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West and Central Africa Transhumance Crisis Response Plan 2024

Transhumance flow monitoring at Mayo-Belwa Local Government Area, Adamawa state, Nigeria © IOM 2023

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IOM VISION

Climate change impacts nomadic herders' routes and calendars throughout Western and Central Africa, challenging peaceful co-existence as competition over natural resources fuels violence and forced displacement. Through the roll-out and scale-up of the Transhumance Tracking Tool, early alert mechanisms, and conflict mitigation strategies, IOM will support Member States, regional organizations, and herders and farmers associations to promote free movements, peaceful transhumance, and strengthened social cohesion. IOM will also provide technical assistance to ensure that ECOWAS and ECCAS remain the regional fora to manage international transhumance in a harmonized and coordinated way.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PRIMARY TARGET GROUPS

1. Internal migrant
2. Internally displaced person
3. International migrant
4. Local population / community

FUNDING REQUIRED: $33,500,000

$1.7M
CONFIRMED

$31.8M
GAP

3,000,000
PEOPLE TARGETED

102
ENTITIES TARGETED

IOM PROPOSED RESPONSE

Saving lives and protecting people on the move

$5,566,000
FUNDING REQUIRED

$0
FUNDING CONFIRMED

0
PEOPLE TARGETED

Driving solutions to displacement

$27,934,000
FUNDING REQUIRED

$1,653,530
FUNDING CONFIRMED

3,000,000
PEOPLE TARGETED

BREAKDOWN OF FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (USD) 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITY AREAS	2024
Saving lives and protecting people on the move	
Displacement tracking	$5,566,000
Driving solutions to displacement	
Community stabilization	$16,169,000
Peacebuilding and peace preservation	$9,265,000
Adaptation and disaster risk reduction	$2,500,000
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED	**$33,500,000**

Insecurity and climate variability, in addition to demographic growth, and increased urbanization have forced shifts in the seasonal migratory routes of transhumant movements throughout West and Central Africa (Mauritania, Mali, Guinea, Niger, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Benin, Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Senegal). In Mali, an IOM study reported that 15 per cent of herders surveyed had to change their initial itinerary, including 8 per cent to face difficulties in accessing water or pasture. Respondents also mentioned wildfires, decrease of pastoral spaces as issues affecting their mobility. In 2023, in Mauritania, an IOM study reported that 65 per cent of herders surveyed had to change their initial itinerary, and 53 per cent their timing due to the impacts of climate change. Faced with these external pressures, the past years have seen an escalation of clashes in the region between mobile transhumant and sedentary herder and farming communities over access to natural resources, necessitating collective action to pre-empt and mitigate the risk of persistent loss of life and livelihoods. The IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)'s Transhumance Tracking Tool (TTT), through its early warning tool, recorded 4,072 alerts in 2022 in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria, including 2,929 events alerts (27% related to conflicts, 7% due to disasters such as wildfires or floods). These conflicts create protection threats in the form of violence and deliberate deprivation for the populations involved, leading to killings, gender-based violence, and denial of freedom of movement, which have a detrimental impact on individual and community mental health and wellbeing. In this context, women and girls are particularly affected regarding access to maternal healthcare services (significantly increasing the rate of maternal mortality among herders' populations), or access to education (particularly for girls). The increased insecurity around natural resources, including around transhumance, has triggered a hardened stance among some of the coastal countries that have opted to close their borders. These policy decisions, however, have not halted the passage of transhumant herds through the coastal countries, but have instead made these movements more challenging, while unilateral decisions from countries have undermined a coherent and integrated approach toward the management of transhumant mobility in the region.

Through its community stabilization programme along a transhumance corridor, IOM rehabilitated a borehole in Agadez, Niger to provide local communities, migrants, and livestock with clean water © IOM 2023

Recognizing these dynamics, multiple intra-regional bodies have convened targeted policy-level discussions to formulate cohesive regional strategies to prevent further risk of tensions within their States, including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Economic Community for Central Africa States (ECCAS), accompanied by the largest regional herders' network, the Réseau Billital Maroobé (RBM) representing 750,000 herders in 12 countries, who meet regularly to take stock of the latest transhumance campaigns, grouped along the three primary transhumance corridors that cross from North to South of the West and Central Africa region. As a result of these high-level consultations, two core gaps have been highlighted: the region's lack of unified understanding of transhumant movements, including their numbers and routes, and the direct negative impact this gap has on their ability to make sound policy decisions, as much as stressing the need for localized conflict mitigation approaches to successfully address these recurrent conflicts. In addition, recently, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger shared the intention to opt out from ECOWAS without notice, which could potentially entail additional efforts in promoting free movements.

COORDINATION

To support Member States, IOM has partnered with the RBM at the regional level to develop and implement an early warning system at the local level that engages local authorities, relevant line ministries, and herder representatives to contribute to efforts to preempt potential conflicts linked to transhumance movements across West and Central Africa.

IOM also works closely with the Liptako Gourma Authority (ALG) to identify and discuss risks and vulnerabilities in the tri-State zone, alongside national herders' associations and local authorities, to integrate both local community perspectives and those within the wider international community.

IOM further participates in the Ministerial Sessions of the High-Level Regional Consultation for Peaceful Transboundary Transhumance organized by ECOWAS and RBM for the Central Corridor that gathers relevant ministers from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, and Togo. The Organization will continue to coordinate with these actors to ensure complementarity and information-sharing to promote multilateralism given the regional scale of the herders' movements, but also to reduce conflict associated with ungoverned transhumance.

With an established presence across all countries of the Transhumance Corridor, IOM extends its support to its Member States on data collection and localized conflict mitigation approaches through coordination with representatives of relevant line ministries and, where established, representatives of the National Transhumance Committees (CNT). A roadmap was developed with ECCAS to reinforce policies related to mobility in the Central African countries.

IOM CAPACITY

Maintaining a network of over 100 Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) staff in 13 West and Central Africa (WCA) countries, IOM has developed its two-pronged transhumance conflict mitigation strategy across the region by rolling out its Transhumance Tracking Tool (TTT). In doing so, IOM leverages its institutional expertise in data collection and analysis through the DTM and its various related tools on the one hand. On the other, it relies on its global expertise in localized community stabilization approaches that support and engage conflict mitigation structures through improved participatory decision-making processes. In particular, the TTT's Early Warning System builds on IOM's strong working relations with local and regional stakeholders to mobilize relevant governance systems to address and prevent conflicts between herders and farmers, while also providing the means for tangible/structural solutions.

IOM has partnered for the past years with the Réseau Billital Maroobé (RBM) to develop the TTT to provide valuable data on transhumant mobility to help capacitate regional and local actors (including governance frameworks) to better and more peacefully manage transhumance campaigns and - in doing so - prevent potential clashes between farmers and herders around natural resources and land. The TTT consists of a flow monitoring component that maps information on the mobility intentions of herders, as well as on key information of needs and vulnerabilities along transhumance corridors. This is complemented by an Early Warning System that gathers real-time information on sudden or large-scale movement of herds into locations at risk of social tensions to enable relevant stakeholders to take the necessary action to prevent escalation into conflict.

Through the TTT, IOM reinforces the implementation of the Secretary-General (SG)'s Action Agenda on Internal Displacement and strengthens the consideration of integrated solutions-based programming. The transhumance tracking tool collects information on a diverse array of drivers of mobility and brings together factors tied to migration, environment and climate change (MECC), social cohesion, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), among others. This tool is therefore in line with — and is part of — the Solutions and Mobility Index (SMI) track of IOM data collection. The SMI helps in identifying the root causes of movement through reliable data that informs efforts to address protracted displacement and to help achieve long-term solutions for vulnerable communities. In addition, the data collected through the TTT falls under the revision, consolidation, and supervision of IOM's Regional Office (RO) in Dakar's Regional Data Hub, working in close partnership with the Global Data Initiative (GDI) as well as the expertise and counsel of the Department of Humanitarian Response and Recovery, working closely with IOM New York's Office of Peace and Security.

Protection principles are mainstreamed in the Crisis Response Plan to ensure safety and dignity and guarantee meaningful access to assistance for all persons in need, without discrimination, taking into consideration age, sex, and diversity factors. Particular attention will be given to effective participation and empowerment of the community. Adapted complaint and feedback mechanisms (CFM) and measures related to prevention against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and IOM's Child Safeguarding Policy, will be put in place to prevent misconduct and guarantee accountability to affected populations.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND EMPOWERMENT

Peaceful transhumance projects are designed with representatives of farmers and herders and the community, who are at the centre of the implementation of the projects. The TTT data is collected by trained members of the communities who relay the information to local mixed committees responsible for responding to the TTT alerts. Information is shared on the nature of the alert, whether this is about early, late or massive herds movements, or about transhumance related events such as farmer-herders conflicts, tensions, wildfires, etc. Information is detailed so members of the committee receiving the alerts know what the alert is about and who are the stakeholders involved so they can take appropriate action. Members of the committee are representative of key community groups including farmers, and members from the local pastoral organizations. Regular dialogues at the community, state and national levels are organized to share best practices, inform transhumance policies and raise salient issues to relevant civil authorities. The initial step of the TTT methodology is to consult all transhumance stakeholders at regional level to decide on the next steps, through participatory mapping, including when and where to set the TTT data collection and early warning mechanisms based on needs. Also,

data collected is to be shared with stakeholders on a regular basis and dialogues are organized to support evidence-based actions and programming. The continued dialogue between IOM and the pastoral organizations (via RBM and beyond) allows for adjustments based on community's needs. With regards to the provision of support such as rehabilitation or construction of public service infrastructures, local mixed committees will take the lead in assessing and prioritizing the needs in an inclusive and transparent manner.

For example, in Burkina Faso, Peaceful Transhumance projects support Local Transhumance Committees (CORET) which are inclusive and transparent committees working on strengthening the safe passage of transhumant herds along the transhumance routes, as well as raising awareness about sustainable transhumance practices and conflict prevention measures. Through Community-Based Planning (CBP), partnership with radio programs and participation to PRAPS (Regional Support Programme to Pastoralism in Sahel) local platforms in Burkina Faso, community members have the opportunity to discuss transhumance-related issues, share information, and agree on the implementation of locally and collectively identified action plans. Where local concertation frameworks already exist, IOM supports these structures through capacity-building.

ENGAGING WITH THE GOVERNMENT

As peaceful transhumance programmes aim to strengthen governance around natural resources management as well as conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms, Government leadership and engagement is of crucial importance to the success of these programmes. The support provided to the governments includes capacity-building, policy development, and rehabilitation of public services infrastructures.

Government authorities, traditional leaders, local government advisors, and state-level representatives are actively involved in the design and implementation of transhumance projects. IOM works closely with these authorities to strengthen early warning and early response systems. State and local authorities are key stakeholders in the coordination meetings during which appropriate early response actions are identified. They participate in trust-building dialogues between and among farmer and herder communities and receive training on human rights, gender equality, and community cohesion. Their active involvement contributes towards enhanced trust between communities and authorities and prompts discussions on best practices and lessons learned on transhumance policy.

IOM RESPONSE

CROSS CUTTING PRIORITIES

- Data and evidence
- Protection mainstreaming
- Gender equality
- Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse
- Disaster risk and climate change
- Law and policy

KEY OPERATING MODALITIES

- Participation and empowerment
- Conflict sensitivity
- Integrated programming
- Collaboration and partnership
- Localization

SAVING LIVES AND PROTECTING PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Funding Required
$5,566,000

People Targeted Description

IOM's data collection related to transhumance supports:

- The provision of evidence-based reports to pastoral organizations (national and regional) and relevant line ministries involved in the implementation of the ECOWAS Transhumance Protocol;
- Local Mapping and Early Alert Systems to provide information on conflict mitigation strategies to local authorities and relevant civil society organizations at the local level.

Ultimately, the data provided through the TTT and the capacity developed to transfer the tools to the respective governments (nine line

ministries) and civil society informs annual transhumance campaigns and the regional framework dedicated to transhumance.

🔍 DISPLACEMENT TRACKING

Funding Required
$5,566,000

■ HRP
■ IOM

IOM supports its Member States along the regional transhumance corridors to develop and apply a unified data collection mechanism to inform sound policies as pertaining to the regional governance of transhumant mobility. The TTT is centred around four main components:

1. Herders and cattle mapping – mapping (in)formal transhumant corridors
2. Flow monitoring – monitoring the numbers and basic characteristics of people and cattle moving along the corridors
3. Early warning system - capturing real-time information on events and conflicts related to livestock mobility throughout the region
4. Individual surveys – a deeper dive into the characteristics and motives driving the flows

For the implementation of the TTT, IOM relies on its partnership with pastoral organizations including the RBM, a regional transhumant network of local herders' associations representing herders in 12 countries in WCA and its network of 750,000 members. Data are collected following the transhumance calendar, and dashboards are generated either monthly or every three months and shared with local actors and governance mechanisms. To do so, IOM will broaden the application of the Transhumance Tracking Tool as follows:

- Mapping of transhumance corridors (including water points, grazing areas, markets, border posts, among others);
- Production of a regional transhumance report in the West and Central African region, compiling and analysing country reports to provide regional insights.
- Issuing Early Alerts notifying at-risk communities ahead of the arrival of at-risk herds to ensure communities can agree on solutions to facilitate safe passage ahead of clashes materializing;
- Implementing Regional Transhumance Movement Tracking for enhanced provision of reliable and unified analysis to enable regional decision-making.
- Enhancing partnerships with other actors present in the region and looking at ways to leverage big data to the advantage of relevant programming for transhumance.

In Côte d'Ivoire, IOM promotes peaceful transhumance through the implementation of the transhumance monitoring tool, which promotes evidence-based decision-making and conflict prevention through its early warning system © IOM 2023

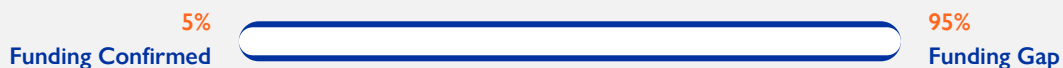## DRIVING SOLUTIONS TO DISPLACEMENT

Funding Required
$27,934,000

People Targeted
3,000,000

People Targeted Description

IOM builds the capacity of representatives from local authorities, local communities, IDPs and nomadic herders to establish or strengthen inclusive, transparent and accountable decision-making processes. Additionally, the decisions that are taken within the various fora supported by IOM benefit a larger number of groups; including local host communities, as well as those temporarily residing in or crossing the area. The way the activities are carried out improve mutual understanding and relations among the various groups, thus contributing to greater social cohesion and stability. Activities will directly benefit 54 local authorities, one regional herder network, and 12 national pastoral organizations. In addition, IOM data collection related to transhumance supports various networks in the region, such as ECCAS and ECOWAS, as well as local organizations and herders' networks such as Réseau Bilital Maroobe among others). IOM contributes to:

- Risk-informed decision-making and planning at the local level, to mitigate the impacts of disasters linked to climate and disaster risks on natural resources.
- Reinforce capacity on disaster risk management and preparedness, climate resilience, and climate-adapted livelihood strategies.

In doing so, IOM's work on transhumance contributes to improved economic resilience of communities along transhumance corridors, thereby reducing climate and disaster risks. Activities will directly benefit 15 entities.

5%		95%
Funding Confirmed		**Funding Gap**

COMMUNITY STABILIZATION

Building on the TTT's data reports, IOM garners its substantial experience in community stabilization along at-risk zones to work with local governance structures in communities affected by transhumant movements to collectively define solutions in support of improved governance of transhumance, including conflict mitigation and resolution methods. IOM promotes participatory local decision-making processes to define priority actions while supporting relevant line ministries to respond directly to communities, who may otherwise be aggrieved, in the prioritization process. IOM's programmes in the WCA countries will include the following activities:

- Connect local authorities, line ministries and civil society to identify and implement local solutions, including the establishment or revitalization of inclusive decision-making and dialogue mechanisms in border regions that gather all concerned authorities, leaders and groups of herders. Such activities ensure the inclusion of nomadic populations into local community structures and help reinforcing local dialogue and decision-making, including on resource management.
- Support the resolution of potential land tenure issues, through local negotiations and the formalization of traditional tenure in a transparent and participatory manner. This support will enable securing pastoral space that has been shrinking due to land grabbing, decentralization and urban development.
- Rehabilitate community infrastructure to cater for the passage or the temporary station of herds (transhumant corridors, water points, markets, etc.).

Funding Required
$16,169,000

■IOM

PEACEBUILDING AND PEACE PRESERVATION

To promote peace in the region in a context of transhumance and human mobility, IOM supports community reconciliation processes and seeks to mitigate the drivers of conflict. Interventions will include:

- Mapping of existing conflict mitigation mechanisms in communities and supporting conflict resolution processes between herders and farmers along transhumance corridors.
- Supporting participatory local decision-making processes to define priority activities and infrastructures that contribute to conflict mitigation or resolution, notably through protection mainstreaming and inclusion of marginalized voices/groups in peacebuilding activities, including environmental peacebuilding through setting up natural resource management committees and networks, for instance.
- Accompanying relevant line ministries to support communities in their transition away from conflict.
- Implementing community-based MHPSS activities for reconciliation and peacebuilding

Funding Required
$9,265,000

Funding Confirmed
$1,653,530

17%	83%

ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Through the TTT's data reports, IOM along with herders' networks and governments maps infrastructure and resource availability along transhumance corridors, taking into account the climate and disaster risk and their potential effects on the means of existence (water points, grazing areas, etc.) among local herder and farmer populations. The data drawn from these reports is designed to feed into risk-informed decision-making and planning at the local level; for instance, during the definition of targeted interventions to mitigate the impacts of climate and disaster risks on natural resources. Those interventions will contribute to improving the resilience of the local populations to disaster. More specifically, the initiatives proposed could serve, among others, to support the following intervention areas:

Funding Required
$2,500,000

- Reinforcement of capacity on risk assessment with a focus on natural resources;
- Reinforcement of capacity on preparedness with a focus on livestock and elaboration of response plans;
- Carrying out mitigation interventions to reduce disaster impact on the means of existence of the herders and farmers (reforestation, soil regeneration, restoration and reinforcement of water points);
- Vocational training in support of climate-adapted livelihoods;
- Construction and rehabilitation of climate-adapted public infrastructure;
- Reinforcement of capacity for climate-adapted and climate-resilient agricultural techniques.

CONTRIBUTES TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

13 CLIMATE ACTION

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

IOM
UN MIGRATION