

Language profile of five IDP sites in Maiduguri: findings by site

Muna host community



TRANSLATORS
WITHOUT BORDERS



OXFAM

This site report for Muna host community summarizes key findings from a study of comprehension levels among 951 internally displaced people (IDPs) and host community members at five sites in the Maiduguri area of Borno, north-eastern Nigeria. The full summary of findings is available [here](#). The study was designed by Translators without Borders (TWB) and conducted by Girl Effect using Oxfam communication materials, in July 2017. TWB analyzed the data in consultation with Girl Effect and Oxfam, and Oxfam financed the field research.

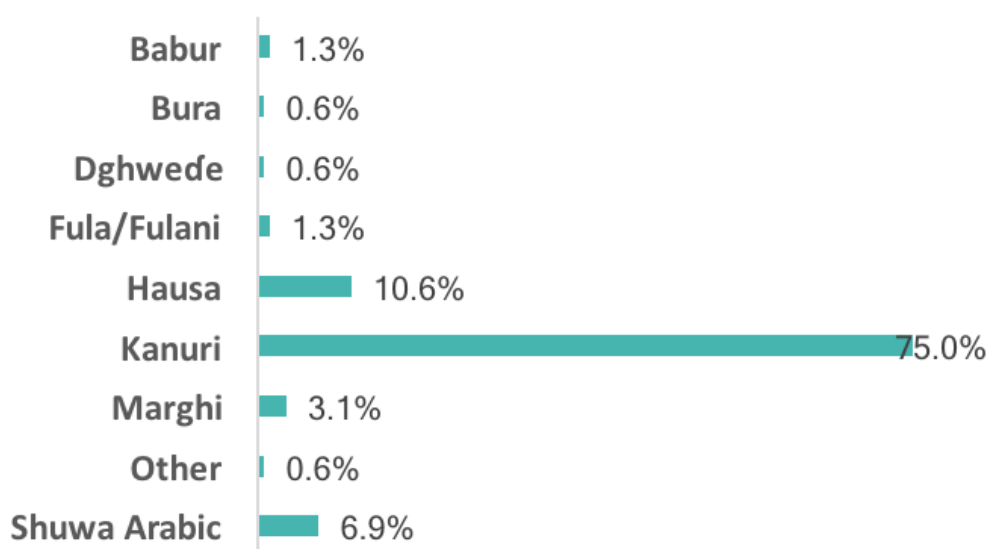
Muna host community profile

Sample population		
Total: 160	Female: 128 / 80%	Male: 32 / 20%
Age		Education
15-30 yrs (67 / 41.9%)		No schooling: 101 / 63.1%
30-44 yrs (62 / 38.8%)		Non formal schooling: 24 / 15.0%
45-59 yrs (22 / 13.8%)		Primary school: 13 / 8.1%
60+ yrs (9 / 5.6%)		Junior secondary: 10 / 6.3%
Main LGAs of origin		Senior secondary: 3 / 1.9%
Jere (32.5%), Mafa (18.8%)		Tertiary: 1 / 0.6%
Bama (13.1%), Konduga (10.0%)		Other: 8 / 5.0%

Unsurprisingly for a sample including host community members, just under a third of respondents were from Jere local government area (LGA), where Muna is located. Almost 29 percent came from neighbouring Mafa and Konduga LGAs, with Bama the homeplace of the largest single other group sampled. All respondents were from Borno State. While no demographic data is available for the local population as a whole, the oversampling of women and girls is probably particularly pronounced here, as a mixed IDP/host site. Education levels are broadly on a par with the total sample across all sites.

Languages and language preferences

Respondents' mother tongues in Muna host community

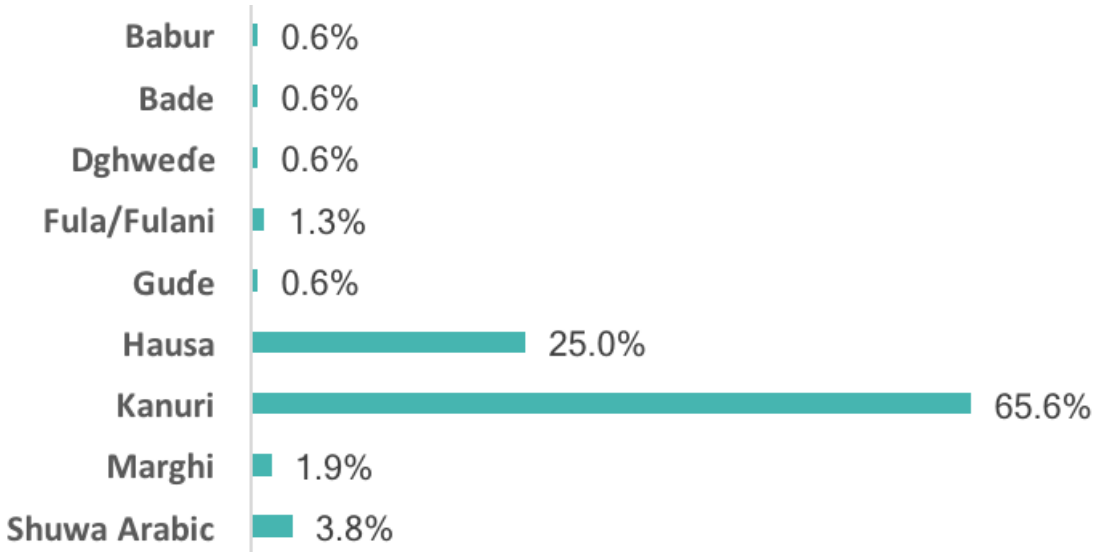


The sample here was overwhelmingly Kanuri speaking. It is likely that a common language and ties of ethnicity facilitated the acceptance of this particular group of IDPs in Muna. Hausa speakers were the second largest language group, and Shuwa Arabic speakers the third.

Two-thirds chose to take the comprehension test in Kanuri – less than the population of native Kanuri speakers. Apparently a minority of Kanuri speakers and all the other language groups present felt more confident of understanding material presented in Hausa.

This pattern is broadly reflected in recorded preferences for the language of communication. While 79 percent stated that they preferred to receive information in their mother tongue, when asked to specify, 25 percent of the sample named Hausa as their preference. Over 65 percent named Kanuri. It would therefore appear that at this site, Hausa is the preferred language of information not only for the 10.6 percent of Hausa native speakers, but also of all minority language groups at the site and a share of Kanuri speakers.

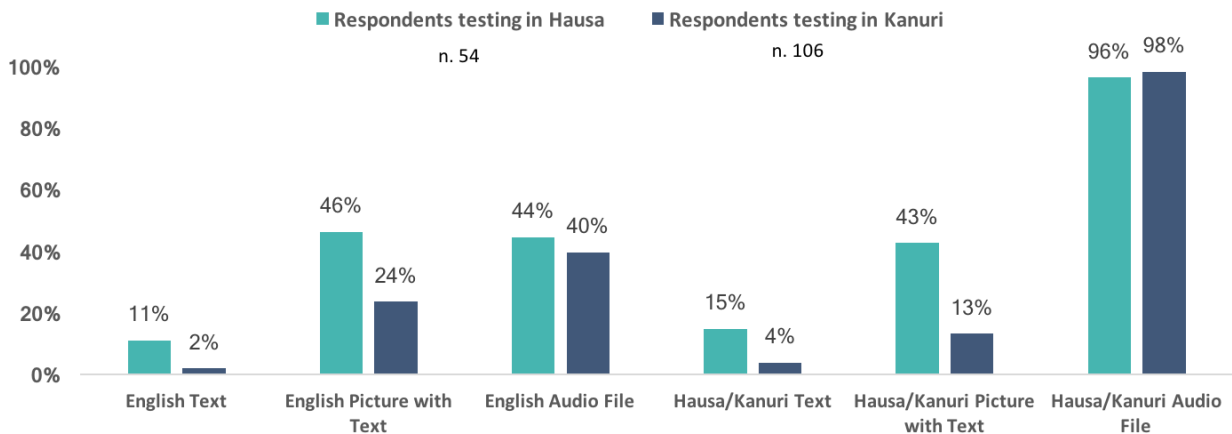
Preferred specific information to receive information in, Muna host community



Kanuri and Hausa should therefore be the priority languages of humanitarian communication in Muna host community. Shuwa Arabic, Marghi and Fula/Fulani would further extend the reach of communication efforts. Format is critical to ensuring comprehension in all languages, as outlined below.

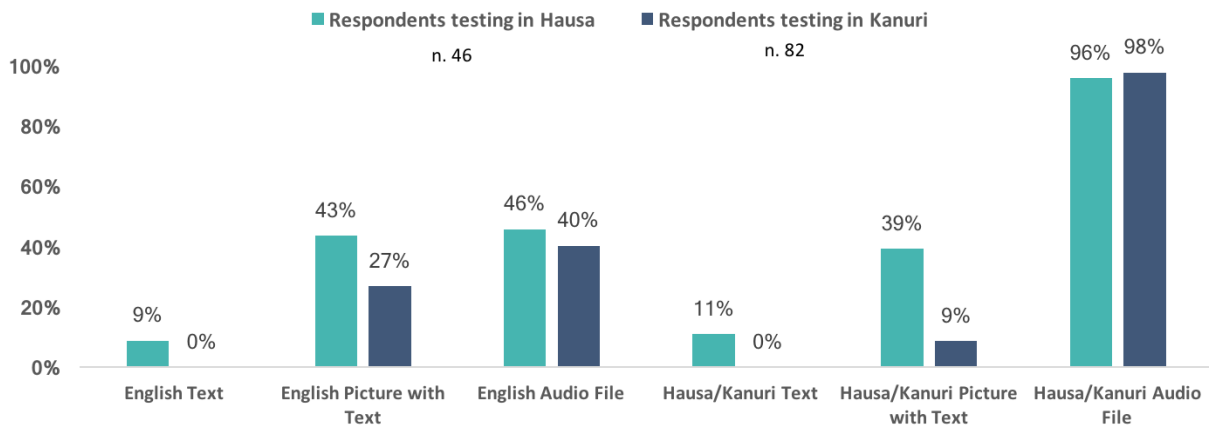
Comprehension levels

Comprehension rates in Muna host community

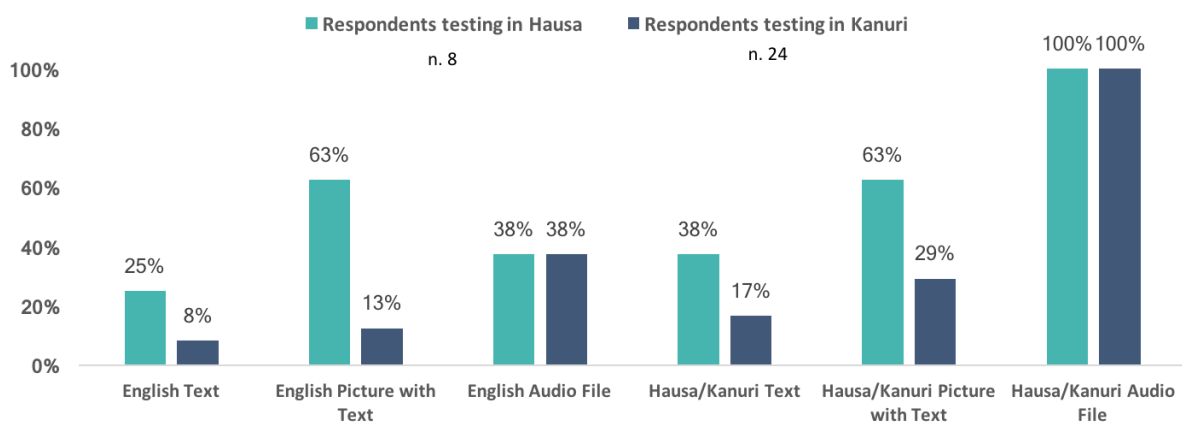


Despite a majority opting to test in Kanuri, comprehension rates among Kanuri speakers in Muna host community were the lowest of all five sites in most categories. As at most sites, Hausa comprehension was better, although text-only communication remained largely ineffective, and Hausa audio was the only format that achieved over 50 percent understanding among this sample.

Comprehension rates for female respondents in Muna host community

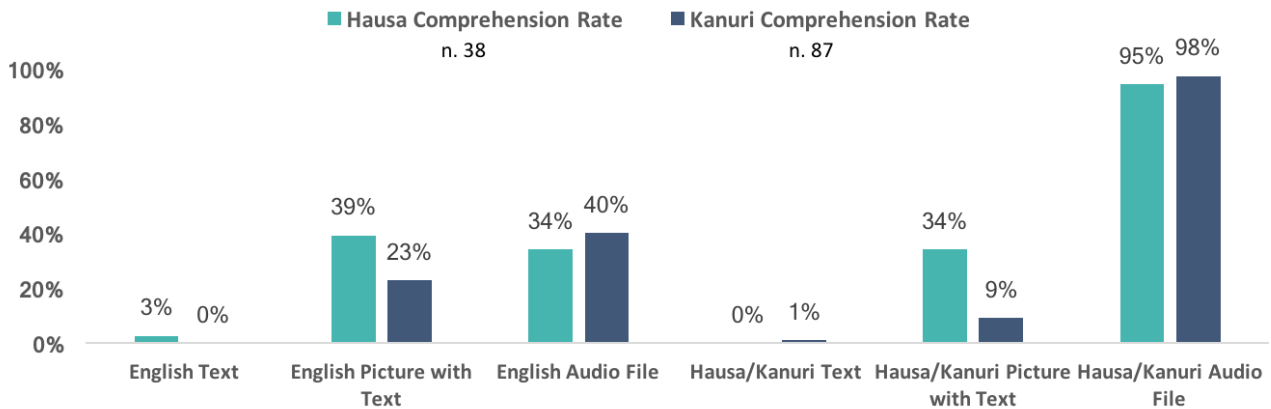


Comprehension rates for male respondents in Muna host community

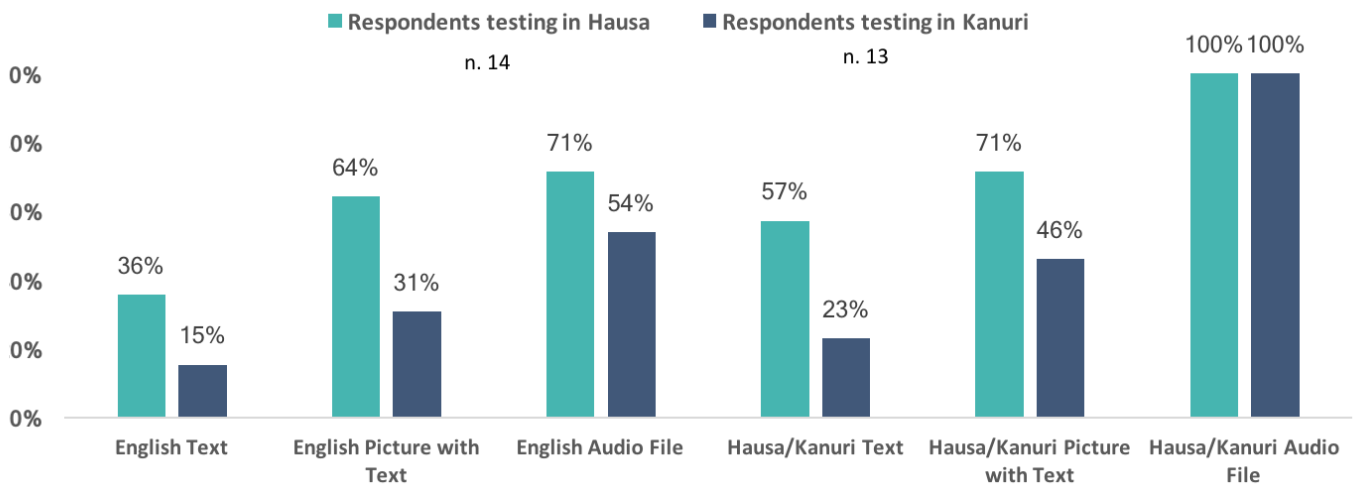


Gender and education levels both had a marked impact on comprehension levels at this site. Textual comprehension was very low among women compared with the small sample of men. None of the 82 female respondents understood the text-only information in English or Kanuri. When pictures were added, comprehension rates increased in both testing languages and for both sexes, but did not exceed 40%. Overall, male respondents testing in Hausa scored highest in most categories.

Comprehension rates for respondents without a formal education in Muna host community



Comprehension rates for respondents with some formal education in Muna host community

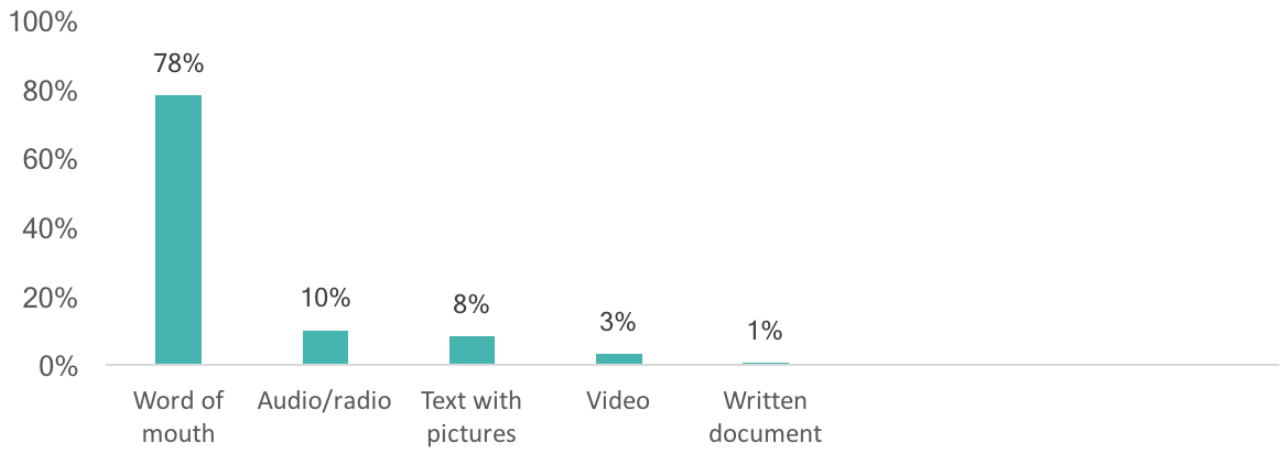


Similarly, written-only communication was almost entirely ineffective among the 125 respondents with no formal education.

Across all groups, audio comprehension was almost 100 percent effective, and should be a focus of communication strategies with this population.

Format preferences

Preferred format to receive information in, Muna host community



In line with findings at other sites, respondents in Muna host community voiced a strong preference for word-of-mouth as a means of receiving information. Eighty-eight of those surveyed preferred this or audio/radio. This tallies with the finding that audio formats are by far the most effective means of ensuring comprehension.

TWB's Words of Relief program is supported by Elrha's Humanitarian Innovation Fund – a grant-making facility supporting organizations and individuals to identify, nurture and share innovative and scalable solutions to the most pressing challenges facing effective humanitarian assistance. The Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF) initiative 'Accelerating the Journey to Scale' is funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). Oxfam's protection program in north-east Nigeria is supported by German Humanitarian Assistance.

The views expressed in this paper should not be taken, in any way, to reflect the official opinion of Elrha, the HIF, the Netherlands MFA, or German Humanitarian Assistance.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs