



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 has been exacerbated by rapid and exponential population growth, leading to an attendant increase in the demand for natural resources, including suitable land for both farming and transhumance activities. Consequently, these factors intensify the competition for already scarce natural resources, often resulting in conflicts, which 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 are 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.

This report presents the data for August 2024, collected through direct interviews and observations by DTM enumerators which were triangulated via a network of key informants. It highlights the number of herders and their animals, identified at 16 counting points in the eight local government areas (LGAs) across Kaduna and Katsina states. Notably, this enumeration included areas within the Kachia, Kaura and Kaita LGAs of Kaduna and Katsina states, under the auspices of the Peacebuilding Fund. Additionally, it was extended to Batsari, Jibia and Kankara LGAs of Katsina State, with the support of the European Union Fund. Faskari and Dan Musa LGAs did not experience any movement during this period.

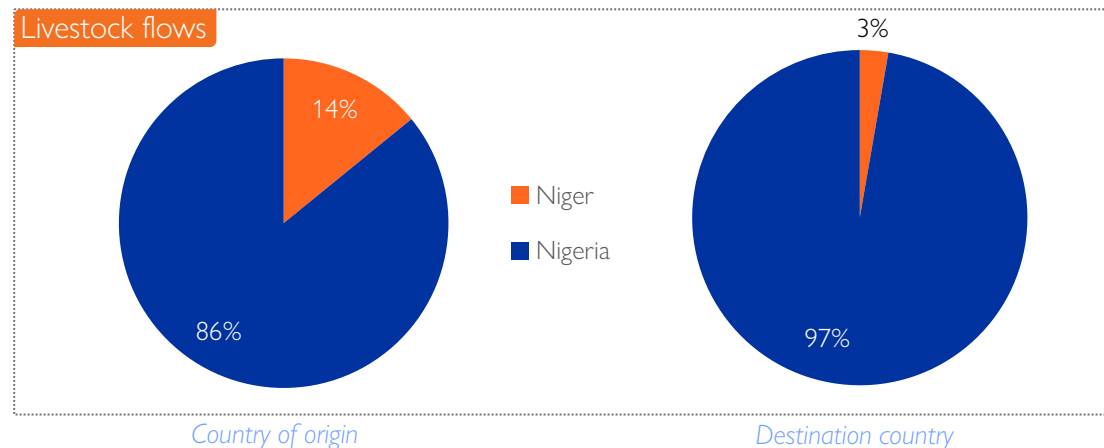
The practice of transhumance involves a systematic movement where herders migrate with their households and families. This movement is often strategic and well-coordinated, typically occurring seasonally. During the dry season, herders move southwards to regions where water and pasture are more readily 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 animals 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 animals to feed and rest. This method fosters a more secure and organized migration, ensuring the safety and well-being of both the herders and their herds.

In August 2024, Transhumance Flow Monitoring tool identified 446 herders in Kaduna State and 71 herders in Katsina State. The animal count was estimated at 1,105 for Kaduna State and 467 for Katsina State. Notably, 97 per cent of the total number of herders departed from states within Nigeria, while the remaining three per cent departed from Niger.

ORIGIN AND DESTINATION OF HERDS

Majority of the animal movements originated from Nigeria, with 86 per cent of the observed movements destined for states within the country. This indicates that most herders graze their herds within the nation, likely due to familiarity with local conditions, available resources and established routes. Conversely, 14 per cent indicated movements from Niger to Nigeria, while three per cent indicated movements from Nigeria to Niger.

Kaduna State (548 animals) emerged as the primary destination for transhumance movements within Nigeria, followed by Plateau State (294 animals) and Bauchi State (265 animals), which represented 70 per cent of the total animal movements. The diversity of states involved in these movements illustrates the extensive network of grazing paths and the widespread dependence on transhumance for livestock management across Nigeria.



State of departure	State of destination	Animals
Bauchi	Plateau	85
Kaduna	Bauchi	38
Kaduna	Kaduna	147
Kaduna	Plateau	209
Kaduna	Zamfara	120
Katsina	Zamfara	30
Nasarawa	Bauchi	227
Nasarawa	Kaduna	258
Niger	Kaduna	43
Plateau	Kaduna	98
Sokoto	Kaduna	2
Zamfara	Katsina	50
Total		1,307

State of departure	State of destination	Animals
Karaye	Kaduna	82
Maradi	Kaduna	70
Maradi	Plateau	70
Total		222

Table 2: Animal flow from Niger to Nigeria

State of departure	State of destination	Animals
Jigawa	Maradi	12
Kano	Agadez	3
Katsina	Maradi	28
Total		43

Table 3: Animal flow from Nigeria to Niger

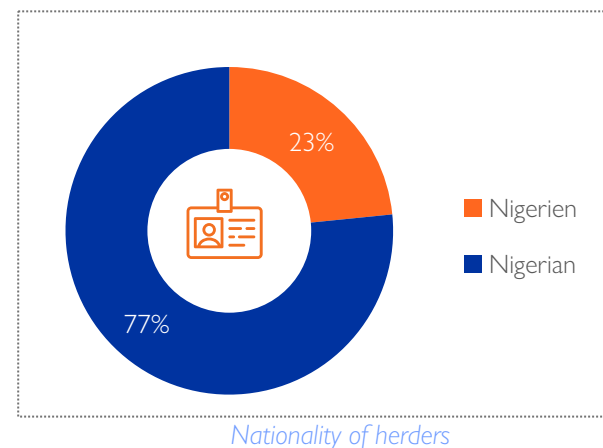
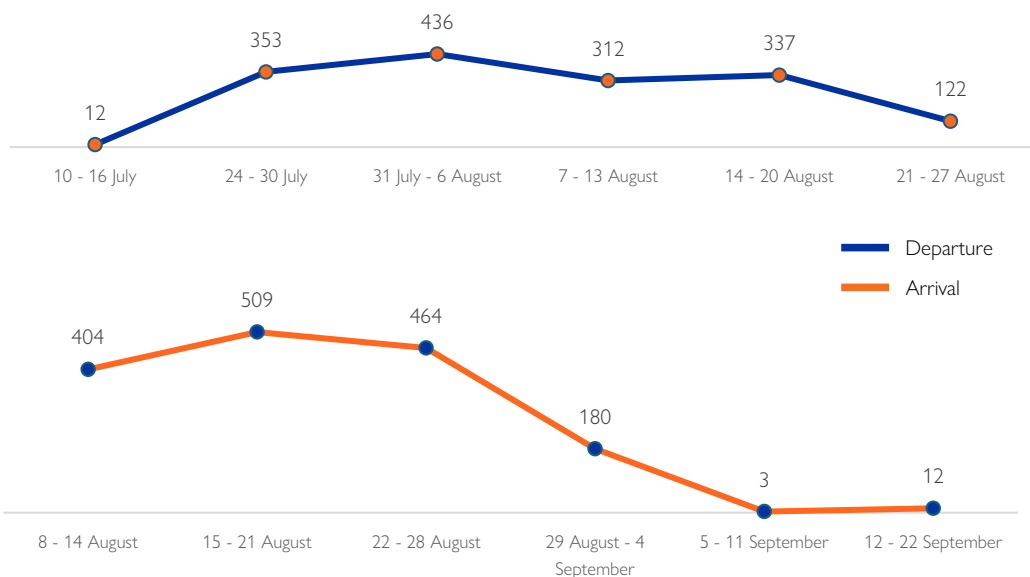


Table 1: Animal flow within Nigeria

EVOLUTION OF OBSERVED FLOWS

During the observed period, herd departures peaked between 31 July - 6 August with 436 animals, marking the highest outflow recorded. This was preceded by a substantial outflow from 24 - 30 July with 353 animals and followed by 337 departures between 14 - 20 August. This peak was largely influenced by the herders need to navigate rivers and flood-prone areas; heavy rainfall required them to wait until conditions improved and it was safe to move.

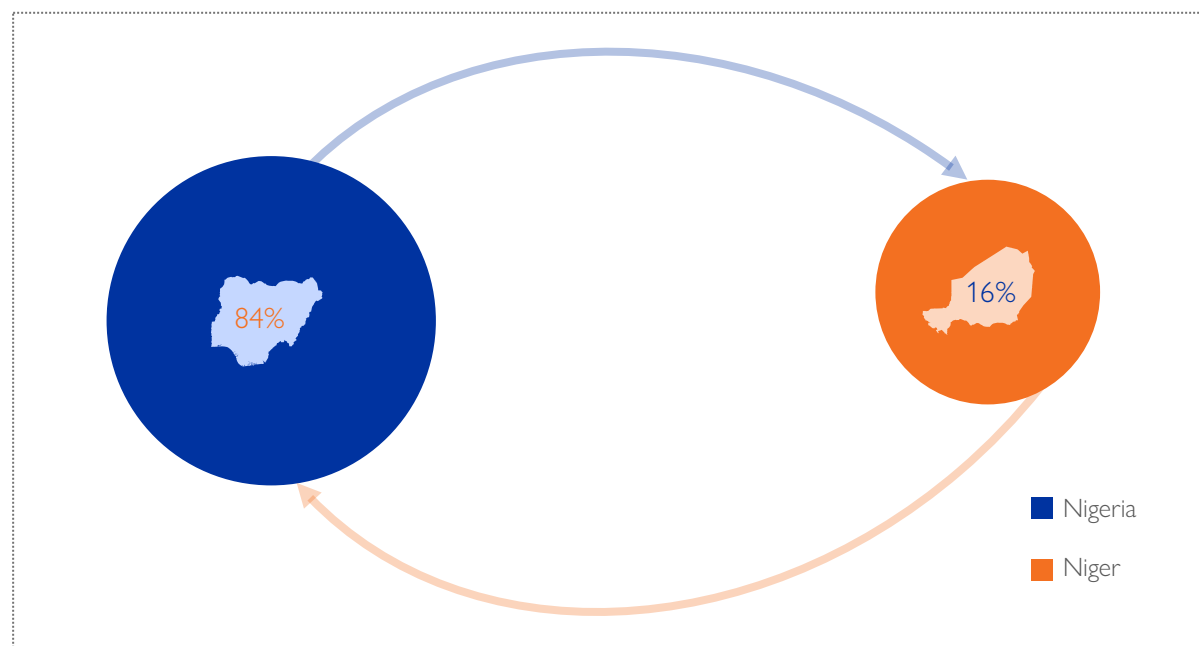
Conversely, arrivals peaked between 15 - 21 August, with 509 animals marking the highest influx. This surge was driven by herders waiting for safer conditions before moving forward. A close second occurred between 22 - 28 August, with 464 arrivals, followed by another significant movement between 8 - 14 August, with 404 animals.



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 August 2024, 48 herders and 265 animals were observed in cross-border movements across Niger and Nigeria transhumance corridors.

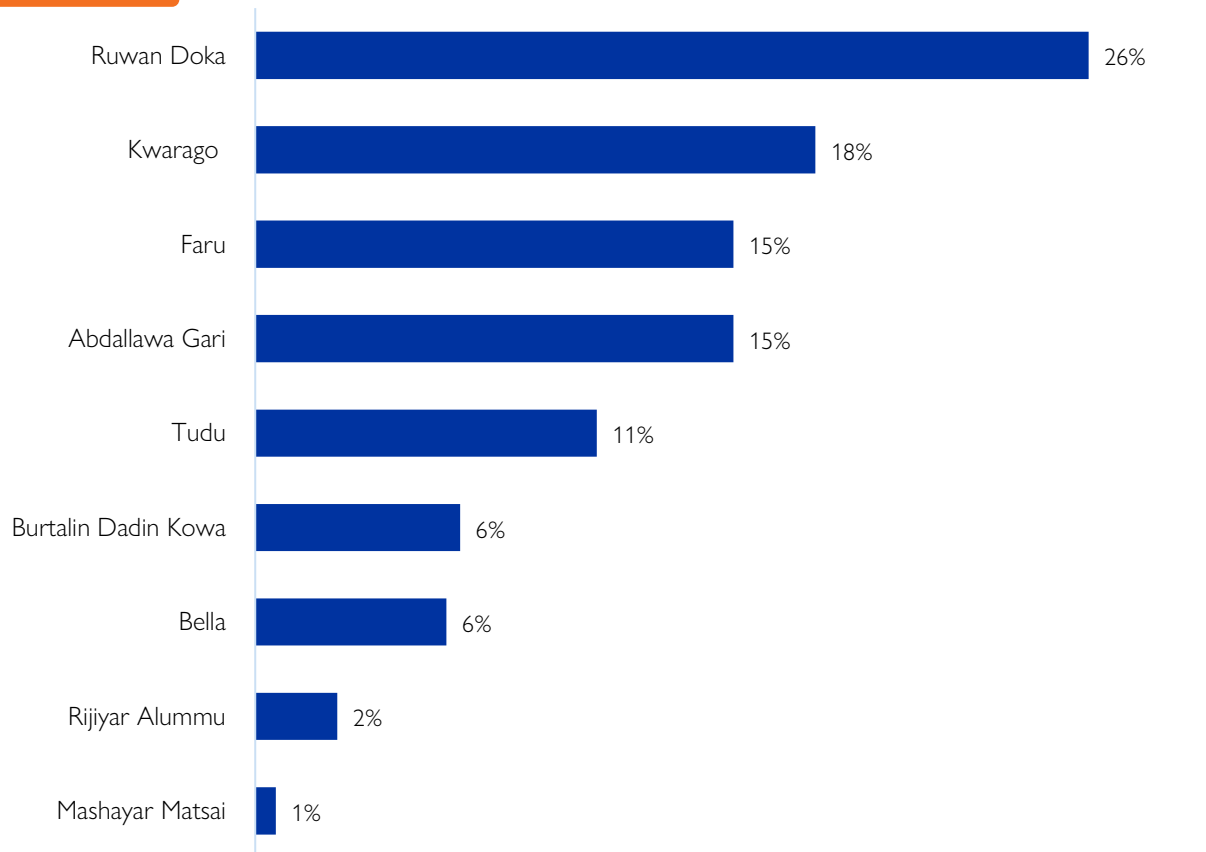
Among the identified movements, the largest number occurred from Niger to Nigeria, totaling 16 herders and 222 animals, while the movement from Nigeria to Niger involved 32 herders and 43 animals.



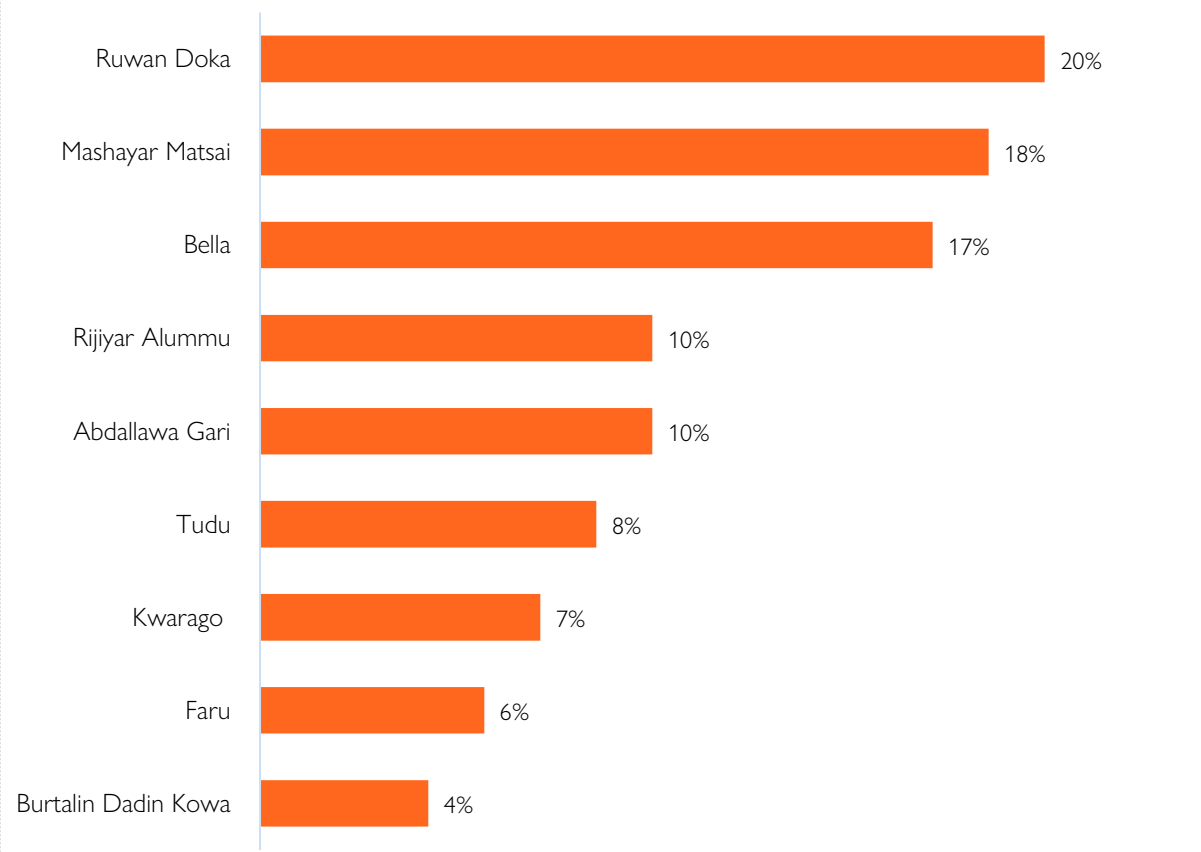
Cross-border herd movement in percentages

NUMBER OF ANIMALS AND HERDERS PER COUNTING POINT

Katsina State



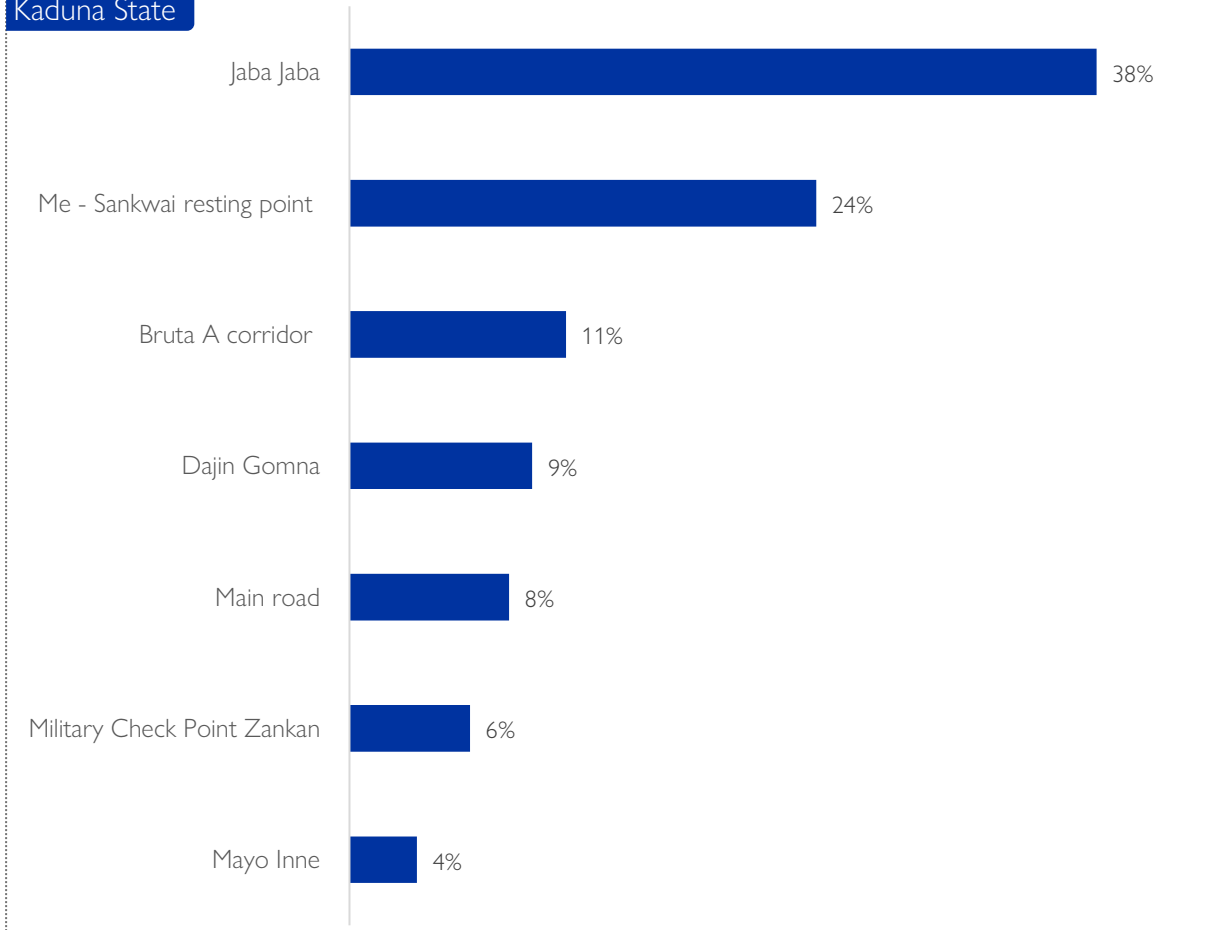
Percentage of herds counted



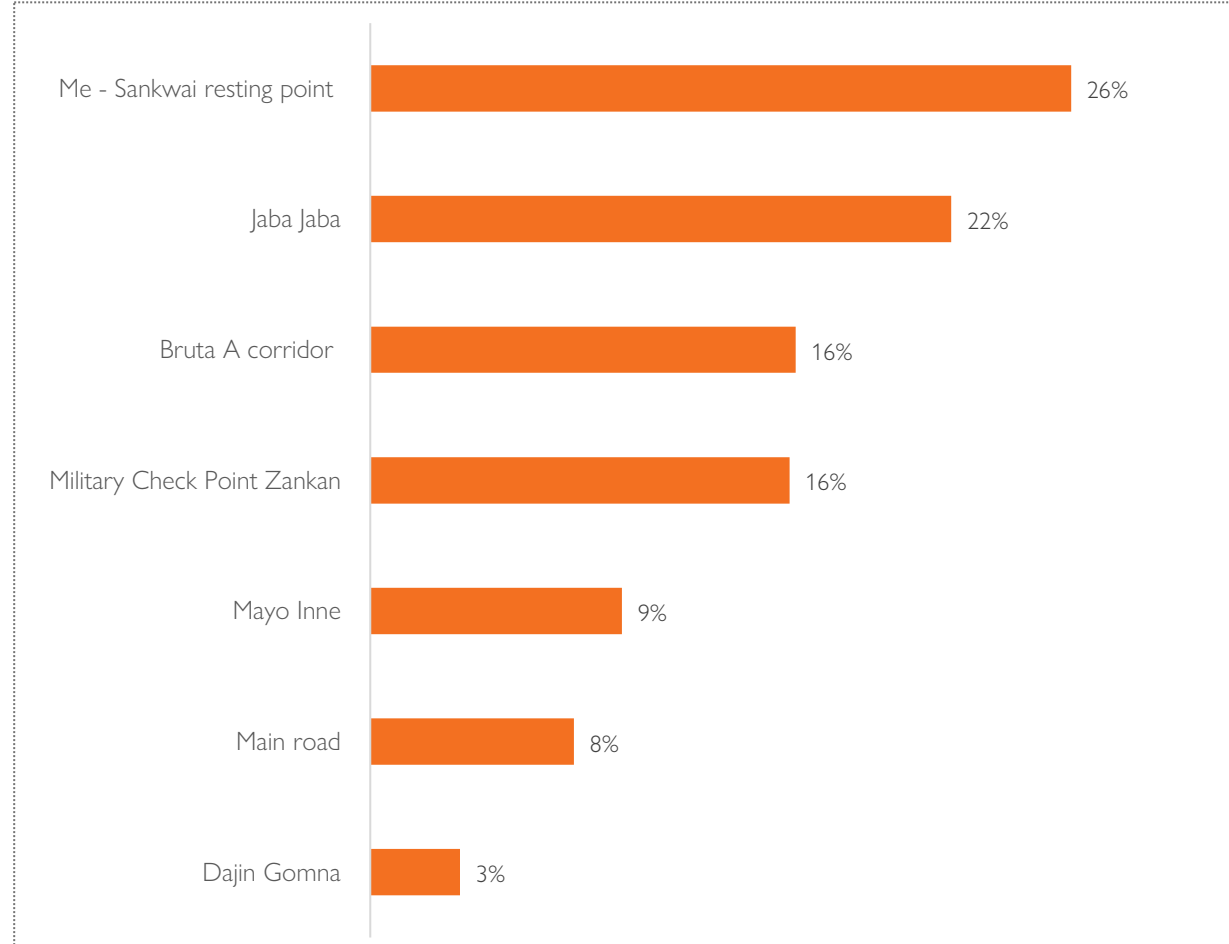
Percentage of herders counted

NUMBER OF ANIMALS AND HERDERS PER COUNTING POINT

Kaduna State



Percentage of herds counted



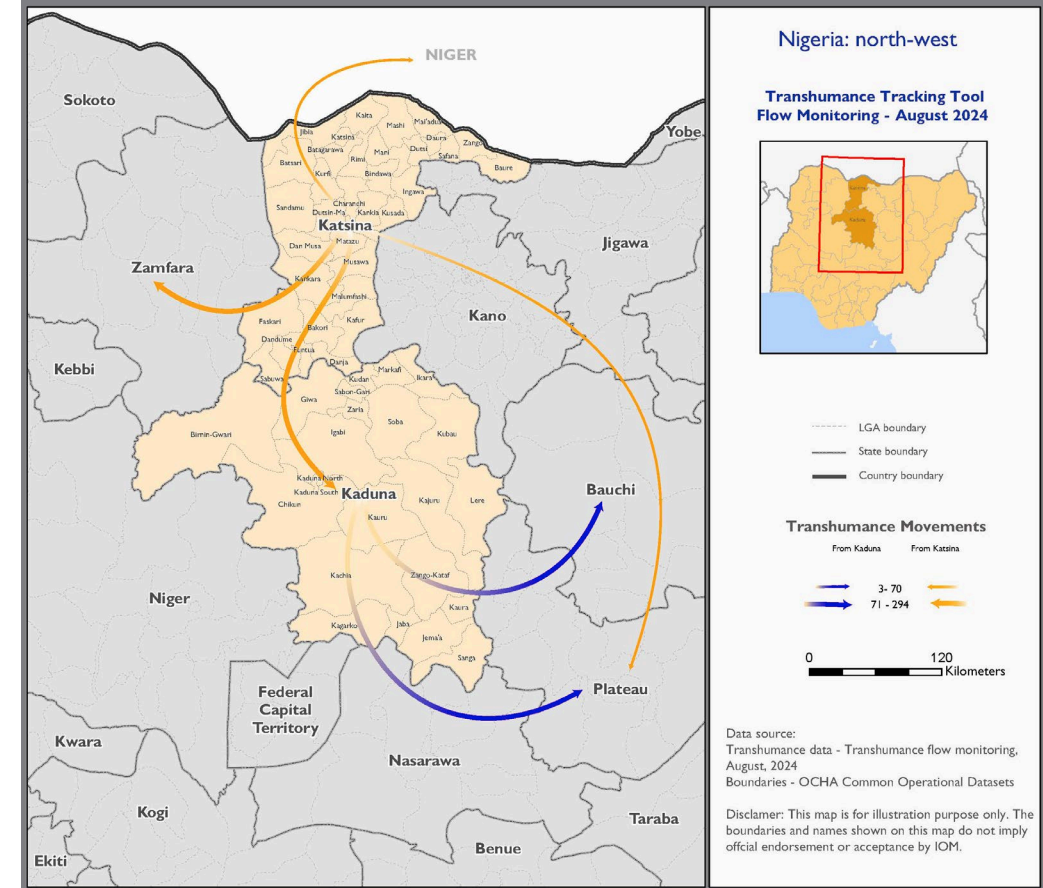
Percentage of herders counted

Country of departure	Country of destination	Month of Departure	Month of arrival	Number of people	Number of animals
Niger	Nigeria	Aug-24	Aug-24	16	222
		Jul-24		20	15
Nigeria	Niger	Aug-24	Sep-24	12	28
		Jul-24		179	350
	Nigeria	Aug-24	Aug-24	273	805
			Sep-24	17	152
Grand Total				517	1,572

Table 4: Number of animals and herders by months of departure and arrival

Seventy-seven per cent of the animal movements commenced in August 2024, while 23 per cent began in July 2024.

The estimated arrival month for 88 per cent of the total animal movements was projected to be August 2024, with the remaining 12 per cent expected in September 2024.



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

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.

Following the transhumance baseline and infrastructure mapping, movements were counted and monitored along 16 designated transhumance counting points (9 in Katsina and 7 in Kaduna states).

Data was collected on transhumant herders on their country and region of departure, intended destination, date of departure, estimated date of arrival, count of herders, types and number of herds 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

01

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.

02

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.

03

Extend the current data collection system to cover additional states in Nigeria, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of transhumance dynamics.