Humanitarian Situation Overview in Hard-to-Reach Areas Adamawa and Yobe States | Nigeria

April - June 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 to 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 contains findings from settlements that were assessed 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 Tarmua) and covers a recall period of three months.³

KEY FINDINGS

Findings suggest that access to food, water, and basic services was significantly limited for people residing in the assessed settlements, mostly due to the ongoing conflict and pre-existing infrastructure deficits. In addition, recent surges in the price of staple food items and farming inputs, adverse weather conditions, poor harvests, and longer term loss of arable farmland appear to have contributed to declining food production capacity and food insecurity in the hard-to-reach settlements.

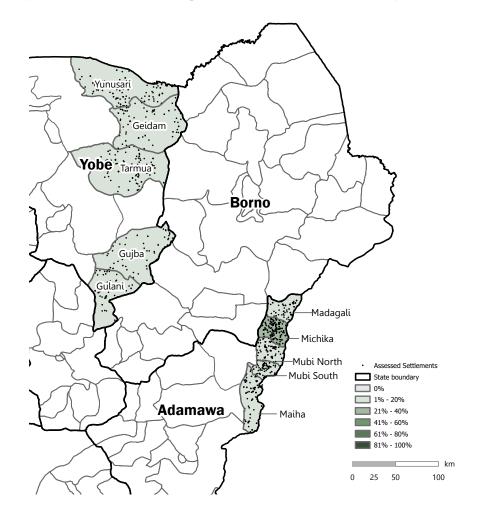
In almost all assessed settlements, people were reportedly relying on unimproved drinking water sources and engaging in open defecation. While this indicates a risk of disease outbreaks, access to functional healthcare facilities appeared limited as well, due to either a lack of functional healthcare centers, damaged facilities, or staff shortages.

Makeshift shelters were the most commonly reported main shelter type for both host communities and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in all assessed settlements. Indepth interview (IDI) respondents commonly reported that residents had transitioned from permanent to makeshift structures due to conflict-related damages to shelters. Findings suggest that IDPs and orphans were sleeping outside without shelters in some settlements, leaving them more at risk of protection incidents and climatic shocks.

Conflict and limited access to basic needs and services appear to have continued to drive displacement. Findings indicate declines in host population figures in H2R areas,

while those remaining are mostly some vulnerable people, including women, children, and older persons, some of whom might have become isolated from critical services and humanitarian aid.

Map 1: REACH assessment coverage in Adamawa and Yobe States from April to June 2022





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, 52 In-depth interview (IDIs) were held with KIs and/or members of the displaced population. The IDIs focused on discussions focused on the dynamics of displacement and the severity of humanitarian needs. Whenever possible, primary data from the structured KI interviews and the IDIs was further triangulated with relevant secondary sources, including other REACH assessments and assessments conducted by other humanitarian organisations.

This report presents the most recent results from the data collection carried out between the 11th April to 30th June 2022 in three LGAs in Yobe (Geidam, Gujba and Tarmuwa) and four LGAs in Adamawa state (Madagali, Michika, Mubi North and Mubi South.

Findings presented in this brief should be considered indicative of, rather than generalisable to, the situation in assessed hard-to-reach settlements during the reporting period.

Figure 1: Number of assessed settlements per LGA

State	Adamawa	Yobe								
LGA	Madagali	Maiha	Michika	Mubi North	Mubi South	Geidam	Gujba	Gulani	Tarmua	Yunusari
Number of settlements assessed	63	77	156	70	66	95	77	61	111	106

III POPULATION MOVEMENT AND DISPLACEMENT

Findings from an International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Emergency Tracking Tool (ETT) assessment suggested that many people in the most conflict-affected LGAs of Maiha, Michika, and Mubi South LGA (Adamawa) had been displaced. These displacements were reported to have been triggered by the ongoing conflict, poor living conditions, seasonal farming and lack of humanitarian assistance.⁴ According to UNHCR operational updates across this quarter, recorded population movements have involved both internal and cross-border movements.⁵ In June alone, over 14,000 new internal

displacements were recorded in the BAY states for similar reasons as those reported in the IOM-ETT assessment. Additionally, in late June, AOG attacks across the border in Cameroon near the border with Nigeria led to the arrival of over 1500 Cameroonian refugees, mostly comprising women, children and the older persons, in Madagali, Michika and Mubi LGAs in Adamawa state.⁶ Approximately 1,576 Cameroonian asylum seekers were reportedly identified and registered, and found to be in need of food, shelter, non-food items (NFIs), and healthcare.⁷ Given the severity of humanitarian needs in these LGAs and the rate of internal displacements, such influxes may further stretch limited resources and trigger further displacement.

The prevalence of displacement triggers in the assessed LGAs appear to have led to population decline in some H2R areas. KIs in only 10% of assessed settlements reported that more than half of the original population prior to the start of the conflict remained in the settlement while in most assessed settlements, less than half (in 41% of assessed settlements) or half (38%) of the original population reportedly still lived in the settlement.

In the majority of assessed settlements (41%), KIs estimated that less than half of the original host community members had remained. The highest proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported that most of the original population had left were Geidam (85%), Madagali (70%), and Yunusari (63%). According to IDI respondents, the main reasons for remaining in the H2R settlement included the lack of any relatives living outside the settlement for people to go to, and/or the inability to travel away form the settlement on their own.

IDI repondents across all LGAs mentioned that people leave the H2R settlement for a variety of reasons, principal among these being the fear of armed organised groups (AOGs) and kidnappers, and lack of access to basic needs and services such as food, water, and education. According to IDI repondents, the perceived safety of the intended destination was a main factor in determining the chosen destinations of people displaced from the H2R settlements. Other commonly mentioned determining factors included the presence of relatives (in terms of family reunification and sharing of resources), access to humanitarian aid, proximity to the H2R settlement, and the availability of livelihoods activities. Most of the destinations chosen by respondents were either State or LGA capitals, garrison towns or nearby settlements. The major impediment to moving to a preferred destination was reportedly the inability to bear the cost of the journey.

Most IDI repondents mentioned that displacement journeys are generally challenging and lengthy. They also reported that trips were made on foot and occasionally included commercial vehicle travel for a fee. Some repondents said some residents left the settlement on motorcycles or bicycles. **Hunger and thirst were described as the main challenges faced during people's journeys. Others mentioned fear of encountering kidnappers and AOGs.** During the interviews, more than half of the respondents shared



personal experiences of separation from children, siblings, parents, close relatives, and other unspecified family members who remained in the H2R settlement. According to these repondents, separation mostly happened during the displacement, as groups of people were reportedly breaking up into smaller groups due to insecurity and fears of being attacked. This finding, considered with the reported presence of unaccompanied minors in most assessed settlements in Madagali (70%), Maiha (68%), and Mubi North (67%) is concerning given the heightened incidence of abductions and poor living conditions. While more than half of IDI respondents reported that most of those displaced intend to stay in their current location, the rest indicated there were some displaced people who intend to return at the start of the planting season to cultivate their farms in the H2R area.

Remaining population

IDI respondents reported that **people remaining in the H2R settlement are mostly the vulnerable, such as women, children, and the older persons.** According to IDI respondents, people who had stayed behind had usually done so out of an inability to move elsewhere due to a lack of relatives outside of the settlement to go to, a lack of finances, or because they were physically unable to undertake displacement journeys. Besides host community members who had never been displaced from the H2R settlement, KIs in 70% and 73% of the assessed settlements reported the presence of displaced people and returnees, respectively, living in the settlement. Most returnees had reportedly returned, temporarily, to either gather harvests or to visit relatives still living in the settlement. **Given the reported priority needs of food, water and medication in H2R settlements, the presence of IDPs in the settlements may stretch already thin resources and deepen humanitarian needs.**

PROTECTION

The security situation in northeast Nigeria remains unstable, with ongoing violent conflict involving AOGs and criminal activities leading to multiple displacements, abductions, loss of life, and damage to property. Findings indicate that, in addition to this situation leading to a reduced quality of life in H2R settlements, the conflict and other negative activities have had a negative impact on food security and livelihood outcomes, and access to essential services and humanitarian aid in the H2R settlements.

AOG activities, including armed attacks, use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and illegal checkpoints on main supply routes were reported across the Northeast, with incidents in Geidam towards the end of April leading to damage of communication infrastructure in Yobe. Kls' perception of safety in the majority of assessed settlements in Yobe was that it was either the same as before (25%) or had gotten better (39%), but

in Geidam, Kls in most assessed settlements (53%), reported their perception of safety in the settlements was that it was worse than before. Additionally, Kls in 49% and 87% of assessed settlements in Geidam reported that, in the month prior to data collection, there had been conflict-related incidents resulting in the death of a civilian, and incidents of looting, respectively. In Adamawa, reports also included heightened activity by organised criminal groups engaging in theft, kidnapping, and violence leading to civilian casualties. This was reflected in the findings, with Kls in 43% of assessed settlements in Ademawa reporting at least one adult man had been abducted form the settlement in the month prior to data collection, and Kls in 58% reporting conflict-related incidents had resulted in the death of a civilian in the same time frame.

According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), women and children continue to suffer the most from protection concerns as a result of the ongoing conflict.¹¹ In line with this, findings suggest that movement restrictions hampered people's ability to engage in their usual livelihood activities or gain access to areas where they may obtain assistance, particularly among women. Kls in 36% and 25% of assessed settlements in Yobe and Adamawa, respectively, reported that women could not freely move outside the settlement. The highest proportion of assessed settlements where Kls reported women were not free to move outside the settlement were found in Geidam (52%), Mubi North (50%) and Yunusari (44%). Women's inability to move freely outside the settlement was most frequently attributed to security concerns. Findings suggest that such movement restrictions, driven by fears of attacks, might also impact women's access to livelihoods or services, such as healthcare facilities and markets (see FSL and health sections).

Figure 2: Most commonly reported protection concerns perceived for women, men, girls, and boys, by % of KIs

Groups/Age	Protection concerns							
Women >18	Looting	26%	Domestic violence	20%	AOG violence	14%		
Girls <18	Early marriage	20%	Sexual violence	16%	Domestic violence	14%		
Men >18	Looting	33%	AOG violence	22%	Domestic violence	10%		
Boys <18	Domestic violence	14%	Looting	11%	AOG violence	10%		

Overall, the variety of threats ranging from direct AOG violence, looting, and theft to kidnapping for ransom, coupled with self-imposed movement restrictions out of fear of these threats, are among the main reported barriers to livelihoods in the assessed areas. According to KIs in 78% and 94% of assessed settlements, in Adamawa and Yobe states



respectively, where people reportedly faced barriers to their usual livelihoods (26% in Adamawa and 59% in Yobe), such barriers were the consequence of conflict and/or insecurity. Additionally, IDI repondents also indicated people were unable to go to their farms because they were scared of being attacked. The consequences of being unable to engage in their usual livelihood activity in a context where there is limited access to food and/or alternative livelihood sources may lead to the adoption of negative coping measures.

"People were scared, as you will be in your farm but you will find someone with his bike and weapon (rifle) in your farm" Male KI from Geidam LGA.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS (FSL)

Food access and barriers

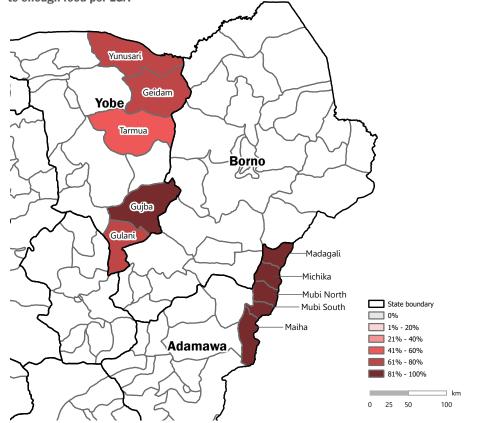
Findings suggest that protection concerns and perceptions of insecurity also negatively impacted food security in the assessed areas. These effects are compounded by limited access to arable farmland due to overcultivation and as a result of insecurity, high cost of inputs such as pesticides and fertilizer, and adverse weather conditions, which may lead to reduced food production capacity in H2R areas. Additionally, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) report for June 2022 indicates that the dry season harvest was substantially below average and lower than in 2021. Altogether, these highlight a situation involving not only reduced food production capabilities but also diminished harvests which may precipitate gaps in meeting food consumption needs.

In the majority of assessed settlements (82%), KIs reported that most people in the settlements were unable to access enough food. KIs in 96% and 69% of assessed settlements in Adamawa and Yobe states, respectively, reported most people could not access to enough food. Perhaps as a consequence of this, in the majority of assessed settlements in Yobe (87%), KIs reported hunger in the H2R settlements was either severe or at its worst, while in slightly less than half of assessed settlements (48%) in Adamawa, KIs reported hunger was either severe or at its worst. In those assessed settlements where KIs reported most people were unable to access sufficient food (82%), the most commonly reported reasons were exhausted harvest stores (18%), smaller harvests because of reduced access to land (16%), and the impact of adverse weather conditions on agriculture and food stores (16%). Other reasons provided include the destruction of harvests as a result of conflict, and movement restrictions imposed by the lack of safe access to farms and other livelihoods.

These difficulties in food access in the assessed H2R areas may be attributed to reported below average harvests during the dry season, which usually sustain people through

the start of the rainy season/planting/lean season until they are able to replenish food stocks in the next harvest period beginning in late September.¹³ However, KIs in only 40% of assessed settlements reported cultivated food was a main source of food for people in the settlement in the month prior to data collection. This proportion was particularly low in Yobe (5%). In June 2022, FEWS NET reported that a near exhaustion of food stocks in the north of Nigeria had increased people's reliance on markets.¹⁴ In line with this, KIs in 79% of assessed settlements in Yobe reported purchased food as a main food source, which may indeed indicate people were resorting to alternative sources of food given the poor dry season harvest, limited food stores, and the nearing onset of the lean season. It appears this reliance on food markets as an alternative source in Yobe state, is facilitated by the relatively higher proportion of assessed settlements (57%), where KIs reported most people had access to markets.

Map 2: Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported most people did not have access to enough food per LGA





In Adamawa state, KIs in assessed settlements (77%) predominantly reported self-cultivation as the main food source for people living in the H2R areas, with KIs in only 10% of assessed settlements reporting people's main source of food was via purchase. According to IDI repondents, especially in Adamawa, most markets closed when the conflict began and have not been reopened. This relatively lower access to markets may lead to relatively more difficulty accessing alternative food sources in the lean season in Adamawa, which could in turn push people towards unsustainable food sources and harmful consumption coping strategies. This appears to be corroborated by KIs in only 19% of assessed settlements in Adamawa reporting people having access to markets in the H2R settlements. The proportions of assessed settlements in Adamawa LGAs where KIs reported access to markets ranged from as low as 4% in Michika to a high of 33% in Mubi North.

Food coping mechanisms

With the reported reliance on subsistence cultivation as the main food source in assessed settlements in Adamawa, against a backdrop of reduced harvests, low access to markets, and access to less farmland than in the previous farming season (reported by KIs in 78% of assessed settlements), it is unsurprising that in a high proportion of assessed settlements there (86%), KIs reported some people in the settlements were eating wild foods that made them sick. These reports also emerged in Yobe state, where, in 84% of assessed settlements, KIs also reported being aware of people eating wild foods that made them sick.

According to IDI repondents, the types of strategies that were most commonly adopted in the H2R settlements when they did not have enough food were limiting portion sizes at meal times, reducing the number of meals taken in a day or not eating for an entire day, feeding only the children, or sending their children to eat with neighbours. The adoption of these coping mechanisms, which are mostly corrosive and unhealthy, are made more stark by FEWSNET analysis which indicated that these assessed LGAs in Adamawa and Yobe are facing crisis level food security outcomes (IPC phase 3), and without immediate humanitarian assistance may progress to emergency (IPC phase 4) levels between June and September 2022 (see IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Descriptions).¹⁵

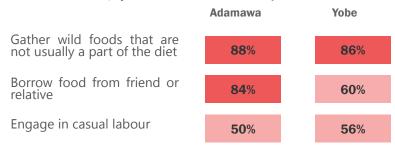
Livelihood activities and barriers

Overall, in nearly half of assessed settlements (43%), most people were reportedly unable to engage in their usual livelihoods, with conflict and/or insecurity being the main reported reason in most of these settlements (84%), followed by a lack of active markets (43%), and health issues (35%).

Subsistence farming and livestock rearing traditionally are the main livelihoods practiced in this region. In line with this, livestock rearing (72%) and subsistence farming (35%) were commonly reported main activities. However, perhaps reflecting the livelihoods

barriers indicated by the findings, casual labour emerged as the most reported main livelihoods activity (79%). Engagement in casual labour could signal that communities are changing their livelihoods activities as a form of adaptation; indeed, KIs in 53% of assessed settlements reported resorting to casual labour among the most common strategies used by people in the settlement to find food. Considering that the atypically high staple food prices observed in this region¹⁶ might outstrip the limited incomes of most people in the H2R area, this coping mechanism may not be sustainable in the long run. IDI repondents also mentioned that some people, where possible, engaged in petty trading or the sale of firewood.

Figure 3: Top 3 most commonly reported coping strategies used by people in the assessed settlements to find food, by % of assessed settlements per state



According to KIs in the assessed settlements, additional strategies (see figure 3) to cope with limited access to usual livelihoods adopted in the settlements included sending children to eat with neighbours (44%), asking non-relatives for food (43%), purchasing food with borrowed money (39%), and consuming, selling, or slaughtering more livestock than usual for this time of the year (19%).

The latter coping mechanism is particularly concerning given livestock rearing is the main reported livelihood activity in most assessed settlements in Maiha (92%), Mubi South (91%), Mubi North (89%), Tarmua (88%) and Geidam (77%), which are also the LGAs with the highest proportions of assessed settlements where consumption of livestock was reported as a coping mechanism. While the above already indicates a resort to unsustainable coping mechanisms by people in H2R areas, the continuation of this trend into the lean season (June-September), may lead to a further erosion of coping mechanisms.

WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Findings indicate that access to improved water and sanitation remained severely limited in the assessed settlements between April and June 2022. In line with the WASH severity classification (WSC), assessments published by the WASH sector and REACH in February





2022 projected people in most BAY states LGAs were likely to face critical (Phase 4) WASH conditions, indicating a high severity of water access needs, poor sanitation, and latrine access.¹⁷

In the majority of assessed settlements (88%), KIs reported that most people faced problems with water collection, which was commonly reported in Tarmua (95%), Yunusari (92%), Mubi North (91%), Michika (90%) and Gujba (90%). The most commonly reported problems faced in those settlements were insufficient quantity of water (72% of all assessed settlements, rising to a high of 88% in Tarmua), long water collection times (64%), and poor water quality (67%). In 69% of assessed settlements, people reportedly relied on unimproved water sources (unprotected wells (51%) + surface water (18%)) as their main source of drinking water. This was reported the most in assessed settlements in Tarmua (94%), Gujba (91%), Gulani (87%), and Yunusari (76%) LGAs in Yobe State. In line with this, water featured among the most reported top three priority needs among IDI participants across all LGAs.

Figure 4: Main type of water source used in the settlement, by % of assessed settlements per state



Further highlighting the impact of general insecurity on free movement and access to basic needs in these areas, KIs in 31% of assessed settlements reported at least one person in the settlement was unable to access their preferred water point because they feared for their safety. According to KIs in assessed settlements, to cope with the lack of or reduced access to a water, people walked long distances (28%), moved away form the settlement (17%), dug a new unprotected well (12%), or used an unpreferred water source (11%). Reports of people being displaced due to lack of water sources were predominantly reported in assessed settlements in Yobe (30%), especially in Tarmua (55%), Gujba (34%) and Gulani (31%) LGAs, which may be an indication of the severity of water access issues in these locations (also see REACH Water Scarcity and Displacement Brief, Yobe State April 2022).

Latrine usage

In more than half (68%) of the assessed settlements, KIs reported no latrines were available in the H2R settlement. Moreover, in nearly all (91%) of those settlements where latrines were reportedly present (68%), KIs estimated that less than half of the population was using the latrines. **Overall, KIs in just 16% of assessed settlements reported that people in the assessed settlements used either some kind of unimproved pit latrine or improved pit toilet as a sanitary facility.**

The most commonly reported sanitary disposal methods in use in the assessed H2R settlements were open defecation (25%) and open pits (22%). The most commonly reported reasons why people were not using latrines were: no access to communal latrines; cultural reasons; and inability to construct latrines due to lack of money. Water scarcity issues combined with the lack of proper sanitary disposal methods may potentially be leading to adverse health outcomes in H2R areas.

Handwashing materials

In addition, a lack of access to sufficient handwashing materials could also contribute to public health threats, such as water-borne diseases. According to KIs, most people wash their hands only with water in the majority of assessed settlements (66%). In only 8% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that most people used soap and water for handwashing, which is concerning given the backdrop of periodic cholera outbreaks in parts of Yobe and Adamawa in the past year.¹⁸

\$ HEALTH

Further compounding the concerning reported lack of adequate sanitary facilities and practices, and the elevated risk of potential disease outbreaks as a result; findings suggest that access to functional healthcare services remains constrained in H2R settlements.

Overall, KIs in most assessed settlements (78%) reported the lack of access to a functional health facility that people could walk to. The highest proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported there was no access to healthcare were in Yunusari (88%), Geidam (85%), Maiha (84%), Gulani (82%), Gujba (81%), and Mubi North (81%) mostly as a result of there never having been a health facility in the settlement (reported in 57% of assessed settlements). Further triangulating this, IDI repondents reported the lack of healthcare facilities (even before the start of the conflict) as the main reason for a lack of access to functional health services within walking distance. Some repondents added that facilities faced a lack of qualified staff or that existing facilities had been damaged as a result of conflict.

According to IDI repondents, people commonly resorted to travelling long distances to attend a healthcare facility or purchase drugs from the garrison town or state capital. Given some of the protection concerns detailed in previous sections, especially on movement restrictions, this option may not be open to many in the H2R settlements considering the associated risk involved in such a trip. To cope with the lack of access to health facilities, IDI repondents reported people adopted coping strategies such as the use of local remedies using traditional herbs or self medicating with drugs obtained from the garrison town. Such strategies had reportedly already been used prior to the conflict, which might indicate a normalisation of such coping behaviour in the H2R settlements.

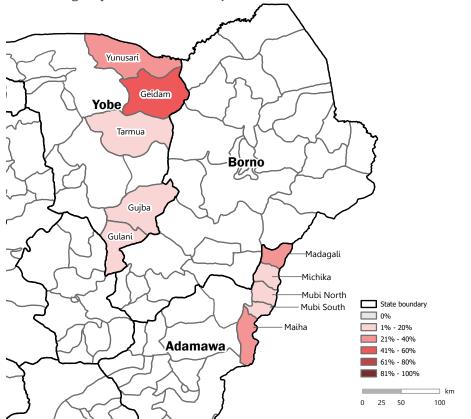




SHELTER

Findings suggest that conflict-related damage and a limited availability and accessibility of building materials continued to drive shelter gaps in the assessed settlements. KIs in the majority of assessed settlements (66%) reported most people in the settlement were living in makeshift structures. The highest proportions of assessed settlements where KIs reported were found in Gujba (92%), Michika (83%), Gulani (79%) and Maiha (73%). According to IDI repondents, some people who had permanent shelters prior to the conflict were now using makeshift structures. These transitions from permanent to makeshift structures were reportedly mainly due to shelter damage and the lack of capacity to repair damaged shelters. The highest proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported there were partially or wholly destroyed shelters as a result of conflict were Geidam (46%) and Madagali (35%) (see map 3).

Map 3: Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported there was at least one shelter that had been damaged by conflict in the month prior to data collection.



Additionally, while KIs in most assessed settlements (59%) reported most community members were living in their original homes, in 23% of assessed settlements, most community members were reportedly living in makeshift shelters away from their original homes but within the boundaries of the settlement. This indicates some level of dislocation even within the settlement and the possible deterioration of original homes beyond liveable conditions. **Despite the potential risks of property loss, vulnerability to attack and adverse weather conditions, IDI respondents reported the presence of people (mostly unaccompanied minors and IDPs) who were sleeping outside without shelters in settlements assessed in Madagali, Mubi North, Tarmua, Gulani, and Michika.** Reported reasons for people in H2R settlements sleeping out in the open include a lack of materials to construct/reconstruct damaged shelters; a lack of funds; and the recurrent necessity to migrate due to changing conditions.

EDUCATION

In 32% of all assessed settlements, KIs reported there was no access to educational services within walking distance. Settlements with no access to educational services within walking distance were reported by KIs in a relatively higher proportion of assessed settlements in Maiha (52%), Tarmua (52%), and Mubi North (47%).

While informal education was the most reported type of service available, findings suggest there are regional differences in access to education. In Adamawa, access to formal education services (using approved government curricula) was reported in 52% of assessed settlements, while in Yobe, access to formal services was only reported in 3% of assessed settlements (see figure 5). As seen in other sectors throughout this situation overview, limited access to formal education in this region appears to be at least partly driven by conflict and insecurity; Formal schools have reportedly often been targeted by AOG attacks, which reportedly led to school closures, leaving an estimated 1.9 million children without access to formal education across the BAY states.¹⁹

Figure 5: Types of education service available, by % of assessed settlements where education was reportedly accessible in Adamawa (n=290) and Yobe (n=309)





While the general barriers to education are tied to the effects of the conflict and safety concerns, **KIs in assessed settlements reported specific barriers to accessing education as including the lack of facilities prior to the conflict (69%) and teachers being displaced or quitting (11%).** According to IDI respondents, attendance rates across genders were similar and there were no gender-specific barriers to education in those settlements where there was access to an educational facility.

COMMUNICATION

While findings indicate that some people in H2R areas are able to access functioning modern communication equipment such as radios and phones, these do not appear widespread, and a seeming reliance on in-person communication as the main information source for people in H2R areas lends credence to the limits of radios and phones as information mediums there. Kls in most assessed settlements (80%) reported there was radio signal in the settlement. In 91% of assessed settlements where presence of at least one functional radio had been reported (93%), Kls reported that people could use the radio(s). However, regional differences exist; radio signal was reportedly not available in 58% of settlements assessed in Gujba, and 48% in Gulani. Cell phone signal was reportedly available in 60% of assessed settlements. In 74% of those settlements where at least one person reportedly owned a cell phone (75%), Kls reported people were able to use phones. The highest proportions of assessed settlements where Kls reported there was no cell phone signal in the settlement were in Tarmua (87%) and Giedam (83%) LGAs in Yobe state.

Figure 6: Top 5 LGAs with the highest proportions of assessed settlements where KIs reported people faced barriers to assessing information they needed on humanitarian assistance.



Access to information in some assessed settlements could suggest a stable means of communication between those who left and the people still remaining in the H2R settlement. This may suggest that information intended for people still remaining in the H2R settlements may sometimes reach them easily. However, despite some level of reported access to information mediums, KIs in less than half of all assessed settlements (43%) reported that people in the H2R settlement had difficulty accessing the information they needed on humanitarian assistance. This may perhaps suggest an actual dearth of

such information or their inability to access sources that may have said information. In most assessed settlements (65%), KIs reported most people obtained their information through in-person communication either with friends/family (37%) or local leaders (26%). This is not surprising given in majority of the assessed settlements, KIs reported the source of information people trusted most was face-to-face communication (75%), compared to just 10% of assessed settlements where radio was reportedly the most trusted source.

According to IDI repondents, people who have been displaced from the H2R settlements mostly obtain information on conditions in the H2R settlements through interactions with newly displaced persons and/or through interactions with residents during short visits to the H2R settlement. Through this, some IDPs were reportedly able to receive information on conditions in the H2R which may influence their future movement decisions.

CONCLUSION

Overall, the findings in this situation overview suggest that the continued conflict and general insecurity, poor harvests, atypically high staple food prices compared to average seasonal prices in previous years, adverse weather conditions, and the historically limited availability of basic service infrastructure in H2R areas have contributed to negative living conditions, including limited access to food and livelihoods, improved water and sanitary facilities, healthcare, and education. Consequently, findings indicate many affected communities may have become reliant on unsustainable, insufficient and sometimes corrosive strategies to cope with this lack of access. Considering the already limited access to dry harvested food stores observed during this quarter, findings hint that access to food will further reduce in the June-Septemeber period (which covers the lean season when people in the BAY states are most reliant on food stores).

Additionally, movement restrictions because of the conflict and individual perceptions of insecurity, and the seeming dearth of information on humanitarian assistance in H2R areas, may have contributed to some people's inability to find viable/sustainable coping mechanisms or obtain humanitarian assistance. Damage to shelters, often as a result of previous conflict, has further led to many people living in makeshift shelters or out in the open, leaving them vulnerable to threats to their health and well-being. With reference to the findings in this brief, continued monitoring of these areas is essential to provide information needed to inform the humanitarian response.



Endnotes

- ¹ REACH hard-to-reach reports
- ² UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Nigeria: 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview
- ³ Unless otherwise stated, the recall period is one month.
- ⁴ IOM Nigeria DTM Emergency Tracking Tool (ETT) Report: No. 281 | 20 26 June 2022
- ⁵ UNHCR Northeast Nigeria Operational Update, June 2022.
- 6 Ibid
- 7 Ibid
- ⁸ UNHCR Northeast Nigeria Operational Update, May 2022.
- ⁹ UNHCR Northeast Nigeria Operational Update, April 2022.
- 10 Ibid
- ¹¹ UNHCR Northeast Nigeria Operational Update, May 2022.
- 12 FEWSNET Food Security Outlook, June 2022
- 13 Ibid
- 14 Ibid
- 15 Ibid
- ¹⁶ Cadre Harmonisè Task Force on Inaccessible Areas, Humanitarian Situation Update- May, 2022 Bulletin
- ¹⁷ WASH Severity Classification (WSC): Overview WSC Light Northeast Nigeria, February 2022.
- ¹⁸ 2021 Cholera Outbreak Situation Report No 33, February 2022
- ¹⁹ Nigeria Education in Emergencies Working Group Newsletter, Issue 5, January-June 2022.

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.

