



IMPACT REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2023

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From the Country Director

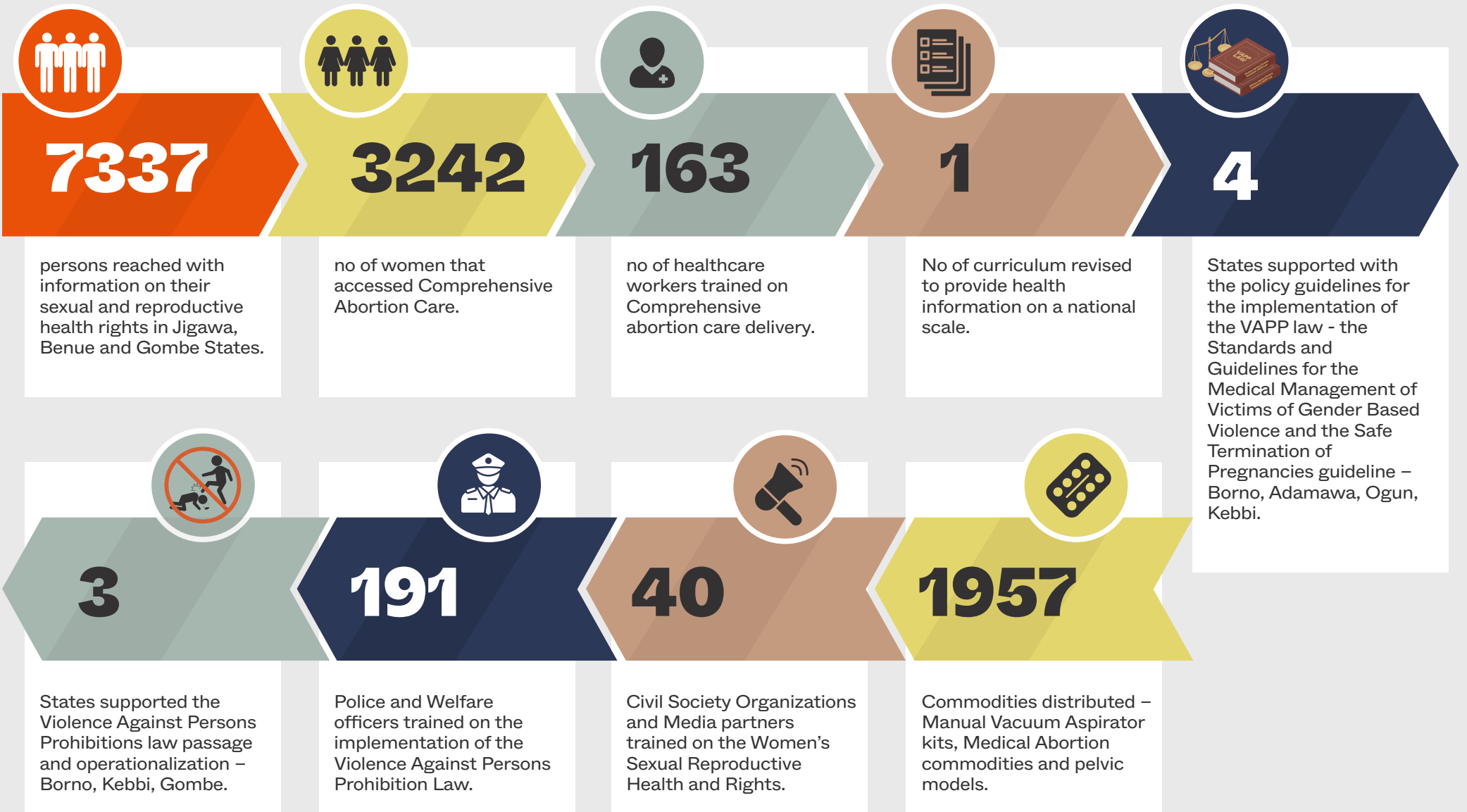
At Ipas Nigeria Health Foundation, we are locally raising the bar in building momentum for reproductive justice! Despite the unprecedented challenges in the last fiscal year, we have doubled our efforts in strengthening ecosystems at national, state, and local levels to ensure that women and girls everywhere can have bodily autonomy and exercise their sexual and reproductive health rights.

As partners for reproductive justice and an indigenous organization, we have worked collaboratively with diverse stakeholders to build local action that sustains access to safe abortion, contraception and protect women and girls from gender-based violence. Some of our most significant achievements include:

- In partnership with the Ministries of Health, we implemented a National pilot of the Post-Abortion Care On-The-Job Training framework to increase the number of qualified healthcare workers providing services that reduce preventable maternal deaths.
- In collaboration with Ministry of Health, we led the establishment of new legal frameworks including the Standards and Guidelines for the Medical Management of Victims of Gender-Based Violence to protect women's sexual reproductive health in 3 states.
- Conducted a Nationwide evaluation of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Law, it's implementation and key outcomes.
- We empowered 7337 women and adolescent girls with information on their sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Worked with 69 Nigeria Police officers to promote Women's Sexual Health and Rights as guaranteed by the Laws and international statutes.

We acknowledge the support of the Government of Nigeria at Federal and State levels in ensuring we have a strengthened ecosystem for reproductive justice to enable women and girls have increased bodily autonomy, this wouldn't have been achieved without their support. We thank our partners and donors for their unwavering support and commitment to leaving no one behind in the journey to better reproductive health and justice.

Our Impact in Numbers



Adolescent Sexual Health for Better Development Outcomes



In different States, we are committed to giving adolescent girls the right to their sexual and reproductive health. We empowered 7337 adolescents across marginalized communities in Jigawa, Benue, and Gombe States with information on their sexual reproductive health including menstrual hygiene, sexual and gender based violence, contraception and abortion. We created referral pathways in the communities for abortion self-care through community access points.

As part of this process, we developed the Sexual and Reproductive and Rights (SRHR) Manual in partnership with local community-based organizations from the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria. Using a user-centered design (UCD) approach, the SRHR pilot process reflected the different local socio-cultural contexts surrounding young people across Nigeria .



Over

10,000

community members reached with Sexual and reproductive health information.



About

500

abortion care services delivered to adolescent girls.

“In the past, we didn’t know some personal hygiene practices. During menstruation we used pieces of clothes and sometimes the clothes stayed too long before we changed it. After we received training now we know how to clean up after our ourselves. We also learned how to prevent unsafe abortions. We only knew about traditional medicines, and that always made us afraid for our lives. After the training, I have also tried to spread awareness and also educate others, just like I was educated too.”

Rahama Hassan, 19 years old, is a student in Gadda Community, Kazaure Local Government, Jigawa State



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“Before Ipas trained me to educate some peer groups, I had little experience about sex education. I now understand that a woman can have her own decision. At least, it helps me now, anywhere I go, I talk to young girls. I put the knowledge in them so that at least they will be safe. I understand that I'm an educator now, so I can talk to them and save lives outside.”

Kwaghko Iveren Mercy, Peer educator, Benue State.

“It's a major problem for women and we parents to witness the situation women find themselves in where they lose their lives in the because of unsafe abortions. Ipas has really helped us by creating awareness and enlightenment. They have changed my perception and thinking, and I have influenced the people close to me and under my jurisdiction whom I educate.”

Danladi Abubakar, Community Head, Gadda Community, Kazaure Local Government, Jigawa State.



“The manual has been very helpful. Without it, the issue of culture will not allow the girls to even know such information, for example, identifying what a male and female organ is the function of the organs, even where they are situated. And when they have an issue, what do you do? So, the manual is very comprehensive and educates not only the young girls but even adults.”

Lawan Abdullahi, Executive Director, VILDEV, Jigawa.



Journey to SDGs 3 and 5 - Reducing Maternal Preventable Deaths.



