



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



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Jigawa State

The New World

Emir of Dutsse Palace

Jigawa State

Population: 7,350,011

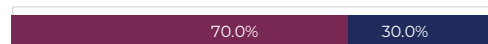
50.8% Female 49.2% Male

Overall Grade 60.8%

Respondents Demography (n = 1,109)

GENDER

Female Male



AREA

Rural Urban



AGE

<20 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60-69

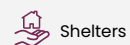


DISABILITY STATUS

Yes No



1



0

Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

BUDGET ALLOCATION

₦3.61bn

(This accounts for 0.9% of the total state budget)

BUDGET PERFORMANCE

₦1.83bn

(This accounts for 50.7% of total allocation to the ministry)



Capital Personnel Overhead



Per Capita Spending

₦490.70

Indexes	Indicators				Total Grades
Laws and Policies	LP ₁	LP ₂	LP ₃	—	75.0%
Access to Legal Justice	ALJ ₁	ALJ ₂	ALJ ₃	ALJ ₄	56.3%
Support Services	SS ₁	SS ₂	SS ₃	SS ₄	68.8%
Information and Awareness	IA ₁	IA ₂	IA ₃	IA ₄	37.5%
Budget and Spending	BS ₁	BS ₂	BS ₃	—	66.7%

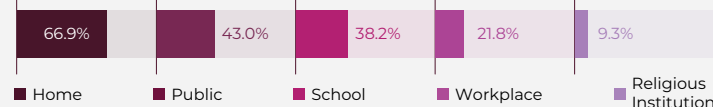
GBV Context 2025

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

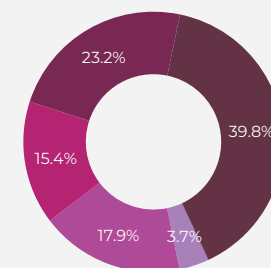
No Yes



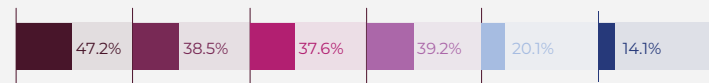
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



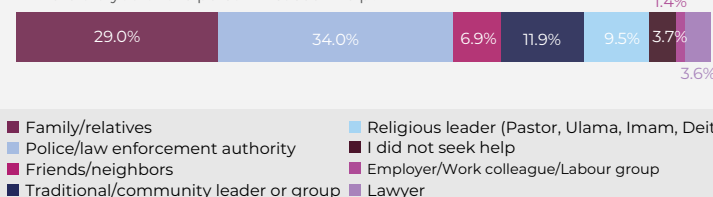
Why did you or the person choose where you sought help?



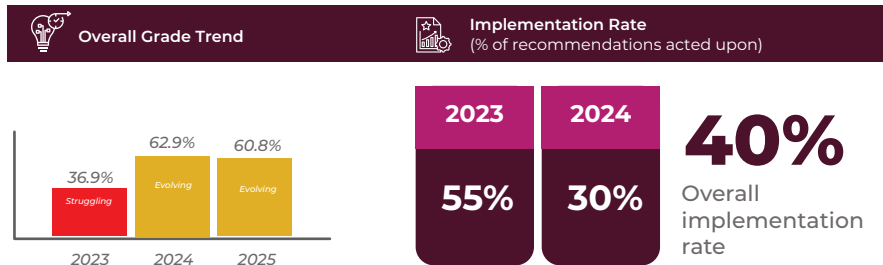
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



Where did you or the person first seek help?



Financial constraint Perception that they could help Proximity or accessibility Services Trust



Index Grade Trend

Index	2023	2024	2025
Laws and Policies	LP 48.3%	+1 ▲ LP 83.3%	LP 75.0%
Access to Legal Justice	ALJ 61.3%	ALJ 68.8%	ALJ 56.3%
Support Services	SS 25.0%	+1 ▲ SS 50.0%	SS 68.8%
Information and Awareness	IA 25.0%	+1 ▲ IA 62.5%	-1 ▼ IA 37.5%
Budget and Spending	BS 25.0%	+1 ▲ BS 50.0%	+1 ▲ BS 66.7%

What Has Changed

Positive Developments

- Enactment and continued enforcement of the VAPP Law (2021) and Child Rights Protection Law (2022) with stronger prosecution of GBV cases.
- Establishment of functional SARC in Dutse providing medical, legal, and counselling services, with plans for four additional centers underway.
- Expansion of gender and family support units across 30 police divisions, improving case referral and coordination.
- Improved quality and clarity of GBV awareness messages and materials, especially via radio and community outreach.

Areas of Concern

- Declining public awareness of GBV laws and information programs, particularly in rural communities.
- Persistent use of informal settlements by traditional and religious leaders despite legal reforms.
- Limited access to legal aid beyond a few LGAs due to funding and staffing gaps.
- Inadequate shelter facilities and incomplete rollout of new SARCs.
- Low inclusion of persons with disabilities in awareness and service programs.
- Cultural stigma and fear of retaliation still discourage some survivors from reporting cases.

Key Actions

Laws and Policies

- The state enacted its VAPP Law in 2021 with unique provisions including public shaming, compensation regime, and life imprisonment for perpetrators.
- The present state administration introduced appearance fees and transport allowances for state counsels prosecuting GBV cases, addressing previous funding gaps.

Access to Legal Justice

- Establishment of committee to address challenges with suspects absconding after bail, with completed report awaiting implementation.
- State provides transport money to witnesses and survivors attending court proceedings across all 27 LGAs.

Support Services

- The state is expanding its Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) services with four new facilities currently under construction in Kazaure, Gumel, Ringim, and Hadejia Local Government Areas.
- SARCs provide free medical treatment, counselling, home visits, and material support with two dedicated hotlines for reporting.

Information and Awareness

- During the annual 16 Days of Activism, there are often state-wide campaigns using street rallies, media coverage, and distribution of IEC materials across selected LGAs.
- The World Bank-funded program in the state ensures GBV prevention, prevents early marriage, and promote menstrual hygiene education for female adolescents in schools.

Change Spotlight

In 2025, Jigawa State Government expanded Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs) from one to five across the state, addressing a critical gap in accessibility for GBV survivors. The four new SARCs, strategically located at each Emirate headquarters (Hadejia, Kazaure, Ringim, and Gumel), ensure that survivors across all 27 LGAs can now access medical care, counseling, and support services within one hour's reach, eliminating the burden of traveling long distances to the single SARC previously located only in Dutse.

Jigawa State GBV Assessment Survey

Overall Grade **60.8%**

LAWS AND POLICIES



Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state? Yes ■ No ■



Do you think customary or religious laws and/or practices are sufficient in preventing and responding to GBV in the state? Yes ■ No ■



Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses? Yes ■ No ■



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 ■



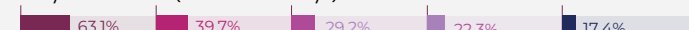
Do you believe that these shelters and/or SARCs are effectively functional, adequately equipped, properly maintained, and sustainable over time?



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



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



■ 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 ■



ACCESS TO LEGAL JUSTICE



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



■ 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?



■ 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



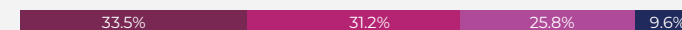
INFORMATION AND AWARENESS



Do you know of any GBV information and/or education programs or materials in the state? Yes ■ No ■



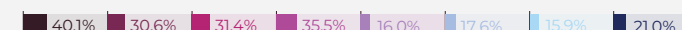
How useful is/was the content of the GBV awareness material in educating you on GBV?



