



BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER PASTORAL WATCH IN TIMES OF COVID MAY-JUNE 2021



JUNE 2021

The monitoring system set up by the RBM and Action Against Hunger with the technical and financial support of IOM, CARE and GIZ to monitor the economic impacts of COVID-19 on pastoral populations is based on the optimization of existing systems (information monitoring, alert/prevention/conflict, mapping of transhumance movements), established by pastoralist organizations and partners (NGOs, state service agents). The different information systems allow: (i) provide periodic information on the situation of pastoral households, the functioning of markets and the support received by the sector; (ii) map the herders and animals currently blocked in the southern countries of the West Africa region (Benin, Togo, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire) due to sanitary and political measures in a pandemic context; (iv) map the movements of transhumant herders along the central transhumance corridor, in order to better understand the dynamics and characteristics of internal (national) and cross-border transhumance movements

This information can be viewed through several public analysis platforms. [Link to Dashboard](#); [Dashboard Alerts](#); [Dashboard Pastoral Watch](#), [DTM](#)

Coverage area of standby systems

It brings together the areas of intervention of RBM and ACF. These areas are pastoral sub-areas in 9 countries: Mali (TASSAGHT), Niger (AREN, GAJEL), Burkina Faso (CRUS, RECOPA), Senegal (ADENA), Mauritania (GNAP), Togo (PAT-Togo), Benin (ANOPER), Nigeria (BILPAN), Côte d'Ivoire (OPEF) with the support of decentralized technical services of Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso



Highlights

Regular alerts along the borders between Mali (Ansongo), Burkina Faso (Oudallan, Seno, Tapoa) and Niger (Tillabery). 2 main types of alerts:

Alerts related to insecurity: looting, threats to people, murders, forced displacement of people and their livestock
Alerts and link to access to pastoral resources: extension of the pastoral gap and difficulty in accessing water but occupation of rangeland areas for non-pastoral activities: market gardening, wood cutting.

Prolongation of the pastoral lean season: low availability of water and pasture, pressure on resources, prolonged recourse to animal feed and consequent impact on production costs.

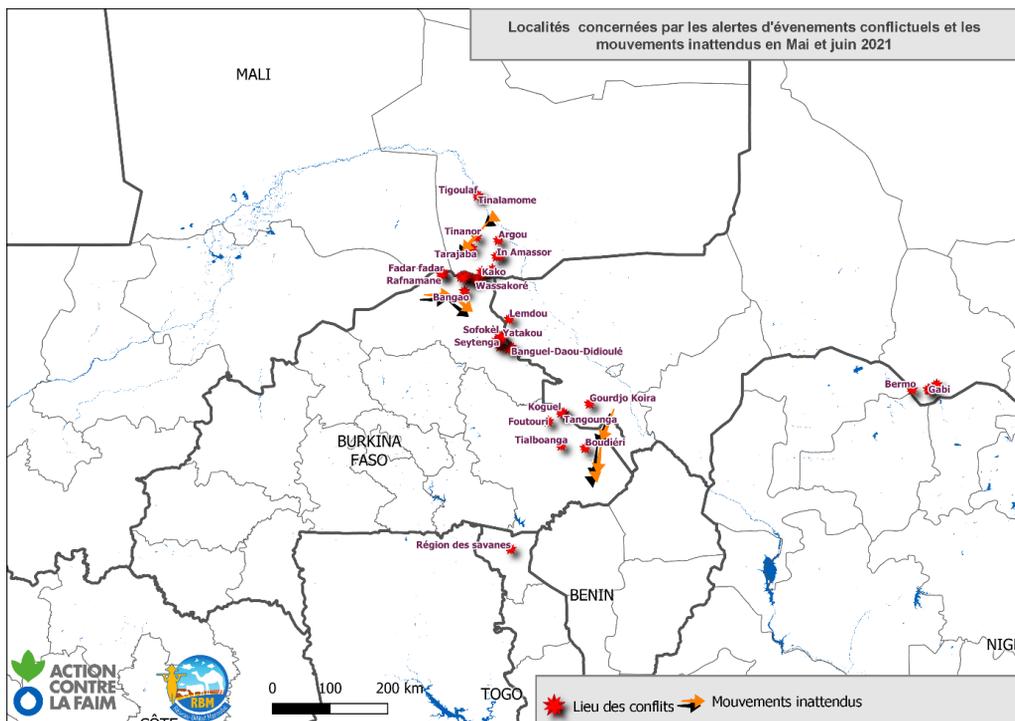
Relais and agents report tensions around water points in Nigeria (80% of Relais), Mauritania (43%) and Chad (35%). For these three countries, these figures are strongly increasing compared to the previous period (March-April)

