



**BIMONTHLY BULLETIN OF  
PASTORAL WATCH IN TIMES  
OF COVID SEPTEMBER-  
OCTOBER 2021**



**October 2021**

The pastoral monitoring system set up by the Réseau Billital Maroobe and Action Contre la Faim, with the support of technical partners (see logos on the last page of the newsletter) to measure the economic impacts of COVID-19 on pastoral populations, is based on the optimisation of existing systems (information monitoring, conflict alert and prevention, counting and mapping of transhumance movements) that have been established by pastoral organisations and their partners using a network of key informants. The different information systems provide periodic : (i) alerts in case of disasters, conflicts or threats; (ii) information on the situation of pastoral households, the functioning of markets and the support received by the pastoral sector; (iii) a mapping of herders and animals currently blocked in the southern countries of the West African region (Benin, Togo, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire) due to sanitary and political measures in the context of the coronavirus pandemic; (iv) the identification of transhumant animal assembly points currently in use as a result of mobility restrictions linked, at least in part, to the pandemic; and (v) a mapping of pastoralist movements along the central transhumance corridor, in order to better understand the dynamics and characteristics of internal (national) and cross-border transhumance movements.

The information collected can be viewed through several public access analysis platforms. Link to Dashboards: [Pastoral Watch Dashboard](#); [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

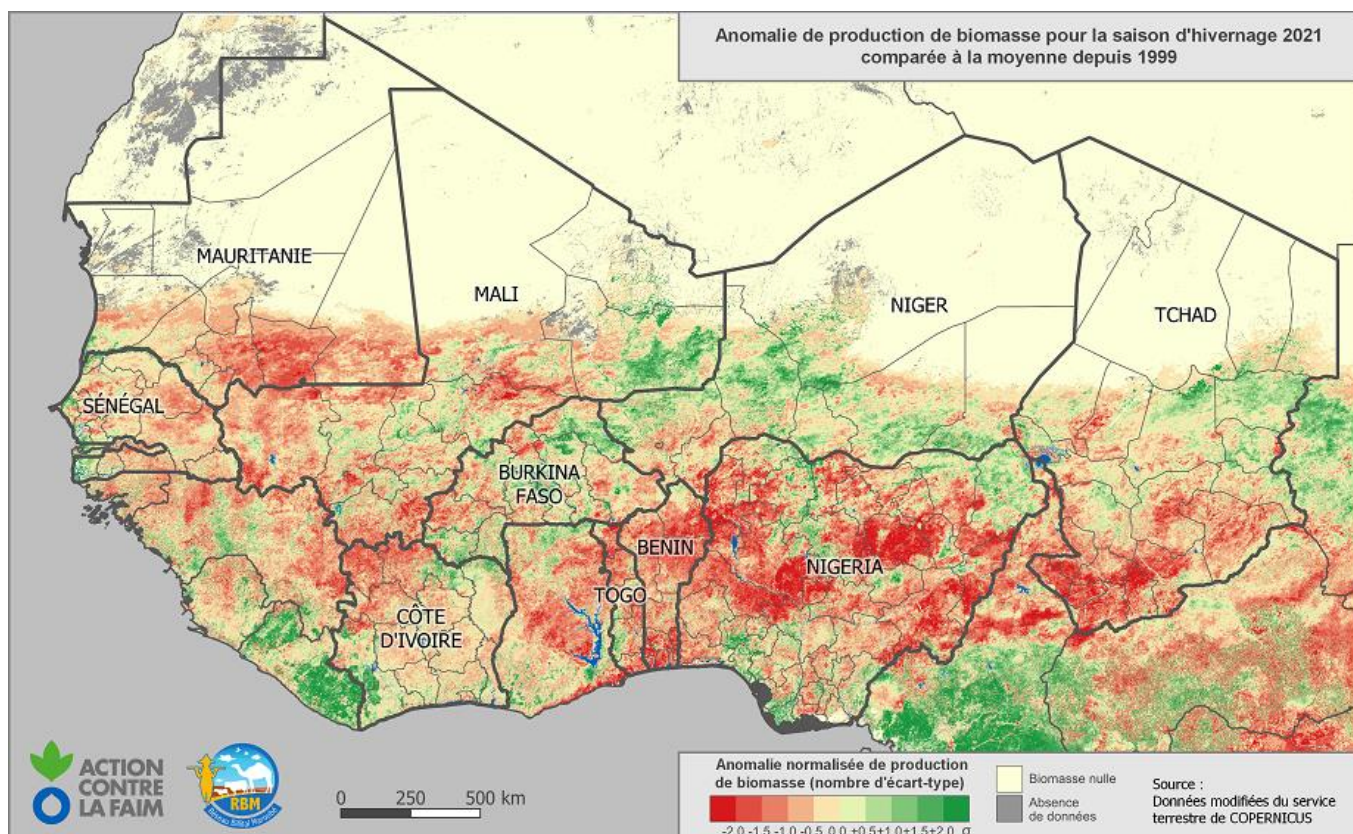
- Fodder production is characterized by a strong deficit in several pastoral areas of Mauritania (Tagant, Assaba, Guidimakha, Gorgol, Hodh El Chargui and Hodh El Gharbi regions) and Mali (Timbuktu region), as well as in the pastoral areas of Niger and Chad;
- The passage of the early bushfires, which were particularly intense and which ravaged many pastures, further accentuated the fodder deficit recorded;
- The very high level of the deficit suggests the risk of an early and long lean period, as well as the possibility of premature transhumance departures of herder families who are already suffering from recurrent insecurity;
- The economic context remains difficult, mainly due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- The security situation, which remains tense, especially in the Central Sahel, severely hinders herd mobility, as well as access to pasture and water resources.



## Alerts issued during september and october

Type of incidents / alerts	Pays	Region	Province	Municipality	Village	Date	Assessment of the incident
Agropastoral conflict	Niger	TILLABERI	TORODI	Makalondi	Fayali	06/09/2021	A transhumance corridor has been annexed by fields and this has created tensions between farmers and herders in the area.
Attack	Niger	TILLABERI	TORODI	Makalondi	Bodoli	03/09/2021	Early in the morning, non-state armed groups (NSAGs) attacked a truck transporting timber. The vehicle was burn, but the driver and his apprentices escaped the attackers.
Attack	Niger	TILLABERI	TORODI	Makalondi	Tangounga	06/09/2021	NSAGs laid mines on the road leading to the locality of Tangounga. Defence and security forces were able to defuse the explosive devices and arrested some members of NSAGs.
Agropastoral conflict	Burkina Faso	Est	Tapoa	KANTCHARI	Boudiéri	06/09/2021	Following a land dispute between two families, a shepherd was shot by a farmer.
Attack	Niger	TILLABERI	TORODI	Makalondi	Djadjali/ boni	08/09/2021	Members of an armed group raided the village of Djadjali and ordered the inhabitants to join their group or leave the village.
Agropastoral conflict	Mali	Gao	Ansongo	Tessit	Tarajaba	06/09/2021	A dispute broke out between two herders around a watercourse, but the incident was resolved by mediators
Agropastoral conflict	Mali	Gao	Ansongo	Tessit	Tinatissane	08/09/2021	A farmer seized three cows from a farmer's herd after the animals wandered into his field.
Removal of livestock	Mali	Gao	Ansongo	Tessit	Fitili	09/09/2021	Dozens of animals were taken away by unidentified gunmen
Agropastoral conflict	Mali	Gao	Ansongo	Tessit	Koko	10/09/2021	A conflict broke out between a farmer and a farmer because of field damage.
Removal of livestock	Mali	Gao	Ansongo	Tessit	Tinabaw	12/09/2021	A livestock abduction initiative failed.
Removal of livestock	Mali	Gao	Ansongo	Tessit	Welded	16/09/2021	About 20 animals were taken away by unidentified armed men.
Abduction of people and livestock	Mali	Gao	Ansongo	Tessit	Tinalamome	18/09/2021	A trader was abducted and many animals from the market were taken away by unidentified armed men.
Removal of livestock	Mali	Gao	Ansongo	Tessit	Tinanor	19/09/2021	A dozen of animals were taken away by unknown persons.
Inter-community conflict	Burkina Faso	Sahel	Seno	SEYTENGA	Bandedaga Gourmantché Seno tioni Oussaltan Dongobé Banguel Daou Didiolé	27/08/2021	An inter-community conflict was sparked by the cutting of trees to fence in fields.
Cattle theft	Niger	TILLABERI	TORODI	Makalondi	Dabondi	25/09/2021	More than 40 cows were stooled.
Removal of livestock	Mali	Gao	Ansongo	Tessit	Bakal	23/09/2021	A dozen of cattle were taken away by unidentified armed men.
Agropastoral conflict	Burkina Faso	Sahel	Oudalan	Tin_Akoff	Tin.akoff Massifigui Rafnamane Tin Tin'rhassane.zalaya nane Fadar fadar nord	04/09/2021	One conflict was caused by animals roaming in unharvested fields.
Attack	Niger	TILLABERI	TORODI	Makalondi	Makalondi	06/10/2021	6 people were murdered by NSAGs in the village of Lérrou.
Removal	Niger	TILLABERI	TORODI	Makalondi	Makalondi	07/10/2021	1 person was abducted by NSAGs in the village of Lérrou.
Attack	Niger	TILLABERI	TORODI	Makalondi	Makalondi	08/10/2021	Several people have fled from Boni to Makalondi, following the abductions.
Attack	Niger	TILLABERI	TORODI	Makalondi	Makalondi	11/10/2021	NSAGs broke into the village of Djajel Pana and ordered the officials and their families to leave the village or they would be killed.
Agropastoral conflict	Mali	Gao	Ansongo	Tessit	Iminhag	03/10/2021	A dispute broke out between a farmer and a stockbreeder over field damage, but the incident was resolved amicably after the farmer was compensated.
Conflict	Burkina Faso	Sahel	Seno	SEYTENGA	Soffokel Seno Seytenga–Tiondi	20/09/2021	Animals have died after eating fodder and drinking water polluted by cyanide spilled after the gold miners' use.
Conflict	Burkina Faso	Sahel	Seno	SEYTENGA	Tandakoye	16/09/2021	Conflicts have broken out between herders and gold miners using cyanide.

## Pasture availability and feed shortages

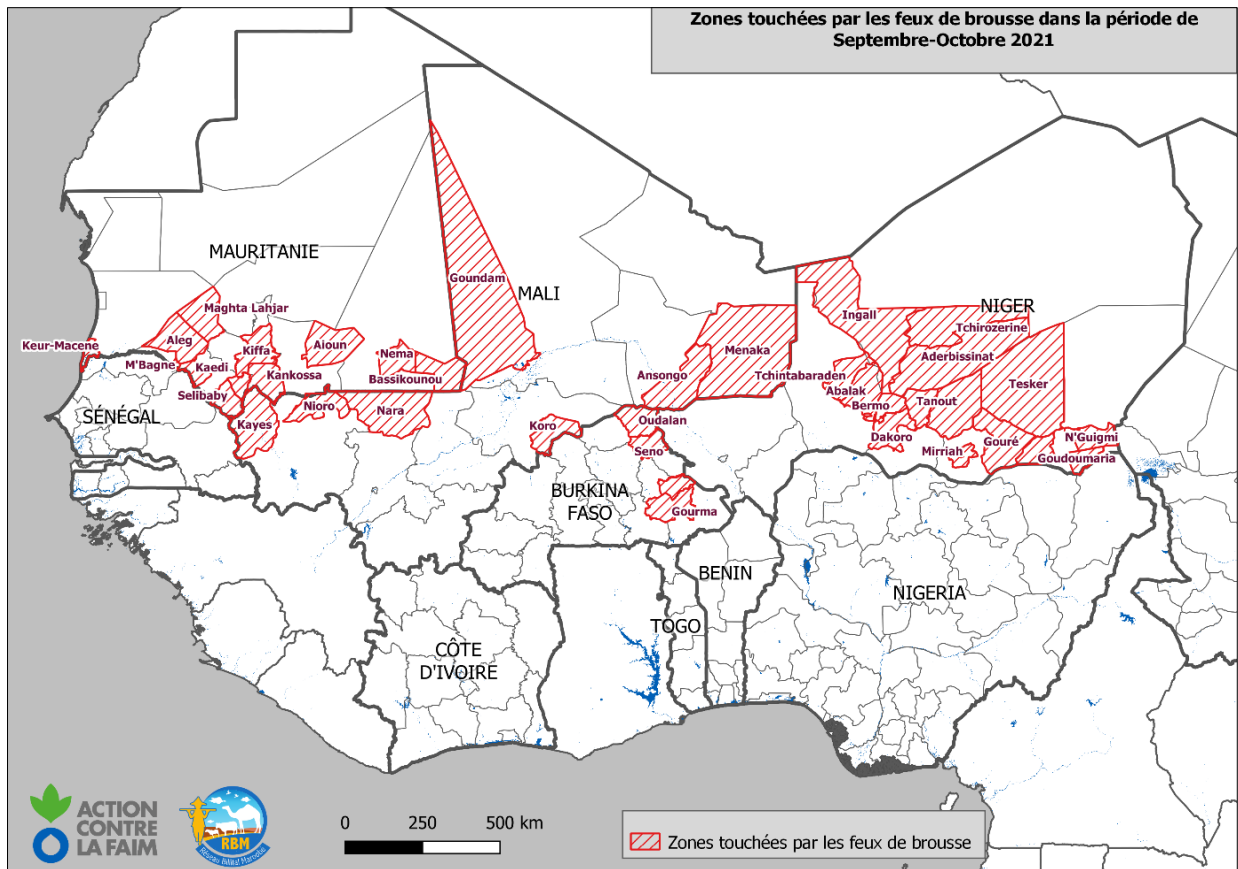


In general, the level of biomass production in the Sahel during the 2021 season is characterised by a clear drop compared to that of 2020, which is considered exceptional. The season is close to normal in the southern part of the Sahel zone. Significant deficits are recorded in Mauritania, in the wilayas of Hodh El Chargui and Hodh El Gharbi, as well as in the northern wilayas of Asaba, Gorghol, Tagant and Guidimakha. In Mali, the Timbuktu region recorded sharply contrasting production, with pockets of very marked deficit in the northwestern part of Goundam, but also in Timbuktu and Gourma Rharous.

These deficits suggest that there is a risk of an early and long pastoral lean season for herder families already suffering from recurrent insecurity. In the northern part of the Sahelian zone as a whole, there is a low level of fodder production, which should result in a relatively early pastoral lean season in 2022.

However, if herd mobility is not hindered, herders could find pasture in other areas that are characterised by good fodder production. It is worth mentioning that several areas with pasture, such as those in northern Burkina Faso, Menaka in Mali, and some of the communes of Tahoua and Tillabéri in Niger, are affected by high levels of insecurity, which considerably hinders the mobility of herders and their flocks in accessing natural resources.

## Bush fires increase fodder deficit



The pastoral season was marked by insufficient rainfall and its early cessation in several regions. Moreover, the bushfire phenomenon was early, as it occurred at the height of the rainy season, i.e. in July and August, which is supposed to be the wettest time of the year. These fires have reached a considerable scale in the Sahelian pastoral zone, which greatly reduces the stock of natural resources generated by rainfall.

The commune of Bermo (a pastoral area in the Maradi region of Niger) is an illustrative example of the situation of serious forage shortages. Aware of this situation, local actors organised a community forum on 5 October 2021 on the preservation and protection of pastoral areas against bush fires. The commune has already recorded seven (07) brush fires that have destroyed 936,685 hectares of grazing land. The forum urged grassroots communities to be more vigilant and to ensure the survey of pastures. It recalled the regulatory framework relating to bushfire management and aimed at mitigating the consequences of bushfires on fodder resources (herbaceous and woody). The forum strongly recommended that each actor assume his or her share of responsibility in the fight against bushfires by committing to the prevention and securing of pastoral resources.

The municipal council asked the participants to provide their support in order to make the local bushfire control system more effective and to guarantee better protection and security of fodder. He also insisted on the involvement of associative structures in the dynamics of monitoring and citizen control for a more effective prevention and securing of pastoral resources.

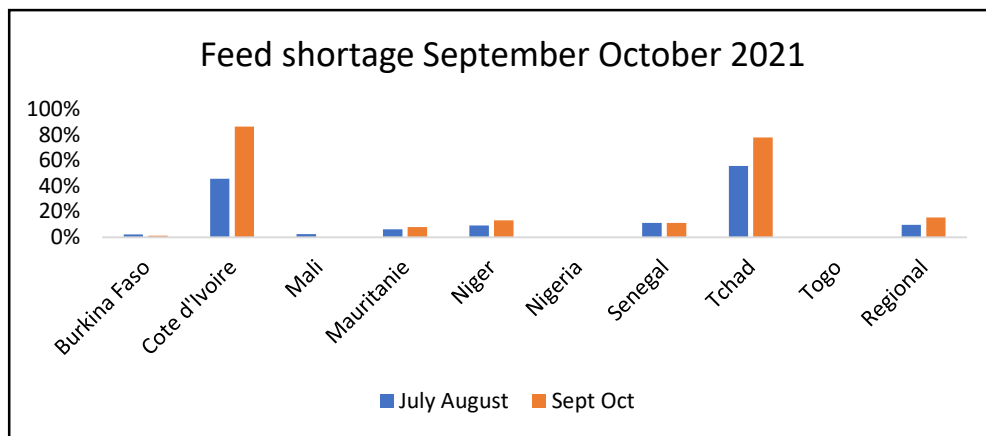
## Availability of feed shortages

At the regional level, an increase in the proportion of relays reporting a shortage of livestock feed is observed. Indeed, the proportion increased from 10% to 15% between the July-August period and September-October 2021.

At the national level, Côte d'Ivoire and Chad are the countries in which the percentage of relays mentioning shortage of livestock feed has increased the most between the two periods. In Côte d'Ivoire, 86% of the Relays noted a shortage of feed in their areas in September and October, while the proportion was 46% in July-August. In Chad, the proportion increased from 56% to 78%.

In Togo, the relays unanimously declared that there is no shortage of livestock feed.

In Sahelian countries such as Burkina Faso and Mali, the proportion of relays reporting a shortage of livestock feed has increased from 2% to 1% and finally to 0%. At the end of the winter season, an increase in the shortage of livestock feed is reported in Mauritania and Niger. In these two countries, the percentage of relays reporting such a phenomenon has increased from 6% to 8% and 9% to 13% respectively.



## Tensions around water points

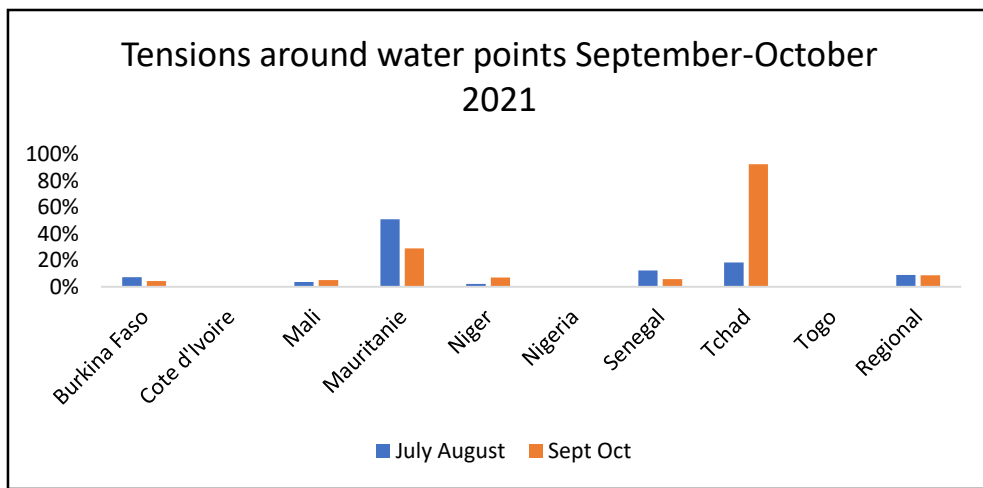
With the rainy season and the filling of surface water points, the availability of water for watering has increased. At the regional level, tensions around the points have decreased. They have remained stable with 9% of the relays mentioning them in July-August as well as in September-October.

In coastal countries such as Côte d'Ivoire and Togo, the relays all maintained that there are no conflicts around water points. The rates are 0% for these two countries.

Chad is characterized by the considerable increase in the proportion of Relays who report conflicts around water points. Indeed, the percentage of relays increased from 19% to 93% between the two periods.

A considerable decrease in tensions around water points is highlighted in Mauritania. The proportions fell from 51% in July-August to 29% in September-October.

Similarly, a decline is observed in Burkina Faso and Senegal, where the proportions have fallen from 7% to 5% and 12% to 6% respectively.



## Market and economic activity

The opening of markets and economic activities have returned to their normal pre-pandemic levels. Regionally, markets remained open according to 96% of relays in September-October.

In the Sahelian countries, 100% of the relays report the opening of markets in Chad. In Burkina Faso and Niger, a slight decrease in the proportion of relays is observed, since it went respectively from 89% to 85% and 95% to 90% between July-August and September-October.

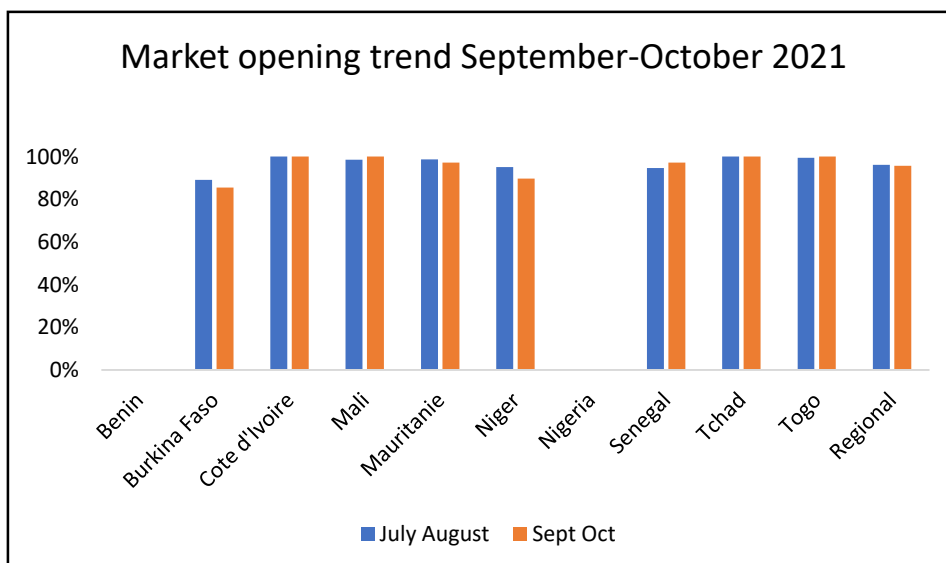
In the coastal countries, the markets remained open according to 100% of the relays in Côte d'Ivoire and Togo.

On a regional scale, the cessation of economic activities is reported by only 4% of relays in July-August and September-October.

In several coastal countries (Togo and Côte d'Ivoire) and Sahelian countries such as (Burkina Faso and Mali), the relays generally emphasise that economic activities are going on normally.

The conduct of economic activities has improved in Mauritania and Chad, where the proportion of relays mentioning a halt to activities fell from 10% to 4% and 11% to 0% respectively between July-August and September-October.

In Senegal, there is a slight recovery of economic activities. The proportion of relays indicating a halt in economic activities has fallen from 31% to 26%.



## Overweight status of the animals

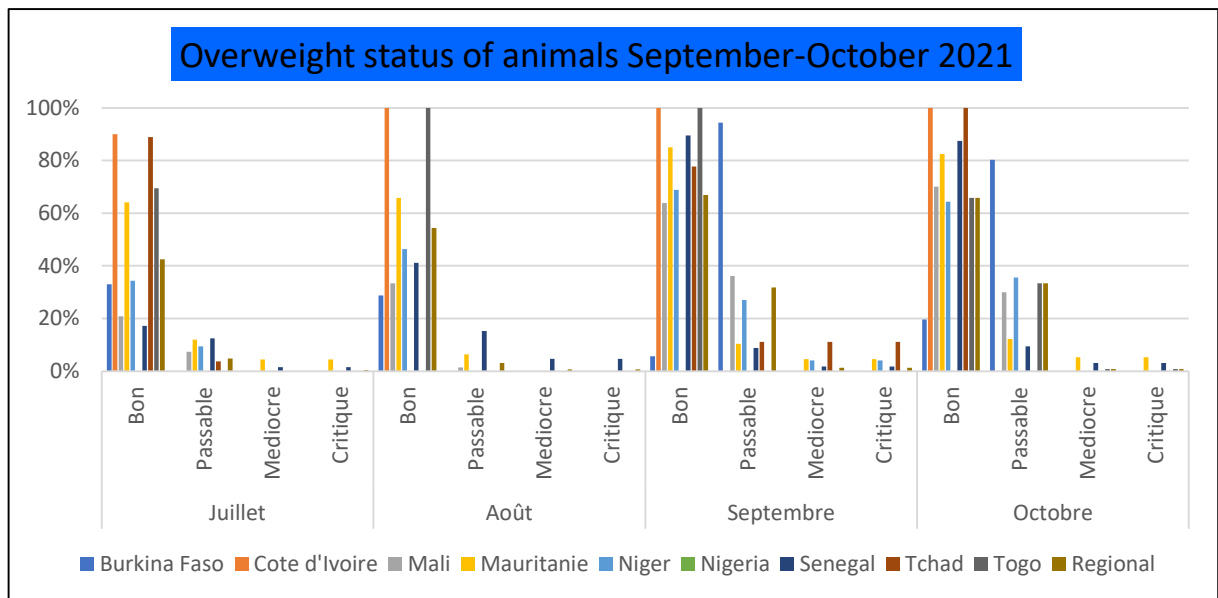
The state of body weight of animals in all the countries covered by the monitoring system is good according to 67% of the relays in September-October. This represents a clear improvement compared to the previous period when the proportion was 43%. The condition of the animals is fair according to 33% of the relays. No relay reported a poor or critical condition.

In the Sahelian countries, an improvement in the state of body condition of the animals is observed between July-August and September-October. In Mali, for example, 64% of animals in September and 70% of animals in October were in good body condition, compared with 21% in July and 33% in August.

In Mauritania, the state of overweight is good according to 85% and 70% of the relays in September and October, while in July-August, only 64% and 66% of the relays gave such an assessment.

In Chad, there is a decrease in the proportion of relays who report a good state of overweight, compared to the July-August period. Indeed, the proportion has dropped from 89% to 78%.

In coastal countries, such as Côte d'Ivoire and Togo, 100% of the relays report a good state of body weight of the animals in September. In October, the Relays in Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal unanimously maintain that the state of body weight is good in their areas.





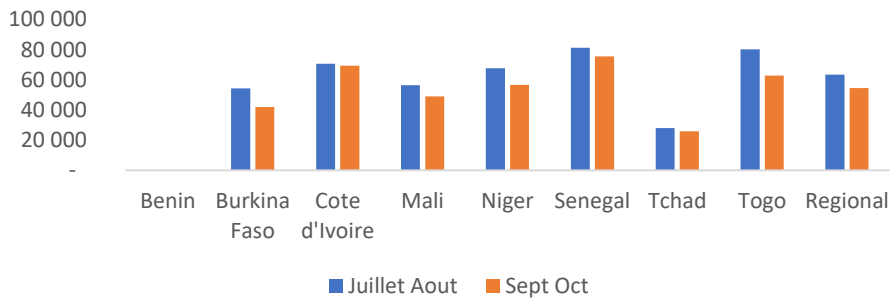
## Evolution of goat and sheep prices

In all the countries covered by the monitoring system, a decrease in goat and sheep prices was observed in the wake of the Tabaski period. The average price of small ruminants fell by 8%, from 33,069 CFA francs to 28,385 CFA francs.

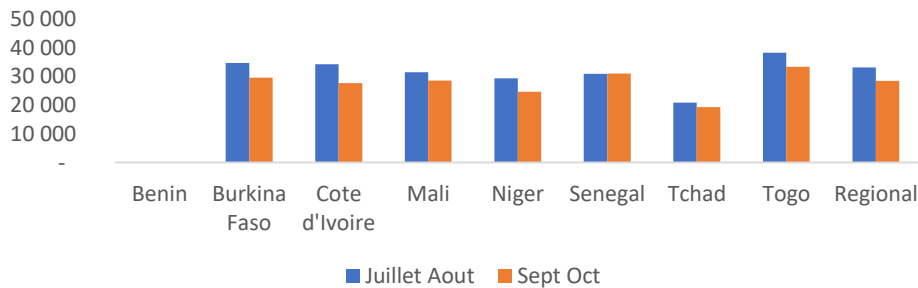
In the Sahelian countries, goat prices fell by 8% in Burkina Faso, 5% in Mali and 9% in Niger. The same phenomenon is observed in the coastal countries, with the exception of Senegal where the delta in goat prices is 0%. In Côte d'Ivoire, the delta in goat prices is 11% and in Togo 8%.

The average price of sheep fell from 63,461 CFA francs to 54,483 CFA francs between July-August and September-October, a delta of 8%. A considerable drop was observed in Burkina Faso, with a delta of 13%, in Togo, with a delta of 12%, and in Niger with a delta of 9%.

### Sheep prices



### Goat prices



## Cereal prices

Regionally, the price per kilogram of cereals fell slightly between July-August and September-October, except for sorghum and maize, for which the delta was 3% and 8% respectively.

In some Sahelian countries, namely Burkina Faso and Chad, there has been a slight decrease in rice and sorghum prices.

According to the relays, the price of millet increased slightly in several Sahelian countries, notably Burkina Faso (1% delta), Mali (3% delta) and Chad (3% delta).

In coastal countries, such as Senegal, the price of millet is up by 2%. In Côte d'Ivoire and Togo, the price of maize is up by 12% and 3% respectively.

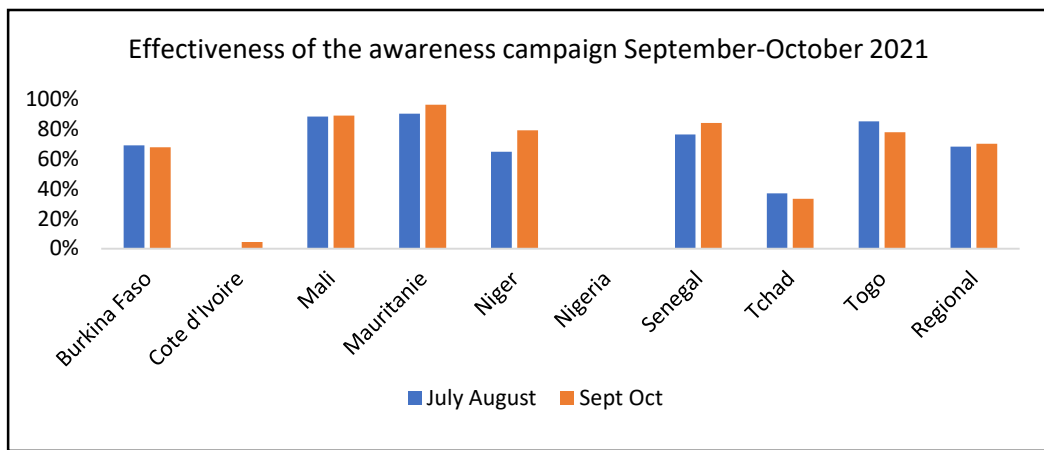
The evolution of the terms of trade remains favourable to herders. On a regional scale, the sale of one goat allows one to buy a 100 kg bag of cereals (millet, sorghum or maize).

## Effectiveness of the campaigns against COVID-19

At the regional level, a slight increase in the effectiveness of the campaigns is highlighted. The proportion of relays who feel this way has risen from 68% to 70%.

In coastal countries, such as Togo for example, the effectiveness of campaigns is declining. The proportion of relays appreciating positively the effectiveness of the campaigns went from 85% in July-August to 75% in September-October. In Côte d'Ivoire, only 4% of the Relays feel that the campaigns are effective in September-October. In July-August, the proportion was 0%. In Senegal, the effectiveness of the campaigns is increasing, with regard to the proportion of relays which increased from 76% to 84%.

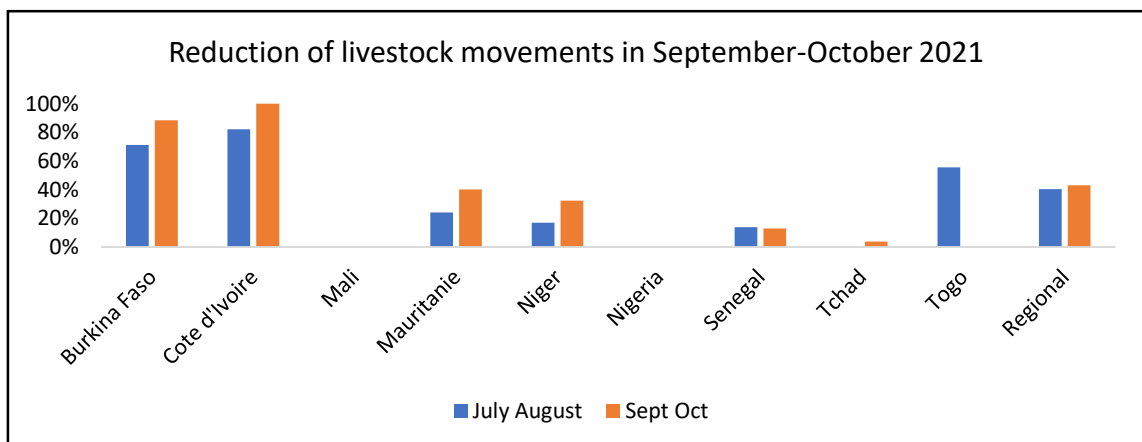
In some Sahelian countries, such as Burkina Faso and Chad, the effectiveness of campaigns is slightly down. The proportions fell from 85% to 78% between July-August and September-October in Chad and from 69% to 68% in Burkina Faso. A considerable increase in the proportion of relays mentioning the effectiveness of the campaigns is observed in Niger: 79% in September-October, against 65% in July-August.



## Reduction of livestock movements

At the regional level, the proportion of relays indicating that there is a reduction in livestock movements is increasing. It went from 40% in July-August to 43% in September-October. In the Sahelian countries, livestock movements are increasing according to the relays. In Burkina Faso, the proportion of relays who provide such information has increased from 71% to 89%. In Mauritania, it has increased from 24% to 40%. In Mali, the relays as a whole maintain that there was no reduction in livestock movements in July-August and September-October.

In Chad, only 4% of the relays mention a reduction in livestock movements in September-October. In Côte d'Ivoire, the proportion of relays reporting a reduction in livestock movements rose from 82% to 100%. This reflects a complete stabilization of the herds. In Togo, while 56% of the relays reported a reduction in livestock movements in July-August, no relay reported a reduction in livestock movements in September-October.



## Large gatherings

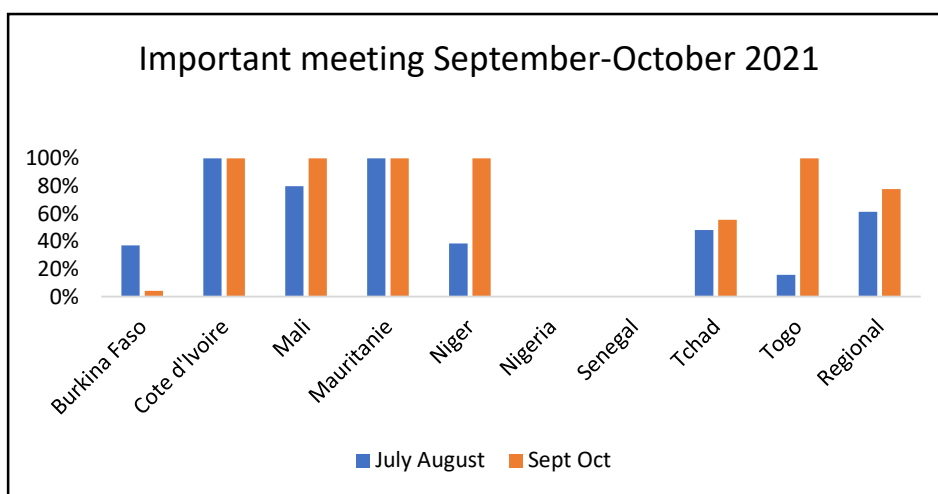
On a regional scale, the use of rallies is increasing. 78% of the relays say that there were major gatherings in September-October. The proportion was 61% in July-August.

In some countries such as Côte d'Ivoire and Mauritania, 100% of the Relays report the holding of important gatherings in July-August as well as in September-October.

In Mali, Niger and Togo, all the Relays reported regular large public and private gatherings of people in September-October, while the proportions were 80% in Mali, 38% in Niger and 16% in Togo in July-August.

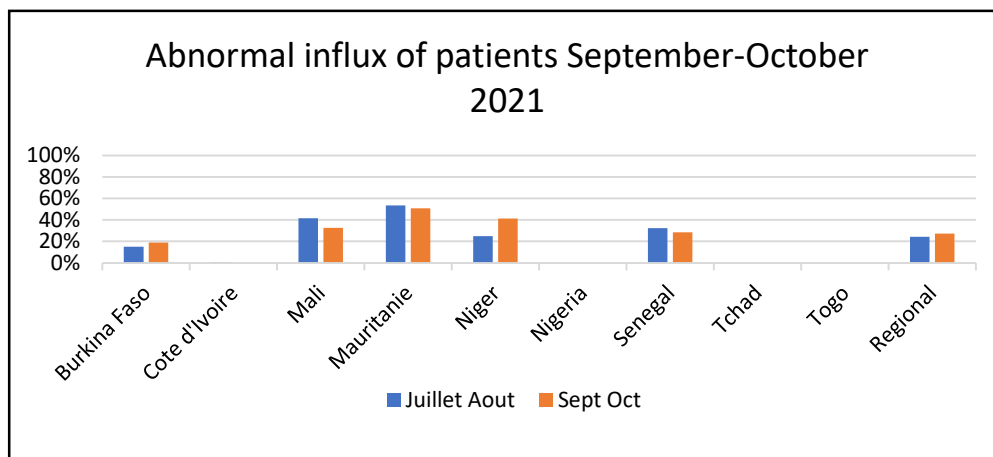
In Burkina Faso, the analysis of the data collected in the framework of the watch shows that gatherings have considerably decreased. Only 4% of the relays mention important gatherings in September-October, against 37% in July-August. This decrease is explained more by the deterioration of the security situation in the country during the September-October period than by the fear of the pandemic.

In Chad, large gatherings are on the rise. The proportions rose from 48% to 56% between July-August and September-October.



## Abnormal influx in health centres

On a regional scale, the abnormal influx of patients increased by 3% between the July-August and September-October periods. In two coastal countries, namely Côte d'Ivoire and Togo, all the Relays maintain that the influx of patients is normal in their areas. In Senegal, the abnormal influx of patients is decreasing, since the proportion of Relays has dropped from 32% to 28%. In several Sahelian countries, the influx of patients is increasing. This is the case in Burkina Faso (the proportion of Relays has increased from 15% to 19%) and Niger (25% to 41%). In Chad, no Relays reported an abnormal influx of patients.



## Support to the pastoral sector

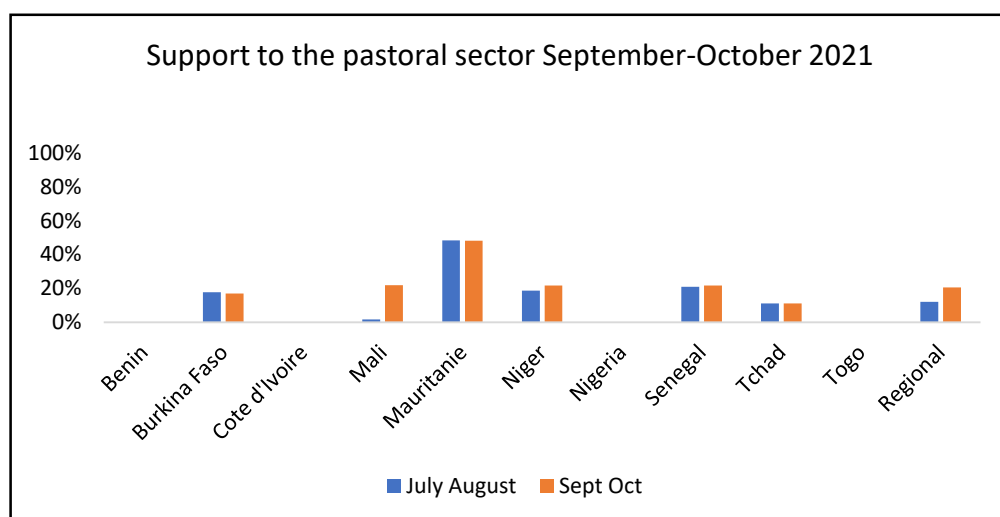
At the regional level, the pastoral sector experienced an increase in support between July-August and September-October, with the proportion of Relays reporting such a phenomenon rising from 12% to 21%.

With regard to the Sahelian countries, Mauritania stands out by the fact that support to the sector is reported by 48% of the relays both in July-August and in September-October.

In Niger, support to the pastoral sector is increasing, because the proportion of relays has risen from 19% to 22%.

In Chad, support to the sector has stagnated: the proportion of relays remains constant at 11% in July-August and September-October. On the other hand, in Burkina Faso, it has dropped slightly, from 18% to 17% between the two periods.

In several coastal countries, the relays report the absence of support for the pastoral sector. This is the case, in particular, in Côte d'Ivoire and Togo. In Senegal, support to the pastoral sector has slightly increased (proportion of Relays from 21% to 22%) between July-August and September-October.



## Suspected cases of animal disease

In all the countries covered by the surveillance system, 14% of relays reported suspected cases of animal disease in September-October. The proportion of relays is up by 2%, compared to the July-August period.

In the Sahelian countries, the situation is contrasted. In Burkina Faso, no Relays reported suspected cases of animal disease. In Mali, 3% of Relays reported suspected cases of disease.

Niger is the Sahelian country that records the most suspected cases of disease, according to the Relays. The proportion of Relays reporting cases of animal disease is increasing, from 26% to 39%. On the other hand, the proportion is down in Chad by more than 30% (70% in July-August and only 33% in September-October).

In Mauritania, the proportion has increased from 13% in July-August to 31% in September-October.

In the coastal countries, the situation is also contrasted. The proportion of Relays reporting suspected cases of disease is decreasing in Côte d'Ivoire (26% in September-October against 55% in July-August). On the other hand, in Togo, the proportion of Relays reporting suspected cases of disease has increased from 5% in July-August to 21% in September-October.

## Number of dead animals

On a regional scale, only 3% of relays report a significant number of dead animals in September-October.

In Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo, no relay reported large numbers of animal deaths.

The highest proportion of Relays who mention animal deaths is in Mauritania (7%). In Mali and Niger, 4% of the Relays report a significant number of dead animals.

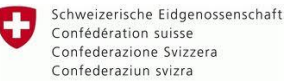
## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop response programs to the next lean season which promises to be early and difficult in the pastoral zone, based on
  - anticipation (destocking, vaccination or constitution of food stocks for example),
  - response to acute needs (monetary transfers to meet basic needs),
  - activities of collective management of shared resources,
  - establishment of committees for the management of disputes and conflicts over land,
  - social cohesion and conflict prevention. ;
- Conduct advocacy campaigns with the States to facilitate transhumance movements to regions and countries where natural resources are available;
- Conduct awareness-raising, prevention and security campaigns for pastoral resources against bushfires, ensuring the involvement of all stakeholders;
- Provide bushfire brigades with the necessary and appropriate equipment;
- Develop initiatives to mitigate the impacts of bushfires on the livelihoods of pastoralist households.

Carried out with technical and financial support



Investir dans les populations rurales



Direction du développement et de la coopération DDC



TROIS FRONTIÈRES



Mobilité Pastorale transfrontalière apaisée et Stabilité sociale du Sahel

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