



**BIMONTHLY BULLETIN OF PASTORAL WATCH IN TIMES OF
COVID-19, JULY AUGUST 2021**



September 2021

The monitoring system set up by the RBM and ACF, with the support of technical and financial partners (IOM, CARE, GIZ), to measure the economic impacts of COVID-19 on pastoral populations, is based on the optimisation of existing systems (information monitoring, alert/prevention/conflict, mapping of transhumance movements), established by pastoral organisations, and on the exploitation of data transmitted regularly by key informants. The different information systems allow, on a periodic basis: (i) provide information on the situation of pastoral households, the functioning of markets and the support received by the livestock sector; (ii) establish a map of herders and animals currently blocked in the Gulf of Guinea countries (Benin, Togo, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire), due to political and health measures (pandemic context); (iii) identify the assembly points of animals that are forced to interrupt their movements as a result of mobility restrictions linked, at least in part, to the pandemic; and (iv) map the movements of transhumant herders along the central transhumance corridor, in order to better understand the dynamics and characteristics of the internal (national) and cross-border mobility systems.

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

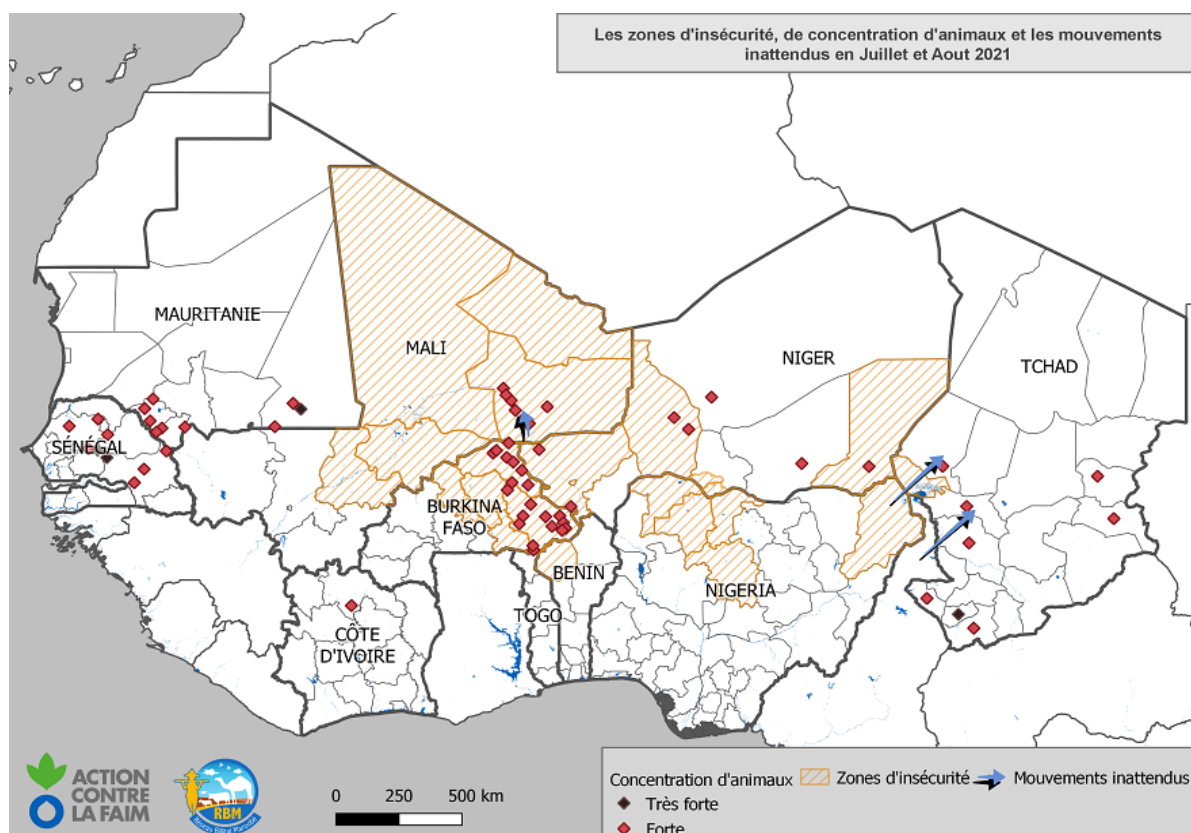
Highlights

- Throughout the area covered by the monitoring system, farmers and their herds are emerging from the pastoral lean season. Despite the late onset of the rainy season and the occurrence of dry spells in some areas, pastures have regenerated. Insofar as fodder availability has improved, herders have less recourse to cattle feed, the shortage of which is little reported by the relays. Thanks to the exploitation of green pastures, the animals are generally in good shape.
- It should be emphasized that the improvement in fodder availability throughout the zone conceals major geographical disparities. Almost the entire Sahelian zone is characterized by average availability of fodder resources (northern Mali, Niger, the Sahel and eastern Burkina Faso regions, northeastern Nigeria, central and northern Chad). Some areas are faced with a shortage of these resources (Central and Western Mali, Mauritania and Senegal).
- Cases of animal diseases are clearly decreasing, even though animals are suffering from diarrhea at the beginning of the wintering season, due to the consumption of fresh grass.
- With the arrival of the rains, the pastures are practically unaffected by bush fires.
- As a result of the improved body condition and health of the animals, as well as the increased demand during Tabaski, the price of livestock, especially sheep, has increased and the terms of trade between livestock and cereals are favourable to farmers.

The impact of COVID-19 on pastoralist households has significantly decreased in the region. One and a half years after the start of the pandemic, its spread has significantly decreased in pastoral areas. In addition, attendance at health centres, public gatherings of people, economic activities, and the opening of markets have almost returned to pre-pandemic levels.

