



PASTORAL SENTINEL SITES

WHAT ARE THE SENTINEL SITES?

Pastoral areas are characterized by large areas and fluctuating weather conditions and resources. Monitoring of this area is necessary to monitor the pastoral situation and to carry out an early warning to warn or mitigate crises.

In 2015, as part of the Pastoral Surveillance Project, ACF developed a remote data collection system. Sentinel sites in Mali, Burkina-Faso and Niger were set up and collectors were chosen at the village level to provide weekly data on water availability, market prices, animal diseases and pasture conditions. These relays need nothing more than a standard mobile phone. The added value this system gives is in the **ability to collect data from inaccessible places**. As long as the area is covered by the GSM network, data collection is possible.

This system minimizes monitoring costs and time by its appropriation of mobile phone technology. Some of the questionnaires can be launched simultaneously

and through automatic entry, are available immediately. The only cost is the credit used for calling or SMS. It is possible to survey 100 sites in five minutes for a total cost of 5,000 CFA (using SMS) or 50,000 CFA (using voice calls).

HOW DOES IT WORK?

As soon as the data collector sends an SMS, the message is automatically entered into a database and available for analysis. The data is transferred to our server by the GSM network, so **the collector does not need internet access to send data to the server**.

Data can be sent by SMS or automated voice call (for illiterate participants).

The system can be deployed within hours as the database infrastructure is already active within WARO.

The idea of the pastoral surveillance system is to reduce the need for resources for pastoral data collection in rural areas. An automated system is used to send calls to relays based on sentinel sites. Calls are sent to each sentinel site in the system with a fixed

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frequency (e.g., weekly). The call consists of a pre-recorded survey that requires the relay to answer questions using the telephone keypad. The responses are stored in a database on a virtual server. The answers can be downloaded by the different actors and then quickly mapped.

The whole process can be resumed in the following steps :

- 1) An ACF user logs onto the platform, and creates their survey



- 2) The system uses an SMS or voice gateway to send the survey through a local number to



avoid international fees

- 3) The responses are immediately available on our server and can be automatically mapped or exported to excel



INDICATORS BEING MONITORED

The following list resumes the main indicators that the Sentinel Sites monitors.

- 1) Grazing availability
- 2) Estimated Capacity of Load (No. of Cattle 250kg)

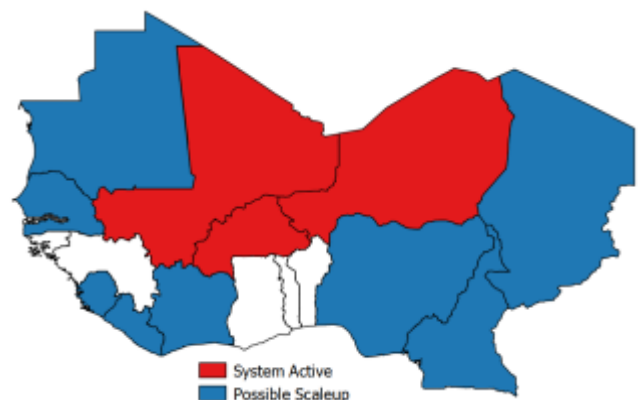
- 3) Quantity of water resources
- 4) Access to water points
- 5) Status of water points
- 6) Estimated number of herds
- 7) Estimated number of large ruminants?
- 8) Estimated number of small ruminants?
- 9) Zoo-sanitary condition (Presence of diseases)
- 10) Presence of bush fires
- 11) Conflicts between the host community and the pastors?
- 12) Cost of a bag of millet (100kg) in FCFA
- 13) Cost of a sheep of 2 years in FCFA
- 14) Livestock flies or disappeared?
- 15) Number of dead animals since our last conversation

POSSIBLE USES

- Agricultural Monitoring
- Feedback surveys
- Security/ position-tracking
- Health Surveillance
- Admissions tracking
- Rapid Assessment
- Household Surveys
- Information Service

USES OF THE SYSTEM

ACF Sentinel Sites are available in Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso at the moment. The objective is to expand this system to the majority of West African countries as detailed in the following map.



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