

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.

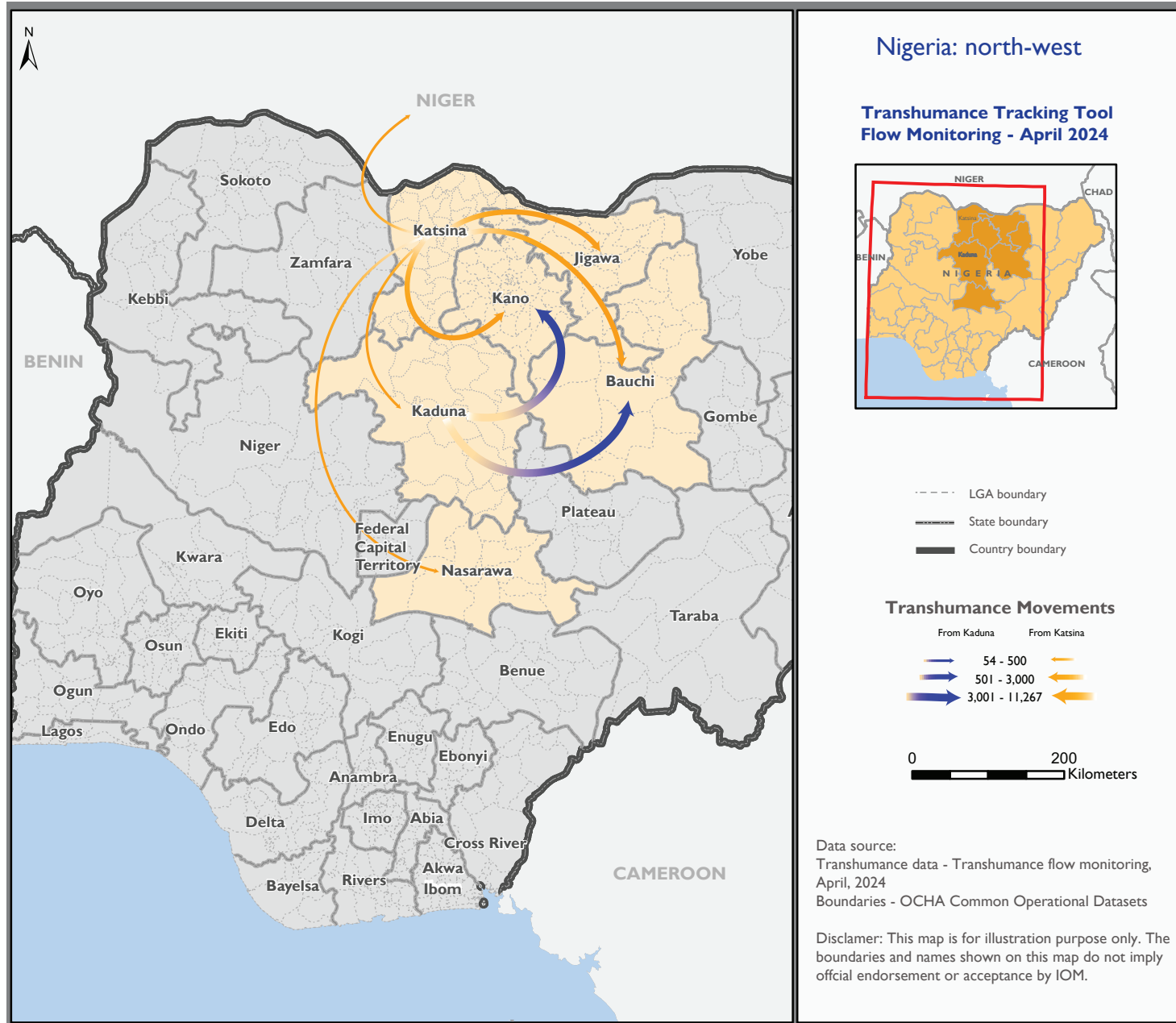
As transhumance remains integral to the way of life for many communities, understanding and managing these movements is vital for sustainable coexistence. Transhumance flow monitoring tool serves as a valuable resource in navigating the complexities of transhumance, offering data-driven insights to support 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 April 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 14 counting points in 7 Local Government Areas (LGAs) across Kaduna and Katsina States. Notably, this enumeration included areas within the Kachia, Kaura and Kaita 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. Faskari LGA did not experience any movement during this period.

