

FOREWORD:

Ambassador Mamman Nuhu,
Executive Secretary LCBC and Head of Mission MNJTF

Changing the Lake Chad Basin narrative!



The Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) was established on 22 May 1964 by the four countries bordering the Lake Chad: Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria. The Commission's mandate is to sustainably and equitably manage the Lake Chad and other shared water resources of the Lake Chad Basin, to preserve the ecosystems of the Lake Chad Conventional Basin, to promote regional integration, peace and security across the Basin. Fifty-six years later, the economic, political, resurgence of violent extremism and the COVID-19 pandemic strengthen our institutional vision.

In 2018, we developed the [Regional Strategy for the Stabilisation, Recovery, and Resilience \(RSS\)](#) for the region to address the growing threat of violent extremism and insurgency. The RSS is an ambitious but overarching strategic framework for the area and designed to guide the region to move from violence to stability and recovery.

LCBC[1] established the RSS Secretariat in late 2019. The Secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day implementation and coordination of the RSS programme and actions. After one year of existence within the context of COVID-19, the Secretariat has entirely laid the foundational basis for RSS implementation, building partnerships across development, humanitarian and peace spectrum, and ensuring new ways of working and promoting “a whole of society” approach to RSS implementation in the Lake Chad Basin, like the rest of the world, has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic's impact forces us to adjust and adapt to a new way of working to ensure that we continue to serve the population in the region. Most people in the Lake Chad region already face significant challenges caused by environmental degradation. They include climate change, inadequate development, lack of access to primary and essential social services, and the twin challenges of violent conflict and insurgency. [Read more here](#)

The RSS, with the support of our partners, offers us an opportunity to rally around a comprehensive framework within a coordinated structure and address the social, political, economic, and environmental challenges facing the Lake Chad region.

I want to express my [sincere thanks to our trustful Partners](#): the African Union, UNDP, Germany, Sweden, the U.K., the Netherlands, the E.U., and the AfDB, who believed in us since the beginning. I also welcome those joining us in this exciting adventure.

[1] With support from the African Union, UNDP, and critical funding partners, notably; Germany, Sweden, the U.K., the Netherlands, and the E.U.

Chika Charles Aniekwe,
Senior Advisor and Head of RSS Secretariat

A quarterly update on RSS actions in Lake Chad Basin

Dear Partners,

I am pleased to share the first edition of the RSS Newsletter with you. It is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Secretariat. It covers LCBC/RSS Secretariat activities and captures contributions towards implementing the overall RSS from other implementing partners.

This first edition provides an overview of the progress made in the first quarter of 2020. It provides insight into field activities carried out by partners and in the region. The Newsletter also highlights ongoing efforts and key upcoming events.

Overall, early results are encouraging and show that the effort on the ground through UNDP stabilisation interventions across Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria are yielding results. There is also progress through African Union-supported initiatives focusing on youths and women.

At the Secretariat, progress has been made in implementing a two-year Regional Action Plan (RAP) developed in early 2020. Territorial Action Plans, the LCBC/MNJTF Civil-Military Cell, engagement with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), coordination with the RSS Task Force, and other policy initiatives have progressed.

I wish you all a pleasant reading of our first Newsletter and welcome any feedback to help us improve the next iteration of the bulletin!





BETWEEN CRISIS AND OPPORTUNITIES: ACCELERATING COORDINATION OF STABILISATION EFFORTS IN THE LCB REGION

UNDERSTANDING THE RSS

The LCBC regional strategy originates tolerance, and progress represent an evolution of the Lake Chad existential threat to these countries. These Basin region crisis, which started more ideologies have found recruits amongst than ten years ago. The four countries the youth who believe that the State has bordering Lake Chad - Cameroon, Chad failed and are excluded from legitimate Niger, and Nigeria - face unprecedented political and economic processes. The challenges compounded by a protracted impact and scale as of 2017 affected more insurgency by Boko Haram and than 17 million people, including 2.1 other extremist groups. These crises million IDPs, close to 775,000 refugees, have worsened instability, slowed and 11 million others in severe food economic growth, and created complex humanitarian emergencies in the region.

Additionally, the spread of radicalisation On 30 August 2018, the Council of Ministers of the Lake Chad Basin stability, and development in the area, Commission (LCBC) adopted the especially amongst youth. Absolutist Regional Strategy for the Stabilisation, ideologies that reject coexistence Recovery, and Resilience (RSS) of the

Boko Haram-affected areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region. The same year, the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union endorsed the RSS. The Strategy develops an overarching regional approach in dealing with the deep-rooted causes of underdevelopment and the drivers of violent extremism and conflicts in the Lake Chad region. It is being implemented in eight targeted territories of four member states as follows: Nigeria (Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states), Niger (Diffa Region), Chad (Region du Lac and Hadjer-Lamis Region), and Cameroon (the Far North and North Region). [Click here for a video](#)

Fostering Regional Coordination and Institutionalization of RSS Implementation

The RSS builds on the notion that a regional response must be institutionalised. The RSS should also set standards for coordination and collaboration. It is necessary to create structures that embody the vision and principle of a standard response aligned with the main treaties and agreements on peace, security, and development on the African continent. Over the past year, the RSS Secretariat has been working with critical actions at regional, national, and territorial levels.

