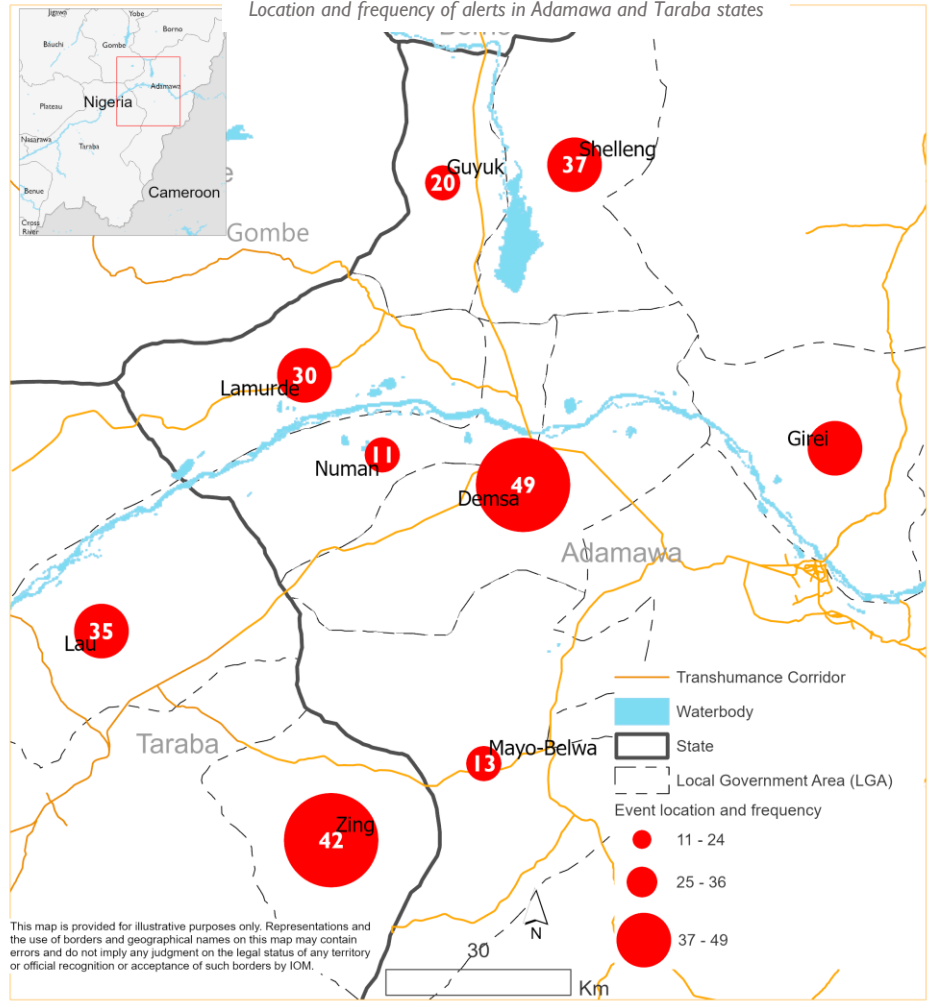




Location and frequency of alerts in Adamawa and Taraba states



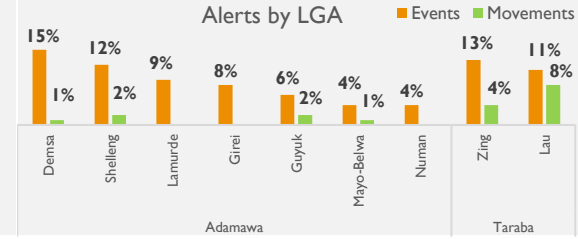
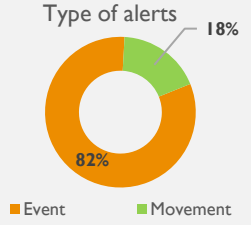
The tensions between farmers and herders in North-East Nigeria and other Sahel regions in Africa have been exacerbated by various factors, such as desertification, the consequences of climate change, inadequate rainfall, and the shrinking availability of suitable land for both farming and transhumance activities. Additionally, the situation is heightened by a rapid and geometric population progression, leading to growing food demand, shelter, and security for both humans and livestock. These factors exacerbate the competition for the already scarce natural resources, leading to conflicts over land, crop damage, encroachment on farms, and water pollution, among other issues. These conflicts frequently escalate into violent confrontations between farming and herding communities.

The Transhumance Tracking Tool (TTT) as a component of IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) and with the support of community key informants, operationalized the Early Warning System in the selected 9 LGAs in the adjoining states of Adamawa and Taraba to collect alerts that are related to farmer-herder conflicts in the two states.

