



Regional Stabilization Strategy for the Liptako-Gourma Region

INFORMATION BRIEF
SEPTEMBER 2022



1. Overview

-  A foundational framework to support government efforts to stabilize the region to restore peace and security, establishing the basis for longer-term development
-  Creating coherence and synergies within and between LG countries
-  Led by the LG Member States and Liptako-Gourma Authority
-  Builds on the Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience (RSS) in the Lake Chad Basin Commission process
-  Currently undergoing a participative and inclusive consultation process, including a conflict analysis
-  Final Strategy expected to be completed by January 2023

2. Rationale: Why do we need the Strategy?

More than a year and a half since the ministerial meeting of the Coalition for the Sahel, and calls to stabilize the Sahel region in a sustainable manner, **the Liptako-Gourma region still finds itself grappling with a complex web of security, political, socio-economic and environmental challenges.** Despite the launch of numerous initiatives by the three LG countries and their technical and financial partners in support to the communities, the region has seen around 5,000 people perish due to various forms of conflict in 2021, while more than 2.5 million people are displaced. There have already been 200 incidences of violence against civilians with more than 600 casualties reported between June and mid-August 2022 in the LG region.

As LG Member States step up their efforts to bring stability to the region, there is a pressing need for an overarching framework under which stabilization interventions takes place, offering a dedicated strategic backbone that outlines the purpose, principles, and partners of stabilization, with coordination mechanisms and risk management procedures. This is the aim of the **Regional Stabilization Strategy for the Liptako-Gourma Region.**

Specifically, the Strategy will aim to lay out the **core principles of stabilization** – government-led, strengthening the social contract, speed and scale, conflict sensitivity and doing no harm, among others.

The Strategy will enhance coherence and synergy between the multitude of interventions that are currently ongoing in the LG region. This regional approach is a critical factor that could make or break future stabilization efforts, in a region where humanitarian, development and peacebuilding challenges, by definition, transcend borders – from the protracted conflicts and the increasingly devastating effects of climate change to the forced displacement of populations and impacts on cross-border trade and pastoralist activities.

The Strategy will also aim at strengthening links between activities and mechanisms at the local level and regional processes to ensure a comprehensive, multi-sectoral and coordinated approach to stabilization, while emphasizing the imperatives for the return of the state, humanitarian-development-peace actors' collaboration for long-term stabilization, recovery, and resilience.

The Strategy will build on the lessons learnt from the Lake Chad Basin region, where the Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience (RSS), launched in August 2018, has provided a strategic anchor for Stabilization efforts in the region and successfully created coherence across different contexts.



3. Who is leading the Strategy development process?

The Liptako-Gourma Authority (LGA) is playing a lead coordinating role in developing the Strategy, supported by UNDP and the consulting firm Africa Label Group. The Strategy will **serve as a platform** for LGA to exchange and engage with partners, as well as **strengthen regional and cross-border cooperation**.

LG Member States have reiterated their commitment to the stabilization initiatives and the elaboration of the Strategy at the Liptako-Gourma Ministerial Council Meeting in 2021. Consultations with Member States have started in earnest in Burkina Faso, while missions are planned in Mali and Niger from October 2022.

4. The Strategy development methodology

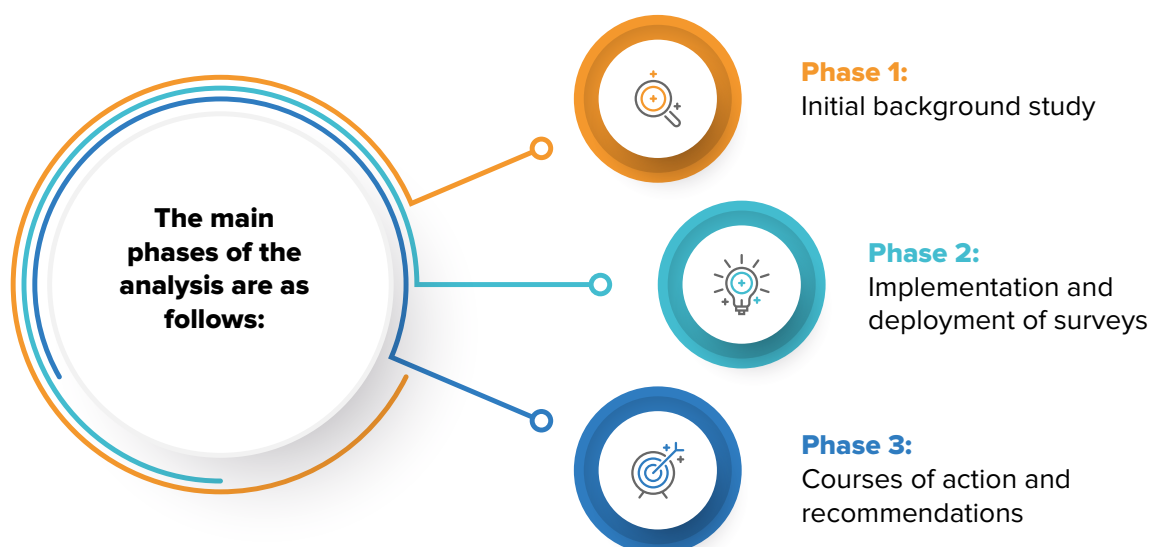
- ⊕ **Desk review** of all documents on stabilization and related interventions in the LG region, as well as other documentation related to conflict analyses, humanitarian snapshots, climate security assessments etc.
- ⊕ **Mapping** of the key stabilization partners and analysis of SDF interventions, community conflicts, environmental, taking stock of the implementation of border management policies and strategies and capacity-building of cross-border cooperation structures
- ⊕ **Perception surveys** at the regional, commune and village level including in IDP camps.
- ⊕ **Consultations** (led by LGA and Africa Label Group with support from UNDP) with:
 - Member States (Burkina Faso almost complete; missions to Mali and Niger scheduled for October – November 2022), including all different government line ministries/sectors.
 - Donors (engaging local Embassies and Representation Offices)
 - Civil society including women’s and youth groups
 - UN agencies
 - Leaders in the region including customs heads, CSOs, religious and traditional leaders
 - Communities (through focus group discussions)
 - Regional actors (AU, ECOWAS, G5 Sahel, LCBC, Intergovernmental Organizations such as CILSS and UEMOA)
 - Think tanks, universities (to be determined).
- ⊕ **Drafting** of the Strategy
- ⊕ **Validation** workshops with all stakeholders (expected by January 2023)

5. Harmonizing the Strategy with the conflict analysis

A conflict analysis is being undertaken in parallel with the development of the Strategy by Amarante International. It will examine the root causes of the multi-dimensional crisis, the current conflict dynamics, and emerging trends in the LG region. It will provide **important data and evidence of how conflict dynamics are affecting the socio-economic fabric** in the region, which in turn will inform the Strategy and shape future programme and policy interventions. The conflict analysis is accompanied by a Climate Security Assessment and mapping for targeted interventions in the LG region.

The conflict analysis is a critical exercise to **analyze** the volatile and fluid security context, **identify** the conflict stakeholders and their interactions, and **examine** the drivers of conflict and peace. It will help to ensure that stabilization interventions, apply a conflict sensitivity lens with the aim to positively impact conflict dynamics while doing no harm. The analysis will be a living, not static, document. It will be updated and revised to respond to the fluid nature of the conflict dynamics in the region. The analysis will also build on and complement other conflict analyses at the regional, national, and local levels.



