



GALVANIZING

MASS ACTION AGAINST GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE IN KANO STATE (GMAA - K)

PROJECT END LEARNING AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

FEBRUARY 2023

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- CBA**Community-Based Action
- CBO**Community-Based Organisation
- CODE**Connected Development
- CPB**Child Protection Bill
- FIDA**International Federation of Women Lawyers
- GMAA-KG**Galvanise Mass Action Against
GBV in Kano
- GAG**Gender Advocates
- GBV**Gender-Based Violence
- MDA**Ministries, Departments and Agencies
- NAPTIP**National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons
- NGO**Non-Governmental Organization
- NHRC**National Human Rights Commission
- PWD**Persons with disabilities
- SGBV**Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
- SRHR**Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- TVCT**Television ContinentalUN
- CEDAWUN**UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
Violence Against Women
- VAPP**Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act
- VAWG**Violence Against Women and Girls



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nigeria ranked 123rd with a score of 0.639 out of a total of 146 countries on the World Gender Gap Gender Equality Index of 2022. Prior to the World Gender Gap ranking, Thomson Reuters Foundation conducted a survey in 2018, and Nigeria ranked 9th in the top 10 list of most dangerous countries for women. Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is widespread in Nigeria, with 30 percent of women aged 15-49 having reported experiences of sexual abuse. Further, 43 percent of girls are married off before age 18, and 17 percent are married off before they turn 15. Kano state, in the Northwestern part of the country, is reflective of these peculiarities. SGBV - catalysed by cultural and religious factors - continues metastasising and the state lacks enabling laws to address SGBV, sanction offenders' and ensure victims/survivors get the multidimensional support they require.

To address SGBV in Kano state, Connected Development (CODE) through funding from the Canadian High Commission in Nigeria launched the project, Galvanizing Mass Action Against Gender-Based Violence in Kano State (GMAA-K). The GMAA-K project is aimed at galvanizing the mass public and empowering women to mount advocacies against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and domestic abuse, as well as engage the government for the enactment of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) law. The phase I of the project lasted for 3 months - January to March 2021, while the second phase which started in November 2021 ends by March 2023. In the phases I and II of the project, CODE empowered gender advocates who work in communities to rollback GBV, leveraged new and traditional media for systematic sensitisation of the mass public on GBV, while engaging governmental actors on the passage of a VAPP bill and Child Protection Law (CPL), as well as the expansion of the Sexual Assault Referral Centres in Kano State.

As GMAA-K phase II comes to an end by March 2023, CODE commissioned a Project End Learning and Impact Assessment Research Study. The principal objective of the impact assessment study is to assess the results the project has achieved in the state, document lessons learnt, while proposing recommendations for the future direction of SGBV programming in Kano state. The research study also interrogates the state of SGBV in Kano state through the lenses of phenomena such as prevalence rate, degree of awareness of GBV, degree of awareness of Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), and multistakeholder action to address the menace. The learning and impact assessment study utilised mixed method research design for data collection and analysis, as well as made use of both empirical and secondary data. Data was collected in Kano across the mass public (320 respondents), 5 civil society organisations (CSOs) and 5 government officials on the state of GBV in Kano. On GMAA-K project outputs and outcomes, data was collected from the 2 project officials at CODE, 15 GMAA-K gender advocates, as well as 46 beneficiary community members. Across all categories of respondents in the study, girls and women were around 70%.



STATE OF GBV IN KANO STATE

THE FINDINGS OF THE PROJECT END LEARNING AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY ARE BELOW

- 96% of the 320 survey respondents are aware about GBV and their major sources of awareness are radio, television, socialisation, and social & traditional media.
- 43% of the respondents - mostly female - have experienced GBV and the type of GBV experienced ranged from physical abuse, emotional abuse and child marriage. Further, the majority of respondents (82%) know someone who has experienced a form of GBV. The type of GBV experienced by those they know who have such experiences include rape, child marriage, and domestic abuse.
- Respondents - 83% and 68% - are of the opinion that women and girls are socio-economically and politically marginalised in Kano state, respectively.
- Negative social norms are the main contributory factor to gender-based violence in Kano state.
- 254 respondents (79%) affirmed that the government is not doing enough to combat GBV in the state. Only 15% of the respondents are aware of the services delivered by SARC. Although most respondents do not know what services are offered by SARC, they (89%) still feel it is necessary. In addition, only 15% of the respondents have visited SARC.

In the implementation of the project, CODE implemented various activities that range from capacitation of gender advocates and community members (3 project focal communities), sensitization at the community level and leveraging social and traditional media, and high-bandwidth governmental engagements. These activities produced several results at the output and outcome levels including:

The harmonisation process of the Kano state Penal Code with the provisions of the VAPP Act which has been validated by the Ministry of Justice.

Governmental commitments on establishing more SARCs across the emirates of Kano state; enhance inter-ministerial/agency collaboration to systematically address GBV in the state; as well as legislative commitment towards the passage of the child protection bill and the harmonised Penal Code/ VAPP Act into law.

Gender advocates - training usefulness, actions taken and experience:

The 15 gender advocates who were interviewed (out of 30 of them) agreed that the GBV training was useful. The legal and policy frameworks that protect women's and girls' rights in Nigeria, as well as the description of gender-based violence were the most mentioned key takeaways from the training. The interviewees were unanimous in their opinion that the training improved their understanding of GBV and the issues attributing to it.

Post training actions taken by the advocates include awareness creation and sensitization on radio stations, TV and social media. Majority (13 interviewees, 87%) answered in the affirmative that their expectations as gender advocates in the GMAA-K project was met while 2 interviewees stated that their expectations were not met. Similarly, the same 13 interviewees are satisfied with CODE's activities and engagements under the GMAA-K project, as well as the attendant results from the interventions. The advocates agreed the project's major achievements in the state are in the areas of GBV awareness, VAPP act/Penal code law promotion and SARC development. Community members - training usefulness and post training actions: A minority 2% (1 respondent) out of the 46 respondents who were surveyed stated that the training was not useful. Among the rest who responded in the affirmative, 32% of those respondents stated that the training was extremely useful.

Further, legal and policy frameworks that protect women's and girls' rights in Nigeria, as well as description of GBV and community mobilisation for social change were the most mentioned takeaways from the training. Post training actions taken by individual community members include community engagement and sensitisation, sensitisation in islamic schools, creation of a women wing to support the girl-child and solving a case of a child bride. Similarly, community level actions taken across the 3 communities include monthly discussion with community members on GBV and awareness creation.

Challenges encountered during GMAA-K project implementation include the lack of political will from the Kano state lawmakers; religious and cultural biases, as well as high rate of poverty and illiteracy; and poor follow up and closer monitoring of the gender advocates. General challenges towards arresting GBV in Kano state, as mentioned by stakeholders who were interviewed, include negative cultural norms, religious misconceptions, absence of adequate laws for the prosecution of perpetrators and compensation of GBV victims, and low level of awareness on GBV.

Project sustainability wise, CODE established gender advocates who were empowered and are taking actions across the state on addressing GBV. The establishment of the advocates and involving them in every intervention implemented in GMAA-K was from the lenses of sustainability and ownership.

Lastly, the impact assessment study highlights lessons learnt in the cause of project implementation and hazards various recommendations for future direction of GBV programming in Kano state.



Hamzat B. Lawal
Chief Executive, CODE
Founder, Follow The Money



SECTION 1

BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

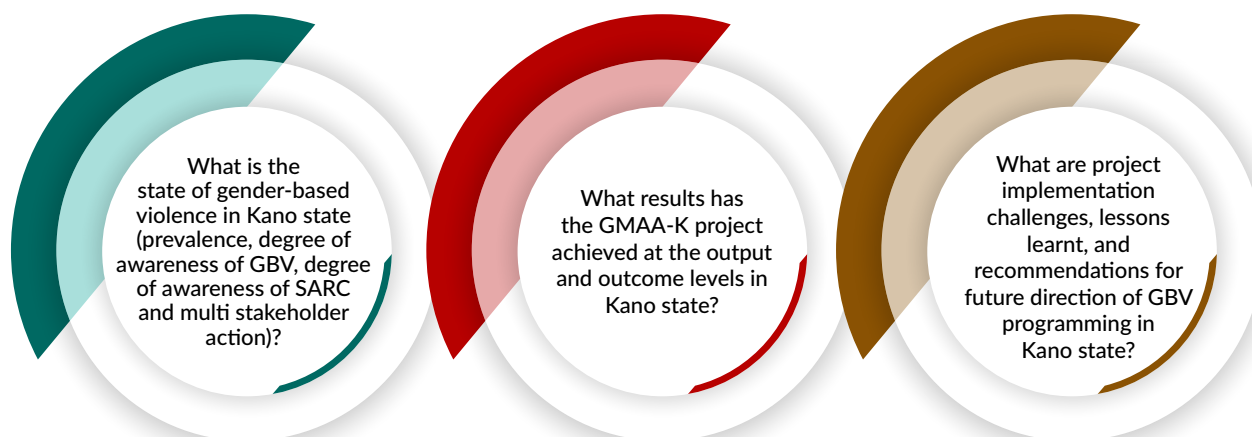
In the 2022 World Gender Gap report, Nigeria ranked 123rd with a score of 0.639, out of a total of 146 countries on the Gender Equality Index. Four years before that in 2018, in a survey by Thomson Reuters Foundation, Nigeria ranked 9th in the top 10 list of most dangerous countries for women. Women and girls are inadequately included in policy making decisions in the country and are often socio-economically marginalised. The binate marginalisation (political and socio-economic) of women/girls and preponderance of negative social norms which support violence against women and girls (VAWG) and harmful practices (HP) drive the aforementioned duo rankings. Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is widespread in Nigeria, with 30 percent of women aged 15-49 having reported experiences of sexual abuse. Girls and women in urban urban areas experience SGBV at 33 percent, more than those in the rural areas - 24 percent. Further, 43 percent of girls are married off before age 18, and 17 percent are married off before they turn 15. Harmful practices occur in a context of limited knowledge and access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) information and services. These reflect the peculiarities in Kano state, where women and girls are marginalised in many aspects of socio-economic and political endeavors and SGBV - catalysed by cultural and religious factors - continue metastasising. Furthermore, Kano state does not have appropriate legal frameworks to address this saturnine phenomenon - SGBV - such as a Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law or a Child Protection Law (CPL). As such, there is a lack of justice and rehabilitation pathways for victims and survivors of SGBV. The state boasts of only one Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) - Waraka Centre - which was established in 2016 through a government/international donor partnership. The centre, according to the Kano state attorney-general, has entertained over 2,600 cases of sexual assault and gender-based violence.

It was against this backdrop that the Galvanizing Mass Action Against Gender-Based Violence in Kano State (GMAA-K) project was conceptualised by CODE and funded by the Canadian High Commission. The project is aimed at galvanizing the mass public and empowering women to mount advocacies against gender-based violence and domestic abuse, as well as engage the government for the enactment of the VAPP law, using evidence on ground via technological tools for informed decision making by the government and duty bearers. Through the phases I and II of the project, CODE empowered gender advocates who work in communities to rollback GBV, leveraged new and traditional media for systematic sensitisation of the mass public on GBV, while engaging governmental actors on the passage of a VAPP bill and CPL, as well as for the establishment of SARCs in each of the Kano emirates. CODE proposed a project end learning and impact assessment research study to document results and lessons learnt in project implementation, make recommendations on future direction of programming, as well as further explore the state of GBV in Kano state.

Purpose of the Research

The purpose of the impact assessment study is to assess the results the GMAA-K project has achieved in Kano state, document lessons learnt, while proposing recommendations for the future direction of GBV programming in the state. The research study also interrogates the state of SGBV in Kano state through the lenses of phenomena such as prevalence rate, degree of awareness of GBV, degree of awareness of SARC and multistakeholder action to address the menace. Findings from the state of GBV element of the research study provides empirical evidence as CODE and other stakeholders continue mounting campaigns and advocacies toward the passage of legislations, governmental formulation of enabling policies and provision of optimal institutional environment to systematically address GBV in Kano state: reduce the prevalence rate, sanction offenders and ensure victims/survivors get the rehabilitative and multidimensional support they need through referral centers.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS



METHODOLOGY

Approach

The learning and impact assessment research methodology utilises mixed method research design of both quantitative and qualitative data for data collection and analysis, while making use of both empirical and secondary data. For the purpose of primary data collection, the study would focus on Kano state - GMAA-K project focal state. A three (3) component approach and methodology for undertaking the research was used, and unpacked.



SECTION 2

STATE OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN KANO

While only 24% of girls complete secondary school in Kano state, over 70% of the women in the state are unable to read and write. Illiteracy, poverty, political and socio-economic marginalisation of women and girls, coupled with religious and cultural norms exacerbate SGBV in the state. In recent times, several international, governmental and civil society organisations have been reporting an exponential rise of GBV prevalence in the state. According to the Kano State Chapter of International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Kano recorded 4,000 SGBV cases between 2016 and 2021. Similarly, according to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in Kano State, the organisation received 1,300 complaints of Gender-Based Violence from January to October 2022. Further, Kano state still lacks appurtenant legal frameworks to address SGBV such as a VAPP Law or a Child Protection Law. As such, there are currently no comprehensive laws in the state that prohibits violence against persons, women and girls; and enhances gender equality, access to justice and socio-economic empowerment of victims/survivors, and creation of a sexual offenders register. Justice and rehabilitation pathways for victims and survivors of SGBV remain insufficient considering that the only SARC - Waraka Centre in the state is grossly under-resourced and overwhelmed. This section presents empirical findings on the state of SGBV in Kano state from a mass public survey in the state. The survey findings are presented below.

DEMOGRAPHY OF RESPONDENTS

Fig. 1.1 shows that overall, there were 320 respondents comprising 59% females and 41% males. This implies that there is a reasonable degree of parity in the sampling of respondents based on gender. Figure 1.1 - Gender of Respondents

Partners West Africa Nigeria. Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Kano. <https://www.partnersnigeria.org/fact-sheet-sexual-and-gender-based-violence-in-kano/>

Ibrahim, N. (2021, November 26). Kano recorded 4,000 SGBV cases in five years – FIDA. Premium Times. <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/more-news/497453-kano-recorded-4000-sgbv-cases-in-five-years-fida.html?tztc=1>

Isawade, I. (2022, December 1). Kano records 1,300 sexual, gender violence cases in 10 months. PM News Nigeria. <https://pmnewsnigeria.com/2022/12/01/kano-records-1300-sexual-gender-violence-cases-in-10-months/>

Figure 1.1 - Gender Of Respondents

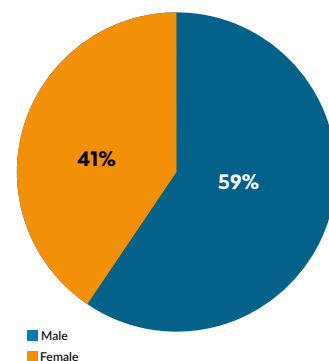


Figure 1.2 - Marital status of respondents by age

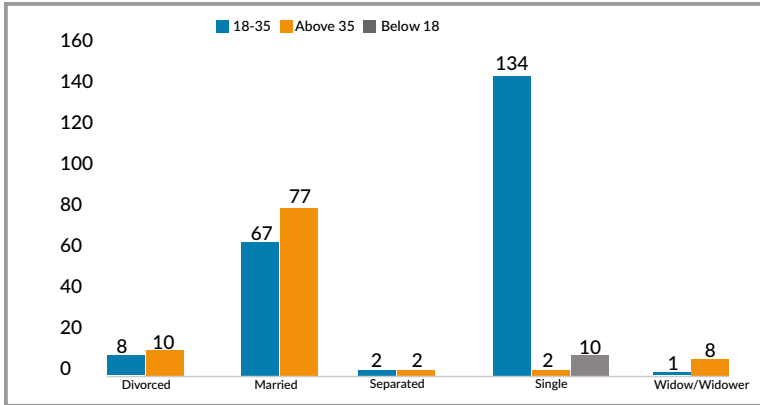


Fig. 1.2 shows that there are slightly more single (45%) than married (44%) respondents. Moreover, most of the single respondents are aged 18 - 35 years which is the most common age category.

