



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



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# Osun State

*Land of Virtue*

*Erin Ijesha Waterfall*

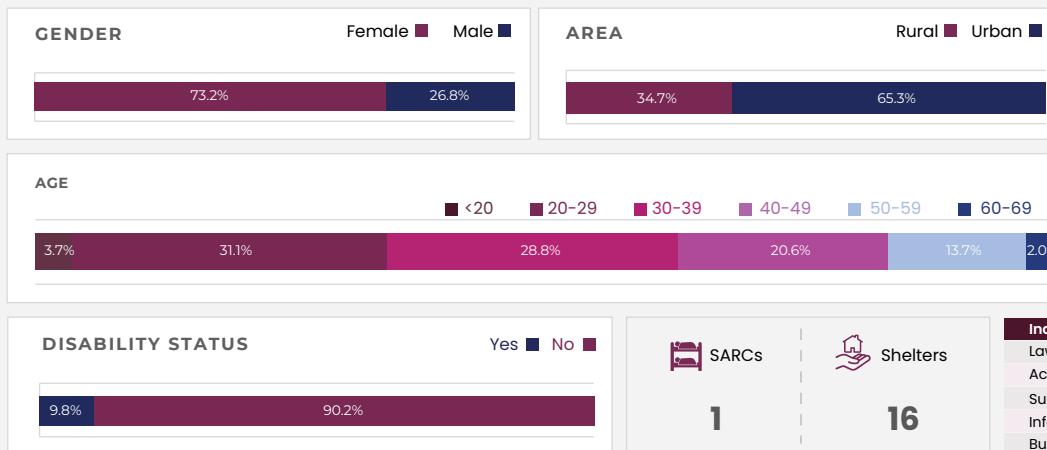
# Osun State

Population: 6,078,458

50.1% Female 49.9% Male

Overall Grade **58.3%**

## Respondents Demography (n = 1,148)



## Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

### BUDGET ALLOCATION

**₦1.34bn**

(This accounts for 0.5% of the total state budget)

### BUDGET PERFORMANCE

**₦482.64m**

(This accounts for 36.1% of total allocation to the ministry)

36.1%

Capital ■ Personnel ■ Overhead ■ Others ■ (Actual Spend)

9.0% 18.1% 72.4% 0.4%



Per Capita Spending

**₦158.66**

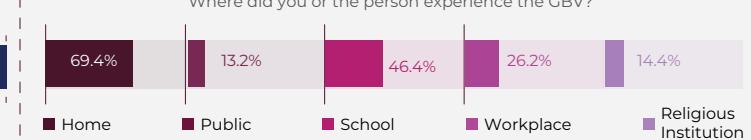
Indexes	Indicators			Total Grades
Laws and Policies	LP <sub>1</sub>	LP <sub>2</sub>	LP <sub>3</sub>	—
Access to Legal Justice	ALJ <sub>1</sub>	ALJ <sub>2</sub>	ALJ <sub>3</sub>	ALJ <sub>4</sub>
Support Services	SS <sub>1</sub>	SS <sub>2</sub>	SS <sub>3</sub>	SS <sub>4</sub>
Information and Awareness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

## GBV Context 2025

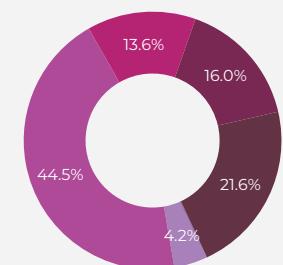
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence in the last five years?



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)

Employer/Work colleague/Labour group

I did not seek help

Lawyer

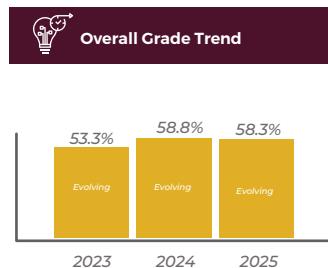
Trust

Services

Proximity or accessibility

Perception that they could help

Financial constraint



### Index Grade Trend

Index	2023	2024	2025
Laws and Policies	LP 75.0%	-1 ▼ LP 58.3%	LP 58.3%
Access to Legal Justice	ALJ 61.3%	ALJ 68.8%	ALJ 56.3%
Support Services	SS 61.3%	SS 68.8%	SS 56.3%
Information and Awareness	IA 43.8%	+1 ▲ IA 56.3%	IA 62.5%
Budget and Spending	BS 25.0%	+1 ▲ BS 41.7%	BS 58.3%

### What Has Changed

#### Positive Developments

- The Asubiaro SARC was overhauled with new staff, better equipment, and stronger inter-ministerial coordination, boosting user confidence.
- High Court officials confirmed more GBV convictions compared to previous years, despite limited public data.
- Preference for formal justice systems increased to 76.6% in 2025, up from 55% in 2024.

#### Areas of Concern

- Awareness of GBV laws fell sharply from 68.1% (2023) to 21.7% (2025), indicating poor public sensitization.
- Only 25.5% believe formal laws prevent GBV, down from 65% in 2023.
- Lack of comprehensive conviction data and poor record-keeping persist across justice institutions.
- Only one government SARC and one state shelter exist, with uneven distribution across LGAs.

### Key Actions

#### Laws and Policies

- Regular court sittings at family and juvenile courts, ensuring GBV cases are given priority.
- Engagement of faith and traditional leaders in sensitization campaigns against harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, reducing cultural barriers to justice.

#### Access to Legal Justice

- Establishment of a Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Response Unit within the

Ministry of Justice to coordinate prosecutions and mediations.

- Provision of free legal aid services through Ministry of Justice lawyers and volunteer activists.

### Support Services

Refurbishment and activation of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) at Asubiaro State Hospital, providing medical, psychosocial, legal, and protective services.

### Information and Awareness

- Annual 16 Days of Activism against GBV reaching at least 10 LGAs by 2024

### Change Spotlight

In mid-2024, Osun State began refurbishing the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) at Asubiaro State Hospital in Osogbo. By 2025, the center became fully staffed and operational, marking a turning point in how the state responds to gender-based violence. The SARC now provides survivors with integrated care under one roof: medical examinations, psychosocial counseling, legal aid, and protective services. This removes the exhausting burden survivors previously faced navigating multiple disconnected agencies. The center operates through collaboration between the Ministries of Health, Women Affairs, and Justice, with dedicated personnel from each working together on-site. Evidently, among respondents who know about the SARC, confidence in its effectiveness is strong: 53.8% strongly agree and 35.5% agree that the facility is functional and adequately equipped.



## Osun State GBV Assessment Survey

Overall Grade 58.3%

### LAWS AND POLICIES



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

Yes ■ No ■

21.7% 78.3%



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

Yes ■ No ■

26.2% 73.8%



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

Yes ■ No ■

21.3% 78.7%

### 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 ■

26.0% 74.0%



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

Yes ■ No ■

35.5% 53.8% 6.4% 3.7% 0.7%

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



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

29.2% 35.6% 14.5% 14.1% 46.7%

■ Police ■ Hospital ■ Support group ■ None ■ Legal



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

Yes ■ No ■

26.4% 73.6%

### ACCESS TO LEGAL JUSTICE



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

76.6% 23.1% 0.3%

■ 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?

40.7% 41.4% 17.9%

■ 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

21.4% 78.6%

### INFORMATION AND AWARENESS



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

Yes ■ No ■

17.4% 82.6%



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

48.0% 7.5% 40.5% 4.0%

■ 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?

23.9% 21.4% 13.4% 17.2% 10.3% 12.6% 15.6% 53.4%

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

## Osun State GBV Context Trend (2024-2025)

Overall Grade 58.3%

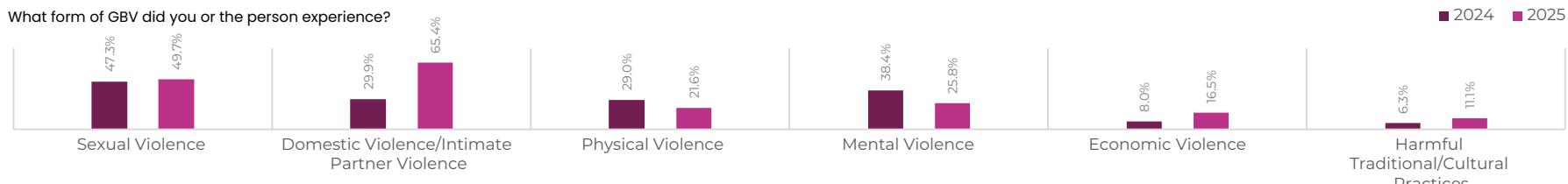
Have you or anyone you know experienced any form of gender-based violence in the last five years?



