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

October - December 2022
Katsina State, Northwest Nigeria

KEY FINDINGS

- Findings indicate that access to information through radios is high, with community members in 97% of assessed settlements reportedly able to listen to the radio. In 44% of assessed settlements, radio was also reportedly the most trusted means of receiving information. Cell phones can be used by community members in nearly all assessed settlements.

- Nevertheless, in over half (60%) of assessed settlements, KIs reported that most people had difficulty accessing information about available humanitarian assistance in the three months prior to data collection. The most reported reason for this lack of access to information was that the security situation hampers information from reaching people.

RADIO

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

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

0   25   50 Kilometers
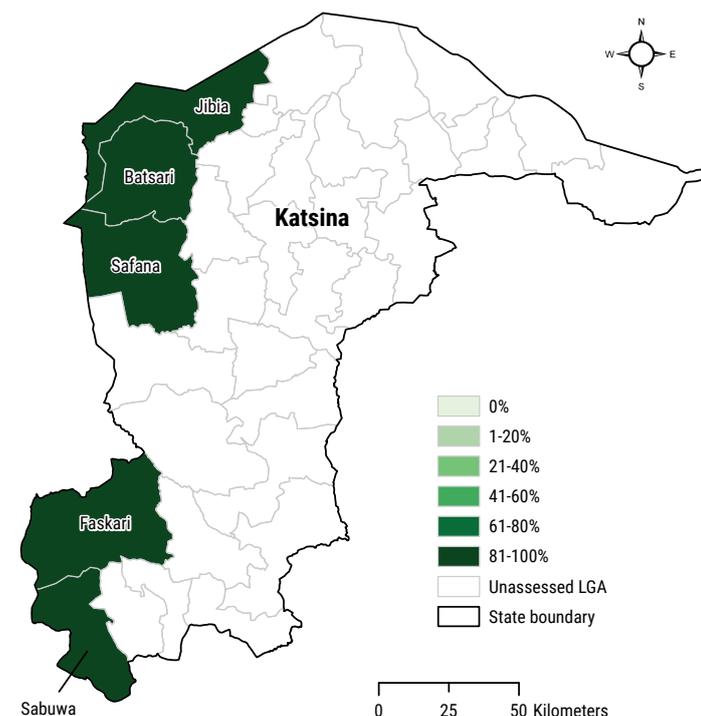
CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

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, could any community members listen to the radio? (by % of assessed settlements)


Yes	97%
No	1%
No consensus	2%
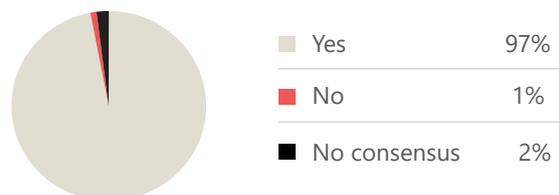
1. REACH, "Northwest Nigeria: 2022 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment," January 2023

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CELL PHONES

% of assessed settlements where it was reported that at least one community member could use a cell phone in the three months prior to data collection:


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

0   25   50 Kilometers
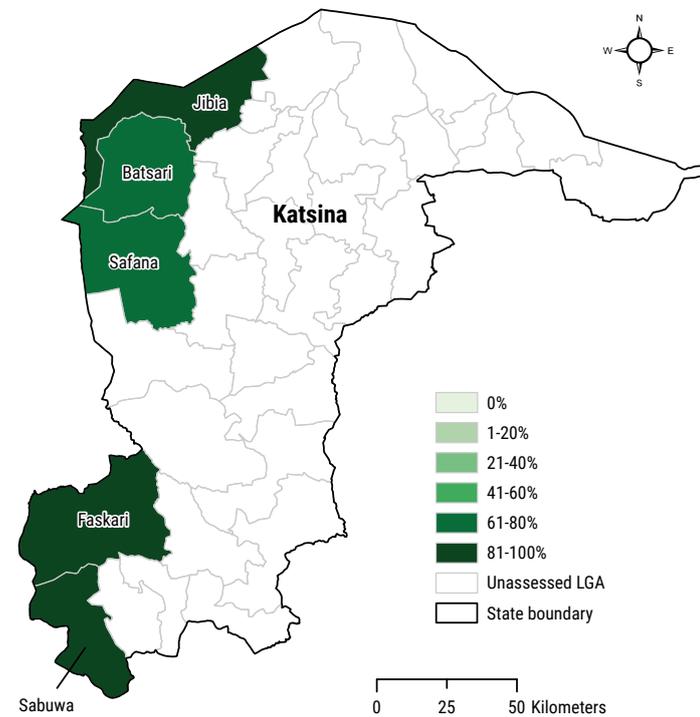
In the three months prior to data collection, could any community members use cell phones? (by % of assessed settlements)

Yes	91%
No	1%
No consensus	8%
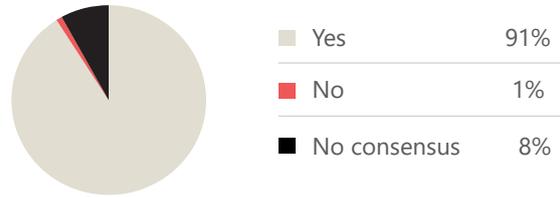
ACCESS TO INFORMATION

In the three months prior to data collection, did most people have difficulty accessing information they needed regarding available humanitarian assistance? (by % of assessed settlements)

Yes	60%
No	31%
No consensus	9%
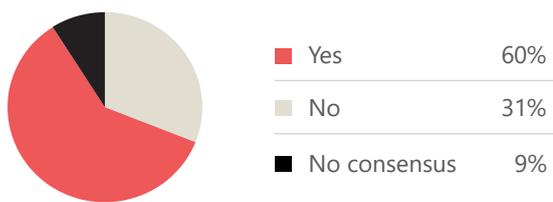
Most commonly reported reasons people could not access information on available humanitarian assistance, by % of assessed settlements where most people reportedly had difficulty accessing this information (60%):

The security situation does not allow information to come through	**61%**
Lack of mobile networks	**7%**
Lack of electricity	**6%**
Information is in the wrong language	**3%**
Information is written and people cannot read	**1%**
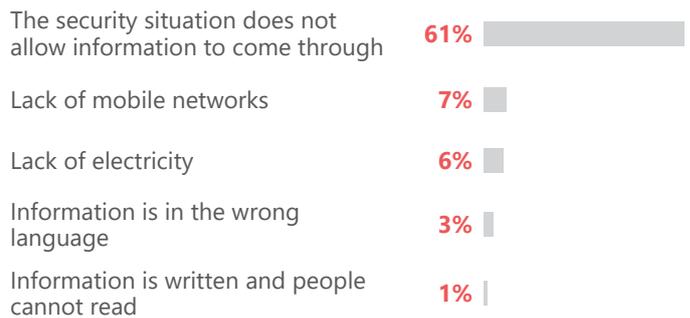
SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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

Radio	**49%**
Phone conversation	**22%**
In-person conversation	**18%**
Conversations during commercial transport (e.g.,taxi, keke napep)	**2%**

Radio was reportedly the most trusted means of receiving information by most people in 44% of assessed settlements, according to KIs. This was followed by in-person communication and phone calls, which were both named as the most trusted channels in 18% of assessed settlements.

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METHODOLOGY AND COVERAGE

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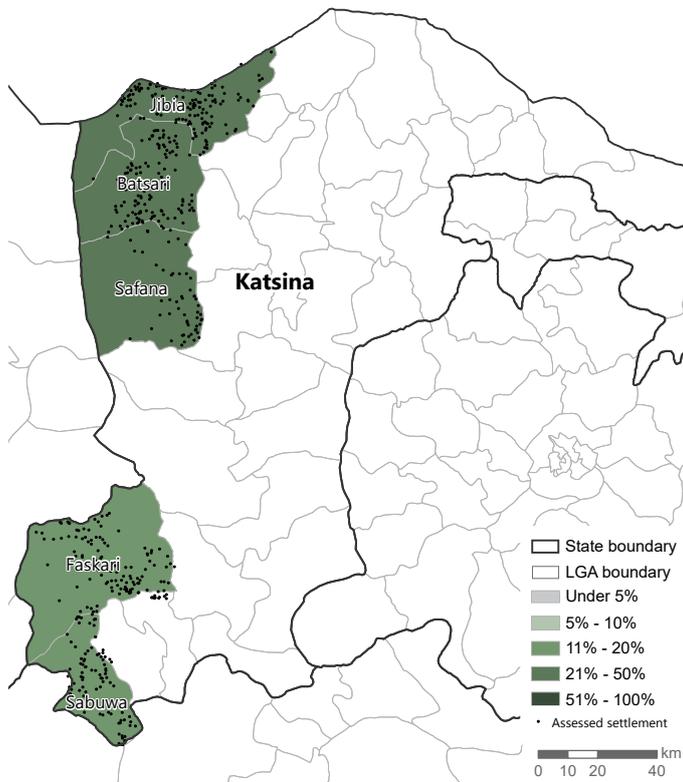
State	LGA	# of assessed settlements
	Batsari	134
	Faskari	113
Katsina	Jibia	122
	Sabuwa	125
	Safana	48

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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