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



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

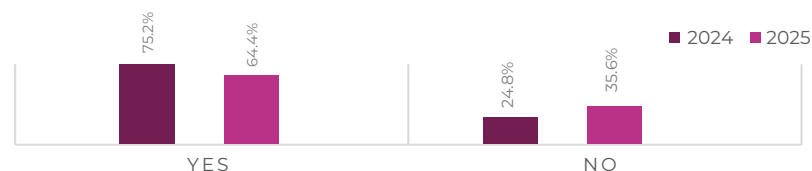


■ Audio ■ Visual ■ Sign ■ Picture ■ Simplified ■ Subtitle ■ Braille ■ None

Jigawa State GBV Context Trend (2024-2025)

Overall Grade **60.8%**

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



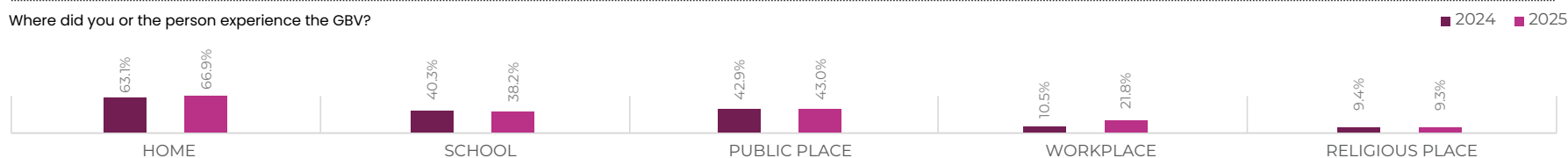
64.4%

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

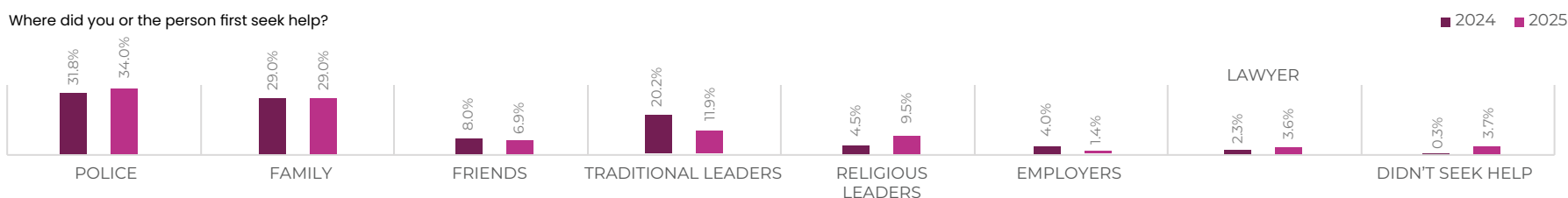
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



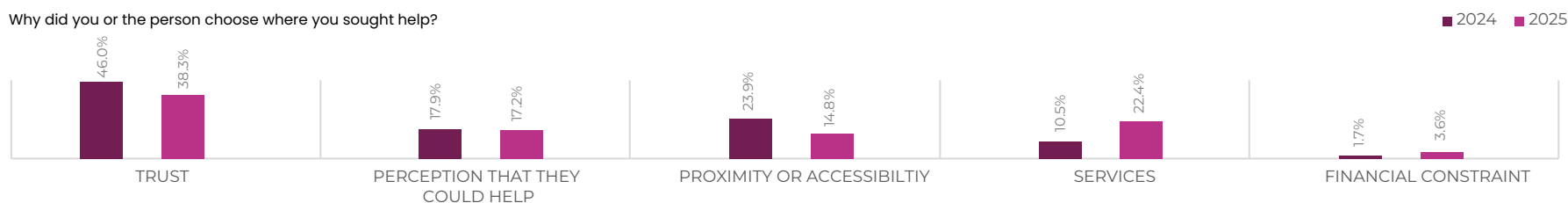
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?

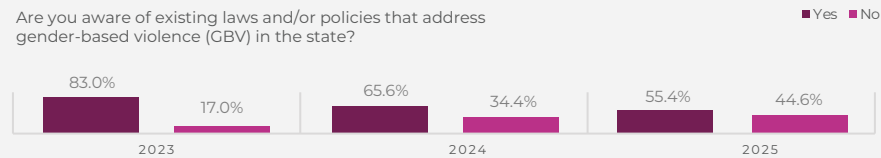


Why did you or the person choose where you sought help?

