

### SUMMARY

#### Context:

Cross-border transhumance is a major herding practice in West and Central Africa, and especially in the Sahel region. As an important economic activity and a driver of regional development, transhumance has, in the past decades, been subject to significant changes. Climatic variation, demographic pressure, growing competition over scarcer resources, political volatility and insecurity have deeply affected transhumant routes, patterns and flows.

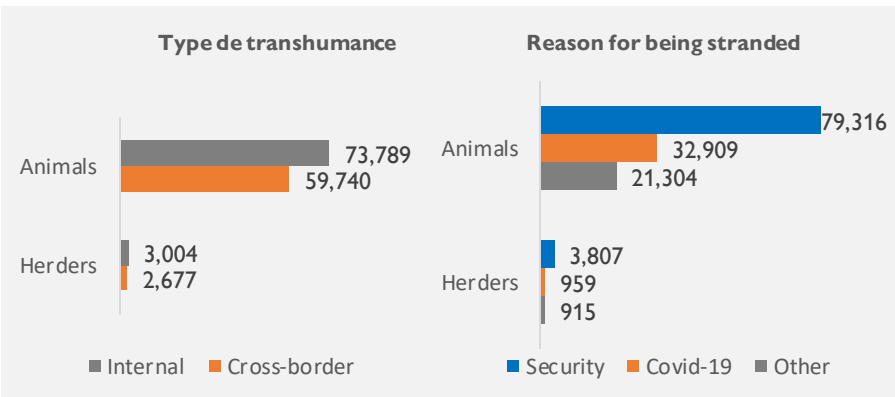
This dashboard presents the results of data collected in Niger at the border with Gao in Mali and the Sahel region in Burkina Faso in April 2022. A total of 23 localities were assessed by the **Bilital Maroobe Network (RBM)** and its network of pastoralist organizations using a common methodology involving regional workshops with relevant stakeholders and local assessment conducted by trained enumerators. This information product highlights the number of herders and their cattle currently stranded at borders, as well as potential solutions to resume cattle mobility.

#### Main results:

A total of 133,529 animals (bovidae, sheeps, goats and camels) and 5,681 herders were identified and considered as stranded. Among those stranded, 67 per cent of herders were stranded for security reasons (unsafe route), 17 per cent for COVID-19 reasons (mobility restrictions) and 16 per cent for other reasons.

#### Recommendations:

- Strengthen the capacities of actors with regards to their knowledge and understanding of the texts and laws governing transhumance (community leaders, internal and cross-border transhumance leaders, administrative authorities, technical services of the State)
- Popularize texts and laws governing transhumance and translation into local languages for better uptake.
- Ease information access on the state of water and grazing resources, localization of pastoral infrastructures and the security situation.
- Set up communication systems between the cross-border dialogue frameworks of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger.
- Facilitate access to animal feed.
- Facilitate access to veterinary services to generalize the vaccination of livestock and thus allow the establishment of international transhumance certificates.
- Facilitate the issuance of international transhumance certificates.
- Strengthen the negotiation capacities of pastoral organizations and their members.



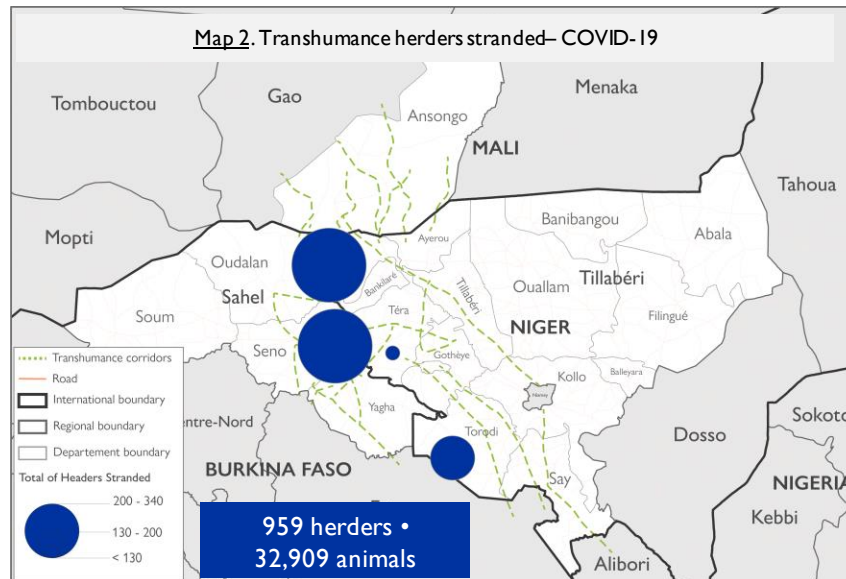
### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF HERDER STRANDED BY REASON

Most of the transhumant herders stranded for security reasons are in the Sahel region of Burkina. All regions combined, insecurity seems to be the main reason for blockages, which affected 67 per cent of respondents.

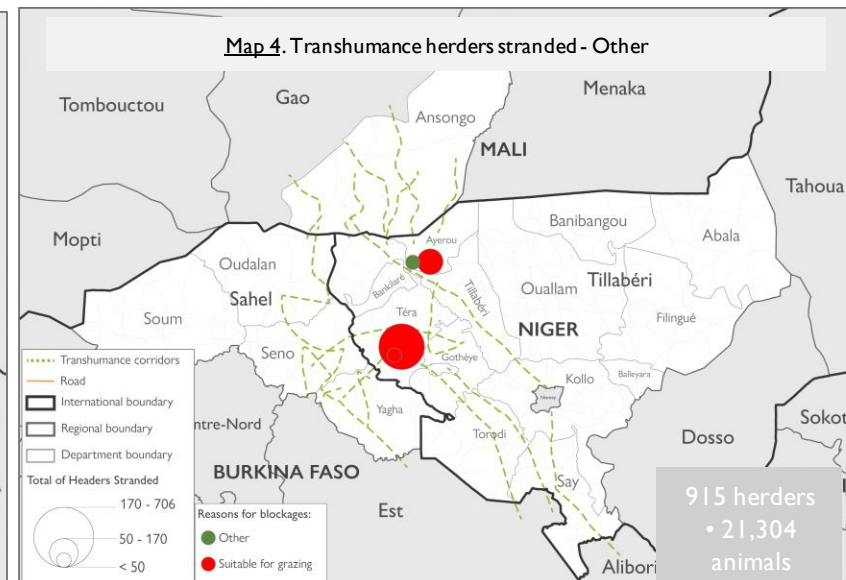
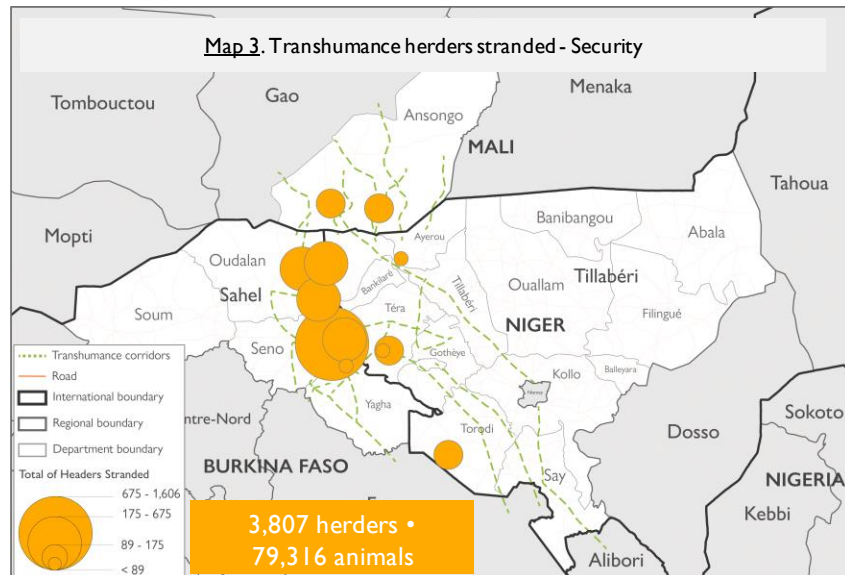
Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, 17 per cent of transhumant herders are stranded following the restrictions imposed, mainly in the Tillabéri region.

The other reasons why transhumant herders says they are stranded in their current locality is because the area would be suitable for grazing, unlike the surrounding areas. This only concerns herders currently stranded in the Tillabéri region in Niger.

Region	COVID-19	Insecurity	Other
Tillabéri	623 (11%)	656 (12%)	915 (16%)
Sahel	336 (6%)	2,840 (50%)	0 (0%)
Gao	0 (0%)	311 (5%)	0 (0%)



### Ratio: animals / herder



### SUMMARY

The majority of stranded transhumant herders (92%) have access to various services and infrastructures either in the commune of residence or in a neighbouring commune. However, the presence of these services does not necessarily mean that they are working or even accessible.

Another question on access to water and pasture shows that the situation of stranded transhumant herders must be nuanced. Thus, while herders are indeed in areas where water and pasture are present, access to sufficient water and pasture is much more of a concern for the months to come, especially given the blockages that still exist.

### CERTIFICATES OF TRANSHUMANCE

Cross-border stranded herders with an international transhumance certificate	Internal stranded herders with a national transhumance certificate
<b>629 (11%)</b>	<b>358 (6%)</b>

Only 11 per cent of stranded cross-border transhumant herders have an international transhumance certificate and 6 per cent have a national transhumance certificate.

### HEALTH SERVICES

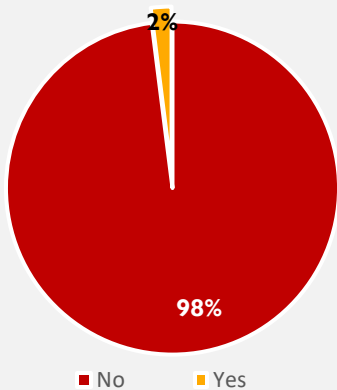
Stranded transhumant herders are located in localities that provide human (97%) and animal (86%) health services. This highlights the presence of these services but does not guarantee that herders have the necessary resources to access them.

### GRAZING LAND & WATER POINTS

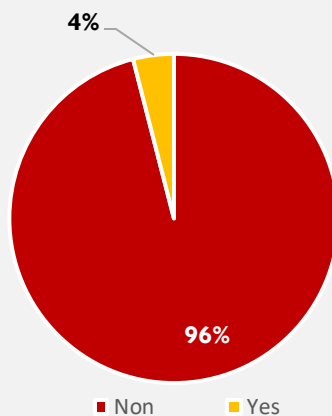
According to key informants, 100 per cent of stranded transhumant herders have access to water points and 98 per cent have access to grazing areas. While this proportion of pasture and water availability is encouraging, it does not automatically translate into adequate access and sufficient quantity for all transhumant animals. Thus, 98 per cent of stranded transhumant

herders do not have enough pasture to supply all the animals in the locality (both cattle belonging to transhumant herders and animals belonging to local herders). Similarly, 96 per cent of stranded transhumant herders do not have enough water to meet the needs of their livestock.

Grazing lands are sufficient to feed all animals



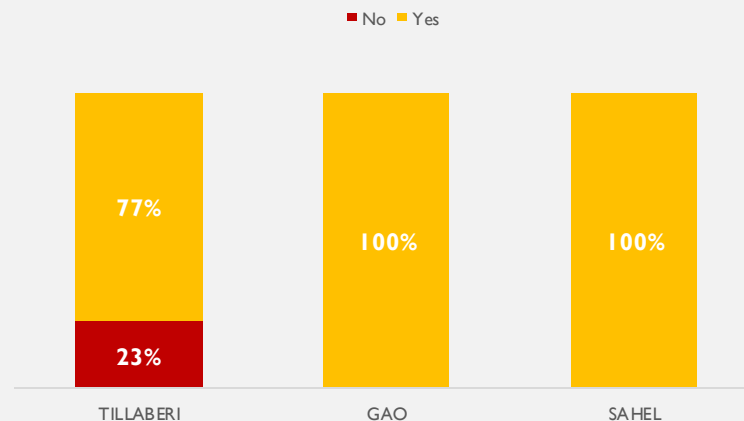
Water points are sufficient for all animals



### MARKETS

Almost all the herders surveyed have access to markets to sell their cattle, whether in their current commune of residence or in neighbouring communes, with the exception of Tillabéri where access to cattle markets appears particularly difficult for 23 per cent of stranded transhumant herders.

Access to markets



### MOVEMENT INTENTIONS IN THE 3 MONTHS FOLLOWING THE SURVEY

A large number (82%) of stranded transhumant herders intend to leave their current place of residence within three months of the survey, mostly in June 2022.

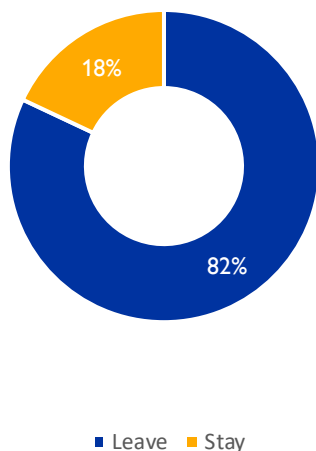
In Tillabéri, Niger, the majority of stranded herders plan to leave their current place of residence to return to their country of origin (48%). But 23 per cent want to stay in this region of Niger, 28 per cent want to go to another region of Niger. This is how Niger also turns out to be the main country of destination for stranded breeders.

In the Sahel, in Burkina Faso, where the majority of herders are stranded, most of them want to return home, mostly in Niger.

In Gao, Mali, most stranded herders intend to stay where they are now.

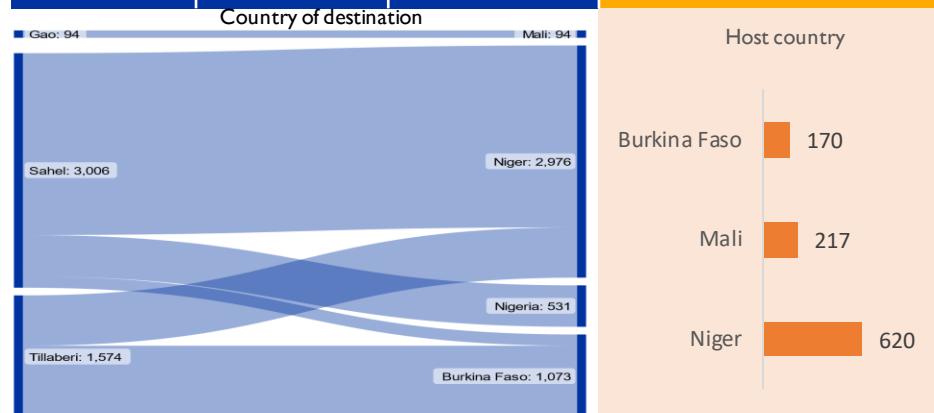
In terms of intended destinations, 73 per cent plan to return to their country of origin, 9 per cent plan to stay in their current country of residence but move to another region, no herders plan to travel to another country and 18 per cent plan to stay.

Intentions of herders

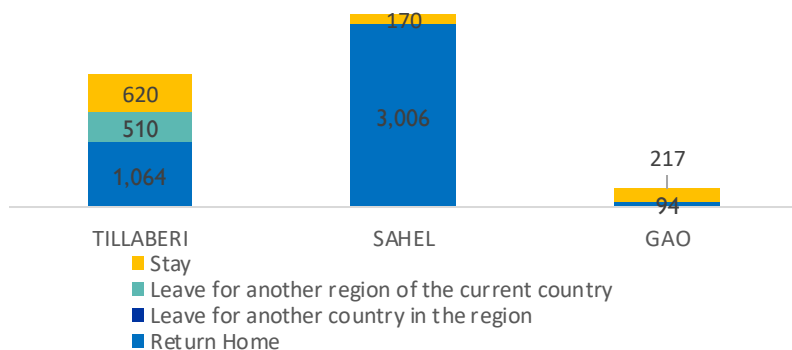


### MOVEMENT INTENTIONS – FINAL INTENDED COUNTRY

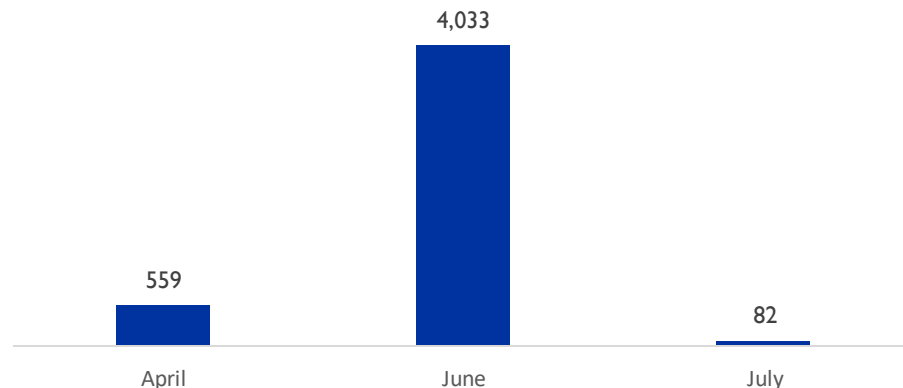
Leave			Stay
For another country	For another region	To return home	
0 (0%)	510 (9%)	4,164 (73%)	1,007 (18%)



### MOVEMENT INTENTION BY COUNTRY OF CURRENT RESIDENCE



### EXPECTED DEPARTURE DATE





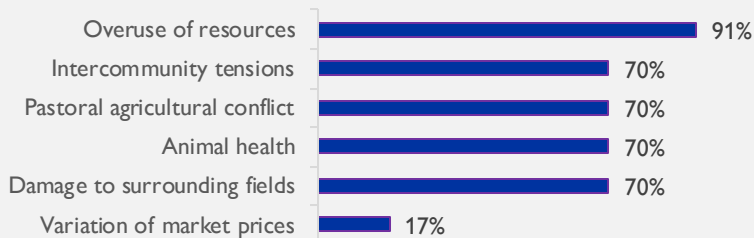
### IMPACTS & RISKS

Key informants surveyed affirm that the overexploitation of resources in the localities in which transhumant herders are stranded (mentioned by 91% of respondents) as well as the damage caused by their cattle in the surrounding fields (70%), conflicts between herders and farmers (70%), inter-community tensions (70%) and animal health (70%) are potential risks linked to prolonged stays in their current place of residence.

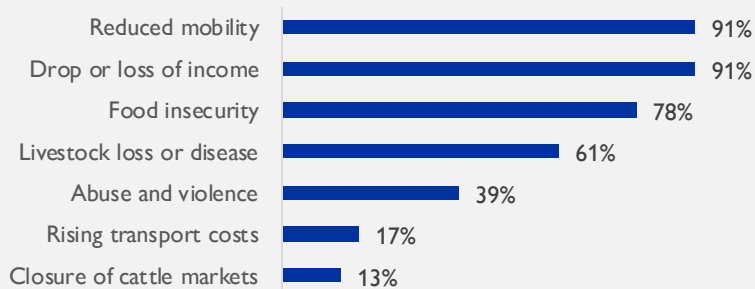
These findings are reflected in their responses with regards to the impacts of the situation, both on herders and on host communities. Regarding the first type of impact, herders explain that they are mainly impacted by loss of income (91%), reduced mobility (91%), food insecurity (78%) and illness or death of their animals (61%).

Asked about the impacts on localities, key informants mention no delivery of transhumance certificates (100%), a decrease in resources (91%) or food insecurity (83%) as the main consequences of the presence of stranded transhumant herders.

Potential risks associated with herders stranded in the locality

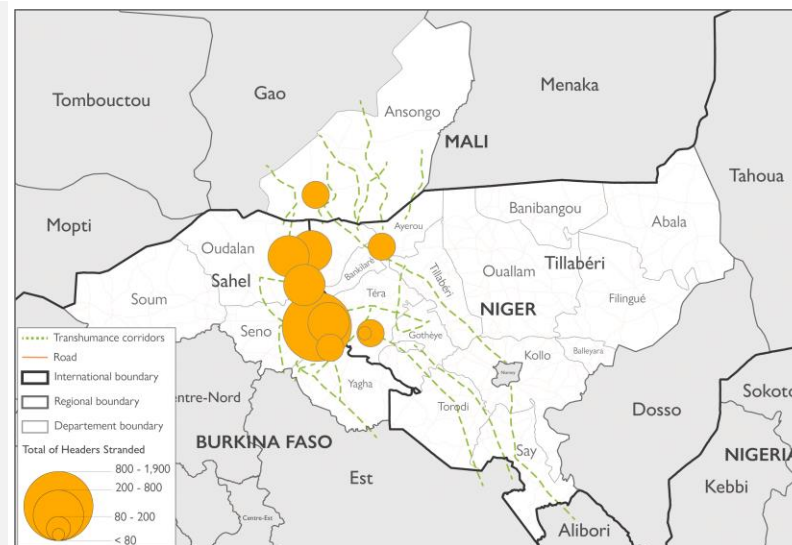


Impacts associated with herders stranded in the locality

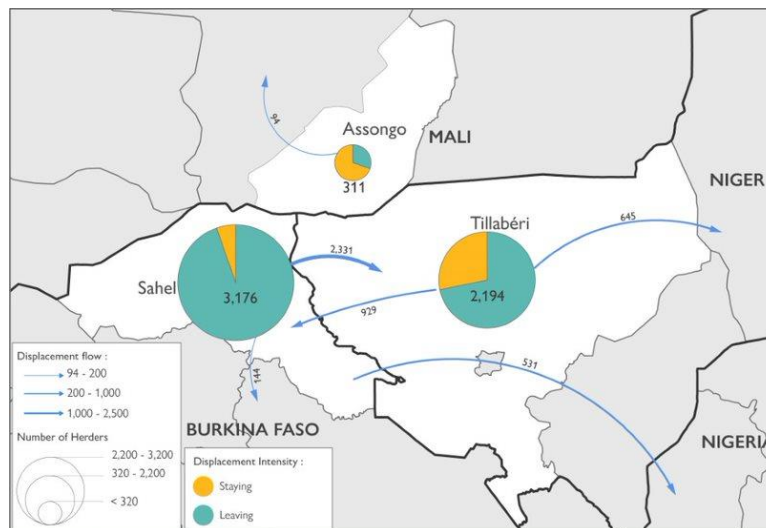


Map 5. Location of transhumant herders with the intention of leaving within three months : potential risk areas

Map 5 identifies the sites where stranded herders intend to leave within three months. If these herders are refused passage to their intended destinations and are obliged to stay in their current place of residence, this could generate frustrations and tensions between farmers and herders on these sites as to the use of water and grazing resources which could then become scarce.



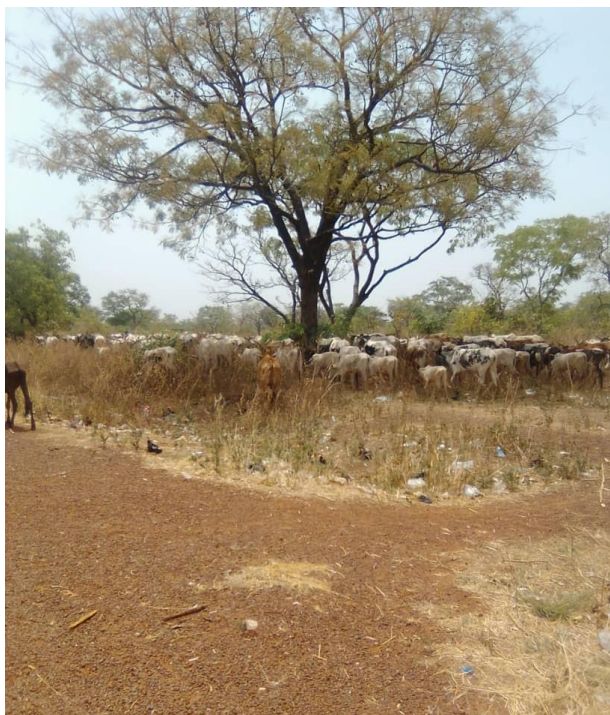
Map 6. Location of transhumant herders with the intention of leaving within three months: intended destinations



Map 6 identifies the destinations planned within three months by the stranded herders. As in the previous analysis on intentions, it can be noted that herders are mainly located in the Sahel region of Burkina Faso – mainly wishing to go to Niger) and in that of Tillabéri, Niger – wishing to go to Burkina Faso. This map makes it possible to anticipate the potential arrivals of transhumant herders and their animals.

## PROJECT

IOM, through its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), works with the Réseau Bilital Maroobè (RBM) and its network of pastoral organizations to map the movements of transhumant herders in West and Central Africa in order to better understand the dynamics and characteristics of internal (national) and cross-border movements. This project, funded by the Bureau of Humanitarian Affairs of the United States Agency for International Development (BHA – USAID), has as its main objective to facilitate the peaceful management of the mobility of transhumant herders and their livestock through the sharing of reliable information and data to the various stakeholders governing transhumance, by supporting local and inclusive mechanisms for dialogue around transhumance so that they are empowered to provide solutions on the basis of the information collected.



## METHODOLOGY

Objective: The purpose of this mapping tool is twofold:

- Establish a map of herders and animals currently living in cross-border regions with Niger and who are stranded due to the COVID-19 pandemic, security reasons or other reasons such as administrative or vaccination problems, the lack of pasture and water, etc.;
- Identify the meeting points currently used and the main displacement intentions once the situation is resolved as well as the impacts of this situation for the herders.

Geographic Scope: The data collection for the entire project focused on Niger's cross-border regions with Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria where transhumant herders and their livestock are currently stranded and face multiple challenges (security, mobility restrictions). In order to facilitate data collection and information sharing, four areas have been identified (Tillabéri, Gao and Sahel; Maradi and Katsina; Dosso and Kebbi; Tahoua and Sokoto).

Source of information: The main source of information for this exercise was the network of RBM key informants currently active in the targeted geographic areas.

Steps: A first step (listing) aimed establishing a list of regions in the targeted geographical area. From this list of targeted regions, RBM and partners identified relevant key informants who can represent and talk about these regions.

- At the regional level, during a cross-border Round Table bringing together all the stakeholders concerned, a survey was conducted among key informants in the region, in order to identify the host localities of transhumant herders stranded with their herds. The list of localities generated by this first stage of data collection made it possible to identify the localities where the second survey was carried out.
- At the locality level, data were collected from key informants able to provide information on transhumant herders stranded with their herds. The questionnaire helped identify specific areas where these transhumant herders and their herds were stranded. The form also helped to identify the potential risks associated with the prolonged stay of transhumant herders in this area and their future intentions.

**Map: The maps presented in this document are for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.**