LAGOS STATE DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGENCY

ANNUAL REPORT

Y2025: A YEAR OF IMPACT



GRAND TOTAL	DIRECT REACH	3,251,192	INDIRECT REACH	6,375,528

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Foreword

The Lagos State Government remains unwavering in its commitment to protecting the dignity, safety, and rights of all residents. Sexual and Gender-Based Violence undermines not only individual wellbeing but the social and economic fabric of our society. Addressing it requires more than isolated interventions, it demands strong institutions, coordinated systems, and sustained political will.

The year 2025 reflects Lagos State's continued resolve to move from reactive responses to a proactive, system-driven approach to prevention and accountability. Through the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency, the State has strengthened policies, expanded access to justice, invested in technology, and deepened partnerships across sectors and communities. These efforts are not incidental; they are the product of deliberate governance choices aimed at building structures that endure beyond individual administrations.

This report documents a year of consolidation and leadership. It demonstrates how institutional reforms, survivor-centred practices, and prevention-focused strategies have been embedded across government and society. As Lagos State continues to grow and evolve, the lessons and systems outlined in this report provide a foundation for sustained progress, national leadership, and intergenerational impact.

The Lagos State Government remains committed to supporting and strengthening these efforts, ensuring that Lagos State continues to set the pace in safeguarding human rights and promoting a society free from all forms of domestic and sexual violence.

Executive Summary



Dear Esteemed Partners, Stakeholders,
and Residents of Lagos State,

There are moments in the life of a society when it must decide not only **what it will do,** but **who it will be.**

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence challenges the very idea of shared humanity. It silences voices, narrows opportunity, and erodes trust—often in places meant to offer safety: homes, schools, workplaces, and public spaces. Addressing it requires more than sympathy or sporadic intervention. It demands systems that endure, institutions that listen, and leadership that refuses to look away.

In 2025, Lagos State chose resolve over resignation.

This Annual Report tells the story of a year defined not by reaction, but by intentional governance. A year in which prevention was treated as strategy, survivor support as a duty, and accountability as a non-negotiable standard. Through the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency, the State strengthened its institutional architecture—embedding survivor-centred response across justice, health, education, community, and social welfare systems.

Our approach was guided by a simple but powerful conviction:

A society is measured not by how it performs at its peak, but by how it protects the most vulnerable in its midst.

Across Lagos State, communities were engaged not as spectators, but as partners. Traditional and religious institutions were mobilised as allies in prevention. Young people were equipped not just with awareness, but with agency. Public spaces—from motor parks to markets, schools to secretariats—were reclaimed as platforms for dignity, dialogue, and change.

At the institutional level, 2025 marked a decisive shift. Lagos State consolidated its leadership through the launch of pioneering policies, including Nigeria's first State-level framework on Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, as well as clear guidelines addressing sexual harassment in the workplace. These were not symbolic gestures.

Executive Summary Contd.

They were deliberate acts of governance—designed to close gaps, future-proof systems, and respond to the evolving realities of violence in a digital and urban age.

Justice, too, remained central. Survivors were supported through coordinated legal, psychosocial, and social welfare pathways. Alternative Dispute Resolution was applied with care and rigorous risk assessment, prioritising safety, choice, and dignity. Technology was leveraged not for convenience alone, but to expand access—ensuring that help could be reached discreetly, promptly, and without fear.

What emerges from this year is not a catalogue of activities, but evidence of institutional maturity. Lagos State retained its position as Nigeria's leading sub-national performer in preventing and responding to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence for the third consecutive year—not by chance, but by design. This recognition affirms that when policy, partnerships, and political will align, meaningful change is possible.

Yet this report is not a declaration of arrival.

It is a reminder that progress demands persistence. As awareness grows, reporting increases. As systems strengthen, expectations rise. The road ahead requires sustained investment, deeper community ownership, and constant vigilance—particularly as new forms of abuse emerge at the intersection of technology, mobility, and power.

The work of safeguarding dignity is never finished. But it is always worth doing.

Lagos State's journey demonstrates a truth that resonates far beyond our borders: **When institutions are strong, when leadership is intentional, and when responsibility is shared, societies can change their story.**

This report is an invitation—to reflect, to learn, and to act. Because the future we are building must be one where safety is not a privilege, justice is not delayed, and dignity is not negotiable.

Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi

Executive Secretary

Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency

Section 1: Agency's Mandate

As prevention efforts strengthened across communities and institutions, DSVA's work in 2025 remained anchored in a clearly defined mandate and strategic direction. This foundation supported coherence across prevention, response, and accountability initiatives.

Mandate and Institutional Role

The Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency derives its mandate from the Lagos State Government's commitment to preventing and responding to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence through a coordinated, survivor-centred, and rights-based framework. The Agency serves as the central coordinating body for SGBV prevention, response, and policy implementation across Lagos State, working in collaboration with Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), law enforcement, the judiciary, civil society organizations, traditional institutions, and development partners.

Our Mandate: We advocate and share innovative solutions that enhance holistic support to survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. We work with government agencies, the private sector, and civil society organizations for enhanced reporting and a joint effort in ending SGBV in Lagos State and Nigeria as a whole.

Vision, Mission, and Core Values

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

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

Core Values: The Agency's core values of Empathy, Excellence, Integrity, Innovation, and Justice guided its programs, partnerships, and service delivery throughout 2025.

Operating Model and Multi-Sectoral Framework

DSVA operates a multi-sectoral response model integrating prevention, response, and provision of support services. Reported cases are addressed through coordinated collaboration involving MDAs, law enforcement agencies, case managers, healthcare providers, social welfare officers, civil society organizations, and the judiciary. This approach ensures practical survivor support and strengthens accountability mechanisms.

Strategic Priorities for 2025

The Agency's strategic priorities for the year focused on:

- Institutional strengthening through capacity building
- Expanding access to survivor support services
- Embedding prevention within communities and institutions
- Leveraging policy and technology to address emerging risks
- Strengthening partnerships and system leadership

Strategies and Methodologies

The Agency's success in meeting targets for the year resulted from several strategic approaches:

Work Plan Development: Creating detailed, structured plans for achieving goals and objectives.

Strategic Planning Meetings: Weekly planning meetings during which effective approaches to implementing program objectives were discussed, allowing for strategic approaches to achieving project deliverables.

Review Meetings: Enabled the Agency's technical team to track activities in the community, facility, and other areas where the Agency implements its projects.

Collaboration with Partners: Strategic partnerships with Ford Foundation, Carter Center, and the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Program supported by the European Union and implemented by International IDEA.

Government Agency Collaboration: Working with relevant Ministries, Departments, and Agencies, including Ministry of Youth and Social Development, Ministry of Home 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, and Ministry of Justice.

Stakeholder Collaboration: Partnership with the Nigerian Police, Family Social Services, Juvenile Welfare Centres, Health Care Centres across the State, Education Districts, Sexual Assault & Referral Centres, and NGOs.

Justice System Collaboration: Working with the Lagos State Judiciary and the Lagos State Police Command to ensure access to justice becomes a reality for survivors.

Section 2: Strengthening Prevention, Awareness, and Social Norm Change

With institutional systems and policy frameworks actively strengthened, DSVA's focus in 2025 extended into communities, institutions, and public spaces. Prevention was approached not as a standalone activity, but as a sustained effort to reshape social norms, strengthen early identification, and embed shared responsibility for addressing SGBV across Lagos State.

This preventive approach prioritized visibility, dialogue, and grassroots ownership, ensuring that policies and systems translated into everyday awareness and action.

Community, Traditional, Religious, and Youth Engagements

Community Development Associations and Councils

DSVA engaged 94,257 members of Community Development Associations (CDAs) and Community Development Councils (CDCs) across all Local Government Areas. These engagements focused on recognizing early warning signs of abuse, understanding reporting channels, and strengthening collaboration between communities and response institutions. The sessions led to increased and improved knowledge of reporting channels and distribution of IEC materials.



Courtesy Visits to Traditional Leaders

In 2025, the Agency paid visits to traditional leaders across the State to seek royal support in addressing the menace of SGBV within their respective communities and foster collaboration between traditional institutions and the Agency in ensuring effective prevention and response mechanisms. The visits also secured commitment towards grassroots sensitization, especially among youth, women, and vulnerable groups.

Traditional leaders visited included Royal Majesty Oba Israel Adewale Okiki-Ola I, the Onibereko of Ibereko Kingdom; Oba Aderigbe Asumo Ijamade I, the Alayandelu of Odo Ayandelu; the Aholu of Zebbe-Ikoga; and the Oba of Agbemawo Kingdom, among others.



Engagement with Religious Leaders

Recognizing the influence of faith-based institutions, DSVA engaged over 254 religious leaders in Onigbongbo, Ijede, Kosofe, and Ikosi-Isheri areas as key community influencers to strengthen the prevention of domestic and sexual violence across the State. The engagements focused on sensitizing them on the forms, causes, and consequences of SGBV, relevant laws, and survivor-centred response pathways.

With support from the Ford Foundation, the Agency also conducted Training of Religious Counsellors on Pre-marital Counselling, strengthening the capacity of faith-based leaders to provide informed, rights-based guidance to intending couples and promote non-violent family structures.



Engagement with Marriage Registrars

Recognizing the critical role of marriage institutions in prevention, the Agency conducted Trainings for Marriage Registrars on Pre-marital Counselling with Ford Foundation support. This equipped registrars with the skills and knowledge to integrate SGBV prevention, healthy relationship principles, and early warning signs of abuse into pre-marital counselling sessions.



Youth-Focused Prevention Efforts

Youth-focused prevention efforts included campus activations and ambassador trainings across tertiary institutions, reaching over 11,500 students. Campus activation programs targeted tertiary institutions to raise awareness on sexual violence, consent, cyber-related abuse, and reporting mechanisms. Students were encouraged to speak up, support survivors, and serve as peer advocates against gender-based violence. The programs enhanced students' understanding of consent, online safety, and reporting mechanisms.

DSVA also participated in orientation programs for 8,000 newly admitted students at the University of Lagos, reinforcing early awareness among young adults. During the orientation, students and lecturers were educated on relevant legal provisions, highlighting criminal sanctions for various offences, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sex for grades. Safety precautions were emphasized, advising students to move in groups at night and avoid isolated areas.

Additionally, over 100 students from Lagos State University, Ojo and 100 secondary school students in Education District 5 participated in an impactful sensitization program themed 'Technology and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence 'due to the increasing number of cases on Technology-Facilitated SGBV. The sessions educated students on issues such as cyberstalking, online harassment, non-consensual sharing of intimate images, and digital coercion, while highlighting legal implications and available reporting and support mechanisms.



Kings and Queens Club Initiatives

In 2025, the Agency trained and inducted over 1,000 students in secondary schools within Education Districts 1, 4, and 5 into the Kings and Queens Club. The training and induction focused on empowering members to serve as peer educators and advocates for positive behaviour within their schools and communities. Through this, DSVA reinforced early prevention, leadership, and youth-driven advocacy as key strategies for promoting zero tolerance for abuse.

As part of ongoing efforts to empower and inspire young minds, the Agency organized meet-and-greet sessions for members of its Kings' Club Initiative. The sessions featured a mentorship program with Dr. Oluyemi Oloyede, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of UAC Foods, and Mr. Akinropo Akinola, Founder of Parenmark Consulting Firm, both serving as Kings Club Mentors. During the sessions, the mentors spoke about their personal experiences, motivating students to strive for success regardless of their educational background and encouraging them to focus on self-improvement and competing with themselves to unlock their full potential.





School and Child-Focused Prevention Initiatives

DSVA implemented targeted safeguarding sensitization sessions across multiple education districts, reaching over 300 teachers. These interventions reinforced child protection principles, reporting pathways, and the role of schools in preventing abuse.

With Ford Foundation support, the Agency organized Safeguarding the Rights of a Child Workshops engaging over 2,000 students. The workshops focused on enhancing understanding of child rights, safeguarding principles, and referral pathways for reporting cases involving children. The Agency also facilitated the printing and distribution of 'My Passport of Rights', a child-friendly resource designed to improve awareness of children's rights and available protection mechanisms.



Engagement of Out-of-School Children

As part of the Agency's continuous drive to safeguard the rights and well-being of children, sensitization programs were conducted with out-of-school children in the Akala-Idioro area of Mushin Local Government, Ibeju-Lekki Local Government, and Ajeromi-Ifelodun Local Government Areas. The program was specifically designed to provide vulnerable children, who are often excluded from school-based interventions, with life-saving knowledge about Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and child protection. By meeting children in their own environment, the Agency ensured inclusivity, accessibility, and a direct approach to prevention.



Media Advocacy, Market Activations, and Public Campaigns Targeted Community and Market Interventions

Direct engagements were held with Omo-Onile groups in Ajeromi-Ifelodun, Yaba, Igbogbo Bayeiku, and Somolu, reaching over 500 participants. These engagements brought about interactive discussions on how harmful cultural practices and silence around abuse contribute to continued violence within homes and communities. Mobilizing and engaging Omo-Onile stakeholders helped build trusted community partnerships, enabling anti-SGBV messaging.



Couple Wey Sabi Market Activations

In 2025, the Agency in partnership with Power Oil introduced the "Couple Wey Sabi" Market Activations to promote healthy relationships, non-violent conflict resolution, communication, and mutual respect. These activations, aimed at reducing intimate partner violence through behavioural change and education, were held at Ikosi-Isheri, Mile-12, Okokomaiko, and Iyana-Iba, reaching over 45,000 people.



Door-to-Door and Town Hall Engagements

With Ford Foundation support, the Agency implemented door-to-door engagement, enabling direct engagement with community members at the household level, increasing awareness of SGBV, and improving knowledge of available reporting and support mechanisms. This was complemented by town hall meetings, which provided platforms for open dialogue between community members, leaders, and service providers, enabling the Agency to address concerns, clarify misconceptions, and reinforce reporting pathways.





Civil Society Organization Engagement

With Ford Foundation support, the Agency facilitated engagement of Civil Society Organizations, strengthening coordination, information sharing, and collective action among stakeholders working on SGBV prevention and response.



Media Advocacy and Public Awareness Campaigns

DSVA leveraged traditional and digital media platforms to amplify prevention messaging, promote reporting channels, and reinforce Lagos State's zero-tolerance stance on SGBV. With Carter Center's support under the 'Inform Women, Transform Lives' campaign, media advocacy initiatives included the airing of radio jingles, deployment of static and digital billboard advertisements across strategic locations, and dissemination of social media infographics to amplify key messages on prevention, reporting, and available support services. IEC materials were produced and distributed in Yoruba and Pidgin English, while Instagram, Facebook, and X Live sessions were hosted to facilitate real-time engagement, public education, and interaction with audiences.

The partnership also included the painting and launch of a mural to promote access to information for women. The mural is more than art; it is a call to action to keep breaking barriers and ensuring that every woman has the knowledge needed to shape their own future.



International and National Awareness Days

International Women's Day

The Agency, in partnership with ROLAC, supported by the European Union and implemented by International IDEA, hosted the International Women's Day 2025 celebration for survivors on March 7, 2025. The event, themed "Accelerate Action," focused on taking immediate steps to promote gender equality, protect women's rights, and challenge societal norms that hinder progress. The celebration reinforced the need for immediate action in achieving gender equality.



International Day of the Boy Child

The Agency marked the International Day of the Boy Child by visiting three schools in Agege: Estate Junior High School, Keke Senior High School, and Stadium Grammar School. The theme "Boys Health and Wellbeing" guided the sensitization program, where students chanted slogans like "Boys health matters" to emphasize the importance of mental health and wellbeing.



Annual Children's Day

The Agency participated in the annual Children's Day Grand Parade and Rally organized by the Lagos State Government at the Lagos State Police College, Ikeja. The event featured the distribution of over 1,000 copies of "My Passport of Rights," an informative resource designed to educate children about their fundamental rights and how to seek help when those rights are threatened.



International Day of the Girl Child

In commemoration of the 2025 International Day of the Girl Child, the Agency hosted an event themed 'Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Future' for over 90 members of the Queens Club in Education District 2. The event included impactful sessions on digital safety, reproductive health, and financial literacy.



16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

The Agency, with support from ROLAC funded by the European Union and implemented by International IDEA, celebrated the annual 16 Days of Activism themed "Unite to End Digital Violence Against Women and Girls." The campaign ran from 25th November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to 10th December (Human Rights Day).

This year's campaign emphasized Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, reflecting the increasing role of digital platforms in enabling harassment, exploitation, and abuse. Across the 16 Days, the campaign strategically engaged students, youths, and community members across educational institutions, districts, churches, and community organizations, emphasizing the importance of responsible online behaviour, digital safety, and survivor-centred practices. A total of 1,376 individuals which included 797 female, 579 male and 20 persons with disabilities were reached across various institutions during the campaign.







Section 3: Institutional Capacity, Policy, and Innovation

Strengthening the SGBV Response System

In 2025, DSVA focused on strengthening the structures, policies, and institutional capacities that hinder effective and sustainable response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. Recognizing that survivor protection depends not only on individual interventions but on the resilience of systems, the Agency actively drove reforms that entrenched survivor-centered practices across institutions.

This approach focused on three interconnected pillars: institutional capacity building, policy leadership, and innovation through technology. Together, these pillars enabled DSVA to move beyond reactive response towards a coordinated, innovative system capable of addressing both existing and emerging forms of violence.

Capacity Building Across Key Sectors

A central focus of the year was strengthening the capacity of frontline responders and institutional actors who play critical roles in prevention, investigation, prosecution, and survivor support.

Health Sector Capacity Building

DSVA trained over 80 Medical Officers working in General Hospitals and Primary Health Care Centres on the prevention and management of sexual assault. The training enhanced participants' understanding of forensic evidence collection, survivor-centered care, confidentiality, and referral pathways, contributing to improved medical response and reduced secondary victimization of survivors.



Justice Sector Engagements

To strengthen access to justice, the Agency implemented targeted engagements across the justice system:

Magistrates: Sixty Magistrates were engaged in a two-day capacity-building program focused on best practices in adjudicating SGBV cases, survivor-centered judicial processes, and efficient case handling. The Magistrates were urged to share best practices and explore innovative approaches that would enable delivery of justice more efficiently and compassionately.



Customary Court Presidents: On Thursday, 23rd October 2025, the Agency organized a one-day capacity-building workshop for 65 Customary Court Presidents on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence at the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry Conference and Exhibition Centre, Alausa, Ikeja. The training was designed to enhance participants' understanding of existing SGBV laws, policies, and referral mechanisms, while strengthening their competence in delivering survivor-centered justice within the customary court system.



Court Registrars: The Agency conducted targeted training for Court Registrars to strengthen institutional responses within the court system. The training emphasized confidentiality, proper documentation processes, timely case processing, and coordination with other response agencies, reinforcing registrars' roles in reducing delays and safeguarding survivor dignity.



Law Enforcement Capacity Strengthening

Over 60 officers of the Family Support Units were trained on best practices for investigating SGBV cases. The training addressed survivor-centered interviewing techniques, evidence handling, case documentation, and inter-agency collaboration, contributing to improved investigative outcomes and building trust between survivors and law enforcement.

The Agency also convened a GBV Case Conferencing meeting with Divisional Police Officers and Officers-in-Charge of Family Support Units across Lagos State, in collaboration with the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Program (ROLAC), funded by the European Union and implemented by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. The session aimed to strengthen collaboration, improve the handling of SGBV cases, and address investigative challenges.



Education Sector Safeguarding Initiatives

DSVA advanced safeguarding within the education sector through multiple engagements:

Safeguarding and Child Protection Workshop: A two-day training was organized for Guidance Counsellors, Heads of Schools, and Principals in Primary and Secondary Schools in Education District VI (Ikeja, Mushin, and Oshodi-Isolo Zones) on 21st January 2025. The training kept educators abreast of the provisions of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and relevant laws guiding children in the State.

Teachers' Capacity Building: Over 200 Social Studies and Science teachers across education districts participated in capacity-building sessions on 24th October 2025, supporting continuous awareness of child protection policies and early identification of abuse.

Guidance Counsellors' Training: Guidance counsellors across the state were engaged in a one-day training on Friday, 31st October 2025, focused on safeguarding responsibilities and referral pathways. Additionally, with support from ActionAid, guidance counsellors were engaged on Safeguarding and Child Protection, strengthening their capacity to identify, prevent, and respond appropriately to cases of child abuse and other forms of SGBV within the school environment.



Public Sector and Workplace Interventions

In partnership with the Office of Public Service, DSVA convened a one-day engagement themed 'Iinstitutionalizing Sexual Harassment Prevention in the State Public Service.' Senior public officers, including Permanent Secretaries, Directors, and Deputy Directors, were sensitized on sexual harassment prevention, the role of Human Resources in enforcement, and the Lagos State Guidelines for Preventing and Addressing Sexual Harassment in the Workplace. The engagement promoted a culture of respect and safety within the Lagos State Public Service.

Work Place Engagements

The Agency sensitized over 2,500 staff of various private firms and government agencies on workplace awareness, sexual harassment policies, reporting procedures, and employee welfare. Organizations engaged included UAC Foods, Axa Mansard, Power Oil, Northwest Petroleum and Gas Company, Wema Bank, iCare Security, MCdon Security, Regional Safety Ferry, Terraform Global Limited, Sheriff Deputies, Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA), Lagos State Cooperative Federation, National Orientation Agency, and Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF). These sessions encouraged the adoption of safe workplace practices and strengthened collaboration between DSVA and the private sector.



Multi-Stakeholder Engagements

The Agency held several strategic meetings to strengthen coordination and response:

Stakeholders Meeting on Improving Investigation and Prosecution: With support from ROLAC, funded by the European Union and implemented by International IDEA, the Agency organized a stakeholders meeting to chart a course forward in improving the investigation and prosecution of GBV cases in the State. The meeting identified and discussed challenges faced during investigations, enhanced capacity of stakeholders, and improved communication and coordination between medical personnel, Investigative Police Officers of the Family Support Units, and the Directorate of Public Prosecutions.



Multi-Agency Case Conferencing:

A two-day Multi-Agency Stakeholders Meeting and Case Conferencing on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence was held to strengthen multi-sectoral SGBV response systems. The meeting brought together law enforcement, healthcare workers, guidance counsellors, social workers, and case managers to review cases, assess risks, address gaps in response, and agree on clear action plans. Through case conferencing, the Agency strengthened inter-agency collaboration, reduced duplication of efforts, and enhanced timely access to support services and justice for survivors.



Leveraging Technology for Access and Innovation

Technology played a critical role in expanding access to information, reporting, and survivor support in 2025. DSVA actively drove innovation to reduce barriers to reporting and support timely, confidential access to services.

Ask INU (I Need You) WhatsApp Chatbot and Self Reporting Tool

In February 2025, the Agency launched Ask INU (I Need You), a WhatsApp-based AI chatbot designed to provide immediate information and referrals. By sending a message to 0812 893 7058, users can access confidential guidance on available support services, empowering survivors and mandated reporters with timely information.

DSVA also launched a Self-Reporting Tool through the Domestic and Sexual Violence Case Management System. Accessible via ekoselfreport.ng, the tool allows survivors and reporters to securely submit case details and upload supporting evidence such as photographs, audio or video recordings, and medical reports, strengthening documentation and evidence preservation.





USSD Short Code Reintroduction

To further expand discreet reporting options, DSVA reintroduced the USSD short code *6820# in partnership with MTN Nigeria and Africa's Talking. The service enables MTN users to report domestic violence, sexual violence, child abuse, and related offences directly from their mobile phones. By simply dialling *6820#, individuals are guided through a step-by-step process to request immediate assistance, report incidents, and connect directly to DSVA's wide range of survivor-centred services. This complements the Agency's 24-hour toll-free helpline (0-8000-333-333) to support multiple access points for survivors across the State.

Together, these innovations demonstrate DSVA's commitment to accessible, survivor-centred, and technology-enabled service delivery.



Section 4: Survivor-centred Response, Justice, and Protection Services

Throughout 2025, DSVA's work was guided by efforts to ensure timely access to justice, protection, and practical support for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Access to Justice and Legal Interventions

The Legal Department successfully filed 15 restraining order applications, with 13 interim orders granted. A total of 284 criminal cases were tracked and monitored in court. Survivors were referred for legal representation: 44 survivors to the Lagos State Public Interest Law Partnership and 21 survivors to private legal partners, ensuring access to justice and legal representation.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

Throughout the year, the ADR Department received and managed domestic violence cases referred by survivors who voluntarily chose ADR. Activities included scheduling and conducting mediation sessions, facilitating negotiations between parties, drafting and executing Memoranda of Understanding, conducting follow-up sessions, and escalating high-risk cases to appropriate DSVA units such as the Legal Unit, Social Welfare Unit, and Family Support Unit/DSVA Police.

Out of a total of 2,009 clients who requested and were scheduled for ADR sessions in 2025, 855 parties did not show up for scheduled sessions, while 1,154 cases were successfully attended to. Of the 1,154 cases attended to:

- 761 cases successfully reached an agreement and signed a Memorandum of Understanding
- 721 parties opted for separation
- 306 parties opted for non-separation
- 735 parties (including children where applicable) were referred to the Counselling Unit
- 214 cases were escalated for further intervention

Outcomes included voluntary separation, non-separation agreements, referrals for counselling, and escalation of high-risk cases for further intervention.

In one notable case, a survivor who had experienced prolonged emotional abuse was supported through structured Alternative Dispute Resolution sessions, which facilitated safe dialogue and thorough risk assessment. Based on the outcomes of these sessions, the survivor made an informed and voluntary decision to opt for separation. A comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding was subsequently executed, addressing child custody arrangements and financial responsibilities. Follow-up counselling sessions further strengthened co-parenting communication and significantly reduced the risk of recurring conflict, underscoring the effectiveness of ADR as a survivor-centred and protective intervention.

Psychosocial Support and Healing Services

Support and Healing Group Therapy

The Agency hosted Support and Healing Group Therapy sessions for 40 women, 60 children, and 40 men. The program aimed to provide a safe space for survivors and perpetrators of domestic violence to share their experiences, heal, and grow. The sessions achieved positive outcomes, including increased awareness and understanding of domestic violence, improved emotional regulation and coping strategies, and an enhanced sense of safety and support.

Key issues addressed included aggression in children, agitation and fear, lack of confidence, poor insight on domestic violence and its impacts, adverse childhood experiences, and seeking help early.

Empowerment and Livelihood Support

Key activities included the provision of livelihood and empowerment support to survivors, facilitated through strategic partnerships with private sector organizations. Survivors were supported with empowerment tools and resources to enhance income-generating capacity and self-reliance.

In partnership with SME 100 Africa, the Unit organized a Survivor Business Entrepreneurship Training Program for 100 survivors between March and December 2025. The program successfully delivered structured business and entrepreneurship training aimed at improving participants' economic resilience and self-reliance. Beneficiaries were equipped with practical knowledge in business development, entrepreneurship, and basic financial management to support income generation and sustainable livelihoods.

Social Welfare and Child Protection Services

Social Welfare Services

During the year under review, a total of 684 social intervention cases were managed, with the following breakdown:

- 369 cases of child maintenance crisis handled
- 141 cases of custody and access problems resolved
- 12 cases of child neglect handled
- 98 child physical abuse cases provided with necessary social intervention
- 55 child sexual abuse cases investigated and escalated to the Child Protection Unit for protection from further abuse
- 6 cases of emotional abuse
- 3 cases of child labour

Child Safeguarding and Protection Unit

The Unit collaborated with the Office of Education Quality Assurance and the Ministry of Youth and Social Development to investigate child abuse cases throughout 2025. A total of forty-nine schools were visited on fact-finding missions:

- 25 Sexual Assault cases
- 17 Physical Abuse cases
- 2 cases of Indecent treatment of a child
- 3 cases of Neglect
- 2 cases of Negligence resulting in death

Section 5: Strategic Partnerships, Campaigns, and System Leadership

Strategic partnerships remained central to DSVA's ability to scale impact and strengthen institutional systems. In 2025, collaborations with development partners, MDAs, civil society organizations, and international partners enhanced prevention, response, and accountability mechanisms.

Development and Institutional Partnerships

In 2025, the Agency continued to strengthen strategic partnerships with local and international development organizations to advance its mandate of preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence in Lagos State. These collaborations played a critical role in enhancing institutional capacity, supporting survivor-centred interventions, strengthening policy frameworks, and promoting sustainable systems for accountability and justice.

Partnership with the Ford Foundation

With the support of the Ford Foundation, DSVA implemented a range of strategic interventions aimed at strengthening prevention, safeguarding the rights of children, and deepening community-based responses to SGBV. These programmes adopted a multi-level approach, combining grassroots engagement, capacity building, institutional strengthening, and media advocacy to promote sustainable behavioural and systems change.

Key interventions included:

- Door-to-door engagement enabling direct household-level engagement
- Safeguarding the Rights of a Child Workshops engaging over 2,000 students
- Training for Marriage Registrars on Pre-marital Counselling
- Training of Religious Counsellors on Pre-marital Counselling
- Engagement of traditional leaders
- Engagement of Civil Society Organizations
- Printing and distribution of 'My Passport of Rights'
- Town hall meetings

Collectively, these Ford Foundation-supported interventions significantly enhanced community awareness, strengthened institutional capacity, and reinforced DSVA's commitment to a coordinated, inclusive, and survivor-centred approach.

Partnership with ActionAid

In collaboration with ActionAid, DSVA implemented targeted prevention and systems-strengthening interventions aimed at enhancing safeguarding practices, strengthening community leadership engagement, and improving coordination in responding to SGBV cases across Lagos State.

Key interventions included:

- Engagement of Guidance Counsellors on Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Engagement with Baales on SGBV
- Stakeholders' meeting on enhancing coordination in responding to SGBV cases

These ActionAid-supported interventions contributed to improved safeguarding practices, stronger community engagement, and enhanced coordination among key stakeholders.

Partnership with The Carter Center

DSVA's partnership with The Carter Center in 2025 under the “Inform Women, Transform Lives” Campaign contributed significantly to increasing women's access to available support services in the State. The campaign adopted a multi-pronged approach combining community engagement activities and large-scale outdoor advocacy.

Key activities included:

- Access to Information programme for Persons with Disabilities
- Access to Information programme for female law students of Lagos State University
- Radio jingles, static and digital billboard advertisements
- Social media infographics
- IEC materials in Yoruba and Pidgin English
- Instagram, Facebook, and X Live sessions
- Three market activations with apron distribution
- Door-to-door engagements
- Town hall meetings
- Launch of a mural promoting access to information for women

Overall, the campaign contributed to improved visibility of survivor support services and reinforced the Agency's commitment to prevention, early intervention, and community-driven responses to SGBV.

Two-Day Advocacy Training for Persons with Disabilities

In partnership with ROLAC supported by the European Union and implemented by International IDEA, the Agency organized a two-day training for Persons with Disabilities to equip them with necessary skills to combat SGBV within their communities. The training brought together participants from various disability clusters including Visual Impairments, Albinism, Dwarfism, Hearing Impairment, and Physical Disability. By building capacity and promoting advocacy, the training sought to foster a stronger, more inclusive response to SGBV.



Lagos State Domestic And Sexual Violence Awareness Month 2025

The Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness Month 2025 was implemented to reinforce the State's zero-tolerance stance against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. The month-long campaign, themed "SGBV? It Concerns Us All," focused on prevention, survivor support, public sensitization, and institutional accountability. It featured strategic engagements targeted at workplaces, civil society, traditional institutions, children, and frontline responders, aimed at prevention, survivor-centered response, accountability, and social norm change, while reclaiming public spaces as safe spaces for dialogue, action, and healing.

Official Launch: Media Parley

The Awareness Month was officially launched on 29th September 2025 with a Media Parley held at the Bagauda Kaltho Press Centre, Alausa, Ikeja. The Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Lawal Pedro, SAN, represented by the Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Mr. Hameed Oyenuga, alongside the Executive Secretary of DSVA, Mrs. Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi, addressed members of the press.



Turn Alausa Purple Campaign

DSVA, in collaboration with the Office of the Head of Service, organized the "Turn Alausa Purple" campaign at the Alausa Secretariat on 1st September 2025. Over 5,000 civil servants across Ministries, Departments and Agencies participated by adorning purple, the global symbol against domestic and sexual violence. The campaign also extended to the Lagos State House of Assembly and the Secretariat GRA.

The Head of Service, Mr. Bode Agoro, reaffirmed the Public Service's commitment to zero tolerance for SGBV, while the Secretary to the State Government, Barr. Bimbola Salu-Hundeyin, reiterated the administration's unwavering support for DSVA's mandate.



Advocacy Walks

To deepen community engagement, DSVA conducted advocacy walks in high-prevalence areas. The first walk, held on 3rd September 2025, covered Onigbongbo to Ikeja, while the second, on 10th September 2025, spanned Alimosho General Hospital to Igando. These walks directly and indirectly sensitized over 11,000 residents, including traders, commuters, motorists, and pedestrians.

The walks featured strong multi-sectoral participation from government agencies, law enforcement, healthcare providers, civil society organizations, survivors, and community leaders, reinforcing collective responsibility in addressing SGBV and strengthening referral pathways for survivors.



Community-Based Interventions

As part of grassroots engagement, DSVA intensified collaboration with 18 Community Development Councils and 367 Community Development Associations through the "Turn CDAC's Purple" campaign. Community leaders were recognized as ambassadors of change and decorated with purple lapel pins. These engagements achieved an estimated direct reach of 851,000 persons and an indirect reach of over 1.7 million residents.

The Agency also implemented the "Turn Motor Parks Purple" initiative at Iyana-Ipaja Motor Park and Ojota, engaging transport workers, commuters, and unions. Through partnerships with NURTW, LASHMA, LSACA, and TelMD Nigeria, participants received sensitization, IEC materials, and free medical services, reinforcing the message that SGBV has no place in public or private spaces.









Market Fiestas

To address harmful gender norms, DSVA organized culturally relevant Market Fiesta campaigns:

Couples Wey Sabi at Oyingbo Market: Promoted equality, shared domestic roles, and healthy relationships through cooking and childcare competitions, reaching over 2,000 community members.

