

Humanitarian Situation Overview in Hard-to-Reach Areas

Adamawa and Yobe States | Nigeria

January 2022

CONTEXT

The continuation of conflict in Northeast Nigeria has created a complex humanitarian crisis, rendering sections of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states as hard-to-reach (H2R) for humanitarian actors, limiting affected people's access to basic infrastructure and services.¹ To support the humanitarian response for affected populations, REACH has been conducting data collection in Northeast Nigeria to collect, analyse and share up-to-date information regarding multi-sectoral humanitarian needs in the area since November 2018. These H2R assessments aim to provide information on the situation of the estimated one million² persons living in H2R areas to humanitarian service providers, including demographics, (inter)sectoral needs, access to services, displacement trends, and movement intentions. This brief reports on assessed settlements in four local government areas (LGAs)* in Adamawa State (Madagali, Mubi North, Mubi South and Michika) and three LGAs in Yobe state (Geidam, Gujba and Tarmuwa) and covers a recall period of three months.**

METHODOLOGY

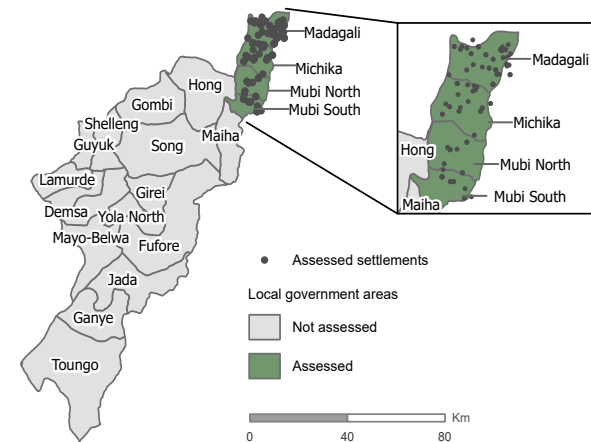
This assessment adopts the "Area of knowledge" methodology. The aim of this methodology is to remotely monitor the situation in H2R areas. Data was collected at the settlement level, through interviews with key informants (KIs) who are either (1) newly arrived internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have left a H2R settlement in the last month prior to the data collection or (2) 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). These KIs were selected based on their recent (less than a month) and detailed knowledge about a settlement. Findings for this brief are derived from individual KI responses and aggregated at the LGA level. To deepen the information provided by the KIs, eight focus group discussions (FGDs) were held with KIs and/or members of the displaced population, and these discussions focused on the dynamics of displacement and the severity of humanitarian needs. The primary data collected is triangulated with secondary sources including other REACH assessments and those conducted by other humanitarian organisations in the assessed areas.

This report presents the most recent results from the data collection carried out between the 17th and 31st January 2022 in three LGAs in Yobe (Geidam, Gujba and Tarmuwa) and four LGAs in Adamawa state (Madagali, Michika, Mubi North*** and Mubi South***). As the geographical coverage of this assessment is limited in its scope, it is important to note that H2R data and the contents of this brief are indicative only and not statistically generalisable and, therefore, must be triangulated with other sources.

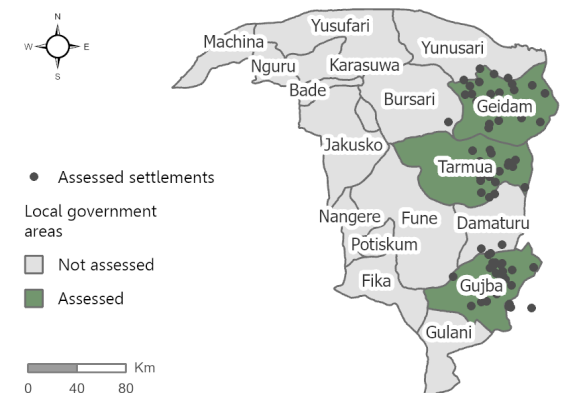
Table 1: Showing number of key informants interview per LGA

State	Adamawa				Yobe		
LGA	Madagali	Michika	Mubi North	Mubi South	Geidam	Gujba	Tarmua
KIs	75	34	16	17	38	39	40

Map 1: REACH assessment coverage in Adamawa state



Map 2: REACH assessment coverage in Yobe state



¹ REACH hard to reach reports

² UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Nigeria: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview

***The total number of KIs interviewed in Mubi North and Mubi South is lower than 30, and considerably lower than the number of KIs interviewed in the other LGAs, hence findings should be considered with additional caution.

* LGAs represent one administrative level below the state level

** Unless otherwise stated, the recall period is three months

KEY FINDINGS

Findings suggest over-reliance on subsistence farming, plagued by shrinking available farmland and movement restrictions that interfere with access to farmland, has left many in the assessed settlements in need of immediate food assistance. **Existing food stores are reportedly often looted or stolen, leading many to resort to foraging for wild food or consuming seed stock especially in Madagali, Michika and Mubi South in Adamawa.**

Additionally, findings suggest that perceptions of worsening safety continue to be rife among most people living in the assessed H2R settlements, mostly due to a perceived risk of AOG attacks and/or actual attacks in some parts of Gujba and Geidam. In the assessed settlements in Adamawa, **findings also indicate additional safety concerns posed by farmer-herder conflict in addition to AOG activities. Safety concerns were found to have a profound negative influence on access to basic services and livelihoods and also on displacement patterns, with many reportedly fearful of returning to the H2R settlement after leaving.**

Access to improved water sources, latrines, or sanitary facilities was reportedly scant in most assessed settlements. **This is supported by findings that indicate that access to the available unimproved sources is difficult in most places with people having to travel further for water, reducing their consumption or using less preferred sources.** Lack of proper sanitation and reportedly poor handwashing conditions coupled with recent reports of cholera outbreaks in some of the assessed areas in Adamawa are particularly concerning, given the reported lack of access to functional healthcare in most of the assessed settlements.

POPULATION MOVEMENT AND DISPLACEMENT

The continuation of conflict in Northeast Nigeria has had a significant impact on many communities; dislodging host community members and sometimes leading to family separations, as well as an increase in the number of unaccompanied minors and forced relocations. KIs in most of the H2R settlements reported there were IDPs living in the H2R settlements, especially those from settlements in Mubi North (94%) and Mubi South (88%).³ These LGAs appear to be most affected by population movements because of their proximity to areas in southern Borno, where there have been recent attacks by AOGs⁴ and also due to reported frequent herder-farmer conflicts in these areas. FGD participants from these locations mentioned fear of attack by both AOGs and herders as the major push factor for displacement. On the contrary, data from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)⁵ indicates voluntary relocation and movement due to poor living conditions as the most important triggers of movement in the month of January 2022, however, this data is generalised for all IDPs and may not be a direct representation of push factors for IDPs from these specific H2R settlements to the garrison town. On the other hand, in terms

of original population still in the H2R settlements, most KIs (96%) reported there were less than half or just about half of the host community members remaining in their settlements of origin.

More than half of all interviewed KIs (58%) from H2R settlements reported they would consider moving back to the settlement in the future. Among those KIs, 76% reported that they could not currently return to the settlement because of insecurity. That said, the majority of KIs (70%) reported there were returnees living in the H2R settlement. Of the number that reported the presence of returnees in the settlement, 75% reported that most of these returnees returned to the settlement within the 2 months prior to data collection. The most commonly reported reasons to return, according to KIs, were to harvest crops and to get family members out of the settlement, the latter of which was particularly commonly reported in Michika.

PROTECTION

Findings indicate that communities in H2R settlements across both Yobe and Adamawa continue to experience protection concerns. Reported safety threats ranged from AOG violence, the activities of bandits, herdsman-farmer conflicts, abductions and mines. These appear to have a considerable effect on people living in the H2R settlements serving as displacement triggers and also as barriers to livelihoods and other essential services through movement restrictions, looting and theft, and fear.

Additionally, reported protection concerns may negatively impact food security and livelihood outcomes in the H2R settlements assessed. Most KIs (90%) reported incidents of looting, theft, and movement restrictions caused by AOGs and or bandits in the settlements. Given reportedly low access to food and livelihoods, looting of harvests and property, coupled with an inability to engage in livelihoods due to movement restrictions may further exacerbate the conditions of affected persons. KIs in Tarmua (50%) and Geidam (45%) reported a concerning trend in the H2R settlements of people being subjected to forced labour by AOGs. Beyond the mental and physical impact of such labour, FGD participants reported that this might further negatively affect access to food as people are unable to engage in their usual livelihoods activities and remain solely dependent on the AOGs for food and other essentials.⁶

According to a January 2022 situation report from OCHA, a large-scale AOG attack in Gujba LGA led to over 3000 people being displaced and an estimated 5 people being killed.⁷ This appears to be reflected in reported protection concerns by KIs from settlements in Gujba, with AOG violence being the most reported concern for all genders and age groups. A high proportion of KIs (95%) from settlements in Gujba also reported an incident of conflict that led to the death of a civilian had taken place in their settlement in the month prior to data collection. Overall, most KIs in Gujba (54%) reported people's perception of safety had worsened in the month prior to data collection. Of the 3 LGAs (Geidam, Gujba and Tarmua) where KIs were interviewed in Yobe, it was only in Tarmua

³ 15/16 KIs in Mubi North and 16/17 KIs in Mubi South reported this

⁴ [AOG attack on Southern Borno](#)

⁵ IOM Nigeria DTM Emergency Tracking Tool (ETT) Report No.257-259 (January 2022)

⁶ Focus Group Discussion Participants

that a majority of KIs (59%) reported perceiving people's perception of safety had improved in the month prior to data collection.

Figure 1: Most commonly reported protection concerns perceived for women, men, girls, and boys, by % of KIs

Groups/Age	Protection concerns					
Women >18	AOG violence	20%	Looting	20%	Abduction	11%
Girls <18	Sexual violence	18%	Early marriage	17%	AOG violence	15%
Men >18	AOG violence	29%	Abduction	16%	Denial of access	13%
Boys <18	AOG violence	28%	Abduction	17%	Forced recruitment	10%

Several KIs (59%) reported the presence of unaccompanied minors⁸ in their settlements of origin. This is concerning given reported incidents of abductions in the H2R settlements and the most reported safety concerns highlighted. Unaccompanied minors may be more at risk of being abducted in addition to other serious concerns such as their access to basic services, especially food and water. Some KIs reported there had been incidents of abduction for all genders and age categories, especially those from H2R settlements in Mubi North, where at least more than half of all KIs reported that there had been incidents of kidnapping involving boys, men and women. The majority of KIs also reported perceiving that the rate of abductions had decreased or stayed the same for all genders and age categories, except in Mubi South (70%)⁹ and Mubi North (51%)¹⁰ where a majority of KIs reportedly perceived there had been an increase in abductions within the 3 months prior to data collection. FGD participants from these two LGAs reported security concerns related specifically to banditry and clashes with herdsmen, which they mentioned often led to abductions or killings.

Continued monitoring of protection incidents in these areas is crucial given the links and effects on almost every other aspect of living conditions for people in the affected areas. Findings indicating harm as a result of mines, AOG violence, forced labour and abductions among others suggest a multiplicity of threats to safety and livelihoods for people in the hard to reach settlements.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS (FSL)

Food access and barriers

Findings suggest most people in the assessed H2R settlements are reliant on the harvest from their own farms for their food needs. However, with serious disruptions to their livelihoods

mostly attributed to the security context, many people in these settlements are without adequate food resources and have resorted to severe and in some cases extreme coping mechanisms in order to survive. The majority of KIs (86%) reported that most people in their settlement were unable to access sufficient food (86%), and 57% of KIs reported perceiving hunger was severe or "worst it can be". Among those KIs who reported inadequate access to food, the most commonly reported reasons were unsafe access to farmland (32%), and food having been stolen/destroyed either by conflict (24%) or through criminal activity (15%). The highest proportions of KIs reporting hunger being "the worst it can be" were found in Geidam (32%), Tarmua (26%) in Yobe and in Michika (26%) in Adamawa.

Figure 2: Top 3 most commonly reported sources of food, by % of KIs per state

	Adamawa	Yobe
Cultivation	87%	70%
Forage	6%	10%
Bought	2%	12%

Shrinkage or decreased access to farmland appears to be a key concern, even though 92% of all KIs reported that most people in the settlements had planted and harvested crops in the last farming season, 56% of all KIs also reported that most people had less land to farm on compared to the previous farming season.

Findings indicate most people in the H2R areas are dependent on harvests from food cultivation as their main source of food (79% of all KIs). The situation is further compounded by a lack of access to alternative food sources such as through purchase in markets or humanitarian food assistance. Indeed, 87% of KIs reported that people in the H2R settlements had not received any humanitarian assistance in the 3 months prior to data collection. Only in Gujba (95%), Tarmua (75%) and Geidam (74%) in Yobe did a majority of KIs report the availability of functional markets within walking distance in the settlements. FGD participants from these areas also pointed out that these markets often had low patronage due to fears of AOG attacks, lack of availability of needed goods and had since the start of the conflict seen frequent increases in the price of goods.

The importance of alternative food sources given the difficulties with cultivation is perhaps exemplified by assessed settlements in Gujba where 95% of KIs reported access to markets and where 26% of KIs reported the predominant source of food in the community was purchase. Unlike other KIs from settlements in the other LGAs, none of the KIs from Gujba reported people in the H2R settlements were foraging or begging for food from relatives or neighbours as their main source of food.

⁷ OCHA Nigeria Situation Report for Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States No. 17

⁸ children under the age of 18 with no caregiver

⁹ 11/17 KIs in Mubi South

¹⁰ 8/16 KIs in Mubi North reported this.

Food coping mechanisms

Indications of high food insecurity faced by populations across Adamawa and Yobe state are reflected by the range of livelihood coping and food coping strategies people reportedly adopted. Findings suggest reliance on traditional coping mechanisms continues to be stretched thin by insecurity resulting from the conflict context and years of developmental neglect. Most KIs reported that, when people in the community did not have enough food to eat, they resorted to reducing the size of meals (79%), limiting the size of meals (73%), or ate less preferred but less expensive meals (61%). According to KIs, other coping mechanisms reportedly employed by people was to only feed the children (42%) or skip whole days without meals (25%). FGD participants also reported that the consumption of seed stock is very common in these H2R settlements, which may suggest a potential inability to cultivate crops in the next farming season.

In line with Mubi North and Madagali being among the LGAs with the highest proportion of KIs reporting that most people were unable to access enough food, KIs in these LGAs also most commonly reported use of food-based coping strategies among people in their settlements, further highlighting the limited access to food communities in these areas seem to be facing.

Livelihood activities

Agriculture, casual labour, and pastoralism were the most commonly reported livelihoods activities in the assessed H2R settlements. KIs (80%) reported subsistence farming was the main livelihood activity in the assessed settlements, which explains the reported reliance on cultivated crops as discussed above. In addition, some KIs, mostly in Gujba (70%) also reported that people were engaged in casual labour while others (35%) reported people were engaged in the transport business for their livelihoods. Such livelihoods activities may be linked to the reported ability of people in the assessed settlements in Gujba to buy food or exchange labour for food. In contrast to Gujba LGAs, few KIs in the other LGAs reported livelihood activities that were likely to result in payment as people were reportedly only involved either in subsistence farming and/or livestock rearing. Even though livestock rearing was also reported by 42% of KIs, mostly from Mubi North (81%),¹¹ Mubi south (59%)¹² and Madagali (52%) all in Adamawa, KIs in these LGAs also reported limited access to food and functional markets which might indicate an inability to rely just on livestock to meet all food needs and/or limited opportunities to trade livestock products for food.

Livelihood barriers

While the majority of KIs from H2R settlements in Tarmua (88%), Gujba (73%), and Geidam (71%) reported most people in their settlements were able to engage in their usual livelihoods activities, KIs in Mubi North (100%),¹³ Madagali (96%), Mubi South (88%)¹⁴, and Michika (85%) commonly reported that most people were unable to do so. In Adamawa, among KIs who reported most people were unable to access their usual livelihoods (93%), the most commonly reported reasons were insecurity (99%)

and movement restrictions (79%). Limited access to livelihoods in the assessed LGAs in Adamawa may be the result of recent attacks¹⁵ or due to their proximity to the Sambisa forest reserve which is a hive of AOG activity and presence. The reverse appears to be true in the assessed H2R settlements in Yobe state, where only 7% of KIs reported facing movement restrictions and 23% reported facing livelihood barriers.

In addition to insecurity and limited freedom of movement, some KIs reported health problems to be the main reason most people were unable to access their usual livelihoods, which was reported by half of KIs who reported limited access to livelihoods in Mubi South, and close to one-third of KIs in Mubi North, and Michika. The relatively high proportion of KIs who reported this in assessed settlements in Mubi south may be linked to recent reports indicating the outbreak of cholera across the LGA in the reporting period.¹⁶

Figure 3: Food coping strategies reportedly used by most people in the assessed settlements, by % of KIs per state

	Adamawa	Yobe
Gather wild food	67%	83%
Borrow food or money from a friend or relative	78%	24%
Purchase food with borrow money	63%	8%
Asking non-relatives for food	47%	3%
Consume seed stock meant for next season or harvest crops that are not yet ready	16%	4%

Three quarters (74%) of KIs also reported that people who were unable to engage in their usual livelihood activities in the assessed settlements often resort to gathering of wild foods/foraging in order to eat. Of those that reported this, 88% were from settlements in Tarmua, 87% from Geidam and 75% from Gujba. Borrowing of food and money from relatives and neighbours was also reported by some KIs and FGD participants, mostly in the assessed LGAs in Adamawa.

WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Sources of drinking water in both states were found to be mostly unimproved water sources, which is largely in line with historical trends of water access in the region.¹⁷ In Adamawa, most KIs reported surface water was the main source of drinking water for people in the assessed settlements particularly in Michika LGA (68%) and Mubi North

¹¹ 8/16 KIs in Mubi North reported this

¹² 11/17 KIs in Mubi South

¹³ 16/16 KIs in Mubi North

¹⁴ 5/17 KIs in Mubi North reported this

¹⁵ [OCHA Nigeria Situation Report for Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States No. 16](#)

¹⁶ [Nigeria: Adamawa States - Weekly Cholera Outbreak Situation Report](#)

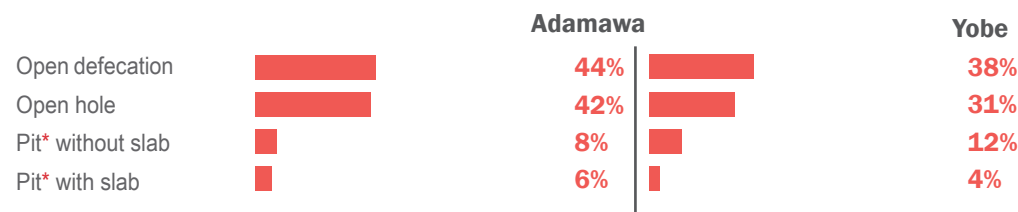
(65%).¹⁸ In Yobe state, the majority of KIs reported unprotected wells as the main source of drinking water in Tarmuwa (53%), in Geidam, and Gujba (45% respectively). In addition to common reliance on unimproved sources, most KIs (67%) also reported people in their settlements experienced problems collecting water, which was mostly reported in Gujba (78%), Tarmuwa (75%), and Mubi South (71%).¹⁹ Among those KIs, the most commonly reported problems were related to long traveling times (65%, rising to 90% in Gujba), insufficient water at the collection point (61%), and safety concerns (57%), further highlighting the impact of general insecurity on freedom of movement and access to basic needs in these areas. Most KIs in Gujba (90%) reported that people had to walk long distances to collect water when there was not enough water in the settlements, which may be indicative of water scarcity and may also subject people to security risks that may exist along these water collection routes. To cope with lack of sufficient water, non-preferred water sources were reportedly used in Mubi North (56%),²⁰ Mubi South (41%)²¹ and Madagali (33%). In addition, some people reportedly had to reduce their water consumption.

Latrine usage

Findings suggest that sanitary disposal infrastructure available to people in the assessed settlements was limited (see map 3). Overall, only 25% of KIs in the assessed settlements reported people had access to latrines. Among those KIs, the vast majority (91%) reported that less than half of the population was using these latrines. Open defecation was reported as the main sanitary disposal method in Mubi North (81%),²² Geidam

and Tarmuwa (53% of KIs respectively) while KIs in Michika (50%), and Madagali (43%) reported the use of open holes the most. Overall, just 19% of KIs reported that people in the assessed settlements used either some kind of unimproved pit latrine or improved pit toilet as a sanitary facility. According to FGD participants and KIs, the main reasons why people did not use latrines were the lack of household latrines and a lack of access to communal latrines.

Figure 4: Type of sanitary facilities used in the assessed settlements, by % of KIs per state



¹⁷ Nigeria Humanitarian Response Plan 2022

¹⁸ 10/16 KIs in Mubi North reported this

¹⁹ 12/17 KIs in Mubi South reported this

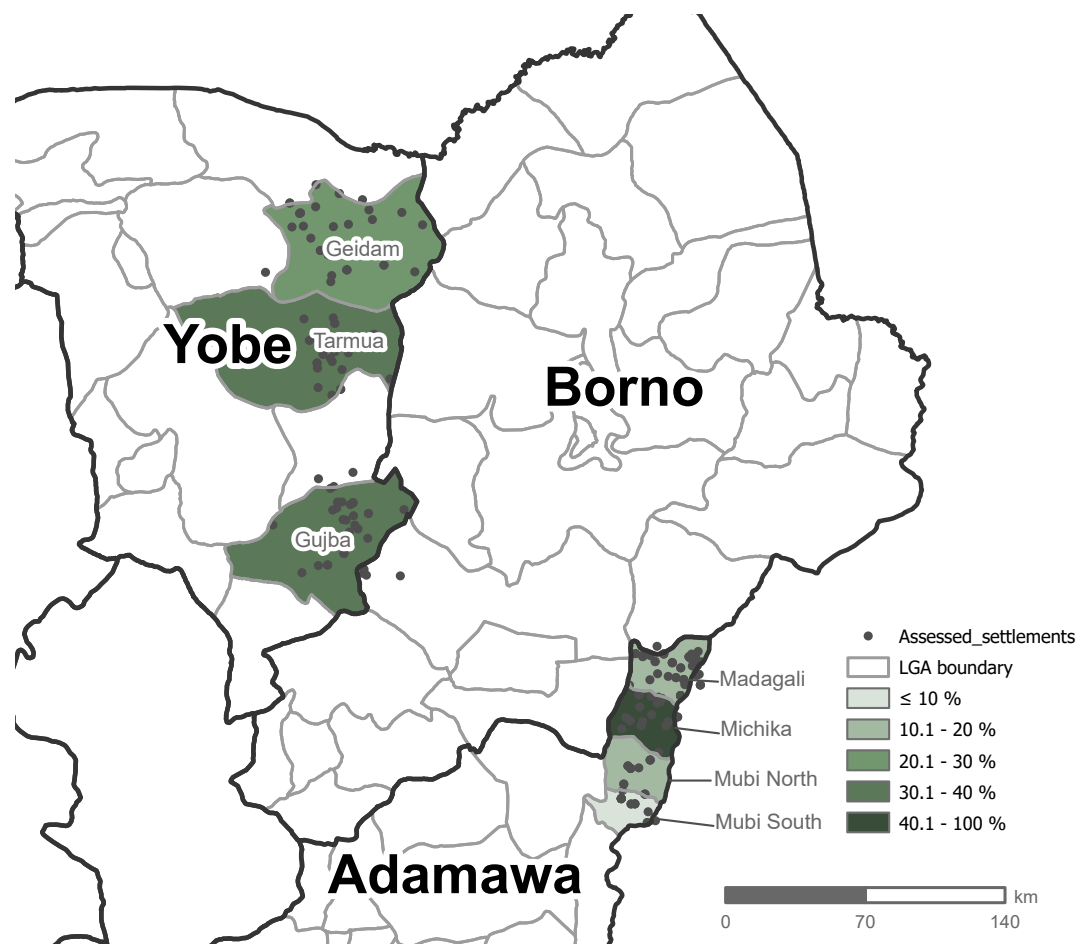
²⁰ 9/16 KIs in Mubi North reported this

²¹ 7/17 KIs in Mubi South reported this

* Pit refers to pit latrine

²² 13/16 KIs in Mubi North reported this

Map 3: Proportion of KIs reporting at least some people in the settlement use latrines, per LGA



Handwashing materials

Conditions that favour outbreaks along with other waterborne and sanitation related diseases may also be attributable to reported handwashing practices within these settlements. The majority of KIs (72%) from the assessed settlements reported people only wash their hands with water. Alternatively, some people were reported to use sand in place of soap (7%) or ash (6%). Only 14% of KIs reported people used soap and water for

handwashing. Only a few KIs (4%) reported the use of soap and water for handwashing in the assessed settlements in Adamawa.

Unhealthy sanitary practices may pose severe health threats to the people in these assessed settlements. Reports of an outbreak of cholera in some of the concerned LGAs in Adamawa state²³ within the reporting period may be an indication of this when triangulated with reports that most people relied on unimproved water sources in the assessed settlements. There is need for continuous monitoring of the WASH situation in H2R areas for prompt notification, especially in case of severe water scarcity or outbreaks of sanitation related communicable diseases.

HEALTH

Findings suggest communities in H2R settlements continue to face limited access to healthcare, due to conflict-related damages to facilities as well as a generally limited healthcare infrastructure. KIs in 62% of assessed settlements reported no available health facility and/or services that people in the H2R settlements could walk to and back within a day's travel. This is further echoed by FGD findings, with participants reporting cases of people in need of care having had to travel to garrison towns several kilometers away to access treatment.

Related to this, the main barrier to accessing health services according to the majority of KIs (58%) from H2R settlements assessed was a historical lack of health infrastructure even before the conflict which was mostly reported in Tarmuwa (82%), Mubi North (78%),²⁴ and Madagali (60%). A high proportion of KIs reported the destruction of health facilities as a result of conflict in assessed settlements in Geidam (33%) and Michika (24%). Elsewhere, KIs in assessed settlements in Mubi South (29%)²⁵ reported the lack of drugs in existing health facilities as the main barrier to healthcare in those assessed settlements, while in Gujba, a relatively high proportion of KIs also reported the lack of staff (22%) as the main barrier to accessing health in Gujba. According to FGD participants, people unable to travel to healthcare facilities often rely on the use of traditional herbs and, where available, traditional healers.

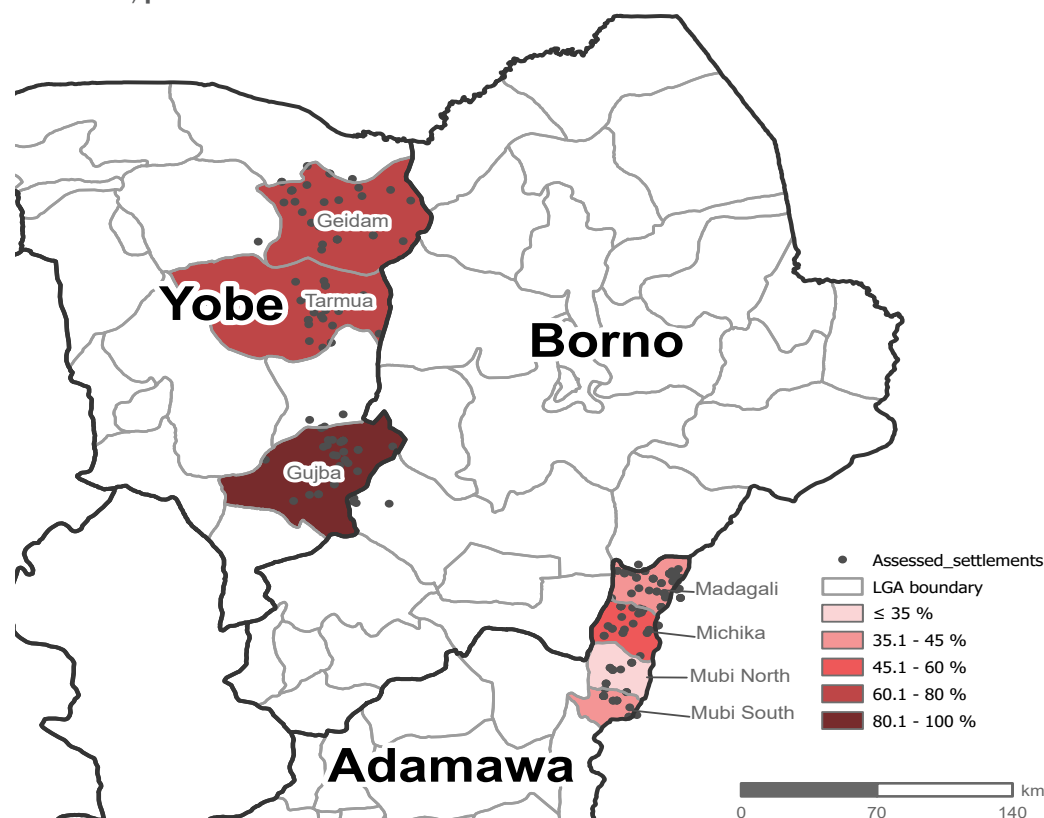
SHELTER

Overall, findings indicate that most people have inadequate shelter and living conditions in the assessed H2R settlements. The effect of the destruction wrought by the conflict and the inability to obtain building materials appear to have led to most people living in makeshift structures while some find themselves having to live out in the open, leaving them facing multiple threats. The majority of KIs (93%) from across Adamawa and Yobe reported most people in their settlements were living in makeshift shelters; an adverse implication of the ongoing conflict given most shelters were reportedly destroyed by conflict. This was especially reported by all KIs in the assessed settlements in Mubi North (100%) and Mubi South (100%) LGAs. People who are living in the open face increased

vulnerability to conflict-related attacks, property looting, and theft, as well as general risks to their health and well-being.

More than half of the KIs (63%) reported that most people lived in makeshift shelters located within the boundaries of the settlements, this was mostly reported by KIs in assessed settlements in Tarmuwa (88%), Geidam (79%), and Madagali (65%). In contrast, only 26% of all KIs reported that most people in the assessed settlements lived in their original home, indicating widespread dislocation even within the H2R settlements.

Map 4: Proportion of KIs who reported shelter damage in the month prior to data collection, per LGA



Shelter damage (partially or fully destroyed shelters) was mostly reported by KIs in Gujba (93%) and Geidam (74%), and could be related to recent AOG attacks which resulted in

²³ [Nigeria: Adamawa States - Weekly Cholera Outbreak Situation Report](#)

²⁴ 12/16 KIs in Mubi North reported this

²⁵ 5/17 KIs in Mubi South reported this

²⁶ [OCHA, NIGERIA Current developments affecting the humanitarian response](#)

over 3000 people²⁶ being displaced. It is also in these LGAs that some KIs reported that most people in the settlements lived out in the open (reported by 5% of KIs in Geidam and 3% in Gujba). According to FGD participants from these LGAs, displacement had aggravated a lack of access to construction materials, leading IDPs living without shelter (see quote below).

"Yes, there are some people staying without shelters, among us, yes IDPs who were not able to get corn stalks to build a shelter" Male FGD participants Tarmua LGA.

EDUCATION

Findings indicate access to education services within walking distance in just over half of all assessed settlements with informal education services more commonly available than formal services across all assessed settlements.²⁷ Access to educational services within walking distance was reported by a relatively higher proportion of KIs in Madagali (68%), Gujba (65%) and Mubi North (56%).²⁸

Findings suggest barriers to accessing education services in the H2R settlements are largely related to a lack of education facilities nearby and security issues, particularly due to AOG activity, which has reportedly made some schools unsafe, created access barriers, and led to the destruction of some facilities. Lack of access to formal education was reported by KIs mostly in Tarmua (71%), Gujba (65%) and Michika (56%). Other related barriers concern the lack of educational inputs or human resource as many teaching professionals have reportedly fled schools in these settlements due to the perceived lack of safety. FGD participants in Mubi, for instance, mentioned the availability of school infrastructure but added that all the teachers had fled and none had returned to run the school.

Figure 5: Lack of access to education service in the assessed settlements, by % of KIs per LGA

LGA	No Access
Madagali	32%
Michika	47%
Mubi North	44%
Mubi South	59%
Geidam	53%
Gujba	35%
Tarmua	48%

Figure 6: Type of education service available in the assessed settlements, by % of KIs per state

	Adamawa	Yobe
Formal Education	56%	37%
Informal Education	91%	69%

COMMUNICATION

Findings show that even in H2R areas with access to functioning radio and cell phones, access to information on humanitarian assistance, security and important information on services was still limited. Most KIs in the assessed settlements reported there were people who owned and used cell phones in the settlement (70%) and that there was cell phone coverage (67%). Similarly, most KIs (82%) reported people in their settlements owned radios, and 74% reported there was radio signal, virtually all of whom reported people could listen to the radio. However, despite some level of reported access to information mediums, almost half of all KIs (47%) reported that people in the H2R settlements had difficulty accessing the information they needed on humanitarian assistance. In addition, KIs in Michika (73%) and Geidam (48%) reported a lack of or unreliability of mobile network coverage as the obstacle to accessing information on humanitarian assistance. More than half of KIs in Madagali reported insecurity was the main reason people in the H2R settlement experienced difficulty accessing information about humanitarian assistance.

Most KIs reported people in the assessed settlements seem to rely more on in-person conversations (55%) as their primary source of information, while a lower proportion of KIs (27%) reported radios were the primary source of information in their H2R settlement. Religious leaders and relatives appear to be the most trusted sources for obtaining information. Most KIs (63%) reported most people in the assessed H2R areas trust the news from their leaders.

Figure 7: Main information barriers in the assessed settlements, by % of KIs (69%) who reported there were barriers to information per state

	Adamawa	Yobe
No mobile phone	35%	38%
No radio	19%	22%
No electricity	0%	25%
Security	39%	9%

Interestingly, in Gujba, where KIs reported markets were functional and transportation was a main source of livelihood in some settlements, transport drivers were the second most commonly reported most trusted source (33%) of information for people in the H2R settlements. Perhaps this indication of easier movement and functioning markets allows transport drivers to gather information through interactions with people from different locations, which can be relayed to people in some of these settlements in Gujba.

²⁷ Formal education is the type of education with government approved curriculum

²⁸ 10/16 KIs in Mubi North reported this

Overall these findings confirm the inaccessible nature of these settlements and the dilemma they face with information sources. Sources that are familiar and personal appear to be trusted more even though in-person information may be prone to misinformation and may not be immediately verifiable for people living in H2R settlements. On the other hand, information via the radio, which may be current and perhaps more reliable, is considered distant or may not provide information that is considered directly or immediately useful to people living in these settlements. The inability to obtain immediate feedback or engage the source may also be a factor in deciding which sources are more trusted in these communities. Despite this, the proportion of KIs who reported the presence of radios in some of these settlements may be an indication that it may be a potentially good medium for humanitarian organisations to provide important information on humanitarian services for affected persons in H2R locations.

CONCLUSION

Overall, the findings in this situation overview indicate that insecurity has a multi-faceted impact on people in H2R settlements, limiting their ability to perform their usual livelihoods, as well as their access to food, improved water sources, and other basic needs. These circumstances seem to have made people reliant on unsustainable, insufficient, and sometimes erosive strategies to cope with a lack of access. Across both states, many assessed settlements have struggled with access to enough clean and safe drinking water and/or functional latrines. This lack of access, in tandem with limited accessibility and availability of basic service infrastructure such as health and sanitary facilities, exposes people in these H2R settlements to severe risks to their health and wellbeing. With reference to findings in this brief, continued monitoring of these areas is essential to provide information needed to inform the humanitarian response.

ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research -Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT). For more information, please visit our website: www.reach-initiative.org You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org and follow us on Twitter @REACH_info.