Assessment of hard-to-reach areas: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) and Health
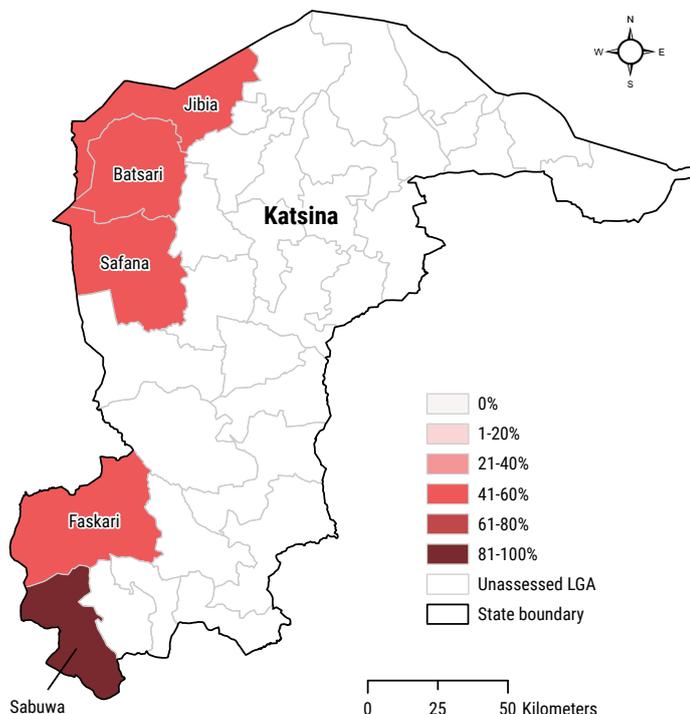
October - December 2022
Katsina State, Northwest Nigeria

KEY FINDINGS

- In over half (60%) of assessed settlements, the main reported source of drinking water was an unimproved source not protected from outside contamination.
- In about one-third (31%) of assessed settlements, most people reportedly use only water to wash their hands.
- In 38% of assessed settlements, KIs reported people did not have access to any health facilities within an hour from their settlement.

CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

Over the last decade, Northwest Nigeria has experienced deadly inter-communal violence and organised crime, often referred to as banditry, as well as high levels of poverty and environmental degradation.[1] To address information gaps facing the humanitarian response and inform humanitarian actors on needs and access to services in inaccessible or hard-to-reach areas, REACH conducted a pilot assessment in hard-to-reach areas in Katsina State.

Using the Area of Knowledge (AoK) methodology, REACH collected data from 11 October to 11 December 2022. Results presented in this factsheet, unless otherwise specified, represent the proportion of settlements assessed within a Local Government Area (LGA). A total of 542 settlements were assessed across Batsari, Faskari, Jibia, Sabuwa, and Safana LGAs. **The findings presented are indicative of broad trends in the assessed settlements in the three months prior to data collection, which took place between October and December 2022, and are not statistically generalisable**. Find more methodological information on the last page of this factsheet.
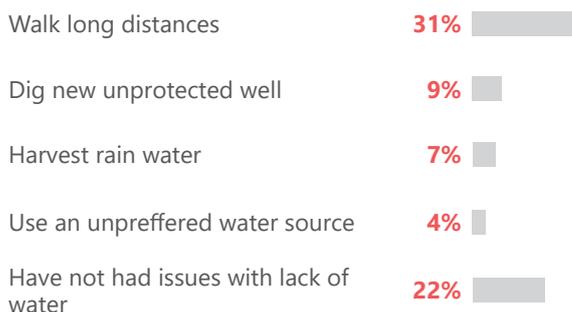
WATER

% of assessed settlements in which the reported main source of drinking water for people in the settlement was unimproved:

Legend:
- 0%
- 1-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%
- Unassessed LGA
- State boundary

0   25   50 Kilometers

Main sources of drinking water for people in the settlement in the three months prior to data collection, by % of assessed settlements:

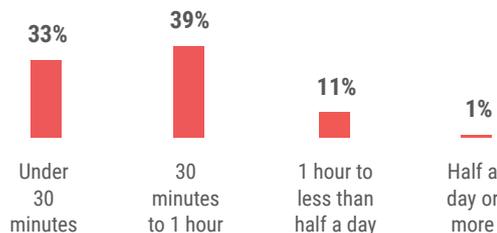|	
Unimproved	60%
Improved	25%
No consensus (NC)	15%

Unimproved water sources are not protected from outside contamination, including unprotected wells and surface water. In 17% of assessed settlements, surface water was reportedly the main drinking water source.

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

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Reported main coping strategies used by community members when there was not enough water in the settlement, by % of assessed settlements:
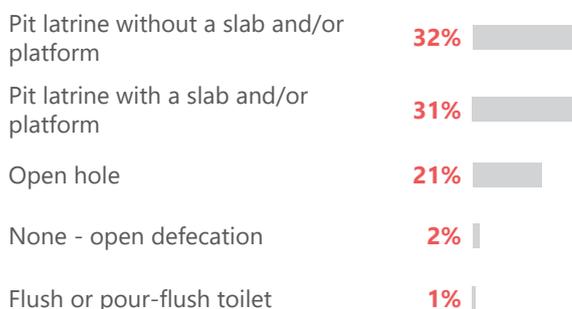
Walk long distances	**31%**
Dig new unpreffered well	**9%**
Harvest rain water	**7%**
Use an unpreffered water source	**4%**
Have not had issues with lack of water	**22%**

Reported time it took for most people to reach, access, and return from the main drinking water source, by % of assessed settlements:
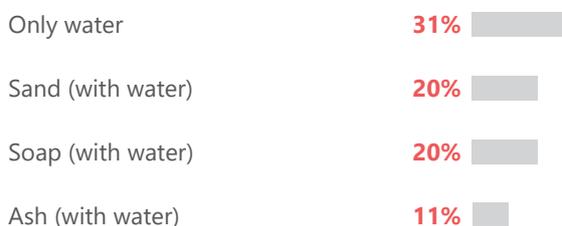
Under 30 minutes	30 minutes to 1 hour	1 hour to less than half a day	Half a day or more
33%	**39%**	**11%**	**1%**

SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Reported main sanitation facility used in the settlement, by % of assessed settlements:

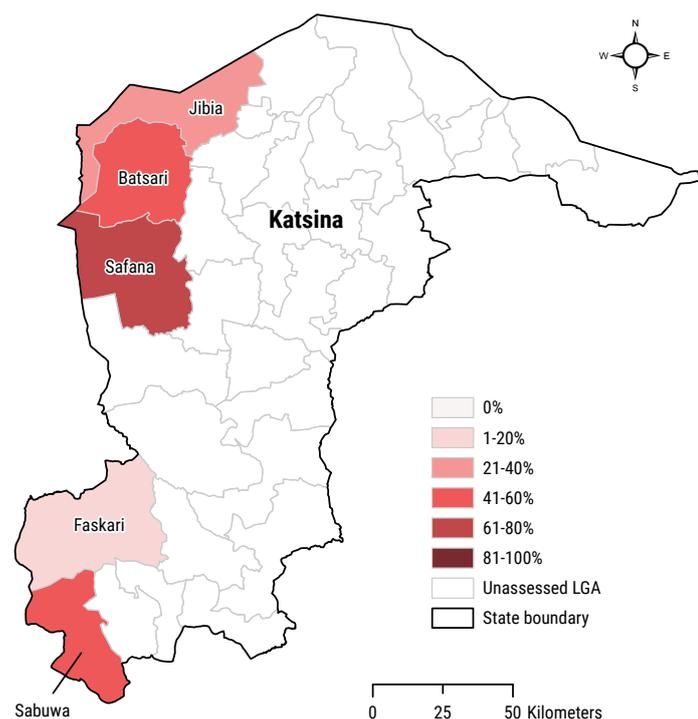|	
Pit latrine without a slab and/or platform	**32%**
Pit latrine with a slab and/or platform	**31%**
Open hole	**21%**
None - open defecation	**2%**
Flush or pour-flush toilet	**1%**

Reported main hand-washing materials used in the settlement, by % of assessed settlements:

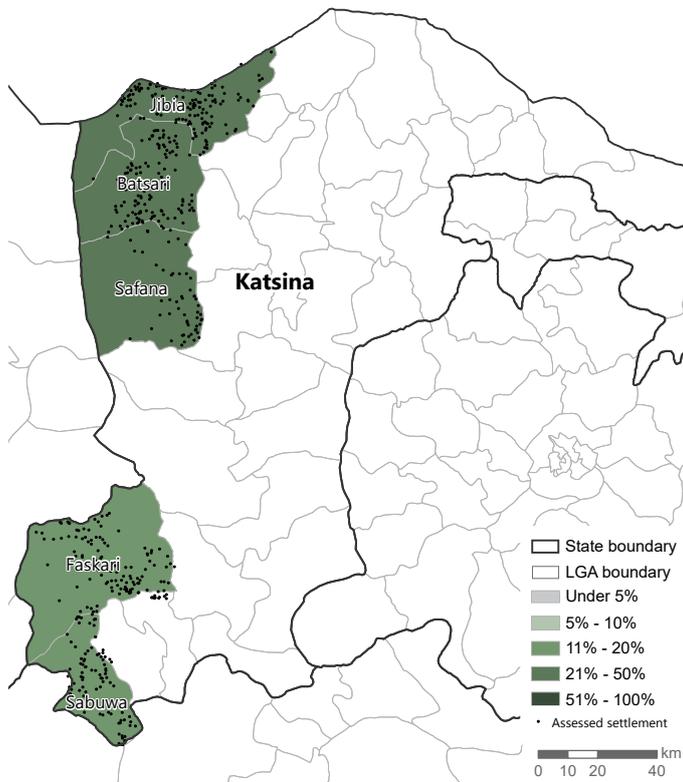|	
Only water	**31%**
Sand (with water)	**20%**
Soap (with water)	**20%**
Ash (with water)	**11%**

HEALTH

% of assessed settlements in which most people did not have access to a functional health facility within one hour by walking or by most common mode of transport:

Legend:
- 0%
- 1-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%
- Unassessed LGA
- State boundary

In **38%** of assessed settlements, KIs reported that people were not able to access any health facilities (within one hour by walking or by most common mode of transport).

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METHODOLOGY AND COVERAGE

**Proportion of assessed settlements,²
October - December 2022**

State	LGA	# of assessed settlements
Katsina	Batsari	134
	Faskari	113
	Jibia	122
	Sabuwa	125
	Safana	48

Number of key informant interviews: 1730
Number of assessed settlements: 542
Number of assessed LGAs: 5
Number of assessed LGAs with sufficient coverage: 5

Using the Area of Knowledge (AoK) methodology, REACH remotely monitors the situation in hard-to-reach areas through monthly multi-sector interviews in accessible 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 three months or (2) KIs who have had contact with someone living or having been in a hard-to-reach settlement in the last three months (traders, migrants, family members, etc.). Due to precautions related to accessibility and insecurity in some LGAs, data was also collected remotely through phone interviews with assistance from local stakeholders.

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. If not stated otherwise, the recall period for each question is set to three months prior to the date of data collection. **The findings presented are indicative of broad trends in the assessed settlements in the three months prior to data collection, which took place between October 11 and December 11 2022, and are not statistically generalisable**. Note that the standard recall time of three months might have limited the accuracy of KIs' answers.

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

2. National Population Estimates v1.2 on grid3.gov.ng/datasets has been used as the reference for settlement names and locations.

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