LAGOS STATE DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGENCY

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 2024



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ACRONYMS

CDA: Community Development Association
CDC: Community Development Council
CEHWIN: Centre for Women's Health and Information
DPP: Directorate of Public Prosecutions
DSVA: Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency
FSU-Family Support Unit
KC-Kings Club
LASU- Lagos State University
LCDA- Local Council Development Area
LGA- Local Government Area
MYSD- Ministry of Youth and Social Development
NGO- Non-Governmental Organisations
OPD- Office of the Public Defender
PHC- Primary Health Care Centre
QC- Queens Club
ROLAC-Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Programme
STRAC- Safeguarding the Rights of a Child
SGBV- Sexual and Gender Based Violence
VRRS- Virtual Referral and Response Service
WRAPH- Women's Rights and Health Project

Executive Summary

The Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) remains steadfast in its mission to prevent and respond to all forms of domestic and sexual violence while fostering a safer and more inclusive society. The year 2024 marked another chapter of relentless commitment, strategic innovation, and impactful partnerships as we scaled new heights in addressing these societal challenges.



Key Achievements in 2024

Enhanced Service Delivery In 2024, the DSVA attended to over **7,500 survivors**, representing a **20%** increase compared to 2023. This growth highlights the growing public trust in our services and the effectiveness of our outreach programs. Survivors were provided holistic support, including legal aid, psychosocial counseling, temporary shelter, and economic empowerment.

Increased Convictions and Justice: Delivery With strengthened collaboration between the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, and our legal team, the State secured **85 convictions** for domestic and sexual violence offenders. This milestone reflects our commitment to ensuring justice for survivors and deterring future violations.

Expanded Awareness and Advocacy Campaigns Through strategic partnerships and multi-stakeholder engagement, DSVA launched impactful campaigns, including **"Red Flags Friday"** , **"Not in My Lagos," "Not on My Watch"** reaching over **2 million** residents. These initiatives leveraged traditional media, digital platforms, and grassroots mobilization to challenge harmful societal norms and promote **zero tolerance for gender-based violence.**

Capacity Building and Stakeholder Collaboration: DSVA provided specialized training for over **500** frontline responders, including law enforcement officers, healthcare providers, and community leaders, to enhance their capacity to handle cases of domestic and sexual violence with sensitivity and professionalism.

Policy and Legislative Advancements: The agency actively supported the Lagos State Government in reviewing and strengthening policies to ensure comprehensive protection for survivors. This includes amendments to existing legislation and the introduction of frameworks to better coordinate multi-agency responses.

Data-Driven Interventions For the first time, DSVA integrated advanced data analytics to track trends, identify hotspots, and tailor interventions effectively. This approach resulted in targeted responses in underserved communities, ensuring no one is left behind.

Looking Ahead

As we reflect on the progress made in 2024, we remain grateful to **Governor Babajide Sanwo- Olu**, as well as His Excellency , **Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat** for their demonstration of political will and unwavering support in ensuring we achieve our statutory mandate.

The **DSVA** is committed to expanding its reach, deepening community engagement, and forging stronger partnerships to eliminate domestic and sexual violence from our society.

On behalf of the **Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency,** I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our partners, stakeholders, and the resilient survivors who inspire our mission daily. Together, we will continue to break the culture of silence, foster accountability, and build a safer Lagos for all.

Mrs. Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi

Executive Secretary
Lagos State Domestic and Sexual
Violence Agency



OVERVIEW

For years, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) has had a devastating impact on individuals and communities, often leaving victims feeling helpless while perpetrators go unpunished.

In response, the Lagos State Government established the Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team (DSVRT) in September 2014, which has since evolved into the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA).

The DSVA provides a comprehensive and holistic response to SGBV issues in Lagos State, offering a safe and confidential platform for survivors and mandated reporters to report incidents of domestic and sexual violence. Reported cases are promptly addressed through collaborative efforts involving government ministries, departments, and partner agencies, as well as GBV case managers, law enforcement, NGOs, psychologists, rescue teams, social welfare services, healthcare professionals, and the judiciary

OUR MANDATE

We advocate and share innovative solutions that would enhance holistic support to survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence.

We work with Government agencies, private sector and civil society organizations for enhanced reporting and a joint effort in ending SGBV in Lagos State and Nigeria as a whole.

OUR VISION

A just society devoid of all forms of Sexual and Gender Based Violence.

MISSION STATEMENT

Provide sensitive and coordinated services for survivors and commit to eliminating Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Lagos State.

OUR CORE VALUES

- **Empathy**
- **Excellence**
- **Integrity**
- **Innovation**
- **Justice**

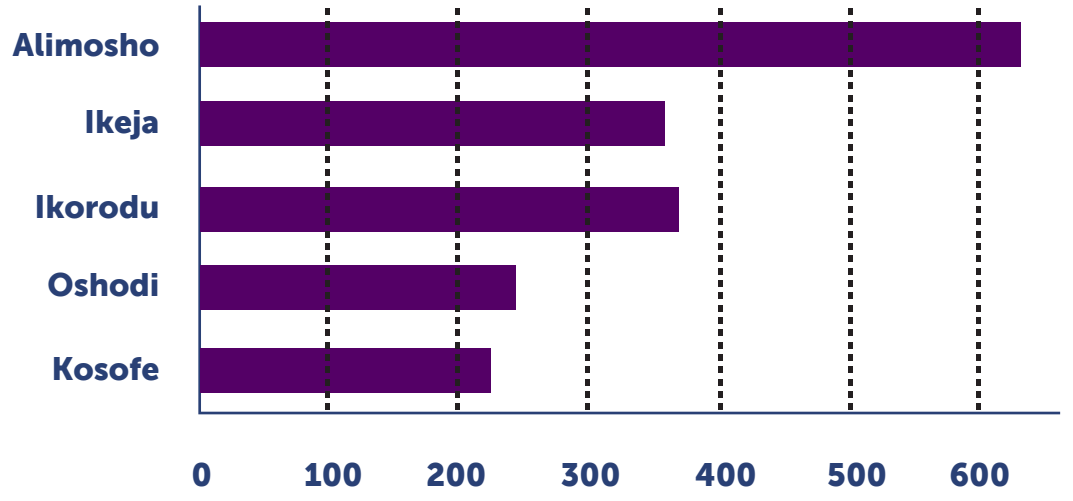
MEASURING IMPACT

Between January and December 2024, the Agency recorded **5268 cases** via the Virtual Referral and Response Service (VRRS) and Physical report, which includes Domestic Violence, Rape, Lack of Parental Care, threat to life, sexual assaults by penetration, Emotional Abuse, Child Neglect/abandonment, child labour, sexual molestation and Non-GBV cases perpetrated against Adults and Children.

DATA FOR 2024

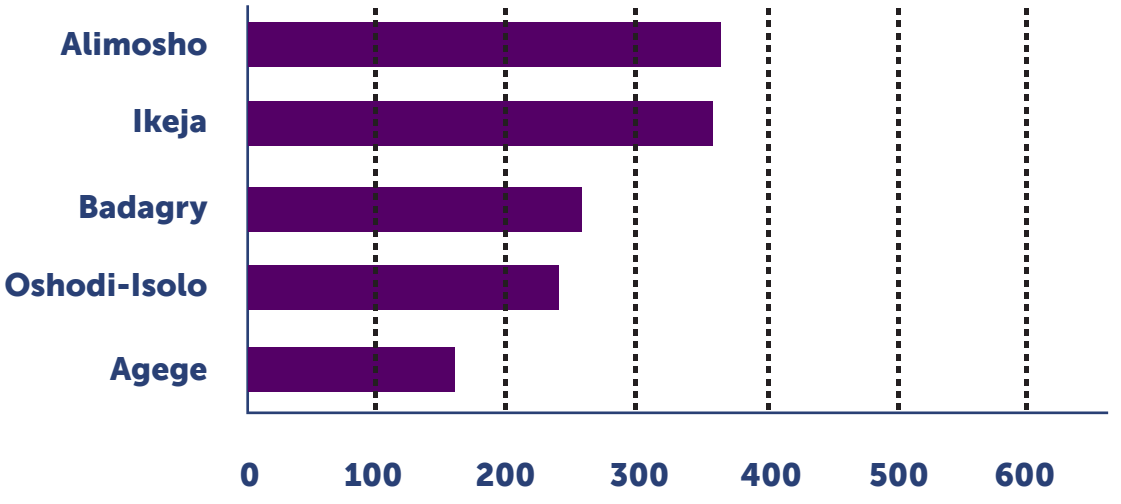
Total number of cases reported for adults and children- **7882**
Total number of cases reported for adults- **4667**
Total number of cases reported for children- **3215**

Top five Local Governments



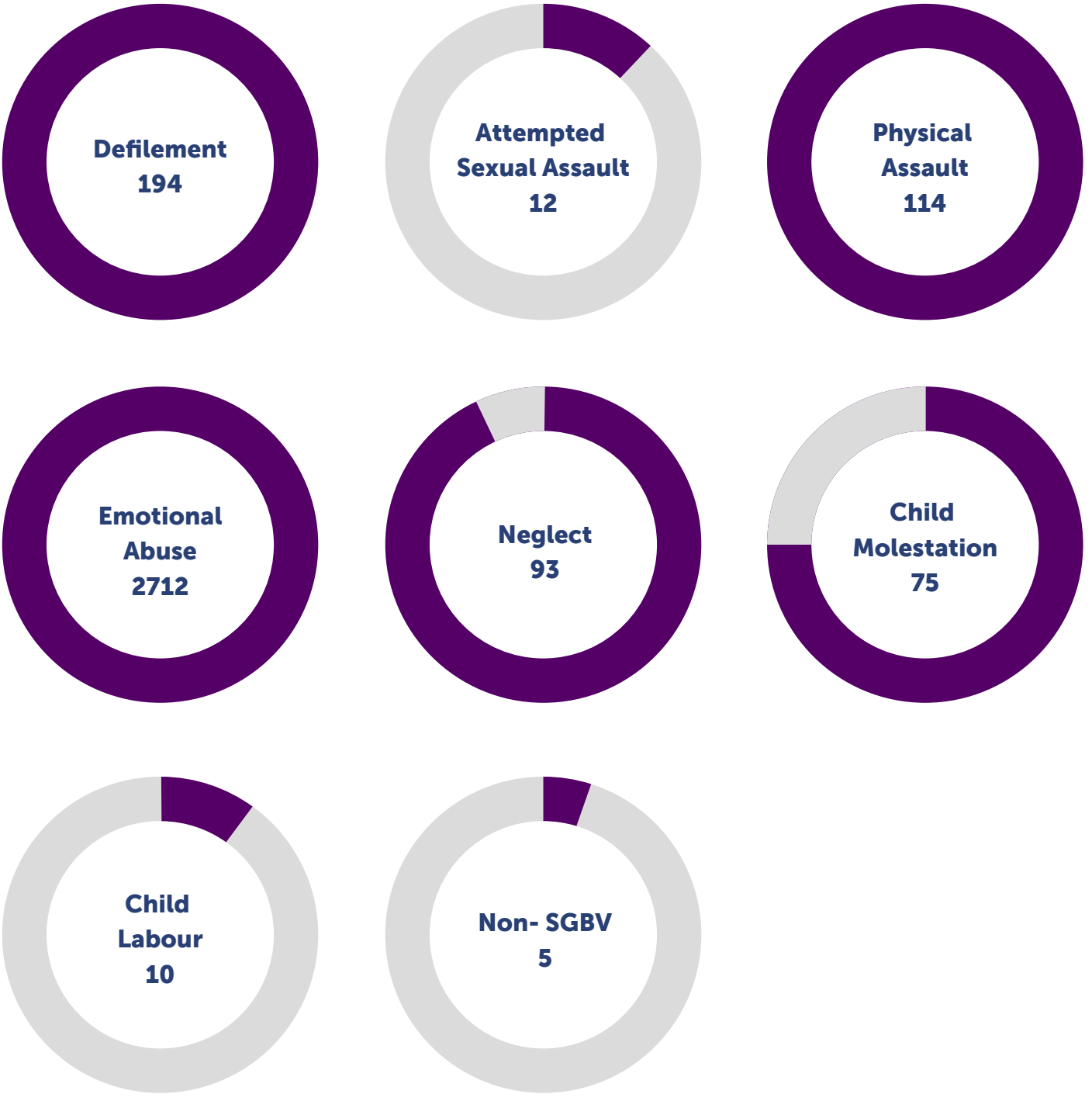
Alimosho-**632**
Ikeja- **359**
Ikorodu- **371**
Oshodi- **245**
Kosofe- **225**

Top five Local Governments for Children



Ikorodu- **479**
Alimosho- **379**
Badagry - **277**
Oshodi-Isolo- **224**
Agege-**188**

Assault Reported for Children



TOTAL 3,215

Assault reported for Adults



TOTAL 4,667

SECTION 2

Between January and December 2024, the Agency recorded **5268 cases** via the Virtual Referral and Response Service (VRRS) and Physical report, which includes Domestic Violence, Rape, Lack of Parental Care, threat to life, sexual assaults by penetration, Emotional Abuse, Child Neglect/abandonment, child labour, sexual molestation and Non-GBV cases perpetrated against Adults and Children.

Strategies and Methodologies

Work Plan Development:
This approach was deployed by the agency in creating a detailed, structured plan for achieving its goals and objectives for the year.

Strategic Planning Meetings (SPMs):
DSVA leveraged on her weekly planning meetings during which effective approaches of implementing programme objectives were discussed. This forum allowed for strategic approach to achieving projects deliverables.

Review Meetings (RM):
enabled the Agency's technical team to track activities in the community, facility and other areas where the Agency is implementing its project.

Collaboration with relevant Ministries Departments and Agencies including; Ministry of Youth and Social Development, Ministry of Homes Affairs,), Ministry of Local Government, Community and Chieftaincy Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Office of Education Quality Assurance, State Universal Basic Education Board, Lagos State Office of Disability Affairs (LASODA), Ministry of Justice,

Collaboration with relevant stakeholders; The Nigerian Police, family Social Services, Juvenile Welfare Centres, Health Care Centres across the state, Education Districts, Sexual Assault & Referral Centres (SARC), NGO's etc.

Collaboration with the Lagos State Judiciary and the Lagos State Police Command in order to ensure access to justice becomes a reality for survivors.

SECTION 3

SERVICE PROVISON

ADVOCACY

One of the mandates of the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency is to embark of Advocacy programs geared at raising awareness which is believe is critical in ensuring prevention and also building capacity of responder agencies to appropriately respond to cases.

ONE-DAY ENGAGEMENT OF ARTISANS/CDC & CDA MEMBERS ON SGBV

In the year 2024, the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency continued its Community advocacy as it engaged over 150 artisans and CDC/CDA members. The program was organized in partnership with the Lagos State Ministry of Wealth Creation as well as the Chairmen of all the Local Governments to enlighten the participants on the role they play in preventing and responding to incidents of sexual and gender based violence in the State.



DOOR- TO- DOOR ENGAGEMENT

The Agency visited 17 Local Government Areas (LGA) and Local Council Development Areas (LCDA); (LGA)/Local Council Development Areas (LCDA) namely; Kosofe LGA, Agboyi-Ketu LCDA, Badagry LGA, Ajeromi-Ifelodun LGA, Ifako-Ijaiye LGA, Ijaiye-Ojokoro LCDA, Alimosho LGA, Ikorodu LGA, Oshodi-Isolo LGA, Eti-Osa LGA, Apapa LGA, Epe LGA, Apapa-Iganmu LCDA, Lagos Mainland LGA, Somolu LGA And Ibeju-Lekki LGA, to raise awareness about raise awareness about Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and emphasize the importance of timely reporting of incidents.

The 6-months door-to-door engagement targeted homes, schools, mosques, churches, markets, and motor parks. During these engagements, the 1,675,000 residents reached across the State received souvenirs and educational materials.


SGBV
Child Abuse
is real
BE WATCHFUL


Assembly Point
LET US
END
DOMESTIC &
SEXUAL VIOLENCE
RAPE IS A CRIME
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE is a Crime
Don't Suffer in Silence, you are not to blame
Report it
08008 333 333





Engagement of CDC and CDA members

The Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) actively collaborates with members of the Community Development Council (CDC) and Community Development Associations (CDA) to tackle (SGBV) at the grassroots level. These engagements aim to empower community members with the knowledge and tools to prevent, identify, and address cases of SGBV within their localities.

Through sensitization workshops and interactive sessions, in the year 2024, **336,000** CDC and CDA members were educated on the roles they play in reporting cases, supporting survivors, and promoting awareness about the consequences of SGBV. They were also introduced to existing laws and resources available through the DSVA, ensuring they can connect affected individuals to the appropriate services

.By building capacity among community leaders, the agency fosters a network of advocates who champion zero tolerance for abuse, ensuring that grassroots communities are informed and actively involved in addressing and preventing SGBV.

One-day Engagement with Paramilitary Officers

DSVA engaged over 100 officers from the Lagos Neighbourhood and Safety Corps (LNSC), Kick Against Indiscipline (KAI), Peace Corps and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Existing State Laws and Policies and Exploring Existing State Structures.


WHO IS WATCHING OVER YOUR CHILD?
Child Abuse is real
It can happen anywhere and at anytime....
LAGOS STATE DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGENCY
LAGOS DSVA ENGAGES PARAMILITARY OFFICERS ON SGBV

SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHTS OF A CHILD WORKSHOP

The Agency through the Safeguarding the Rights of a Child Workshop engaged 2,660 primary and secondary school students on their rights and responsibilities. The students were drawn from Ikorodu, Kosofe, Yaba, Apapa, Surulere, Lagos Island, Epe, Ajegunle, Amuwo-Odofin, Ojo and Badagry areas of the State.





Engagement with traditional rulers and sensitization of communities

The Agency actively engaged over 50 traditional rulers on how to address SGBV within their communities. The traditional rulers were sensitized on the importance of rejecting harmful practices and promoting gender equality. Community sensitizations were further organized in these communities to raise awareness and the need for collective action against abuse in the State




Child Abuse
is real

Engagements in churches and mosques

The agency prioritizes sensitization programmes in religious institutions, recognizing their influence in shaping societal values. Through engagements in churches and mosques, the agency raises awareness about Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), emphasizing the moral and legal obligations to protect survivors and hold perpetrators accountable.

During the year, over 16,840 people were engaged at the visited religious institutions.





MEN WEY SABI: Market Fiesta in major markets across Lagos State.

The Agency organized the Men Wey Sabi: Market Fiesta initiative in partnership with Power Oil Nigeria Limited across major markets, including Boundary, Ikola, Amikanle, Orisumbare, Jakande, Abesan Estate, Iyana-Ipaja and Ketu. The market fiestas are aimed at raising awareness on SGBV among traders in market places particularly men, encouraging them to take an active role in preventing abuse and promoting violence free homes.



Engagement with Out-of-School Children

In the year 2024, the Agency launched a sensitization programme for out- of- schoolchildren in Lagos State. Since its launch, over 1,198 out-of-school children in Gbagada, Mushin, Araromi and Ajeromi-Ifelodun have been engaged on their rights and responsibilities.



Engagement of Omo-Onile within Lagos State.

The Agency launched an engagement with Omo-Onile's (landowners) across four communities: Ikorodu North, Mushin, Apapa Iganmu, and Yaba. During these sessions, 390 landowners were educated on their critical role in combating SGBV and the importance of their collaboration in this critical fight.



Engagement of Religious Leaders

The Agency engaged over 200 Religious Leaders, on SGBV as well as the role of religious clerics in preventing and responding to the vicious menace.



Engagement of Critical Stakeholders

To enhance access to legal justice for survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence, the Agency organized to a one-day engagement with critical stakeholders. The stakeholders present include the Nigerian Police, Judges and Magistrates, health care providers, Sexual Assault Referral Centres and Civil Society Organisations.

The key takeaways from the meeting include enhancing collaborative efforts among stakeholders, prioritizing a survivor-centred approach to justice, addressing systemic barriers and challenges that hinder the effective adjudication of SGBV cases, and strengthening laws and policies to effectively combat SGBV.



Engagement of Court Registrars

The one-day engagement with 100 Court Registrars of the Lagos State Judiciary was organized to enhance their knowledge and understanding of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) laws, policies, and procedures, improve their skills in handling SGBV cases sensitively and effectively and strengthen their capacity to provide support and protection to SGBV survivors.



One-day Sensitization with Persons with Disabilities

DSVA in collaboration with the Lagos State Office for Disabilities Affairs (LASODA) and the Centre for Women's Health and Information (CEWHIN) organized a sensitization programme on SGBV for persons with disabilities. Over 100 participants from five disability clusters: hearing impairment, visual impairment, physical disabilities, albinism and dwarfism were sensitized and empowered on how to recognize, prevent and report SGBV cases.



GENDER BASED VIOLENCE CASE CONFERENCING

The GBV Case Conferencing aims to foster effective communication and collaboration among key stakeholders in GBV response, to share best practices and innovative solutions, and to identify gaps and challenges in service delivery. Discussions of selected cases revealed challenges such as inadequate police resources, evidence loss, and insufficient follow-ups.

To address these challenges, recommendations proffered include improved police funding, witness protection, and higher-level advocacy for policy reforms. Survivors also shared their stories, emphasizing the need for sustained efforts to combat GBV. The meeting reaffirmed the commitment to justice and holistic support for survivors.



Kings Club

The Kings Club initiative is designed to challenge and dismantle harmful stereotypes that perpetuate patriarchy and promote positive masculinity. The initiative aims to equip young boys with the knowledge and skills to challenge societal norms that encourage gender inequality and abusive behaviours.

In 2024, the initiative successfully trained and inducted 390 boys from schools in education districts 2, 3 and 6 into the Club. These young boys were empowered to embrace values such as respect, empathy, equality, and accountability. Through interactive six weeks training and mentorship programs, the boys were encouraged to become advocates for change in their schools, homes, and communities.
Through mentorship sessions, the Kings were able to gain invaluable insights from prominent members of the society such as:

-Jonny Baxter- Deputy British High Commissioner to Nigeria
-Mr. Ifiok Esang- Business Analyst and Scrum Master at Chevron
-Mr Olutunji Oluwole- Founder/CEO VerifyMe Nigeria
- Dr. Chinoso Egemba- medical doctor and social media personality



During the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence campaign, 50 boys were also inducted into the club at the residence of the British Deputy Commissioner, Jonny Baxter.

Queens Club

The Queens Club initiative is aimed at empowering young girls with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to challenge gender stereotypes and embrace leadership roles. The initiative enables the girls to stand against societal norms that perpetuate gender inequality and harmful practices.

Over 390 girls from education districts 2, 3 and 6 were inducted into the club. The mentorship period of the initiative also provided the opportunity for the queens to gain new knowledge under the tutelage of:

-Dr. Iyadunni Gbadebo- Director of Sales and Marketing, Eko Hotel and Suites
-Mrs. Uzoamaka Amalu- Founder, Project LEAD
-Her Royal Majesty, Chief Mrs. Rebecca Oloko, the Olori of Iwaya
-Mrs. Kehinde Ruth Onasoga- Founder and Principal Consultant, Pandora Agency Limited
-Cassandra Uzo Ogbugh- Reckitt Benckiser Nigeria Limited Elevated External Comms & Partnerships Lead, SSA for Reckitt, Sub Saharan.
-Mrs. Bunmi Oloruntegbe- Senior Partner Bittachon Advisory Services and Chief State Counsel with Lagos State Government




5TH MARCH , 2024
LAGOS STATE DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGENCY
INDUCTION CEREMONY FOR
KINGS AND QUEENS CLUB MEMBERS

International Women's Day Celebration

In commemoration of the International Women's Day, the Agency organized a Market fiesta for over 160 Market women at the Oshodi-Isolo market. The campaign theme 'Inspire Inclusion' emphasized the need to break down cultural biases, discrimination, and stereotypes that women face. The event featured discussions on SGBV, the services provided by the agency for survivors, and encouraged women to speak up against SGBV, assuring them of confidentiality.



The Agency with support from the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Programme furthermore organized an International Women's Day Symposium for survivors aimed at promoting inclusion and challenging stereotypes, ultimately creating environments where women are valued and respected.

The symposium featured three panel sessions, focusing on stigmatization, its effects on survivors and society, the importance of education, employment opportunities and mentorship in promoting inclusivity. There was an interactive workshop on confidence and self-esteem. Facilitators encouraged participants to reflect on their self-worth and empowered them to take control of their lives.

The symposium featured three panel sessions that addressed key topics: the impact of stigmatization on survivors and society, the role of education, employment opportunities, and mentorship in promoting inclusivity. Additionally, an interactive workshop on confidence and self-esteem was conducted, where facilitators guided participants to reflect on their self-worth and empowered them to take charge of their lives

Throughout the symposium, speakers and panelists stressed the need for collective action to break down barriers and promote gender equality.

Children's Day Celebration

The staff of DSVA joined in the Annual Children's Day Celebration Parade and Rally at the Police College Ground, Ikeja with school students and the Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Dr. Kadiri Obafemi Hamzat.



International Day of the Girl Child

In celebration of the International Day of Girl Child, the Queens Club members of St. Joseph Junior and Senior Secondary School paid a visit to their mentor, Mrs. Adebisi Adelabu, the General Manager of the Lagos State Parking Authority.



TRAININGS

A key component of DSVA's statutory mandate as enshrined in the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency Law is to build capacity of all relevant responder agencies, ensuring all service providers are well equipped to respond to issues of sexual and gender-based violence.

The year 2024, commenced with the in-house training of staff to enhance their capacity, expertise, and ensure effective service delivery in handling Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) cases.

TRAINING OF MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS

DSVA organized a two-day training for Medical Social Workers to enhance their capacity on best practices for reporting, enhancing psychosocial support, and integration of SGBV responses into the Health facilities in the State.



Training of Guidance Counsellors

To ensure the capacity building of all relevant stakeholders in the fight against SGBV, the agency trained 105 school counsellors on safeguarding and child protection



Training of Police Officers

The agency trained newly deployed Family Support Unit and Gender Desk Officers on best practices for investigating sexual and gender based violence cases



KNOWLEDEGE SHARING

Lagos State House of Assembly Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights, Public Petitions and LASIEC visit to Lagos DSVA

The Lagos State House of Assembly Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights, Public Petitions and Lasiec as part of its oversight functions payed a working visit to the Agency to familiarize members of the Committee with the activities, aim, challenges of the Office and to also promote the existing cordial relationship between the Committee and the Agency



Study Visit of delegates from the Federal Capital Territory Women Affairs Secretariat and the Abia State Ministry of Women Affairs

Delegates from the Federal Capital Territory Women Affairs Secretariat and the Abia State Ministry of Women Affairs visited the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency for a study visit. The aim was to learn from the DSVA's experiences and approaches to addressing domestic and sexual violence. The delegates were taken on a tour of the agency and engaged with various departments and units. They also received presentations from the Heads of Departments, which provided insight into the agency's functions and services.

