Assessment of hard-to-reach areas: Food security and livelihoods

October - December 2022
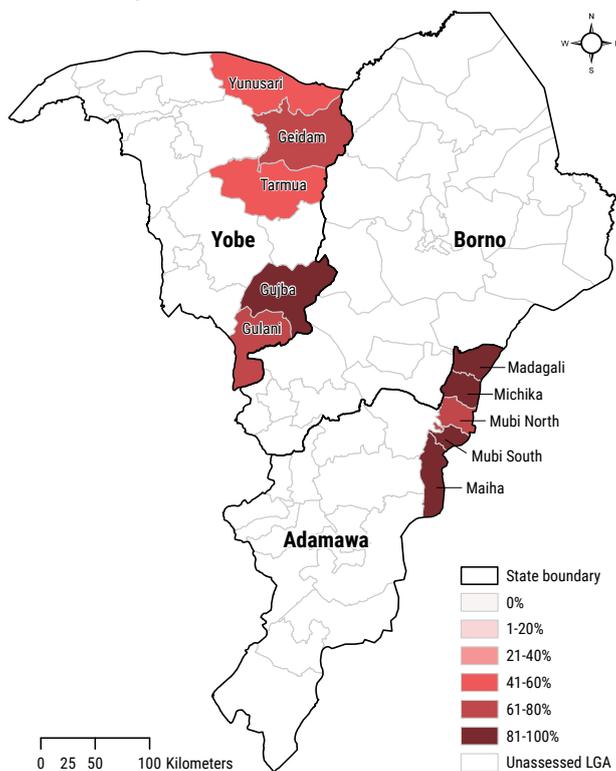Adamawa and Yobe States, Northeast Nigeria

KEY FINDINGS

- In 95% of assessed settlements, people had reportedly not received any humanitarian or government assistance in the previous six months.

- In a majority of assessed settlements, most people were reportedly not able to access enough food (76%) or nutrition services (81%). In two-thirds of assessed settlements people reportedly resorted to eating wild plants that are usually not part of their diet as a main meal.

- In nearly a quarter (24%) of assessed settlements, people were unable to engage in their usual livelihood activities, primarily due to conflict and insecurity.

ACCESS TO FOOD

% of assessed settlements where it was reported that most people **did not** have access to enough food in the month prior to data collection:

Map legend:
- State boundary
- 0%
- 1-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%
- Unassessed LGA
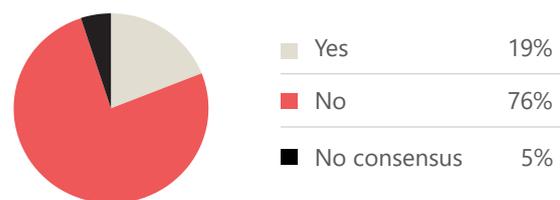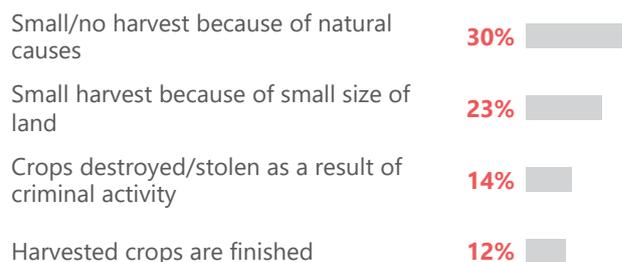
0 25 50 100 Kilometers

CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

The continuation of conflict in Northeast Nigeria has created a complex humanitarian crisis, rendering sections of Yobe and Adamawa states as inaccessible. To address information gaps facing the humanitarian response and inform humanitarian actors on the demographics of households in hard-to-reach areas of Northeast Nigeria, as well as to identify their needs, access to services, and movement intentions, REACH has been conducting monthly assessments of hard-to-reach areas in Northeast Nigeria since November 2018.[1]

Using the Area of Knowledge (AoK) methodology, REACH collected data from 12th October to 13th December 2022. Results presented in this factsheet, unless otherwise specified, represent the proportion of settlements assessed within an LGA. **The findings presented are indicative of broader trends in assessed settlements in October, November, and December 2022, and are not statistically generalisable**. Find more methodological information on the last page of this factsheet.

By % of assessed settlements, in the month prior to data collection, were most people able to access enough food in the settlement?

Yes	19%
No	76%
No consensus	5%

Reported main reasons people could not access enough food, by % of assessed settlements:

Small/no harvest because of natural causes	**30%**
Small harvest because of small size of land	**23%**
Crops destroyed/stolen as a result of criminal activity	**14%**
Harvested crops are finished	**12%**

1. REACH H2R sectoral factsheets from November 2020 to September 2022.

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

Reported main sources of food in the settlement in the month prior to data collection, by % of assessed settlements:

|	
Bought with cash	**45%**
Own production (cultivated)	**40%**
Foraged for wild foods	**6%**
Given food by family, friends, or other local people	**1%**
Own production (livestock)	**1%**

% of assessed settlements where it was reported that people eat wild foods that are not part of their usual diet as a main meal in the month prior to data collection:

Yunusari
Geidam
Tarmua
Yobe
Borno
Gujba
Gulani
Madagali
Michika
Mubi North
Mubi South
Maiha
Adamawa

Legend:
- State boundary
- 0%
- 1-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%
- Unassessed LGA

0 25 50 100 Kilometers
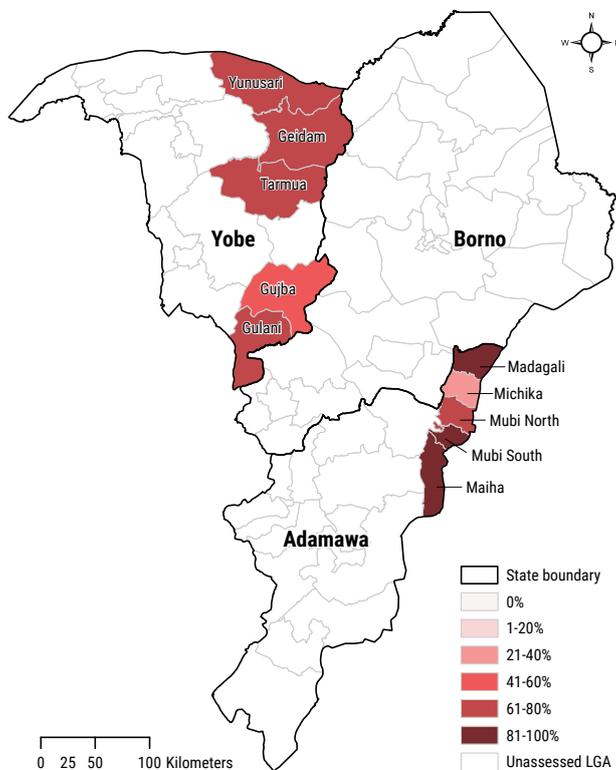
Reported main strategies practised by any community members to cope with lack of food, by % of assessed settlements:

Reduce number of meals eaten in a day	**73%**
Limit portion sizes at meal times	**71%**
Rely on less preferred and less expensive food	**69%**
Adults do not eat so children can eat	**38%**
Skip entire days without eating	**25%**

**By % of assessed settlements, did any people receive humanitarian or government assistance in the last 6 months in the settlement?**

■	Yes	5%
■	No	95%
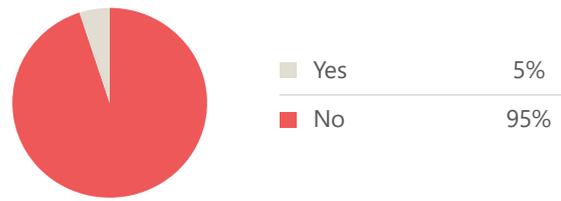
KIs reported cash assistance, food, and livelihoods/ employment support as priority needs for most households in 58%, 53%, and 48% of assessed settlements, respectively.

By % of assessed settlements, in the month prior to data collection, did people eat wild plants that are not usually a part of their diet as a main meal?

■	Yes	66%
■	No	27%
■	No consensus	7%
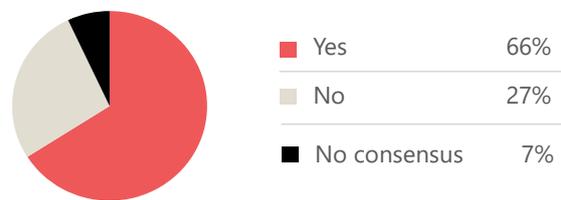
In assessed settlements where people reportedly ate wild plants that are not usually part of their diet as a main meal (66%), people in almost half (48%) of those settlements reportedly consumed wild foods that made them sick.

**Estimated number of meals most people eat per day, by % of assessed settlements:**

Go a day without eating	One meal	Two meals	Three meals
4%	10%	74%	6%

In 82% of assessed settlements, people reportedly have fewer meals per day than they did before the conflict.

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Co-funded by European Union Humanitarian Aid

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

ACCESS TO NUTRITION SERVICES

% of assessed settlements where it was reported that there were no nutrition services available in less than two hours by walking:
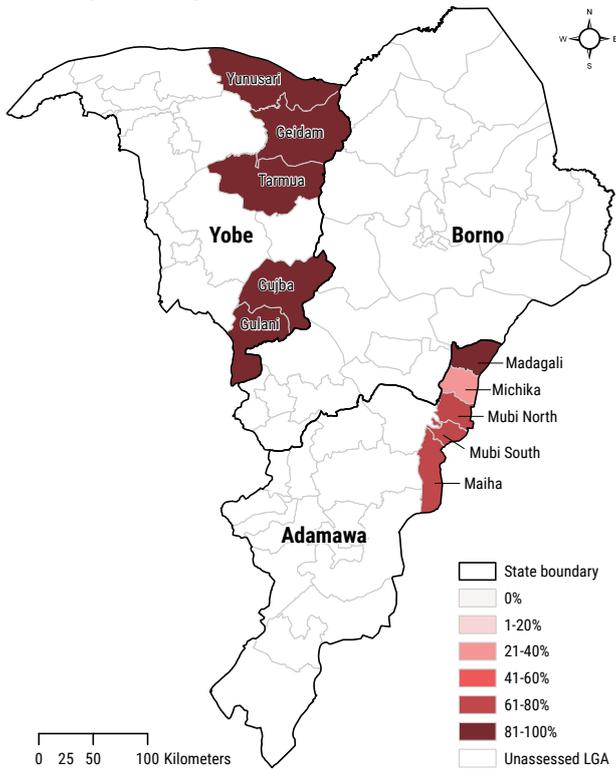

By % of assessed settlements, in the month prior to data collection, were there any nutrition services available within a two hour walk for people in the settlement?

Yes	14%
No	81%
No consensus	5%
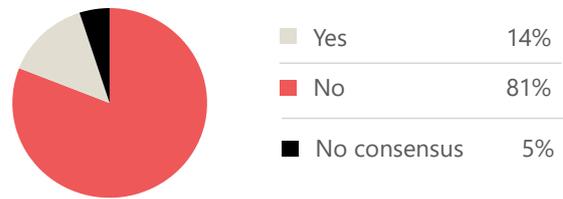
Nutrition services were reportedly accessible within two hours walking distance in 23% of assessed settlements in Adamawa and only in 8% of assessed settlements in Yobe.
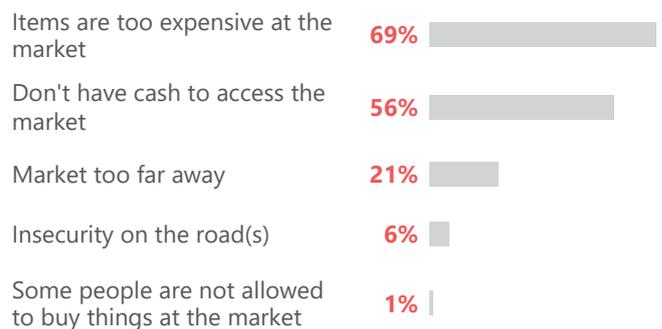
ACCESS TO MARKETS

% of assessed settlements where it was reported that there were functional markets reachable in less than two hours by walking or by most common mode of transport:
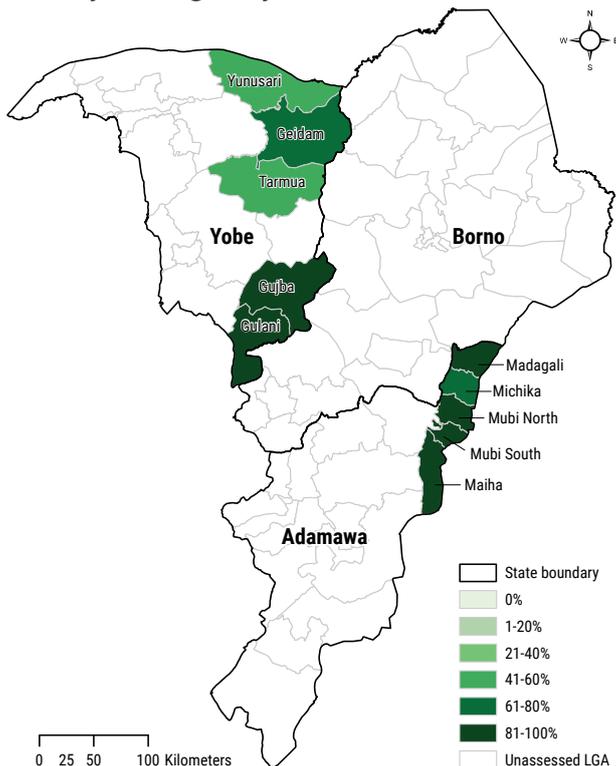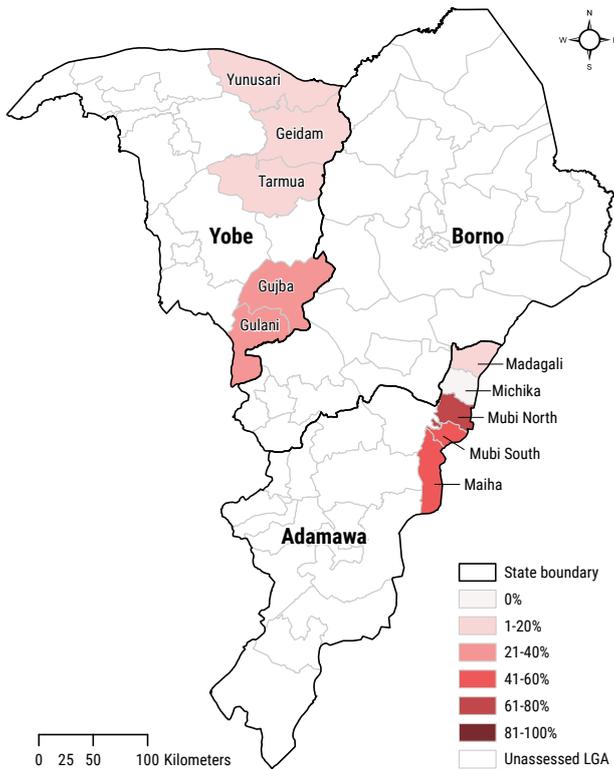

There were reportedly functional markets reachable in less than two hours in 76% of assessed settlements.

Reported main barriers to accessing markets, in settlements where markets were reachable within two hours, by % of assessed settlements:
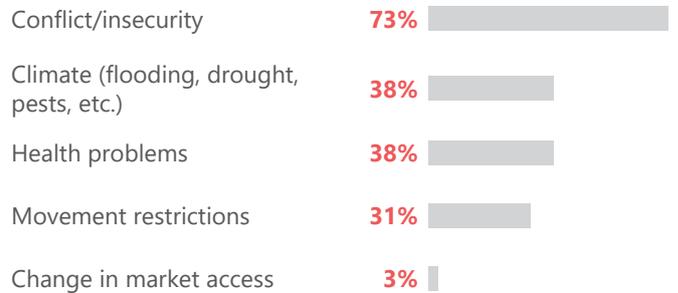
Items are too expensive at the market	**69%**
Don't have cash to access the market	**56%**
Market too far away	**21%**
Insecurity on the road(s)	**6%**
Some people are not allowed to buy things at the market	**1%**

ACCESS TO LIVELIHOODS

% of assessed settlements where it was reported that most people were not able to engage in their usual livelihood activities:

Legend:
- State boundary
- 0%
- 1-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%
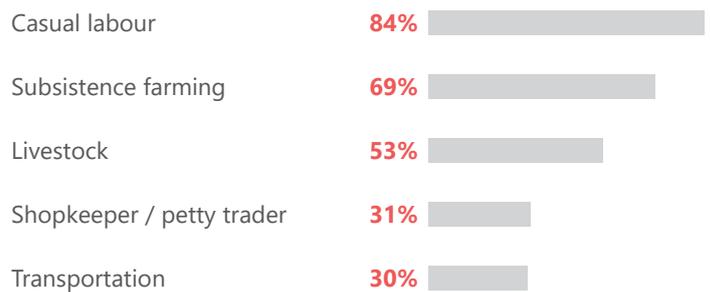- Unassessed LGA

0 25 50   100 Kilometers

In 24% of assessed settlements, people were reportedly not able to engage in their usual livelihood activities.

Reported main reasons people could not engage in livelihood activities, in settlements where people were unable to do so, by % of assessed settlements:
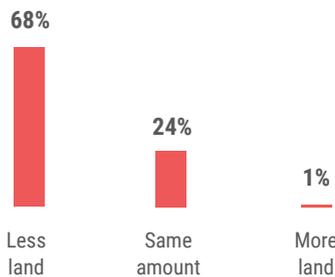
Reason	%
Conflict/insecurity	73%
Climate (flooding, drought, pests, etc.)	38%
Health problems	38%
Movement restrictions	31%
Change in market access	3%

LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES

Reported main livelihood activities practiced in the settlement in the month prior to data collection, by % of assessed settlements:

| Activity	%
Casual labour	84%
Subsistence farming	69%
Livestock	53%
Shopkeeper / petty trader	31%
Transportation	30%

HARVEST AND CULTIVATION

Reported estimations of whether most people have access to less, more, or the same amount of land for cultivation, compared to the same time last year, by % of assessed settlements:

Less land	Same amount	More land
68%	24%	1%

In 99% of assessed settlements, members of the community planted and harvested in the previous rainy season. Of these, in over half (60%) of assessed settlements, KIs reported that for most housholds the crop yields during the last harvest were below average.

METHODOLOGY AND COVERAGE

Proportion of assessed settlements[2],
October - December 2022
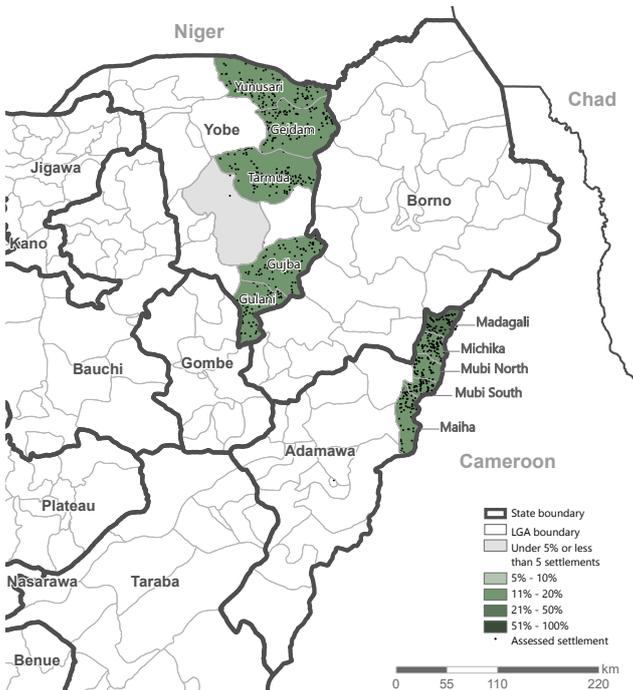
State	LGA	# of assessed settlements
Adamawa	Madagali	74
	Maiha	73
	Michika	103
	Mubi North	53
	Mubi South	75
Yobe	Geidam	107
	Gujba	82
	Gulani	75
	Tarmua	102
	Yunusari	101

Number of key informant interviews: 1339
Number of assessed settlements: 845
Number of assessed LGAs: 11
Number of assessed LGAs with sufficient coverage: 10

Using the Area of Knowledge (AoK) methodology, REACH remotely monitors the situation in hard-to-reach areas through monthly multi-sector interviews in accessible Local Government Area (LGA) capitals with key informants (KIs) who are either (1) newly arrived internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have left a hard-to-reach settlement in the last month or (2) KIs who have had contact with someone living or having been in a hard-to-reach settlement in the last month (traders, migrants, family members, etc.).

If not stated otherwise, the recall period for each question is set to one month prior to the last information the KI has had from the hard-to-reach area. Selected KIs are purposively sampled and are interviewed on settlement-wide circumstances in hard-to-reach areas, rather than their individual experiences. Responses from KIs reporting on the same settlement are then aggregated to the settlement level. The most common response provided by the greatest number of KIs is reported for each settlement. When no most common response could be identified, the response is considered as 'no consensus'.

Results presented in this factsheet, unless otherwise specified, represent the proportion of settlements assessed within an LGA. Findings are only reported on LGAs where at least 5% of populated settlements and at least 5 settlements in the respective LGA have been assessed. **The findings presented are indicative of broader trends in assessed settlements in October, November, and December 2022, and are not statistically generalisable**.[3] Due to precautions related to accessibility and insecurity in some LGAs, data were collected remotely through phone interviews with assistance from local stakeholders. Data collection took place from 12th October 2022 to 13th December 2022.

More information on the methodology can be found in the Terms of Reference.