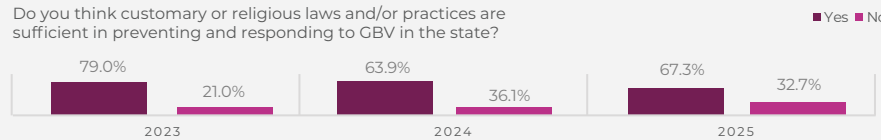


LAWS AND POLICIES

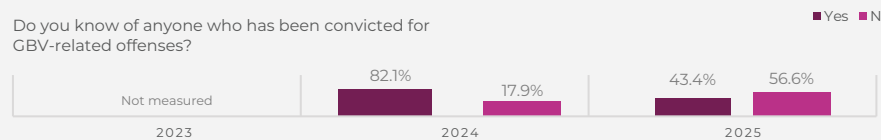
Are you aware of existing laws and/or policies that address gender-based violence (GBV) in the state?



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

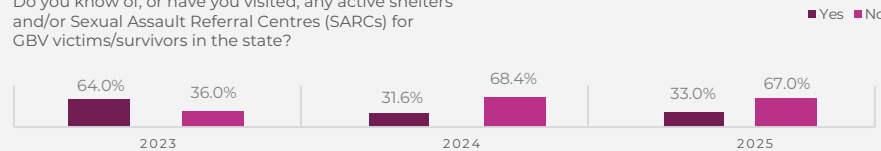


Do you know of anyone who has been convicted for GBV-related offenses?

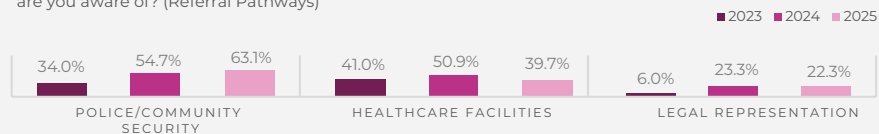


SUPPORT SERVICES

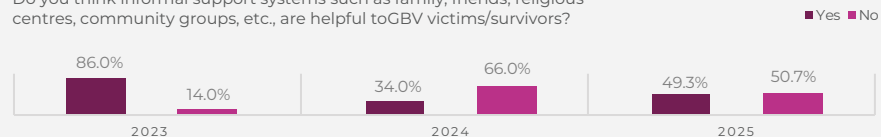
Do you know of, or have you visited, any active shelters and/or Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for GBV victims/survivors in the state?



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

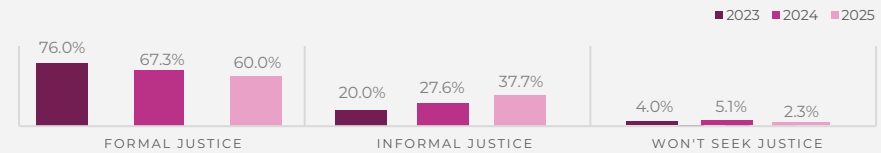


Do you think informal support systems such as family, friends, religious centres, community groups, etc., are helpful to GBV victims/survivors?

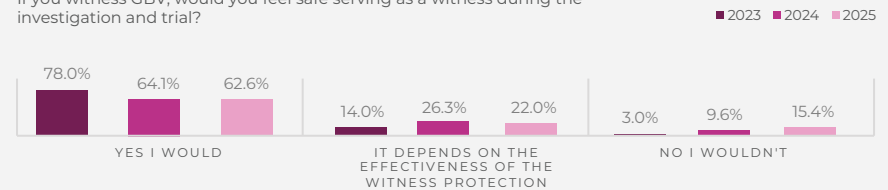


ACCESS TO LEGAL JUSTICE

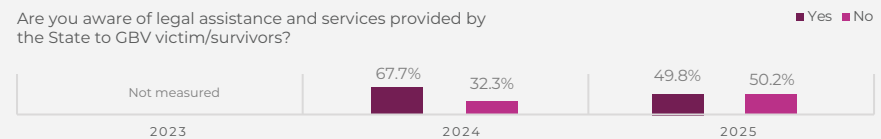
Where would you seek justice if you, or anyone you know, experience GBV?



