

BULLETIN OF THE 2018 PASTORAL HUNGER GAP SITUATION IN NIGERIA



Cows during transhumance in Nigeria

Highlights

- The **beginning of the rainy season** is **normal** and **not very early** or late onset, the rainfall is moderately distributed across northern Nigeria since in the month of May, 2018.
- There were **no notable** reported **cases of damages** on the first rains that were recorded this year.
- The situation is going out of the lean season as there are no serious signs for shortage of rainfall and grasses are growing vegetative well.
- The mobility of livestock is from south to north and towards the far Sahel and Sahara zones of our neighbouring countries.
- There is **no abnormal or alarming situation** especially about the pastures but only that pastoralist is diverting the routes crossing Zamfara areas for fear of **rural bandit attack** that is rampant in the area.

Introduction

The network called Maroobe (RBM) initiated in 2013, an informative monitoring carried out by national offices in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. The network has assigned to this survey three essential missions:

- To observe pastoral dynamics and the modalities of information flow in the cross-border area
- To relay information about the situation of pastors
- To provide evidence of cross-border operational strategies of access to pastoral resources

In 2014, the RBM has expanded the survey to all of the seven countries where it operates. In 2015, two new members, Togo and Chad, come to participate also in the informative survey which now covers nine countries: Benin (the national territory), Burkina Faso (regions of the East and the Sahel), Mali (regions of Gao, Timbuktu, Kidal and Kayes), Mauritania (wilaya of Gorgol and Hodh El Gharbi), Niger (Tillabery, Diffa, and Tahoua regions), Nigeria (Kano, Kaduna and Katsina States), Senegal (the pastoral zone of the Ferlo, either departments of Linguère, Podor and Matam), Chad (regions of Hadjer Lamis, Chari Baguirmi and Mayo kebbi East) and Togo (all the national territory).



The informative survey aims to ensure a proactive monitoring of the pastoral situation and the threats looming over the families of pastors. Thus, the RBM seeks to have the opportunity to alert the public authorities, so that they can trigger quick actions and effective to alleviate the suffering experienced by farmers and to strengthen pastoral systems.

Methodology

The collector agents classify information according to the selected fields (pastoral situation, critical events, political or professional, events...). They must complete every time the source, location, the evidence so as to make a comprehensible information and so usable by the focal point.

The point focal of each country, made a first analysis, including a systematic verification (what source? who can confirm? precise what location? etc.). He considers the need to supplement the information himself or with the collector agent, neglect or even take it into account in the drafting of the country bulletin that he will ensure the dissemination at the national level and that he will forward to the centralizing network for feed the regional newsletter.

Pasture and water resources situation

General pasture both grasses, herbs and shrubs are at their early stages of growths and not evenly sufficient for animals especially in the far northern part of Nigeria. The crops farmers are busy with land clearing and early weeding and planting operation. So there is competition on the scarce land resources as both pastoralist and farmers are busy doing their best so as to get good yield at the end of the cropping season.

The situation of drinking water point for animals is moderately available; but rivers and water ponds are not good, as many rivers have recorded low water level during the past dry season which is attributed to heavy usage of ground water by dry season farmers.

The market situation

The price of animals in the market is averagely higher especially cattle as we have just concluded Sallah Festival, the population of livestock in markets is readily available as the direction of animal movements is from south to north. The price of both food and cash crops are very higher as the bag of millet is sold at N16,000.00 while the 100kg bag of beans is sold at N35,000.00.

National movements of farmers and livestock

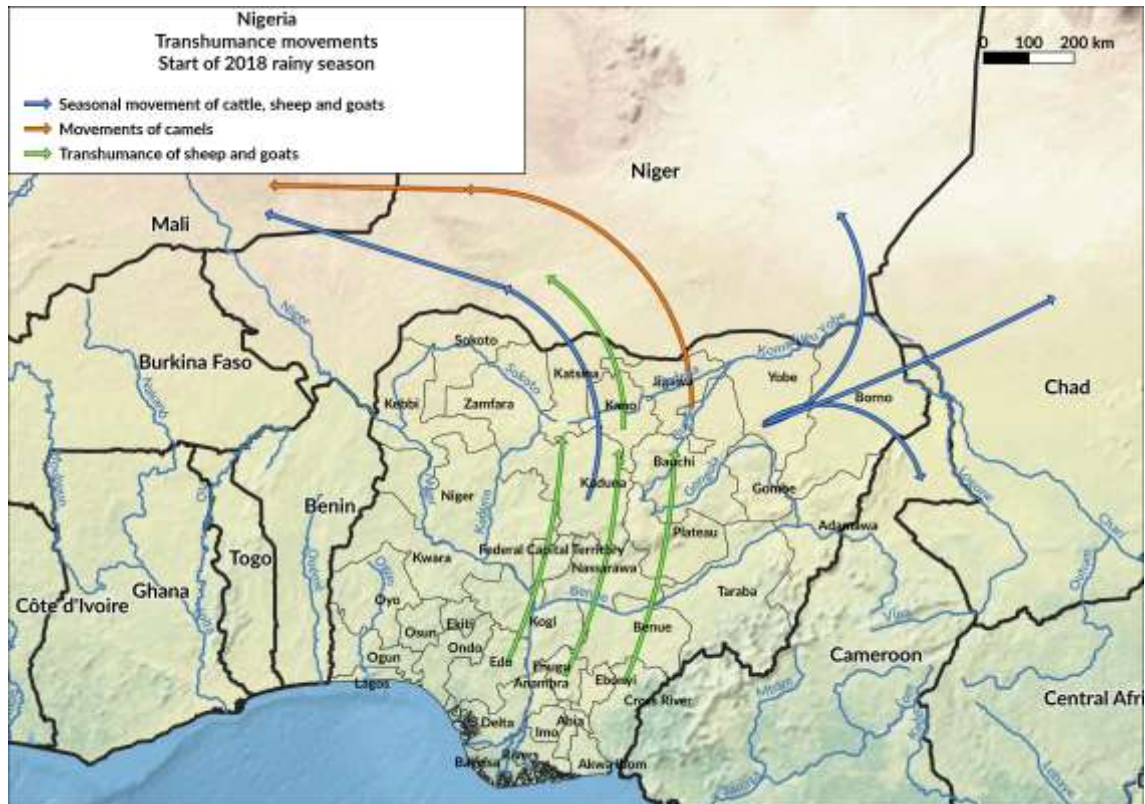
The movement of animal during this period is from south to north as southern part and the middle belt zones of Nigeria are with heavy rain. The flocks of our sheep herders are now returning to the Sahel zone where there is low rain. Crops farmers are now concentrating more seriously on the upland area for cultivation of arable crops.



Cows during transhumance in Nigeria

Cross-border movement of farmers and livestock

The next figure shows the animal movements in Nigeria during the 2018 end of dry season.



Map of transhumance movements in Nigeria

Recommendations

- To Federal and States Government: more effort should be made on the demarcation of interstate stock routes to ease the seasonal mobility of livestock as pastoralist and trade animals share routes with motor vehicles which is hazardous.
- We should continue to mobilize farmers to embrace commercial pasture production so as to alleviate the shortage of animal feeds during the dry season and in cases of drought, it will serve as reserved pastures.

Information and contacts

For more information, please visit the sites:

- www.maroobe.com pour les activités de RBM
- www.sigsahel.info pour l'accès aux bulletins
- www.geosahel.info pour la visualisation des cartes

For more information about the data or methods, please contact:

- GOTOMO Aliyu Bello (Nigeria) — bagotomo@yahoo.ca — +234 8066577432
- SOUMARE Boubacar (Niger) — s.boube@yahoo.fr
- FILLOL Erwann (Sénégal) — erfillol@wa.acfspain.org