



Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response: **What Has Changed?**



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Bauchi State

Pearl of Tourism

Owu Fall

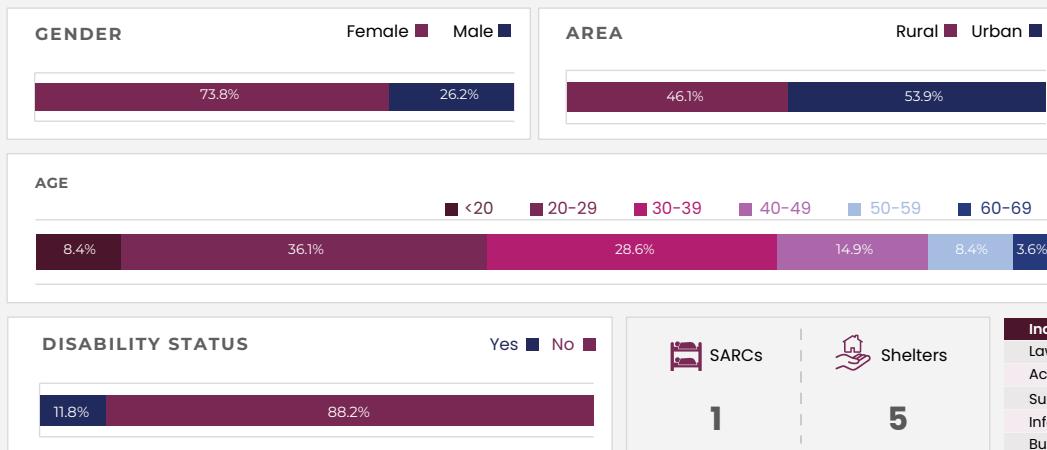
Bauchi State

Population: 8,580,793

50.1% Female 49.9% Male

Overall Grade 58.8%

Respondents Demography (n = 1,082)



Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

BUDGET ALLOCATION

₦2.53bn

(This accounts for 0.6% of the total state budget)

BUDGET PERFORMANCE

₦1.68bn

(This accounts for 66.5% of total allocation to the ministry)



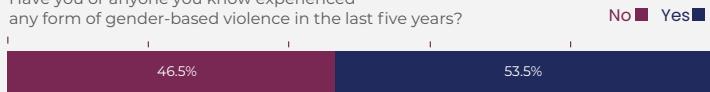
Per Capita Spending

₦391.04

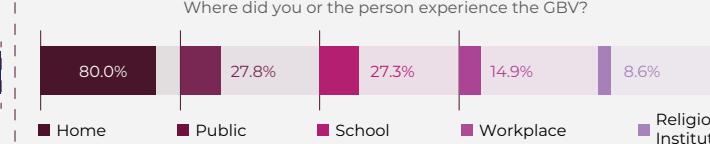
Indexes	Indicators			Total Grades
Laws and Policies	LP ₁	LP ₂	LP ₃	—
Access to Legal Justice	ALJ ₁	ALJ ₂	ALJ ₃	ALJ ₄
Support Services	SS ₁	SS ₂	SS ₃	SS ₄
Information and Awareness	IA ₁	IA ₂	IA ₃	IA ₄
Budget and Spending	BS ₁	BS ₂	BS ₃	—

GBV Context 2025

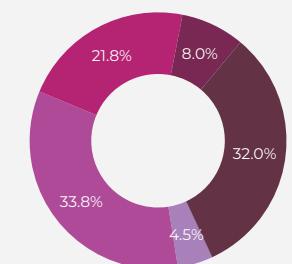
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence in the last five years?



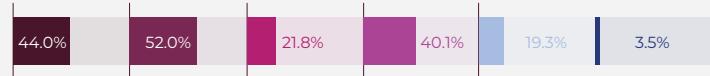
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Why did you or the person choose where you sought help?