Men Wey Sabi at Mile 12 Market: Engaged men as allies, emphasizing positive masculinity, shared parenting, and non-violent relationships. The event reached over 4,000 residents and fostered open dialogue on men's roles in preventing SGBV.

Both initiatives blended education and entertainment to drive attitudinal change at the grassroots.





Survivors' Day: From Surviving to Thriving

A major highlight of the Awareness Month was Survivors' Day, held on 16th September 2025 at Protea Hotel, Ikeja, themed "From Surviving to Thriving." The event honoured 100 survivors, providing a safe space for healing, empowerment, and celebration of resilience.

The program featured survivor testimonies, expert panel sessions on resilience, financial literacy, health and wellness, guided meditation, and empowerment discussions.



Workplace Engagement

As part of the Awareness Month, DSVA convened a high-level symposium on "The Impact of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence on Labour and Organisational Productivity in the Workplace" on 24th September 2025. The engagement brought together over 100 participants from Ministries, Departments and Agencies, private sector organizations, trade unions, and professional bodies.

Discussions highlighted the economic, psychosocial, and productivity costs of sexual harassment and workplace violence, reinforced by data from national surveys and DSVA-led research. Key sessions emphasized zero-tolerance workplace policies, safe reporting mechanisms, mental health support, survivor services, and accountability structures.



Strengthening Civil Society Collaboration

On 17th September 2025, DSVA hosted a one-day symposium on 'Enhancing the Role of Civil Society Organizations in Survivor-Centered SGBV Response in Lagos State', convening over 100 CSO's.

The symposium focused on clarifying the roles of CSO's in prevention, advocacy, service delivery, community mobilization, and survivor support. Sessions addressed survivor-centered approaches, experience-sharing, referral pathways, coordination gaps, and systemic challenges in SGBV response. Practical action points were agreed upon, including strengthening collaboration, harmonizing referral systems, adopting standardized documentation, leveraging technology, and prioritizing survivor safety and dignity. The engagement was supported by ROLAC, funded by the European Union and implemented by International IDEA.

Safeguarding and Child Protection Week

The Safeguarding and Child Protection Week 2025, themed "It's Okay to Tell," was held as a major component of the Awareness Month, reaching over 1,200 pupils and students across multiple education districts.



Grand Finale: Governor's Commendation and Awards Night

The Awareness Month culminated with the Governor's Commendation and Awards Night, held at Oregun, Ikeja. The event celebrated progress made during the month and recognized outstanding institutions, frontline responders, health facilities, NGOs, and government units contributing to the State's SGBV response.

The ceremony featured goodwill messages from key justice, security, and public service stakeholders, survivor-focused storytelling, and advocacy performances. Awards presented highlighted excellence in service delivery across health, law enforcement, education, and social services. The event reaffirmed Lagos State's leadership and sustained commitment to combating SGBV through recognition, accountability, and partnership.



Overall, the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness Month 2025:

- Strengthened public awareness and reporting of SGBV across diverse populations
- Reclaimed public spaces as platforms for advocacy and survivor-centered dialogue
- Promoted cultural and behavioural change through community-led interventions
- Reinforced multi-sectoral partnerships for prevention, response, and accountability
- Reaffirmed Lagos State's leadership in combating Domestic and Sexual Violence in Nigeria

Knowledge Exchange

UK Parliament's Courtesy Visit

On 6th March 2025, delegates of the UK Parliament paid a courtesy and learning visit to the Agency aimed at strengthening international collaboration on addressing domestic and sexual violence. During the visit, the Agency shared its mandate, legal framework, multi-sectoral response model, and key interventions for prevention, survivor support, and justice delivery in Lagos State.



Learning Visit of Government Stakeholders from Multiple States

Government stakeholders representing Ondo, Oyo, Osun, Kwara, Gombe, Delta, Borno, Ogun, and Edo States participated in a learning visit to DSVA on 7th May 2025. The visit was facilitated by Invictus Africa, a non-governmental organization dedicated to social justice and human rights.

The Executive Secretary provided a comprehensive overview of the Agency's history, mandate, and achievements. This was followed by detailed presentations from the Heads of various Departments and Units within DSVA, outlining their specific roles, functions, and operational strategies.

The learning visit concluded with a question and answer session, followed by a guided tour of the DSVA facilities, providing visiting stakeholders with firsthand insights into the Agency's operations and resources.ntions for prevention, survivor support, and justice delivery in Lagos State.



Section 6: Results, Milestones, and The Road Ahead

Measuring Reach and Impact

In 2025, the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency recorded and managed cases spanning domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, neglect, and related non-GBV matters through both physical and digital reporting channels. The use of integrated data systems enabled improved tracking, analysis, and coordination, supporting timely interventions and informed decision-making.

Between January and December 2025, the Agency recorded cases via the Virtual Referral and Response Service (VRRS) and physical reports, which included 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.

Case data revealed increased use of reporting channels, demonstrating growing public awareness and trust in institutional response mechanisms. Geographic and demographic trend analysis informed targeted prevention and capacity-building initiatives, supporting resources deployed where risk and need were most pronounced.

Key Milestones and Recognition

Retaining the Number One Position in Sub-National Ranking

The Lagos State Government, through DSVA, secured its place as the leading State in Nigeria for the prevention and response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, marking the third consecutive year it has held the position. The yearly sub-national ranking conducted by Invictus Africa with support from the Ford Foundation is entirely data-driven and assesses performance across four key pillars: prevention and awareness, support services, law and policy, and budget spending.





Launch of the Lagos State Guidelines for Preventing and Addressing Sexual Harassment

A major milestone was the official launch of the Lagos State Guidelines for Preventing and Addressing Sexual Harassment in the Workplace, reaffirming the State's commitment to dignified, safe, and inclusive work environments. The guideline was launched at the private sector symposium attended by several stakeholders, including members of the Trade Union Congress, private sector partners, and healthcare providers.



Launch of Community Protocol for GBV Response

In furtherance of efforts to strengthen community-level prevention and response to Gender-Based Violence, the Agency, with support from the Ford Foundation, developed and formally launched the Community Protocol for GBV Response alongside the Community Dialogue Committee. The Protocol provides a clear, standardized, and survivor-centred framework for addressing GBV cases at the community level.





Launch of Policy on Technology-Facilitated SGBV

On 10th December 2025, the Lagos State Policy Framework on Prevention and Response to Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence was launched, marking the first State-level coordinated response to digital gender-based violence in Nigeria. The policy provides clear guidance on prevention, reporting, investigation, and survivor-centered response while promoting inter-agency collaboration and accountability among stakeholders.



Launch of Policy on Technology-Facilitated SGBV

In collaboration with stakeholders in Kosofe Local Government Area, organized a community awareness walk against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence along Ogudu Road to notify residents of the newly created DSVA Sub-Office to deal with cases of SGBV in the area.

The awareness walk, which commenced from the Area Office, Ogudu Roundabout, aimed at notifying residents of the new DSVA sub-office and sensitizing them about the dangers of SGBV, the importance of reporting incidents, and available support services for survivors. Participants displayed banners and placards with strong messages of prevention while engaging members of the public in discussions on ending all forms of sexual and gender-based abuse.

