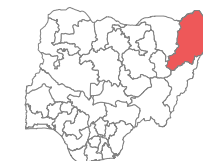


Situation Overview: Humanitarian Needs and Conflict Dynamics in Hard-to-Reach Areas of Borno State

October - December 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 support the humanitarian response to the ongoing conflict, REACH has been conducting data collection in Northeast Nigeria since November 2018. The aim of these assessments is to inform humanitarian service providers on the demographics of the more than 800,000¹ persons estimated to be remaining in H2R areas, as well as to identify their needs, access to services, and to map displacement trends and intentions of movements.

KEY FINDINGS

Movements and displacement of people from H2R areas to accessible Local Government Area (LGA) capitals continued to be driven by the conflict in the reporting period. Focus Group Discussion (FGD) participants mentioned that women and children were the majority of the people remaining in the H2R areas.

Protection indicators reflected high levels of insecurity, especially in Dikwa and Gwoza, where reported incidents that killed at least one civilian and incidents of looting were high in December. Levels of insecurity differed in Kukawa and Marte where incidents that killed at least one civilian and incidents of looting were low to non-existent.

Food security indicators suggested higher access to food in Kukawa and Marte, compared to Bama, Dikwa and Gwoza, where more extreme coping strategies were also reported. The most commonly reported coping strategies used were reducing meals per day and adults not eating so children could eat. The number of reported meals consumed per day was also lower in Bama, Dikwa and Gwoza compared to Kukawa and Marte.

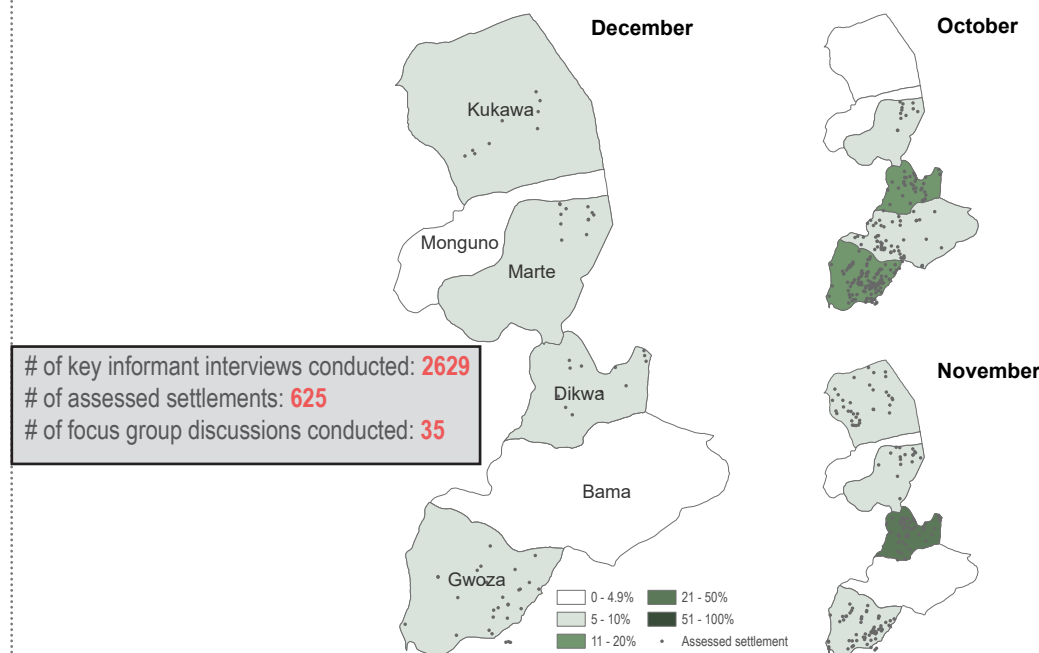
For Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), assessed settlements across all LGAs reported the primary water sources in December to be rivers, protected and unprotected wells. Reliance on unprotected wells as the main water source was particularly high in Gwoza and Bama.

Almost all assessed settlements across LGAs reported a lack of access to **health** facilities in December. Malaria was reported as the main health concern in December across all LGAs, followed by malnutrition in Dikwa and Gwoza.

The majority of assessed settlements reported makeshift **shelters** as the most common shelter type used.

Assessed settlements across all LGAs in December reported low access to **educational services** (formal and informal), with the exemption of Gwoza. Of assessed settlements reporting having access to educational services, the majority reported access to informal schooling only.

Map 1: Assessment coverage of Borno State, 1 October 2019 - 31 December 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 Internal Displaced Persons (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 last month (traders, migrants, family members, etc.)

From 1 October to 31 December 2019, REACH interviewed 2629 KIs who had recent knowledge of conditions in 625 unique settlements. Information for this assessment was collected in 7 accessible LGA capitals in Borno State: Bama, Dikwa, Gwoza, Maiduguri, Monguno, Kondugo, and Ngala, and represents knowledge of settlement conditions ranging from 1 July to 31 December 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

Selected KIs were purposively sampled and interviewed on settlement-wide circumstances in hard-to-reach areas, rather than their individual experiences. Responses from KIs reporting on the same settlement were then aggregated to the settlement level. The most common response provided by the greatest number of KIs were reported for each settlement. When no most common response could be identified, the response was considered as 'no consensus'. While included in the calculations, the percentages of settlements for which no consensus was reached were not displayed in the results. Findings presented, unless otherwise specified, represent the proportion of settlements assessed within a LGA.

Findings are only reported on LGAs where at least 5% of all settlements in the respective LGA had been assessed. Due to this, this situation overview will report only on the LGAs of Bama, Dikwa, Gwoza, Marte and Kukawa. Because of the 5% threshold, data for Bama will only be reported for the month of October and data for Kukawa will only be reported for November and December. Additionally, differences between the proportions will only be considered significant if the difference is equal to or larger than 10%-point.

Quantitative findings were triangulated with FGDs. FGDs centered on elaborating current and historical access⁴ to services in the H2R area. FGDs on service access were followed by a participatory mapping exercise, conducted to establish displacement trends, intentions of movements, and to discuss challenges encountered en-route. FGD participants were purposively sampled and included newly arrived IDPs from H2R areas when possible and occasionally people with knowledge of a H2R settlement. FGDs were conducted throughout the reporting period in garrison towns with groups formed on the basis of the gender and age of participants whenever possible⁵. To ensure safety and confidentiality of the FGD participants, FGDs were conducted in a safe and private space in the IDP camps with limited interruptions.

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 a lack of responses from a given area should not be used to conclude that no people are 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 people in transit after migrating from their settlements, it may compromise the level of details of the information given. It is therefore possible that incidents attributed as having occurred in one LGA may have occurred in neighbouring LGAs.

More information on the methodology can be found in the [H2R Terms of References \(ToRs\)](#).