The Abia State Commissioner for Women Affairs, Mrs. Ngozi Blessing Felix, praised the DSVA as the best in the country and expressed her team's readiness to learn and deliver on their mandate.



BORNO STATE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE VISIT DSVA

The Agency welcomed a delegation from the Borno State Ministry of Justice ably led by the Hon. Attorney General; Mrs. Hauwa Abubakar on a courtesy visit.

The visit provided an opportunity for cross-state collaboration, where DSVA highlighted its initiatives, strategies, and achievements in addressing domestic and sexual violence.

The visit also facilitated
knowledge-sharing and discussions on best practices for combating gender-based violence, with both parties reaffirming their commitment to fostering safer and more inclusive communities across Nigeria.



REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WORLD BANK VISIT DSVA

The representatives of the World Bank during a courtesy visit, commended the Agency for providing comprehensive and free support services to survivors of SGBV in Lagos State. The visiting officers Lolita Laperie Forget and Alena Sakhonchik expressed their appreciation to the Executive Secretary and her team for sharing valuable information, which will contribute to the annual report of the Subnational Pilot Study on Women, Business, and the Law





COURTESY VISIT FROM THE CANADIAN FUND FOR LOCAL INITIATIVES

DSVA hosted representatives from the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives on a courtesy visit. Mathilde Ouellet, Second Secretary of the High Commission of Canada to Nigeria (Political), and Oluwademilade Kosemani, Senior Public Affairs Officer, represented the Canadian delegation. The meeting focused on exploring potential collaborations to combat sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and empower women to speak out against the menace.



DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH, SEPTEMBER 2024

The theme of the year 2024 activities was "SGBV??? Not On My Watch!!!". This is based on the compelling need to ensure that Lagosians realize that ending the menace of SGBV is indeed a collective effort, which requires collective action from all relevant stakeholders.
During the month, the agency embarked on the following activities:

- **Media Parley**
- **Turn Alausa Purple**
- **Advocacy walk**
- **Eko Men Walk Against SGBV**
- **Symposium**
- **Safeguarding and Child Protection week**
- **Symposium: Our Stories to tell**
- **Market Fiesta: Men Wey Sabi**
- **Campus Activations**
- **Governor's Awards and Commendation Night**

Turn Alausa Purple

DSVA in partnership with the Lagos State Office of the Head of Service organized the annual Turn Alausa Purple campaign which featured the distribution of purple ribbons and flyers. The team engaged the public servants at the Secretariat, Old Secretariat and the Lagos State House of Assembly spreading the campaign's message.



Advocacy walk

The agency held an impactful advocacy walk against Sexual and Gender Based Violence from Ile-Zik to Ipodo Market, Ikeja. The participants at the walk which included SGBV advocates and volunteers, engaged directly with motorists, traders, and pedestrians, spreading the zero tolerance message of zero tolerance in the state with placards, banners, fliers and flags.



Eko Men Walk Against SGBV

DSVA in partnership with the Lagos State Health Scheme took the advocacy message to Ajeromi Ifelodun LCDA raising awareness during a walk in the neighbourhood and market.



Safeguarding and Child Protection week

The Child Safeguarding Day was commemorated to inform and educate schoolchildren on their rights and responsibilities in a bid to keep them abreast of preventive tools against all forms of abuse against children.

The Child Protection week themed 'I Say No to Child Abuse' covered multiple locations including schools in Education Districts II,IV, VI, the Ijora-Badia Slum, Christ Apostolic Church Marina and Ansaru-deen Alakaro Mosque, educating students on child rights, abuse prevention, and safeguarding measures. During the week long of activities, the agency emphasized a zero-tolerance policy for all forms of abuse while providing educational resources like My Passport of Rights and the Safeguarding the Rights of a Child booklet.

The Safeguarding and Child Protection week was highly impactful with over 1800 students and over 300 adults actively engaging discussions and activities centred on child protection.

- **Symposium: Are we doing enough? A consideration of Lagos State Response to Sexual and Gender Based Violence in the last decade**

To commemorate a decade of the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency's dedicated efforts in addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence , the Agency, in collaboration with the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Programme, funded by the European Union and implemented by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, organized a symposium. The symposium, which brought together 250 SGBV Stakeholders, aimed to assess the effectiveness of the State Government's initiatives over the past ten years in combating SGBV and strengthening response mechanisms.
Professor Ayodele Atsenuwa, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Lagos, during her keynote speech commended the agency for successfully evolving to fulfil its mandate to safeguard and protect women and children from abuse.

The symposium included a panel discussion moderated by Mrs. Bose Ironsi, where experts explored strategies to eliminate abuse and domestic violence in Lagos State. The panel comprised esteemed individuals, including:

- Mrs. Adenike Oluwafemi: Deputy Director, Directorate of Public Prosecution
- Dr. Richard Somiari: Center Director, Lagos State DNA & Forensic Centre
- Mrs. Itoro Eze-Anaba: Founder, Mirabel Centre
- Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal: General Manager, Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs
- CSP Oluwatoyin Adebola Kazeem: Officer in Charge, Gender Desk, Lagos State Police Command





Survivors Day: 'Our stories to tell'

With support from Wema Bank Plc, the agency organized a symposium for survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence tagged 'Our stories to tell'. The symposium, which had 100 women in attendance, provided the survivors a safe space to openly share their stories, find solace in community and access expert guidance to help them overcome obstacles and thrive on their journey towards healing and recovery.

The conversations at the symposium were guided by expert speakers, which include:

-Ms. Ifedayo Agoro- CEO of Dang Lifestyle
-Mrs. Ifedayo Durosinmi Etti- Founder of Herconomy
-Mrs. Bose Ironsi- Executive Director of WRAPH
-Mr. Adetunji Adeoye- Managing Partner, Fixit Law Firm
-Dr. Tolulope Oko-Igaire- Executive Director of ICN
-Dr. Olive Oluwagbemileke, Head of Psychology Department, DSVA
-Ms. Omotunde Adebowale- CEO, Lolo1 Africa
-Mrs Abiola Oluwaseun- SARA, Wema Bank Plc



Men Wey Sabi; Market Fiesta

DSVA in partnership with Power Oil Nigeria Limited organized the 'Men Wey Sabi': Market Fiesta at Jakande, Market, breaking down expectations about gender roles and reaching out to over 2,500 people.



Campus Activation

The campus activation with the theme 'End Sexual and Gender Based Violence on Campus' was held at the Lagos State University (LASU). Over 200 students were sensitized on gender-based violence, how it adversely affects individuals and communities and the role individuals play in preventing sexual assault and domestic violence.



The Governor's Commendation and Awards Night

To wrap up the Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness Month, the agency held a Commendation night /Dinner, which was graced by distinguished guests to celebrate officers, institutions and individuals who have distinguished themselves in the fight against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.
In attendance were traditional rulers, Honourable Commissioners, Permanent Secretaries, the AIG Adegoke Fayoade, the Commissioner of Police, CP Ishola Olanrewaju Olawale, Heads of Agencies and captains of Industry.

