



**MULTISECTORAL COSTED
ACTION PLAN**

FOR

**EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION
OF CROSS RIVER STATE VIOLENCE AGAINST PERSONS
(PROHIBITION) LAW (2023 – 2027)**

PUBLISHED BY



**GOVERNMENT OF
CROSS RIVERS STATE**

FOREWORD

Multisectoral Costed Action Plan is a significant process that underlines the commitment of the Cross River State Government towards the implementation of the State Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law and other related Laws at sectoral levels for the total eradication of Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV). The Costed Action Plan (CAP) is an important relevant tool for the overall multi-sectoral response to ending violence against persons in Cross River State. It offers a multi-sectoral and standardised approach that can be applied at all levels. The goals and activities of CAP are attainable in a specific timeframe. It is designed to guide all sectors and CSOs/NGOs in a collaborative response to all forms of SGBV and the establishment of zero tolerance for all forms of violence in Cross River State.

While the state government has demonstrated commitment in eradicating SGBV through the passage of relevant laws, translating the Cross-River State Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law into implementable practical actions at sectoral levels in the state remains challenging, with a persistent gap between commitments, human resources, capacity gaps and financial support. These challenges provide a strategic opportunity to develop a Costed-Action Plan (CAP) as a tool to guide strategic resource allocation for the implementation of VAPP Laws. The CAP is a tool that will help produce results through clearly defined activities and targets, careful costing, and identification of actors responsible for implementation.

Through the Costed Action Plan (CAP) for implementing the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law, the government has identified intervention strategies for sectors that will directly impact the lives and welfare of the most vulnerable persons to all forms of violence in Cross River State. It provides an implementation strategy and a clearly defined monitoring and evaluation component. It also includes an estimated cost package. The implementation of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law will only be possible when all these resources, especially funding are provided. It is expected that all our partners both local and international will contribute meaningfully to the implementation of all the activities designed for the eradication of SGBV in the state.

The production of the Cross River State multisectoral costed action plan was supported by the UN-Women Spotlight Initiative Project and the facilitation was coordinated by Women Advocates Research and Documentation Centre (WARDC) under the able leadership of Dr. Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi. The facilitation was undertaken through a participatory process that involved technical working groups from MDAs in the state and representatives of CSOs

The development of the Cross River State Costed Action Plan brings us one step closer to the implementation of the State Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law and the elimination of all forms of violence in the state. Through the CAP, the State Government is strongly demonstrating its commitment to the eradication of SGBV and other forms of violence in the state.

It is my pleasure therefore to commit the Cross River State Costed Action Plan to all relevant stakeholders for a successful implementation. All stakeholders have an obligation to participate meaningfully in creating a peaceful and safe environment for the growth and development of the state in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



H. E. Prof. Ben Ayade

The Executive Governor of Cross River State
December, 2022



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Developing a multisectoral costed action plan entailed multilevel activities, participation and engagements with broad stakeholders within and outside the state. It is appropriate therefore for the Ministry of Women Affairs to acknowledge the supports received in the process of drafting the state costed action plan.

The Cross-River State Costed Action Plan was developed with the support of the State Government and the State Executive Council led by His Excellency, Prof Ben Ayade, the Executive Governor, who gave approval and provided the much-needed enabling environment for the development of the multi-sectoral Costed Action Plan (CAP) for the implementation of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law and other SGBV -related Laws in Cross River State.

It is to be emphasised that the Governor's commitment to good governance, accountability, social justice, and all-round development for the people of the state is well documented and feasible for all to behold in the state. The development of a costed action plan for the state is thus a continuation of purposive leadership and a strategic opportunity for the implementation of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law and other SGBV related Laws in the state.

The particular interest of the wife of the State Governor, Her Excellency Dr. Mrs. Linda Ugwuye Ayade, in protecting the rights of women, young girls and vulnerable children in the state is worthy of recognition and commendable. She is personally involved in promoting women's healthcare, political participation and economic empowerment in the state. The First Lady is also committed to the implementation of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law and the eradication of sexual and gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices in the state.

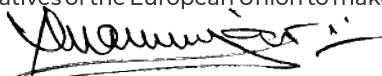
The Costed Action Plan for the implementation Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law and the eradication of sexual and gender-based violence is one of the key initiatives under the UN Women's Spotlight Initiative Project for strengthening state capacity in preventing and responding to S/GBV. We duly acknowledge the financial and technical supports provided by the UN-Women under the Spotlight Initiative for the development of Cross River State Costed Action Plan. The commitment of the UN Women Country Director to the process of the development of CAP is gratefully appreciated. Furthermore, the administrative and logistic supports provided by the staff of UN Women is hereby acknowledged.

The development of the multisectoral costed action involved the participation of top political functionaries and senior officers in the state civil service and we duly acknowledge their efforts and commitments in particular, the Secretary to the State Government, Honourable Commissioners, the Head of Service, SSA Ministry of Women Affairs, Directors, and Assistant Directors. In addition, we recognise the participation society organisations (attached in the annexure is the list of participants) during the series of consultative of civil meetings, stakeholders' meetings and the validation workshop, which all culminated in the development of Cross River State Costed Action Plan implementation of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law and other S/GBV related Laws in the state.

Furthermore, we are grateful to Dr, Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi, the Executive Director of WARDC and all the staff who facilitated the process of consultative and validation meetings in Cross River State.

Finally, we also acknowledge the professionalism and commitment of Prof. Kehinde Olayode and Mrs Nancy Nsor, the Women Advocates Research & Documentation Center (WARDC) consultants on the project for facilitating the process of the development of the Cross River State Costed Action Plan.

We also must acknowledge the funding and technical support of the UN Women and the Spotlight Initiatives of the European Union to make this possible.



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Special Adviser to His Excellency on Women Affairs, Cross River State.

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ACRONYMS AND MEANING

Acronyms	Meanings
CAP	Costed Action Plan
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
FBCO	Faith-based Community Organisations
FBOs	Faith-based Organizations
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
FIDA	Federation of Women Lawyers
IEC	Information, Education and Communication Materials
IPs	Implementing Partners
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
LGAs	Local Government Authorities
MDAs	Ministry, Department and Agencies
MNCs	Multinational Corporations
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOWA	Ministry of Women Affairs
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
OSS	One-Stop Shop
PSS	Personal Security Service
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
S/GBV	Sexual/Gender Based Violence
SOP	Standard Operating Manual
TWG	Technical Working Group
VAC	Violence Against Children
VAP	Violence Against Persons
VAPP	Violence Against Person Prohibition
VAVP	Violence Against Vulnerable Persons
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The table below presents the definitions of various forms of violence against persons and related terms as spelt out by the Cross River State Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law (Law No. 10, 2021)

Table 1: Glossary of Terms

Terms	Operational Definitions
Abandonment of spouse, children and other persons.	Deliberately leaving women, children and other persons under the perpetrator's care, destitute and without any means of subsistence
Circumcision of a girl or woman	Cutting off all or part of the external sex organs of a girl or woman other than on the medical ground
Damage to property	Willful destruction or causing of mischief to any property belonging to a person or in, which a person has, a vested interest
Domestic Violence	Any act perpetrated on any person in a domestic relationship where such act causes harm or may cause imminent harm to the safety, health or well-being of any person
Domestic relationship	A relationship between any person and a perpetrator of violence constituted in different ways such as marriage, living together, parents, family members, sharing residence together, dating, engagement and romantic relationship
Economic abuse	forced financial dependence; denial of inheritance or succession rights; unreasonable deprivation of economic or financial resources to which any person is entitled or which any person requires out of necessity; and unreasonable disposal or destruction of household effects or other property in which any person has an interest
"Emergency monetary relief	Compensation for monetary losses suffered by any person arising from an act of violence and does not in any way constitute a maintenance order

Emotional, verbal and psychological abuse	A pattern of degrading or humiliating conduct towards any person, including repeated insults, ridicule or name-calling; repeated threats to cause emotional pain, or the repeated exhibition of obsessive possessiveness, which is of such a nature as to constitute a serious invasion of such person's privacy, liberty, integrity or security
Forced isolation from family and friends	Includes preventing a person from leaving the home or from having contact with family, friends or the outside community;
Harassment	Engaging in a pattern of conduct that induces fear of harm or impairs the dignity of a person including stalking, repeatedly making telephone calls or inducing another person to make telephone calls to a person, whether or not conversation ensues; repeatedly sending, delivering or causing delivery of information such as letters, telegrams, packages, facsimiles, electronic mail, text messages or other objects to any person
Harmful Traditional Practices	All traditional behaviour, attitudes and/or practices, which negatively affect the fundamental rights of women, girls or any person and include: harmful widowhood practices, denial of inheritance or succession rights, female genital mutilation or female circumcision, forced marriage, and forced isolation from family and friends
Incest	An indecent act or an act which causes penetration with a person who is, to his or her knowledge, his or her daughter or son, granddaughter or grandson, sister or brother, mother or father, niece or nephew, aunt or uncle, grandmother or granduncle
Indecent exposure	This is the intentional exposure of the genital organs, or a substantial part thereof, with the intention of causing distress to the other party

Intimidation	This is the uttering or conveying of a threat or causing any person to receive a threat, which induces fear, anxiety or discomfort
Perpetrator	This implies any person who has committed or allegedly committed an act of violence as defined under this Law
Physical abuse	Acts or threatened acts of physical aggression towards any person such as slapping, hitting, kicking and beating
Political Violence	Any act or attempted act of violence perpetrated in the course of political activities, such as elections, and includes any of the following acts: thuggery, mugging, use of force to disrupt meetings, or the use of a dangerous weapon that may cause bodily harm or injury
Sexual abuse	Any conduct which violates, humiliates or degrades the sexual integrity of any person
Sexual assault	The intentional and unlawful touching, striking or causing of bodily harm to an individual in a sexual manner without his or her consent
Sexual exploitation	This occurs where a perpetrator, for financial or other reward, favour or compensation invites, persuades, engages or induces the services of a victim, or offers or performs such services to any other person
Sexual harassment	This is unwanted conduct of a sexual nature or other conduct based on sex or gender which is persistent or serious and demeans, humiliates or creates a hostile or intimidating environment and this may include physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct
Spouse	Husband or wife as recognised under the Matrimonial Causes Act and Customary Law;
Spousal/Partner battery	Intentional and unlawful use of force or violence upon a person, including the unlawful touching, beating or striking of another person against his/her will with the intention of causing bodily harm to that person

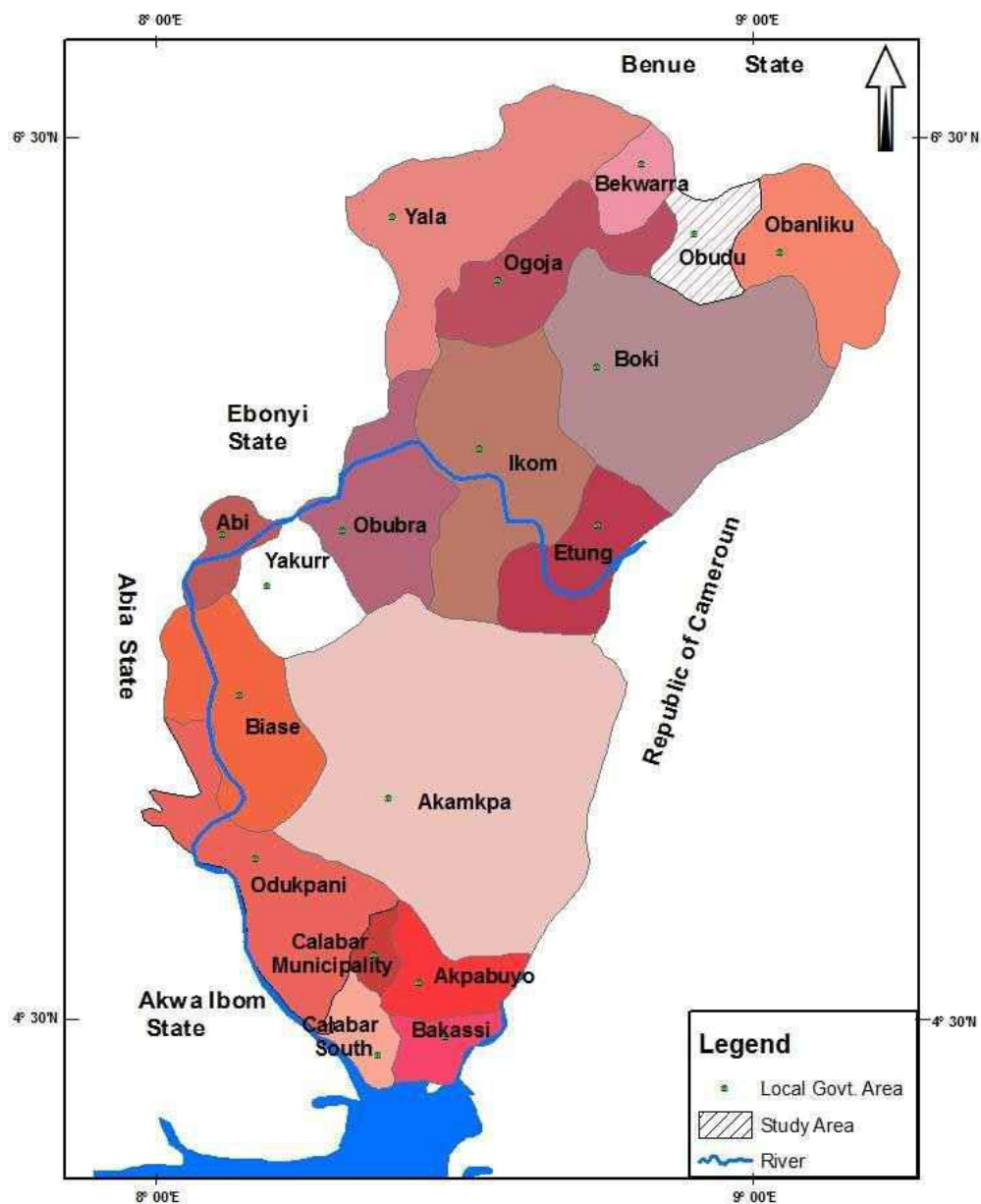
Stalking	Repeatedly watching or loitering outside of or near the building or place where a person resides, works, carries on business, studies or happens to be; or repeatedly following, pursuing or accosting any person in a manner which induces fear or anxiety
Substance attack	Exposure of any person to any form of chemical, biological or any other harmful liquid with the intention to cause grievous bodily harm, which includes but is not limited to acid attack, hot water, or hot oil
Victim	Any person or persons, who, individually or collectively, have suffered harm, including physical or mental injury, emotional suffering, economic loss or substantial impairment of their fundamental rights, through acts or omissions that are in violation of this Law and/or the criminal laws of the country; victim also includes the immediate family or dependants of the direct victim and any other person who has suffered harm in intervening to assist victims in distress .
Violence	Any act or attempted act, which causes or may cause any person physical, sexual, psychological, verbal, emotional or economic harm whether this occurs in private or public life, in peace time and in conflict situations
Vulnerable groups	Women, children, persons living under extreme poverty, persons with disability, the sick and the elderly, ethnic and religious minority groups, refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants and persons in detention.

1.0 BRIEF PROFILE OF CROSS RIVER STATE

i. Location of Cross River State

Cross River, formerly South-Eastern state was part of the former Eastern region until 1967, when it became South-Eastern state; it received its present name of Cross River state in 1976. Located in the Niger Delta, Cross River State occupies 20,156 square kilometres. The Cross River, after which the state is named, rises from the Cameroon Mountains and flows southward, forming much of the state's western border; it is an important commercial artery in the rainy season. The state is bounded by the states of Benue on the north, Ebonyi on the west, and Akwa Ibom on the southwest. It is bordered on the east by the Cameroon republic and fronts the Bight of Biafra on the south.

Fig 1: Map of Cross River State Showing Geographical Area



Source: Cartography / GIS Unit, Dept. of Geography & Environmental Sc., Unical

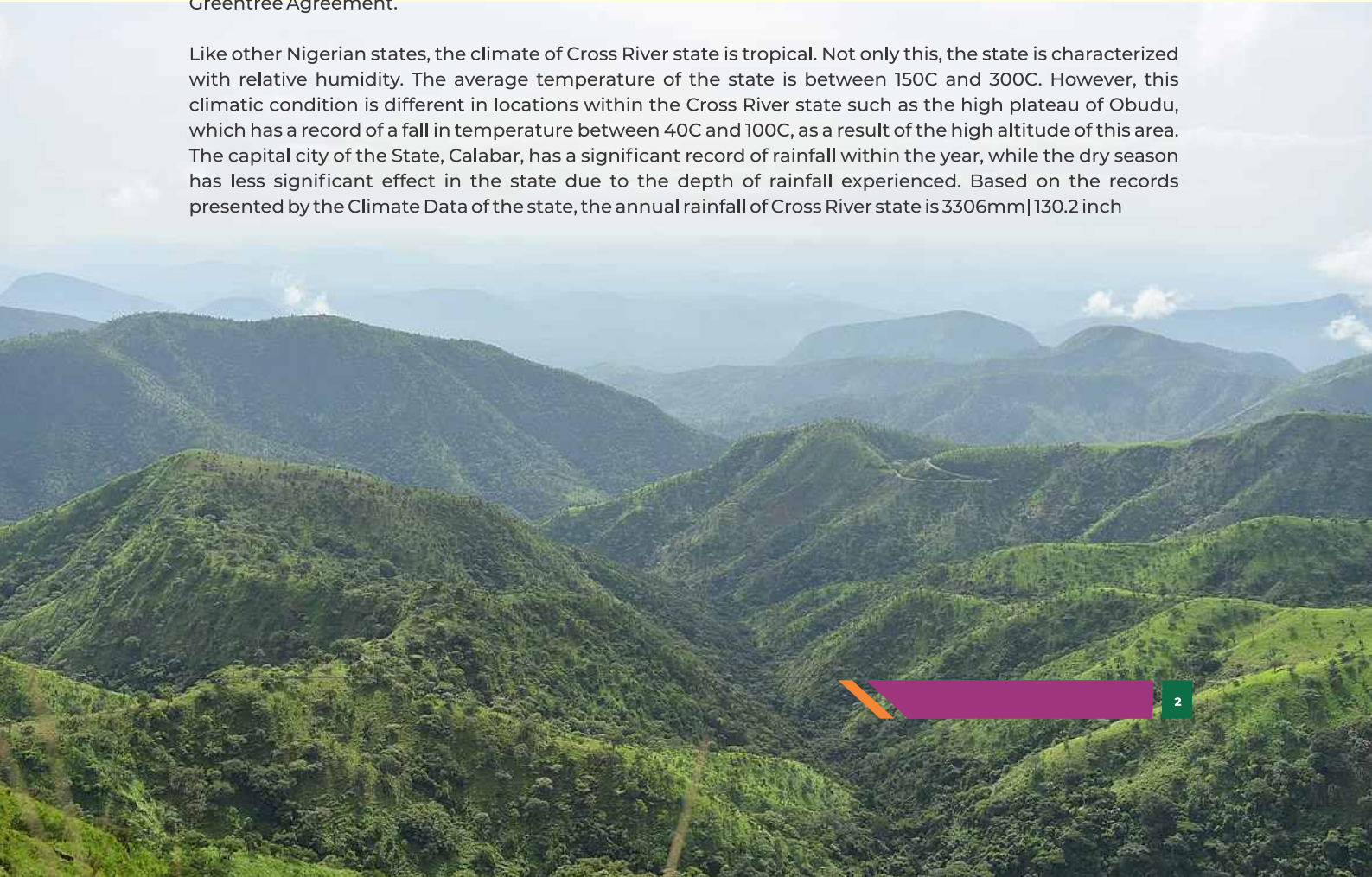
II. GEOPOLITICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CROSS RIVER STATE

Out of the 36 states in Nigeria, Cross River state is the nineteenth largest in area and 27th most populous, with an estimated population of over 3.8 million as of 2016. Geographically, the state is mainly divided between the Guinean forest-savanna mosaic in the far north and the Cross-Sanaga-Bioko coastal forests in the majority of the interior of the state. The smaller ecoregions are the Central African mangroves in the coastal far south and a part of the montane Cameroonian Highlands forests in the extreme northeast. The most major geographical feature is the state's namesake, the Cross River, which bisects the state's interior before forming much of the state's western border, and flowing into the Cross River Estuary. Other important rivers are the Calabar and Great Kwa rivers, which flow from the inland Oban Hills, before flanking the city of Calabar and flowing into the Cross River Estuary as well. In the forested interior of the state are several biodiverse protected areas including the Cross River National Park, Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary, and Mbe Mountains Community Forest.

Modern-day Cross River state has been inhabited by several ethnic groups for hundreds of years, primarily the Efik of the riverside south and Calabar; the Ekoi (Ejagham) of the inland south; the Akunakuna, Boki, Bahumono, and Yakö (Yakurr) of the central region; and the Bekwarra, Bette, Igede, Ukelle (Kukele) of the northern region. In the pre-colonial period, what is now Cross River state was divided between its ethnic groups with some joining the Aro Confederacy, while the Efik founded the Akwa Akpa (Old Calabar) city-state. The latter became a British protectorate in 1884, as the capital of the Oil Rivers Protectorate; but it was in the early 1900s that the Britons gained formal control of the entire area. Around the same time, the protectorate (then renamed the Niger Coast Protectorate) was incorporated into the Southern Nigeria Protectorate, which later merged into British Nigeria. After the merger, much of the modern-day Cross River state became a center of anti-colonial resistance and trade, through the international seaport at Calabar.

After independence in 1960, the area now regarded as Cross River state was a part of the post-independence Eastern Region until 1967, when the region was split and the area became part of the South-Eastern state. Less than two months afterwards, the Igbo-majority of the former Eastern Region attempted to secede as the state of Biafra; in the three-year long Nigerian Civil War. Calabar and its port was hard fought over in Operation Tiger Claw, while the people from Cross River state were persecuted by the Biafran forces as they were mainly non-Igbos. At the war's end and the reunification of Nigeria, the South-Eastern state was reconstituted until 1976, when it was renamed Cross River state. Eleven years later, Cross River state was divided with western Cross River being broken off to form the new Akwa Ibom state. The state formerly contained the oil-producing Bakassi Peninsula, which was ceded to Cameroon under the terms of the Greentree Agreement.

Like other Nigerian states, the climate of Cross River state is tropical. Not only this, the state is characterized with relative humidity. The average temperature of the state is between 150C and 300C. However, this climatic condition is different in locations within the Cross River state such as the high plateau of Obudu, which has a record of a fall in temperature between 40C and 100C, as a result of the high altitude of this area. The capital city of the State, Calabar, has a significant record of rainfall within the year, while the dry season has less significant effect in the state due to the depth of rainfall experienced. Based on the records presented by the Climate Data of the state, the annual rainfall of Cross River state is 3306mm|130.2 inch





III. SOCIO-CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CROSS RIVER STATE

Cross River State's population in 2006 was officially reported to be over 2.9 million people; about 1.5 million (51.7%) were males and 1.4 million (48.3%) were females. Compared to its 1991 population of 1.9 million (50.03% males and 49.97% females respectively), this represents a significant and rapid demographic increase. The estimated population of Cross River State in 2021 is 4,463,346 based on annual population growth rate of about 2.9% NPopC 2007.

Cross River state is composed of several ethnic groups, which include the [Efik, the Ejagham, Yakurr, Bahumono, Bette, Yala, Igede, Ukelle and the Bekwarra among others](#). There are four major languages spoken in the state: English, the common language, Efik, Bekwarra, and Ejagham. The Efik language is widely spoken in Cross River State, especially in Calabar Municipality, Calabar South, Akpabuyo, Bakassi, Akampkpa, Biase, and Odukpani Local Government Areas. The Ejagham language is also widely spoken language in Cross River State. The Efik-speaking people live mainly in the Southern senatorial districts of Cross River, or as it is commonly referred to, the Greater Calabar district, which includes Calabar Municipality, Calabar South, Bakassi, Biase, Akpabuyo, Odukpani, and Akamkpa LGAs. There is also the Qua community in Calabar, which speaks Ejagham. The main Ejagham group occupies mostly the Greater Calabar areas of Calabar Municipality, Odukpani, Biase and Akampkpa sections of Cross River State. There are also

¹ National Population Commission, Nigeria 2007

² National Population Commission, Nigeria 1991

³ Igwe, R, Persisting poverty, unemployment/ underemployment in Cross River State, Nigeria: The urgency of improving good governance and participation in the state economic empowerment and development strategy, International NGO Journal Vol. 4 (2), pp. 034-045, February, 2009

⁴ National Population Commission (2007, 2009) Population Figures & Growth Rate based on 2006 Population & Housing Census (FRN Gazette Vol 94 Jan 2007 & Vol 96 Feb. 2009)

the Yakurri /Agoi/Bahumono ethnic groups in Yakurr and Abi LGA, while the Mbembe are predominantly found in Obubra LGA. Further up the core northern part of the state are several sub-dialectical groups, among which are Etung, Olulumo, Ofutop, Nkim/Nkum, Abanajum, Nseke and Boki in both Ikom, Etung and Boki LGAs. Also, the Yala/Yache, Igede, Ukelle, Ekajuk, Mbube, Bette, Bekwarra and Utukwang people are found in Ogoja, Yala, Obudu and Obanliku and Bekwarra LGA's. The Yala are a subgroup of the Idoma nation, part of the Yala LGA's subgroups are the Igede speaking people believed to have migrated from the Oju part of Benue State, who migrated from Ora, in Edo North. In Cross River North, Bekwarra is one of the most widely spoken language. It is understood by other tribes in the district. This language along with Efik and Ejagham is used for news broadcast in the state-owned radio and TV stations.

Based on Cross River's total GDP of approximately US \$9.29 billion, it is ranked as the 11th highest amongst the 36 states in the Nigerian federation. The Cross River State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy CR-SEEDS 2 (2009-2012) and the perspective plan, Cross River State Vision 2020 (CRSV2020) 2009 - 2020, were launched in 2009 to build upon the gains from Cross River's first medium term economic plan, (CR-SEEDS 1). CR-SEEDS 2 identifies with a 7 Point Development Agenda that emphasizes agriculture, private sector participation, tourism, infrastructures, education, health, and environment as priority areas. Prior to 2012, a major source of revenue was derivation from crude oil deposits within its territory; however, revenue from this source has been substantially depleted following the loss of oil wells to Akwa Ibom State in July 2012 and the ceding of the oil-rich Bakassi peninsula to neighbouring Cameroon in October 2002.

Government's efforts to increase its internally generated revenue and to diversify the state's economy led to efforts at a deliberate transition from a largely public service economy to a flourishing tourism-driven economy; premised on the 31-day Calabar festival and its flagship Carnival Calabar event. Whilst these events contribute to the state's internally generated revenue from sources other than taxation, it is evident that the streams of revenue generated from tourism over the years are at best sub-optimal. For instance, in 2011, the reported expenditure by tourists visiting the state was estimated at approximately \$481,000 only. In terms of internally generated revenue from taxation of tourism-related investments, the major sources in Cross River are banks (45%), individuals (22%), schools (11%), private offices (11%), civil servants (8%) and hotels (3%).

In spite of all aforementioned efforts by the Government, poverty levels remain high. It is noteworthy that official statistics of 2021 reveals that, unemployment and underemployment (due to scarcity of job where some highly qualified youth take up lower level jobs and temporary work) in Cross River State remain at high levels. This appears to comply with the national composite unemployment rates which remained either relatively unchanged or on the rise. Further interrogation of patterns of employment indicates that state expectations of agriculture as a priority area and major employer of labour are largely unmet. The sector employs only about 29.97% of the state's eligible population whilst the remaining 70.03% are engaged in about 14 other officially recognized non-agricultural economic activities (NBS 2019, NBS 2021). Some of the 14 are players in the state's tourism sector, which is generally acknowledged as having huge potential. However, the inability to further strengthen and diversify the current sectoral strategy of an emphasis on the seasonal Calabar festival (which last for only 31 days) is unsupportive of desired significant growth of gainful employment opportunities. The challenges of unemployment and under-employment is particularly prevalent amongst Cross River State Youth and is enabled by a less than conducive environment for increased private sector involvement (taxation, power cuts, etc.), lack of entrepreneurial education, limited career counseling and guidance opportunities for young people, inadequate economically marketable skills for private sector employment, limited opportunities in the public sector and limited access to ICT services and information, ineffective youth empowerment strategies and limited body of evidence on the core socio-economic challenges and skills set of youth in Cross River state.

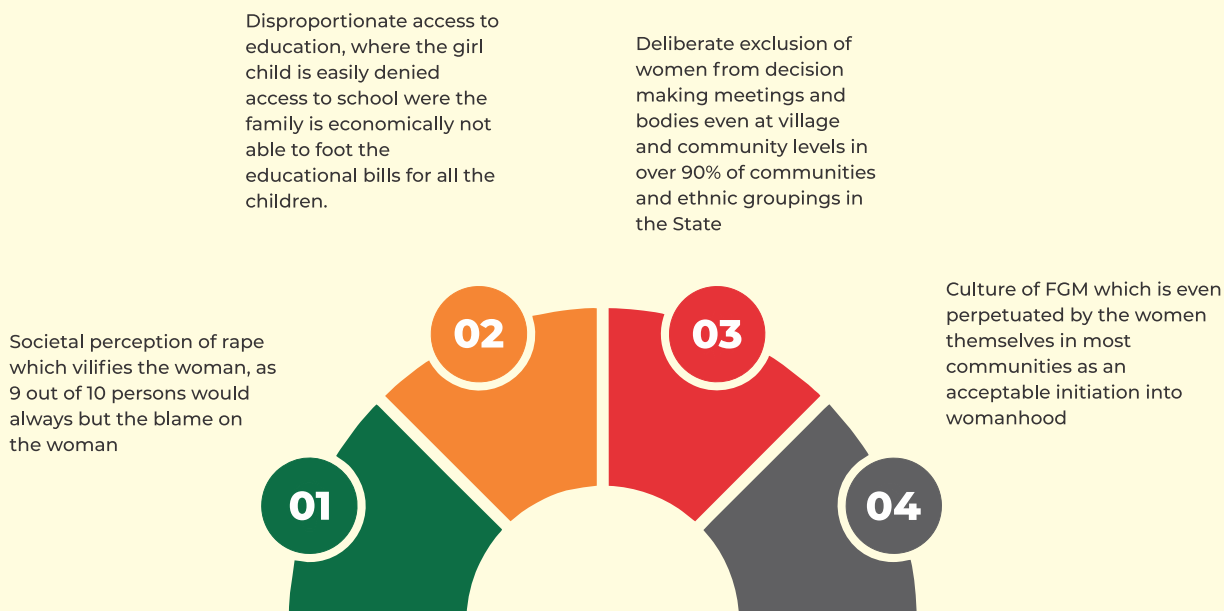
⁵ CRS Bureau of Statistics 2011

⁶ The relevance of tourism on economic development of Cross River State, Nigeria (Ajake et al), Journal of Geography and regional planning 2012

It is also noteworthy that the relatively disadvantaged socio-economic status of women and girls, does not afford them as many significant opportunities to contribute significantly to the generation of revenue within the relatively competitive/lucrative sectors for Cross River's economy. These disparities are sustained by a culture of patriarchy that often deprives women and girls of equal access to education and mentorship opportunities, business and entrepreneurship opportunities, sustainable financing options and loan facilities. These women and girls are also often subjected to social exclusion from sectors of the economy that offer opportunities for higher remuneration and even when they break through the "glass ceiling" they sometimes have to contend with being paid less salaries than their male counterparts.

Mainstreaming gender issues into the state's development programme is a sine qua non to realizing gender equity and the rights of youth, women and girls in Cross River State. Addressing current challenges facing the women, youth and vulnerable groups such as inadequate skill mix for local market, lack of economic empowerment, low access to ICT, health issues and issues of formal and informal sectors employment will ensure equity and meaningful involvement of the female youth, adolescents and women in the state in economic development and wealth creation, by extension reducing dependence on their male counterpart for economic survival a factor that has further exacerbated violence associated with economic dependence and poverty. Addressing issues of poor or limited access to health, particularly sexual reproductive health information and services are fundamental for ensuring the well-being of women and girls, and should equally be mainstreamed into the package of interventions made available within the context of the overall state development agenda.

MAJOR GENDER ISSUES AFFECTING MOSTLY WOMEN IN CROSS RIVER STATE



Previous Interventions of State Government to address Gender Issues

- a. Creation of enabling laws to reducing Gender Based Violence faced by women and girls, via creation of laws, viz; -
 - i. Widowhood rights law
 - ii. Law prohibiting FGM
- b. Raising awareness on the dangers of GBV and all forms of violence against women and girls
 - i. Electronic and print media
 - ii. Sensitization campaigns
 - iii. Observing international days to raise awareness on the dangers of GBV and the need to end it.
- c. State VAAP Law has been approved and assessing compliance would be as utilization begins, for other laws, the level of compliance is still unacceptably low, most beneficiaries are yet to even understand their rights, the essence of the law, and how to utilize the laws to seek for justice.
- d. Existing legal structures are; -
 - i. The family Courts
 - ii. Conventional courts

Currently Advocacy is at advance stage for the creation of special courts with user friendly /one-stop-shop (OSS) service centers to enhance access and speedy dispensation of cases

2.0 INTRODUCTION

I. CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND ON SGBV AND VAP

Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) is a global phenomenon and an important public health concern and human rights problem (Iliyasu, Abubakar et al. 2011, Bank 2015). It is any aggressive action that threatens safety. It causes physical injury, social or emotional harm which may result in acute morbidity and mortality associated with assaults as well as longer-term impact on health, including chronic pain, gynecologic problems, sexually transmitted diseases, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and suicide (Campbell 2002, Bykanova and Avdieienko 2011, Singla 2019). VAWG was identified in Article 1 of the 1993 Declaration on Violence Against Women by General Assembly of the United Nations as “any act of gender based violence that results in or likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life” (UN General Assembly 1994). The World Bank Health Organization (2018) claimed that VAWG is a global pandemic that “affects 1 in 3 women in their lifetime”.

Domestic violence is a form of VAP and it encompasses varied forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), including violence against women and girls (VAWG), violence against children (VAC), and violence against vulnerable persons (VAVP) with disabilities. Domestic violence encompasses physical violence, sexual violence, psychological violence, economic violence, intimate partner violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and human trafficking. A major characteristic of domestic violence and other forms of VAP is that they have no social or economic boundaries and affects women and girls of all socio-economic backgrounds and as such can only be addressed holistically.

The global exponential rise in the cases of violence against women was one of the defining features of Covid-19, especially under the lockdown and movement restrictions. Movement restrictions and self-isolation, combined with the stress and economic uncertainty created by the pandemic greatly increased the risk of GBV in households. While violence against women has always been a challenge in Nigeria, Covid-19 lockdown occasioned a steep increase in sexual and gender-based violence across the country. As reported by the Nigeria Police Force, 717 rape incidents were reported from January to May, 2020 while about 799 suspects were arrested and 631 cases conclusively investigated and charged to court (The Punch, June 15, 2020).

Cross River State has been revealed to lead the chart on sexual and gender-based violence with a disturbing 42% prevalence in the south-south region of Nigeria. Speaking during the inter-schools' debate as one of the activities on the 2021 16 days of activism against sexual and gender-based violence in Calabar, the United Nations Population Funds Reproductive Health and Family planning analyst, Dr. Abayomi Afe who revealed the figure in percentage declared that Cross River was very diverse in terms of cultural practices as well as money marriage. According to him, the statistics of gender-based violence in Cross River State is still on a very high side, even with the 2018, national demographic survey statistics, but other studies have shown that within the period of the pandemic, that is 2020 and now, gender-based violence has really gone up (The Vanguard, 3rd December, 2021).

In addition, data from a UNFPA research shows the following: 65.5% of women of reproductive age in Cross River State have experienced physical violence since age 15 (Njoku et al., 2020). Spousal violence is high in Cross River State, placed at 47.4% while 25.4% of women in the state have experienced FGM.



II. INTERNATIONAL POLICY ENVIRONMENT ON SGBV AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The issue of sexual and gender-based violence and violence against women and the obligations of states under international law to take steps to prevent such violence, to punish perpetrators and to provide support for the survivors have been consistent topics for discussion and action at the international level over the last 30 years. During that period the issue has moved from a relatively little-discussed matter to a regular topic on international agendas, and the widespread and varied nature of violence against women has been increasingly documented. Over the past decades, the international community has established important normative frameworks on gender equality and non-discrimination. Prominent among them is the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Though violence against women was not explicitly mentioned in this convention, in its interpretation the CEDAW Committee has made it clear that violence against women is a human rights violation and a severe form of discrimination against women that is prohibited under international law. Today, CEDAW continues to be the most widely ratified fundamental human rights treaty that addresses the rights of women and the responsibilities of states towards ensuring them, including their right to be free from violence. CEDAW has proven to be resilient and relevant to the fight to end violence against women, including to address sexual and gender-based violence during times of conflict. International and regional human rights mechanisms have relied on this important instrument to develop jurisprudence on new forms of violence that have emerged long after CEDAW was created, such as digital forms of violence against women and girls. CEDAW's standard-setting has been strengthened by the many additional regional human rights instruments for the protection of women and girls against violence. The 2003 Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Human Rights of Women (Maputo Protocol) has included economic violence as a form of violence against women.

In 1993, in Vienna, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW). This Declaration was significant in that it made violence against women an international issue, not subject to claims about cultural relativism. The Declaration therefore included a variety of issues such as female genital mutilation, rape and torture, domestic battery and female sexual slavery, all of which had previously been regarded, in some quarters at least, as acceptable or beyond the realm of the law. The inclusion of such practices within the realm of international law was an important statement from the UN, and it placed individual rights to physical integrity above claims of cultural rights. It also recognized that national or cultural support for such practices ignores the wishes of women themselves, as well as the many voices, even in supposedly homogenous cultures, which are opposed to such practices.

Reducing gender-based violence (GBV) is a public good that benefits individuals, families and communities in many ways. Reducing GBV is a driver for progress across a host of specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets. As everyone benefits from less violence, different sectors can help pay their part for coordinated efforts to reduce GBV in their communities. One of the means of achieving the targets of SDG 4 is to build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

School-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) can be defined as 'acts or threats of sexual, physical, or psychological violence occurring in and around school, perpetrated as a result of gender norms and stereotypes, and enforced by unequal power dynamics. It affects millions of children, families and communities and occurs in every part of the world. It is linked to patterns of violence in the wider society, and while girls and boys can be both victims and perpetrators of violence, the extent and form differs.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include explicit targets for ending violence against women, violence against children, trafficking and harmful practices – along with a host of related targets promoting peace, human rights, equality and improving health and wellbeing access. Reducing violence against women and girls is a stand-alone target under SDG Goal 5, and it will contribute to achieving the other gender equality targets also under SDG 5. Reducing GBV will also contribute to the achievement of many of the other goals including those on peace, justice and strong institutions, education, health, water and sanitation, decent work, sustainable cities and poverty. Without the elimination of gender-based violence, full human potential and sustainable development cannot be achieved. On the other hand, without the removal of the structural challenges that perpetuate gender inequalities, GBV cannot be sustainably addressed and prevented.



A person who attempts to commit the act of violence provided for in sub-section (1) of section 19 commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or to a fine not exceeding #100,000.00 or both

III. NATIONAL POLICY ENVIRONMENT AND ENABLING LAWS

The Nigeria Criminal Code Act of 1990 indicates that any person who unlawfully and indecently assaults any male person is guilty of a felony, and is liable to imprisonment for three years. The offender cannot be arrested without warrant. Also, any person who unlawfully and indecently assaults a woman or girl is guilty of a misdemeanour, and is liable to imprisonment for two year. It is obvious that the same offence attracts lesser penalty against men and women. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), Section 34 provides that every individual is entitled to respect for the dignity of his/her person and accordingly no person shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment.

It is in furtherance to its national and international obligations and commitment to ending all forms of violence in the nation that the President Goodluck Jonathan administration passed the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act (VAPP) on May 23rd 2015. This Act seeks to eliminate violence in private and public life, prohibit all forms of violence against persons and provide maximum protection and effective remedies for victims and punishment of offenders; and for related matters. The Act addresses domestic violence and other socio-cultural and political issues such as genital mutilation, rape, unlawful restraint, spousal battery, attack with a harmful substance, harmful widowhood practices, and forced isolation or separation from family and friends, among others. In Nigeria, 33 states, including Cross River have domesticated VAPP and passed at least one legislation on ending SGBV, FGM, widow protection laws, among others. Section 19 (1) of the Act provides that “a person who batters his or her spouse commits offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or to a fine not exceeding #200,000.00 or both”. Also, subsection 2 provides that “a person who attempts to commit the act of violence provided for in sub-section (1) of section 19 commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or to a fine not exceeding #100,000.00 or both”.

However, poor implementation mechanisms, lack of coordination, poor enforcement capacity, limited resources, among other factors undermine the efficacy of VAPP as an instrument for addressing SGBV. These challenges provide a strategic opportunity to develop a Costed-Action Plan as a tool to guild strategic resource allocation for the implementation of VAPP

IV. STATE LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

The Cross River State Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law, No.10 of 2021 was enacted by the State House of Assembly and came into effect on 31st December, 2021. Among the issues prohibited under the law are : rape, spousal battery, political violence, incest, harmful widowhood practice, attack by harmful substance; early child/girl marriages, emotional, verbal and psychological abuse, denial of right and privileges, stalking, emotional violence/ sexual assault, economic violence /forceful ejection from home, intimidation, damage to property etc. The law prohibits violence in private and public life, eliminate all forms of violence against persons, provide maximum protection and effective remedies for victims and punishment of offenders and for other related matters.

The Cross River Domestic Violence and Maltreatment of Widows' Prohibition Law, 2014 limits its operation to women and criminalizes domestic violence by providing that any person who subjects any woman to any form of unwholesome treatment or domestic violence commits an offence punishable by imprisonment and fine. In addition, there are also in existence the Cross River State Gender Policy; Law to provide rights of Women to own and inherit property; and Law to prohibit girl-child marriages and FGM. However, with the passage of VAPP law, the provisions of other laws seem to have been subsumed into the State VAPP law.



3.0

SITUATION ANALYSIS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATE'S VAPP LAW AND OTHER SGBV- RELATED LAWS IN THE STATE (SECTORAL SITUATION ANALYSIS)



The baseline data of the situation analysis of Cross River State Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law other S/GBV- related Laws and their implementation was obtained from five major ministries (Women Affairs, Health, Education, Justice, Youth and Finance, Budget and Planning) and civil society organisations on Tuesday, 13th September 2022, during a one-day engagement with stakeholders on the development of a costed action plan to end violence against women and girls in the state. The one-day engagement, which was held at Monty Suites Hotel, Calabar was part of the joint UN/EU Spotlight Initiative project being implemented by WARDC

I. AWARENESS OF FORMS OF VAP/SGBV ISSUES/CONCERNS AND RESPONSES IN THE STATE

The main S/GBV and violence-related issues identified across the Ministries of Health, Education, Youth and Sports, Justice, Women Affairs and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are molestation of girl-child by teachers/seniors/relatives; discrimination of girl-child education; cultural barrier against girl child; female genital mutilation (FGM); rape of students; teenage pregnancy; early/forcefully marriages; denial of right and privileges, boy/son preference; harmful widowhood practices; domestic violence; human trafficking; child labour, incest, rituals, among others. The sector-specific concerns and responses on SGBV and violence-related cases in Cross River State are indicated thus:

Ministry of Education: Establishment of clubs in schools; appointment of schools' safe guiding officers; and school- to- school enlightenment campaign

Ministry of Justice: Proposal for a one-stop center in the state; inauguration of GBV Response Team/ Technical Working Group; livelihood support for GBV survivors; commemoration of global days to sensitize the public and create awareness on GBV issues e.g. 16 days of activism, day of the girl child

Ministry of Women Affairs: statewide sensitization and awareness creation; capacity building through training of officers across different sectors; setting up a situation room on GBV in collaboration with ministry of justice; livelihood supports for GBV survivors; rescue and referral of GBV survivors to hospitals

Ministry of Health: collaboration with Ministries of Justice and Women Affairs in the management of GBV cases; training of health workers on the management of GBV cases CSOs: collaborations with relevant line ministries on training and capacity building; enlightenment and awareness creation on GBV and provisions of laws for members of the public



II. AWARENESS OF ACTIONS TO MITIGATE VAP/SGBV ISSUES/CONCERNS ACROSS SECTORS

Table 2: Sector-specific SGBV and VAP-related Concerns and Responses in Cross River State

Sectors	SGBV / VAP Concerns	Sector-related Responses
Education	Deprivation of the girl child access to school; early pregnancy; child labour; early marriage; money-induced marriage; rape; molestation of girl -child by teachers/seniors/relatives	Establishment of clubs in schools; appointment of schools' safe guiding officers; and school - to-school enlightenment campaign
Health	Rape of minors; domestic violence; assault and battery	Collaboration with Ministries of Justice and Women Affairs in the management of GBV cases; training of health workers on the management of GBV cases
Justice	Domestic violence; molestation of girl -child by relatives; rape of minors; forceful ejection by landlords; human trafficking; child labour; rituals; political violence	Prosecution of offenders; training of judicial officers; inauguration of GBV response team/ technical working group; livelihood support to GBV survivors; enlightenment campaign
Women Affairs/Youth and Sports	Female Genital Mutilation (FGM); rape of students; domestic violence teenage pregnancy; early/forcefully marriages; denial of right and privileges, boy/son preference; harmful widowhood practices; human trafficking; child labour	Collaboration with line ministries in the management of GBV cases; sensitization and awareness campaign, livelihood support to GBV survivors; capacity building across sectors and agencies
CSOs	Domestic violence teenage pregnancy; early/forcefully marriages; denial of right and privileges, boy/son preference; harmful widowhood practices; human trafficking; child labour	Collaboration with line ministries in the management of GBV cases; sensitization and awareness campaign, livelihood support to GBV survivors; capacity building across sectors and agencies; provision of emotional/social supports to survivors of domestic violence/GBV

III. AWARENESS OF EXISTING SECTORAL SGBV/VAP LAWS/POLICIES IN THE STATE

All the sectors and CSOs duly identified the existence of the following SGBV/VAP laws/policies in the state:

- Cross River State Gender Policy
- Cross River State Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law No.10 of 2021
- Law to Prohibit Domestic Violence against Women and Maltreatment of Widows
- Law to provide rights of Women to own and inherit property
- Law to prohibit girl-child marriage and FGM
- Child's Rights Law

a. Cross River State Gender Policy (2019-2023)

The Cross River State gender policy strategy and implementation framework was officially launched on 13th December, 2019. The gender policy was to provide a level-playing grounds for women and men to fully optimize their potential without discrimination. The policy is expected to promote gender equality, empowerment of women and reduce incidence of GBV in the state. The policy was developed by the Cross River State Ministry of Women Affairs with the support of UNFPA

b. Cross River State Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law No.10 of 2021

The Cross River State Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law, No.10 of 2021 was enacted by the State House of Assembly and came into effect on 31st December, 2021. Among the issues prohibited under the law are : rape, spousal battery, political violence, incest, harmful widowhood practice, attack by harmful substance; early child/girl marriages, emotional, verbal and psychological abuse, denial of right and privileges, stalking, emotional violence/ sexual assault, economic violence /forceful ejection from home, intimidation, damage to property etc. The law prohibits violence in private and public life, eliminate all forms of violence against persons, provide maximum protection and effective remedies for victims and punishment of offenders and for other related matters.

c. Law to Prohibit Domestic Violence against Women and Maltreatment of Widows

The Cross River Domestic Violence and Maltreatment of Widows' Prohibition Law, 2014 limits its operation to women and criminalizes domestic violence by providing that any person who subjects any woman to any form of unwholesome treatment or domestic violence commits an offence punishable by imprisonment and fine

d. Cross River State Female Person's Inheritance of Property Law 2007 (No. 10 of 2007).

The law stipulates that notwithstanding any native law or custom to the contrary a female person has the right to acquire and own property and shall share in the intestate estate of her deceased father, mother or husband in accordance with the provisions of this Law. Females may be the administrator or one of the administrators of her father's, mother's or husband's estate. The Law also grants other rights to women and provides protection of women from degrading treatment and provides with respect to alienation of property. or interest in the matrimonial home.

e. Cross River State Law to Prohibit Girl-Child Marriages and Female Circumcision or Genital Mutilation, 2009

Cross Rivers State Girl-Child Marriages and Female Circumcision (Prohibition) Law (2000). Section 4 sets out that any person who performs FGM, offers herself for FGM, coerces, entices or induces another to undergo FGM or allows any female who is either a daughter or ward to undergo FGM is liable on conviction to a fine of not less than 10,000 Naira or to imprisonment not exceeding two years for a first offender (and to imprisonment not exceeding three years without an option of fine for each subsequent offence)

d. Child's Rights Act 2009

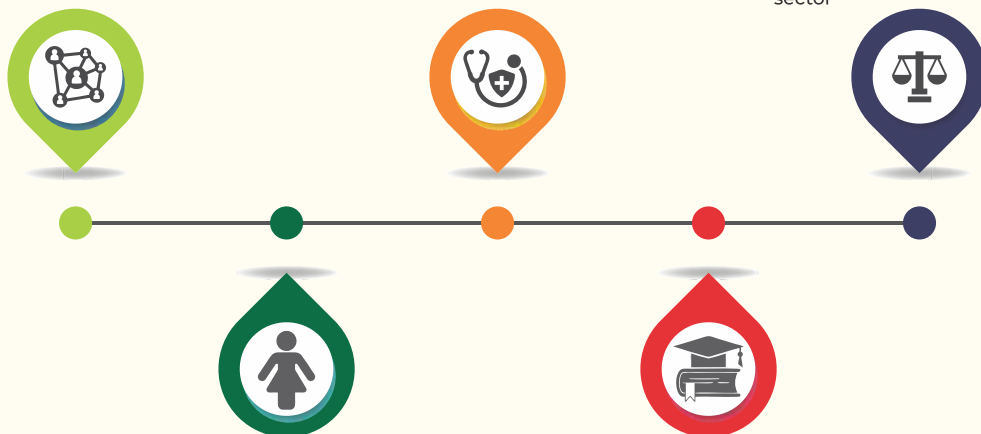
The law sets out the right of every child to be free from physical, mental or emotional injury, abuse, neglect or maltreatment, including sexual abuse and provides a robust framework for the child protection system. The law specifies the rights and responsibilities of children and the duties and obligations of government, families and the authorities to uphold children's rights.

IV. AWARENESS OF SGBV/VAP ISSUES ADDRESSED IN SECTORAL POLICIES

CSOs: Domestic violence teenage pregnancy; early/forcefully marriages; denial of right and privileges, boy/son preference; harmful widowhood practices; human trafficking; child labour

Health: Rape of minors; domestic violence; assault and battery were issues in the health sector

Justice: Domestic violence; molestation of girl-child by relatives; rape of minors; forceful ejection by landlords; human trafficking; child labour; rituals; political violence were the issues identified in the justice sector



Women Affairs/Youth and Sports: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM); rape of students; domestic violence teenage pregnancy; early/forcefully marriages; denial of right and privileges, boy/son preference; harmful widowhood practices; human trafficking; child labour

Education: Deprivation of the girl child access to school; early pregnancy; child labour; early marriage; money-induced marriage; rape; molestation of girl-child by teachers/seniors/relatives were issues identified by education sector

V. AWARENESS OF SGBV/VAP ISSUES NOT ADDRESSED IN SECTORAL POLICIES



WOMEN AFFAIRS/YOUTH AND SPORTS:

Cultism not adequately addressed in the existing sectoral policy in the state. Furthermore, fraudster among the youths is not addressed



CSOS:

Issues of poverty is a catalyst to domestic violence among many families. Deprivations, unemployment/underemployment are also fueling domestic violence



EDUCATION:

Rehabilitation and absorption of drop-out girls on account of pregnancy is not addressed in the existing policies/laws in the state.



JUSTICE:

Adequate copies of VAPP Law have not been produced and circulated for public consumption thereby creating ignorance of provisions of the law.

VI. SGBV/VAP ISSUES IN THE CURRENT SECTORAL PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE:

There is a Technical Committee on VAPP sensitization and awareness in the ministry. Ministry of Justice is also involved in prosecution of GBV offenders as well as rehabilitation of survivors



WOMEN AFFAIRS/YOUTH AND SPORTS:

The Ministry of Women Affairs currently has a GBV center where all GBV cases are being managed. In addition, the ministry is also involved in mediation, counselling and peaceful reconciliation and dispute settlement on domestic violence. However, complicated cases of criminal nature are promptly referred to the security agencies and the Ministry of Justice for appropriate actions. There is also a proposal in the current program of the Ministry for a one-stop service center' for GBV cases. The Ministry also has Economic Empowerment Scheme for GBV survivors to secure means of livelihood for them

VII. IMPACT OF SGBV/VAP ISSUES ADDRESSED IN THE CURRENT SECTORAL PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

The engagement with GBV/VAP issues by different sectors has imparted on the current programs and activities of those sectors. A major impact is the continuous engagement with sensitization and awareness campaign by key sectors such as education, health, women affairs, justice and information. In addition, budgetary allocation is also provided for the implantation of activities in the key sectors. Engagement with GBV/VAP issues has also necessitated the need for continuous training and capacity building of relevant officers who are currently involved on GBV/VAP activities. In addition, there is also collaboration among all the key sectors working on GBV such as Justice, Education, Health, Women Affairs and the CSOs.

VIII. IMPACT OF SGBV/VAP ISSUES NOT ADDRESSED IN THE CURRENT SECTORAL PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

The Ministry of Women Affairs currently does not have a shelter for managing GBV survivors of GBV. The absence of shelter in the ministry is hampering effective response and management of GBV cases by the ministry. For the Ministry of Justice, the non-availability of adequate copies of the VAPP law for public circulation is hindering effective administration of justice because of ignorance of the provisions of the law. In addition, the inability of pregnant girls to continue with their education during pregnancy and after delivery is hindering effective rehabilitation program for survivors of GBV cases, especially young girls.



IX SECTORAL BUDGETS AND CAPACITIES FOR ADDRESSING SGBV/VAP ISSUES IN THE STATE

a. State Budgetary Allocation for VAP and S/GBV-related issues

From the responses across different sectors, there is inadequate budgetary allocation to GBV/VAP issues. Apart from the Ministry of Women Affairs where there are allocations to specific gender issues such as GBV/VAP, other line ministries such as Education, Health, Youth and Sports and Justice currently do not have budget line to implement activities relating to GBV/VAP. Different ministries have to rely on the support of development partners, especially the Spotlight Initiative to implement GBV/VAP activities. The budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Women Affairs is also low in comparison with the other line ministries and this has been hindering effective implementation of activities on GBV and VAP in the state. Critical sectors relating to GBV/VAP MDAs do not have inadequate funding and resource allocation to meet the demands effective response both in human capital, skills, and tools such as rescue vehicles, dedicated and well-equipped counselling rooms, forensic interviewing facilities, rehabilitation centers and shelters. The situation at the Justice ministry is very critical as the coordinating agency for the implementation of the VAPP law. There are no dedicated/special courts to fast-track administration of justice on GBV/VAP cases, as obtained in Lagos state. Similarly, funding is needed to produce copies of the VAPP Law for circulation to the public. In addition, there is urgent need to build the capacity of law enforcement officers on the provisions of the VAP law for effective case management and administration of justice. The likely negative impacts of unaddressed GBV/VAP-related priority concerns in sectoral budgetary allocations are evasion of justice, delay of justice, lack of trust in the judicial system and hardening of criminals.

In addition, as supporting partner in the implementation of activities on GBV/VAP, CSOs equally require funding require funding for data management (collection, analysis and interpretation), monitoring and reporting, advocacy/awareness, litigation, survivors management, provision of shelter and livelihood program, legislation/public hearing, and education and capacity development research and documentation. Many of the CSOs working on GBV/VAP issues are currently handicapped by finance to implement different activities in the state.

b. Sectoral Capacity for Developing Gender-Responsive Budgeting in Lagos State

From the interactions with officers across key sectors (Education, Health, Justice, Women Affairs, Youth and Sports and Finance), it was glaring that there is inadequate capacity to engage with gender-responsive budgeting in the state. Templates for developing a gender-responsive budget have not been made available and budgeting officers have not been preparing budget using the framework of gender-responsive budgeting. Isolated gender issues are given allocation, especially in the Women Affairs, Education, Health and Justice sectors. However, gender-responsiveness has been providing a guiding framework for budget preparation. Also, there is capacity deficit for gender-responding budgeting among civil society organizations. There is urgent need therefor for capacity building through training of CSOs/NGOs on gender-response budgeting for the implementation of VAPP Law and other S/GBV-related policies and Laws in the state.



X. SGBV/VAP ISSUES ADDRESSED IN THE TOP FIVE BUDGET LINE ITEMS IN THE CURRENT STATE BUDGET AND LIKELY IMPACT

Evidence coming from the interactions with senior officers in the Ministries of Education, Health, Justice, Women Affairs, Youth and Sports indicate clearly poor engagement with SGBV/VAP issues across the key sectors. SGBV/VAP issues are not accorded top priorities (1-5) in the budgetary allocation of key ministries. The implication is that there is no adequate allocation of funds for the implementation of activities to eradicate SGBV/VAP in the state.

XI. SGBV/VAP ISSUES NOT ADDRESSED IN THE TOP FIVE BUDGET LINE ITEMS IN THE CURRENT STATE BUDGET AND LIKELY IMPACT

As previously identified in this report, some of the specific SGBV/VAP issues and concerns that should be prioritized in budgetary allocation for different sectors are indicated thus:

Education: Rehabilitation of drop-out pregnant girls; engagement of counsellors; Rape

Health: Rape of minors; domestic violence; assault and battery

Justice: Domestic violence; molestation of girl-child by relatives; rape of minors; forceful ejection by landlords; human trafficking; child labour; rituals; political violence

Women Affairs/Youth and Sports: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM); rape of students; domestic violence teenage pregnancy; early/forcefully marriages; denial of right and privileges, boy/son preference; harmful widowhood practices; human trafficking; child labour

XII. HINDRANCES TO THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATE'S VAP/SGBV LAWS

From the data gathered across MDAs and CSOs/NGOs on the hindrances to the effective implementation of the State's VAP/SGBV laws, the following are the identified factors from Education, health, Justice, Women Affairs, Youth and Sports



a. Inadequate Funding:

Inadequate funding is a cross-cutting issue in all the key sectors involved in the implementation of SGBV/VAPP activities. Critical ministries such as Women Affairs and Justice who are directly coordinating the implementation of VAPP/SGBV laws are not adequately funded as there are glaring deficit in personnel, facilities, materials and equipment needed for effective implementation of SGBV/VAPP activities.



b. Shortage Of Personnel

Due to the large number of cases and limited workforce across all MDAs, existing staff on the ground are excessively burdened and overwhelmed by the workload thereby resulting into slow attention to cases.



c. Corruption among Law Enforcement Officers

As reported widely during stakeholders' interactions, law enforcement officers compromised the provisions of relevant laws in exchange for monetary inducements from members of the public. As declared by one of the participants 'once security officers received gratification, they simply counselled victims of SGBV and domestic violence to return home and handled the case domestically'. In some cases, the law enforcement officers themselves are simply ignorant of the provisions of relevant laws and as such, it becomes difficult for them to administer justice in accordance with the laws.



d. Withdrawal of Cases from Administration of Justice

There have also been instances where previously reported cases are withdrawn by complainant either due to monetary inducement, pressure or threat from influential public members. Some cases that proceeded smoothly, are forced to be withdrawn due to the unwillingness of complainant to testify against the suspect, who in most cases, are family members.



e. Difficulty in Obtaining Forensic Evidence

Successful prosecution of SGBV cases usually rely on incontrovertible evidence, which must be presented before the court. Unlike in advanced countries where DNA evidence is easily available, the forensic evidence required for a successful prosecution of cases is not easily obtained. In some cases, due to ignorance and late prosecution, evidence becomes compromised and unreliable. Also, there is poor access to technology required to obtain forensic evidence and even when there is access, the cost is usually expensive.



XII. EXISTING HUMAN RESOURCES AND CAPACITIES FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATE'S VAPP AND OTHER SGBV-RELATED LAWS

a. Sectoral Efforts at Implementing VAPP and SGBV-related Laws in Cross River State

The Ministry of Justice is currently coordinating the implementation of the Cross River State Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act under the Citizens' Rights Department. There is also a Technical Committee established by the State on the implementation of the VAPP Law. The Technical Committee is responsible for sensitization of public members to the provisions of the law. The state does not have a shelter presently, but whenever the need arises for a shelter, the state uses the facility of an NGO as temporary shelter.

There is an ongoing effort by the Ministry of Women Affairs to establish a 'one-stop center' service provider for the management of GBV cases in the state. The center, when eventually established, will provide many services required for effective handling of cases. Presently, there is a SGBV centre at the Ministry of Women Affairs where cases are reported and managed by the Ministry. The centre is accessible to public members for case reporting. The centre provides psycho-social counselling for GBV survivors and also mediate in domestic violence for peaceful settlement. However, complicated cases are usually referred to the Ministry of Justice and the Nigeria Police Force for administration of justice. In addition, the Ministry also undertakes rescue of victims of domestic violence and SGBV and make appropriate referral to Hospitals. There is also economic empowerment scheme for survivors of SGBV to secure means of livelihood for them. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are also providing supporting services like sensitization and awareness creation, capacity building through training, rehabilitation and counselling services, among others. In summary, the implementation of the State VAPP and other SGBV-related Laws involves collaboration between Ministries of Justice, Women Affairs Health, CSOs and security agencies.

b. Sectoral Technical Knowledge of VAP and SGBV-related Framework in the State

While there is a demonstration of familiarization with VAP and SGBV-related framework in the state, that technical knowledge is more pronounced among officers of the Ministries of Justice and Women Affairs. Thus, there is deficit of technical knowledge of VAP and SGBV-related framework among officers in other ministries like education, health, youth and sports, information, finance among others. The knowledge is not unconnected with the fact that women affairs and justice sectors are the coordinating ministries for the implementation of the law. However, given the fact that SGBV and VAP are cross-cutting issues that manifest in other sectors such as education, health, youth and sports, it is important for officers in those key ministries to have adequate technical knowledge of relevant laws for effective management of SGBV/VAP cases. The technical knowledge requires continuous training and engagement with relevant policy/law documents.

c. Sectoral Capacities Requirement for Engagement with VAPP and Other SGBV-related Laws

Arising from the interactions with stakeholders across different sectors, the capacity requirements for effective engagement with VAPP and other SGBV-related laws were identified



Ministry of Education:

From the ministry of education, some selected head teachers and teachers had participated in training on SGBV management in schools. However, given the number of schools operating in the state, the percentage of trained teachers is grossly inadequate to step-down the training for others. However, finance is a major constraint to organizing step-down training for schools.



Ministry of Justice:

Information obtained from the justice sector revealed that less than 10 officers had undertaken training on handling SGBV cases, especially in the areas of prosecution, mediation and rehabilitation. That number is also inadequate in view of the strategic position of the Ministry of Justice as the Coordinating Ministry for the implementation of VAPP/SGBV-related Laws.



Ministry of Women Affairs:

The ongoing Spotlight Initiative and the participation of the Ministry of Women Affairs has opened up opportunities for regular training and capacity building on SGBV/VAP. Many officers in the Ministry had undertaken training, which had considerably strengthened capacity in the Ministry for engagement SGBV/VAP. However, the Ministry requires support to establish a 'one-stop centre' for service provider on SGBV.



Ministry of Health:

Training for capacity building on technical knowledge on SGBV/VAP has been selective in the health sector as only few officers had been exposed to the training. There is therefore a huge gap in technical-knowledge on SGBV/VAP in the health sector



Ministry of Youth and Sports:

There has not been much exposure to capacity building of technical knowledge on SGBV/VAP in the sector.



CSOs:

The exposure to Spotlight Initiative has strengthened the capacity of civil society organizations for a meaningful engagement on SGBV/VAP. CSOs have also been collaborating with the Ministries of Women Affairs, Education, Health, Justice, Religious Organisations on capacity building, sensitization and awareness creation on SGBV/VAP.

Table 3: Sectoral Capacity Requirement for Effective Engagement with VAPP and Other SGBV-related Laws in Cross River State

Sectors	Capacities and supports require to fully engage with the SGBV/VAP Laws in Cross River State
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building to train teachers and headteachers the technical knowledge on SGBV/VAPP Laws • Establishment of counselling offices on GBV in schools • Recruitment of Counsellors specifically trained to manage S/GBV cases • Sensitization and awareness campaign across schools on SGBV
Sectors	Capacities and supports require to fully engage with the SGBV/VAP Laws in Cross River State
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support • Capacity building of Health workers • Provision of Sexual Assault Evidence Examination Kit, also referred to as rape kits • Financial support to establish forensic laboratory and testing centers
Ministry of Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building & financial support to carry out sensitization on VAPP and other SGBV laws. • Training of law enforcement officers on prosecution and management of SGBV cases • Financial support to establish special courts for speedy administration of justice • Support to produce mass copies of relevant laws for circulation to the public • Support for enlightenment campaign to the public
Ministry of Women Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support to establish a 'one-stop center of service provision on SGBV management • Support to undertake enlightenment campaign to the public • Support to establish shelter to protect and accommodate victims • Equipment of existing SGBV center in the Ministry
Ministry of Youth and Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building on technical knowledge of SGBV/VAPP Laws • Training of Sport Directors/Coaches on SGBV • Recruitment of Counsellors specifically trained to manage SGBV cases • Sensitization and awareness campaign across schools on SGBV
CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More capacity building for CSO • Funding for more projects on SGB • Supporting networking and collaboration among CSOs on SGBV

4.0

FGD SITUATION ANALYSIS OF VAPP LAW IMPLEMENTATION AMONGST CSOS AND WOMEN LEADERS

Table 4: Thematic Analysis of the VAPP Law Implementation Session with CSOs/NGOs and Women Leaders in Cross River State

Theme: Current Status of VAPP, SGBV Issues/VAPP Law Concerns and Efforts Taken by CSOs/NGOs and Women Leaders

Issues	Organisations	Responses	General Summary
Current status of VAPP Law Implementation in Cross River State	1. Initiative for People's Good Women	The VAPP Law has been passed in the State, however, it is still subject to review in a lot of ways as some aspects are yet to be outlined clearly.	From the responses generated, it is confirmed that VAPP has been passed into Law in Cross River State, while its full implementation is an ongoing process.
	2. Pear Hub Initiative	VAPP has been domesticated in the State since December 30, 2021, and the implementation is ongoing.	
	3. Edem Children Foundation	The VAPP Law is domesticated in Cross River State on 31 December, 2021, while its implementation is ongoing. There is massive awareness of its implementation in the State	
	4. Youth Resource Centre	The VAPP Law is currently ongoing. It has been implemented in the State, and its creation has created awareness in the general public.	
	5. ONYX Foundation Africa	The VAPP Law has been domesticated in Cross River State.	
SGBV issues and VAPP Law concerns in Cross River State across CSOs	1. Initiative for People's Good Women	Child abuse, rape, sexual assault, economic abuse, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), domestic violence, child marriage.	SGBV/ Violence against women and traditional harmful practices are largely prevalent in the state. The girl child and women are at higher risks in the State.
	2. Pear Hub Initiative	Rape, FGM, early and forced child marriage, domestic violence, forced labour, child neglect.	
	3. Edem Children Foundation	FGM, rape, human trafficking, domestic, and child neglect, harmful widowhood practices, forced labour.	
	4. Youth Resource Centre	Child abuse, rape, sexual assault, economic abuse, FGM, domestic violence, child marriage	
	5. ONYX Foundation Africa	FGM, harmful widowhood practice, spousal battery, child and spouse	
		neglect with no provision for their sustenance.	

Table 5: Thematic Analysis of the VAPP Law Implementation Session with CSOs/NGOs and Women Leaders in Cross River State

Theme: Current Status of VAPP, SGBV Issues/VAPP Law Concerns and Efforts Taken by CSOs/NGOs and Women Leaders

Issues	Organisations	Responses	General Summary
Efforts already taken by your Organisation to combat and reduce VAP and SGBV -related issues	1. Initiative for People's Good Women	<i>The Organisation recently inaugurated a community response team and a child protection committee to fight against gender based violence. The Organisation conducts 'operation triple zero' club meetings which on awareness creation on GBV for adolescent to help them recognise that both boys and girls have same roles.</i>	The focus has been on sensitization and creating of awareness on SGBV and VAP in the State. Advocacy visits were made to stakeholders with a view of securing supports for survivors of SGBV and for effective implementation of the VAPP Law in the State.
	2. Pear Hub Initiative	<i>Advocacy to communities and key stakeholders. Establishment of child right clubs. Development and distribution of IEC materials. Referrals for further services.</i>	
	3. Edem Children Foundation	<i>Advocacy to key stakeholders. Establishment of child right clubs in schools. Increase in child's right awareness among stakeholders. Campaigns and making courtesy visits to relevant MDAs for partnership and collaboration. Referrals for further services.</i>	
	4. Youth Resource Centre	<i>The Organisation has carried out sensitization programmes at different communities in the state to ensure that there is a reduction in SGBV cases.</i>	
	5. ONYX Foundation Africa	<i>The Organisation recently carried out a sensitization walk in Calabar to create awareness on the existence of VAPP Law in the State. Advocacy visits to key stakeholders in the State. Provision of psycho-social counselling and creating referrals pathways to survivors of SGBV</i>	

Table 6: Government's Response to S/GBV issues/VAPP Law Implementation and Its Impact on CSOs/NGOs/Women Leaders' Roles in the Elimination of S/GBV in the State

Issues	Organisation	Responses	General Summary
Government responses to SGBV issues and VAPP Law implementation concerns – a critical discussion	1. Initiative for People's Good Women	Government participation in response to SGBV related issues has not been totally felt as more work needs to be done in the area of provision of free health care services to survivors. Although the VAPP Law has been passed in the State, there is a need for more awareness, especially among rural communities of the State.	Government has not been responding adequately to the funding of SGBV despite going into partnership with major stakeholders on the issue. Inadequate funding is a major issue of concern for CSOs due to inability of government to translate its commitment to practical implementation activities.
	3. Edem Children Foundation	The government has called for the establishment of Sexually Assaulted Counselling Centre (SACC) at the State level.	
	4. Youth Resource Centre	There have been calls by CSOs for the establishment of centers in Cross River where SGBV related cases will be handled. However, Government has not responded to this call.	
	5. ONYX Foundation Africa	Government plays a critical role in implementation and response to SGBV by being opened to partnership. However, Government has been slowed in responding to GBV issues because of its lack of knowledge of what SGBV entails. The policy is not receiving adequate funding.	
State or Federal Government policy/law guiding your activities on VAP/ S/GBV	1. Initiative for People's Good Women	Gender policy, Child Rights Law, Child safeguarding policy, VAPP law, VAWA law.	There are existing policies and laws at both Federal and State level that support the activities of CSOs/NGOs and Women leaders on SGBV in the State.
	2. Pear Hub Initiative	VAPP law, Child rights law, Violence against women and girls law, The Nigerian 1999 Constitution, The Girl child marriage law.	
	3. Edem Children Foundation	VAPP law, Child rights law, Gender policy	
	4. Youth Resource Centre	VAPP law, Gender policy, Child rights law.	Some of the policies/laws cited are: i. The Amended 1999 Federal Constitution ii. Child Rights Law iii. VAPP Law iv. Gender Policy v. Cross River State Girl - Child Marriage and Female Circumcision Prohibition Law
	5. ONYX Foundation Africa	VAPP law, Child rights law, Cross River girl child marriage and Female circumcision prohibition law, Gender policy	

Table 7: Collaboration, Achievements, Challenges Relating to VAPP Law

Issues	Organisation	Responses	General Summary
Achievements and challenges concerning the implementation of these policies and laws	1. Initiative for People's Good Women	The Organisation has reported fewer number of cases of GBV reported cases as previous months with more reported cases.	Increased in the level of awareness of SGBV, Justice for SGBV survivors and punishment of perpetrators of SGBV are notable achievements. The major identified problems include poor funding, poor case management, stigmatization and victimization of SGBV survivors. Major challenges are poor funding and inadequate supply of printed copies of the VAPP law document.
	2. Pear Hub Initiative	GBV is not taken as a priority by the Government. Inadequate capacity building of service provider and poor funding.	
	3. Edem Children Foundation	Some survivors have received justice Massive awareness creation. Some perpetrators have been persecuted Stigmatization and discrimination of SGBV survivors. Victimization of survivors. Inadequate funding for case management.	
	4. Youth Resource Centre	Referral pathways. Drop in GBV reported cases. Proper casemanagement. Survivors are not getting justice. Refusal of SGBV survivors to report cases. Victimization of survivors	
	5. ONYX Foundation Africa	More awareness has been created. Most perpetrators have been prosecuted. Justice has been served to some survivors. Victimization of survivors. Request for funds by the Police. Inadequate funding.	
MDAs/Communities that your Organisation collaborate with in its work	1. Initiative for People's Good Women	Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Youths, Girls' power Initiative and Ministry of Justice.	CSOs are collaborating with MDAs and Communities in Calabar ; LGA and Development Authorities .
	2. Pear Hub Initiative	Women Development Officer, Department of Education line, Local Action Committee on AIDs	
	3. Edem Children Foundation	Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of education, Ministry of Justice, FIDA and Medical Women Association.	
	4. Youth Resource Centre	Social Welfare, State CID, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women Affairs	
	5. ONYX Foundation Africa	Ministry of Women Affairs, Girls' Power Initiative, FIDA, Medical Women Association, All the Communities in Calabar South LGA, Ministry of Justice, Communities in Calabar Municipal LGA,	
	2. Pear Hub Initiative	<i>Poor funding. Poor commitment of MDAs. The VAPP law is difficult to interpret.</i>	
	3. Edem Children Foundation	<i>Referral pathways. Survivors can now speakup. Low knowledge of VAPP law among stakeholders. Some law enforcement agencies have no information on the VAPP law</i>	
	4. ONYX Foundation Africa	<i>The implementation of VAPP law has helped in breaking the culture of silence in some cases. Referral pathways. Poor funding.</i>	

Table 8: Current Status of Indicators for Measuring VAPP Law Implementation Progress/Gaps and Foreseeable Priorities in the Costed Action Plan for VAPP Law Implementation

Issues	Organisation	Responses	General Summary
<p>What is the status of the following in the State (prevalence, interventions and impact; current status any indications for measuring progress, gaps, etc.?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. GBV/Violence against Women/Domestic Violence. b. Status of FGM in the State and other harmful traditional practices, etc. c. Women's economic empowerment (farming, paid employment, unpaid care work and domestic activities_. d. Youth unemployment/care of the elderly/disabilities, etc. e. Gender-based issues in Education, Health, Environment, Infrastructure, Media, Water and Sanitation, Conflict and Peace building. 	<p>1. Initiative for People's Good Women</p>	<p>High prevalence rate of GBV/VAW, FGM, youth unemployment, GBV related issues in Education, Health, Environment, etc., low prevalence rate of women's economic empowerment. There is need for community sensitization, advocacy to community stakeholders, establishment of working groups in schools/communities, vocational centres for youth and women.</p>	<p>High prevalence rates of SGBV related issues are reported. Interventions are generally in forms of advocacy for key stakeholders, awareness, sensitization and domestication of the VAPP law.</p>
	<p>2. Pear Hub Initiative</p>	<p>No comment was made...</p>	
	<p>3. Edem Children Foundation</p>	<p>High prevalence rate of GBV, youth unemployment and Gender -based issues in Education, Health, Environment, etc., medium prevalence rate of FGM and women's economic empowerment. Interventions have been informed of advocacy for the vulnerable elderly, persons with disabilities; advocacy and sensitization to key stakeholders; skill acquisition for youth and women. Interventions have brought about reduction poverty level, decline in SGBV related cases and improved knowledge in financial management.</p>	
	<p>4. Youth Resource Centre</p>	<p>There is high prevalence rate of youth unemployment, GBV/VAW/Domestic violence and Gender based issues in Education, Health, Environment, etc.</p>	

	5. ONYX Foundation Africa	High prevalence rate of GBV/VAW/Domestic violence, youth unemployment, FGM, Gender-based issues in Education, Health, Environment, etc.; Low prevalence rate of women's economic empowerment. Interventions are in forms of domestication of the VAPP law, sensitization, awareness and advocacy to key stakeholders in the community	
Identify at least 5 priorities you will like to see in the costed action plan for VAPP Law implementation in your state and measure indicators for these priorities	1. Initiative for People's Good Women 2. Pear Hub Initiative 3. Edem Children Foundation 4. Youth Resource Centre 5. ONYX Foundation Africa	Advocacy/sensitization of key stakeholders. Media engagement. Establishment of SACC Establishment of SACC. Media engagement. Training of key stakeholders- CSOs, MDAs, NGOs, FBOs etc. Advocacy and sensitization of key stakeholders	Identified priorities to be included in the costed action plan VAPP Law include: Advocacy and sensitization of key stakeholders Establishment of SACC Engagement with the Media Strengthening capacity of Gender vocal persons.

5.0 CONCEPTUALIZING COSTED ACTION PLAN

5.1. The Costed Action Plan

Costed Action Plan (CAP) is a multi-year road map designed to help the state to achieve its goal of eliminating violence against persons. It is a critical tool in transforming the state's broad goal of zero tolerance for violence against persons into concrete activities and policies. CAP determines the human, financial, material and technical resources needed for policy implementation. It is designed to justify resource mobilization and to leverage financial and technical resources from multiple stakeholders.

5.2. Rationale for Costing Action Plan

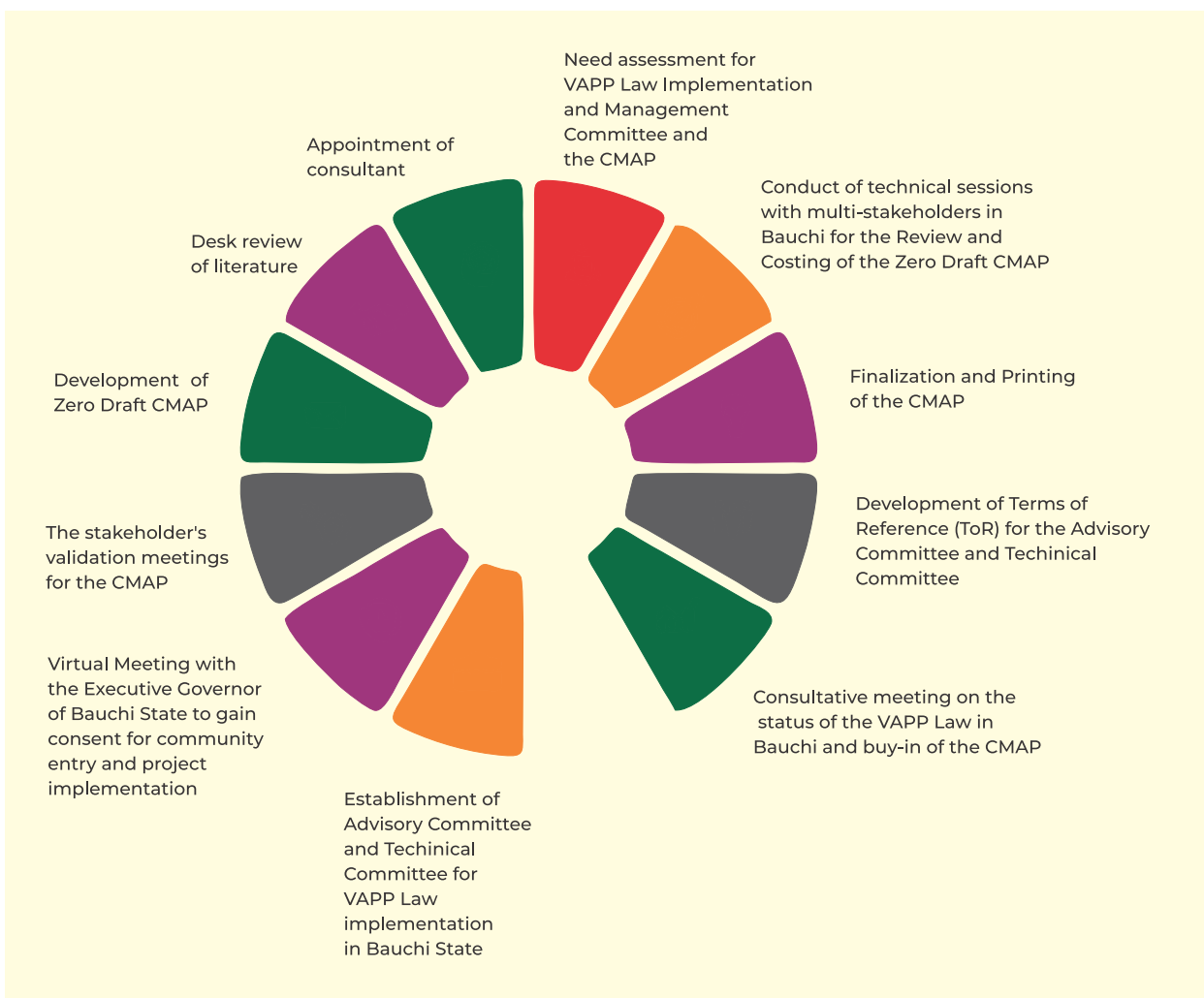
- 01** Executors of gender-based violence do not know the cost of activities, therefore costing of action plans provides guidance on implementation of the action plans
- 02** Costed action plans provide guidance on which kind of activities to give priority to, expand and support.
- 03** Costing of action plans helps in the identification of responsible persons for implementation of particular activities to ensure responsibility and accountability
- 04** Information from costed plan of actions enables policy makers to see resource allocation and know with certainty where the bulk of the financial resources will be channeled and this can ensure full support in fund raising activities.
- 05** Working with costed action plans provides opportunities for implementers to focus on achieving set results.
- 06** Costing action plans provides a better appreciation of the resource gap, which provides opportunity for fundraising
- 07** Costing of action plans provides for easier sectorial comparison and evaluation with other national action plans.
- 08** CAP is a practical application of gender responsive budgeting framework to ensure equity in resource allocations.

5.3. MODEL COSTED ACTION PLANS

The National Multi-Sectoral Strategy and Costed Action Plan for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Prevention and Control in the Gambia is a five-year roadmap of how the Gambia seeks to address the increasing NCD burden from May 2022 to April 2027. The overarching goal of this plan is to reduce premature deaths from NCDs in The Gambia by one-third by 2027. In early 2010, with the support of UNIFEM Southern Africa, Seychelles worked on the development of a costed two-year action plan. The costed two-year indicative plan was the outcome of work towards costing what it would cost the Seychelles to implement the activities on GBV over a period of two years (2010 and 2011). The Southern African Development Community (SADC) developed a costed action plan for the Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063, which was adopted in April 2015 to allow the region to harness the full potential of its vast and diverse natural resources. The costed action plan sought to establish a coherent and synergistic implementation scheme containing strategic options and general policies towards the progressive attainment of time-bound targets set out in the strategy and roadmap.

5.4 THE BAUCHI MODEL COSTED ACTION PLAN

The Bauchi State Costed Model Action Plan (CMAP) for the implementation of the VAPP Law - 2021 to 2025 appears to be the first costed action plan for Domestic violence/SGBV/VAWG/VAC/VAVP policy implementation in Nigeria. Although two southwestern states (Ekiti and Osun) had previously developed action plans for the implementation of GBV Prohibition Law and Domestic Violence Law, the two plans were however not costed. To ensure a realistic costed model plan of action, the Bauchi State CMAP adopted a results-based approach (RBA) which took into consideration ongoing activities by all stakeholders. The Bauchi State CMAP development process included the following:



5.5. METHODOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT OF CAP: STEP BY STEP APPROACH:

Obtaining government and key stakeholder buy-in

Detailing road map and securing resources for the development of an action plan

Formulation of stated goals, strategic objectives and activities

Engagement of consultants for facilitation

Stakeholder consultations: The purpose of the consultations is to review and deliberate on the development of goals, objectives and main activities and budgeting (costing)

Collation and Packaging the Costed Action Plan Document based on the in-puts from policymakers

Collation and Packaging the Costed Action Plan Document based on the in-puts from policymakers

5.6. RISK FACTORS TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COSTED ACTION PLAN

Failure of the Government to meet up the expected revenue projection to the sector

Inability of the participating partners to fulfill their financial responsibilities and commitments.

Weak human capacity within the line ministries for the delivery of CAP

Weak political will to push through the Action Plan

Policy inconsistency and absence of continuity

5.7. RAISING FUNDS FOR COSTED ACTION PLAN

Government Statutory Allocations

Development Partners Contributions

Local NGOs' Resources (human, technical and financial)

Donations from Philanthropist Organizations and Individuals

Private Sectors Contributions (sponsorship of programs)

MNC's Corporate Social Responsibility

6.0 THE COSTED ACTION PLAN (CAP) FOR IMPLEMENTING VAPP AND SGBV-RELATED LAWS IN THE STATE

6.1. Overview of the CAP for Implementing VAPP and SGBV-related Laws

The Cross River State Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law, No.10 of 2021 was enacted by the State House of Assembly and came into effect on 31st December, 2021. The Law prohibits violence in private and public life, eliminate all forms of violence against persons, provide maximum protection and effective remedies for victims and punishment of offenders and for other related matters. A one-day interactive stakeholder's meeting was held at Monty Suites Hotel on 13th September, 2022. The stakeholders developed the draft CAP budget template. A validation meeting was held on 21st October, 2022 where the draft CAP template was presented to stakeholders for validation. At the meeting, some amendments were made to the initial draft budget estimates and stakeholders from different sectors scrutinized the draft document. Six sectors were involved in the drafting and validation of the CAP for Cross River State. The sectors are Education, Health, Women Affairs, Justice, Youth and Sports and Civil Society Organisations.

6.2. Breakdown of Implementation of VAPP Law Activities in Sectors

6.2.1. Breakdown of Implementation of VAPP Law by Activities in Education Sector

Table 9: Breakdown of Implementation of VAPP Law by Costing Specific Activities in the Education Sector

Pillars of Action	Activities (Output)	Cost Estimate (₦)					Indicators
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
3.1. Awareness Raising and Prevention of SGBV	1. Town hall meetings with communities on SGBV in 50 selected communities	₦8,500,000	₦9,500,000	₦9,550,000	₦10,000,000	₦12,500,000	List of participants Name of participating communities Pictures of the materials Participating media houses List of Agencies visited
	2. Production of 500 units of flyers and distribution	₦400,000	₦450,000	₦480,000	₦490,000	₦490,000	
	3. Production and airing of jingles on air(threetimes a week)	₦300,000	₦330,000	₦360,000	₦370,000	₦390,000	
	4. Advocacy meeting to Government Agencies twice a year	₦150,000	₦170,000	₦200,000	₦250,000	₦300,000	
3.2. Capacity Strengthening of Service Providers on SGBV	1. Training of 500 teachers on SGBV and VAPP Law	₦7,500,000	₦8,250,000	₦9,520,000	₦9,700,000	₦10,500,000	Training materials List of participants List of participating magistrates
	2. Building capacity on VAPP Law and its implementation (20 family courtmagistrates)	₦2,400,000	₦2,640,000	₦2,904,000	₦3,194,000	₦3,500,000	
3.3. Provision of SGBV Centres in Schools	1. Support to provide firsthand information to students and teachers on SGBV and VAPP Laws in 30 selected schools	₦3,000,000	₦3,000,000	₦3,500,000	₦3,600,000	₦3,700,000	Pictures of materials List of selected schools
	2. Support for two Guidance/Counsellor monthly	₦240,000	₦240,000	₦288,000	₦288,000	₦288,000	
3.4. Coordination Research, Partnership, Monitoring & Evaluation	1. Organize quarterly monitoring and evaluation visits to four selected secondary schools in the three senatorial districts of the state	₦300,000	₦300,000	₦350,000	₦360,000	₦370,000	List of selected schools for the visits Report of the M&E
	Output Total	₦22,790,000	₦24,880,000	₦27,152,000	₦28,252,000	₦32,038,000	

6.2.2 Breakdown of Implementation of VAPP Law Activities in Health Sector

Table 10: Breakdown of Implementation of VAPP Law by Costing Specific Activities in the Health Sector

Pillars of Action	Activities	Cost Estimate (₦)					Indicators
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
3.1 . Capacity Building of Personnel	1. Train ing of 63 SGBV Volunteers in 18 LGAs	₦4,016,000	₦4,500,000	₦5,000,000	₦5,500,000	₦6,000,000	List of participants List of participating communities
	2. Organise bi-annual workshop for 18 duty - bearers and desk officers in 18 LGAs	₦4,008,000	₦4,523,000	₦5,028,000	₦5,500,000	₦5,800,000	
3.2. Sensitization and Awareness Campaign	1. Conduct sensitization and awareness campaign in 2 selected schools (urban and rural) in the 18 LGAs	₦1,338,000	₦1,560,000	₦1,890,000	₦2,008,000	₦2,300,000	List of selected schools Advocacy materials List of communities visited
	2. Carryout advocacy visits to policy makers and traditional/religious leaders in the 18 LGAs	₦2,500,000	₦3,500,000	₦4,600,000	₦5,800,000	₦6,500,000	
	3. Conduct Town hall meetings in each of the 18 LGAs	₦3,000,000	₦3,500,000	₦4,600,000	₦4,800,000	₦5,500,000	
3.3. Legislation and Policy	1. Organize quarterly workshops for law officers in the Ministry of Justice	₦6,000,000	₦7,000,000	₦7,500,000	₦8,000,000	₦8,500,000	List of participating officers No. of printed document Pictures of established centers
	2. Print and disseminate the CRS Gender Policy	₦5,000,000	₦4,000,000	₦4,000,000	₦3,000,000	₦5,000,000	
	3. Establish one SGBV center in all the 18 LGAs of the State	₦20,000,000	₦20,000,000	₦25,000,000	₦20,000,000	₦20,000,000	
3.4 Coordination Research, Partnership, Monitoring and Evaluation	1. Provide Technical support to strengthen the coordination capacity of SPC and implementing MDAs	₦0,000,000	₦1,200,000	₦1,500,000	₦1,500,000	₦1,000,000	List of technical support provided Data base List of participants M&E Report
	2. Establishing a data base on SGBV in Ministry of Health	₦5,000,000	₦1,300,000	₦1,500,000	₦1,200,000	₦1,000,000	
	3. Organize quarterly meetings with partners and other stakeholders	₦2,000,000	₦2,500,000	₦3,000,000	₦3,000,000	₦3,500,000	
	4. Carry out periodic and regular monitoring and evaluation of SGBV activities/report writing	₦1,000,000	₦1,000,000	₦2,000,000	₦2,500,000	₦3,000,000	
	Output Total	₦73,862,000	₦76,383,000	₦86,618,000	₦83,608,000	₦86,100,000	

6.2.3. Breakdown of Implementation of VAPP Law Activities for Women Affairs, Youth and Sports

Table 11 : Breakdown of Implementation of VAPP Law by Costing Specific Activities in Women Affairs, Youth and Sports Sector

Pillars of Action	Activities	Cost Estimate (₦)					Indicators
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
3.1 . Sensitization on VAPP Law	1. Printing of 3000 copies of VAPP Law	₦3,000,000	₦3,300,000	₦3,630,000	₦4,200,000	₦4,600,000	No. of printed copies of VAPP law
	2. Distribution of the copies during stakeholders' meetings	₦1,500,000	₦1,650,000	₦1,820,000	₦2,100,000	₦2,310,000	
3.2. Capacity Building for Stakeholders and Service Providers	1. Training workshops for MDAs, Legal Practitioners, Traditional and FBC Organisations	₦1,800,000	₦1,980,000	₦2,180,000	₦2,520,000	₦2,770,000	No. of training conducted List of training participants
	2. Establishing onestop shop (OSS) service center for SGBV						
	i. Renovation/F urnishing	₦50,000,000	₦10,000,000	₦5,000,000	₦5,000,000	₦5,000,000	
	ii. Provision of basic equipment	₦50,000,000	₦50,000,000	₦50,000,000	₦50,000,000	₦50,000,000	
	iii. Logistic supports (vehicles)	₦50,000,000	₦25,000,000	₦25,000,000	₦20,000,000	₦20,000,000	
2. Operationalizing of GBV Trust Fund	₦20,000,000	₦20,000,000	₦20,000,000	₦25,000,000	₦25,000,000		
	3. Running cost for OSS service centre	₦65,000,000	₦65,000,000	₦70,000,000	₦75,000,000	₦70,000,000	
3.3. Economic Empowerment	1. Livelihood skill acquisition and startup kits for survivors (across the 3 Senatorial districts)	₦04,500,000	₦05,950,000	₦07,550,000	₦120,300,000	₦122,330,000	List of beneficiaries Pictures of kits
	2. Training for youth empowerment (across the 3 Senatorial districts)	₦2,000,000	₦3,200,000	₦4,520,000	₦6,800,000	₦8,430,000	
3.4 Synergy and Collaboration amongst MDAs and Stakeholders	1. Organise meetings with technical working groups (quarterly)	₦2,000,000	₦2,200,000	₦4,400,000	₦5,600,000	₦6,160,000	No. of meetings organized List of participants
	2. Coordination and monitoring of MDAs/IPs in the State	₦4,000,000	₦4,400,000	₦4,840,000	₦5,320,000	₦5,850,000	
3.5. Advocacy	1. Advocating visits to the StateHouse of Assembly, Judiciary, Media, the Police and MOJ, etc.	₦1,500,000	₦1,650,000	₦1,810,000	₦1,990,000	₦4,400,000	No. of visits undertaken List of activities undertaken Pictures of activities List of participants
	2. Commemoration of Global days e.g. International Youth day, International Women day, 16 days of activism, Day of the Girl child	₦25,000,000	₦27,500,000	₦32,500,000	₦35,750,000	₦39,320,000	
	Output Total	₦390,300,000	₦331,830,000	₦343,250,000	₦369,580,000	₦376,170,000	

6.2.4. Breakdown of Implementation of VAPP Law Activities in Justice Sector

Table 12: Breakdown of Implementation of VAPP Law by Costing Specific Activities in Justice Sector

Pillars of Action	Activities	Cost Estimate (₦)					Indicators
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
3.1 . Awareness Raising and Prevention of SGBV	Sensitization of students, market women, churches, media etc.	₦1,500,000	₦1,575,000	₦1,653,750	₦1,736,438	₦1,823,260	List of activities undertaken List of participants
3.2. Capacity Strengthening of Service Providers	Organise a quarterly training workshops for IPs at Senatorial levels	₦15,000,000	₦15,750,000	₦16,537,500	₦17,364,375	₦18,232,594	List of participants Training materials
3.3. Legislation Advocacy and Lobbying	Production and circulation of 50000 copies of the VAPP Law to the Public	₦50,000,000	₦52,500,000	₦55,125,000	₦57,881,250	₦60,775,313	Pictures of materials No. produced and circulated
3.4 Standardized Guidelines and Training Materials	Production of guideline and training materials	₦5,000,000	₦5,250,000	₦5,512,500	₦5,788,125	₦60,775,313	
3.5. Coordination, Partnership, Research, M&E	1. Organize stakeholders' meetings of partners involved in the implementation of VAPP Law	₦5,000,000	₦5,250,000	₦5,512,500	₦5,788,125	₦6,077,531	List of participants Quarterly M&E Report
	2. Conduct M&E quarterly on VAPP implementation in the State	₦200,000	₦210,000	₦220,000	₦231,525	₦243,101	
	Output Total	₦76,700,000	₦80,535,000	₦84,561,250	₦88,789,838	₦147,927,112	

6.2.5. Breakdown of Implementation of VAPP Law Activities in Civil Society Sector

Table 13: Breakdown of Implementation of VAPP Law by Costing Specific Activities in Civil Society Sector

Pillars of Action	Activities	Cost Estimate (₦)					Indicators
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
3.1. Awareness Raising and Prevention of SGBV	1. Sensitization on SGBV/VAPP	₦4,270,000	₦4,483,500	₦4,707,675	₦4,943,056	₦2,241,750	i. List of activities undertaken ii. List of participants iii. Pictures of activities
	2. Town Hall meeting	₦1,785,000	₦1,874,250	₦1,967,963	₦2,066,361	₦924,000	
	3. Community Dialogue	₦4,290,000	₦4,504,500	₦4,729,725	₦4,966,211	₦5,214,522	
	4. 16 Days of Activism	₦2,000,000	₦2,100,000	₦2,205,000	₦2,315,250	₦2,431,013	
3.2. Capacity Strengthening of Service Providers on SGBV	1. Training on case management, VAPP Law, PSS	₦2,050,000	₦2,066,361	₦2,066,300	₦17,364,375	₦18,232,594	i. List of activities undertaken ii. List of participants iii. Pictures of activities
	2. Training of community/school SGBV facilitators	₦1,800,000	₦1,500,000	₦1,800,000	₦1,500,000	₦1,600,000	
	3. Financial Literacy Training	₦1,700,000	₦1,600,000	₦1,800,000	₦1,700,000	₦2,000,000	
3.3. Legislation Advocacy and Lobbying on SGBV	1. Advocacy visit to traditional rulers	₦1,540,000	₦1,617,000	₦1,717,000	₦2,005,850	₦1,164,625	i. No. of activities ii. List of participants iii. Pictures /Video clip of activities
	2. Advocacy visit to relevant stakeholders	₦900,000	₦945,000	₦1,035,000	₦1,086,750	₦1,190,250	
	3. Advocacy visit to policy makers & security agencies	₦882,000	₦945,000	₦992,250	₦1,041,863	₦1,093,955	
3.4. Standardized Guidelines and Training Materials on SGBV	1. Production of VAPP Law	₦6,300,000	₦6,615,000	₦6,945,750	₦7,293,036	₦7,657,687	i. No. of copies produced ii. No. of materials iii. Pictures of activities
	2. Training on IEC Material Development	₦424,000	₦435,000	₦445,000	₦415,000	₦345,000	
	3. Production of IEC Material	₦5,400,000	₦5,670,000	₦6,210,000	₦7,033,500	₦8,167,500	
	4. Printing of SOP & Policy manual	₦10,890,000	₦5,000,000	₦5,400,000	₦6,500,000	₦5,000,000	
3.5. Rehabilitation of SGBV Survivors	1. Vocation Skill Training	₦50,000,000	₦70,000,000	₦4,000,000	₦30,000,000	₦20,000,000	No. of activities ii. List of participants iii. Pictures /Video clip of activities
	2. Legal support	₦1,500,000	₦3,000,000	₦2,100,000	₦1,500,000	₦1,500,000	
	3. Medical support	₦6,000,000	₦7,500,000	₦6,000,000	₦4,500,000	₦3,000,000	
	4. Educational support	₦3,000,000	₦4,500,000	₦30,000,000	₦2,100,000	₦1,500,000	
3.6. Coordination, Partnership, Research, M&E	1. Service Provider Review meeting	₦120,000	₦140,000	₦160,000	₦180,000	₦200,000	No. of activities ii. List of participants iii. Pictures /Video clip of activities
	2. Stakeholders forum	₦200,000	₦270,000	₦400,000	₦360,000	₦350,000	
	3. Collation of Data from service provider	₦120,000	₦150,000	₦200,000	₦250,000	₦300,000	
	4. Review meeting for community/school SGBV facilitators	₦240,000	₦280,000	₦320,000	₦360,000	₦400,000	
Output Total		₦105,411,000	₦125,195,611	₦85,201,663	₦99,481,252	₦84,512,896	

6.2.6 Multi -Sectoral Costed Action Plan for Effective Implementation of Violence against Person s Prohibition (VAPP) Act (2023-2027), Cross River State

Table14: Multi-Sectoral Costed Action Plan for Effective Implementation of VAPP Act

Estimated Annual Cost for Cross River State							
Sector	Pillar of Actions Thematic Framework	2023 (N)	2024 (N)	2025 (N)	2026 (N)	2027 (N)	Indicators
Health	1. Capacity Building of Personnel	₦8,024,000	₦9,023,000	₦10,028,000	₦11,000,000	₦11,800,000	List of activities conducted List of participants No. of printed document Pictures of center No. of meeting M&E Reports
	2. Sensitization and Awareness Campaign	₦6,838,000	₦8,560,000	₦11,090,000	₦12,608,000	₦14,300,000	
	3. Legislation and Policy	₦1,000,000	₦1,000,000	₦6,500,000	₦1,000,000	₦3,500,000	
	4. Coordination, Research, Partnership, Monitoring and Evaluation	₦28,000,000	₦27,800,000	₦29,000,000	₦29,000,000	₦26,500,000	
	Sub-total	₦73,862,000	₦76,383,000	₦86,618,000	₦83,608,000	₦86,100,000	
Education	1. Awareness Raising and Prevention of SGBV	₦9,350,000	₦10,450,000	₦10,590,000	₦11,110,000	₦13,680,000	List of activities List of participants No. of printed document Pictures of center
	2. Capacity Strengthening of Service Providers on SGBV	₦9,900,000	₦10,890,000	₦12,424,000	₦12,894,000	₦14,000,000	
	3. Provision of SGBV Centres in Schools	₦3,240,000	₦3,240,000	₦3,788,000	₦3,888,000	₦3,988,000	
	4. Coordination, Partnership, M&E	₦300,000	₦300,000	₦350,000	₦360,000	₦370,000	
	Sub-total	₦22,790,000	₦24,880,000	₦27,152,000	₦28,252,000	₦32,038,000	
Justice	1. Awareness Raising and Prevention of SGBV	₦1,500,000	₦1,575,000	₦1,653,750	₦1,736,438	₦1,823,260	List of activities List of participants No. of printed document Pictures of center No. of meeting M&E Reports
	2. Capacity Strengthening of Service Providers	₦5,000,000	₦5,750,000	₦6,537,500	₦7,364,375	₦8,232,594	
	3. Legislation Advocacy and Lobbying	₦50,000,000	₦52,500,000	₦55,125,000	₦57,881,250	₦60,775,313	
	4. Standardized Guidelines and Training Materials	₦5,000,000	₦5,250,000	₦5,512,500	₦5,788,125	₦6,077,5313	
	5. Coordination, Partnership, Research and M & E	₦5,200,000	₦5,460,000	₦5,732,500	₦6,019,650	₦6,320,532	
	Sub-total	₦76,700,000	₦80,535,000	₦84,561,250	₦88,789,838	₦94,792,7112	
Women Affairs, Youth Sports	1. Sensitization on VAPP Law	₦4,500,000	₦4,950,000	₦5,450,000	₦6,300,000	₦6,910,000	List of activities co List of participants No. of printed document Pictures of center No. of meetings
	2. Capacity Building for Stakeholders	₦236,800,000	₦271,980,000	₦272,180,000	₦277,520,000	₦272,770,000	
	3. Economic Empowerment	₦16,500,000	₦19,150,000	₦22,070,000	₦23,710,000	₦24,076,000	
	4. Synergy and Collaboration amongst MDAs and Stakeholders	₦6,000,000	₦6,600,000	₦9,240,000	₦10,920,000	₦12,010,000	
	5. Advocacy	₦26,500,000	₦29,150,000	₦34,310,000	₦37,740,000	₦43,720,000	
	Sub-total	₦390,300,000	₦431,830,000	₦443,250,000	₦469,580,000	₦536,170,000	
CSOs	1. Awareness Raising and Prevention of SGBV	₦2,345,000	₦2,962,250	₦3,610,363	₦4,290,878	₦5,081,285	i. List of activities undertaken ii. List of participants iii. Pictures of activities
	2. Capacity Strengthening of Service Providers	₦5,550,000	₦5,166,361	₦5,666,300	₦6,056,375	₦6,183,594	
	3. Legislation Advocacy and Lobbying	₦3,322,000	₦3,507,000	₦3,744,250	₦4,134,463	₦4,483,300	
	4. Standardized Guidelines and Training Materials	₦23,014,000	₦27,720,000	₦30,007,500	₦32,241,536	₦34,170,187	
	5. Rehabilitation of SGBV Survivors	₦60,500,000	₦65,000,000	₦72,100,000	₦81,000,000	₦86,004,000	
	6. Coordination, Partnership, Research and M & E	₦680,000	₦740,000	₦808,000	₦870,000	₦925,000	
	Sub-total	₦105,411,000	₦125,195,611	₦138,201,663	₦150,481,252	₦161,512,896	

Table 15: Multi-Sectoral Costed Action Plan for Effective Implementation of VAPP Act Summary Table

Sector	Estimated Annual Cost for Cross River State by Sectors					2023 - 2027
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Health	₦73,862,000	₦76,383,000	₦86,618,000	₦83,608,000	₦86,100,000	₦406,571,000
Education	₦22,790,000	₦24,880,000	₦27,152,000	₦28,252,000	₦32,038,000	₦135,112,000
Justice	₦76,700,000	₦80,535,000	₦84,561,250	₦88,789,838	₦147,927,112	₦478,513,200
Women, Affairs, Youth and Sports	₦390,300,000	₦331,830,000	₦343,250,000	₦369,580,000	₦376,170,000	₦1,811,130,000
CSOs	₦105,411,000	₦125,195,611	₦85,201,663	₦99,481,252	₦84,512,896	₦499,802,422
Annual Total	₦669,063,000	₦638,823,611	₦629,782,913	₦669,711,090	₦726,748,008	
Grand Total	₦3,331,128,622					

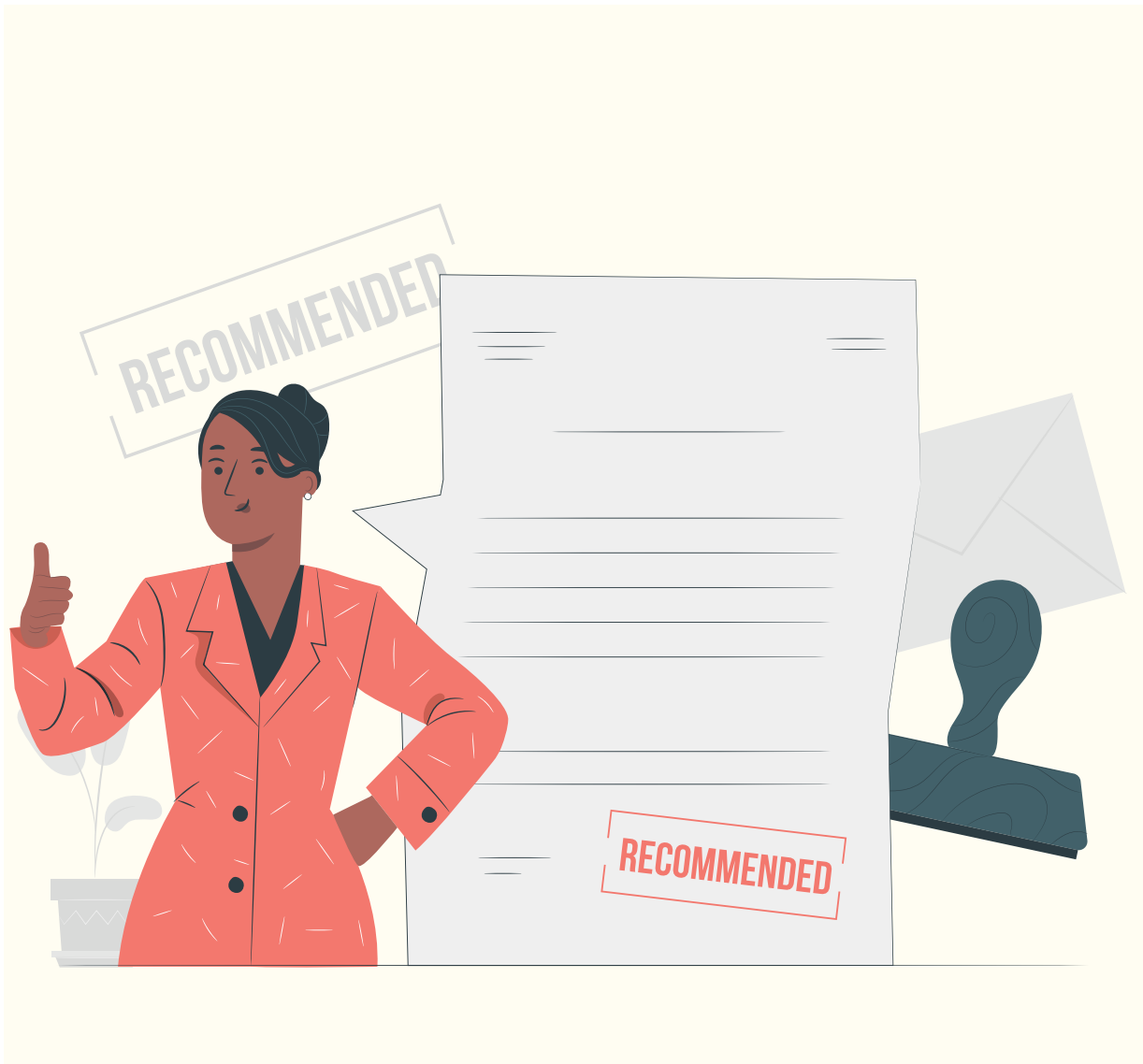
6.2.8 Multi -Sectoral Costed Action Plan for Effective Implementation of Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPP) 2023 -2027 in Cross River State

Table 15: Implementation and M&E Framework

Sector	Pillar of Actions /Outcomes	Time Frame	Budget	Responsible Agencies	M&E Indicators	MOV
Health	1. Capacity Building of Personnel	2023-2027	₦406,571,000	State Executive Council Ministry of Health, Hospital Management Board NGOs/CBOs/CSOs Development Partners	No. of activities undertaken List of participants and beneficiaries	Quarterly Report Annual Report Verification Visit
	2. Sensitization and Awareness Campaign					
	3. Legislation and Policy					
	4. Coordination, Research, Partnership, Monitoring and Evaluation					
Education	1. Awareness Raising and Prevention of S/GBV	2023-2027	₦135,112,000	State Executive Council Ministry of Education State Primary/Secondary Education Management Board NGOs/CBOs/CSOs Development Partners	No. of activities undertaken List of communities visited Training materials Pictures of activities	Quarterly Report Annual Report Verification Visit
	2. Capacity Strengthening of Service Providers on S/GBV					
	3.Provision of S/GBV Centers in Schools					
Justice	1. Awareness Raising and Prevention of SGBV	2023-2027	₦478,513,200.00	State Executive Council Ministry of Justice NGOs/CBOs/CSOs Nigeria Bar Association Courts of Justice Development Partners	No. of activities undertaken List of communities visited Training materials Pictures of activities M&E Framework	Quarterly Report Annual Report Verification Visit
	2. Capacity Strengthening of Service Providers					
	3. Legislation Advocacy and Lobbying					
	4. Standardized Guidelines and Training Materials					
	5.Coordination, Partnership, Research and M & E					
Women, Youth and Social Welfare	1. Sensitization on VAPP Law	2023-2027	₦1,811,130,000	State Executive Council Ministry of Women Affairs NGOs/CBOs/CSOs Development Partners	No. of activities undertaken Training materials Pictures of activities M&E Framework	Quarterly Report Annual Report
	2. Capacity Building for Stakeholders					
	3. Economic Empowerment					
	4. Advocacy					

CSOs	1. Awareness Raising and Prevention of SGBV 2. Capacity Strengthening of Service Providers 3. Legislation Advocacy and Lobbying 4. Standardized Guidelines and Training Materials 5. Rehabilitation of SGBV Survivors 6. Coordination, Partnership, Research and M & E	2023-2027	₦499,802,422	State Executive Council All Line Ministries Development Partners	No. of activities undertaken List of communities visited Training materials Pictures of activities M&E Framework	Quarterly Report Annual Report Verification Visit
GRAND TOTAL BUDGET 2023 - 2027:			₦3,331,128,622			

7.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



The five-year Costed Action Plan for the implementation of VAPP and SGBV-related laws was developed primarily for the purpose of providing a better appreciation of the resource gap (financial gap analysis) and of identifying the resources needed to implement the plan. This would then enable the use of a five-year indicative Costed Action Plan for fundraising purpose and for a judicious utilization of resources and prioritization of issues/needs and concerns. However, for a successful implementation of the Costed Action Plan, it is recommended that some institutional structures must be established for the execution, monitoring, reviewing and evaluation of progress being made in line with the time-line of activities designed for the project. In addition, it is also recommended that there should be a periodic review using specific indicators of activities to ensure compliance to the design of the action plan.

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ANNEXURE

ONE DAY INTERACTIVE MEETING WITH WOMEN'S ADVOCATES ON SECTORAL PLANS FOR ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

DATE: 13TH OF SEPTEMBER, 2022 VENUE: Monty Suites Hotel Calabar, Cross River State

PARTICIPANTS LIST

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