

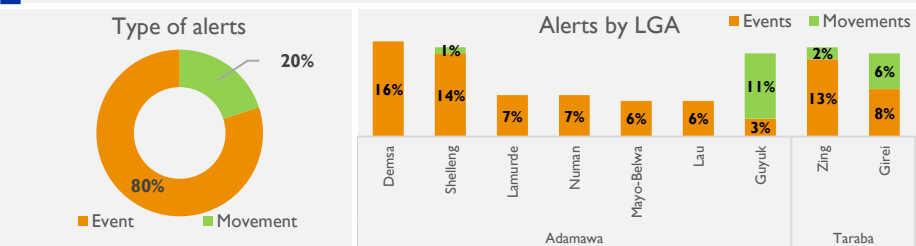
The tensions between farmers and herders in Adamawa and Taraba states, North-East Nigeria, as well as in other Sahel regions, are fueled by various factors. These include desertification, the adverse effects of climate change, insufficient rainfall, and the diminishing availability of suitable land for both farming and transhumance activities, among others. Additionally, the situation is exacerbated by a rapid increase in population, accompanied by a heightened demand for food, shelter, and security for both humans and livestock. This heightened demand further amplifies competition for the already scarce natural resources. Consequently, competition over natural resources often leads to incidents such as crop destruction, farm damage, and water pollution, which frequently escalate into violent confrontations between farming and herding communities.

The Transhumance Tracking Tool (TTT), as a component of the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), supported by information from community Key Informants through the LGA team lead, records alerts related to transhumance activities. This report highlights the early warning alerts collected by TTT in nine Local Government Areas (LGAs) across Adamawa and Taraba states for January 2024.

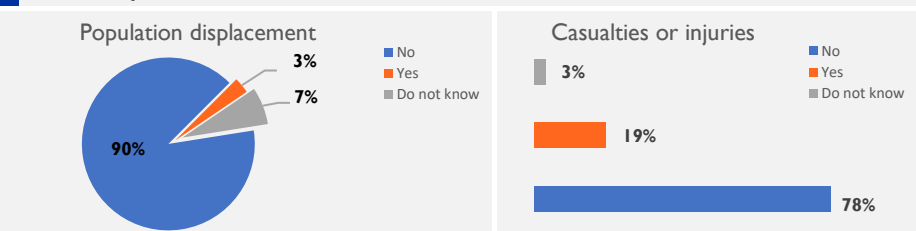
The triangulated data indicates 289 alerts related to transhumance, consisting of 231 (80%) events and 58 (20%) movement alerts. Demsa LGA in Adamawa reported the highest number of alerts at 16 per cent, followed by Shelling LGAs in Adamawa and Zing in Taraba states each accounting for 15 per cent. In terms of disaggregated event alerts, Kodomti ward in Numan LGA (Adamawa) reported the highest number of events at 8 per cent, followed by Zing ward in Zing LGA of Taraba state at 6 per cent, Talum ward in Shelling LGA and Dwa wards in Demsa LGA of Adamawa each at 5 per cent, Ndikong ward in Mayo-belwa LGA and Demsa ward of Adamawa each at 4 per cent of the total event alerts.

The reported alerts indicated instances of population displacement (3%), in addition to 19 per cent of incidences resulting in casualties or injuries.

TYPE OF ALERTS



CONSEQUENCES OF EVENTS

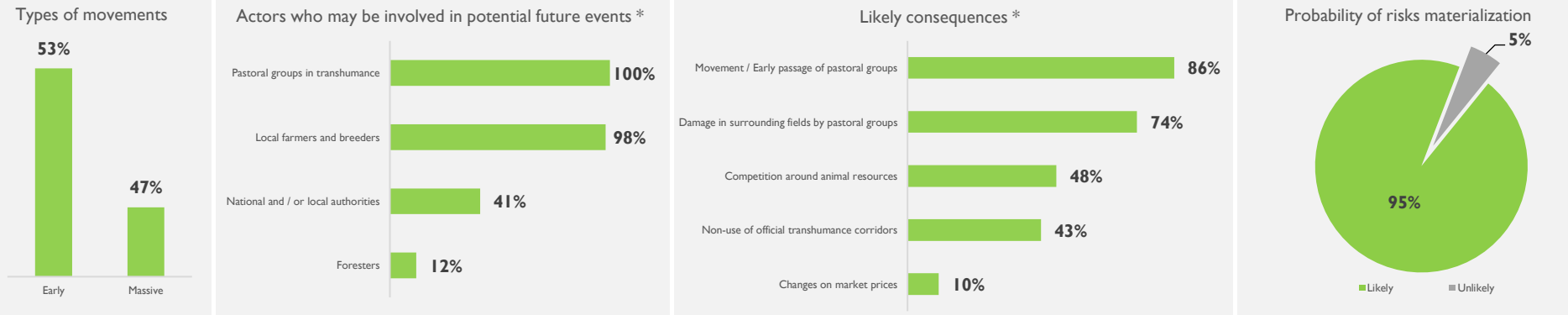


As the rainy season ends and the expectation that the official transhumance movement will begin on the first week of February, 53 per cent of the reported movement alerts were early movements of cattle while 47 per cent of the movement alerts involved massive movements of over 500 cattle. It is projected that the movement may result in early passage of pastoral groups (86%), damages to surrounding fields (74%), competition for animal resources (48%), non-utilization of official transhumance corridors (43%), and fluctuations in market prices (10%). All potential movement alerts were expected to involve pastoral groups in transhumance, local farmers, and livestock breeders are likely to be involved in 98 per cent of all instances, while National and/or local authorities involvement were likely to be involved in 41 per cent and foresters in 12 per cent of instances of potential future movements and/or events. There was a 95 per cent likelihood that the preventive alert would materialize.

Of the reported event alerts documented in January 2024, farmer-herder conflicts and intra-community tensions emerge as the primary causes, each respectively constituting 46 and 41 per cent of the total instances. Inter-community tensions constitute 4 per cent, while theft of farm produce and disasters each account for 4 and 1 per cent respectively, with other causes totaling 5 per cent. Additionally, the dataset suggested that 52 per cent of conflicts between farmers and herders originated from farm/crop destruction and encroachment by transhumance groups. Further concerns encompass kidnapping, robberies, accidents, and attacks, representing 18 per cent of farmer-herder conflicts. Cattle rustling and animal theft account for 9 per cent of farmer-herder conflicts, while competition around animal resources (by-products) constitutes 3 per cent. Incidents of night/underage grazing and non-use of official transhumance corridors due to cattle route encroachment in attempts to extend farmlands, which by extension forces transhumance to seek alternative routes, each represent 2 per cent of the reported conflicts. Deforestation/bush burning is responsible for 1 per cent, with other causes constituting the remaining 8 per cent of farmer-herder conflicts.

Local farmers and breeders comprise 62 per cent of key actors in event alerts, followed by national and/or local authorities at 36 per cent. Pastoral groups engaged in transhumance and community members account for 15 and 13 per cent respectively, while farmer-to-farmer conflicts and others are each represented at 5 and 10 per cent respectively. During this period, 39 per cent of reported event alerts were successfully resolved, with the involvement of community leaders (82%), local and/or national authorities (49%), pastoral organizations (17%), humanitarian organizations (16%), customary chiefs, religious leaders (3%), Community Response Network (CRN) members, and other entities such as community youth leaders each at 7 per cent. Unresolved events alerts remain at 54 per cent while the status of 8 per cent is unknown.

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

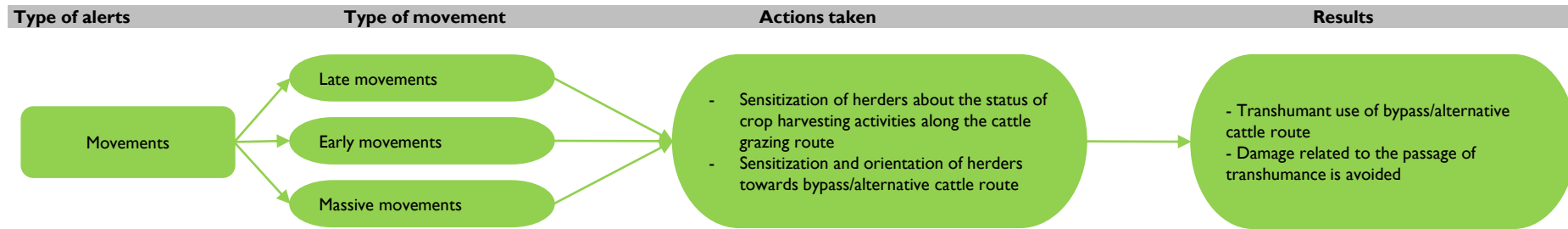


EVENT ALERTS (* data consisting of multi-choice options)



During the reporting period, proactive measures were implemented to mitigate or prevent conflicts associated with transhumance movements based on alerts received from key informants and triangulated by designated focal individuals in operational Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Adamawa and Taraba states. These measures include active training and retraining on TTT data reporting using mobile data collection tools (KoboCollect) and engaging local stakeholders to respond to alerts provided by key informants. Reported alerts were often identified and discussed during Natural Resource Management Committees (NRMCM), Community Response Network (CRN), Community Security Architecture Dialogue (CSAD), and Peace Architecture Dialogue (PAD) meetings, where appropriate interventions were proposed to diffuse or deescalate tensions and conflicts in affected communities. The table below outlines specific actions taken to document and address various types of alerts. Additionally, incidents of crop theft and other issues arising from interactions between farmers and herders were reported, particularly during the peak of the crop harvesting season.

RESPONSES TO MOVEMENT ALERTS



RESPONSES TO EVENT ALERTS



The ongoing exchange of data from the Transhumance Tracking Tools within the COMITAS consortium highlights collaborative efforts aimed at effectively managing and mitigating transhumance and farmer-related conflicts in Adamawa and Taraba states. The improved reporting of data from IOM's Transhumance Tracking Tools achieved through training and retraining of key informants and facilitated data sharing with Search for Common Ground (SFCG) and Mercy Corps, has significantly contributed to fostering dialogue among consortium partners, peace platforms, and other key stakeholders in the project's operational LGAs. This shared data has been crucial in shaping the design and implementation of activities conducted by organizations within the COMITAS consortium.

Furthermore, the establishment of peace platforms in the project's operational communities, including NRMCMs, CRN, CSAD, and PAD, primarily aims to swiftly disseminate timely information to local authorities, community leaders, and members within the project's operational areas. These peace platforms remain essential in proactively addressing conflicts and associated population displacement, particularly in response to alerts related to transhumance. The proactive measures encompass diverse strategies, such as compensating victims, engaging social intermediaries, facilitating dialogues and negotiations, and adopting flexible approaches to address and preempt conflicts. The above flow diagram highlights the engagement of local conflict management committees in Adamawa and Taraba states, to illustrate the sequence of steps or actions undertaken to resolve and mitigate various situations.