Recipient of awards include:

- Best FSU - Igbogbo FSU
- Health Facility PHC- Ipaja PHC
- Health Facility General Hospital - Badagry
- NGO Service Provider- Gracie's Place
- NGO (Advocacy Awareness) Recognition - Centre for Women's Health Initiative
- Family Social Services - Alimosho
- Most Responsive Education District - District 2



The Domestic and Sexual Awareness Month was a resounding success, thanks to strategic partnerships and collaborations with various organizations. Notably, the agency secured sponsorships from esteemed partners, including:

-The Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Programme II (RoLAC)
Wema Bank Plc
Power Oil Nigeria
Coca-Cola Nigeria
Dang Lifestyle
Lagos State Health Scheme (LASHMA)
Office of the Lagos State Head of Service
Office of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
Education Districts II, IV, VI

These partnerships and collaborations played a pivotal role in funding the awareness month initiatives, ultimately contributing to its success.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE 2024

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence is a key international moment to call for an end to violence against women and girls (VAWG). The campaign ran from the 25th November (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women until 10th December 2024 (Human Rights Day)

To commemorate this year's 16 Days of Activism, the Agency embarked on community engagement with 16 Traditional Rulers in Lagos State, recognizing their critical role in shaping community norms and promoting social change. Engaging Traditional Rulers during the 16 Days of Activism was vital due to their influence and cultural relevance. As respected leaders, they can mobilize their subjects to support the SGBV cause, driving meaningful change in the various communities. The Traditional Rulers act as advocates for positive behavioural change within their communities, encourage their subjects to reject Sexual and Gender Based Violence and promote equality. The ultimate aim of the engagements was to empower community members and provide support services for SGBV survivors.

The Traditional Rulers and communities engaged during the 16 days of activism include:

LOCATION	NO OF WOMEN REACHED	NO OF MEN REACHED
Oniwaya of Iwaya	111	18
Oloto of Oto	120	13
Eweye of Isiu	88	32
Aguda Ogba	70	26
Alaye of Orisumbare	83	19
Elegbeda of Egbeda	81	16
Adeboruwa of Igbogbo	51	35
Oloworo of Oworo	152	50
Alakesan of Akesan	98	32
Oloja of Epe & Olu of Epe	113	95
Onilashe of Ilashe	98	53
Aholu of Dale Whedakoh	345	75
Egbin of Egbin Land	55	36
Elegushi of Ikate Land	138	67
	1,603	567
Total	2,170	




To Report Domestic
& Sexual Violence
16 DAYS


SGBV?
IT IS A CRIME!!
0-8000-333-333
SGBV?
O KAN EI
OKAN MII!!
SGBV?


16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM: TRADITIONAL RULERS STAND AGAINST GENDER- BASED VIOLENCE,
25th November - 10th December 2024


SGBV?
O KAN E!
OKAN MII!!
0-8000-333-333
SGBV?
0-8000-333-333


Funded by the European Union
Spotlight Initiative
16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE


16 DAYS OF

COLLABORATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Healthy Living Fitness Walk with Onigbongbo LCDA

The Onigbongbo LCDA in collaboration with DSVA organized a Healthy Living Fitness Walk to raise awareness about Domestic and Sexual Violence. The fitness walk provided an opportunity to educate the public on the importance of reporting SGBV cases, encourage them to break the culture of silence to ensure perpetrators are made to face the consequences of their actions and survivors get justice.



Youth Alive Foundation collaborates with DSVA to train 40 secondary school boys and girls

Youth Alive Foundation collaborated with DSVA to train 40 secondary school boys and girls from United Senior and Junior Schools and Ayangbunren Senior/Junior High Schools, Ikorodu, in Education District 2 as members of the Kings and Queens Club.



Sensitization of coaches and stakeholders of Lagos State Football Association on SGBV

The Lagos Football Association in collaboration with DSVA held a sensitization programme to educate coaches, sports men and women across the Local Governments on SGBV issues during its Annual General Assembly.



RESPONSE SERVICES

Counselling and psychosocial support

In the year 2024, one thousand, four hundred and fifty (1450) survivors attended counselling and psychosocial support sessions.

Special Healing and Therapy Session

The agency through its Psychology Department commenced the Support and Healing Group Program for children who have witnessed intimate partner violence in their homes. The Program is aimed at providing a safe, nurturing environment where children can explore their emotions, build resilience, and develop essential coping skills.

The Group sessions with over 50 children are held in a safe, confidential setting where children can express themselves freely without judgment, as it combines therapeutic activities, group discussions, and creative outlets to help children process their emotions and build confidence.

Ensuring Access to Justice

In the year 2024, 140 survivors were referred to the legal department. Through the Lagos Public Interest Partnership and other partner private law firms, 73 survivors were able to access free legal representation. 3 Protection Orders were issued by the court, 1 interim protection order, 10 cases are currently being prosecuted at the High court through request of the DPP's advice. 15 cases await legal advice requested for at the Magistrate Court.

Emergency Assistance

Through the Agency's toll-free line, DSVA provided crisis intervention services to survivors of SGBV during emergencies. This includes rescue operations through the Lagos State Rapid Response Squad (RRS), immediate medical health support, emergency shelter et cetera. With the effort of the RRS, sixteen (16) female survivors were rescued from life-threatening situations.

Empowerment

The Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency, through its trust fund empowered 45 Beneficiaries with business grants aimed at fostering self-reliance and sustainable economic growth. These grants enabled beneficiaries to launch and sustain small businesses, contributing to their long-term financial stability.

In addressing the immediate needs of displaced survivors, the Agency assisted 52 survivors in securing suitable accommodation. This effort provided to rebuild their lives and regain stability.
The funds provided support for school fees to four (4) Survivors. One survivor in critical need for safety and a fresh start was also assisted with the relocation expenses.



In collaboration with the **SME 100 AFRICA**, the Agency conducted training sessions to equip survivors with essential business skills and knowledge and were issued a certificate of participation. These programs empowered participants to manage business effectively and gain financial independence.


DSVA
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Social Welfare Services.

The Social Welfare Services Department of the Agency is saddled with the responsibility of providing social welfare intervention on Domestic & Sexual Violence cases resulting to Family Neglect, Maintenance Crises, and Custody & Access problem.

The statistical report for service delivery from month of January to December 2024 is presented below:

Month	Maintenance	Access & Custody	Neglect	Child Physical Abuse	Child Sexual Abuse	Emotional Abuse	TOTAL
January	18	8	7	5	4	-	42
February	16	9	NIL	12	5	-	42
March	20	12	NIL	9	6	-	47
April	16	2	NIL	14	4	-	36
May	33	6	NIL	10	5	-	54
June	17	9	NIL	17	7	-	50
July	29	3	NIL	18	7	1	58
August	15	11	NIL	18	8	-	52
September	34	11	3	9	2	-	59
October	36	5	NIL	9	9	-	59
November	18	18	NIL	12	3	-	51
December	15	6	2	5	2	-	30
TOTAL	**267**	**100**	**12**	**138**	**62**	**1**	**580**

A total of Five Hundred and Eight (580) cases were referred to the Social Welfare Department. Two hundred and sixty-seven (267) were Maintenance cases, One hundred (100) Access & Custody cases, Twelve (12) cases of Neglect and Two hundred and one (201) cases of Child Abuse (Physical, sexual and emotional abuse).

As part of the Social Welfare interventions, the following referrals were put in place for further intervention to available resources, through networking with other service providers;

Placement in shelter	**13**
Legal Intervention	**73**
Family support units	**48**
Psychosocial support	**38**
Social investigations	**42**

Child Safeguarding and Protection

The Unit collaborated with the Office of Education Quality Assurance and Ministry of Youth and Social Development to investigate child abuse cases for the year 2024. Thirty-Four schools were visited on fact-finding missions. One Death of a learner, fourteen (14) Sexual Assault cases, nine (9) Physical Abuse Cases, one case of indecent treatment of a child, three (3) Emotional Abuse cases, three cases of Neglect, two (2) cases of Negligence and one case of Bullying were visited in the year.

Review meeting on Joint visitation exercise of the Lagos State Taskforce on Child Safeguarding and Protection

The review meeting on the joint visitation exercise of the Lagos State Taskforce on Child Safeguarding and Protection provided an opportunity for stakeholders to assess the outcomes of the visitation exercise carried out in 2023. The meeting, designed to identify, evaluate, and address risks to child safety and level of implementation of the Lagos State Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy in schools aimed to strengthen child protection mechanisms and enhance collaboration among taskforce members.

During the meeting, participants discussed key observations from the visitation exercise, highlighted successes, and identified areas for improvement.



Safeguarding and Child Protection Online Discourse

The Agency (DSVA), in partnership with Education District 2, organized an online discussion on safeguarding and child protection for student safeguarding champions from Agbede Junior & Senior Secondary School, Ikorodu, District Star International School, Magodo, Honeyland College, Magodo and Chrisland College, Ikeja.

The discussion expertly moderated by Mr. Taiwo Akinlami, a child safeguarding and parenting consultant, aimed to raise awareness about child abuse, children's rights, and safeguarding measures. This aligns with the 2016 Executive Order on Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, which mandates the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency to deliver specialized services focused on ensuring the safety and overall well-being of children in the state

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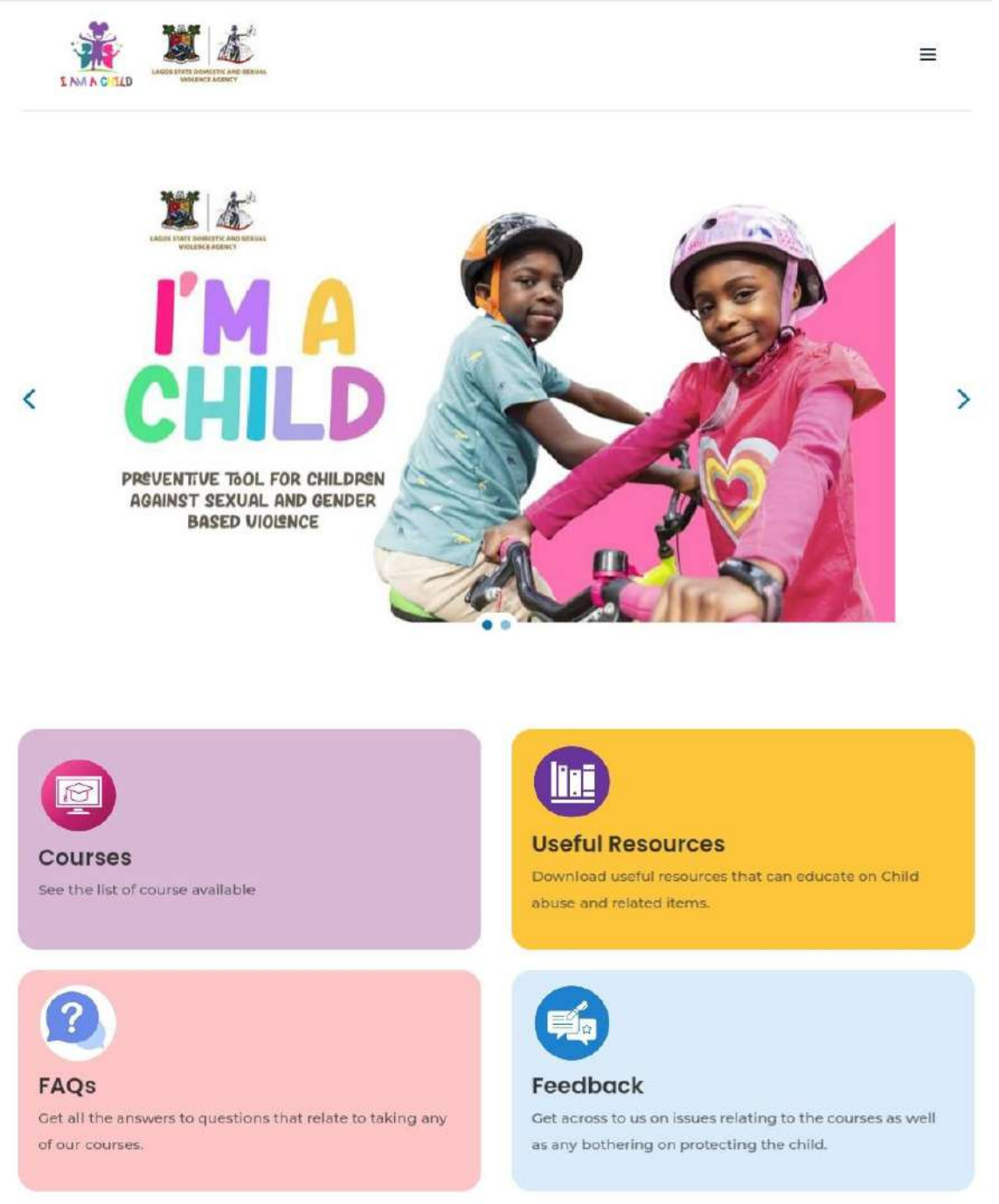
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Launch of 'I am Child' online course

The Agency developed an online educational prevention tool designed for children aged 5-12, aimed at equipping them with the knowledge and skills to protect themselves against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. The educational content comprises of three engaging courses, which are Your Rights as a Child, 'My Body' and 'My Passport of Rights'. The free online course can be accessed on

www.iamachild.org.ng



Referrals

Recognizing that no single organization can meet all the needs of a survivor, the Agency collaborates with various responder agencies across the state. Upon receiving a report, survivors are promptly referred to specialized organizations or NGOs for services such as legal aid, medical care, counselling, rescue operations, and investigation, depending on the specific case.

This collaborative approach enhances access to resources and ensures comprehensive support for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

For medical assistance, referrals were made to Sexual Assault centres including the Mirabel Centre, WARIF, IDERA SARC and Primary Health Care Centres.

In cases requiring rescue, investigation, and prosecution, the survivor is referred to a Family Support Unit (FSU). For legal support, referrals are made to the Office of the Public Defender, Citizens Rights, and the Lagos State Ministry of Justice. The Family Social Services (FSU) of the Ministry of Youth and Social Development handles social welfare interventions.

MILESTONES IN THE YEAR 2024

Celebration of a decade of impact

The Agency marked its 10th anniversary by hosting a symposium supported by RoLAC. The event provided an opportunity to reflect on the progress made in addressing SGBV over the past decade and charted a path forward for more effective interventions and policies.

Introduction of the Online Educational Course for Children

The Agency developed and launched an online educational course designed for children aged 5–12 years. This initiative was designed to educate children on how to protect themselves from Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) while fostering awareness of their rights in an engaging and age-appropriate format.

Launch of Safeguarding and Child Protection Week:

The Safeguarding and Child Protection Week was launched as part of its awareness month. The program, themed "I Say No to Child Abuse," reached thousands of students across Lagos State through interactive sessions and creative activities, equipping them with knowledge about their rights and how to prevent and report child abuse.

Safeguarding and Child Protection in Religious Institutions:

The Agency extended its child safeguarding campaign to religious institutions, including mosques and churches, engaging hundreds of children through interactive sessions, and educational materials such as "My Passport of Rights" and "Safeguarding the Rights of a Child" were distributed to empower children with knowledge on protecting themselves from abuse

Enhanced School Programs:
Through the Queens and Kings Club initiatives and the Safeguarding the Rights of a Child workshop organized in various education districts, over 2,000 students have been sensitized on child rights, SGBV prevention, and their responsibilities as children. Queens and Kings Club members have also been trained on how to become peer educators and ambassadors in their various communities.

Safeguarding and Child Protection in Religious Institutions:
The Agency extended its child safeguarding campaign to religious institutions, including mosques and churches, engaging hundreds of children through storytelling, interactive sessions, and safety rule workshops. Educational materials such as "My Passport of Rights" and "Safeguarding the Rights of a Child" were distributed to empower children with knowledge on protecting themselves from abuse

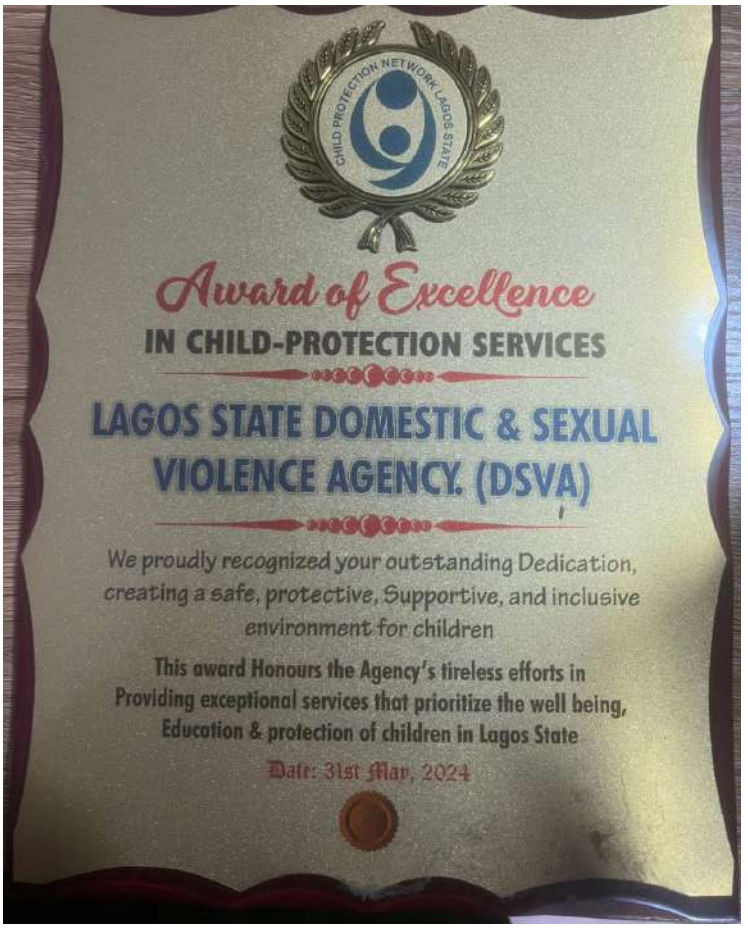
Strengthening Partnerships with Traditional Rulers:
During the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, the Agency engaged 16 Traditional Rulers in Lagos State, recognizing their critical role in shaping community norms and promoting behavioural change. These engagements were instrumental in fostering grassroots advocacy against SGBV, promoting equality, and empowering communities.

Engaging over 4.3 million citizens in the fight against SGBV

Through its initiatives and strategic collaborations with relevant stakeholders, the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) has successfully engaged over 4,395,411 citizens across various demographics within the state. Through these multi-faceted efforts, the Agency has not only raised awareness but also built trust within communities, encouraging survivors to seek help and empowering citizens to become active participants in the fight against SGBV. This extensive engagement is a testament to the Lagos State Government's dedication to creating a safer, more inclusive environment for all its residents.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION









SUMMARY

The year 2024 at the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) reflects a year of impactful strides in the fight against domestic and sexual violence in the State. Through collaborative efforts, innovative programs, and community-driven initiatives, the Agency has significantly advanced its mission of safeguarding vulnerable individuals and promoting a culture of zero tolerance for abuse reaching 7, 882 survivors. The agency has touched the lives of countless individuals, fostering positive change and promoting a culture of respect.

Key highlights include increased awareness campaigns across diverse communities reaching over 4.3 million people, capacity-building programs for stakeholders, and the establishment of stronger support systems for survivors. These achievements underscore the Agency's unwavering commitment to ensuring a safer, more inclusive society.

We celebrate the dedication of all partners, stakeholders, and staff whose efforts have been instrumental in driving meaningful change. As we also look to the future, DSVA remains steadfast in its vision of having a just society devoid of all forms of Sexual and Gender Based Violence.

Our toll-free number: **0 8000 333 333** remains accessible 24/7.

We can be reached via email - **info@lagosdsva.org**, through our website: **www.lagosdsva.org** or social media handles as shown below:

Twitter @lagosdsva
Instagram @lagosdsva
Facebook @lagosdsva
Tiktok @lagosdsva
LinkedIn @Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency

LAGOS STATE DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGENCY

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 2024

SGBV? NOT ON MY WATCH