The practice of transhumance involves a systematic movement where herders migrate with their households and families. This movement is often strategic and well-coordinated, typically occurring seasonally. During the dry season, herders move southwards to regions where water and pasture are more readily available. Conversely, during the rainy season, they migrate northwards to take advantage of the lush pastures that develop with the rains. Sometimes, families move ahead very early in the morning, leaving the older male herders and the herds behind for a few days to check the security situation in the area and ensure it is safe. Given the complex socio-political landscape in Nigeria, this step is crucial to avoid conflicts with local communities and other herders. They then rendezvous at a predetermined resting point, such as a water point or a grazing area, to allow the herds to feed and rest. This method allows for a more secure and organized migration, ensuring the safety and well-being of both the herders and their livestock.

In April 2024, Transhumance Flow Monitoring tool identified 506 herders in Kaduna State and 239 herders in Katsina State. The animal count was estimated at 22,153 for Kaduna State and 4,966 for Katsina State. Notably, 94 per cent of the total number of herders departed from states within Nigeria, while the remaining 6 per cent departed from Niger.

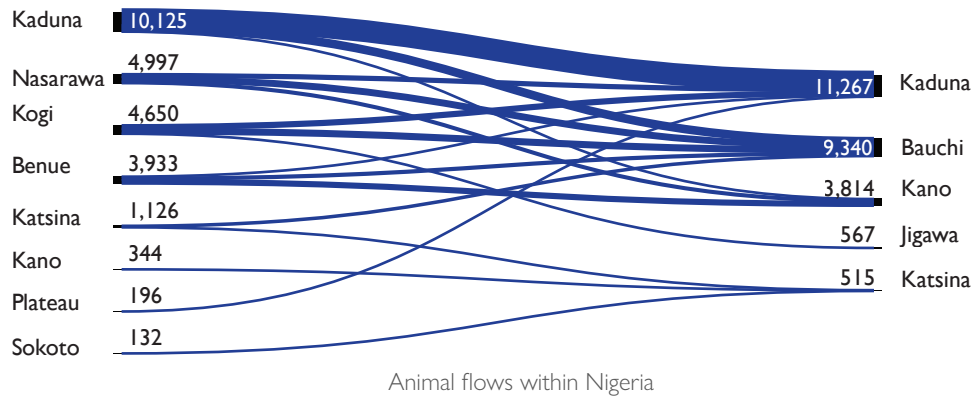
Transhumance flows through Kaduna and Katsina states to intended regions of destination



COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND REGIONS OF DESTINATION OF ANIMAL FLOWS

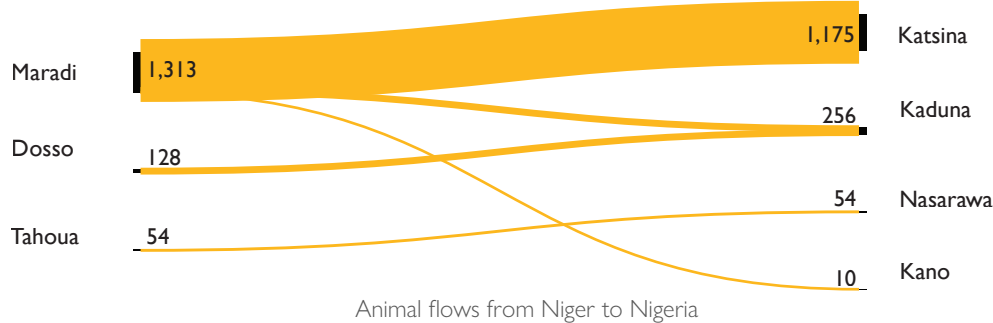
ORIGIN

DESTINATION



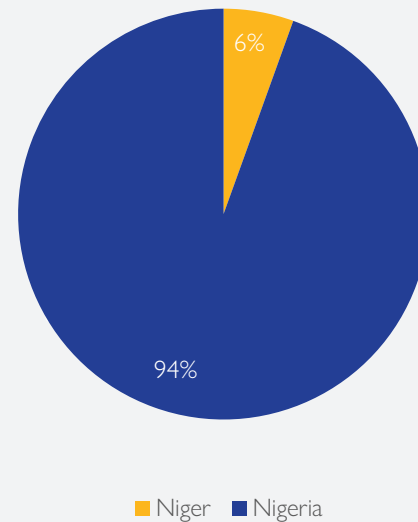
Majority of the animal movements originated within Nigeria, with ninety-four per cent of the observed movements destined for states within the country. Conversely, five per cent indicated movements from Niger to Nigeria, while less than 1 per cent indicated movements from Nigeria to Niger.

Kaduna State (11,267 animals) emerged as the primary destination for transhumance movements within Nigeria, followed by Bauchi State (9,340 animals) and Kano State (3,814 animals), which represented 90 per cent of the total animal movements.

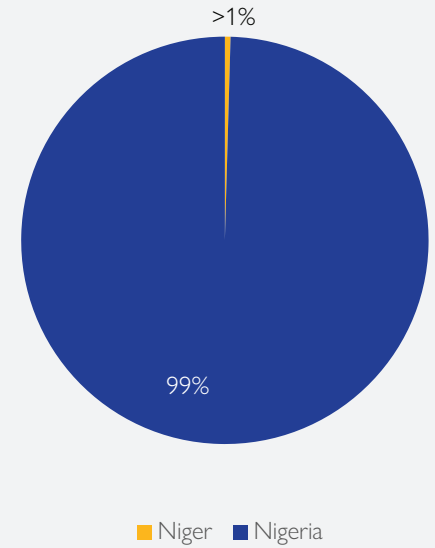


Animal flows

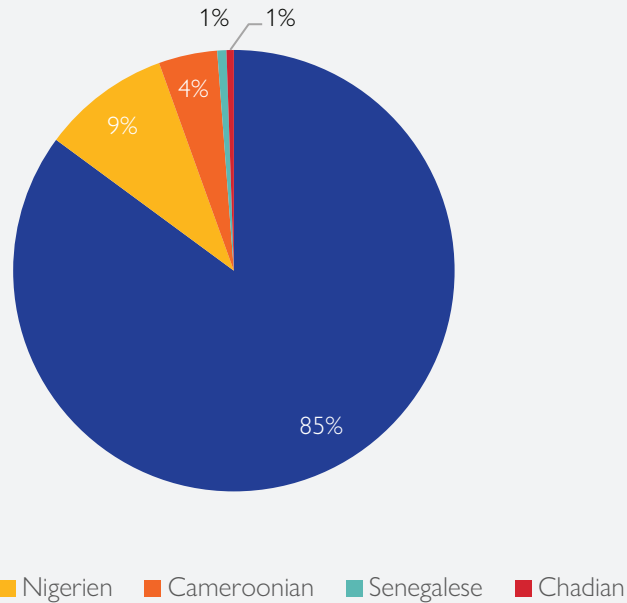
Country of origin



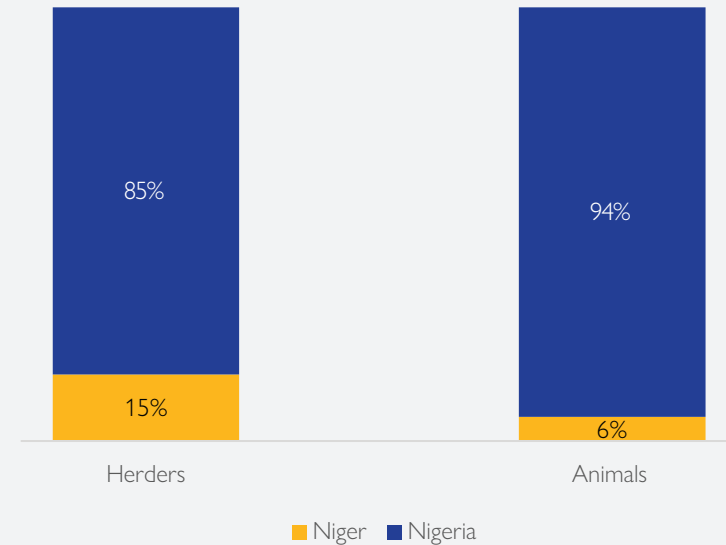
Destination country



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 April 2024, 120 herders and 1,616 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 114 herders and 1,495 animals, while the movement from Nigeria to Niger, involved 6 herders and 121 animals.

Cross-border herd movements in percentages



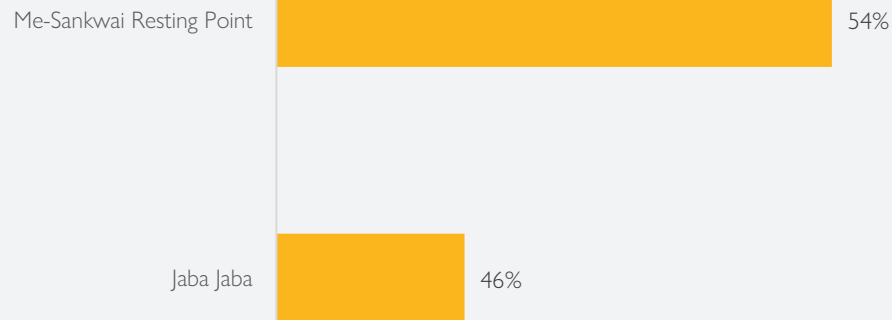
COUNT OF ANIMALS AND HERDERS PER COUNTING POINT

Kaduna State

Percentage of animals counted

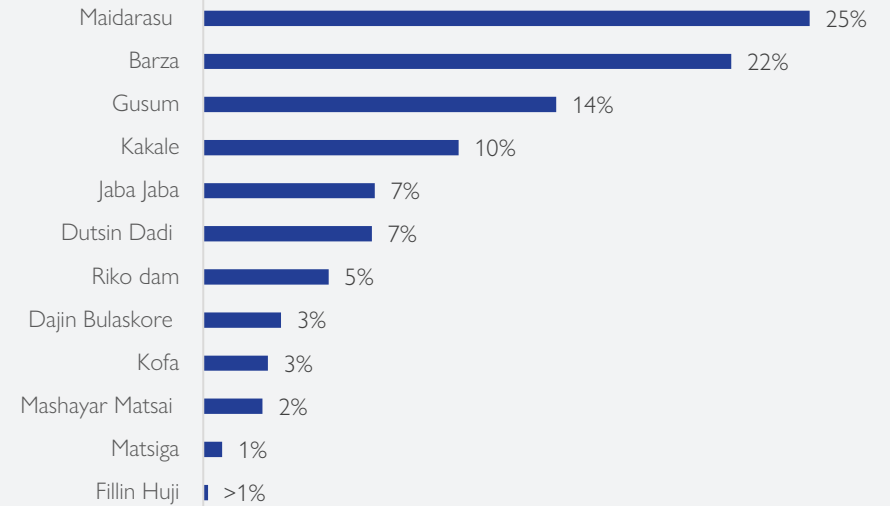


Percentage of herders counted

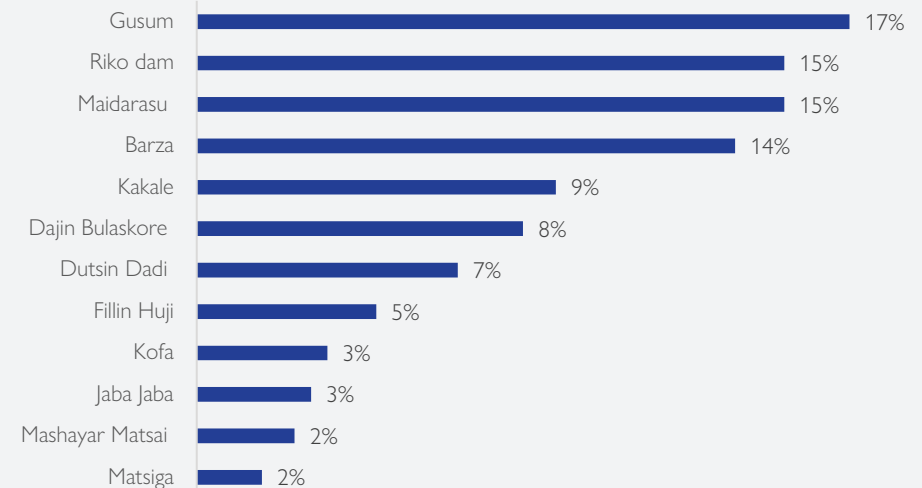


Katsina State

Percentage of animals counted



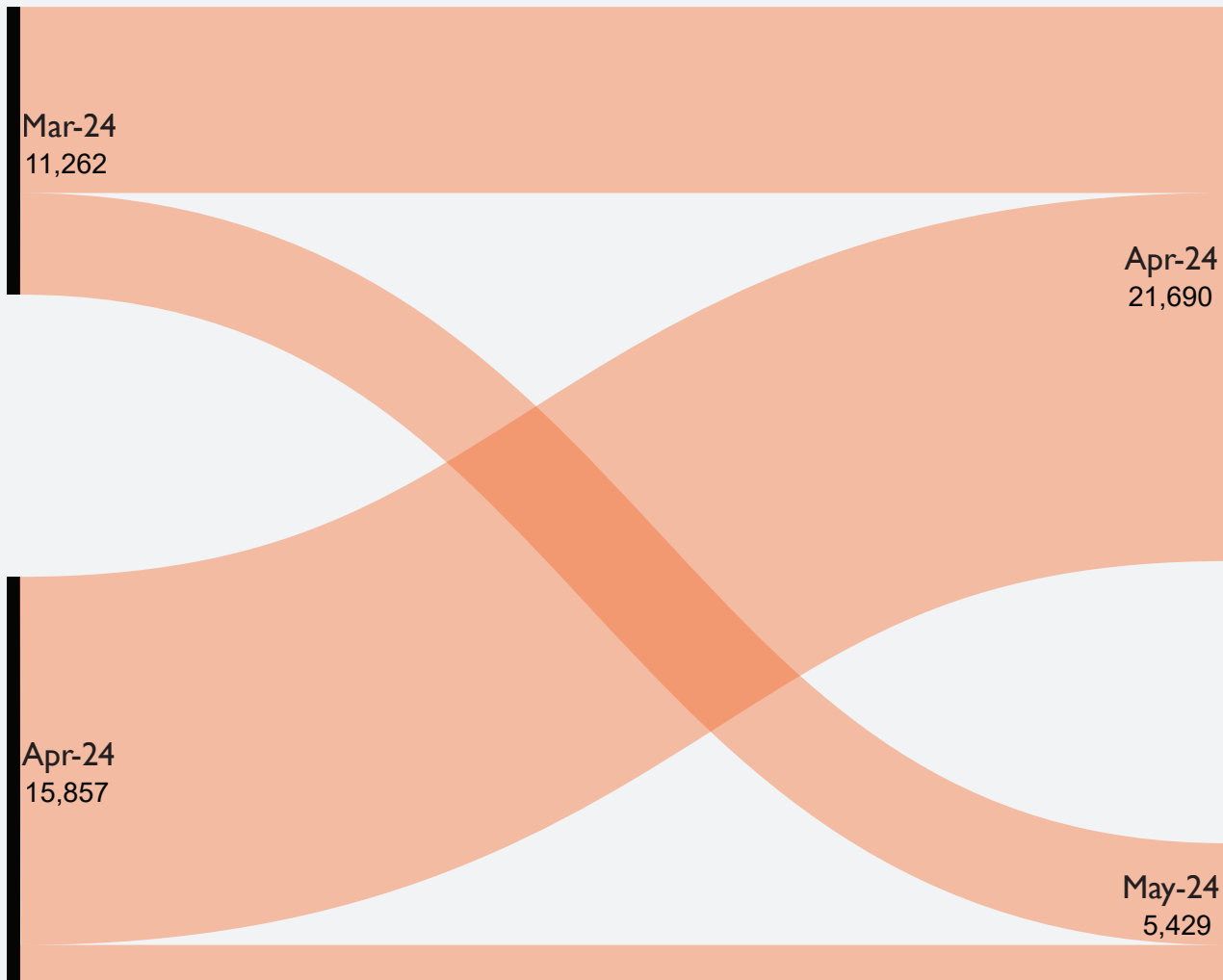
Percentage of herders counted



ANIMAL COUNTS BY MONTH OF DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL

Months of departure*

Estimated/expected months of arrival



Forty-two per cent of the animal movements commenced in March 2024, while 58 per cent began in April 2024.

The estimated month of arrival of 80 per cent of the total animal movements was envisaged in April 2024 and 20 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, some of whom are members of the Community Response Networks (CRNs) and LGA-based team leads.

Steps: Following the transhumance baseline and infrastructure mapping, 14 counting points (12 in Katsina and 2 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.