

**TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL (TTT),
FALABA DISTRICT, SIERRA LEONE, PARTICIPATORY PRESENCE MAPPING,
FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2022**



Photo 1: Transhumance Pattern in Falaba District ©EmmanuelVnkallon/IOM 2022



**TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL (TTT),
FALABA DISTRICT, SIERRA LEONE, PARTICIPATORY PRESENCE MAPPING,
FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2022**

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3-5
Aims and Objectives.....	4-6
Methodology.....	6-8
Transhumance Corridors and Movement Periods.....	8
Transhumance Corridors.....	8-10
Profile of animals, herders and Movement periods.....	10-11
Conflict and Security.....	11-13
Mobility and Freedom of Movement of Animals.....	13-14
Socio-economic activities of inhabitants and the Effects of Transhumance.....	14-16
Awareness and Knowledge of Existing Transhumance Protocols.....	14-17
Community Needs and Recommendations.....	18-20
Conclusion.....	20-21

**TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL (TTT),
FALABA DISTRICT, SIERRA LEONE, PARTICIPATORY PRESENCE MAPPING,
FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2022**

Introduction

Falaba became a new district of Sierra Leone in 2016. The Faranah Prefecture is located immediately across the border in neighboring Guinea with Sierra Leone. Both areas are remote, hard-to-reach and sparsely populated, yet cross-border movement remains pronounced between these two locations. The district comprised mostly of cattle herding and farming as major economic and livelihood activities, and it is considered a rural district. Cross-border trade is also known of the district. In terms of the district ethnic composition, Mandigo, Fula, Yalunka and Kuranko are among the major tribes inhabiting the district, with Yalunka constituting the highest.

On the Guinea side the main ethnic groups represented are Djalonke, Kurankos, and Fulani, with the Kurankos and Yalunkas from the Sierra Leone side. The *Fulani (Peulh)* are semi-nomadic pastoralist people practicing free-range cattle herding. The other ethnic groups present in the regions on both sides are largely engaged in subsistence crop farming, cultivating rice, groundnut, hot pepper, and vegetables which is practiced by both men and women.

The border areas in Falaba and Faranah both attract a sizable volume of transhumance migration. With large mass of potential grazing land attainable, cattle herders are increasingly migrating from other districts in Sierra Leone and Guinea to Falaba. Concurrently, Faranah attracts herders from other Guinea's prefectures and into Falaba in Sierra Leone for its grazing land.

**TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL (TTT),
FALABA DISTRICT, SIERRA LEONE, PARTICIPATORY PRESENCE MAPPING,
FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2022**

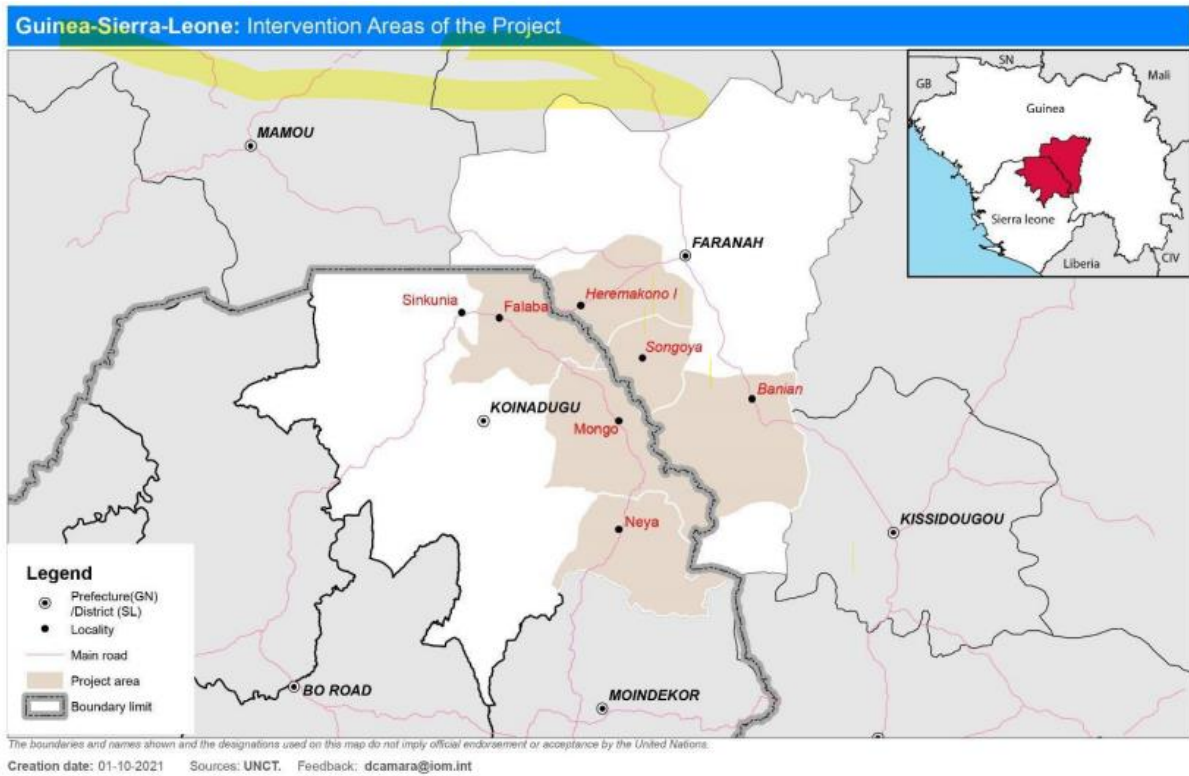


Photo 2: Map indicating the border between Falaba in Sierra Leone and Faranah in Guinea@Dong/IOM22

Despite these large mass tracts of potential grazing land, the impacts of climate variability and weak enforcement of laws related to cattle and crop farming has resulted in prolonged and frequent conflicts over the use of natural resources between pastoralists and farmers in these border areas. These tensions are exacerbated by fractured communication within and between key stakeholders due to limited means of communication among these stakeholders in the community.

Although conflicts have been persistent, violence has de-escalated over the past few years. In large part, this is attributed to the fear of retaliation, including the destruction of crops and the steep fines associated with injured cattle imposed by community local leaders or chiefs (local cattle settlement committee). The committee also undertake the assessment process of damage caused on farms or afflicted on the animals). Notwithstanding a decline in violence,

**TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL (TTT),
FALABA DISTRICT, SIERRA LEONE, PARTICIPATORY PRESENCE MAPPING,
FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2022**

increasing number of transhumant cattle herders between the two countries continued without a better transhumance governance, could lead to a deterioration and conflicts, undermining cohesion, and destabilizing the stability of the border region.

This study was created to collect data on the overall transhumance patterns with the aim to contribute to the project: “Building Cross Border Peace and Strengthening Sustainable Livelihoods of Cattle Herders and Crop Farmers in Sierra Leone and Guinea.”

Aims and Objectives

This study addresses information needs and lack of available data on transhumance activities, including flow patterns (routes and calendar), animal and herder profiles, security (conflict prevention), knowledge on ECOWAS protocol, protection, transhumance stakeholders (transhumance structure, governance, collaboration, communication etc.) socio-economic impacts of transhumance activities on inhabitants along transhumance corridors, using the transhumance tracking tool (TTT) of IOM. In particular, the specific objective seek:

- To collect data on transhumance flow patterns and routes/corridors within borders chiefdoms/ POEs at Falaba district situated along Faranah Prefecture in Guinea.
 - Movement period and corridors
 - Origin and destination of transhumance activity, profile of animals and herders
 - Movement calendar

- To assess farmers-herders conflicts and security, notably
 - Social-cohesion
 - Protection
 - Mobility and freedom of movement of animals

**TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL (TTT),
FALABA DISTRICT, SIERRA LEONE, PARTICIPATORY PRESENCE MAPPING,
FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2022**

- To assess transhumance stakeholders and knowledge on existing local, national and regional protocols on transhumance, notably
 - Awareness and knowledge on existing transhumance protocols
 - Communication channels of transhumance activities

- To obtain a better understanding of socio-economic effects of transhumance on the cross-border communities along the corridors:
 - Socio-economic activities of inhabitants along the transhumance corridors
 - Socio-economic infrastructure along the transhumance corridors
 - Effects of transhumance movements on the livelihood

Methodology

Participatory transhumance presence mapping was conducted in Falaba district, Sierra Leone, from February 20-2 March, 2022. The exercise took the form of a day-long workshop in each selected chiefdom through focus group discussion during which participants mapped out the presence and locations of transhumance corridors. Presence mapping is one of the elements or first phase of Transhumance Tracking Tool (TTT).

Transhumance tracking tool is a system for monitoring and supporting peaceful transhumance movements. The exercise utilized the participatory presence mapping as the first phase of the TTT to specifically map out transhumance corridors in the Falaba district, situated along the cross-border communities in locations on the Sierra Leone border with Faranah in Guinea, and who are along the corridor of transhumance movements.

**TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL (TTT),
FALABA DISTRICT, SIERRA LEONE, PARTICIPATORY PRESENCE MAPPING,
FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2022**

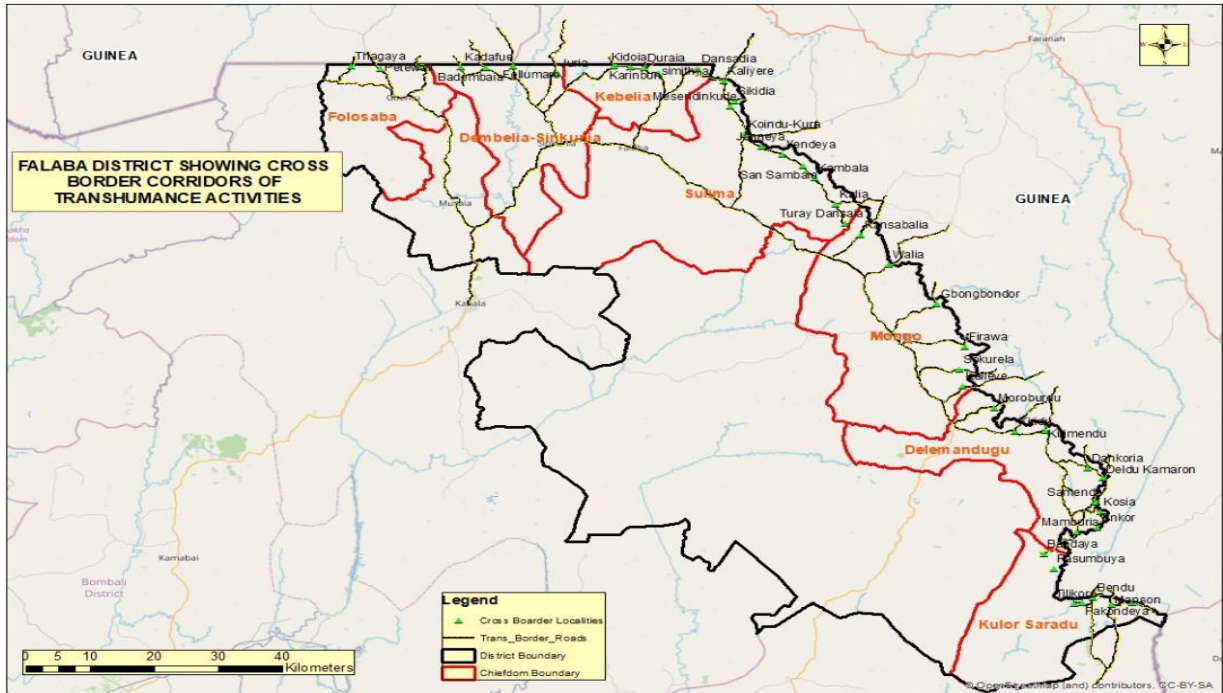


Photo 3: Map of Transhumance Corridors Across Border Chiefdoms in Falaba ©Bah statistics/IOM 2022

The participatory presence mapping exercise took the format of a focus group discussion. The focus group discussion targeted selected group of key stakeholders residing within the cross-border communities at chiefdom level and other communities along the routes of transhumance movements. Data collection using the participatory presence mapping was conducted at each of the prescribed chiefdom, which include Fologsaba Kamba, Dembelia Sinkunia, Sulima, Kabelia, Mongo, Delmandugu and Kolor Seradu chiefdom.

These chiefdoms were selected for this study on the basis of their locations along the border with Faranah in Guinea and because of the high volume of transhumance activities. It was based on the presence of large community stakeholders knowledgeable and participants of transhumance related practice and crop farmers’ presence.

A total of seven (7) focus groups discussions were conducted across the selected chiefdoms, and 15 participants constituted each focus group discussion held. Profile of participants included- representative from farmers, cattle herders, local authorities (local chiefs), women

**TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL (TTT),
FALABA DISTRICT, SIERRA LEONE, PARTICIPATORY PRESENCE MAPPING,
FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2022**

chairlady, youth leaders, bike riders, office of national security, border security personnel, local pastoral organization and a ward councillor.

The FGDs was divided into four thematic: transhumance flow patterns and routes/corridors, transhumance related conflicts and security, stakeholders and knowledge on existing local, national and regional protocols on transhumance and socio-economic effects of transhumance on the cross-border communities along situated corridors.



Photo 4 : Focus Group Discussion on Transhumance Participatory Presence Mapping Led by DTM Staff and Government Representative@EmmanuelVnkallon/IOM 2022

Transhumance Corridors and Movement Periods

Transhumance Corridors

Corridors are routes through which transhumance activities are engaged either into or out of a particular location in search of different needs such as grazing, water, market and fear of cattle theft. Even though this bordering communities between Sierra Leone and Guinea have been characterized by transhumance activities for several decades, yet it remains underexplored in terms of the identification and documentation of specific routes through which these patterns of transhumance have been occurring.

**TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL (TTT),
FALABA DISTRICT, SIERRA LEONE, PARTICIPATORY PRESENCE MAPPING,
FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2022**

Because limited information is known about these routes and the patterns of such movements, the lack of a clearly marked transhumance corridors, lack of resources, the early or massive movements of transhumance herders and the encroachment of farmers over these corridors, conflicts between herders and farmers over such uncoordinated movement patterns. Filling this existential information gap, comprehensive transhumance routes were identified across all the seven border chiefdoms. The data collection identified forty-three (43) corridors/entry points of transhumance between all the cross-border chiefdoms in Falaba in Sierra Leone bordering with Faranah in Guinea.

Table 1: Names of chiefdoms with identified routes

Chiefdoms	Corridors/Routes
Folosama Kamba	Petewol, Thagaya and Bantanhun
Dembelia Sinkunia	Juria, Badembaya, Fullamasa, Manna, Furenken and Foroya
Sulima	Kaliyereh, Koindu-kura, Kalia, Sambaia, Yendeya, Kombala, Turay Dansaia, Sikidaia, Mensendinkude and Jeneya
Kabelia	Simithya, Dansadaia, Duraia, Karinbun, Kidoia
Delmandugu	Morobundu, Kiridu, Deldu-Kamaron, Samenda, Baodaya, Kosia, Tinkor and Mamburia
Mongo	Kansabalia, Walia, Gbongbondor, Mongo-Firawa, Mongo Kaliyereh, Sokurela

**TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL (TTT),
FALABA DISTRICT, SIERRA LEONE, PARTICIPATORY PRESENCE MAPPING,
FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2022**

Kulor Seradu	Fasumbuya, Bendu, Tilikoro, Fakondeya and Manso
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Several names of location were provided during the mapping exercise, however, locations with the frequent movements were listed as aforementioned. These identified locations are direct entry routes connecting Falaba in Sierra Leone with Faranah in Guinea at the borders points, used by cattle herders as routes moving with herds to Sierra Leone considered the first recognised places of contacts on the Sierra Leone side.

According to the focus group participants, transhumance activities are done through the use of main roads as opposed to footpath (bush roads) to avoid cattle lost. They explained the nature of the footpaths is narrow which could constrain herders if they could move with herds of cattle along such path. Participants also noted that these identified transhumance entry points or routes in Sierra Leone have corresponding points of entry and exit in Guinea. Detailed of identified high risk routes are available but the accuracy will be verified following the completion of the flow monitoring counting which would be clearly stated in the subsequent update.

