

# 2025 Impact Report



Date of Publication: January 2026

© Copyright SHF, 2026

All rights reserved. No part of this document may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or otherwise or stored in any retrieval system of any nature, without the written permission of the copyright holder.

Address: Lome Crescent  
Wuse, Zone 7  
Abuja-FCT

Website: [www.safehaven-foundation.org](http://www.safehaven-foundation.org)

Email: [info@safehaven-foundation.org](mailto:info@safehaven-foundation.org)

Emergency: 0911-001-9999

Enquires: 0911-022-9999

Instagram: @shf4survivors

Facebook: Safe Haven Foundation

Linkedin: Safe Haven Foundation-For Domestic Violence Survivors

# T A B L E   O F   C O N T E N T S

**01.**

Executive Summary

**02.**

About Safe Haven Foundation

**03.**

Programmatic Impact & Key Achievements

**04.**

Institutional Strengthening & Staff Capacity Building

**05.**

Strategic Partnerships & Collaboration

**06.** Digital Presence, Visibility & Public Engagement

**07.** Challenges, Risks & Lessons Learned

**08.** Financial Snapshot & Resource Utilization

**09.** Looking Ahead. Strategic Priorities for 2026

**10.** Acknowledgments





## 2025 Impact Report

Protecting Dignity.  
Advancing Justice.

**Delivering Survivor-  
Centered Impact.**

---

Welcome to the Safe Haven Foundation 2025 Impact Report, presenting our key achievements, measurable progress, and unwavering commitment to advancing survivor safety, dignity, and justice throughout the year.

# 1

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

---

Safe Haven Foundation (SHF) entered 2025 as an early-stage but high-impact survivor centered organization responding to domestic and sexual violence in Nigeria. The Foundation transitioned from concept to delivery, establishing a functional shelter, deploying survivor services, strengthening institutional systems, and positioning itself as a credible partner for donors, government, and civil society actors working on protection and gender justice.

During the reporting period, SHF focused on four strategic priorities. Direct survivor support. Institutional strengthening. Strategic partnerships. Digital visibility and advocacy. The foundation aligned these priorities with expectations on results, accountability, safeguarding, and sustainability.

The organization received 135 complaints from across the country and abroad. SHF provided emergency shelter, psychosocial support, legal, and referral services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence, including boys.

The interventions prioritized survivor choice, confidentiality, and dignity, which aligned with international protection standards. The shelter became operational with clear intake procedures, safety protocols, and referral pathways, enabling timely responses to cases of imminent risk.

Beyond crisis response, SHF invested in survivor empowerment through mentoring, digital skills exposure, and confidence-building activities designed to support longer-term recovery and reintegration.

On institutional development, significant progress was made in building a strong organizational backbone. The Foundation developed and operationalized core policies and standard operating procedures, including safeguarding, data protection, financial controls, volunteer management, and staff capacity building frameworks. These systems strengthened compliance, reduced operational risk, and ensured readiness for donor funded programming. Targeted staff and volunteer trainings improved service quality, ethical practice, and trauma informed engagement with survivors.

Partnerships were a key accelerator of impact. SHF worked with civil society organizations, professionals, and advocates to expand referral networks, co-host activities, and amplify survivor centered messaging. These partnerships enhanced reach, reduced duplication, and reinforced collective responsibility for preventing and responding to violence against women and girls.

Digital presence emerged as a strategic asset. Through coordinated use of Instagram, LinkedIn, and the Foundation website, SHF expanded its visibility, increased engagement, and strengthened public trust. Digital platforms were used not only for awareness raising, but also for education, and access to services, with evidence that survivors increasingly discover and approach the Foundation through online channels.

An increasing number of survivors accessed SHF through AI powered search tools such as ChatGPT and Meta AI, enabling discreet early help seeking and significantly strengthening timely access to protection, legal support, and justice outcomes for individuals facing domestic and sexual violence.

ChatGPT frequently surfaced SHF as a credible and survivor centered referral point, directing individuals to SHF's website, emergency contact lines, and digital platform.

Despite operating in a challenging environment marked by limited funding, high demand for services, and systemic barriers to justice, SHF showed adaptability, accountability, and results. Lessons learned during the year informed clearer prioritization, stronger data use, and more realistic planning for scale.

Looking ahead, the Foundation will consolidate its shelter operations, deepen survivor support services, expand strategic partnerships, and pursue targeted funding to scale impact. The next phase will focus on sustainability, measurable outcomes, and contribution to broader national and subnational efforts to prevent violence, protect survivors, and advance gender justice.

SHF closes the year with a solid foundation, credible systems, and a clear strategic direction. The progress achieved demonstrates that focused leadership, survivor centered practice, and strong institutional discipline can translate vision into tangible protection and hope for those most at risk.

## Board of Trustees

---

### Adenike Adeyanju

Adenike Adeyanju is a seasoned social work professional with over 20 years of experience supporting vulnerable individuals, families, and communities. She holds a Professional Master's Degree in Social Work from University College Dublin and is a fully regulated practitioner committed to the highest standards of ethical and professional practice. Her career spans senior roles within Ireland's Health Service Executive and Tusla, the statutory Child and Family Agency, where she delivered safeguarding interventions, supported individuals with complex needs, and worked within multidisciplinary teams to protect adults and children at risk.

Her expertise covers safeguarding, trauma informed practice, crisis intervention, advocacy, and person centred care.

Adenike brings strong frontline insight and strategic understanding of health and social care systems to the Board of Trustees. Her contribution strengthens Safe Haven Foundation's survivor centred approach and reinforces its commitment to ethical, accountable, and rights based service delivery



### Ashafa Jimmy Waziri

Ashafa Waziri is an experienced Information Technology specialist, educator, and development advocate with a strong track record across the technology, education, and public sectors. As Director of Heritage Computer Services Limited, he has led the delivery of innovative ICT solutions and provided strategic advisory support in complex digital environments. He also served as ICT Advisor to two former Governors of Kaduna State, contributing to the modernization of government systems and the strengthening of public sector digital infrastructure.

Alongside his technology leadership, Ashafa has made significant contributions to education and human capital development. As Vice Principal of the Nigerian Turkish International College, Kaduna, he provided academic leadership, supported student development, and contributed to institutional governance. His commitment to social impact further led him to serve as Secretary General of the I Care Women and Youth Initiative, where he advanced programmes on women's economic empowerment, youth development, and social protection. Ashafa brings to Safe Haven Foundation a valuable combination of technical expertise, educational leadership, and community development experience. His governance insight and commitment to social justice reinforce the Foundation's mission to protect, support, and empower women and children





## Diane Igoche, Ph.D

Diane A. Igoche is a committed human rights advocate with a strong interest in understanding and addressing the root causes of domestic violence within family systems. Her work is driven by a belief in survivor empowerment and evidence based advocacy as tools for meaningful social change. She actively supports community initiatives focused on prevention, survivor support, and gender equality.

Professionally, Diane is an Assistant Professor of Computer Information Systems, where she teaches, mentors students, and conducts research at the intersection of technology, society, and human development. She brings growing expertise in research design, grant writing, and proposal development, contributing analytical rigour and strategic insight to institutional initiatives. Diane's combination of advocacy experience, research orientation, and academic leadership strengthens the governance of Safe Haven Foundation. Her contribution to the Board of Trustees is grounded in empathy, evidence, and a clear commitment to advancing the Foundation's mission to protect and uplift women and children.



## Professor Fatima Waziri-Azi, PhD

Professor Fatima Waziri-Azi is a distinguished legal scholar and governance reform expert with over 20 years of experience advancing justice, survivor protection, and institutional reform. She is a Professor of Public Law at the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and the immediate past Director-General of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, where she led major national interventions on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Trafficking in Persons.

Recognised for her survivor-centred, systems-strengthening approach, she has driven reforms that improved victim protection, strengthened accountability, and enhanced coordination across Nigeria's justice and protection sectors. She previously served as Senior Special Assistant to the President on Rule of Law in the Office of the Vice President and has held roles with Transparency International USA, Human Rights Law Service, the New York City Administration for Children Services, and the Presidential Advisory Committee Against Corruption.

She is the Founder of Safe Haven Foundation. Professor Waziri-Azi holds advanced law degrees from Ahmadu Bello University, St. Thomas University, and the University of Pittsburgh, and a Certificate in Public Leadership from Harvard Kennedy School. Her work reflects a sustained commitment to dignity, justice, and lasting institutional change.



## Patrick Nnamdi Azi

Patrick Azi is an accomplished engineer and business leader with over 25 years of experience across Nigeria's energy and power sectors. A graduate of the University of Benin with a MBA degree from Anglia Ruskin UK, he began his career providing engineering support to leading oil and gas companies, including Shell Nigeria, where he developed strong technical and project management expertise.

He later transitioned into entrepreneurship and is the Chief Executive Officer of 3D Hi-Tech Limited, where he leads the delivery of innovative power generation solutions and oversees complex operations serving industrial and domestic energy needs. His leadership is marked by strategic foresight, operational discipline, and a focus on sustainable systems.

Patrick brings a strong commitment to philanthropy and social impact to Safe Haven Foundation, with particular interest in advancing the safety and well-being of women and children. His strategic insight and governance experience strengthen the Foundation's mission to build safer and more resilient communities.



## Saratu Umar Garba, M.CIoD, ACIS

Saratu Umar Garba is a seasoned lawyer and corporate governance professional with over 22 years of experience across corporate law, regulatory compliance, insurance, banking, and wealth management. She currently serves as Company Secretary, Legal Adviser, and Chief Compliance Officer at Veritas Kapital Assurance Plc, where she provides strategic legal counsel, strengthens corporate governance systems, and ensures compliance with sector regulations.

She previously held senior roles at Mainstreet Bank Limited and Unity Bank, with responsibilities spanning regulatory compliance, risk management, and branch operations during periods of significant financial sector reform. Her work contributed to institutional stability, improved compliance culture, and strengthened operational discipline. Saratu holds an LL.B from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, and an MBA from Hult International Business School, Boston. She is an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK), a Member of the Chartered Institute of Directors Nigeria, and an Associate Member of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators of Nigeria.

She brings strong governance expertise, ethical leadership, and strategic insight to the Safe Haven Foundation Board of Trustees, strengthening accountability and supporting the Foundation's mission to protect and empower women and children.



# Team



**Prof. Fatima Waziri-Azi, Ph.D**  
Founder/Team Lead



**Gary Kelechi Amadi, Esq.**  
Head of Legal



**Murjanatu Audu-Kamaldeen, Esq.**  
Head of Programs



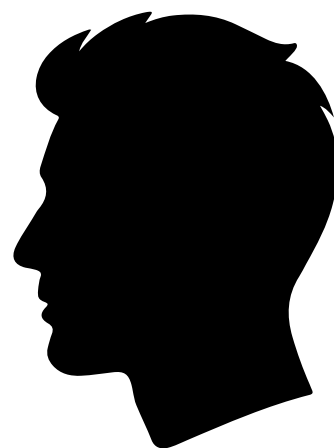
**Zainab Saleh**  
Clinical Psychologist



**Blessing Thomas**  
Shelter Resident Assistant



**Shalom Francis**  
Office Assistant





## 2

## About Us

[www.safehaven-foundation.org](https://www.safehaven-foundation.org)

Safe Haven Foundation (SHF) is a survivor-centered, trauma-informed, and rights-based non-profit organization committed to preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Nigeria. Founded with a clear mission to build a society where all individuals, especially women, girls, and vulnerable persons, live free from violence, SHF provides critical and holistic support services that promote healing, justice, and empowerment.