Figure 1.3 Occupation of respondents

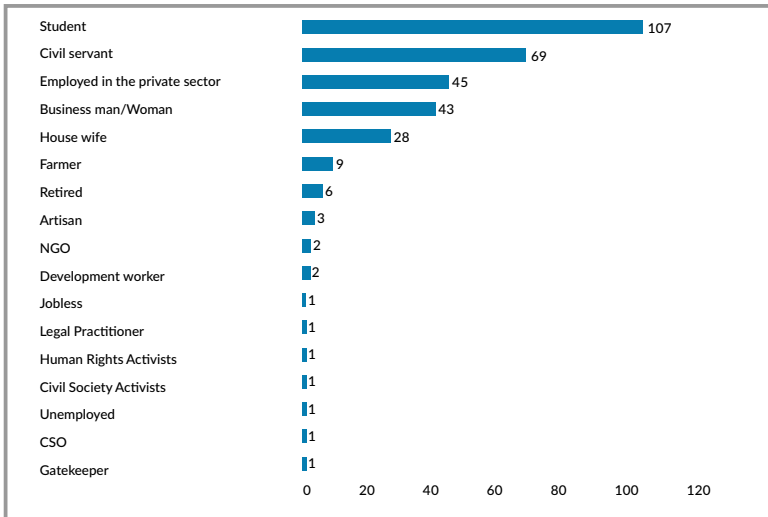


Figure 1.3 shows that most of the respondents are students (33%) while 21% of respondents are civil servants.

Figure 1.4 a - Main cooking facility of respondents

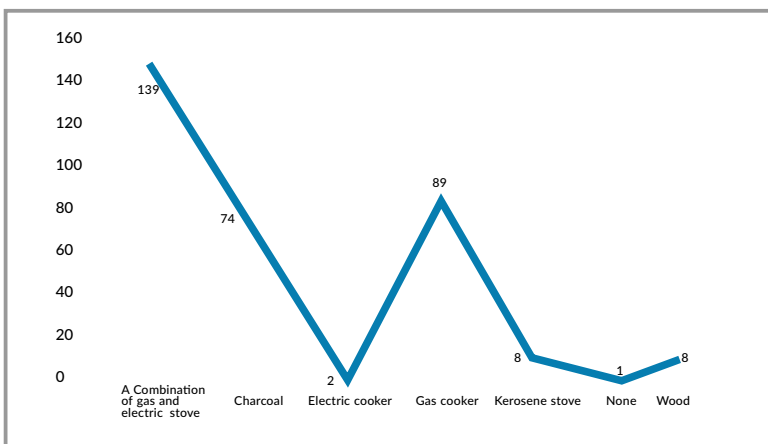
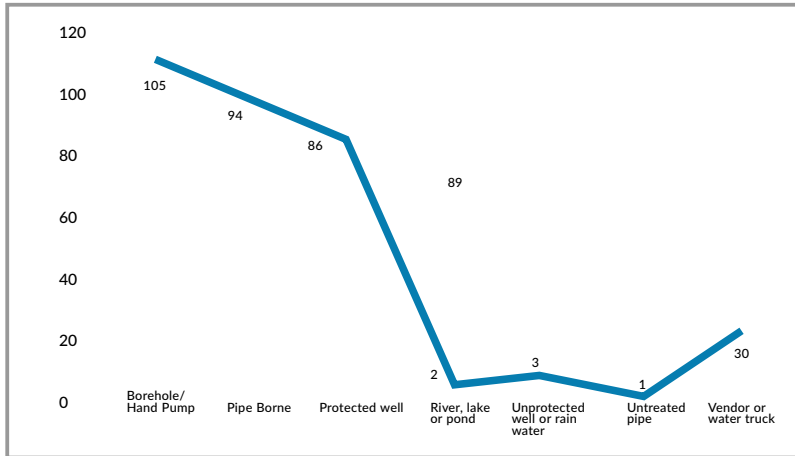


Fig. 1.4a shows that the main cooking facility of respondents is the combination of gas and electric stove (43%) even as 28% of respondents used gas cookers alone. This indicates that respondents captured in the evaluation were sampled from urban Kano.

Figure 1.4 b - Main source of water of respondents



Similar to Fig 1.4a above, the main source of water of respondents (33%) in Fig 1.4b is the combination of borehole and handpump. Even though many respondents (56%) used either the pipe borne or the protected well, only a select few lacked access to modern sources of water. This indicates that many of the respondents were not primarily sampled from remote areas.

Figure 1.5 - Disability of respondents

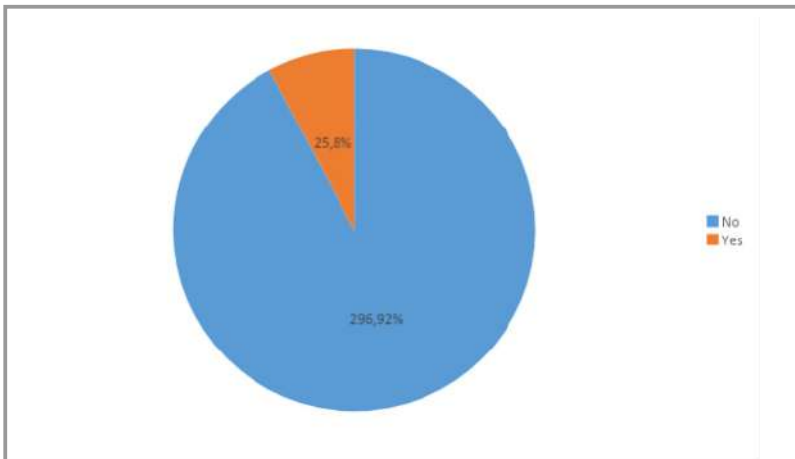


Fig 1.5 shows that only 8% of respondents were living with a form of disability.

Figure 1.6 - Education qualification of the respondents

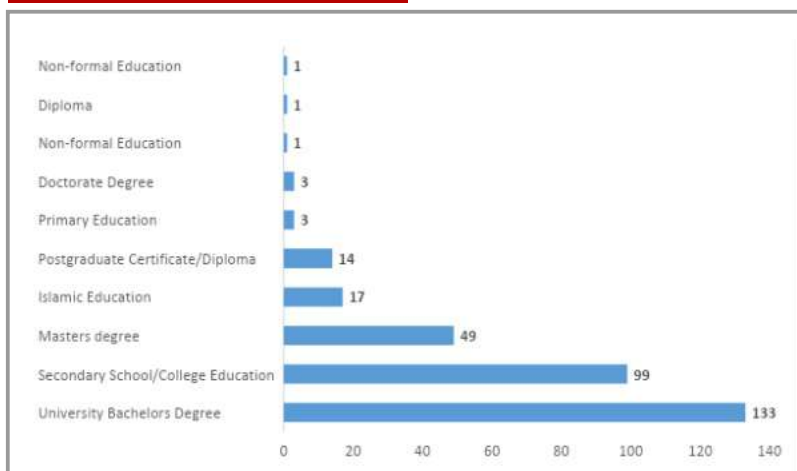


Fig 1.6 shows that the major educational qualification of respondents is University Bachelor's Degree (41%). This indicates that there is high education attainment in the population. This finding corroborates the findings in Fig 1.3 and 1.4a&b.

STATE OF GBV IN KANO STATE

Figure 2.1 - Respondents knowledge of GBV

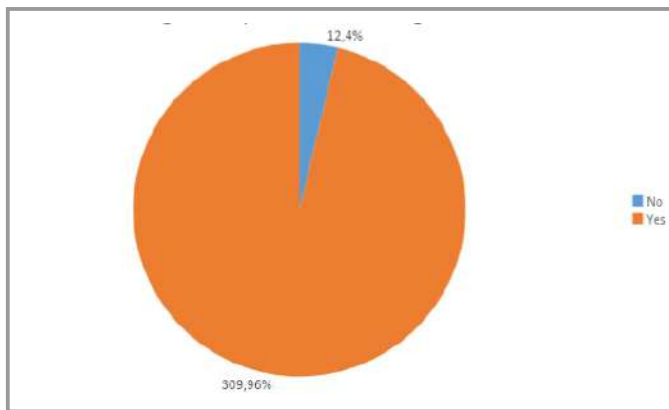


Fig 2.1 shows that more respondents (96%) are knowledgeable about GBV than others.

