Conflict and Instability

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. Almost a quarter of the affected population have been forced to flee their homes due to conflicts or food shortages largely because of the Boko Haram insurgency.

Stabilizing the Lake Chad Basin: The Regional Stabilization Strategy (RSS)

To ensure stabilization of the region, on 30 August 2018, the Council of Ministers of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) adopted the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience (RSS) of the Boko Haram-affected areas of the Lake Basin Region. The RSS was endorsed by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union. It has nine pillars of intervention:

1. Political Cooperation
2. Security and Human Rights
3. Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, Reinsertions and Reintegration of Persons associated with Boko Haram
4. Humanitarian Assistance
5. Governance and the Social Contract
6. Socio-economic Recovery and Environmental Sustainability
7. Education, Learning and Skills
8. Prevention of Violent Extremism and Building Peace
9. Empowerment and Inclusion of Women and Youth

The Regional Stabilization Strategy (RSS) is seeking to stabilize, recover and build resilience of affected communities in eight regions of the four countries around the Lake Chad basin. The target regions are:

- Cameroon
  - Far North Region
  - North Region
- Chad
  - Lac Region
  - Hajider-Lamis Region
- Niger
  - Diffa Region
- Nigeria
  - Adamawa State
  - Borno State
  - Yobe State

Facilitating the Implementation of the RSS with a Regional Stabilization Facility

On 17 July 2019, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with support from governments of Germany, Sweden, UK and the
European Union (EU), launched the Regional Stabilization Facility (RSF) at the margins of the Second Lake Chad Basin Governors Forum in Niger, to facilitate the implementation of the Regional Stabilization Strategy (RSS) of the Lake Chad Basin Commission. The RSF is a multi-donor basket fund, seeking to mobilize an estimated budget of USD100m to carry out stabilization interventions in the affected communities in Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria. Its interventions are focusing on four of the nine pillars of the RSS. These are:

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<tr>
<th>Pillar</th>
<th>Priority Area</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pillar 5</td>
<td>Governance &amp; Social Contract</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pillar 6</td>
<td>Socio-economic Recovery and Environmental Sustainability</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pillar 8</td>
<td>Preventing of Violent Extremism and Building Peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pillar 9</td>
<td>Empowerment &amp; Inclusion of Women and Youth.</td>
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The RSF has two types of windows: four national windows, providing immediate stabilisation (for 18 months) in the specific target areas in the four affected countries, and a regional window that is providing extended support for the implementation of the Regional Stabilization Strategy. Activities under the national windows are seeking to provide or improve:

Supports under the regional window of the RSF aim to facilitate the Lake Chad Basin Commission’s (LCBC) transition from humanitarian assistance to longer-term development and resilience Commission. This will be achieved by supporting:

- Cross-border cooperation and coordination
- Development of Territorial Action Plans (TAPs) and coordination mechanisms
- LCBC to strengthen its capacity for the implementation of the RSS

Implementing the Regional Stabilization Strategy: Actions Plans

**Regional Action Plan (RAP):** This is a two-year work plan for the LCBC Secretariat to perform its regional coordinating role in the implementation of the RSS. The RAP identifies regional actions, existing capacities and resources, and prioritizes planned interventions.

**Territorial Action Plan (TAP):** The TAPs specify initiatives to be undertaken in the eight areas of the four countries. Its development and implementation are the responsibility of the Governors of the affected areas in order to ensure localization and ownership of the RSS. The LCBC Secretariat ensures methodological consistency between the TAPs to facilitate overall monitoring and reporting.

**Joint Action Plans (JAPs):** These are UNDP’s plans for the implementation of immediate stabilization interventions at the national window level. Each JAP develops in collaboration with Governors and relevant Ministries, targets specific community within the affected territories in each of the four countries.

Coordinating the Implementation of the RSS

**Pillar Working Groups (PWGs):** The PWGs are to ensure technical coordination of the nine pillars of intervention at the territorial level. Its members will include implementing partners, and other stakeholders in each of the eight affected territories. The groups will be led by the office of the Governors of each territory. These will be clustered into the three themes below to effectively coordinate interventions on the nine pillars of the RSS:

| Governance Cluster | Development and Humanitarian Cluster | Security and Protection Cluster |

**Regional Task Force (RTF):** This is to be directed by the LCBC Secretariat with support from the AU Commission. Composed of other UN and development partners, the RTF will support technical coordination of the pillars of intervention at the Regional level, and assist with monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

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