

POLICY BRIEF

Overcoming the Limitations to the Implementation of the Kaduna State Violence Against Persons Prohibition Law



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

POLICY BRIEF

Overcoming the Limitations to the Implementation of the Kaduna State Violence Against Persons Prohibition Law¹



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

¹ Prepared by Bunmi Dipo-Salami and Hannatu Ahuwan

TABLE OF
Contents

01
Introduction

03
Update on the status of the
VAPP Act domestication
process by the state.

02
Overview of the National
Research on the Impact
of the VAPP Act and
Related Laws

04
Recommendations

01. INTRODUCTION

Violence against women (VAW) is defined as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life”.¹ It has been identified as the most pervasive human rights violation in the world, and it is estimated to cost countries up to 3.7% of their GDP – more than double what most governments spend on education.² An offshoot of gender inequality, violence against women is a significant cause of female morbidity and mortality, may be physical, emotional, sexual, psychological, or economic harm, and it takes place in the private or public arenas, affecting 1 in 3 women in their lifetime. Considering Nigeria’s estimated female population of over 106 million³ as of January 2022, that translates into about 35 million women. Recent happenings such as the lockdown caused by the COVID-19

pandemic further exacerbated the cases of violence against women, particularly sexual violence. The UN brief of May 2020 revealed that during this time, the increase in reports of domestic violence cases in April 2020 was more profound in three states under total lockdown (Lagos state, Ogun state, and the Federal Capital Territory). The number of cases rose from 60 in March to 238 in April, an increase of 127%. Furthermore, women and girls are disproportionately affected by insecurity – Boko Haram insurgency, banditry, kidnappings, herder-farmers conflict, armed robbery, and so on – and an estimated 79% of internally displaced persons are women and children⁴, who are also “targeted for abduction by Boko Haram and are often raped, forced into labour, marriage, or religious conversion, abused, exposed to sexually transmitted infections and are often pregnant upon escaping captivity.”⁵

The Violence Against Persons (Prohi-

1 UN General Assembly, *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women*, 20 December 1993, A/RES/48/104, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3b00f25d2c.html> [accessed 10 February 2021]

2 World Bank. 2019. Gender-based Violence (Violence against Women and Girls) <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/socialdevelopment/brief/violence-against-women-and-girls>

3 <https://countrymeters.info/en/Nigeria>

4 Displacement Tracking Matrix. (2017). Displacement Tracking Matrix: Nigeria Round XV Report 2017. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/56254> (assessed on 19th February 2021)

5 <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/results-baseline-survey-gender-based-violence-borno-state-nigeria>

bition) Act (VAPPA) is the most comprehensive and progressive law for addressing the silent pandemic of violence against women and girls in Nigeria. The main thrust of the VAPPA is to “eliminate violence in private and public life, prohibit all forms of violence against persons and to provide maximum protection and effective remedies for victims and punishment of offenders; and for other related matters”¹. It guarantees maximum protection to all citizens by prohibiting all forms of violence and harmful traditional practices against women or men, boys or girls occurring in private and /or public spaces.

The Act is the first criminal legislation which expanded Nigerian criminal jurisprudence by recognising various forms of related crimes hitherto unacknowledged. Accordingly, the definition of rape was expanded beyond penetration of the female genitals and mouth, to forced sexual action on a male. It addresses a broad-spectrum of violence - physical, verbal, emotional, sexual, economic, and psychological abuses, as well as discrimination against persons, particularly women and girls. These include child abandonment, rape, incest, defilement of minors, forced eviction of a spouse and children, harmful widowhood laws and practices, female genital mutilation (FGM), forced financial dependence, attacks with harmful substance, political violence, among others. It also sets appropriate punishment for convicted

perpetrators. For instance, the offence of rape may attract life imprisonment, subject to the circumstance and the discretion of the judge. The offender will also be listed in the sexual offenders’ register as a deterrent to others. Similarly, the Act makes provisions for effective remedies for victims of violence - rehabilitation support, and compensation, among others. According to Section 38 (1) of the Act, victims of violence are entitled to material, medical, psychological, and legal assistance from governmental and non-governmental agencies providing such services. Additionally, they are afforded opportunity to acquire skills in any vocation of their choice and access to micro credit facilities.