The launch of the DSVA Sub-Office at Kosofe LGA expanded the Agency's reach and accessibility, bringing services closer to communities and reducing barriers to reporting and support.



Awards and Recognition

Throughout the year, DSVA received multiple awards and recognition for excellence in service delivery, innovation, and leadership in SGBV prevention and response, further solidifying Lagos State's position as a national benchmark.





Success Stories

The year witnessed numerous success stories demonstrating the effectiveness of DSVA's survivor-centred approach:

ADR Success: In one notable case, a survivor who had experienced prolonged emotional abuse was supported through structured Alternative Dispute Resolution sessions, which facilitated safe dialogue and thorough risk assessment. Based on the outcomes, the survivor made an informed and voluntary decision to opt for separation. A comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding was subsequently executed, addressing child custody arrangements and financial responsibilities. Follow-up counselling sessions further strengthened co-parenting communication and significantly reduced the risk of recurring conflict.

Child Protection Success: A case of defilement involving five underage girls in Ajah was brought to the attention of the office through a report by a social media influencer. Prompt action by the Agency led to the arrest of two of the alleged perpetrators, while the case was duly pursued to ensure accountability and access to justice for the survivors.

These stories, amongst many others, demonstrates the tangible impact of DSVA's coordinated, multi-sectoral approach to survivor support and accountability.

Strategic Outlook Beyond 2025

The results of 2025 underscore the value of sustained investment in prevention, strengthening, and survivor-centered response. As reporting increases and awareness deepens, continued resourcing remains critical to maintaining service quality, scaling prevention efforts, and responding to emerging forms of violence.

Looking ahead, DSVA will focus on:

- Consolidating gains from 2025
- Expanding technology-enabled access to services
- Deepening community ownership of prevention initiatives
- Scaling successful interventions across all Local Government Areas
- Enhancing partnerships with private sector and development organizations
- Addressing emerging forms of violence, particularly technology-facilitated SGBV

Conclusion

In 2025, the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency advanced a comprehensive, survivor-centred, and system-driven approach to the prevention and response to domestic and sexual violence across the state.

The Agency strengthened policy and institutional frameworks through the launch and implementation of key policies, including the Policy on Technology-Facilitated Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, while deepening multi-sectoral collaboration through GBV case conferencing and justice sector engagements. DSVA intensified prevention and awareness efforts through targeted community sensitization with traditional institutions, religious leaders, youth groups, primary and secondary schools, universities, and informal community structures, promoting zero tolerance for all forms of abuse.

Capacity-building initiatives for law enforcement, public sector institutions, and community stakeholders enhanced reporting, investigation, and survivor support pathways. Through advocacy, coordination, and strategic partnerships, both local and international, the Agency continued to improve access to protection, support services, and justice for survivors, while reinforcing a culture of accountability and safeguarding in Lagos State.

Through policy leadership, institutional strengthening, innovation, and partnership, the Agency actively reinforced Lagos State's leadership in combating domestic and sexual violence while laying foundations for sustained impact beyond the year under review.

Appendices

Acronyms

ADR - Alternative Dispute Resolution

CDA - Community Development Association

CDC - Community Development Council

CSO - Civil Society Organizations

DPO - Divisional Police Officers

DSVA - Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency

DSVCMS - Domestic and Sexual Violence Case Management System

FSU - Family Support Unit

GBV - Gender-Based Violence

LASWA - Lagos State Waterways Authority

MDAs - Ministries, Departments and Agencies

NGOs - Non-Governmental Organizations

OC - Officer-in-Charge

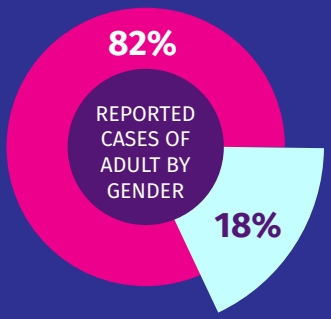
ROLAC - Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Programme

SGBV - Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

STRAC - Safeguarding the Rights of a Child

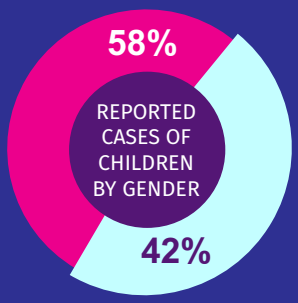
VRRS - Virtual Referral and Response Service

