

NOTE

FOR PASTORALISM AGAINST HUNGER

NOVEMBER 2024





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ACRONYMS

ACF	Action Against Hunger	UN	United Nations
AFD	Agence Française de Développement	OXFAM	Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
AECID	Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo	PANORAMA	A specific initiative or project name (context-specific, often used in development reports)
APESS	Association pour la Promotion de l'Élevage au Sahel et en Savane	PDSEAMR	Programme de Développement des Systèmes d'Élevage et de l'Agriculture Modernisée en zone Rurale
BAD	Banque Africaine de Développement	PRAPS	Projet Régional d'Appui au Pastoralisme au Sahel
BID	Banque Islamique de Développement	RBM	Réseau Billital Marobé
BHA	Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance	RIMDIR	Regional Initiative for the Improvement of Pastoralist Information and Data Resources
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere	RIMFIL	Regional Initiative for the Improvement of Pastoral Livelihoods
CILSS	Comité permanent Inter-États de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel	RIMRAP	Regional Initiative for the Monitoring of Risk and Agricultural Production
CIRAD	Centre de coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement	SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
DDC	Direction du Développement et de la Coopération Suisse	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)	UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
EU	European Union	VSF	Vétérinaires Sans Frontières
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization		
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development		
GRET	Groupe de Recherche et d'Échanges Technologiques		
HEKS EPER	Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen Schweiz / Entraide Protestante Suisse		
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross		
IOM	International Organization for Migration		
IRC	International Rescue Committee		
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs		
WOAH	World Organisation for Animal Health		
OMVS	Organisation pour la Mise en Valeur du fleuve Sénégal		
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization		



INTRODUCTION

Pastoralism plays a fundamental role in the arid and semi-arid regions of West Africa. Based on livestock mobility, this system sustains the livelihoods of millions of people while significantly contributing to food security and biodiversity conservation.

However, pastoralism faces numerous challenges that threaten its viability. Climate change, land degradation, and socio-political conflicts exacerbate the difficulties pastoralists encounter. These issues require coordinated interventions and robust policies to protect and promote this essential way of life.

In this context, Action Against Hunger (ACF) is actively involved, implementing projects to strengthen the resilience of pastoral communities. ACF focuses on strategic initiatives such as improving access to water and grazing lands, promoting sustainable grazing practices, supporting conflict resolution mechanisms, and establishing a regional pastoralism information system. These actions are crucial to maintaining food security and protecting pastoralists' livelihoods.

ACF collaborates closely with key regional partners, including the Réseau Billital Maroobé (RBM) and the Association for the Promotion of Livestock in the Sahel and Savanna (APESS), alongside other pastoral and agro-pastoral organizations. These partnerships are essential to implementing solutions that are well-integrated and responsive to local needs. RBM and APESS play a critical role by contributing local expertise, fostering dialogue among communities, and supporting sustainable resource management.

This report aims to underscore the economic, socio-cultural, and environmental significance of pastoralism in West and Central Africa, outline its key challenges, and recommend actionable steps to strengthen and support this essential system.

By adopting a comprehensive and coordinated approach and strengthening collaboration with local partners, we can enhance the sustainability and resilience of pastoralism, preserving this crucial way of life for future generations.

01/

**CONTEXT AND
CHALLENGES
OF PASTORALISM
IN WEST AND
CENTRAL AFRICA**





1. CONTEXTE

PASTORALISM: A LIVESTOCK SYSTEM CHARACTERIZED BY MOBILITY

Pastoralism is an extensive form of livestock farming rooted in centuries-old knowledge and practices, such as pastoral mobility, the combination of different herds, and the use of natural forage resources (ACF, 2024).

Pastoral areas account for more than 38% of the territory in the West Sahel countries (Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Chad, and Burkina Faso), and up to 78% of these territories if Saharan ecosystems are included (Bonnet, 2013). The annual rainfall, which is below 400 mm and highly erratic, makes rain-fed agriculture uncertain, leaving pastoralism as the primary mode of land use in these areas. In West Africa, the FAO reported in 2018 approximately 73 million cattle, 4.6 million camels, 110 million sheep, and 157 million goats, totaling 267 million small ruminants. The Regional Pastoralism Support Project in the Sahel (PRAPS) estimates that livestock farming supports more than 20 million people, with 75% engaging in transhumance each year in search of grazing land and water for their herds (World Bank, 2020a).

This production system has the advantage of utilizing forage resources that vary greatly in quantity and quality, thanks to the mobility of the herds (Bonnet, 2013). This mobility also enables pastoralists to respond quickly to vulnerabilities that are not directly related to climate, such as conflicts, diseases, or access to markets (ACF, 2024).

In the Sahel region, annual transhumance journeys are often very long, averaging 230 days, compared to around 150 days when heading towards coastal countries (Jacquemot, 2023).

20 million

PEOPLE RELY ON
LIVESTOCK FARMING
IN SAHEL

75%

ENGAGE IN
TRANSHUMANCE
EACH YEAR, IN SEARCH
OF GRAZING LAND
AND WATER FOR THEIR
LIVESTOCK.



A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT PRODUCTION SYSTEM

By utilizing the resources available in arid and semi-arid ecosystems, pastoralism is recognized as an effective production system from ecological, economic, and food security perspectives (Hesse and Catley, 2023).

This form of livestock farming plays a crucial role in preserving ecosystems and conserving biodiversity. Grazing by livestock helps prevent forest fires, combat invasive species, and promote soil fertility (Hesse and Catley, 2023). Growing recognition of the economic value of pastures has led to the management of grazing lands and ecological spaces in alignment with extensive pastoral livestock systems, which are the only ones capable of effectively managing such vast areas. In comparison, transhumant livestock farming exhibits higher productivity, both in terms of milk production and animal fertility and growth, compared to sedentary farming systems (Bonnet, 2013).

With its extensive, mobile nature and minimal input requirements (FAO, 2021), pastoralism stands as an environmentally respectful production system, resilient to climate change (Jacquemot, 2023), and one that sustainably values natural resources.

This form of livestock farming is of major economic importance in the Sahel, particularly as a job creator. It provides income to millions of households, thereby strengthening the economic resilience of pastoral communities (FAO, 2021). The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) (Eloit, 2018) emphasizes the importance of preserving this production system due to its adaptability and its potential for the future of youth in these regions.

The economic value of pastoralism in Africa is estimated at USD 1.3 trillion, which represents 30% of the continent's GDP. In some countries, the livestock sector accounts for up to 80% of agricultural GDP, particularly

in Burkina Faso (Grünewald, 2023), as well as in Chad, Cameroon, and the Central African Republic (ACF, 2024).

"In addition to feeding humans, pastoral livestock farming provides a livelihood for populations that would not survive otherwise in these regions."

— APESS 2024

Pastoralism plays a key role in supplying animal products to the markets of Sahelian cities and the major metropolises along the Gulf of Guinea coast (ACF, 2024). In West Africa, it contributes 60% of the meat and dairy products consumed in the region (Bonnet, 2013). Cow's milk is a significant source of income for the livestock sector in Sahelian countries. The dairy industry also generates numerous jobs and income, benefiting the entire production chain: farmers, dairy workers, raw milk collectors, dairy product vendors, as well as input and service providers (World Bank, 2020a). Pastoralism also enables women to earn income through the sale of raw or processed milk, thereby contributing to their economic empowerment (Hesse and Catley, 2023).

"If the stomach has something to eat, it's because the feet have moved."

— Adage Iari



CULTURAL HERITAGE AND PASTORAL IDENTITY

Pastoralism goes beyond its simple function of production and represents a foundational pillar of the cultural identity of certain communities (Hesse and Catley, 2023). Pastoral societies, in particular, celebrate their way of life and distinct heritage, strongly asserting their right to preserve their ancestral traditions. They emphasize the importance of recognizing pastoralism as a cultural heritage of invaluable richness.

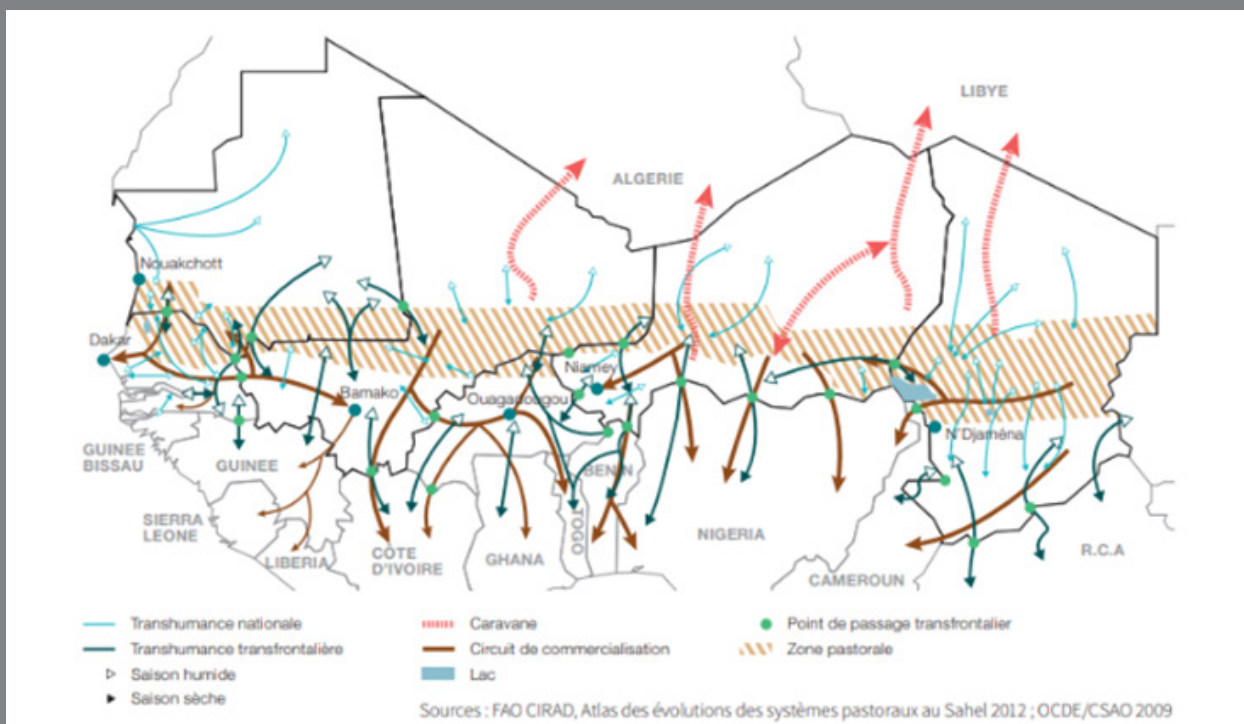
In the Sahel region, around 50 million individuals belong to pastoralist lineage societies and chieftaincies, where social and cultural values remain deeply rooted. For communities such as the Tuaregs, Moors, Sahrawis, Toubous, Baggaras, and Fulani, pastoralism is the very foundation of their collective identity. The Fulani, for example, number around 40 million across about fifteen countries, with 15 million practicing transhumance, making them one of the largest nomadic groups in the world (Hesse and Catley, 2023). Beyond its economic or livelihood function, pastoralism plays a crucial role as a social and cultural marker for these communities. As the Fulani of the Sahel say, "The cow is our security".

At the household level, each individual assumes specific roles based on their skills and gender (Stites, 2024). While men handle transhumance, women play a key role in taking on essential responsibilities within

the home and the production system. In addition to providing family and financial support, women play a significant role in managing the herd, passing on their experience and knowledge, and acting as unifiers, negotiators, and influencers within their community.

In pastoral matters, the male usually considers the woman's opinion before making a decision. Furthermore, women in pastoral communities tend to achieve financial independence by valorizing livestock by-products, which fosters the creation of value chains and production sectors (RBM, 2024). The elders focus on agricultural work and processing, while the youth are often responsible for managing and guiding the herds.

MAP 1: TRANSHUMANCE AND NOMADISM IN THE SAHEL



2. THE CHALLENGES OF PASTORALISM IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Pastoralism in the Sahel faces a range of complex and interconnected challenges that threaten both its sustainability and the well-being of the pastoral communities that depend on it. While it plays a key economic and cultural role, pastoralism remains largely overlooked by public policies, which often prioritize more intensive livestock systems, blending sedentarization with modernization (Jacquemot, 2023). Past development efforts have frequently misinterpreted the needs of herders, prioritizing sedentarization over pastoral mobility, a cornerstone of their way of life (Eloit, 2018).

The mismanagement of pastoral lands and natural resources exacerbates the situation, leading to increasing fragmentation of grazing routes, rising demographic pressure, and rapid urbanization. Land and resource use conflicts are common, often made worse by inadequate legislation and conflicting interests (Odhiambo, 2024).

"Despite calls for change, inclusion, and investment,

the situation in most arid areas of Africa has deteriorated, and development prospects have given way to humanitarian and security crises. Pastoralism is no longer a priority for current states. In some host countries, transhumance has been strictly prohibited in recent years, following the Covid-19 pandemic and insecurity related to incursions and attacks by various armed groups." - APES 2024

Land privatization and exclusivity strategies increase the risk of conflict by limiting herders' access to resources and promoting exclusion. At the same time, political and security developments in the region, such as growing instability and armed conflicts, further complicate the situation, leaving herders vulnerable to geopolitical tensions and violence.

The scarcity of natural resources, particularly access to grazing land and water (Pertaub, 2024), is compounded by the effects of climate change, leading to greater uncertainty and instability in the region.



PASTORALISM THREATENED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

More frequent and intense droughts are jeopardizing the livelihoods of herders, leading to significant livestock losses. Additionally, prolonged stays in certain areas – intended to avoid armed conflicts or delay transhumance routes (ACF, 2024) – put additional pressure on resources and can trigger conflicts between agro-pastoral communities (Bonnet, 2013).

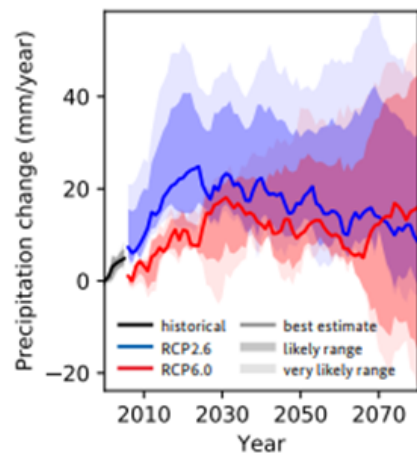
West and Central Africa are experiencing the impacts of climate change. The Sahel is gradually becoming hotter, with some areas seeing increased but erratic rainfall. In this context, extreme weather events, including droughts and floods, are expected to intensify, primarily due to climate change driven by human activities (Peruzzo et al., 2024).

Future rainfall projections are less certain than temperature change projections due to high natural variability from year to year. By 2030, annual rainfall in

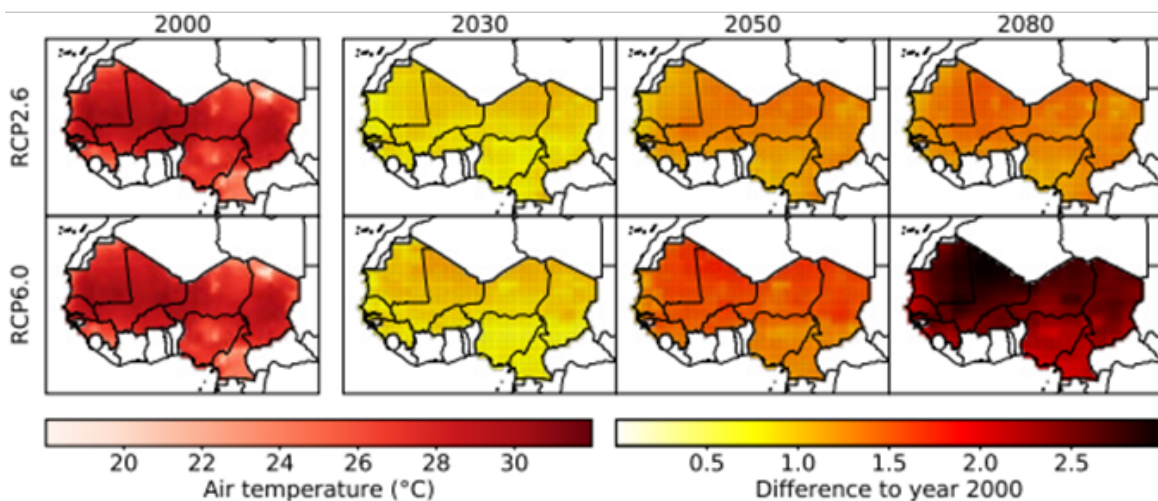
the Sahel is likely to increase on average by +20 mm/year, though with local disparities. An intensification of heavy rainfall events is also expected in many parts of the world due to the increased ability of a warmer atmosphere to hold more water vapor. Similarly, the number of days with heavy rainfall events is projected to rise.

Climate projections for the Sahel support this trend, indicating an overall increase in the number of days with heavy rainfall. A reduction in the length of the rainy season in the west is also expected, due to a delayed start. All of these changes in rainfall patterns will directly impact the availability and quality of water, forage resources, and, more broadly, the way of life of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities

PROJECTION OF THE ANNUAL AVERAGE PRECIPITATION FOR THE SAHEL REGION UNDER DIFFERENT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION SCENARIOS, RELATIVE TO THE YEAR 2000



REGIONAL AIR TEMPERATURE PROJECTIONS FOR THE SAHEL UNDER DIFFERENT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION SCENARIOS, RELATIVE TO THE YEAR 2000





THE POTENTIAL OF PASTORALISM FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

The balance of Sahelian ecosystems also depends on the action of herbivores, both wild and domestic. Pastoral management of livestock plays a crucial role in protecting biodiversity and maintaining open, interconnected grazing areas.

Grazing and livestock management are key to ecosystem services, soil fertility, the distribution and diversity of plant species, as well as creating optimal conditions for carbon sequestration in soils and for fire prevention and control. Some pasture soils can store carbon more effectively than forest soils. According to estimates, improving pasture management on the five billion hectares of grasslands worldwide could sequester around 409 million tons of CO₂ equivalent per year, accounting for approximately 9.8% of annual anthropogenic carbon emissions (McGahey et al., 2014).

Grasslands store about 34% of the world's terrestrial CO₂ reserves, but it is estimated that between 18 and 28 billion tons of CO₂ have been released from the soils of arid zones due to desertification. This desertification, driven by overgrazing (especially in sedentary livestock systems), is estimated to emit an equivalent of 100 million tons of CO₂ annually. Additionally, in grasslands—particularly those in arid regions—the majority of carbon is stored in the soil. It is estimated that 70% of the sequestered carbon could be released through agricultural exploitation (McGahey et al., 2014).

CLIMATE CHANGE: A SOURCE OF CONFLICT AND A THREAT TO TRANSHUMANCE

The impacts of climate change in West and Central Africa are likely to be significant. Changes in precipitation patterns and rising temperatures compromise agricultural yields and pasture regeneration, with considerable impacts on food security for local populations. In extreme situations, the degradation of local food systems and livelihoods, which depend on a stable climate, leads to population migration (UN, 2024).

The depletion of natural resources exacerbates pre-existing tensions, fueling conflict. When conflicts erupt, they worsen poverty, lead to population displacement, and expose people to the effects of climate change, creating a dangerous cycle of amplification (Grünewald, 2023).

Pastoral herders in the Sahel, who heavily depend on natural resources (grazing land and water) for the survival of their livestock, are suffering the consequences of climate change. Combined with insecurity, growing restrictions on cross-border movements, and changes in agricultural policies, environmental changes (shifts in seasonality, increased frequency of droughts, and rising temperatures) have significantly altered the geographic and temporal patterns of transhumance. As a result, pastoral herders have had to adapt in order to maintain a sufficient economic activity through the exploitation of their herds (IOM, 2023). These changes have led to tensions and violent clashes between herders and farmers, which are becoming more frequent and of considerable magnitude (ECOWAS, 2018; Nnoko, 2018; Center for Strategic Studies of Africa, 2021).

A study conducted in Mali by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in 2021-2022 shows that transhumant herders are struggling to maintain their usual routes in the context of environmental degradation and climate change.

“Environmental changes are delaying all our goals. Departure and arrival times are not respected at all, and even the destination is often changed halfway, due to some misinterpreted or misunderstood information.”

— Focus group interview with young herders, Djélébou (Stites, 2024)

In areas where agricultural fields have expanded, space becomes insufficient for the cattle present, leading to the degradation of land and overexploitation of pastures and water resources. Early and prolonged movements can lead to tensions or conflicts between herders, farmers, and other communities depending on the same resources for survival. Due to increasing difficulties in predicting and maintaining a planned route, the practice of transhumance is becoming more complex, forcing some herders to settle down (Pesche et al., 2016).



In addition to climate change and the degradation of pastoral ecosystems, other factors are also threatening the sustainability of pastoralism (Pesche et al., 2016):

THE PRESSURE OF AGRICULTURAL EXPANSION

Overpopulation and environmental degradation lead to resource scarcity, which in turn creates increased competition for the use of rural spaces and their common resources, primarily grazing lands, fodder, and watering areas, eventually triggering violent conflicts. Population growth leads to the encroachment of agricultural frontiers at the expense of pastoral areas. However, demographic growth is not the only culprit: conventional farming techniques degrade the soil to the point where it becomes unproductive after a few years, forcing farmers to exploit new lands, often former grazing areas, thus displacing livestock to marginal zones.

THE PRIVATIZATION OF COMMONS

The commercialization of resource access has further exposed communities in arid areas to the volatility of the market. Harvest residues and access to water supply facilities are now paid for in cash rather than exchanged through barter, as customary collaboration mechanisms have been replaced by those centered around the market and money. In the past, in West Africa, grazing and salt licks (mineral rich soil) were not associated with individual rights. Today, more and more water points, grazing lands, and wetlands have become assets obtained through purchases that come with exclusive usage rights. With the introduction of fencing on ranch-style farms, spaces are becoming inaccessible to pastoralists, forcing them to radically alter their migration routes and schedules. Pastoralists are placed in a marginalized position, as outside their "home territory," they become secondary rights holders. Some nomadic herders, feeling threatened, accept disadvantageous land rights allocations and relinquish part of their lands in an attempt to secure at least some of their resources to ensure their survival (Jacquemot, 2023).

INSECURITY DUE TO CONFLICTS

Disputes and conflicts between herders over control of grazing lands and water points have become increasingly problematic with the rise of conflicts and climate change across major wetland areas, mainly due to the movement of migrant herders. These herders often disregard pastoral conventions and the customs related to the management of water and grazing resources in large dry-season grazing areas, and they frequently carry weapons, which they are willing to use to access grazing lands and water. As a result, local village leaders and traditional authorities are facing growing difficulties in regulating these relations (Grünwald, 2023). The priority given to security has become a major constraint on livestock mobility. The key to pastoral resilience, the ability to move, has been removed, leaving no alternative but the forcible conquest of pastures. This situation forces herders to ally with armed groups and pay a tribute to avoid cattle theft, violence, and sexual assault.

Studies confirm the devastating effects of terrorism on livestock production: it reduces cattle herds in northern Nigeria, encourages the diversification of livestock, and pushes herders towards sedentarization. As risks increase, grazing routes shorten, markets disintegrate, veterinary care disappears, and herders reduce their herds, often opting for smaller animals that can be kept in villages (Jacquemot, 2023). In the Sahel, armed uprisings since 2012 have displaced over 2 million people, both internally and as refugees. Armed forces have been deployed to reaffirm state authority through tighter national borders, restrictions on mobility and cross-border trade, and the promotion of sedentarization. These measures pose additional threats to local livelihoods, further detaching communities from formal institutional frameworks, particularly among younger generations. This process triggers a spiral of social and political insecurity, where herders may play a role, but are certainly the primary victims.

The Middle Belt of Nigeria, plagued by numerous conflicts, and the Central Sahel, destabilized by the Malian conflict and the proliferation of extremist groups, are the two main hotspots from which regional violence spreads. Armed groups associated with herders are becoming increasingly prevalent, especially in new conflict zones such as northern Burkina Faso, western Niger, southeastern Chad, and central Mali. Nomadic or semi-nomadic herders have chosen to join armed "bush people" to ensure the security of their herds or resolve disputes. The pastoralism crisis provides fertile ground for armed groups to recruit, although only a small minority of herders fall prey to this. This fertile ground stems from the failure of a structurally unequal governance system that produces injustices.



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TRANSHUMANCE CORRIDORS

Pastoralism plays a vital role in the economy and culture of West African countries. Transhumance corridors, which enable the seasonal movement of herds in search of grazing land and water, are essential for pastoral communities. However, these routes are often associated with insecurity and resource scarcity (Prévost, 2021).

Pastoral communities face a range of challenges that hinder their mobility. On one hand, the gradual appropriation of land and resources by farmers, international private companies, and local authorities reduces their living space. On the other hand, herders are subjected to abuses such as administrative harassment, theft, and extortion, exacerbating their vulnerability.

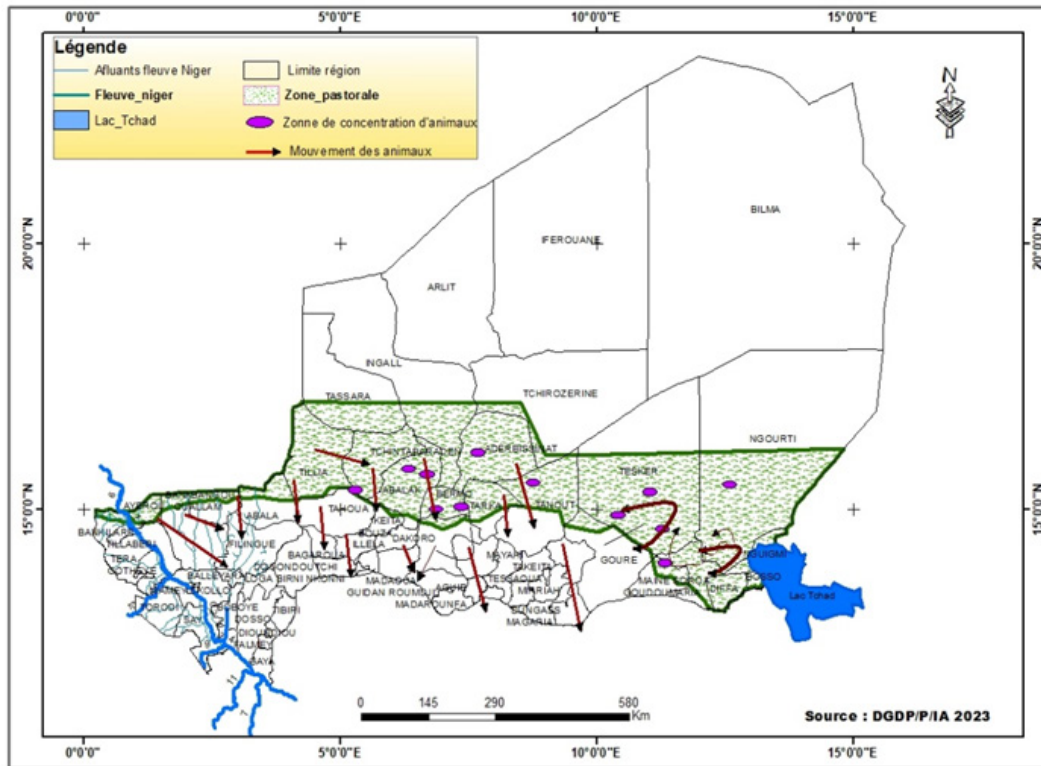
Restrictions imposed on transhumance by some countries limit herders' freedom of movement. Furthermore, the growing pressure from agriculture and mining activities degrades available grazing areas. The recurrence of forage deficits, insufficient pasture management, and the occupation of pastoral spaces by agro-pastoral crops further aggravate their situation.

The availability of water resources is variable, with

increasing tensions around water points in regions where these resources are scarce. For instance, in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, the eastern, Sahelian, and Central-South regions, as well as Gao, Mopti, and Ségou, are experiencing high tensions due to the concentration of livestock and dwindling water resources. These tensions often lead to violent conflicts between herders, exacerbated by drought conditions and uneven rainfall distribution.

The poor condition of roads complicates the challenges associated with pastoralism. Border regions, particularly between Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, are especially affected by insecurity, making travel risky and hindering access to markets for cattle sales. This situation leads to economic losses for herders and increases the vulnerability of pastoral communities.

Cattle theft is frequent and poses a major threat to herders. In Niger, incidents such as kidnappings and attacks by armed groups have been reported, putting the lives of herders and the security of their livestock in danger. The communes of Bankilaré and Diagourou in the Tillabéri region have been particularly affected. These acts of violence and crime increase instability and limit the mobility of herders, which is crucial for pastoralism.



THE NIGER LOOP CORRIDOR

Traversing Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, this corridor plays a vital role for transhumant herders migrating between the arid Sahel regions and more fertile areas to the south. During the dry season, these routes allow herds to access lush grazing grounds and essential water points, ensuring their survival and productivity. However, this corridor is not without challenges. The region is plagued by rising insecurity due to the presence of armed groups and intercommunal conflicts. These threats make travel risky and hinder pastoral activities. Furthermore, land disputes between nomadic herders and sedentary farmers are increasing, fueled by competition for arable land and water resources, often leading to violent confrontations.

THE WESTERN SAHEL CORRIDOR

Connecting Senegal, Mauritania, and Mali, this corridor is primarily used to move herds to the wetter southern regions during the dry season. This migration is crucial for the survival of the herds, which depend on the resources available in these areas. However, herders face frequent conflicts with sedentary farmers who claim grazing lands. These disputes can lead to roadblocks, hindering the movement of herds and escalating tensions between communities. Additionally, the scarcity of water points and grazing areas, exacerbated by prolonged drought periods, intensifies competition for these limited resources, creating an environment of tension and conflict.

THE TRI-BORDER AREA CORRIDOR

Encompassing Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, this corridor is a crucial route for herders in this highly insecure region. It allows herds to access essential grazing areas vital for their survival. However, the region is witnessing activities by armed groups, banditry, and intercommunity conflicts, with herders being exposed to high risks of violence, including cattle theft, which severely undermines their livelihoods. Beyond their direct impacts on populations, these violations destabilize pastoralism in this area, requiring sustainable solutions to ensure the security and stability of herders and their communities.

02/

**REGIONAL
AND NATIONAL
POLICIES IN
SUPPORT OF
PASTORALISM**





At the regional level, the Agricultural Policy of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), known as ECOWAP (ECOWAS, 2008), includes pastoralism in its objectives and initiatives, adopting measures to strengthen this sector while promoting sustainable agriculture.

The issue of livestock farming, particularly pastoralism, is integrated into the implementation of ECOWAP and the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework. It is part of the strategic priority areas of ECOWAP and refers to food security instruments and ECOWAS's recent strategies, such as the regional initiative for the promotion of local dairy value chains and the strategy for youth employability in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sectors in West Africa.

The implementation of the agricultural policy and its initiatives involves the participation of various stakeholders, including (ARAA, 2024) (see Annex 2):

- **Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs)** such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), and the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF).
- **States** through their ministries in charge of agriculture and livestock.
- **Regional umbrella organizations for producers (ROPs)** such as the West African Farmers' and Producers' Network (ROPPA), the Billital Maroobe Network (RBM), the Association for the Promotion of Livestock in the Sahel and Savanna (APESS), the Confederation of National Federations of the Livestock Meat Sector in UEMOA Member Countries (COFENABVI), and the West African Association for the Trade, Transport, and Logistics of Hydrocarbons (AOCTHA).
- **Technical and financial partners in the region** such as the French Development Agency (AFD), the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), the World Bank, the Belgian Development Agency (ENABEL), the Directorate for Development and Cooperation (DDC), the Department for International Development (DFID), the European Union (EU), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and international NGOs, among others.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) (CORAF/ECOWAS, 2015) emphasizes crucial aspects for pastoralism, including cross-border mobility of herders, sustainable management of natural resources, peaceful resolution of conflicts between herders and farmers, and the development of essential infrastructures

such as grazing routes and veterinary services. Meanwhile, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) contributes significantly to promoting sustainable pastoralism by providing financial support for initiatives aimed at improving productivity and resilience in livestock farming. UEMOA also implements policies for the sustainable management of grazing areas and water resources while strengthening the capacities of herders.

The Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) works closely with pastoral communities to develop strategies for sustainable resource management, supporting pastoralism while preserving the environment. Its initiatives include pasture management, water and soil conservation, and building the capacity of herders to cope with climate and environmental challenges. Together, these organizations strive to create an integrated and coherent framework for the development of sustainable pastoralism and agriculture in West Africa.

The Sahel States Alliance (AES), also known as the Liptako-Gourma Charter, is a mutual defense and cooperation agreement between Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso, signed in September 2023. This alliance also aims to foster cooperation in agriculture, forestry, and pastoral sectors in the member countries. During the 7th edition of the International Agriculture, Environment, and Livestock Fair in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in February 2024, under the theme "Impact of the Security Crisis on the Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral Sector: State of Play and Prospects," government officials acknowledged the heavy reliance of production systems on climate hazards, a low level of equipment and infrastructure, and insecurity hindering production. The priority of AES member countries is to reduce tensions during transhumance, find alternatives to imported livestock feed, and develop this production sector.

It is within the framework of supporting herder mobility and sustainable pasture management at the regional level, as outlined in the 2019 Nouakchott Declaration (World Bank, 2021), that Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal, and Niger developed **Pastoral Codes** securing access to resources and mobility. Representatives of regional civil society networks have also participated in global negotiation processes, such as the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock. Several regional networks, such as the Association for the Promotion of Livestock in the Sahel and Savanna (APESS), the Billital Maroobé Network (RBM), and the Confederation of Traditional Livestock Organizations in Africa, actively promote initiatives that facilitate peaceful transhumance between Sahelian and coastal countries.

The **Regional Agricultural and Food Security and Nutrition Investment Program (PRIASAN)** aims to strengthen food security in West Africa and the Sahel. It includes an essential pastoral component to improve pastoral practices, manage resources sustainably, and support herder mobility, thereby

increasing the resilience of pastoral communities. At the national level, the ministries of agriculture and livestock of member states are responsible for implementing these regional policies by adapting them to national policies.

According to an interview with the Association for the Promotion of Pastoralism in the Sahel and Savanna (APSS), these ministries face several challenges in implementing policies and programs, particularly concerning pastoralism. Current policies could benefit from additional measures to secure pastoral livestock. The increasing privatization of pastoral lands also poses challenges, sometimes forcing pastoralists to settle. Furthermore, the lack of adequate infrastructure and the need to revise regulations governing cross-border transhumance are key elements to address in order to improve support for pastoralism today.

SEVERAL INITIATIVES HAVE BEEN PROMOTED TO SUPPORT PASTORALISM IN WEST AFRICA:

- Initiatives undertaken by Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Mauritania aim to improve infrastructure and enhance resilience in the face of climate challenges faced by pastoral communities.
- Mali, for instance, has implemented various programs to support the pastoral sector, aiming to reduce livestock loss and enhance pastoral productivity. However, the sector faces several difficulties, such as a shortage of human and logistical resources, a lack of training for personnel in the face of emerging diseases such as Rift Valley fever, peste des petits ruminants, and brucellosis, which pose significant threats to both animal and human health. Other challenges include barriers to implementing veterinary health policies due to insecurity, difficulties in operationalizing veterinary border posts, obstacles in the transformation and preservation of animal products, and conflicts related to pastoral land.



MALI AND NIGER: IMPROVING PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Both countries focus on developing infrastructure to support nomadic pastoralists. Actions include:

- The **establishment of grazing corridors** that allow pastoralists to move their herds in a secure and organized manner, thus reducing conflicts with farmers and improving access to grazing areas.
- The **creation of water points, wells, and reservoirs** to ensure access to drinking water for livestock, particularly during the dry season.
- The **development of livestock markets** and improving access to them, so that pastoralists can more easily sell their animals, thus enhancing their income.

Pastoralism Ordinance (2010): Adopted in May 2010, this ordinance resulted from extensive consultations involving the pastoral civil society. It is considered one of the most innovative instruments to secure livestock farming and pastoralism in the region (ACF, 2024).



MALI

Mali has adopted several initiatives to support the pastoral sector, which is crucial for its economy and food security.

- **National Livestock Development Plan (PNDE):** This plan aims to modernize livestock farming through the improvement of pastoral infrastructure, sustainable management of natural resources, and strengthening the capacities of livestock farmers.
- **Pastoral Systems Security Program:** Focused on securing transhumance routes, this program improves access to water and grazing areas, reduces conflicts between farmers and herders, and supports animal vaccination.



NIGER

Niger, also heavily dependent on pastoralism, has implemented various policies to strengthen this sector.

- **Sustainable Livestock Development Strategy (SDDE):** This strategy focuses on improving livestock productivity, sustainable management of pastoral resources, and access to markets for pastoral products.
- **Integrated Water and Grazing Resources Management Program:** Aims to ensure equitable and sustainable access to water resources and grazing areas, which are crucial for transhumance.
- **Transhumance Route Security Initiatives:** These initiatives aim to reduce conflicts and improve infrastructure, such as water points and pastoral tracks.



SENEGAL

PROMOTION OF AGRO-PASTORALISM AND ANIMAL HEALTH

Senegal (Faye, 2016) adopts an integrated approach to strengthen the pastoral sector by combining livestock and agriculture, and implementing animal health programs.

- **Promotion of Agro-Pastoralism:** This activity aims to combine livestock farming with agriculture, enabling herders to diversify their income sources and reduce vulnerability to climate shocks. This includes integrating forage crops into livestock systems.
- **Animal Vaccination Programs:** Senegal seeks to improve the health of livestock, thus reducing losses from diseases and increasing productivity.
- **Strengthening Veterinary Services and Market Infrastructure:** Efforts focus on enhancing storage and processing capacities for agro-pastoral products.

These initiatives are part of the **Plan Sénégal Emergent (PSE)**, which translates the vision for livestock through the **National Livestock Development Plan (PNDE)**. The PNDE aims to develop agro-pastoral value chains and leverage local resources.



MAURITANIA

SECURING TRANSHUMANCE ROUTES AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Mauritania focuses on securing transhumance routes and improving climate resilience:

- **Securing Transhumance Routes:** Mauritania aims to ensure safe and recognized transhumance corridors to prevent conflicts and allow pastoralists to move their herds smoothly and securely.
- **Climate Resilience:** In response to the impacts of climate change, initiatives are being implemented to strengthen the resilience of pastoralists. This includes sustainable natural resource management practices and the implementation of adaptation strategies to cope with climate variations.

Pastoralism is included in several policy mechanisms in Mauritania (FAO, 2023):

- **National Livestock Development Plan (PNDE) 2018-2025 (Ministry of Livestock, Mauritania, 2017):**

- Improving the management of pastoral and water resources
- Supporting pastoral populations and small livestock farmers.

- **Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity Strategy (SCAPP 2016-2030) (Ministry of Economy and Finance, Mauritania, 2016):** Development of competitive livestock value chains and sustainable management of extensive livestock systems.

- **Rural Sector Development Strategy Horizon 2025 (SDSR) (Ministry of Rural Development, Mauritania, 2013):** Improvement of production infrastructures and management of water, land, and pasture resources.

- **Pastoral Land Use Plan for the Hodh El Chargui Wilaya** aiming to sustainably manage natural resources, improve the living conditions of pastoral populations, and strengthen institutional and community capacities. It includes resource mapping, infrastructure development, and livestock farmer training.



BURKINA FASO

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND INVESTMENTS IN PASTORALISM

To revive its economic development after a decade of structural adjustment (1990-2000), Burkina Faso has developed and implemented various development plans and strategies. These initiatives include the Poverty Reduction Strategy Framework (PRSF), the Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (SCAAD), and the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES I and II). The National Strategic Investment Plan for Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral Development (PNIASP) is part of a structural transformation of the sector, aiming to transform the agro-sylvo-pastoral sector by prioritizing investments that promote sustainable and inclusive development.

The 2023-2025 Agro-Pastoral and Fisheries Offensive: This initiative is designed to boost agricultural, pastoral, and fisheries production over a three-year period, by improving productivity and resilience of actors in these sectors.

03/

**OUR STRATEGY
TO SUPPORT
PASTORAL
COMMUNITIES**



PILLARS TO PROMOTE THE RESILIENCE OF PASTORAL COMMUNITIES

Action Against Hunger supports pastoral communities in several countries across West and Central Africa, addressing complex challenges such as food insecurity, conflicts related to access to natural resources, the impacts of climate change, and a fragile security situation, in addition to contributing to the production of information on pastoralism. These interventions aim to enhance the resilience and food security of these communities through an integrated approach that encompasses direct assistance, capacity building, and advocacy actions.

1 STRENGTHENING ANTICIPATORY CAPACITIES

Monitoring to anticipate crises

- The pastoral monitoring and early warning program for the Sahel region (PEWS): sigsahel.info
- Monitoring multisectoral indicators among vulnerable populations
- Data collection and analysis, and dissemination of information through the publication of bulletins, community radio, and “geo-navigation” of agro-pastoralists
- Advocacy with donors for rapid responses
- Participation in the Cadre Harmonisé

2 STRENGTHENING ABSORPTION AND ADAPTATION CAPACITIES

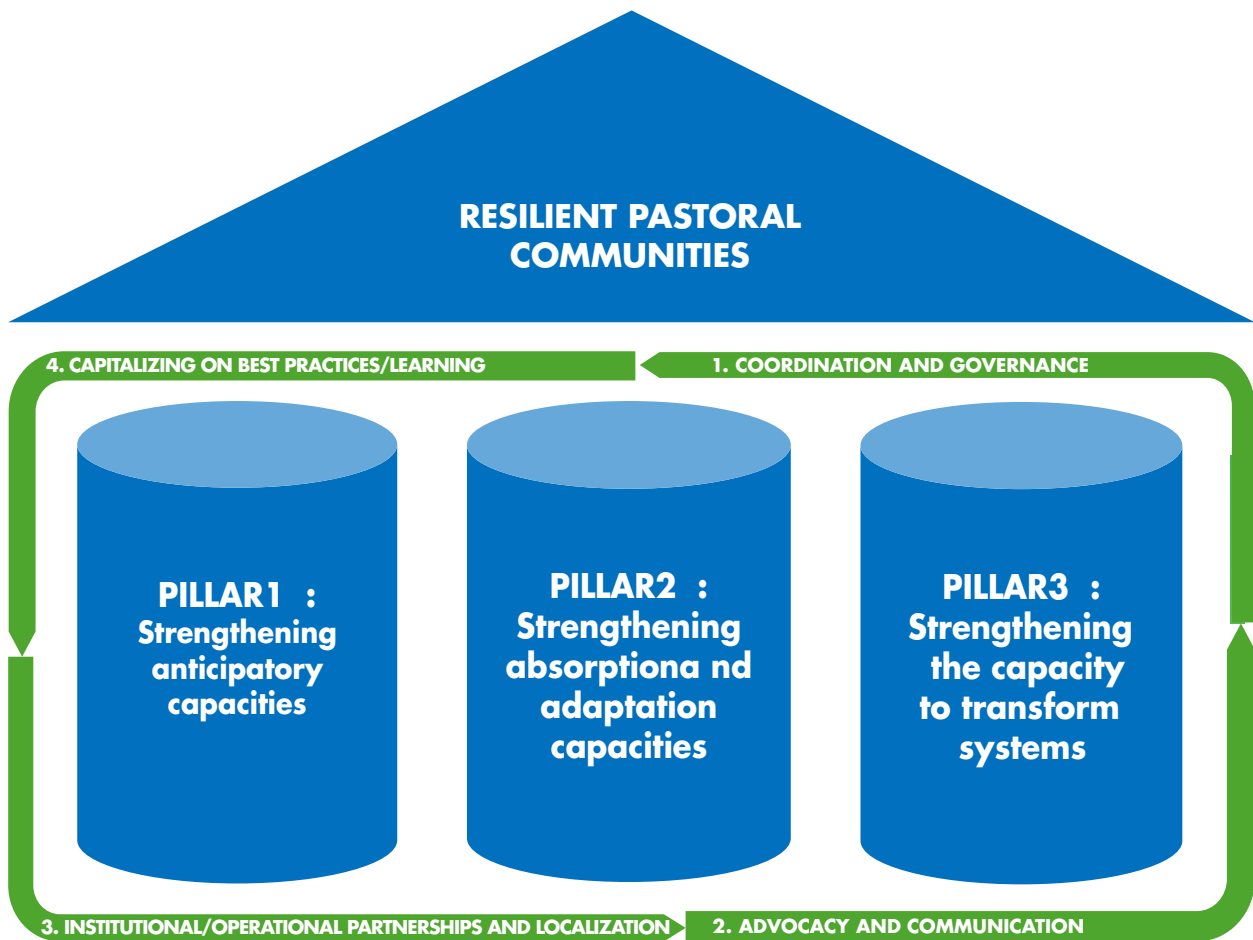
- Rapid response mechanisms for crises: cash transfer interventions
- Strengthening social protection systems
- Livestock capitalisation initiatives
- Strengthening livelihoods
- Access to basic services: improving the mobility of people and services within the pastoral zone over time and within the community

3 STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES TO TRANSFORM SYSTEMS

- Strengthening communities for sustainable resource management: (i) regenerative agricultural and livestock practices for degraded soils, (ii) natural resource management, (iii) nutrition, (iv) animal hygiene and health, (v) transformation of agro-pastoral conflicts
- Development of infrastructure (rehabilitation of wells, ponds, etc.). Diversification of agricultural and livestock activities: diversifying systems and integrating vertical and horizontal approaches
- Capacity building and skill development at the household, family, and community levels
- Promotion of a gender approach
- Diversifying conflict management mechanisms: intra- and inter-community dialogue, inclusive governance, strengthening mediation mechanisms, establishing multi-stakeholder platforms and information sharing, political advocacy



OUR CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF PASTORAL COMMUNITIES





1. ACTION AGAINST HUNGER INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF PASTORAL COMMUNITIES IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

ACF's initiatives to support pastoralism in West and Central Africa are part of a strategic program focused on several key areas:

IMPLEMENTATION OF EARLY WARNING AND MONITORING SYSTEMS

Early warning and monitoring systems are essential for anticipating and responding quickly to crises, particularly in vulnerable contexts like the Sahel. In partnership with ENABEL and ACF ITALIA, ACF deploys sophisticated tools to monitor pastoral conditions in real-time in Mali.

This system is based on a pastoral monitoring approach that collects and analyzes data on the availability and accessibility of pastoral resources, providing critical information to enhance livestock productivity. The process is supported by the Regional Directorates of Animal Production and Industries (DRPIA) and the Regional Directorates of Veterinary Services (DRSV), as well as pastoral organizations such as RBM and APESS. It contributes to strengthening the resilience of pastoralists in the face of crises.

Moreover, data from the Sahel GIS are integrated into the analysis of the Harmonized Framework (CH) by Technical and Financial Partners (PTF), state partners, and both national and international NGOs. The use of spatial data helps refine food and nutrition security analyses, facilitating more effective advocacy and better coordination of emergency actions. This approach allows humanitarian and state actors to anticipate pastoral crises and respond in a more coordinated and informed manner.

DIRECT ASSISTANCE: IMMEDIATE AID TO POPULATIONS AND THEIR LIVESTOCK

VACCINATION - CARE - LIVESTOCK FEED DISTRIBUTION

In times of crisis, direct assistance is crucial. ACF provides immediate aid in the form of vaccinations, veterinary care, and livestock feed distribution. For example, in Niger, the ZAMTAPO program, funded by SDC, provides not only emergency interventions such as mass vaccination but also long-term initiatives such as well rehabilitation and training pastoralists on best practices for pasture management.

SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

PASTURE MANAGEMENT - LAND AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Sustainable natural resource management is a cornerstone of ACF's interventions. Activities like pond rehabilitation, marking transhumance corridors, and land conservation are key initiatives. In Mauritania, the KARAMA project, supported by the European Union, focuses on rehabilitating pastoral ponds and marking transhumance corridors to improve access to resources during drought periods.

DESERTIFIED LAND REGENERATION THROUGH HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT

In Senegal, programs in the Louga and Matam regions train pastoral communities in holistic management, an approach that facilitates the regeneration of degraded soils and increases forage production through planned grazing. Additionally, livelihoods are strengthened by implementing sustainable land management techniques and enhancing value chains to support pastoral practices.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

WELL AND POND REHABILITATION - CORRIDOR ESTABLISHMENT

The development of essential infrastructure is crucial for improving the resilience of pastoral communities. ACF is involved in rehabilitating wells and ponds, as well as establishing corridors to facilitate the movement of herds. In Burkina Faso, the YERETALI project, funded by AFD, includes the creation of infrastructures such as livestock feed storage facilities, which are vital for supporting communities during lean periods.

IMPROVEMENT OF PASTORAL PRACTICES

TRAINING - STRENGTHENING VALUE CHAINS

Improving pastoral practices is at the heart of ACF's efforts. This includes training pastoralists in modern pastoral techniques and strengthening value chains. Training on pasture management and modern pastoral techniques in the ZAMTAPO program in Niger helps pastoralists optimize resource use and increase productivity while preserving the environment.



CAPACITY BUILDING AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening local capacities is crucial for ensuring the sustainability of interventions. ACF collaborates with local partners to develop the skills of pastoral communities, natural resource protection agents, and veterinary professionals. In Burkina Faso, the YERETALI project includes the implementation of the PEWS agro-pastoral monitoring system, which enhances communities' ability to respond to shocks by collecting, analyzing, and sharing relevant data.

ADVOCACY ACTIONS FOR FAVORABLE POLICIES

Advocacy plays a crucial role in creating an environment conducive to pastoral communities. ACF works to promote pastoral-friendly policies by raising awareness among decision-makers and advocating for reforms that support the rights of pastoralists and sustainable resource management. Initiatives such as those supported by the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) in Niger include advocacy and awareness campaigns on peaceful coexistence around shared resources, contributing to more effective conflict management.

2. OUR ACTIVITIES WITH OUR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PARTNERS

The pastoral monitoring system in the Sahel, implemented by ACF, is maintained in partnership with key local actors, such as pastoral organizations (RBM, APESS) and the Ministries of Animal Resources and Livestock. This technical partnership enables the creation of a network of collectors called "pastoral sentinels," which, combined with satellite data, define tailored monitoring and advocacy tools to meet the needs of communities, particularly in assessing disaster risks and vulnerabilities.

The collected information is shared with pastoral stakeholders (herders, pastoral organizations, policymakers) at both national and regional levels to strengthen their ability to respond to crises. Messages in local languages are broadcast via community radio stations to disseminate information and good herding practices. The outreach extends to national coordination bodies (Early Warning System (EWS), Food Security Cluster), workshops of the Harmonized Framework, and, at the regional level, during meetings of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA).

Financial partners support the maintenance of the monitoring system and fund technical improvements for better information transmission. This includes the development of dashboards for decision-makers, featuring mapping and analysis tools, as well as the creation of a mobile app to transfer information to herders.



"With the information systems we've set up with ACF, we believe we can improve our practices (...) If I can get this information every two months, it will only strengthen my resilience."

— [M. Aliou Samba BÂ](#), President of RBM, Senegal

STATE, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS



Vétérinaires
Sans Frontières
Dierenartsen
Zonder Grenzen



DONORS



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l'Union européenne



Federal Foreign Office



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PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS IN MAURITANIA

Several programs and projects with a strong pastoral component are being implemented in Mauritania:

- **Regional Support Project for Pastoralism in the Sahel:** An initiative funded by the World Bank aimed at improving the resilience of pastoralists and pastoral systems in several Sahelian countries, including Mauritania.
- **Interdisciplinary Network Programs on Mobility of Livestock Sectors (RIMFIL), Interdisciplinary Network on the Mobility of Ruminants in West Africa (RIMRAP), and Interdisciplinary Network on the Mobility of Risk Reduction Devices (RIMDIR):** Coordinated by Enabel and funded by the European Union, these programs aim to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable populations facing food and nutrition insecurity.

These programs and projects include several activities:

- **Animal Health:** Improving veterinary services and vaccination campaigns to reduce livestock mortality and morbidity.
- **Natural Resource Management:** Developing and maintaining water points, pastures, and transhumance corridors for sustainable use of natural resources.
- **Market Access:** Facilitating access to markets for pastoral products and improving infrastructure and marketing services.
- **Pastoral Risk Management:** Establishing early warning systems and crisis management mechanisms to help pastoral communities cope with climate shocks and other risks.

These joint efforts aim to secure the livelihoods of pastoralists, reduce risks related to mobility and climate conditions, and promote sustainable and resilient development of the pastoral sector in the Sahel.

PASTORALISM STAKEHOLDERS IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Pastoralism stakeholders in West and Central Africa include regional umbrella organizations (RBM and AP ESS), technical support entities, and research institutions. NGOs and public and private donors fund projects to strengthen the sustainability and resilience of pastoral systems.

REGIONAL UMBRELLA PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS (RUPO)

The Billital Maroobé Network (RBM) is a regional organization that brings together associations and cooperatives of pastoralists and livestock farmers in West Africa. RBM was created to advocate for the rights and interests of pastoralists, promoting sustainable pastoralism, food security, and economic development for pastoral communities.

The Association for the Promotion of Livestock in the Sahel and Savannah (AP ESS) is a non-governmental organization founded in 1989. It unites livestock farmers across West and Central African countries with a mission to support the sustainable development of livestock farming. AP ESS works to improve the living conditions of livestock farmers by enhancing their technical and organizational capacities, facilitating access to animal health services, and supporting sustainable natural resource management.

The West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF) is a sub-regional organization composed of national agricultural research systems from 23 countries in West and Central Africa. Established in 1987, CORAF's mandate is to coordinate and facilitate innovative, high-impact research outputs needed to unlock the agricultural potential of West and Central Africa.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT ACTORS

Technical support actors provide guidance, services, and resources to aid pastoral activities. Here are the main actors and their roles:

Institute of Research and Application of Development Methods (IRAM): Provides analyses and technical advice to enhance rural development practices, including pastoralism.

Sahel and West Africa Club / Food Crisis Prevention Network (SWAC/ RPCA): Offers analysis and recommendations on food security and rural development, with a focus on food crisis prevention.

African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR): Supports African countries in managing and developing animal resources, including animal health and pastoral practices.

World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH): Works on global animal health, including the monitoring and control of animal diseases, which is crucial for pastoral communities.

Hub Rural: Provides a platform for consultation and coordination of rural development actions in West Africa.

RESEARCH ACTORS

Research actors conduct studies and provide scientific knowledge to improve pastoral practices and policies. Key actors and their roles include:

Centre for International Cooperation in Agronomic Research for Development / Pastoralism and Drylands Hub (CIRAD/PPZS): Conducts research on sustainable development in pastoral areas and adaptations to climate change.

International Trypanotolerance Centre (ITC): Focuses on research and control of trypanosomiasis, diseases affecting livestock in pastoral regions.

Inter-State School of Veterinary Science and Medicine of Dakar (EISMV): Trains veterinarians and conducts research to improve animal health in pastoral areas.

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI): Researches agricultural and food policies, including those impacting pastoral systems.

West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD): Coordinates agricultural research to enhance productivity and sustainability in pastoral systems in West and Central Africa.

International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI): Conducts research to improve livestock productivity and resource management in pastoral systems.

International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED): Works on sustainable development issues, including land and resource management in pastoral areas.

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT): Conducts research on crops and agricultural practices suited to arid zones, often inhabited by pastoral communities.

European Space Agency (ESA): Provides satellite data essential for monitoring livestock conditions and climate change.

Joint Research Center (JRC): The European public research center responsible for developing algorithms for Earth observation products under the European Union's COPERNICUS program.

Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO): A private research center tasked with implementing satellite data algorithms for the COPERNICUS program products.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Les ONG jouent un rôle essentiel dans le soutien aux communautés pastorales à travers des projets de développement, des programmes de secours et des initiatives de plaidoyer.

Action Against Hunger (see 3)

Acting for Life: Supports the livelihoods of rural and pastoral communities by building capacities and implementing sustainable development projects.

ARED (Association for the Promotion of Education and Training Abroad): Provides education and training to pastoral communities to enhance their skills and resilience.

Agridrara: Development of innovative agricultural and pastoral practices, strengthening rural infrastructure.

Brooke: Dedicated to the welfare of working animals in developing countries, providing veterinary care and promoting animal welfare practices.

Care Denmark: Implements climate resilience and food security projects, with a focus on vulnerable populations, including pastoralists.

Élevages Sans Frontières: Improves the living conditions of herders in Africa by providing technical and material support, training herders, and promoting sustainable livestock practices.

Gret: An NGO dedicated to sustainable development and improving living conditions in rural areas through food security, agriculture, and natural resource management projects.

HEKS EPER: Supports sustainable development and social justice projects, focusing on food security, agriculture, and strengthening local capacities in rural communities.

OXFAM: Advocates for pastoralist rights, manages food security programs, and implements climate resilience projects.

SNV: Strengthens local capacities, improves agricultural and pastoral practices, and promotes inclusive rural development.

SOS Sahel: Focuses on food security and sustainable natural resource management in the Sahel, enhancing the resilience of pastoralist communities to environmental and socio-economic challenges.

VSF (Vétérinaires Sans Frontières): Improves animal health, strengthens herders' capacities, and promotes sustainable livestock practices.

Terre des Hommes: Works to strengthen the capacities of herders and pastoral organizations to better manage crises by supporting these communities through training, advocacy, and development projects.

DONORS FOR PASTORALISM IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

The main donors for pastoralism in West and Central Africa share common goals of sustainable development, climate resilience, food security, and natural resource management.

They are divided into several categories, each with its own priorities and funding criteria (Appendix 1: Criteria, Priorities, and Alignment of Key Pastoralism Donors in West Africa). Among multilateral development banks and international financial institutions, we find the **African Development Bank (AfDB)**, the **Islamic Development Bank (IDB)**, and the **World Bank**.

These institutions focus on large-scale projects aimed at improving infrastructure, regional integration, agricultural productivity, and the resilience of pastoral systems.

Government and public agencies, such as the **Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)**, the **French Development Agency (AFD)**, the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**, the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**, and the **Department for International Development (DFID)** of the UK, finance: Projects focused on rural development, food security, health, and education, supporting local initiatives and strengthening the capacities of pastoral communities.

The **European Union (EU)** plays a crucial role in funding projects focused on food security, climate change, and rural development.

Finally, foundations and private entities, such as the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**, the **Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation**, the **ACF Foundation for Research**, the **Danish International Development Agency (Danida)**, as well as international agricultural development funds such as the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**, support innovative and sustainable projects with an emphasis on social inclusion, technological innovation, and the climate resilience of pastoral systems.

Although the **FAO** is not a donor, it provides significant support to pastoralism in West Africa through various programs. It focuses on improving food security, promoting climate-resilient pastoral practices, and the sustainable management of natural resources. By collaborating with governments, regional organizations, and local communities, the FAO ensures its initiatives align with local development priorities.

The **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** plays an essential role in supporting pastoralism in West Africa by improving the management of seasonal livestock movements, enhancing their security and protection, and supporting their capacity for natural resource management. The IOM focuses on food security, climate adaptation, and regional cooperation, working closely with governments, international organizations, and local communities to align its programs with local development priorities.

This list is not exhaustive but illustrates the diversity of actors involved.

Figure 1. Les trois piliers du pastoralisme

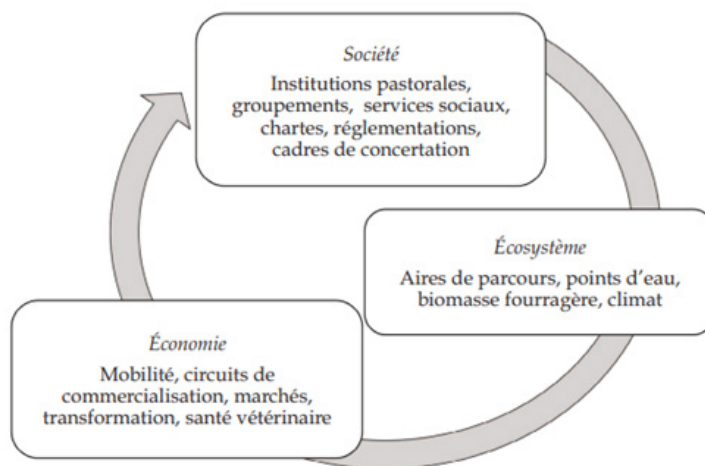
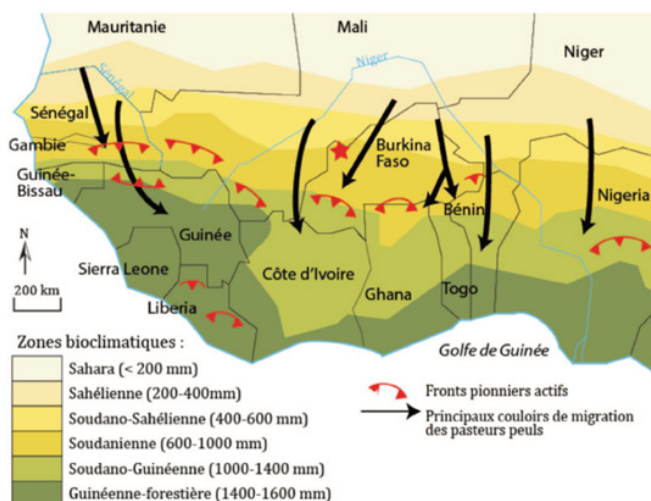


FIGURE 1 : [HTTPS://WWW.TRESOR.ECONOMIE.GOUV.FR/](https://www.tresor.economie.gouv.fr/)

Carte 2. Migrations pastorales et fronts pionniers agricoles en Afrique de l'Ouest¹



importante des économies de la sous-région, comme l'indique le tableau ci-dessous.

	Burkina Faso	Mali	Mauritanie	Niger	Sénégal	Tchad
Croissance moyenne 2021	6,9 %	5,8 %	5,1%	3,2 %	4,5 %	10,9 %
PIB 2021 (millions \$ courant)	19 738	19 140	9 996	14 915	27 625	11 780
Aide publique au développement 2020 (millions \$ courant)	1731	1566	644	1928	1611	1037
Part de l'agriculture en 2020 (1) ; 2021 (2) (% PIB)	18,4 % (1)	36,0 % (2)	20,2 % (1)	36,4 % (2)	15,3 % (2)	54 % (2)
Part de l'élevage (% PIB) 2020,2021	18%	15%	10%	11%	7%	15%
Indicateurs démographiques						
Population totale en 2021 (en milliers)	22101	21905	4615	25253	16877	17180
Population rurale (% population totale) 2021	68.8	55.3	43.9	83.2	51.4	76.2

Tableau 1 : agrégats économiques des pays du sahel : indicateurs économiques, de développement humain et démographiques

Sources: World Bank, « World Development Indicators » (2023), Ministères du Plan dans les pays concernés, site

<https://www.tresor.economie.gouv.fr>

¹ States Alliance: The Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral Sector at the Heart of the SIAEL in Ouagadougou

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WBQgn3Re30>

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