Profile of Animals, herders and Movement Periods

Profiles of animals in majority moving from one specific locations to another within and outside of these cross-border communities in all the named chiefdoms are mostly cow, sheep and goat. Cows are noted to be in the majority on the transhumance activities compare to other animals, and are animals that trek long distances. Goat and Sheep was explained as also part of the transhumance movements, but in a relatively smaller quantity. Mostly, the healthy condition and vaccination of these animals, particularly when moving across to another community for settlement, is a prerequisite in order to reduce the threats of communicable disease outbreak among peers

On the herders profile, data obtained from the participants during the focus group discussion revealed that cattle herders often comprised the entire family each with a specific role, which

**TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL (TTT),
FALABA DISTRICT, SIERRA LEONE, PARTICIPATORY PRESENCE MAPPING,
FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2022**

are, for instance, the head mostly the father initiating the prior consultation meeting with the host communities for settlement, while the other family members provide oversight support and security. Concerning the movement periods, there were no absolute consensus among chiefdoms as noted by participants on the movements periods, even though majority have same movement periods. Movement periods imply periods during which transhumance occurs, when animals are in search for pastures and water to survive.

Majority stated that movement periods are mostly from January to June, during which cattle are in search of pastures. It was also observed that movement is sometimes unstable, depending on the specific purpose attracting such a particular movement. However, the overriding agreement captured from these data collection is that large movement patterns is from January to June every year, a period through which animals are out for grazing purposes, while those for commercial movement is carried out yearly. In the context of Sierra Leone, limited data do exist as to whether these movements patterns are aligned along the north-south or south-north patterns as mostly herds emanate from Guinea into Sierra Leone for grazing or market purpose.

Conflicts and Security

With the several decades of uncoordinated transhumance activities or inadequate transhumance governance, as one of the factors, within the border region of Sierra Leone bordering with Guinea (Falaba and Faranah), issue of conflicts and security have remained concerning. Also, the challenge of the limited grazing spaces is also becoming a major threat. Climate change is beginning to have effect in these communities because of the erratic rainfall resulting in the low presence of pastures for grazing. Low scale conflicts (tension) between crop farmers and cattle herders over the destruction of farms or the damage and theft of cattle, particularly in these bordering chiefdoms have often remain common. These conflicts are as a result of the improper governance of the transhumance activities, the absence of a clear policy guidelines, resource challenge and climatic condition related to farming periods.

**TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL (TTT),
FALABA DISTRICT, SIERRA LEONE, PARTICIPATORY PRESENCE MAPPING,
FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2022**

Within Sierra Leone, confrontation between farmers and cattle herders are often noted during periods animals are out in search of grazing lands, and stays beyond the expected period during which farming had commenced. Also, tension is mounted during period cattle move from Guinea to Sierra Leone either in search of grazing land, water, or for market purposes. Moreover, often, beyond the destruction of farms, the cattle theft, wounding and sometimes intercommunal existing ethnic tension become the underlying causal factors that extrapolate into the herders-farmer relationship tension, and such have become high risk.

During such grazing periods, focus group participants stated that large hectares of farmland including water sources mostly used by community for drinking purposes will be faced with a severe challenge, that have over the years resulted into the destruction of their farmland, and the pollution of water sources with faeces.

In addition, as a security concern, it was also noted that within the entire period of transhumance, farmers particularly would be gravely concern about the protection of their farmland, while cattle herders, on the other hand, are also apprehensive about the survival of their animals under a strenuous and inadequate grazing spaces. This intersection of security concerns is a threat to the peace and social cohesion among inhabitants within this cross-border communities.

Another notable security challenge as recounted during the presence mapping exercise, was the security of animals. Cattle herders explained that during movement along the main motor roads with herds of cattle, the possibility of confronting criminal actors has sometimes become been a difficult issue, including missing of cattle. They also lamented of a huge challenge experienced in accessing grazing land for their cattle.

Through the focus group discussions, high risk areas were identified and would be used for particularly the institutionalization of early warning mechanism to enhance local community conflict prevention. Among of the high risk identified area include Koindu-kura, Kaliyereh,

**TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL (TTT),
FALABA DISTRICT, SIERRA LEONE, PARTICIPATORY PRESENCE MAPPING,
FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2022**

Krimendu, Smithia, Morobundu, Deldu-kamaron, Mongo-Kaliyereh, Fasumbuya, Walia and Tinkor

Mobility and freedom of movement of animals

As already noted, mobility of animals from within and across the border is a commonplace in the Falaba district situated along the border with Guinea. Particularly, mobility across the border, participants of the focus group discussion narrated that, there is a free movement of animals between Guinea and Sierra Leone. Relating to temporal settlement of cattle in Sierra Leone from Guinea, such movement was noted to be guided by certain community bye-laws, which perhaps could be viewed as restrictions. According to such chieftdom bye-laws for instance when the owner of cattle in Guinea resolved to transfer his animals to Sierra Leone for grazing for a certain period of time, such a person would have to visit and inspect a particular location on the Sierra Leone side to ascertain it is ideal for his cattle to settle. With the identification of the location, the cattle owner meets the land owner and inform him of his interest over the parcel of land mass to be occupied. Upon consent from the land owner, the land owner then inform the local authorities of such an intent. In agreement, the local authorities would put forwards certain conditionalities, such as the presentation of certificate to indicate his ownership of these animals, and a certificate of ailment free of the animals from veterinary department are requested. It is only when all these are certified that the cattle owner would be allowed to cross over with his animals in large quantity for a temporal settlement to graze. However, while such is the normative approach, it was also stated that such are not abide to in all cases by some cattle herders, while it was also revealed that sometimes community residents are sometimes hostile to foreign cattle herders in their communities.

Also, border management personnel also specified that proper documents (for instance, document indicating ownership, traveling permit and sometimes document from the veterinary department) of cattle from the cattle owners are always requested in order to

**TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL (TTT),
FALABA DISTRICT, SIERRA LEONE, PARTICIPATORY PRESENCE MAPPING,
FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2022**

facilitate their movements across their borders. It was also stated that no transhumance activities is allowed to occur after 6:30 in the evening of everyday to ensure the safety of the movement. However, beyond these normative ideas relating to the chiefdom bye-laws for the free movement of animal, focus group participants indicated that they believed movements of animals into and out of their chiefdoms have not always been strictly followed as provided for in the movement conditionality regulations. They stated that there have been countless instances where herd of cattle presence are evidence in their communities without knowledge of such movements, not to mention whether or not for their movement is for temporal grazing or merely an en-route to another locations. In contravention of such a bye-law, penalties melted out were also said to be insignificant, citing instances to local authorities. Often, this is noted to have resulted in tension with the crop farmers within such localities. Moreover, cattle herders also revealed that claimed made by farmers caused by damage of farmland by cattle are sometimes bloated and inconsiderate which are all causal factors for tension. Participants of the focus group discussion also stated that most farmers have indulged in practice of cultivating farmland land grazing locations which often have resulted to tension.

Socio-economic Activities of Inhabitants and the Effect of Transhumance

Generally, agricultural activity is one of the major activities across many of the chiefdoms in the Falaba district, and it is a vital pillar contributing to the livelihood. Agricultural investment is often noticeable through swamp and inland rice farming. Both men and women are mostly the key players, supported by their children or dependents at varied stages. Both the rice and inland rice farming process last for the period of six months, beginning with the clearing of the land, cultivation and harvesting. Largely, these activities are manually engaged devoid of machinery because the inability to be possessed by the farmers. Farming is done on a subsistence basis, and have not contributed in elevating these inhabitants from the scourge

**TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL (TTT),
FALABA DISTRICT, SIERRA LEONE, PARTICIPATORY PRESENCE MAPPING,
FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2022**

of poverty, as stated by participants of the focus group discussions. Moreover, vegetable gardening is also common in the district, but this has not expanded to the scale of large production compared to rice production.

Trade is another socio-economic activity within Falaba, but has a direct interconnectedness with agriculture. Therefore, the effect on agricultural activity such as farming, through which most products used for trading are produced would have direct corresponding consequences on this interconnectedness with trade. This, therefore, negatively impacts the livelihood of the inhabitants within these border communities.

One of the notable effects that emerge as a result of transhumance activities, as was also reported by the participants, is the damage of inhabitant farmland through uncoordinated grazing the agriculture sector has been faced with gradual abandonment, as indicated by the community stakeholders during the focus group discussion. It was noted that many farmers have restraint themselves from farming, particularly the youths for fear of their farmland being destroyed by animals after huge investment. Moreover, herders expressed grief over the limited availability of grazing points and sometimes the failure of farmers to adhere to local bye-laws relating particularly to late or earlier farming periods, which is not unconnected to challenge pose by erratic climatic condition.

Within these localities, stakeholders who are mostly farmers and cattle herders expressed frustration of the low access to the finance. They usually have access to the economy through the sales of limited agricultural products and cattle that would then be used to pursue other needs. However, farmers and herders described that because many a time tension arise between these two great economic sectors, access to the economy to take care of family livelihood has remained threatening. Particularly for the elderly, they noted that alternative means of survival is limited and have faced some huge challenges. On the other hand, some herders mentioned restrictions limiting movements of animals. It was made clear that amid

**TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL (TTT),
FALABA DISTRICT, SIERRA LEONE, PARTICIPATORY PRESENCE MAPPING,
FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2022**

the challenges, the presence of these animals to these locations also provides economic and nutritional benefits to the inhabitants.

Similarly, it was noted that young people within these locations have fled to Guinea to mine gold to earn their living and in the process many have lost their lives during such mining activities in the quest to have economic access. For those that have remained and unable to participate in agriculture and cattle herding because of the threat of tension sometimes pose, have taken to motorbike riding in order to cater for the livelihoods of their families.

Also, conflict over limited sources of land between farmers and cattle herders is also well-known. This limited forage availability in Guinea sometimes occasioned transhumant movement to Sierra Leone. Farmers in Sierra Leone along this border considered this movement as threats to their agricultural activities, which often have resulted in tension between the farmers and cattle herders. A particular instance was mentioned, where a cattle herder was asked to vacate a particular settlement in Sierra Leone as a result of fear of damage anticipated by the farmer could be caused by the cattle on their farms.

Awareness and Knowledge on Existing Transhumance Protocols

Within each of these chiefdoms, there is a cattle settlement committee whose composition comprised mainly of local community stakeholders. They supervise and preside over cases of conflicts that emanate from cattle herders and crop farmers over the destruction of farmland or wounding of cattle, stealing and killing of mostly cows, which are most common in the Falaba district, as was recounted

At local level, there is a local transhumance bye-laws enacted at the chiefdom levels, and local committee actors (comprising chiefs, local stakeholders and community elders) who are mainly guided by local transhumance bye-laws enacted. One of such local transhumance protocols is that no transhumance activity is permitted to occur beyond 6:30 pm every day. Another is the movement regulations, where a cattle owner intending to relocate his animals

**TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL (TTT),
FALABA DISTRICT, SIERRA LEONE, PARTICIPATORY PRESENCE MAPPING,
FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2022**

would have to inform the local stakeholder and permission granted before moving his animals to their community. In addition, one of the main documents that remains to be finalized is the Cattle Settlement Policy. This policy provides a wide range of guidelines on the patterns of cattle management and how conflicts that would emerge over cattle management is resolved within communities. The policy is, however, described as weak, in that it is insensitive to the local content involvement in the settlement framework of conflicts, where sections and community representatives are not recognized as vital stakeholders.

Beyond the cattle settlement policy, at the local level, there are by-laws (local laws) enacted by local communities leaders on how cattle management conflicts are resolved. For instance, a local bye-laws states that if anyone is caught in cattle stealing, whether as cattle owner or as an ordinary resident, would be required to provide two additional cows in compensation to the one stolen. Likewise, when an animal or a herd identified to have caused a damage to a farm, there is a standby committee constituted by the local authorities, who would be delegated to visit the damage site and evaluate the extent of the problem. Upon the estimations of the damage cause by the committee, a report is submitted to the local chief, in which case such estimate is levied to the cattle owner for reimbursement to the farmer. Nonetheless, the uncoordinated pattern and the adherence to the laws according to the participants have remained challenging.

In Falaba district, chiefdom local committees are the primarily responsible interlocutors in the management of conflicts between cattle herders and crop farmers, which otherwise, is a substitute of local pastoral organization, in sight.

From the focus group discussion, participants noted that some local stakeholders in these chiefdoms are now aware of the West Africa Transhumance protocols for the region.

**TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL (TTT),
FALABA DISTRICT, SIERRA LEONE, PARTICIPATORY PRESENCE MAPPING,
FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2022**

Community Needs and Recommendations

Community inhabitants across all the chiefdoms where the participatory presence mapping was conducted expressed similar needs, particularly worthy was that these are communities with which a plethora of transhumance activities are in existence.

- Participants expressed the need for assistance with a more structure pure drinking water through bore hole system, as the existing source of water are damaged by some of the transhumance activities within these locations during movement periods. This is because there is also no available access water for cattle to access for drinking.



Photo 5: Animals drinking from same water sources used by communities©EmmanuelVNKallon/IOM 2022

- Fencing (bamb-wire) is another request made by focus group participants for farmers. In fact, this was noted as one means through which tension can be reduced between cattle herders and crop farmers in the communities. They noted this fencing could be used to construct barricade around crops during the farming periods. Currently, they noted that the mode of fencing system using wood is not only sustainable but is

**TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL (TTT),
FALABA DISTRICT, SIERRA LEONE, PARTICIPATORY PRESENCE MAPPING,
FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2022**

accompanied with much labor pressure. Particularly in communities where single parent families are headed by women, it was stated that it posed extra challenge.



Photo 6: Fencing model by some farmers ©EmmanuelVNKallon/IOM 2022

- Livelihood supports through micro-credit as an alternative (for both farmers and cattle herders), was particularly suggested by female participants.. They noted this will relatively ease pressure and restore their dignities as women in their localities. They noted that in the past, they used to also embark on potato and cassava farming through which they earn money, but stated all these activities have been minimized because of the tension between crop farmers and cattle herders over the uncoordinated transhumance governance and farming patterns in their communities.
- Institutionalization of early warning structures by community stakeholders with assistance from partners organization was also proffered by focus group participants as integral for conflict prevention and mitigation.
- Business and storage facilities

**TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL (TTT),
FALABA DISTRICT, SIERRA LEONE, PARTICIPATORY PRESENCE MAPPING,
FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2022**

- Establishment of veterinary facilities at the points of entry to prevent disease that could be communicable to inhabitants of the communities
- Establishment of a ranch in Mongo for retaining animals.
- Creation of forage grassland that could particularly be used for animal grazing
- Establishment of bore hole water points for animal in the cross-border communities
- A thorough review of the cattle settlement policy to reflect sectional and communities representatives (both cattle herders and farmers).Creation of early warning mechanism to serve as critical pillar for dialogue and for appropriate actions in case of conflict or massive movement?

Conclusion

It is clear that transhumance activities is a common patterns within these cross border community in Falaba. However, among the cattle herders, crop famers and local authorities, fundamental update for informed policy making have remained underexplored for several decades, and one such reasons could be that there have been a dearth of a verifiable data.

The information gathered from study will hopefully contribute in the formulation of strategy by policy makers vital in reducing the existential tension over the transhumance activities. It will also be hopefully in contributing towards updating the regional office data base of transhumance related activities on Sierra Leone, as it is the first time such to be conducted in the country

The participatory transhumance presence mapping is the first phase that have been accomplished as part of the four elements with the transhumance tracking tool (TTT). The second phase will focus on flow monitory and will be engaged on flow counting of animals. More importantly, the mapping exercise identified high risk areas through which early warning mechanism will be instituted to support local mechanism of conflict prevention.



**TRANSHUMANCE TRACKING TOOL (TTT),
FALABA DISTRICT, SIERRA LEONE, PARTICIPATORY PRESENCE MAPPING,
FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2022**

Particularly community stakeholders within the cross-border communities during the focus group discussions stated of embarking on a local led community engagement approach through community dialogue and awareness raising.