POPULATION DISPLACEMENT AND MOVEMENT

DEMOGRAPHICS

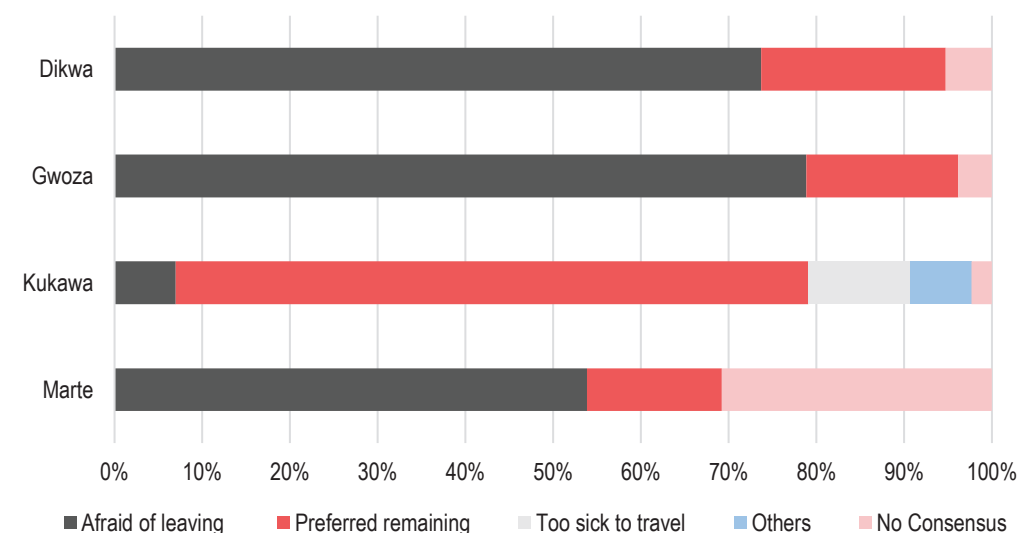
Throughout the reporting period, almost all assessed settlements across all LGAs reported some members of the original host community to be remaining in the H2R settlement (99%). Most FGD participants reported women and children to be the majority of the population remaining. Moreover, the majority of FGDs reported

that many of those remaining intended to leave but were not able to due to restrictions of movement and fear of violence and death if caught trying to leave.

In Bama, (86% in October) and Dikwa (74% in December, see Graph 1), the main reported reason for people to remain in the H2R settlements was fear of leaving their settlement. The same was reported in Gwoza, although the proportion of assessed settlements reporting this decreased from 97% in October to 79% in December. Assessed settlements in Kukawa consistently reported that people did not want to leave the settlement as the main reason for people to remain in the settlement (72% in December). In Marte, the reported most common reason for remaining in the H2R settlement varied greatly throughout the reporting period. In October and November 28% and 50% of the assessed settlements, respectively, reported that most people remained because they did not want to leave the settlement. Meanwhile, in December 15% of assessed settlements in Marte reported that most people remained because they did not want to leave their settlement, whereas 54% of the assessed settlements reported that people remained due to fear.

The different reasons reported for remaining in the H2R settlement could suggest that the conflict had a larger impact on assessed settlements in Dikwa and Gwoza compared to Kukawa. The great variation observed in Marte could indicate a possible change in the impact of the conflict in this area.

Graph 1: Proportion of assessed settlements by main reason reported for people to stay behind in the H2R settlement, December 2019



Graph 2 illustrates the presence of IDPs, community leaders and returnees remaining in the H2R settlements across all LGAs in December. In Bama in October, 36% of assessed settlements reported the presence of community leaders among the remaining population (data only available for October). Similar to last reporting period (June- September 2019)⁵, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of community leaders in Dikwa and Gwoza was high, but decreased throughout the reporting period (from 57% and 68% in October to 42% and 25% in December, respectively). The reported presence of community leaders in Kukawa and Marte was consistently reported as low throughout the reporting period (reported by 0% of

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 35 FGDs, 10 were with participants from Bama, 15 from Dikwa, 1 from Marte, 13 from Gwoza, and 3 from Kukawa.

⁶ [Situation Overview, June - September 2019](#)

assessed settlements in Kukawa and Marte in December. The higher proportion of assessed settlements reporting community leaders to be present in Bama, Dikwa and Gwoza could indicate that more people had the chance to leave the settlements in Marte and Kukawa. Another explanation could be that the KIs from Bama, Dikwa and Gwoza were referring to non-traditional leaders and leadership structures different from the traditional ones.

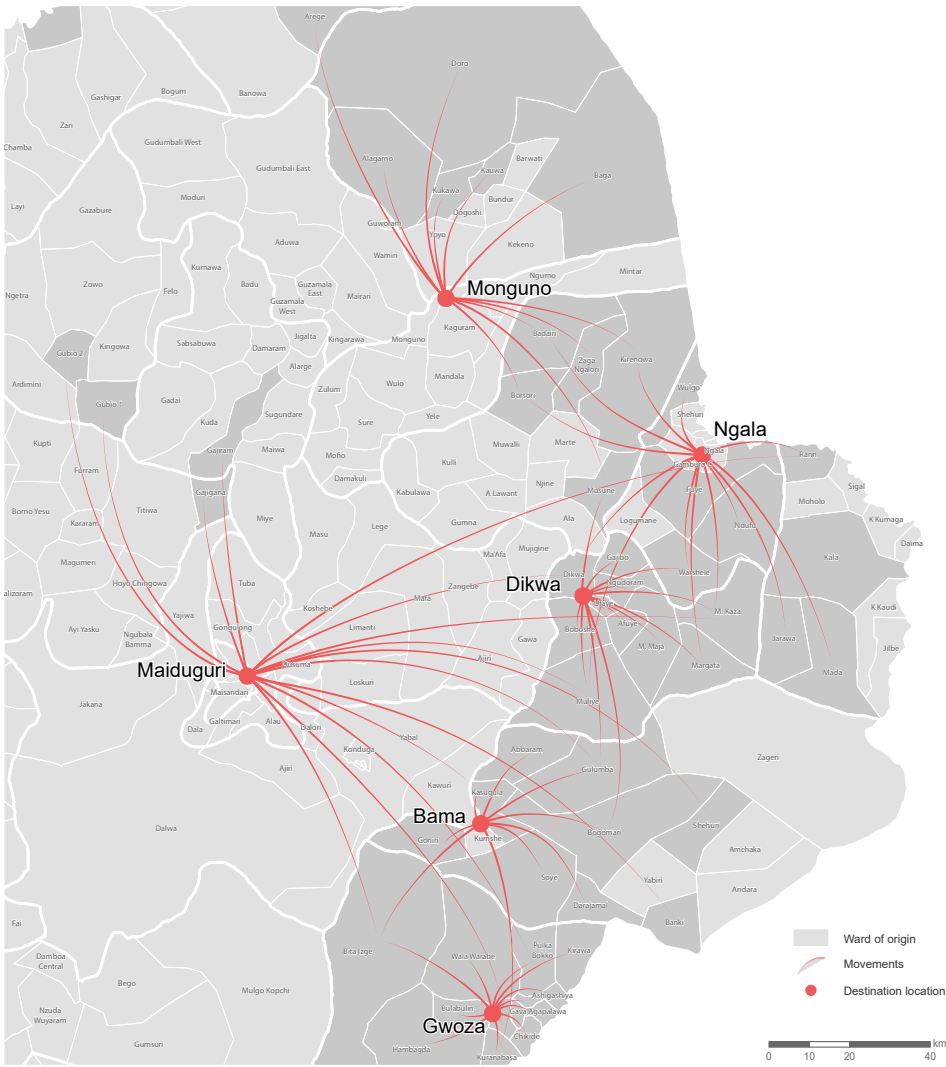
Graph 2: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of specific population groups, December 2019



Throughout the reporting period, the presence of IDPs in the H2R settlements was consistently reported by more than half of assessed settlements in Bama (61% in October, data only available for October), and Kukawa (77% in December). In Dikwa and Marte assessed settlements reporting the presence of IDPs decreased from 72% and 54% in October to 62% and 5% in December, respectively. Movements in the dry season are considered to be a higher risk due to lack of bushes and plants to hide in. Therefore, the change in season from rainy to dry season in November/December could potentially explain the decreased presence of IDPs reported in the H2R areas, as IDPs may have chosen to remain in their settlement of origin. In Gwoza, assessed settlements reporting the presence of IDPs increased from 69% in October to 87% in December. The increased proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of IDPs could be due to movement restrictions and fear of getting caught, preventing the IDPs from moving to another location, and thus remaining in the current H2R settlement.

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of returnees varied across the LGAs. The majority of assessed settlements in Bama (88%) reported the presence of returnees in the H2R settlements in October. Assessed settlements reporting the presence of returnees increased throughout the reporting period in Gwoza (from 14% in October to 25% in December), and Marte (from 6% in October to 35% in December). This increase could be due to the harvesting season in December when people may have returned to their H2R settlement to harvest. In Dikwa, assessed settlements reporting the presence of returnees was stable throughout the reporting period with none (0%) of the assessed settlements reporting the presence of returnees in December. Assessed settlements reporting the presence of returnees decreased in Kukawa from 68% in November to 40% in December. According to FGD participants from Dikwa and Kukawa, people did not want to return to the H2R settlement permanently or temporarily because they did not find it safe to do so. The low and decreasing proportion of returnees reported in Dikwa and Kukawa could therefore be due to high levels of insecurity in the H2R settlements.

Map 2: Origin and destination of IDPs from H2R areas, 1 October 2019 - 31 December 2019



MOVEMENT

As illustrated in Map 2, most people from assessed settlements migrated from their settlement of origin to the capital of their LGA of origin, while others migrated to the neighbouring LGA capital or further away. In line with this, the majority of the FGD participants reported the length of their journey to be between one and three days, although the longest journey reported took seven months. Most of the FGD participants highlighted safety and access to humanitarian services as the main reasons for choosing the IDP camp they migrated to, while some also described reuniting with relatives as the main reason. The FGD participants reported a lack of safety and general fear as their primary reason for leaving the H2R area. A few FGD participants further described lack of resources as their main reason for leaving, with a higher number of FGD participants describing this in October. Throughout the reporting period, FGD participants highlighted the three main

challenges during people's journey as hunger, thirst and fear of violence. FGD participants described intake of urine as a coping strategy for lack of water during the journey. No coping strategies for hunger were reported by FGD participants.

SITUATION IN ASSESSED SETTLEMENTS

PROTECTION

Protection indicators varied greatly between assessed settlements across all LGAs during the reporting period. This trend was also observed during the last reporting period, which could be indicative of a continued changing conflict setting.

As illustrated in Map 3, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting an incident of conflict that killed at least one civilian was high in Bama, where around half (45%) of assessed settlements in October reported an incident of this kind. Assessed settlements reporting at least one incident of looting in which most of a household's property was stolen was also high in Bama, with 67% of assessed settlements reporting incidents of this kind in October. Assessed settlements in Dikwa reporting an incident that killed at least one civilian decreased from more than half (58%) in October to less than half in December (37%). An increase was nonetheless observed for the proportion of assessed settlements reporting at least one incident of looting in which most of a household's property was stolen (23% in October to 37% in December). In Gwoza, assessed settlements reporting an incident that killed at least one civilian increased from 3% in October to 33% in December. The same trend was observed for the proportion of assessed settlements reporting at least one incident of looting in which most of a household's property was stolen (29% in October to 65% in December). In Marte, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting an incident that killed at least one civilian decreased from 39% in October to 8% in December. Assessed settlements reporting at least one incident of looting in which most of a household's property was stolen remained stable throughout the reporting period with 19% reporting incidents of this kind in December. Meanwhile, assessed settlements in Kukawa reporting either an incident that killed at least one civilian or incidents of looting was low throughout the reporting period, with none of the assessed settlements reporting incidents of this kind in December.

The high and increasing proportions of assessed settlements reporting incidents of conflict that killed at least one civilian or incidents of looting in which most of a household's property was stolen in, suggests that the conflict continued to have a strong impact on the security and protection concerns of people in Bama, Dikwa and Gwoza. In contrast, the decrease in reported incidents in Kukawa and Marte could indicate that the conflict had a relatively smaller impact on protection and security concerns of people living here.

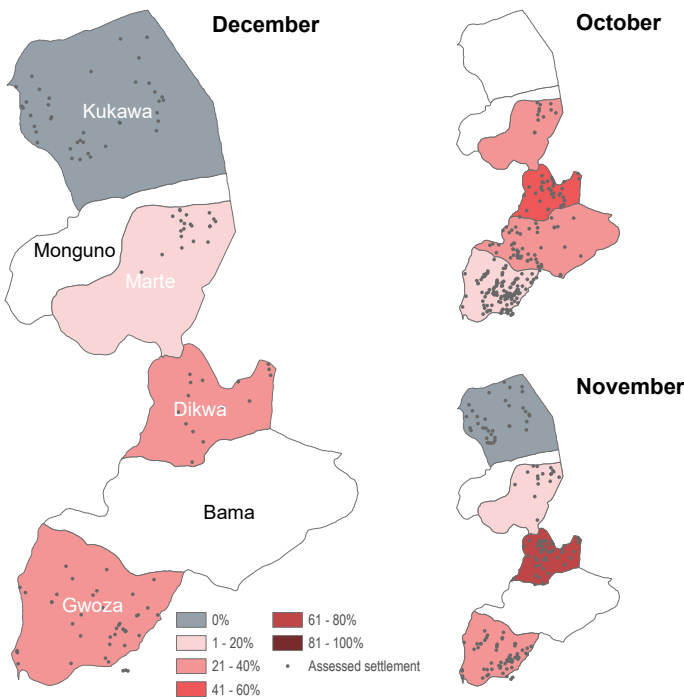
FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS (FSL)

Potentially as a result of the severe protections concerns reported for the assessed settlements in Bama, Dikwa and Gwoza, indicators suggest that access to food in these LGAs were lower than in Kukawa and Marte.

Kukawa and Marte LGAs

Throughout the reporting period, all assessed settlements in Kukawa (100%) and almost all in Marte (97%) consistently reported most people to be engaged in subsistence farming practices. Likewise, the majority of assessed settlements in Kukawa and Marte reported having access to land for farming (see Map 4) throughout the reporting period (98% of assessed settlements in Kukawa and 75% in Marte). Assessed settlements

Map 3: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting at least one incident of conflict in which a civilian was killed within the last month, 1 October 2019 - 31 December 2019



reporting livestock ownership further increased in Kukawa from 32% in November to 67% in December, and in Marte from 33% in October to 58% in December.

Likely due to access to land and subsistence farming practice, the majority of assessed settlements in Kukawa and Marte reported cultivation as the main source of food. In Kukawa, reporting of cultivation as the main source of food was consistently high throughout the reporting period, with 95% of assessed settlements reporting cultivation as the main source of food in December. In Marte, assessed settlements reporting cultivation as the main source of food increased from 72% in October to 88% in December.

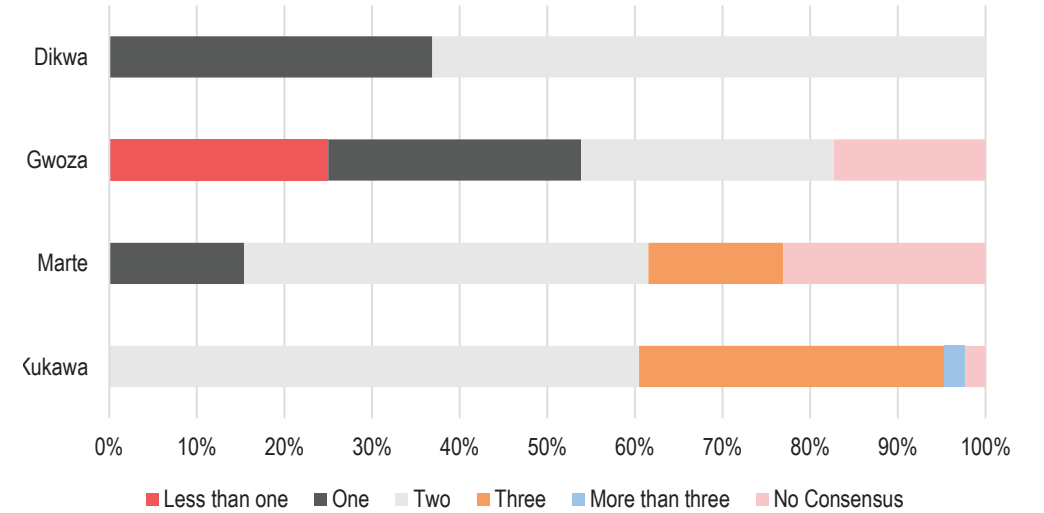
In line with the high levels of assessed settlements reporting cultivation as the main source of food, none (0%) of assessed settlements in Kukawa reported that people were eating wild food that were not part of their normal diet. Additionally, assessed settlements in Marte reporting that people were eating wild food that were not part of their normal diet decreased from 44% in October to 27% in December (see Map 5).

Consistent with these findings, the majority of FGD participants from Kukawe and Marte did not describe any major changes in their diet since before the conflict. However, FGD participants described how flooding affected their farming practices during the current dry season, which may cause future changes in their diet.

Potentially related to subsistence farming and cultivation practices, around half (47%) of assessed settlements

in Kukawa reported that people consumed three meals per day and that less than half (39%) consumed two meals per day in the month of November (data not available for October). The proportion of assessed settlements reporting that people consumed three meals per day however decreased to 35% in December, whereas assessed settlements reporting that people consumed two meals per day increased to 60% (see Graph 3). In Marte, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting that people consumed two meals per day decreased from 78% in October to 46% in December, whereas the proportion of assessed settlements reporting that people consumed one meal per day increased from none (0%) in October to 15% in December. The reported decrease in the number of meals consumed per day in Kukawa and Marte could indicate insufficient yields of crops during harvest season resulting in less food available.

Graph 3: Proportion of assessed settlements by reported number of meals most people eat in a day, December, 2019



Bama, Dikwa and Gwoza LGAs

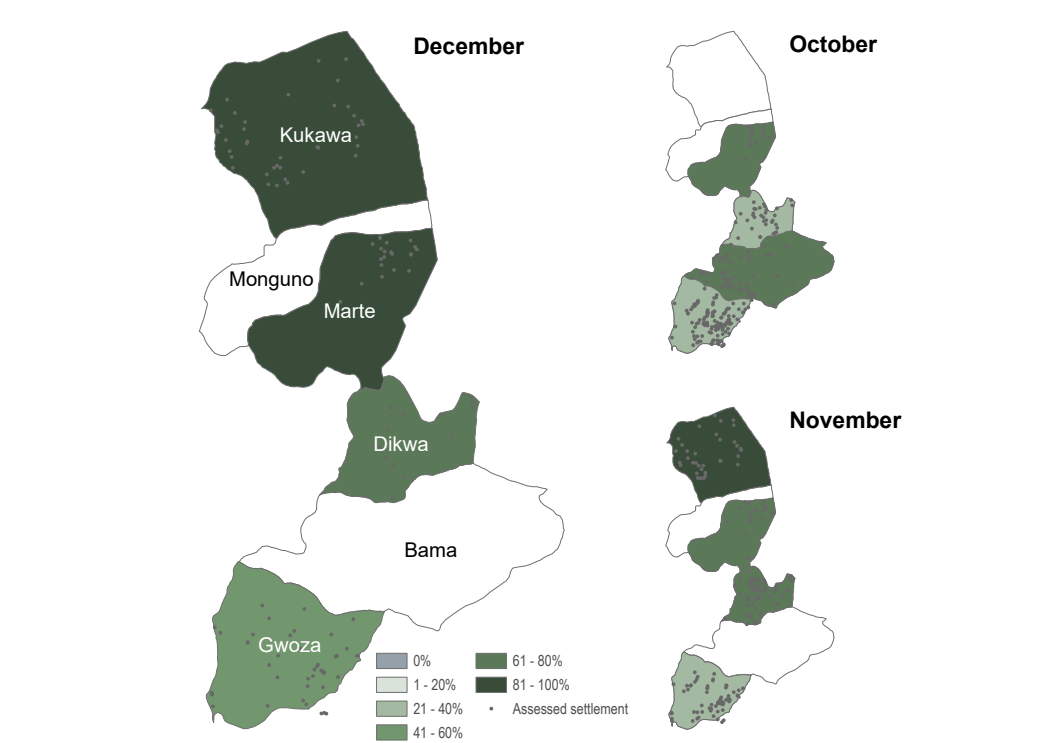
Similar to assessed settlements in Kukawa and Marte, the majority of assessed settlements in Bama in October (99%) reported people to be engaged in subsistence farming practices. Assessed settlements in Dikwa, further consistently reported people to be engaged in subsistence farming practices throughout the reporting period (reported by 95% in December). In Gwoza, assessed settlements reporting people to be engaged in subsistence farming practices decreased from 99% in October to 83% in December, which may be because of the decrease in access to land reported in December, as described below.

Regardless of high engagement in subsistence farming practices, a lower proportion of assessed settlements in Bama, Dikwa and Gwoza reported having access to land for farming compared to assessed settlements in Kukawa and Marte (see Map 4). In October, 10% of assessed settlements in Dikwa reported that people had access to land for farming, while 52% and 37% of assessed settlements in Bama and Gwoza, respectively, reported having access to land for farming. While reported access to land decreased in Gwoza (reported by 42% of assessed settlements in December), an increase was observed in Dikwa, with 68% of the assessed settlements reporting that people had access to land for farming in December. According to FGD participants

from Dikwa and Gwoza, barriers to farming in October and November included fear of violence, lack of seeds, and restrictions for women to access the farm. In December, fewer FGD participants from Gwoza mentioned challenges and restrictions of farming, which may explain the increased access to land reported by assessed settlements in Gwoza in December.

Bama had a higher proportion of assessed settlements reporting cultivation as the main source of food (65%) compared to the proportion of assessed settlements reporting foraging as the main source of food in October (25%). Unlike Bama, in Dikwa in October, more than half (75%) of assessed settlements reported foraging as the main source of food. This proportion however decreased to 26% in December. Meanwhile, assessed settlements in Gwoza reporting foraging as their main source of food increased from almost none in October (<1%) to almost half (46%) in December. As the proportion of assessed settlements reporting foraging as the main source of food decreased in Dikwa, assessed settlements reporting cultivation as the main source of food increased from 19% in October to 74% in December. Likewise, as the proportion of assessed settlements reporting foraging as the main source of food increased in Gwoza, assessed settlements reporting cultivation as the main source of food decreased from 97% in October to 48% in December. These findings may be indicative of foraging being used as the main source of food when cultivation is not possible.

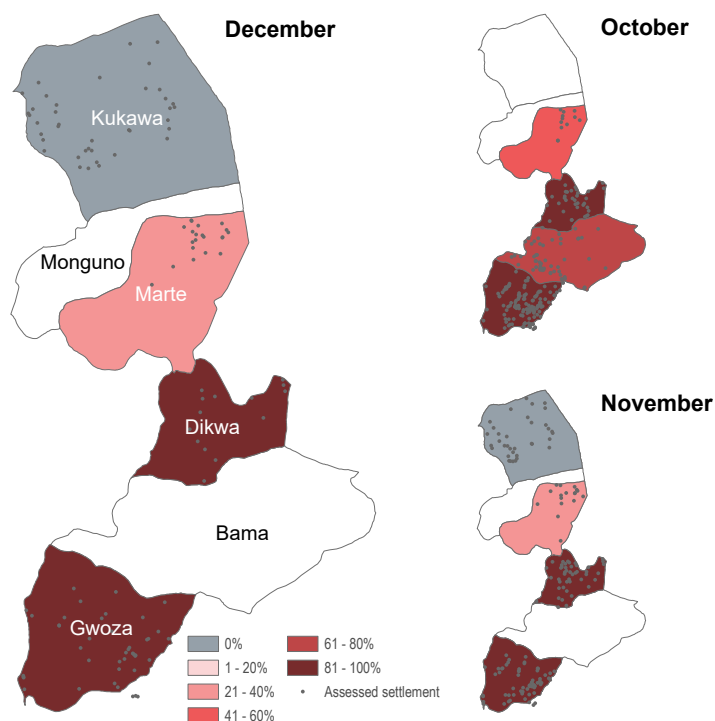
Map 4: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting having access to land for farming, 1 October 2019 - 31 December 2019.



As illustrated in Map 5, 75% of assessed settlements in Bama reported that people consumed wild food that was not part of their normal diet in October. Likewise, the majority of assessed settlements in Dikwa and Gwoza consistently reported that people consumed wild food that was not part of their normal diet throughout the reporting period (reported by 100% and 92% of assessed settlements in December, respectively). Indicative of extreme coping strategies, FGD participants from Dikwa and Gwoza described how they were digging up ant holes to access grains to eat.

In line with the indicators described above, the majority of assessed settlements in Dikwa, Gwoza and Bama reported that people only consumed one or two meals per day. In Bama in October, more than half (60%) of assessed settlements reported that most people had two meals per day, and 16% reported that people had one meal per day. In Dikwa, assessed settlements reporting that people consumed two meals per day was consistently reported during the reporting period (reported by 63% of assessed settlements in December), while assessed settlements reporting people to consume one meal per day increased from 13% in October to 37% in December. In Gwoza, assessed settlements reporting people to consume two meals per day decreased from 52% in October to 29% in December. Consequently, assessed settlements reporting people to consume one meal per day decreased (from 42% in October to 29% in December) and assessed settlements reporting people to consume fewer than one meal per day increased from 0% in October to 25% in December.

Map 5: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting to eat wild food that was not normally part of their diet, 1 October 2019 - 31 December 2019.



Similar to the last reporting period, on most livelihood and consumption indicators, assessed settlements in Dikwa and Gwoza consistently reported the most concerning circumstances of all assessed LGAs. The reported reliance on foraging and consumption of wild food could suggest that people have been unable to harvest sufficient food, perhaps due to the restrictions on who can farm, insufficient seeds and tools, and looting of harvests. The decrease in reported meals consumed per day is of high concern and may represent high levels of food insecurity, especially in Gwoza.

Access to markets and humanitarian assistance

Throughout the reporting period, only 3% of assessed settlements across all LGAs reported having received food distribution or nutritional supplements from an outside organization in the month before they left the H2R settlement. This is of great concern given the severe levels of food security reported in Dikwa and Gwoza and may impact fatal outcomes of malnutrition and health. Additionally, almost all assessed LGAs consistently reported not having access to markets within walking distance throughout the reporting period (94%), which is expected to limited people's access to food and essential NFIs too.

Coping strategies

Extreme coping strategies such as skipping days of eating, adults not eating for children to eat, and/or reducing the number of meals consumed per day, were reported by assessed settlements across all LGAs. Participants from FGDs conducted in Gwoza and Dikwa further described how they drank boiled water in replacement of a meal. Consuming seeds meant for planting was additionally reported to be used as an extreme coping strategy by assessed settlements in Kukawa, Marte and Gwoza.

Skipping days without eating was reported as a coping strategy by assessed settlements in Dikwa, Gwoza and Marte. Assessed settlements reporting that people skipped days without eating increased in Dikwa and Gwoza (from 3% and 6% in October to 16% and 17% in December, respectively), while it was stable in Marte (reported by 15% of assessed settlements in December).

Adults not eating for children to eat was reported as a coping strategy by assessed settlements across all LGAs except Kukawa. In Bama in October, 20% of assessed settlements reported this coping strategy. The proportion of assessed settlements reporting the use of this coping strategy increased in Dikwa and Gwoza throughout the reporting period (from 10% and 23% of assessed settlements in October to 32% and 52% in December, respectively).

Reducing the number of meals consumed per day was also reported by assessed settlements across all LGAs. In Bama in October, 33% of assessed settlements reporting the use of this coping strategy, while it increased in Dikwa and Gwoza throughout the reporting period (from 10% and 9% of assessed settlements in October to 68% and 35% in December, respectively). In Marte, assessed settlements reporting the use of this coping strategy decreased from 39% of assessed settlements in October to 19% in December. Despite better access to food reported in Kukawa, assessed settlements reporting people to reduce the number of meals per day increased from 11% in October to 28% in December.

Despite the more positive FSL indicators reported by assessed settlements in Kukawa and Marte, consumption of seeds used for farming as a coping strategy increased in both Kukawa (from 39% in November to 60% in December), and Marte (from 22% in October to 62% in December) throughout the reporting period. The reported consumption of seeds as a coping strategy was low in Bama in October (7%) and consistently low in

Dikwa throughout the reporting period (0% in December). In Gwoza the proportion of assessed settlements reporting consumption of seeds as a coping strategy decreased from around half (47%) in October to almost none (2%) in December. The low and decreasing proportion of settlements reporting consumption of seeds as a coping strategy in Dikwa and Gwoza could be due to lack of access to markets to get the seeds from. Consuming seeds can be seen as an extreme coping strategy as it reduces the ability to plant in the future.

The high proportion of assessed settlements reporting use of extreme coping strategies to face food scarcity in Dikwa and Gwoza, and to some extent Bama, is of high concern and could indicate severe levels of food insecurity. Although the situation may be relatively less concerning in Kukawa and Marte, the use of copings strategies in these areas may also suggest that people were unable to meet their food needs through cultivation alone. These findings were similar to the findings from the last reporting period and suggest that access to food continued to be of high concern.

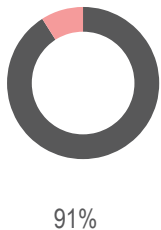
HEALTH

Throughout the reporting period, as illustrated in Graph 4, the vast majority of assessed settlements across all LGAs reported not having access to a functional health facility within walking distance. The only exception was in Gwoza, where 17% of assessed settlements in December reported having access to a functional health facility.

In absence of health care facilities and services, FGD participants described how they instead used traditional medicine, herbs and prayers as treatment options. Additionally, participants from a few FGDs described how they were getting treatment and drugs from non-formal sources unrelated to formalised health care, however often at a very high price.

Similar to the last reporting period, the main reported barrier of accessing a functional health facility was the lack of pre-existing health facilities prior to the conflict (see Graph 5 for all assessed LGAs in December). In Bama in October, 93% of assessed settlements reported the lack of pre-existing health facilities as the main barrier for accessing a functional health facility. In Dikwa, Kukawa and Marte, the lack of pre-existing health facilities was consistently reported as the main barrier for accessing a functional health facility throughout the reporting period (reported in December by 84%, 90% and 72% of assessed settlements, respectively).

Graph 4:Proportion of assessed settlements reporting not having access to a functional health facility, December 2019



Graph 5: Of those reporting not having access to a functional health facility, proportion of assessed settlements reporting lack of pre-existing health facility as main barrier for accessing a functional health facility, December 2019

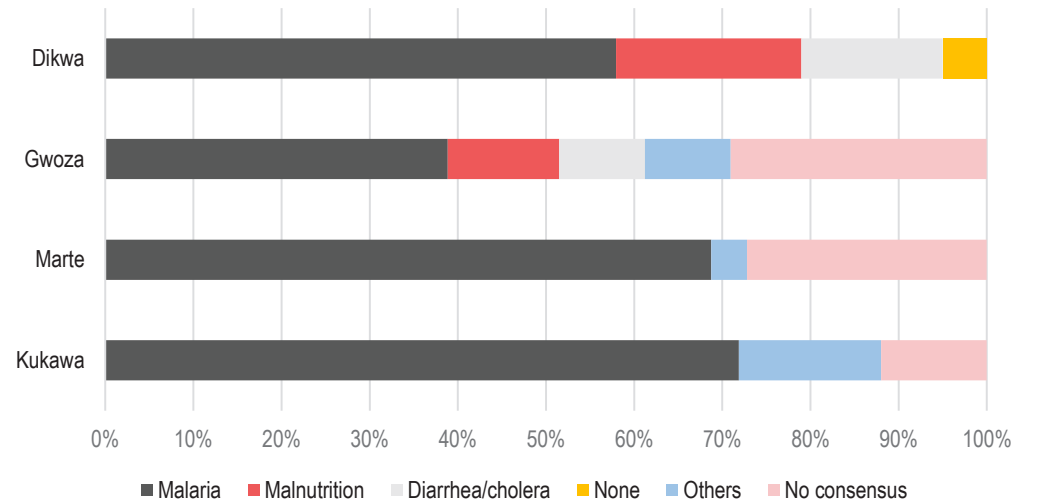


In Gwoza, the main barrier reported for accessing a functional health facility varied throughout the reporting period. In October, the majority of assessed settlements reported destruction of health facilities as the main barrier (70%), whereas the lack of pre-existing health facilities was reported as the main barrier in December (42%). A possible explanation for the reported change in barriers in Gwoza could be that different wards within the settlements were assessed in the different months.

Assessed settlements across all LGAs reported malaria as the main health concern throughout the reporting period, increasing from 40% in October to 62% in December. In Bama, 29% of assessed settlements reported malaria as the main health concern in October. Assessed settlements in Dikwa reporting malaria as the main health concern, increased from 8% in October to 58% in December (see Graph 6). In Gwoza and Marte, malaria was consistently reported as the main health concern throughout the reporting period (reported by 52% and 69% in December, respectively). Only in Kukawa, a decrease in malaria reported as the main health concern was observed throughout the reporting period (from 89% in November to 72% in December). As the risk of malaria remains high in the weeks and month following the end of the dry season, it could explain that malaria kept being reported as the main health concern throughout the reporting period.

While malnutrition was reported as the main health concern by 33% of assessed settlements across all LGAs in October, only 6% of assessed settlements reported malnutrition as the main health concern in December. In Bama in October, 35% of assessed settlements reported malnutrition as the main health concern. Dikwa had the highest proportion of assessed settlements reporting malnutrition as the main health concern in October (77%), although this proportion decreased to 21% in December. Contrastingly, as illustrated in Graph 6 for December, none (0%) of the assessed settlements in Marte reported malnutrition as the main health concern throughout the reporting period. In Gwoza, assessed settlements reporting malnutrition as the main health concern was consistently reported throughout the reporting period with 10% of assessed settlements reporting malnutrition as the main health concern in December. The overall decrease in malnutrition reported as the main health concern may be due to the increase of malaria reported as the main health concern throughout the reporting period.

Graph 6: Proportion of assessed settlements by most common reported health problem, December



WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

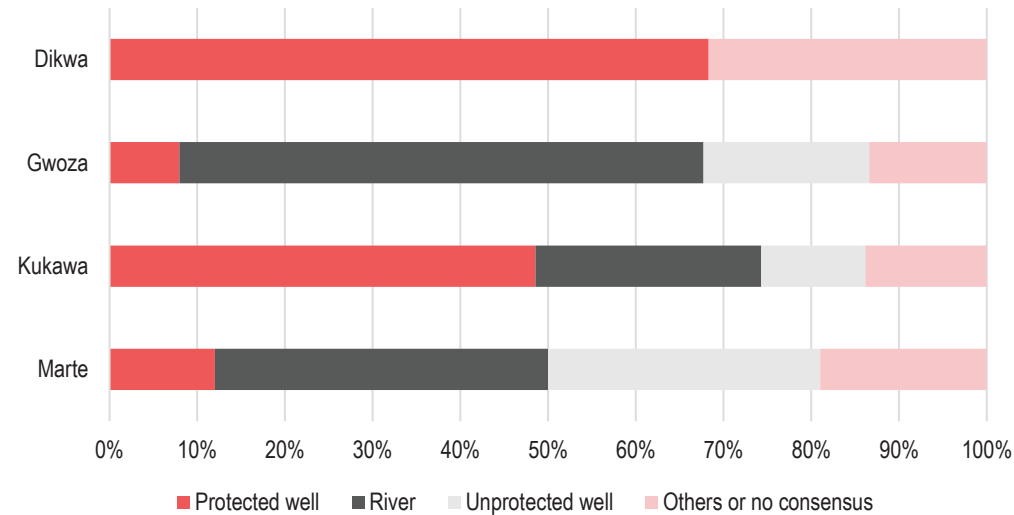
In October, half (50%) of assessed settlements across all LGAs reported unprotected wells as the main water source followed by around a third (28%) reporting protected wells. In December, the main water source reported changed to rivers (37%) followed by protected wells (29%). Consequently, assessed settlements reporting unprotected well as the main water source decreased to 16%.

In Bama, around half (49%) of assessed settlements reported unprotected wells as the main water source in October, while around a quarter (24%) reported protected wells. As illustrated in Graph 7, Dikwa had the highest proportion of assessed settlements reporting protected wells as the main water source throughout the reporting period (68% in December). Assessed settlements reporting protected wells as the main water source was also high in Kukawa and increased from 18% in November to 49% in December. In Marte assessed settlements reporting protected wells as the main water source decreased from around half (50%) in October to 12% in December. As a potential consequence, assessed settlements reporting rivers as the main water source increased from 22% in October to 38% in December. In Gwoza, 81% of assessed settlements reported unprotected wells as the main water source in October. This proportion, however, decreased to 19% in December. As a potential consequence, assessed settlements reporting rivers as the main water source increased from 10% in October to 60% in December.

High use of unprotected wells, could have contributed to the similarly high proportion of assessed settlements reporting malaria as the main health concern, because standing water is a common breeding site for vectors and therefore increases transmission of vector-borne diseases, such as malaria.

Assessed settlements across all LGAs reporting that livestock were using the same water source as people increased from 13% in October to around half in December (49%). In Bama in October, a quarter (25%) of assessed settlements reported that livestock were using the same water source as people. In Dikwa assessed settlements reporting that livestock were using the same water source as people were consistently

Graph 7: Proportion of assessed settlements by reported main water source, December 2019



reported as low throughout the reporting period (reported by 5% in December). Assessed settlements reporting livestock to use the same water source as people, however, increased in Gwoza (from 3% in October to 23% in December), in Kukawa (from 50% in November to 72% in December) and in Marte (from 61% in October to 92% in December). Sharing water sources with livestock increases the risk of contracting waterborne diseases, which could negatively affect health and nutrition outcomes.

Assessed settlements across all LGAs reporting that people had access to their preferred water source in both dry and wet season was consistently reported throughout the reporting period. In December, almost all assessed settlements in Gwoza (94%), Kukawa (95%) and all assessed settlements in Marte (100%) reported that people's preferred water source was available in both dry and wet seasons. For Bama 89% of assessed settlements reported this in October. This proportion was a bit lower in Dikwa, where 84% of assessed settlements reported that people had access to their preferred water source in December.

Among assessed settlements across all LGAs, around half (48%) reported that security concerns limited people's access to their preferred water source in December. This was an increase from October, where 37% of assessed settlements reported this. The proportion of assessed settlements reporting that security concerns limited people's access to their preferred water source also increased in Dikwa and Marte (from 10% and 28% in October to 68% and 65% in December, respectively). By contrast, assessed settlements reporting that security limited people's access to their preferred water source decreased in Gwoza from 75% in October to 35% in December, and in Kukawa from 24% in November to 9% in December. Despite the decrease reported in Gwoza, the proportion still remained relatively high in December. These findings are in line with the reported protection concerns. In addition, these findings were also confirmed by FGD participants who described how especially women were not allowed to fetch water due to movement restrictions. Moreover, the findings suggest that there were fewer movement restrictions in Kukawa.

Reported latrine use across all LGAs decreased from 88% in October to 61% in December and varied between assessed settlements throughout the reporting period. In Bama in October, almost all (96%) assessed settlements reported that at least one person was using a latrine. Assessed settlements reporting that at least one person was using a latrine increased in Marte (from 39% in October to 69% in December), whereas it decreased in Dikwa (from 94% in October to 63% in December) throughout the reporting period. In Gwoza latrine use was consistently reported throughout the reporting period, with 79% of assessed reporting that at least one person was using a latrine in December. Kukawa had the lowest proportion of assessed settlements reporting that people were using a latrine in December (33%), which was consistently reported throughout the reporting period.

The lower latrine use reported in Kukawa could be due to cultural practices within this part of Borno State, where open defecation is commonly practised and accepted. FGD participants from Dikwa and Gwoza further described that some people were living in the bush and therefore not using the latrine as usual. They further described that most people had and used latrines prior to the conflict, but that they were not using them anymore since they had been destroyed by the conflict. The destruction of latrines could explain the decrease in reported latrine use in Dikwa.

Across all LGAs, assessed settlements reporting that people only used water when washing their hands increased from 75% in October to 87% in December. As a potential replacement of soap, 17% of assessed

settlements in Bama reported that people used ash when washing their hands in October. Likewise, 32% of assessed settlements in Dikwa reported that people used ash when washing their hands in December (consistently reported throughout the reporting period), and 15% of assessed settlements in Marte reported that people were using sand when washing their hands in December (significant increase from 6% in October). In Kukawa, the reported use of sand when washing hands increased from almost none (<1%) in November to 16% in December. The lack of soap use, combined with the reported lack of access to clean water and the decreasing use of latrines, could increase the risk of waterborne diseases.

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIs)

In December, the majority of all assessed settlements reported makeshift shelters as the most common shelter type used by the host community (81%). This was an increase from October when around half (56%) of the assessed settlements reported makeshift shelters as the most common shelter type used by the host community. Additionally, in October 32% of assessed settlements reported tents as the most common shelter type used, which decreased to almost none in December (<1%). In Bama around half (51%) of the assessed settlements reported makeshift shelters as the most common shelter type used in October. In Dikwa, a big variation of the most common shelter type used was identified throughout the reporting period. In October, 87% of assessed settlements reported tents as the most common shelter type used, while in December 79% reported makeshift shelters as the most common shelter type used. Assessed settlements in Gwoza reporting makeshift as the most common shelter type decreased throughout the reporting period (97% in October to 63% in December), while permanent shelters reported as the most common shelter type used increased (3% in October to 33% in December). The proportion of assessed settlements in Marte reporting makeshift shelters as the most common shelter type used increased throughout the reporting period (from 56% in October to 88% in December), while it was consistently reported by the majority of assessed settlements in Kukawa (reported by 100% in December). According to FGD participants, people were prior to the conflict making permanent shelters out of mud with zinc or grass roof, but now due to destruction of permanent shelters most used makeshift shelters.

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting shelters being partly or completely destroyed, due to the conflict, was highest in Kukawa in November (61%) and lowest in Dikwa in December (11%). A decrease in assessed settlements reporting shelters being partly or completely destroyed, due to the conflict, was identified for assessed settlements in Dikwa (from 40% in October to 11% in December), Marte (from 61% in October to 27% in December), and Kukawa (from 61% in November to 26% in December). Meanwhile, an increase in shelters being partly destroyed or completely destroyed was reported in Gwoza from 3% in October to 58% in December. In Bama in October, a quarter (25%) of assessed settlements reported that shelters were being partly or completely destroyed due to the conflict.

The increased proportion of assessed settlements reporting makeshift shelters as the most commonly reported shelter type used suggest that the conflict kept having a strong impact on the assessed settlements, limiting their access to safe and permanent shelters.

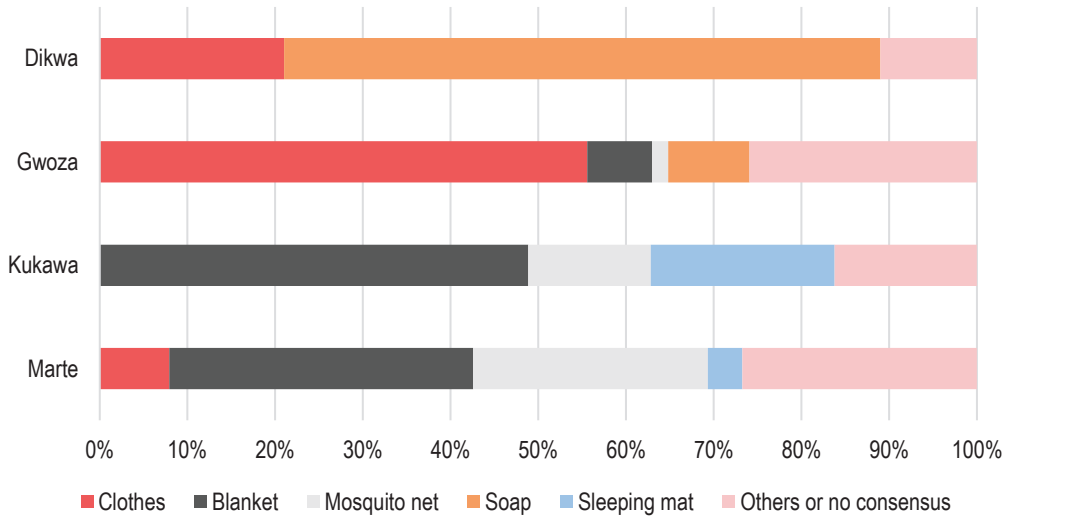
NFIs

As in the last reporting period, almost all assessed settlements across all LGAs reported that a NFI distribution did not take place in the past three months before they left the settlement (reported by 100% in December).

The main NFI need reported varied throughout the reporting period. In October, soap was the main NFI need reported by assessed settlements in Bama (47%), in Dikwa (73%), in Marte (33%), and in Kukawa

(47% in November as data is not available for October), while clothes were the main NFI need reported by assessed settlements in Gwoza (79%). As illustrated in Graph 8 below, in December blankets were the main NFI need reported by the assessments in Kukawa (49%) and Marte (35%). Assessed settlements in Dikwa continued to report soap as the main NFI need (68%) in December, as well as the majority of the assessed settlements in Gwoza continued to report clothes (60%) as the main NFI need in December. Additionally, FGD participants described how the needed NFIs were available before the conflict, but that the lack of markets and high prices were now keeping them from accessing them.

Graph 8: Proportion of assessed settlements by main need of NFI, December 2019



EDUCATION

Similar to the last reporting period, access to any educational services (formal and informal)⁷ was consistently reported as lacking throughout the reporting period, with an exception of Dikwa and Gwoza where small changes were observed. In December, the majority of assessed settlements in Dikwa (89% - decrease from 99% in October), in Kukawa (100%) and in Marte (85%) reported not having access to any educational services within walking distance. In contrast, less than half (42%) of assessed settlements in Gwoza reported not having access to educational services in December, decreasing from 55% in October. FGD participants described how less structured, informal educational services were more available now compared to before the conflict.

In October, the main reason reported for lack of access to educational services was lack of pre-existing educational services (69%). In Dikwa and Kukawa, lack of pre-existing educational services was also reported by the majority of assessed settlements and increased throughout the reporting period (reported by 68% and 95% in October, and 53% and 88% in December, respectively). In Marte, assessed settlements consistently reported lack of pre-existing educational services as the main reason for lack of access to educational services (reported by 68% in December). In contrast to the other LGAs, the majority of assessed settlements in Gwoza in October (89%) reported destruction of facilities as the main reason for lack of access to educational services. However, this proportion decreased to 32% in December, whereas lack of pre-existing educational services increased from 9% in October to 27% in December.

⁷ Formal schooling includes all education service delivery based on curricula developed and endorsed by National government.

Of assessed settlements that reported having access to educational services in Gwoza, 8% reported that any children (boys and girls) were attending formal school throughout the reporting period. In contrast, of assessed settlements reporting having access to educational service, 93% reported that any children were accessing informal educational services. According to FGD participants, informal schooling was made mandatory by non-traditional leaders for all children, men and women after the onset of the conflict. This could to some extent maybe explain the high attendance rates of informal schooling. Because of the forced nature of informal schooling, a change towards a negative attitude regarding informal schooling was described by FGD participants. FGD participants additionally described how they would often hesitate to send their daughters to school as they feared they would be abducted and/or forcefully married.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Similar to the last reporting period, the primary source of information reported was in-person communication in December (81%). However, assessed settlements reporting having no means of information increased in Dikwa and Gwoza, from 4% and 0% in October to 26% and 12% in December, respectively. The increase in assessed settlements reporting people to have no means of communication could suggest that the restriction of reaching the H2R areas increased during the reporting period.

Also similar to the last reporting period, most assessed settlements across all LGAs continued to report limited access to information regarding humanitarian assistance (63% in October and 86% in December). Assessed settlements reporting that people had difficulties accessing information about humanitarian assistance increased in Dikwa (from 10% in October to 58% in December) and Marte (from 83% in October to 100% in December), but decreased in Gwoza (from 98% in October to 79% in December), while it remained the same in Kukawa (100% in December).

The availability of information on humanitarian services was described by several FGD participants as the greatest need of information. Most FGD participants expressed the struggle of information reaching them, and some suggested helicopters to spread fliers with information about humanitarian services in garrison towns over the H2R settlements.

CONCLUSION

Humanitarian needs were high for the majority of the H2R settlements assessed within the reporting period. However, the severity of needs reported varied between the assessed LGAs.

Whereas movements of people from H2R areas continued to be driven by the conflict across all assessed LGAs, protection indicators suggested higher levels of insecurities within assessed settlements in Bama, Gwoza and Dikwa compared to assessed settlements in Marte and Kukawa. These findings were based on reported incidents of looting in which most of a household's property was stolen, incidents that killed at least one civilian, and FGD participants describing movements restrictions and fear of violence.

On livelihood and food consumption indicators, Bama, Dikwa and Gwoza consistently reported the most concerning circumstances compared to Marte and Kukawa, where the circumstances were relatively less concerning. Limited livelihood opportunities and low access to food in Bama, Dikwa and Gwoza could potentially explain the reported decrease in number of the meals consumed per day and the high reported use of extreme coping strategies.

Malaria was reported as the main health concern across all LGAs throughout the reporting period. Potentially as a result of limited access to food reported in Bama, Dikwa and Gwoza, malnutrition was also reported as the main health concern by some assessed settlements.

Access to clean water was reported to be higher in Bama, Dikwa and Kukawa (compared to Gwoza and Marte), where the majority of assessed settlements reported protected wells as the main source of water. The combination of the reported low levels of access to clean water, and the reported non-use of soap for handwashing, could potentially have negative health consequences in the assessed settlements. In addition, the reported low use of latrines in some of the assessed settlements, with a particular concern on assessed settlements in Kukawa, could increase the risk of diseases in these assessed settlements (e.g. an increase in incidences of diarrhoeal diseases).

As for access to other basic needs, access to educational services was limited across all LGAs. Of those reporting having access to educational services, access to informal educational services were more commonly reported than access to formal educational services.

The findings presented in this situation overview clearly illustrate that the conflict continued to have a severe impact on people's lives. The impact of the conflict affected multiple sectors, which is of serious concern in a context where the H2R settlements and the people in need are inaccessible to humanitarian actors. The people in the assessed settlements are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, and continued monitoring of the H2R areas in Borno State is needed to provide information to support the humanitarian response.

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