



The tensions between farmers and herders in Kaduna and Katsina states, north-west Nigeria, have been compounded by multiple factors, including desertification, climate change, and insufficient rainfall, among others. The situation is exacerbated by rapid and exponential population growth, leading to an attendant increase in demand for natural resources, including suitable land for both farming and transhumance activities. Consequently, these factors intensify competition for the already scarce natural resources, often resulting in conflicts that can escalate into violent confrontations between farming and herding communities.

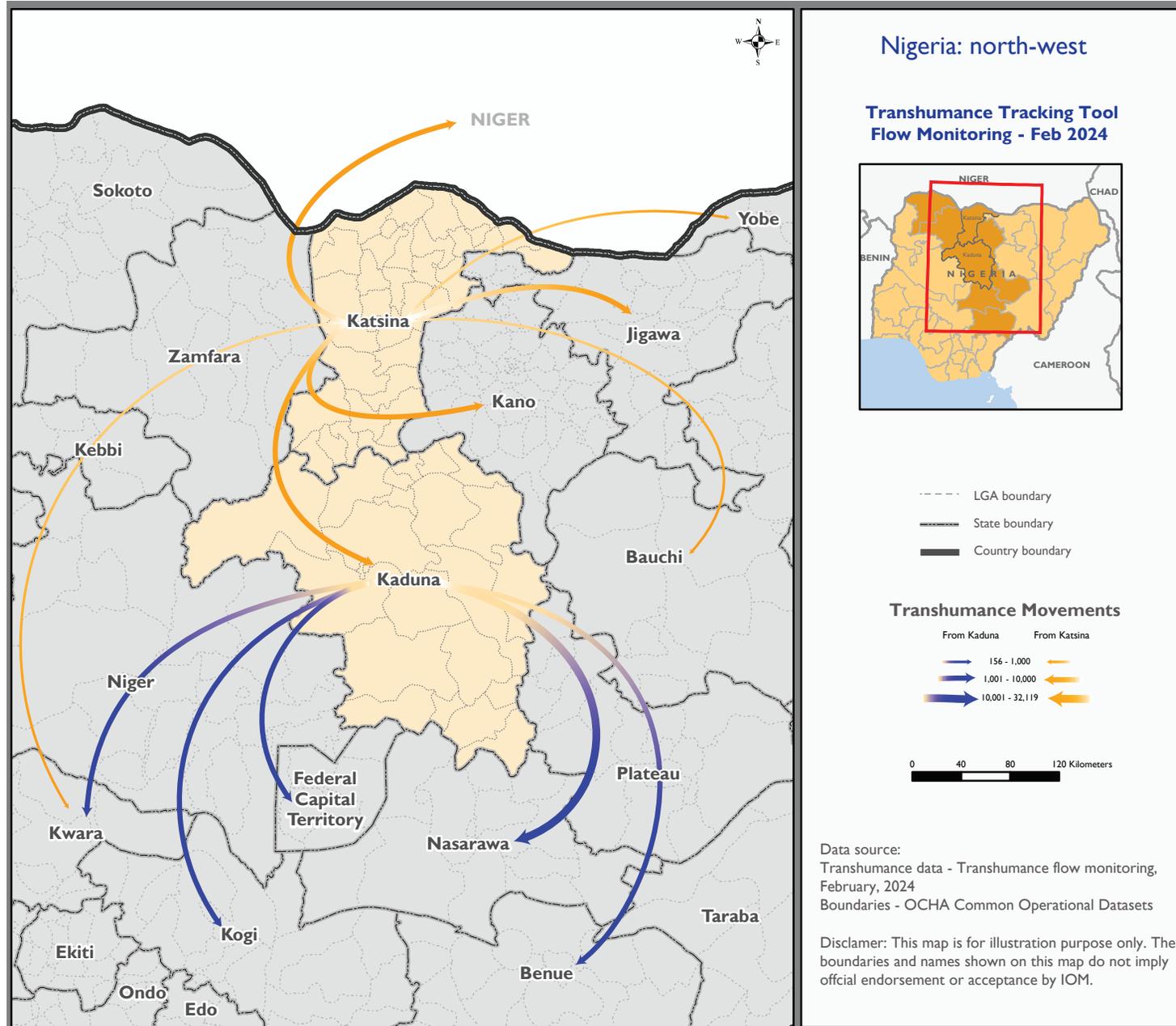
IOM, through its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) developed and implemented the Transhumance Tracking Tool (TTT) which employs four major components, one of which is Transhumance Flow Monitoring. Transhumance Flow Monitoring tool collects data on migration flows and trends, countries of origin and destinations of herders, offering a comprehensive overview of the livestock movements.

As transhumance remains integral to the way of life for many communities, understanding and managing these movements is vital for sustainable coexistence. Transhumance flow monitoring tool serves as a valuable resource in navigating the complexities of transhumance, offering data-driven insights to support the development of effective interventions and transhumance policies in Kaduna and Katsina States of the north-west region of Nigeria.

This report presents the data for the month of February 2024, collected through direct interviews and direct observation by DTM enumerators and triangulated via a network of key informants. It highlights the number of herders and their herds identified at 34 counting points. Notably, this enumeration included areas within the Kachia, Kaura, Kaita, and Faskari Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Kaduna and Katsina states, under the auspices of the Peacebuilding Fund. Additionally, it extended to Batsari, Jibia, Kankara, and Dan Musa LGAs of Katsina state, which were supported by the European Union Fund.

In February 2024, Transhumance Flow Monitoring tool identified 1,423 herders in Kaduna State and 600 herders in Katsina State. The animal count was estimated at 55,211 for Kaduna State and 13,684 for Katsina State. Notably, 91 per cent of the total number of herders departed from states within Nigeria, while the remaining 9 per cent departed from Niger.

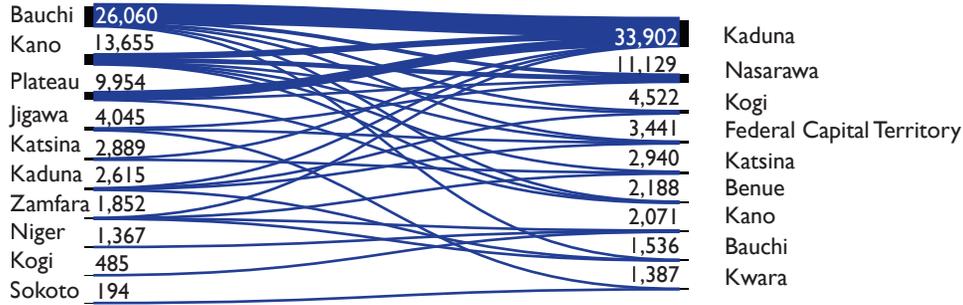
Transhumance flows through Kaduna and Katsina states to intended regions of destination



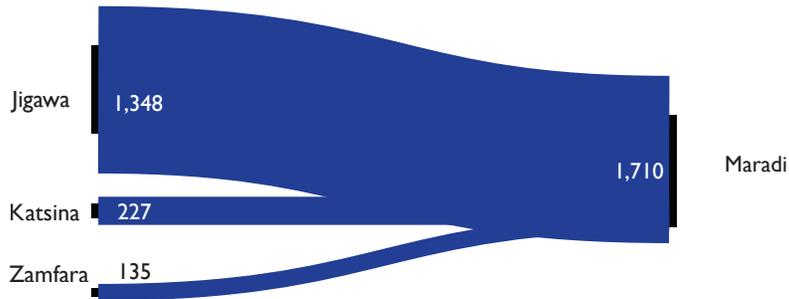
COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND REGIONS OF DESTINATION OF ANIMAL FLOWS

ORIGIN

DESTINATION



Animal flows within Nigeria



Animal flows from Nigeria to Niger



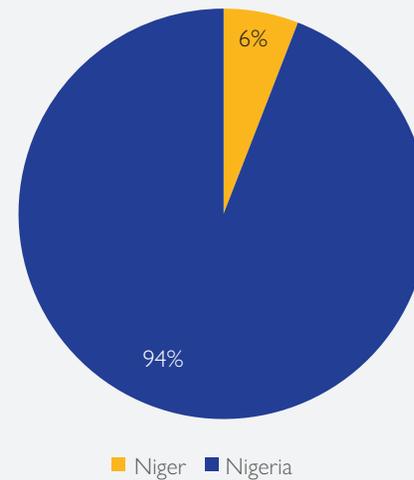
Animal flows from Niger to Niger and Nigeria

Majority of the animal movements originated within Nigeria, with ninety-two per cent of the observed movements destined for states within the country. Conversely, five per cent indicated movements from Niger to Nigeria, 2 per cent from Nigeria to Niger, while one per cent indicated movements from Niger, passing through Nigeria and then returning to Niger.

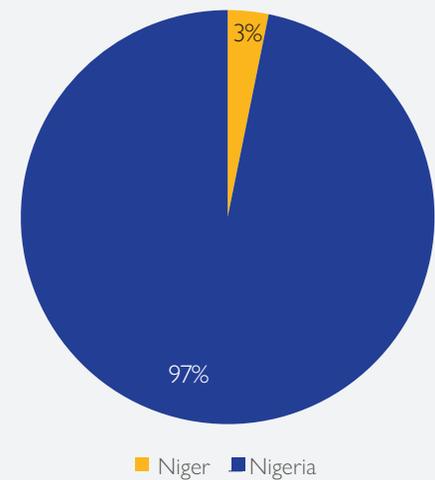
Kaduna State emerged as the primary destination for the animal flows within Nigeria, followed by Nasarawa and Kogi States with 33,902, 11,129 and 4,522 animals, respectively, which represented 87 per cent of the total animal movements.

Animal flows

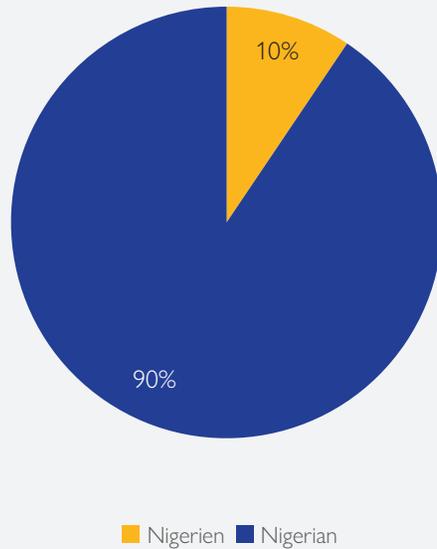
Country of origin



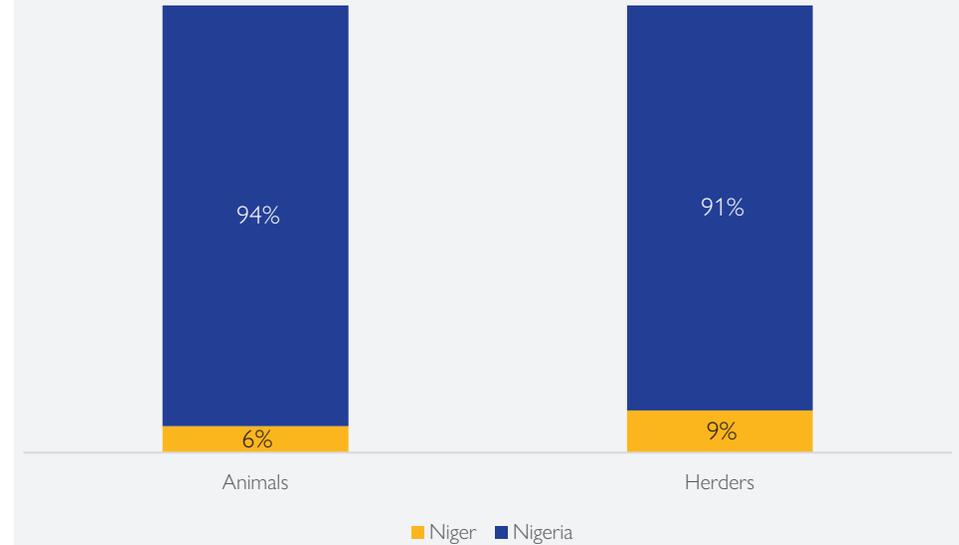
Destination country



Nationality of herders



Transhumance breakdown by country of origin



CHARACTERISTICS OF CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENTS

Cross-border transhumance stands out as a significant herding practice in West Africa and has been an integral part of Nigeria’s agro-pastoral systems for centuries. In February 2024, 272 herders and 5,779 livestock were observed in cross-border movements across Niger and Nigeria transhumance corridors.

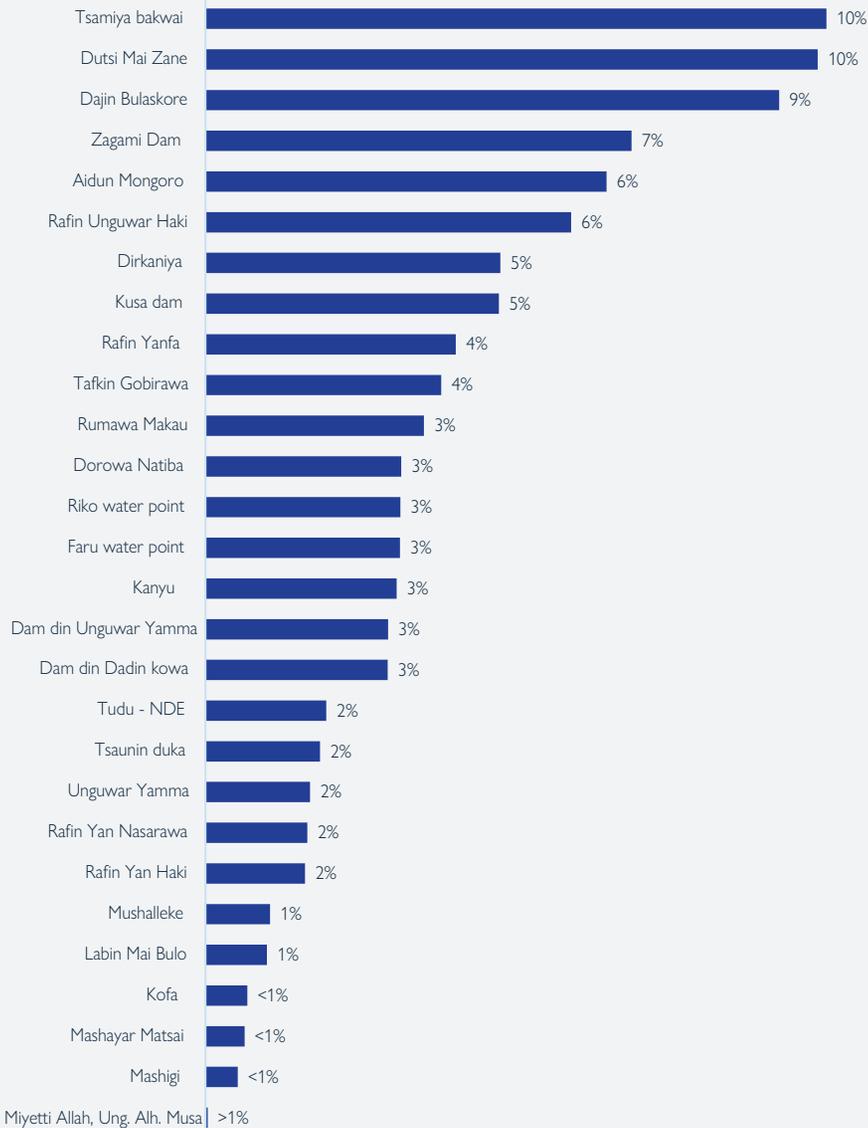
Among the identified cross-border herd movements, the largest number occurred from Niger to Nigeria, totaling 3,587 animals. Following closely was the movement from Nigeria to Niger, involving 1,710 animals. Additionally, movements were recorded from Niger through Nigeria, back to Niger, comprising of 482 animals.

Cross-border herd movements in percentages

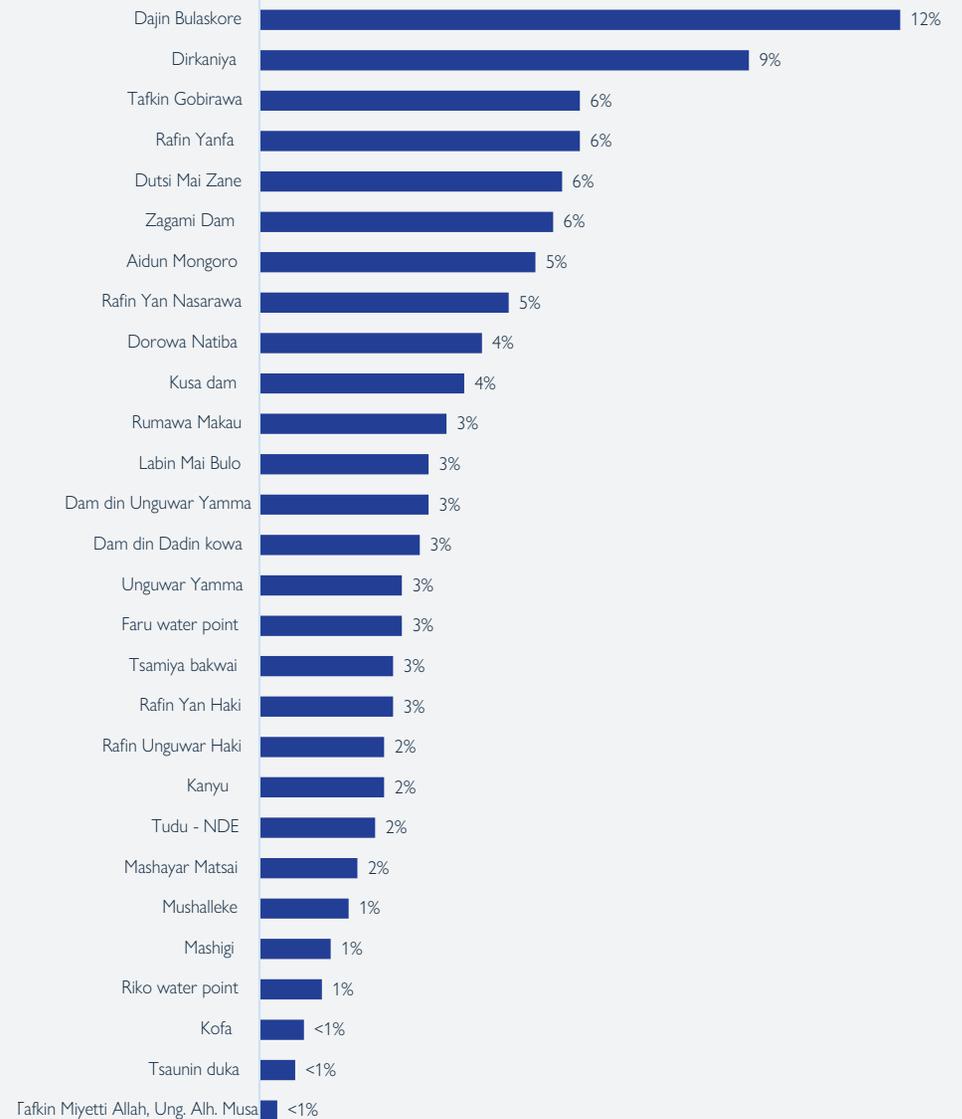


COUNT OF ANIMALS AND HERDERS PER COUNTING POINT - Katsina State

Percentage of animals counted

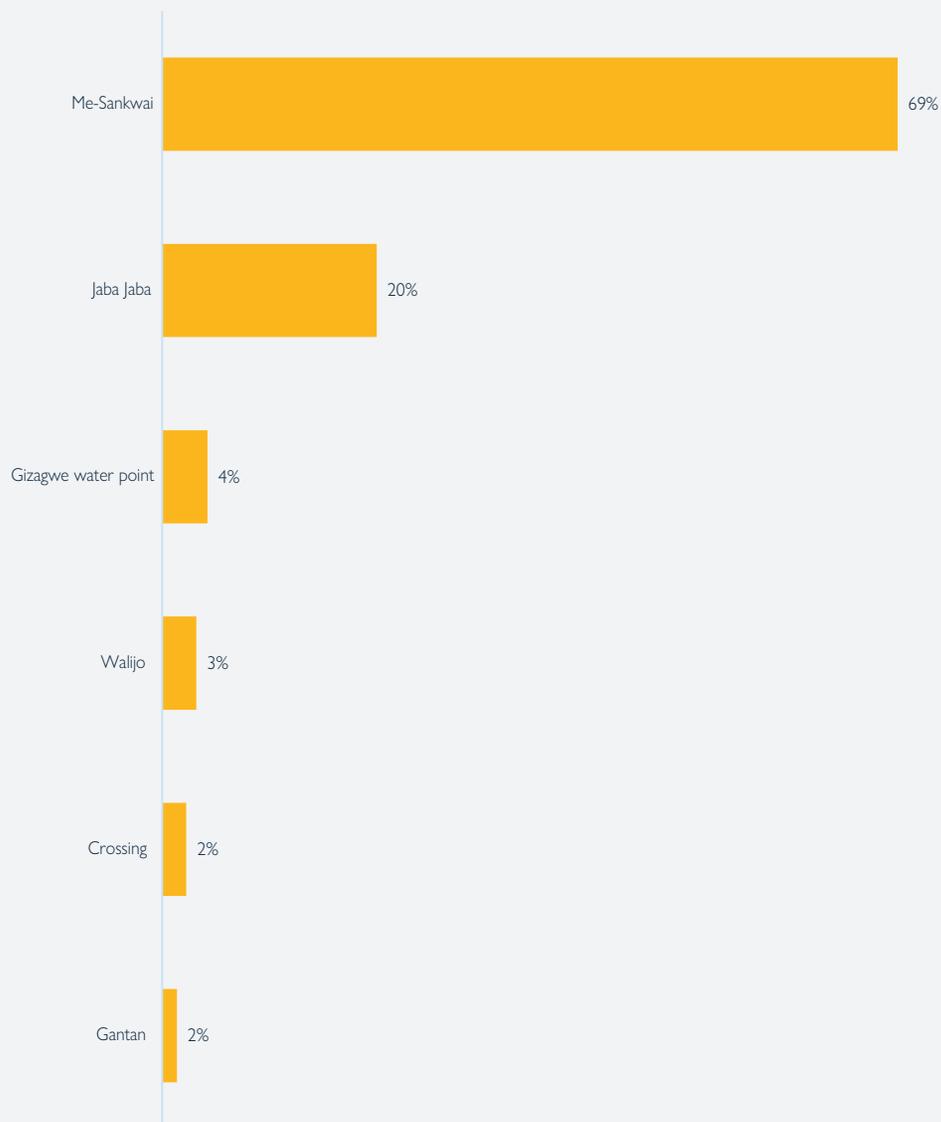


Percentage of herders counted

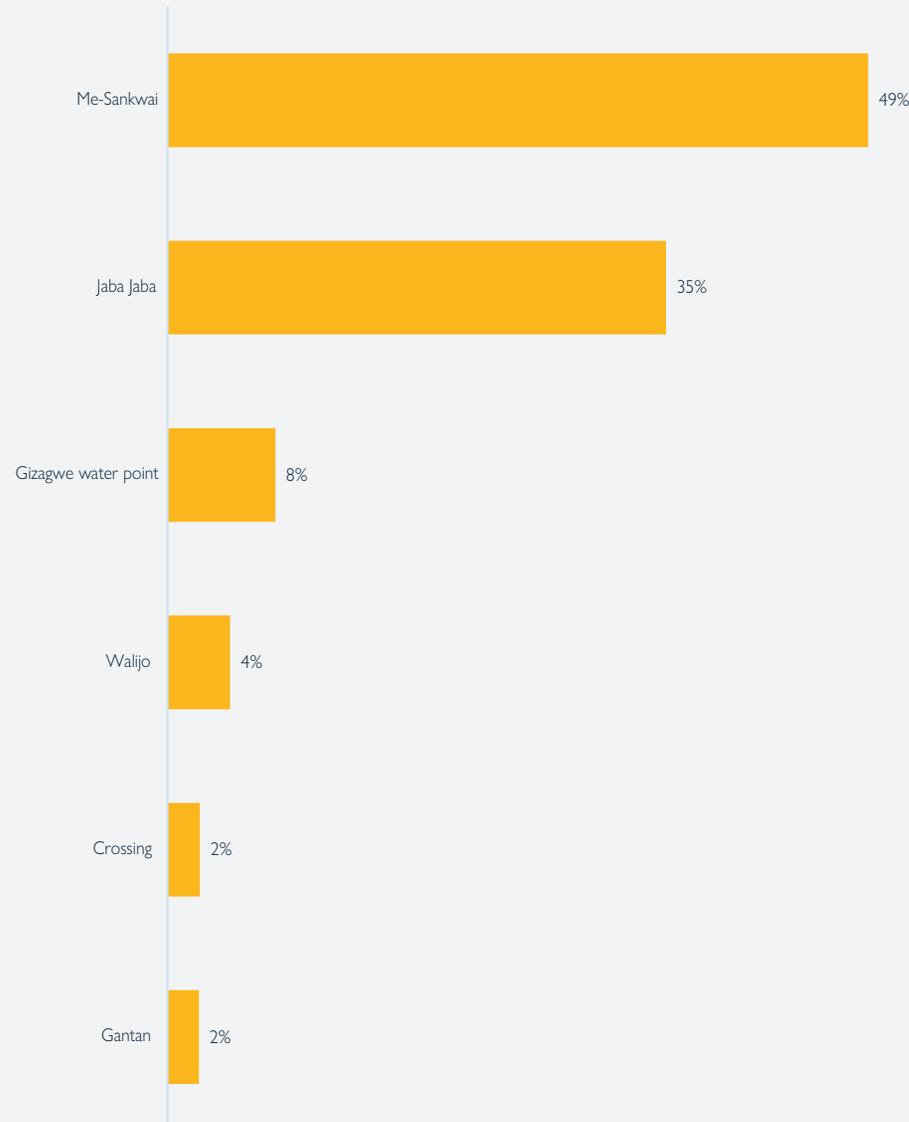


COUNT OF ANIMALS AND HERDERS PER COUNTING POINT - Kaduna State

Percentage of animals counted



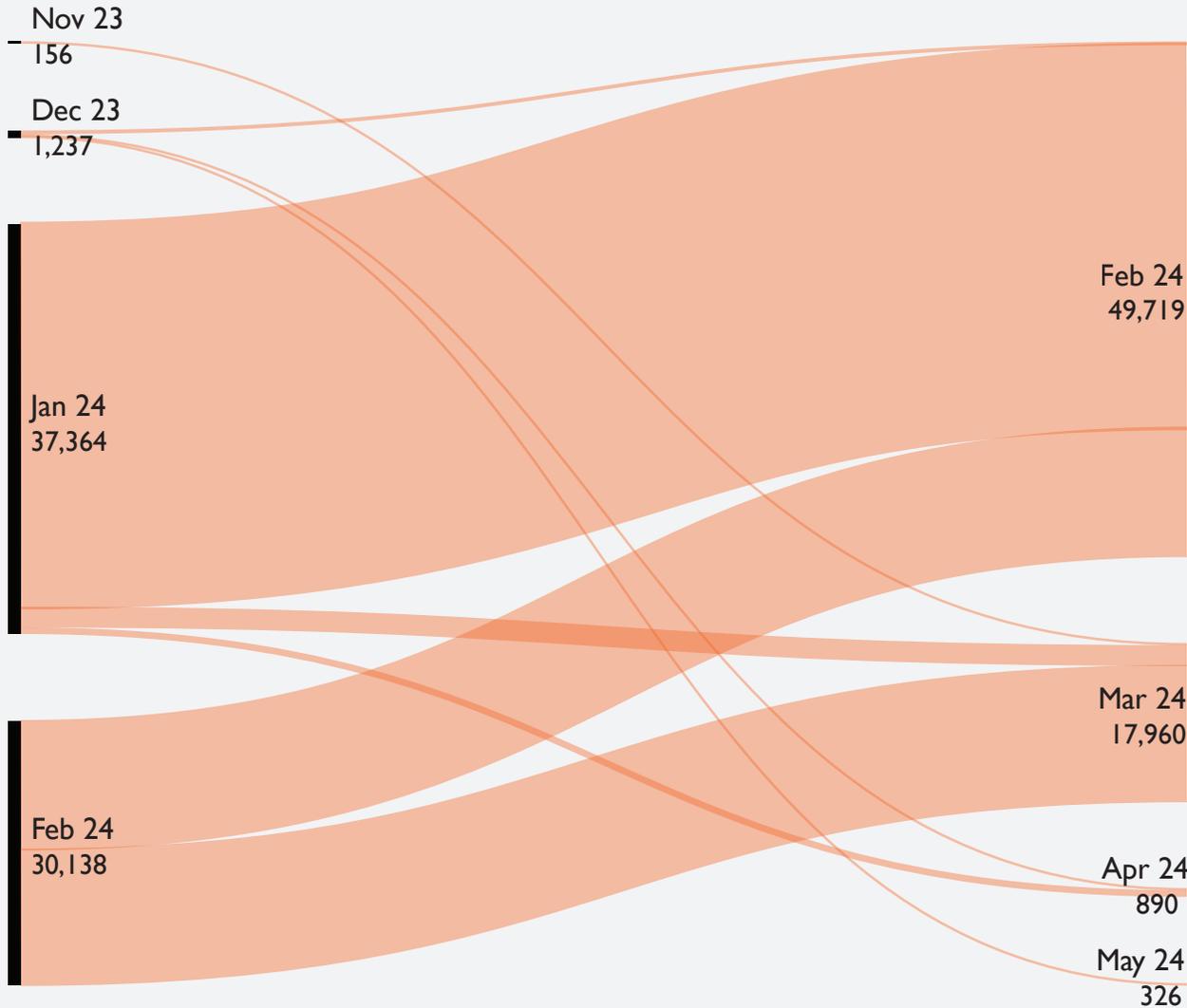
Percentage of herders counted



ANIMAL COUNTS BY MONTH OF DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL

Months of departure*

Estimated months of arrival



Fifty-four per cent of the animal movements commenced in January 2024, 44 per cent began their journey in February 2024, 1 per cent in December 2023, while less than 1 per cent began in November 2023.

The estimated month of arrival of 72 per cent of the total animal movements was envisaged in February 2024, 26 per cent in March 2024, 1 per cent in April 2024, and less than 1 per cent in May 2024.

*The captured dates represent only one segment of the transhumance journey, not its start or end date.

METHODOLOGY

Source of information: Data was collected through direct interviews and direct observation by DTM enumerators and triangulated via a network of key informants selected from members of the Community Response Networks (CRNs) and LGA-based team leads.

Steps: Following the transhumance baseline and infrastructure mapping, 34 counting points (28 in Katsina and 6 in Kaduna states) were identified, making it possible to capture the flow of transhumant herders and their animals.

Data was collected on transhumants herders on their country and region of departure, intended destination, date of departure, estimated date of arrival, count of herders, types and number of animal species, and the number of animals present at the various counting points.

The collected data was analyzed to quantify movements of transhumance and interpret the findings, identifying trends, patterns, and key insights regarding transhumance activities in the region.

Subsequently, the results were compiled into a comprehensive report, providing evidence-based insights into transhumance movements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✎ Establish and strengthen collaborative and inclusive platforms involving all stakeholders, including farmers, herders, and relevant authorities. These platforms should facilitate cross-border consultations, raise awareness, and mobilize support for peaceful transhumance.
- ✎ Extend the current data collection system to cover additional states in Nigeria, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of transhumance dynamics.
- ✎ Implement continuous capacity-building programs to keep stakeholders updated on the evolving nature of transhumance and counting methodologies. This will empower them to adapt and respond effectively to emerging challenges.