The security crisis remains pervasive, with its share of atrocities committed mainly by non-state armed groups (GANE). The violence is forcing hundreds of villagers to flee their localities, particularly in Burkina Faso (the departure of people from the commune of Madjoari to Pama and Kompienga, where 727 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were counted at the end of August). These people have added to the ranks of the IDPs, whose numbers were estimated at 1,370,000 as of 21 July 2021.

In Chad, a massive return of transhumants from CAR, Cameroon and Nigeria was recorded in July 2021, thanks to the rainy season. In addition, transhumant herders who had retreated to the southern part of the country are returning to the Sahel. The risk of a pastoral crisis is all the more real in the areas of the Chadian Sahel as they are home to considerable numbers of animals, in addition to Nigerian herds that have been forced to flee the atrocities perpetrated by Boko Haram in their country.

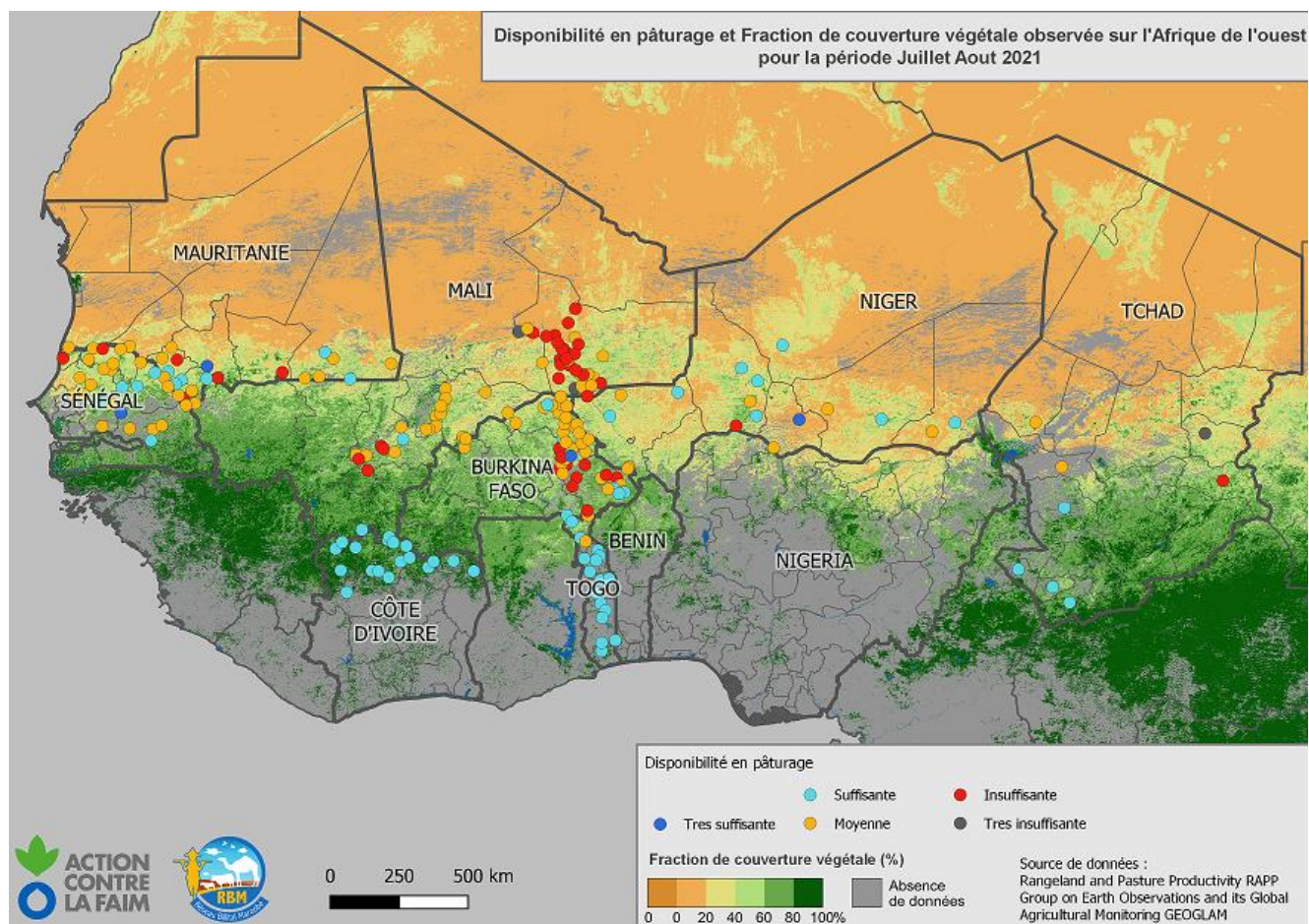


Alerts for the months of July and August 2021

Type of incidents / alerts	Country	Region	Province	Municipality	Village	Date or period	Comments and assessment
Irruption of GANE	Mali	Mopti	Douentza	Douentza	Godowalé	01/07/2021	GANE from the Burkinabe border burst into the area just after the departure of the regular army soldiers who left Boulikessi to return to Mondoro. The presence of these armed groups caused a dozen households to flee to Kobou.
Abduction of persons by GANE	Niger	Tillaberi	Torodi	Makalondi	kiki	10/07/2021	Three people were abducted and a truck was set on fire.
Construction of infrastructure on an international transhumance corridor by a private construction company	Burkina Faso	East	Tapoa	Kantchari	Kantchari	10/07/2021	Following the obstruction of the transhumance corridor, herders' organizations and traditional chiefs approached the mayor's office to find a satisfactory solution.
Obstruction of the access tracks of the animals to the water, following the realization of an agricultural development of 10 ha at the edge of the pond of Essakane	Burkina Faso	Sahel	Markoye	Markoye	Pond of Essakane	19/07/2021	Potential for conflict between farmers and livestock owners
Occupation of grazing area, watering points and cattle tracks due to the expansion of a gold mine	Burkina Faso	Sahel	Ganzourgu	Boudry	Konnonga Peulh	28/07/2021	The damage suffered by the herders is significant because their rights of access to pastoral resources have been called into question without prior consultation or compensation.
Project to relocate a village due to the expansion of a gold mine	Burkina Faso	Sahel	Seno	Falagoutou	Falagoutou	27/07/2021	The proposed relocation of the village has caused tension between the local people concerned and the mine. There is a risk that the conflict will escalate.
Abduction and assassination of village leaders	Mali	Gao	Ansongo	Tessit	Inamassor	05/07/2021	Displacement of about 20 households from the locality of Inamassor to Tessit, following the abduction and murder of their community leader and his assistant. These households were victims of intimidation.
Animal theft/attacks	Mali	Gao	Ansongo	Tessit	Tabakat	09/07/2021	Kidnapping of 80 cattle in Tabakat by armed men.

Alerts for the months of July and August 2021

Type of incidents / alerts	Country	Region	Province	Municipality	Village	Date or period	Comments and assessment
Prohibition by the GANE of cultivation of the fields	Mali	Gao	Ansongo	Tessit	Bakal	16/07/2021	The ban on cultivating the fields could lead to serious food insecurity.
Release of a grazing area by farmers	Burkina Faso	East	Komondjari	Gayeri	Gayeri	28/07/2021	After several days of consultation and negotiation between herders and farmers on the status of the Péri grazing area in the commune of Gayeri, the farmers who had been farming there for several years finally agreed to release the area to the herders.
Animal diseases	Burkina Faso	Sahel	Seno	SEYTENGA	Seno-Tiondi Sidibebe Soffokel Hakoundel	08/07/2021	Herder families have recorded the loss of about 100 animals due to violent diarrhoea caused by the consumption of new grass shoots.
Mass movement of animals and field damage	Mali	Mopti	Douentza	Mondoro	Tiguila Kikoli	16/07/2021	Pastoralists from Boni (commune of Hairé, cercle of Douentza) stayed with many animals for more than 10 days near groundnut and millet fields. The roaming of animals in the groundnut fields creates the risk of conflict between herders and farmers.
Obstruction of cattle tracks by farmers	Burkina Faso	Sahel	Seno	Seytanga	Ouro Lamana Ahidjo Foufou Ouro Daka Badourlebé Keindabé Feto Habè	06/07/2021	Risk of conflict between farmers and herders
GANE attacks on SDF	Niger	TILLABÉRI	TORODI	Makalondi	Boni	20/07/2021	These violent attacks in the village of Boni resulted in the death of 15 soldiers. 7 others were wounded and 2 vehicles were burned.
Unusual movements of populations threatened by NEAMs	Mali	Gao	Ansongo	Tessit	Tamaguit	05/07/2021	Displacement of dozens of families from Tamaguit to Marsi
					Gargoyle	04/08/2021	Displacement of dozens of families from Gargoyle to Marsi



Despite the late onset of the rainy season and the occurrence of dry spells in some areas, pastures have regenerated and forage availability has improved compared to the past May-June period. However, this improvement conceals a great disparity. The entire Sahelian zone is characterized by insufficient to average availability of fodder resources. According to the data provided by the relays, this applies to the whole of Mauritania, the pastoral zone of northern Senegal, the regions of Gao, Timbuktu and Mopti in Mali, the whole of Niger, the Sahel and eastern regions of Burkina Faso, central and northern Chad, the states of Borno, Yobe, Bauchi, Jigawa and Katsina, and northeastern Nigeria.

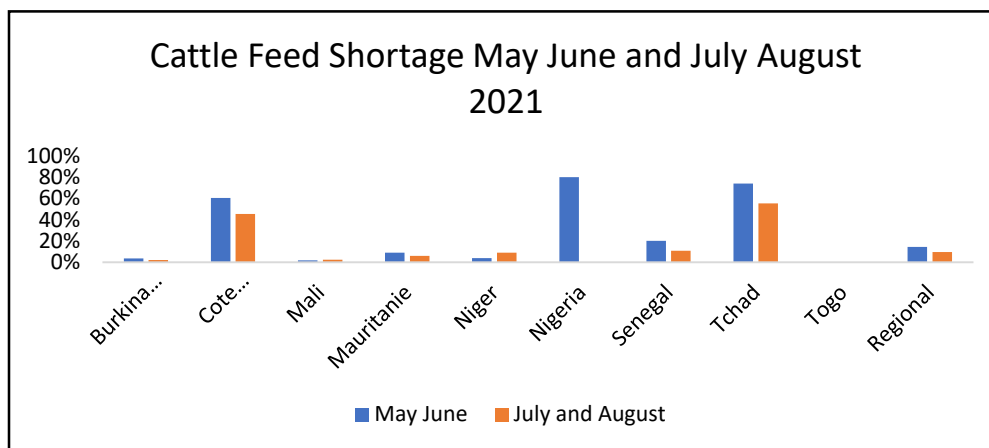
Due to the fact that the rainy season has set in in the countries covered by the pastoral watch, a considerable decrease in the livestock feed deficit has been observed at the regional level. The proportion of relays mentioning this deficit has dropped from 15% in May-June to 10% in July-August.

In the Sahelian countries, the same downward trends are observed in Burkina Faso (down from 4% in May-June to 2% in July-August), Mauritania (9% to 6%) and Senegal (20% to 11%).

Niger is the only Sahelian country where the shortage of livestock feed is on the rise because the start of the rainy season has been significantly delayed. The proportion of relays increased from 4% in May-June to 9% in July-August.

In Mali, we note that the situation remains unchanged since the proportion of relays is the same (2%) during the period of May-June and July-August.

As far as coastal countries are concerned, we note that in Togo, no relay mentioned the shortage of livestock feed. In Côte d'Ivoire, the level of shortage is decreasing compared to the May-June period. However, it remains relatively high (61% of the Relais in May-June and 46% in July-August). This is due to the fact that the shortage of raw materials (cotton seeds and maize) reduces the production of animal feed whose price has increased.



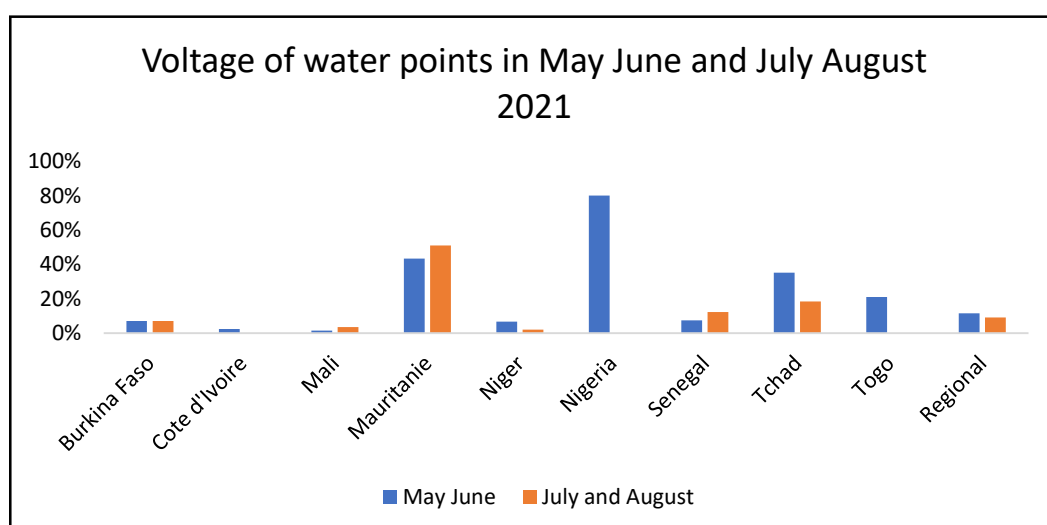
Tensions around water points

July and August are the wettest months of the rainy season and are characterized by a high availability of surface water for animals. This period is generally marked by a drop in tension around water points, particularly wells and boreholes. The analysis of the watch information shows that at the regional level, the proportion of Relais who mention conflicts at water points has decreased from 12% to 9% between May-June and July-August.

In several coastal countries such as Côte d'Ivoire and Togo, the relays are unanimous in noting the absence of conflicts around water points in July-August.

Mauritania and Chad are the countries where we find the highest proportions of relays that underline the existence of tensions around water points during the July-August period. In these two countries, the rates are respectively 51% and 19%. Between May-June and July-August, the proportions have increased in Mauritania (51% against 43%), Senegal (12% against 8%) and Mali (2% to 4%).

According to the Relais, the situation remains unchanged in Burkina Faso at a percentage (7% of Relais during the periods of May-June and July-August) and the extent of tensions has decreased in Niger (the proportion of Relais has dropped from 7% to 2% between the two periods).

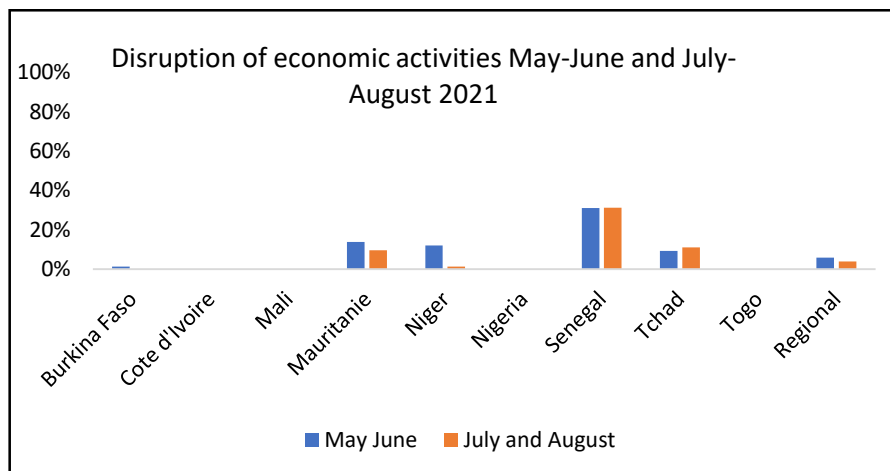
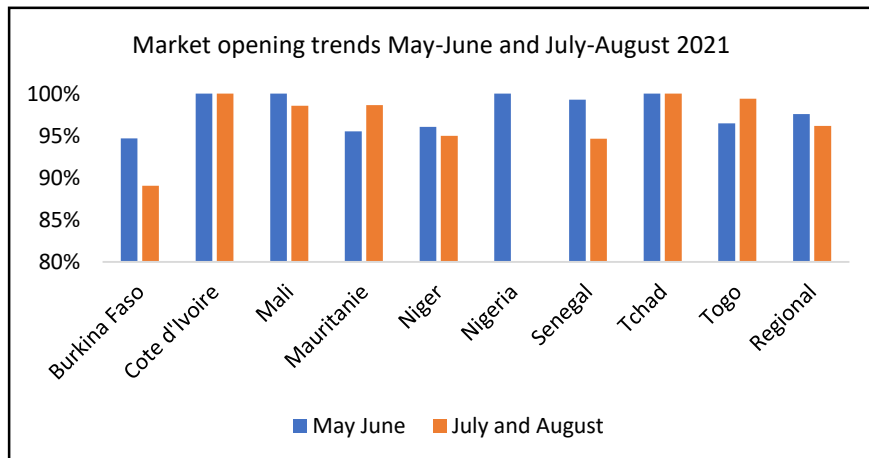


Overall, the functioning of markets and the conduct of economic activities reflect a return to normal. On a regional scale, the proportion of relays that mention a disruption of economic activities is relatively low and, moreover, decreasing. It went from 6% in May-June to 4% in July-August. Markets remained open according to 96% of the relays.

At the national level, in countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Mali and Burkina Faso, the data collected reveals that the functioning of markets and economic activities are going on normally. Indeed, 100% of the relays declare that there is no stoppage of economic activities and that the markets are open.

On the other hand, Senegal records the highest percentage of Relais who mention a disruption of economic activities (31%). This situation would be related to the fact that this country is still suffering the effects of the application of restrictive public measures to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, even if the markets remained open according to 95% of the Relais.

In Niger and Mauritania, the extent of the disruption of economic activities decreased between May-June and July-August, as the proportion of relays reporting it fell from 12% to 1% and 14% to 10% respectively.



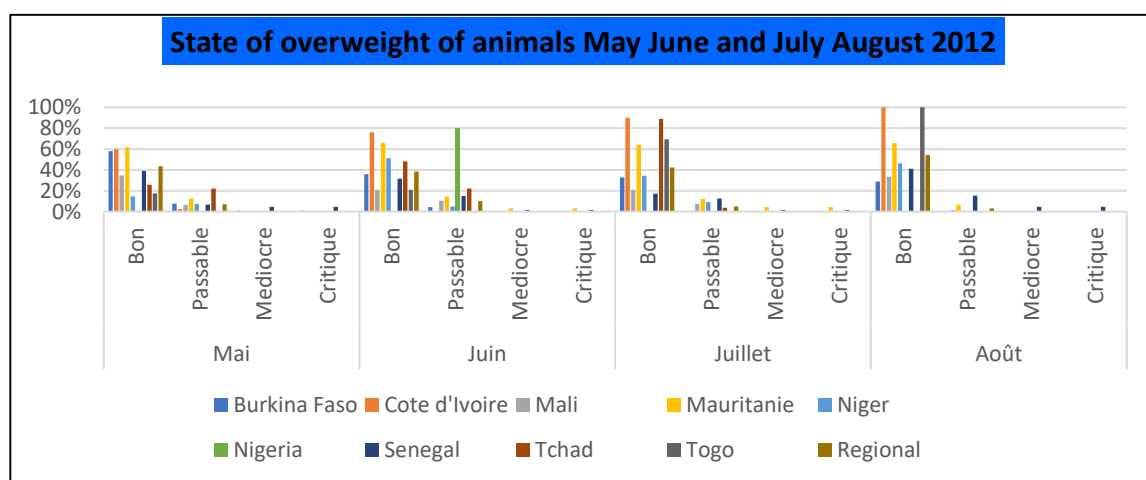
State of overweight of animals

At the regional level, the proportion of relays that emphasize a good state of body condition of the animals varies between 43% and 54% in July-August, while it varied between 38% and 44% in May-June. This reflects an improvement in the body condition of animals in the countries covered by the monitoring system.

At the national level, a poor or even critical state of overweight was reported in only two countries: Mauritania (4% of relays in July and August) and Senegal (5% in the same months).

A clear improvement in the condition of the animals is observed in Côte d'Ivoire where 100% of the relays mention a good condition in August and 90% of them in July. During the previous period, the proportions were between 60% and 76%.

Togo is characterized by a situation equivalent to that of Côte d'Ivoire. Indeed, 100% and 79% of Relais noted a good state of overweight in August and July, while in May and June these values were relatively low (18% and 21%).



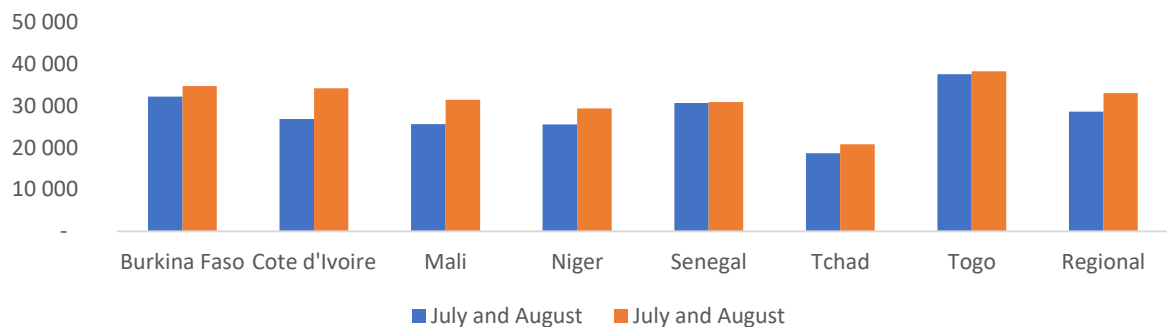
Evolution of goat and sheep prices

Regionally, goat and sheep prices increased by 7% and 8% respectively in July-August compared to the May-June period.

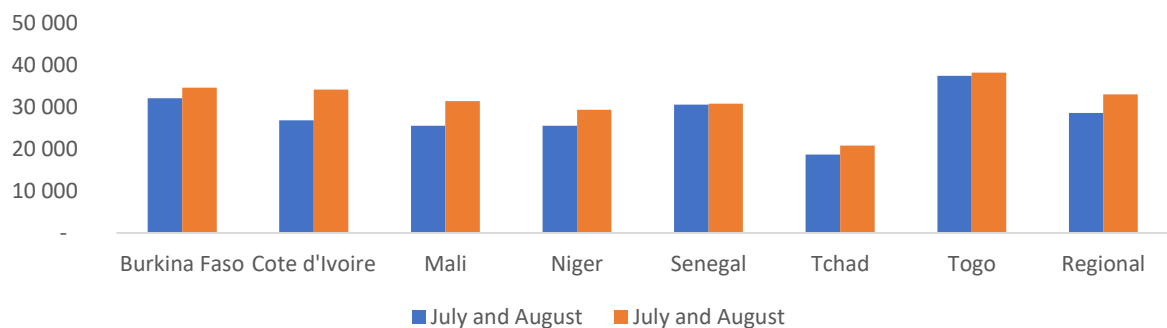
At the national level, there was a 12% increase in the price of goats and 22% in the price of sheep in Côte d'Ivoire. These are the highest increases recorded during the period under review. In Senegal and Togo, goat prices practically stagnated between the two periods. In contrast, sheep prices increased slightly.

In several Sahelian countries, small ruminant prices have increased compared to the previous period. In Burkina Faso, prices increased from 1% to 4% and 1%, in Mali from 10% to 14% and in Niger from 4% to 7%.

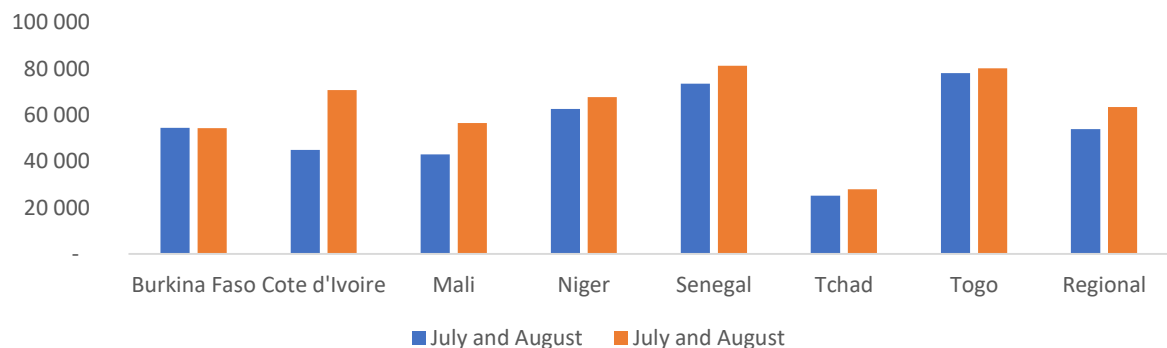
Goat prices May-June and July-August 2021



Goat prices May-June and July-August 2021



Average sheep prices May-June and July-August 2021



Evolution of cereal prices

At the regional level, between the May-June and July-August periods, the analysis of the monitoring system data showed a slight decline in rice and maize prices (-1%). Millet and sorghum prices rose slightly (1% to 2%). Relay reports indicate a slight increase in rice prices in Niger (3%), Chad (4%) and Senegal (2%). In Burkina Faso, the price of this commodity fell by 1%.

Millet prices have increased in both Sahelian and coastal countries, although the rates of increase remain relatively low (between 1% and 4%). Such an increase commonly occurs at the beginning of the rainy season.

Sorghum prices have increased in several countries: 2% in Burkina Faso and 5% in Chad and Togo. As for maize prices, there was little change between the May-June and July-August periods.

It should be noted that the evolution of market prices over the last five years in the region shows a significant increase in cereal prices. The World Food Programme considers that cereal prices in the region are currently at their highest level in the last twelve years. This raises fears of serious difficulties in access to food for the poorest households.

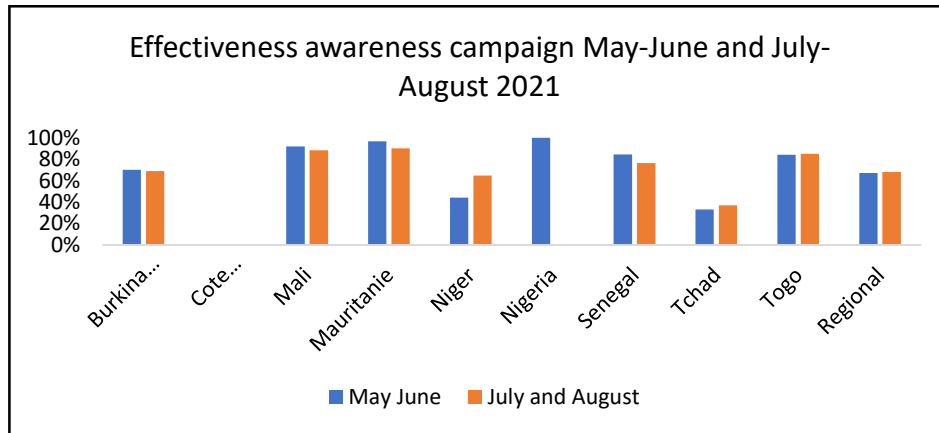
Effectiveness of VIC-19 control campaigns

Regionally, the awareness campaigns against VIC-19 are considered effective by 68% of the CHWs in July-August. This proportion is slightly higher than that of the May-June period (67%).

In Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal, the proportions of Relais who positively appreciate the effectiveness of the campaigns are respectively down - 1%, - 4%, - 7% and - 8%. On the other hand, in Mauritania and Mali, 90% and 88% of the Relais feel that the awareness campaigns were effective in July-August.

In Niger, we note a strong increase in the proportion of Relais who are satisfied with the effectiveness of the awareness campaigns (+21% between May-June and July-August).

In Côte d'Ivoire, no intermediary reported the effectiveness of the awareness campaigns.



Reduction of livestock movements

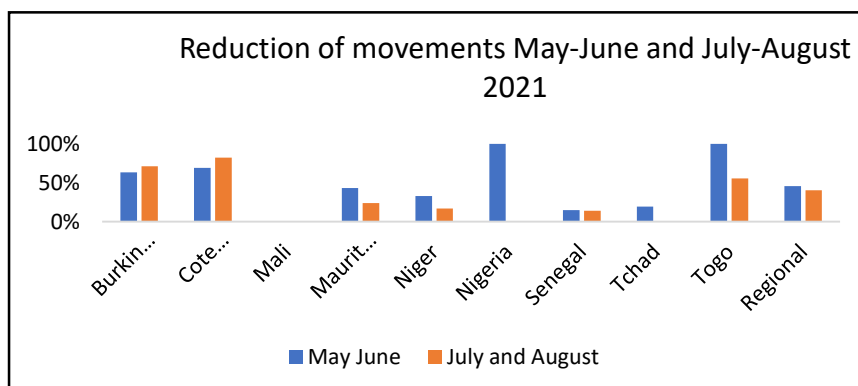
During the July-August period, as the rainy season is well established, animal movements are down regionally. 40% of the relays reported a reduction in livestock mobility, against 46% in May-June.

In Mali, 100% of the Relais affirmed that animal movements were not reduced in May-June as well as in July-August. The same observation was made by the Relais in Chad for the period of July-August (0%), while in May-June 20% of them reported a reduction in herd movements.

It is in Côte d'Ivoire that we find the highest proportion of Relais who mention a reduction in animal movements (82%).

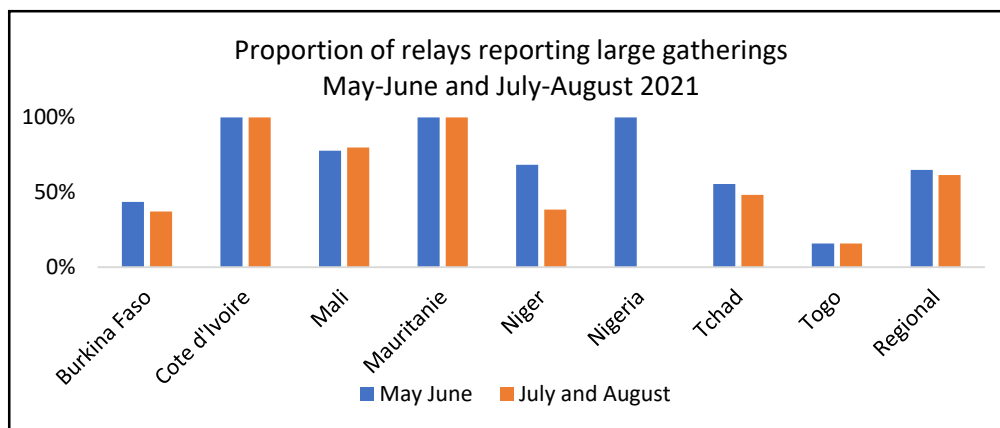
In Togo, there was a significant increase in animal movements. While in May-June, no relay reported any movement, in July-August 56% of relays mentioned animal movements.

On the other hand, in Niger, the proportion of relays reporting animal movements decreased by 16% between the May-June and July-August periods.



Large gatherings

On a regional scale, the proportion of relays reporting large gatherings is decreasing, from 65% in May-June to 61% in July-August. In some countries such as Côte d'Ivoire and Mauritania, 100% of the Relais report large gatherings in May-June as well as in July-August. On the other hand, in other countries, namely Niger, Burkina Faso and Chad, gatherings are down with respective deltas of -30%, -6% and -7%. In Togo, 16% of the Relais report large gatherings.

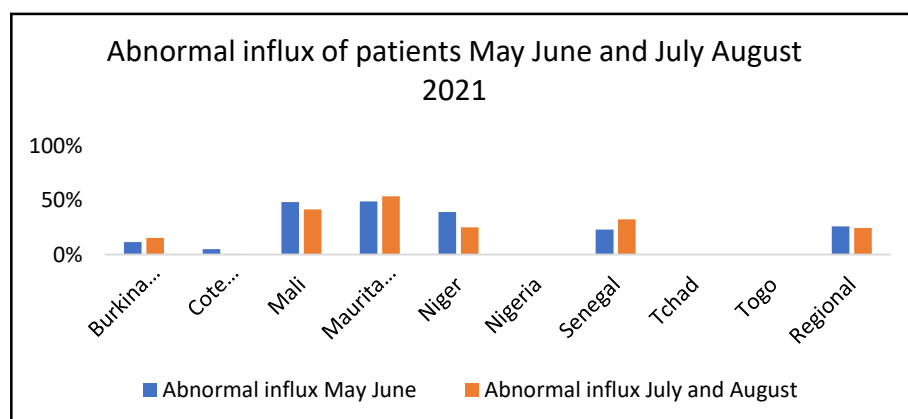


Initially, the focus was on gatherings of people, in order to allow the monitoring system to follow the application of restrictive measures to control the spread of VIC-19 (physical distancing of individuals in this case). During the period under consideration, the fact that there was no recourse to gatherings of people does not necessarily reflect a strict application of public restriction measures. Rather, it seems to be related to the vagaries of the organization of social ceremonies.

Abnormal influx in health centres

The influx in health centers continues to decrease at the regional level. In May-June, 26% of the Relais reported abnormal influx in the centers, while in July-August the proportion was 24%. In Chad and Togo, the health situation is stable. Analysis of the data collected does not reveal any areas where abnormal influxes of patients were observed during the May-June and July-August periods. On the other hand, in Senegal, Mauritania and Burkina Faso, the proportions of Relais who mention anomalous inflows are up by 10%, 5% and 4% respectively.

In Niger, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali, the proportions are down by -14%, -4%, -7%.



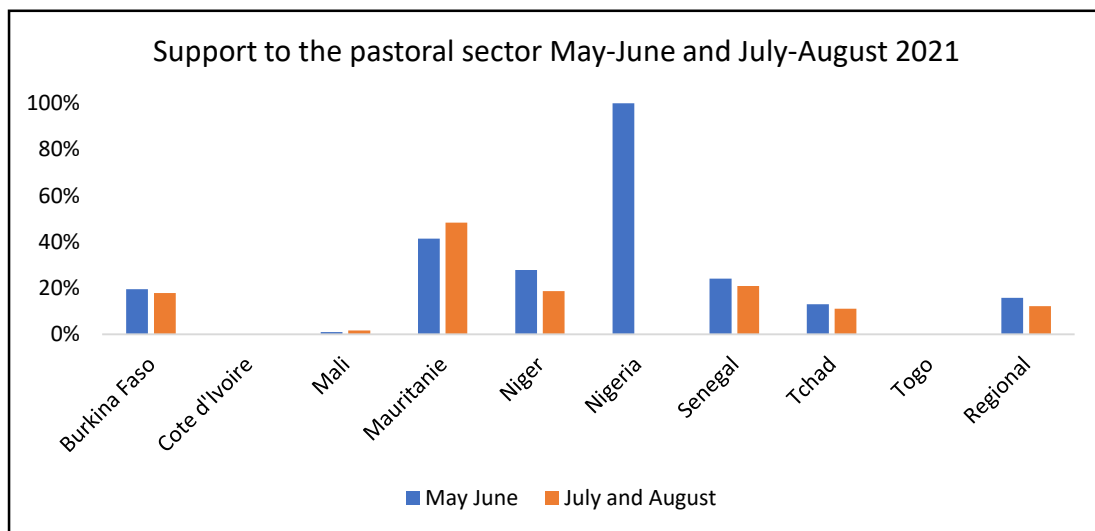
Support for the pastoral sector

According to the Relais, support to the pastoral sector has decreased at the regional level. The proportion of Relais who report support is 12% in July-August, against 16% in May-June.

In Côte d'Ivoire and Togo, support to the pastoral sector is almost non-existent, according to the Relais. Indeed, in these countries, no Relais reported support in May-June, nor in July-August.

Mauritania is the country that shows the most support to the pastoral sector in July-August, according to 48% of the Relais.

In Niger, support is down compared to the period of May-June, since the proportions of Relais have dropped from 28% to 19%. In Burkina Faso and Chad, the proportions are also down by 2%, compared to May-June.



Animal Mortalities

Globally, the proportion of Relais who reported significant animal deaths is down by 5%. This observation is particularly valid for Côte d'Ivoire and Chad. Between the period of May-June and July-August, the proportions went from 65% to 19% in Côte d'Ivoire and from 30% to 17% in Chad. In Côte d'Ivoire, the decrease is at least partly due to the coverage of almost the entire country by animal health agents over the past few months, following advocacy by livestock breeders' organizations with the departmental and regional directorates of the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries.

In Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Togo and Senegal, no relay mentioned significant animal losses.

Suspected cases of animal diseases

In July-August, 13% of Relais reported the existence of suspected cases of diseases. We note an increase in this proportion compared to the period of May-June (9%).

In Chad and Côte d'Ivoire, the proportions of Relais who mention suspected cases of diseases remain quite high and are increasing. Indeed, they have increased respectively from 41% to 70% and 47% to 55%.

In Burkina Faso and Mali, almost no relay mentioned suspected cases of animal diseases.

In Togo, the proportions that were nil in May-June rose to 5% in July-August. In Mauritania, it increased from 3% to 13% and in Senegal from 6% to 8%.



- The rainy season came late and is marked, in places, by dry spells. Throughout the area covered by the monitoring system, farmers and their herds are emerging from the pastoral lean season. The pastures have regenerated. Herders hope that the rains will continue until the end of September to ensure maximum fodder production.
- The improvement in fodder availability observed in the field conceals major geographical disparities. The entire Sahelian zone shows insufficient to average availability. This situation warrants close monitoring in order to measure changes in the availability of natural resources between now and the end of the pastoral season, particularly in Mauritania, northern Senegal, northern and western Mali, Niger, the Sahel and eastern regions of Burkina Faso, northeastern Nigeria and central and northern Chad.
- As a result of the improved body condition and health of the animals, the price of livestock, especially sheep, has increased and the terms of trade are favourable to the farmers.
- The impact of COVID-19 on pastoralist households has significantly decreased in the region. One and a half years after the start of the pandemic, its spread has significantly decreased in pastoral areas. In addition, attendance at health centers, large gatherings, economic activities, and the opening of markets have almost returned to their pre-pandemic levels. Vigilance seems to have slackened, while cases of the more contagious and virulent Delta variant have been reported in several countries.
- While the health crisis has tended to subside, the security crisis remains pervasive, with its share of abuses committed mainly by the GANE. The acts of violence and the multiple abuses of which the populations are victims are causing massive displacements of rural families in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. In Burkina Faso, the damage suffered by herders is aggravated by numerous cases of changes in the use of grazing land, in particular the obstruction of passage corridors and access to ponds, the occupation of grazing areas and water points, and the relocation of villages without prior consultation with the populations concerned or compensation.
- In Chad, the massive return of transhumant herders, coupled with a large influx of Nigerian herds fleeing the atrocities perpetrated by "Boko Haram", is increasing the pressure on already scarce natural resources and poses the risk of a serious pastoral crisis in the Chadian Sahel zone.

- To the States, their partners and Producer Organizations :

Keep a close watch, focusing on the Sahel regions that are at risk of natural resource deficits, if a good end to the rainy season does not reverse the trend of the pastoral campaign (Mauritania, western Mali, southern Burkina Faso and Chad).

Anticipate the protection of the good fodder production that is on the horizon, by emphasizing the training and equipment of mobile bushfire prevention brigades. Take advantage of the positive developments of the last two pastoral campaigns to develop and implement multi-year programmes to support herders in rebuilding their herds. Develop, in anticipation, response plans adapted to a possible difficult pastoral lean season, integrating an emergency phase and a rehabilitation phase. These plans should target areas identified as being at risk (Mauritania, northern Senegal, central and northern Mali, Sahel regions, northern and central-northern Burkina Faso, Niger and the Sahel zone of Chad).

Continue to provide care for displaced persons, including food aid, shelter and medical care.

Strengthen the information systems of producers' organisations, in order to provide information and warn of new forms of theft and kidnapping of livestock that are developing as a result of the multi-faceted insecurity.

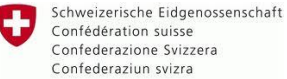
Remain vigilant against COVID-19 and strengthen awareness campaigns to protect against the pandemic.



Carried out with technical and financial support



Investir dans les populations rurales



Direction du développement
et de la coopération DDC



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