# 37.5%

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

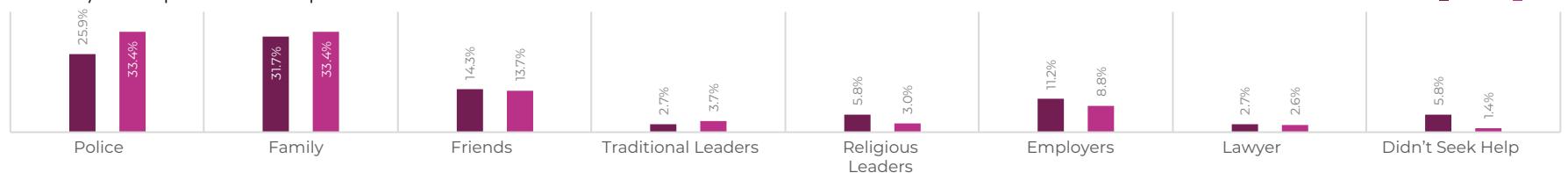
What form of GBV did you or the person experience?



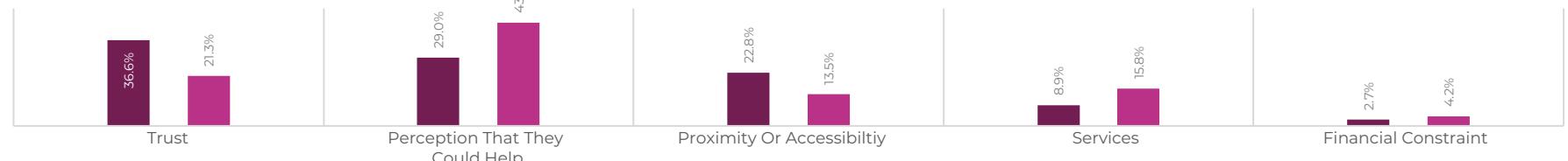
Where did you or the person experience the GBV?



Where did you or the person first seek help?



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



## Osun State GBV Trend (2023-2025)

Overall Grade 58.3%





## KEY INSIGHTS

### Laws and Policies

#### Current State in 2025

The 2025 assessment reveals critically low awareness of GBV laws in Osun State, with only 21.7% of respondents aware of existing legislation, and 25.5% believing formal laws are ineffective in preventing GBV. Despite having comprehensive legal frameworks, including the 2004 Female Genital Mutilation Prohibition Law, 2013 Protection Against Domestic Violence Law, and 2021 VAPP Law, implementation remains weak. The Ministry of Justice explained that the 2021 VAPP Law adapted the federal Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act of 2015 to Osun State's context, expanding legal protections beyond the scope of the earlier 2013 domestic violence legislation to cover additional forms of gender-based violence.

Furthermore, only 21.3% of respondents know anyone convicted of GBV offenses. A High Court representative confirmed that numerous convictions have been secured with noticeable improvements in conviction rates compared to previous years but could not provide specific figures, highlighting data collection gaps. Regarding customary practices, 25.3% expressed awareness of customary and religious mechanisms addressing GBV, with 26.2% believing these help prevent violence.

#### Changes Over Time (2023–2025)

Legal awareness in Osun State has significantly declined over the review period. While 68.1% of respondents were aware of existing GBV laws in 2023, this figure dropped to 45% in 2024 and sharply to 21.7% in 2025. The Ministry of Justice, explained that although the 2021 VAPP Law broadened protection beyond domestic violence, "many citizens and even some law enforcement officers are still unaware of the provisions, which affects implementation."

Confidence in the effectiveness of formal legal mechanisms also deteriorated, with only 25.5% of respondents in 2025 believing in their efficacy compared to 65% in 2023. This decline indicates an erosion of public trust in legal systems addressing GBV.

### Access to Legal Justice

#### Current State in 2025

The State provides free legal aid through the Ministry of Justice and organizations including FIDA, where dedicated activists and volunteer lawyers offer legal representation to survivors. Nonetheless, only 21.4% of respondents are aware of these services, and many survivors discontinue cases under family pressure or fear of stigma. Enforcement capacity also remains weak. The Ministry of Justice official noted that "the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Response Unit operates with only four officers handling increasing caseloads, with no dedicated vehicle for emergency response... we are choked, the number of gender matters has been increasing day by day." This underscores the limited institutional capacity to provide timely and effective legal response to GBV cases. When asked about seeking justice, 76.6% prefer formal justice systems, while 23.1% would turn to informal mechanisms. However, participation in the justice process is further undermined by fear and inadequate protection: only 40.7% feel safe testifying, 41.4% would participate only if witness protection is robust, and 17.9% refuse involvement altogether.

#### Changes Over Time (2023–2025)

Awareness of legal justice services decreased, with 49% aware of legal aid in 2024, falling to 21.4% in 2025. Willingness to serve as witnesses also declined from 58.3% in 2023 to 38% in 2024, before slightly rising to 40.7% in 2025. However, outright refusal to testify increased from 6.1% to 17.9% over the same period. Preference for formal justice systems varied over the review period. In 2023, 72.4% of respondents favoured seeking justice through formal channels. This preference declined to 55% in 2024 but rebounded to 76.6% in 2025. Meanwhile, preference for informal justice mechanisms rose from 19.6% in 2023 to 23.1% in 2025.

Notably, those who stated they would not seek justice at all dropped significantly from 8.0% in 2023 to 0.3% in 2025, indicating improved willingness to pursue some form of justice. Trust in informal justice systems has declined markedly from 71.2% in 2023 to 30.1% in 2025, reflecting growing scepticism about the effectiveness of customary and religious mechanisms in delivering justice for GBV survivors.

### Support Services

#### Current State in 2025

Osun State has limited resources to support survivors of GBV, with only one government-run SARC located at Asubiaro State Hospital and one government shelter, supplemented by fifteen private shelters that mainly cater to children. This limited infrastructure aligns with the low awareness level of 26% among respondents who know about SARCs or shelters. However, among those aware, confidence in functionality is high: 53.8% strongly agree and 35.5% agree that these facilities are effectively operational. The SARC Coordinator explained that this confidence stems from recent improvements, noting that "the Asubiaro Centre was restructured to provide integrated medical, legal, and psychosocial services through coordination among the Ministries of Health, Women Affairs, and Justice."

Despite these institutional improvements, overall service awareness remains critically low. About 76.9% of respondents are unaware of available medical, legal, psychosocial, or economic supports, with hospitals (35.6%) and police services (29.2%) being the most recognized entry points. Consequently, 73.6% of respondents still rely on informal support systems—family, religious institutions, and community leaders—perceived as more accessible than formal channels.

Beyond limited awareness, coordination gaps in the referral pathway remain a major constraint in survivor support. Stakeholders confirmed that referral processes between hospitals, police, SARCs, and legal aid institutions are largely informal and inconsistent, leading to delays and duplication of efforts.

### Changes Over Time (2023–2025)

Awareness of SARCs and shelters in Osun State is unstable. It stood at 17.0% in 2023, increased to 33% in 2024, and then declined to 26% in 2025. While overall awareness of medical, legal, psychosocial, and economic support services fluctuated, rising to 43% in 2024 before falling sharply to 23.1% in 2025, confidence in the quality of available facilities improved. Respondents who strongly agreed that the shelter and SARC are effective and adequately equipped increased from 42% in 2024 to 53.8% in 2025, a change corroborated by the SARC Coordinator, who noted that "the Asubiaro SARC was overhauled with new staff and better equipment, and coordination among key ministries has strengthened service delivery."

Awareness of referral pathways also showed uneven progress. Knowledge of police and hospital referral channels improved modestly, while awareness of legal representation and support groups declined. Interestingly, public preference for informal support systems such as family and religious institutions fell from 82.8% in 2023 to 26.4% in 2025, suggesting a gradual shift in trust toward formal GBV response mechanisms, even as awareness of available services remains low.

## Information and Awareness

### Current State in 2025

An official of the Ministry of Women Affairs indicated that although campaigns such as the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV are conducted annually, "coverage is limited to about 10 of the 30 LGAs due to funding and logistical constraints." This constraint is reflected in the low awareness levels, with only 17.4% of the respondents familiar with GBV programs in Osun State. Among the few who are aware, 48% found the materials "mostly useful," and 40.5% considered them "a little bit useful."

The survey further identified social media (38%), radio (35.5%), and newspapers (32.5%) as the most effective GBV information channels. Support for teaching GBV and child sexual abuse prevention in schools stood at 57.1% while accessibility of materials for persons with disabilities remains poor, with only 23.9% accessing information through audio/spoken content, 21.4% through visual content, and 15.6% through braille materials.

### Changes Over Time (2023–2025)

Awareness of GBV programs fell from 62.6% in 2023 to 38% in 2024, reaching a low of 17.4% in 2025. Despite this decline, perceptions of the usefulness of materials improved, with those rating them as "mostly useful" increasing from 39.9% to 48%, although "completely useful" ratings fell from 25.8% to 7.5%.

Social media overtook radio as the main channel for GBV information, accounting for 38% of respondents citing it in 2025. Support for school-based GBV education declined substantially from 82.8% in 2023 to 57.1% in 2025, with no integration into the formal curriculum. Awareness of disability-accessible materials plunged critically, with audio/spoken content awareness falling from 71.8% to just 23.9%. Other inclusive formats remained below 22%.

## Budget and Spending

### Budget Analysis 2024

Osun allocated ₦1.34 billion to GBV initiatives, representing 0.49% of its total state budget. However, the state only spent ₦482.64 million—just 36.1% of what was budgeted. This means nearly two-thirds of allocated GBV funds remained unspent. The actual expenditure accounted for merely 0.20% of the state's total spending, indicating that GBV was not a spending priority despite the budgetary provision. With a per capita spend of ₦158.66, Osun's investment per citizen remains modest. The significant gap between allocation and actual spending suggests either poor budget execution, fund diversion, or lack of urgency in implementing GBV programmes. This underutilization of available resources undermines the state's commitment to addressing gender-based violence effectively.

### Changes Over Time (2022 to 2024)

Osun State's Budget and spending performance fluctuated considerably during the period under review. Actual spending amounted to ₦482.64 million in 2024, ₦229.56 million in 2023, and ₦154.97 million in 2022. These figures translated into performance rates of 36.1%, 77.0%, and 36.0% respectively. In 2024, Osun State included one GBV-specific budget line: "Development of a Strategic Framework for the Implementation of Osun State VAPP/GBV," with an allocation of ₦37.22 million. However, no implementation was recorded. The state's low execution of GBV-related budgets is also evident in its per capita spending which stood at ₦158.66 in 2024, ₦77.92 in 2023, and ₦54.31 in 2022. The steady year-on-year increase reflects gradual improvement, although the overall levels indicate that investment in GBV-related interventions remains critically low.

## Human Angle Stories

Eniola was at work in Ibadan when her sister's teacher called to say that a neighbour had raped her sister. A matron, who confirmed the assault, referred them to the Osun State University Teaching Hospital for follow-up care, but they didn't go because of a lack of money.

Eniola was unaware of the free legal aid services or the Sexual Assault Referral Centre that could have helped. They never returned to the hospital. No police report was filed. Her sister received no counselling. The rape was never officially reported, and the perpetrator was never caught.

This case demonstrates how a lack of awareness creates insurmountable barriers for survivors. Despite having a functional SARC in Osogbo, the siblings never accessed it because they didn't know it existed. The absence of systematic referral pathways from the initial hospital visit to specialized services left them navigating the system alone, ultimately choosing silence over a process they couldn't afford or understand.

## KEY GAPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Index	Key Gaps	Recommendations
 <b>Laws and Policies</b>	Laws remain available only in English, excluding grassroots communities and less literate populations.	Make GBV laws more accessible by translating them into major local language, distributing them freely in local offices and among community groups, and broadcasting audio versions on the radio and in public spaces.
	Only 21.3% of respondents know anyone convicted for GBV offenses, down from 53% in 2024. A representative of the High Court confirmed there are "many" convictions but could not provide specific figures, indicating weak data collection systems.	Create a public GBV database to track reported cases, prosecutions, convictions, and sentences, and publish quarterly reports to ensure transparency and demonstrate effective enforcement.
 <b>Access to Legal Justice</b>	The Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Response Unit operates with only four officers handling increasing caseloads, with no dedicated vehicle for emergency response.	Strengthen institutional capacity of the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Response Unit by increasing personnel, providing dedicated logistics (such as a response vehicle), and establishing a rapid-response framework to manage rising caseloads.
	Only 40.7% of respondents would feel safe serving as witnesses in GBV cases, while 41.4% conditioned participation on effectiveness of the state's witness protection program.	Develop and operationalize a comprehensive witness protection program with clear protocols, safe houses, and financial support for witnesses.
 <b>Support Services</b>	Only 1 government SARC (Asubiaro Hospital) and 1 state shelter operational; 15 private shelters cater mainly to children.	Establish at least two additional SARCs in Osun East and Osun West senatorial districts by 2026.
	Only 26% of respondents know about the SARC, which was activated in mid-2024. The Ministry of Women Affairs noted that rural areas are largely underserved due to distance from Osogbo, forcing survivors to travel to the state capital for support.	Expand SARC coverage by establishing satellite centers in underserved LGAs and linking them to Asubiaro's referral hub.
	Referral pathways for GBV survivors remain weak and fragmented. Referrals often depend on personal networks rather than a coordinated system, leading to delays in survivor support and case follow-up.	Institutionalize a coordinated GBV referral mechanism by developing a standardized referral directory and digital tracking system linking SARCs, hospitals, police units, FIDA, and social welfare offices.
 <b>Information and Awareness</b>	Awareness of GBV programs plummeted from 38% in 2024 to 17.4% in 2025—the lowest across all indexes. The 16 Days of Activism campaign reaches only 10 of 30 LGAs.	Expand the 16 Days of Activism campaign to all 30 LGAs by 2026 with sustained quarterly awareness activities rather than one-time annual events.
	Awareness of GBV materials for persons with disabilities is very low — only 23.9% access information through audio content, 21.4% through visual, and 15.6% through braille materials. Officials admitted that most sensitization efforts still target the public rather than PWDs.	Develop and distribute disability-inclusive GBV materials through coordinated outreach. Ensure meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in designing these materials and provide training for frontline workers to enhance accessibility and effectiveness of information dissemination.
	Only 57.1% support teaching GBV prevention in schools, with the Ministry of Education deflecting responsibility to Women Affairs.	Collaboration between the Ministries of Women Affairs and Education to integrate age-appropriate GBV and child sexual abuse prevention into the school curriculum at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels.
 <b>Budget and Spending</b>	Osun's ₦37.22 million allocation for developing a GBV strategic framework in 2024 recorded zero implementation, symptomatic of broader execution failures where the state spent only 36.1% of its total GBV budget, leaving ₦857 million unutilized.	Prioritize immediate implementation of its GBV strategic framework and establish a dedicated monitoring unit within the Ministry of Women Affairs to track monthly expenditure against budget targets, ensuring funds reach intended programmes rather than remaining unspent.

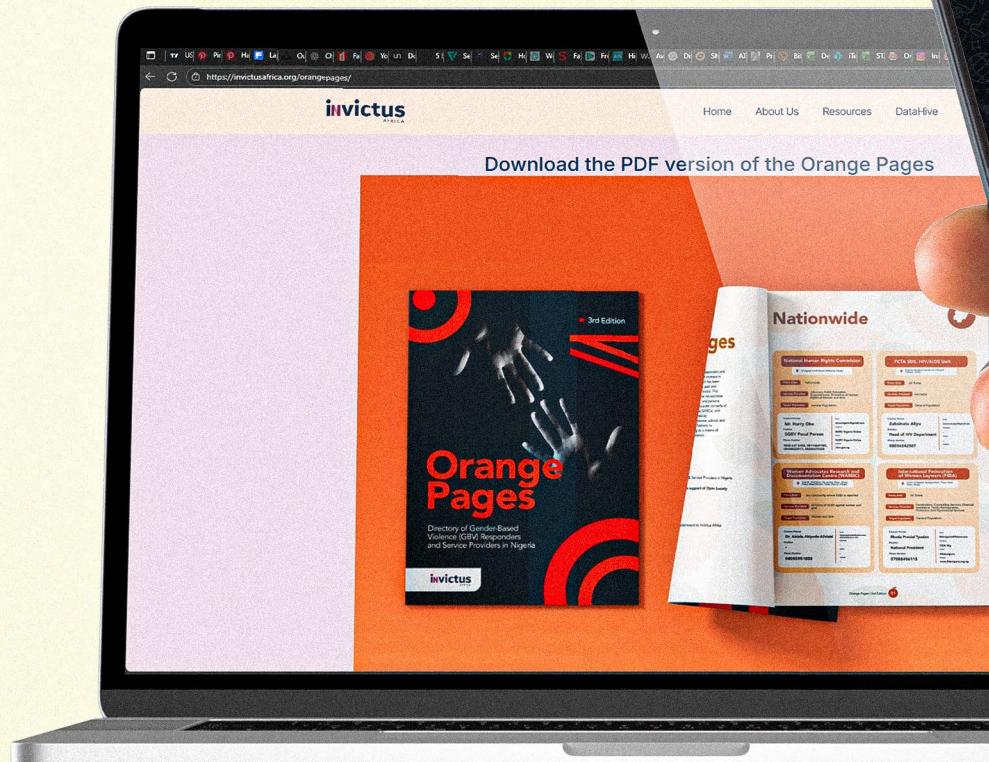


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