DSVA REPORT: Y2025



4206

937



1643

1190

Total Number of Clients (Adults & Children) **7976**

Total number of survivors, perpetrators and mandated reporter **10563**

MARITAL STATUS OF SURVIVORS

- 22% Single
- 60% Married
- 14% Others
- 4% Cohabiting

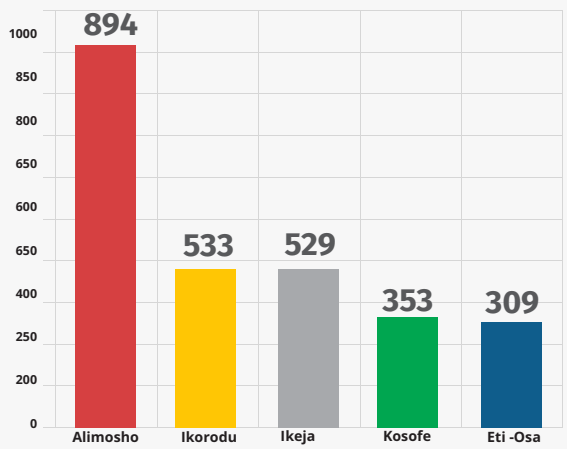
OTHER SOURCES OF CASES REPORTED FROM SURVIVORS

- DSVA AI Chatbot: 158
- Media: 171
- VRRS: 2241
- Walk-in Client: 2748

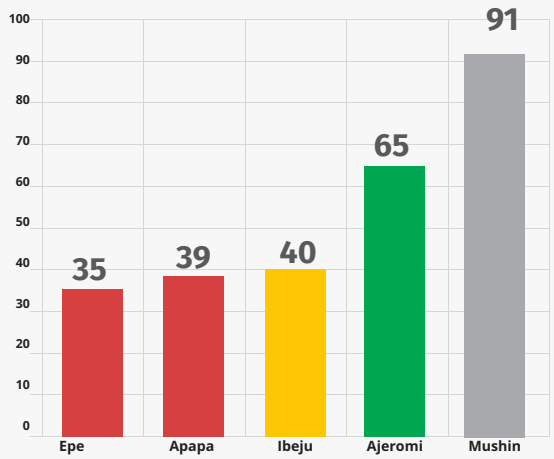
AGE CATEGORIES OF SURVIVORS

- 0-4 years: 22%
- 5-9 years: 20%
- 10-14 years: 38%
- 15-17 years: 29%

HIGHEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF OCCURRENCE

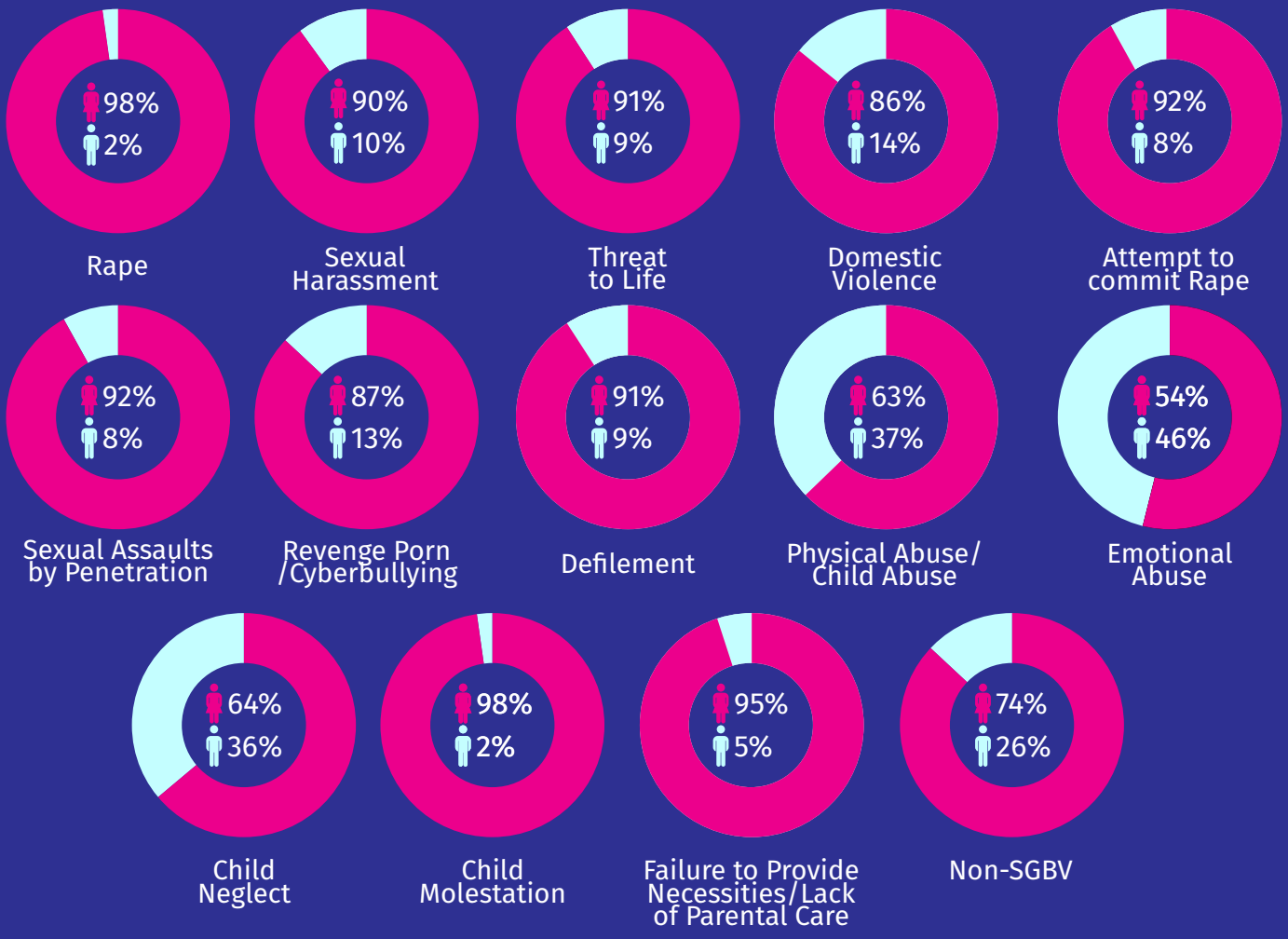


5 LOWEST LGAS OF OCCURRENCE

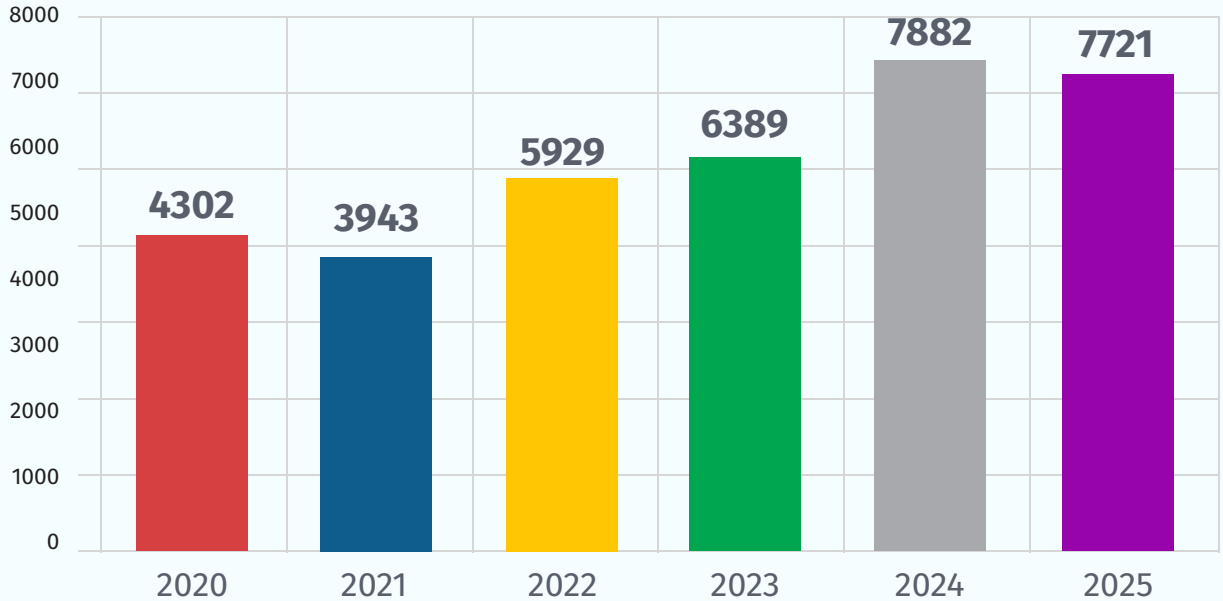


DSVA REPORT: Y2025

PERCENTAGE OF FORMS OF SGBV CASES REPORTED INVOLVING BOTH ADULTS AND CHILDREN



NUMBER OF CASES RECEIVED FROM 2020-2025



Contact Information And Reporting Channels

24-Hour Toll-Free Helpline:

0-8000-333-333

USSD Short Code (MTN Users): ***6820#**
WhatsApp AI Chatbot (Ask INU): **0812 893 7058**
Self-Reporting Tool: **ekoselfreport.ng**

Email: **info@lagosdsva.org**
Website: **www.lagosdsva.org**

Social Media:
Twitter: @lagosdsva
Instagram: @lagosdsva
Facebook: @lagosdsva
TikTok: @lagosdsva
LinkedIn: @Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency