

Nigeria

# Nigeria 2020 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment

Executive Summary

December 2020



INTER-SECTOR WORKING GROUP



**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action

## ASSESSMENT CONDUCTED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF:



## FUNDED BY:



Funded by  
European Union  
Humanitarian Aid

## WITH IMPLEMENTATION AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FROM LEAD PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



## WITH IMPLEMENTATION FROM PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



Include cover photo credits / copyright information [here](#) (See IMPACT [Photography and Video SOPs](#))

### About REACH

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT). For more information please visit our website: [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org). You can contact us directly at: [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto:geneva@reach-initiative.org) and follow us on Twitter @REACH\_info.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Rationale and Methodology

North East Nigeria continues to experience significant humanitarian needs, following over 11 years of conflict affecting the Lake Chad region. The 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) identified 7.9 million individuals in the three states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (collectively, the “BAY” states) to be in need of humanitarian assistance.<sup>1</sup> Partners have faced increasing access restrictions to these areas since the middle of 2019. This situation has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic since early 2020. As a result, the humanitarian community has experienced decreased capacities to comprehensively identify the scale of needs in North East Nigeria. Providing an updated evidence-based needs overview of populations in the BAY states is, therefore, vital to inform partners’ strategic planning.

The third Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) of the BAY states was implemented in 2020 under the direction of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG), and facilitated by REACH. The objective of the MSNA is to identify and compare sectoral and intersectoral needs across population groups affected by the protracted crisis in all accessible areas in the BAY states. As such, the MSNA aims to support evidence-based planning and decision-making by humanitarian actors in Nigeria and, more specifically, to inform the 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the update of the current multi-year Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 MSNA adopted a mixed methods approach to avoid in-person data collection wherever possible and to limit staff and vulnerable populations’ potential exposure to COVID-19. The methodology relied on snowball sampling for remote phone-interviews and two-stage cluster sampling conducted through partner-assisted phone interviews and face-to-face data collection. All relevant sectors were engaged in providing feedback for the sector-specific indicators that were selected to inform gaps in response, severity of the crisis, vulnerabilities and other essential components of the analytical framework. In total, 6,888 household surveys were conducted in 60 accessible Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the North East<sup>2</sup>. Due to the mixed methodology of the assessment, all aggregated results at the state- and state population group-level are indicative of the needs of populations in assessed LGAs. In the 15 LGAs in which two-stage cluster sampling was used, data has a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of 5%.

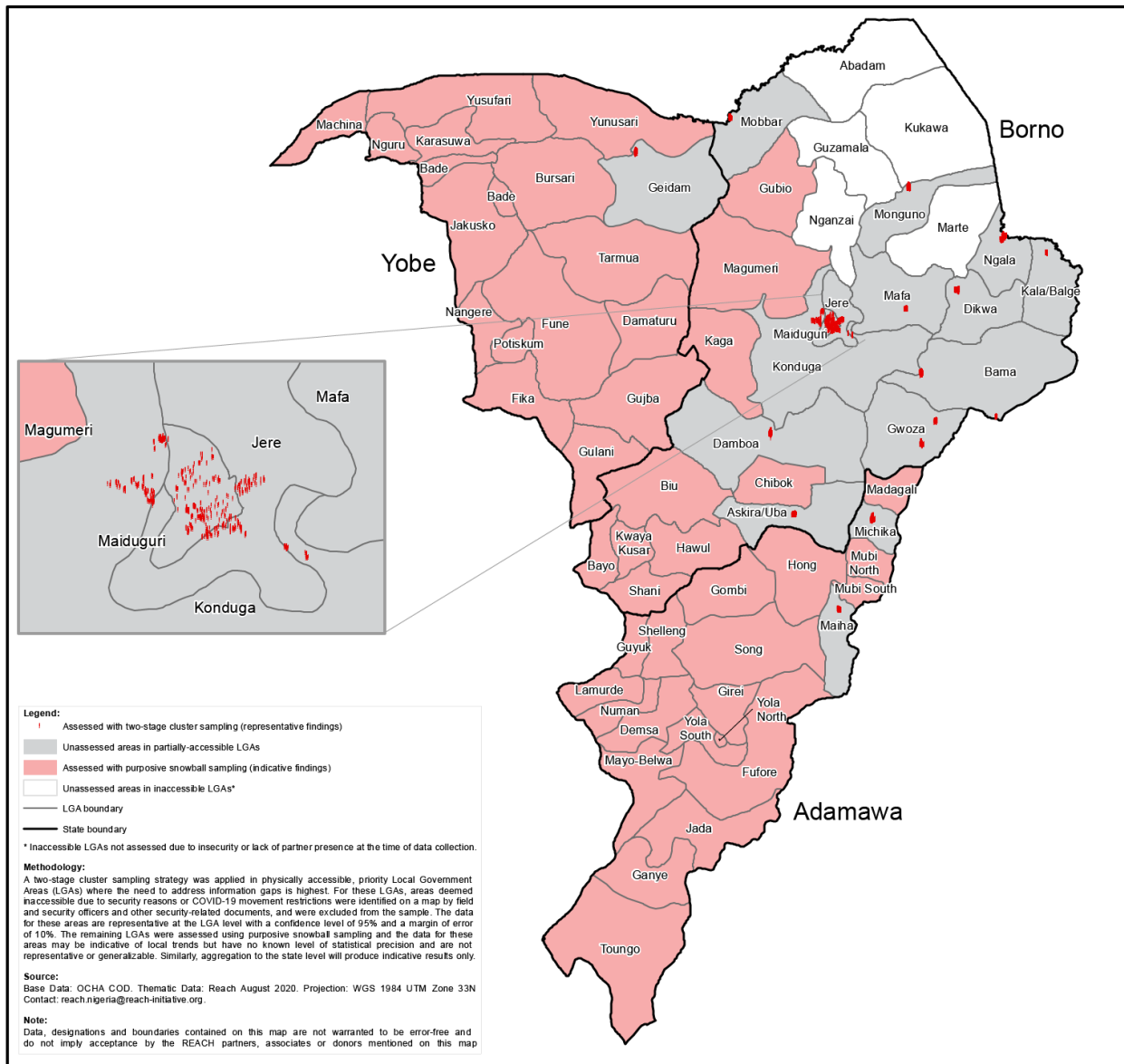
To identify households needs for each sector, the Living Standards Gap (LSG) methodology was adopted. An LSG for a given sector is produced by aggregating unmet needs indicators. Response options for these indicators were scored on a severity scale of 1 to 4+. Scores of 3 or above automatically classified the household as having an LSG for the given sector. Households with one or more sectoral LSGs were classified as having multi-sectoral needs. Households’ highest severity score across all the sectors was recorded as their overall Multi-Sectoral Needs Index (MSNI) score.

Distinct needs profiles and intersections of LSGs served as two separate measures to understand the drivers of needs across population groups. Distinct needs profiles are the distinct, or mutually exclusive, combinations of one or more LSGs found in those households with multi-sectoral needs (i.e. household A may have a needs profile made up of Health, Shelter and Education). Each household has only one needs profile so when totaled, the percentages for each population group cannot add up to more than 100%. Intersections of sectoral needs are made up of two LSGs. Each household may have multiple intersections of LSGs, or intersections of sectoral needs, meaning that when totaled, the percentage may sum to more than 100%. (i.e. household A would be identified as having an intersection of Health and Shelter, Health and Education, and Shelter and Education).

<sup>1</sup> [OCHA. Nigeria: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview. April 2020](#)

<sup>2</sup> The five unassessed LGAs were Abadam, Guzamala, Kukawa, Marte and Nganzai in Borno. This was due to insecurity and a lack of phone signal. Data collection in Magumeri was interrupted by security incidents and the sampling threshold was not reached (48 surveys were completed out of the 60 necessary). Data from Magumeri is included in the state and state population group aggregations.

Map 1: MSNA 2020 Coverage



## Key Findings

The vast majority of households across the BAY states were found to have multi-sectoral needs<sup>3</sup>, with Borno still the epicentre of the crisis (94% of households, or approximately 1,378,000<sup>4</sup> households). Similarly, 92% (717,000) of households in Adamawa and 86% (393,000) of households in Yobe were found to have multi-sectoral needs.

**Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and returnees were found to be particularly affected.** This was particularly true in Borno, where 98% of IDP households were found to have multi-sectoral needs, followed closely by Adamawa and Yobe (both 96%). The second most affected population group was returnee households, with 97% of returnee households in Borno, 90% of in Adamawa, and 90% of in Yobe having multi-sectoral needs. Finally, the proportion of non-displaced households with multi-sectoral needs was 92% in Borno, 93% in Adamawa and 83% in Yobe.

<sup>3</sup> Multi-sectoral needs: proportion of households with an MSNI severity score of at least 3, based on the severity of LSGs identified in each household.

<sup>4</sup> Figure obtained by applying the percentage on population figures from the [Vaccination Tracking System \(VTS\) Dataset](#), March 2020 and International Organisation for Migration (IOM) [Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\) Round 31](#), February 2020. All population figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

**Severity of needs varied across states. Borno had the highest proportion (69%) of households with extreme or higher multi-sectoral needs<sup>5</sup>, followed closely by Adamawa (66%) and Yobe (52%).** However, the largest proportion of households with an MSNI score of 4+ (extreme+) was in Adamawa (6%). This compares to only 2% of the households in Yobe and 1% in Borno. These extreme+ needs were largely driven by households' Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) needs, particularly a lack of sanitation facilities and open defecation.

**WASH and Food Security & Livelihood (FSL) LSGs were found to be common drivers of needs** in all three states, with 44%, 38% and 21% of households with multi-sectoral needs in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe, respectively, having this intersection of LSGs. While high WASH needs were also found in previous MSNAs<sup>6</sup>, the proportion of households with a WASH LSG was found to have increased in 2020. This increase is mostly driven by the COVID-19 pandemic and a change in the methodology to reflect preventive behaviors required to limit the spread of COVID-19<sup>7</sup>. **The COVID-19 pandemic also contributed to an extended period of decreased accessibility for humanitarian partners, exacerbating FSL needs.** Lockdowns instituted across the three states prevented the movement of humanitarian workers and supplies<sup>8</sup>. Accompanying these movement restrictions was increased activities from Organised Armed Groups (OAGs)<sup>9</sup> preventing distributions of food and fuel from reaching key areas across the BAY states. These wider accessibility issues across the North-East contributed to a decrease in food and fuel availability<sup>10</sup>, having crucial implications on the food security of households<sup>11</sup>.

**The second most common intersections of LSGs was WASH and education in Adamawa (31% of households with multi-sectoral needs) and Yobe (19%).** Education needs were also deepened by the COVID-19 pandemic and corresponding measures taken to limit its spread, such as the closures of schools and the ensuing difficulties to learn remotely. **In Borno, the second most prevalent intersection of sectoral LSGs was WASH and shelter LSGs** (22% of households with multi-sectoral needs); this was particularly the case for IDP households (46%). Borno also had the highest proportion of households with protection LSGs (27%), as compared to Adamawa (21%) and Yobe (18%), especially returnee (35%) and IDP households (34%). These findings demonstrate how insecurity and displacement in Borno directly impacts household needs, as Borno continues to be the epicentre of the crisis.

These findings are corroborated by findings on the most common distinct needs profiles, which indicate that **around one in ten households with multi-sectoral needs in Adamawa and Borno (9%) had WASH and FSL LSGs** (only). In Yobe, the most common distinct needs profile was WASH and Education (7%). However, this finding was mostly driven by needs profile of non-displaced households (7%), while the most common needs profile of returnee and IDP households was also it was WASH and FSL LSGs (only) (9% of IDP households and 17% of returnee households with multi-sectoral needs).

**Borno and Adamawa had the largest proportions of households with LSGs and underlying vulnerabilities.** Underlying vulnerabilities influence household capacities or exposure to shocks, potentially increasing the impact

<sup>5</sup> Extreme multi-sectoral needs: proportion of households with an MSNI severity score of 4, based on the severity of LSGs identified in each household. Extreme+ multi-sectoral needs: proportion of households with an MSNA severity score of 4+.

<sup>6</sup> [Nigeria Multi-Sector Needs Assessment 2019 Final Report, REACH](#)

<sup>7</sup> WASH indicators corresponding to handwashing facilities were increased in severity, with households that did not have access to soap and did not have access to improved handwashing facilities being classified as having extreme needs, due to the increased risk of COVID-19 transmission.

<sup>8</sup> [OCHA Situation Report, July 2020](#)

<sup>9</sup> [USAID BHA Lake Chad Basin Complex Emergency Factsheet, June 2020](#)

<sup>10</sup> [ICRC Press Release](#), October 10<sup>th</sup> 2020

<sup>11</sup> Due to the accessibility issues facing roads across the North East, lack of access to fuel is usually due to high prices or a lack of availability all together. It is common for households to swap part of their food distribution/rations for better fuel (gas or firewood), reducing their food security. If they are unable to do this and unable to collect firewood themselves, due to security concerns, they may also rely on less preferred sources of fuels, including agricultural waste, animal dung, kerosene and charcoal. Alongside the harmful carcinogenic qualities of these fuels, their usage can be used as a proxy for wider access issues by the Nigerian Food Security and Livelihoods partners.

of the crisis on household needs<sup>12</sup>. A total of 29% of households in Adamawa and 28% of households in Borno were found to have multi-sectoral needs and be vulnerable. In Yobe, this was a smaller proportion, at 18%.

**While only low proportions of households were found not to have multi-sectoral needs, the majority of those relied on negative and unsustainable coping strategies.** These households may not be able to sustain another shock and/or may become in need once those strategies are exhausted. The highest proportion of households with a capacity gap and no multi-sectoral needs at the time of data collection, was found in Yobe (10%). This proportion was lower in Adamawa (5%) and in Borno (4%).

## IDP and Returnee Households in Borno

**While the Borno State Government renews efforts around returns with plans to close all IDP camps by 2026<sup>13</sup>, moving forward with its plan to return and resettle IDPs across Borno<sup>14</sup> in 2020, IDPs and returnees in Borno were the two population groups with the highest proportion of households found to have multi-sectoral needs** (98% and 97%, respectively). As such, the following section will focus on IDP and returnee households, as these two population groups will become of further concern to humanitarian partners into 2021.

**IDP households in Borno had the highest proportion of households with at least extreme multi-sectoral needs (85%), with needs mostly driven by a combination of WASH, FSL and/or shelter LSGs. They also had the highest average number of sectoral LSGs (2.85), demonstrating the multi-sectoral nature of their needs:** 60% of Borno IDP households were found to have three or more LSGs and 10% were found to have LSGs in five or more sectors, the highest proportions across the three states and population groups. In total, 55% of Borno IDP households with multi-sectoral needs were found to have both WASH and FSL LSGs, compared to 38% in Borno (all population groups combined), whilst 46% had an intersection of WASH and shelter LSGs compared to an aggregated 22%. As discussed in the previous section, IDPs in Borno were the most likely to have shelter needs compared to other population groups, mostly driven by displacement due to insecurity.

**The needs of Borno returnees were found to be the second most severe and wide ranging, linked to challenges faced due to insecurity.** They had the second highest proportion of households with at least extreme multi-sectoral needs (74%) and the second highest average number of LSGs per household (2.54). Around half (51%) of returnee households in Borno had LSGs in three or more sectors, whilst 6% had LSGs in five or more sectors, the highest proportion of returnee households and third highest overall, following IDPs in Borno and Adamawa. In addition, returnee households with multi-sectoral needs in Borno were the most likely to have a protection LSG, at 35%, followed by IDP households in Borno (34%), highlighting the impact of insecurity.

## Accountability to Affected Populations

**Whilst a minority of households reported receiving humanitarian aid, the largest proportion of these households were in Borno**, where 21% reported receiving humanitarian aid in the three months prior to data collection<sup>15</sup>. This was compared to 5% of households in Adamawa and 9% of households in Yobe. The population group with the highest proportion of households receiving humanitarian aid in Borno was IDP households (38%), followed by returnee households (28%) and non-displaced households (14%). This aligns with the wider findings of the MSNA, with a higher proportion of IDP and returnee households in Borno found to have multi-sectoral needs compared to non-displaced populations.

<sup>12</sup> Two indicators were used to classify a household as vulnerable: if the head of household was a single female, either single, married or divorced, or if the household contained one or more member who had a chronic illness and was 60 years old or older, or one or more member had a physical or mental disability (as defined by the Washington Group).

<sup>13</sup> [Overview of Borno State's 25 Year Development Framework & 10 Year Strategic Transformation Plan](#), Borno state Agency for Coordination of sustainable Development and Humanitarian Response (BACSDAHR)

<sup>14</sup> [Return of 1.86m IDPs, refugees to 19 Borno communities begins](#), The Guardian (Nigeria), 4th August 2020

<sup>15</sup> To accommodate remote data collection and reduce time of face to face interviews, the length of the 2020 MSNA tool was significantly reduced. As a result, fewer accountability to affected populations (AAP) indicators were collected than in previous years.

**Satisfaction with the aid received was found to be generally low.** Of the households in Borno that did receive aid, the majority (61%) were not satisfied with the aid they received. This was most commonly due to the quantity of aid (82% of those households that were not satisfied), or due to delays in the delivery of aid (52%).

## Conclusion

**Findings indicate that Borno continues to be the epicentre of the crisis in North East Nigeria, hosting the highest proportion and number of households with multi-sectoral needs.** The large proportion of households in Borno with a protection LSG, as compared to Adamawa and Yobe, along with a high proportion of households with WASH and FSL LSGs, demonstrates how insecurity directly impacts household needs. Borno also has the highest proportion of households scoring an MSNI severity score of 4 or higher, indicating the prevalence of extreme multi-sectoral needs.

**In Adamawa, as with all three states, elements of insecurity have been coupled with underdevelopment and the COVID-19 crisis, resulting in a high level of needs.** Adamawa had the highest proportion of households with a MSNI score of 4+, indicating extreme+ multi-sectoral needs (6%). They were mostly driven by practices of open defecation due to a lack of access to sanitation facilities.

**In Yobe, while a higher proportion of households were found not have multi-sectoral needs (14%) compared to the other states, a majority of those had capacity gaps, meaning that they relied on negative and unsustainable coping mechanisms.** In case of future shocks, or if households exhaust their coping mechanisms, they may become in need and the proportion of households with multi-sectoral needs in Yobe may become similar to that in Borno.

**The crisis in Nigeria continues to be multi-sectoral, demanding a coordinated response that bridges sectoral divides in programming and interventions.** The 2020 MSNA found that a large proportion of households had more than one LSGs across all 3 states. In addition, the high proportions of IDP and returnee households with multi-sectoral needs, along with the upcoming efforts to return IDPs, indicate a need for monitoring and further assessments in areas of return. Some of these areas may be difficult to reach by humanitarian partners, making monitoring needs essential to ensure sustainability and safety in the upcoming returns process.