RESTORING HOPE
Pledging Request for Investing in Stabilisation, Recovery, and Resilience of the Lake Chad Basin
The 3rd High-Level Conference on the Lake Chad Basin Region comes at a critical period. Over the past few years, the launch and implementation of the Regional Strategy for Stabilisation, Recovery and Resilience (RS-SRR) and the continued military operations of the MNJFT have led to significant success in the fight against Boko Haram and other extremist groups.

The combined impact of the stabilisation, recovery, and resilience efforts and the upscale in the military offensive has led to the restoration of social contracts between affected communities in the region and their respective governments. State presence has been re-restored through rebuilding basic infrastructure, improved security and livelihood support to affected communities and households. Since 2019, with the support of different partners, there have been many investments in the region, and we have seen displaced communities return to their ancestral homes. Thousands of households start new life better than before, empowered with a renewed sense of hope and agency. We have seen human mobility and cross-border trade commence again in the region. Ngaranam, Banki, Amchide, Guite and Diffa are among the many communities that have benefited from the various interventions supporting the Strategy since 2019.

These successes have been instrumental in motivating the armed forces of the four countries to continue their push to end the insurgency in their quest to ensure a safer Lake Chad Basin region. Currently, nearly 80,000 ex-combatants and personnel associated with armed groups have laid down arms, including children, women, and youths.

Despite the investments and successes, tens of thousands of civilians continue to face violence, live in fear and insecurity, and have limited access to essential infrastructure, basic social services, and livelihood sources. In 2022, the region experienced some of the worst floodings in over a decade. Climate change and environmental conditions have exacerbated the inter-communal conflict, which is on the rise. Women’s continued political and economic marginalisation stifle the region’s potential for growth and peace. Food insecurity continues to affect many households in Lake Chad, with around 5.6 million people facing food insecurity in the months to come.

Notwithstanding the challenges, the 3rd Lake Chad Basin Conference is taking place in the context of hope and progress. Boko Haram and other factions have been dislodged and pushed out of large areas, stabilisation efforts have enabled people to return to their homes to build forward better, and communities report higher levels of trust in their governments. Those advancements have been aided by establishing critical regional structures under the Regional Strategy for Stabilisation, Recovery and Resilience (RS SRR). The RS-SRR, based on the principles of inclusivity, local ownership, and a commitment to the New Way of Working, has benefited local communities directly through multi-partner efforts. This has been showcased through the regional stabilization facility pioneered by regional, national and local actors across the Lake Chad countries and region. Stabilization has made a difference in the lives and livelihoods of communities, enhanced community security, restored essential services and livelihood opportunities, and shifted people out of dependency. We are already witnessing a surge of people returning home after years of displacement. What brings them back is an energized economic and social fabric, construction of homes, classrooms, hospitals and marketplaces – with support from many partners.

Notably, through the development of the Territorial Action Plans (TAPs), the engagement and collaboration with local civil society organizations (CSOs) and the Governors’ Forum, the RS SRR is predicated upon the principle of national and local ownership while regional in scope. The comprehensive and local-regional approach laid out in the RS SRR is unique in the African context and the LCB region.

To capitalise on the progress and advancement, the RS-SRR must remain the overarching rallying framework for stabilisation, recovery, and resilience in the region. As we plan to evaluate the progress made over the past four years, with the hope of extending the Strategy for more years to come, we urge partners across the humanitarian, development, and peace spectrum to work with the LCBC and Member Countries to restore hope to communities. We must continue to invest in affected local communities through the framework of the RS-SRR.

We are grateful to our partners, the African Union, UNDP, Germany, the UK, Sweden, the Netherlands, the AfDB and the EU, for their continued support. Our collective and shared commitment will translate into tangible results for the communities and people of the region.

Thank you!
Lake Chad straddles four riparian countries, two regional economic communities, two landlocked countries and two countries that skew investment towards coastal regions. The region’s population is around 30 million people from different ethnicities, nations, and nationalities. The region has huge potential for farming, livestock, and fisheries but also serves as a hub for cross-border trade and human mobility in Africa. Most communities earn their living through cross-border trade and services to other major cities around the region. Before the Boko Haram insurgency broke out, Northeast Nigeria engaged in cross-border trade more than it did with the rest of Nigeria.