**Mission**

To prevent domestic violence and sexual abuse through strategic legal interventions, research-driven advocacy and support to survivors and offenders.

**Vision**

Together against violence, together for hope.

**Core Values**

**Compassion-** We prioritize empathy and kindness in every interaction, ensuring that survivors feel valued, supported, and understood.

**Integrity-** We uphold the highest ethical standards in our services, ensuring transparency, honesty, and trustworthiness.

**Inclusivity-** We believe in the dignity and worth of every individual, providing services that respect and embrace diversity without discrimination.

**Safety-** We provide a secure and peaceful environment where survivors can begin their journey to healing without fear.

# Safe Haven Foundation operates through four main arms:

## **Shelter & Psychosocial Support**

We provide survivors of domestic and sexual violence with immediate safe shelter, basic necessities, medical care, and trauma-informed counseling. Every survivor is welcomed into a space of dignity, protection, and emotional healing.

## **Advocacy & Public Engagement**

We drive national conversations, challenge harmful norms, and push for systemic change through targeted advocacy, awareness campaigns, and community outreach ensuring SGBV is not just addressed, but prevented.

## **Legal Empowerment & Access to Justice**

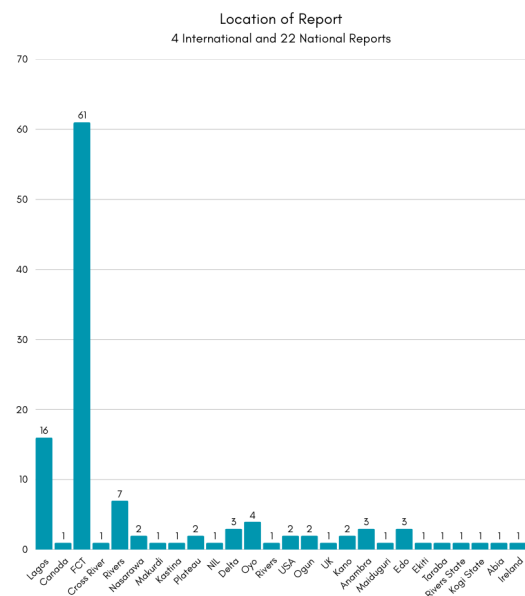
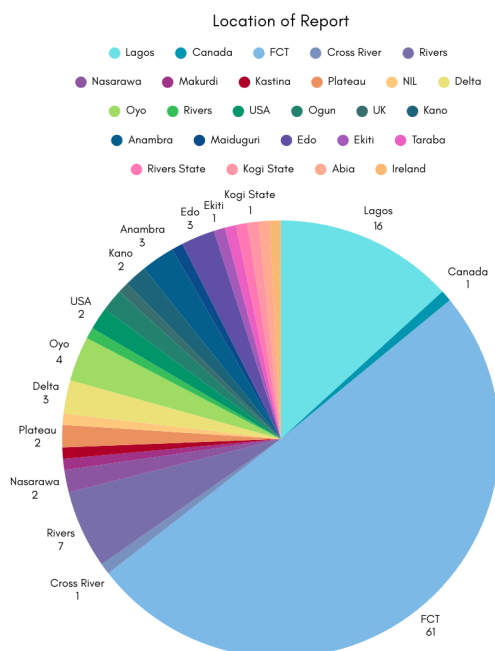
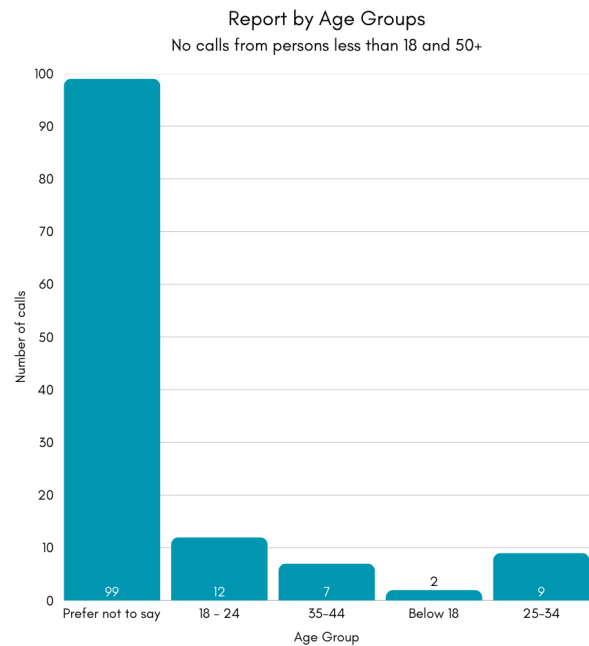
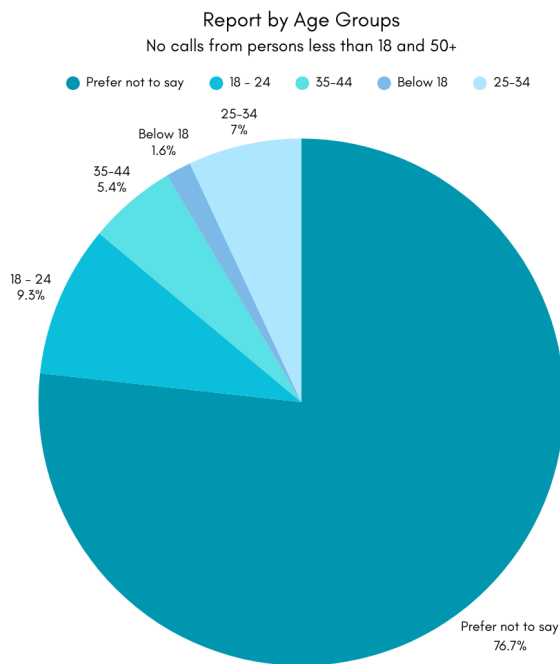
Survivors receive free legal support, including representation in civil matters such as protection orders, custody disputes, and divorce proceedings. We stand by survivors in court and beyond, ensuring their voices are heard and rights upheld.

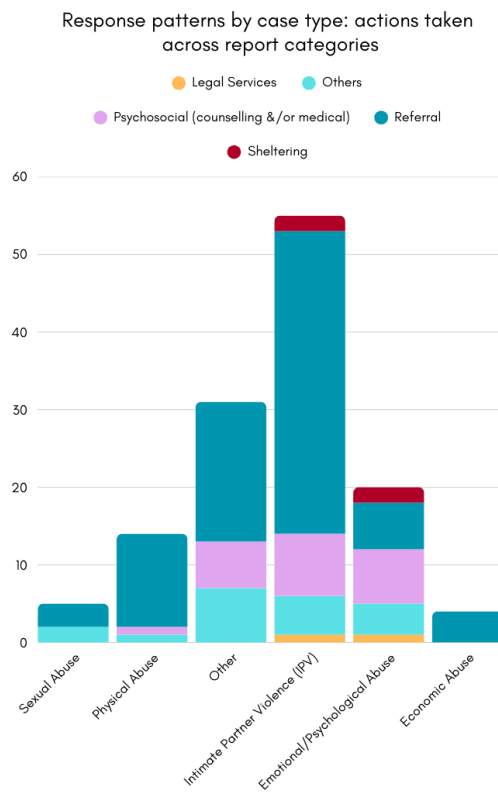
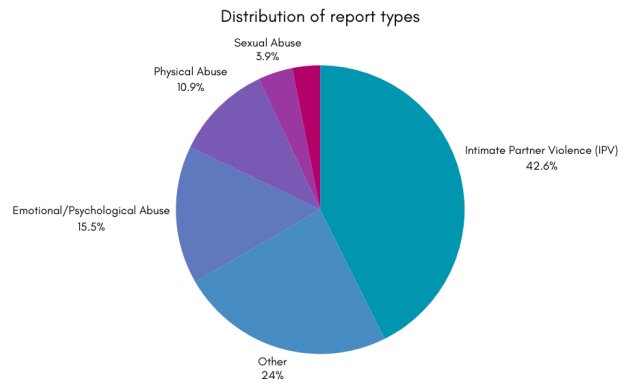
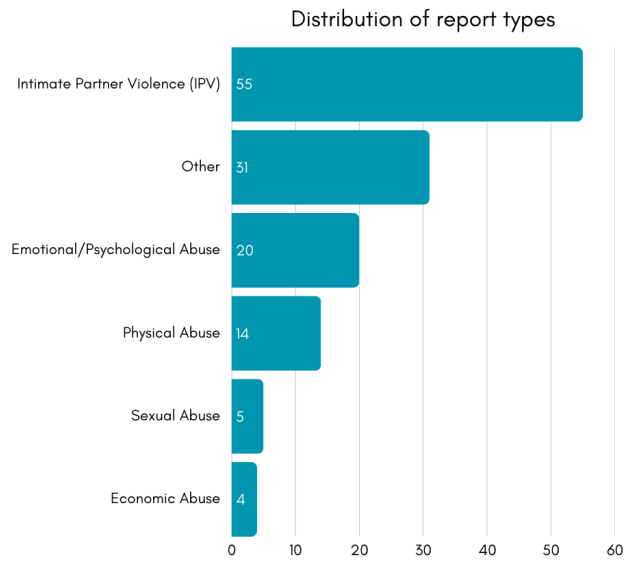
## **Evidence-Based Research & Policy Reform**

We generate cutting-edge research on domestic violence, sexual abuse, and intersecting vulnerabilities providing data-driven insights that shape laws, inform policies, and guide institutional reforms across Nigeria.

# 3

## PROGRAMMATIC IMPACT & KEY ACHIEVEMENTS







# Data Analysis

## Reports by age group. Who is reaching out

### Key facts from the data



- Among those who disclosed age, the highest reporting came from the 18–24 age group, followed by 25–34 and 35–44.
- Very few reports came from persons below 18, and none from persons aged 50 and above.

### Interpretation

- The age distribution among disclosed ages shows that young adults are the most likely to seek help, which aligns with known SGBV reporting patterns. The absence of reports from persons 50+ suggests either underreporting or access barriers for older survivors.

## Location of reports. Where cases are coming from

### Key facts from the data



- FCT accounts for the majority of reports, with 61 cases, making it the primary hotspot.
- Lagos follows with 16 reports, showing strong urban reporting patterns.
- Other Nigerian states including Rivers, Oyo, Delta, Plateau, Kano, Edo, Anambra, and Nasarawa recorded smaller but notable numbers.
- There were 4 international reports, including cases linked to Canada, the USA, and Ireland.

### Interpretation

- The dominance of FCT reflects SHF's operational base, visibility, and accessibility. Lagos reporting confirms urban awareness and trust in SHF services. The geographic spread across multiple states shows national relevance, even where SHF does not yet have a physical presence.
- International reports signal diaspora engagement and cross border relevance.

## Distribution of report types. Nature of violence reported

### Key facts from the data



- Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is the most reported case type, accounting for approximately 43% of all reports.
- “Other” forms of abuse account for 24%, showing complex or overlapping social issues like housing crises, economic empowerment and educational support.
- Emotional or psychological abuse represents 15.5%.
- Physical abuse accounts for 10.9%.
- Sexual abuse and economic abuse are reported less frequently.