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

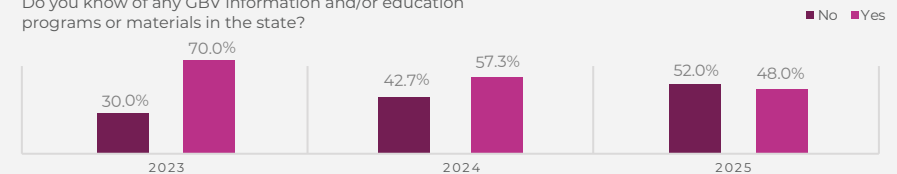


Are you aware of legal assistance and services provided by the State to GBV victim/survivors?

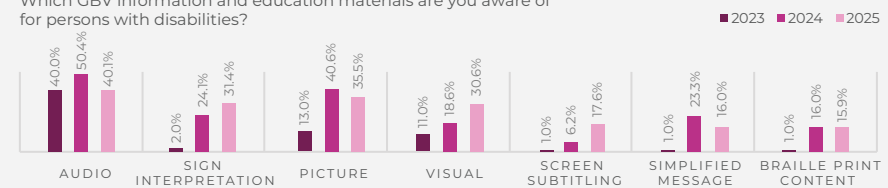


INFORMATION AND AWARENESS

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

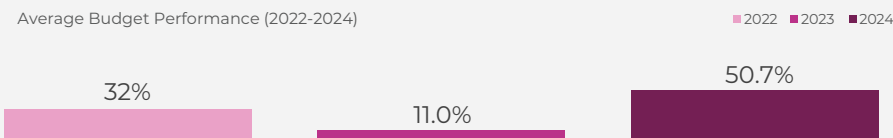


Which GBV information and education materials are you aware of for persons with disabilities?

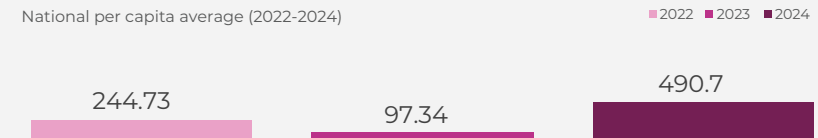


BUDGET AND SPENDING

Average Budget Performance (2022-2024)



National per capita average (2022-2024)





KEY INSIGHTS

Laws and Policies

Current State in 2025

Jigawa State has established a comprehensive legal framework to combat GBV, anchored by the VAPP Law (2021), Child Rights Protection Law (2022), and supportive gender policies including free girl-child education from primary to university level. The VAPP Law introduced significant reforms beyond federal provisions, including public shaming of perpetrators, a compensation regime for survivors infected with HIV/STDs, and a sex offender registry to track repeat offenders. However, while 55.4% of respondents acknowledged awareness of these laws primarily through radio (63.1%), social media (40.1%), and friends/family networks (26.4%), a substantial 44.6% remain uninformed. Among those aware, 69.5% believe the laws are effective. Although officials from the Ministry of Justice reported 28 convictions in 2024–2025, the Legal Aid Council confirmed over 200 GBV-related convictions across twelve high courts; yet only 43.4% know of any GBV convictions, reflecting a gap in enforcement visibility.

Awareness of customary and religious laws stands at 52.5%, with 67.3% viewing them as helpful in preventing GBV, though officials from the state reveal that traditional leaders still handle GBV cases informally rather than referring them through formal channels. Such community-level settlements, driven by stigma and family pressure, undermine justice delivery despite ongoing government reforms.

Changes Over Time (2023–2025)

Between 2023 and 2025, Jigawa State demonstrated moderate progress in applying the VAPP Law (2021) across its 27 LGAs, with increased prosecution of GBV cases and active CSO advocacy, particularly for minors in remote communities. However, despite several attempts, no new GBV-related legislation or significant review of the VAPP Law occurred within the period. Public awareness of existing laws declined steadily from 82.9% in 2023 to 66% in 2024, and further to 55.4% in 2025 reflecting limited outreach beyond urban centers.