What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



Family/relatives

Police/law enforcement authority

Friends/neighbors

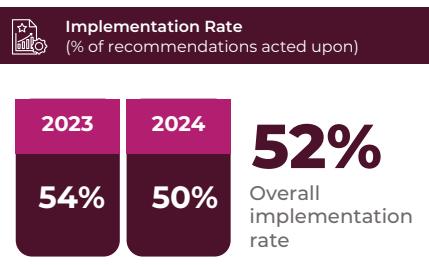
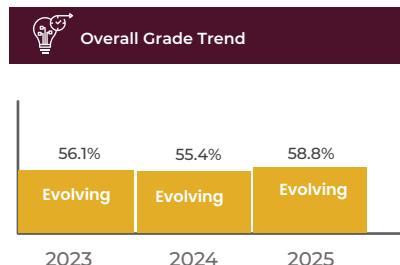
Traditional/community leader or group

Religious leader (Pastor, Ulama, Imam, Deity)

I did not seek help

Employer/Work colleague/Labour group

Lawyer



What Has Changed



Positive Developments

- Over ten convictions secured between December 2024 and July 2025.
- All 20 LGAs now have multi-sectoral committees serving as referral hubs and temporary shelters, receiving quarterly strengthening visits and transport stipends.
- Ministry of Women Affairs added PWD representative to Technical Working Group; introduced sign language interpretation, Braille materials, and picture-based messages in 2024-2025.

Areas of Concern

- State law deliberately excludes marital rape to accommodate "cultural peculiarities," leaving married women legally vulnerable.
- Knowledge of GBV laws dropped from 89.9% (2023) to 52.9% (2025).
- Single SARC in state capital leaves 80% of state geography unserved. Only 4 of 20 LGAs have functional referral access.
- Knowledge of GBV programs dropped from 77.5% (2023) to 53% (2025).
- Disability accessible materials confined to specialized schools in the Bauchi metropolis only.

Key Actions



Laws and Policies

- Established State GBV Task Force and TWG in 2024, coordinated by the Ministry of Women Affairs with UNFPA support, involving Ministry of Justice, Police, Women Affairs, CSOs, and traditional leaders to improve inter-agency coordination.

Access to Legal Justice

- State government designated two specialized High Courts (High Court 11 and 16) with judges to handle GBV cases, as confirmed by the Court Official and Police in 2025.
- Introduction of streamlined prosecution procedures using Motion Ex-Parte for rape cases, allowing police to charge suspects in court within 21 days.

Support Services

- Establishment and operationalization of the first state-run SARC at Bauchi State Specialist Hospital in 2024, funded and coordinated by the First Lady, providing medical care, psychosocial counseling, transportation, and feeding support to survivors and families.
- Creation of 10-Man Committees across all 20 Local Government Areas by 2024, comprising MDAs, CSOs, NGOs, religious leaders, and traditional leaders to serve as referral pathways and temporary shelters, with quarterly strengthening visits and stipends for transportation.

Information and Awareness

- Launch quarterly state-wide sensitization campaigns by the Office of the First Lady targeting all 20 LGAs, utilizing radio jingles in local languages (Hausa, Fulfulde), television programs, and community dialogues with traditional and religious leaders, scaled up from ad hoc efforts in 2023.

Change Spotlight

Three years ago, survivors of rape or abuse in Bauchi State had limited support, relying on churches and small NGOs. However, in 2025, the government launched the first Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) at the Specialist Hospital, offering free medical treatment, counseling, food, and transportation, funded by the First Lady's office. Help centers have also been established in all 20 local government areas, staffed by health workers, police, lawyers, and community leaders.

These changes have significantly increased awareness of support services, rising from 19% in 2024 to 33% in 2025. Legal processes for gender-based violence cases have become faster, with cases now reaching court in 21 days and over 10 convictions secured in seven months. The centers prioritize inclusivity, providing sign language interpreters and braille materials to ensure access to resources for everyone.



