

Area Based Assessment on access to basic infrastructure and services in the Upper East and Upper West of Ghana

Key findings

November 2024



REACH Informing
more effective
humanitarian action



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01

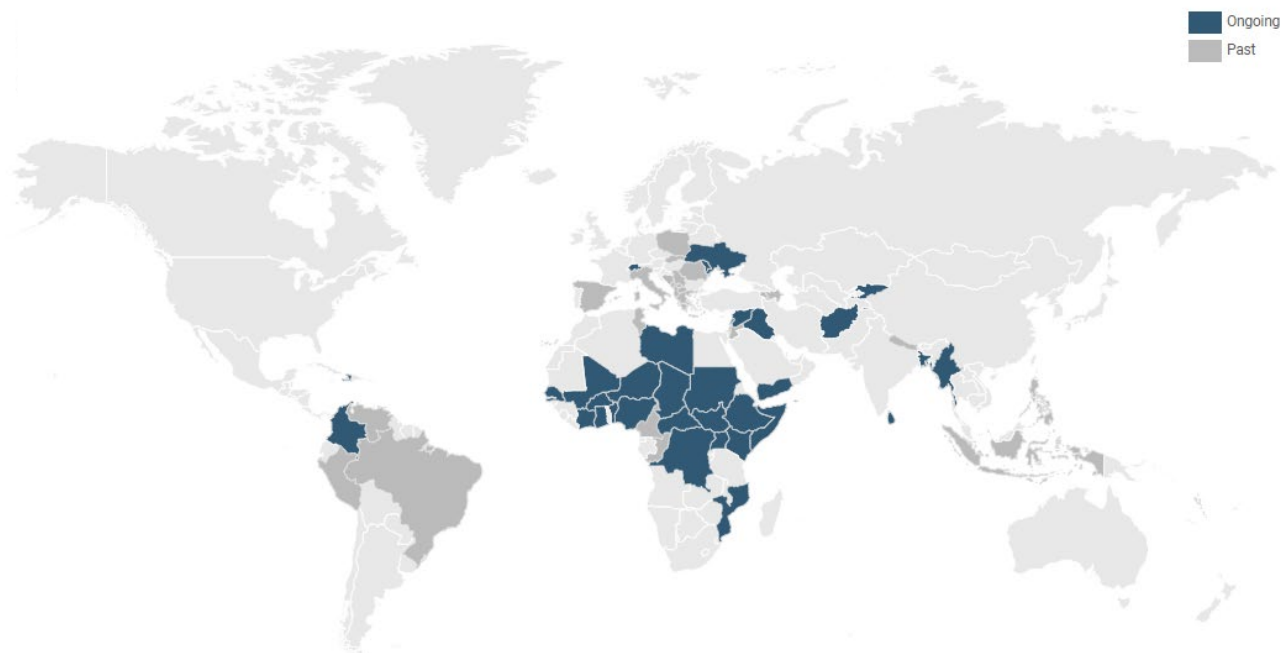
Presentation of REACH

Presentation of IMPACT

IMPACT Initiatives (IMPACT) is a Swiss non-profit organization established in 2010.

Its mission is to enhance the effectiveness of humanitarian and development assistance responses, as well as to promote best practices through its three initiatives: **REACH**, AGORA, and PANDA. This is achieved through assessments, data analysis, institutional capacity building, and situation monitoring.

IMPACT operates in 37 countries, with its headquarters located in Geneva.



Presentation of REACH

Created in 2010, REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT).



The goal of REACH is to better inform humanitarian response, particularly through the implementation of multi-sector needs assessments and the dissemination of this information to the broader humanitarian community.

REACH benefits from logistical, financial, and human resources support provided by ACTED in the countries where it operates. In certain areas or for specific projects, other humanitarian actors may also support REACH's deployment.



02

Introduction

Background and Context

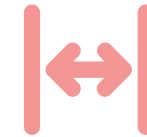
Crisis overview

- The deteriorating security and humanitarian conditions in Burkina Faso and neighboring countries have displaced over thousand into Ghana.
- As of January 2024, Ghana hosts around 10, 690 registered refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from Burkina Faso, Togo, Liberia, and Sudan and approximately 11,676 Burkinabe asylum seekers yet to be registered.
- Most asylum seekers settled in fragile areas such as the Upper East and Upper West regions, known for high poverty and dependence on agriculture.
- The capacity to host asylum seekers in local communities is not sufficient and may jeopardize an already fragile social cohesion and increase competition over resources
- This is especially true for the Bawku West District in the Upper East region where the Ghanaian government (Ghana Refugee Board), in collaboration with UNHCR, has set up a reception center and is in the process of relocating asylum seekers from border areas



Impact on both populations

- Increased strain on resources: education, healthcare, water, and sanitation.
- Rising tensions over land, security and access to basic services.



Information gap

- Lack of detailed data on communities' access to social infrastructures
- Limited understanding of the specific needs of host and asylum-seeking populations.



Need for action

A territorial study is essential to provide insights for humanitarian actors and local institutions to design targeted interventions that address immediate and long-term needs, ensuring social stability and resilience.



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Objectives of the Research

Research objectives

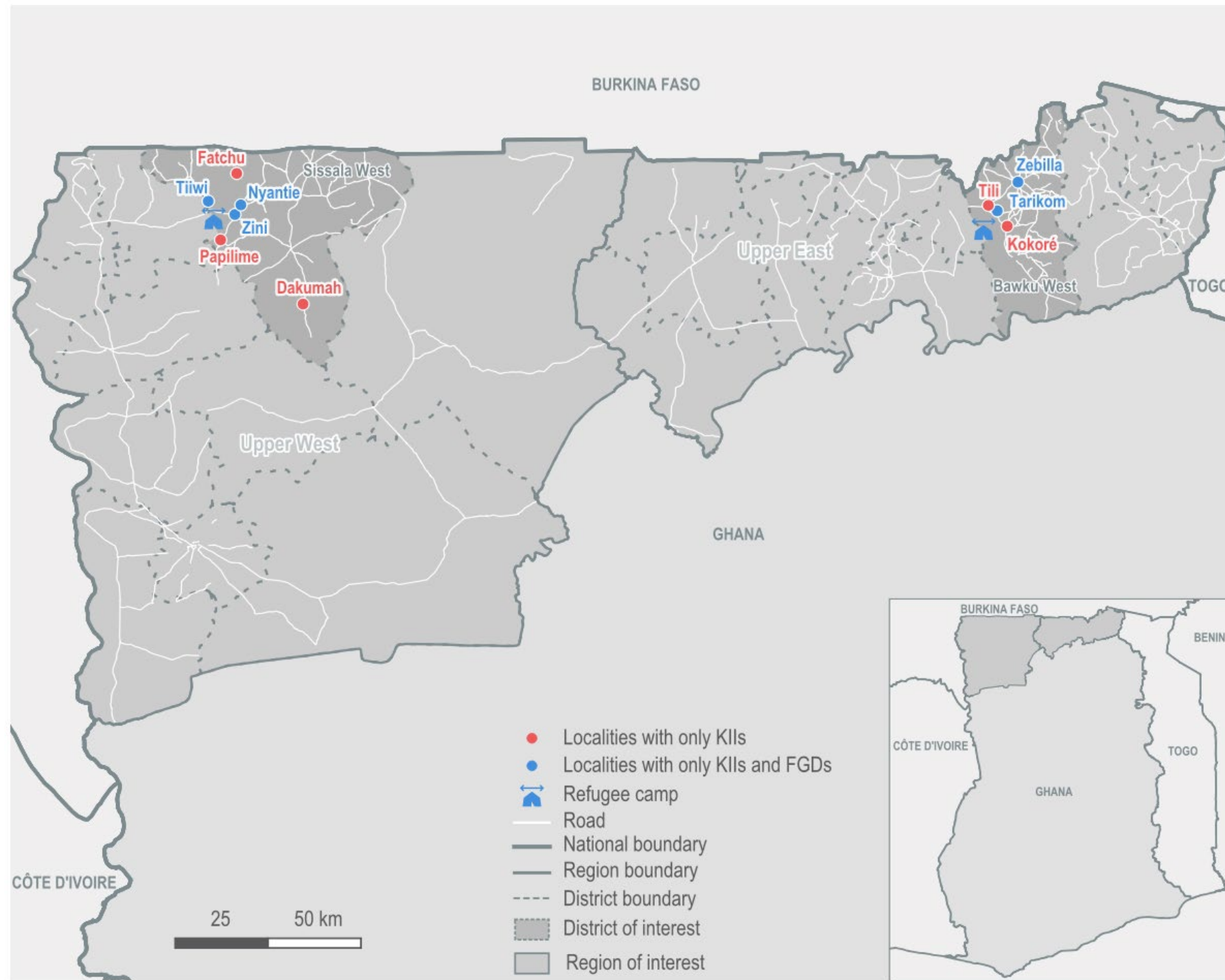
To evaluate the living conditions and access to essential infrastructure for both asylum seekers and the host community in the Upper East and West regions and to provide humanitarian actors with evidence-based insights.