Maternal Deaths shine the light on gender equality, and we took ground breaking efforts to eliminate maternal deaths from unsafe abortions at National and State levels.

National Scale-up of the On-the-Job-Training Model

In Jigawa and Gombe States, we had worked to sustain capacity of healthcare systems to deliver Post Abortion Care to women and girls under the On-the-Job Training.

To achieve sustainable impact at scale, Ipas worked collaboratively with the Federal Ministry of Health to develop a National On-the-Job

Training Guideline. This creates a country-wide framework that builds the capacity of healthcare workers in delivering Post Abortion Care. The process involved stakeholder representatives from the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria. The document was launched by the Federal Ministry of Health.



“The country now is trying to revitalize primary health care centers in every ward and that is what exactly we are doing. We need to have critical services in every ward level facility. Every ward level facility should work 24 hours, seven days a week, 365 days a year to be able to deliver services. So we are saving cost by using the OJT approach to train our critical manpower, that's why it's called the on-the-job training. Within no time, we were able to train over 100 staff. Ipas actually has done a lot to support the state in even domesticating a lot of policies and guidelines from the national like the OJT guideline and the safe termination of pregnancy based on legal indications. And luckily for us, as a state, we are the forefront of taking up the challenge to continue what Ipas has actually started.”

Dr Shehu Sambo, Director of Primary Healthcare, Primary Health Care Development Agency(PHCDA), Jigawa State.

Healthcare System Strengthening on Post-Abortion-Care Service Delivery

Ipas supported Jigawa, Gombe, Benue, and Ogun States with pelvic models and On-the-Job Training Manuals to strengthen healthcare facilities to deliver Post Abortion Care.



412
pelvic models
distributed



1225
MVA kits
donated



320
Medical abortion
commodities donated

In collaboration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria, Ipas trained 50 nursing tutors from 50 schools in northern and southern parts of Nigeria. This training was conducted to strengthen capacity in Post Abortion Care and Post-Partum Family Planning.

“I found the OJT training by Ipas very interesting. Before, the work could only be done when I'm around but now in every shift, at every time, it can be done perfectly without me even if I'm on leave or I'm on off duty.”

Maryam Ado Abdullahi, Healthcare worker, Kutai Primary Health Care Center, Jigawa State.



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Pathways for Sustainability

We build a strong sustainability model to enable continuous access to sexual and reproductive health commodities. In Jigawa, Gombe and Benue states, Ipas has built the capacity of local actors including Patent Medicine Vendors to provide safe abortion and contraceptive care. Over the past year, we trained 59 Patent Medicine Vendors to sustain access to abortion and contraceptive care in 17 communities.

“Based on statistical rates, every month we were getting cases of 20 to 30 unsuccessful abortions, which leads to either the patient being admitted to the hospital, in critical health condition, or loss of life. But this program has helped a lot. Our people have been enlightened and we now have 80% success rate. Ipas has helped a lot because we obviously as medicine vendors, we don't have the knowledge of early pregnancy terminations.”

Maruf Nuhu, Patent Medicine Vendor, Jigawa State.



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On-the-Job Training Evaluation against the Classroom Approach

Ipas commissioned a research to check the effectiveness of the On-the-Job Training model and classroom based training approaches. The training shows 33% knowledge improvement for healthcare workers trained under the OJT and 17% knowledge improvement for healthcare workers trained with the classroom approach.



Classroom based method -

18.8%

knowledge improvement.



On-the-Job Training Method

33.6%

Policy and Legal Structures for Reproductive Health



To strengthen response to Gender Based Violence (GBV), we have worked to develop the Standards and Guidelines for the Medical Management of Gender-Based Violence victims in 4 states – Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, and Ogun States. These guidelines set a standard for the medical management of victims of GBV in the States by health workers and ensure comprehensive Sexual Reproductive Health services are provided to survivors of GBV. This was a collaborative process with the Ministry of Health, Women Affairs, and state healthcare officials.

Additionally, we collaborated with the Ogun State Government to develop, launch, and disseminate the Guidelines for Safe Termination of Pregnancy (STOP) for Legal Indications. Ipas launched the document in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Justice, Women Affairs, the Media and Civil Society Organizations.

Ipas Nigeria also partnered with the Ogun State Government to train health workers in the State on the provisions of the STOP guidelines to enable them to understand their rights under the law, in providing Safe abortion services to women and girls in the State without fear of harassment from the police.



“This document was developed for the well-being of pregnant women whose pregnancy could pose danger to their lives and physical health. The document was endorsed by stakeholders including Islamic and Christian leaders and was put together to reduce preventable deaths among women of childbearing age and victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in the State. The document is important for health workers who encounter women in this category.”

Dr Tomi Coker, Honorable Commissioner, Ogun State Ministry of Health

Strengthening the Capacity of Key Actors for Policy Implementation

We worked with multiple stakeholders to ensure laws are polices are implemented at all levels. Within the year in review, 112 welfare officers were trained on the implementation of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law. 25 Police Officers from 5 northeastern States were trained on their role in the implementation of the law, and the Administration of the Criminal Justice Law.



“Ipas training has really influenced my role because as at now I find it easier to handle such cases when whenever they come before me and whenever I see a survivor, I know how to handle them too”.

Rahima Abdullahi Dadata, 18, Azare Community, Bauchi State.



“Ipas has gone a long way in supporting the eradication of GBV in Gombe State and we give credit. Personally, I am a beneficiary of the knowledge of impart that Ipas has demonstrated. With the training we received, it gave me, more strength and encouragement to decide that this is an area where I really need to put in my best and ever since I have been doing that”.

Dr Yelwe O. Maikenti, Head GBV Unit State Specialist Hospital.



“The training provided by Ipas to the police personnel at different stages have been of help to the Nigeria police force in Borno State. This has influenced our investigation capabilities and then the turnout of cases. ‘Before now, the Police knew little of issues like domestic violence and the issue of rape, socio economic violence that are perpetrated outside or in the community. If people report cases like that, the police treat it as a common family issue or domestic issue. That should be sorted out by the people involved in it.”

Umar Enan, Legal Officer, the Nigerian Police Force, Borno State Command, Borno State.

Disability Centered Sexual Reproductive Health

We are addressing the barriers that limits women and girls with disabilities in accessing their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

As a crucial first step, We worked to strengthen the capacity of disability-led organizations. This led to the co-creation of interventions to be implemented in the select states. Through our program in Edo and the Federal Capital Territory in Nigeria, we responded to the gaps in accessing sexual and reproductive health for women living with physical disabilities and deaf women.

Our disability-SRHR approaches are channeling vital information for women and girls with disabilities, addressing stigma in healthcare settings and engaging traditional leaders to advocate for women with disabilities.

“The training carried out by Ipas helped me better. For me, to have more knowledge, the way I can live with the people with women with disabilities.”

Umoh Jenifer, Nurse, Edo State



“When I first came to the hospital to get contraception, it was not easy for me because I am deaf. But now it feels easier, I like how I am treated in the hospital now, there is also an interpreter in the hospital to support me to get contraceptives.”

Hawau Joshua, Kuje, Abuja



“After the training from Ipas, what I discovered after then was the way the health workers talk with persons with disabilities changed. Those discouraging words were no longer there. Instead, they encourage you more. The training from Ipas actually helped me to know the different contraceptives. This made it easy for me to access healthcare in the health centers.”

Ehigiamusee Favour, School Teacher, Edo State Nigeria



“We came in with negative mindsets towards women with disabilities. We did not see that young girls that are disabled need more information on sexual and reproductive health, but we have learned today that we should do better to make sure they are informed. I will do my best to ensure that there are interpreters in all hospitals, especially in my community. We will also pass this information to other delegates in the community.”

Alhaji Shuabu, District Head of Agbe, Kuje Area Council.



Movement Building for Reproductive Justice

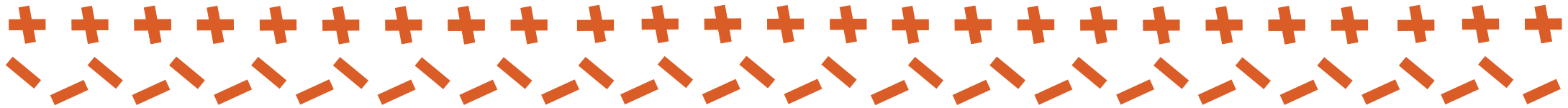
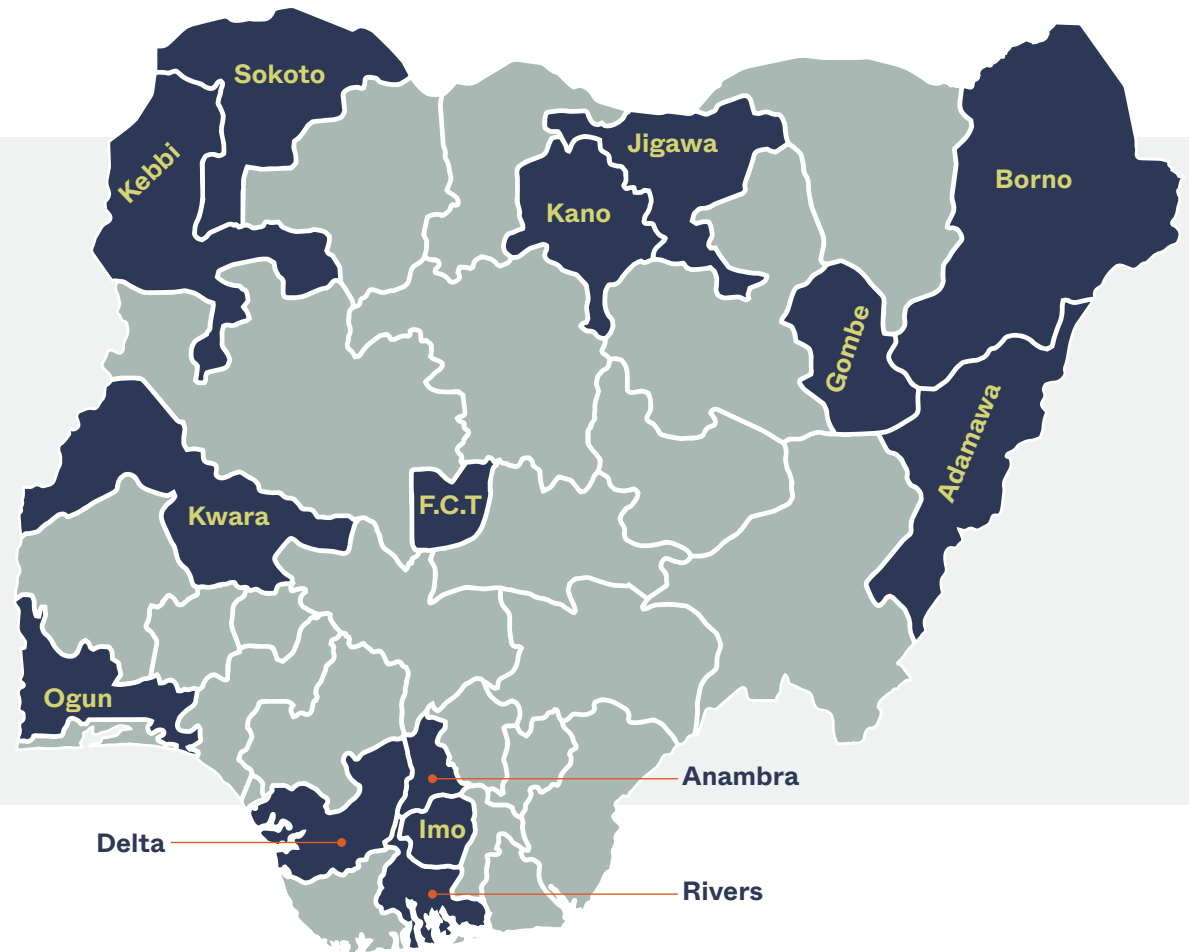
Through a human rights-based approach, Ipas Nigeria Health Foundation is advancing reproductive justice by strengthening the capacity of local actors to build momentum for progress in the access to reproductive justice. To this end, we worked with 6 Civil Society Organizations to develop their capacity on tools including our Shifting Gears behavior change tool. This is to ignite widespread behavior change in social norms regarding sexual and reproductive health rights.

Ipas also built the capacity of 10 media stakeholders on women sexual and reproductive rights. This training session empowered media representatives with essential information on legal frameworks, and social norms demystify abortion access. In partnership with the media representatives, strategies were developed to address misinformation on abortion and contraception access from opposition groups.



Evidence for Action on Reproductive Health

We recognize the burden of sexual and gender-based violence and unsafe abortions, as well as the gaps that exist within the legal framework – the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law in Nigeria. Ipas Nigeria Health Foundation commissioned two nationwide research studies to uncover the linkages between sexual violence and unsafe abortions in Nigeria and to evaluate the efficacy of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition law in addressing Sexual Violence in 13 States and the FCT.



From the Sexual and Gender Based Violence research; these were our findings:

76%

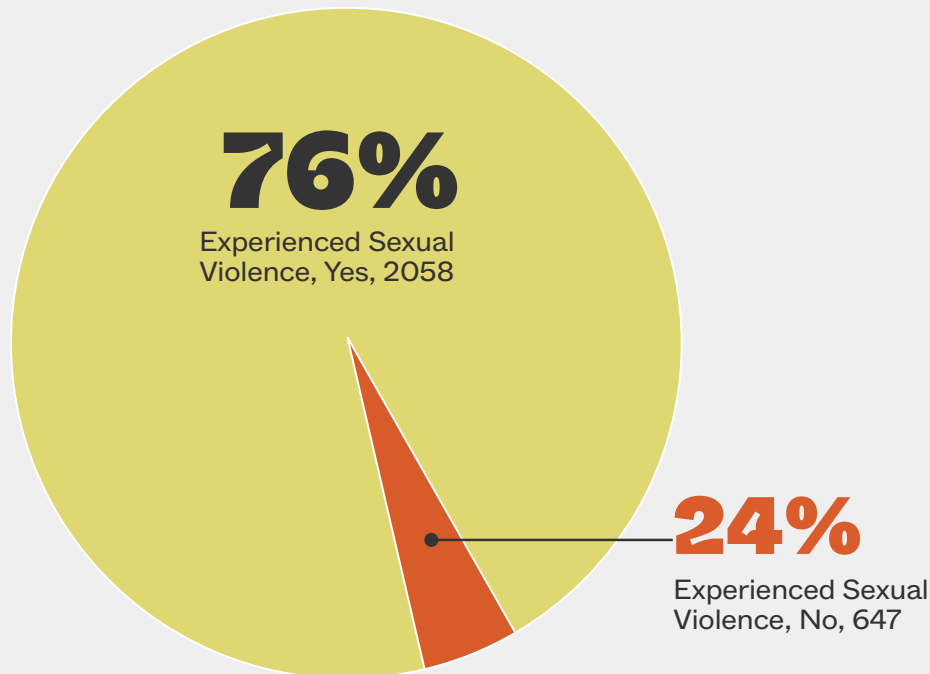
of the respondents have experienced sexual violence.

Out of this surveyed population,

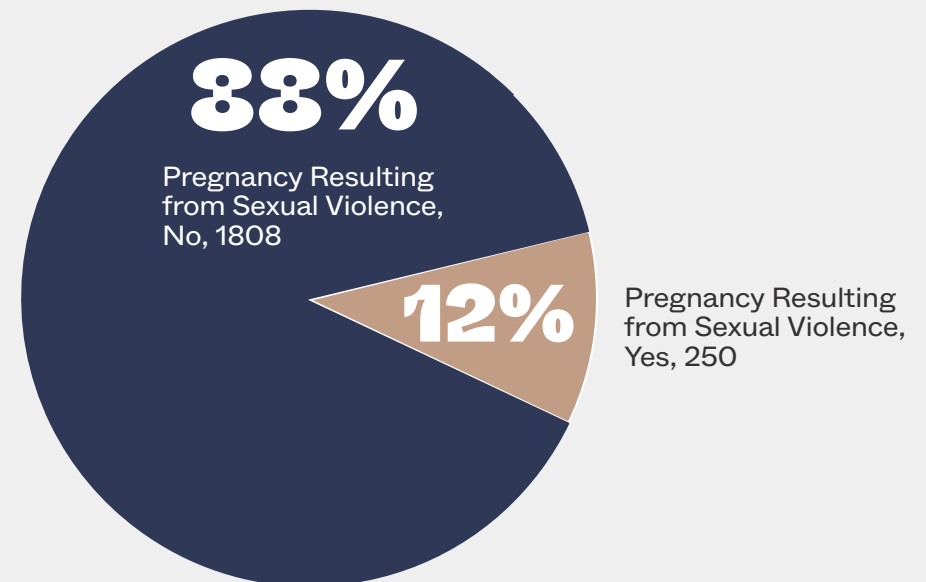
3 of 25

became pregnant from incidents of rape.

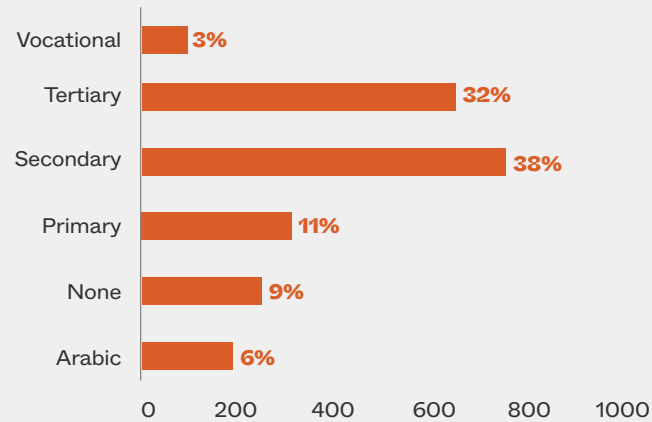
**Women's experience of Sexual Violence
(n=2705)**



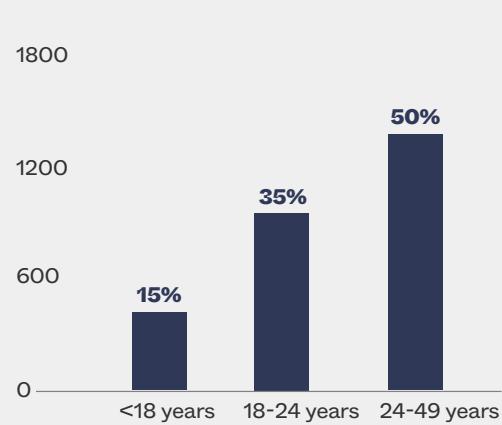
Sexual Violence Resulting in pregnancy, (n= 2058)



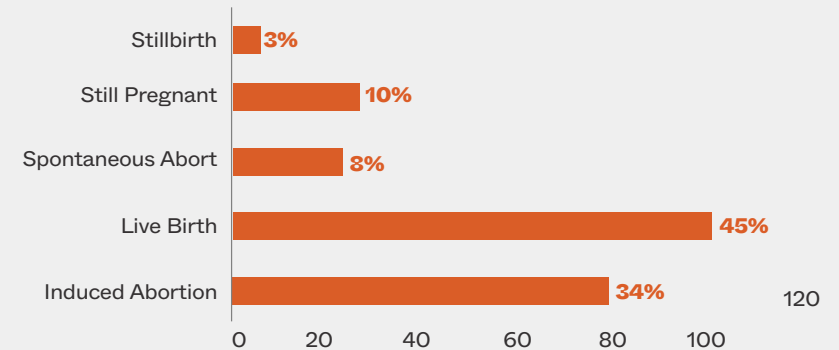
Education Level of Respondents (n=2705)



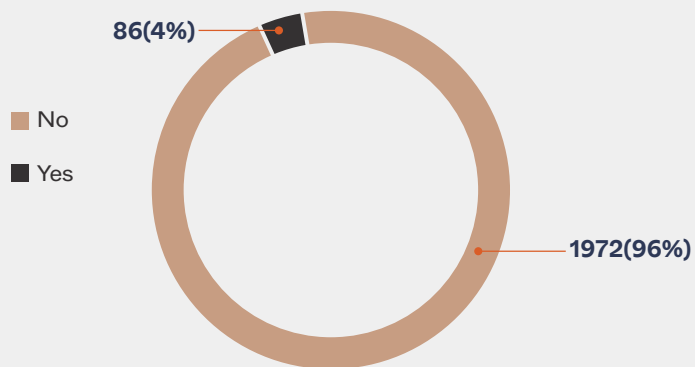
Age of Respondents (n=2705)



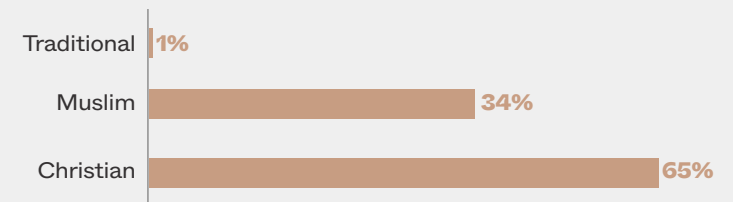
Outcome of Pregnancy Resulting from Sexual Violence (n=250)



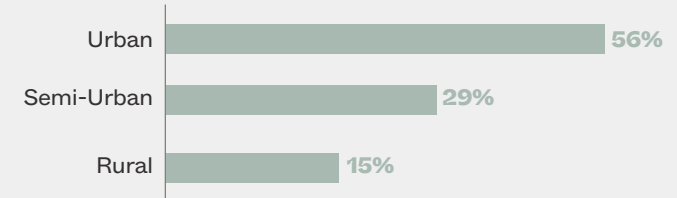
Women already pregnant during Sexual Violence experience (n=2058)



Religion (n=2705)



Residence (n=2705)



We explored the data that showcased the gaps in Nigeria with respect to the efficacy of the VAPP law in delivering reproductive justice in Nigeria.

From our research, these were our recommendations on the gaps discovered:

1. Community level interventions, including social mobilization, community awareness to increase support from power holders, including men and boys around SGBV prevention and sexual and reproductive health and rights.
2. Health interventions and programs that invest in empowering women and girls to promote agency, bodily autonomy to ensure the demand for sexual and reproductive health and rights including prevention of sexual and gender-based violence.
3. Increased efforts are needed to strengthen implementation of the VAAP law including funding, advocacy, and effective response systems.
4. Multi-sectoral interventions and integration among the structures and mechanisms that are responsible for the implementation of the VAAP law.
5. There is a need for improved state and country data on sexual violence and abortion to address the gaps needed to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality in Nigeria.

Ipas Nigeria Health Foundation works to empower women and girls to have bodily autonomy and exercise their sexual and reproductive health and rights. As partners for reproductive justice, we build collective action that transforms societies to enable women, girls, and vulnerable persons to manage their fertility and realize their full potential.

Ipas Partners for
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NIGERIA HEALTH
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