



IOM NIGERIA
COVID-19 SITUATION ANALYSIS 4
NORTH-CENTRAL AND NORTH-WEST ZONES
SEPTEMBER 2021

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INTRODUCTION

This Round 4 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 21 June and 27 July 2021 and reflects trends from the states Benue, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Nasarawa, Plateau, Sokoto and Zamfara.

A total of 94,518 respondents – or 11% of the total IDP population in north-central and north-west Nigeria - 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.

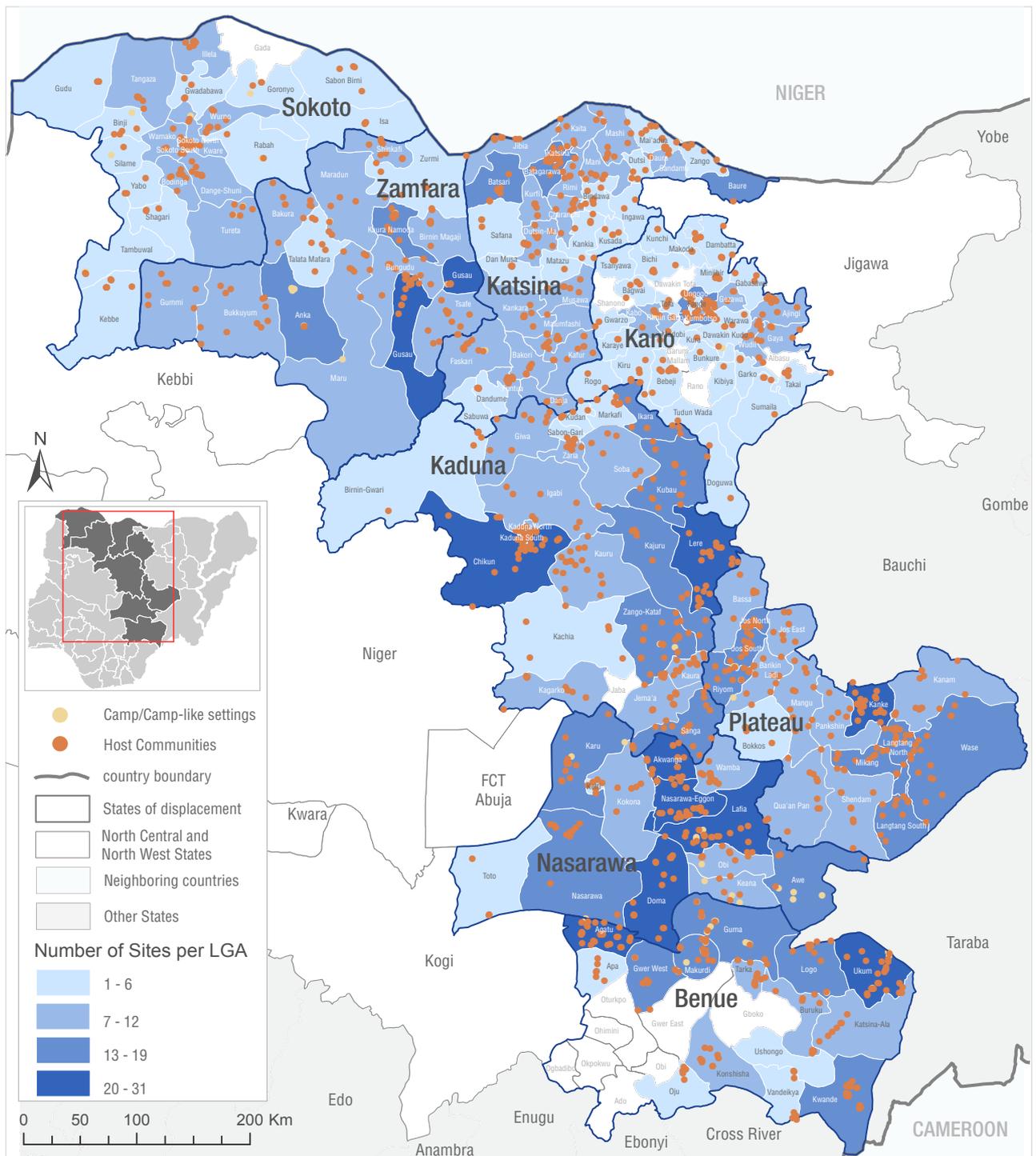
COVID-19 threatens to deepen the humanitarian crisis in north-central and north-west Nigeria, zones that already are afflicted with multidimensional crises, rooted in historic ethno-social cleavages, and exasperated by recent large scale displacements. To better understand the scope of displacement and 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 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 4th round of DTM assessments. The assessments were conducted in 1,604 locations – which is an increase by 64 locations compared to the 3rd round when 1,539 locations were covered. These sites included 91 camps and camp-like settings and 1,512 locations where IDPs were residing among host communities, representing a total of 833,006 IDPs in 134,980 households. The state with the highest number of locations assessed was Katsina State with a total of 289 locations (18%), followed by Kaduna with 247 locations (15%) and Plateau with 216 locations (13%). Similar to the previous round, Sokoto remained the state where the least number of locations were assessed with 130 sites (8%).

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: Assessed locations per LGA

KEY FINDINGS



All or 100% of the respondents in north-central and north-west Nigeria knew about the pandemic.



37% of respondents stated that awareness campaigns were the main source of information on COVID-19. Awareness campaigns were followed by news outlets (35%) and word of mouth (28%).

72% of IDPs received information on how to protect themselves against COVID-19, mainly from government officials, community leaders and friends or family.



80% of respondents stated that there were no specific COVID-19 mitigation measures set up in their locality.

Out of the 80% of IDPs that said that no mitigation measures were set up in their locality, 91% were living among host communities while 9% were living in camps or camp-like settings.



85% of respondents felt that health centres were not prepared to handle COVID-19 cases.

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



90% of respondents stated that the access to services (food distribution, markets, WASH, health, education, protection and water trucking) was not disrupted because of COVID-19.

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

In 71% of the locations assessed, respondents stated that there was no evidence of hand washing practices. For Zamfara, this number was reported at 96% while in Katsina, this number was reported at 8%.



94% of the respondents stated that they have heard about vaccines against COVID-19.

70% of the respondents stated that they have been informed sufficiently on COVID-19 and the vaccines in order to make an informed decision on whether to get vaccinated or not.

Out of the respondents that stated that they felt sufficiently informed, 42% said that they would not get vaccinated, even if the vaccine is free and available. 56% of respondents indicated that they would get vaccinated and 2% of respondents were still undecided.

COVID-19 AWARENESS

During the fourth 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. This number remained unchanged since the third round of assessments, published in April 2021.

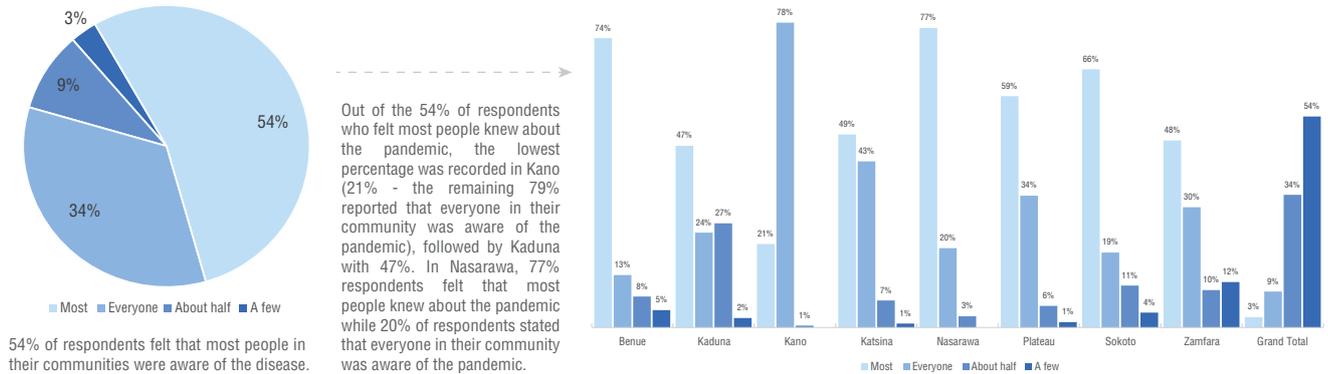


Figure 1: Covid-19 awareness

Similar to the third round of assessments, awareness campaigns were reported as the most common source of information on COVID-19 during Round 4 (reported in 37% of locations - down from 40% in Round 3). Awareness campaigns were followed by news outlets, reported in 35 per cent of locations (up from 26%) and word of mouth, reported in 28 per cent of locations (down from 34%). When comparing the reach of awareness campaigns per state, they have been proven the most effective in the states Zamfara and Plateau where they were reported as the most common mean of information in respectively 62 per cent and 61 per cent of locations. However, in the state of Kaduna, awareness campaigns were reported as the most common source of information in only 6 per cent of the locations assessed, behind word of mouth and news outlets, both reported at 47 per cent.

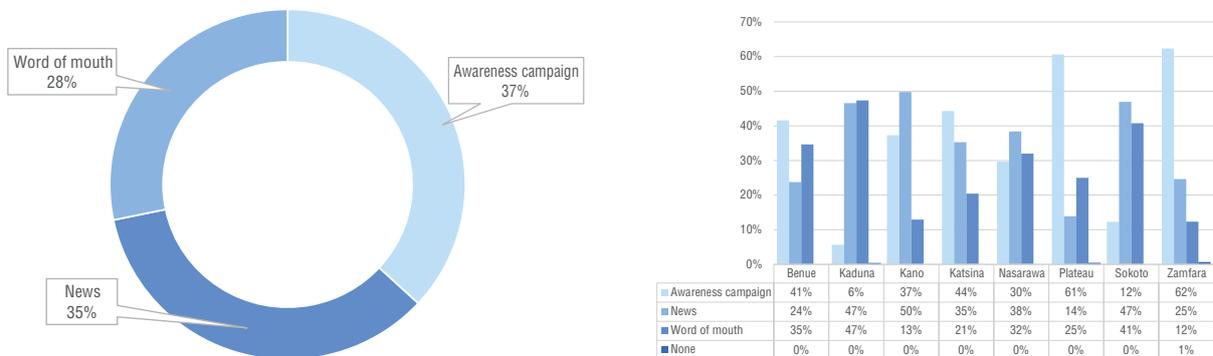


Figure 2: Sources of information on COVID-19

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-two per cent of the respondents stated that there was frequent communication on the pandemic (down from 74% in Round 3), while 28 per cent of respondents stated that there was no sufficient communication on COVID-19. The availability of routine communication on COVID-19 was reported highest in Kano at 100 per cent, and lowest in Sokoto at 41 per cent.

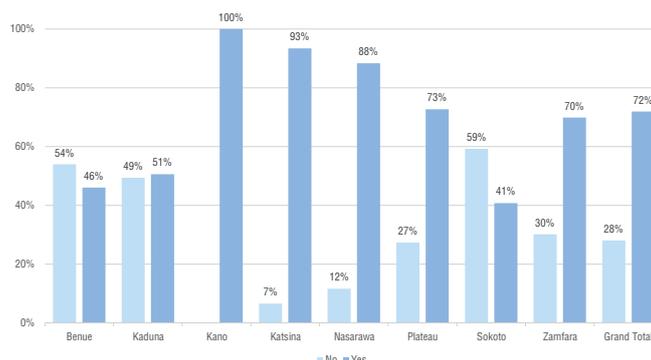


Figure 3: Routine communication on COVID-19 risks per state

Furthermore, 92 per cent of IDPs received information on how to protect themselves against COVID-19, mainly from government officials, community leaders and friends or family. Eleven per cent of IDPs did not receive information on how to protect themselves against COVID-19. Out of the 92 per cent of IDPs who did receive information on how to protect themselves against COVID-19, 31 per cent of respondents received information from government officials, followed by community leaders (19%) and friends and family (19%).

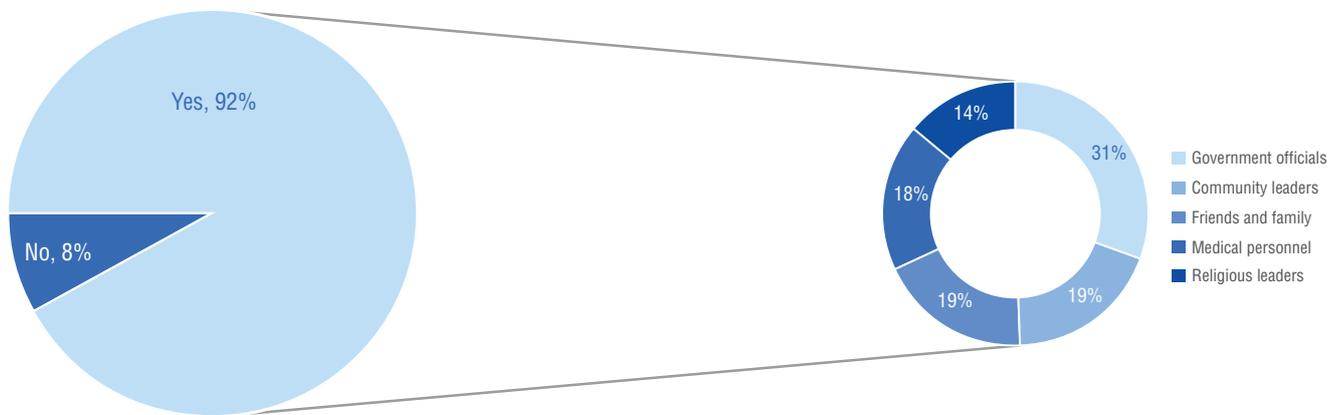


Figure 4: Percentage of IDPs that received information on COVID-19

When considering levels of COVID-19 awareness in camps and camp-like settings specifically, it was reported that in 33 per cent (down from 35%) of the camps/camp-like settings assessed, everyone was aware of the pandemic. In 49 per cent (up from 45%) of camps/camp-like settings, most people were aware of the pandemic and in 10 per cent of the camps/camp-like settings, about half of the population was aware of the pandemic (down from 19%). In the state of Kano, 88 per cent of the respondents felt that everyone in their community was aware of the pandemic.

In locations where IDPs were living among host communities, respondents in 34 per cent (up from 31%) of the locations assessed felt that everyone knew about the pandemic. In 54 per cent of the locations (up from 51%), it was perceived that most inhabitants knew about COVID-19, and in 9 per cent of the locations, about half of the population was aware of the pandemic (down from 13%). In the state Nasarawa, the perception that most inhabitants knew about the coronavirus pandemic was the highest at 78 per cent, followed by Benue and Sokoto, at 77 per cent and 64 per cent respectively. The perception that everyone knew about the pandemic was highest in Kano, as reported in 77 per cent of the locations assessed.

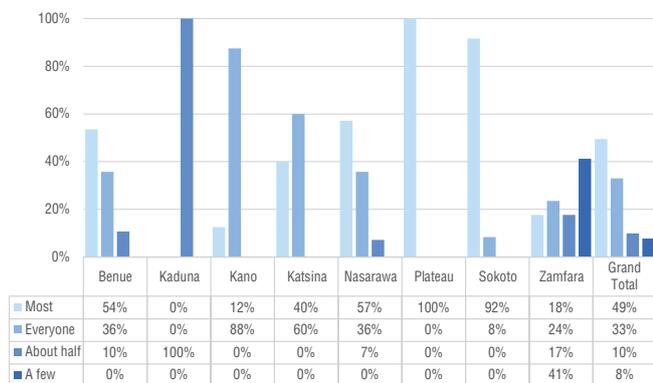


Figure 5: Awareness level in camps/camp-like settings

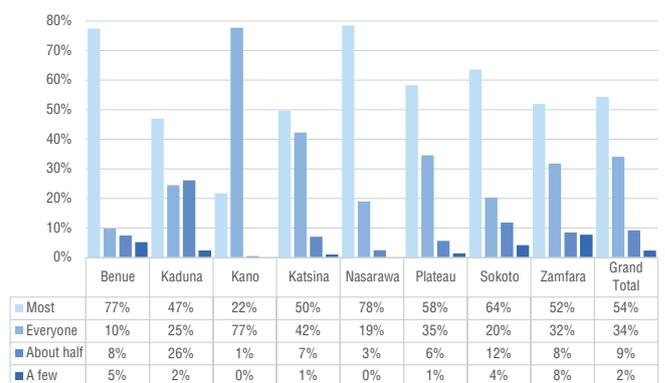


Figure 6: Awareness level in host communities

MITIGATION MEASURES AND PREPAREDNESS

As living conditions in locations of displacement are often cramped, mitigation measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are highly necessary. However, in 80 per cent of the locations assessed in both camps/camp-like settings and host communities, respondents reported that no specific mitigation measures have been put in place (an increase from 77% in Round 3). Plateau and Kano were the states best protected against the virus with mitigation measures set up in respectively 45 and 34 per cent of the locations assessed. In Katsina, mitigation measures were established in only 7 per cent of locations.