This assessment specifically addresses the following objectives:

- 1 — Assess access to socio-community services and infrastructures
- 2 — Assess the priority needs of both population groups.
- 3 — Gain insights into access to land and livelihoods
- 4 — Gain a general understanding on social cohesion dynamics.

Research scope

The study focuses on understanding the socio-economic conditions of asylum seekers and host communities in the **Upper East** (District of Bawku) and **Upper West** (District of Sissala) regions of Ghana.





04

Methodology overview

Methodology overview

1

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

16 FGDs conducted, 8 in each region, with 6-8 participants per group. Gender-separated to ensure open discussions on sensitive issues.

2

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

28 KIIs conducted with Local authorities, community leaders, and other essential community stakeholders to gather in-depth insights into socio-economic conditions and integration challenges.

3

Quality control and analysis

Data collection period : 24/06/2024-05/07/2024
Daily follow-ups ensured accuracy and consistency in data collection.
Analysis of transcriptions → Data saturation analysis grid for key informant interview and focus group discussions



Strengths and limitations of the study

Findings should be considered indicative rather than generalizable to the wider population.

Research strengths

- Semi-structured multisectoral questions enable to capture a wide range of information from the participants.
- Gender-segregated focus group discussion enable capturing the difference experiences of both women and men separately.

Research limitations

- Qualitative approach may not fully represent broader population patterns.
- Use of snowball sampling introduces potential selection biases.





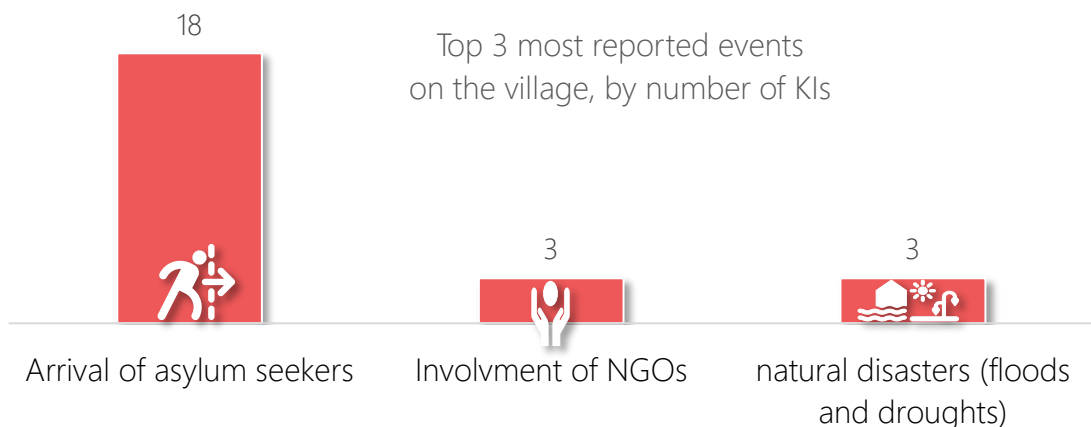
05

Key findings



General overview of the situation

Recent events occurring in the Village



Arrival of asylum seekers:

Most key informants identified the arrival of asylum seekers as the most impactful recent event in the village. This development introduced a combination of positive and negative changes to the community. One host community member from Nayantie in the Upper East region described the situation, stating, *“The influx of displaced people from Burkina Faso due to conflicts has significantly impacted our village.”*

Natural disasters (floods and droughts)

Floods and droughts were frequently cited by several key informants as other major recent events affecting their villages (3KIs in Zini and Pepelmie). These natural disasters have had a notable impact, damaged homes and disrupting livelihoods. A host community member from Zini attributed these challenges to climate change.

Another issue is the disaster which occurred towards the ending of last year, where people had their homes raided by storms [...] Issues of drought, due to unstable rainfall as a result of climate change, is another issue that can be mentioned to have happened.”

Host community member-Tili

Arrival of humanitarian organizations:

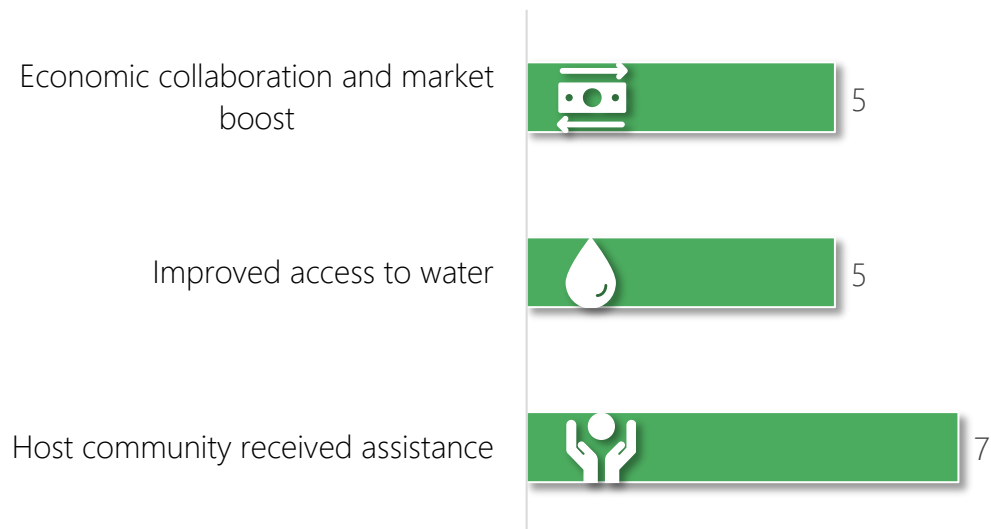
The involvement and arrival of NGOs was also highlighted by Kis (3KIs). Among the interventions mentioned were **financial support for households**, assistance in **constructing toilets**, and assistance provided by the **World Food Program**. One key informant specifically linked the presence of NGOs to the arrival of asylum seekers.

Host community member – Tili.

“ Before the coming of the refugees, the community was not getting any kind of support from any donor agency, but the presence of these refugees has brought certain households being identified and supported financially, how sustainable this support will be is yet to be seen. ”

Positive impacts on the village

Top 3 most reported positive impact of recent event on the village, by number of KIs



Assistance received by host communities

Host communities from localities like Tarikom, Zini and Tilli have seen improvements in infrastructure and sanitation due to humanitarian interventions following the arrival of asylum seekers. A resident of Tarikom noted, *"Initially, we did not have electricity, but due to the arrival of the asylum seekers, we now have electricity in some limited areas in the community."*

Improved access to water

Humanitarian organizations have supported the drilling of boreholes and expansion of water systems in Tarikom, Kukore and Tilli to meet the increased demand. A resident of Kukore shared, *"World Vision provided water some years ago. They drilled boreholes in the community."* In Tarikom, the water infrastructure was also enhanced, as noted by a local leader: *"There is now construction of pipe water in the CHPS compound and its expansion to the school."*

Economic collaboration and market boost

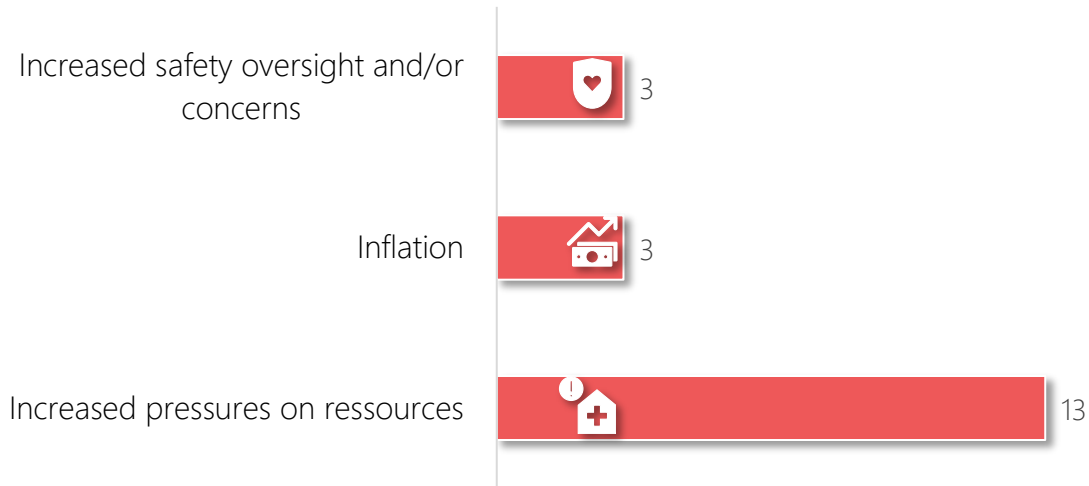
The arrival of asylum seekers has boosted local economic activity and markets. **Increased demand for goods and services** has provided opportunities for local traders, farmers, and artisans, fostering economic collaboration between host communities and newcomers. This enhanced market activity has not only benefited businesses but also contributed to the overall economic vibrancy of the region.

Market activities have increased, promoting economic growth and raising the community's profile.

Host community member-Zini

Negative impacts on the village

Top 3 most reported negative impact of recent event on the village, by number of KIs



Increased pressure on resources

The arrival of asylum seekers has placed significant strain on resources such as water, farmland, and health facilities, leading to challenges in ensuring equitable access.. A host community member in Nyantie commented, *"Their cattle grazing on our farms during the rainy season has caused tension as it affects our crops and livelihoods."*

Inflation

The influx of asylum seekers has led to rising prices for goods and services, particularly food and housing, creating inflationary pressures in local markets. Host community members have expressed concerns about affordability as basic needs become harder to meet. A host community member from Zebilla remarked, *"The Burkina Faso case has also impacted us greatly, for example, in the cost of rent, land and prices of goods and services in Zebilla."*

Increased safety oversight and concerns

The presence of asylum seekers has necessitated heightened safety measures to maintain peace and address potential risks. While major incidents have been avoided, concerns about resource competition and potential disputes persist

The coming in of [...] people is a security issue. We don't know them, and they don't know us, but we accepted them
Community leader-Zini

Reasons of displacement and choice of community

The influx of asylum seekers into host communities has been driven by a combination of factors. The top 4 most reported push and pull factors from the focus group discussions are:

Peace and Safety (9 respondents)



Refugees are coming from Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso seeking good health and escaping conflicts. Ghana's peaceful environment makes our community an attractive place for them to stay

Host community member-Tiwii

Existing Relations (3 respondents)



The love between us is too much, and that is why they came to Zebilla. We see ourselves as one people and access each other's markets

Host community member-Zebila

Support and Assistance (3 respondents)



We noticed that NGOs came with resources like books, school uniforms, and supplies

Asylum seeker-Zini

Livelihood Opportunities (3 respondents)

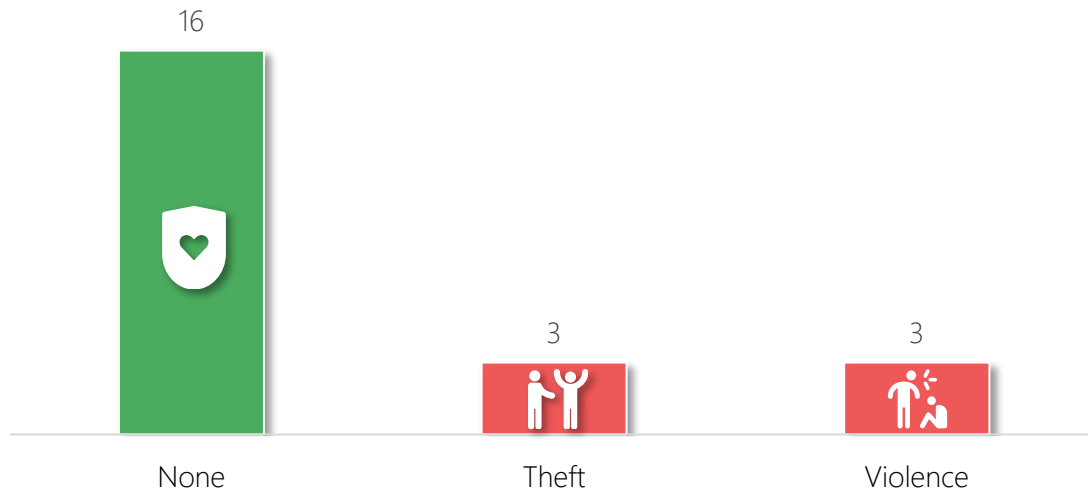


We chose to come here because there are markets and small business opportunities that help us support our families

Asylum seeker-Zini

Security incidents

Reported negative security incidents, by number of KIs



No incidents

Most of the KIs noted that their community had not experienced any significant security incidents. Peaceful coexistence has largely been maintained between the host community and asylum seekers. A key informant emphasized this by stating, "*Since we came here, we have not woken up to any bad news or even sickness; we live peacefully with the people.*" (Asylum seeker, Zini).

Theft

Incidents of theft have been reported (3 KIs). Stolen livestock and property have disrupted livelihoods and contributed to feelings of insecurity. A female asylum seeker from Zebila shared: "*You sleep and wake up and cannot find your fowls or animals. Thieves are stealing from us, and it makes it hard to sustain our families.*"

Violence

While violence has been infrequently reported, tensions occasionally escalate into physical altercations (KI), often stemming from disputes over shared resources like land or grazing areas:

Some asylum seekers have been allowing their cattle to graze on our crops, which damages our livelihoods. When we raise concerns about this, it sometimes leads to tensions, as they may perceive it as us being unwelcoming

Host community member-Tiwii

Persisting challenges

According to KIs, the localities assessed faces persistent challenges, which, though longstanding, have been exacerbated by recent pressures on resources and services.



Limited water sources (3 KI)

The scarcity of water is the most critical issue, affecting households, farming activities, and livestock. According to KIs, the community struggles with long queues at limited water points, particularly during the dry season

“The water we have is no longer enough for everyone. People now wake up very early just to fetch water, and some days, there isn't enough to go around”



Community leader– Zebila



Poverty (2 KI)

Economic hardship is a significant challenge, with many families unable to afford basic needs like food, education, and healthcare. Limited livelihood opportunities and rising costs of goods compound the issue.

“Many families here struggle to afford even one meal a day. With no stable jobs and increasing prices, it's difficult for most people to sustain their families”



Social worker– Tiwii



Deficient education infrastructure (2 KI)

Overcrowded classrooms, a lack of learning materials, and inadequate teacher availability are hampering the quality of education in the community

“We don't have enough classrooms for all the children. Some have to sit under trees or share crowded rooms, which affects their ability to learn”



Host community member– Nyantie



Living conditions of asylum seekers

Shelter conditions and housing



Poor shelter conditions (2 KIs)

Many asylum seekers live in temporary structures that fail to protect against extreme weather, such as windstorms and flooding during the rainy season.

“*When it is raining, we suffer at our camp and if there is no help for good housing, it is better to go back to Burkina for them to kill us*”



Asylum seeker– Tarikom



Need for permanent housing solutions (2 KIs)

Asylum seekers living in the camp emphasized the urgent need for more permanent and sustainable housing structures to ensure adequate shelter conditions.

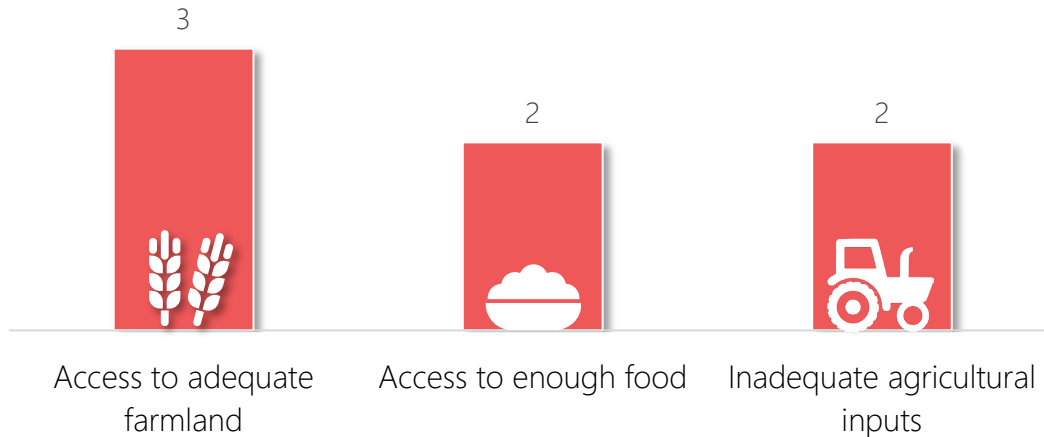
“*We need permanent structures, especially for families. Tents are not enough, especially during the rainy season*”



Asylum seeker– Tarikom

Access to basic needs and livelihoods

Top 3 challenges to basic needs and livelihood, by number of respondents



Access to adequate farmland

While some land is allocated to asylum seekers, it is often rocky or infertile, making farming efforts less productive. One asylum seeker in Zebilla explained, "*The land we are given isn't fertile and is full of gravel and stones, making it unfit for farming*". This issue severely limits their ability to achieve food security, as the poor soil conditions lead to low crop yields.

Access to enough food

Many asylum seekers report that the food aid they receive is insufficient, forcing them to ration meals or supplement through other means, such as informal labor or petty trading. One asylum seeker in Zebilla shared, "*They registered us and gave us support for living, but it is not enough to care for households of seven or eight people.*"

Inadequate agricultural inputs

The lack of essential agricultural tools and inputs, such as tractors and fertilizers, significantly hampers farming activities among asylum seekers. Additionally, the scarcity of fertilizers forces farmers to make difficult choices, such as sacrificing portions of their lands to afford fertilizers for cultivating the rest.

We are farmers and how to buy fertilizer for our farm is a problem, but the landowner can sell portion of the land to buy fertilizer.

Asylum seeker-Tiwii

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Education

Available education facilities

Availability of education facilities **according to KIs**

Locality	Pre integration training for asylum seekers	KG and nurseries	Primary school	Junior high school	Educational support in camp	Private primary school	Senior high school
Dakumah	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Fachu	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Kukore	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Nyantie	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Pepelmie	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Tarikom	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Tiwii	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Tilli	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Zebilla	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Zini	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✓ : Available

✗ : No information

- Educational opportunities vary across localities, with most offering primary and junior high schools, but early childhood education is limited in areas like Fachu and Tilli.
- Tarikom and Zini provide broader services, including pre-integration training for asylum seekers, with Zini serving as a regional hub with private and senior high schools

- Higher education remains limited, with senior high schools and private primary schools only in Zini and Zebilla.
- This disparity emphasizes the need to expand educational infrastructure for equitable access for both host communities and asylum seekers.

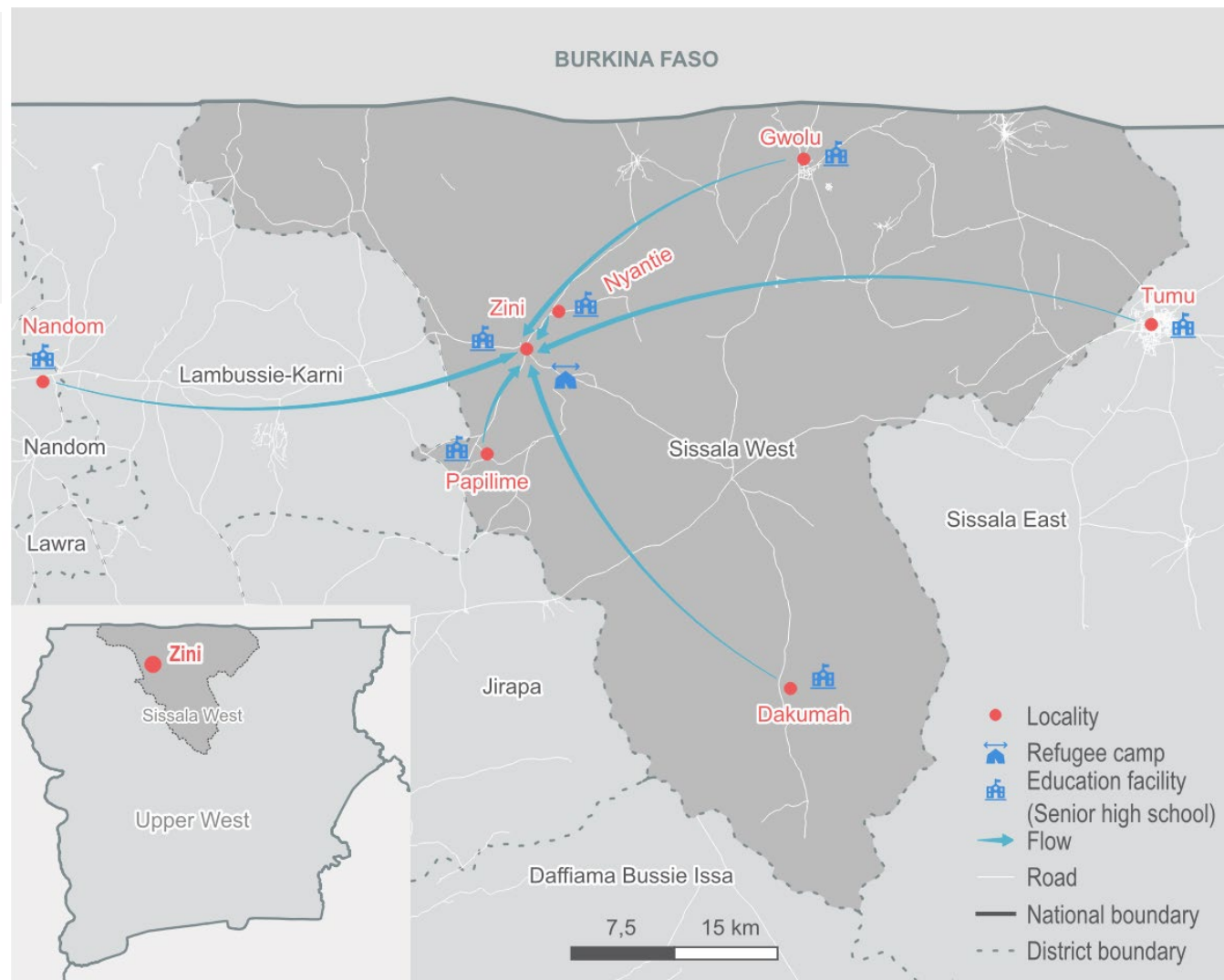
Zini: Regional hub for surrounding communities in the Upper West

Neighbouring communities like Gwolu, Nandom, Tumu, Dakumah, Papilime and Nyantie rely on Zini education facilities either because of lack of facilities, overcrowding or for integration in other communities



We used to go to Zini since the 1990s, we used to go to them for educational purposes and even as I'm talking now, some of our pupils still go to Zini for education services and for secondary school, that one is compulsory that you must leave your community and go to other communities

Host community member-Dakumah



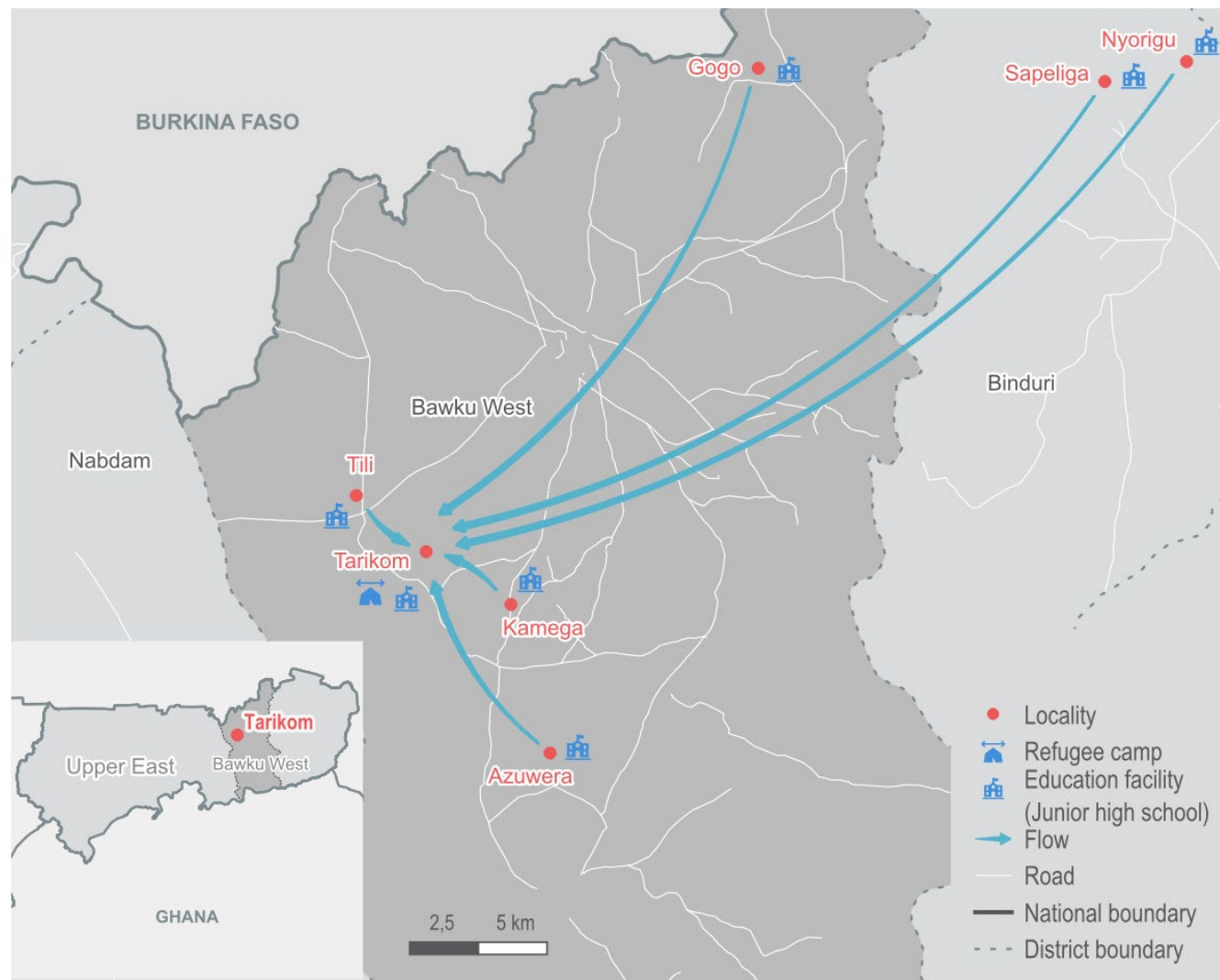
Tarikom : Anchor for surrounding communities in the Upper East

Renovations driven by the arrival of asylum seekers drove more students from neighboring localities like Gogo, Tili, Azuwera, Nyorigu, Sapeliga.

Because of the renovation, they are getting a lot admission from the children in this community and other communities

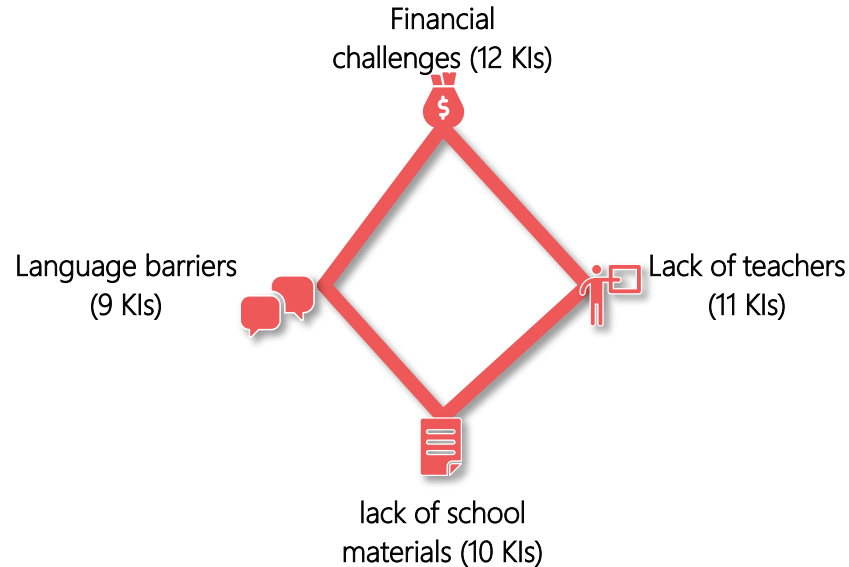
Host community member-Tarikom

Please note that the distance between certain villages and Tarikom or Zini was not reported by the Kis as a daily journey. It is assumed that relocation for school was the primary arrangement, rather than regular travel.



Challenges faced at school

Top 4 challenges faced at school, by number of KIs



Financial challenges

Even with free school fees, many parents face challenges affording school materials, and some struggle to afford transportation to the school, leading to a burden to villages where the students don't have access to a local school. A host community leader from Tarikom noted, "*Though there are no school fees again, parents always find it difficult to afford uniforms, school bags, and sandals for their children.*"

Lack of teachers

The shortage of teaching staff puts significant pressure on the education system, resulting in overcrowded classrooms and limited individual attention for students, which impacts academic performance. A host community member from Kukore highlighted, "*Lack of enough teachers and the few ones too don't have quarters for them to stay. Where the teachers are staying is far, and because of that, they come to school late.*" This situation has led some parents to transfer their children to private schools in Zebilla, hoping for better educational outcomes (3 KIs).

Lack of school materials

The absence of basic educational materials such as textbooks, pens, and desks significantly hampers the learning environment. This scarcity forces children to adapt to unsuitable conditions that affect their ability to learn effectively.

Children carry chairs from home to school, and some lie on the floor to write

Host community leader-Tili

Challenges faced at school

Language barriers

Language barriers pose a significant challenge for asylum seekers, as Ghana's English-based curriculum differs from the francophone systems many asylum seekers are accustomed to.

This dual gap, unfamiliarity with local dialects and the transition to English makes integration difficult (both for school and social integration), especially for older students in high school. Special language training programs, facilitated by NGOs, help bridge the gap for students. However, parents face similar struggles, with limited language skills hindering their participation in school meetings and further isolating them from their children's education.

“As for the asylum seekers, language is the major challenge for both parents and children. Due to this barrier, they are giving them special training at the camp before integrating them into the school.”

Host community leader-Tarikom

Impact of the arrival of asylum seekers on education facilities

Pressure on existing resources (6 KI)

The arrival of asylum seekers has exacerbated existing challenges within the education system, straining limited resources and infrastructure. KI noted issues such as overcrowded classrooms, insufficient furniture and teaching materials, and a shortage of teachers. Overcrowding might significantly exacerbate teachers' shortage given the already high student per teacher ratio

Expansion of social amenities to the school (6 KI)

The influx of asylum seekers has prompted the expansion of vital social amenities in schools, in communities like Tarikom and Kukore, benefiting both the host and asylum-seeker communities. A host community member from Tarikom noted, *"Yes, they built toilets, added water, electricity was given to the school."*

Provision of school supplies and furniture (5 KI)

The provision of school supplies and furniture has been a significant support to communities in Tarikom and Kukore. NGOs have introduced initiatives such as "school in a box," in Tarikom and Kukore along with school uniforms for children from both the host community and asylum-seeker families. A host community representative from Tilli explained, *"They provide 'school in the box,' a metal box which contains all the teaching and learning materials in it."*

Renovation of school (5 KI)

The arrival of asylum seekers has catalyzed major renovations in local schools in Tili and Tarikom, transforming previously dilapidated structures into modern facilities. Several classrooms have been added, and existing school blocks have been repaired or completely renovated. A youth leader from Tarikom shared, *"Our school was almost at the point of collapsing, but upon the arrival of the asylum seekers, the school underwent a major transformation and renovation."*

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Health

Available health infrastructure

- Both Zini and tarikom provide basic health services to both residents and asylum seekers but lacks facilities for more complex treatments
- More severe medical cases from Zini are referred to hospitals in nearby towns like Gwollu and Zebilla District Hospital for Tarikom

No, Zini has a clinic and that is where we go for healthcare. It is when the situation is above the care of the Zini clinic that they will refer to the district hospital in Gwollu. Even now, UNHCR plans to upgrade this CHPS into a clinic to reduce the referral numbers.

Host community leader-Zini

Mostly for cases like delivery and accidents when you go there, they transfer or refer you to Zini, Gwollu or Nandom.

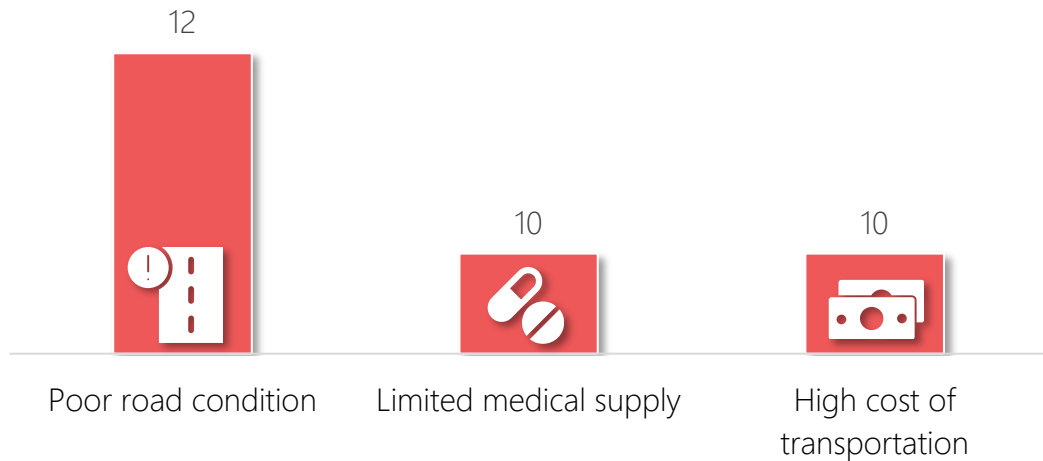
Host community member-Dakumah



This image was generated using Imagen3 (Google) as a visual representation of healthcare facilities in Zini

Challenges accessing health facilities

Top 3 challenges accessing health facilities, by number of KIs



Poor road conditions

Accessing healthcare is often complicated by the poor state of roads, especially during the rainy season. For residents traveling to nearby towns like Zini, Gwollu, or Nandom for specialized care, the journey can be daunting and, at times, impossible. A host community member in Tarikom stated, *"The roads leading to access healthcare services is very dangerous and imagining somebody is sick and you carry the person with motorbike on the potholes to Tilli or Zebilla."*

Limited medical supplies

The local CHPS compound, while serving basic health needs, is often plagued by shortages of essential medical supplies and medications. These shortages are exacerbated by challenges in reimbursement from the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), leaving both healthcare providers and patients in difficult positions. A host community leader shared, *"The major challenge we face is insufficient drugs. Even for common malaria tests, you have to buy outside the facility, and these days, the health insurance doesn't even cover it anymore."*

High cost of transportation

Transportation remains a significant barrier to accessing healthcare services, particularly for referrals to facilities in Zebilla or Bolgatanga. Many residents struggle to afford the costs associated with transportation, which can range from GHS 30 to GHS 50. A community member shared, *"There is no transport system in this community, and when you are going to Yelwoko, you have to pay the full amount."* Another explained the compounded difficulties during the rainy season: *"We have a stream that cuts the road, preventing us from accessing services."*

Disparities accessing health facilities

Language barriers

Language barriers pose significant challenges for asylum seekers, particularly when communicating with healthcare providers or understanding medical instructions. This often complicates treatment processes and reduces the effectiveness of medical interventions. A community leader from Tarikom explained, “

because of the language barrier, they will have to get somebody to do interpretation for them for the nurses to know exactly what the problem is and be able to assist them.

Some days when they come here and they don't get they will have to stay there and look for any interpreter nearby to assist them.

Host community member-Zini

Asylum seekers' health expenses are covered

Unlike many host community members, asylum seekers benefit from financial support covering their healthcare expenses. Organizations such as NABOCADO facilitate the reimbursement of medical bills, reducing the financial burden on asylum seekers.

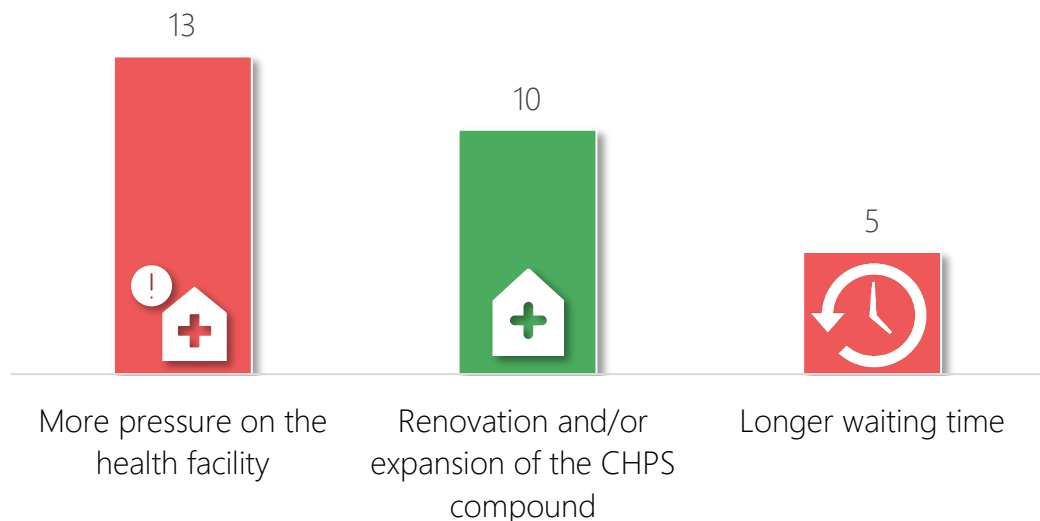
While this support is vital, it sometimes creates perceptions of inequality within the host community, particularly for those who face significant out-of-pocket expenses for similar services

It is clear the host community members pay for the cost of the service but the asylum seekers cost of health care are paid for by the managers of the camp.

Host community member-Tarikom

Impact of the arrival of asylum seekers on health facilities

Top 3 impacts of the arrival of asylum seekers on health facilities, by number of KIs



Renovation and/or expansion of CHPS compound

In response to the increased pressure, several renovations and expansions have been made in communities like Tarikom, Kukore, Zini and Tilli including the installation of mechanized boreholes, extension of electricity from the camp to the health facility, and the renovation of existing structures to serve as nurses' quarters. In Tilli, a community member shared, *"The health center now has water and electricity, and the old structures have been renovated to accommodate more people."*

Increased pressure on health facility

The influx of asylum seekers has led to overcrowding and a noticeable uptick in the daily patient load. This pressure reduces quality of services to patients. A host community member in Tiwii observed, *"While asylum seekers have equal access to healthcare services, their presence has increased the workload for healthcare providers and may contribute to logistical challenges in managing patient flow and resource allocation."*

Asylum Longer waiting times

The increased patient load has inevitably led to longer waiting times at health facilities. This issue is compounded by challenges such as staff shortages and the late arrival of nurses. A host community member of Kukore noted, *"Because the nurses are not staying there, when you go there you have to wait for the nurses to come and attend to you."* Additionally, poor road conditions make it difficult for healthcare workers to commute promptly, further exacerbating delays. A community member of Tarikom area shared, *"The road leading to the district capital is bad, and nurses wouldn't like to travel on that road every day to work in our community."*

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Market

Market availability

Market availability in Zini

- Zini hosts a weekly market that serves as a key point for trading goods for both host and asylum-seeking populations
- Small shops and petty trade within the community supplement the weekly market, offering everyday essentials
- Zini residents travel to neighboring markets in Felmuo, Gwollu, and Tiwii for goods not available locally.

Market availability in Tarikom

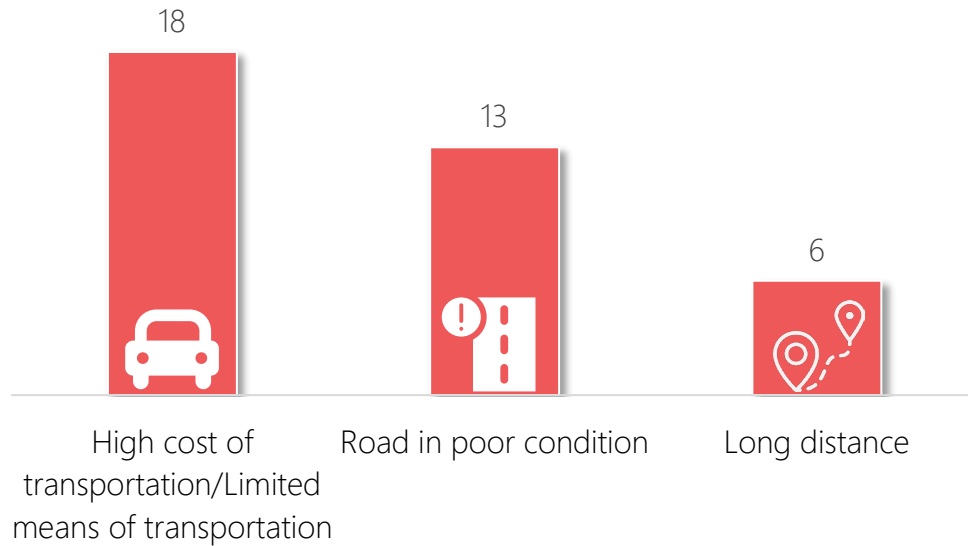
- Tarikom does not have a formal market, so residents rely on petty trade and shops within the community.
- Residents travel to major markets in Zebilla and Binaba for broader trade and access to goods.



This image was generated using Imagen3 (Google) as a visual representation a market in Zini

Challenges in accessing markets

Top 3 challenges accessing markets, by number of KIs



High cost/limited means of transportation

Accessing larger markets is often hindered by high transportation costs and limited availability of vehicles. In Kukore, a resident highlighted, *“The means of transportation only comes here on market days. If the first batch leaves, you must wait for the second batch, especially on non-market days when there’s no transport.”*

Road in poor condition

Poor road infrastructure exacerbates the difficulty of accessing markets, especially during the rainy season. A community member in Fachu described, *“The roads leading to these places are very bad and associated with risk. During the rainy season, crossing to Zebilla to market is a problem because of a stream here.”*

Long distances

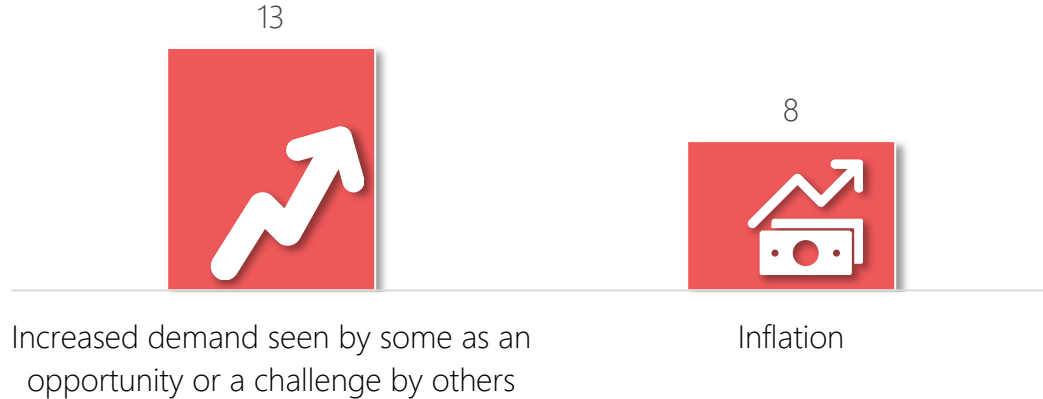
The long distances to major markets like Felmuo, Gwollu, and Zini add another layer of complexity to accessing them. These long distances increase travel time and costs, making regular market attendance difficult for community members, especially those without personal means of transportation.

“The primary issues include the long distance to the market places, which increases transportation costs.

Host community member-Nyantie

Impact of the arrival of asylum seekers on markets

Top 2 impacts of the arrival of asylum seekers on markets, by number of KIs



Increased demand seen by some as an opportunity or a challenge by others

The arrival of asylum seekers has boosted local market activity, creating economic opportunities. A community leader in Tarikom noted, *"Yes, there is an increase in the demand for goods and services as the population increases, which is a market opportunity for the community people."* Additionally, the competition for goods has intensified, with a host community member highlighting, *"This heightened demand can strain the availability of goods, especially during peak times, potentially leading to shortages or increased prices for certain items."*

Inflation

- The arrival of asylum seekers has significantly contributed to inflation in local markets, driven by heightened demand for goods and services.
- Rising demand has also led to increased transportation costs, further inflating market prices

The increased population has led to higher demand for transportation and goods, resulting in higher transportation costs and market prices.

Host community member-Nyantie



WASH

WASH facilities and local dependence



Water

- Boreholes in the community are serving as the primary source of water (22 KI)
- Neighboring communities, such as Nyantie rely on localities like Zini for additional water resources, particularly for livestock. A key informant from Nyantie emphasized, *“Yes, we depend on Zini for water, as it's the nearest locality with better access to water sources, especially for cattle.”*

Sanitation

- Household latrines (9KIs) and shared facilities in camps (6 KIs) are the most common sanitation facilities used in the communities.
- Institutional latrines in schools and health facilities when available are in a bad condition (3 KIs) and are mainly used by teachers, students and patients
 - “The toilet facility in the school is an old structure and when you get there, you wouldn't like to enter inside neither to talk of freeing yourself there.”* (Host community member-Kukore)
- Open defecation is a widespread practice (13KIs), exacerbating hygiene risks by

“The asylum seekers are not also making good use of the toilet facilities that have been provided at the camp but rather prefer to defecate in the open and by the stream” (Host community member-Tarikom)

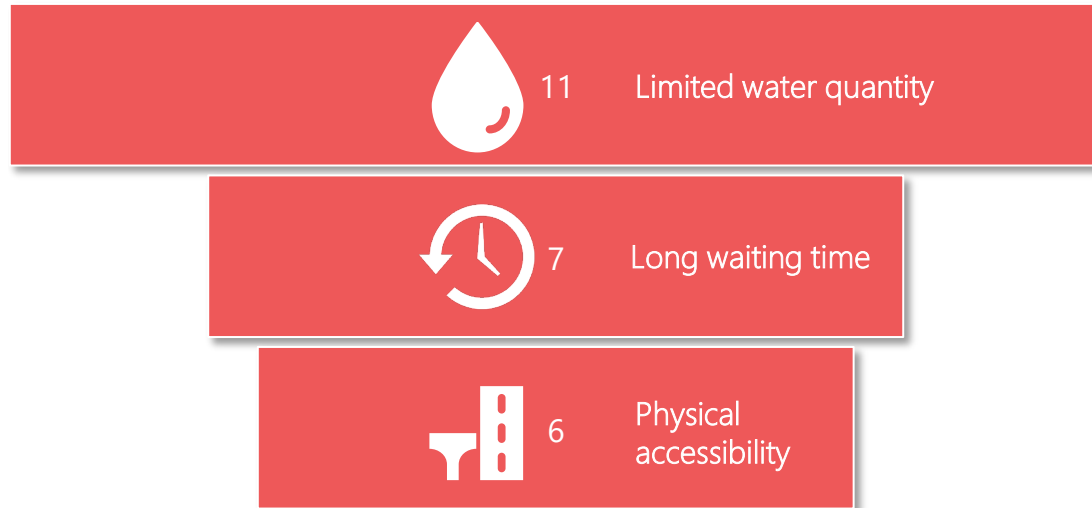


Hygiene

Hygiene product availability varies across communities but remains generally limited (1 KI)

Challenges of accessing WASH facilities

Top 3 challenges accessing WASH facilities, by number of KIs



Limited water quantity

- Access to water remains a significant challenge due to the limited number of boreholes in many communities.
- This scarcity becomes especially critical during the dry season when both asylum seekers often spend extended periods collecting water. A host community member from Fachu, explained, "*In the dry season, it can take like one hour or 30 minutes depending on the quantity of water you want.*"

Long waiting time

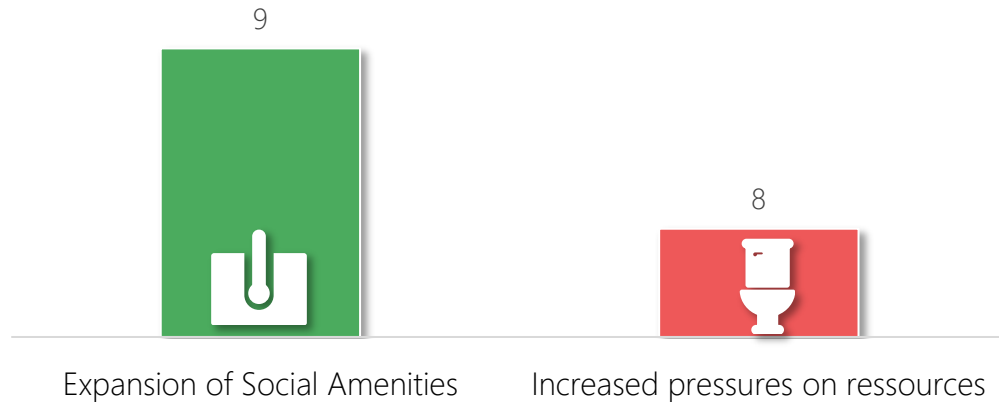
Limited boreholes and outdated infrastructure fail to meet the growing water demand leading to long waiting time. A host community representative in Tilli, "*There is pressure on our limited boreholes, and community members have to queue in order to get water.*"

Physical accessibility (roads, transportation, movement barriers)

- Residents often navigate dangerous paths to fetch water or use sanitation facilities. A resident from Fachu described the challenge: "*Physically, the roads in and around Fachu are in poor condition, making it difficult to transport water or reach the boreholes, especially during the rainy season.*"
- Additionally, carrying water over long distances exposes it to contamination, such as bird droppings, which further reduces its quality. "*There is road leading to the water points but because of the distance, if you are carrying water with basin birds can defecate on it making it not quality again*" (Host community member-Kukore)

Impact of arrival of asylum seekers on WASH facilities

Top 2 impact of the arrival of asylum seekers on WASH facilities, by number of KIs



Expansion of social amenities

- Water points and sanitation facilities have been expanded as shared by a community member from Tarikom "Yes, the asylum seekers have brought some improvement to our water situation in the community. More water points have been added because of them."
- Similarly, additional boreholes and toilets were installed to accommodate the increased population.
- However, these expansions are not uniform, as a host community member from Tarikom noted that host community has yet to see significant improvement. "Here, they have toilets, water, electricity, washrooms and other amenities in the camp here and you yourself can see it. When you go to the host community, you not see such things over there"

Increased pressure on resources

- Boreholes and sanitation facilities are often shared, leading to overcrowding and competition. A host community representative from Zini highlighted, "Their presence has increased the demand for water, making it more scarce for everyone. Additionally, their cattle further strain water resources."
- In areas like Tarikom, some residents have to go to the asylum seekers' camp to fetch water due to long wait times at community boreholes, leading sometimes to conflicts

The community members that go there to fetch for building, the asylum seekers don't allow them except you mention that, you are from the chief palace. This is not good because we are the land owners and they don't want us to fetch their water.

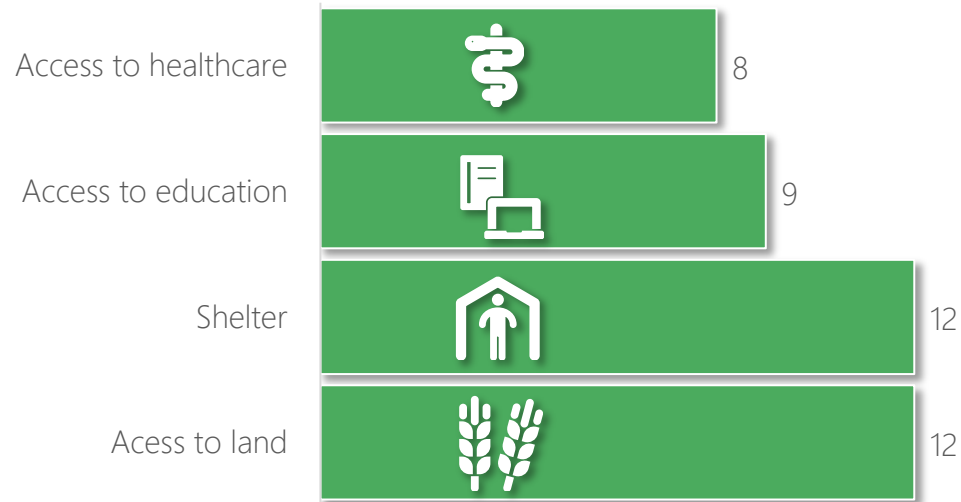
Host community member-Tarikom

The background of the slide features a light gray world map centered on the Atlantic Ocean. The map is overlaid on a complex, low-poly geometric pattern of thin gray lines that form a network of interconnected triangles and polygons across the entire page. The text is centered horizontally and vertically over the map.

PRIORITY NEEDS OF ASYLUM SEEKERS AND HOST COMMUNITIES

Priority needs for asylum seekers

Top 4 priority needs of asylum seekers, by number of KIs



Access to land

Access to secure land is critical for asylum seekers as a mean to be autonomous. While land is more often shared, lack of clear rights or agreements over land use often leaves them in precarious situations. *"We are just given land without any agreement is even risky because the owner can wake up any day and if he is not in a good mood, can ask you to return the land. If there is a lied down agreement as such, it will even be good and we will like it that way."* (Asylum seeker-Zini)

Shelter

Many asylum seekers live in temporary structures that are inadequate, especially during extreme weather conditions. As one asylum seeker in Tarikom explained, *"We need permanent structures, especially for families. Tents are not enough, especially during the rainy season."*

Access to education

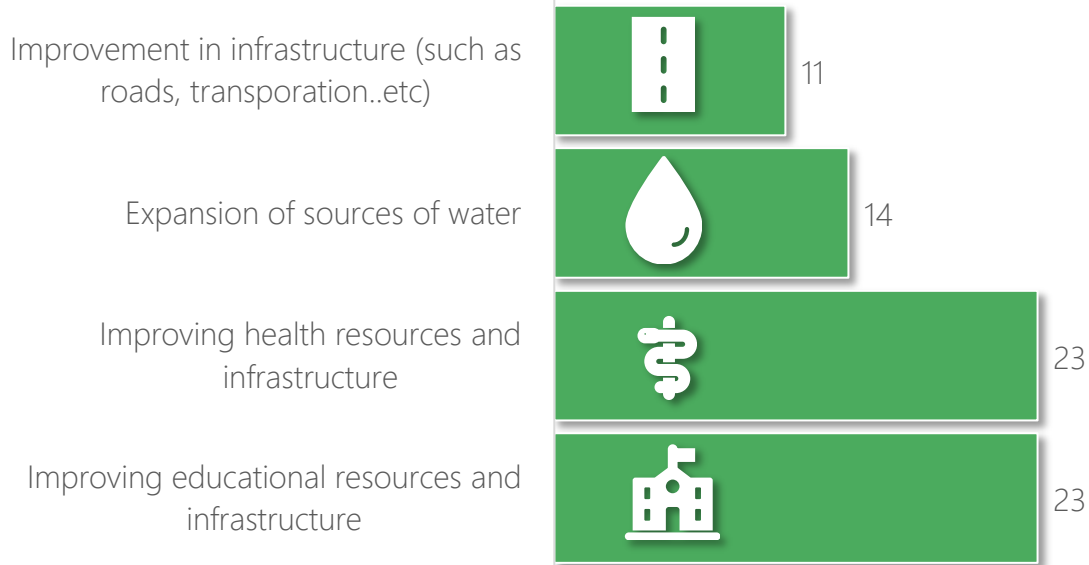
While formal education is essential, there is also a demand for practical skills training to enable asylum seekers to become economically independent and better integrated into their host communities. *"We need more vocational training for women so we can start small businesses and support our families."* (Asylum seeker-Tarikom)

Access to healthcare

The lack of accessible healthcare services leaves asylum seekers vulnerable to untreated illnesses and emergencies, further exacerbating their already precarious living conditions. An asylum seeker shared, *"Our main issue is healthcare. The clinic is far, and we need a better facility nearby."*

Priority needs for host community

Top 4 priority needs of host communities, by number of KIs



Improving educational resources and infrastructure

The host community recognizes the critical need for enhanced educational facilities to accommodate the growing population. A host community leader in Tarikom emphasized, *"Access to education and healthcare is crucial as the population increases. We need more facilities to accommodate everyone."*

Improving health resources and infrastructure

Expanding the health facility is a top priority for the host community to meet the increasing healthcare demands. The influx of asylum seekers has strained existing resources, necessitating better infrastructure, medical supplies, and personnel.

Expansion of sources of water

With the limited number of boreholes, the pressure on water sources has significantly increased. A community member in Tili stated, *"We need more boreholes to reduce the pressure on the limited ones we have, especially with the influx of asylum seekers."* This need is particularly urgent considering the dry season, when water scarcity becomes more pronounced.

Improvement in infrastructure (such as roads, transportation..etc)

The poor state of roads in the host community presents a significant challenge to accessing essential services like schools and healthcare centers. A community representative in Fachu shared, *"Our roads are in poor condition, making it difficult to reach schools and healthcare centers, especially during the rainy season."* Additionally, the community identified the need for consistent electricity access to improve daily life and support local development initiatives.

Additional quotes for priority needs

As we are here, what we mostly do is do labour work on people's farms to get something to eat. If we get our own land, we will want it because we can't depend on only the labor work. If we get space even if it is not much but one or two acres for each person, we will want it to at least get what to eat, but if we can get more than that, that is even what will make us happier. Anyone who is willing to support us in that, we will be grateful

Focus group discussion with asylum seekers-Zini

We are the host community and we had empathy with the asylum seekers, they have come to give us light. If the electricity can be extended to the entire community.

Focus group discussion with host community-Tarikom

The need for a comprehensive health facility has become critical in the last few months. We've seen a rise in health issues, and our current setup cannot cope with the increased demand for medical services.

Focus group discussion with host community-Tiwii

We need dams for dry-season gardening. These dams would also provide water for our animals during the dry season, which is crucial for sustaining our farming and livestock.

Focus group discussion with host community-Tiwi

The asylum seekers should be given skilled training to help them contribute economically. Additionally, we women should receive skills training, such as soap making and tie-and-dye, to enable us to generate income and support our families.

Focus group discussion with host community-Tiwii

Key messages



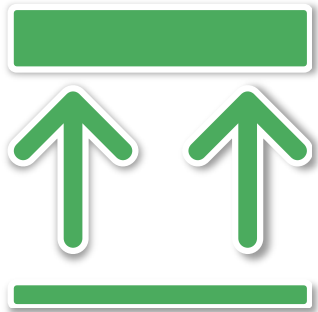
Shelter conditions

The need for secure and adequate shelter remains a significant challenge, particularly for asylum seekers who often rely on temporary or inadequate housing. Developing permanent and inclusive housing infrastructure is essential to provide stability and dignity. Such efforts would also address growing frustrations within host communities, where perceived preferential treatment of asylum seekers can lead to resentment.



Livelihoods and food security

Both asylum seekers and host communities face economic hardships, with limited access to farming inputs, unclear land-use agreements (particularly the asylum seekers), and a lack of vocational training opportunities. Strengthening livelihoods through the provision of farming tools, formalizing land agreements and expanding vocational programs can promote self-reliance, reduce dependency on aid, and foster stronger economic resilience for both groups.



Essential services

The strain on healthcare, education, and WASH facilities has intensified with population growth. Existing services are insufficient to meet the needs of both asylum seekers and host communities, exacerbating disparities. Expanding these facilities equitably is crucial to prevent tensions and to ensure that both groups benefit. Host communities highlight a long-standing lack of investment in these areas, which must be addressed to build trust and social cohesion.

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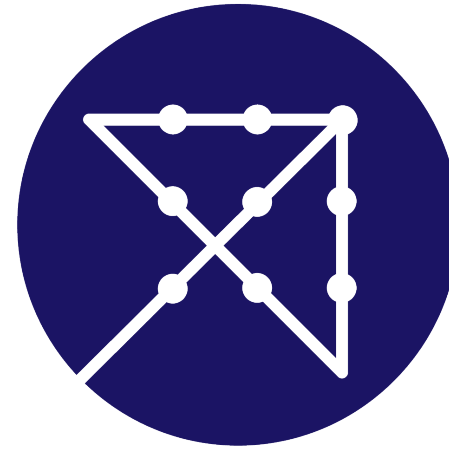
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Also, of interest...

Additional resources from the same assessment:

- KI Data Saturation Grid:

[Key Informant Data Saturation Grid – Upper East and Upper West.](#)

- FGD Data Saturation Grid:

[Focus Group Discussion Data Saturation Grid – Upper East and Upper West](#)

- For details about the methodology, please refer to the Research Terms of Reference available [here](#).

Thank you for your attention



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