Confidence in customary and religious systems also fluctuated, dropping from 79.3% in 2023 to 64% in 2024, then slightly rising to 67.3% in 2025, showing continued community reliance on informal settlements despite the formal legal framework. Knowledge of GBV convictions decreased sharply from 82% in 2024 to 43.4% in 2025, suggesting that justice outcomes remain poorly communicated

to the public.

Access to Legal Justice

Current State in 2025

Access to legal justice in Jigawa State reflects mixed progress in recent years. Most respondents (60.1%) seek justice through formal systems, showing growing public confidence in institutional mechanisms, while 37.7% still prefer informal structures led by traditional or religious leaders. Only 2.3% reported not seeking justice, often citing reasons such as fear of retaliation, lack of faith in authorities, or belief that “justice belongs to God.” This indicates that, while formal reporting has improved, barriers like cultural stigma, costs, and limited legal literacy continue to deter some survivors from pursuing justice.

Womanity Index data on awareness of legal assistance services shows only half of respondents knew such support exists, with television (64.1%) being the main information channel.

There is an effective reporting protocol as the Ministry of Justice described detailed case-flow – from police report to Attorney General's advice and court prosecution, highlighting improved coordination, but there are persistent case delays due to magistrates' premature bail releases and missing defendants. Stakeholders also confirmed operational law centers in only a few LGAs (Birnin Kudu, Hadejia, Maigatari), while others have closed due to funding constraints, limiting equitable access.

Encouragingly, 62.7% of residents are willing to serve as witnesses in GBV cases, and another 22% would do so if a witness protection mechanism were in place, indicating strong public readiness for justice engagement if adequate safeguards exist. 70% believe informal justice systems help survivors, highlighting their accessibility and social influence, though these systems often lack procedural fairness and perpetuate patriarchal bias.

Changes Over Time (2023–2025)

Despite several government initiatives, access to legal justice in the state declined steadily, with formal justice use dropping from 75.1% in 2023 to 67% in 2024 and 60.1% in 2025, while reliance on informal systems rose from 20% to 37.6%. Willingness to serve as witnesses also fell from 77.9% in 2023 to 62.7% in 2025, though conditional willingness linked to effective witness protection rose from 13.6% in 2023 to 22% in 2025. Awareness of legal assistance services stagnated, reaching only 49.8% in 2025 compared to 68% in 2024. Despite some increase in convictions, progress remains modest due to inadequate funding, lack of dedicated GBV courts, and slow case resolution, which

are issues that continue to undermine survivor confidence in formal justice systems.

Support Services

Current State in 2025

Support services for GBV survivors in Jigawa State remain limited, with only one functional SARC offering medical, counselling, and forensic support. The SARC Officer in Dutse confirmed that the center offers free medical, legal, and counselling services, supported by inter-ministerial coordination among Health, Justice, and Women Affairs, though funding gaps persist. However, the absence of formal shelters severely restricts survivor access to safe spaces and rehabilitation.

Awareness of available support services is low: only 43.2% of respondents reported being aware. 67% of respondents neither knew of nor had visited any SARC, and opinions on its adequacy are mixed: while 40% believe it is well-equipped and functional, 48% disagree as officials noted the facility's small capacity and limited staff, urging expansion to rural LGAs such as Gwaram and Yan Kwashi.

Referral systems described as a formal process where SARC handles medical care, police handle arrest, Justice Ministry handles prosecution, and Women Affairs manages rehabilitation are relatively recognized, with 63% identifying the police or community security as the main reporting pathway, 39.8% mentioning hospitals, 29.2% citing support groups, and 22.4% preferring legal pathway.

About 49.3% of respondents view informal support structures as more effective than formal mechanisms, as community and religious leaders were cited as key channels for awareness and psychosocial support, with Imams, Pastors, and CSOs often helping survivors reintegrate after incidents.

Changes Over Time (2023–2025)

Jigawa State recorded modest progress in strengthening GBV support services, though awareness and accessibility remain weak. Awareness of active SARCs and shelters declined from 63.6% in 2023 to 32% in 2024 but slightly improved to 33% in 2025, coinciding with government efforts to construct four new SARCs in addition to the existing one at Dutse General Hospital. Reported cases at the SARC rose sharply from 3 in 2023 to 108 in 2024 and 381 in 2025, reflecting improved reporting and service utilization.

The state also established 30 gender and family support units across police divisions to improve coordination and response. However, only 47% of respondents believed existing facilities were adequately equipped and functional. Awareness of referral pathways improved; knowledge of police channels rose from 34.3% in 2023 to 54.7% in 2024 and 63% in 2025, and legal referrals from 5.7% to 23.3% to 22.3%, but awareness of healthcare routes declined slightly.

Confidence in informal support systems dropped from 85.7% in 2023 to 34% in 2024 before stabilizing at 49.3% in 2025, showing a gradual shift toward formal mechanisms. Overall, while infrastructure and reporting have improved, stronger public sensitization and completion of new SARCs are needed to achieve equitable, survivor-centred service delivery.

Information and Awareness

Current State in 2025

The Ministry of Women Affairs in Jigawa State coordinates GBV awareness efforts, including the annual "16 Days of Activism" rallies and community sensitizations in selected LGAs, though coverage is uneven. This limited reach is reflected in the fact that only 48% of respondents reported being aware of GBV information or education programs. Among those informed, radio (64.9%) and social media (35.6%) emerged as the most common information sources, followed by friends and family (26%) and television (22.2%).

Schools (11.6%) and healthcare workers (9.2%) play a relatively minor role, indicating a need to strengthen institutional and community-based sensitization platforms. Also, 33.5% of respondents found the content of the GBV information mostly useful and 31% completely useful, suggesting that while reach is limited, message clarity is improving. A vast majority (73.9%) support teaching GBV and child sexual abuse education in schools, underscoring public demand for preventive education at all learning levels.

Use of disability-inclusive GBV communication materials remains uneven, though progress is evident across multiple formats. Respondents reported receiving GBV information through audio/spoken content (40.1%), picture-based messages (35.6%), sign interpretation (31.5%), and visual content (30.5%), suggesting that these are the most accessible and widely used mediums for persons with disabilities. However, fewer respondents accessed information through braille (15.9%), simplified messages (16%), or screen subtitling (17.7%), reflecting ongoing limitations in ensuring equitable access to GBV awareness materials for all disability groups..

Changes Over Time (2023–2025)

Jigawa State recorded a steady decline in public awareness and information dissemination on GBV. Awareness levels dropped from 70% in 2023 to 57% in 2024 and further to 48% in 2025 – a 22-percentage point decrease over the three-year period. Despite this downward trend, there was notable improvement in advocacy and radio programming aimed at sensitizing the public on GBV-related issues. Meanwhile, the usefulness of GBV awareness materials improved significantly, with the proportion of respondents describing them as "completely useful" rising from 11.4% in 2023 to 49% in 2024 and reaching 31% in 2025. This indicates that while overall access to GBV information has declined, the quality and relevance of the materials available to those reached have become stronger and more impactful.

Budget and Spending

Budget Analysis 2024

Jigawa State allocated ₦3.61 billion to GBV programs in 2024, representing 0.94% of its total state budget. Of the allocated amount, ₦1.83 billion was actually spent, achieving a 50.7% implementation rate. This means approximately half of the budgeted resources remained unutilized by the end of the fiscal year. The actual GBV expenditure constituted 0.62% of the state's total spending, slightly

lower than the budget allocation share. On a per capita basis, Jigawa State spent approximately ₦490.70 per female resident on GBV-related programs.

