

Joint Cash Feasibility Assessment

Chibok, Chibok LGA, Borno State, February 2018



REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

INTRODUCTION

This situation overview presents findings from the Joint Cash Feasibility Assessment, aimed at identifying the most appropriate assistance modality in towns across Northeast Nigeria for food, hygiene non-food items (NFIs), household NFIs, firewood or fuel, and shelter repair materials.¹ The assessment was coordinated by the Cash Working Group (CWG) with support from REACH, and data was collected by 13 CWG member organisations from 1-16 February. In Chibok, data was collected by Oxfam.

For Chibok, 202 household interviews were conducted (98 with IDPs and 104 with non-IDP populations), along with 12 Bulama (traditional community leader) interviews and 4 consumer focus group discussions (FGDs). In addition, 10 interviews and 1 FGD were conducted with vendors selling the assessed items in Chibok.

Findings from household interviews have a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of 9% when aggregated to the level of the overall town population. When aggregating the data, surveys from each

population group (IDPs and non-IDPs) were weighted based on estimated population size and number of surveys per group, in order to ensure responses were not skewed towards any particular group. Household data focused on household assistance modality preferences and access to items, cash, and markets.

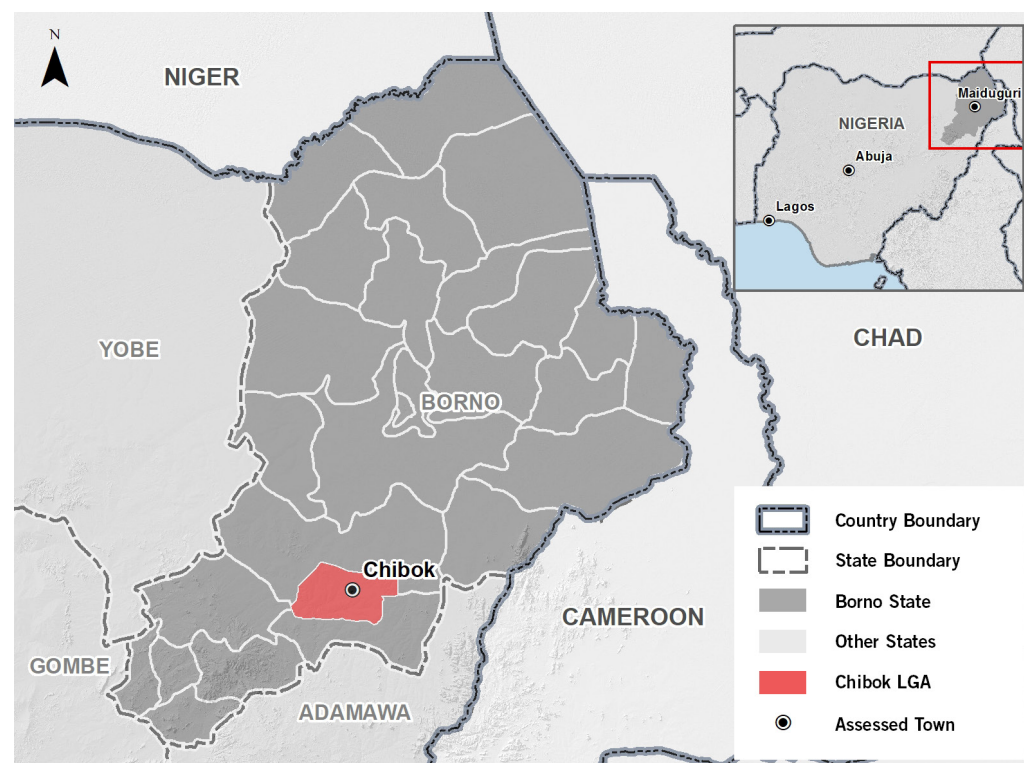
Vendor interviews focused on vendor capacity to respond to an increase in demand for assessed items, sources of supply, and barriers to conducting business. Findings based on data from individual vendor interviews and FGDs with both households and vendors are indicative rather than generalisable.

Key findings and recommendations for Chibok are provided below. These recommendations were developed by CWG members during a joint analysis workshop. In addition, more general findings and recommendations applying to all assessed areas can be found in the [overview document](#) for this assessment.

KEY FINDINGS

- The majority of households reported having no preference between in-kind and cash-based aid. Of those reporting a preference, cash-based aid was slightly preferred for hygiene NFIs, firewood, and shelter repair materials, while in-kind was preferred for household NFIs and food. The main reasons for preferring cash were freedom of choice and the ability to add to savings, while in-kind was usually preferred due to concerns about quality at markets and the cost of transportation to reach markets.
- The current market site in Chibok had reportedly been established only recently, and was still in the process of development and expansion. Households reported that, because the market was so new, some items, particularly certain types of non-food items, had not yet become available. The vast majority of households reported relying on the market in Chibok as their main source of items, suggesting that they likely forewent items when they were not available in the market.
- Vendors generally restocked from Maiduguri, either travelling there directly or buying goods from intermediary wholesalers in nearby towns such as Biu, Askira, and Uba. Vendors usually hired trucks or cars and accompanied them to collect goods from suppliers. The main reported challenges to transporting goods into Chibok were attacks by armed groups along roads into the town, vehicle breakdown, and hired transporters not arriving on time.
- Households generally stated that their only source of credit was borrowing from family and friends, with credit from vendors rarely reported and no other credit sources mentioned. Most vendors were reportedly able to buy on credit from suppliers, although they could only do so in small amounts. No other financial services were available to vendors. Household FGD participants believed that mobile money transfers may be feasible in Chibok as there was generally a high rate of mobile phone possession and cellular network coverage.
- Some households reported concerns about security at markets, and many stated that the market was too far and that transportation was needed in order to access it.

Map 1: Location of Chibok in Borno State



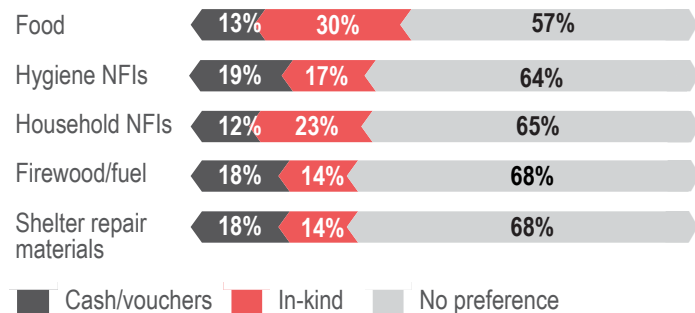
¹Hygiene NFIs include items such as soap and laundry powder. Household NFIs include items such as bedding materials, mosquito nets, and cooking utensils. Shelter repair materials include items such as plastic sheeting, nails/screws, and wooden poles.

RECOMMENDATIONS²

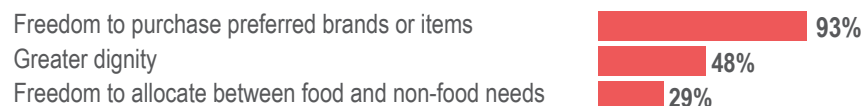
- Findings suggest that, a gradual transition towards cash-based assistance in the near future may be feasible, although an immediate expansion of cash-based aid in Chibok would likely face major barriers. These barriers mostly stem from the newness of the market, with households reporting that some items are only gradually becoming available as the market develops, and vendors still seeking more secure and reliable transportation options for bringing goods into Chibok.
- Actors seeking to facilitate a transition towards cash could assist in the development and strengthening of this new market site, including support for infrastructure and market system development, access to financial services, and commercial transportation of goods. Restricted cash-based modalities with support for verified vendors, or a mixed modality approach, could also be useful intermediate steps in preparing the market for wider cash-based interventions.
- Given that some vendors reported security concerns in the transportation of goods, it would be worthwhile for humanitarian actors to monitor the security situation prior to and during the implementation of programmes, with contingency planning for situations in which security challenges disrupt the ability to provide the chosen modality of assistance.

HOUSEHOLD ASSISTANCE MODALITY PREFERENCES*

Reported preference of cash/vouchers or in-kind aid:



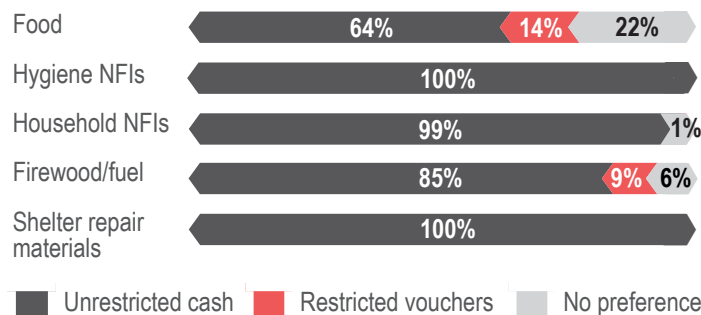
Of those preferring cash/vouchers, top reported reasons:



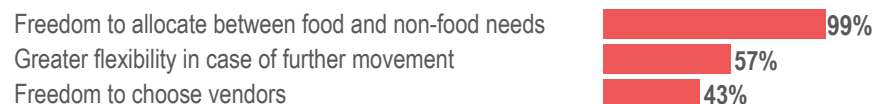
Of those preferring in-kind aid, top reported reasons:



Of those preferring cash/vouchers, reported preferences between unrestricted cash and restricted vouchers:



Of those preferring unrestricted cash over restricted vouchers, top reported reasons:



Of those preferring restricted vouchers over unrestricted cash, top reported reasons:



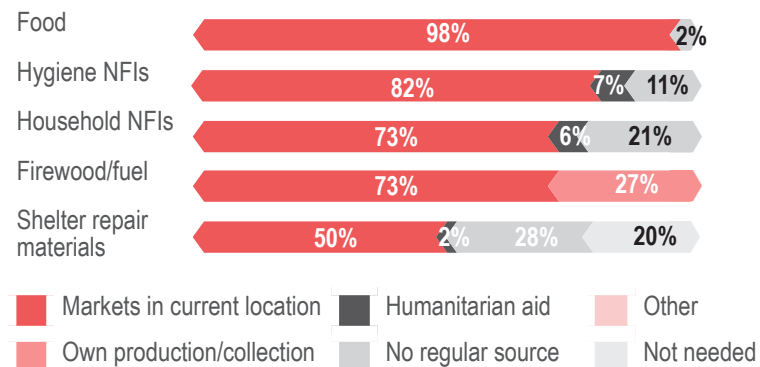
Overall, about two-thirds of households showed no preference for cash-based or in-kind aid. FGD participants' responses were somewhat mixed, though a majority preferred cash or vouchers over in-kind aid for food items and firewood/fuel. All FGD participants expressed a preference for in-kind assistance over cash-based aid for shelter-repair items. High transportation costs was the most commonly cited reason behind preferences for in-kind aid over cash or vouchers. The ability to boost the local economy and grow their personal savings were the most commonly cited reasons behind preferences for cash or vouchers over in-kind aid.

² Recommendations were developed jointly by CWG member organisations at a Joint Analysis Workshop. In addition to the location-specific recommendations listed below, more general recommendations for assessed areas can be found in the overview document for this assessment.

*All data shown in the graphs in this section comes from household interviews.

HOUSEHOLD ACCESS TO ITEMS*

Primary method of accessing items:



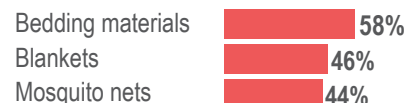
Most needed food items:



Most needed hygiene NFIs:



Most needed household NFIs:

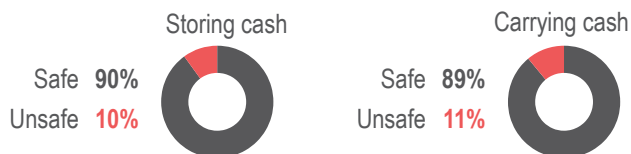


Most needed shelter repair materials:

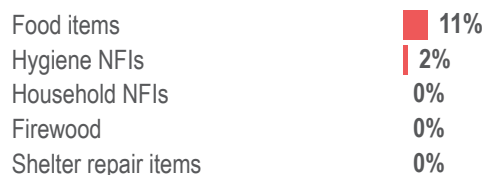


HOUSEHOLD ACCESS TO CASH AND CREDIT*

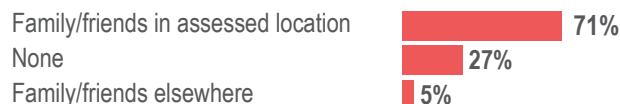
Reported perception of safety of storing or carrying cash:



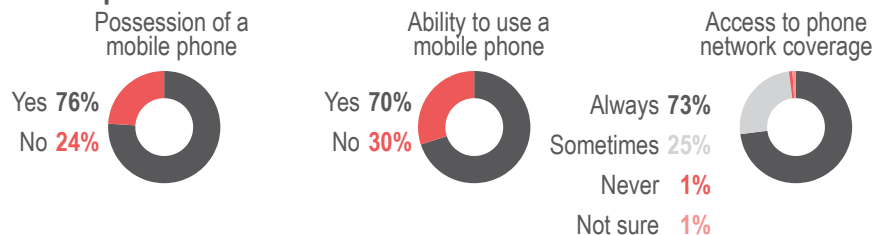
Percentage of households able to buy items on credit:



Reported household sources of credit other than vendors:



Mobile phones:



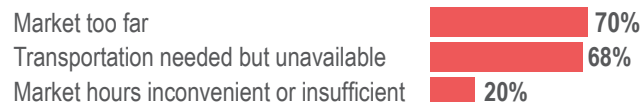
As in household interviews, FGD participants reported not having access to cash or credit other than from relatives. The majority of both interviewed households and FGD participants reported a good level of access to mobile phones and mobile network coverage. Some participants said that mobile money transfers would be very effective as they have good network coverage from several providers.

HOUSEHOLD ACCESS TO MARKETS*

Reported security risks at markets:



Reported non-security barriers to accessing items at markets:



Although household interviewees reported fears of attacks, FGD participants mentioned not facing any security risks of any kind, suggesting that the reported risks reflected general fears about the security situation rather than daily impediments to market access. However, as with household interviewees, many FGD participants noted that the distance to markets and the unavailability and cost of transportation needed to cover that distance were challenges to market access.

Items most commonly reported by households as unavailable:



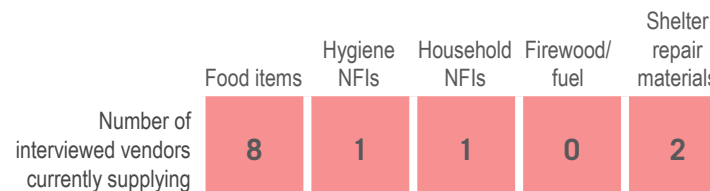
Items that households most commonly report being able to afford:



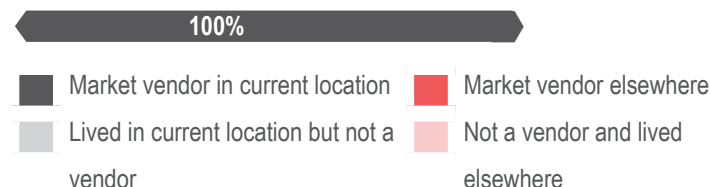
FGD participants stated that prices tended to increase during the rainy period between July and November before harvest season. In both household interviews and FGDs food items were most commonly reported to be affordable, while household NFIs and shelter repair items were less affordable.

VENDORS AND MARKETS: OVERVIEW**

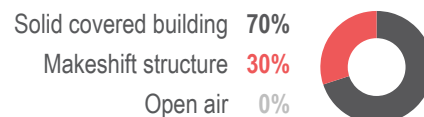
Household and vendor FGD participants reported that the current market in Chibok had only been newly established, with some items not yet available in the market. However, many believed that the market would further grow and develop in the coming months. Participants stated that vendors paid rent for any space in buildings that they rented and those selling in open air spaces paid a small monthly fee to local authorities.



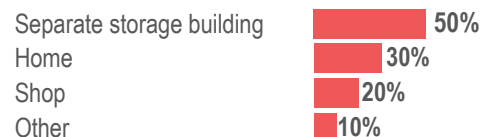
Pre-conflict location and occupation of current vendors:



Observed type of shop or stall in the markets:

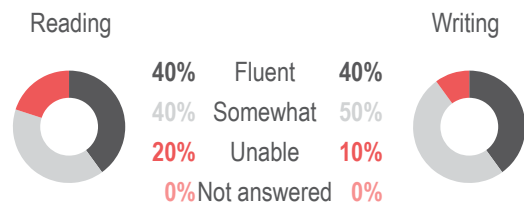


With 15 m² of storage area on average, the reported main location of storage space:



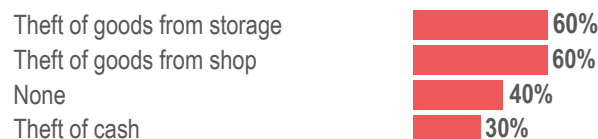
**All data shown in the graphs in this section comes from individual vendor interviews.

Reported vendor literacy rates:

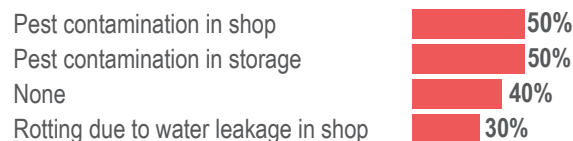


CHALLENGES TO OPERATING IN THE MARKET**

Reported security challenges to conducting business:

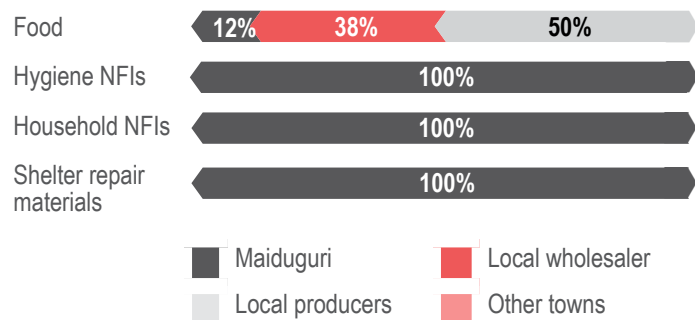


Reported non-security challenges to conducting business:



SUPPLY AND TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS TO VENDORS**

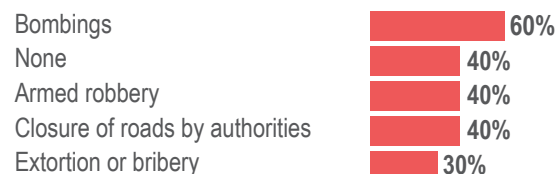
Main supply sources for vendors:



Methods of transportation of goods from suppliers to vendors:



Challenges in the transportation of goods from suppliers to vendors:



Of vendors selling each assessed item category, most commonly reported shortages in the past month:



For vendors reporting shortages, most common reasons:



Reported restocking frequency:

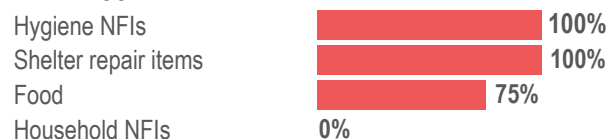


Vendor FGD participants reported that they generally restocked from Maiduguri or from traders in nearby towns such as Biu, Askira, and Uba, who were also supplied mostly from Maiduguri. Some also stated that they relied on local producers for agricultural food items and firewood. Goods were said to be generally transported to Chibok by hired trucks.

The main reported challenges to transporting goods into Chibok were attacks by armed groups along roads into the town, vehicle breakdown, and hired transporters not arriving on time. Some vendors mentioned that vehicles had been hijacked or robbed by armed groups along the roads in the past.

VENDOR ACCESS TO CREDIT AND INFORMAL MARKET SYSTEMS**

Of the vendors selling each type of item, percentage of able to buy each on credit from suppliers:



Percentage of vendors reporting that they sell on credit to customers:

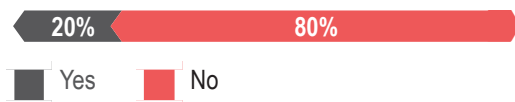


Most vendor FGD participants mentioned that their suppliers sold to them on credit, albeit at small amounts, and reported no other sources of credit.

Participants also reported that there is a traders' association for vendors in the market, working on members' rights and financially contributing to the wedding costs of members getting married. The traders' association also reportedly helped resolve commercial disputes between members, imposing fines or suspending those who committed offences.

VENDOR ABILITY TO INCREASE SUPPLY OF ASSESSED ITEMS**

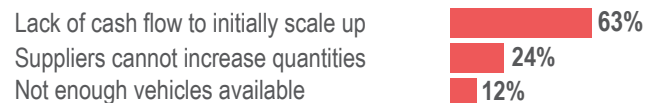
Percentage of vendors reportedly able to permanently double supply of items:



For vendors able to permanently double supply, reported ways in which they would do so:



For vendors unable to permanently double supply, reported barriers to doing so:



In general, vendors cited the lack of capital for the initial scale-up as the main barrier to increasing supply during FGDs, with the transportation costs reported to be the main challenge. Some vendors said they would try to increase supplies by looking for additional transporters.