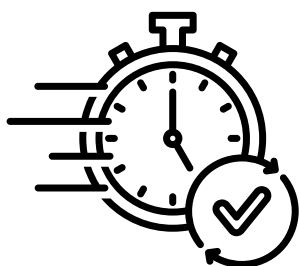
### Interpretation

- The dominance of IPV reflects the reality that violence most often occurs within intimate or domestic relationships. The high “other” category suggests that many survivors experience multiple, interlinked forms of social issues that do not fit neatly into one label.
- Lower reporting of sexual abuse and economic abuse does not indicate low prevalence. It more likely reflects higher stigma, fear, and normalization, especially around sexual violence and financial control.

---

## Response patterns by case type. What SHF did

### Key facts from the data



- Psychosocial support, including counselling and medical referrals, features strongly, especially for IPV and emotional abuse.
- Sheltering is used selectively, primarily for IPV cases, reflecting risk based decision making.
- Legal services appear in fewer cases, often as part of a broader response rather than a standalone action.

## Interpretation

The response pattern shows that SHF operates primarily as a first response and coordination hub, prioritizing safety, stabilization, and survivor choice. The limited use of sheltering demonstrates responsible risk assessment, as shelters are reserved for high-risk cases. Lower legal service numbers do not indicate lack of legal need. They reflect survivors' common reluctance to pursue formal justice pathways immediately.

---

## Cross cutting insights. What the data tells us overall

### Key facts from the data



- Young adults are the most likely to seek help.
- IPV remains the dominant form of violence reported.
- SHF's role is primarily stabilization, referral, and psychosocial support
- Geographic concentration reflects visibility, not exclusivity of need.
- More people needed help for long term accommodation not emergency sheltering

## Service Access and Response Patterns



In 2025, Safe Haven Foundation received reports predominantly related to intimate partner violence, with young adults forming the largest group of disclosed callers. Reports were concentrated in the FCT and Lagos, with cases also received from multiple states and the diaspora. SHF's responses prioritized psychosocial support, referrals, and risk based sheltering, reflecting survivor led and ethical case management.

## Men and Boys as Allies in Reporting Abuse



Recent reporting trends reveal a notable increase in men and boys coming forward to report abuse on behalf of their mothers, sisters, and friends. This shift reflects growing public awareness of gender based violence as a collective societal issue rather than a private matter, and it underscores the impact of sustained advocacy, community education, and survivor centered messaging.

Men and boys are increasingly acting as first responders within families and social networks, particularly where survivors fear retaliation, stigma, or economic consequences. This trend signals a critical cultural change. When men and boys use their voices to interrupt silence and stand in solidarity with survivors, accountability deepens and pathways to justice expand.

**SAFE  
HAVEN**  
FOUNDATION



**EMERGENCY  
SHELTERING**



**PSYCHOSOCIAL  
CARE**



**ADVOCACY**

**WHAT WE  
DO**



**LEGAL ASSISTANCE  
FOR CIVIL CASES**



**RESEARCH &  
PUBLICATION**



**Beyond direct service delivery, Safe Haven Foundation significantly strengthened its institutional reach, partnerships, and systems in 2025. Key milestones include:**

**01**

Expanded digital presence and search visibility, leading to increased online engagement and enabling more survivors, families, and allies to locate SHF, access reliable information, and seek timely support.

**02**

Curated “SafeGuard360: Comprehensive Training to Prevent Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment in Organizations,” a specialized capacity-building programme aimed at strengthening institutional safeguards and accountability.

**03**

Piloted a youth internship programme for students aged 15–18, creating early pathways for civic engagement, rights awareness, and leadership development.

**04**

Launched a legal fellowship programme for recent law graduates, strengthening access to survivor-focused legal support while building the next generation of gender-justice practitioners.

05



Established an online publication and policy platform, including Safe Haven Review: Voices Against GBV and a dedicated Policy Review Series, to amplify survivor-centred discourse and evidence-based advocacy.

06



Formalized strategic partnerships through Memoranda of Understanding with The Smile Outreach Africa, Babangida & Ibrahim Saleh Foundation, Tabitha Empowerment Centre, and Elite Life, strengthening referral networks and collaborative impact.

07



Delivered targeted humanitarian support through the distribution of 132 bags of 3kg rice to residents of underserved communities across the Federal Capital Territory, addressing immediate needs while reinforcing community trust.

# Emergency Shelter



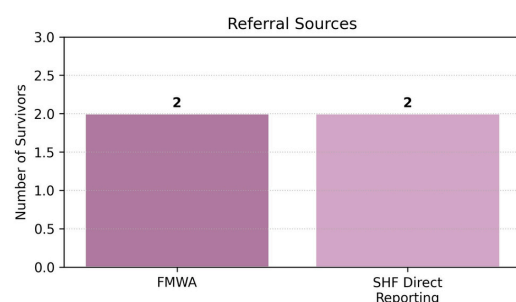
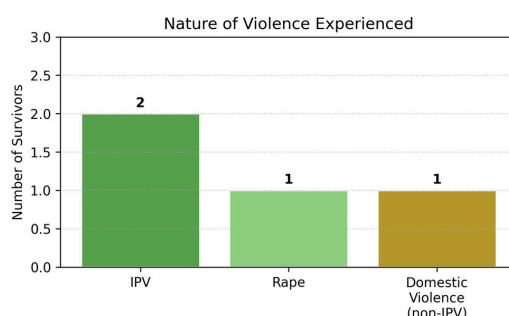
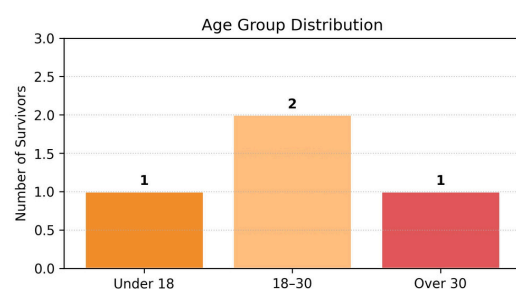
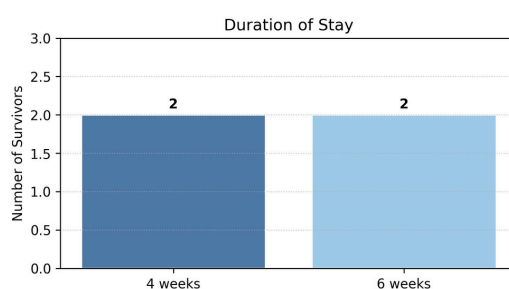
Safe Haven Foundation provided emergency shelter services to four female survivors of domestic and sexual violence; three Nigerians including one child and one non-Nigerian.

## Key accomplishments include:

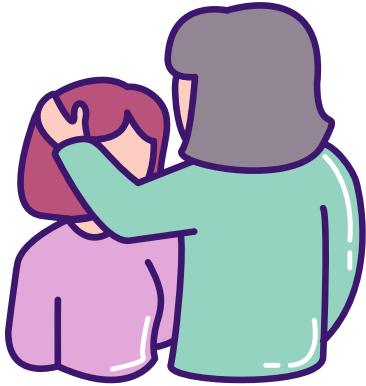
- Provision of round-the-clock shelter services in a secure and confidential environment.
- Access to basic needs including food, clothing, hygiene supplies, and medical care
- Facilitation of scholarship for one survivor up to University Level
- Securing paid accommodation for one survivor.
- Facilitated the return of non-Nigerian survivor to her home country in collaboration with the Zambian High Commission in Abuja.
- Rescued a 19 year old boy from a high risk and exploitative situation in Abuja and led his safe relocation to Kaduna State. Facilitated family tracing, accommodation and employment.

Shelter Services at a Glance (Jan-Dec 2025)

Total Survivors Sheltered: 4  
Safe, confidential accommodation and holistic care provided.



## Psychosocial Support



SHF ensured that all survivors in shelter and other nonresident survivors received trauma-informed, survivor-centered psychosocial care, critical to recovery, and long-term healing.

### Highlights:

- Delivered 31 survivors assisted one-on-one trauma counseling sessions facilitated by SHF in-house clinical psychologist and external psychologist. All survivors had between 3-5 one-on-one sessions.
- Introduced healing-centered activities such as journaling and storytelling circles (for survivors' resident at the shelter).

## Legal Advice and Assistance



Recognizing access to justice as a cornerstone of survivor empowerment, SHF provided legal support to survivors navigating the criminal justice system.

### Key results:

- Offered legal advice to 5 survivors over divorce matters
- Offered legal representation to 2 survivors at police interviews.

# Research and Publication

SHF continues to contribute to evidence-based advocacy through research and strategic publications that shape legal and policy discourse.



## Milestones:

- **Launched an online publication series called Safe Haven Review: Voices Against GBV. Safe Haven Review has published 3 authored articles:**
  - Review No. 1: The Role of Bystander Intervention in Domestic Violence Situations.
  - Review No 2: Breaking the Culture of Silence – Men as Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence.
  - Review No 3: The Impact of Social media on Reporting Domestic Violence: Legal Perspectives, Benefits and Challenges
- **Piloted a Policy Review Series.**
  - Policy Brief No.1: Leveraging the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (CEVAWG) to Strengthen Nigeria's Response to Gender-Based Violence.
- **Short Articles**
  - What to Do If You're Facing Domestic Violence in Nigeria
  - How Safe Haven Foundation Supports SGBV Survivors in Nigeria
  - Why Psychosocial Support Matters for GBV Survivors
  - How to Help a Friend Experiencing Domestic Violence
  - Signs You May Be in an Abusive Relationship
  - Signs You Might Be in an Emotionally Abusive Relationship
  - Why Safe Spaces Matter for Domestic Violence Survivors
  - How to Report Domestic Violence Anonymously in Nigeria



### The Role of Bystander Intervention in Domestic Violence Situations

By: Prof. Fatima Waziri-Azi, Ph.D



#### Introduction

Domestic violence is a serious social and public health concern characterized by patterns of abuse within intimate relationships. It encompasses physical, emotional, psychological, financial, and sexual abuse.

While law enforcement and support organizations play a vital role in addressing domestic violence, bystanders—individuals who witness abusive situations—can be instrumental in prevention and intervention.

Bystander models foreground the responsibility of community members who witness or are aware of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) to intervene in the situation and engage strategies to diffuse the violence and/or support victims to remain safe.(1)

Bystander intervention is intended to signal to perpetrators of IPV that their behavior is not acceptable and to galvanize other bystanders to prevent, interrupt, or address domestic violence and that taking the initiative to intervene is morally and socially desirable. This means that for those who witness violence or notice red flags, it is important to take any form of action instead of diffusing the responsibility on others if there are multiple people present or aware. Being an active bystander does not mean to throw oneself in the middle of the action or get completely involved every time they witness violence. (2)

The idea that bystanders have a responsibility to intervene in IPV is becoming increasingly common in policy responses across jurisdictions. Indeed, in recent years, countries such as the United States and Australia have implemented policies that include bystander intervention in IPV as a strategy for violence prevention.(3)

Studies have shown that interventions targeting intrapersonal and interpersonal factors have demonstrated more success in high-income countries than in low- and middle income countries.(4)

This may be due to such programs being poorly adapted to different contexts, lack of structured evaluations, and inconsistencies in what is considered a bystander intervention program in different settings.(5)

The effectiveness of bystander intervention programs that target communal and societal factors are harder to evaluate because bystander interventions may not be the main focus of programming and because of a lack of measurable indicators. However, Start, Awareness, Support, and Action (SASAI) in Uganda, Harass Map in Egypt, and Bell Bajao in India are a few initiatives that have shown promise in increasing positive bystander behaviors at community and social levels.

### Breaking the Culture of Silence: Men as Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence

By: Gary Kelechi Amadi



#### Introduction

Domestic and sexual violence have long been recognized as pervasive societal issues, yet public discourse and policy responses have mostly framed these crimes as gendered phenomena affecting women. This narrative, while critical in addressing systemic misogyny and protecting female survivors, has inadvertently rendered male victims invisible.

This article seeks to dismantle the entrenched stereotypes and societal taboos that silence male survivors, challenging the binary perception of violence that casts men solely as perpetrators and women as victims.

By interrogating cultural norms, institutional biases, and systemic gaps in support, this work advocates for a more inclusive understanding of gender-based violence, one that acknowledges the full spectrum of human suffering and fosters equitable pathways to justice and healing.

Historically, discussions of domestic and sexual violence have been shaped by patriarchal frameworks that equate masculinity with invulnerability and dominance. Men who experience abuse, whether at the hands of intimate partners, family members, or strangers, often confront disbelief, ridicule, or accusations of weakness, reinforcing a culture of shame that discourages disclosure.

Data from organizations such as the CDC and global studies reveal that approximately 1 in 9 men experience severe physical violence by an intimate partner, while 1 in 6 men report sexual violence victimization in their lifetimes.

These statistics, though staggering, are frequently minimized or omitted from mainstream advocacy, leaving male survivors without representation in policy, media, or support networks.

The absence of gender-inclusive language in legal frameworks and healthcare systems further exacerbates their marginalization, perpetuating cycles of isolation and untreated trauma.

This article argues that breaking the culture of silence around male victimization is not merely a matter of expanding statistical visibility but a moral imperative to redefine societal conceptions of strength, vulnerability, and justice.

By synthesizing interdisciplinary research, survivor testimonies, and comparative policy analyses, it critiques the limitations of current anti-violence paradigms and proposes actionable strategies for creating inclusive support systems.

### The Impact of Social Media on Reporting Domestic Violence: Legal Perspectives, Benefits and Challenges



#### Introduction

Social media has emerged as a transformative tool in addressing domestic violence, offering victims a platform to bypass cultural, geographical, and institutional barriers. Despite laws like Nigeria's Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act (2015), underreporting persists due to cultural normalization of abuse, fear of stigma, and distrust in legal systems. This paper examines social media's impact on domestic violence reportage, highlighting its ability to empower victims via anonymity, rapid dissemination of information, and viral advocacy (e.g., hashtags, survivor testimonials).

By: Nnabuchi Edeoga

Key findings reveal social media's effectiveness in raising awareness and enabling reporting but caution that poor framing of incidents can perpetuate harmful stereotypes.

Recommendations urge stakeholders to strengthen policy implementation and address systemic root causes, such as poverty and gender inequality, rather than reactive measures. Future research should explore demographic influences on reporting and the efficacy of new technologies in encouraging victim engagement.

Domestic violence, a global human rights violation, encompasses physical, sexual, emotional, economic, and spiritual abuse, predominantly affecting women.

Globally, 35% of women experience intimate partner violence, with Nigeria reporting alarming rates: 73% of women in Lagos face lifetime Intimate Partner Violence (IPV).

Cultural norms in Nigeria often shield perpetrators, framing abuse as a "private matter" and discouraging victims from seeking help due to fear of retaliation or institutional apathy.

Social media's dual role; amplifying marginalized voices while grappling with ethical concerns like algorithmic biases and misinformation underscores its complexity.

Platforms like Facebook and Twitter enable real-time interaction and anonymity, yet challenges persist in balancing public safety with profit-driven content moderation.



### POLICY BRIEF NO.1

Date: June 2, 2025

### Leveraging the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (CEVAWG) to Strengthen Nigeria's Response to Gender-Based Violence

#### BACKGROUND

Violence against women and girls remains a critical human rights and public health crisis across Africa. Despite the existence of regional and global instruments, systemic and widespread violations persist. Nigeria continues to experience widespread incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), despite legislative and policy efforts such as the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act/Law (VAPP) and Child's Right Act/ Law at the Federal level and State level. These instruments,



Facebook



LinkedIn



Twitter

Title: Leveraging the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (CEVAWG) to Strengthen Nigeria's Response to Gender-Based Violence



# Advocacy



- Curated an internship program for students from the age of 15-18 years old and Legal Internship for fresh law graduate. The first stream for 1 legal intern held from February 4th 2025 and April 3rd, 2025. While the first stream for 2 secondary school interns held from June 24, 2025- July 09, 2025.
- Joint partnership with the Tabitha Empowerment Centre on the Girls Vanguard Programme.



## HOW WE WORK

<b>FREE EMERGENCY SHELTERING</b> Admission is based on only referrals from government institutions. We do not admit on self-referral.	
<b>FREE PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE</b> Access to our in-house clinical psychologist is based on referrals and self referrals	
 <b>FREE LEGAL ADVICE &amp; REPRESENTATION FOR INDIGENT SURVIVORS</b> We only handle civil matters like protection orders, divorce & custody issues. We accept referrals and self referrals	

# 16 Days of Activism Event

---

SHF's 16 Days of Activism opened powerfully on November 27, 2025, with an inspiring gathering of young women from underserved communities. This opening event created a safe and vibrant space for learning, mentoring and honest dialogue on violence, safety and empowerment. The conversation was bold. The questions were thoughtful. The energy in the room revealed that girls thrive when they have knowledge, community, and support.

The event did more than launch the global campaign for the year. It reaffirmed the purpose of the Safe Haven Foundation: to provide protection, guidance and opportunities for young women who are too often unseen or unheard.

Each session, activity and interaction strengthened their confidence and amplified their voices at the very start of the 16 Days movement.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all the organizations that honored our invitation. Tabitha Empowerment Center. Elite Life Consulting. Daughters of Abraham. Auxano Foundation. Women and Girls with Albinism Network.

Their partnership and solidarity enriched the programme and demonstrated a shared commitment to ending violence against women and girls, both online and offline. Their presence affirmed that collective action remains the strongest force against all forms of gender-based violence.

Together, we set a firm foundation for the 16 Days of Activism. The momentum has begun and we intend to carry it forward with purpose, clarity and unwavering focus on protecting and empowering every girl.









## 4

# INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING & STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING

As the demand for SHF services continues to grow, we recognize that a strong institution and a well-supported team are critical to sustaining impact and improving service delivery.

## Strengthening Our Systems

SHF took deliberate steps to improve its internal structures, streamline service delivery, and lay the foundation for long-term growth.

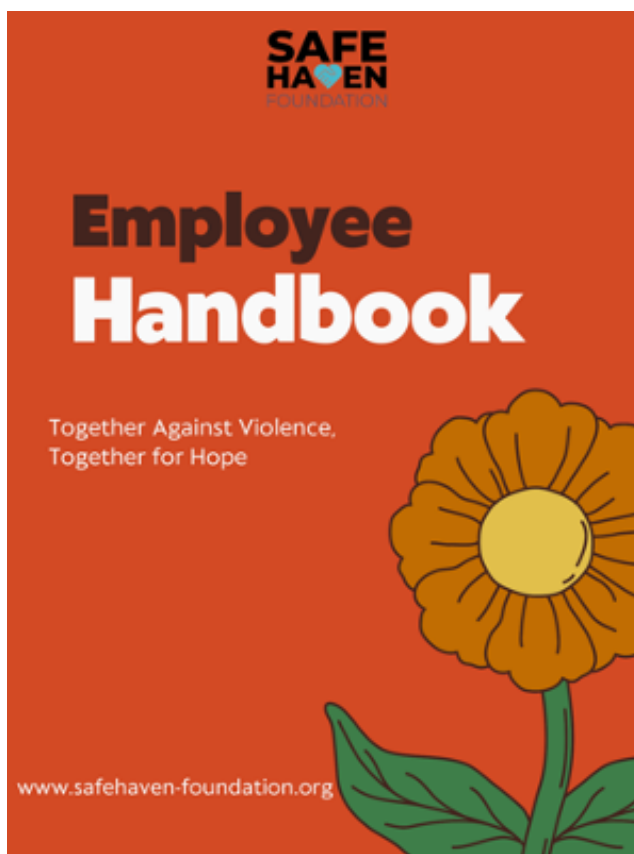
### We have developed the following tools and policies:

- Standardized Case Management Tools comprising survivor intake forms, referral logs, exit forms, referral directory for survivors in the FCT and shelter case documentation tools to improve consistency, accountability, and data tracking.

