



Ensuring that all individuals have access to services and counseling for gender-based violence

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Experience of GBV in Nigeria

- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 30% of women and girls between 15-49 years old have experienced sexual and gender-based violence.
- Insurgency and protracted conflict have exacerbated violence.
- 43% of girls are married out before the age of 18 (MICS 2016-2017).
- 20% of girls and women aged between the ages of 15-49 years old have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM) (NDHS 2018).
- **Common forms of GBV in Nigeria: sexual harassment, physical violence, HTP, emotional and psychological violence, socioeconomic violence, violence against non-combatant women in conflict.**

Source: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>

Steps taken to ensure access to services and counseling

- **2015** - Passed the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPPact) which aims to eliminate all forms of violence in both the private and public spheres; includes the right to assistance for survivors of violence.
- **2016** - Practical guide and manual for health care managers was developed.
- **2018** - Call to action to target survivors through the multi year strategy for protection and management; coordinated by FMWASD with support from UNFPA, etc.
- **2019** - Strong response led by the FMWASD with support from spotlight initiative (UNFPA) to establish a one stop center for the management of GBV in Abuja and Adamawa.

Steps taken to ensure access to services and counseling

- **2020** - Development of the national clinical protocol on the management of FGM with funding from UNFPA.
- **2021** - Adaptation of the WHO clinical manual for the care of women and girls subjected to violence.
- **2021** - With assistance from UNFPA, development of the essential package for the management of individuals subjected to GBV.
- **2021** - Review of the national training manual on peer-to-peer education on adolescent and young peoples health with assistance from UNFPA.
- **2021** - **Gender-based violence assessment and service mapping.**

Challenges facing the health sector

- Lack of national level program or plan of action on health sector's response to GBV
- Limitation to effectively respond to GBV within the existing constraints of human resources and funding
- Current lack of a planned preventive response from the health sector (or other agencies) and necessary IEC material and other instruments to facilitate such a program
- Constraints in capacity building of the health care providers due to the geography, high turnover, and difficulty in releasing them from service provision responsibilities.

Conclusion

Key areas for ensuring access to GBV services:

- Knowledge and awareness creation for GBV
- Training critical health care provision for first line response and referral
- Enactment of enabling laws to ensure justice delivery
- Development of critical documents to enhance capacity development
- Building required partnership and collaboration