

COVID-19 SITUATION ANALYSIS

NORTH CENTRAL AND NORTH WEST NIGERIA

JULY 2020



INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 Situation Analysis is based on assessment of knowledge, impact and practice of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and impacted populations in the eight states of north west and north central Nigeria. Conducted alongside a detailed assessment by the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) unit, the report covers the period 27 July to 8 August 2020 and reflects trends from Benue, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Nasarawa, Plateau, Sokoto and Zamfara states.

In this first such assessment, 1,278 sites were assessed comprising of 63 camps and camp-like settings and 1,215 locations in the host communities. The State of Plateau had the highest number of sites assessed with a total of 234 sites, including both camp and host communities, followed by Katsina at 202 and Kaduna at 194 sites.

Respondents were interviewed on a range of COVID-19 related indicators. Key informant interviews and focus group discussions were the primary methods used for the assessment and the findings were corroborated with physical on-ground observations.

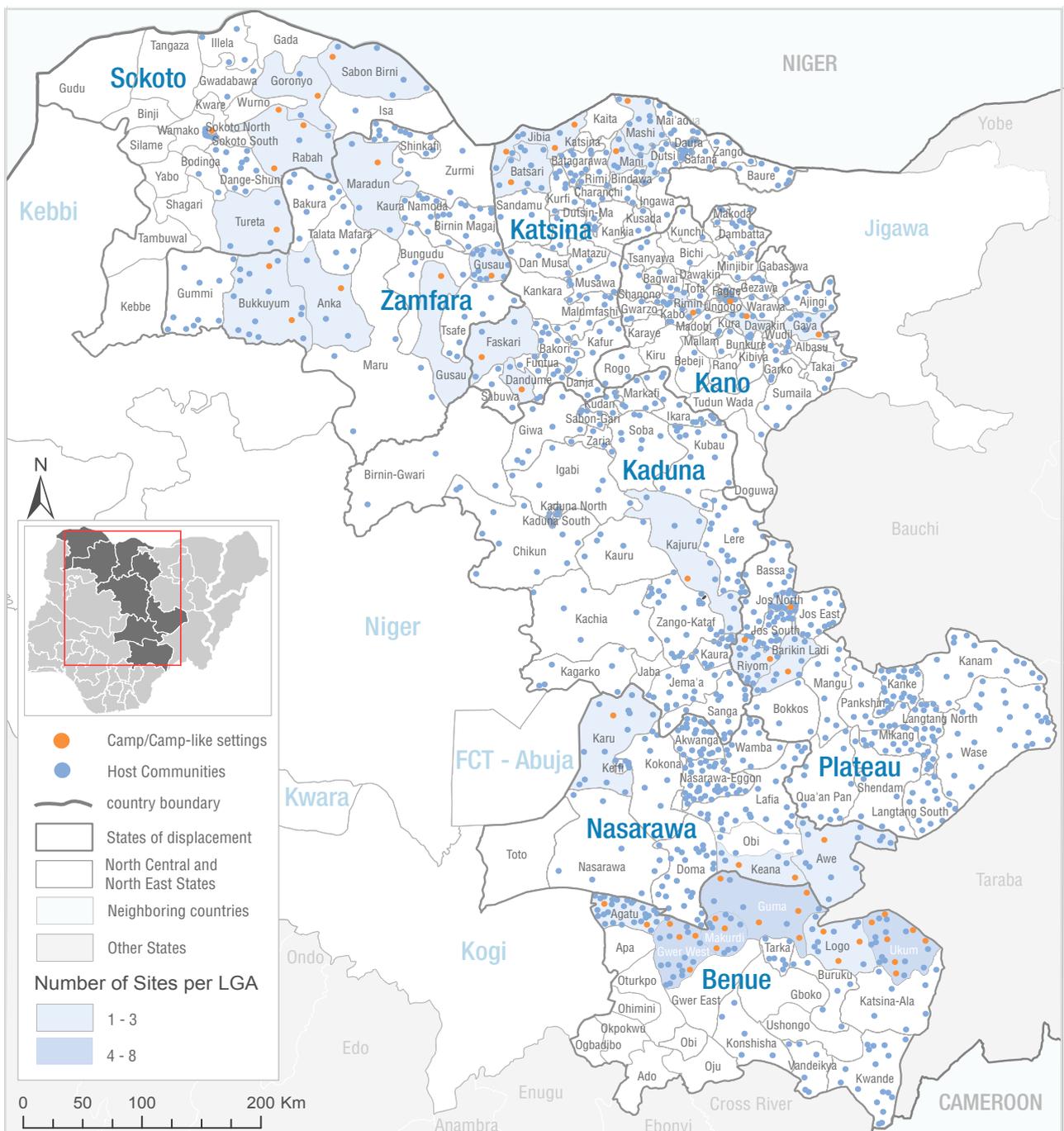
The information collated and analyzed in this report includes awareness about COVID-19 among IDPs, means of getting information, level of awareness (in camps and in host communities, respectively), exposure to communication on risks associated with COVID-19, primary means of obtaining information about risks, mitigation measures taken (in camps and among host communities, respectively), health center's COVID-19 readiness, any increase in threats of evictions, any disruption of services due to COVID-19, access to services (in camps and in host communities, respectively) and access to soap/water for the purpose of hand washing which is critical for stopping the spread of the virus.

The pandemic is deepening the already precarious socioeconomic situation in the two zones which are afflicted with multidimensional crises -- rooted in historic ethno-social cleavages -- and exasperated by recent large scale displacements due to a range of reasons including crime.

ASSESSMENT COVERAGE

The assessment was conducted in 1,278 sites where IDPs were residing. These included 64 camps and camp-like settings as well as 1,214 host community. Plateau state had the highest number of sites with a total of 234 sites including both sites that are categorized as camps and camp-like settings as well as host communities. Katsina had 202, Kaduna had 194, Nasarawa had 178 sites, Benue had 161 sites, Kano had 151 sites and Zamfara had 111 sites, respectively. The states with the least sites was Sokoto with only 47 sites.

As in other similar assessments, staff from IOM, NEMA, SEMAs and the Nigerian Red Cross Society collated the data in the field, including baseline information at Local Government Area and ward-levels, by carrying out detailed assessments in displacement sites, such as camps and collective centers, as well as in sites where communities were hosting IDPs.



Map 1: Sites distribution by LGA

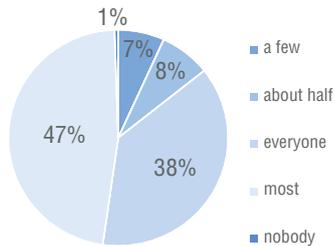
KEY FINDINGS

AWARENESS

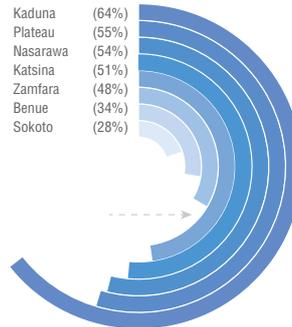


99%

of all accessed IDPs in the 8 Northcentral and Northwest States knew about the disease.

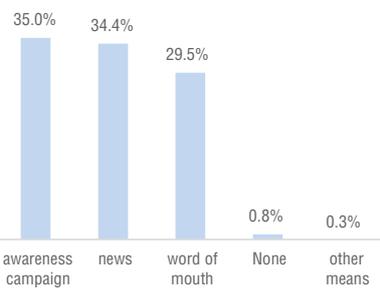


47% of respondents felt that most people in their communities were aware of the disease.



Out of the 47% of respondents who felt most people knew about the disease, the lowest percentage (20%) were from Kano, followed by Sokoto with 28%, and Kaduna recording the highest at 64%.

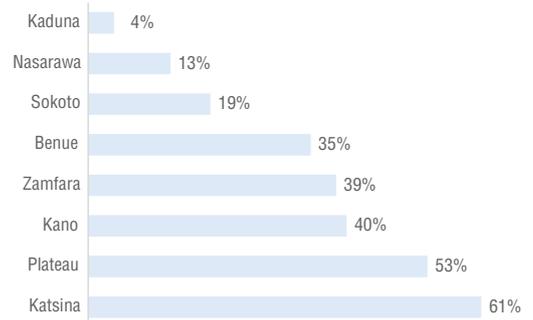
MEANS OF GETTING INFORMATION



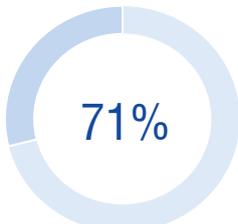
Awareness campaign was the major source of getting information on COVID-19 at 35%, closely followed by news 34 percent

99%

of respondents in Katsina had awareness campaign as their major means of getting information.



MITIGATION MEASURES



of respondents said they were not taking any mitigation measures to prevent infection by the disease.



Out of the 71% of IDPs that were not taking any mitigation measures, 95 per cent are in Host community while the remaining 5 per cent are in Camp/Camp-like settings.

90%

of respondent in Kaduna do not take mitigation measures, closely followed by Benue with 85%



65%

of respondents in Plateau State said they were taking mitigation measures which represents the highest amongst the 8 states.

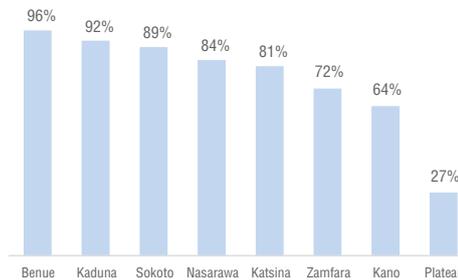
PREPAREDNESS



of respondents felt that health centres were not prepared for handling the threat of the disease.

32%

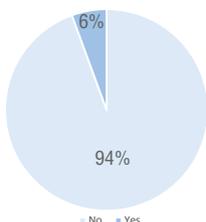
of respondents in Sokoto said health centres were prepared to handle the threats of the disease.



96%

of respondents in Benue felt that health centres were not prepared to handle the threat of the disease followed by Kaduna with 98%

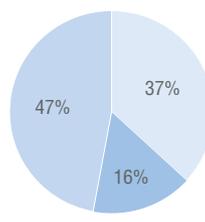
EVICION THREATS / ACCESS TO SERVICE



94% if respondents said they have been no threats of evictions while 6% said they are facing eviction threats from the sites they occupied

15%

of sites occupied by respondents in Katsina have received eviction threats.



Out of the 47% of respondents who said that they did not have access to services, Zamfara was the highest with 71%.

37%

of respondents said that covid 19 had not disrupted their access to services (food distribution, markets, WASH, health, education, protection and water trucking.

96% in Kaduna did not have hand washing stations filled with soap and water.



60%

50% of respondents had hand washing stations filled with water and soap on sites.

of the IDPs have evidence of hand washing practices.

COVID-19 AWARENESS

From the assessment that was done in the eight northcentral and northwest states of Nigeria, it was observed that almost all the internally displaced persons (IDPs) knew about a new disease called COVID-19. No State-wise difference was found in responses about knowledge of the deadly and contagious disease. Awareness campaigns were the most common means of getting information on COVID-19 at 35 per cent, followed closely by news at 34 per cent and word of mouth at 29 per cent. When comparing the level of awareness by states, awareness campaigns in Katsina were the highest among the assessed states at 61 per cent, 53 per cent in Plateau, 40 per cent in Kano, 39 per cent in Zamfara and 35 per cent in Benue state.

News was the main source of information among 64 per cent of respondents in Sokoto, 49 per cent in Nasarawa, 43 per cent in Kaduna and 41 per cent in Zamfara states. Radio, religious leaders and local committees, reportedly, did not provide any information about the disease. Interestingly, the findings for similar surveys done in the conflict-affected northeastern States had placed news as the main source of information. When asked about level of awareness about the diseases among their community residing in camp and camp-like settings, 38 per cent of respondents felt that everyone knew about COVID-19, 33 per cent said most people knew about it, while 22 per cent said a few of the people knew about the disease.

Assessment carried out in camps and camp-like settings located in the most conflict-affected states of Benue and Zamfara, a high of 32 and 40 per cent, respectively, said that everyone knew about COVID-19. But 11 per cent respondents residing among host communities in Benue said that nobody knew about COVID-19. The perception that everyone knew about the disease was highest in Nasarawa, which borders the national capital city of Abuja. When asked about level of awareness about the diseases among their community residing with host communities, 48 per cent of respondents felt that most people knew about it, 38 per cent of respondents felt that everyone knew about the disease. Only 8 per cent of respondents felt that half the people knew about it and 6 per cent felt only a few people knew about the deadly virus. The perception that nobody knew about COVID-19 was 2 per cent in Benue and 1 per cent in Kaduna.

Interestingly, unlike the high awareness among Kaduna IDPs residing in camps and camp-like settings, 64 per cent felt that most people knew about COVID-19, followed by 18 per cent who felt that everyone knew about the virus.

The findings are elaborated in figures 1 to 4 below

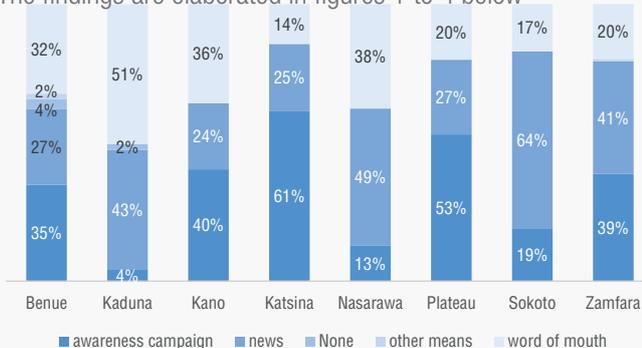


Fig 1: Means of getting information in all assessed sites

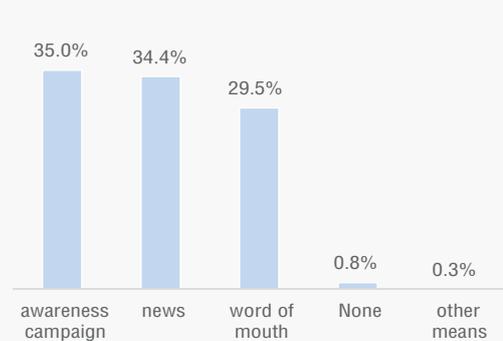


Fig 2: Source of obtaining information

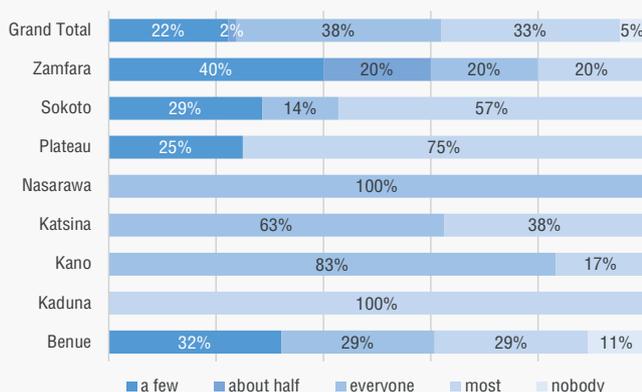


Fig 3: Awareness level in camps & camp-like settings

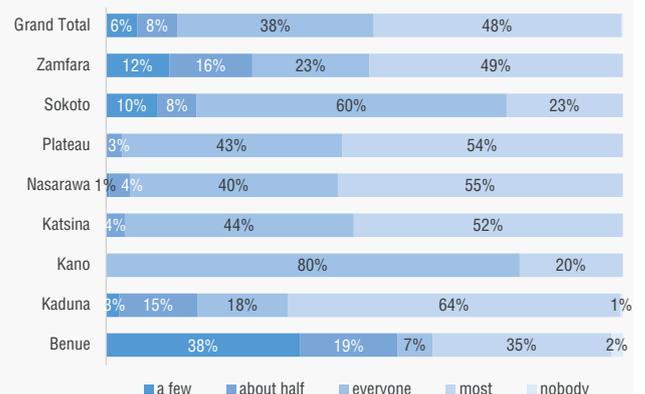


Fig 4: Awareness level in host communities

MITIGATION MEASURES AND PREPAREDNESS

Given that living conditions are cramped and mitigation measures to COVID-19 are all the more necessary, a high of 65 per cent of respondents living in camps and camps-like settings were not taking mitigation measures to COVID-19. 35 per cent were taking mitigation measures. 100% per cent of respondents in Sokoto, 88 per cent in Katsina, 80 per cent in Zamfara, 75 per cent in Nasarawa and 67 per cent in Kano states said they were not taking mitigation measures while 100 per cent of the respondents in Plateau and Sokoto observe all mitigation measures put in place to prevent contacting the virus, 43 per cent in Benue and 33 per cent in Kano said they follow all mitigation measures.

Seventy one per cent of respondents residing with host communities said they were not taking any mitigation measures to prevent infection by the highly contagious COVID-19 while 29 per cent of respondents were taking measures to prevent COVID-19 infection. Benue and Kaduna state had the highest percentage of respondent who said they did not take mitigation measures (91%), closely followed by Katsina with 83 per cent, then Sokoto, Nasarawa and Zamfara states with 80, 80 and 71 per cent, respectively. 64 per cent of IDPs in Plateau and 44 per cent in Kano said they were taking all the mitigation measures to prevent infection by the highly contagious COVID 19 in their respective locations.

A high of 88 per cent respondents felt that the health centers are not prepared for handling the threat of COVID-19. 12 per cent of respondents felt that the health centers were prepared. Benue state had the highest (97%) percentage of respondents who felt health centers were not prepared to handle the threat of COVID 19, followed by Kaduna with 98%. All the remaining states had percentages greater or equal to 80 per cent of respondents who felt that health centers were not prepared to handle the threat of COVID-19. Among the 12 per cent of respondents who felt otherwise, 32 per cent were from Sokoto and 20 per cent were from Plateau state.

The findings are elaborated in figures 5 to 8 below

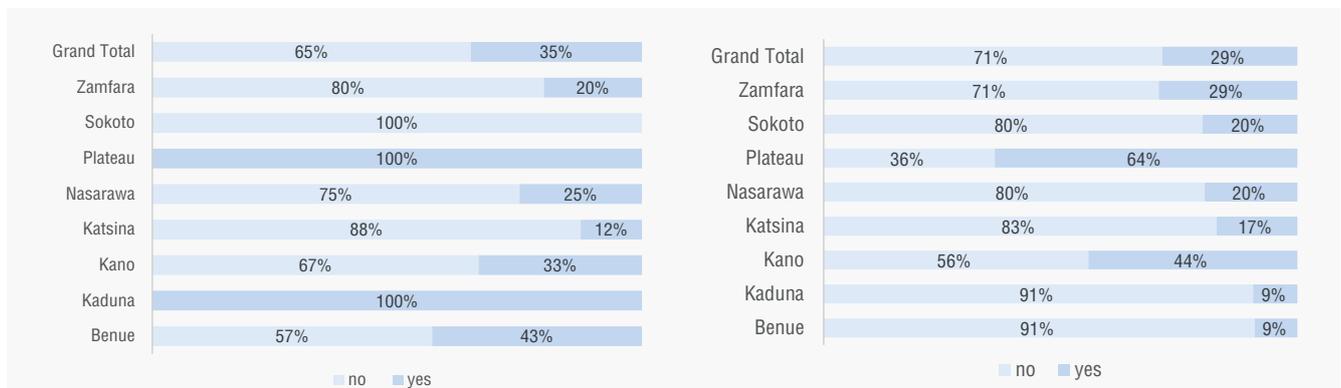


Fig 5: Mitigation measures percentage in camps & camp-like settings

Fig 6: Mitigation measures percentage in host communities

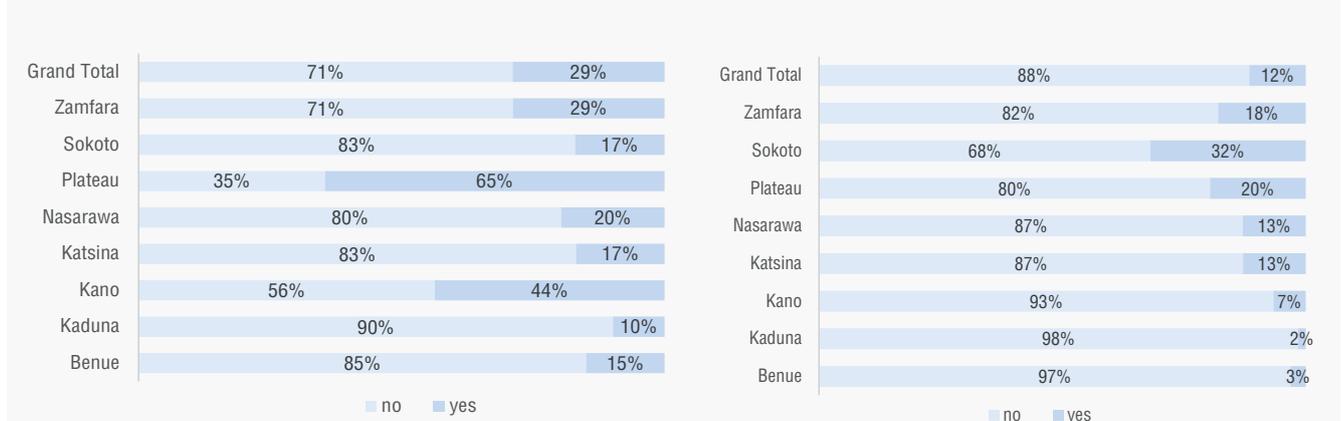


Fig 7: Percentage of mitigation measures in all sites assessed

Fig 8: Health centers preparedness to handle COVID-19 cases in all sites assessed

EVICTION THREATS /ACCESS TO SERVICE

A small minority (6%) of respondents said they received threats of evictions since March 2020 while 94 per cent did not receive any threats of evictions. A vast majority of respondents in Katsina with the highest percentage (85%) said they received eviction threats.

When asked if respondents had heard about how the virus spreads and preventive measures that could be taken (such as proper and frequent handwashing, avoid touching your face with hands, physical distancing, etc.), 78 per cent of respondents responded in the affirmative. 22 per cent of respondents said they have not received regular communication about the disease or preventive measures. A high of 66 per cent of respondents in Benue said that they have not received routine communication about COVID-19 spread and preventive measures.

Thirty seven per cent of respondents said that COVID-19 had not disrupted services like food distribution, markets, WASH, health, education, protection, water trucking, and other services. Among the respondents who said that services have been affected, 47 per cent said the interrupted services were onsite and 16 per cent said they were offsite. Also among the IDPs leaving in camps and camp-like settings, 51 per cent of respondents said that COVID-19 had not disrupted services like food distribution, markets, WASH, health, education, protection, water trucking and all.

In respect to respondents who said that services had been affected, 32 per cent said the interrupted services were onsite and 17 per cent said they were offsite. In Zamfara, none of the respondents interviewed said there was any disruption in services, followed by Benue at 71 per cent and Nasarawa at 50 per cent.

Among IDPs residing with host communities, 36 per cent of respondents said that COVID-19 had not disrupted services like food distribution, markets, WASH, health, education, protection, water trucking, and others. 48 per cent said the interrupted services were onsite and 16 per cent said they were offsite, this is similar to the situation in camps and camp-like settings, 71 per cent of respondents in Zamfara (highest among all states) said that services were not interrupted. Sokoto followed at 70 per cent and Benue at 59 per cent.

The findings are elaborated in figures 9 to 12 below

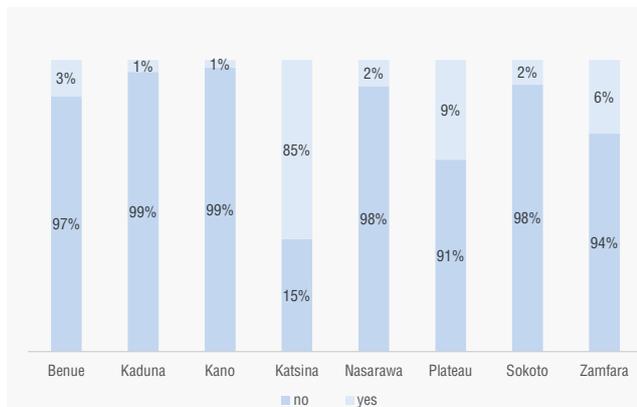


Fig 9 Increase in evictions or eviction threats from sites occupied by IDPs

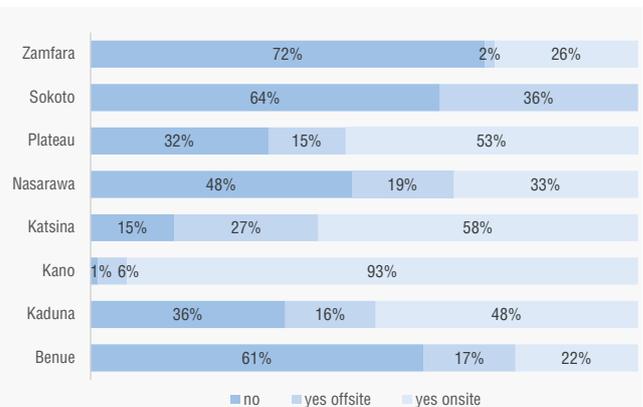


Fig 10: Disruption of services due to COVID-19

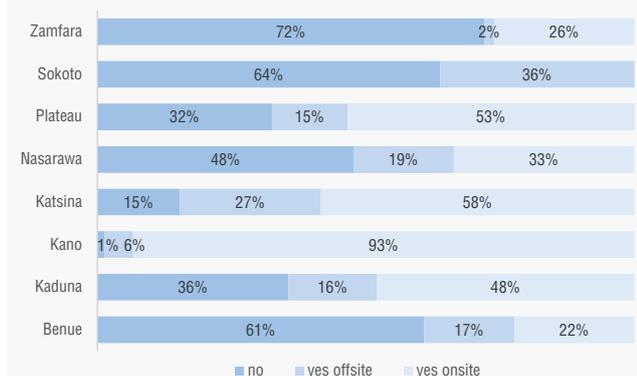


Fig 11: Access to services in camps & camp-like settings in all States accessed

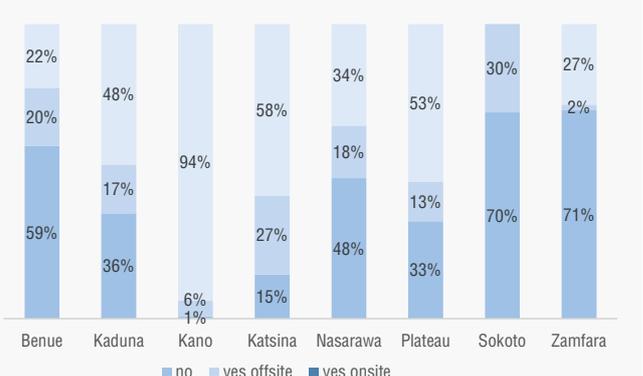


Fig 12: Access to services in host communities in all States accessed

ACCESS TO HANDWASHING STATIONS

Most sites reportedly had access to soap/water, which is an important sign of whether communities/camps will be able to wash hands in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 disease.

Forty four per cent IDPs in the sites had access to soap/water, 24 per cent said everyone in sites had access to soap/water, 17 per cent said about half of sites had access to soap/water, 12 per cent said only a few have access to soap/water while in 3 per cent of sites, respondents said that nobody had access to soap/water.

In Benue, 20 per cent of respondents said nobody had access to soap/water. Among IDPs living in camps and camp-like settings, most sites reportedly had access to soap/water at (32%), 21 percent said everyone in the site had access to soap/water, 19 percent said a few people had access to soap/water while 13 percent said about half of the people had access to soap/water.

Benue again topped with 36 per cent of respondents reporting that nobody had access to soap/water. Besides Benue, all other states reported that they had access to soap/water.

Among IDPs residing with host communities, 44 per cent of the respondents said that most had access to soap/water, 24 per cent said everyone in the sites reportedly had access to soap/water, 17 per cent of the IDPs in the sites said about half of the people had access to soap/water, while only 12 per cent of respondent reportedly to that only a few people had access to soap/water.

The findings are elaborated in figures 13 to 16 below

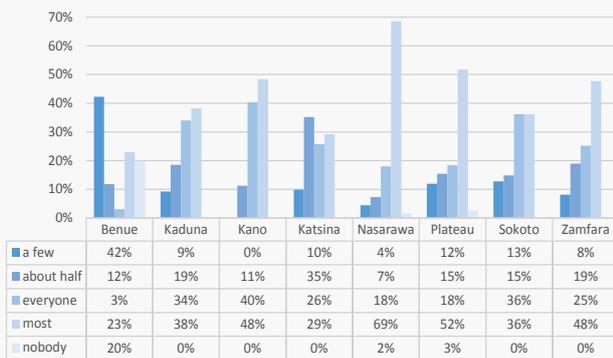


Fig 13: Access to soap/ water by IDPs by states

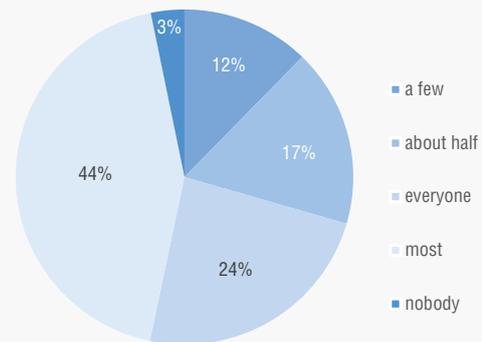


Fig 14: Access to soap/water in all assessed locations

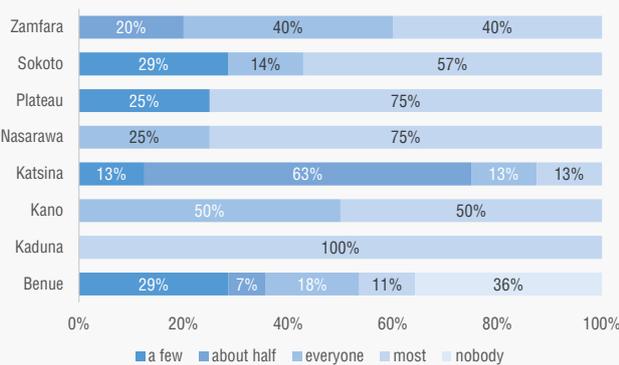


Fig 15: Access to soap in camps & camp-like settings

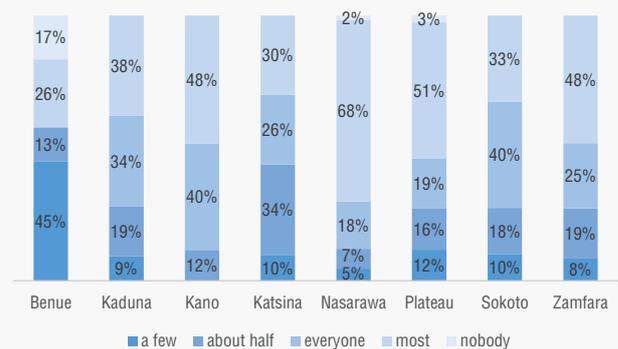


Fig 16: Access to soap in host communities

LIMITATIONS

- The security situation in some wards of the northeast zone remains unstable and as a result accessibility was limited.
- The data used for this analysis are estimates obtained through key informant interviews, personal observation and focus group discussions. Thus, in order to ensure the reliability of these estimates, data collection was performed at the lowest administrative level: the site or the host community.

The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names, and related data shown on maps and included in this report are not warranted to be error free nor do they imply judgment on the legal status of any territory, or any endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries by IOM.

"When quoting, paraphrasing, or in any other way using the information mentioned in this report, the source needs to be stated appropriately as follows: "Source: Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), August 2020."

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