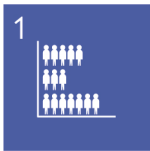


10.

Transhumance Tracking Tool – a regional perspective of mobility in West Africa

Damien Jusselme¹



DATA

Abstract: IOM's *Transhumance Tracking Tool* is composed of two data collection mechanisms. The first is a “flow registry”, a data collection tool used in the location of key seasonal transhumant movements. The second is an early warning system, a localized alert system that uses large networks of existing key informants to share and receive information related to transhumance events.

Insecurity and climate variability have led to shifts in seasonal transhumant movements in West and Central Africa. In particular, the unpredictability of international herder movements due to climate variations, through agricultural lands across the three States composing the Liptako–Gourma (Mali, Burkina Faso and the Niger), have led to recurrent local conflicts, as mobile herds sometimes graze on uncollected crops, thereby diminishing revenues of the sedentary farming communities. Sedentary farming communities also have extended their use of lands beyond the traditional zones agreed to by national agriculture ministries, thereby reducing possible passage corridors that had previously served as safe spaces for transhumant communities.

A transnational political response to the conflicts currently facing the three States along the transhumance corridors is needed. At the same time, a localized approach is essential. Through its transition and recovery programmes, IOM supports a local conflict mitigation approach, and has developed data collection tools aiming at better understanding transhumance and supporting local pre-emptive responses.

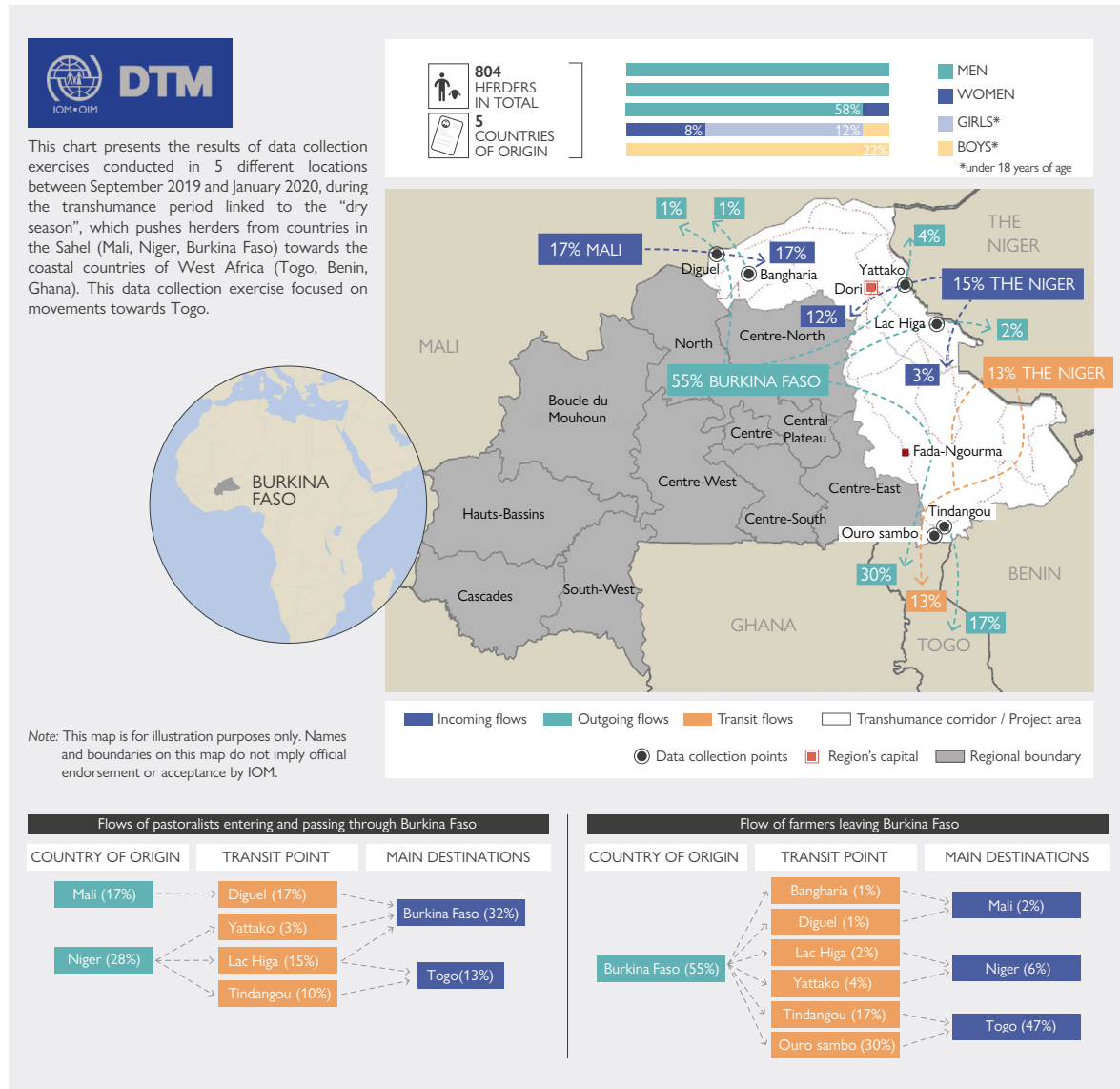
In this context, IOM cooperates with the *Réseau Billital Maroobé*, the regional herders' federation of pastoralist associations of West and Central Africa, for the roll-out of an early warning “Transhumance Tracking Tool”. This tool is composed of two main data collection tools:

- (a) Flow registry: A data collection tool used in key seasonal transhumant movements locations (such as cattle markets and water points). The flow registry measures the volume of movements southward to coastal countries (such as Côte d'Ivoire, Benin and Togo) following rainfall, then back northward (for example, to Mali, Burkina Faso, the Niger and Mauritania) during the wet season (Plante et al., 2020). The tool counts the cattle and pastoralists in an attempt to quantify these movements and support early preparedness on key infrastructure, such as markets, transhumant corridors and grazing lands.

¹ IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix, Regional Office, Dakar.

(b) Early warning system: A localized alert system that uses large networks of existing key informants to share and receive information related to transhumance events (such as conflicts over water resources or grazing lands, or early or massive pastoralist movements, for example). The system combines information from the flow registry with events data collected by the early warning system to develop and share alerts with the local communities, relevant agriculture ministries and civil society organizations.

Figure 10.1. Example of information product developed in Burkina Faso based on the Flow Registry data collection tool



Source: IOM, 2020.

Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

— REFERENCES

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

2020 Burkina Faso – Tableau de bord de suivi des mouvements transhumants 1 April. Available at <https://migration.iom.int/reports/burkina-faso-%E2%80%94-tableau-de-bord-de-suivi-des-mouvements-transhumants-1-avril-2020?close=true>.

Plante, C., C. Berger and A. Ba

2020 Pastoralists on the move in the Sahel: the original climate-adapters. World Bank Blogs. Available at <https://blogs.worldbank.org/dev4peace/pastoralists-move-sahel-original-climate-adapters>.