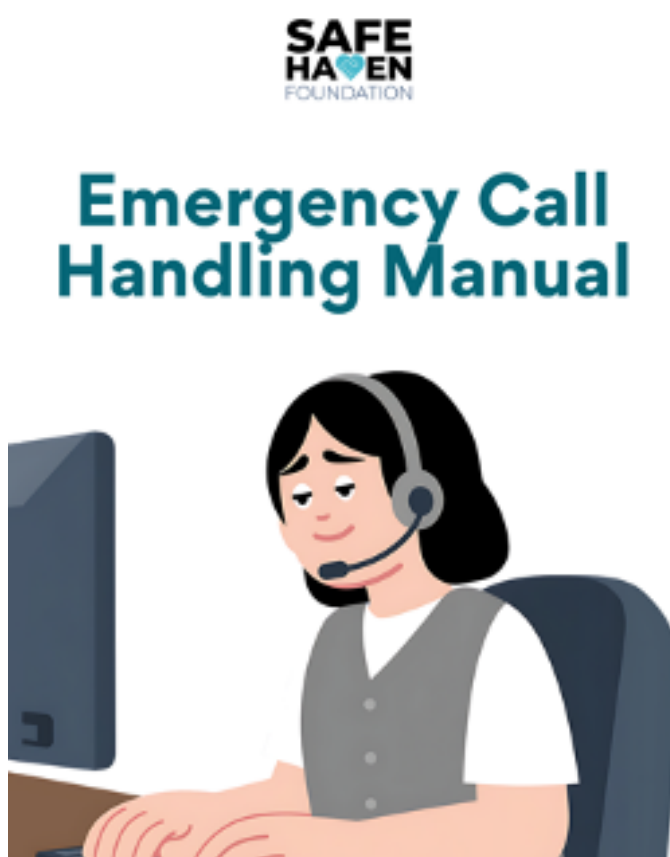
## Operational Policies and Guidelines

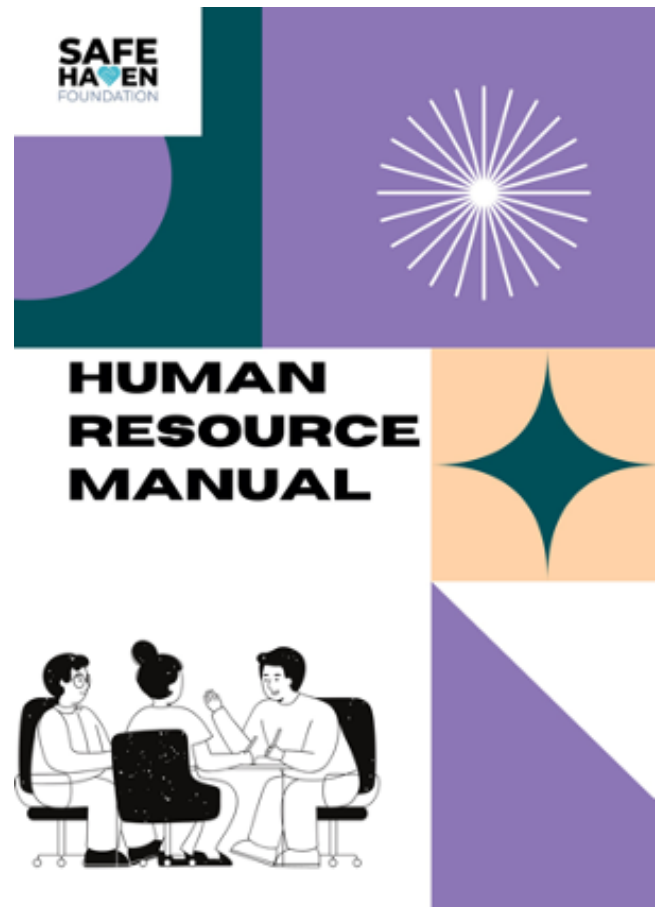
- Organizational Policies and Procedures Manual
- Human Resources (HR) Manual
- Financial Policies and Procedures Manual
- Volunteer Handbook
- Safety and Emergency Procedures Manual
- Data Protection and Privacy Guidelines
- Media and Communication Policy
- Partnership and Collaboration Guidelines
- Shelter Operations Manual
- Employee Handbook
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Policy.
- Strategic Plan (2025-2028)
- Referral Directory
- Internship Welcome Pack
- Emergency Call Handling Manual
- SafeGuard360: Comprehensive Training Manual to Prevent Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment in Organizations.

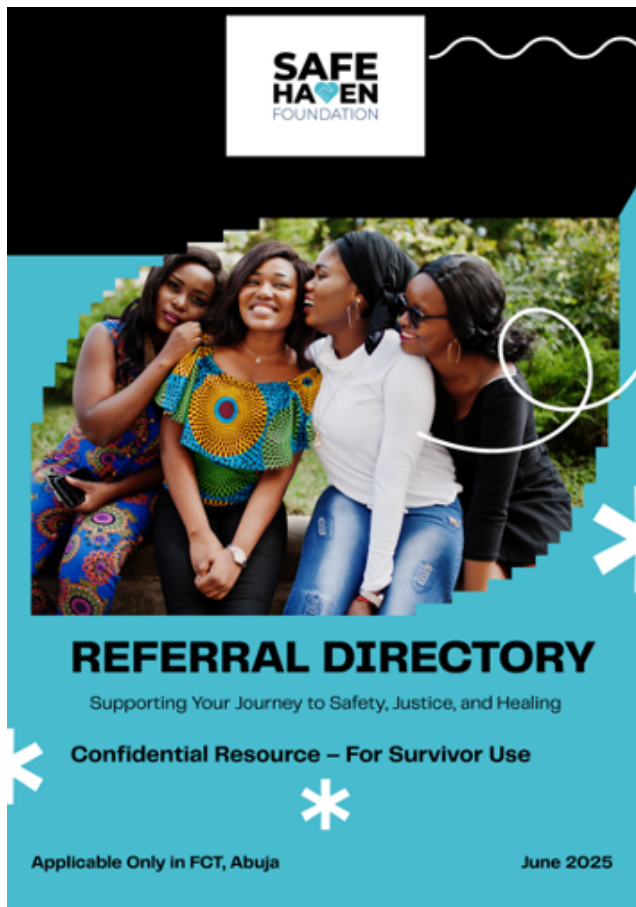












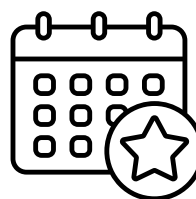
NOVEMBER 2025

Our team is our greatest asset. During this period, we invested in building the skills and emotional resilience of our staff and volunteers to ensure safe, trauma-informed, and survivor-centered care.

- **Training Highlights:**

- Conducted internal training sessions on foundational on SGBV
- Onboarded new shelter staff and volunteers with a structured induction and mentorship process.
- Mandatory online course on Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) by UNICEF
- Training in SGBV Trauma Counselling for Counsellors and Social Workers in the FCT. Organized by EU Funded ROLAC II Programme, implemented by International IDEA (May 13 & 14, 2025)

### Strategic Events, Visibility, and Policy Engagements 2025



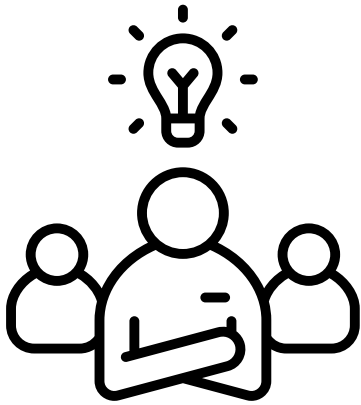
## Staff Capacity Building

Date	Event Title	Role	Organizing Institution
29 Nov 2025	Voices Against Violence 2025	Keynote Speaker and Campaign Face	The Smile Outreach
24 Oct 2025	Breaking the Silence. Confronting Domestic Violence and Propelling Action for Safer Communities	Panelist	The Smile Outreach

Date	Event Title	Role	Organizing Institution
17–18 Sep 2025	Disability Inclusive GBV Response Systems Conference	Participant	JONAPWD
6 Sep 2025	Launch of the Girls Vanguard Project	Speaker	Tabitha Empowerment Center
13–14 May 2025	Training of Counsellors and Social Workers on Trauma Counselling for SGBV Survivors	Participant	International IDEA (EU RoLAC II)
13 May 2025	Advancing Gender Responsive Procurement in Nigeria	Participant	DO Take Action
13 May 2025	Women's Conference 2025	Participant	DO Take Action and World Bank
15 May 2025	International Family Day 2025	Participant	Jewels Leading Lights Foundation

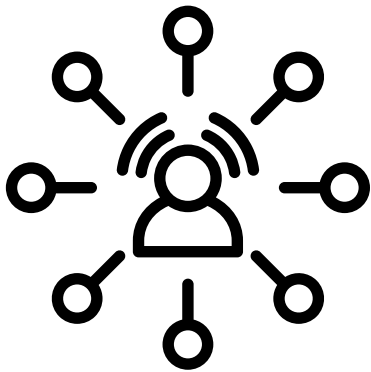
Date	Event Title	Role	Organizing Institution
7 Feb 2025	Launch of Survivors Leadership Forum and Book Club	Participant	Auxano Foundation
27 Jun 2025	Survivors Leadership Forum Q2 Session	Participant	Auxano Foundation
2 Dec 2025	Launch of the Womanity Index 2025	Participant	Invictus Africa
18 Mar 2025	CSW69 Side Event on Protection and Justice for SGBV Survivors	Panelist	EU RoLAC Programme
2 Dec 2025	The Threat of Technologically Facilitated GBV	Key Note Speaker	EU RoLAC Programme
29 Nov 2025	Voices Against Violence. The Power of Youth in Advocacy	Key Note Speaker	The Smile Outreach





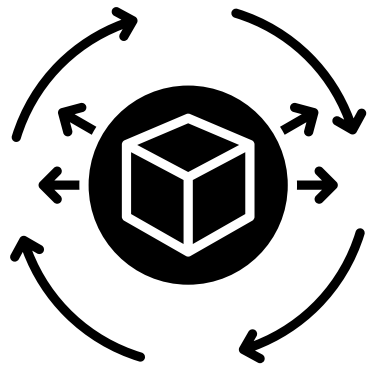
### Visibility and Positioning

SHF leadership participated in over 14 high impact national, regional, and international platforms in 2025, positioning the Foundation as a credible voice on survivor protection, access to justice, and emerging forms of gender based violence. Engagements spanned grassroots, policy, multilateral, and youth focused spaces.



### Policy Influence

Participation at CSW69, EU RoLAC platforms, and Rule of Law sector convenings directly contributed to discourse on justice sector coordination, survivor centered approaches, and technologically facilitated GBV. These engagements strengthened SHF's policy credibility and informed its research, advocacy, and legal empowerment work.



### Capacity Strengthening

Targeted trainings and technical convenings enhanced institutional capacity in trauma informed counselling, disability inclusion, and gender responsive systems, directly improving service quality for survivors supported by SHF.



### Partnership Development

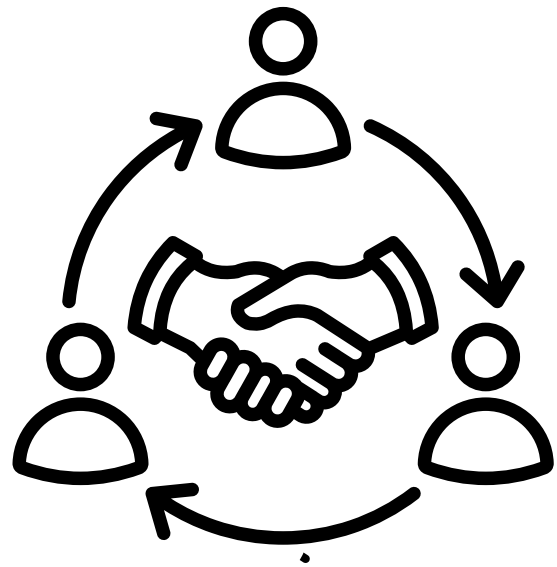
Events facilitated strategic partnerships with civil society organizations, multilateral actors, and youth led initiatives, contributing to referral pathways, co programming, and visibility that directly support survivor access to protection and justice.

# 5

## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION

At Safe Haven Foundation, we believe that transforming the landscape of SGBV prevention and survivor support requires more than passion; it requires partnership.

Collaboration is at the heart of everything we do, and the progress recorded in 2025 is a direct result of relationships built on shared values, mutual respect, and collective purpose. In 2025, SHF engaged in impactful partnerships that strengthened service delivery.



- **Federal Ministry of Women Affairs:** Collaborated on emergency shelter referrals reinforcing our shared commitment to protecting vulnerable women and girls.
- **FCT Women Affairs Secretariat:** Collaborated on trauma counselling and medical support.
- **National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons:** Collaborated on referrals for investigations and enforcement.
- **Police Gender Unit FCID::** Collaborated on referrals for investigations and enforcement.
- **Federal Ministry of Justice SGBV Unit:** Collaborated on trauma counselling.

- **NGO Networks and Peer Organizations**

- SHF signed an MoU with The Smile Outreach Africa (TSO) to formalize collaboration on survivor support and community outreach initiatives.
- Signed a MoU with Babangida & Ibrahim Saleh Foundation (BISH) for educational empowerment
- Signed an MoU with Tabitha Empowerment Centre (TEC)
- Signed an MoU with Elite Life.
- Joint partnership with TEC aimed at supporting adolescent girls in underserved urban communities across the Federal Capital Territory.
- SHF and AUXANO joint advocacy efforts to raise awareness and drive policy change on SGBV.
- The Founder of SHF, Prof. Fatima Waziri-Azi was named the 2025 Face of Voices Against Violence by TSO.

Looking ahead, SHF is actively seeking new partnerships to expand the scale and sustainability of our work.

**Priority areas include:**

- Core and Project Funding Partnerships with donor agencies, foundations, and philanthropic institutions.
- Academic and Research Collaborations for evidence-based research and policy reform.
- Private Sector Engagement to support survivor reintegration, skills acquisition, and workplace safety.
- Community-Based Organization Alliances to extend outreach and build grassroots prevention models.

To our existing partners, thank you for walking this path with us. To those we are yet to meet, we invite you to join us. Whether through funding, technical support, training, or visibility, your partnership can help us reach more survivors, change more lives, and build a safer, more just society for all.

## 6

## DIGITAL PRESENCE, VISIBILITY, & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

In 2025, Safe Haven Foundation deliberately leveraged digital platforms to advance advocacy, survivor outreach, public education, and institutional visibility. Social media and the official website were deployed as complementary tools, each serving a distinct strategic purpose aligned with SHF's survivor-centered mandate and stage of organizational growth. Rather than prioritizing mass reach, SHF focused on credibility, trust, and meaningful engagement, particularly in sensitive contexts relating to domestic and sexual violence.

### LinkedIn. Institutional Visibility and Thought Leadership



LinkedIn served as SHF's primary platform for institutional positioning, policy engagement, and professional outreach. In 2025, SHF published 241 posts and recorded 7,137 impressions, reaching 2,736 unique users across the gender justice, legal, development, and protection sectors. The platform generated 522 engagements, with an average engagement rate of 15.29% significantly above nonprofit sector benchmarks. Consistent activity across 346 posting days reinforced SHF's credibility, transparency, and presence within national and international gender justice ecosystems.

## Instagram. Community Engagement and Survivor-Centered Reach



Instagram complemented LinkedIn by serving as SHF's community-facing and survivor-oriented platform. In 2025, SHF published 241 posts, including educational carousels, safety tips, reels, and survivor-centered content, and reached 116 followers. While modest in size, the audience composition is highly mission-aligned. Women constitute 56.2% of followers, with the strongest engagement among the 25–54 age group, a key demographic for referrals, advocacy, and community-level norm change. Over 90% of followers are based in Nigeria, particularly in Abuja and Lagos, with emerging international visibility in the United States, United Kingdom, and other countries.

---

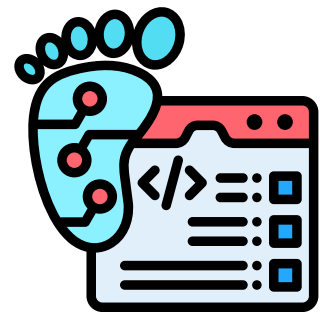
## Website. Institutional Credibility and Access to Information



The Safe Haven Foundation website, [www.safehaven-foundation.org](http://www.safehaven-foundation.org), served as SHF's institutional anchor and primary credibility platform. Between January and December 2025, the website recorded 3,848 active users, 3,809 new users, and 7,079 page views, with an average engagement time of 44 seconds per user. Traffic was driven primarily by direct access (49.9%) and organic search (43.3 %), indicating intentional engagement and institutional trust rather than reliance on social media referrals.

Nigeria recorded the highest engagement quality, with longer session durations and higher engagement rates, confirming the site's relevance to SHF's service delivery context. At the same time, strong traffic from the United States, United Kingdom, and other countries reflects growing international visibility. The most visited pages included Home, About Us, Services, Get Involved, and Contact Us, alongside guidance-focused content such as reporting domestic violence anonymously. This confirms the website's role as a gateway for verification, information seeking, and access to support.

### Integrated Digital Footprint



Taken together, SHF's digital platforms formed a coherent and intentional digital ecosystem in 2025:

- LinkedIn advanced institutional authority, advocacy, and policy engagement.
- Instagram strengthened community trust and survivor-centered communication.
- The website anchored credibility, discoverability, and access to information.

This integrated approach reinforces SHF's accountability to survivors, partners, and donors, while extending the impact of offline programming.



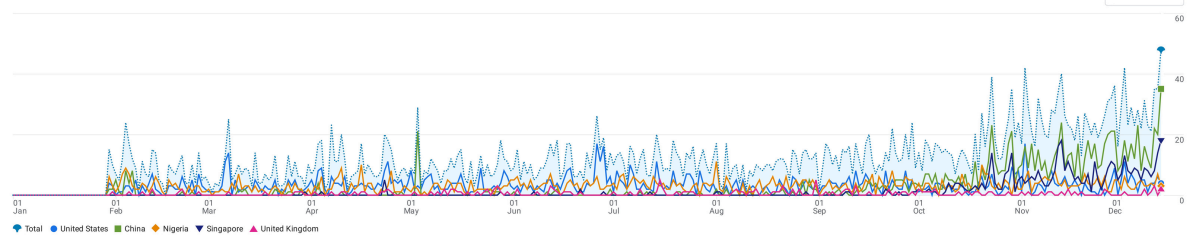
All Users [Add comparison](#)

This year (Jan - Today) Jan 1 - Dec 13, 2025

Demographic details: Country

[Add filter](#)

Active users by Country over time



	Country	↓ Active users	New users	Engaged sessions	Engagement rate	Engaged sessions per active user	Average engagement time per active user	Event count All events	Key events All events	User key event rate All events	Total revenue
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Total	3,848 100% of total	3,809 100% of total	2,058 100% of total	43.25% Avg 0%	0.53 Avg 0%	44s Avg 0%	24,408 100% of total	0.00	0%	\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 United States	1,056 (27.44%)	1,044 (27.41%)	554 (26.92%)	45.56%	0.52	29s	6,045 (24.77%)	0.00 (-)	0%	\$0.00 (-)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 China	1,017 (26.43%)	976 (25.62%)	38 (1.85%)	3.74%	0.04	1s	3,282 (13.45%)	0.00 (-)	0%	\$0.00 (-)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 Nigeria	802 (20.84%)	800 (21%)	875 (42.52%)	63.36%	1.09	2m 06s	8,357 (34.24%)	0.00 (-)	0%	\$0.00 (-)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 Singapore	452 (11.75%)	37 (0.97%)	29 (1.41%)	6.36%	0.06	5s	709 (2.9%)	0.00 (-)	0%	\$0.00 (-)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5 United Kingdom	155 (4.03%)	153 (4.02%)	88 (4.28%)	48.35%	0.57	28s	852 (3.49%)	0.00 (-)	0%	\$0.00 (-)
<input type="checkbox"/>	6 India	72 (1.87%)	72 (1.89%)	62 (3.01%)	59.62%	0.86	43s	646 (2.65%)	0.00 (-)	0%	\$0.00 (-)
<input type="checkbox"/>	7 Germany	66 (1.72%)	66 (1.73%)	24 (1.17%)	34.78%	0.36	16s	385 (1.58%)	0.00 (-)	0%	\$0.00 (-)
<input type="checkbox"/>	8 Canada	54 (1.4%)	53 (1.39%)	38 (1.85%)	65.52%	0.70	37s	301 (1.23%)	0.00 (-)	0%	\$0.00 (-)
<input type="checkbox"/>	9 Ireland	48 (1.25%)	48 (1.26%)	24 (1.17%)	43.64%	0.50	16s	198 (0.81%)	0.00 (-)	0%	\$0.00 (-)
<input type="checkbox"/>	10 Netherlands	41 (1.07%)	40 (1.05%)	24 (1.17%)	54.55%	0.59	40s	242 (0.99%)	0.00 (-)	0%	\$0.00 (-)

© 2025 Google | [Analytics home](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Send feedback](#)

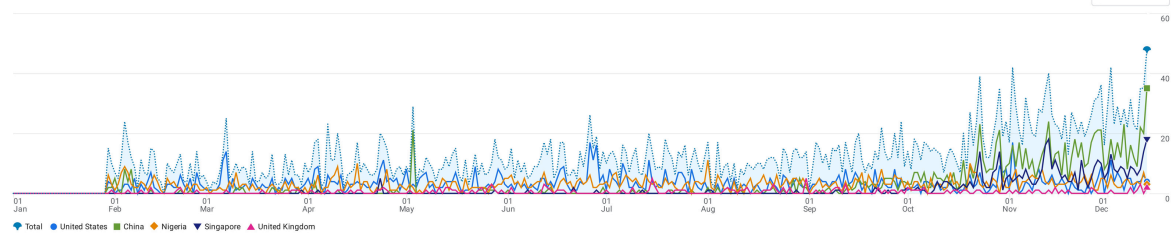
All Users [Add comparison](#)

This year (Jan - Today) Jan 1 - Dec 13, 2025

Demographic details: Country

[Add filter](#)

Active users by Country over time



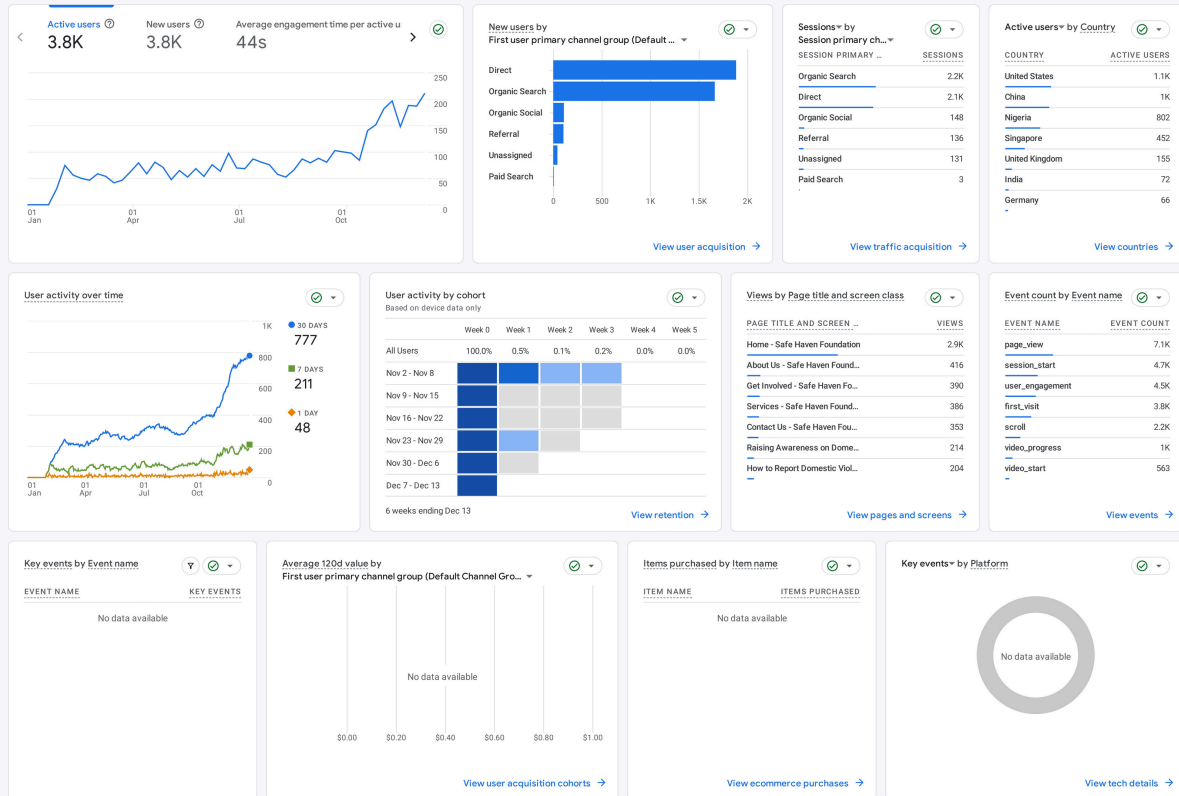
	Country	↓ Active users	New users	Engaged sessions	Engagement rate	Engaged sessions per active user	Average engagement time per active user	Event count All events	Key events All events	User key event rate All events	Total revenue
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Total	3,848 100% of total	3,809 100% of total	2,058 100% of total	43.25% Avg 0%	0.53 Avg 0%	44s Avg 0%	24,408 100% of total	0.00	0%	\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 United States	1,056 (27.44%)	1,044 (27.41%)	554 (26.92%)	45.56%	0.52	29s	6,045 (24.77%)	0.00 (-)	0%	\$0.00 (-)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 China	1,017 (26.43%)	976 (25.62%)	38 (1.85%)	3.74%	0.04	1s	3,282 (13.45%)	0.00 (-)	0%	\$0.00 (-)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 Nigeria	802 (20.84%)	800 (21%)	875 (42.52%)	63.36%	1.09	2m 06s	8,357 (34.24%)	0.00 (-)	0%	\$0.00 (-)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 Singapore	452 (11.75%)	37 (0.97%)	29 (1.41%)	6.36%	0.06	5s	709 (2.9%)	0.00 (-)	0%	\$0.00 (-)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5 United Kingdom	155 (4.03%)	153 (4.02%)	88 (4.28%)	48.35%	0.57	28s	852 (3.49%)	0.00 (-)	0%	\$0.00 (-)
<input type="checkbox"/>	6 India	72 (1.87%)	72 (1.89%)	62 (3.01%)	59.62%	0.86	43s	646 (2.65%)	0.00 (-)	0%	\$0.00 (-)
<input type="checkbox"/>	7 Germany	66 (1.72%)	66 (1.73%)	24 (1.17%)	34.78%	0.36	16s	385 (1.58%)	0.00 (-)	0%	\$0.00 (-)
<input type="checkbox"/>	8 Canada	54 (1.4%)	53 (1.39%)	38 (1.85%)	65.52%	0.70	37s	301 (1.23%)	0.00 (-)	0%	\$0.00 (-)
<input type="checkbox"/>	9 Ireland	48 (1.25%)	48 (1.26%)	24 (1.17%)	43.64%	0.50	16s	198 (0.81%)	0.00 (-)	0%	\$0.00 (-)
<input type="checkbox"/>	10 Netherlands	41 (1.07%)	40 (1.05%)	24 (1.17%)	54.55%	0.59	40s	242 (0.99%)	0.00 (-)	0%	\$0.00 (-)

© 2025 Google | [Analytics home](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Send feedback](#)

All Users Add comparison

This year (Jan - Today) Jan 1 - Dec 13, 2025

## Reports snapshot



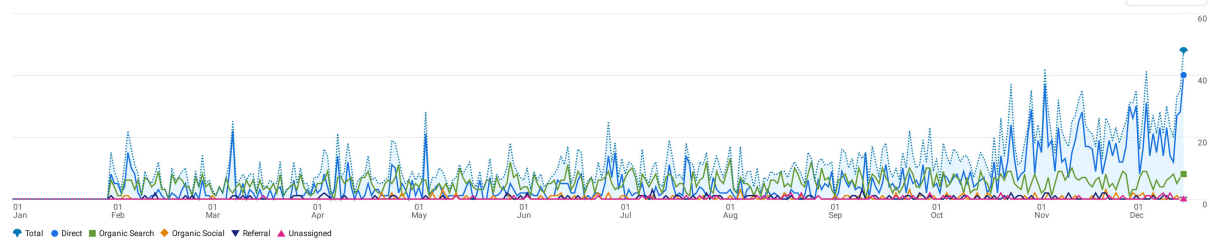
All Users Add comparison

This year (Jan - Today) Jan 1 - Dec 13, 2025

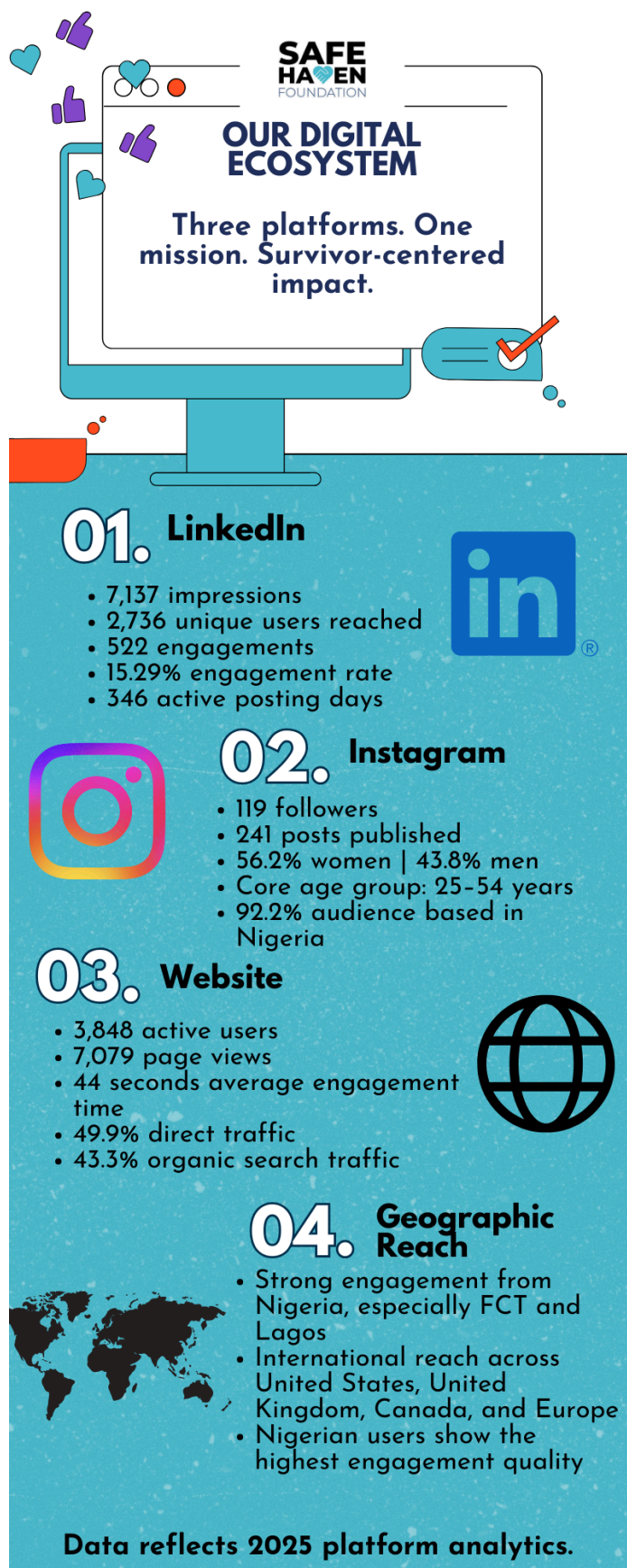
## User acquisition: First user primary channel group (Default Channel Group)

Add filter

New users by First user primary channel group (Default Channel Group) over time



	Total users	New users	Returning users	Average engagement time per active user	Engaged sessions per active user	Event count	Key events	User key event rate
	100% of total	100% of total	100% of total	Avg 0%	Avg 0%	100% of total	All events	All events
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Total	3,848	3,809	328	44s	0.53	24,408	0.00	0%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Direct	1,923 (49.97%)	1,884 (49.46%)	63 (19.21%)	23s	0.28	10,078 (41.29%)	0.00 (-)	0%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 Organic Search	1,665 (43.27%)	1,664 (43.69%)	241 (73.48%)	1m 08s	0.81	12,738 (52.19%)	0.00 (-)	0%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 Organic Social	110 (2.86%)	110 (2.89%)	3 (0.91%)	14s	0.65	486 (1.99%)	0.00 (-)	0%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 Referral	105 (2.73%)	105 (2.76%)	13 (3.96%)	54s	0.65	726 (2.97%)	0.00 (-)	0%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 Unassigned	43 (1.12%)	43 (1.13%)	8 (2.44%)	1m 34s	0.81	371 (1.52%)	0.00 (-)	0%
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Paid Search	3 (0.08%)	3 (0.08%)	0 (0%)	0s	0.00	9 (0.04%)	0.00 (-)	0%



## What the Data Shows

- High engagement quality despite modest audience size
- Strong trust and credibility across platforms
- Digital channels reinforcing offline services and advocacy
- Clear role differentiation between platforms
- Readiness for scale without reputational risk

## SHF's digital footprint demonstrates:

- Accountability and transparency
- Survivor-centered communication
- Institutional maturity
- Effective use of limited resources
- Strong foundation for growth and partnership

## Key Insight

Impact is driven by relevance, not reach. SHF's digital platforms prioritize trust, safety, and meaningful engagement over volume.

## 7

# CHALLENGES, RISKS, & LESSONS LEARNED

## Key Challenges

### Limited shelter capacity in the FCT



As demand for emergency accommodation increased, SHF faced constraints in securing alternative shelter placements for survivors who did not meet existing partner shelter criteria or who required extended stays. In addition, the organization received multiple accommodation-related requests from highly vulnerable individuals who were not survivors of sexual or gender-based violence. This highlighted a critical service gap and underscored the urgent need for a dedicated transit home to respond to broader vulnerability and crisis situations within the FCT.

#### Mitigation action

- Formalize MOUs with additional shelters to expand referral options.

### Delays within the justice system



Survivors pursuing justice frequently encountered bureaucratic delays at the investigation stage. Such delays undermine survivor confidence, prolonged risk exposure, and contributed to disengagement from formal justice processes.

#### Mitigation actions

- Strengthen multi-agency referral escalation pathways with named focal persons.
- Expand early legal literacy and case counselling at intake to manage survivor expectations and options.
- Document systemic delays to support evidence-based advocacy and policy engagement.

## Resource and funding constraints



Inconsistent funding limited SHF's ability to scale certain critical services, particularly post-shelter reintegration and long-term economic empowerment support. Many survivors required sustained financial assistance and livelihood opportunities to prevent re-victimization, but available resources were insufficient to meet this level of need.

### Mitigation actions

- Diversify funding sources, including foundations, bilateral donors, and private sector partnerships.
- Integrate economic empowerment components into core proposals rather than treating them as add-ons.
- Establish a survivor reintegration reserve fund where feasible.



## Lessons Learned

**Partnerships strengthen survivor outcomes:** Collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and allied civil society organizations reinforced the value of multi-sectoral partnerships in survivor referral, protection, and advocacy. Coordinated responses significantly improved access to complementary services beyond SHF's direct capacity.

**Operational flexibility is essential in crisis response:** The ability to respond rapidly to emergency referrals, provide transportation, or adjust service delivery in real time proved critical in protecting survivors facing imminent risk. Flexibility emerged as a core operational requirement rather than an optional capacity.

**Early legal empowerment improves justice engagement:** Providing survivors with legal information and rights awareness at the point of intake reduced confusion, anxiety, and drop-off from justice processes. Early legal literacy strengthened survivor agency and informed decision-making throughout case management.

**Robust documentation enhances accountability and credibility:** Improved data tracking and structured case documentation strengthened SHF's internal systems, enabled more accurate impact reporting, and enhanced institutional credibility with partners and donors. Documentation also supported learning and evidence-based program adjustments.



## 8

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT & RESOURCE UTILIZATION

During the reporting period, SHF operated without institutional or donor funding. All programmes, interventions, and shelter operations were sustained through the personal commitment and generosity of trustees, family members, friends, and private well-wishers who believe in SHF's mission to end sexual and gender-based violence.

Despite operating under significant financial constraints, SHF maintained uninterrupted, survivor-centred service delivery. Through disciplined prioritisation, prudent financial management, and the dedication of staff and volunteers, the Foundation continued to provide emergency shelter, legal assistance, psychosocial support, and public education, ensuring that survivors in crisis were not turned away.

### Key Financial Highlights

#### Primary funding source

- Individual contributions from personal networks and family-based support

#### Major expenditure areas

- Core staff salaries and stipends
- Essential operational costs
- Emergency shelter upkeep, including food, utilities, medical tests, hospital visits, and basic supplies
- Survivor welfare, including transportation and temporary accommodation support







# What This Means

SHF's progress in 2025 demonstrates the strength of community-driven impact and responsible resource stewardship. However, reliance on personal networks is not a sustainable model for an organisation responding to rising demand for survivor support.

To scale services, strengthen systems, and ensure long-term sustainability, SHF requires core institutional funding and strategic donor investment. Support to SHF is not simply a financial contribution; it is an investment in safety, dignity, justice, and recovery for survivors who would otherwise have limited or no access to protection and care.

SHF is actively seeking partners and donors aligned with the vision of a Nigeria free from Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. Through core funding, project grants, or in-kind support, partners can play a critical role in expanding access to lifesaving services and protecting the most vulnerable.



## 9

## LOOKING AHEAD. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2026

As SHF moves into 2026, the focus is on deepening impact, strengthening institutional systems, and expanding survivor-centered responses. Building on the momentum of the past year, SHF's strategic priorities are shaped by evidence, emerging needs, and the lived experiences of survivors. SHF will prioritize ensuring that no survivor is turned away, unheard, or unsupported. This commitment will guide all programmatic, operational, and partnership decisions. The Foundation will continue to strengthen its role as a safe, responsive, and resilient institution, capable of delivering timely protection, coordinated support, and credible advocacy in the fight against domestic and sexual violence in Nigeria.

### 2026 Strategic Priority Pillars

#### Pillar 1. Survivor Protection, Safety, and Access to Services



##### Objective

Ensure that survivors of domestic and sexual violence have timely access to safe shelter, psychosocial care, legal support, and coordinated referrals.

##### Key actions

- Expand referral capacity.
- Strengthen intake, triage, and risk assessment protocols to prioritize high-risk cases.
- Enhance case management and follow-up systems to ensure continuity of care.
- Improve access to emergency transportation and medical referrals.

## Pillar 2. Justice Access and Legal Empowerment



### Objective

Increase survivor confidence and engagement with justice processes through early legal empowerment and coordinated referrals.

### Key actions

- Provide legal literacy and rights education at intake for all survivors.
- Strengthen referral pathways with justice institutions and legal aid providers.
- Track referred cases and escalate delays through established focal points.

## Pillar 3. Psychosocial Recovery



### Objective

Support survivors' recovery and reduce the risk of re-victimization through psychosocial care

### Key actions

- Expand trauma-informed counselling services and referral partnerships.
- Integrate economic empowerment and livelihood referrals into case plans.

## Pillar 4. Institutional Strengthening and Safeguarding

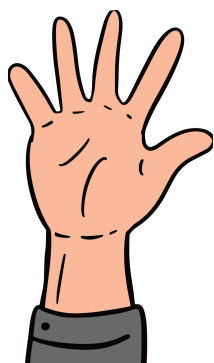


### Objective

Build a resilient, accountable organisation capable of delivering high-quality, survivor-centered services at scale.

### Key actions

- Strengthen internal policies, SOPs, and safeguarding systems.
- Train staff, volunteers, and interns on trauma-informed care
- Improve data management, documentation, and reporting systems.
- Institutionalize regular risk reviews and learning sessions.



## Pillar 5. Advocacy, Public Engagement, and Prevention

### Objective

Contribute to the prevention of domestic and sexual violence through awareness, youth engagement, and policy advocacy.

### Key actions

- Expand digital advocacy campaigns and survivor-safe storytelling.
- Strengthen youth engagement through internships, education, and prevention messaging.
- Publish evidence-based content through Safe Haven Review and policy briefs.

## Pillar 6. Partnerships, Resource Mobilization, and Sustainability



### Objective

Secure diversified funding and strategic partnerships to ensure sustainability and scale.

### Key actions

- Pursue core funding, project grants, and in-kind support.
- Formalize partnerships through MOUs and referral agreements.
- Strengthen donor communication and reporting systems.

## Strategic Outcome for 2026

By the end of 2026, Safe Haven Foundation will have strengthened its capacity to deliver timely, survivor-centered protection services, expanded access to justice and recovery pathways, and positioned itself as a credible, sustainable, and accountable institution in Nigeria's response to domestic and sexual violence.

# 10

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

---



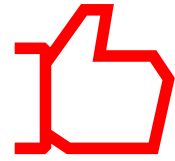
At Safe Haven Foundation, our journey over the past year has been one of compassion, resilience, and transformation. None of this work would have been possible without the collective support of institutions, partners, and individuals who stood with us and with survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

### **Institutional Partners and Collaborators**

We express our sincere appreciation to the institutions and organisations whose collaboration, technical support, and solidarity strengthened our work throughout the year. We are grateful to the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, the FCT Women Affairs Secretariat, EU–RoLAC, the Zambian High Commission in Abuja, Auxano Foundation, Elite Life, Tabitha Empowerment Centre, The Smile Outreach Africa, and Daughters of Abraham. Their partnership enhanced survivor referral pathways, strengthened advocacy efforts, and reinforced a coordinated, multi-sectoral response to sexual and gender-based violence.

### **Individual Supporters and Allies**

We extend heartfelt thanks to the individuals who believed in Safe Haven Foundation's vision and supported our work through generosity, counsel, and advocacy. We gratefully acknowledge Aneesa Saleh, Professor Ibe Ifeakandu, Bushra Ehikhamenor, Ejiro Okparavero, Toyosi Onaolapo, Lanre Shashore, Olufunso Owasanoye, Chika Ikejiaku, Ronny Saether and Leandra Orquidea, Nelson Ovoro, Omotolani Alli, Ola White, Olufunke Baruwa, Juliet Rufai, Ezekiel Juga, Ikechukwu Ojeh, Andrew Madaki, Hajia Sefi Audu and Rasheed Olatunji. We also recognise the guidance and stewardship of the Safe Haven Foundation Board of Trustees, whose leadership continues to strengthen the Foundation's governance and strategic direction.

**Staff, Volunteers, and Community Partners**


To our staff and volunteers, we offer our deepest appreciation for your professionalism, empathy, and resilience. Your daily commitment to survivor safety, justice, and healing gives meaning to our mission. We also thank our community partners who continue to walk alongside us by referring survivors, sharing knowledge, and amplifying our work at the grassroots level.

**To the Survivors**

Finally, to the survivors who place their trust in Safe Haven Foundation and share their stories with courage and hope, your strength is the heart of this organisation. We remain committed to standing with you, advocating for your rights, and working tirelessly toward a future free from violence.








◆ **What We Are Looking For**  
 We welcome original, thought-provoking, and solution-oriented articles on topics **including (but not limited to)**:

- ✓ GBV in Workplaces, Schools, and Public Spaces
- ✓ Legal & Policy Frameworks on GBV
- ✓ Survivor Stories & Lived Experiences
- ✓ Digital Safety & Online GBV
- ✓ Innovative Interventions & Best Practices in GBV Prevention
- ✓ Men & Boys in the Fight Against GBV

◆ **Why Contribute?**

- ✓ Amplify your voice on a critical issue
- ✓ Shape policy and advocacy efforts
- ✓ Engage with a global audience of change-makers
- ✓ Enhance your professional visibility



◆ **Submission Guidelines**

- ✦ Articles should be between 1000-3,000 words, well-researched, and cited where necessary.
- ✦ Submissions should be in Word format, Times New Roman, 12pt, 1.5-spaced.
- ✦ Kindly include a short bio (50 words) and a high-resolution profile picture with your submission.

◆ **How to Submit**  
 Send your articles to **info@safehaven-foundation.org** with the subject line: "GBV Article Submission – [Your Name]".

Submissions are accepted continuously throughout the year. Articles would be published on SHF website. For quality control, all articles would be peer-reviewed before acceptance.

Let's work together to raise awareness, challenge norms, and drive meaningful action against GBV.

🔗 **Follow Safe Haven Foundation on instagram @shf4survivors and visit [www.safehaven-foundation.org](http://www.safehaven-foundation.org) for updates and featured articles!**

# SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM

**JOIN US!**

**SafeGuard360: Comprehensive  
Training to Prevent Sexual  
Exploitation, Abuse and  
Harassment in Organizations**



## **Highlights:**



- Understand the full spectrum of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment in organizational settings.
- Strengthen ability to recognize risks and respond effectively to disclosures and incidents.
- Use emotional intelligence and mental health practices to build trust, and support staff wellbeing.
- Review and strengthen organization's safeguarding and anti-harassment policies.
- Build a culture of accountability and respect.



## **Why Choose Our Program?**

- Tailored for Organizations
- Holistic 360° Approach
- Survivor-Centered & Employer-Friendly
- Designed by Experts for **HR managers, team leads, corporate executives, board members, financial institutions, government agencies, professional associations and caregiver agencies**



 [info@safehaven-foundation.org](mailto:info@safehaven-foundation.org)  
 [www.safehaven-foundation.org](http://www.safehaven-foundation.org)  
 0911-022-9999

**FOLLOW US**  
**@SHF4SURVIVORS**

# Get in touch with us



WWW.SAFEHAVEN-  
FOUNDATION.ORG



INFO@SAFEHAVEN-  
FOUNDATION.ORG



WUSE ZONE 7, FCT, ABUJA,  
NG



0911-022-9999/ 0911-001-9999  
**Enquiries                      Emergency**




@SHF4SURVIVORS



Opening hours  
10:00am - 5:00pm

# SAFE HAVEN FOUNDATION

 [www.safehaven-foundation.org](http://www.safehaven-foundation.org)

 +234 -9110229999

 [info@safehaven-foundation.org](mailto:info@safehaven-foundation.org)

 @shf4survivors

 Wuse Zone 7. Abuja, FCT. Nigeria

Graphic Design by: 