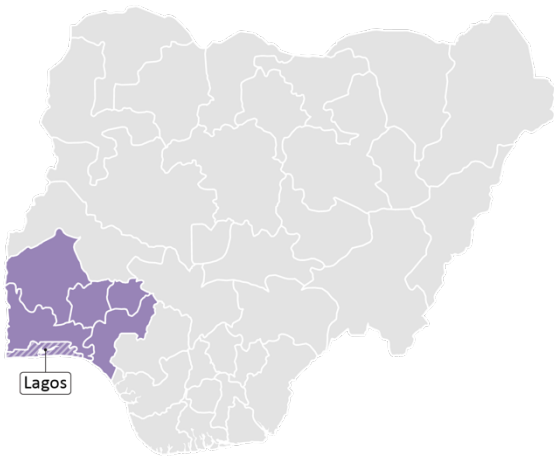




LAGOS STATE SNAPSHOT: SOCIAL NORMS & WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



The Lagos State brief is a part of a larger review of social norms, women's economic empowerment, and policy across six states – Abia, Borno, Edo, Kaduna, Lagos, and Niger – from varied geo-political zones in Nigeria. These states were chosen to reflect diverse contexts among Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) priority states. The full report consisted of a desk review, 36 in-depth interviews (IDIs), and two focus group discussions (FGD) with key stakeholders across the selected states and at the national level.

Throughout Nigeria, women are exposed to patriarchal social norms relating to decision-making, employment, land ownership, and access to school. Across states, this leads to negative outcomes for women's economic empowerment resulting in women often having limited access to public services, finances, legal and social protection, health services, education, and opportunities to participate in the economy. Women also make most of Nigeria's poor.

Lagos State has the second highest cumulative rates of economic empowerment for women ages 15 to 49. It has the highest rates of women's employment (75.5%) and ownership of a bank account (58.8%) and the second highest rates of women's educational attainment (94.6%) and participation in decision making (57.2%), although only 1% of women own land and house assets. Lagos State also has the lowest prevalence of GBV (15.1%) (2018 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey).

Women in Lagos State are expected to be responsible for the home, the children, and for cooking for the family. Lack of social protection for women leaves them without the necessary capital to securely invest in a house or makes them vulnerable to illegal activities of predatory land

touts. These are touts that lay claim on idle properties and often tend to be a bother during construction. Only 1% of women in Lagos State own land, and 0% own houses. At the same time, many women are able to pursue education, gain employment out of the home, and have some control of their finances.



Health care in Lagos is not very accessible due to a mix of poverty, culture and comfort. As a result, [women] visit the traditional herbalists and birth attendants instead of hospitals. They have more faith there because their mothers have used it before. And you know, in some hospitals the nurse will even tell them to go to the traditional birth attendant. They met the norm in the society.

In-Depth Interview,
Community Representative

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COMMON GENDER NORMS RELATED TO WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



Families consider sons more deserving of care and investment.



Husband controls wife and provides permission for her to access health care, engage in income-generating activities, access financial services, and move outside the home.



Men should be the key decision-makers in their families and communities.



Women are not expected to control their own assets or property.



Women are expected to take care of most domestic and nurturing chores within the household.



In some circumstances it is appropriate for men to use violence to discipline their wives.¹

¹ Unlike the other norms, the issue of appropriateness to use violence to discipline wives did not arise from the interviews, it comes from the literature (2018 NDHS).

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GENERAL GENDER EQUALITY-FOCUSED LAWS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMMES

- Criminal Law of Lagos State (2011)
- Gender and Social Inclusion Charters (2015)
- Prohibition Against Domestic Violence Law of Lagos, State Law No. 15 (2007)
- VAPP Act

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT-FOCUSED LAWS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMMES

- Administration of Estate (Small Payments) Law of Lagos State (2004)

OBSERVATIONS ON POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

The Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team (DSVRT) was created to eradicate sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The DSVRT consists of lawyers from the Ministry of Justice, doctors from the Ministry of Health, representatives from the Ministry of Women Affairs and the Nigerian Police. Research from 2014 showed that the Lagos State Domestic Violence Law had not been implemented and cases of domestic violence were increasing; research from 2011 indicates limited awareness of the law, even among members of the law enforcing agencies, - the police and the customary court (BAOBAB, 2011). In response to this research, an implementation committee was set-up (SAVI, 2016).