Figure 2.1 - Figure 2.2 - Respondents' source of information on GBV

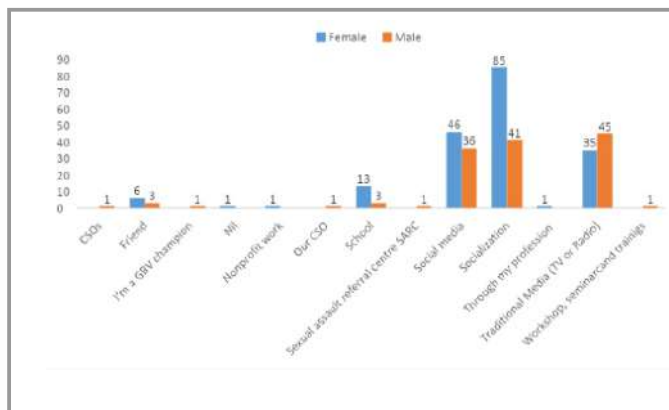


Fig 2.2 shows that the major source of information for most respondents is socialisation (39%). Interestingly, female respondents were more influenced by socialisation than their male counterparts. Social media and traditional media (TV or radio) are also among the highest most influential sources of information; although men are more likely to tend to radio.

PREVALENCE OF GBV

Figure 2.3a - Respondents' experience of GBV

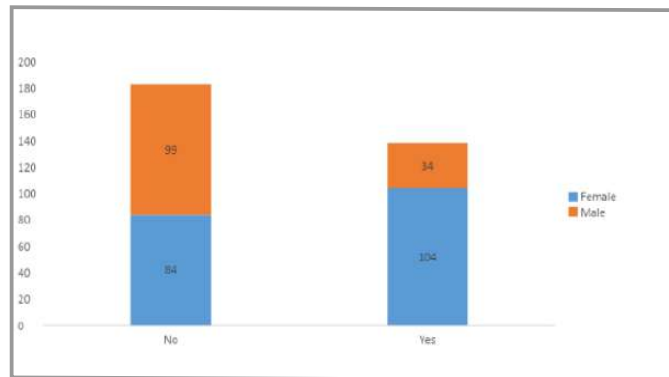
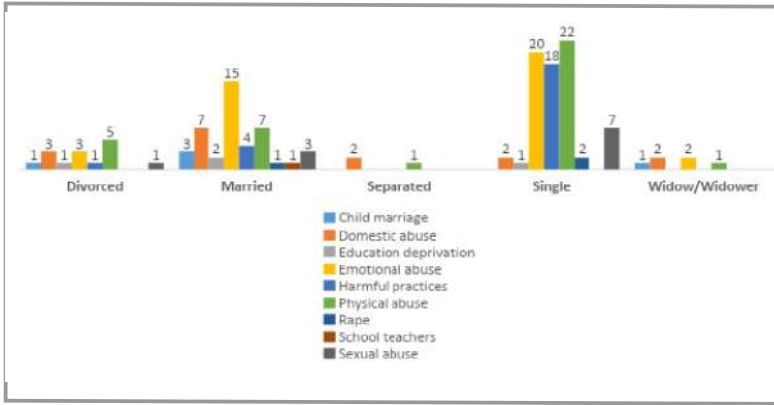


Fig 2.3a shows that a total of 183 respondents (57%) have never experienced GBV. Interestingly, the bulk of these numbers who have not experienced GBV are males.

Figure 2.3b - Type of GBV experienced by respondents



Out of the 138 respondents (43%) in Fig 2.3a who agreed to have experienced GBV, most of them specified that they experienced physical abuse (16%), emotional abuse (14%) and child marriage (13%) respectively.

Figure 3.1a - Knowledge of GBV victims

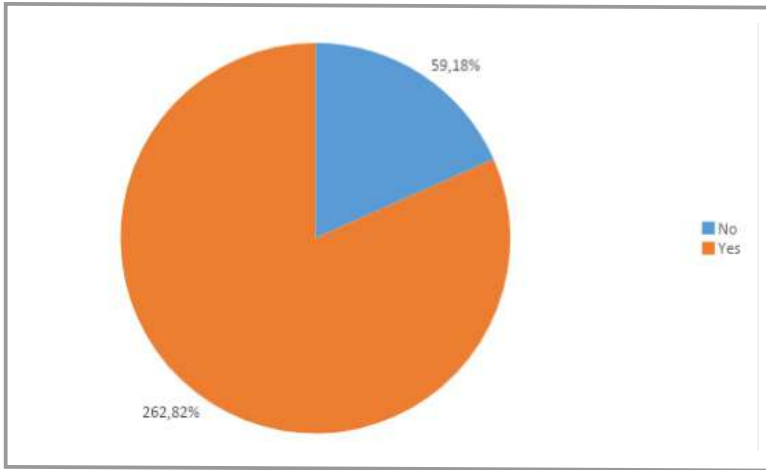


Fig 3.1a shows that the majority of respondents (82%) know someone who has experienced a form of gender-based violence.

Figure 3.1b - Form of GBV suffered by victims

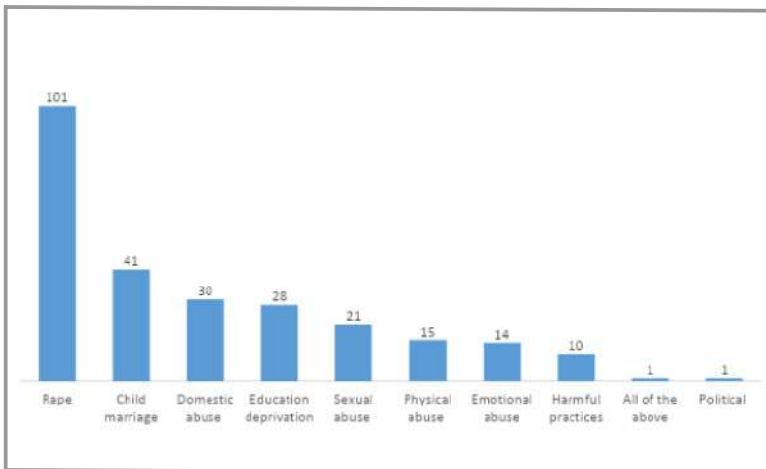


Fig 3.1b shows that 101 respondents (39% out of 262 respondents) agreed that rape is the most common form of gender-based violence suffered by victims. It is important to note that these respondents are part of the 262 who agreed to knowing someone who has been a victim of gender-based violence. Other common forms of gender-based violence identified from the responses include child marriage (16%) and domestic abuse (11%).

Figure 3.2 - Respondents opinion on the socio-economic marginalisation of girls and women

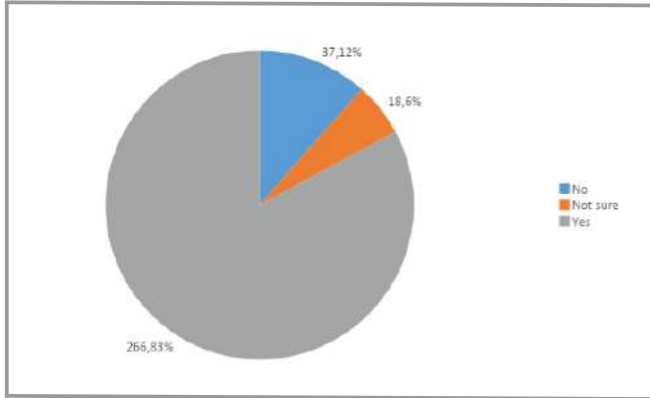
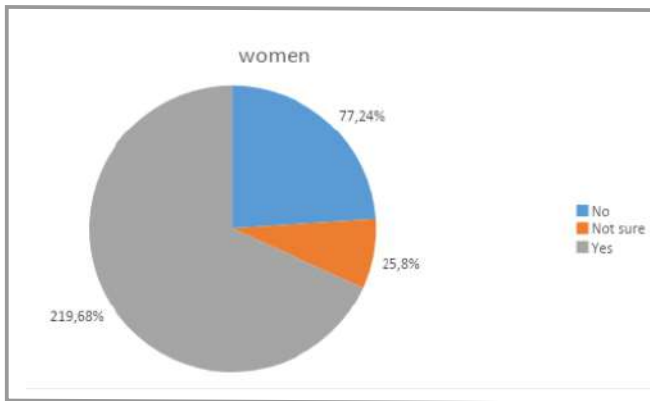


Fig 3.2 shows that most of the respondents (83%) are of the opinion that women and girls are socio-economically marginalised in Kano state.

Figure 3.3 - Respondents opinion of the political marginalisation of girls and women



Similar to the findings in Fig 3.2, Fig 3.3 shows that most respondents (68%) are of the opinion that women are politically marginalised in Kano state.

WHAT CAUSES GBV

Figure 3.4 - Opinion on contributory factor of GBV

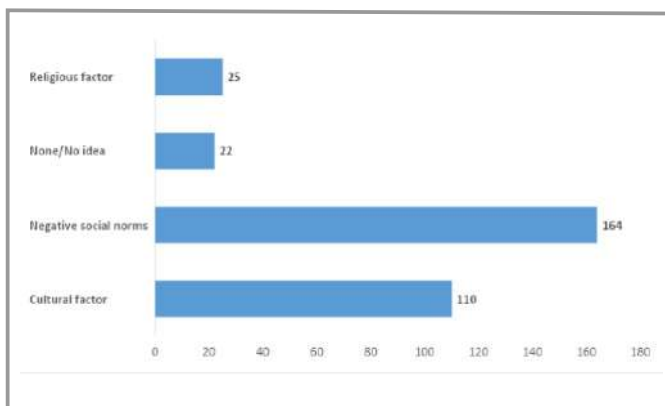


Fig 3.4 shows that most respondents (51%) are of the opinion that negative social norms are the main contributory factor to gender-based violence in Kano state. Interestingly, 7% of respondents do not know what contributes to gender-based violence in Kano state. In addition, during the interviews with 5 government officials, they mentioned lack of awareness, religious misconceptions as well as lack of legal frameworks and poverty as the drivers of GBV in Kano state. Similarly, the 5 CSO officials who were also interviewed also stated that the lack of judicial framework for the prosecution of offenders was a reason for the high prevalence of GBV in Kano state, as well as cultural factors.

Figure 3.5 - Willingness to assist victims of GBV

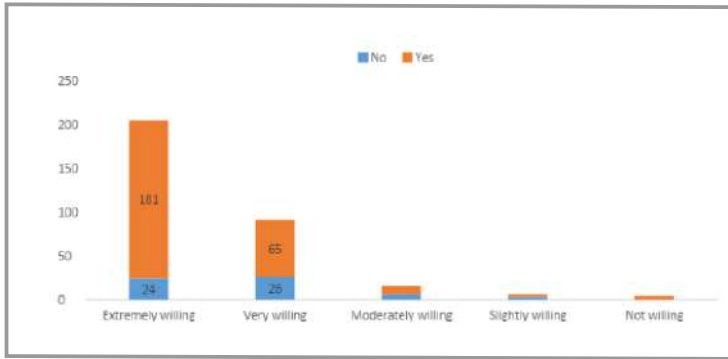


Fig 3.5 shows that most respondents (64%) are extremely willing to assist victims of gender-based violence. To provide context, this response was compared with the number of respondents who claim to know previous victims of gender-based violence. It is noteworthy that most of the respondents who are willing to help are actually respondents who responded previously that they know individuals who have been victims of gender-based violence.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO GBV

Figure 4.1 - Effort of the government and what the government should do in combating GBV

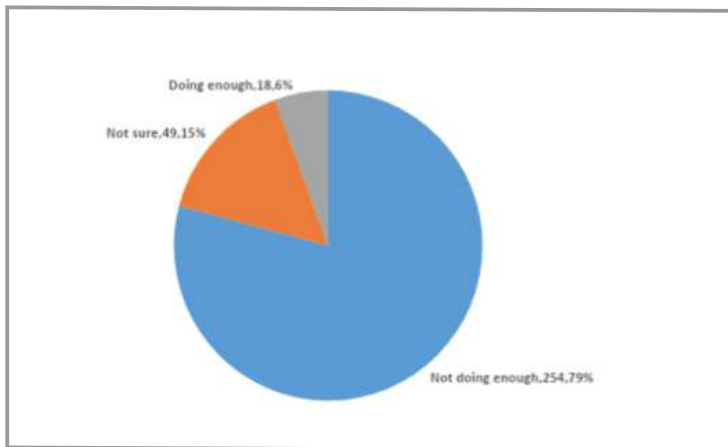


Fig 4.1 presents insights on the efforts of the government in addressing the menace of GBV in Kano state. A total of 254 respondents (79%) affirmed that the government is not doing enough to combat GBV in Kano state. In terms of what the government should do in addressing the menace of GBV in Kano state 54% of the respondents agreed to sanctioning offenders.

AWARENESS OF SARC

Figure 4.2 - Awareness of SARC by respondents

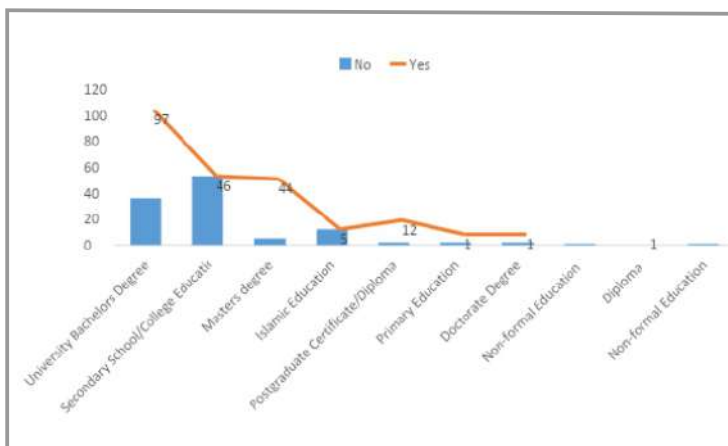


Fig 4.2 shows the number of respondents who have heard of Sexual Assault Referral Centre (Waraka Centre in Kano) in relation to their educational qualifications. Most respondents (64%) have heard about SARC. Interestingly, the bulk of such respondents were holders of university bachelor's degrees, master degree holders and secondary school leavers.

Figure 4.3 - Knowledge of services SARC renders

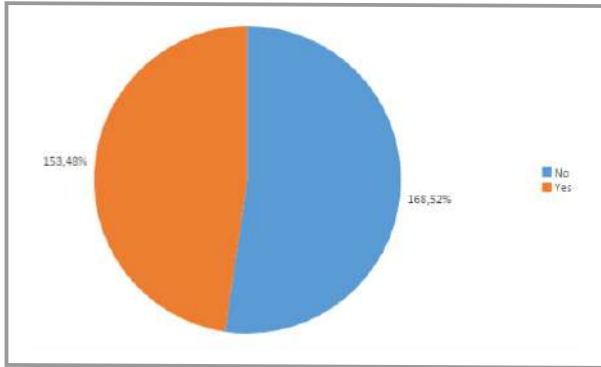


Fig 4.3 sheds more light on Fig 4.2 by revealing that although most respondents are aware of the existence of SARC, 52% of them are not knowledgeable of the services rendered by SARC.

Figure 4.4 - Perceived importance of SARC

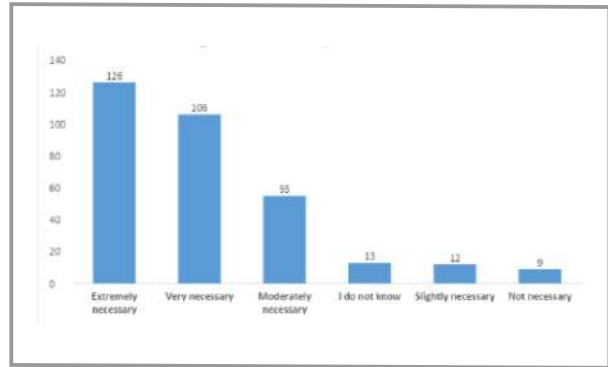


Fig 4.4 measures the necessity of SARC in respondents' communities. Although most respondents do not know what services are offered by SARC, they (89%) still feel it is necessary.

Figure 4.5 - Respondents visit to SARC

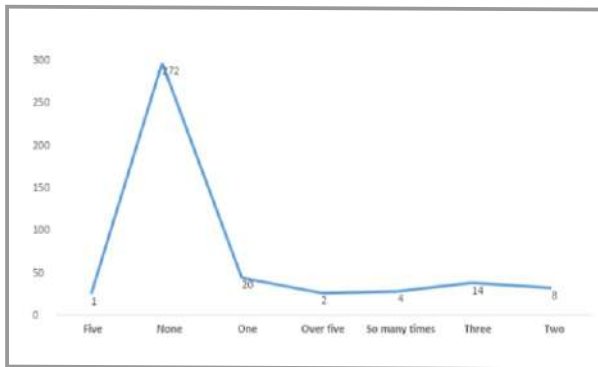


Fig 4.5 shows the number of times respondents have visited SARC. In corroboration of the finding in Fig 4.2, it was found that most respondents (85%) have never visited SARC.

Figure 4.6 - Perceived helpfulness of SARC

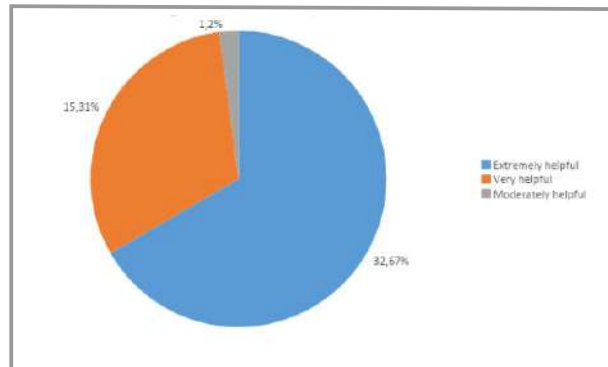


Fig 4.6 further goes to illustrate how helpful respondents' visits to SARC was. None of the respondents who visited SARC believed it was not helpful.

Figure 4.7 - Knowledge of beneficiaries of SARC

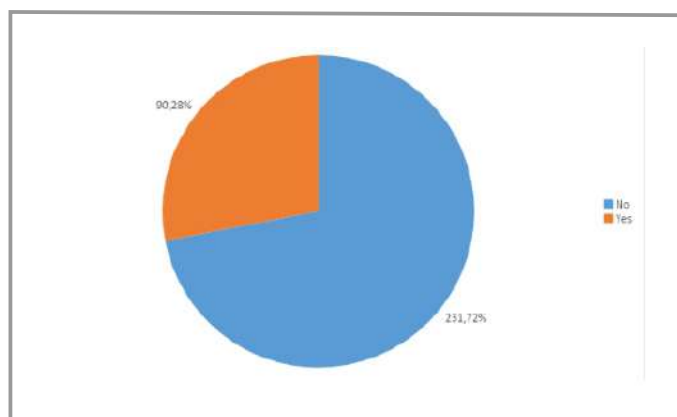


Fig 4.7 supports the finding in Fig 4.5 by revealing that most respondents (who have never visited SARC) do not also know individuals who have benefited from SARC in the past.

SECTION 3

GMAA-K RESULTS AT THE OUTPUT AND OUTCOME LEVELS

In the first and second phases of the GMAA-K project, CODE has implemented a considerable number of important interventions. They include:

Production of a documentary on the state of GBV and child marriage in Kano state. Featured in the docu-series were the Deputy Speaker of Kano state House of Assembly, Attorney-General of Kano state and victims/survivors of GBV and child marriage. The documentary was filmed by Television Continental (TVC) and focused on the child brides, their tales and the state of the VAPP and Child Protection bill at the Kano state House of Assembly. The documentary was aired on TVC.

CODE conducted a baseline assessment in three focal communities of the project in Kano state. The baseline assessment showed that a large percentage of women and girls are given to marriage as early as 10 years old. It also revealed that very few community members are aware of the SARC or how to go about reporting cases of GBV in their communities.

Leveraged series of radio programs and social media campaigns to shore up the awareness of community members and the Kano mass public on the impact of GBV on women, girls and society at large, as well as advocate for the passage of the VAPP law and CPL. There were more than 10 episodes of the GMAA-K radio engagement on Cool FM and Arewa FM with a reach of 9 million listeners. Social media activities on Facebook and Twitter garnered over 150 views, 10 comments, 25 likes, and 5 shares and nearly 60 participants on the Twitter space. As part of this, simplified versions of the VAPP law were developed and disseminated in Hausa language.

Identified and trained 30 gender Advocates (24 Female and 8 male) on community mobilisation, policies that promote women and girls' rights, advocacy and policy influencing strategies, strategies for engaging survivors and victims of SGBV etc.

CODE facilitated the gender advocates to develop a Kano state Action Plan that would enable the government to work effectively towards implementing the VAPP and Child Protection bills once the bills are signed into law. The action plan features these 4 pillars: prevention of GBV, provision of services, access to justice, and monitoring, coordination and evaluation.

The advocates subsequently stepped down the training for community leaders and members, and conducted outreaches in 3 communities: Kafi, Kanye and Saye in Madobi, Kobo and Bichi LGAs of Kano state. 91 community members (F-39, M-62) including community leaders, religious leaders, women, girls, and host of others were sensitised on GBV practices, policies that can protect them and places for reporting GBV practices - WARAKA centre.

Mobilised the advocates to send letters to Kano state legislators for the passage of the VAPP and child protection bills in the House of Assembly.

CODE mounted advocacies through engaging the Kano State Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Justice and legislators on the passage of the VAPP and child protection bills. Here CODE worked with and did advocacy visits with the gender advocates for ownership and sustainability.

In addition, CODE contributed to the harmonisation process of the Kano State Penal Code with the provisions of the VAPP Act which has been validated by the Ministry of Justice.



In terms of results from these interventions, the learning and impact assessment study employed surveys and interviews with various stakeholders. Gender advocates were interviewed on the usefulness of the training and their post training actions. Second, community members from the three communities were surveyed on the usefulness of the sensitisation which the advocates did for them and how they have taken actions. Finally, we discussed with the government the commitments they made in the fight against GBV through CODE's GMAA-K project. For the latter, we also assessed their responses to CODE's demands.

GENDER ADVOCATES - TRAINING USEFULNESS, ACTIONS TAKEN AND EXPERIENCE

Two (2) different streams of gender advocates were trained in the phases I and II of the GMAA-K project. Fifteen (15) of the gender advocates who were interviewed using a mixed survey tool as part of this study, were from the second stream - the project's phase II. Most (87%) of the gender advocates interviewed were females, the rest were males, and none of them had any form of disability. Most of them were aged 18-35 years (93%). Most (60%) of the interviewees are university graduates as there was no one who was not formally schooled.

USEFULNESS OF THE GBV TRAINING

It was found that all 15 interviewees agreed that the GBV training was useful. However, most (53%) interviewees affirmed that the training was very useful.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE TRAINING

From table 3 below, the legal and policy frameworks that protect women's and girls' rights in Nigeria was the most mentioned key takeaway (4 interviewees affirmed). When asked why this stood out, most of them answered that they did not know the existing legal framework for the protection of women and girls' rights in Nigeria as well as the systemic issues in the definition of terms (consent, rape, assault etc.) in the penal and criminal codes.

More so, 3 interviewees appreciated the description of gender-based violence gathered. It appeared that only 1 interviewee appreciated the information learnt about SARC.

Table 3 - Key takeaways from the training

Takeaways	Interviewee
The legal and policy frameworks that protect women's and girls' rights in Nigeria	4
Description of gender-based violence	3
Community mobilisation for social change	2
Strategies for engaging survivors and victims	2
Session on women's rights	1
Advocacy and policy influencing strategies	1
Description of gender equality	1
Information about Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs)	1
Total	15

Impact of the Training

From the responses, interviewees were unanimous in their opinion that the training improved their understanding of GBV and the issues attributing to it. One of the interviewees was particularly excited about “The team advocacies to the Ministry of Justice, to the State House of Assembly on different occasions to check for the reading of bills concerning child rights bill and others.” This in the opinion of another interviewee “...I was so excited with the commitment people are showing towards ending violence against women and children”. None of the respondents mentioned anything cynical about the training.

Actions Taken Post-Training

Having heard from interviewees about how impactful the training was, 7 of them stated that they have been to radio stations to speak to the public on GBV, 2 focused on social media while another had been to a television station. It appeared the mainstay of interviewees' action has been in the media.

Expectations as a Gender advocate in the GMAA-K Project

When asked if their expectations as gender advocates in the GMAA-K Project were met, majority (13 interviewees, 87%) answered in the affirmative while 2 interviewees stated that their expectations were not met. The 2 interviewees whose expectations were not met were asked to provide feedback on what CODE should have done differently in terms of engaging and making good use of the advocates in advancing the cause of GBV rollback in Kano state. One of such responses was that advocates were not adequately carried along and the other was that CODE should focus more on the community level in its sensitisation.

Satisfaction with CODE’s engagements, advocacies, and activities under the GMAA-K project

All but 2 interviewees are satisfied with CODE’s engagements under the GMAA-K project. One of the dissatisfied interviewees mentioned that CODE “...CODE didn’t sensitise those communities that have the highest number of GBV in Kano...”, and that such sensitisation should be done repeatedly with provision of toiletries to the community. In stark contrast, one of the satisfied interviewees disagreed with the foregoing by saying that “...all of the goals and objectives set out to achieve have been successfully met.”

Major lessons learnt as CODE Gender Advocates

Four (4) interviewees agreed in their response that the major lessons learnt was on how to be an effective advocate. One of such interviewees specifically mentioned that lessons learnt include “...how cultural norms, attitudes, and values influences GBV.” It was also mentioned by an interviewee that there were a lot of girls engaged in training who were unable to talk because of the presence of elders and families.

IMPACT OF GMAA-K PROJECT IN KANO STATE FROM THE LENSES OF THE GENDER ADVOCATES

Prominent points mentioned include GBV awareness, VAPP act/Penal code law promotion and SARC development. Specifically, one of the respondents mentioned:

Prominent points mentioned include GBV awareness, VAPP act/Penal code law promotion and SARC development. Specifically, one of the respondents mentioned:

“ It has made people aware of the VAPP-Act and the child protection bill which only the Legal practitioner's and a few know, due to the GMAA-K project these two acts are spread across the state and explained to the people in their own local language. ”



TESTIMONIES AND SUCCESS

Stories from GMAA-K Gender Advocates (Phase 1)

Below are the testimonies and success stories from GMAA-K Phase I gender advocates who did not participate in the project end learning and impact assessment research. However, at the end of GMAA-K phase I, they shared their experiences as CODE's gender advocates on the project including how beneficial the capacity building was for them.

Being a beneficiary of GMAA-K has been a success to me and the people of Kano. SGBV has been rampant in Kano, especially during the pandemic period. We appreciate [CHC/CODE for] bringing the project to Kano for us to be trained on advocacy and policy influencing skills and giving us this platform and a voice/cause. We have paid advocacy visits to high-level stakeholders who have made commitments on policy reforms to end GBV. As a man, I believe in gender equality and encourage all men to join hands in working towards a society void of inequalities. - **Salim Wada Usman**

Persons with disabilities [PWD] continue to experience SGBV far worse because of their peculiar circumstances, worsened by how society has marginalised them. I am glad that GMAA-K included persons with disabilities and amplified their voices to galvanise social, behavioural and policy change towards PWD. - **Bilkisu Ado Zango**

It's indeed a privilege for me being part of the project and it's also a great achievement to the people of Kano in general, because violence against girls and women in Nigeria/Kano is a shadow pandemic. The radio sessions and the courtesy visits were amazing. I had a very edifying experience throughout the project and I met a lot of amazing stakeholders. I acquired a lot of knowledge during the project that includes many ways to use my voice in the media to create awareness in order to minimise GBV, the safety of GBV survivors, ensuring confidentiality of survivors, scaling up prevention efforts that address unequal gender power relations as a root cause of GBV. The GMAA-K project has a positive impact on the society, the relevant stakeholders and the State Government in general. - **Khadija A. Ammani**

The GMAA-K project allowed me to work with key GBV actors in Kano to speak up against GBV and take actions to influence important policies that address issues around gender-based violence. Through this project, the Offices of the Attorney-General, Speaker House of Assembly, and many others were highly engaged to ensure speedy passage of the VAPP Act [as harmonised with the CPL]. Also, commitments have been made by the state government to establish additional SARCs in the state. In the next 3 months, I want to see the government pass the merged policies into law and properly implement them and beyond commitment, I want to see the government already working on the establishment of the SARCs. - **Fatima Aliyu Musa**

CODE came to Kano earlier this year. At first, I assumed it would be the usual discussion about women and girls and no move. After day one of the program, I was surprised with positive responses and all the moves we were about to take. I didn't believe it would work until the advocacy visits to the Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Justice etc. CODE doesn't just make promises they wouldn't achieve, they make a goal, plan towards it and achieve it. Thank you CODE for the steadfast work towards ending GBV in and around Kano State. - **Hephzibah Gabari**

I'm one of the trained champions under the GMAA-K project implemented in Kano by Connected Development (CODE) in partnership with the Canadian High Commission in Nigeria. We went on several advocacy visits to some of the stakeholders like the National Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Justice, Kano State House Assembly, and other organisations concerned with ending GBV in the State. I learn a lot when it comes to speaking up in the case of rape and sexual abuse, as well as other forms of violent relationships in our communities, workplace, etc. My expectations from the government and stakeholders are that there should be sensitisation training at the grassroots level where every community will be trained on how to manage GBV and report cases whenever such occurs. I expect the Kano State government to enforce a law on the GBV and try to pass the Child Protection Law. - **Aisha Aliyu Umar**



Community Members

Training Usefulness and Post Training Actions

Forty six (46) community members were surveyed out of the 93 of them (across the 3 communities) who were trained by the gender advocates. Most (67%) of the respondents were females while the rest 33% were males. Most of the respondents are aged 18-35 (86%) with only 14% of respondents aged above 35 who were sampled in Kanye and Kafi communities. Further, most of the respondents are housewives (37%) while 25% of respondents are students. There appear to be only 3 “white collared” respondents in the survey. Only 8% of the respondents are living with disabilities. Lastly, the education qualification of most respondents is secondary school (49%). Only 8% of respondents had post-secondary education qualifications.

Usefulness of the GBV Training

A minority 2% (1 respondent) stated that the training was not useful. Among the rest who responded in the affirmative, 32% of those respondents stated that the training was extremely useful.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE TRAINING

20% of the respondents believed they were intrigued by the legal and policy frameworks that protect women's and girls' rights in Nigeria, description of GBV (18% affirmed) and the community mobilisation for social change (16% affirmed) were also areas of key mention.

Respondents were asked to expound on the reasons they mentioned the above areas as key takeaways from the training. The reasons provided are interpreted under some of the main responses include:

Community mobilisation for social change

The commonest reason was that the training expounded on the roles of community members. One of the respondents added that this training will help his community effort as the head of a ward in one of the local governments.

The legal and policy frameworks that protect women's and girls' rights in Nigeria

One of the respondents mentioned that the trainings helped him learn how to speak up against gender-based violence and report cases to the Mai Gari (Ward Head)

Information about SARC

In the words of one of the respondents, "We are now aware of how to report cases to appropriate authorities and seek help for victims". This implies respondents may not have been aware of the reporting/referral system to SARC prior to the training.

Willingness to assist a GBV victim

Eighty two (82%) of the respondents would be extremely willing to assist anyone going through gender-based violence.

Post training actions taken at the community level

Table 4: Respondents' answers on various steps carried out in community after the training:

Steps taken	Respondents
Effectively interact with GBV survivors	1
We created a women wing that will support the girl-child	1
Focused on sensitisations in Islamic schools	1
Giving health talks to women during antenatal clinic or immunisation Solved	1
a case of a child bride.	1
Community engagement and sensitisation.	17
Nothing	24
Total	46

It is interesting to find that although the majority of respondents are yet to do something in their communities, 45% of them are already engaged in one way or the other addressing the issues around GBV since the completion of their training. The most common activity seen is by community engagement and sensitisation (35% affirmed). However, one of the respondents has so far been able to solve a case of a child bride while others use their positions in Islamic schools or primary healthcare centres to increase public awareness of GBV and its mitigation strategies. Out of the remaining 24 respondents in table 4 above who have not done anything about GBV, 20 of them intend to do something to address GBV in their communities. Surprisingly, 4 of them do not intend to do anything whatsoever about addressing GBV. These 4 respondents are mainly from Kafi and Kanye communities. Further, out of the 20 respondents who stated their intention to do something on addressing GBV in their communities, most of them want to carry out awareness campaigns and sensitisation for their communities. In addition, seventy (73%) of the respondents stated that since they completed the training, their communities have not instituted any policy or implemented any action to address GBV nor support victims. For those that instituted, table 5 shows what they have been doing.



Steps Taken	Mentions
Awareness	1
GBV talk sessions during antenatal clinic or immunisation.	1
We have been organising more training based on the knowledge we acquired on ways to help and support victims.	1
We have organised different committees to promote awareness, foster reporting and follow up for justice for the victims	1
We aligned with the CELOHA contact person and we will inform them if there's a GBV incidence in our town.	1
Youth discussions	1
We have created women groups that will be helping in addressing the issues around domestic violence.	2
Monthly discussion with community members on GBV.	4
Total	12

Table 5 shows that the commonest step taken by communities is the set up of monthly discussion with community members on GBV. It was also interesting to find that one of the respondents mentioned that the community had aligned with CELOHA for reporting GBV cases.

Government Commitments and Responses to Demands

Through several engagements of CODE and advocacies targeted at government officials, these officials made a few commitments. In addition are a few responses from them, as well, to CODE demands.



The commitments are as follows

Kano state House of the Assembly committed to constitute a committee to consider provisions of the Child Protection Bill as it passed the second reading in the House.

Commitments from the Attorney-General of Kano state and the Speaker of the Kano state Assembly to establish four (4) more SARCs across the emirates of Kano state.

Commitment by the Director of Human Rights under the Ministry of Justice to bridge the gap between WARAKA SARC and the Women Affairs Ministry on the shelter provision for victims. The Ministry also promised to ensure the speedy passage of the VAPP Act (penal code amendment) along with the Child Protection Bill.

Commitment from the Ministry of Women Affairs as they intend to visit more rural communities on GBV sensitisation campaigns.

The Kano state House of Assembly committed to ensuring the Child protection bill and the harmonised Penal Code/ VAPP Act are passed into law.

Governmental responses

Public hearing on the Child Protection Bill was held on 1 December 2022 at the Kano state House of Assembly.

Validation of the harmonised Kano state Penal Code and VAPP law amendment bill by the Ministry of Justice.

SECTION 4

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT DURING GMAA-K IMPLEMENTATION

CODE GMAA-K project team noted a few project implementation challenges which include:

- The lack of political will from the Kano state lawmakers and long recesses which have delayed the passage of both bills (VAPP and CPL).
- The non-representation of women in the Kano state Assembly has also played a role in delaying the passage of the VAPP and CP bills.
- Religious and cultural biases, as well as high rate of poverty and illiteracy were obstacles to the sensitisation and awareness creation efforts about GBV in the state.

- Poor follow up and closer monitoring of the gender advocates. This is related to budgetary constraints considering that there was inadequate remuneration for trained gender advocates who are volunteering quite alright but require to be incentivised.
- mpromptu adjustments on project timeline.

CHALLENGES IN ADDRESSING GBV IN KANO STATE

Interviews from the CSOs and government officials who were interviewed suggest that amongst the challenges to addressing GBV in the state are negative cultural norms, religious misconceptions, absence of adequate laws for the prosecution of perpetrators and compensation of GBV victims, poor funding, delayed prosecution of perpetrators and low level of awareness on GBV.

In addition, they also cited poor political will and negligence from the government as one of the reasons. All CSO interviewees responded in the negative that the government is doing enough to combat GBV in Kano state. When asked to provide reasons or aspects for their position, all 5 respondents mentioned the failure of the legislative arm of government to pass necessary bills and enact required policies. For example, one of the respondents mentioned that "...protection bill is over 15 years in assembly...". Further, an interviewee from the government stated in quote; "...this government has no interest in GBV."



Project sustainability

It was from the lenses of sustainability and ownership that CODE assembled and trained gender advocates in the state who are at the frontline of the project's activities. From inception, CODE worked through the gender advocates who participated in the radio shows, visited communities and stepped down training, and participated effectively in the advocacy calls on several important offices in the state on enacting VAPP law and CPL. as such, these 30 gender advocates will be instrumental in ensuring that GMAA-K's impacts outlive the project end. They are already taking action in many ways, individually and collectively and committed to continuing with this process. It is expected they would continue engaging citizens, legislators, religious and traditional leaders on addressing GBV and enactment of relevant laws to deal with the menace.

Second, the statewide Action Plan on GBV would assist the implementation of VAPP and Child protection bills when passed.

Lessons learnt

In the community training by the gender advocates, there were a lot of girls who participated in the training who were unable to talk or speak freely because of the presence of elders and families. In retrospect, CODE should have engaged these girls separately and perhaps leveraged a focus group discussion (FGD) template to capacitate and discuss with them. That could have been more impactful.

For better wide spread of GBV awareness and step-down training, CODE should have visited all 5 emirates in Kano state and engaged the key community leaders with the key advocacy points.



Most of the victims and survivors are mostly not skilled and usually require empowerment that could sustain them and their families. This could also help break the cycle of child marriage. As an afterthought, this is a programming element CODE should have included.

CODE needs to create more awareness when it comes to addressing stigmatisation of victims and survivors. More multidimensional and long term programs need to be created to tackle this challenge.

With hindsight, CODE should have also engaged key Islamic religious leaders in its advocacies and campaigns for the enactment of both bills at Kano Assembly considering how the influence they have over political actors in the state.



SECTION 5

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE DIRECTION OF GBV PROGRAMMING

Future direction of GBV programming in Kano state are suggested as follows:

Intervention (sensitisation and awareness creation to rollback GBV practices) that involves engagement with religious and cultural leaders. This is based on the significant effects of religious and cultural factors on addressing GBV in the state. Radio should be leveraged for sensitisation efforts and programs should be in local languages. In addition to this, other ways for creating awareness should be leveraged such as production of movies, road walks and rallies, and campaigns to add GBV in school curriculum/syllabus.

Intervention that involves improving collaborations between the Ministries of Justice, Women Affairs in Kano State, and Waraka Centre on governmental formulation of enabling policies/laws and provision of optimal institutional environment to systematically address GBV in Kano state. This involves collaborative awareness and sensitisation interventions to reduce the prevalence rate, sanction offenders, and ensure victims/survivors get the rehabilitative and multidimensional support they need through referral centers.

Intervention that focuses exclusively on the VAPP/Penal Code amendment and CPL bills at the Kano State House of Assembly. As the present Assembly leaves in May 2023, a future project should concentrate on securing high-level commitments from the new governor of Kano state and incoming first lady, and leverage them to resuscitate the VAPP (harmonised with the Penal Code) and CPL processes at the state assembly. And ultimately have the bills passed by the Assembly and signed into law. Both laws are important to any holistic intervention to address GBV in Kano state. No major progress can be made in this fight if there aren't laws in place that prohibit violence against persons, women and girls; and enhance gender equality, access to justice and socio-economic empowerment of victims/survivors, and creation of a sexual offenders register.

Mount high-bandwidth advocacies on the incoming governor and first lady of Kano state, as well as the Commissioners of Women Affairs and Health to leverage existing healthcare structures and facilities in the state to set up more SARCs.

Interventions by development partners that focus on working with the government to set up more SARCs in the state.

In the interim, intervention that focuses on working with Waraka Centre leadership and sourcing governmental and donor financial support to improve existing facilities at the centre and support areas in which the centre is under-resourced. It is important that adequate support is provided to the centre so that they run 24 hrs per day and even on weekends.

Intervention that re-orientates traditional rulers, social workers, and health workers that serve as the first frontline when community members report cases of GBV.

Intervention on the creation and maintenance of gender sensitive desks across policing agencies in the state.

Intervention for the state government to adopt and implement the CODE GMAA-K Action Plan to End GBV in Kano state, through policy and legal frameworks and allocate specific budgetary amounts to line activities from line ministries.

Intervention that mounts advocacies on key stakeholders for adequate gender-responsive budgeting in Kano state which guarantees the socio-economic and political inclusion and empowerment of women and girls.



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Annex 1

(Mixed Survey_Gender Advocates)
Survey questionnaire on Google Forms,
<https://forms.gle/Cax7Mc7HG5Rh4btS9>

Survey Responses on Google Spreadsheet,
GMAA-K_Mixed Survey_GBV Advocates
(Responses)

Annex 2

(Interviews_Project Implementers)
Survey questionnaire on Google Forms,
<https://forms.gle/aPTigFrUYuyNZPy38>

Survey Responses on Google Spreadsheet,
GMAA-K_Interviews_Project Implementers
(Responses)

Annex 3

(Survey_Beneficiary focal community members)
Survey questionnaire on Google Forms,
<https://forms.gle/DAK4AJR5ACPjLQSW6>

Survey Responses on Google Spreadsheet,
GMAA-K_Survey_Beneficiary Focal Community
Members (Responses)

Annex 4

(List of MDAs/CSOs Interviewees)

MDAs






- National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
- WARAKA SARC KANO
- National Agency for the Prohibition of
- Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP)
Ministry of Justice Kano State
- Ministry of Women Affairs Kano State

CSOs

- Women's Rights Advancement and Protection
Alternative (WRAPA)
- Global Improvement Of Less Privilege Person
Initiative (GIOPINI) Initiative
- Coalition Against Rape and Violence
- Mufarka Youth Development Initiative
- All Care Charitable Foundation Initiative
(ACCF) Initiative



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