

IOM NIGERIA

COVID-19 SITUATION ANALYSIS 3

NORTH CENTRAL AND NORTH WEST ZONES

APRIL 2021



## INTRODUCTION

This Round 3 of the COVID-19 Situation Analysis is based on the assessment of knowledge, practice and impact of the pandemic on internally displaced persons (IDPs) in conflict-affected communities in the Geopolitical Zones North Central and North West Nigeria. Conducted by the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) unit of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the report covers the period between 8 February and 25 February 2021 and reflects trends from the states Benue, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Nasarawa, Plateau, Sokoto and Zamfara.

The first assessment was conducted in July 2020, four months after the first case of COVID-19 was reported in Nigeria. In this report, the results are presented from the third round of assessments. During this round, 1,539 locations were assessed comprising 75 camps/camp-like settings and 1,464 locations where IDPs were residing among host communities. The state with the highest number of locations assessed was Katsina State with a total of 264 locations, followed by Kaduna with 240 locations and Plateau with 222 locations.

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 COVID-19 awareness among IDPs, communication mediums used to receive information, exposure to communication on risks associated with COVID-19, mitigation measures, health centre's preparedness in managing confirmed cases of COVID-19, effects of the pandemic on day-to-day activities and access to infection and prevention control facilities. All the information presented in this report was assessed for both IDPs living in camps/camp-like settings and IDPs living among host communities.

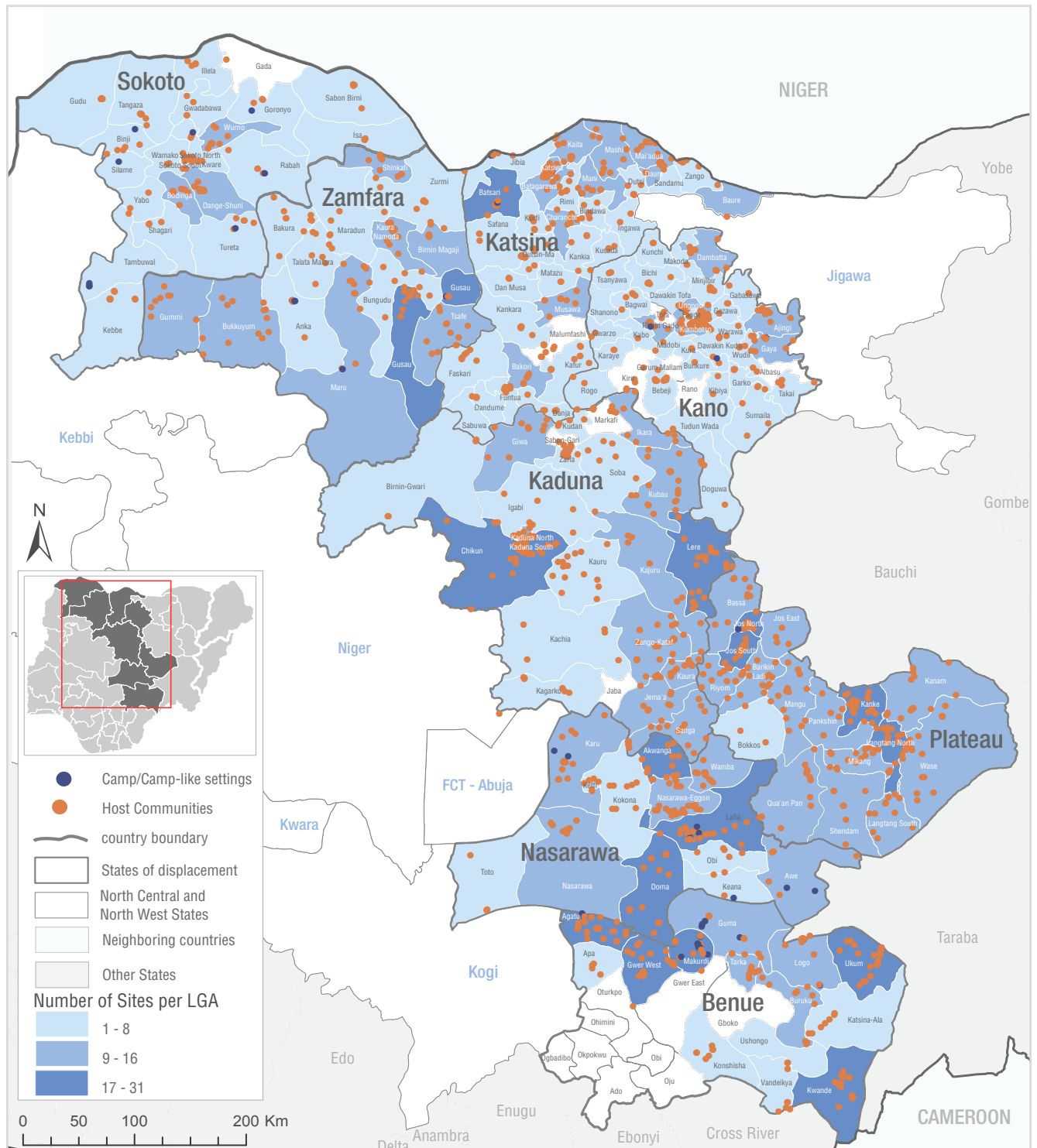
COVID-19 threatens to deepen the humanitarian crisis in North Central and North West Nigeria, zones that already are afflicted with multidimensional crises, rooted in historic ethno-social cleavages, and exasperated by recent large scale displacements. To better understand the scope of displacement and assess the needs of the affected populations, IOM has been implementing the DTM programme since September 2014, in collaboration with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and relevant State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMAs).

The main objective of this report is to provide accurate and detailed information, and support the Government and humanitarian partners in providing an adequate and timely response to the needs of forcibly displaced populations.

## ASSESSMENT COVERAGE

The assessment was conducted in 1,539 locations – which is an increase by 51 locations compared to the Round 2 of assessments when 1,488 locations were covered. These Locations included 75 camps and camp-like settings and 1,464 locations where IDPs were residing among host communities, representing a total of 695,912 IDPs in 111,913 households. Katsina state had the highest number of locations assessed with a total of 264 sites (17%), followed by Kaduna with 240 sites (16%) and Plateau with 222 sites (14%). Sokoto was the state where the least number of locations were assessed with 124 sites (6%).

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.

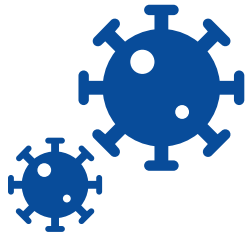


The names and boundaries shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM | Data source: DTM, HDX, ESRI

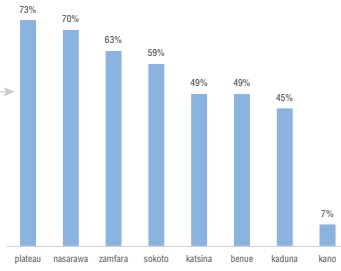
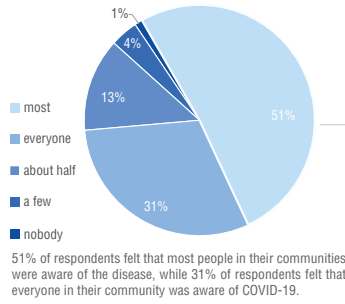
Map 1: Locations per LGA

## KEY FINDINGS

### COVID-19 AWARENESS

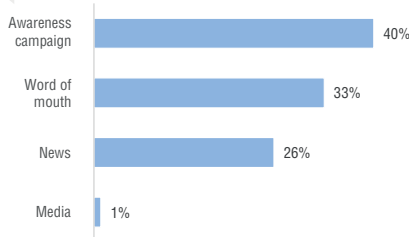


All or 100% of the respondents in North Central and North West Nigeria knew about the pandemic.

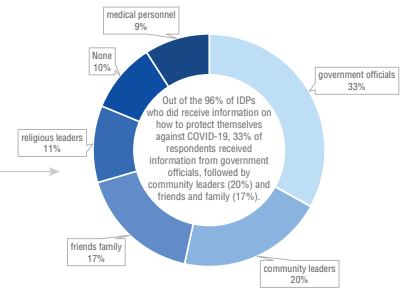
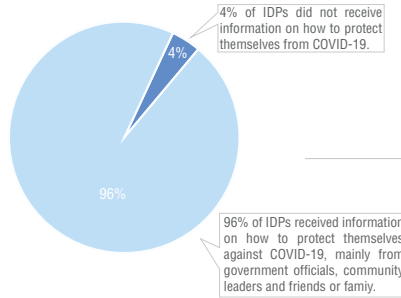


Out of the 51% of respondents who felt most people knew about the pandemic, the lowest percentage was recorded in Kano (7% - the remaining 93% of respondents stated that everyone in their community was aware of the pandemic), followed by Kaduna with 45%. In Plateau, 73 per cent of the respondents who felt most people was aware of the pandemic while 21 per cent of respondents stated that everyone in their community was aware of the pandemic.

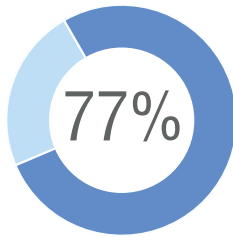
### MEANS OF GETTING INFORMATION



40% of respondents stated that awareness campaigns were the main source of information on COVID-19. Awareness campaigns were followed by word of mouth (33%) and news outlets (26%).



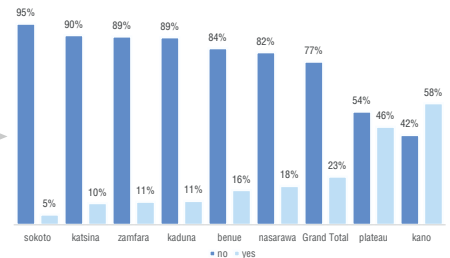
### MITIGATION MEASURES



77% of respondents stated that there were no specific COVID-19 mitigation measures set up in their locality.

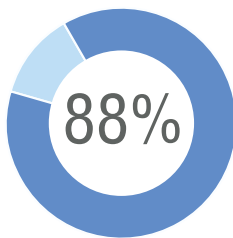


Out of the 77% of IDPs that said that no mitigation measures were set up in their locality, 95 per cent were living among host communities while 5 per cent were living in camps or camp-like settings.

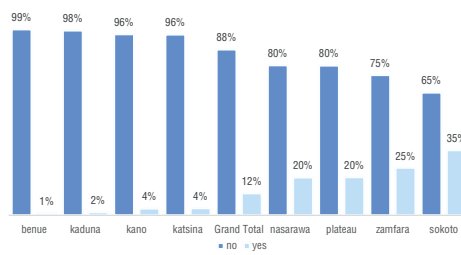


Sokoto and Katsina were the states where the least mitigation measures were established. 95% of respondents in Sokoto and 90% of respondents in Katsina stated that no mitigation measures were set up in their locality.

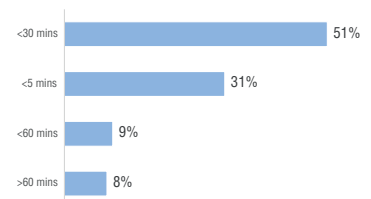
### PREPAREDNESS



88% of respondents felt that health centres were not prepared to handle COVID-19 cases.

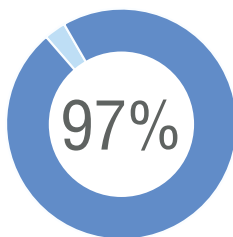


Health centers prepared to handle COVID-19 cases per state of displacement



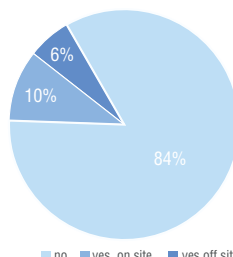
For 82% of respondents, the closest operational health centre is 30 minutes or less away from their locality.

### EVICTIION THREATS / ACCESS TO SERVICE



97% of respondents said there has been no increase in threats of eviction from the sites they occupied since the outbreak of the pandemic.

In 8% of the sites occupied by IDPs in Plateau, respondents reported an increase in eviction threats, representing the highest number among the 8 states in North Central and North West Nigeria. Plateau was followed by Katsina where 6% of the respondents reported an increase in eviction threats.



84% of respondents stated that their access to services (food distribution, markets, WASH, health, education, protection and water trucking) were not disrupted because of COVID-19.

In Benue, 29% of the access to services was reported disrupted because of COVID-19. Benue was followed by Katsina (22%) and Kaduna (20%) as the states where the most access to services was disrupted because of the pandemic.

In 90% of the locations assessed, a hand washing station with water and soap was not available on-site.



In 49% of the locations assessed, respondents reported that most people had access to soap and water.

In 70% of the locations assessed, respondents stated that there was no evidence of hand washing practices. For Sokoto, this number was reported at 99% while in Katsina, this number was reported at 3%.

Plateau (26% of locations) and Benue (21% of locations) were the states where most hand washing stations with water and soap were available on-site.

## COVID-19 AWARENESS

During the third round of the COVID-19 Situation Analysis in North Central and North West Nigeria, it was reported that Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were aware of the ongoing pandemic in all the locations assessed.

Similar to the second round of assessments, awareness campaigns were reported as the most common source of information on COVID-19 during Round 3 (reported in 40% of locations - down from 44% in Round 2). Awareness campaigns were followed by word of mouth, reported in 34 per cent of locations (up from 24%) and news outlets, reported in 26 per cent of locations (down from 31%). When comparing the reach of awareness campaigns per state, they have been proven the most effective in the states Plateau and Zamfara where they were reported as the most common mean of information in respectively 78 per cent and 62 per cent of locations. However, in the state of Kaduna, awareness campaigns were reported as the most common source of information in only 13 per cent of the locations assessed, behind word of mouth (61%) and news outlets (24%).

When considering levels of COVID-19 awareness in camps and camp-like settings specifically, it was reported that in 35 per cent (up from 33%) of the camps/camp-like settings assessed, everyone was aware of the pandemic. In 45 per cent (up from 31%) of camps/camp-like settings, most people were aware of the pandemic and in 19 per cent of the camps/camp-like settings, about half of the population was aware of the pandemic (down from 23%). In Kano and Katsina, 100 per cent or all respondents in the camps/camp-like settings felt that everyone was aware about the pandemic.

In locations where IDPs were living among host communities, respondents in 31 per cent (up from 30%) of the locations assessed felt that everyone knew about the pandemic. In 51 per cent of the locations (down from 53%), it was perceived that most inhabitants knew about COVID-19, and in 13 per cent of the locations, about half of the population was aware of the pandemic (down from 14%). In the state Plateau, the perception that most inhabitants knew about the coronavirus pandemic was the highest at 73 per cent, followed by Nasarawa and Zamfara, at 71 per cent and 64 per cent respectively. The perception that everyone knew about the pandemic was highest in Kano with 93 per cent of the locations assessed.

Given that awareness campaigns were the most common source of information on COVID-19, routine information on the risks, transmission, and preventive measures such as proper and frequent hand washing, and physical distancing were disseminated. Seventy-four per cent of respondents said that routine information on COVID-19 was available, while 26 per cent of respondents stated that there was no sufficient communication on the pandemic. This number remained unchanged since Round 4. The availability of routine communication on COVID-19 was reported highest in Nasarawa with 100 per cent and lowest in Sokoto with 44 per cent.

The findings are elaborated in figures 1 to 4 below

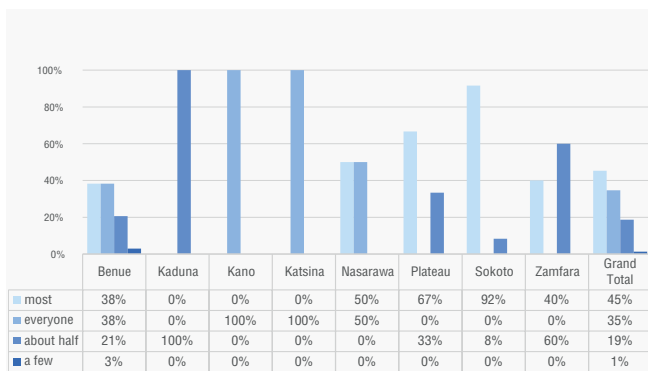


Fig 1: Awareness level in camps & camp-like settings

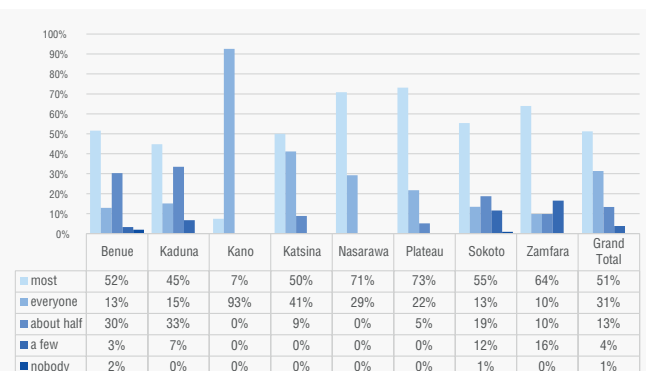


Fig 2: Awareness level in host communities

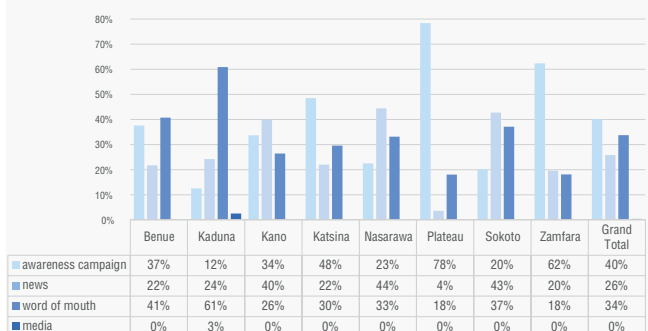


Fig 3: Means of getting information in all assessed sites

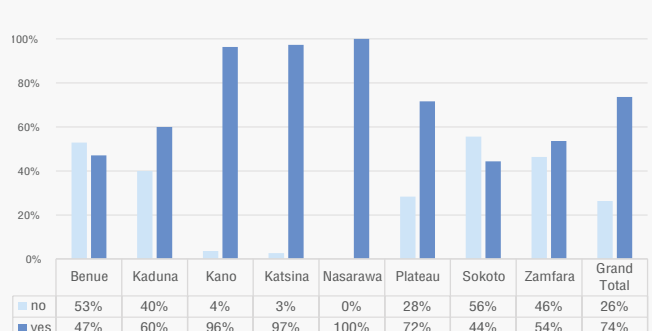


Fig 4: Routine communication on COVID-19 risk in all assessed sites

## MITIGATION MEASURES AND PREPAREDNESS

Given that living conditions in locations of displacement are often cramped, mitigation measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are highly necessary. However, in 77 per cent (up from 73% in Round 2) of the locations assessed in both camps/camp-like settings and host communities combined, respondents reported that no specific mitigation measures have been put in place. Kano and Plateau were the states best protected against the virus with mitigation measures set up in respectively 58 and 46 per cent of the locations assessed. In Sokoto, mitigation measures were established in only 5 per cent of locations.

When considering camps and camp-like setting specifically, the establishment of mitigation measures was reported in 28 per cent (down from 35% in Round 2) of the sites. Camps and camp-like settings in Kano and Plateau were best prepared to handle the pandemic with mitigation measures installed in respectively 80 per cent, and 67 per cent of the sites. Remarkably, in the states Kaduna, Katsina and Nasarawa, none of the respondents in camps and camp-like settings reported the establishment of mitigation measures against COVID-19.

Camps and camp-like settings were generally slightly better equipped against the spread of the virus compared to locations where IDPs were living among host communities. In 23 per cent of the locations where respondents were residing with host communities, specific mitigation measures against COVID-19 were put in place (down from 27% in Round 2). In the state Sokoto, 96 per cent of respondents in locations were living with host communities reported that no specific measures were set up in the locality. Sokoto was followed by Katsina and Zamfara, both reported at 90 per cent. Similar to camps and camp-like settings, the locations where IDPs were residing among host communities in Kano and Plateau were best protected against the virus with mitigation measures set up in respectively in 57 per cent and 46 per cent of the locations assessed.

Furthermore, 88 per cent of respondents (up from 84%) felt that the health centres were not prepared to handle the threat of COVID-19. The states where most respondents felt that health centres were insufficiently prepared were Benue and Kaduna with respectively 99 per cent and 98 per cent. The health centres in the states Sokoto and Zamfara scored the best as respectively 35 per cent and 25 per cent of respondents felt that they were well prepared to handle the coronavirus pandemic.

The findings are elaborated in figures 5 to 8 below

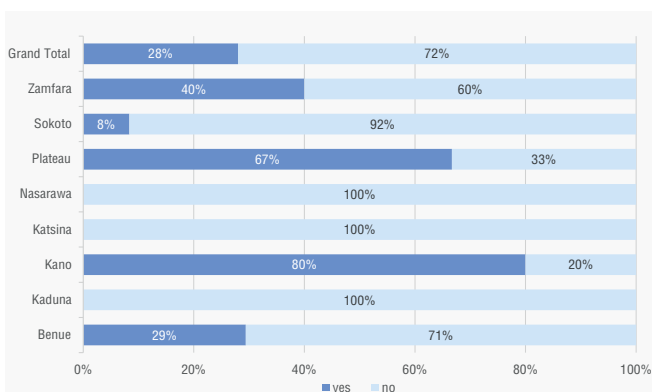


Fig 5: Mitigation measures percentage in camps & camp-like settings

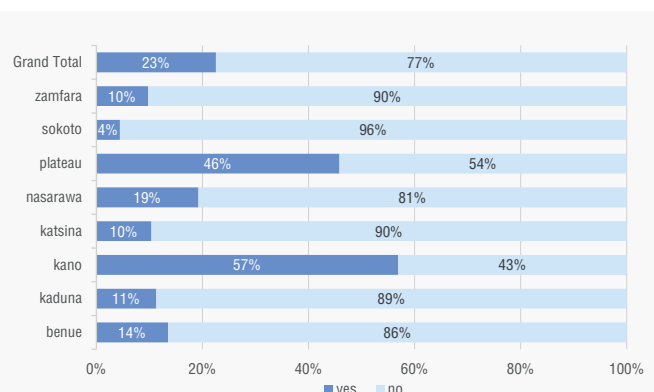


Fig 6: Mitigation measures percentage in host communities

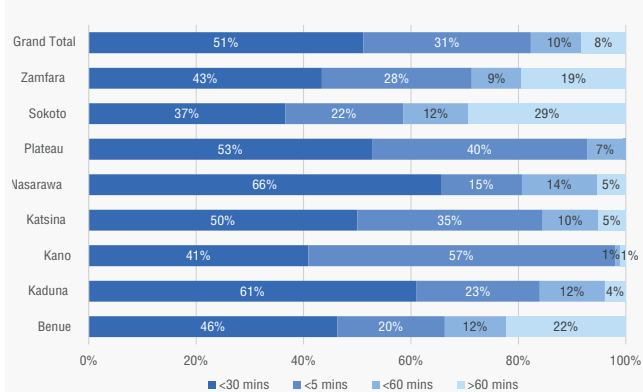


Fig 7: Distance to the closest operational health centers in all sites assessed

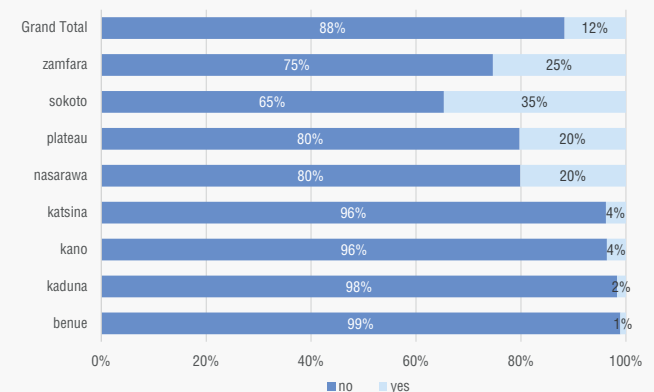


Fig 8: Health centers preparedness to handle COVID-19 cases in all sites assessed

## EVICTION THREATS /ACCESS TO SERVICE

A small minority or 3 per cent of respondents (down from 6% since Round 2) reported an increase in evictions or eviction threats since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. Ninety-seven per cent of respondents did not experience an increase of evictions or suchlike threats. In the states of Nasarawa and Sokoto, no eviction threats were reported at all while in Plateau, 8 per cent of respondents reported an increase in evictions or eviction threats, being the highest of all 8 states in North Central and North West Nigeria.

Sixteen per cent of respondents (down from 55% in the second round of assessments) reported that access to services (including food, markets, WASH, health, education, protection, water trucking, etc.) was disrupted because of the pandemic. From the 16 per cent of affected services, 10 per cent were located on the site of assessment while 6 per cent were located off the site of assessment.

When comparing the disruption of access to services between respondents living in camps/camp-like settings and respondents living in host communities, IDPs in camps/camp-like settings were considerably more affected by the consequences of the pandemic. Thirty-six per cent (down from 67%) of respondents in camps and camp-like settings reported their access to services disrupted due to the pandemic against 15 per cent (down from 55%) of respondents living among host communities. The considerable differences in service disruption compared to the previous round of assessments could be explained by the efforts to restore the access to services by the Government and the humanitarian community.

States where the access to services was least affected by the pandemic were Kano, Plateau and Nasarawa where respondents in respectively 97 per cent, 90 per cent and 88 per cent of the locations stated that no access to services had been disrupted due to the COVID-19 outbreak. To the contrary, Benue had the highest number of respondents reporting that access to services had been affected by the pandemic at 39 per cent, followed by Katsina at 22 per cent.

The findings are elaborated in figures 9 to 12 below

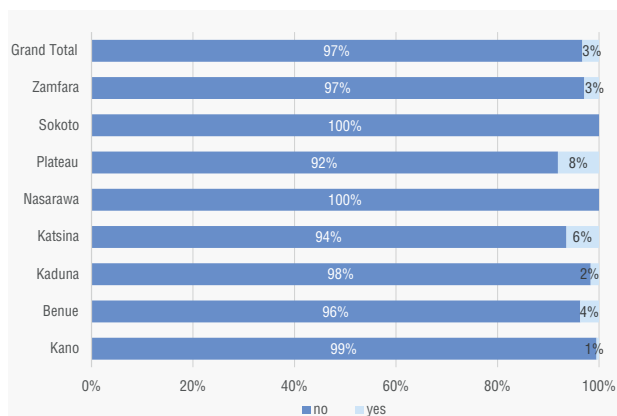


Fig 9 Increase in evictions or eviction threats from sites occupied by IDPs

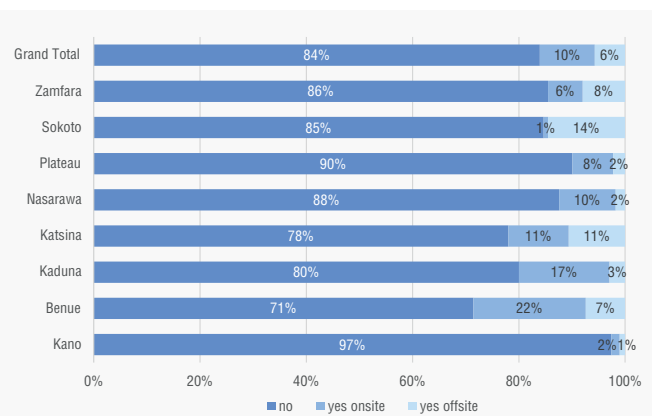


Fig 10: Percentage of respondents in both camps and host communities stating that access to services was disrupted due to COVID-19

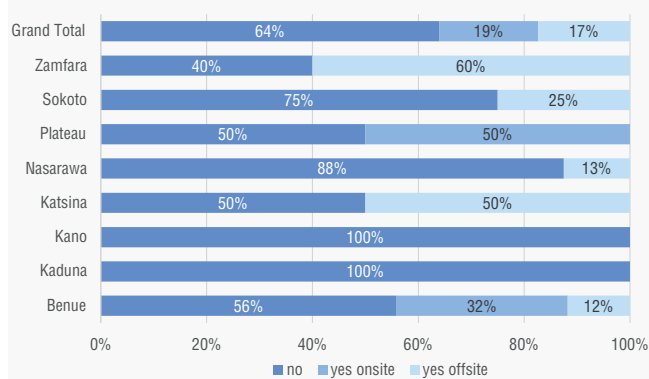


Fig 11: Percentage of respondents in camps and camp-like settings stating that access to services was disrupted due to COVID-19

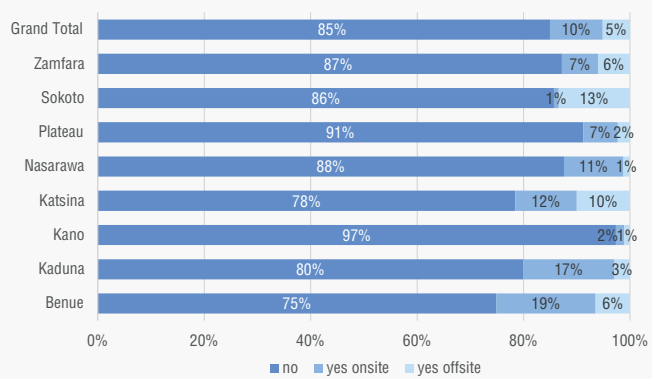


Fig 12: Percentage of respondents in host communities stating that access to services was disrupted due to COVID-19

## ACCESS TO HANDWASHING STATIONS

The availability of handwashing stations is an important determinant of whether communities are equipped with basic hygienic facilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19. During the third round of assessments in North Central and North West Nigeria, respondents reported that no handwashing station filled with water and soap was available on-site, in 90 per cent of the locations assessed.

However, in 49 per cent of the locations assessed (both camps/camp-like settings and host communities), most people had access to handwashing stations with soap and water (down from 48%) while in 20 per cent of locations, about half of the people had access to with water and soap (down from 22%). In 11 per cent of the locations, only a few people had access (down from 13%) and in 18 per cent of the locations, everyone had access to handwashing stations filled with water and soap (up from 16%). Only in 3 per cent of the locations assessed, respondents stated that nobody in their community had access to water and soap (down from 4%).

In Benue, only 2 per cent of respondents reported that everyone in their location had access to water and soap, while in Kano 74 per cent of respondents reported that everyone in their location had access to water and soap. In Zamfara, 17 per cent of respondents reported that nobody in the location assesses had access to water and soap.

The findings are elaborated in figures 13 to 16 below

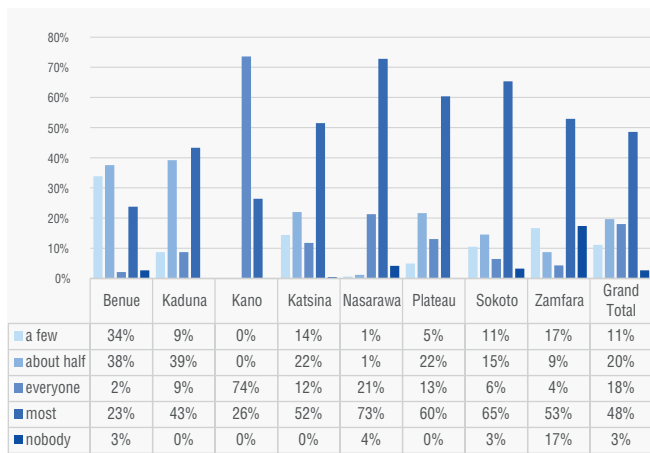


Fig 13: Access to soap/ water by IDPs in all States accessed

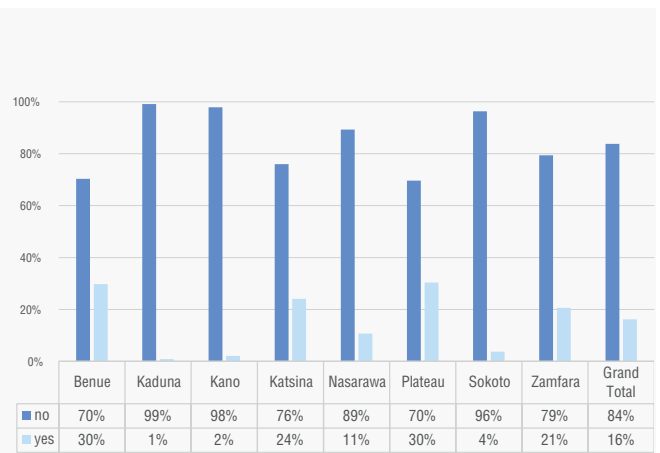


Fig 14: Availability of hand washing stations filled with soap and water in all States accessed

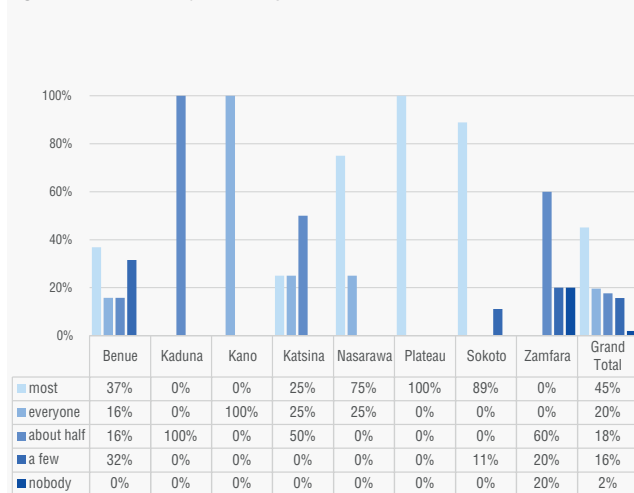


Fig 15: Access to soap and water in camps & camp-like settings

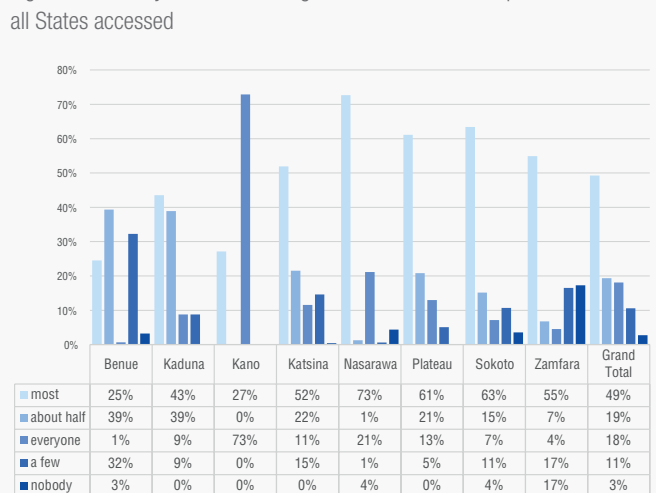


Fig 16: Access to soap and water in host communities



## 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), April 2021.”*

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<http://nigeria.iom.int/dtm>

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