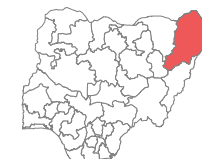


Situation Overview: Humanitarian Needs and Conflict Dynamics in Hard-to-Reach Areas of Borno State

June - September 2019



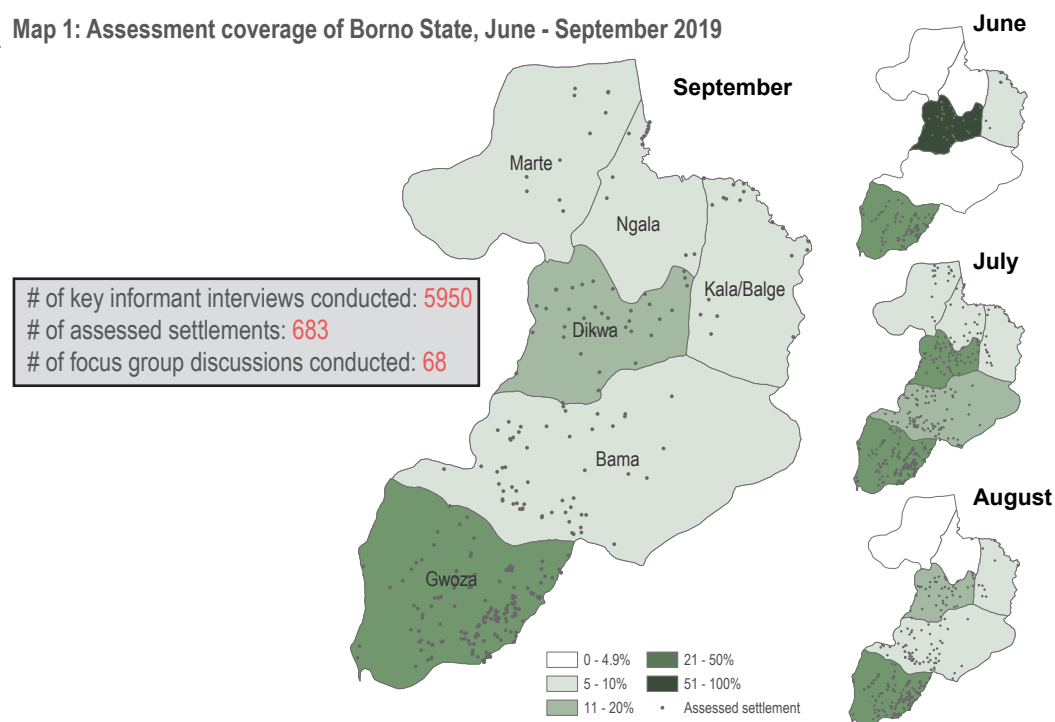
INTRODUCTION

The continuation of conflict in Northeast Nigeria has created a complex humanitarian crisis, rendering sections of Borno State as hard-to-reach (H2R) for humanitarian actors. To address information gaps facing the humanitarian response in Northeast Nigeria and to inform humanitarian service providers on the demographics of the more than 800,000 persons¹ estimated to be remaining in H2R areas, as well as to identify their needs, access to services and movement intentions, REACH has been conducting an ongoing assessment of H2R areas in Northeast Nigeria since November 2018.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Conflict-related displacement continued to push populations to move to accessible Local Government Areas (LGA) capitals.**² Focus Group Discussion (FGD) participants reported that **many of the people left behind in H2R areas were reportedly unable to make the journey to the LGA capitals**, including women, young children, and those who were weak from old age or illness.
- Food access related indicators suggested that although cultivation activities were taking place in assessed H2R areas, **many people were reportedly using coping strategies to deal with a lack of food**, which implies that cultivation activities were not providing sufficient food. **The situation in Dikwa and Gwoza LGAs appeared to be the most severe**, as assessed settlements in these LGAs reported the **lowest levels of subsistence farming** (38% and 57%, respectively, in September) and the **highest levels of most people eating one meal a day** (both around 38% in September).
- Whilst conflict-related indicators remained high, a decreasing trend was observed in **the proportion of assessed settlements reporting an incident in which at least one civilian was killed**, with the **highest proportion of incidents reported in Kala/Balge (75%) and Ngala (77%) in July** (31% in September in both LGAs).
- **Very few assessed settlements indicated they had access to a functional health facility within walking distance** (1% in September). With the onset of the rainy season, the **proportion of assessed settlements reporting that fever/malaria was the primary health problem increased** (44% in September).
- **Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure was also reported to be limited.** Assessed H2R settlements reported primarily using unimproved water sources and, except for in Bama where latrine usage was reported to be higher, around 20% or more of assessed settlements reported no one was using a latrine.
- Host communities and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) appeared to be living peacefully and in similar shelter types in assessed H2R areas. **Assessed settlements reported most people were living in makeshift shelters or tents, indicating high shelter needs across population groups.**
- **Access to educational services, particularly formal education, was reported to be limited in most LGAs.** In September, only 44% of assessed settlements reported access to any educational service.

Map 1: Assessment coverage of Borno State, June - September 2019



METHODOLOGY

Using its Area of Knowledge (AoK) methodology, REACH remotely monitors the situation in H2R areas through monthly multi-sector interviews in accessible LGA capitals² with the following typology of Key Informants (KIs):

- KIs who are newly arrived IDPs who have left a H2R settlement in the last one to three months³
- KIs who have had contact with someone living in or having been in a H2R settlement in the month prior to data collection (traders, migrants, family members, etc.)

From 1 June to 30 September 2019, REACH interviewed 5950 KIs who had recent knowledge of conditions in 683 unique settlements. Information for this assessment was collected in 6 accessible LGA capitals in Borno: Bama, Dikwa, Gwoza, Maiduguri, Monguno, and Ngala, and represents knowledge of settlement conditions ranging from 1 March to 30 September 2019.

² LGAs represent one administrative level below the state level, with Borno state comprising of 27 LGAs.

³ Where possible, only KIs that have arrived very recently (0-3 weeks prior to data collection) were chosen. If not stated otherwise, the recall period is set to one month prior to the last information the KI has had from the hard-to-reach area.

¹ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Nigeria: 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview

METHODOLOGY CONTINUED

KI Interviews (KIs) were queried about settlement-wide circumstances in H2R areas, rather than their individual experiences. As many KIs as can be interviewed were interviewed, and therefore multiple KIs may have provided information on the same settlement. Responses from KIs from the same settlement were then aggregated to the settlement level. Settlements for which no consensus was reached between KIs were included in the calculations, however they were withheld from the reported indicator.

Findings are only reported for LGAs where at least 5% of all settlements in the respective LGA have been assessed. This threshold was determined using a list of settlements compiled from local humanitarian actors with historical frontline access.⁴ Unless otherwise stated, all LGA-level findings are given as a percentage of settlements assessed within that LGA.

Quantitative findings were triangulated with FGDs. FGDs centered on elaborating current and historical access to services in the area of origin. FDGs on service access were followed by a participatory mapping exercise, conducted to establish displacement patterns, and to discuss challenges encountered en-route. FGD participants were purposively sampled newly arrived IDPs from H2R areas. Groups were formed on the basis of the gender and age of participants whenever possible.⁵

LIMITATIONS

Data collection is dependent on the presence and identification of eligible KIs in LGA capitals. REACH can therefore not guarantee sufficient coverage of geographical areas, and lack of responses from a given area should not be used to conclude that there are no people remaining in those areas. While this situation overview reports LGA-level information for LGAs wherein at least 5% of all settlements have been assessed, month-to-month coverage for each LGA varied throughout the reporting period.

H2R data is indicative only – not representative and therefore must be triangulated with other sources. As data is triangulated from recalled accounts from persons in transit, it is possible that incidences attributed herein as having occurred in one LGA may have occurred in a neighbouring LGA.

POPULATION DISPLACEMENT AND MOVEMENT

DEMOGRAPHICS & VULNERABILITIES

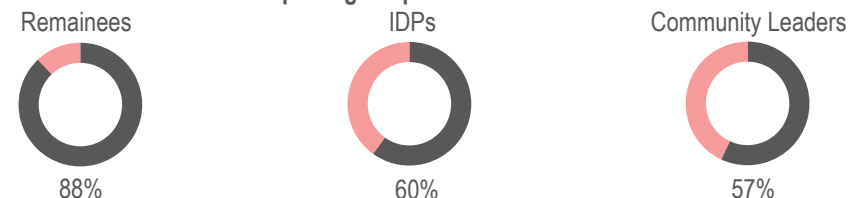
In September, the majority of assessed settlements in all LGAs reported some of the original host community remaining in the settlement (average of 85%-90% between June and September). According to FGD participants, many of those remaining in the assessed H2R areas wanted to leave but could not make the challenging journey on foot because they were too weak or have too many young children who would have needed to be carried. The FGD participants further reported that women and children were the largest remaining population groups in the H2R settlements.

The presence of IDPs was consistently indicated throughout the reporting period by most assessed settlements in Bama (67% in September) and Gwoza (70% in September). The severe restrictions on movements and other descriptions provided by FGD participants, suggest that IDPs were reported to be

present in these LGAs more often because they were caught up in the conflict and were unable to continue on to other locations. In contrast, in Marte, less than half of assessed settlements consistently reported IDPs were present in the settlement (6% in September). FGD participants from Marte described fewer movement restrictions than the other LGAs. Marte also has three LGA capital garrison towns in close proximity to its borders, which may make it easier for people to travel to a capital instead of becoming an IDP in another H2R settlement. The responses in Dikwa, Kala/Balge, and Ngala varied throughout the reporting period, perhaps reflecting a changing conflict environment or, particularly for the more northern LGAs, changes in road accessibility due to the rainy season.

Throughout the reporting period, less than 35% of assessed settlements in Bama, Dikwa, Marte, and Ngala reported the presence of community leaders (0%-31% in September). In June, 64% of assessed settlements in Kala/Balge reported the presence of community leaders, however, in the following three months the majority of assessed settlements reported community leaders were not present (77%-85% between July and September). The departure of community leaders in Kala/Balge may be related to the changing access dynamics in the areas around Rann, following an attack in January. In Gwoza, assessed settlements consistently reported the presence of community leaders (69% in September) and reported that youth and the elderly were represented in community leadership. It is possible KIs from Gwoza were referring to non-traditional leaders.

Proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of:



MOVEMENT

The rainy season⁶ in Borno State from June through October affected the movements of people from assessed H2R areas. FGD participants reported using the rain as cover to escape and facing the additional hardship of traveling by foot in the rain. Almost all FGD participants reported challenges during their journey related to the long distance, walking by foot, thirst, and hunger. Most FGD participants reported traveling 1-2 days to reach the LGA capital, however the longest journey reported took two months.

As can be seen in Map 2, most people travelled to the capital of their LGA of origin, suggesting people were choosing to travel to the closest location available. Exceptionally, those from Northwest Bama often went to Dikwa, and FGD participants reported they choose to travel to Dikwa because that road was safer. FGD participants from Dikwa, Gwoza, and Marte also revealed that they based their migration decisions on road safety conditions.

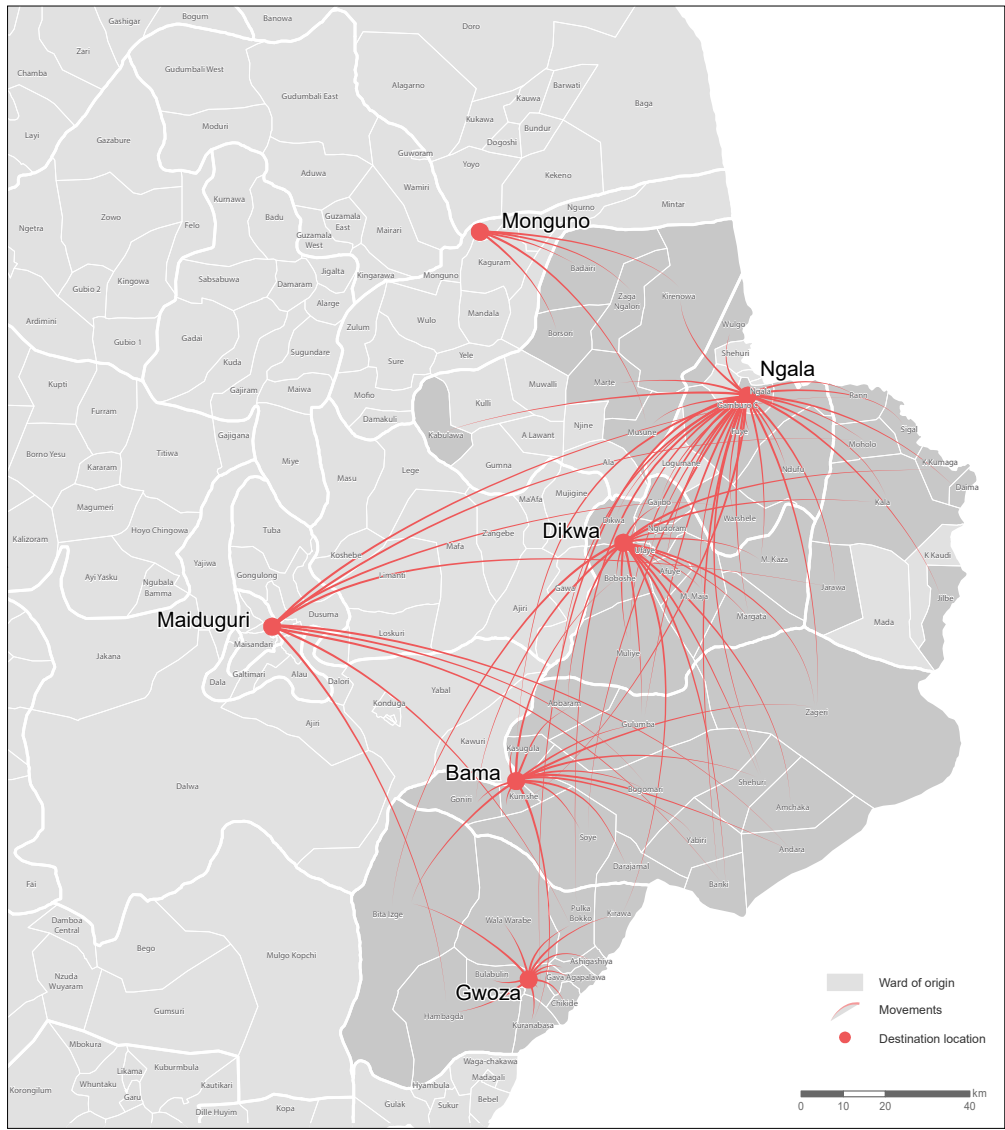
Most FGD participants reported not having received any information from people who remained in the H2R settlements since arriving in the LGA capital. After completing the journey to the LGA capital, FGD participants also reported not intending to move onto another location, return to the H2R settlement, or visit the H2R settlement until they were sure the H2R area was safe. Those they trusted to provide information on safety conditions included their Bulama (local community leader) and the government.

⁴ The REACH settlement database used for this assessment was compiled from the polio Vaccination Tracking System (2018) and the Common Operational Dataset published by OCHA (2015).

⁵ Of the 68 FGDs, 17 were with participants from Bama, 14 from Dikwa, 8 from Marte, 20 from Gwoza, 5 from Kala/Balge, and 4 from Ngala.

⁶ The normal rainy season according to Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet), 2019 Seasonal Rainfall Prediction

Map 2: Origin and destination of IDPs from H2R areas, 1 June 2019 - 30 September 2019



SITUATION IN ASSESSED SETTLEMENTS

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

Livelihoods and Food Access

Dikwa and Gwoza LGAs

Dikwa consistently had the lowest proportion of assessed settlements reporting that most people were engaged in subsistence farming, however, the proportion increased throughout the reporting period from 0% in June to 39% in September. Dikwa was also the only LGA to have KIs report significant portions of assessed settlements reporting that most people were not engaged in any livelihood activity (97% in June to 25% in September). In Gwoza, the proportion of settlements reporting most people were engaged in subsistence farming was the second lowest, ranging from 55%-81% between June and September.

Reported engagement in other forms of livelihood activities was extremely limited. Likely reflective of blocked trade routes, limited market access, and other challenges, the majority of assessed settlements in all LGAs reported most people were not farming for cash. Only 15% of assessed settlements in Dikwa and 2% of assessed settlements in Gwoza reported that most people owned any livestock, in September. FGD participants shared that people were not engaged in raising livestock, because the livestock had been stolen. Of all LGAs, Gwoza was the only LGA wherein 60% or more of assessed settlements reportedly engaged in another livelihoods activity: 84% of settlements in Gwoza reported engaging in hunting in September.

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting most people had access to any land, increased from less than 3% in both LGAs in June to 33% in Dikwa and 26% in Gwoza in September. The limitations on land access were likely due to restrictions on who can farm. FGD participants reported only men and sometimes elderly women were allowed to participate in farming activities.

As would be expected, given the planting and harvest season⁸, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting cultivation as the main source of food increased throughout the reporting period. The proportion of assessed settlements reportedly relying on cultivation as a main source of food was consistently the lowest in Dikwa (41% in September). In Gwoza, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting cultivation as the main source of food increased from 32% in June to 99% in September. FGD participants from both LGAs reported people were farming less than before the conflict. In Dikwa, FGD participants further suggested that some people were purposefully farming less because they knew the harvest would be stolen. Reasons for the reduction in farming, according to Gwoza FGD participants, included a lack of access to fertilizers, lack of strength among people who were permitted to farm, and restrictions on the types of crops they were allowed to plant.

FGD participants from both LGAs mentioned that people had changed their diets or food sources since the beginning of the conflict. Throughout the reporting period, over 79% of assessed settlements in Dikwa and over 98% of assessed settlements in Gwoza reported people were eating wild foods that were not part of their normal diet. Furthermore, foraging was reported to be the main source of food for most people in a considerable proportion of assessed settlements, suggesting a reliance on wild foods for a substantial portion of people's diets. From June to August, foraging was the most common main source of food reported by assessed settlements in Dikwa (74% in June to 53% in August), and 38% of assessed settlements still reported foraging as the main source of food in September. In Gwoza, foraging for food was also the most commonly reported main source of food in June (52%), however this proportion decreased to 12% in July and almost 0% in the following months. Indicative of extreme coping strategies, FGD participants reported people digging up ant holes to collect and eat the grains the ants had stored.

In line with other indicators, Dikwa and Gwoza also consistently had the highest proportion of assessed settlements reporting that most people ate only one meal a day, with Gwoza having as high as 90% of settlements reporting this in June, and the lowest of 39% in August. The proportion of settlements reporting eating only one meal increased from 10% in Dikwa in June to 31% in September, however the proportion of assessed settlements reporting eating three meals also increased from none in June to 23% in September. Dikwa was the only LGA wherein assessed settlements reported friends and family were the main source of food, with 7% reporting this in June, and 27% in September. FGD participants from Gwoza reported other severe coping strategies, suggestive of a severe lack of access to food, including slaughtering livestock when there was no other food, individuals not eating some days, and sending children to eat with neighbours.

⁸ FAO, crop calendar for Borno State, Nigeria. Staple crops are harvested beginning in September.

Despite these severe needs, and reflective of the inaccessibility of the assessed H2R areas, less than 4% of assessed settlements reported that a food distribution by an outside organization occurred in the past month. However, in Gwoza, FGD participants reported receiving food assistance that was not provided by National or International NGOs.

On most livelihood and consumption indicators, assessed settlements in Dikwa and Gwoza consistently reported the most concerning circumstances of all assessed LGAs in Borno. The reported reliance on food sources other than cultivation suggest that people have been unable to harvest sufficient food, perhaps due to the restrictions on who can farm, insufficient seeds and tools, and the looting of harvests.

Bama LGA

Indicative of some level of farming occurring in assessed H2R settlements, in Bama, the proportion of settlements reporting most people were engaged in subsistence farming ranged from 87%-96% between July and September. Similar to Dikwa and Gwoza, only a small portion of settlements reported most people were engaged in raising livestock (16% in September) and FGD participants reported that this was due to livestock theft.

Bama consistently had one of the highest proportions of assessed settlements reporting most people had access to any land for farming, although the FGD participants from Bama also reported restrictions forbidding farming by women. Reflective of the greater access to land, consistently 80% or more of assessed settlements in Bama reported cultivation was the main source of food.

Given the above indicators, it is surprising that, after Gwoza and Dikwa, Bama had the highest proportion of assessed settlements reporting most people eat only one meal a day. The number of meals people were reported to be eating remained fairly constant from July-September, with an average of 14% of assessed settlements reporting most people ate one meal, 53% reporting two meals, and 17% reporting three meals. FGD participants shared that harvests in the assessed H2R areas were often stolen, potentially explaining the disconnect between farming activities and food access.

In line with the relatively greater levels of farming cultivation indicated, the proportion of assessed settlements in Bama reporting people eating wild foods that are not normally part of their diet was consistently one of the lowest of all LGAs (70% in September). Despite being one of the lowest rates among the LGAs, the majority of assessed settlements still reported that most people were resorting to eating wild foods they do not normally eat, suggesting that the amount of food people who were able to cultivate was not sufficient. FGD participants revealed that people were using wild leaves to make soup for a meal and, similar to in Dikwa, digging up ant holes to eat the grains stored in them. FGD participants also reported people resorting to eating seeds they would have otherwise used for farming, reducing the amount they will be able to farm in the future.

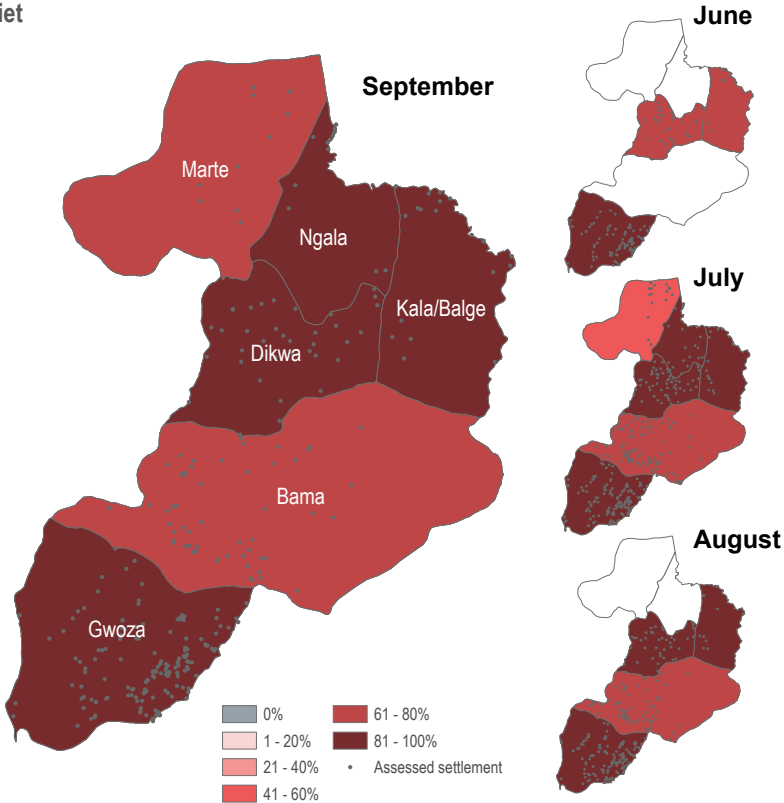
As in Dikwa and Gwoza, almost no assessed settlements in Bama reported a food distribution occurring in the past month (9% in September). The use of coping strategies such as eating wild foods and eating one meal a day suggests that, although the situation may be relatively less concerning in Bama than in Dikwa and Gwoza, people in Bama were not able to meet their food needs through cultivation alone.

Kala/Balge, Marte and Ngala LGAs

Similar to Bama, over 85% of assessed settlements in Kala/Balge, Marte, and Ngala consistently reported most people were engaged in subsistence farming, with the exception of Ngala in September when this was only reported by 54% of assessed settlements. In Marte, assessed settlements also reported relatively high levels of livestock possession (48% in July and 25% in September). The proportion of assessed settlements reporting most people had access to livestock varied throughout the reporting period in Kala/Balge (between 5%-43%) and was consistently low (8% in September) in Ngala. FGD participants from Marte and Ngala reported livestock being looted periodically.

Ngala consistently had one of the lowest proportions of assessed settlements reporting most people had access to land (15% in September), which FGD participants suggested was due to movement restrictions. Kala/Balge's responses varied, ranging from 25% of assessed settlements reporting most people had access to land in July to 65% reporting access in September. FGD participants from Kala/Balge cited movement restrictions as limiting their access to farmland, suggesting the variation in KII data may be due to changing restrictions. In Marte, about half or more than half of assessed settlements reported most people have access to land (72% in July and 56% in September). FGD participants from Marte reported that access to the land was not restricted and that they were encouraged to engage in farming.

Map 3: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting that people eat wild foods that are not part of their usual diet



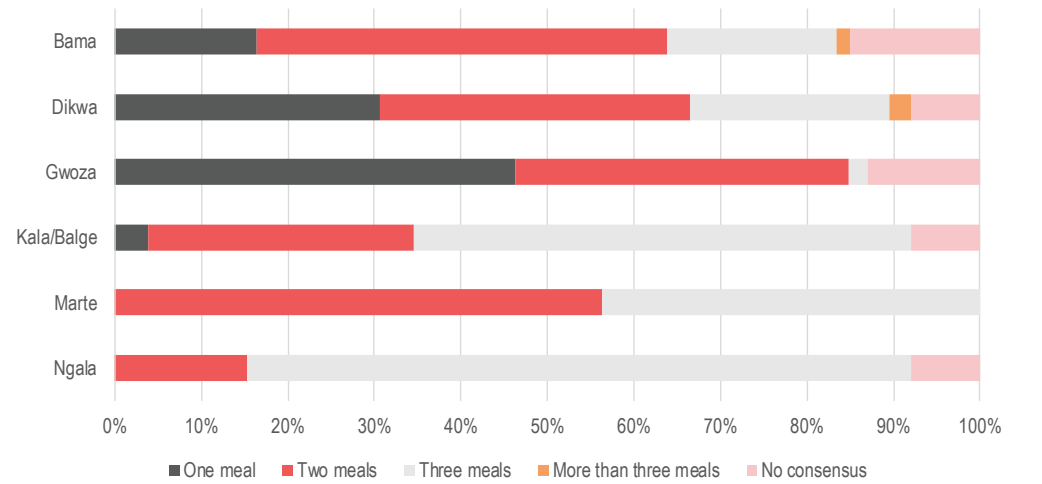
All three of these LGAs had the largest proportion of assessed settlements report that cultivation was the main source of food. In July, however, there was an increase in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting foraging as the main source of food, ranging from 28% in Marte to 59% in Ngala. A possible explanation for the increase in reliance on foraged food in July is that people have eaten all of their previous stocks but have not harvested new crops yet. FGD participants from Kala/Balge also mentioned that the food distributions they had received had stopped in July because the rainy conditions reduced the road access.

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting most people eat wild foods that were not part of their normal diet remained consistently high in Ngala (92% in September) and was also high in Kala/Balge (100% in September), except for in June when only 64% of assessed settlements reported eating wild foods. Marte consistently had one of the smaller proportions of assessed settlements reporting people eating wild foods, however it was still always more than half (75% in September). FGD participants from Kala/Balge and Ngala reported people digging up ant holes to access the grains and eating grasses and leaves they would normally not eat. Similar to the other LGAs, the reports of eating wild food suggest that, although people were relying on cultivation as a main source of food, it was not enough and they ate wild food to supplement their diets.

The number of meals most people were reported to be eating also indicated a better food access situation in Kala/Balge, Marte, and Ngala, relative to the other LGAs. In June-July, 15% or less of assessed settlements reported most people eating one meal a day, and 64% or more were reported to be eating two meals a day. In August-September, less than 4% of assessed settlements reported most people eating only one meal a day and between 29%-77% reported people eating three meals a day, with the remaining assessed settlements reporting most people eating two meals a day.

In Kala/Balge and Ngala, a higher proportion of assessed settlements reported a food distribution had taken place in the past month compared to other LGAs (19% in Kala/Balge and 31% in Ngala in September). In Kala/Balge this was perhaps due to distributions occurring in and around the town of Rann and related spill-over effect, which was included as a H2R area in this report because of the changing access dynamics for humanitarian actors.

Proportion of assessed settlements by reported number of meals most people eat in a day, September 2019



Livelihood and food access indicators suggest better conditions in Marte compared to the other LGAs. Many of Kala/Balge's indicators varied, which may be reflective of shifting access and involvement of humanitarian actors in the Rann area. Findings indicate that, of the three assessed more northern LGAs, settlements in Ngala faced the most challenging food access circumstances.

Market Access

The majority of assessed settlements across LGAs reported not having access to a functional market they could walk to from the H2R settlement. The only exception was in Kala/Balge in June, when only 29% of assessed settlements reported not having access to a market. FGD participants reported that the lack of access to buy seeds, tools, and fertilizers reduced the amount of crops those in assessed H2R areas were able to cultivate. FGD participants from Dikwa and Gwoza also reported restrictions on who could access the markets. In Bama, Dikwa, Gwoza, and Marte, FGD participants reported accessing irregular markets, which provided materials that were not available in the settlements.

PROTECTION

Bama, Dikwa, and Gwoza

Indicative of a changing conflict setting, the reporting on incidents of conflict that resulted in the death of a civilian varied throughout the reporting period. In Dikwa, no assessed settlements reported an incident of this kind in June, however from July-September between 21%- 39% of assessed settlements reported an incident in which a civilian was killed. Similarly, between 25% and 47% of assessed settlements in Bama reported incidents of conflict in which a civilian was killed from July-September. A decreasing pattern in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting incidents was observed in Gwoza throughout the reporting period, from 60% in June to less than 5% in August and September.

Assessed settlements in Dikwa and Gwoza consistently reported the lowest levels of incidents of looting in which most of a household's property was stolen (13% in Dikwa and 3% in Gwoza in September). In line with reports from FGD participants of harvests being stolen, Bama consistently had the highest proportion of settlements reporting incidents of looting (74% in September).

With regards to access to lights outside of the home at night, conditions in Bama were reportedly among the best throughout the reporting period (between 39% and 59% from July to September). In Dikwa and Gwoza, outside lights were reported to be extremely limited throughout the reporting period, with 0% and 15%, respectively, of assessed settlements reporting access in September. FGD participants from Gwoza reported that they were not allowed to use any source of light after dark.