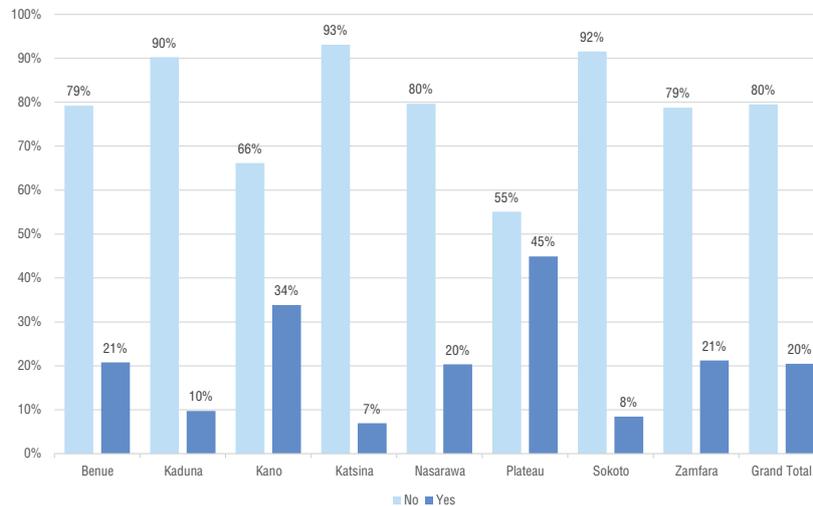


Figure 7: Presence of mitigation measures per state

When considering camps and camp-like setting specifically, the establishment of mitigation measures was reported in 32 per cent (up from 28% in Round 3) of the sites. Camps and camp-like settings in Zamfara, Plateau and Katsina were best prepared to handle the pandemic with mitigation measures installed in 41 per cent, 40 per cent and 40 per cent of the sites, respectively. Camps and camp-like settings in the state of Kaduna were the least prepared to handle the pandemic as in none of the assessed sites mitigation measures were reported.

Similar to camps and camp-like settings, in 20 per cent of the locations where IDPs were living among host communities, specific mitigation measures against COVID-19 were put in place (down from 23% in Round 3). In the state Katsina, 94 per cent of respondents in locations were living with host communities reported that no specific measures were set up in the locality. Katsina was followed by Sokoto and Kaduna, reported at 92 per cent and 90 per cent, respectively. Similar to the assessment in 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 45 per cent and 34 per cent of the locations assessed.

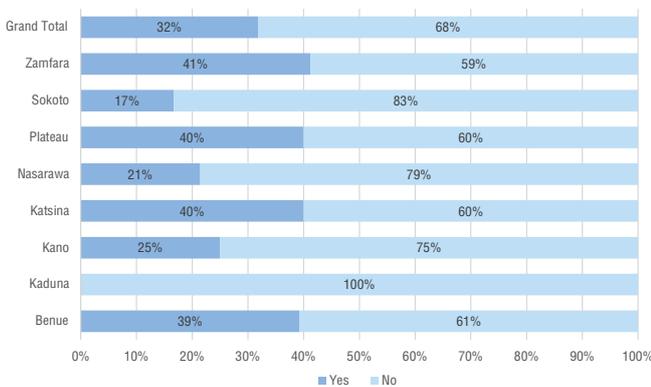


Figure 8: Presence of mitigation measures in camps/camp-like settings

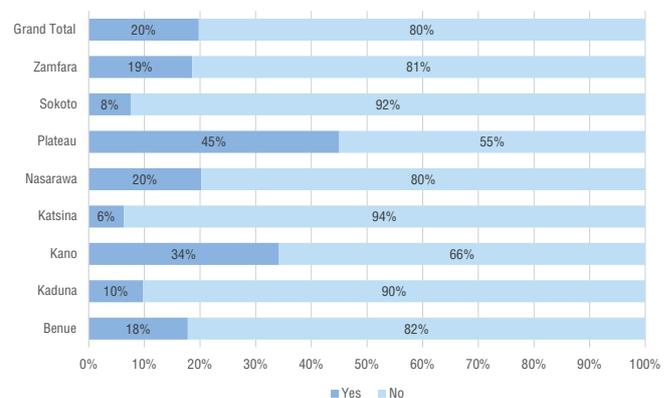


Figure 9: Presence of mitigation measures in host communities

Eighty-five per cent of respondents felt that the health centres were not prepared to handle the threat of COVID-19 (a decrease from 88%). The states were the most respondents felt that health centres were insufficiently prepared were Benue, Kano and Kaduna with 96 per cent, 93 per cent and 93 per cent, respectively. The health centres in the states Zamfara and Sokoto scored the best as respectively 41 per cent and 33 per cent of respondents felt that they were well prepared to handle the coronavirus pandemic. Furthermore, in 82 per cent of the assessed locations, the closest operational health centre was 30 minutes or less away.

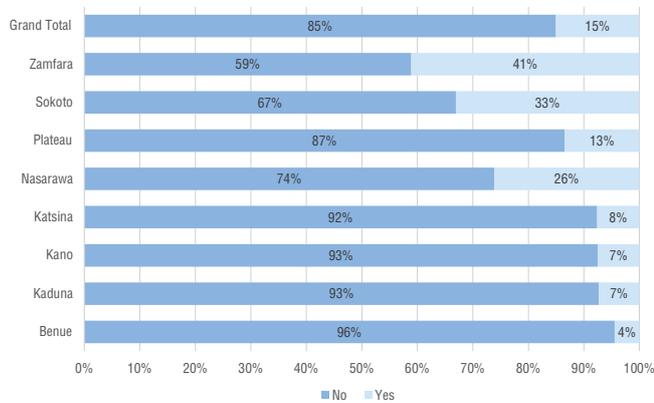


Figure 10: Health centres preparedness to handle COVID-19 cases per state

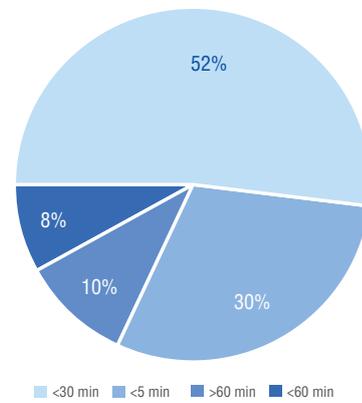


Figure 11: Distance to closest operational health centre

EVICION THREATS /ACCESS TO SERVICES

A small minority or 4 per cent of respondents (up from 3% in Round 3) reported an increase in evictions or eviction threats since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. Ninety-six per cent of respondents did not experience an increase of evictions or suchlike threats. In the states of Kaduna and Sokoto, no eviction threats were reported at all while in Plateau, 18 per cent of respondents reported an increase in evictions or eviction threats since the start of the pandemic.

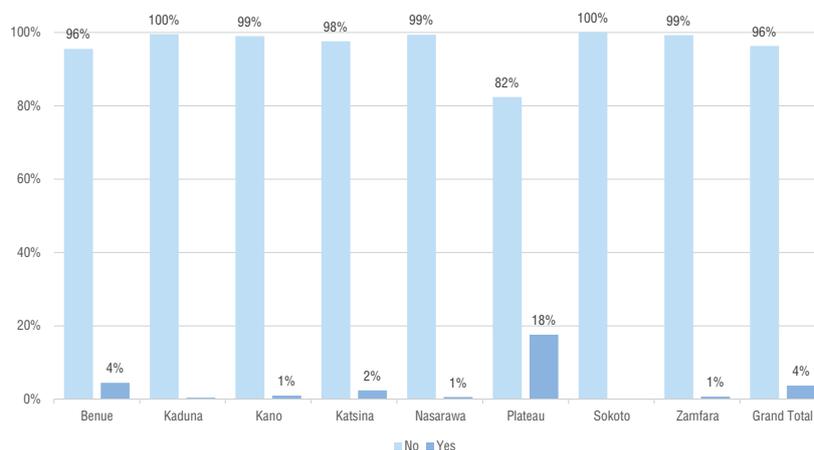


Figure 12: Increase in evictions or eviction threats per state

Ten per cent of respondents (down from 16% in the third 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 10 per cent of affected services, 6 per cent were located on the site of assessment while 4 per cent were located off the site of assessment.

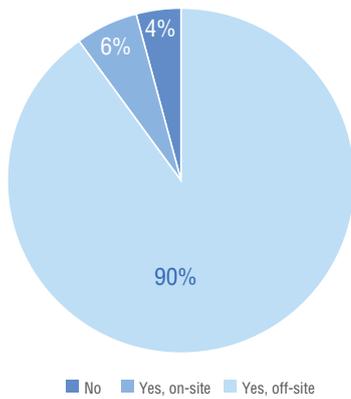


Figure 13: Percentage of service disruption

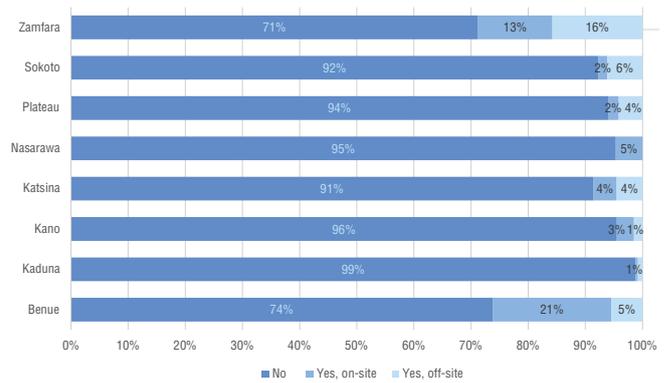


Figure 14: Percentage of service disruption per state

States where the access to services was least affected by the pandemic were Kaduna and Kano as respondents in respectively 99 per cent and 96 per cent of the locations stated that no access to services had been disrupted due to the COVID-19 outbreak. To the contrary, Zamfara had the highest number of respondents reporting that access to services had been affected by the pandemic at 29 per cent, followed by Benue at 26 per cent.

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 (similar to Round 3) of respondents in camps and camp-like settings reported their access to services disrupted due to the pandemic against 9 per cent (down from 15%) of respondents living among host communities. The difference in service disruption compared to the previous round of assessments in the communities where IDPs are residing among host could be explained by the efforts to restore the access to services by the Government and the humanitarian community.

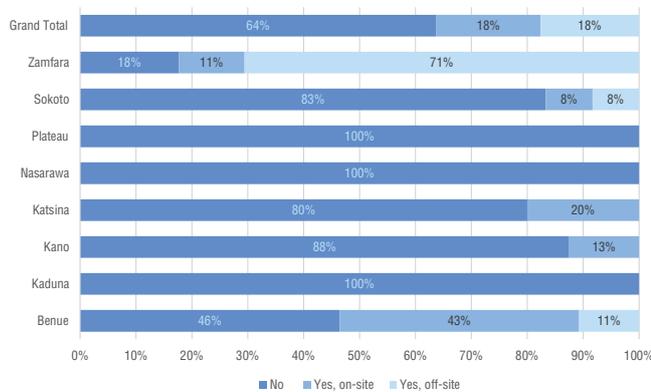


Figure 15: Percentage service disruption in camps/camp-like settings

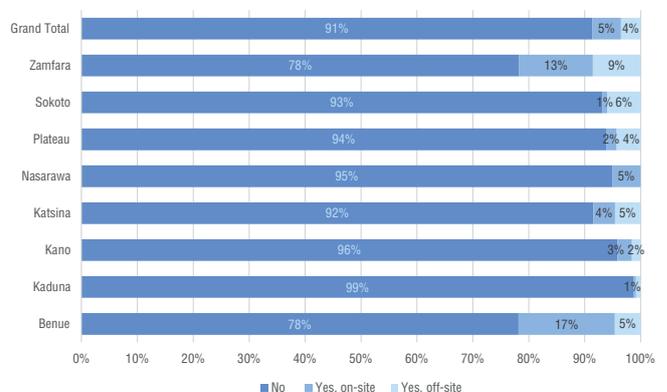


Figure 16: Percentage service disruption in host communities

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 fourth 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 (no changes since the last round of assessments).

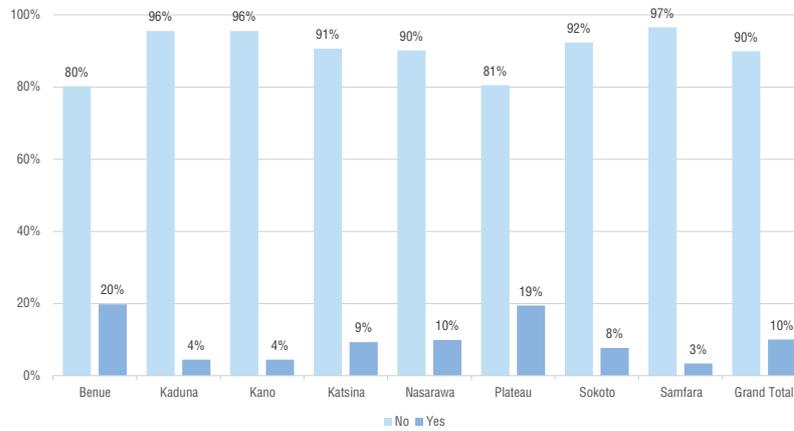


Figure 17: Availability of handwashing stations filled with soap and water on-site

However, in 51 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 (up from 49%) while in 17 per cent of locations, about half of the people had access to with water and soap (down from 20%). In 12 per cent of the locations, only a few people had access (up from 11%) and in 19 per cent of the locations, everyone had access to handwashing stations filled with water and soap (up from 18%). Only in 1 per cent of the locations assessed, respondents stated that nobody in their community had access to water and soap (down from 3%).

In Benue, only 1 per cent of respondents reported that everyone in their location had access to water and soap, while in Kano 75 per cent of respondents reported that everyone in their location had access to water and soap. In Zamfara, 5 per cent of respondents reported that nobody in the location assesses had access to water and soap.

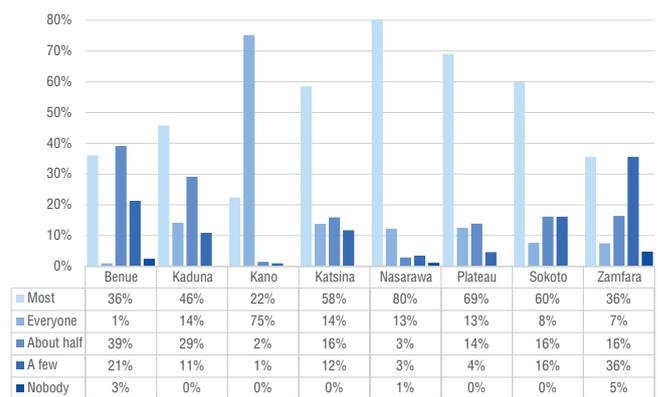
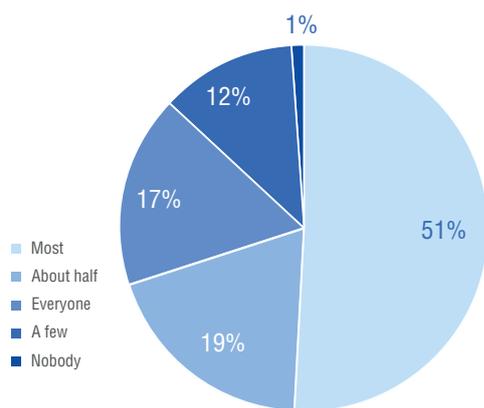


Figure 18: Access to soap and water on-site

In 71 per cent of the locations assessed, respondents stated that there was no evidence of hand washing practices. For Zamfara, this number was reported at 96 per cent. To the contrary, in the state of Katsina, evidence of hand washing practices was reported in 92 per cent of the locations assessed, scoring the highest of all states in north-central and north-west Nigeria.

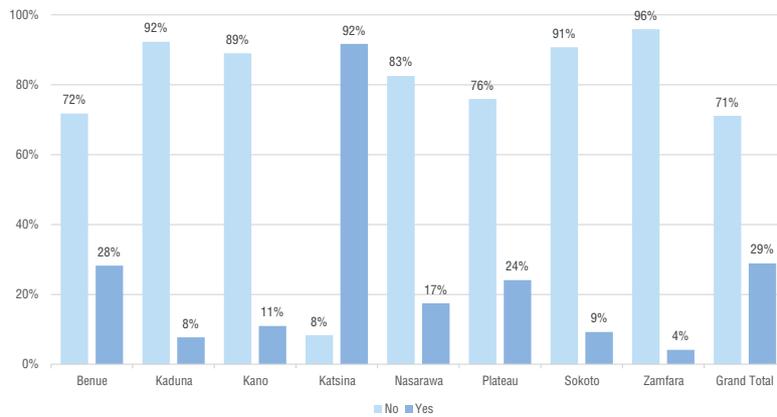


Figure 19: Evidence of hand washing practices per state

VACCINE AWARENESS AND VACCINATION PREPAREDNESS

In this fourth round of COVID-19 assessments, a new section was added examining the perception of IDPs on vaccines against COVID-19. Additional questions were asked about vaccine awareness and the preparedness of IDPs to get vaccinated in the future.

Ninety-four per cent of IDPs stated that they have heard about vaccines against COVID-19. Vaccine awareness was reported the highest in the state of Kano at 99 per cent and the lowest in the state of Zamfara at 86 per cent. Of the respondents that indicated that they did hear about vaccines, 36 per cent mentioned that they knew about vaccines through friends or family. Twenty-two per cent were informed about vaccines by government officials and 15 per cent were told by community leaders. Other sources of information on vaccines mentioned by the respondents were medical personnel (14%), religious leaders (6%) NGOs or INGOs (2%), and other IDPs (2%).

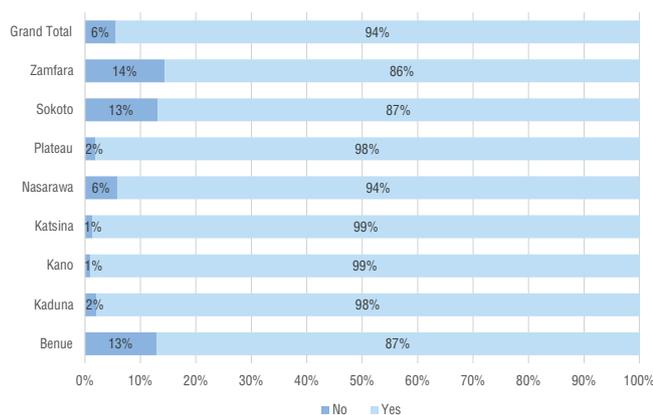


Figure 20: Covid-19 vaccine awareness in all assessed locations

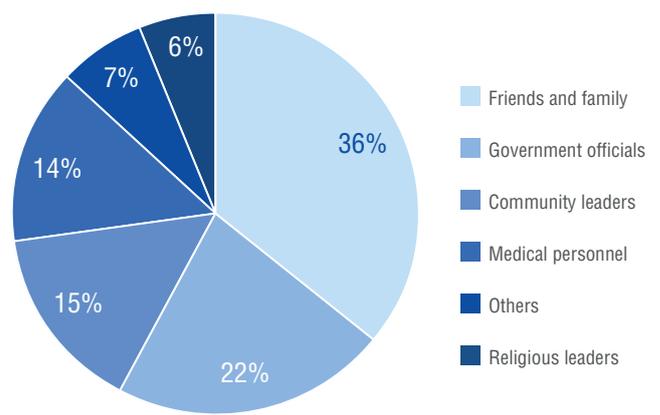


Figure 21: Means of getting information on COVID-19 vaccine/vaccination

Thirty per cent of respondents stated that they did not dispose of sufficient information on COVID-19 and the vaccines to be able to make an informed decision on whether to get vaccinated or not. In the state of Benue, this number was reported at 53 per cent. To the contrary, 70 per cent of the respondents reported that they did have sufficient information to make an informed decision. In the state of Kano, 85 per cent of the respondents indicated that they did have sufficient information to be able to make an informed decision on whether to get vaccinated or not.

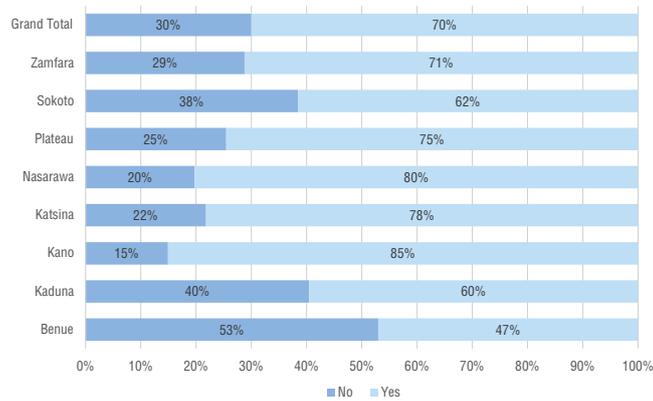


Figure 22: Percentage of respondents with sufficient information to make an informed decision

From the respondents that indicated to have sufficient information to make an informed decision whether to get vaccinated or not, 42 per cent of the respondents indicated that they would not get vaccinated, even if the vaccine was available and free. Fifty-six per cent of respondents stated that they would get vaccinated and 2 per cent of respondents were still undecided. In Sokoto, a high of 76 per cent of the respondents indicated that they would not get vaccinated. To the contrary, Katsina was the state where the highest percentage of respondents indicated that they would get vaccinated at 78 per cent. While Sokoto was among the states where a great percentage of respondents felt that they lacked sufficient information to make an informed decision, the state of Katsina was among the states where the respondents felt best informed on COVID-19 and the pandemic. This demonstrates that there is a clear correlation between the available information on vaccines and the preparedness to get vaccinated.

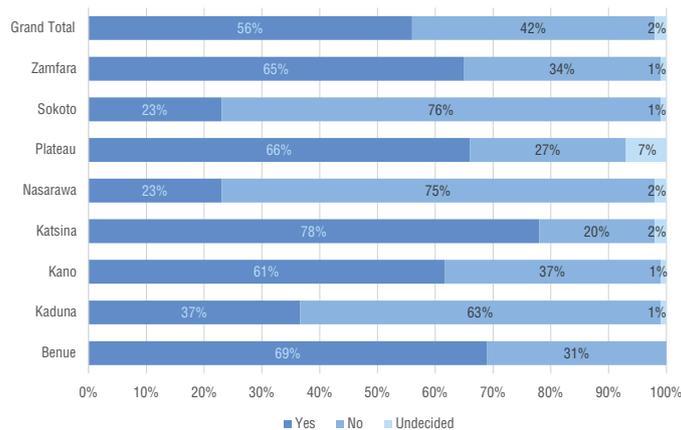


Figure 23: Percentage of respondents per state that would or would not get vaccinated

As for the respondents that indicated that they would get vaccinated, 83 per cent mentioned that they believe that vaccination is the best way to combat the pandemic. Another 14 per cent said that they would get the vaccine to not have to follow the restrictions any longer (social distancing, quarantining, wearing a mask) and 3 per cent mentioned underlying health conditions as the primary reason to get vaccinated.

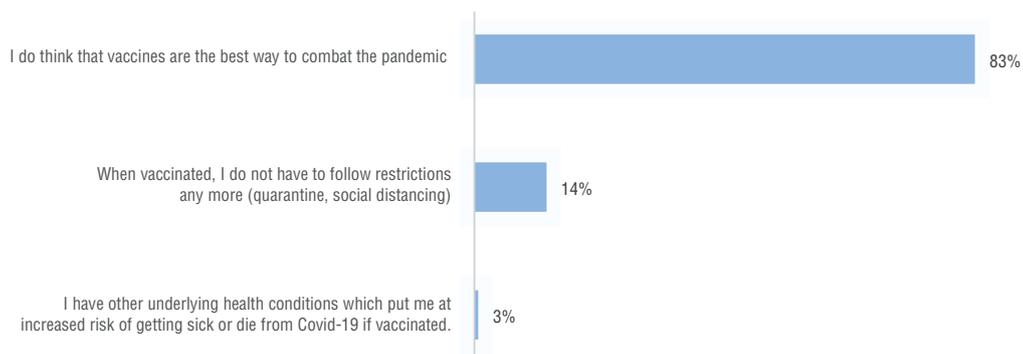


Figure 24: Percentage and reasons of respondents on getting the vaccine if it is free and available

Forty-nine per cent of the respondents that indicated that they would not get vaccinated because they do not trust the vaccines and are worried about the side-effects. Twenty-three per cent of respondents were confused by the conflicting information on vaccines and 14 per cent wanted to have more detailed information to be able to make a more informed decision. Five per cent of respondents prefer to traditional medication against COVID-19 and 4 per cent

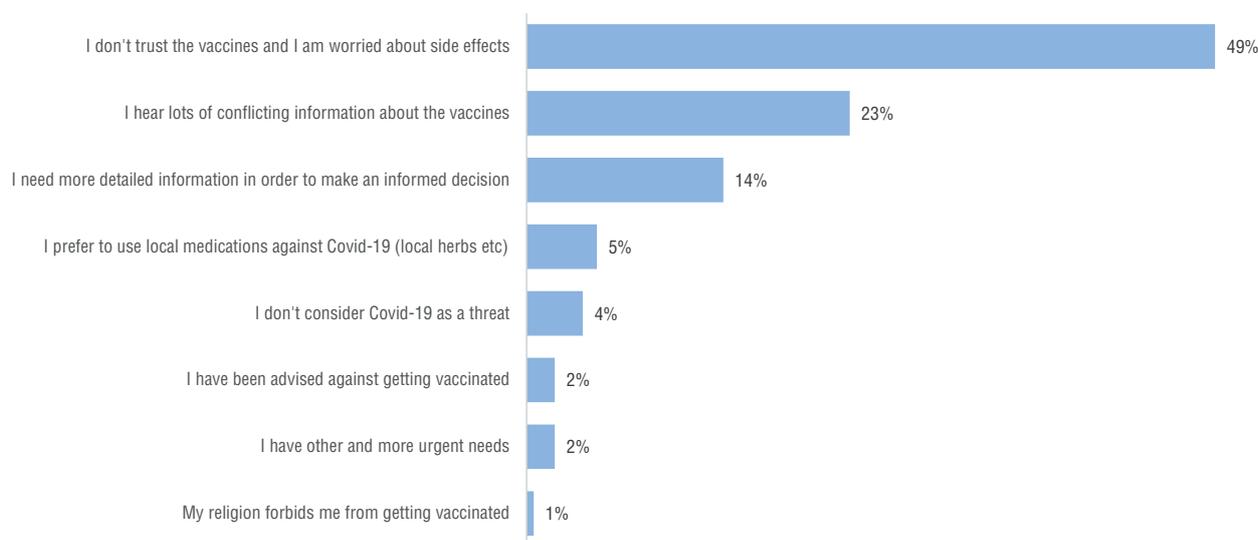


Figure 25: Percentage and reasons of respondents on not getting the vaccine if it is free and available

LIMITATIONS

- The security situation in some LGAs in north-west and north-central Nigeria remains unstable and as a result accessibility was limited.
- As a result of the insecurities, especially in Zamfara State, the price of transportation has increased considerably.
- As the data collection for this round took place immediately after the rainy season, some roads and localities were still flooded which hindered the data collection process.
- 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.

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