



and Conflict Dynamics in Hard-to-Reach Areas of North- and Central Borno

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 for affected populations, 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 971,000¹ 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.

This situation overview covers North- and Central Borno: Abadam, Damboa, Konduga, Kukawa, Mafa and Marte. Konduga and Damboa Local Government Areas (LGAs) were in the 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) categorised as “extreme” in regards to intersectoral severity of needs, and Mafa LGA was categorised as “severe”. Due to the inaccessibility of Abadam, Kukawa and Marte data were not available from these LGAs in the HNO.¹

For more information on Eastern Borno, please see [situation overview for Eastern Borno](#).

KEY FINDINGS

Demographics and Movement: A high proportion of assessed settlements reported children under five years old and pregnant and lactating women to be remaining in the H2R settlements. The reported reasons for people remaining in the H2R settlements and reasons for migrating varied greatly between the LGAs, indicating different security situations in the respective LGAs.

Protection: The proportion of assessed settlements reporting incidents of conflict that killed a civilian and incidents of looting was lowest in Abadam and Kukawa compared to the other LGAs.

Food Security and Livelihood (FSL): FSL indicators suggested limited livelihood opportunities and access to food especially in Mafa and Marte in March. Assessed settlements reported that people used coping strategies to deal with insufficiency of food across all LGAs. Assessed settlements, however, reported more extreme coping strategies to be used in Damboa and Konduga and especially in Mafa and Marte.

Health: With an exception of Damboa and Konduga, almost none of the assessed settlements reported having access to a functional healthcare facility. The main health problems reported by assessed settlements included malaria/fever across all LGAs and waterborne diseases in all LGAs except Kukawa.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: An improved water source was reported as the main drinking water source in Abadam, Konduga and Kukawa while an unimproved water source was reported in Damboa, Mafa and Marte. Additionally almost all assessed settlements reported not using soap when washing their hands.

Shelter: Makeshift shelters were the most common shelter type among host communities and IDPs in all LGAs except Damboa and Konduga, where the most common shelter type reported was permanent shelters. Damboa was the only LGA reporting some IDPs to be living in the open without any shelters.

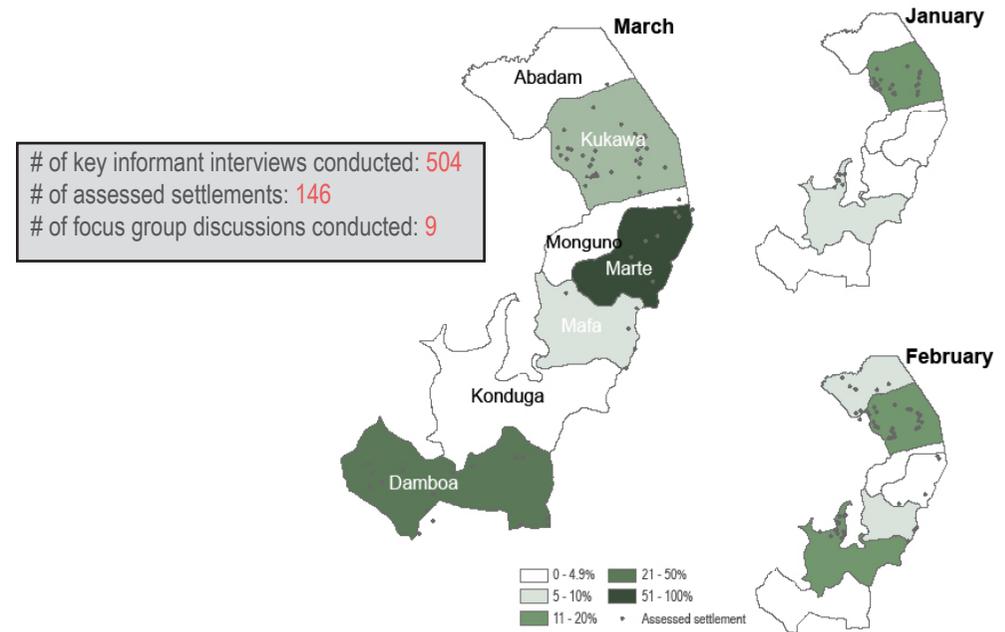
Communication and Information: Limited means of communication were reported across all LGAs, but especially in Mafa and Marte.

¹ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, [Nigeria: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview](#)

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.

Map 1: Assessment coverage of North- and Central Borno State, 1 January 2020 - 31 March 2020



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 months.³
- 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.)³

From 1 January to 31 March 2020, REACH interviewed 1479 KIs who had recent knowledge of conditions in 427 unique H2R settlements. Information for this assessment was collected in 10 accessible garrison towns in Borno State: Bama, Damboa, Dikwa, Gwoza, Mafa, Maiduguri, Monguno, Kondugo, Ngala and Pulka. These figures and data collection locations describe all of the data collected for the assessment, whereas the figures next to Map 1 describe the data collected for North- and Central Borno. Data collected represents knowledge of settlement conditions ranging from 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020. This situation overview presents findings from Northern- and Central Borno, covering the LGAs of Abadam, Damboa, Konduga, Kukawa, Mafa and Marte.

METHODOLOGY CONTINUED

Selected KIs were purposively sampled and interviewed on settlement-wide circumstances in H2R 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 was 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.⁴ Due to changes in migration patterns, the specific settlements assessed within each LGA varied each month. In order to reduce the likelihood that variations in data are attributable to coverage differences, analyses comparing data over time have not been conducted because the consistent settlement coverage was less than 45% over the reporting period. Therefore, findings will only reported be from the most recent month for which data is available. Findings from Abadam and Konduga will therefore be reported for February and Findings from Damboa, Kukawa, Mafa and Marte will be reported from March. 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 focus group discussions (FGDs). FGDs centered on elaborating current and historical access 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 possible.⁵

LIMITATIONS

Data collection is dependent on the presence and identification of eligible KIs in LGA capitals. REACH can therefore not guarantee sufficient coverage of geographical areas, and a lack of responses from a given area should not be used to conclude that no people are remaining in those areas.

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 \(ToRs\)](#).

⁴ LGA level data is only represented for LGAs in which at least 5% of populated settlements and where at least 5 settlements have been assessed. The most recent version of the VTS dataset (released in February 2019 on vts.eocng.org) has been used as the reference for settlement names and locations, and adjusted for deserted villages (OCHA 2020).

⁵ Of the 9 FGDs, 1 was with participants from Abadam, 4 from Damboa, 1 from Konduga, 1 from Kukawa and 2 with from Mafa.