Bauchi State GBV Assessment Survey

LAWS AND POLICIES



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

Yes ■ No ■

52.9% 47.1%



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

Yes ■ No ■

59.1% 40.9%



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

Yes ■ No ■

41.2% 58.8%

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?

Yes ■ No ■

33.2% 66.8%



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

Yes ■ No ■

40.1% 39.8% 10.9% 5.6% 3.6%

■ Agree ■ Strongly agree ■ Indifferent ■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree



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

Yes ■ No ■

66.3% 49.8% 25.4% 14.7% 6.6%

■ Police ■ Hospital ■ Support group ■ Legal ■ None



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

Yes ■ No ■

55.1% 44.9%

ACCESS TO LEGAL JUSTICE



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

67.5% 31.3% 1.2%

■ Formal justice: e.g., police, courts, etc.
■ Informal justice: e.g., traditional or religious heads, community groups, etc.
■ I will not seek justice



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

48.7% 36.0% 15.2%

■ Yes, I would
■ It depends on the robustness and effectiveness of the witness protection program
■ No, I would not



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

■ Yes ■ No

45.7% 54.3%

INFORMATION AND AWARENESS



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

■ Yes ■ No

53.0% 47.0%



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

■ Mostly useful ■ Completely useful ■ A little bit useful ■ Not useful at all

44.8% 31.0% 20.9% 3.3%

■ Mostly useful ■ Completely useful ■ A little bit useful ■ Not useful at all



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

■ Audio ■ Visual ■ Sign ■ Picture ■ Simplified ■ Subtitle ■ Braille ■ None

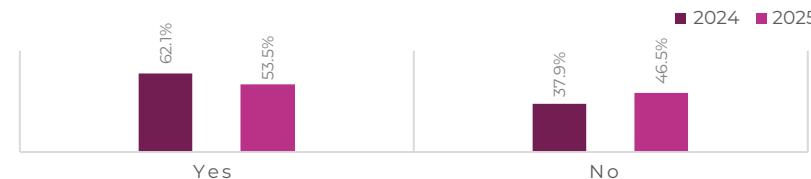
32.8% 20.8% 19.0% 35.4% 20.1% 10.2% 10.0% 21.1%

■ Audio ■ Visual ■ Sign ■ Picture ■ Simplified ■ Subtitle ■ Braille ■ None

Bauchi State GBV Context Trend (2024-2025)

Overall Grade 58.8%

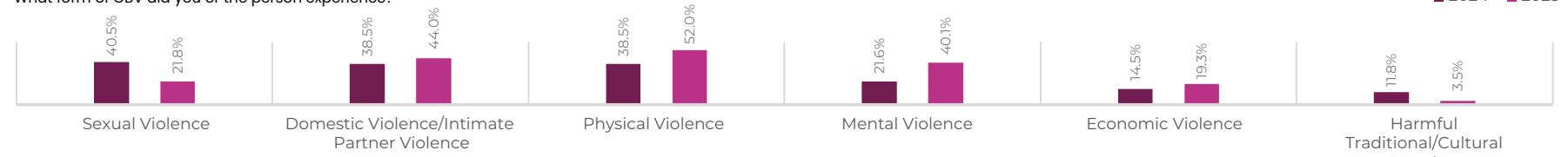
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence in the last five years?



53.5%

of Bauchi State population have either experienced GBV or knows someone who have experienced GBV

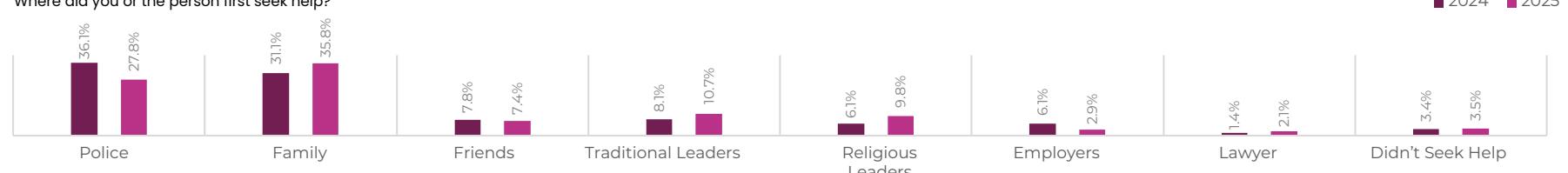
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



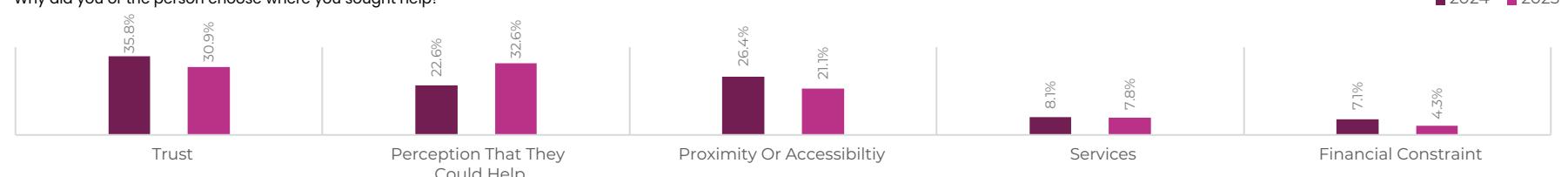
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?



Why did you or the person choose where you sought help?



Bauchi State GBV Trend (2023-2025)

Overall Grade 58.8%





KEY INSIGHTS

Laws and Policies

Current State in 2025

Bauchi State has domesticated the VAPP Law, the Child Rights Law, and a revised 2022 Penal Code that broadens the definition of rape to include penetration by objects, and recognition of male GBV survivors. However, marital rape is explicitly excluded, a concession that stakeholders described as reflecting "cultural and religious realities," showing that sociocultural norms still shape legislation. Enforcement remains weak: only 47.1% of respondents are aware the VAPP Law exists, dropping to 31% in rural areas. Stakeholders stated that although prosecutions occur, "people don't see convictions, so they believe nothing is happening." Consistently, 58.8% of respondents cannot name a single GBV conviction, and 37.2% believe the law is ineffective.

Customary and religious mechanisms continue to influence justice outcomes. While 59.1% acknowledge traditional dispute-resolution practices, 40.9% do not believe these systems can prevent or respond to GBV effectively. Interviews show that traditional rulers often pressure families to withdraw cases to "protect community reputation," undermining accountability. Despite the legal framework, low awareness, limited visibility of convictions, and sociocultural interference reveal a policy environment where laws exist, but enforcement and public adoption remain weak.

Changes Over Time (2023–2025)

Bauchi State's legal framework for addressing GBV has evolved structurally, but public awareness and confidence have declined sharply. Awareness of existing GBV laws plummeted from 89.9% in 2023 to 55% in 2024, and further to 52.9% in 2025, a 37-percentage-point collapse over three years. This trend suggests that despite the 2020 VAPP Law domestication and 2022 Penal Code revision, knowledge of legal protections has not penetrated communities.

The establishment of the Technical Working Group in 2024 and increased use of VAPP provisions in court filings by the Ministry of Justice represent institutional progress, but these gains remain invisible to the majority. Meanwhile, trust in customary and religious laws fluctuated dramatically: from 80.2% in 2023 to 45% in 2024, before rebounding to 59.1% in 2025, reflecting inconsistent messaging and persistent reliance on informal systems despite their documented tendency to obstruct formal justice. Most striking is the collapse in conviction awareness. While 83% of respondents in 2024 knew of GBV convictions, only 41.2% did in 2025, a 41.8-percentage-point drop.

Access to Legal Justice

Current State in 2025

Bauchi shows structural improvements but still struggles to guarantee equal access to justice. 67.5% of citizens are now willing to seek formal justice, up from 36% in 2023. However, the formal system remains severely understaffed: the Legal Aid Council confirmed having only one officer responsible for the entire state, causing rape cases to remain in court for 3–4 years awaiting trial. While the Ministry of Justice secured over ten convictions between December 2024 and July 2025, 58.8% of citizens are unaware of any convictions, demonstrating a disconnect between justice delivery and public perception.

Specialized units exist, GBV desks, Family Support Units, and dedicated prosecutors, but coverage is uneven. Only 4 of 20 LGAs have regular access to referral pathways, as rural survivors are effectively unserved. Witness protection remains fragile: only 48.7% feel safe testifying, and 36% say willingness depends on protection measures. Courts lack forensic laboratories and rely heavily on eyewitness testimony, which cultural pressure often silences. Informal systems complicate justice; 31.3% believe survivors can get justice through traditional or religious leaders, yet interviews show these leaders regularly pressure families to withdraw cases, prioritizing social harmony over accountability.

Changes Over Time (2023–2025)

Preference for formal justice systems has remained relatively stable, 69% in 2023, 66% in 2024, and 67.5% in 2025, but the underlying confidence supporting these choices has eroded dramatically. Most alarming is the collapse in witness willingness: 73.6% felt safe testifying in 2023, but only 48.7% do in 2025, a 25-percentage-point drop. Simultaneously, those demanding effective witness protection before testifying surged from 10% in 2023 to 36% in 2025, exposing growing fear and mistrust in the system's ability to shield witnesses from retaliation. Stakeholders confirmed these concerns are justified. The Legal Aid Council reported that cultural pressure and intimidation from perpetrators' families routinely silence witnesses, while police officers acknowledged using personal funds to transport survivors to court due to chronic underfunding.

Awareness of state-provided legal assistance has also declined sharply, from 50.5% in 2024 to just 45.7% in 2025, meaning more than half the population now remains unaware of available support services. Despite structural improvements like dedicated GBV courts and streamlined prosecution procedures introduced in 2024–2025, these advances have not translated into public confidence or accessibility, particularly in rural areas where the single Legal Aid Council officer cannot meet demand.

Support Services

Current State in 2025

Bauchi State has expanded GBV support services from no facility in 2023 to one government-affiliated SARC (located within a teaching hospital) and five NGO-run shelters by 2025. The SARC provides medical treatment, Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), counseling, documentation, and referral to prosecution through SOP-guided pathways linking hospitals, FSU/GBV desk, and Ministry of Justice. However, access remains uneven: only 33.2% of residents know these facilities exist. The SARC Coordinator confirmed that operations are sustained "whether money is available or not," revealing over-dependence on donor/First Lady-driven funding rather than stable state budget allocation. Only 4 of 20 LGAs have functional referral pathways, leaving 80% of the state without structured access.

Knowledge of holistic support remains poor. Although the support system includes medical, psychosocial, legal, and temporary economic assistance, 55.7% of the population are unaware that these services exist. Survivors, therefore, continue to rely on informal family and religious support systems, which stakeholders noted often prioritize reconciliation over safety, sometimes returning survivors to unsafe environments. Without expanded SARCs, permanent state-run shelters, and awareness of referral channels, equal and sustained access to survivor-centered care remains limited.

Changes Over Time (2023–2025)

The state's support infrastructure underwent a dramatic transformation, though public awareness struggled to keep pace. Knowledge of the active shelters and SARC decreased from 45% in 2023 to 19.5% in 2024, following the closure of informal facilities, before partially recovering to 33.2% in 2025 after the government inaugurated its first official SARC at the Specialist Hospital. However, confidence in these facilities' functionality declined, while 47% believed shelters were adequately equipped in 2024, only 40.1% agreed in 2025, suggesting that visibility did not guarantee quality or sustainability. The SARC Coordinator's admission that they need "more staff and supplies" confirms that resource constraints undermine the centres' potential impact despite government funding for transportation and feeding.

Referral pathway awareness also shifted unpredictably. Police reporting pathways surged from 58% awareness in 2023 to 69.2% in 2024, before settling at 66.3% in 2025. Healthcare pathways rose from 45% in 2023 to 60.2% in 2024, then dropped to 49.8% in 2025. Most troubling is the decline in awareness of legal representation, which fell from 20.1% in 2024 to just 14.7% in 2025, a critical gap when justice depends on legal support. Meanwhile, trust in informal systems (family, friends, religious centers) fluctuated wildly: from 86.8% in 2023 to 45.5% in 2024, rebounding to 55.1% in 2025, reflecting persistent reliance on traditional networks despite documented cases where they obstruct formal justice.

Information and Awareness

Current State in 2025

Information dissemination on GBV in Bauchi has improved: 53% of respondents reported exposure to GBV messaging in 2025. Radio remains the dominant channel (43.2%), followed by health workers (36.4%) and television (16.2%). However, traditional/community leaders account for only 1.9%, despite their influence over decision-making in GBV cases, limiting reach in rural areas. IEC materials exist, but their effectiveness is low: only 31% of respondents find the materials "completely useful," and 20.9% find them "a little bit useful," indicating that messaging does not yet empower action. Public demand for structured GBV education is strong. 83.1% of respondents support integrating GBV/child protection into school curricula. Yet, the Ministry of Education limits GBV content to clubs and extracurricular programs rather than formal classroom instruction, leaving most learners unreachd.

Disability-inclusive communication is inconsistent. While sign-language interpreters are deployed during campaigns, awareness of accessible formats remains low (10% braille, 19% sign interpretation, 10.2% subtitled content). Visual IEC (35.4%) and audio-based methods (32.8%) are more effective but largely concentrated in urban areas. The state conducts awareness, but reach, simplicity of messaging, and disability inclusion remain weak, especially for rural populations.

Changes Over Time (2023–2025)

Awareness of GBV programs and materials has declined sharply despite increased campaign activity. Knowledge dropped from 77% in 2023 to 58% in 2024, and further to 53% in 2025, a 24.5-percentage-point collapse over three years. This trend directly contradicts the expansion of state-led initiatives, including quarterly sensitization campaigns by the Office of the First Lady, the AGILE program in schools, and the Technical Working Group's multi-sectoral outreach. The gap reveals a fundamental communication failure: campaigns are happening, but they are not effectively reaching or registering with the population. Paradoxically, those who do encounter materials report growing satisfaction, perceived usefulness climbed from 20.2% rating content "completely useful" in 2023 to 26% in 2024 and 31% in 2025, suggesting quality improvements in messaging even as reach contracts.

Disability-inclusive materials show volatile and inconsistent progress. Awareness of audio/spoken content surged from 28.2% in 2023 to 55.6% in 2024, before plummeting to 32.8% in 2025, a pattern suggesting sporadic, donor-dependent initiatives rather than sustained programming. While the Ministry of Women Affairs introduced braille materials and sign language interpretation in 2024–2025, stakeholders confirmed these remain confined to specialized schools in urban areas, leaving rural persons with disabilities entirely excluded from potentially life-saving information about their rights and available support.

Budget and Spending

Budget Analysis 2024

Bauchi State allocated ₦2.53 billion to GBV programs in 2024, representing 0.64% of its total state budget. Of the allocated amount, ₦1.68 billion was actually spent, achieving a 66.5% implementation

rate. This means approximately one-third of the budgeted resources remained unutilized by the end of the fiscal year. The actual GBV expenditure constituted 0.49% of the state's total spending, slightly lower than the budget allocation share. On a per capita basis, Bauchi State spent approximately ₦391.04 on GBV-related programs.

