

# ASSESSMENT OF HARD-TO-REACH AREAS: FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

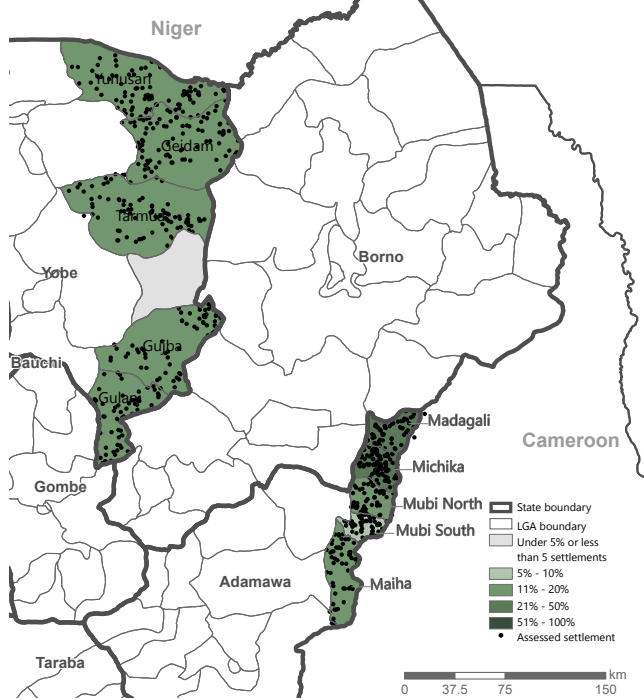
Adamawa and Yobe, Northeast Nigeria

July-September 2022

## INTRODUCTION

The continuation of conflict in Northeast Nigeria has created a complex humanitarian crisis, rendering sections of Yobe and Adamawa states as hard to reach. 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.<sup>1</sup>

### Proportion of settlements assessed, July - September 2022.



# of key informant interviews: **1319**  
 # of assessed settlements: **803**  
 # of assessed LGAs: **11**  
 # of <https://grid3.gov.ng/states> assessed LGAs with

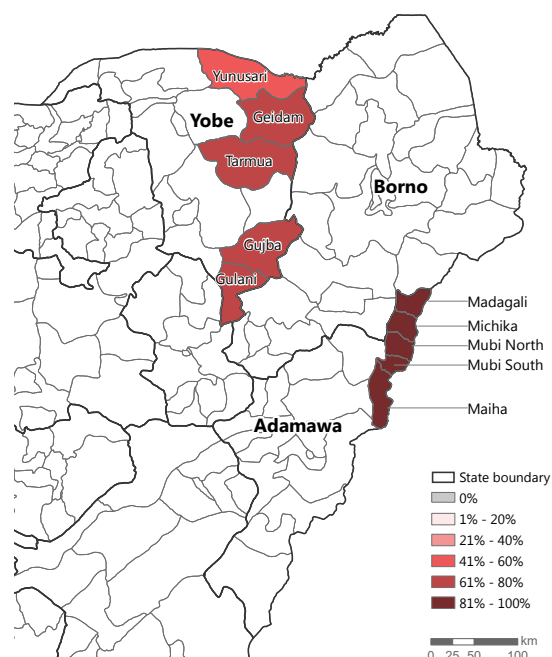
## METHODOLOGY

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'. While included in the calculations, the percentage of settlements for which no consensus was reached is not displayed in the results below.

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 July, August, & September 2022, and are not statistically generalisable.**<sup>3</sup> 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 11th July 2022 to 28th September 2022.

### Proportion of assessed settlements where it was reported that most people did not have access to enough food:



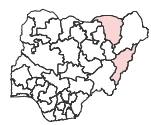
### Number of assessed settlements per LGA

STATE	LGA	# of assessed settlements
ADAMAWA	Madagali	62
	Maiha	68
	Michika	126
	Mubi North	63
	Mubi South	67
YOBE	Geidam	101
	Gujba	71
	Gulani	66
	Tarmua	95
	Yunusari	84

<sup>1</sup> REACH H2R sectoral factsheets from [November 2020 to April 2022](#).

<sup>2</sup> The most recent dataset on [grid3.gov.ng/datasets](https://grid3.gov.ng/datasets) has been used as the reference for settlement names and locations, and adjusted to account for deserted villages based on information shared by OCHA.

<sup>3</sup> Due to changes in migration patterns, the specific settlements assessed within each LGA vary each month. Changes in results reported in this factsheet, compared to previous factsheets, may therefore be due to variations in the assessed settlements instead of changes over time.



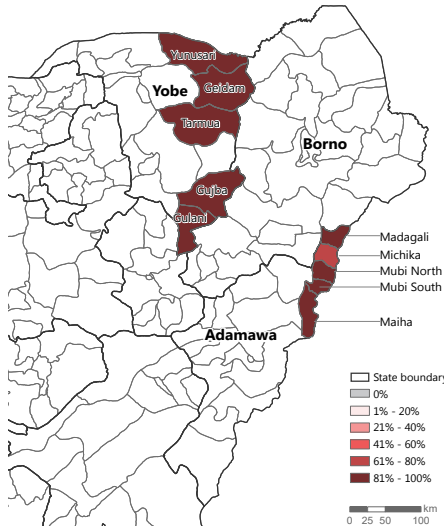
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Adamawa and Yobe, Northeast Nigeria

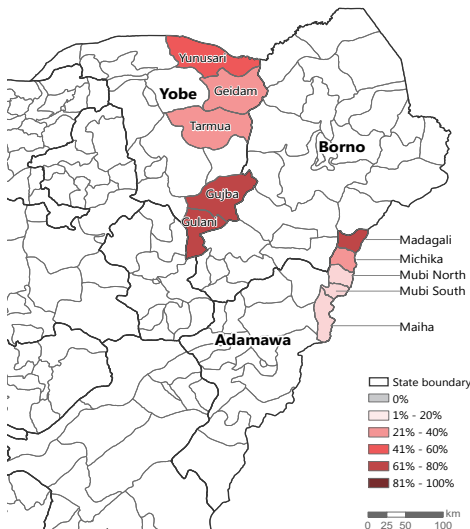
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## Access to food

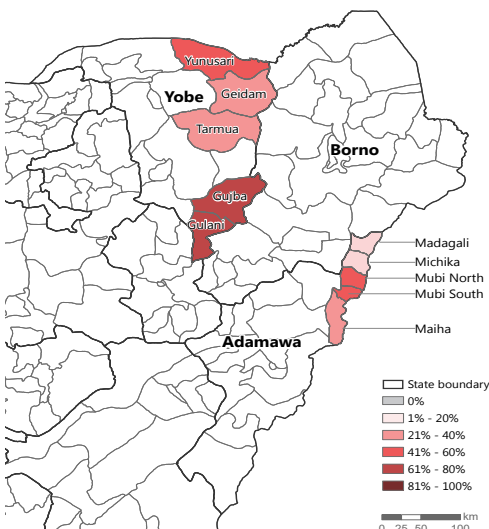
Proportion of assessed settlements where it was reported that some people eat wild foods that are not part of their usual diet:



Proportion of assessed settlements where it was reported that some people eat on average one meal per day or less:



Proportion of assessed settlements where it was reported that most people go an entire day without eating as a coping strategy:



In **82%** of assessed settlements, at least some people reportedly did not have access to enough food in the month prior to data collection.

In those settlements, the most reported main reasons for limited access to food were:

Harvest is exhausted	33%	
Small land to farm on	22%	
Natural causes (e.g., flooding, dry spell, pests, etc.)	18%	
Unsafe access to farm land	4%	
Crops destroyed by conflict	4%	

## Food Source

Most commonly reported main source of food, by % of assessed settlements:

Bought food with cash	43%	
Cultivation	35%	
Foraged for wild food	12%	
Given by friends and family	1%	

## Food shock: Severe hunger

Top five LGAs with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where it was reported that hunger was severe for **MOST** people because they were not able to access enough food:

Mubi South	63%	
Mubi North	62%	
Maiha	53%	
Tarmua	38%	
Geidam	23%	

## Food shock: Conflict and looting

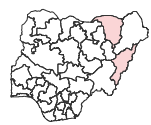
Top five LGAs with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where it was reported that conflict-related incidents and looting impacted access to food:

Mubi South	99%	
Maiha	96%	
Mubi North	95%	
Madagali	87%	
Geidam	54%	

## Food coping strategies

Most commonly reported strategies practised by any community member to cope with lack of food, by % of assessed settlements:

Reduce number of meals eaten	86%	
Limit portion size at meal times	76%	
Adult do not so children can eat	69%	
Rely on less expensive food	55%	
Skip entire day without eating	38%	



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## Access to livelihoods

Proportion of assessed settlements where it was reported that people were NOT able to engage in their usual livelihood activity:

In **45%** of assessed settlements, most people were reportedly unable to engage in their usual livelihood activity in the month prior to data collection.