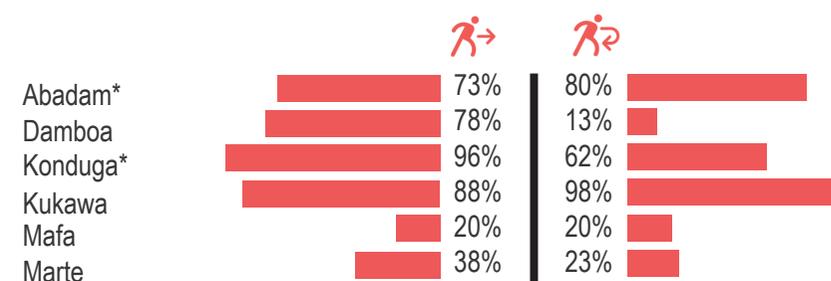
POPULATION DISPLACEMENT AND MOVEMENT

DEMOGRAPHICS

Across all LGAs in March and February, all (100%) assessed settlements reported that host community members (i.e. those who have never been displaced) were remaining in the H2R settlements. Meanwhile, the reported presence of IDPs in the H2R settlements varied across the LGAs (see Graph 1). While the proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of IDPs was also high in Kukawa (88%) and Damboa in March (78%) and in Abadam (73%) and Konduga (93%) in February, it was lower in Mafa (20%) and Marte (38%) in March.

As the continuation of this situation overview will illustrate, indicators across almost all sectors were more concerning for assessed settlements in Mafa and Marte. This could be an explanation for the lower proportion of assessed settlements reporting IDPs present here, as IDPs would have settled in another location instead.

Graph 1: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of IDPs and returnees, respectively, remaining in the H2R settlements, by LGA, March 2020*



The proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of returnees was highest in Kukawa in March (98%) and slightly lower in Abadam (80%) and Konduga (62%) in February. Meanwhile, the proportions of assessed settlements where the presence of returnees was reported were remarkably lower in Damboa (13%), Mafa (20%) and Marte (23%) in March. The significant difference in the reported presence of returnees in the H2R settlements could reflect the security situation in the respective LGAs allowing people to return or not. In this regard, FGD participants from all LGAs reported that they wouldn't return permanently to the H2R settlements until the safety of the area has been assured. Meanwhile, some FGD participants from Kukawa mentioned that they would visit the H2R settlements to fish or farm. In alignment, 66% of assessed settlements Kukawa in March reported that people returned to harvest. The high proportion of assessed settlements in Kukawa where the presence of returnees was reported might, therefore, be explained by seasonal displacement and not necessarily permanent in nature.

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of traditional community leaders remaining in the H2R settlements was lowest in Konduga (12%) in February, slightly higher in Kukawa (29%) and Marte (23%) in March and highest in Abadam 53% in February and Mafa (40%) and Damboa (74%) in March.

Population groups considered as particularly vulnerable include children under five years old and pregnant and lactating women due to additional nutritional needs. Almost all assessed settlements across all LGAs reported the presence of children under five years old (97% in February, 90% in March 90%) and the presence of pregnant or lactating women (97% in February, 92% in March).

*Due to lack of coverage in March, data for Abadam and Konduga is from February

The high proportion of children below five years old and pregnant women reported to be remaining was additionally reflected by FGD participants.

The highest proportion of assessed settlements in Kukawa in March (59%) reported not wanting to leave the H2R settlement as the main reason for people to remain in the H2R settlement. In contrast, most to the majority of assessed settlements in Damboa, Mafa and Marte in March reported being afraid of leaving as the main reason for people to remain in the H2R settlement (reported by 57%, 80%, and 92% respectively). In Abadam and Konduga in February, the main reasons reported by assessed settlements were more diverse. For assessed settlements in Abadam, the main reason for staying was divided between people being afraid of leaving (40%) and people not wanting to leave (40%), whereas the main reason reported in Konduga was that people did not have enough money to leave (42%).

According to FGD participants from Kukawa, people in the H2R settlements were free to leave, whereas FGD participants from Damboa and Mafa reported that people were not. Not being free to move could explain why assessed settlements in Damboa, Mafa, and Marte reported that people were afraid to leave. Not wanting to leave the H2R settlement, as reported in Kukawa, could also reflect an improved security situation there.

MOVEMENT

As illustrated in Map 2, most people from assessed settlements in North and Central Borno State reportedly migrated to Maiduguri, meaning that the journey was long for the majority of IDPs. The main reasons reported for leaving the H2R settlements were, according to FGD participants, related to the conflict and included fear of attacks, restrictions and general hardship. Moreover, a few FGD participants mentioned hunger and lack of food as the reasons for leaving.

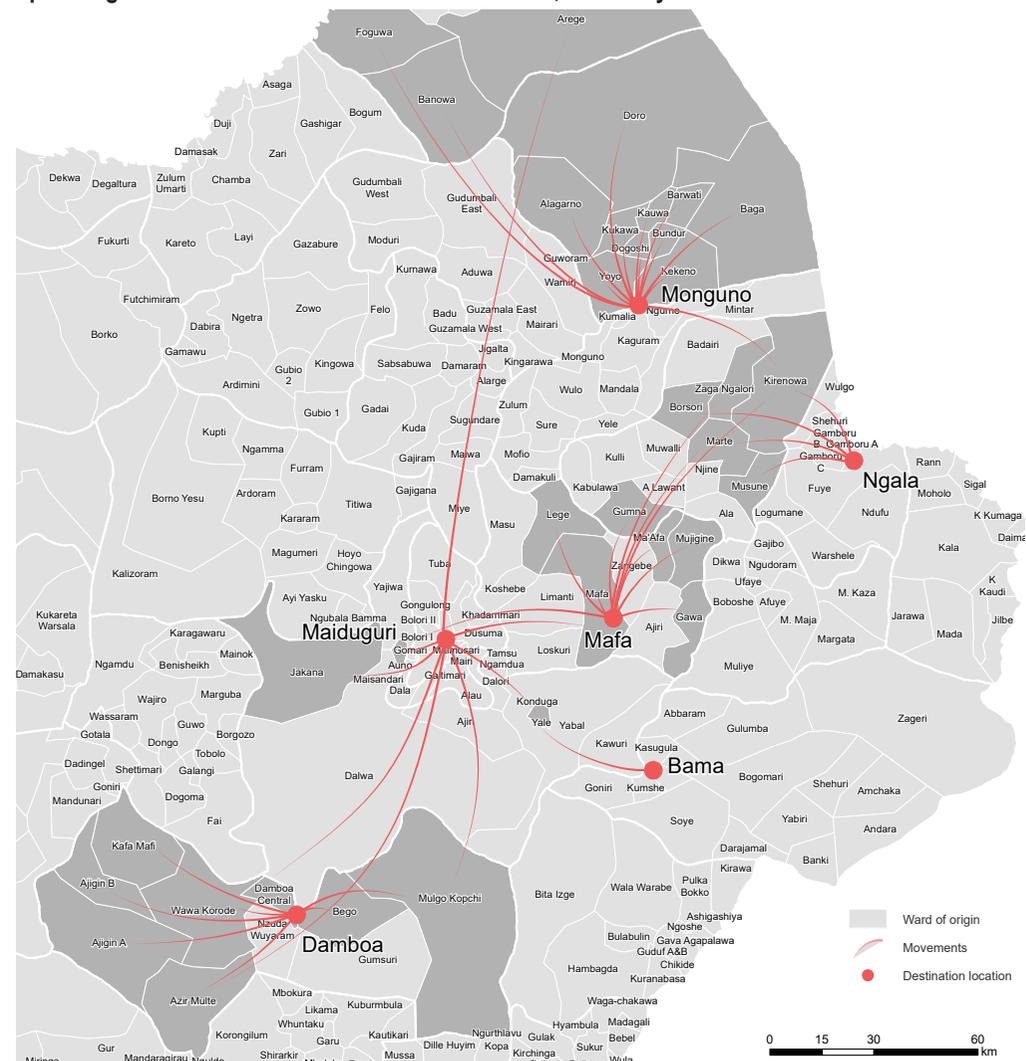
Most FGD participants highlighted safety and access to humanitarian services as the reasons for choosing the destinations they migrated to. Some FGD participants also mentioned reuniting with family/relatives. Meanwhile, other FGD participants described the destination as the only option since they were transported there by security forces (SFs). Hunger and fear of violence were described as the main challenges during people's journey, although some also reported that they did not face any challenges. For people not transported by SF, most FGD participants described their journey to have multiple stops, either due to safety concerns or to seek relief. Some explained how this included travelling through neighbouring countries. Travelling on foot was the most commonly reported mean of transport, but some also travelled in cars and boats for a fee.

SITUATION IN ASSESSED SETTLEMENTS

PROTECTION

More than half of the assessed settlements in Damboa (61%), Mafa (60%) and Marte (54%) in March and Konduga (71%) reported that safety for most people had worsened compared to last year. In contrast, a high proportion of assessed settlements in Kukawa and Abadam reported that safety for most people had gotten better compared to last year (61% and 53%, respectively), which could indicate a positive change in the security situation in Kukawa and Abadam. Meanwhile, 40% of assessed settlements in both Mafa in March and Abadam in February also reported that safety had stayed the same compared to last year. Although slightly lower, 23% and 32% of assessed settlements in Kukawa and Marte, respectively, also reported that safety had stayed the same for most people compared to last year. Reasons for not feeling safe, reported by

Map 2: Origin and destination of IDPs from H2R areas, 1 January 2020 - 31 March 2020

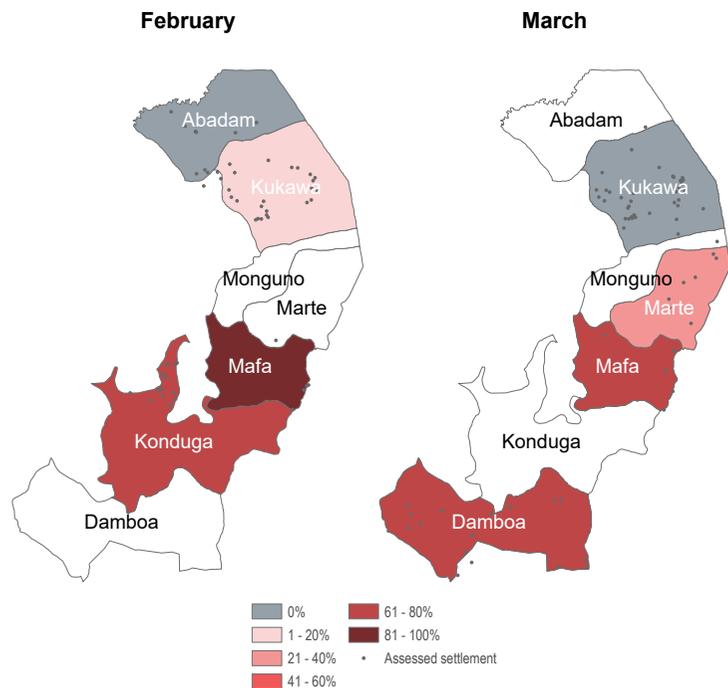


FGD participants, included the fear of getting killed and of children being abducted or forcefully married.

Potentially reflecting the reported better safety in Kukawa and Abadam, none (0%) of the assessed settlements in Kukawa in March or in Abadam in February reported an incident of conflict that killed at least one civilian (see Map 3 below). In contrast, the majority of assessed settlements in Damboa (74%) and Mafa (80%) in March and Konduga (67%) in February reported incidents of this kind. Meanwhile, 23% of assessed settlements in Marte in March reported that there had been an incidence of conflict which killed at least one civilian. As the majority of assessed settlements in Marte reported that safety had worsened for most people, these findings suggest that other factors than incidents of conflict influenced people's perception of safety.

The trend observed for assessed settlements reporting incidents of conflict was similar to reported incidents of looting where most of people's property, including harvest, was stolen from one or more households. The proportion of assessed settlements reporting incidents of looting was lowest in Kukawa (10%) in March and in Abadam in February (13%). Meanwhile, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting incidents of looting were notably higher in Damboa (70%), Mafa (80%) and Marte (77%) in March and in Konduga (67%) in February. These findings aligns with the proportion of assessed settlements reporting that safety was better in Abadam and Kukawa and that safety had worsened in Damboa, Konduga, Mafa and Marte. These findings could indicate that the conflict had a smaller impact on assessed settlements in Kukawa and Abadam compared to the other LGAs.

Map 3: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting an incident of conflict in which at least one civilian was killed within the last month, February and March 2020.



Another indicator that could reflect people's perception of safety is the level of movement restrictions. A notable gender difference was observed between men and women's reported freedom of movement in the H2R settlements, especially in Kukawa and Mafa. As illustrated in Graph 2, almost all (92%-100%) assessed settlements across all LGAs reported that men were free to move in the H2R settlement. In contrast, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting that women were free to move in the settlements was lower for all assessed settlements, with the lowest proportions reported in Kukawa (34%) and Mafa (20%) in March. Aligned with these findings, movement restrictions among women were also highlighted as a protection concern among FGD participants from Kukawa.

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of children living without a caretaker or relative was lowest in Kukawa (10%) in March. In contrast, the majority of assessed settlements in Damboa (70%)

Graph 2: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting women/men were free to move within the settlement, by LGA, March 2020*:



and Marte (69%) in March and in Abadam (60%) and Konduga (67%) in February reported the presence of children living without a parent or relative in the H2R settlements. Assessed settlements reporting this in Mafa were divided, with 40% reporting that some children were living without a caretaker or relative and 40% reporting there were not. This could indicate a high need for child protection interventions, especially in Damboa, Marte, Abadam and Konduga.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS (FSL)

Most to all assessed settlements in Kukawa (100%), Damboa (96%) and Mafa (80%) in March and in Abadam (93%) and Konduga (89%) in February reported that people were engaged in subsistence farming. In contrast, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting people to be engaged in subsistence farming was much lower in Marte (23%) in March, where the majority of assessed settlements reported that people were engaged in fishing (70%). Additionally, most FGD participants described that farming practices had changed since before the conflict due to lower access to land and reduced access to tools and seeds for farming. Moreover, some FGD participants mentioned lack of rain as a barrier to a successful harvest.

The majority of assessed settlements in Kukawa (85%) in March, in Abadam (93%) in February and around half in Damboa (52%) in March reported that people were rearing livestock. In contrast, none (0%) of the assessed settlements in Mafa and Marte in March and a quarter (25%) of assessed settlements in Konduga in February reported that people were engaged in livestock rearing. In line with these findings, a great difference of assessed settlements reporting livestock ownership was observed across the LGAs. The majority of assessed settlements in Kukawa (73%) and Damboa (74%) in March, Abadam (100%) in February and half of assessed settlements in Konduga (50%) in February reported that some community members owned livestock. Meanwhile, none (0%) of the assessed settlements in Mafa and Marte reported that some of the community members owned livestock in March.

In regards to livelihood opportunities, a noteworthy difference was also observed between LGAs reporting that people were engaged in casual labour. Damboa was the LGA with the highest proportion of assessed settlements reporting that people were engaged in casual labour (70%) followed by Abadam in February (40%). In comparison, a notably lower proportion of assessed settlements in Kukawa (22%) in March and in Konduga (29%) in February reported that people were engaged in casual labour. Moreover, none (0%) of the assessed settlement in Mafa and Marte reported that people were engaged in casual labour.

*Due to lack of coverage in March, data for Abadam and Konduga is from February

As these findings suggest varying levels of access to livelihood opportunities, a difference was observed for assessed settlements reporting people having access to their usual livelihoods. Most assessed settlements in Kukawa (93%) and Damboa (61%) in March and in Abadam (93%) in February reported that most people had access to their usual livelihood activities. In contrast, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting that most people had access to their usual livelihood activities was remarkably lower in Mafa (20%) and Marte (0%) in March and Konduga (8%) in February.

As subsistence farming was commonly reported as the main livelihood activity, most assessed settlements across all LGAs in March (98%) and February (97%) reported that any community members in the H2R settlement had planted and harvested in the last rainy season.

In regards to accessing land, the majority of assessed settlements in Kukawa (93%), Damboa (74%) and Mafa (60%) in March and Abadam (93%) in February reported that most people had access to less land compared to the same time last year. Likewise, however slightly lower, 37% of assessed settlements in Konduga in February also reported that most people had access to less land compared to the same time last year. In contrast, the majority of assessed settlements in Marte (77%) in March reported that most people had access to the same amount of land as last year. In addition, less access to land was highlighted as a concern by FGD participants in Kukawa and Damboa, who described the change in access to land for farming to be because of the destruction of fields and restrictions on farming practices.

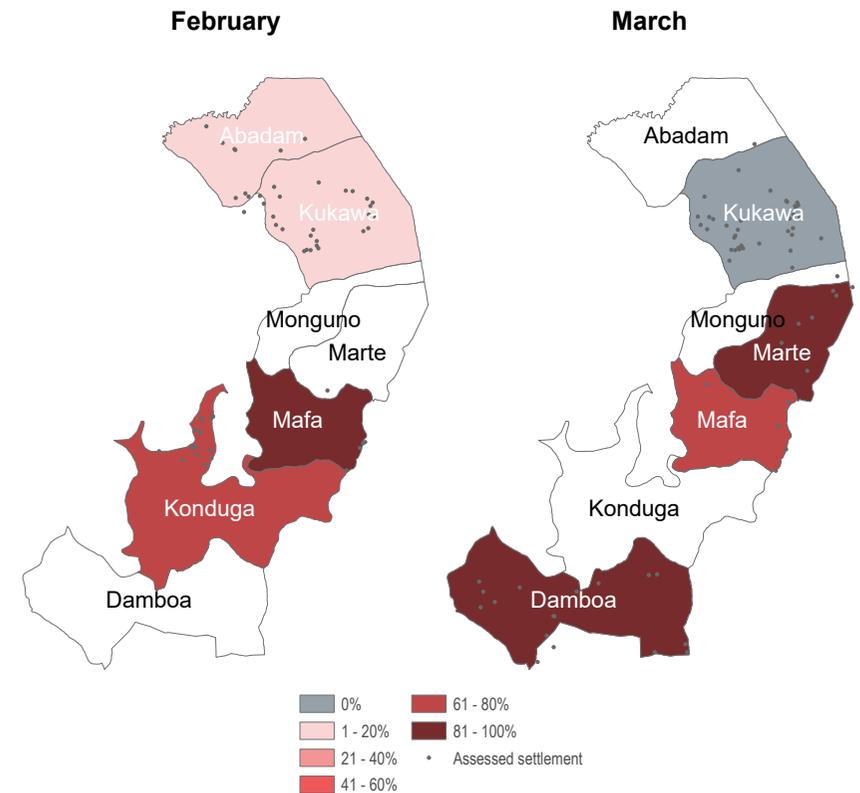
Source of food and coping strategies

Cultivation was reported as the main source of food by the majority of assessed settlements in Kukawa (95%), Damboa (96%) and Mafa (100%) in March and in Abadam (87%) and Konduga (96%) in February. Meanwhile, the main source of food reported by around half of assessed settlements in Marte was foraging for wild foods (46%). In line with these findings, all (100%) assessed settlements in Marte reported that people were eating wild foods that were not normally part of their diet (see Map 4), indicating that access to food in Marte is likely limited. Despite almost all assessed settlements in Damboa, Mafa and Konduga reporting cultivation as the main source of food, the majority of the assessed settlements in each LGA also reported that people were eating wild foods not normally a part of their diet (reported by, 96% in Damboa and 80% in Mafa in March and by 71% in Konduga in February). This contrast could indicate failure or looting of harvest, forcing people to eat wild foods.

Aligned with cultivation as the main source of food in Kukawa and Abadam, none (0%) of the assessed settlements in Kukawa in March and 20% of assessed settlements in Abadam in February reported that people were eating wild foods. This suggests that, in contrast to the other LGAs, cultivation might serve as a more stable source of food in Kukawa and Abadam and perhaps less affected by unforeseen events.

As illustrated in Graph 3, the majority of assessed settlements in Kukawa (78%) and Damboa (61%) in March and Abadam (67%) in February reported that people on average consumed two meals per day. However, Damboa LGA also had a relatively high proportion of assessed settlements reporting that people consumed less than one meal per day (13% in March). In Mafa, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting people to consume two meals per day was equal to the proportion reporting people consuming one meal per day (40% in March). The proportion of assessed settlements reporting that people consumed two meals per day was similar in Konduga, where 33% reported that people consumed two meals per day. However, 29% of assessed settlements also reported that people consumed one meal per day. Marte LGA had the highest

Map 4: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting to eat wild foods that were not normally part of their, February and March 2020.

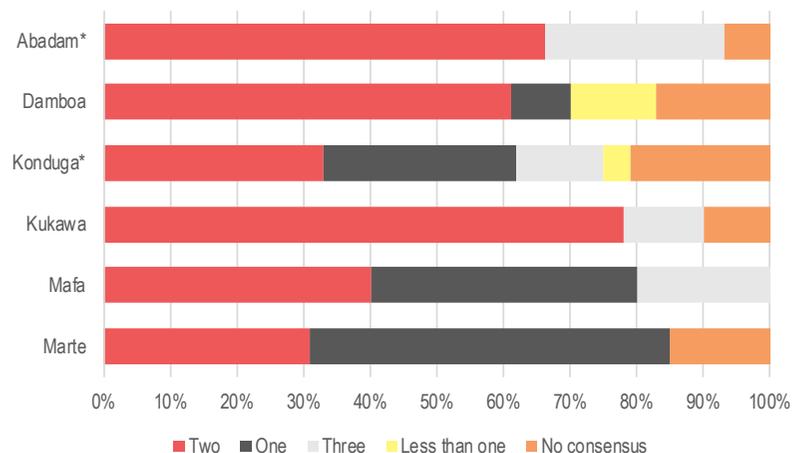


proportion of assessed settlements reporting that people only consumed one meal per day (54%), followed by 31% reporting that people consumed two meals per day. Abadam was the LGA with the highest proportion of assessed settlements reporting people to consume three meals per day (27% in February).

In line with the other FSL indicators, these findings suggest that access to food in Marte, Mafa and Konduga was lower compared to Kukawa and Abadam and to some extent Damboa. The proportion of assessed settlements in Damboa reporting that people consumed less than one meal per day is nonetheless a serious concern that needs to be monitored.

Aligned with the reported number of meals consumed per day, assessed settlements reporting the use of coping strategies were less extreme and less prevalent in Kukawa and Abadam. As illustrated in Graph 4, none (0%) of the assessed settlements in Kukawa reported that people skipped days without eating and that adults didn't eat so children could eat. Likewise in Abadam, none (0%) of the assessed settlements reported that people skipped days without eating, reduced the number of meals per day and only a low proportion (7%) reported that adults didn't eat so children could eat. The main coping strategies reported by assessed settlements in Kukawa and Abadam, on the other hand, also included consumption of less expensive food, and limiting meal sizes and reduction of meals per day for assessed settlements in Kukawa (see Graph 4).

Graph 3: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting number of meals consumed per day, by LGA, March 2020*



Aligned with the reported number of meals consumed in Damboa, Mafa, Marte and Konduga, more extreme coping strategies were reported by assessed settlements in these LGAs. In addition to the coping strategies used in Kukawa and Abadam, coping strategies reported in Damboa, Mafa, Marte and Konduga included adults not eating so children could eat and skipping days without eating (see Graph 4).

In alignment with the reported consumption of wild foods, the majority of assessed settlements in Damboa (87%), Mafa (80%) and Marte (92%) in March reported consumption of wild foods as a coping strategy. Although slightly less, around half of assessed settlements in Konduga (58%) in February also reported consumption of wild foods as a coping strategy. Meanwhile, a notably lower proportion of assessed settlements in Abadam (7%) in February and none (0%) Kukawa in March reported this.

In addition to the strategies used to cope with insufficiency of food, coping strategies used to find new sources of food in Kukawa included borrowing food (59% in March) and consumption of seeds (49% in March). Borrowing food was moreover reported as a coping strategy used in Damboa (61%), Mafa (40%) and Marte (23%) in March and in Abadam (47%) and Konduga (67%) in February. Compared to Kukawa, consuming seeds as a coping strategy was reported by a remarkably lower proportion of assessed settlements in Damboa (9%), Mafa (20%) and Marte (15%) in March and in Abadam (13%) and Konduga (12%) in February. On the other hand, assessed settlements in Damboa (52%) and Mafa (20%) in March and Konduga (25%) in February reported that people were sending their children to eat with neighbours, which none (0%) of the assessed settlements in Kukawa or Marte reported.

Indicative of better access to food in Kukawa in March and Abadam in February (12% and 40% of assessed settlements, respectively), reported that coping strategies to find new sources of food were not relevant. In contrast to the reported food consumption, 20% of assessed settlements in Mafa also reported that coping strategies to find new sources of food were not relevant. The assessed settlements reporting that coping strategies were not relevant in Mafa could suggest that access to food varied between the assessed settlements there.

*Due to lack of coverage in March, data for Abadam and Konduga is from February.

Graph 4: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting use of coping strategies in lack of food, by LGA, March 2020*.

	Consume less expensive food	Limit meal size	Reduce number of meals per day	Only children eating	Skipping days without eating
Abadam*	33%	27%	0%	7%	0%
Damboa	39%	48%	30%	43%	17%
Konduga*	62%	46%	54%	25%	8%
Kukawa	68%	61%	39%	0%	0%
Mafa	80%	80%	40%	20%	20%
Marte	46%	62%	62%	15%	23%

Access to markets and humanitarian assistance

In March, all (100%) assessed settlements in Kukawa, Mafa and Marte reported that people did not have access to a functional market within walking distance. Likewise, however slightly lower, the majority of assessed settlements in Damboa (78%) in March and Abadam (80%) in February also reported that people did not have access to a functional market. In contrast, 33% of assessed settlements in Konduga in February reported that people did not have access to a functional market, suggesting a better infrastructure in Konduga. Not having access to a functional market was described by FGD participants to limit people's access to tools and seeds for farming, affecting their farming practices and potential sustainability of food.

All (100%) assessed settlements across all LGAs reported that people in the H2R settlement did not receive any food distributions, with the exception of a very low proportion of assessed settlements in Konduga in February reporting that they did (4%). Likewise, all (100%) assessed settlements in Kukawa, Mafa and Marte in March and Abadam in February reported that there were no feeding programmes providing nutritional supplements in the H2R settlements. The proportion of assessed settlements reporting this in Damboa in March and Konduga in February was slightly lower (reported by 91% and 75%, respectively). This could suggest that assessed settlements in these LGAs, especially for Konduga, were more accessible to humanitarian actors than the other LGAs. In the light of the reported food insecurity and WASH needs, lack of food and nutritional programs is of high concern, especially for malnourished children.

The extreme use of coping strategies reported in Mafa and Marte, combined with the reporting of fewer meals consumed per day and high consumption of wild foods, highlights these LGAs as being of special concern. Although the situation may be relatively less concerning in Damboa and Konduga, the use of coping strategies and reported low consumption of food is of great concern and suggests that people were unable to meet their food needs through cultivation alone. In comparison, sufficient access to food in the assessed settlement in Kukawa and Abadam seemed to be more sustainable than in the other LGAs.

These findings align with the Cadre Harmonise (CH) analysis conducted in March 2020, which found that Abadam and Kukawa (both considered completely inaccessible) were in crisis level (phase 3) and the inaccessible areas of Damboa, Konduga, Mafa and Marte were in emergency level (phase 4).⁶

HEALTH

None (0%) of the assessed settlements in Kukawa, Mafa and Marte in March and Abadam in February reported that people in the settlement had access to a functional healthcare facility within

*Due to lack of coverage in March, data for Abadam and Konduga is from February

⁶ Final Fiche Report for Nigeria March 2020 Cadre Harmonisé (CH) Analysis

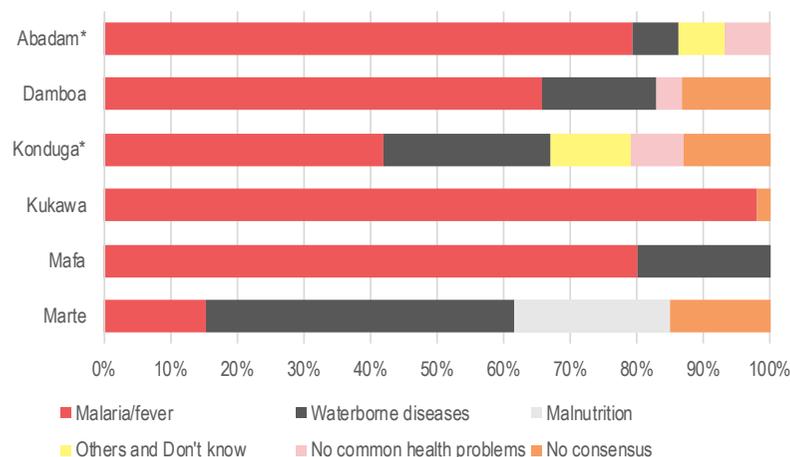
walking distance. Meanwhile, around half of assessed settlements in Damboa (52%) in March and Konduga (50%) in February reported that people had access to a functional healthcare facility, suggesting a potentially more established formal healthcare system in Damboa and Konduga. Among settlements reporting not having access to a functional healthcare facility, the majority of the assessed settlements in Kukawa (95%), Damboa (58%) and Marte (69%) in March and Abadam (80%) in February reported the main barrier to be a lack of pre-existing healthcare facilities, highlighting a challenged formal healthcare system prior to the conflict. In contrast, the majority of assessed settlements in Mafa (60%) in March reported that people could not access a functional healthcare facility due to insecurities. Damboa LGA had the highest proportion (33%) of assessed settlements reporting destruction of healthcare facilities as the main barrier of access. This could indicate that Damboa had a more functional healthcare system prior to the conflict and that the conflict has had a significant impact on the healthcare system there.

In the absence of access to a functional healthcare facility, FGD participants described that they instead used traditional medicine and herbs as treatment options. In addition, some FGD participants also described that family members visiting the settlement sometimes would bring medicine but that it often was not sufficient. Moreover, a few FGD participants described how they, prior to the conflict, used to visit healthcare facilities outside their settlement, but that they were no longer able to do that due to the conflict.

As shown in Graph 5, malaria/fever was the most common main health problem reported by assessed settlements in Kukawa (98%), Damboa (65%) and Mafa (80%) in March and in Abadam (80%) and Konduga (42%) in February.

Indicative of lack of access to clean water and proper sanitation, waterborne diseases, including cholera, diarrhoea and typhoid, were reported as the main health problem by the highest proportion of assessed settlements in Marte (46%) in March. Although reported by a slightly lower proportion of assessed settlements, waterborne diseases were also reported as the main health problem in Mafa (20%) and Damboa (17%) in March and Konduga (25%) in February. Since waterborne diseases often include diarrhoea the presence of these diseases could have severe health complications, especially for malnourished children. Waterborne

Graph 5: Proportion of assessed settlements by most common reported health problem, by LGA, March 2020*



*Due to lack of coverage in March, data for Abadam and Konduga is from February.

diseases are therefore of great concern, especially in assessed settlements with low consumption of meals per day such as Mafa and Marte. In line with the FSL indicators reported, Marte was the only LGA with assessed settlements reporting malnutrition as the main health problem (23% in March).

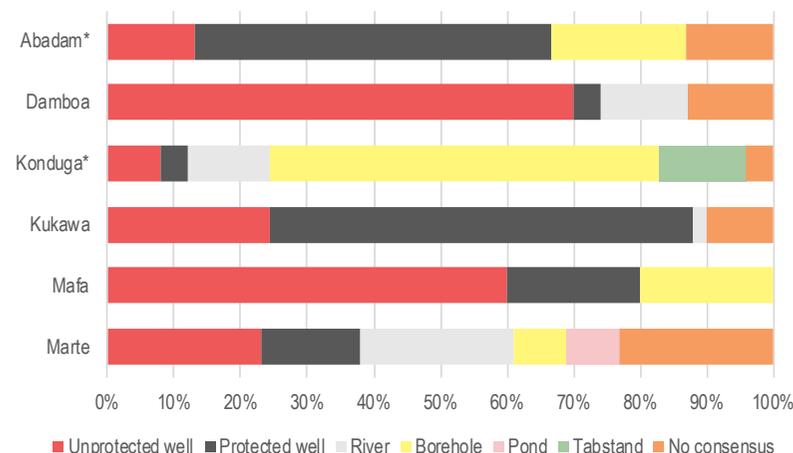
WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of a functional borehole was similar in Kukawa (34%), Marte (30%) and Mafa (20%) in March and in Abadam (40%) in February. Meanwhile, around half of assessed settlements in Damboa (57%) in March and the majority of assessed settlements in Konduga (83%) in February reported the presence of a functional borehole in the settlement, suggesting a slightly better infrastructure in Damboa and Konduga compared to the other LGAs assessed.

Possibly indicative of better access to clean drinking water in Kukawa and Abadam, more than half (63%) of assessed settlements in Kukawa in March and around half (53%) of assessed settlements in Abadam in February reported protected wells as the main water source (see Graph 6). In alignment with the proportion of assessed settlements reporting that people had access to a functional borehole in Konduga, around half (58%) of the assessed settlements reported boreholes as their main water source. In contrast, the majority of assessed settlements in Damboa (70%) and Mafa (60%) in March reported unprotected wells as their main water source. The reported reliance on unprotected wells in Damboa is contradictory to the reported presence of boreholes, which could suggest that other factors than the water source being improved or unimproved influenced people's choice of water sources. This could include boreholes being crowded or restrictions to access it. In Marte in March, the main water source reported was split between unprotected well (23%) and river (23%).

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

Graph 6: Proportion of assessed settlements by reported main water source, by LGA, March 2020*



*Due to lack of coverage in March, data for Abadam and Konduga is from February.

A central factor for predicting access to clean drinking water is further if livestock or other animals are drinking directly from or are kept close to the same water source as people. In Kukawa and Damboa in March and Abadam and Konduga in February the proportion of assessed settlements reporting that animals were drinking from or kept close the same water source as people were all around a quarter (reported by 20%, 22%, 27% and 29%, respectively). The proportion of assessed settlements reporting this was slightly higher in Mafa (40%) and remarkably higher in Marte (96%) in March. As livestock drinking from the same water source as people increases the risk of waterborne diseases, these findings could explain the high proportion of assessed settlement reporting waterborne diseases as the main health problem in Marte.

People's access to water points was overall not reported to be affected by safety concerns or the season. The majority of assessed settlements in Kukawa (98%) in March and Abadama (73%) and Konduga (79%) in February reported that safety was not a barrier for people to fetch water at their preferred water source. In contrast, a lower proportion of assessed settlements in Damboa and Marte in March reported that people did not fear for their safety when fetching water (reported by 57% and 69%, respectively).⁸ In regards to accessing water in dry and wet seasons, almost all assessed settlements in March (99%) and February (95%) reported that people's preferred water source was available in both wet and dry seasons, which is central to ensure sustainable access to water.

Fetching water (reaching the water point, collecting water, and returning) was reported by the majority of assessed settlements in Kukawa, Damboa, Mafa in March and Abadam in February to take less than 30 minutes (reported by 61%, 61%, 100% and 67%, respectively). Although slightly lower, this was also reported by the highest proportion of assessed settlements in Marte in March (46%). By contrast, 17% of assessed settlements in Konduga in February reported that it took people less than 30 minutes to fetch water. Instead, 33% reported that it took between 30 minutes and an hour, and 33% reported that it took between one hour to half a day. Since the majority of the assessed settlements in Konduga reported a borehole as people's main water source, these findings could indicate that people preferred to spend longer time fetching water in exchange for higher water quality. Being far from the main water source could, however, mean that households have less access to water and, therefore, less water for hand-washing and other hygiene practices.

Kukawa and Marte were the two LGAs with the lowest proportions of assessed settlements reporting that any person was using a latrine in the settlements (reported by 34% and 23%, respectively, in March) and around half (53%) of assessed settlements in Konduga reported that any person was using a latrine in February. The low latrine use reported could be due to a potential increase of people living in the bush but could also be due to cultural practices within this part of Borno State, where open defecation is commonly practised and accepted. The low latrine use in Marte could be a contributing factor to the high proportion of assessed settlements reporting waterborne diseases as the most common health problem. In contrast, most to all assessed settlements in Damboa (91%) and (100%) in Mafa in March and Abadam (92%) in February reported that community members were using latrines.

Most to all assessed settlements in Kukawa (98%), Mafa (100%), and Marte (92%) in March and Abadam (100%) and Konduga (88%) in February reported that people only used water when washing their hands. Although slightly lower, the majority of assessed settlements in Damboa (56%) also reported that people only used water when washing their hands. In addition, a notably lower proportion of assessed settlements in Damboa (17% in March) reported that people used ash when washing their hands. FGD participants described that the reason people did not use soap either was that they had never done so, or that it was

⁷Due to lack of coverage in March, data for Abadam and Konduga is from February

not available, even in places with access to markets. Few FGD participants, nevertheless, mentioned that if soap was available it was costly and only an option for the few people with money. The low use of soap when washing hands might be a barrier for preventing infectious diseases from spreading. In the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic, lack of proper handwashing practices could have severe consequences in places with a lack of functional health systems.

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIs)

All assessed settlements in Kukawa (100%) in March and most in Abadam (93%) in February reported makeshift shelter as the most common shelter type used by host community members. In addition, around half of assessed settlements in Mafa (60%) and the majority of assessed settlements in Marte (85%) in March also reported makeshift shelters as the most common shelter type used by host community members. In contrast, most assessed settlements in Damboa (87%) in March and Konduga (95%) in February reported permanent shelters as the most common shelter type used by host community members. This could, as previously indicated, suggest a slightly better infrastructure in Damboa and Konduga with better access to building materials needed to construct permanent houses. While some FGD participants described how destroyed shelters had been rebuilt, others described that they were not able to do so because of lack of access to the materials needed. Moreover, most FGD participants described that opposite the situation before the conflict where most shelters were made of mud and zinc, most makeshift shelters were now constructed using grass and sticks.

Aligned with the most common shelter type reported among host community members, the majority of assessed settlements in Kukawa (83%) in March and in Abadam (81%) in February reported makeshift shelters as the most common shelter type among IDPs. Opposite the shelter types reported among host communities, the majority of assessed settlements in Damboa (71%) in March and Konduga (82%) in February reported makeshift shelters to be the most common shelter type among IDPs. The difference in shelter types used between host community members and IDPs reported in Damboa and Konduga could suggest that IDPs did not have the resources to build a permanent shelter or that they were planning to travel to other destinations.⁷

Most to all assessed settlements in Damboa (87%) and Mafa (100%) in March and Abadam (80%) and Konduga (91%) in February reported that most host community members primarily were living in their original home. In comparison, a relatively lower proportion of assessed settlements in Kukawa (37%) and Marte (38%) reported that community members were living in their original home. Instead, a higher proportion of assessed settlements reported that host community members' shelters were located in the bush.

Similar to host community members in Kukawa, 29% of assessed settlements reported that the shelters of IDPs were located in the bush and 50% reported that IDPs were living in the host community. In contrast, the majority of assessed settlements in Damboa (83%) in March and Abadam (82%) and Konduga (91%) in February reported that IDPs were living in the host community.⁸

None (0%) of the assessed settlements in Kukawa and Marte in March and Abadam in February reported that any IDPs were living in the open without shelter. Meanwhile, 22% of assessed settlements in Damboa in March and 26% of assessed settlements in Konduga in February reported that IDPs were living in the open without shelter. This could potentially be linked to attacks in Damboa and Konduga at the beginning of 2020 destroying shelters.⁸

⁷Data not reported for Mafa due to high "no consensus" reported

⁸Due to skip logic and high "no consensus" reported, findings from Mafa and Marte cannot be reported for this indicator

In alignment with IDPs reported to be living in the open, 65% of assessed settlements Damboa in March and 79% of assessed settlements in Konduga in February reported that shelters had been destroyed because of the conflict. Although relatively lower, around half of the assessed settlements in Kukawa (54%) in March reported that shelters had been destroyed because of the conflict. Moreover, while the majority of assessed settlements in Mafa (80%) in March also reported shelter damages, a lower proportion of assessed settlements reported this in Marte (23%) in March and Abadam (40%) in February.

NFIs
As illustrated in Graph 7, the reported main NFI needed but not available varied across the LGAs. In Kukawa in March and Abadam in February, the main NFI need reported was cooking pots (34% and 53%, respectively). In Damboa in March, the majority (74%) of assessed settlements reported sleeping mats as the main NFI need. In contrast, the main NFI need reported in Mafa in March and Abadam in February was blankets (40% and 46%, respectively). Lastly, in Marte the main NFI need reported was clothes, which was reported by 31% of assessed settlements. Of particular concern, with the rainy season approaching, 20% and 23% in Mafa and Marte, respectively, reported mosquito nets as the main NFI need in March. As none of the assessed settlements reported having received any NFI distributions (with the exception of 13% in Konduga in February), lack of mosquito nets in Mafa and Marte could have severe health consequences.

EDUCATION
Access to any educational services (formal and/or informal)⁹ was reported as limited within most LGAs. All (100%) assessed settlements in Kukawa and Mafa in March and Abadam in February reported not having access to any educational services within walking distance. Slightly less, but still the majority of assessed settlements in Marte (69%) in March and Konduga (67%) in February also reported that people did not have access to any educational services. Meanwhile, in Damboa, a notably lower proportion of assessed settlements reported that people did not have access to educational services within walking distance (35% in March).

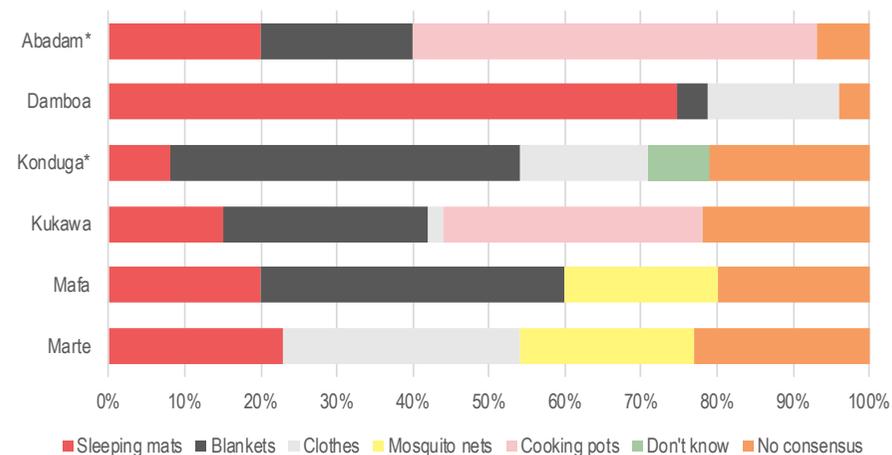
Of assessed settlements that reported not to have access to educational services, the majority of assessed settlements in Kukawa (90%) and Marte (88%) in March and Abadam (73%) in February reported lack of facilities to be the main reason. In Damboa, the main reason for lack of access to educational services was also reported to be lack of facilities (38%) followed by lack of teachers (25%) and facilities destroyed in the conflict (25%). Destruction of facilities was moreover reported as the main reason for lack of access to educational services in Konduga in February (reported by 63% of the assessed settlements). Destruction of facilities was also raised as a concern by FGD participants in Konduga, who highlighted that mainly formal educational services had been destroyed. Mafa was the only LGA in which the majority of assessed settlements (60%) in March reported the main reason for lack of access to any educational services to be that it was not allowed. In addition, 40% of assessed settlement in Mafa also reported lack of teachers as the main reason for lack of access to educational services

The reported lack of access to educational services, including historically not having education facilities before the conflict is indicative of the isolated nature of the H2R settlements from formal services and infrastructure.

COMMUNICATION AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION
Sources of information varied considerably between the LGAs. While the majority of assessed settlements in Kukawa (95%) and Damboa (73%) in March and in Abadam (80%) and Konduga (92%) in February reported

⁹Formal schooling includes all education service delivery based on curricula developed and endorsed by National government.

Graph 7: Proportion of assessed settlements by main need of NFI, by LGA, March 2020*



that radio ownership was allowed, none (0%) of the assessed settlements in Mafa and 31% in Marte reported that radio ownership was allowed. The trend was similar for assessed settlements reporting that cellphone ownership was allowed. The majority of assessed settlements in Kukawa (88%) and Damboa (61%) in March and Abadam (80%) and Konduga (92%) in February reported that cellphones were allowed. In contrast, all (100%) assessed settlements in Mafa and Marte in March reported that cellphones were not allowed. These findings highlight that means of communications are very limited in the assessed settlements, especially in Mafa and Marte.

Potentially due to limited communication means, the majority of all assessed settlements in March (Damboa: 74%, Kukawa: 100%, Mafa: 100%, Marte: 92%) and in Abadam (93%) in February reported that people had difficulties accessing the information they needed about available humanitarian services. In contrast, only 17% of assessed settlements in Konduga in February reported that people had difficulties getting the information they needed about humanitarian services. As highlighted earlier, this presents Konduga as potentially being more accessible for humanitarian actors compared to the other LGA's.

Although the majority of assessed settlements in Kukawa and Abadam reported that radio and cellphone ownership were allowed, none (0%) of the assessed settlements reported radios or cellphones as the main source of communication. Instead, all (100%) assessed settlements in Kukawa and Abadam reported in-person communication as the main communication source. This suggests that although radios were allowed in Kukawa and Abadam, it might not be accessible to all community members in the settlements. As the only two LGAs, 65% of assessed settlements in Damboa in March and 33% in Konduga in February reported radios as the main source of communications, confirming the potential better infrastructure there as previously mentioned. Assessed settlements in Konduga in February, however, also reported in-person communication as the main source of information (42%).

Aligned with the lack of radios and cellphones as means of communication reported in Mafa and Marte, all (100%) assessed settlements in Mafa and the majority in Marte (53%) reported the main source of communication to be in-person communication. Marte was, however, the only LGA

*Due to lack of coverage in March, data for Abadam and Konduga is from February

where assessed settlements reported that people did not have any sources of communication (reported by 23% of assessed settlements).

In alignment with the main source of information reported, the majority of assessed settlements in Kukawa, Mafa and Marte in March and Abadam and Konduga in February reported in-person communication as the most trusted information source (reported by 100%, 100% 62%, 100% and 67%, respectively). Additionally, assessed settlements in Damboa reported in-person (43%) and radios (43%) and the most trusted source of information.

CONCLUSION

The findings presented in this situation overview indicate a lack of access to basic services, stressed food security and severe protection concerns. Conditions across all sectors were reported to be slightly better in Abadam and Kukawa and to some extent in Damboa and Konduga compared to Mafa and Marte. The indicators of particular concern in Mafa and Marte included lower consumption of food, lack of access to functional health care facilities and limited access to clean drinking water.

In the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the combination of lack of access to health facilities and soap, limited means of communication, along with the reported existing food insecurity and health problems, is of great concern. Assessments conducted by REACH in April 2020 indicate that people remaining in H2R areas have limited information about COVID-19 preventative measures, symptoms and how the virus spreads.¹⁰ This, combined with the limited access to functional health care facilities and lack of proper handwashing practices, predicts H2R settlements to have limited control of a possible local COVID-19 outbreak, which could have fatal consequences. Furthermore, the challenging journeys from the H2R settlements to the garrison towns described by FGD participants could become more difficult if movement restrictions in Borno state continue.

The findings presented illustrate that the conflict continued to have a severe impact on the life of people living in H2R areas of North- and Central Borno. Continued monitoring of the H2R areas in Borno state is, therefore, required to provide information to support the humanitarian response.

About REACH

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

¹⁰ For more information on COVID-19 related indicators in H2R areas of Borno State, please see REACH's COVID-19 specific fact-sheets on the REACH resource centre.