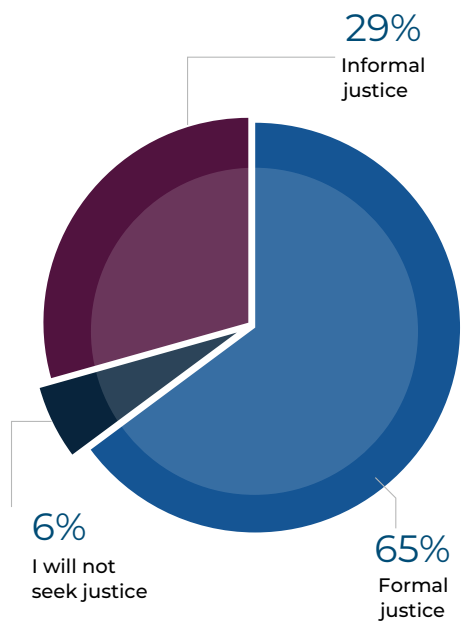
Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state?



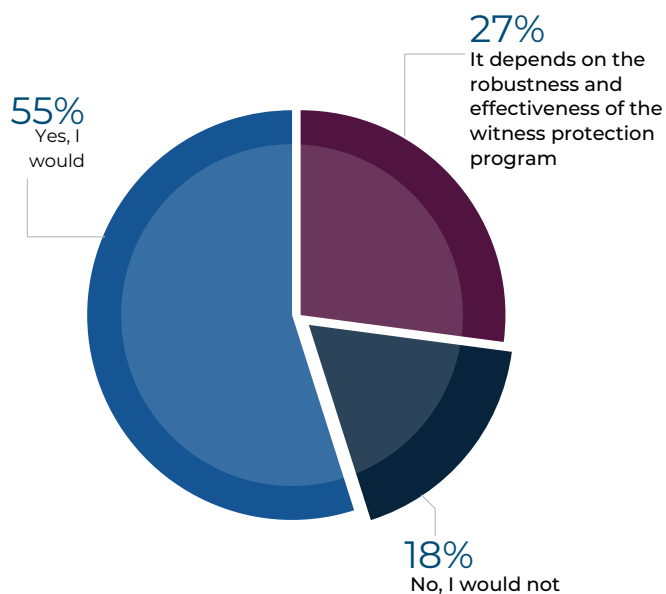
Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?



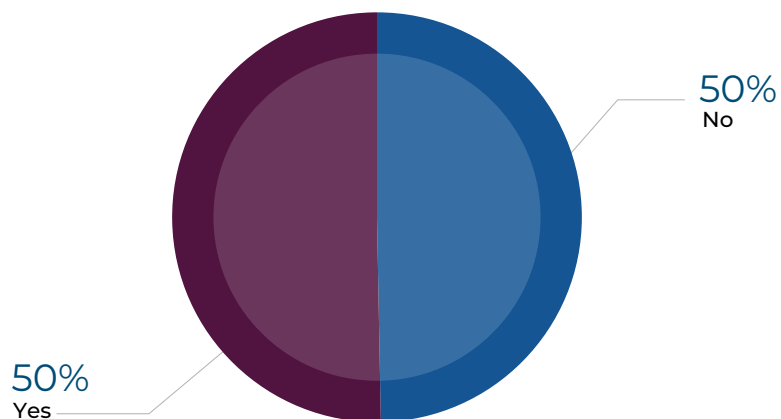
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



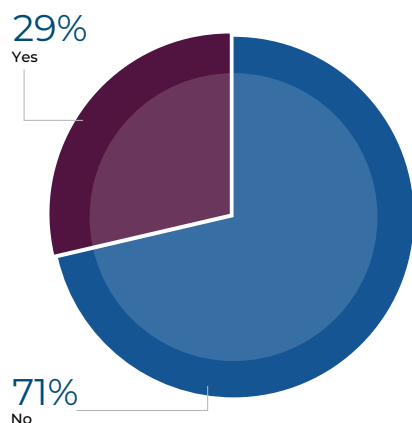
If you witness GBV, would you feel safe serving as a witness during the investigation and trial?



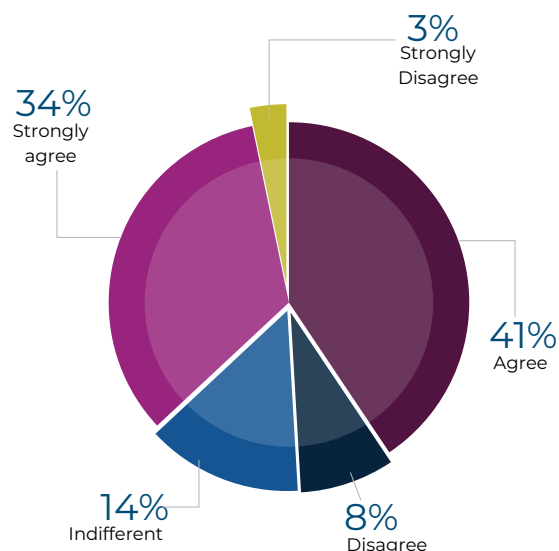
Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victims/survivors?



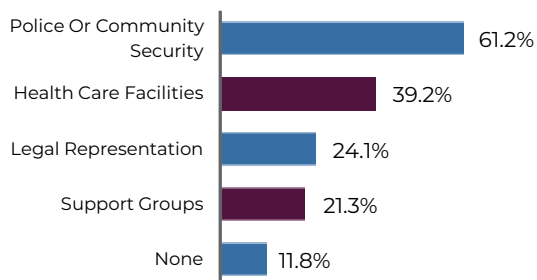
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



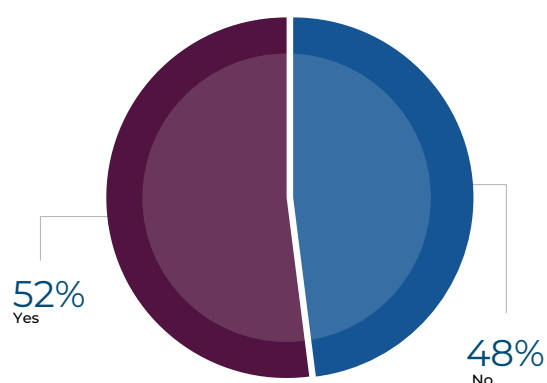
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



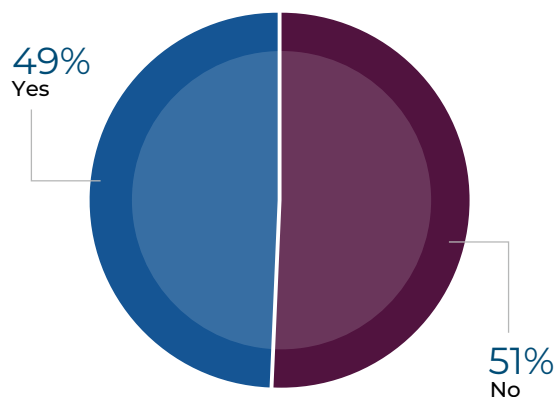
Which of these processes and procedures for reporting GBV-related incidents are you aware of? (Referral Pathways)



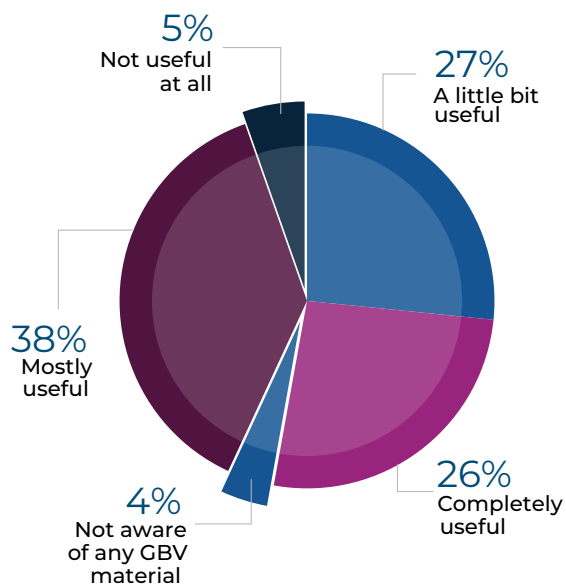
Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?



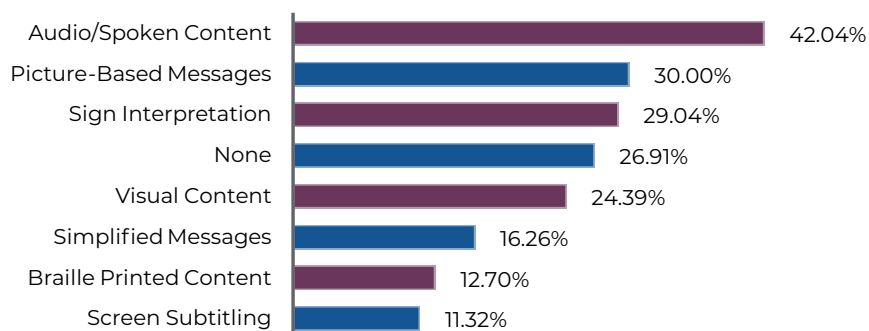
Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state?



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?



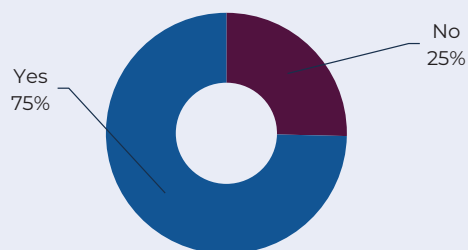
Budget and Spending

State Ministries of Women Affairs

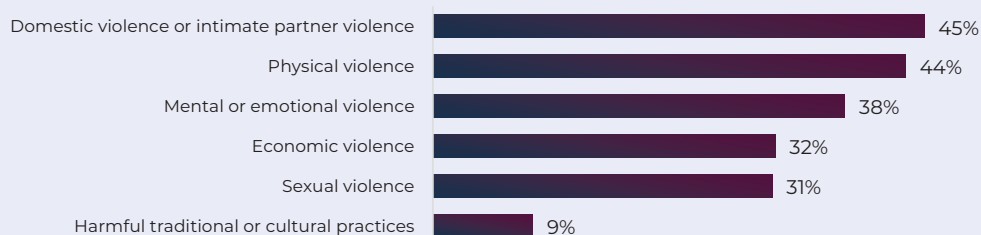
National Aggregates

	2023		2022		2021	
State	Budget Performance (% of Budget Spent)	Per Capita Spending	Budget Performance (% of Budget Spent)	Per Capita Spending	Budget Performance (% of Budget Spent)	Per Capita Spending
Abia	79%	N178.2	49.5%	N99.2	56.6%	N108.1
Adamawa	74%	N38	30.2%	N58.7	36.7%	N48.7
Akwa Ibom	36%	N291.1	52.6%	N810.4	11.9%	N97.4
Anambra	6%	N24.8	31.9%	N87.5	62.1%	N174.1
Bauchi	83%	N55.6	89.0%	N98.7	84.0%	N110.1
Bayelsa	53%	N570.1	69.3%	N695.7	63.4%	N636.2
Benue	43%	N40.9	28.0%	N94.8	26.5%	N112.6
Borno	43%	N542.8	39.6%	N368	21.0%	N66.4
Cross River	20%	N8	1.5%	N7.2	6.8%	N34.3
Delta	61%	N160.2	108.4%	N585.2	100.0%	N207.9
Ebonyi	98%	N176.2	49.8%	N61	99.9%	N58.4
Edo	90%	N38	79.8%	N91.9	65.8%	N38.7
Ekiti	73%	N57.6	56.1%	N111.9	33.0%	N87
Enugu	27%	N20.4	36.8%	N57.4	93.3%	N95.7
Gombe	21%	N33.6	30.4%	N74.3	81.8%	N194.2
Imo	4%	N23	2.8%	N38.4	4.7%	N58.9
Jigawa	11%	N45.6	31.8%	N225.6	7.1%	N31.1
Kaduna	7%	N45.7	80.3%	N632.4	90.9%	N293.8
Kano	9%	N10.3	23.2%	N29.8	33.2%	N22
Katsina	70%	N169.9	56.2%	N175.7	29.2%	N33.9
Kebbi	47%	N208.1	35.7%	N209.1	37.5%	N213
Kogi	87%	N805.8	55.5%	N299.6	17.1%	N43.3
Kwara	100%	N13	34.9%	N26.4	71.7%	N73.8
Lagos	65%	N199.5	67.8%	N549.1	14.2%	N87
Nassarawa	23%	N109.5	81.4%	N326.2	37.8%	N97.9
Niger	166%	N815.2	31.5%	N283.3	25.8%	N203
Ogun	40%	N263.1	42.0%	N554.9	61.5%	N159.1
Ondo	45%	N170.6	36.3%	N142.5	63.5%	N125.4
Osun	77%	N50.1	36.6%	N69.8	86.4%	N239.2
Oyo	82%	N55.7	55.5%	N108.1	74.0%	N88.3
Plateau	44%	N25.7	33.4%	N34	11.8%	N51.3
Rivers	5%	N21.8	2.3%	N22.3	3.2%	N29.8
Sokoto	26%	N200.2	24.8%	N93	12.1%	N35.2
Taraba	55%	N421.2	44.6%	N1116.5	9.6%	N42.3
Yobe	79%	N152.5	31.3%	N71.6	56.5%	N60.6
Zamfara	4%	N11.8	18.4%	N16.2	15.4%	N48.3
National Average		N168.2		N231.3		N114.1

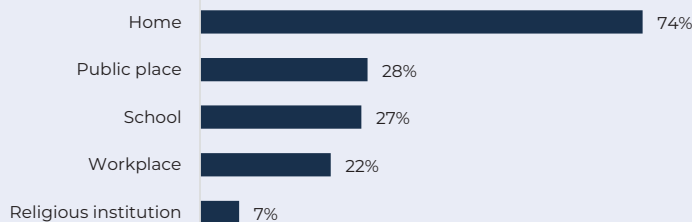
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



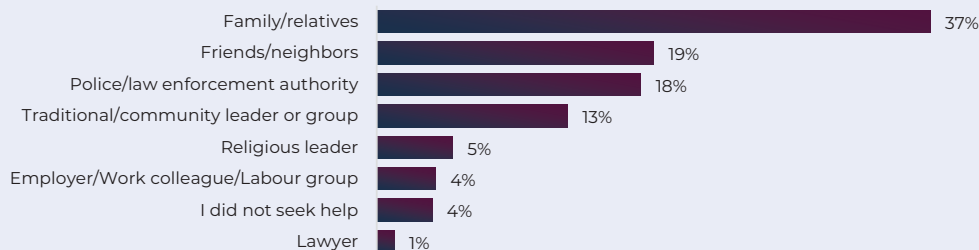
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



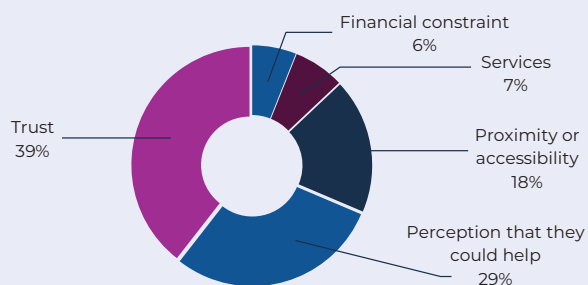
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



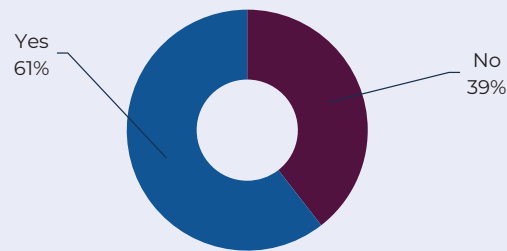
Where did you or the person first seek help?



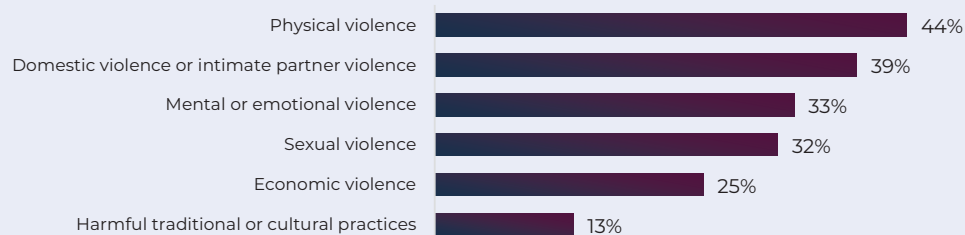
Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?



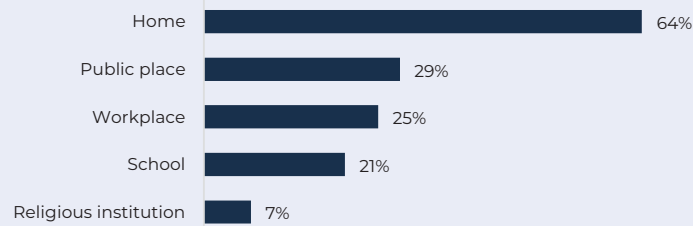
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



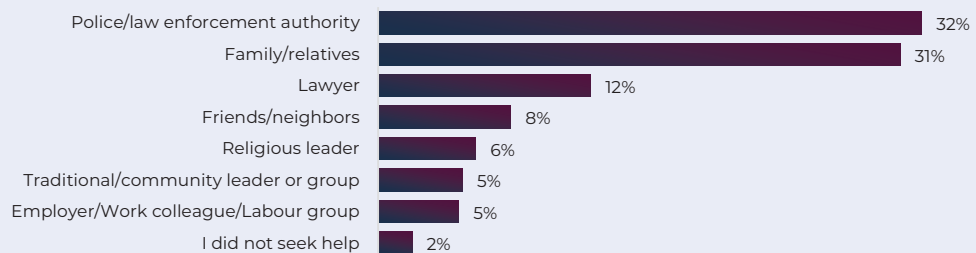
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



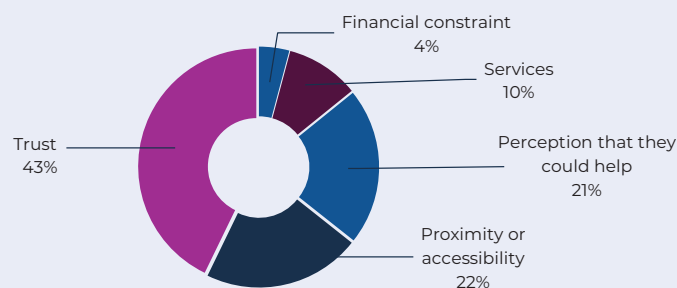
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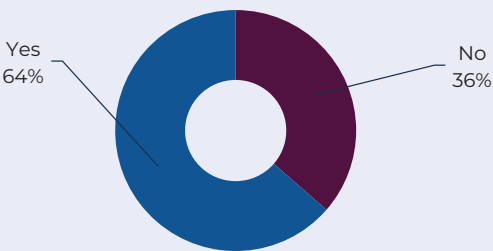
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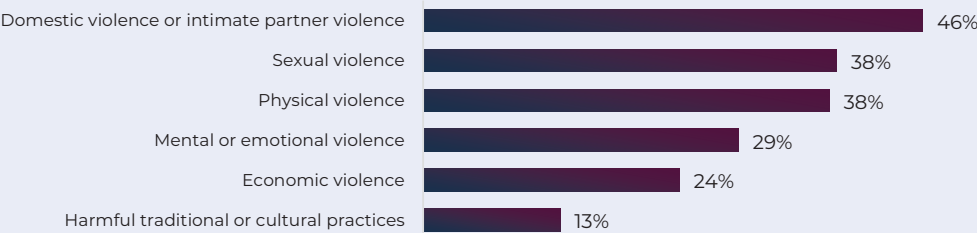
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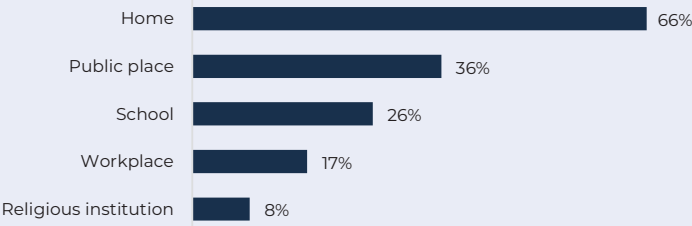
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



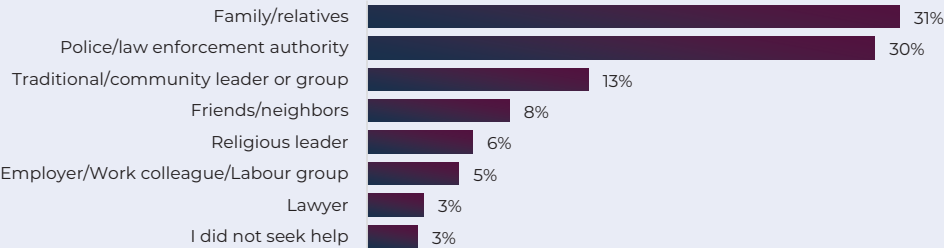
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



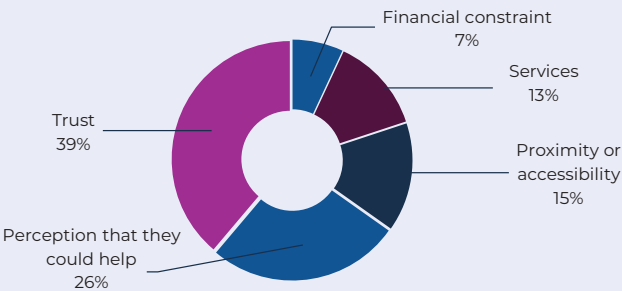
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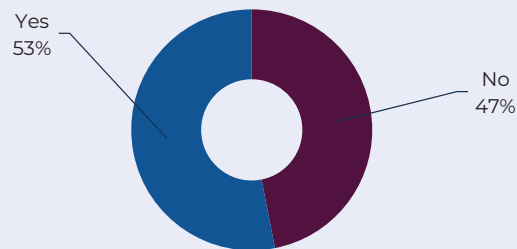
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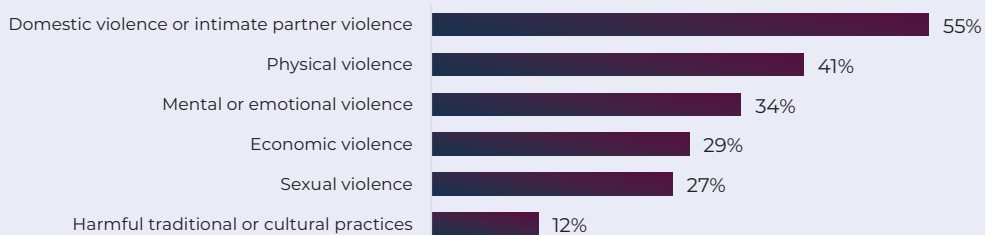
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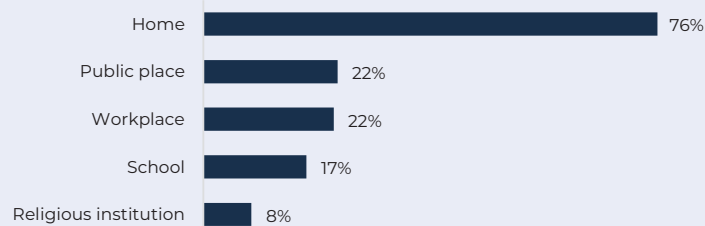
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence (GBV) in the last five years?



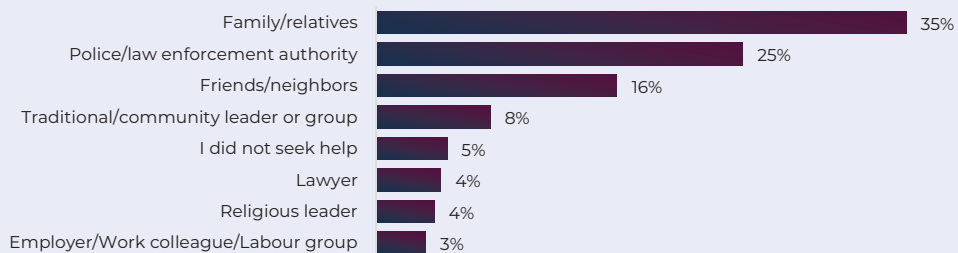
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



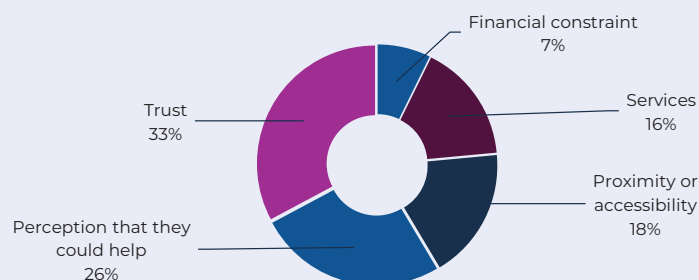
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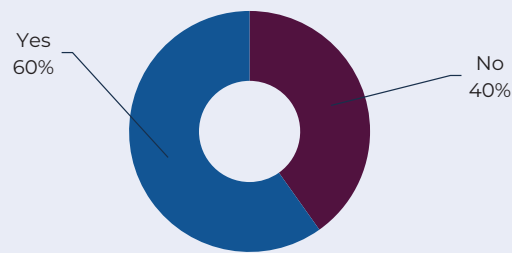
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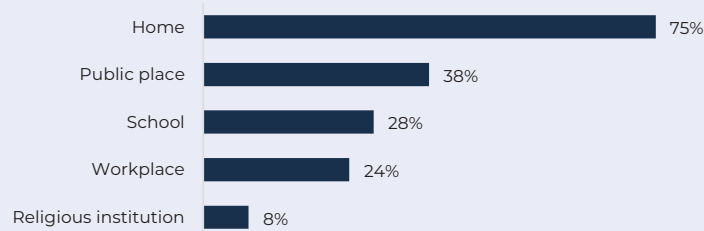
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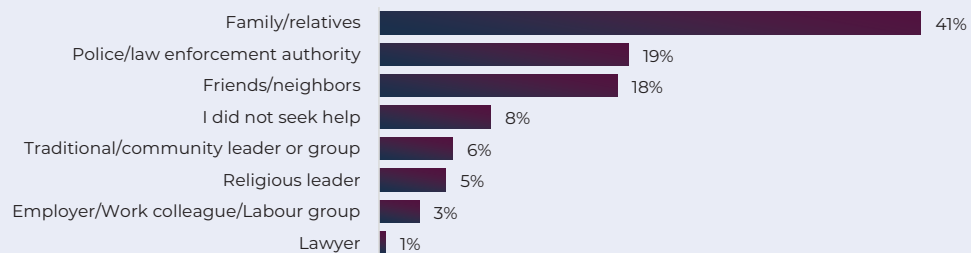
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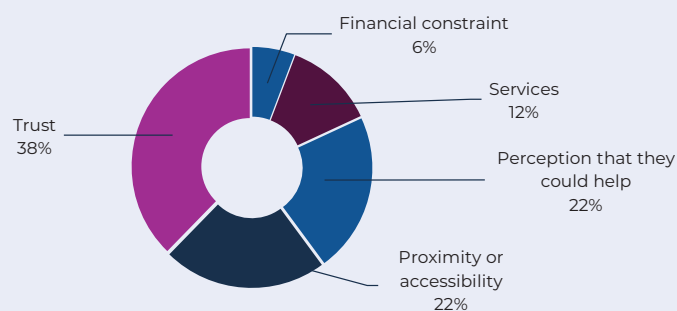
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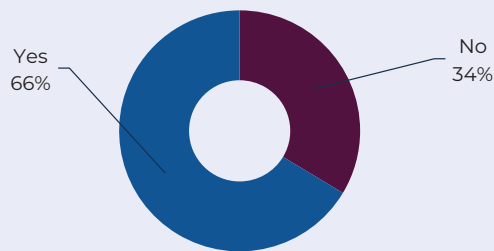
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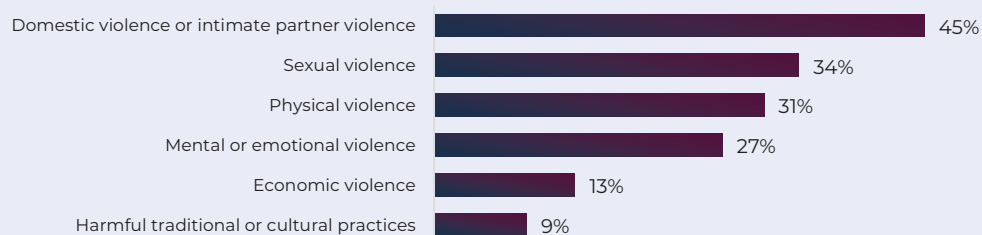
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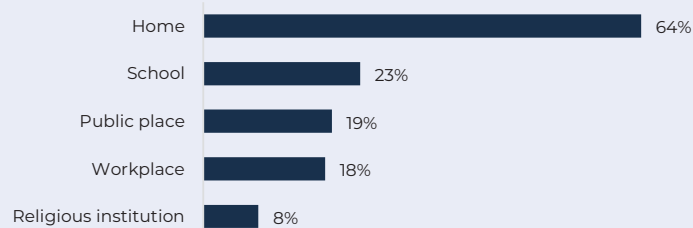
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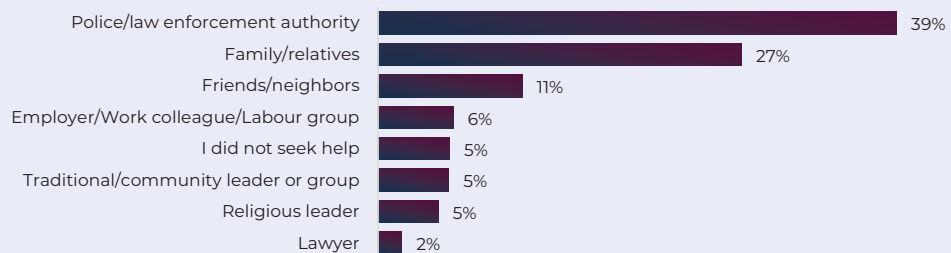
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



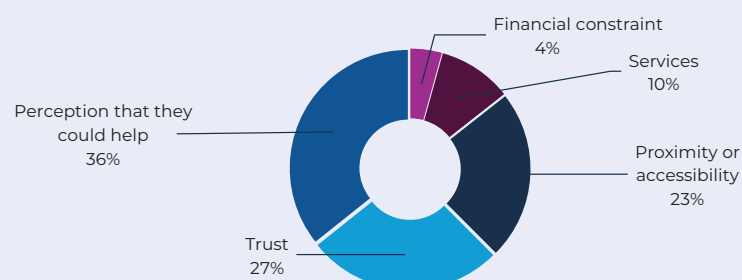
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

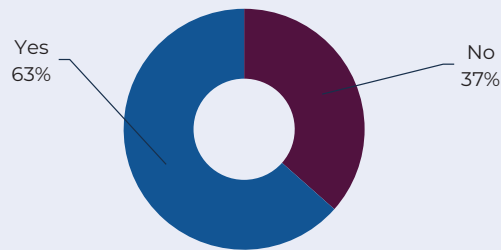


Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?

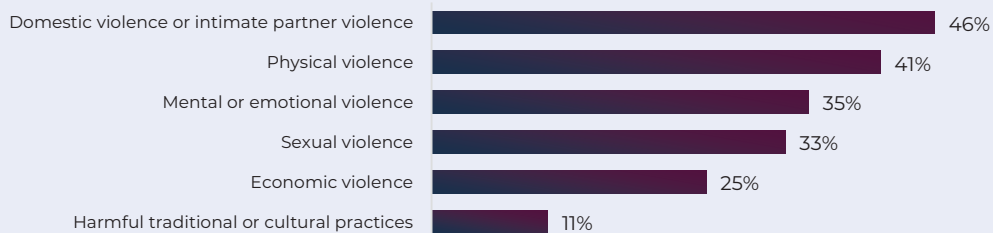




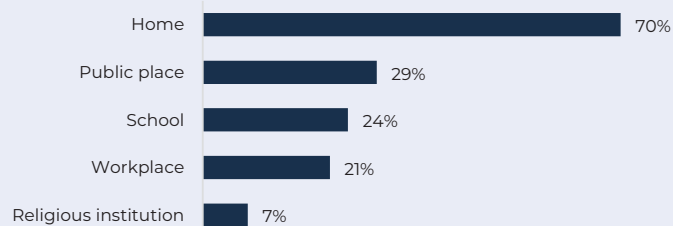
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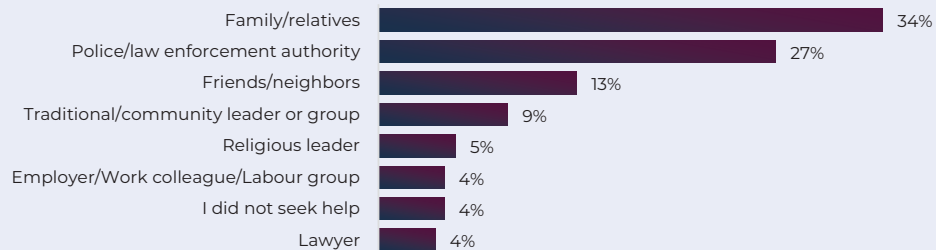
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



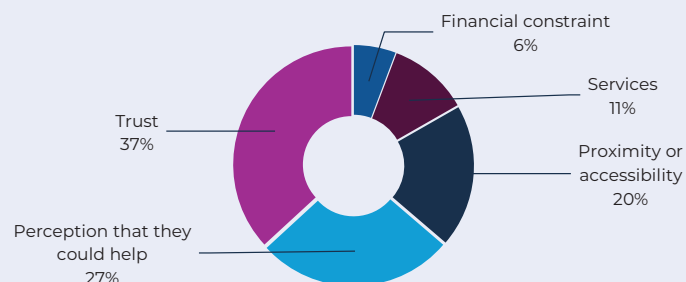
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Why did you or the person choose where to seek help?





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