Within the H2R settlements that reported the presence of IDPs, a positive or neutral relationship was consistently reported between the IDPs and local communities in Bama, Dikwa, and Gwoza, with no assessed settlement reporting a poor relationship during the reporting period.

During FGDs, instances of family separation and feelings of insecurity among communities in H2R areas were regularly highlighted. Participants living in the LGA capital, regularly reported being separated from their close family members. A common reason given for the separation, by FGD participants from Bama and Gwoza, was that those still in the H2R area were too afraid to try to escape or that they would have been unable run away on foot because they were too old or had too many young children. FGD participants from Dikwa reported being separated because their family members had been abducted.

Protection indicators suggest the conflict has had a strong influence on the lives of people in H2R settlements in Bama, Dikwa, and Gwoza, particularly with regards to frequent incidents of looting and separation from family members.

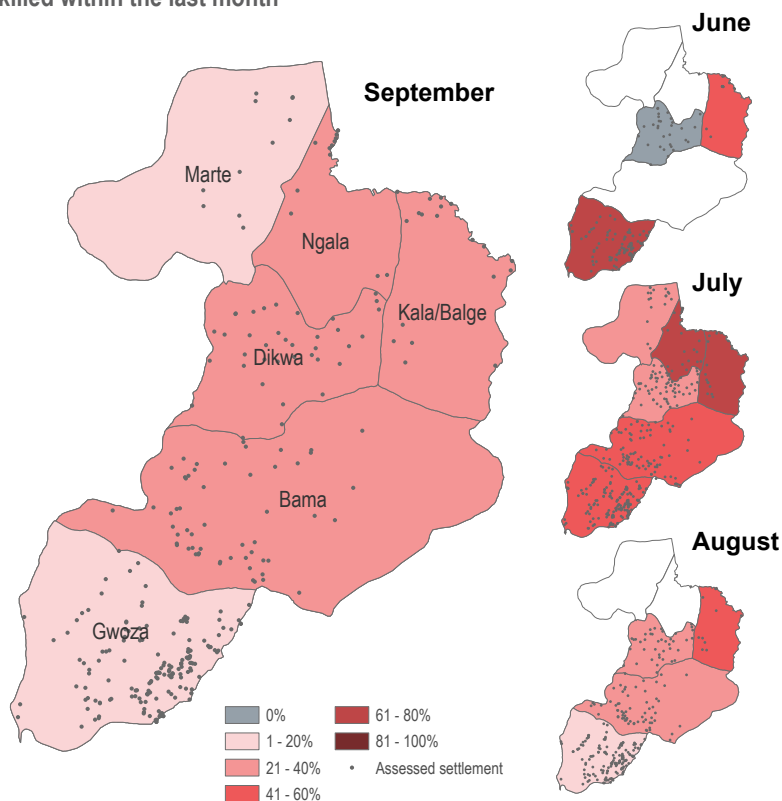
Kala/Balge, Marte, and Ngala LGAs

Perhaps suggesting a reduction in the conflict in these areas, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting an incident in which a civilian was killed decreased in these LGAs over the reporting period. Of the three, Marte had the lowest proportion reporting an incident of this nature (40% in July and 6% in September). Kala/Balge and Ngala had among the highest proportion of assessed settlements reporting incidents of conflict, with about 75% in July and 30% in September.

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting an incident of looting also decreased throughout the reporting period in these three LGAs, from around 65% in Kala/Balge and Ngala in July to less than 25% in September and from 36% in Marte in July to 13% in September.

Again, suggesting different conditions in Marte than in the other more northern assessed LGAs, 25% of assessed settlements in Marte reported access to lights outside of the home at night in September. In contrast, less than 5% of assessed settlements in Kala/Balge and Ngala reported access to lights.

Map 4: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting at least one incident of conflict in which a civilian was killed within the last month



FGD participants from these LGAs also reported being separated from family members, with the most often cited reasons varying by LGA. In Marte and Ngala, FGD participants suggested that, similar to Bama and Gwoza, people were too afraid to try to escape or that they would have been unable to run away on foot because they were too old or had too many young children. The FGD participants from these LGAs also explained that they needed to stagger when people left the H2R settlement, in order to reduce the likelihood of drawing attention to themselves. FGD participants from Kala/Balge also revealed that they were separated from their family members in the process of quickly escaping the H2R settlement during active conflict.

Overall, protection concerns appear to be the most severe in Kala/Balge and Ngala, particularly during the earlier portion of the reporting period. In Marte, indicators suggested similar protection-related trends as in Kala/Balge and Ngala, indicating a similar decrease in conflict severity during the reporting period. However, the overall protection concerns reported in Marte were not as severe, mirroring the comparatively stable situation suggested by the livelihoods and food access indicators.

SHELTER

Host Community

Of the settlements that reported at least some host community members remaining, the most commonly reported shelter type in September for the host community was makeshift shelters in Bama and Gwoza (64% and 90%, respectively), and tents in Dikwa and Kala Balge (64% and 43% respectively). In contrast, in both Dikwa and Gwoza the majority of the host community were reportedly living in permanent structures in June (61% and 90%, respectively).

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting a shelter had been damaged or destroyed generally decreased during the reporting period, from 51% in July to 20% in September. Kala/Balge commonly had the highest proportion of settlements reporting this kind of damage. Many FGD participants shared that there were more permanent shelters in the communities before the conflict, but that many of them had been destroyed by the conflict.

In September, most of the host community who had never been displaced was reported to be living in the bush in Bama (63%), in homes other than their original home in Gwoza (60%) and Kala/Balge (57%), and in Dikwa the response was split between another home (36%) and their proper home (42%).

IDPs

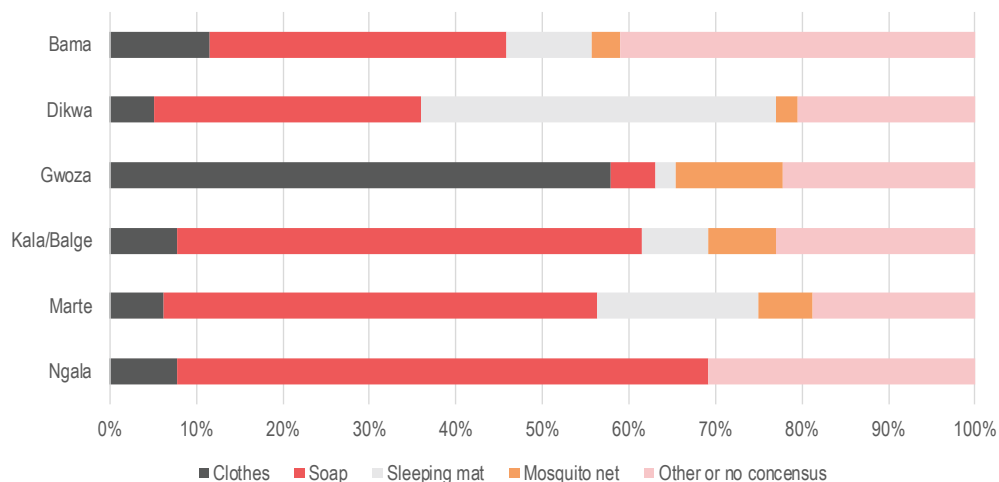
For settlements that reported the presence of IDPs, the most commonly reported shelter type was makeshift shelters in September in Bama (37%) and Gwoza (72%). The most often reported location where IDPs were living in September was within the host community in Dikwa (61%) and Gwoza (43%). At least some IDPs were reported to be sleeping outside without any shelter in about 20% of assessed settlements in Dikwa and Gwoza in September.

The findings suggest that the conflict has greatly impacted not only IDPs, but also the host communities, resulting in host communities and IDPs living in similar types of shelters.

Non-Food Items (NFIs)

Almost all assessed settlements reported not receiving an NFI distribution in the past 3 months (95% in September). See the chart below for the main reported NFI needs in September per LGA. According to FGD participants, the absence of functional markets, insecurity, an increase in prices, and a lack of money were the main reasons for the limited access to NFIs in H2R settlements.

Proportion of assessed settlements by reported most needed NFI item, September 2019



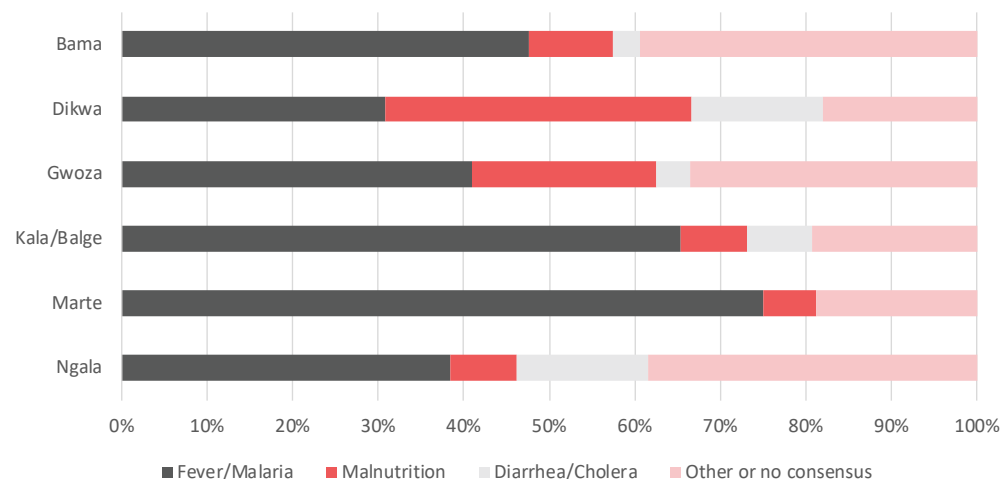
HEALTH

Throughout the four month reporting period, the vast majority of assessed settlements reported not having access to a functional health facility within walking distance (99% in September). The only exception was in Kala/Balge in June, when 43% of assessed settlements reported access to a health facility. Most assessed settlements (99% in September) also reported the absence of feeding programmes that provide nutrition supplements, which is of particular concern in light of high levels of reported food insecurity and high WASH needs. FGD participants reported that, in the absence of health care facilities, people were treating the sick with herbs and prayers.

Indicative of pre-existing structural development challenges, the reported main barrier to accessing healthcare in assessed settlements in Bama, Dikwa and Marte was that there were never any facilities (65%-89% in September). In Gwoza, assessed settlements reported that the primary reason for the absence of facilities was that they were destroyed during the conflict (64% in September). In Kala/Balge the primary reason reported for the lack of healthcare services is that there were no available staff (55% in September).

The most commonly reported health problem in assessed H2R settlements was malnutrition in Dikwa from June (47%) to August (44%) and in Gwoza in June (52%). As the rainy season progressed, reports of malaria and fever increased. In July, assessed settlements in Kala Balge (70%), Marte (92%), and Ngala (68%) reported malaria and fever as the most common health problem. In August and September, fever and malaria were the overall most commonly reported health problem in assessed settlements (44% in September). The expected increase in illnesses during the rainy season, compounds challenges caused by the already severe deficiency of available health care services in assessed H2R areas.

Proportion of assessed settlements by most common reported health problem, September 2019



WASH

Indicating limited access to clean water, about 60% or more of assessed settlements in Bama, Gwoza, Kala/Balge, and Marte reported using unprotected wells as the main water source in September. In Ngala, 38% of the assessed settlements also reported using unprotected wells and 46% reported using a borehole. Dikwa's reported main water sources also varied, with some assessed settlements reporting using unprotected wells (31%), protected wells (26%), and rivers (23%) in September. Almost all assessed settlements reported that livestock were not using the same water source as people (89% in September).