The populations living in the Lake Chad Basin depend heavily on the Lake for their livelihoods. However, from the 1970s to the 1980s, the lake’s water surface shrunk from 25,000 km² to only 2,500 km². Although the shrinking of the lake ended in the late 1980s, the reduction of the water surface heavily impacted economic activities and food security in the Lake Chad Basin, further aggravating intercommunal tension, with the search for alternate livelihoods pushing community members to engage with extremist groups.
LAKE CHAD BASIN GENEALOGY

Pre-1950
Prosperity Era
Prosperity around the Lake
- Farming, Fishing and Cross-Border trade

1950/the 60s
Prosperity in Marginalisation
Early period of marginalisation,
but the lake provided access to
fish, water and livelihoods

1970s/1980s
Prosperity in Marginalisation
The entire region suffers from
intense droughts

1970s/1980s
Shrinking of the Lake
and Severe Droughts

1970s/1980s
Population Growth

1980s
Economic Shock
Growing shocks due to structural
adjustments & rapid urbanization
led to increased crime

1980s
Shrinking of the Lake
and Severe Droughts
The entire region suffers from
intense droughts

2002
Boko Haram Emerged
Economic woes, inequality,
governance deficit, and corrupt
transitions rise to Boko Haram

2009
Boko Haram Reemergence
Death of its founder and
others trigger discontent
and a change in tactics

2009
Escalation of terror and
spread of insurgency
Increased recruitment &
abduction of youth. Looting
and burning of communities

2009 Onwards
Climate/Conflict Trap
Conflict undermines ability
to adapt to climate change
due to mobility restrictions &
displacement

2009 Onwards
Climate/Conflict Trap
Migration towards the Lake
placed stress on available
resources, infrastructure, services
and governance

2015
Increased Military
Response
The MNJTF was established as a
Joint Force

2016
Scale-up of
Humanitarian Response
Increased humanitarian
responses and limited
livelihood options due to the
climate/conflict trap

2018
Lake Chad Strategy
The Regional Strategy for
Stabilisation Recovery and
Resilience was developed

2019 - Date
Implementation of the Strategy
Continuing military operations,
roll out and implementation of
the RS-SRR

ONGOING
Since 2009, the Lake Chad Basin region has faced intractable extremist insurgencies led by Boko Haram and other violent extremist factions. This has led to the death of tens of thousands and the displacement of approximately 2.8 million people (including 2 million in Nigeria alone).
Since 2009, the Lake Chad Basin region has faced intractable extremist insurgencies led by Boko Haram and other violent extremist factions. This has led to the death of tens of thousands and the displacement of approximately 2.8 million people (including 2 million in Nigeria alone). The origin of the crisis is rooted in governance neglect, marginalisation, exclusion and, in most cases, the breakdown of the social contract between communities and states. Over the past decades, the region has faced severe drought, changes in climate, lack of investment due to the structural adjustment of the 1980s, youth bulge and transnational crime that has helped to exacerbate the crises in the region. The extremist groups took advantage of this discord, undermining already weak state structures and carving out crime for youths that lost out the sources of their livelihood due to severe climate fragility, fuelling violent conflict and extreme poverty.
Since 2019, the region has started making its way back through stabilisation interventions and looking towards recovery and longer-term development. These efforts have led to investments and progress made so far in rebuilding the social contract and regaining trust between state and communities.
IMPACT SO FAR

**SECURITY**
3,453 community representatives and security actors trained on SGBV, HR and civilian protection, civil-military dialogue; Increase of security presence and patrol in target communities across the region.

**INFRASTRUCTURE**
452 essential infrastructures rehabilitated and equipped – health centres, market stalls, housing units, community centres, security posts, schools, draining systems; 132 Solar powered equipment installed;

**LIVELIHOODS**
Direct livelihood support provided to more than 51,300 people; Equipment and training provided to over 27,844 women and men; In Niger, the marketing of live cattle (including on the corridor with Nigeria) has increased from a negligible figure to a sale of about 105 head of cattle per week, increasing significantly family income.

**CROSS BORDER**
Security interventions coordinated between the Cameroonian defense forces & the Nigerian army in Boko Haram areas; Economic activity resumed between Amchidé (Cameroon) and Banki (Nigeria) with revenue in customs improving from 0 from 2015 – 2019 to $1.4m in 2021; Estimated 12,000 people returned to their places of origin (Amchidé & Limani in Cameroon).

### Breakdown of Beneficiaries
**Impact Per Country**

- **Cameroon**: 1,316,200 people including 715,232 women have benefitted from stabilisation interventions in the Far North and North Region.
- **Chad**: 76,717 people including 33,674 women have benefitted from interventions in the Hadjer Lamis and Lac Province.
- **Niger**: 20,838 people including 10,633 women have benefitted from interventions in Diffa.
- **Nigeria**: 778,581 people including 440,003 women have benefitted from interventions in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe.
Stabilization interventions have helped millions of people access livelihoods, healthcare, education, electricity, and other critical services. 55,000 men and women (42 percent) have been provided with productive assets and business grants (agricultural inputs, fishing tools and business start-up grants).
INVESTMENTS IN THE LAKE
CHAD BASIN

RS-SRR emerged from an acknowledgement by affected states that securitized approaches alone were inadequate to address the multidimensional challenges afflicting communities in the Lake Chad Basin’s Boko Haram-affected areas. Since its launch in 2019, the RS-SRR has provided the platform for partners and actors to coordinate efforts to restore state authority and improve communities’ conditions on the path towards recovery and development. Significant improvement has been made in the cooperation, coherence, and complementarity among the LCB Member States through strengthened national and local capacities and improved inclusive inter and intra-regional cooperation. There was notable progress in harmonising regional policies and facilitating cross-border trade and human mobility, strengthening community relationships and developing platforms for information and communication sharing and management through the Knowledge Management Platform. Over the past years, the RS-SRR has created opportunities for enhanced involvement of local CSOs through the Civil Society through the Directory and Information Management System (DIMS).

At the Territorial Level, the RSS, through a partnership with UNDP, has ensured the restoration of the social contract between the communities and the state. Following the rebuilding of essential infrastructure, improved access to basic services, enhanced security and safety and boosted livelihood opportunities for affected households, surveys show a 46% increase in safety and security across target locations in Chad and Nigeria and more communities trust government’s capacities in responding to their needs.

Budget Per Territory
For the Lake Chad Basin (2022 - 2027)

Overall 5-Year Investment Requirement
$1.84b

UNDP’s Investment
Joint Action Plans for the Lake Chad Basin

Cameroon: $24,427,855.82
Chad: $17,765,533.94
Niger: $19,933,438.64
Nigeria: $89,355,017.9

Overall Investment: $151,481,866.3
(8.2%)

Financial Gap: $1,696,459,499.64
(91.8%)

This Excludes Contributions to the Regional Window Amounting to $16,080,091.82

Investment Focus Areas
RS-SRR Pillars

Pillar 1: Political Cooperation
Pillar 2: Security and Human Rights
Pillar 3: DDRRR
Pillar 4: Humanitarian Assistance
Pillar 5: Governance and the Social Contract
Pillar 6: Socio-Economic Recovery and Environmental Sustainability
Pillar 7: Education, Learning and Skills
Pillar 8: Prevention of Violent Extremism and Building Peace
Pillar 9: Empowerment and Inclusion of Women and Youth

Nigeria - $1,079,053,125.48
- Adamawa - $229,997,435
- Borno - $590,000,000
- Yobe - $259,055,690

Cameroon - $603,000,000
- Far North - 342,500,000
- North Region - 260,500,000

Chad - $73,808,129.20
- Hadjer Lamis - 30,986,823.45
- Lac Province - 42,821,305.84
The development of the Regional Strategy for Stabilisation, Recovery and Resilience and subsequent partnerships that have led to the investments and progress made so far, has led to rebuilding social contracts and regaining trust between states, and communities.
CALL TO ACTION

Communities in the Lake Chad Basin now have greater hope for a brighter future. Entire villages were rebuilt and thousands of people have returned to normal lives, with a new and better beginning.

$1.8 billion is required for stabilization, resilience and recovery efforts to bring lasting change across the Lake Chad Basin area over the next 5 years.

Now is the time to support communities, lift themselves out of crisis and build the better future they are aspiring to.

Now is the time to invest in ending needs.