Animal movements are reduced for 100% of the relais in Nigeria. This reduction is attributed on the one hand to an improvement in the availability of resources following the first rains but also to the phenomena of insecurity which largely limit movements. This can also be linked to the launch of many support programs to the pastoral sector in the states concerned by the watch in Nigeria (less movement to benefit from these supports).

Functioning of markets and economic activities are not disrupted by health and political measures related to the pandemic, attention noted on a third wave at regional level and regular monitoring recommended.

Gathering of people are not disturbed by the sanitary measures: people continue to gather in places of prayer and in markets in particular. COVID awareness campaign present and generally considered effective by the focal points. Increase in the price of livestock (sheep and goats) between 2 and 6% in all countries of the region (except Mali where prices were stable)

Increase in cereal prices also noted in the region. Increase higher than the increase observed on animals (6 to 10%)



ALERTS FOR MAY AND JUNE

Type of incidents / alerts	Country	Region	Province	Municipality	Village	Date or period	Assessment of the incident
Forced population displacement	Burkina Faso	Sahel	Seno	Seytanga	Yattako and Soffokel	03-May-21	Abandonment of goods (animals and food); settlement in Bandiedaga Gourmantché, Ouro-Daka and Seytanga in precarious conditions
Threats from armed men and departure of herders	Burkina Faso	Sahel	Oudalan	Tin-Akoff	Tin-akoff and Massifigui	03-May-21	Looting of property; arrests of alleged perpetrators
Armed attacks	Burkina Faso	Sahel	Oudalan	Tin-Akoff	Kacham, Menzourou and Wassakore	May 19 to 24, 2021	loss of life and removal of animals; internal displacement of people
Murder	Burkina Faso	East	Tapoa	Kantchari	Tialbonga (30 km west of Kantchari)	13-May-21	2 people killed; displacement of people (1087 as of 27 May) to Kantchari
Defence and security forces offensive against non-State armed groups in Tapoa reserves	Burkina Faso	East	Tapoa	Kantchari	Park W, Arly and Kondjo	15-Jun-21	There were several collateral victims among the breeders
Attacks by non-state armed groups	Niger	Tillabery		Makalondi	Koguel Tangounga	03-May-21	30 people killed and several houses burned
Reclamation of the Boudiéri dam	Burkina Faso	East	Tapoa	Kantchari		June 21	Thousands of animals from the surrounding villages that used to drink there are now directed to wells or boreholes. The Boudiéri area is also home to a transhumance corridor, and the agro-pastoralists have experienced a difficult situation of water shortage while the rainy season was far from being over.
Lack of water and fodder	Burkina Faso	Sahel	Seno	Seytanga	Sidibébé	19-May-21	Animals have to travel long distances in search of water and fodder. The pressure is on the scarce pastoral resources available.
Occupation of the Seytanga dam area by market gardeners	Burkina Faso	Sahel	Seno	Seytanga	Seytanga	May 21	The animals have difficult access to water for drinking and there is a risk of conflict between farmers and market gardeners
Shortage of water for watering	Niger	Tillabery	Torodi	Makalondi	Gourzo Koira	03-May-21	To make the animals drink, you have to spend the whole day at the well where the whole population gets water.
Abusive wood cutting in the Bandiedaga Gourmantché area	Burkina Faso	Sahel	Seno	Seytanga	Bandiedaga	May 21	These cuttings take place in areas reserved for grazing. This situation is very unpleasant for the herders and may lead to conflicts.
Unusual movement of animals in the commune of Makalondi	Niger	Tillabery		Makalondi		June	With the rainy season late in coming, the herders moved to Burkina in search of pasture.
Massive arrival of livestock from pastoralists under threat from non-state armed groups	Mali	Gao	Ansongo	Tessit	InamaBakal, N'tillit, Fiteli and Tinalamom	May 4 to May 30, 2021	Tensions around the wells. The herders are from Inohangal, Tigoulaf and Gargoye.
Cases of pastorosis of small ruminants	Burkina Faso	East	Tapoa	Kantchari	Komondjari, Foutouri	18-May-21	About 30 small ruminants died in the camp and more than 200 in the commune.

Pasture availability and feed shortages

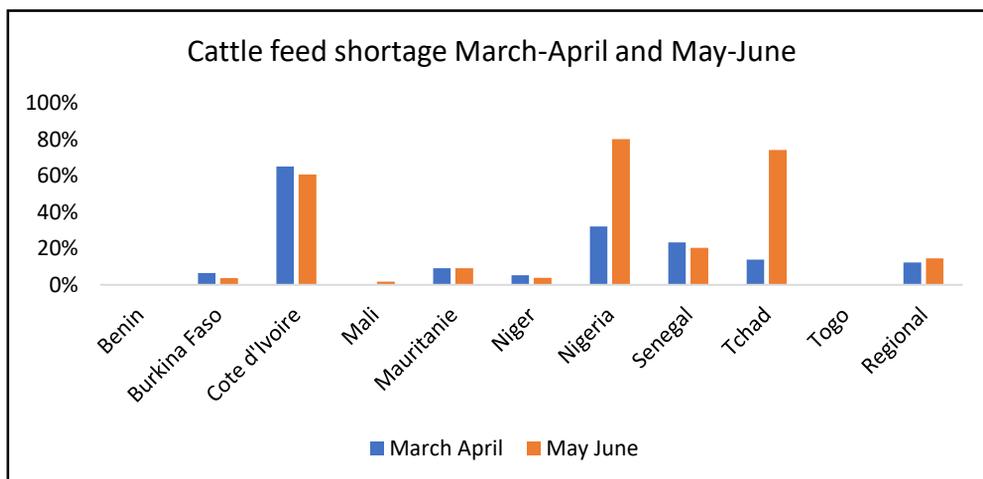
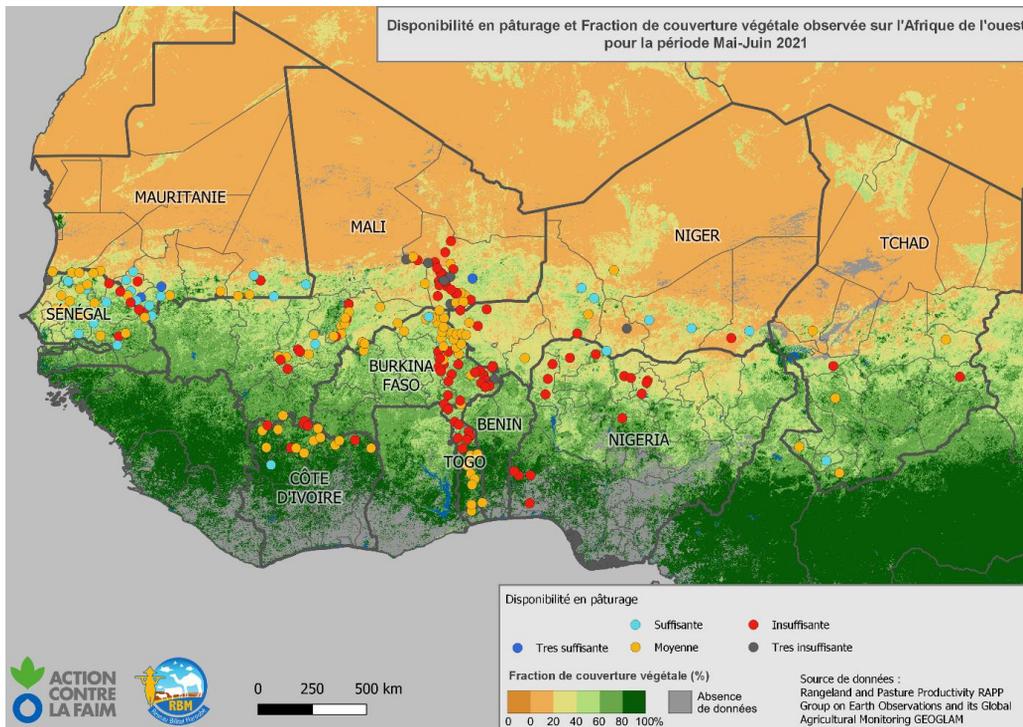
The pastoral lean season has been prolonged with the late onset of the rainy season, and at the regional level, the rate of shortages of livestock feed has increased slightly. The rate of relays reporting this shortage rose from 12% in March-April to 15% in May-June. These rates are higher in the coastal countries.

In Nigeria, the rate of shortage of livestock feed has increased considerably and is the highest among the countries of the sub-region. The percentage of relays reporting shortages increased from 32% in the March-April period to 82% in May-June. This situation is due to the delay in the installation of rains.

A significant increase in the rate of shortage of livestock feed is also highlighted in Chad. In March-April, only 14% of the relays claim a shortage, while in May-June, it is about 74% or a delta of 60%.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the shortage of livestock feed has decreased slightly but remains relatively high. The rate of relays that emphasize this has gone from 65% to 61% between the two periods studied.

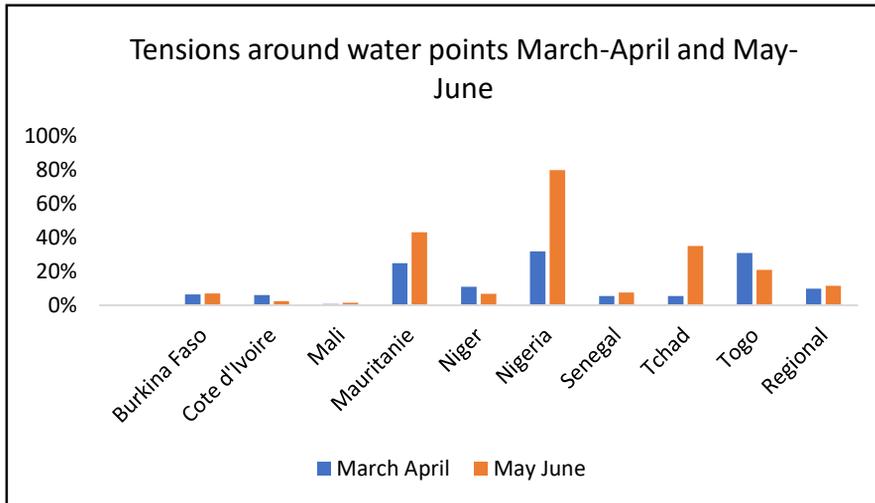
In Senegal, Burkina Faso and Niger, the shortage is slightly decreasing. In Mali and Togo, it is practically zero according to the relays.



Tension around water points

The months of May and June are the end of the pastoral hunger season, and the rate of tension around water points at the regional level is also increasing slightly between the March-April and May-June 2021 periods. The rate rose from 10% to 12%.

While this rate remains low at the regional level, it conceals major disparities, with significant increases in Chad (from 6% to 35%), Mauritania (from 25% to 43%) and Nigeria (from 32% to 80%).

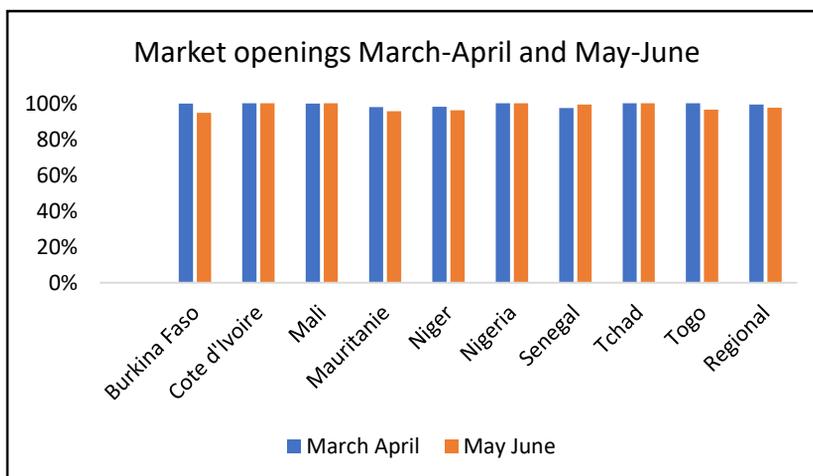


Market and economic activity

At the regional level, there is a slight downward trend in the opening of markets.

In Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Nigeria and Chad, markets remained 100% open in both March-April and May-June.

In Burkina Faso, Niger and Togo, the rate of relays mentioning the opening of markets in their areas decreased slightly between March-April and May-June. In Burkina Faso and Niger, the rates go from 98% to 96%. In Togo, the delta is - 4% (from 100% to 96%).



At the end of June, health authorities in the countries of the region began to mention the possibility of a third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in the region. It is important that authorities manage this potential third wave in light of the lessons learned in April and May 2020 and ensure the normal functioning of markets by focusing on prevention, respecting barrier measures and facilitating people's access to small personal protective equipment.

Overall, in the countries covered by the watch, economic activities are going on normally. Only 6% of the relays claim that there was a halt in economic activities in May-June 2021, while they were 7% in March-April

In Burkina Faso, Mali and Nigeria, the relays report no stoppage of economic activities in either March-April or May-June 2021.

In Senegal, 31% of the Relais confirm the cessation of economic activities in May-June, in Mauritania 14% and in Niger 12%, i.e. a stable level compared to the previous period. Only Chad recorded an increase in the economic stoppage reported by 9% of relays against 0% the previous period.

State of overweight of animals

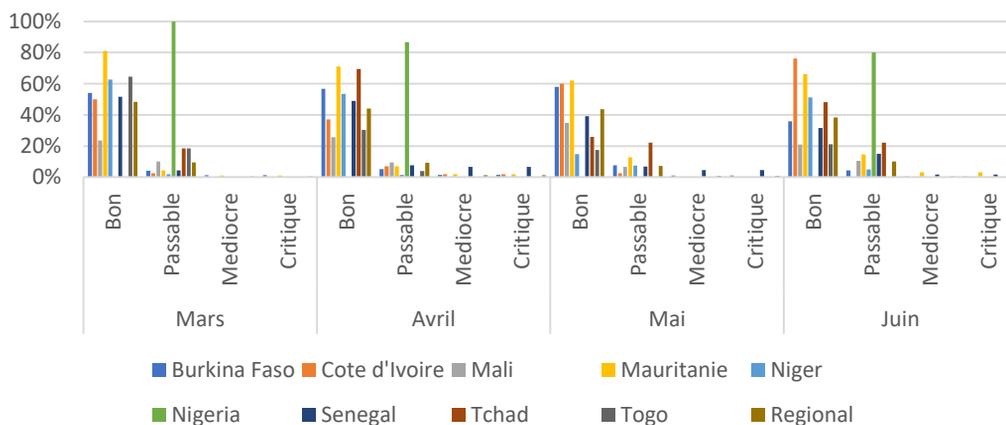
At the regional level, the state of fatness of the animals is globally satisfactory when one takes into account the fact that this period of the year corresponds to the peak of the pastoral hunger season.

The number of relays reporting critical or poor body condition is low. The areas where the animals' overweight is considered as fair are also few (about 10% of relays, stable compared to the previous period).

The good state of overweight is however slightly down, reported by 44% of relays in May and 38% in June. While in March-April, 48% of them reported a good state of overweight.

In Burkina Faso, the rate fell from 54% in March to 36% in June. Niger went from 63% in March to 51% in June. In Mali, in March 24% of Relais reported a good state of overweight. In June it was 21%. In Chad, we observe a decrease in the number of Relais who underline a good state of overweight. The percentages went from 69% in April to 26% in May. In June, this rate rose to 48%. In Mauritania, 62% of the Relais show a good state of overweight during the month of May and 66% in June

Overweight March-April and May-June



Evolution of goat and sheep prices

At the regional level, in May and June, goat and sheep prices are up compared to March and April. On average, goat prices increased by 3% and sheep prices by 2%.

Togo is the country with the largest increase in goat and sheep prices. The price of goats rose from 33,197 CFA francs in March-April to 37,544 CFA francs in May-June, a difference of 6%. The price of sheep rose from 65,592 CFA francs to 78,158 CFA francs, a difference of 9%.

Sheep prices rose by 4% in Senegal and Niger between March-April and May-June.

PRIX CAPRIN				
PAYS	Mars Avril	Mai Juin	Delta	
Burkina Faso	28 817	32 182	3 365	6%
Cote d'Ivoire	24 256	26 891	2 635	5%
Mali	25 486	25 621	134	0%
Niger	24 388	25 570	1 182	2%
Senegal	28 724	30 649	1 925	3%
Tchad	16 875	18 694	1 819	5%
Togo	33 197	37 544	4 346	6%
Regional	26 889	28 656	1 768	3%

PRIX Ovin				
PAYS	Mars Avril	Mai Juin	Delta	
Burkina Faso	53 300	54 480	1 180	1%
Cote d'Ivoire	42 833	44 969	2 135	2%
Mali	42 249	43 038	790	1%
Niger	58 256	62 680	4 424	4%
Senegal	68 457	73 532	5 075	4%
Tchad	23 264	25 231	1 968	4%
Togo	65 592	78 158	12 566	9%
Regional	51 763	53 922	2 159	2%

Evolution of cereal prices

At the regional level, between March-April and May-June, cereal prices increased slightly, except for rice, whose average price per kilogram rose. The price of millet increased by 4%, sorghum by 10%, and maize by 9%.

Chad and Togo are the countries where cereal prices have increased the most. In Togo, the price of a kilogram of rice increased by 17%, millet by 6%, sorghum by 10% and maize by 11%.

In Chad, according to the relays, the price of rice has risen by 7% and millet by 10% per kilogram.

For the rest of the countries covered by the pastoral watch, cereal prices have changed very little.

Large gatherings

Let us recall here that this indicator was initially intended to see if mass gatherings were effectively suspended because the authorities of most of the countries concerned had banned them. For almost a year now, we have noticed that the frequency of gatherings seems "normal": not impacted by the pandemic.

At the regional level, important gatherings were noted by 65% of the relays in the period of May-June. This rate was 67% in March-April, a delta of - 2%.

In countries like Cote d'Ivoire, Mauritania and Nigeria, the situation has returned to normal as it was before the Covid 19 pandemic and 100% of the Relais in these three countries mention important gatherings in their areas.

In countries such as Chad, Togo, the data shows a relatively significant decline in gatherings over the last period. Between March-April and May-June, the rate of relays reporting gatherings went from 72% to 56% in Chad, from 22% to 16% in Togo, from 80% to 78% in Mali.

Effectiveness of campaigns to combat VIDCO 19

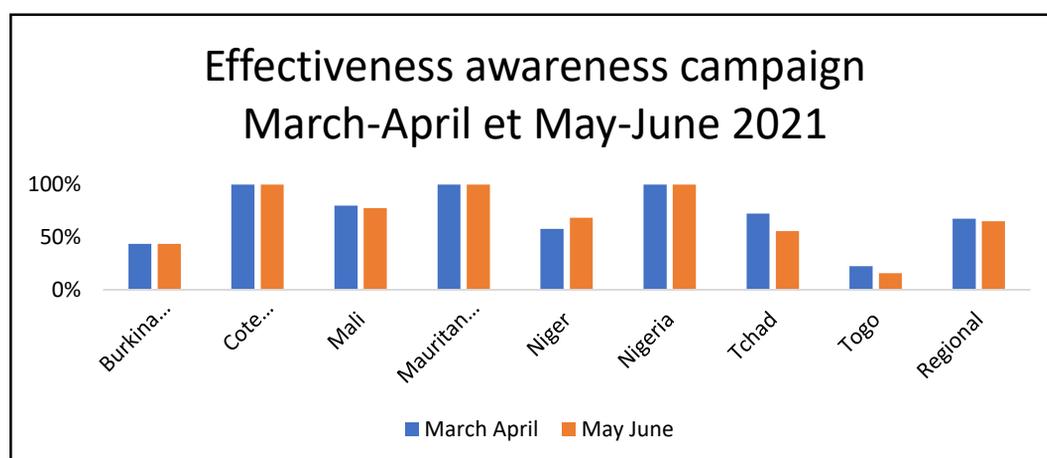
At the regional level, 66% to 67% of the relays have testified to the effectiveness of the awareness campaigns between March-April and May-June.

In Mauritania and Nigeria, more than 97% of the Relais maintain that the campaigns are effective in their areas both in March-April and May-June.

In Côte d'Ivoire, for the time being, the sensitization campaigns do not seem to have any effect according to the information received from the previous day. No Relais has testified to the effectiveness of the sensitisation campaigns both in the periods of March-April and May-June.

In Burkina Faso and Mauritania, there was a slight drop in the effectiveness of awareness campaigns between the two periods. The rates went from 73% to 70% and 99% to 92% respectively.

Awareness campaigns are improving more and more with an increase in the rate of relays who consider them to be effective in Senegal (80% to 85%) and Togo (74% to 84%), from 80% in March-April to 92% in May-June.



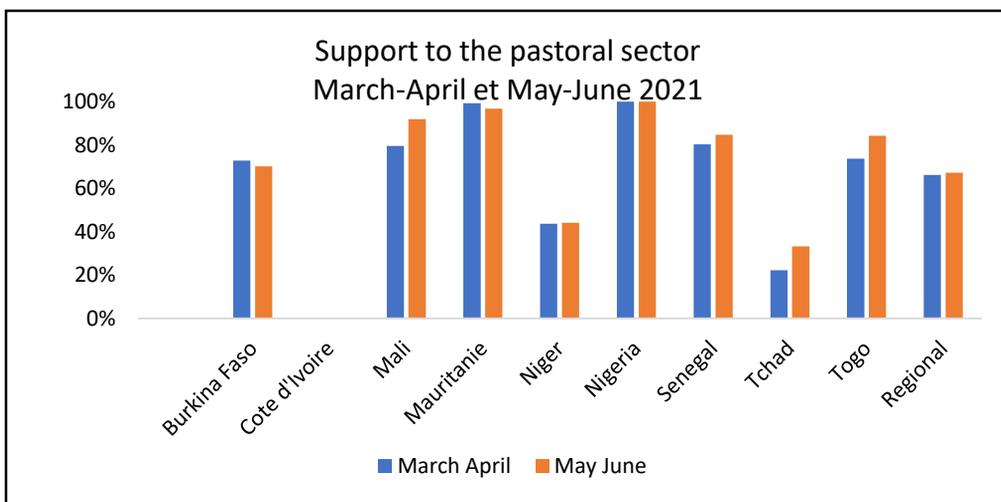
Reduction of movements

At the beginning of the rainy season, there is a very slight reduction in movements. At the regional level, the reduction of movements was reported by 46% of relays in May-June against 41% in March-April.

In Togo the herds have been stable since March-April when 100% of the Relais maintain that movements have decreased as in May-June.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the rate of relays reporting a reduction in movements is 69% in May-June compared to the March-April period which was 61%.

In Nigeria, these rates rose from 40% in March-April to 100% in May-June. In addition to the gradual onset of the rainy season, which allows herds to stabilize on their home ground, the deteriorating security situation in May and June, characterized by cattle rustling and kidnappings of herders and their animals in certain areas of Nigeria (Kebbi, Sokoto, Zangarewa, etc.), is at the root of this considerable reduction in movements in Nigeria



Abnormal influx in health centres

The influx in health centres is slightly decreasing. (27% to 26% between March April and May June).

In Nigeria, Chad and Togo, no abnormal situation was noted by the Relais. The rates in these three countries are 0%. For Chad, this situation shows a form of improvement compared to the previous period (March-April 2021) during which 25% of the Relais reported abnormal influx of people to the health centers. For Nigeria and Togo, the situation is stable.

In Mauritania, Niger and Senegal, the analysis of the previous day's data shows a slight decrease in the number of Relais mentioning abnormal influxes. The rates went respectively from 50% to 49%, from 42% to 39%, from 27% to 23%. In Burkina Faso, rates remained unchanged between March-April and May-June (5%).

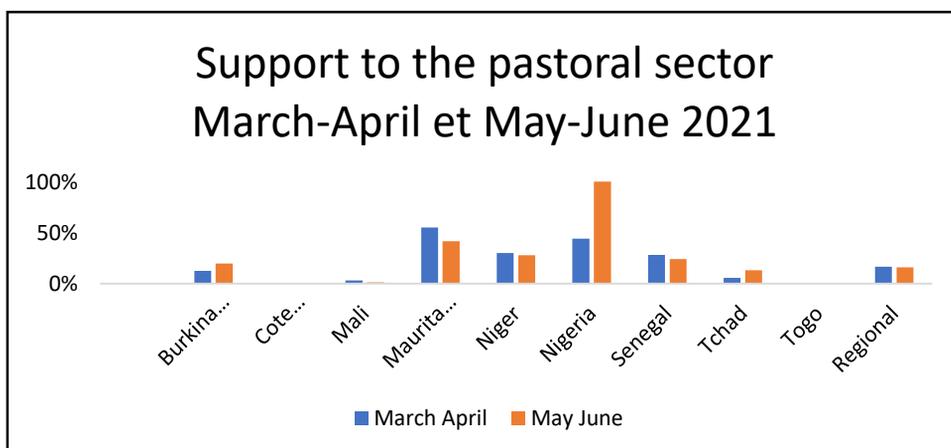
Support to the pastoralism sector

The number of Relais reporting the existence of ongoing support to the pastoral sector in their respective areas is stable. Indeed, these rates remained at 16% for the period of May - June (16% also for April - May).

In Nigeria, on the other hand, 100% of the Relais report the existence of a support program for the pastoral sector over the period. This rate was only 44% in March-April. This increase in pastoral support is explained by the launch of support and donations of animals and livestock feed in several Nigerian States.

In Mauritania, the Relais mention a decline in support to the pastoral sector from 55% in March-April to 41% in May-June.

The support is almost nil in Mali where only 1% of the Relais underlined a support to the pastoral sector in May-June. This rate was 3% in March-April.



Suspected animal disease

On the regional level, the relays having testified of suspected cases of disease is 9 to 10% between March-April and May-June.

The highest rates were recorded in Côte d'Ivoire (60% to 47%), followed by Chad (11% to 41%), and Niger (17% to 19%) between the March-April and May-June periods.

Large number of dead animals

At the regional level, 7% to 8% of the relays reported significant numbers of dead animals.

Côte d'Ivoire is the country with the highest rate of relays showing significant animal losses. In March-April the rates were 62% and 65% in May-June. There has been a slight increase in this percentage.

In Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal and Mauritania, no relay reported a high number of dead animals.

In Chad, we observe a significant change in these percentages. The rate of relays that emphasize a significant number has increased from 0% in March-April to 30% in May-June.



CONCLUSION

The past May-June period was marked by :

- The exacerbation of insecurity in the tri-border area with attacks by non-state armed groups against the population. Murders and arson attacks on homes have caused the inhabitants of several villages in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger to flee, increasing the flow of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to safer localities. The displaced are not always adequately cared for and the victims lack the basic necessities of life (shelter, medicine, food and non-food items, drinking water and sanitation);
- Unusual and massive movements of herders and their livestock fleeing areas where they are or feel threatened. These displacements contribute to increasing pressure on host communities and already scarce grazing and water resources in the arrival areas of N'tillilt, Tigoulaf, Inamassor, Fiteli and Tinalamome (commune of Tessit, Ansongo Circle, Gao Region in Mali) as well as Boula, Boni and Makalondi ville (commune of Makalondi, department of Torodi, Tillabery Region in Niger).
- The numerous cases of animal diseases that are rampant among livestock in Côte d'Ivoire and Chad, killing large numbers of animals;
- The return to a normal gathering situation, as before the COVID 19 pandemic.

To the G5 Sahel, its member states and their military partners:

Provide a clear UN mandate and corresponding means to secure the regions under threat from non-state armed gangs in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, and allow communities to stay and live in their own territories,

Ensure a return to sustainable security through ambitious infrastructure programmes, particularly pastoral ones, and the deployment of long-term support and service programmes for the population

To States and their technical and financial partners:

Recognize the central role of the pastoral sector in the fight against poverty and in building the resilience of populations and define ambitious sectoral policies to support and accompany the development of the sector and of the women and men who live directly from it.

Organize the reception and care of internally displaced persons from Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger by providing them with emergency aid and extending it with means of recovery for those who have lost everything, without forgetting the assistance required by the host communities who agree to share their meagre resources;

Take action to vaccinate and treat livestock in Côte d'Ivoire and Chad to save animals;

To breeders' organizations :

Continue to sensitize their members on the persistence of COVID 19 and the need to continue to comply with barrier measures and hygiene and sanitation conditions.

Increase their commitment to quality information feedback to help decision-makers better understand the situations their members are facing by disseminating these messages through all the communication channels available to them (social networks, radio, participation in discussions at the village, communal, regional and national levels, etc.).



Carried out with technical and financial support



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