Regional Task Force

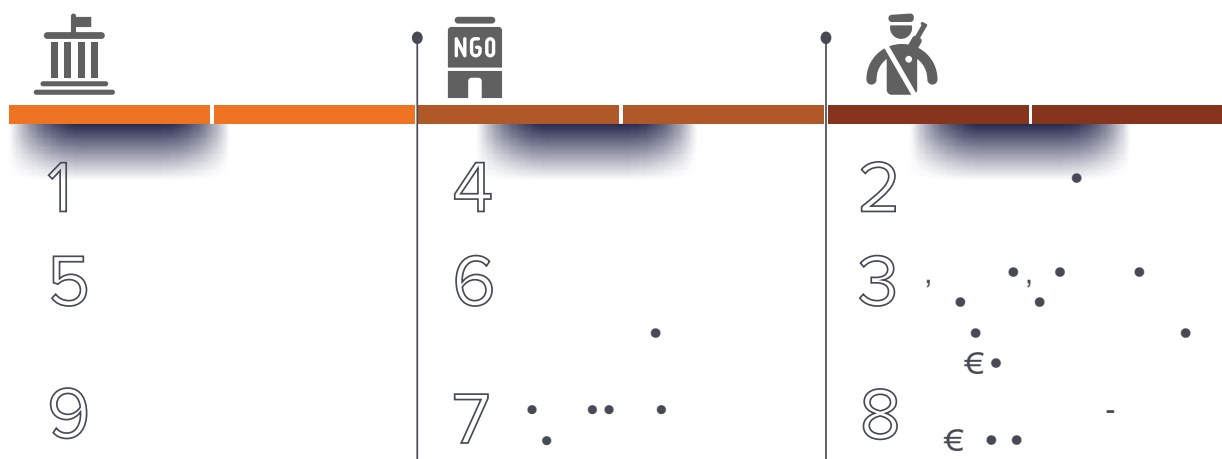
The Regional Task Force is the technical committee for the RSS and comprises all implementation partners to the RSS across the Nexus spectrum. For effective coordination of interventions and technical support, the Regional Task Force is subdivided into three thematic Clusters, aligned with the 9 RSS pillars of intervention and the African Union Sahel Strategy and the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, namely:



The Regional Clusters are working groups established to streamline technical coordination between and likeminded and related implementing partners.

Since its establishment in April 2020, the Regional Task Force now brings together approximately 30 regional stakeholders to promote the nexus approach and [New Way of Working](#). Its members are committed to working collaboratively with LCBC to ensure consistency and coherence of initiatives, incentivise collaboration opportunities, and facilitate communication across all levels.

Task Force members volunteered to co-lead the Clusters and self-organise to promote joint initiatives, such as field missions, research papers, and policy initiatives. At present, United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are co-leads of the Governance Cluster, which is aligned with coordination mechanisms under United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS); United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and African Union (Department of Social Affairs) are co-leading the Humanitarian and Development Cluster; and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are co-leading the Protection and Security Cluster.





Development & Humanitarian Cluster



Security & Protection Cluster



Territorial Action Plans

Regional Approach- Local Ownership:

TAPs Development Embodying the New Way of Working

the fundamental basis for the RSS office and big INGOs and U.N. agencies. implementation is the development is fantastic! Human rights, youth and and roll-out of the TAPs across eight women's empowerment, and preventing affected territories. The RSS emphasises violent extremism are our mandates, so that successful implementation depends on adopting a whole society approach as possible in all three." 18 March 2021 acknowledging the imperatives of Indra Banda, LOYOC bottom-up, inclusive, and participatory process. Central to the development of the TAPs is the imperative for and ownership, senior officials from operationalising the nexus approach the Governors' Offices expressed their locally that brings together humanitarian, development, and peace actors together towards a common goal.

the last six months of the TAPs Adamawa State, Nigeria, Elijah Tumba, development process justified the overarching approach of the RSS. 126 News following the technical review demonstrated that with exemplary of the draft plans on 25 March in Yola. He political leadership and extensive consultation, humanitarian, development, and peace actors who development, and peace actors could work alongside a common goal. Notably, the TAPs process showcased the importance of local NGOs in stabilising and preparation of the TAPs for the State. the Lake Chad region.

A young female representative of Local Youth Corner (LOYOC) in Maroua Adamawa in the future. [Click here for a video.](#)

shared her joy as she sat face-to-face with U.N. agencies to articulate the most urgent actions to be carried out in the Far North region of Cameroon. She shuttled between three Pillar Working Group (PWGs: 2, 7 and 9) and admitted as follows:

“It has been a long, tedious and challenging process, but very worthwhile. All members brought contextual relevance to the TAPs methodology, enriched the process, and pushed us to collaborate with nexus actors in the TAPs process. One of the five national consultants, who led the mapping of relevant CSOs,

O

is is the first time in my four years here that we are engaging with the Governor's office and big INGOs and UN agencies. is is fantastic! Human rights, youth and women's empowerment and preventing violent extremism are our mandates, so I will make sure I contribute as much as possible in all three

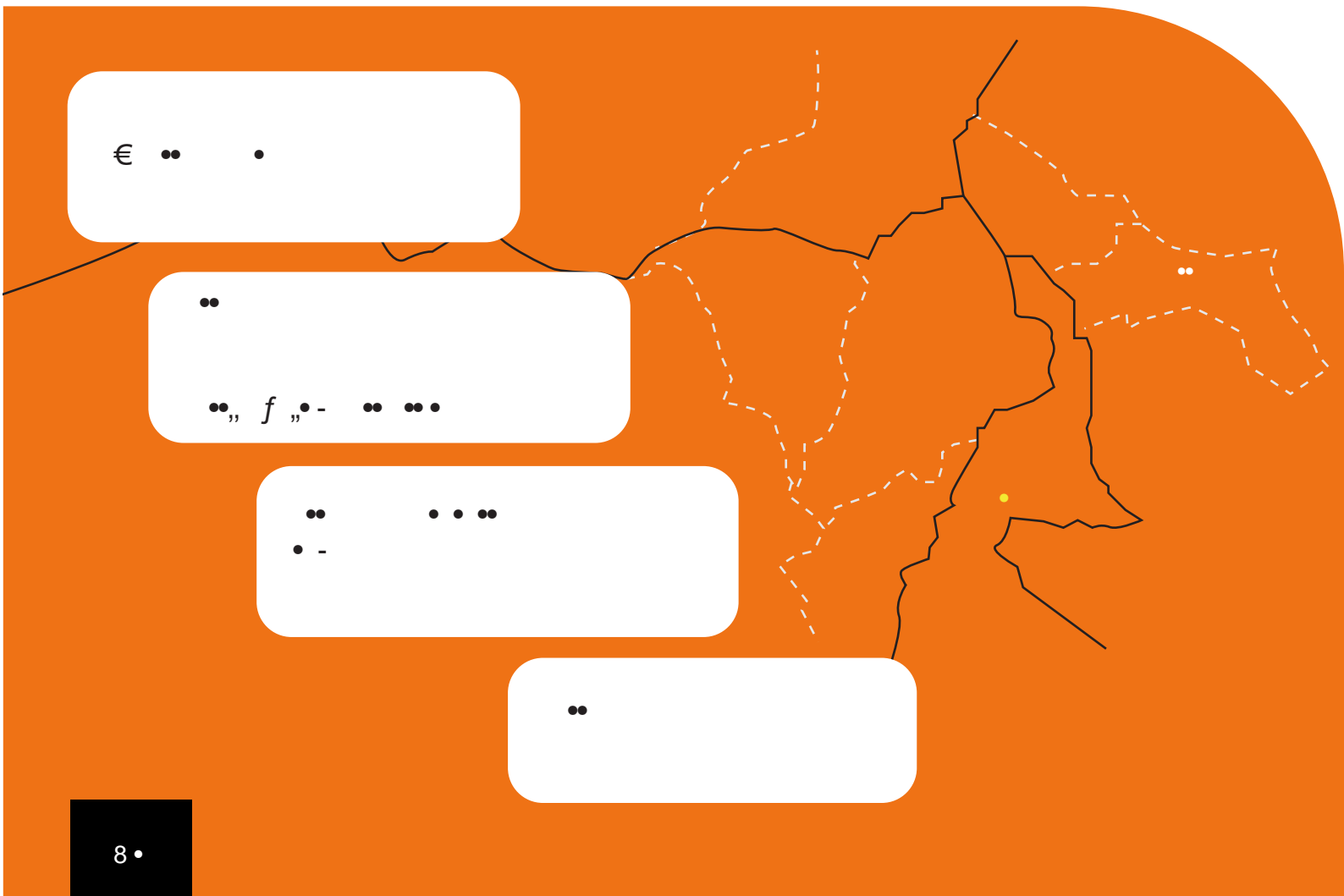
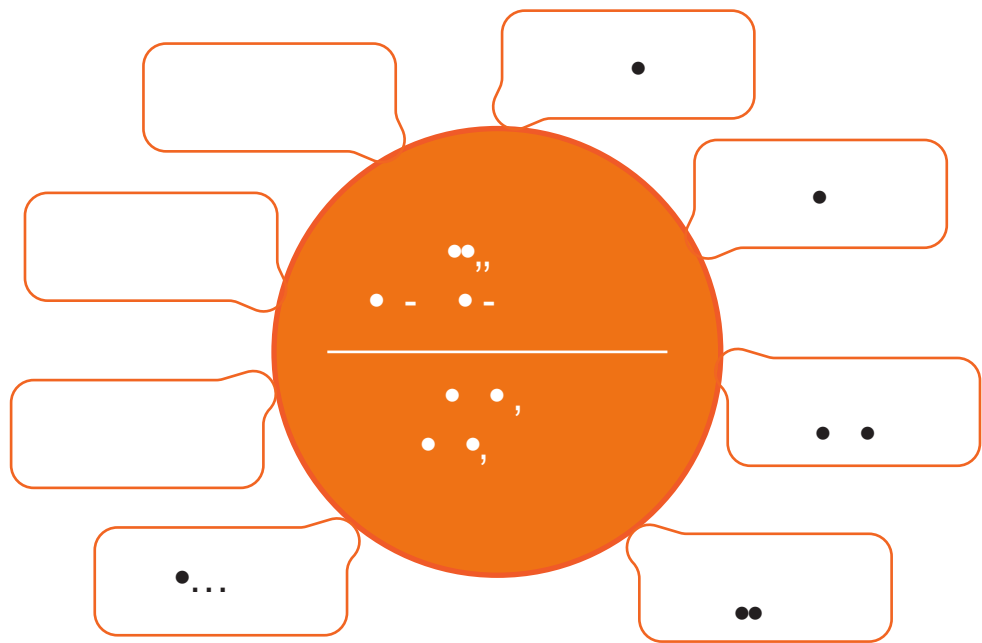
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March 18, 2021, Indra Banda, LOYOC

CBO, INGO, U.N., academic, religious, and traditional actors to participate consultatively in the TAPs development process admitted that:

‘It has been a long, tedious and challenging process, but very worthwhile. All members brought contextual relevance to the TAPs methodology, enriched the process, and pushed us to collaborate with nexus actors in the TAPs process.

As of 30 April 2021, the TAPs for the eight affected territories are ready and going through reviews by crucial partners to the RSS. The final TAPs will be validated and launched by LCBC, ISG, and A.U. as the framework of action for each territory.



CROSS-BORDER REPATRIATION EFFORTS: FAR NORTH CAMEROON AND BORNO STATE NIGERIA

In keeping with the commitment made at the second Governors Forum held in Niamey from 16-18 July 2019, the Governor of Borno State, H.E. Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum, and his team paid a visit to the Governor of the Far North region, H.E. Midjiya BAKARI from 17-19 September 2019 during which both parties agreed to accelerate voluntary repatriation of refugees in the MINAWAO refugee camp in Cameroon.

Between January to March 2021, with three trips carried to repatriated Nigeria refugees in Cameroon, the framework of the agreement was reached between the two Governors at the last Governors Forum. So far, over 7,900 people were repatriated as follows:

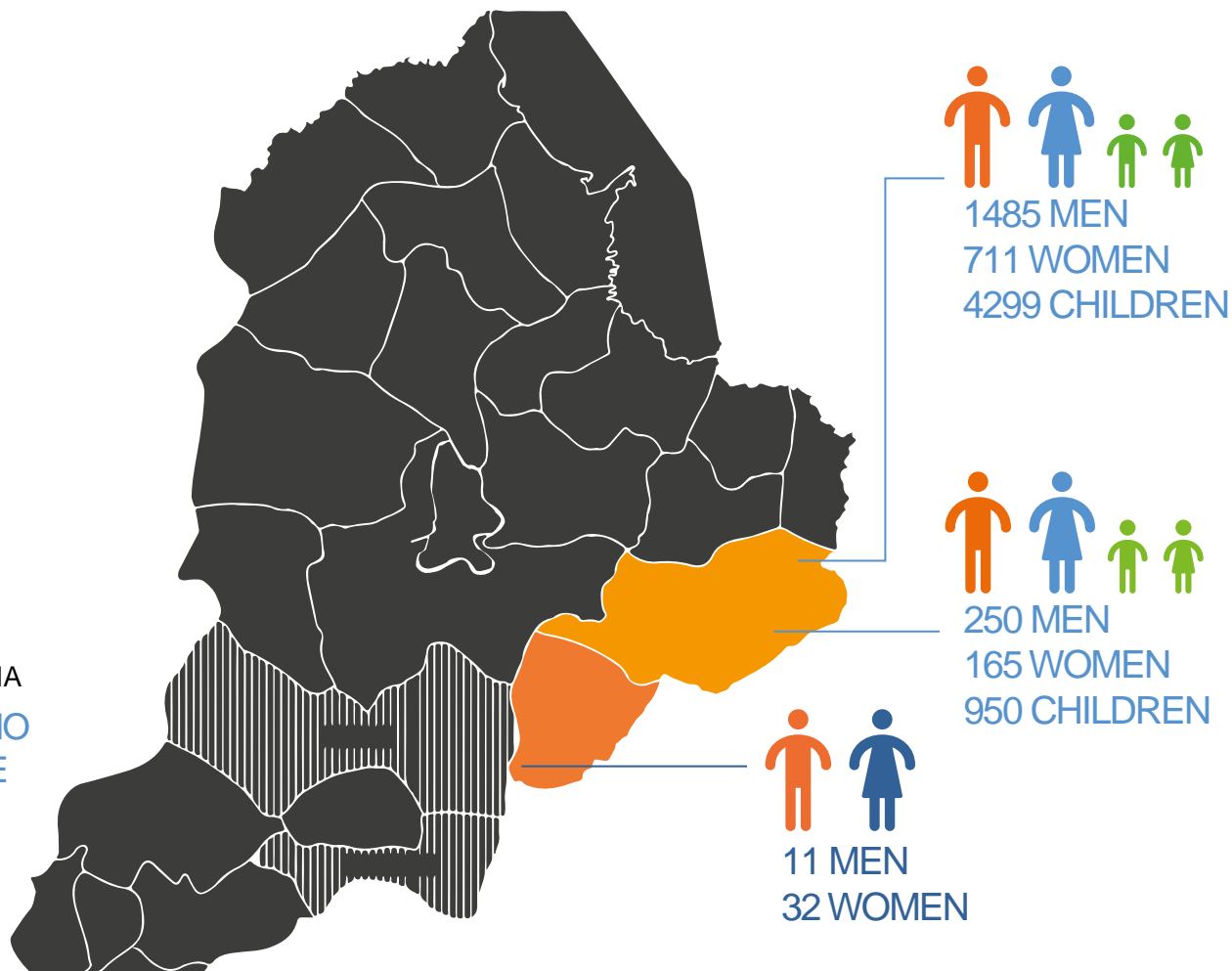
- 1,485 men, 711 women, and 4,299 children in Banki;
- 250 men, 165 women, and 950 children to Bama; and
- 11 men and 32 women to Guza, in Borno State).

The repatriated refugees were officially welcomed and registered in Borno State to facilitate access to support from the State to the repatriated population. More trips are planned after the celebration of the Holy month of Ramadan.



Organisation of the departure from Cameroon to Borno State

NIGERIA
BORNO
STATE



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Toward Civilian Oversight of MNJTF CIMIC Cell

1 Understanding the LCBC and MNJTF Civil-Military Cooperation Cell

Effective civil-military planning and cooperation are essential to ensuring an integrated, targeted, and sequenced move from humanitarian assistance to sustainable development. The effort itself provides an opportunity to “win hearts and minds” and build trust between communities, Governments,

and security for the long term. Therefore, convened. The first meeting of the Cell a joint LCBC-MNJTF Civil-Military served as an opportunity to ensure a Cooperation Cell was established consistent understanding of its role, to promote and strengthen civilian update core activities, and share the draft cooperation with security on the one action plan for the Cell and Satcom. A key outcome from the meeting between military and humanitarian consisted of building a Regional CIMIC Network dedicated to Civil-Military As one of the RSS implementation aspects, including vibrant Civil Society structures, the LCBC-MNJTF Civil-actors strengthening the civil-military Military Cooperation Cell includes relationship. MNJTF, A.U., and LCBC. On 16 February, a Regional Meeting on Civil-Military Cooperation was

2 MNJTF Civil – Military relations activities take center stage at Sector levels

MNJTF gives high priority to building confidence, establishing trust, information sharing, and promoting excellent civil-military relations to secure local support among the communities

within its Area of Operation (AoO). The game, which promotes friendliness and the effort is in line with the Concept of Operation of the MNJTF. It has initiated some projects in Sector 1 Mora (Cameroon), sector 3 in Damasak, and youth in the tournament created an opportunity for young people from affected communities to channel their energy into competitive, productive activities.

In Damasak, a 2 - week Youth Football Tournament was organised, from 5 to 18 February 2021. A total of eight (8) football teams took part in the competition. The competition served as an avenue to enhance the existing cordial relationship and consolidate building trust and



Colonel Ashetkuemun Mounchingam, on behalf of the Sector Commander, Brigadier General Bouba Dobekreo, handing over, urged the schools' management to ensure proper utilisation and maintenance of the items. He said the provision of tables and benches to the schools would surely provide a conducive learning environment and enhance teaching and learning.

Among the prominent local authorities and community leaders that graced the occasion were the Mayor of WAZA in Michidire and the Sub-Divisional Inspector of Basic Education of MORA

restoring confidence by the Brigade. The insurgency in Michidire and Toubou in Toubou. Their respective remarks tournament equally brought a welcomed villages benefited from MNJTF quick expressed appreciation for the donation, relief and entertainment to thousands impact projects. To restore normalcy and commended and assured the MNJTF of young people traumatised by the support educational activities, Sector forces of their continuous cooperation insurgency.

1 procured and distributed a sizeable and support to military operations in number of tables and benches to their localities.

In, Sector 1, Mora (Cameroon), two schools' pupils. schools affected by the Boko Haram

On 17 February 2021, the Chief of Sta ,

Working rough COVID 19: African Union | Support to RSS

Since the first Conference on the movement undoubtedly hampered create a platform for exchanges on good Development of a Framework for engagements initially envisaged by the practices on MHPSS. is activity was a Regional Stabilisation Strategy in AUC (CMPCRD RSS) team. During the rmly in line with Pillar 4 of the RSS on November 2017, the African Union period, the AUC RSS team, with support Humanitarian Assistance and Strategic Commission (AUC) has supported from partners, revisited Mental Health Objective 16 on Psychosocial Support the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS fo and Social Cohesion.

(LCBC) to operationalise structures and communities affected by Boko-Haram Of the challenges in the LCB, the consolidate the whole process of the RSS activities in the Lake Chad Basin Region) exclusion of women and youth in implementation. Ultimately the AUC In 2019, the team working with GIZ governance, peace, and security processes believes in the utility of the Strategy to and IOM piloted a training workshop is widely deemed counterproductive facilitate a transition from active military on MHPSS in Cameroon from 18 to 22 to the stabilisation aspirations of Boko engagement to stabilisation, recovery November 2019. Haram-affected area. Consequently, and in line with Pillar 9 of the RSS

the objectives of the pilot training on Empowerment and Inclusion of the outbreak of the COVID 19 were to build capacities of community Women and Youth, the AUC led several pandemic and consequently restrictions actors in the provision of MHPSS and engagements with the Youth Network for

African Union



the Lake Chad Region. Top on the list was knowledge management (GIZ), the and the experiences and patterns arising from a webinar on the effect of covid on peace and security in the Lake Chad Basin. The Youth Peace and Security/Res 2250, the future, the AUC is committed to and its importance for the LCB context supporting LCBC to implement the RSS Basin Commission (LCBC) Regional and Why gender matters: Building fully. Stabilisation thus remains a critical Stabilization Strategy (RSS) Secretariat expertise and skills. With several topics a component of the A.U.'s peace and security the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) programmed to run online, the AUC and agenda, which resonates with the Policy through the Training for Peace (TfP) her collaborators, including the LCBC -on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Programme with technical input by the RSS secretariat and the CMI, are set to Development. The Regional Stabilization Crisis Management Initiative (CMI). 35 roll out the training in April 2021. Strategy also serves to achieve the A.U.'s young peacebuilders from the four Lake aspiration to Silence the Guns by 2020. Chad Basin (LCB) countries participated Some of the challenges manifesting in the it gives meaning to Agenda 2063 and in the webinar. It focused on issues Lake Chad Basin are reflected in other the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals and responses for peacebuilding and regions of the continent. Nevertheless 2030 by laying a foundation for creating stabilisation in the context of COVID 19. in terms of response, the RSS stands conditions necessary for sustainable Recommendations emerging from unique in many ways. To ensure that peace and development in the Lake Chad deliberations included the critical lessons learned are effectively harvested Basin. relevance of engaging the youth in good for replication or the development of governance initiatives and strengthening future strategies, the AUC RSS Team, the positive role of young people as a tool with support from the Training for for engaging governments and relevant Peace Programme and NUPI, is engaged stakeholders in the region, among others in a comprehensive mapping of the the AUC RSS Team was also involved in A.U. experience with stabilisation. developing a training curriculum for the is mapping will provide a complete Youth Network in the Lake Chad Basin. overview of all the contexts in which Critical to this curriculum is networking, the A.U., REC/RMs, and member states liaising, and building partnerships, engaged in post-conflict reconstruction, Essentials of Project Management and peacebuilding, and stabilisation efforts

Di a Youth Forum sends strong message for peace and reducing extremism.

Di a Youth Forum sends a strong message for peace and reducing extremism. Young people play an essential role in promoting peaceful societies. At the end of March, the Niger section of the Lake Chad Basin Youth Network held its first Youth Forum, with participants from rural communities and the city of Di a. [Click here to read more](#)

Accelerating Immediate Stabilization Across the Lake Chad Countries



NIGERIA: Rebuilding a New Life in the Wake of Improved Security

Before the insurgency began in northeast Nigeria, Falmata Ali was a businesswoman in Banki, a town near the Nigerian and Cameroon border. She provided for her family of four children independently and was proud to be a role model for women and girls in her community.

When the conflict in Lake Chad started, “I was at home. The insurgents entered the town, destroying properties and using extreme violence towards the community. Everyone tried to run to safety. I carried my kids and we fled to Cameroon with just the clothes on our backs.” Falmata Ali recalls what happened:

“I was at home. The insurgents entered the town, destroying properties and using extreme violence towards the community. Everyone tried to run to safety. I carried my kids and we fled to Cameroon with just the clothes on our backs.”

Insurgents abducted her first son and some of her relatives. To this day, she still does not know what happened to them. These direct human tragedies are awful enough, but the cost of the conflict also includes the compounding effects of lost opportunities. The once-bustling Banki and this area of north-eastern Nigeria have had a ghastly setback whose results will be felt for decades to come.



Where to start when trying to rebuild?

e Nigerian Government, with support of learning spaces and children's and her family have now returned and from the United Nations Development recreational centre. are living in the IDP camp. Falmata Programme (UNDP) and generous these efforts are working. Banki is explains what she faced: contributions from the European Union, beginning to become safer, and the the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, and community is starting to return. Falmata the United Kingdom, are implementing stabilisation activities to help communities in north-eastern Nigeria build back better. these interventions provide timely support to stabilise conflict-affected communities by restoring adequate security, improving the delivery of essential services and livelihoods, and reviving the local economy.

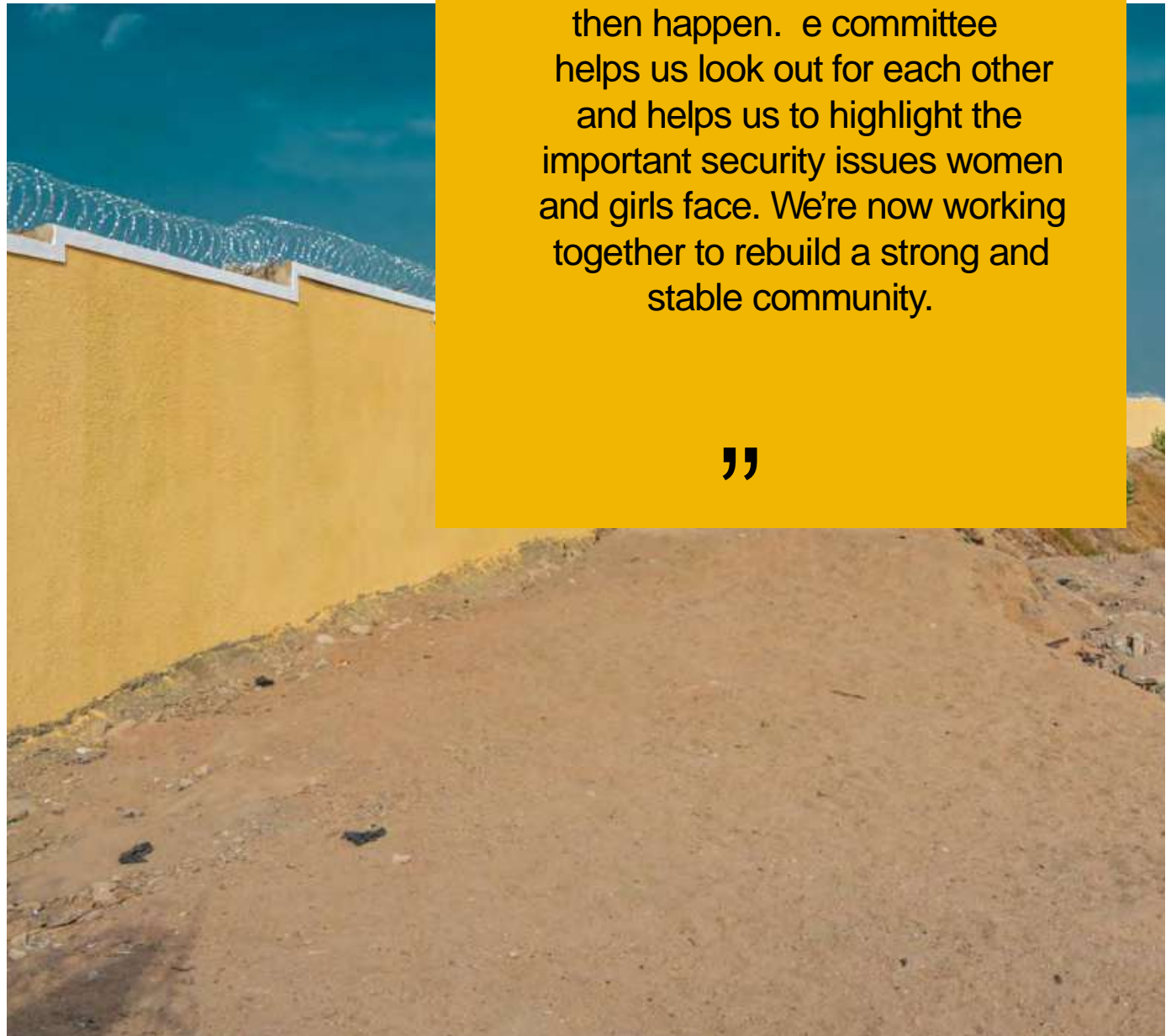
In Banki, these measures include the rehabilitation of security facilities, construction of a protection wall, provision of livelihood opportunities through the cash for work activities, provision of business start-up grants, repair of markets, and the construction

“
When I returned, the town was in ruins. I ran to see my old properties; everything had been burnt to the ground. I was devastated. I did not know where to begin, but I had to be strong and try to provide for my kids.
”

Falmata feels safer in the IDP camp, with its new perimeter wall that protects the other and helps us to emphasise the activities once again. As there is still much to town from the insurgents. Before the important security issues women and be done, the stabilisation effort is a starting partition, Falmata and her family would girls face. We're now working together to point in achieving total stability and recovery sleep in the empty market stalls as they build a strong and stable community". in years to come. [Click here for a video](#) felt safer than in their own homes. Now, the RSF intervention is laying a long-term recovery path for conflict-affected areas. Banki, a town once vacated due to even when it gets dark.

She also is a proud member of a new community-level stabilisation committee that gives a voice to women and brings their wisdom to further stabilisation work: "Women and girls are walloped by conflict. My role is to present their concerns and issues to the committee, where good solutions and recommendations then happen. The

“
Women and girls are hit really hard by conflict. My role is to present their concerns and issues to the committee, where good solutions and recommendations then happen. The committee helps us look out for each other and helps us to highlight the important security issues women and girls face. We're now working together to rebuild a strong and stable community.
”





CAMEROON: Livelihood Options through Cash for Work in Far North Cameroon “A Tradeswoman’s Case”

Amina Baba, a single parent, is a happy mother. It is thanks to her small business that she can send her five children to school. At 32, Amina Baba is divorced. Her husband, who abandoned her with five children, has been missing since the Boko Haram crisis began:

“

Perhaps he joined the group and went to die somewhere out there in the bush - I don't know - because even here in the city, I no longer see him

”

According to several concordant testimonies, several young people like him have gone missing in the city in the last few years. Meanwhile, their families have no news of them. They feel because life has become very hard. "That is why I think this project provides an extremely appropriate solution to our problem of unemployment and idleness," stated Amina. She is from Mora, the capital of the Mayo-Sava department in the Far North region, one of the localities where the ravages of the Boko Haram group are still felt. In her story, although the Boko Haram crisis has not directly affected her personally, it has had adverse effects on her life.

"Several times I was approached by some people to join the Boko Haram group, but I always refused because I love my children very much and I want to see them grow up," she concludes with some emotion.

"Life for me was tough. I used to cry every day and the whole day because the burden was overwhelming, but since the UNDP launched, I can honestly say that my problems have disappeared. It has helped me in many ways. I would go so far as to say that this project has saved me", she declares, with a distinctive look of relief on her face.

Despite a low income of 3000 CFA francs per day, Amina could save money and sell doughnuts and natural fruit juices. Moreover, she delivered food to her other Cash for Work colleagues out on the field. With the profit obtained from this activity, Amina could finance her children's schooling, who were about to abandon their studies.

A few months later, the savings she received allowed her to buy a freezer, which enabled her to expand the range of her products. [Click here for a video](#)



Building Trust through Community Dialogue

UNDP Cameroon, through the RSF, solutions in the form of local security organised community dialogues from 3 plans.

to 12 March 2021 in Amchidé, Limani, Several key findings emerged during the and Moskota as part of an effort to build discussions, which took place from 3 trust between community and security March to 12, 2021. For instance, relations agencies.

between the defence and security forces It is the rationale behind the organisation and the communities appear to be of the first series of community dialogues contentious and fuelled by a climate of hosted by UNDP in Amchidé, Limani, mutual distrust. is observation points and Moskota, localities in the Far North to the need for continuous engagement that have been mainly targeted by Boko to intensify community dialogue to foster Haram.

mutual trust and build social cohesion.

the recommendation is to create a

the various meetings brought together system for monitoring cases of abuse defence forces, vigilance committee while strengthening regular inspection members, community leaders, youth, services on the ground.

women, traditional leaders, and many other actors. Together, they discussed the current challenges and proposed



Fig2: Defense and security forces interact with the population in a convivial atmosphere.

Abdou Rahman, President of the Limani
Vigilance Committee



“

As members of the vigilance committees in Limani, we spend every night awake. We work in close collaboration with the defence forces to ensure the security of the population. Our main difficulties in this work are mainly related to the fact that we don't have adequate equipment to confront people who are often heavily armed. Another problem that we encounter is the collaboration in the interpellation of suspicious persons by the defence and security forces.

When they suspect, they should act in synergy with us for more efficiency because our opinion can be decisive in this kind of operation. Often, these types of situations can backfire, and the population treats us as accomplices in the arrest of our brothers, which in turn is a dangerous situation for us.

”



CHAD

Women Leading and Promoting Community Security

In March 2021, when the fight for women's rights is at the forefront, we met Adjidé Kerala, the first woman at the head of the Stabilization Committee of Guitté, a locality in the Lake Province, where UNDP implements the Chad National Window of the Regional Stabilization Facility.

In the rather conservative social context of Guitté, the example of Adjidé sends out a strong message in support of the empowerment of women and the fight against gender-based violence or discrimination such as early marriage, genital mutilation, or the non-schooling of girls. In a society where the recognition and enjoyment of women's rights remains an arduous quest, she embodies the progress, and the hope, of many women who also aspire to emancipation and equality.

Adjidé shared his testimony with us and shared his experience with us.

“

“My name is ADJIDE KERALA. I am the president of the Stabilization Committee of Guitté. This committee has 20 people divided into four sub-committees. We meet every two weeks to discuss our difficulties and recommend solutions. Each meeting is an opportunity to pay your subscription, which allows us to replenish our funds and help each other and assist foreigners who arrive in our locality. Our mission is to plan and implement all activities contributing to stability and living more harmoniously and

peacefully together in our locality. I want to point out that since the establishment of the committee, we have managed to resolve several problems between passing foreigners and us. We have also facilitated peaceful coexistence between the defence and security forces and the population, which has improved significantly compared to previous years. The principle of hospitality is at the heart of everything we do.

”



Fig2: Members of the Steering Committee committed to the immediate stabilization of a selected area

My election at the head of the stabilization committee?

“

It wasn't easy at first, of course. There was a marked preference for a man to be appointed chair of the committee. What made a difference, and ultimately weighed in my favour, was the principle of consensus for decision-making within the committee. The interim president himself pleaded in favour of my appointment, and the other members followed him. It is quite a rewarding role because it is essentially a team effort, and I am listened to and respected by everyone.

”

My advice to women?

“

“I would advise my sisters and daughters to move away from the side-lines where they were left in previous centuries when the place of women was conceived only in the kitchen or with children at home. Today we, women, potentially have the freedom and the ability to do whatever men do. I have been a part of non-profit organisations for a long time, a world where women prove themselves every day. Fortunately now, people around us understand more and more that we are essential partners in development. They provide us with their support, even if the efforts still need to be made on this point. I urge women to get to work and assert themselves, just like men. If they are asked for a job, let them do it without hesitation and any complexity.”

[Click here for video](#)

”

Community Consultation to Prevent Growth of Violent Extremism in Di a

On 10 December 2020, the University of Di a hosted the community consultation meeting to develop the civil-military communication strategy to prevent violent extremism in the Lake Chad Basin. This initiative was a collaboration between the University and the Lake Chad Basin Commission, and UNDP. Government authorities attended the meeting from the Di a region, traditional chiefs, women's and youth organisations from Chad, Cameroon, and Niger.

The consultation focused on strategies to address the growing challenge of violent extremism in the LCB region and in articulating Strategies to combat its spread. At the end of this day, the participants formulated essential recommendations, including the involvement of traditional chiefs, youth, and women in the communication and information sharing and in working with security agencies to strengthen community-security relations and build mutual trust.

The consultation also helped restore the traditional chieftaincy to its rightful place and role in securing the communities and exchanging information between traditional chiefs on both sides of the country's borders through an adequate communication channel.

Support to Primary Basic Education in Bosso- Di a Region



Children who have received kits at the Bosso elementary school

On 5 November 2020, the Governorate of Di a and through the UNDP RSF distributed 1 300 school kits to 990 pupils from elementary schools in Bosso, notably "École primaire Quartier 1, École primaire Quartier 2", and the Franco-Arabic school. An initiative of the Stabilisation project is a follow-up to the construction of 10 classrooms in the locality schools. The project intends to continue this path geared at restoring children's right to education.

The participation of women and youth at the heart of the implementation process in Di a

The participation of youth and women is essential to the development and stability of the Di a region and Niger in general. Peace in a country depends on the spirit of citizenship and civic-mindedness of its citizens. For this reason, the RSF in Di a is providing entrepreneurial training for youth and women to improve their employability and promote self-employment. Young people who have already obtained their training certificate and any other young working age will receive support in their entrepreneurial initiatives.

The project also launched cash for work activities in September 2020 in Bosso. A total of 600 young people, women and men, have benefited from "cash for work."

Reaching Out to Communities: RSS on the Air

RNI is a network, which target audience is the entire Lake Chad region, where populations speaking Kanuri, Kanembu and Buduma are found. This region covers south-eastern Niger, north-eastern Nigeria, northern Cameroon, and the lake districts of Chad.

In January 2020, considering the LCB complex context, RSS stakeholders agreed to prioritise communication efforts within the RSS Regional Action Plan 2020-21 to ensure timely access to and understanding of RSS related information and support national and local communication, with an increased focus on the availability of communication resources in local languages. The Secretariat, in partnership with RNI, is gathering information on the current level of understanding and assessment of local populations around the RSS and its themes. This partnership served as a basis for further development of targeted communication activities and products, such as radio programs and shows in local languages:

First, developing a perception survey in the four countries helped the Secretariat assess and understand community behaviour and attitudes, levels of understanding, interest and relevance of all RSS themes to RNI listenership in the Lake Chad Basin.



Through the partnership, RNI launched a teen discussion program in November 2020 to sensitise communities through the primary means of understanding. This program is produced separately in both Chad and Nigeria and broadcast in Kanuri and Kanembu, respectively, and it is targeted to inspire youth people through drama series with prize rewards to winners. To read more on this at RNI, visit the website: <http://www.ndarason.com>

Thanks to our partners



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