Changes Over Time (2022–2024)

Across the three-year review period, Jigawa State has consistently included GBV-specific line items in its budget. One such item, “Campaign Against Rape and Other Gender-Based Violence,” was allocated ₦2 million and fully implemented in 2024. The same intervention received an allocation of ₦2.09 million in 2023, but no actual spending was recorded that year. Additional GBV-related line items in the 2024 budget included “Sexual Assault Referral Centre Expenses,” allocated ₦7.83 million, with ₦2.81 million expended, resulting in a performance rate of 35.2%.

The “Implementation of Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Support Program” was allocated ₦13 million and recorded an expenditure of ₦12.24 million, achieving a strong performance of 94.1%. Unlike many states that recorded minimal or no implementation of GBV-specific line items, Jigawa demonstrates comparatively stronger execution. However, there remains significant room for improvement. The state’s overall budget performance for 2024 stood at 50.7%, which, although moderate, is an increase from 11% in 2023 and 32% in 2022. Per capita spending stood at ₦490.70 in 2024, ₦97.34 in 2023, and ₦244.73 in 2022. The sharp rise in 2024 after fluctuating levels in previous years indicates renewed fiscal attention but also highlights inconsistency in GBV-related investment over the period.

Human Angle Stories

Umma was 14 years old when she was drugged and raped by a community member and got pregnant as a result. The alleged perpetrator confessed to the crime and agreed to pay for child support, but he reneged on his promise and later denied the crime.

The case was escalated to the Ministry of Women Affairs and the office of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense. The alleged perpetrator was arrested but released after spending 30 days in police custody.

Despite threats from the alleged perpetrator and his family, Umma’s family remained resolute. However, it’s been a year and some months, and Umma and her family are yet to get justice. Overwhelmed by the unending judicial processes, she can’t help but doubt if she will ever get justice.

KEY GAPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Index	Key Gaps	Recommendations
 Laws and Policies	The VAPP and Child Rights Protection Laws are in force, but public awareness remains low (55%), with rural communities least informed.	Intensify community-level sensitization through radio, town halls, and traditional leaders to improve law awareness and accessibility.
	Conviction rates have improved, yet justice outcomes are not well-publicized, reducing public confidence.	Establish a communication mechanism between courts and the Ministry of Information to publish conviction data regularly.
	Customary and religious leaders still settle GBV cases informally, undermining formal justice.	Strengthen engagement with traditional and faith leaders through structured referral agreements and training on GBV laws.
 Access to Legal Justice	Formal justice use is declining as more survivors revert to informal systems due to court delays and costs.	Deploy mobile courts or GBV-dedicated sessions to fast-track hearings and reduce costs.
	Legal aid coverage is limited to few LGAs, restricting access to justice in rural areas.	Expand Legal Aid Council offices and integrate paralegal services at community level.
	Weak coordination between police, health, and justice delays case handling.	Formalize referral protocols and create a digital case-tracking system linking SARC, police, and Ministry of Justice.
 Support Services	Only one functional SARC exists, with limited staff and space.	Complete planned SARCs in Gumel, Hadejia, Ringim, and Kazaure to achieve statewide coverage.
	No formal government shelter for survivors.	Establish at least one state-managed safe shelter and partner with NGOs for temporary survivor housing.
	Referral mechanisms work but remain urban-centred.	Integrate GBV response into primary healthcare centers and community security groups in all LGAs.
 Information and Awareness	Public awareness of GBV issues declined from 70% (2023) to 48% (2025).	Introduce sustained annual GBV communication plans with state budget allocations, not donor dependency.
	Schools and healthcare workers play minimal roles in sensitization.	Integrate GBV and CSA education into school curricula and train teachers and health workers as community advocates.
	Persons with disabilities not adequately reached by information materials.	Develop disability-inclusive IEC materials, especially in braille, sign language, simplified audio formats.
 Budget and Spending	Jigawa State's 50.7% implementation rate means ₦1.78 billion in allocated GBV funds remained unutilized in 2024, falling short of the 85% benchmark despite improvement from previous years.	Conduct a bottleneck analysis to identify barriers to budget utilization and establish quarterly performance reviews with corrective action plans to achieve at least 85% implementation rate by 2025.



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