Over the past decade, the four countries around the Lake Chad Basin: Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria have experienced unprecedented crises, aggravated by the repeated violence of Boko Haram and other extremist groups. The resulting instability has slowed down economic growth and compounded existing environmental and developmental challenges in the Lake Chad basin region. About 10.7 million people in the region are directly affected by these crises and need humanitarian support.

To ensure stabilization of the region, the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) is implementing the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience (RSS) of the Boko Haram-affected areas of the Lake Basin Region.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with support from Germany, Sweden, UK and the European Union (EU), is facilitating the implementation of the RSS, with the Regional Stabilization Facility (RSF) to restore security and bring relief to communities affected by Boko Haram insurgency in the four countries. The RSF was launched by the Governors, Donor Partners and UNDP on July 17, 2019 during the 2nd Governors Forum in Niger.
United Nation agencies in Dakar, Senegal have reaffirmed their support to the regional approach of stabilization in the Lake Chad Basin, under the overall political coordination of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC).

This was emphasized during a sensitization mission undertaken by the LCBC to Dakar on 5 March 2020, during which various UN Regional Directors were briefed on the role of the UN in the implementation of the Regional Stabilization Strategy (RSS). The briefing session was jointly chaired by the Executive Secretary of LCBC, Amb Mamman Nuhu and Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Mohamed Ibn Chambas.

In addition, high-level stakeholders in Nigeria were also engaged from 9-20 March 2020, where the Executive Secretary of the LCBC presented the stabilization strategy to Governors and Cabinet Members in the affected states of North-East Nigeria: Borno, Adamawa and Yobe.

The sensitisation served as a means of localising the strategy as well as briefing the Governors on their role and leadership in the development, elaboration and implementation of the Territorial Action Plans (TAPs).

The LCBC also briefed ten Ministers in Nigeria on their role in ensuring national leadership and local ownership by the offices of the Governors of the affected states. UN agencies and various NGOs working in the affected states were also engaged on their roles and entry points to support the implementation of strategy.

The sensitization mission team also engaged the North East Development Commission (NEDC), which is the commission under the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs charged with the responsibility of stabilising the affected states in North-East Nigeria. Discussions with NEDC focused on ensuring strong alignment between the NEDC’s development plan and the LCBC strategy to consolidate joint efforts to bring relief to the three states affected by Boko Haram insurgency.

NEDC reaffirmed its commitment to support the LCBC and align its activities to the TAPs.
Training participants being taken through reforestation techniques.

**CAMEROON: YOUTH TRAINED TO UNDERTAKE REFORESTATION TO HELP PROTECT LAKE CHAD**

UNDP has trained 50 youth and 10 supervisors in nursery production and reforestation techniques in five communities (Kolofata, Amchide, Gancé, Limani, and Mora) in the Far North region of Cameroon. The reforestation activity is to help restore vegetation cover around the Lake Chad.

The two-days training, which also sensitized the young people on the importance of reforestation, falls under the recently launched “Cash for Work” programme in Cameroon.

The ‘Cash for Work’ programme is seeking to generate over 1000 jobs and curb youth unemployment in the Boko Haram affected communities. Other interventions under the programme include rehabilitation and sanitation activities.

The communities will also benefit from essential and basic infrastructure including boreholes, police stations, gendarmerie stations, women empowerment centers, markets, classrooms and health centers as well as community safety and security programmes.

The interventions are part of efforts to provide immediate stabilization in the Boko Haram affected localities, under the Regional Stabilization Facility.
UNDP, under the Regional Stabilization Facility, has initiated procurement processes to supply 500 solar powered streetlights to be installed in Baroua, Ngagam, Tam and Bosso in the Region of Diffa, to improve security and quality of life of residents in these communities.

The communities are also expected to benefit from 20 solar powered water infrastructure by end of April. This will provide clean drinking water to about 9,000 households. Ambulances and medical kits will also be provided to improve health care delivery.

Moreover, UNDP and the Governorate of Diffa signed a Letter of Agreement to improve the capacity of the regional Administration in project coordination and support the delivery of public services at the local level.

Discussions on contractual agreements for the rehabilitation and equipping of four primary schools have also been initiated with the aim of providing a better learning environment and improve learning and educational success of about 750 pupils.

Other infrastructure such as markets, multipurpose sports fields and rural roads are expected to start in April to improve livelihoods in the communities.

Ms. Diana Louise Ofwona, Resident Representative of UNDP Niger presenting the agreement to Mr. Issa Lémine, Governor of Diffa