Changes Over Time (2022–2024)

Bauchi State's GBV-related allocations was ₦461.62 million in 2022, ₦578.47 million in 2023, and ₦2.53 billion in 2024. Budget performance improved from 56.0% in 2022 to 83.0% in 2023, before declining to 66.5% in 2024. Although Bauchi continues to struggle with per capita spending, gradual improvement is evident. In 2024, the state included one GBV-specific line item, "Purchase of Application Software for Programmes on Gender-Based Violence." This represents progress compared to 2022 and 2023, when no GBV-specific line items were included. However, the 2024 line item recorded no implementation. Per capita spending increased steadily, with ₦391.04 in 2024, ₦115.10 in 2023, and ₦64.03 in 2022. The significant rise in 2024 reflects growing fiscal attention to GBV-related needs after two years of modest incremental growth.

Human Angle Stories

Amina suffered regular physical abuse from her husband. One night, during a beating, she hit her head on a wooden stool. That night, she decided to report him to the police. She almost withdrew her case, but a visit from a government official from the Ministry of Women's Affairs changed everything. Amina was taken to the Bauchi SARC, where she received free medical care, counselling, legal guidance, and her rights under the VAPP Act were explained to her. With the Centre's support, Amina chose to continue her case. Although the court process has been slow and emotionally draining, having safe accommodation through the support of the first lady's office has made it more bearable.

KEY GAPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Index	Key Gaps	Recommendations
 Laws and Policies	Frontline officers remain inadequately trained on VAPP provisions, leading to inconsistent application.	Mandate quarterly training for police, judges, and legal officers on VAPP Act application, and establish a public conviction registry accessible through community notice boards and radio announcements.
	Bauchi's VAPP Law excludes marital rape to respect cultural and religious views, contradicting federal law and leaving married women unprotected. While 59.1% believe customary and religious systems cannot effectively prevent GBV, traditional leaders often obstruct justice by pressuring families to withdraw cases.	Establish a legislative review committee with religious scholars, women's rights advocates, and Ministry of Justice representatives to align state law with federal VAPP provisions within 12 months. Additionally, formalize the role of the 10-Man Committees with SOPs that prevent case withdrawal pressures and require referrals to formal courts for capital offenses.
 Access to Legal Justice	The Legal Aid Council operates with a single staff member covering the entire state, resulting in rape cases awaiting trial for 3–4 years.	Recruit and deploy at least five additional Legal Aid officers across the three senatorial zones, with mobile legal clinics visiting remote LGAs monthly.
	Only four out of the twenty LGAs have functional referral pathways, and the lack of forensic laboratories means cases depend heavily on witness testimony—an evidence source often undermined by cultural intimidation. Witness willingness to testify collapsed from 73.6% in 2023 to 48.7% in 2025.	Establish a state forensic laboratory or formalize a partnership with the Yola facility for evidence of processing. Introduce a witness protection program with safe houses, pseudonym provisions, and financial support for relocation when necessary.
 Support Services	Only 33.2% of residents know the state's one SARC exists, dropping to 18% in rural areas, and 55.7% remain unaware that medical, legal, psychosocial, and economic support services are available. The single SARC, located in Bauchi metropolis, serves all 20 LGAs, leaving 80% of the state's geography functionally unserved.	Establish two additional satellite SARCs in Toro (Bauchi North) and Ningi (Bauchi South) within 12 months, equipped with dedicated medical personnel, counselors, and legal officers. Concurrently, deploy mobile SARC units, equipped ambulances with trained staff, to visit remote LGAs monthly on publicized schedules.
	Awareness of legal representation pathways collapsed from 20.1% in 2024 to 14.7% in 2025. Shelters managed by NGOs and the 10-Man Committees often become sites where traditional leaders pressure survivors into reconciliation rather than prosecution, undermining accountability before cases reach court.	Mandate that all SARC and shelter referrals to legal services be tracked through a digital case management system with automated follow-ups every 48 hours until legal representation is secured. Prohibit informal mediation for capital GBV offenses (rape, defilement, grievous bodily harm) through formal directives to the 10-Man Committees, with penalties for non-compliance including removal from the committee and prosecution under Section 2(l) of the VAPP Law for accessory after the fact.
 Information and Awareness	Awareness of GBV programs dropped from 77.5% in 2023 to 53% in 2025 despite expanded state campaigns, revealing a fundamental communication failure.	Integrate age-appropriate GBV and consent education into the formal curriculum for Primary 4–6 and all secondary school levels by the 2026 academic year, with trained teachers delivering quarterly modules.
	Only 31% find awareness materials "completely useful," and traditional leaders, who wield significant community influence, account for just 3.5% of information dissemination.	Collaborate with traditional and religious leaders to share co-branded awareness messages during community gatherings, offering small stipends and public recognition for participation and IEC materials based on community feedback to ensure cultural relevance and effectiveness.
 Budget and Spending	Disability inclusion remains tokenistic: only 10% know of braille materials, 19% of sign interpretation, and 10.2% of screen subtitled.	Establish a Disability Inclusion Unit within the Ministry of Women Affairs, with a budget for accessible GBV materials and train at least one community health worker and one Gender Desk officer in each LGA on disability-responsive communication and referral.
	Budget execution declined from 83% in 2023 to 66.5% in 2024, and the only GBV-specific line item—Application Software for GBV Programs—recorded 0% implementation.	Execute the Application Software line item and include additional GBV-specific budget lines such as shelters, SARCs, and survivor support services. Improve overall budget execution from 66.5% to at least match the 2023 performance levels.

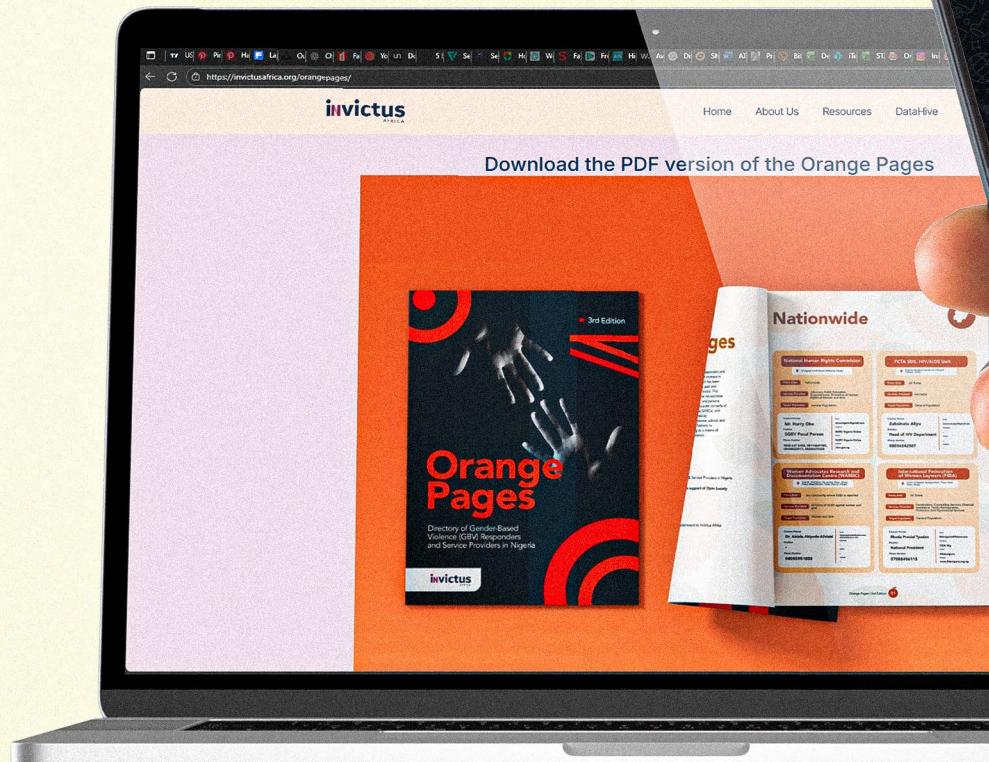


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