Since it was enacted in 2015, the Act has the force of law in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and in twenty-three (23) states across Nigeria where it has been adopted into law.

The Act recognizes as punishable a wide range of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) offences including forced financial dependence or economic abuse, harmful widowhood practices, genital mutilation, abandonment of children, harmful substance attacks, and incest. Furthermore, due to its all-encompassing nature, the Act does not just protect women and girls from violence, it can also be used to improve the participation of women in politics and other positions of power. This is because violence and discrimination are amongst the reasons why

1 Violence against Persons Prohibition Act, 2015

women get excluded from politics and other aspects of public life.

Prior to the enactment of the VAPPA, there was no comprehensive legislation on violence against women at the national level. Nigeria only had disparate pieces of legislation, which did not address violence against women or gender-based violence uniformly across the country. A few states had passed legislation on domestic violence, harmful traditional practices, or gender-based violence. A few others had attempted to do so unsuccessfully. Much of the existing legislation was outdated, not sufficiently comprehensive, not specifically directed to this grave problem, and not adequately enforced. The coming together of more than fifty-five (55) different groups and individuals under the umbrella of the Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence Against Women, (LACVAW), eventually

helped mobilise action to improve the legislative landscape for violence against women in Nigeria in 2002. The result of that activism was the signing into law of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act on May 25, 2015, after about thirteen (13) years in the legislative process. The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in persons (NAPTIP) is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the law at the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja.

This policy brief gives an update to the status of the uptake of the VAPPA by the 36 states and provides information on the current status of the Kaduna State Violence Against Persons Prohibition Law specifically. It is aimed at guiding decision makers and relevant stakeholders in facilitating effective engagement towards successful implementation of the law in the state.



The Act provides under Section 38 that every victim of violence is entitled to receive the necessary medical, psychological, social, and legal assistance through governmental and non-governmental agencies providing such assistance.

02. OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH ON THE IMPACT OF THE VAPP ACT AND RELATED LAWS

Between January and March 2021, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) commissioned a national research in twelve (12) states of the federation to assess the impact of the VAPP Act in Nigeria, five (5) years after it was enacted. Titled “The Impact of the Violence against Persons (Prohibition) Act and Related Laws in Nigeria”¹, the project aligned with WFD’s objective of promoting inclusion by ensuring gender equality and protecting women and girls from violence. The increased number of cases of violence against women and girls in particular in the context of COVID-19 and the frequent cases of perpetrators of gender-based violence facing insubstantial punishment provided the need for research on the uptake of the VAPPA by the states as well as the implementation of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Law (VAPPL) in states that had already domesticated the Act across the country. The research was the first national impact assessment of the Act since its enactment.

Originally designed to focus on the implementation of the Act in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and in eleven (11) out of the eighteen (18) states across the six geo-political zones where it had been domesticated at that time, the study assessed the adoption, successes, and challenges of the implementation of the Act, identified the factors that promote or limit the implementation of the Act, as well as the gaps that need to be addressed to ensure the Act achieves its objective of prohibiting violence against citizens, especially women, and promoting gender equality in the Nigerian society. It was also aimed at assessing the level of citizen participation and engagement in the adoption and implementation processes of the VAPPA.

The study was undertaken in Abia, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Bauchi, Cross River, Edo, Enugu, FCT, Kaduna, Lagos, Osun, and Plateau States. It was however noted during the planning process that contrary to available data, three (3) of the selected states - Cross River, Osun, and Plateau - were only in the process of domesticating the VAPPA, while the domestica-

1 <https://www.wfd.org/2021/12/07/the-impact-of-the-violence-against-persons-prohibition-act-and-related-laws-in-nigeria/>

tion process was yet to start in Lagos State as of January 2021. Although those four states did not have a VAPPL in place yet, they had various legislations to protect women and girls from violence. Therefore, for ease of analysis, the study integrated related anti-violence against women and girls' laws into the research framework by identifying major pieces of legislation for protecting women and girls from the various forms of violence in those states. It assessed the legal and policy frameworks to determine how adequately the laws protect women and girls from violence; it also elicited information on the processes being undertaken to domesticate the Act.