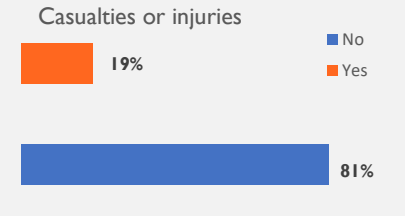
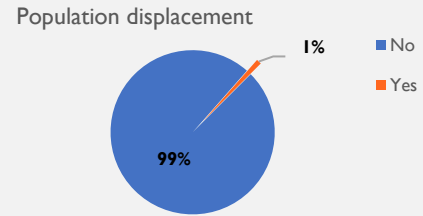
In November 2023, a total of 318 alerts were reported, comprising 262 events (82%) and 56 movements (18%). These reported events included farmer-herder conflicts, inter and intra-community tensions, and other incidents such as hippopotamus attacks on farms and residents in Shelleng LGA of Adamawa state. Lau and Zing LGAs in Taraba state recorded the highest number of alerts, with 19 and 17 per cent, respectively. Following closely were Demsa (16%), Shelleng (14%), Lamurde (9%), Girei (8%), Guyuk (8%), Mayo-belwa (5%), and Numan (4%). Disaggregated ward-level data suggested that Nassarawo Demsa ward in Demsa Local Government Area (LGA) of Adamawa state documented the highest number of alerts at the ward administrative level at 8 per cent. Monkin and Zing wards in Zing LGA of Taraba state are following closely with 5 per cent of reported event alerts.

The reported event alerts indicated a 1 per cent instance of population displacement, while 19 per cent of the alerts resulted in casualties or injuries.

### TYPE OF ALERTS



### CONSEQUENCES OF EVENTS



Of the reported movement alerts for November 2023, 66 per cent are early movements of cattle while 34 per cent are related to the movement of more than 500 cattle. These movements may likely result in damage in surrounding fields (86%), early passage of pastoral groups (86%), non-use of official transhumance corridors (71%), competition around animal resources (70%), changes on market prices (7%), and others such as damages to unharvested crops on the farm, accounting for 2 per cent. It is projected that pastoral groups will engage in all potential instances of movement alerts and 96 per cent are likely to involve local farmers and livestock breeders. National and/or local authorities are likely to be involved in 71 per cent of cases, with foresters and non-state armed groups involved at 27 and 5 per cent respectively.

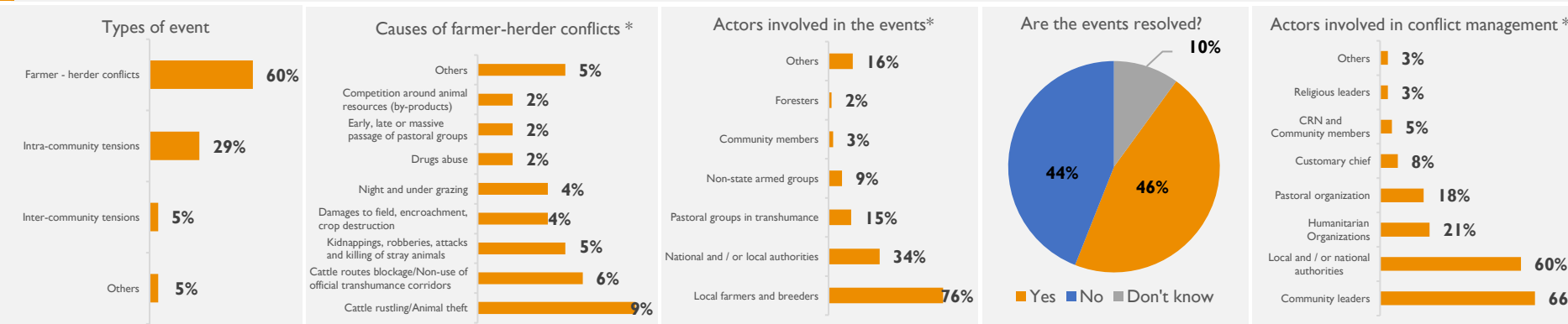
Of the reported event alerts, farmer-herder conflicts emerge as the primary cause, constituting 60 per cent of the total, followed by intra-community tensions at 29 per cent. Inter-community tensions and other event alerts constitute 5 per cent each. The reported events alert further indicates that conflicts between farmers and herders may be linked to several factors. Among the primary concerns, constituting 9 per cent of the farmer-herder conflicts, is cattle rustling/animal theft. Additionally, contributing elements include cattle route blockage and non-use of official transhumance corridors (6%), kidnappings, robberies, attacks, and the killing of stray animals (5%), damages to fields, encroachment, and crop destruction by pastoral groups (4%), night and under-age grazing (4%), drug abuses, early or massive movements, and competition around animal resources (by-products), each at 2 per cent. Miscellaneous causes constitute 5 per cent of the farmer-herder conflicts.

Local farmers and breeders account for 76 per cent of key participants in events alerts, followed by national and/or local authorities at 34 per cent, pastoral groups in transhumance at 15 per cent, non-state armed groups at 9 per cent, community members at 3 per cent, and foresters at 2 per cent. Other actors, including community youth, kidnappers, and unidentified individuals are involved in the remaining 16 per cent of event alerts. During this period, 46 per cent of reported event alerts were successfully resolved with the participation of community leaders (66%), local and/or national authorities (60%), humanitarian organizations (21%), pastoral organizations (10%), customary chiefs (8%), Community Response Network members (5%), religious leaders (3%), and other entities such as market leaders and community youth leaders (3%).

**MOVEMENT ALERTS** (\* data consisting of multi-choice options)

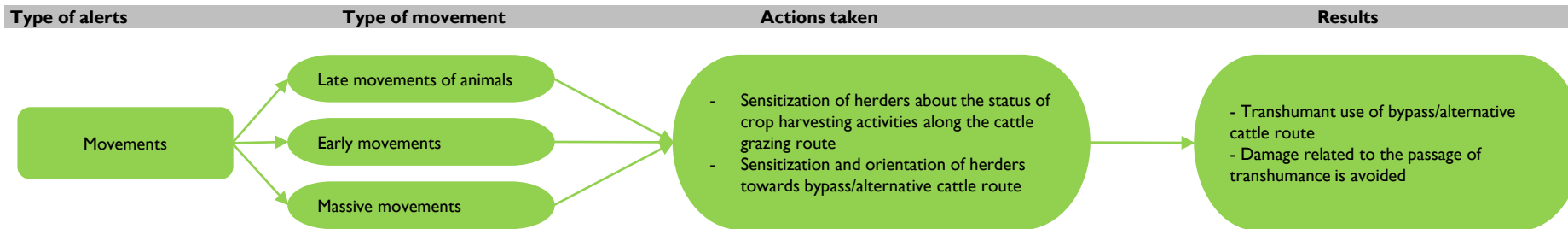


**EVENT ALERTS** (\* data consisting of multi-choice options)



In response to alerts communicated by key informants and triangulated by designated focal individuals in the operational Local Government Areas (LGAs) within Adamawa and Taraba states in the month of November, proactive steps were taken to mitigate or prevent conflicts associated with transhumance movements. One such measure involved the active engagement of local stakeholders in addressing and responding to these alerts following the information provided by key informants. The reported alerts were in many cases, identified, discussed, and in many instances intervened upon during the Natural Resource Management Committees (NRMCM), Community Response Network (CRN), Community Security Architecture Dialogue (CSAD), and Peace Architecture Dialogue (PAD) meetings to diffuse escalating tensions and conflicts in the affected community areas. The table below outlines specific actions taken to document and resolve various types of alerts. Additionally, incidents of crop theft and other issues arising from interactions between farmers and pastoralists have been reported, particularly during the peak of the crop harvesting season.

**RESPONSES TO MOVEMENT ALERTS**



**RESPONSES TO EVENT ALERTS**



The information collected through IOM's Transhumance Tracking Tool and shared with Search for Common Ground (SFCG) has played vital roles in fostering dialogue among consortium partners and other key stakeholders in the project's wards and LGAs. This data has been instrumental in shaping the design and implementation of activities undertaken by organizations within the COMITAS consortium.

Furthermore, the establishment of peace platforms in these communities, including NRMCMs, CRN, CSAD, and PAD, serves the primary objective of promptly disseminating timely information to local authorities, village leaders, and key community members within the project's operational areas. The peace platforms continue to play a vital role in proactively preventing conflicts and the associated population displacement, particularly in response to alerts related to transhumance. These proactive measures involve diverse strategies such as compensating victims, engaging social intermediaries, facilitating dialogues and negotiations, and adopting flexible approaches to address and preempt conflicts.

The active participation of local conflict management entities in Adamawa and Taraba states has been crucial in resolving and mitigating these situations. The ongoing exchange of data from the Transhumance Tracking Tools and responses to alerts within the COMITAS consortium underscores the collaborative efforts aimed at effectively managing and mitigating conflicts in Adamawa and Taraba states.