Assessment of hard-to-reach areas: Food security and livelihoods

October - December 2022
Katsina State, Northwest Nigeria

KEY FINDINGS

- In 74% of assessed settlements, people had reportedly not received any humanitarian or government assistance in the previous three months.
- In a majority of assessed settlements, most people were reportedly not able to access enough food (82%) or nutrition services (73%), and some people resorted to eating wild plants that are usually not part of their diet as a main meal (85%).
- In over two-thirds (72%) of assessed settlements, most people were reportedly unable to engage in their usual livelihood activities, primarily due to conflict and insecurity, according to key informants (KIs)
- In two-thirds (66%) of assessed settlements, subsistence farming, in which nearly all of the crops or livestock are used to cover the needs of the farmer and their family, leaving little or no surplus for sale or trade, was reportedly the primary livelihood activity practised.

ACCESS TO FOOD

% of assessed settlements where it was reported that most people **did not** have access to enough food in the three months prior to data collection:
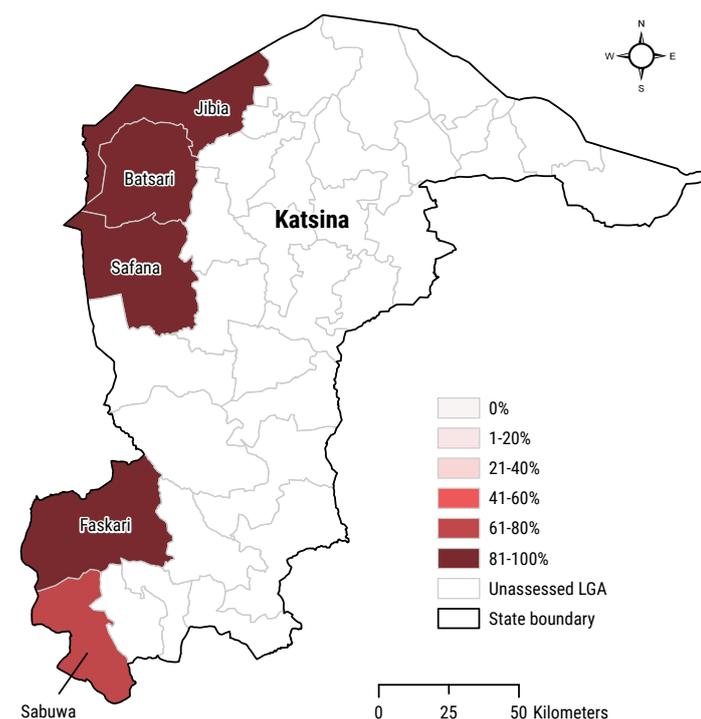
CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

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.

In the three months prior to data collection, were most people able to access enough food in the settlement? (by % of assessed settlements)

Yes		11%
No		82%
No consensus		7%
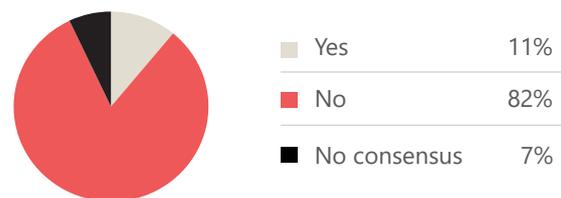
Did any people receive humanitarian or government assistance in the settlement in the last 3 months? (by % of assessed settlements)

Yes		24%
No		74%
No consensus		2%
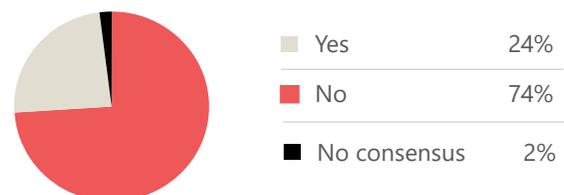
1. REACH, "Northwest Nigeria: 2022 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment," January 2023

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Reported main reasons people could not access enough food, by % of assessed settlements where people were reportedly unable to do so (82%):

Small harvest because of small size of land	**29%**
Crops destroyed/stolen as a result of conflict	**20%**
Did not farm, so do not have any crops	**11%**
Unsafe or restricted access to land	**10%**
Harvested crops are finished	**6%**
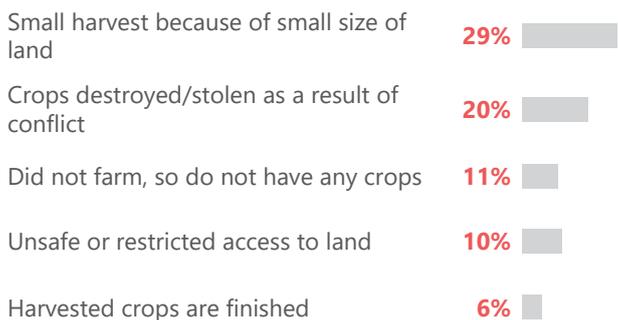
Reported main sources of food in the settlement in the three months prior to data collection, by % of assessed settlements:

Own production (cultivated)	**40%**
Foraged for wild foods	**36%**
Given food by family, friends, or other local people	**5%**
Bought with cash	**3%**
Exchange goods and services for food	**2%**
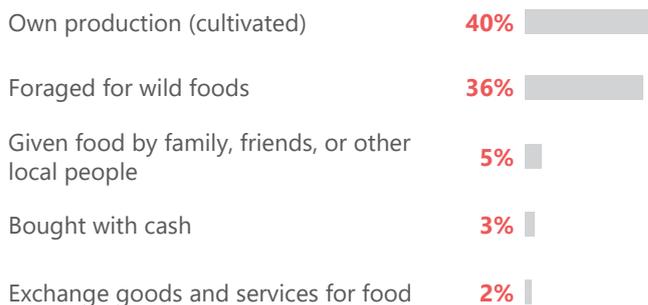
% of assessed settlements where it was reported that people ate wild foods that are not part of their usual diet as a main meal in the three months prior to data collection:

Katsina

Jibia
Batsari
Safana
Faskari
Sabuwa

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

0   25   50 Kilometers
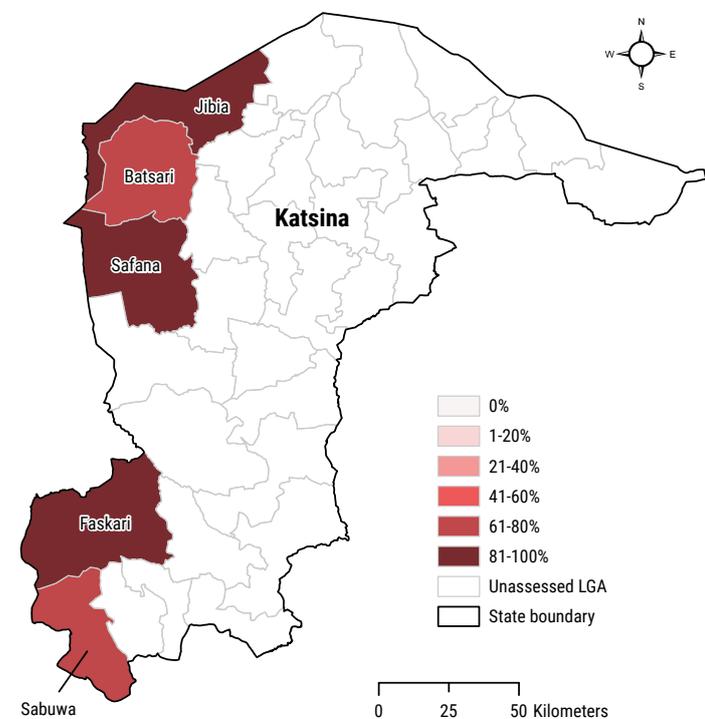
In the three months prior to data collection, did people eat wild plants that are not usually a part of their diet as a main meal? (by % of assessed settlements)

|		
■	Yes	85%
■	No	9%
■	No consensus	6%
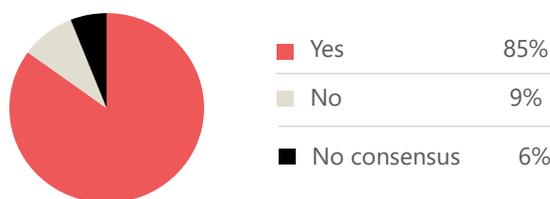
In 74% of assessed settlements where people reportedly ate wild plants that are not usually part of their diet as a main meal (85%), people had reportedly consumed wild foods that had made them sick.

Reported main strategies practised by any community members to cope with lack of food, by % of assessed settlements:

Reduce number of meals eaten in a day	**54%**
Limit portion sizes at meal times	**48%**
Adults do not eat so children can eat	**48%**
Rely on less preferred and less expensive food	**17%**
Skip entire days without eating	**3%**

Estimated number of meals most people ate per day, by % of assessed settlements:

Go a day without eating	One meal	Two meals	Three meals
1%	8%	75%	6%

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ACCESS TO NUTRITION SERVICES

% of assessed settlements where it was reported that there were **no** nutrition services available in less than two hours by walking:
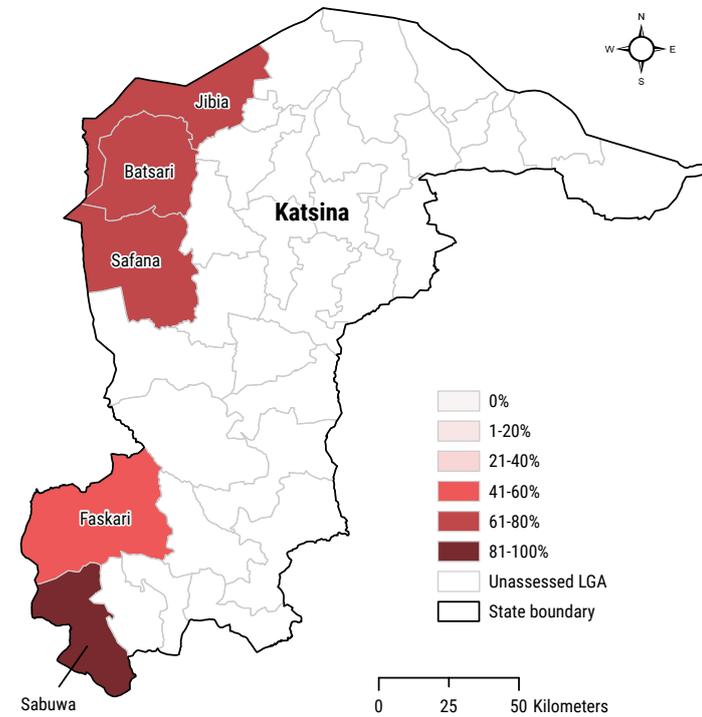
In the three months prior to data collection, were there any nutrition services available within a two hour walk for people in the settlement? (by % of assessed settlements)

	Yes	19%
	No	73%
	No consensus	8%

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

0 25 50 Kilometers
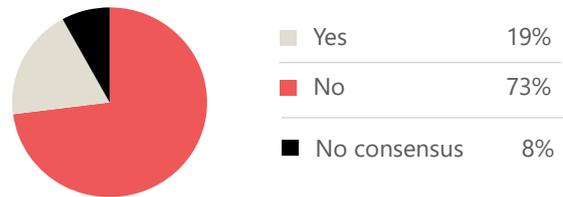
ACCESS TO MARKETS

% of assessed settlements where it was reported that there were functional markets reachable in less than two hours by walking or by most common mode of transport:
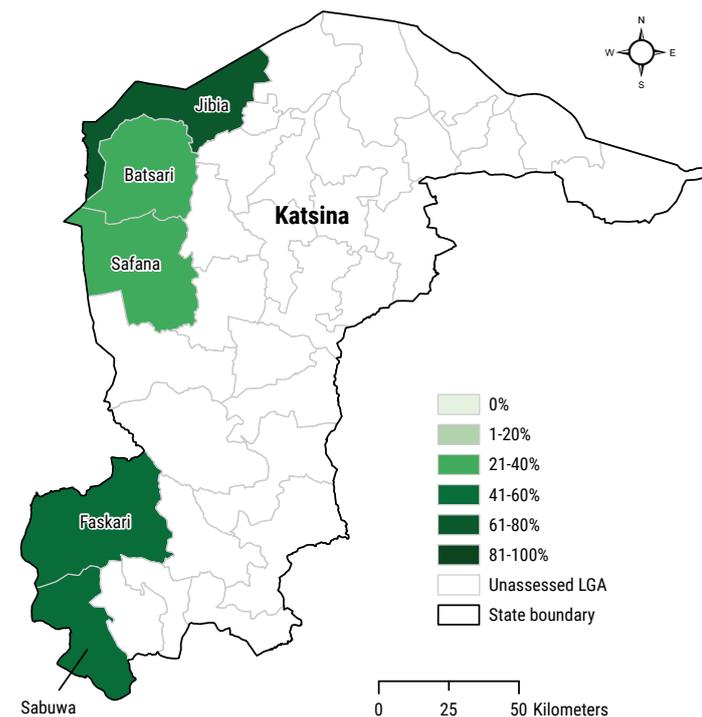
In the three months prior to data collection, were there any functional markets available within a two hour walk for people in the settlement? (by % of assessed settlements)


	Yes	54%
	No	39%
	No consensus	7%

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

0 25 50 Kilometers

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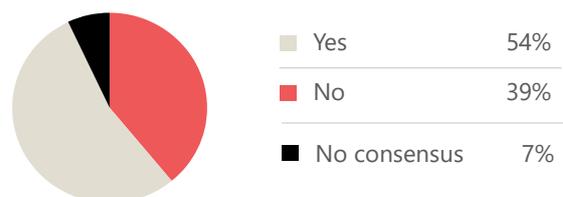
ACCESS TO LIVELIHOODS

% of assessed settlements where it was reported that most people were not able to engage in their usual livelihood activities:

Jibia
Batsari
Katsina
Safana
Faskari
Sabuwa

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

0   25   50 Kilometers
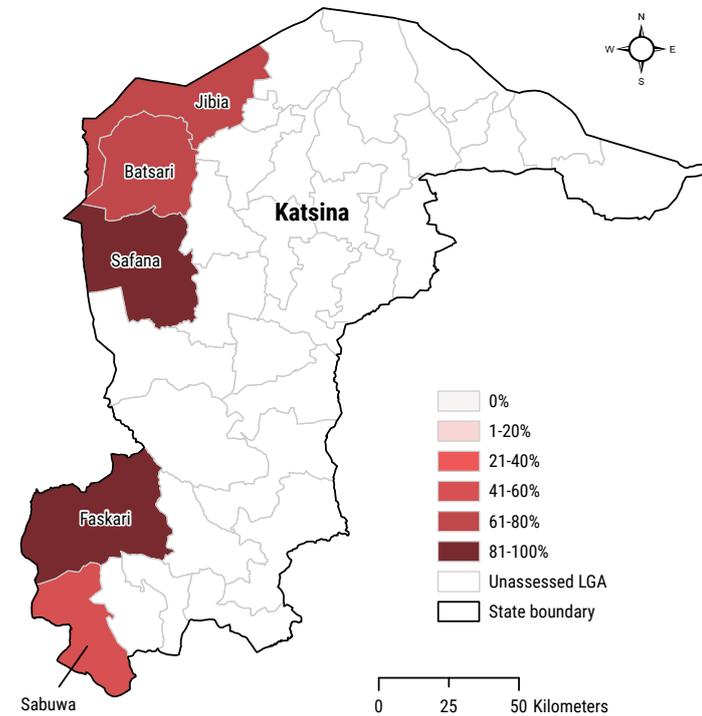
In the three months prior to data collection, were most people able to engage in their usual livelihood activity? (by % of assessed settlements)

|	Yes	20%
	No	72%
	No consensus	8%
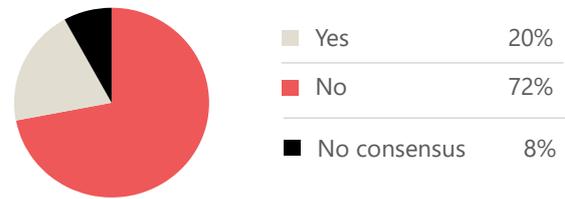
Reported main reasons why people could not engage in their main livelihood activities, by % of assessed settlements where people were reportedly unable to do so (72%):

|		
Conflict/insecurity	**98%**	
Movement restrictions	**17%**	
Health problems	**3%**	
Change in market access	**2%**	
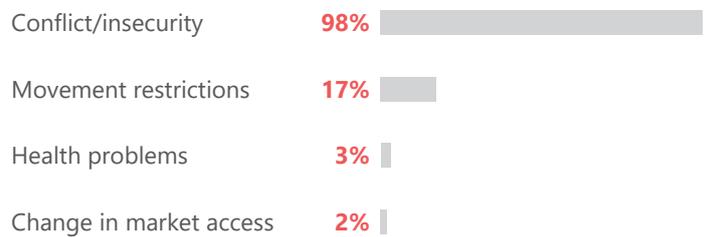
HARVEST AND CULTIVATION

Reported estimations of whether most people have access to less, more, or the same amount of land for cultivation, compared to the same time last year, by % of assessed settlements:

80%   5%   2%
Less   Same   More
land   amount   land
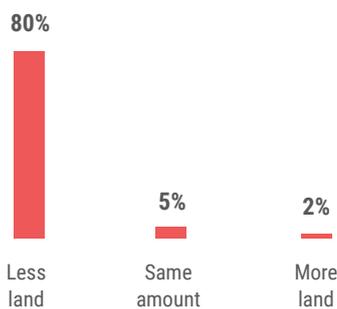
In 84% of those settlements where people had planted and harvested (81%), KIs reported that the crop yields had been below average for most people during the most recent harvest.

LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES

Reported main livelihood activities practiced in the settlement in the three months prior to data collection, by % of assessed settlements:

Subsistence farming	**66%**	
Casual labour	**55%**	
Livestock	**22%**	
Remittances	**12%**	
Market seller	**11%**	

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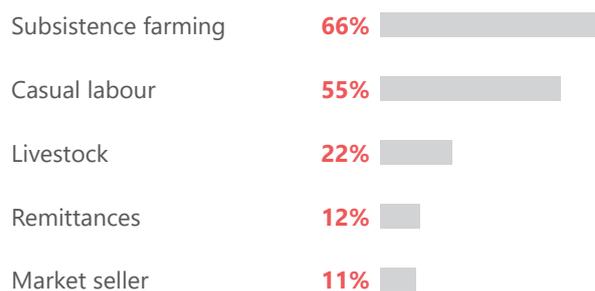
METHODOLOGY AND COVERAGE

Proportion of assessed settlements,²
October - December 2022
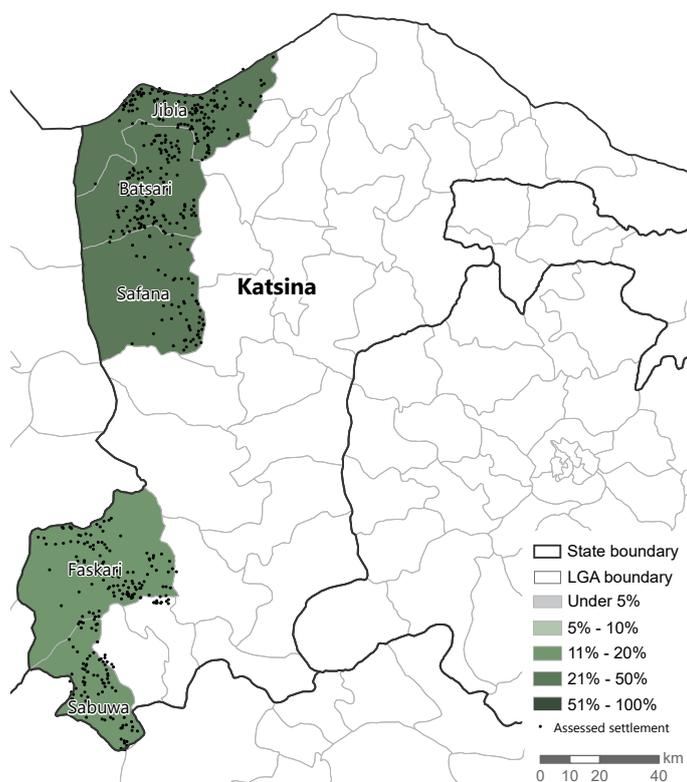
State	LGA	# of assessed settlements
Katsina	Batsari	134
	Faskari	113
	Jibia	122
	Sabuwa	125
	Safana	48

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](#).

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