The national research also identified best practices in the focal states, and generated recommendations to encourage rapid progress in the implementation of the VAPP Law of the states and /or its adoption by the states yet to domesticate it, while contributing to existing body of knowledge on the impact of anti-violence against women and girls' laws in Nigeria.

2.1. Key Findings

The national research revealed that:

- ❑ The VAPPA does not offer a universal coverage to all Nigerian women and girls as the uptake by states was generally low across the country.
- ❑ The culture of silence and concealment; stigmatisation; trivialisation; threats and intimidation; and inadequate funding of necessary structures and mechanisms for implementing anti-violence against women and girls' legislations are key constraints to the achievement of the significant success in the fight violence against women and girls in Nigeria.
- ❑ More cases of violence against women and girls are reported and taken up in places where the relevant implementation structures are put in place.
- ❑ Although the VAPPL seems to have helped in the decrease in the incidence of violence against women and girls in some states, the implementation can still be observed to be largely weak.
- ❑ The Sexual Offenders' Register (SOR) is an effective deterrent to perpetrators in states where such has been established, updated, and publicised.
- ❑ The VAPPA and related laws are more effectively implemented in states where the First Ladies take a keen interest in and contribute to efforts aimed at eliminating violence against women and girls.
- ❑ The intersection of disabilities, violence and gender is not often considered in the implementation of the VAPPA/VAPPL. As such, response mechanisms do not prioritise persons with disabilities who usually experience VAW differently.
- ❑ Institutions and personnel expected to be involved in the implementation include the police, the judiciary, desk-officers, relevant ministries and agencies. However, they are challenged by lack of capacity in terms of training, funding, effects of

corruption, and corrupt practices.

- ❑ Though some level of awareness of some of the VAPPL and anti-violence against women and girls' laws has been created, many of the research participants do not know of their existence or the mechanisms to implement them.
- ❑ Ignorance, cultural beliefs and practices, misinterpretation of the major religions, misinformation, poor socialisation, and poverty are the major barriers to the effective implementation of the VAPPA/VAPPL and other anti-violence against women and girls' legislation.
- ❑ There is a general satisfaction with the VAPPA as an all-encompassing legal instrument. However, study participants largely faulted the implementation within the FCT and in states where it is in force for reasons of lack of political will, paucity of funds, lack of infrastructure, and low capacity among implementing officers.
- ❑ The simplification and popularisation of the VAPP Act and related laws help keep children, especially the girl-child, in school.
- ❑ Active collaboration between state actors and non-state actors enhances the level of effectiveness of the VAPPA/VAPPL.
- ❑ The VAPPA/VAPPL is rarely used to promote women's political participation.
- ❑ The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) is not adequately resourced to solely lead the implementation of the Act in the FCT effectively.
- ❑ There are still gaps in the laws, specifically relating to response and coordination in some of the states, and what specific penalties are attached to specific violations. These need to be reviewed and clearly designated.
- ❑ The challenges to the implementation structures set up by the government ranged from lack of synergy, intimidation, slow judicial process, to inadequacy of interventions specific to various needs or categories of victims.
- ❑ Poverty remains one of the factors that heightens the vulnerability of women and girls to all forms of sexual and gender-based violence.

2.2. Barriers to the effective implementation of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act/Laws and related laws

The study also highlighted some of the barriers to the success of the VAPPA. These include:

- ❑ Ignorance: For 39% of the research participants across the research sites, ignorance was the major barrier to the utilisation of the laws by the citizens.
- ❑ Cultural beliefs and practices: 25% of the study participants confirmed that patriarchal traditions and cultural beliefs ascribe power and control to men and boys. Therefore, VAWG has been normalised in most communities.
- ❑ Lack of political will by governments at the national and state levels was identified by 23% of the respondents as another barrier to effective implementation of the

laws. What this means is that it is not enough to enact a law, the political will to ensure its successful implementation must be evident.

- ❑ Misinterpretation of the major religions is a limiting factor in the opinion of 9% of the respondents.
- ❑ Other factors such as misinformation, poor socialisation and poverty were highlighted for consideration when discussing the barriers to the implementation of the VAPPA and related anti-VAWG laws by the last 4% of the survey population.

2.3. Update on the uptake of the VAPPA by sub-national governments

Prior to the research, the Act had only been domesticated by twelve (12) states and by the time the report was presented, the figure had increased to fifteen (15). There has been a significant leap in the number of states that have domesticated the Act to twenty-five (25) since the national research was commissioned in January 2021.

Status of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act in Focal States

S/N	State	January 2021	January 2022
1.	Abia	VAPPL in place	VAPPL In place
2.	Akwa Ibom	VAPPL in place	VAPPL in place
3.	Anambra	VAPPL in place	VAPPL in place
4.	Bauchi	Amendment of VAPPL in process	Amended VAPPL awaiting assent
5.	Cross River	Domestication in process	VAPPL in place
6.	Edo	Amendment of VAPPL in process	Amended VAPPL in place
7.	Enugu	VAPPL awaiting gazette	VAPPL in place
8.	FCT	VAPPA in place	VAPPA in place
9.	Kaduna	VAPPL in place	VAPPL in place
10.	Lagos	No Action towards domestication	Amendment of anti-VAW laws in process
11.	Osun	Domestication in process	VAPPL in place
12.	Plateau	VAPP Bill awaiting assent	VAPP Bill awaiting assent

At the time of preparing this Brief, six (6) states had passed their VAPP bills and are awaiting assent by the governors of their respective states. There are five (5) states yet to pass the VAPPA into law – Gombe, Katsina, Kano, Lagos, and Zamfara.

The success recorded within such a short period has been facilitated largely by the efforts of state and non-state actors, particularly the Honourable Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development, Dame Pauline Tallen who has been a strong pillar of support to women's rights organisations and international development agencies working on domestication and adoption of the Act; putting the domestication of the Act on the front burners by civil society actors, especially women's organisations and groups; the accurate data on the uptake of the Act shown by the national research findings; the engagement of development partners, including WFD with the Nigerian Governors' Wives Forum (NGWF); and the dedication of members of the Erelu Bisi Fayemi-led NGWF to ensure universal adoption and effective implementation of the Act by the 36 states to protect women and girls from GBV in the states so that the lives of women and girls can be more meaningful.

04. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Kaduna State Government signed the Kaduna State Violence Against Persons Prohibition Law in 2018 after a lengthy process involving advocacy, lobbying and awareness raising by civil society organizations in the state in collaboration with relevant government agencies. Advocacy and lobbying activities were conducted targeting different stakeholders, to ensure that the provisions of the law would adequately address the types of sexual and gender-based violence experienced by indigenes and residents of the state, especially women and girls. Consultations were held with relevant stakeholders to ensure buy-in and support for the law, while massive sensitization campaigns were conducted to create awareness of citizens on the need for the law. The coalition of CSOs in collaboration with the then Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (MWASD) [now Ministry of Human Services and Social Development], adopted the strategy of having a Member of the Kaduna State House of Assembly champion the bill. The campaign was able to get the support of Hon. Nuhu Goroh Shadalafiya, who was the Deputy Speaker as well as Chairman of Information Committee (2015 -2019), to sponsor the bill. The campaign also received support from development partners. The National Democratic Institute (NDI) provided support through Gender Awareness Trust to facilitate engagements with relevant stakeholders leading to the passage. NDI also supported Legal Awareness for Nigerian Women to facilitate the development of a Road Map for the Ministry of Human Services and Social Development to run with. Civil Society actors paid advocacy to the State Governor, Mal. Nasir El-Rufai in 2018 who gave assurances of giving accent for the bill and followed through when he signed into law the bill in December 2018. Since the passage of the VAPP

Law, stakeholders from government and civil society have put in immense efforts towards implementation of the law.

Reported cases of violence against women and girls (VAWG) have been notably on the increase in Kaduna state since the passage of the VAPPL in December 2018. This could probably be attributed to increased awareness about VAWG and also the availability of the law. Since the adoption of the law, there have been reports of cases of VAWG, especially rape, followed by cases of physical abuse, and domestic violence. Although rape is not listed as one of the sexual offences in the VAPPL because it is provided for in another law, the knowledge of the existence of the law has increased the reportage of not only rape but other domestic violence and sexual assault cases. Kaduna State recorded more cases within the period of the lock down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some of which were considered Incest perpetrated by fathers, even leading to pregnancy. The MHHS has attempted to coordinate having all GBV service providers submit periodic reports detailing cases they have handled, to enable the state to produce the overall data for the state. However, some of the stakeholders have been as responsive as expected. Only a few CSOs intermittently submit reports. Nevertheless, the Ministry has compiled the number of reported rape and sexual assault cases from the four SARCs operating in the state¹.

2.4.1. Structures for implementing the Kaduna State VAPPL

The study showed that because the law does not categorically provide for an implementation or steering committee, there is no machinery in place. Therefore, there is poor coordination of the relevant implementing partners. However, the law spells out certain roles of relevant agencies like the Ministry of Human Services and Social Development, the Police, Courts and NGOs.

2.4.2. implementation Status of the Kaduna State VAPPL

The following are the steps taken by the state government has taken some steps to enhance the implementation of the law:

- Establishment of four (4) Sexual Assault and Referral Centres (SARCs) to serve as a one-stop shop for provision of medical, counselling, and psychosocial care to survivors of VAWG. The pioneer SARC was established by DFID Justice for All project and the state subsequently added additional three to cover the entire state.
- Provision of a shelter for victims/survivors of SGBV. The state government has plans of putting in place a bigger shelter which will also cater for reintegration of victims/survivors through skills acquisition.
- Establishment of a platform of SGBV actors in place providing ad hoc coordination

1 See Annexure 1.

of service providers. This is a collaboration of CSOs/NGOs and the MHSSD with support from UNFPA.

- Creation of a Sexual Offenders' Register.
- Amendment of the Penal Code to provide a stiffer punishment for rapists of children below 14 years - surgical castration for men and removal of fallopian tubes for women.
- Establishment of a Forensic Laboratory to aid in criminal investigations.

2.4.3. **Challenges to the Effectiveness of the VAPPL**

Some of the factors highlighted by study participants as challenges encumbering the implementation of the law in Kaduna State include:

- ❑ Slow uptake of the law characterized by prosecutors not applying the law to reported GBV cases. VAWG cases are reported but not charged using the VAPP Law as other laws – Penal Code and the Administration of Criminal Justice Law take precedence over the VAPP due to stiffer penalties in those laws than the VAPP.
- ❑ Inadequate funding for implementation.
- ❑ Undue pressure on survivors and/or families to accept out of court settlements by community.
- ❑ Poor awareness amongst citizens and service providers.
- ❑ Delays in prosecuting cases by the Police and the courts was also cited as a barrier to access to justice by survivors and victims of VAWG.



Violence against women (VAW) is defined as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life”

03. UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE VAPP ACT DOMESTICATION PROCESS BY THE STATE.

The Kaduna State government inaugurated a VAPPL Steering Committee tasked with the implementation of the Law, as well as the Kaduna State Justice for Children Coordination Committee which is working towards the establishment of Family Courts. In the last quarter of 2021.

To address some of the challenges to effective implementation the challenges of low level of awareness of the Kaduna State VAPPL and the difficulty of victims to seek legal redress identified during the national research, the following strategies have been adopted by state and non-state actors in the state:

1. Capacity building for different categories of stakeholders by CSOs, such as the academic community, the Kaduna State Police Command, particularly the officers who manage the gender and family unit to equip them with the provisions and implementation of the Kaduna State Violence Against Person Prohibition Law (2018). The goal was to enhance their awareness of and improve their capacity as prosecutors to understand and use the VAPPL as an enabling law to charge people who perpetrate acts of violence against women and girls in any part of the state, whether in the private or public sphere.
2. Sensitisation and advocacy:
According to the Honourable commissioner, Hajiya Hafsat Baba, the State has prioritised the protection of women, children, women, the elderly, and the youth, and ensure that nobody is violated under any guise. To achieve that goal, it is critical that the people are aware of the laws available, the services provided as well as the processes involved in accessing those services whenever needed¹. To this end, the

1 News Agency Of Nigeria <https://gazettengr.com/kaduna-govt-seeks-stakeholders-support-to-curb-gender-based-violence/> Accessed on December 4, 2021

state government embarked on intensive mobilisation and sensitization drive to create awareness about the the VAPPL of Kaduna State to address the challenge of poor awareness of the VAPPL. The Ministry of Human Services and Social Development (MHSSD) has organized various activities to mobilise support for the campaign against GBV as well as the implementation of the VAPPL and other relevant laws and policies. These are:

- ❑ The VAPPL implementation team has held consultative meetings with opinion leaders; cultural leaders - traditional rulers and religious leaders of both the Islamic and Christian faiths; Wife of the Governor; Chairperson of the House Committee on Human Services and Social Development, Hon. Comfort Amwe; FIDA President, Zainab Atoba, management of SARCs in the state; and CSOs who are working to end violence against women and girls in the state, such as Aid Foundation (explainer video on VAPPL), Women's Right Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA), Gender Awareness Trust; LEADS-Africa, and the Africa Media Development Foundation (AMDF), among others.
- ❑ The supervising ministry organized a high-level meeting with the wives of the twenty-three (23) local government council chairmen as well as the Women Development Officers from the councils and other relevant stakeholders to sensitise them to the VAPPL and its Implementation Strategy.

The HADIS Foundation with support from the Ford Foundation has also rolled out sensitization activities towards Popularizing the VAPPL including translation and production of abridged versions of the VAPPL in English and Hausa

3. The UNFPA supported the establishment of a mini SARC at Rigasa Kaduna, due to the high incidences of rape cases within the community.
4. Documentation
 - ❑ Development and distribution of the VAPPL Implementation Strategy
 - ❑ Simplification and translation of the Kaduna State VAPPL: To ensure wider coverage and comprehension, the law has been simplified and translated into Hausa. Both versions have been circulated widely.

04. RECOMMENDATIONS

To address the challenges identified during the national research and in the course of the follow-up assessment, the following recommendations are proposed to ensure effective implementation of the Kaduna State VAPPL:

SHORT-TERM

House of Assembly

- ❑ Constitute a panel/committee to review the effectiveness of the VAPPL in 2023
- ❑ The House Committee on Women Affairs should prioritise the success of the VAPPL in its oversight functions
- ❑ Members of Appropriation sub-committee should demand adequate budgetary provisions for effective implementation of the Law.

Kaduna State Government

- ❑ Activate the Forensic Lab to make it operational and serve the purpose for which it was created.
- ❑ Develop protocols and guidelines for GBV management and reporting.
- ❑ Develop the register of service providers and share with relevant implementing partners and the public. The MHSSD should refine and recirculate the mapping tool for identifying service providers. This would give the implementing agency the grounds to demand for data from the recognized service providers which will form part of the Annual Report to be produced and submitted to the Office of the Governor and the Bureau of Statistics. Knowing who the service providers are would help the MHSSD coordinate how services are provided. This would also improve coordination among the MHSSD, MoJ, Law enforcement agencies and CSOs/NGOs.
- ❑ Coordinate prevention and response actions by various stakeholders across the state.
- ❑ Create and strengthen coordinated GBV response structures at the local government and community levels.
- ❑ Continuous and intensive massive awareness raising by government and the civil society needs to be conducted targeting different stakeholders and the public especially to rural areas. This is necessary for understanding of the law especially

by the community to enable proper support for victims/survivors. This education drive should also take into consideration training and re-training for law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, and judges to familiarize themselves with the law.

- ❑ Provide capacity building opportunities by way of training and retraining to equip agencies and ministries tasked with the duty of implementing these laws, prosecutors, and the members of the judiciary with necessary tools.
- ❑ Proper funding is needed as part of the requirements for facilitating effective implementation. The budget system of the states needs to show more gender-equitable distribution of resources and creating equal opportunities for all. The government needs to match political will with political action by making budgetary provisions for the implementation of the VAPPL and other anti -VAWG laws. Adequate funding should be made available to the relevant agencies - Ministry of Human Services and Social Development (MHSSD, Ministry of Justice, Judiciary, law enforcement agencies, and the four (4) Sexual Assault Referral Centres in the state.
- ❑ Set up a response/implementation mechanism that would also be responsible for reporting, monitoring, evaluation, and learning.
- ❑ Provide hotlines for ease of reporting of cases of violence against women and girls.
- ❑ Make the simplified and translated versions of the Kaduna State VAPPL available to as many residents as possible.
- ❑ The Steering Committee should be more visible and work toward the successful implementation of the VAPPL.

Civil Society Organisations

- ❑ Follow-up with the judiciary and Justice for Children Coordinating Committee to hasten the take-off of the Family Courts
- ❑ Embark on full-throttle sensitization and awareness creation on the VAPPL to advocate for its full implementation. The advocacy drive should also focus on adequate funding for implementation of the law. Sustain the aggressive and regular state-wide awareness creation, using traditional and cultural medium where necessary. Advocacy campaigns should be designed targeted at the government through the Ministry of Justice to expedite establishment of family courts especially to handle cases involving minors and to take cases off High Courts which are already overburdened.
- ❑ Simplify, translate, and popularize the VAPPL. Make copies available across the state.
- ❑ Partner with the media in holding the various government agencies accountable for the implementation of the VAPPL.
- ❑ Monitor the implementation of the VAPPL and track release of funds to ensure judicious use for the intended purposes.

Development Partners

- ❑ Provide strategic support to state and non-state actors working on different aspects of the implementation of the VAPPL.
- ❑ Engage with CSOs actively working to provide support legal, psychosocial, and medical as well as shelter to abused women.

MEDIUM-TERM

House of Assembly

- ❑ The House Committee on Women Affairs should prioritise the success of the VAPPL in its oversight functions
- ❑ Members of Appropriation sub-committee should demand adequate budgetary provisions for effective implementation of the Law.

Kaduna State Government

- ❑ The MHSSD should collaborate with the MoJ and law enforcement agencies to encourage prosecutors and counsels to apply the VAPPL in charging VAWG cases and showcase a harvest of VAWG cases who receive justice as a result of the application of the VAPPL.
- ❑ Design a deliberate strategy on how to capture data of cases charged with the Law and those successful in obtaining justice for the victims/survivors.
- ❑ Make the simplified and translated versions of the Kaduna State VAPPL available to as many residents as possible.
- ❑ Establishment of Specialised Courts and Practice Direction to guide the implementation of the VAPPL and related laws.
- ❑ Establish a Survivors' Support Fund without further delay and provide clear management structure.
- ❑ MHSSD, CSOs and other stakeholders should engage political parties, INEC and KADSIECOM to advocate for zero-tolerance for GBV in politics
- ❑ Government through the MHSSD should engage with CSOs to encourage their provision of supporting services

Civil Society Organisations

- ❑ Enlist the support of state and national assembly legislators, top government officials, and social media influencers in the campaign against violence against women and girls in the state.
- ❑ Sensitise and collaborate with local level administration – traditional rulers and

local government council leaders advocate the implementation of the VAPPL to eliminate VAWG in rural communities.

Development Partners

- ❑ Enhance the capacity of partners to collect and interpret data reflecting diversity and inclusion.
- ❑ Undertake research on good practices in GBV response at national and sub-national levels and produce factsheets.

LONG-TERM

House of Assembly

- ❑ The House Committee on Women Affairs should prioritise the success of the VAPPL in its oversight functions
- ❑ Members of Appropriation sub-committee should demand adequate budgetary provisions for effective implementation of the Law.

Kaduna State Government

- ❑ The MHHSD should partner with the Ministry of Education to integrate the provisions of the VAPPL into the school curriculum to raise a new generation of anti-VAWG adults.
- ❑ Identify and establish partnerships with more international development agencies and national CSOs.

Civil Society Organisations

- ❑ Continuous sensitization of the general populace on the VAPPL and other anti-VAWG laws in the state.

Development Partners

- ❑ Enhance the capacity of lawmakers to periodically assess the effectiveness of the law and review as appropriate.