In those settlements, the reported main reason why people were unable to engage in their usual livelihoods were:

Conflicts/insecurity	92%	
Health problems	43%	
Change in market access	34%	
Movement restrictions	23%	
Climatic conditions	4%	

## Livelihood activities

Most commonly reported livelihood activities practiced in the settlement, by % of assessed settlements:

Casual labour	80%	
Livestock	62%	
Subsistence farming	58%	
Transportation	32%	
Petty trade	32%	

## Food coping strategies

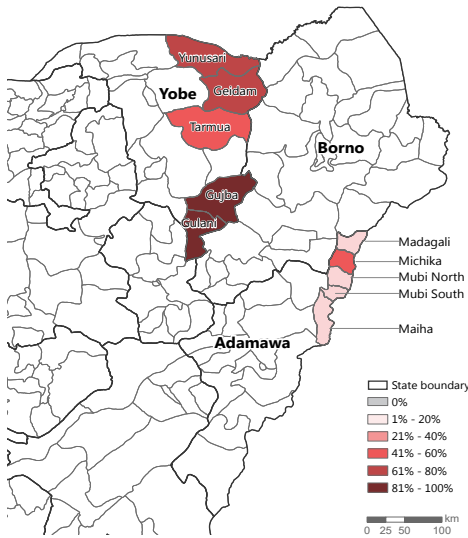
Most commonly reported strategies practiced by people in the settlement to find new sources of food when there was not enough food in a month prior to data collection, by % of assessed settlements:

Gather wild food	92%	
Borrow food	76%	
Borrow money	58%	
Casual labour	57%	
Asking non-relatives for food	54%	

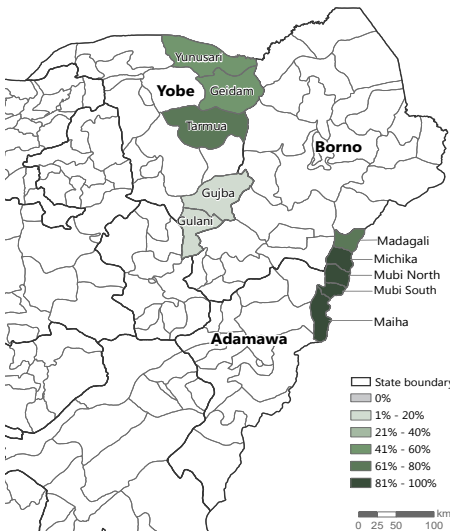
## Planting/harvesting

Top five LGAs with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where it was reported that at least some people had planted and harvested in the previous rainy season:

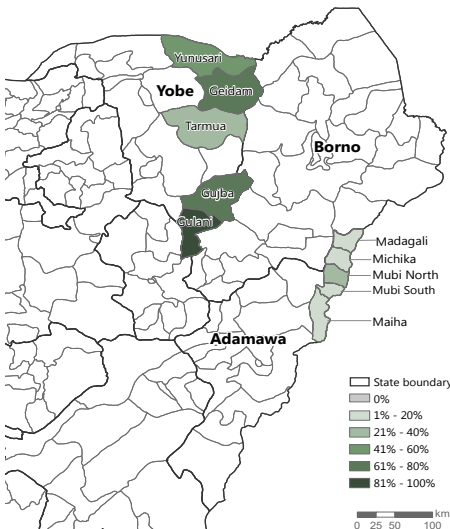
Maiha	100%	
Michika	100%	
Mubi North	100%	
Mubi South	100%	
Yunusari	100%	



Proportion of assessed settlements where it was reported that at least some people owned livestock:



Proportion of assessed settlements where it was reported that at least some people have access to a functional market within walking distance:



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