Assessment of hard-to-reach areas: Communication and information

October - December 2022
Adamawa and Yobe States, Northeast Nigeria

KEY FINDINGS

- Findings indicate that access to information on radios is generally high, particularly in assessed settlements in Adamawa.
- Cell phones can be used by community members in over two-thirds (74%) of assessed settlements in Adamawa, compared to only one-third (36%) of assessed settlements in Yobe, according to key informants (KIs).
- A lack of mobile networks was cited by KIs as the primary impediment to accessing information on available humanitarian assistance in 62% of assessed settlements.
- In-person communication was reportedly the most trusted means of receiving information by most people in 73% of assessed settlements.

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.

RADIO

% of assessed settlements where it was reported that at least one community member could listen to the radio in the month prior to data collection:


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

0 25 50   100 Kilometers

By % of assessed settlements, in the month prior to data collection, could any community members listen to the radio?

Assessed settlements in Adamawa
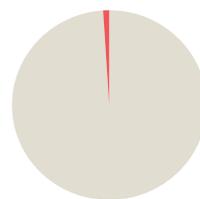
| Yes | 99% |
| No | 1% |

Assessed settlements in Yobe
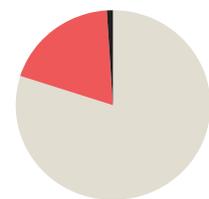
Yes	80%
No	19%
NC*	1%

* No-consensus

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

CELL PHONES

% of assessed settlements where it was reported that at least one community member could use cell phones in the month prior to data collection:
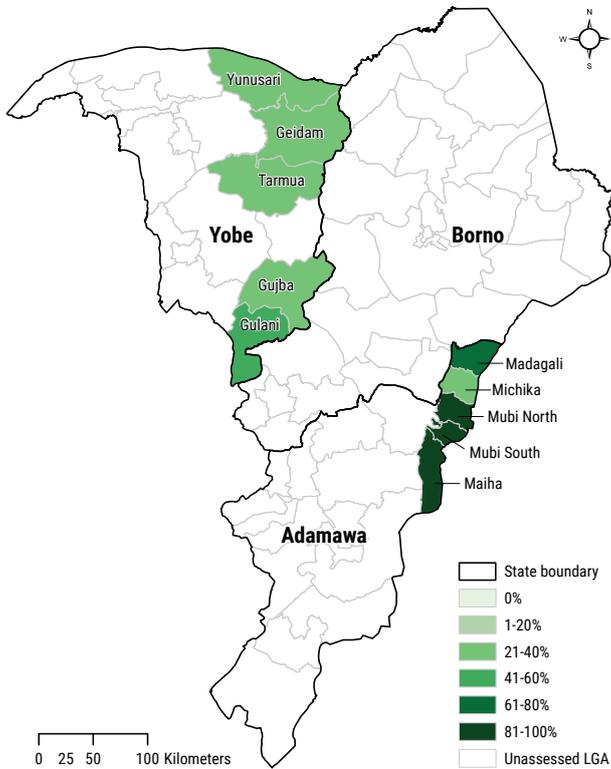
Legend:
- State boundary
- 0%
- 1-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%
- Unassessed LGA

0 25 50 100 Kilometers

By % of assessed settlements, in the month prior to data collection, could any community members use cell phones?

Assessed settlements in Adamawa
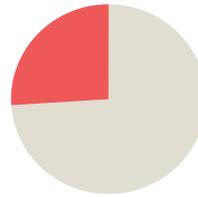
| Yes | 74% |
| No | 26% |

Assessed settlements in Yobe
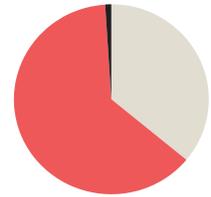
Yes	36%
No	63%
NC	1%

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

By % of assessed settlements, in the month prior to data collection, did most people have difficulty accessing information they needed regarding available humanitarian assistance?

Assessed settlements in Adamawa
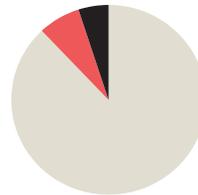
Yes	7%
No	88%
NC	5%

Assessed settlements in Yobe
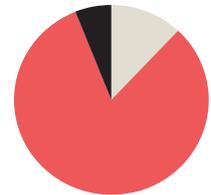
| Yes | 82% |
| No | 12% |
| NC | 6% |

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Most commonly reported main sources of information for most people, by % of assessed settlements:

In-person conversation	**53%**
Radio	**18%**
Conversations during commercial transport (e.g.,taxi, keke napep)	**11%**
Phone conversation	**5%**
None (don't receive any information)	**2%**

In almost half (45%) of assessed settlements, most people reportedly received information from friends or family, followed closely by community or religious leaders or chiefs (44%).

In person / face-to-face communication was reportedly the most trusted means of receiving information by most people in 73% of assessed settlements, according to KIs.

Most commonly reported main reasons people could not access information on available humanitarian assistance, by % of assessed settlements:

| Lack of mobile networks | **62%** |
Lack of electricity	**10%**
Lack of radio signal or radio broken	**8%**
The security situation does not allow information to come through	**5%**
People do not have credit on their phones	**3%**
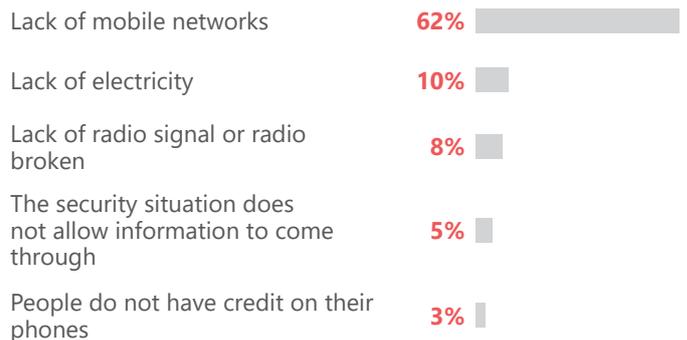
METHODOLOGY AND COVERAGE

Proportion of assessed settlements[2],
October - December 2022
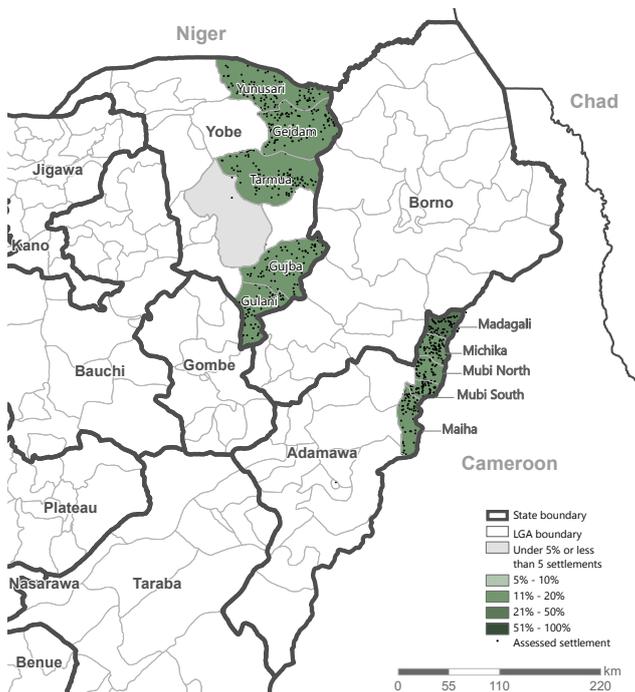
State	LGA	# of assessed settlements
Adamawa	Madagali	74
	Maiha	73
	Michika	103
	Mubi North	53
	Mubi South	75
Yobe	Geidam	107
	Gujba	82
	Gulani	75
	Tarmua	102
	Yunusari	101

Number of key informant interviews: 1339
Number of assessed settlements: 845
Number of assessed LGAs: 11
Number of assessed LGAs with sufficient coverage: 10

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**.[3] 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.

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.