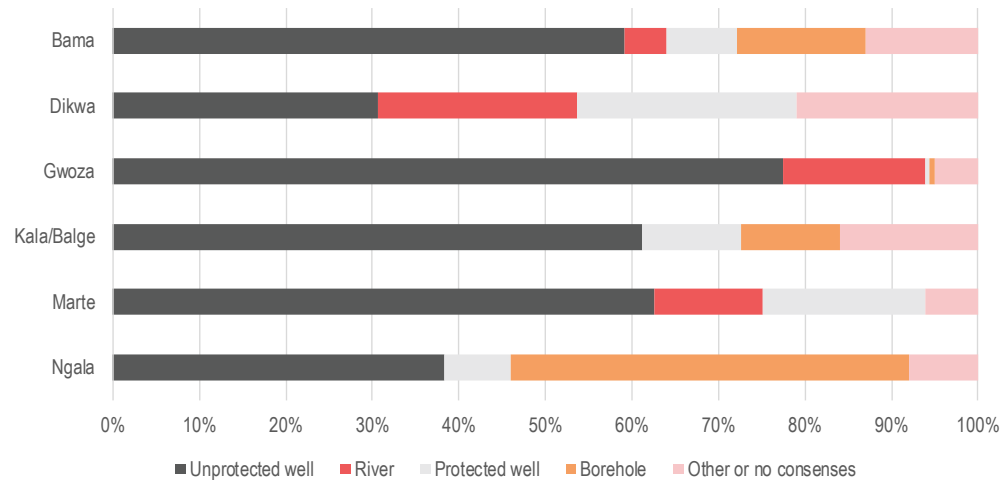
Access to water sources was reported to be limited due to safety concerns and seasonability. In line with reported protection concerns and movement restrictions, security concerns were reported to limit people's ability to access their preferred water point in Bama (75% in September) and Gwoza (80% in September) throughout the reporting period. In September, 78% of assessed settlements reported that their preferred water source was not available in both the wet and dry season, which may lead to people relying on less safe water sources as the dry season begins in late October.

Assessed settlements in Bama consistently reported the highest proportion of settlements where at least one person was using a latrine (97% in September), followed by Dikwa and Gwoza where, consistently, more than 55% of assessed settlements reported this. In Kala/Balge and Ngala the proportion of assessed settlements reporting latrine usage by at least one person was lower, ranging from around 30% in July to 54% and 77%, respectively, in September. The lowest proportion of assessed settlements reporting that at least one person was using a latrine was in Marte (16% in July and 38% in September). Some FGD participants from Marte reported that people used to use latrines, but that they had been destroyed by the conflict.

Most people were reportedly washing their hands with only water in 82% of assessed settlements in September. Many FGD participants shared that before the conflict people in the H2R settlement used soap, but that they no longer had access to soap.

The co-occurrence of a lack of access to safe water, latrines, and soap, and poor health and food security indicators, heightens the risk of water borne diseases having a detrimental impact on H2R communities.

Proportion of assessed settlements by reported main water source, September 2019



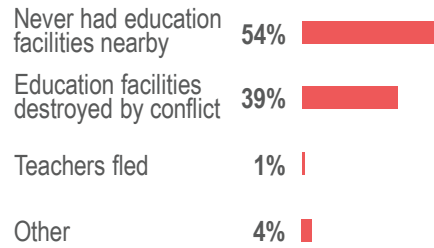
EDUCATION

Similar to other basic services, access to educational services was reported to be limited in H2R settlements. In Bama, Dikwa, Marte, and Ngala, most assessed settlements reported not having access to any education service within walking distance of the settlement (between 63%-85% in September). In Gwoza and Kala/Balge, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting not having access to any educational services tended to be even lower (27% and 43%, respectively, in September).

Of assessed settlements that reported not having access to education services, the most commonly reported reason for the lack of services in Bama and Dikwa was that there were never any facilities (85% and 100%, respectively in September). In contrast, 88% of assessed settlements in Gwoza reported their educational facilities had been destroyed by the conflict.

Of assessed settlements that reported having access to education services in Gwoza and Kala/Balge, 5% or less reported that any children were attending formal school in September. In contrast, 99% or more of assessed settlements in Gwoza and Kala/Balge reported any children were attending informal, Islamic schools. Some FGD participants from Gwoza reported a change in attitude towards education because they did not agree with the messages taught in some of the informal education settings and feared girls would be targeted while in school. Despite this, in both Gwoza and Kala/Balge, the attendance rates for boys and girls was reported to be similar for both formal and informal schools.

Of those reporting no presence of education services that people could walk to, main reasons why no educational services were accessible:



The lack of access to education, particularly formal education, is again indicative of the cut-off nature of the H2R settlements from formal services, which appears to have partly pre-dated the conflict in some LGAs.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Sources of information were reported to be limited in assessed H2R areas. Assessed settlements reported having no source of information in September in Bama (66%) and Kala/Balge (65%). In Gwoza, most settlements reported receiving their information through in-person communication (98% in September). In Dikwa, Marte, and Ngala, about half of the assessed settlements reported having no source of information (39%-56% in September) and about half reported relying on in-person communications (38%-46% in September).

Most LGAs consistently reported that people had problems accessing the information they needed regarding humanitarian assistance (86% in September). The exceptions were Dikwa and Ngala where 64% and 46%, respectively, reported not having trouble accessing information on humanitarian services. FGD participants reported that it would be very difficult for information on humanitarian services to reach H2R areas due to limited access to the settlements.

CONCLUSIONS

Those remaining in H2R areas shared information indicative of a lack of basic services, potential food insecurity, and protection concerns. Slightly improved conditions, primarily in relation to protection, from June to September suggest that the conflict had less of an impact on H2R communities as the rainy season commenced, although indicators in most sectors still depicted stressed conditions.

Conditions in Dikwa and Gwoza were reported to be worse than in the other assessed LGAs, particularly in relation to food security. The indicators suggest that people were not able to access enough food and were resorting to extreme coping mechanisms, including relying on friends and family for meals, eating only one meal a day, and eating wild foods they would not normally eat, including digging up ant holes. Combined with high incidence of looting and FGD participants indicating that people faced restrictions on their movements and actions, these results suggest that people may be experiencing severe food insecurity and have no means to access assistance.

The conditions were generally reported to be better in Marte, with the exception of latrine usage. Kills and FGDs suggested better livelihood opportunities and access to food, along with less protection concerns, in Marte compared to other assessed LGAs.⁷

Overall, the concerning conditions reported in H2R areas suggest that people who remained in these areas were experiencing severe needs in all sectors during the months June - September 2019.

About REACH

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions. REACH activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information, you can write to our country office: reach.nigeria@reach-initiative.org. Visit www.reach-initiative.org and follow us on Twitter: [@REACH_info](https://twitter.com/REACH_info) and Facebook: www.facebook.com/IMPACT.init

⁷ Although all of the assessed H2R areas are inaccessible to international humanitarian actors most of the time, Marte is unique in that the entire LGA is considered inaccessible for international humanitarian actors (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Nigeria: 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview).