

**SUMMARY**

**Context:**

Cross-border transhumance is a major herding practice in West and Central Africa, especially in the Sahel region. As an important economic activity and a driver of regional development, transhumance has, in the past decades, been subject to significant changes. Climatic variation, demographic pressure, growing competition over scarcer resources, political volatility and insecurity have deeply affected transhumant routes, patterns and flows.

This dashboard presents the results of data in the Tahoua region of Niger and the Sokoto region of Nigeria in April 2022. A total of 23 localities were assessed by the **Bilital Maroobe Network (RBM)** and its branches of pastoralist organizations using a common methodology involving regional workshops with relevant stakeholders and local assessment conducted by trained enumerators. This information product highlights the number of herders and their cattle currently stranded at borders, as well as potential solutions to resume cattle mobility.

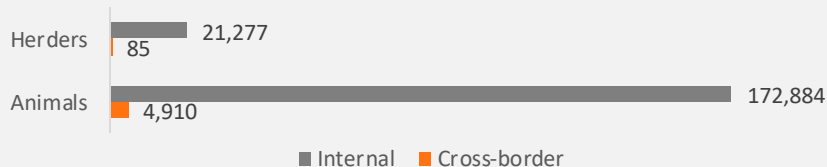
**Main results:**

A total of 177,794 animals (Bovidae, sheep, goats and camels) and 21,362 herders were identified and considered as stranded. Among those stranded, almost 100 per cent of herders were stranded for security reasons (unsafe route) and less than 1 per cent for COVID-19 reasons (mobility restrictions) and other reasons.

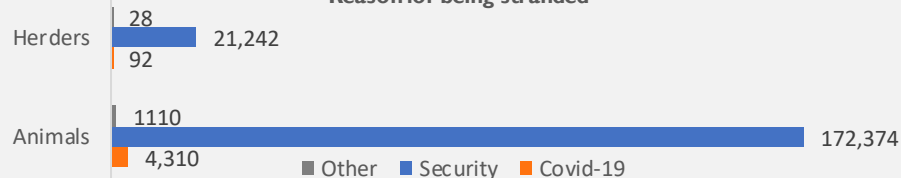
**Recommendations:**

- Strengthen the capacities of actors with regards to their knowledge and understanding of the texts and laws governing transhumance (community leaders, internal and cross-border transhumance, administrative authorities, technical services of the State)
- Make more accessible texts and laws governing transhumance and translate these essential documents into local languages for better assimilation.
- Facilitate access to information on the state of water and grazing resources, localization of pastoral infrastructures and security situation.
- Set up communication systems between the cross-border dialogue frameworks of Nigeria and Niger.
- Facilitate access to animal feed.
- Facilitate access to veterinary services to generalize the vaccination of livestock and thus allow the establishment of international transhumance certificates.
- Facilitate the issuance of international transhumance certificates.
- Strengthen the mediation capacities of pastoral organizations and their members.

**Type of transhumance**



**Reason for being stranded**



### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF HERDER STRANDED BY REASON

Most stranded transhumant herders are stranded for security reasons: 41 per cent of herders stranded in Tahoua and 30 percent in Sokoto.

Very few transhumant herders are stranded due to COVID-19, namely 92, in Sokoto.

28 Transhumant herders cite other reasons for their blockage, all in Sokoto.

Regions	Covid-19	Insecurity	Other
Tahoua	0 (0%)	20,840 (98%)	0 (0%)
Sokoto	92 (<1%)	402 (0%)	28 (<1%)

