Assessment of hard-to-reach areas: Population movement
October - December 2022
Adamawa and Yobe States, Northeast Nigeria

KEY FINDINGS

- Internally displaced persons (IDPs) were reportedly living in two-thirds (66%) of assessed settlements in Adamawa and in approximately one-third (36%) of assessed settlements in Yobe.
- In nearly half (42%) of assessed settlements, key informants (KIs) reported that less than half of the original population (i.e., those who had not been displaced) remained in the settlements.
- Returnees were reportedly present in almost all (95%) assessed settlements in Adamawa, compared to roughly half (49%) of assessed settlements in Yobe.

CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

The continuation of conflict in Northeast Nigeria has created a complex humanitarian crisis, rendering sections of Yobe and Adamawa states as inaccessible. To address information gaps facing the humanitarian response and inform humanitarian actors on the demographics of households in hard-to-reach areas of Northeast Nigeria, as well as to identify their needs, access to services, and movement intentions, REACH has been conducting monthly assessments of hard-to-reach areas in Northeast Nigeria since November 2018.¹

Using the Area of Knowledge (AoK) methodology, REACH collected data from 12th October to 13th December 2022. Results presented in this factsheet, unless otherwise specified, represent the proportion of settlements assessed within an LGA. The findings presented are indicative of broader trends in assessed settlements in October, November, and December 2022, and are not statistically generalisable. Find more methodological information on the last page of this factsheet.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

% of assessed settlements where the presence of IDPs was reported in the month prior to data collection:

By % of assessed settlements, in the month prior to data collection, were IDPs reportedly living in the settlement?

1. REACH H2R sectoral factsheets from November 2020 to September 2022.
ORIGINAL POPULATION

Estimated proportions of original population (i.e. those who have not been displaced) remaining in the settlement, by % of assessed settlements:

- Less than half: 42%
- Around half: 22%
- More than half: 24%
- All: 1%

Most commonly reported reasons why people remained in the settlement, by % of assessed settlements:

- Did not want to leave the settlement: 43%
- To participate in livelihoods: 20%
- Did not have enough money to leave: 14%
- Did not want to leave family members behind: 6%
- Afraid of traveling: 3%

RETURNEESES

By % of assessed settlements, in the month prior to data collection, were returnees reportedly living in the settlement?

Assessed settlements in Adamawa:
- No: 3%
- Yes: 95%
- NC: 2%

Assessed settlements in Yobe:
- No: 41%
- Yes: 49%
- NC: 10%

Most commonly reported reasons why people returned to the settlement, by % of assessed settlements:

- Returning temporarily to farm or harvest: 26%
- Returning to visit their family members: 11%
- People returning from another area to stay permanently: 6%
- Returning to get their family members and then leave again: 5%
- People were abducted but escaped and returned home: 1%
METHODOLOGY AND COVERAGE

Using the Area of Knowledge (AoK) methodology, REACH remotely monitors the situation in hard-to-reach areas through monthly multi-sector interviews in accessible Local Government Area (LGA) capitals with key informants (KIs) who are either (1) newly arrived internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have left a hard-to-reach settlement in the last month or (2) KIs who have had contact with someone living or having been in a hard-to-reach settlement in the last month (traders, migrants, family members, etc.).

If not stated otherwise, the recall period for each question is set to one month prior to the last information the KI has had from the hard-to-reach area. Selected KIs are purposively sampled and are interviewed on settlement-wide circumstances in hard-to-reach areas, rather than their individual experiences. Responses from KIs reporting on the same settlement are then aggregated to the settlement level. The most common response provided by the greatest number of KIs is reported for each settlement. When no most common response could be identified, the response is considered as ‘no consensus’.

Results presented in this factsheet, unless otherwise specified, represent the proportion of settlements assessed within an LGA. Findings are only reported on LGAs where at least 5% of populated settlements and at least 5 settlements in the respective LGA have been assessed. The findings presented are indicative of broader trends in assessed settlements in October, November, and December 2022, and are not statistically generalisable. Due to precautions related to accessibility and insecurity in some LGAs, data were collected remotely through phone interviews with assistance from local stakeholders. Data collection took place from 12th October 2022 to 13th December 2022.

More information on the methodology can be found in the Terms of Reference.

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2. The National Population Estimates v1.2 on grid3.gov.ng/datasets has been used as the reference for settlement names and locations, and adjusted to account for deserted villages based on information shared by OCHA.

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