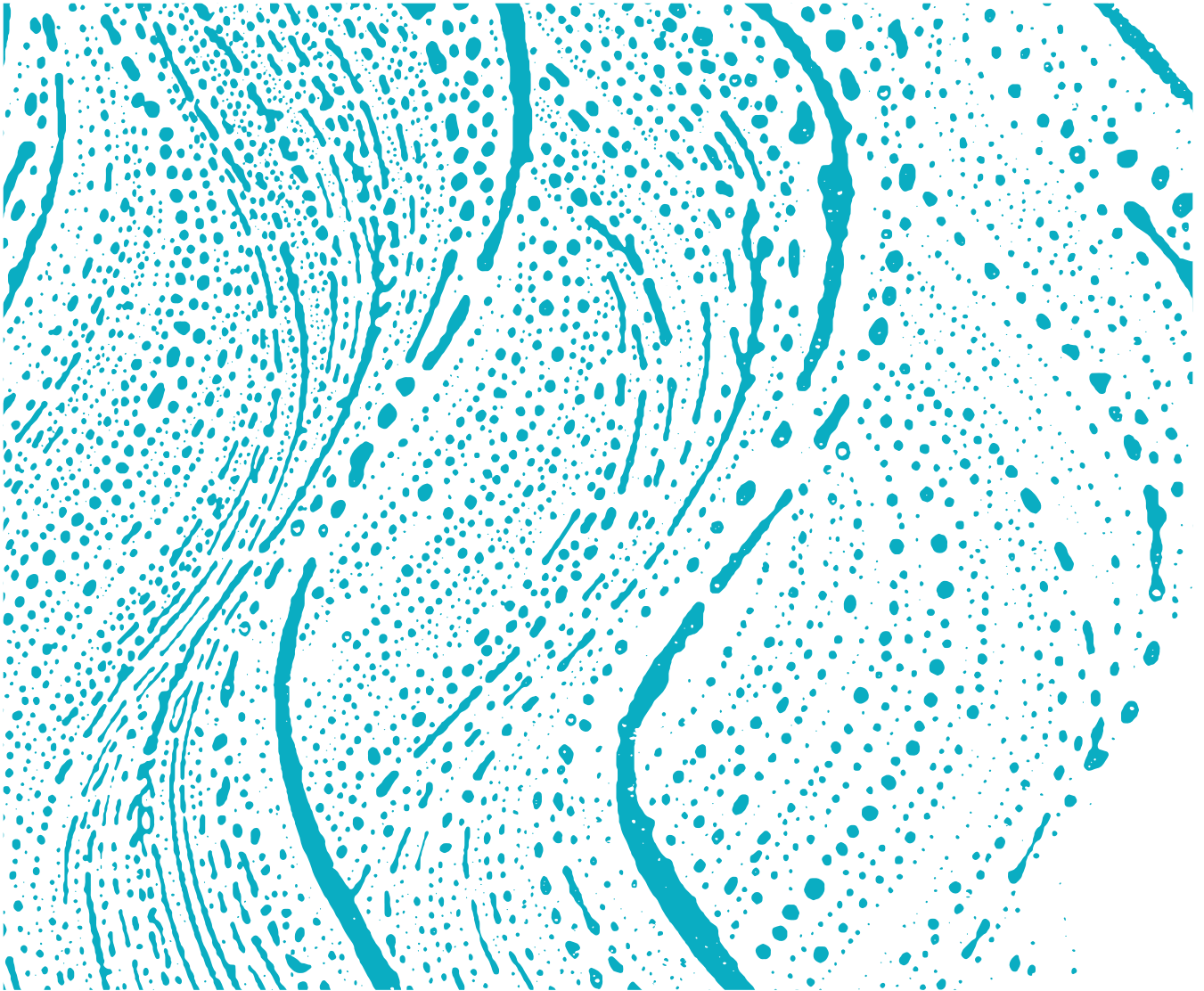


The target zones of the conflict analysis (identified by the Liptako-Gourma Authority) are as follows:

Zone d'intérêt †	Pays	Régions couvertes	Zones cibles
#1	Mali	Mopti	Mopti (ville)/Bandiagara
#2		Tombouctou	Tombouctou (ville)/Niafunké
#3		Gao	Gao (ville)/Asongo
#4		Menaka	Ménaka (ville)/Anderamboukane
#5	Burkina Faso	Sahel (1)	Gorom Gorom/ Djibo (particularité : l'enquête à Kongoussi sur PDIs ressortissants du Soum)
#6		Sahel (2)	Dori/Sebba
#7		Est	Fada N'Gourma/Bogandé
#8		Nord	Ouahigouya/Titao
#9	Niger	Tillabéri/Dosso	Gueladjo/Torodi
#10		Tillabéri	Tera/Bankilaré
#11		Tillabéri	Tillabéri (ville)/Ayorou
#12		Tillabéri/Tahoua	Abala/Tillia

The Regional Stabilization Strategy will build on conflict analysis. Running the conflict analysis in parallel with the development of the Strategy is a new model which will allow more flexibility, rather than a linear, sequenced approach whereby the Strategy follows rigidly what was identified in the conflict analysis.

The final version of the conflict analysis is expected by end-November 2022.



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for the Liptako-Gourma Region

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