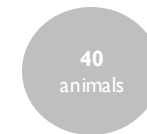
### Ratio: animals / herder



Stranded:  
Insecurity

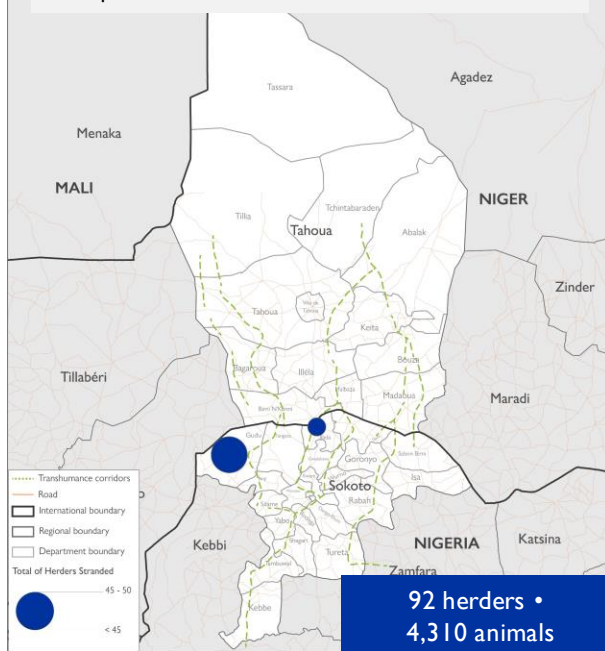


Stranded:  
COVID-19

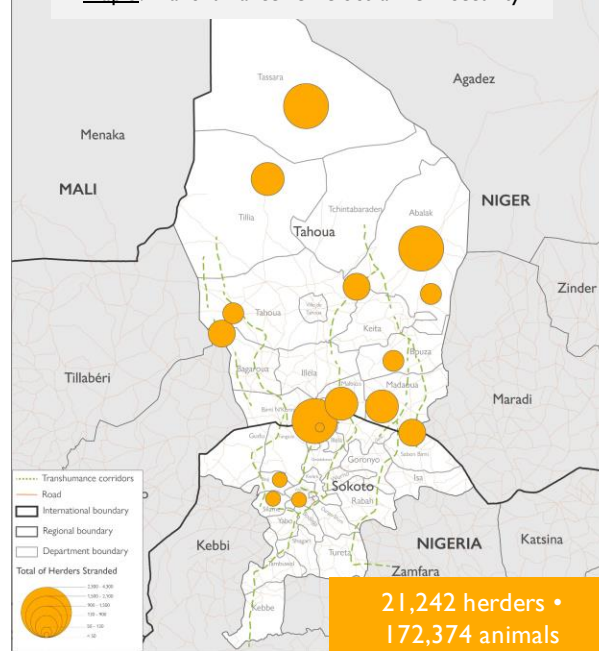


Stranded:  
Other

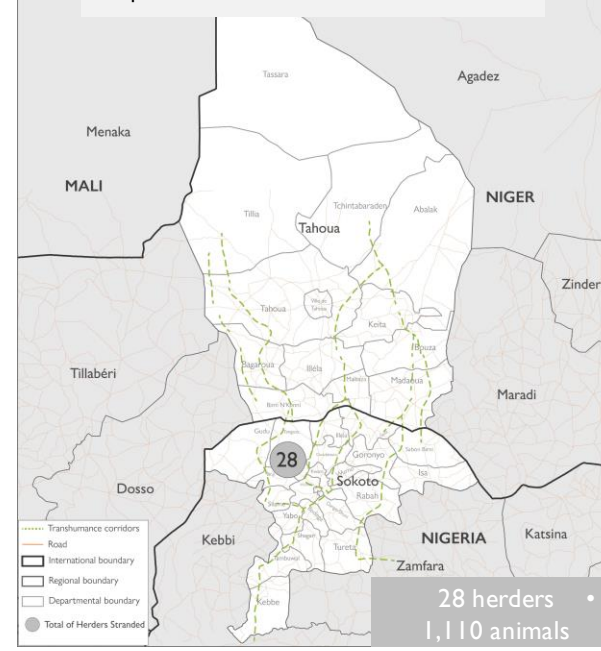
Map 2. Transhumance herders stranded – COVID-19



Map 3. Transhumance herders stranded - Security



Map 4. Transhumance herders stranded - Other



### SUMMARY

The majority of stranded transhumant herders (93%) have access to various services and infrastructure either at the level of the commune of residence or in a neighboring commune. However, the presence of these services does not necessarily mean that they are working or even accessible.

Another question about the accessibility of water and pasture shows that the situation of stranded transhumant herders must be nuanced. Thus, while herders are indeed in areas where water and pasture are present, access to sufficient water and pasture is much more of a concern for the months to come, especially given the blockages that still exist.

### CERTIFICATES OF TRANSHUMANCE

Cross-border transhumant herders with an international transhumance certificate	Internal transhumant herders with a national transhumance certificate
0(0%)	0(0%)

### HEALTH SERVICES

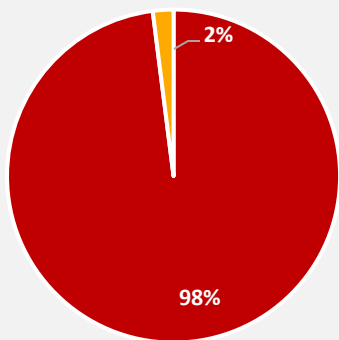
Stranded transhumant herders are located in localities that provide human (93%) and animal (87%) health services. This highlights the presence of these services but does not guarantee that herders have the necessary resources to access them.

### GRAZING LANDS & WATER POINTS

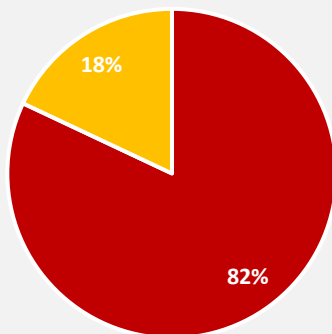
According to key informants, 97 percent of stranded transhumant herders have access to water points and 90 percent have access to grazing areas. While this proportion of pasture and water availability is encouraging, it does not automatically translate into adequate access and sufficient quantity for all transhumant animals. Thus, 98 percent of stranded transhumant

herders do not have enough pasture to supply all the animals in the locality (both cattle belonging to transhumant herders and animals belonging to local herders). Also, 82 percent of stranded transhumant herders do not have enough water to meet the needs of their livestock.

Grazing lands are sufficient to feed all animals



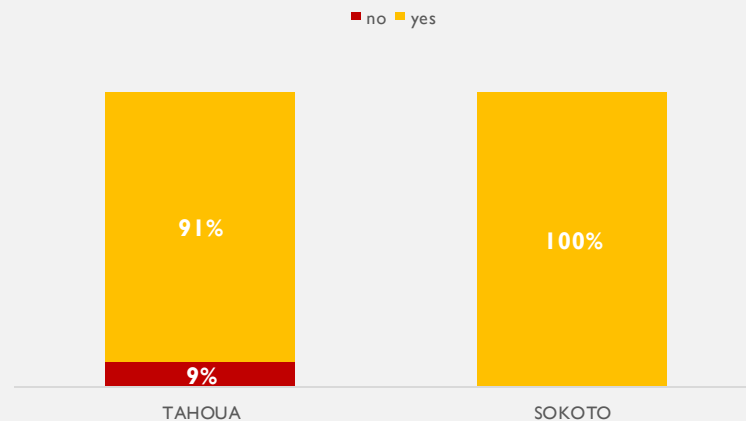
Water points are sufficient for all animals



### MARKETS

Almost all the herders surveyed have access to markets to sell their cattle, whether in their current commune of residence or in neighboring communes, with the exception of Tahoua where access to cattle markets appears particularly difficult for 9 percent of stranded transhumant herders.

Access to markets

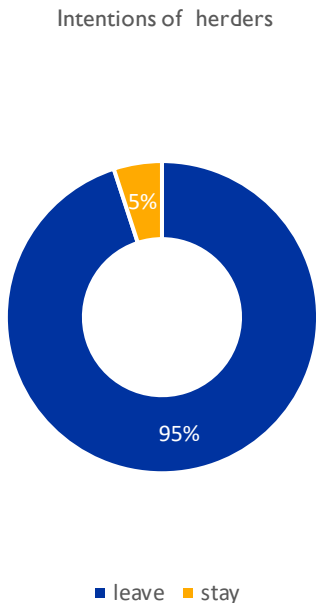


**MOVEMENT INTENTIONS IN THE 3 MONTHS FOLLOWING THE SURVEY**

95 percent of stranded transhumant herders intended to leave their current place of residence within three months of the survey, mostly in April 2022.

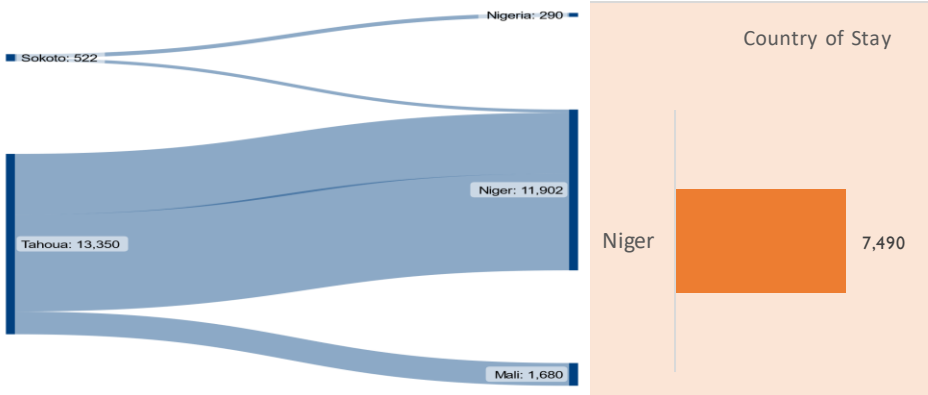
In Sokoto, Nigeria, all stranded transhumant herders wanted to go to their country of origin

On the other hand, in Tahoua in Niger, 8,850 stranded transhumant herders planned to return to their country of origin, 7,490 wanted to remain in Niger and 4,500 intended to go to another region of Niger.

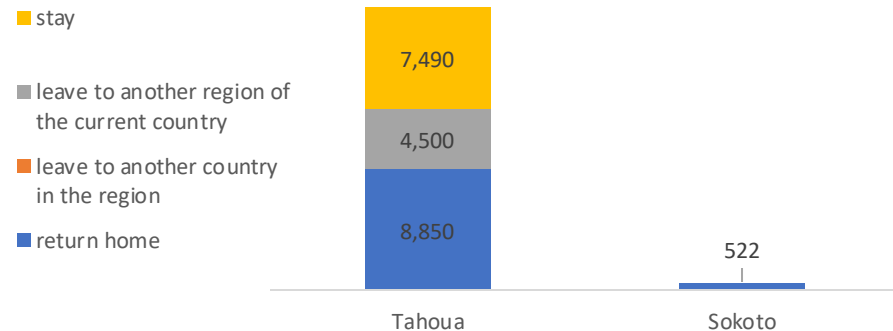


**MOVEMENT INTENTIONS – FINAL INTENDED COUNTRY**

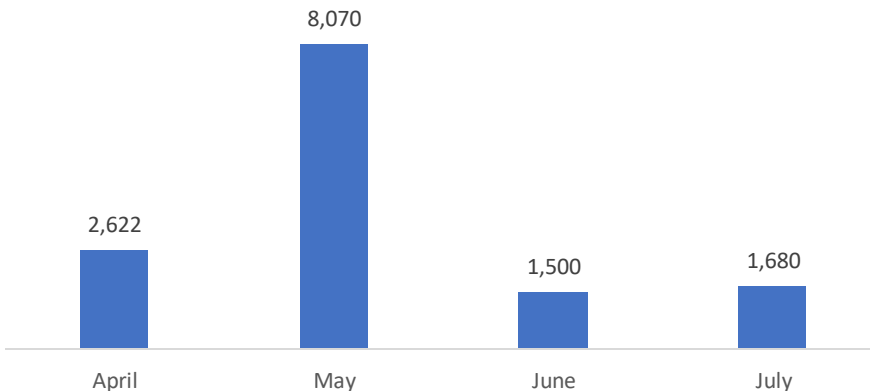
Leave			Stay
to another country	to another region	return home	
0 ( 0%)	4,500 ( 21%)	9,372 ( 77%)	7,490 ( 15%)



**MOVEMENT INTENTION BY COUNTRY OF CURRENT RESIDENCE**



**EXPECTED DEPARTURE DATE**



### IMPACTS & RISKS

Asked about the potential risks linked to prolonged stays of transhumant herders in their current place of residence, key informants surveyed mention the overexploitation of resources in the localities in which transhumant herders are stranded (mentioned by 100% of respondents), conflicts between herders and farmers (95%), as well as the damage caused by their cattle in the surrounding fields (68%), inter-community tensions (68%), animal health (68%) and variation of market prices are.

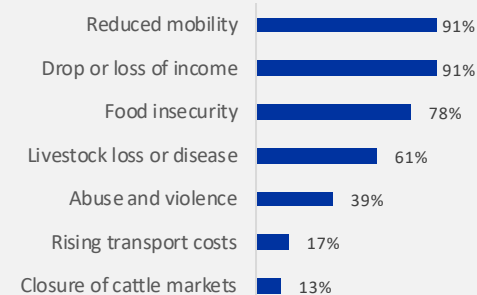
These findings are reflected in their responses on the impacts of the situation, both on herders and host communities. Regarding the first type of impact, herders explain that they are mainly impacted by reduced mobility (91%), a drop or loss of income (91%), food insecurity (78%) and disease or death of their animals (61%).

Asked about the impacts on localities, key informants mention that certificates of transhumance are not delivered (100%), a decrease in resources (95%), conflicts with herders (91%) or food insecurity (95%) as the main consequences of the presence of stranded transhumant herders.

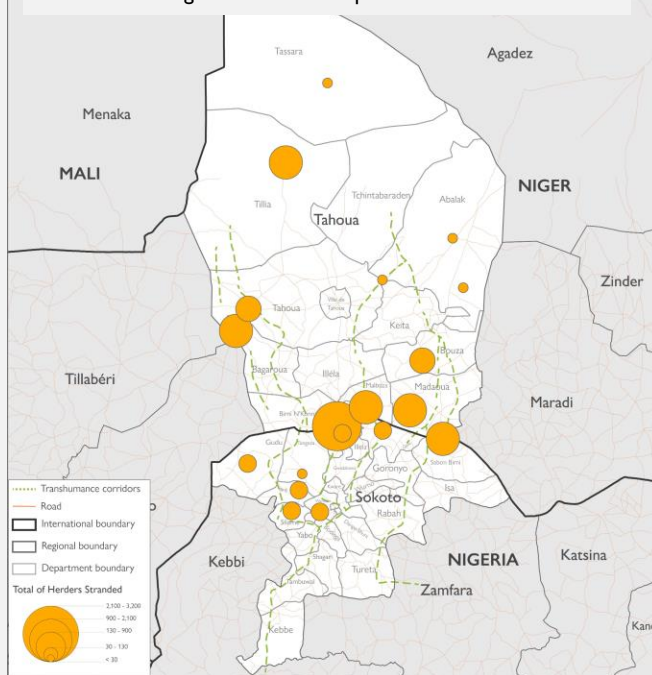
#### Potential risks associated with herders stranded in the locality



#### Impacts on herders associated with being stranded in the locality

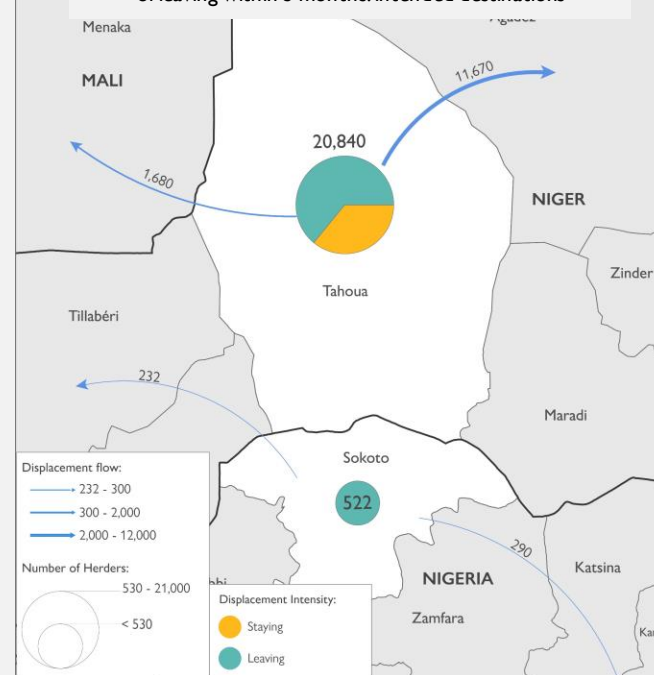


**Map 5.** Location of transhumant herders with the intention of leaving within 3 months: potential risk areas



Map 5 identifies the sites where stranded herders intend to leave in the next three months following data collection. If these herders were refused passage to their intended destinations and obliged to stay in their current place of residence, this could have generated frustrations and tensions between farmers and herders on these sites as to the use of water and grazing resources.

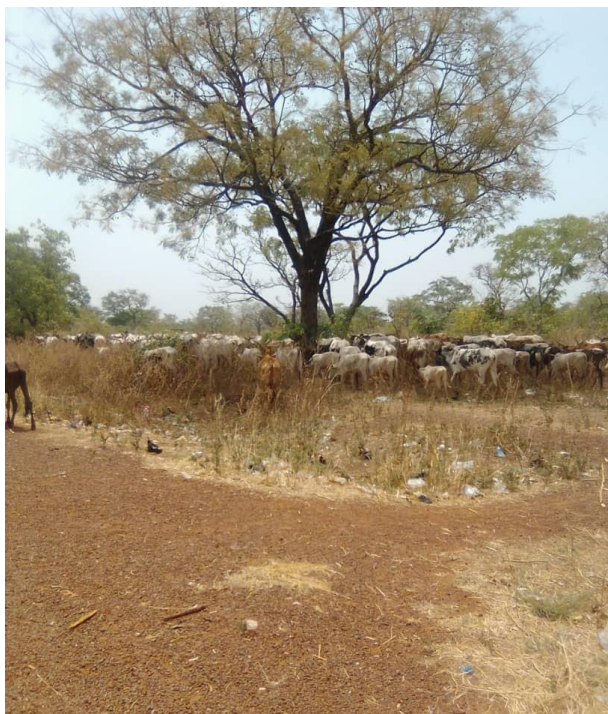
**Map 6.** Location of transhumant herders with the intention of leaving within 3 months: intended destinations



Map 6 identifies the destinations planned within three months by the stranded herders. Most stranded herders wishing to leave in the next three months following the data collection planned to leave for Niger.

## PROJECT

IOM, through its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), works with the Réseau Bilital Maroobè (RBM) and its branches of pastoral organizations to map the movements of transhumant herders in West and Central Africa in order to better understand the dynamics and characteristics of internal (national) and cross-border movements. This project, funded by the Bureau of Humanitarian Affairs of the United States Agency for International Development (BHA – USAID), has as its main objective to facilitate the peaceful management of the mobility of transhumant herders and their livestock through the sharing of reliable information and data to the various stakeholders governing transhumance, by supporting local and inclusive mechanisms for dialogue around transhumance so that they are empowered to provide solutions on the basis of the information collected.



## METHODOLOGY

Objective: The purpose of this mapping tool is twofold:

- Establish a map of herders and animals currently living in cross-border regions with Niger and who are stranded due to the COVID-19 situation, security reasons or other reasons such as administrative or vaccination problems, the lack of pasture and water, etc. ;
- Identify the regrouping points currently used and the main displacement intentions once the situation is resolved as well as the impacts of this situation for the herders.

Geographic Scope: The data collection for the entire project focused on Niger's cross-border regions with Mali, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria where transhumant herders and their livestock are currently stranded and face multiple challenges (security, mobility restrictions). In order to facilitate data collection and information sharing, 4 areas have been identified (Tillabéri, Gao and Sahel; Maradi and Katsina; Dosso and Kebbi; Tahoua and Sokoto).

Source of information: The main source of information for this exercise was the network of key informants of RBM currently active in the targeted geographic areas.

Steps: A first step (listing) aimed establishing a list of regions in the targeted geographical area. From this list of targeted regions, RBM and partners identified relevant key informants who can represent and talk about these regions.

- At the regional level, during a cross-border Round Table bringing together all the stakeholders concerned, a survey was conducted among key informants in the region, in order to identify the host localities of transhumant herders stranded with their herds. The list of localities generated by this first stage of data collection made it possible to identify the localities where the second survey was carried out.
- At the locality level, data was collected from key informants able to provide information on transhumant herders stranded with their herds. The questionnaire helped identify specific areas where these transhumant herders and their herds were stranded. The form also helped to identify the potential risks associated with the prolonged stay of transhumant herders in this area and their future intentions.

**Map:** The maps presented in this document are for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM