



RESTORING HOPE

Pledging Request for Investing in Stabilisation,
Recovery, and Resilience of the Lake Chad Basin





FOREWORD

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Executive Secretary, Lake Chad Basin Commission and Head of Mission, Multinational Joint Task Force

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!

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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 1979s 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.



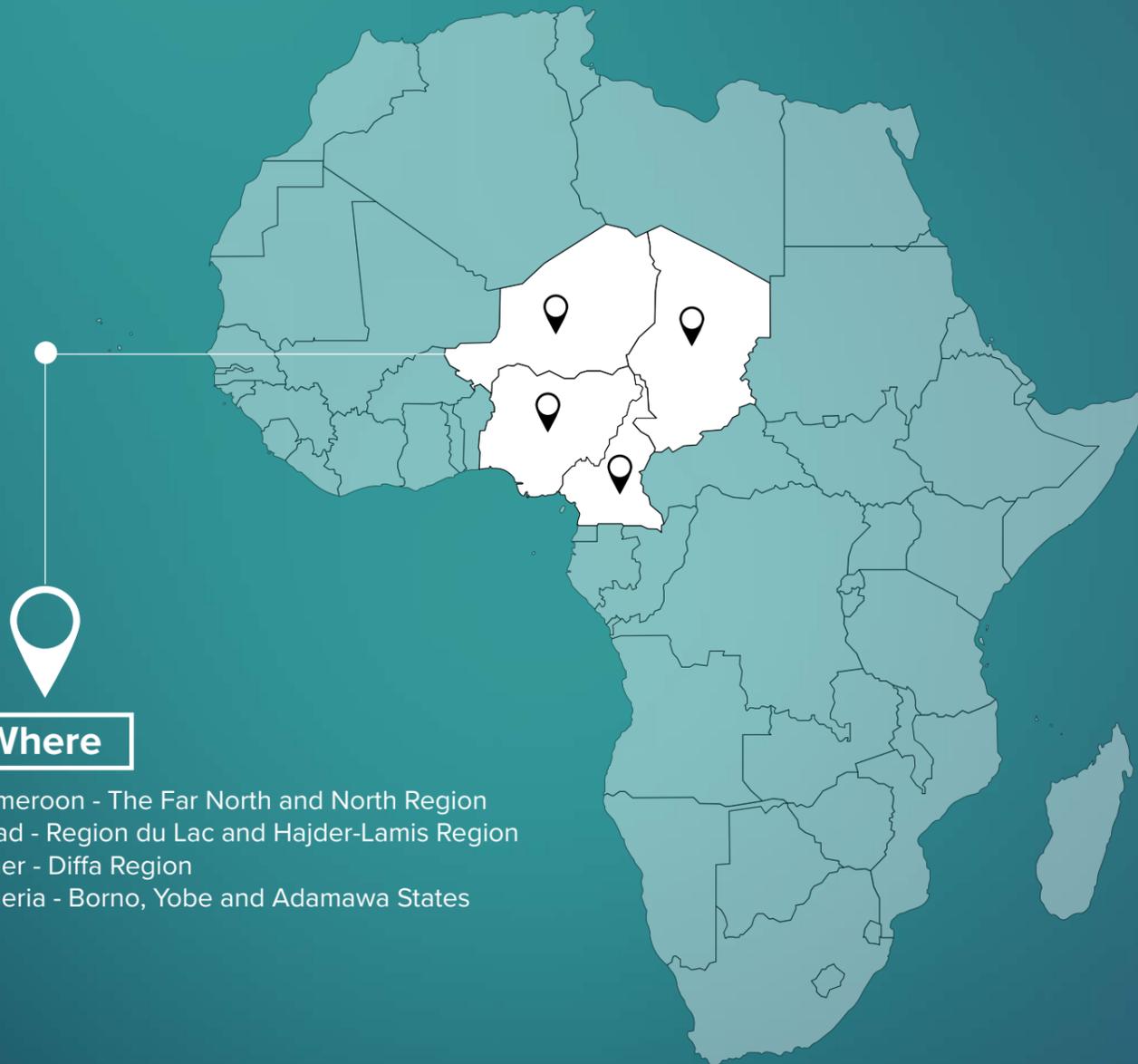
LAKE CHAD BASIN GENEALOGY



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 CRISIS AT A GLANCE



Displacement by Country



Nigeria
2 Million



Cameroon
358k



Chad
381k



Niger
121k



About 17 Million

In parts of Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria are affected by the crisis



11 Million People

or about one in every two people are in need



2.8 Million People

in affected parts of Lake Chad Basin are displaced



29 Security Incidents

Occurred in July 2022 alone



72 Deaths

Occurred in July 2022 alone



5.5 Million people

are facing food insecurity & 300,000 children are severely malnourished.

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





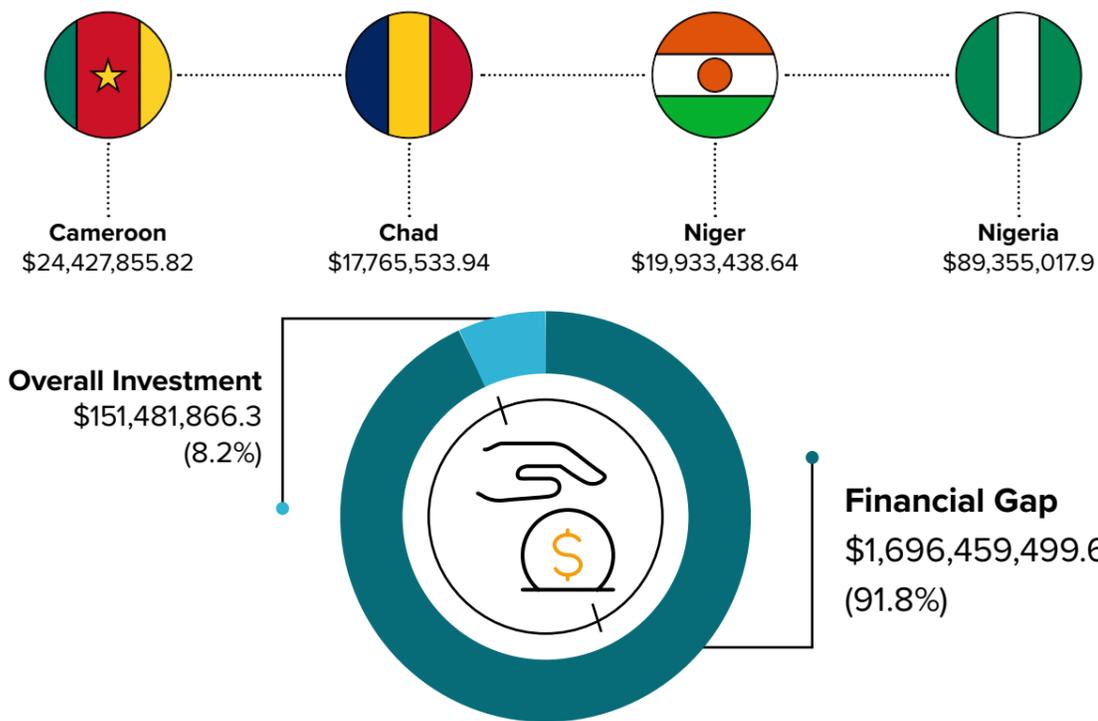
Stabilization interventions have helped millions of people access livelihoods, healthcare, education, electricity, and other critical services. 55,000 men and women (42 percent) have been provided with productive assets and business grants (agricultural inputs, fishing tools and business start-up grants).

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).

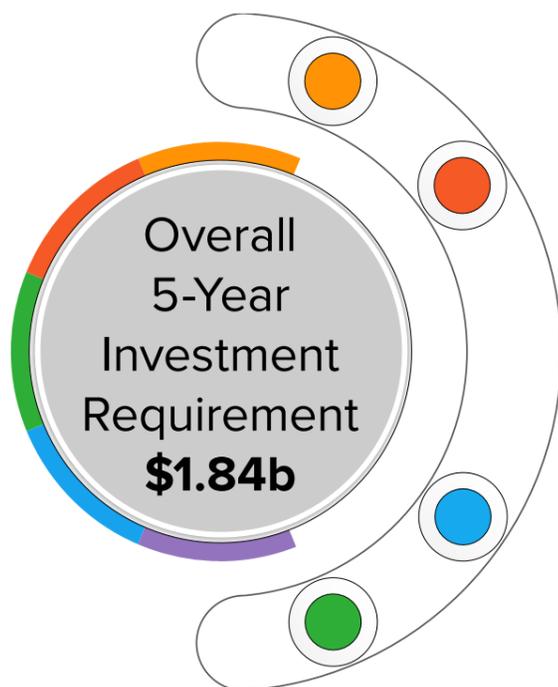
At the Territorial Level, the RSS, through a partnership with UNDP, has ensured the restoration of the social contract between the communities and the state. Following the rebuilding of essential infrastructure, improved access to basic services, enhanced security and safety and boosted livelihood opportunities 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.

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



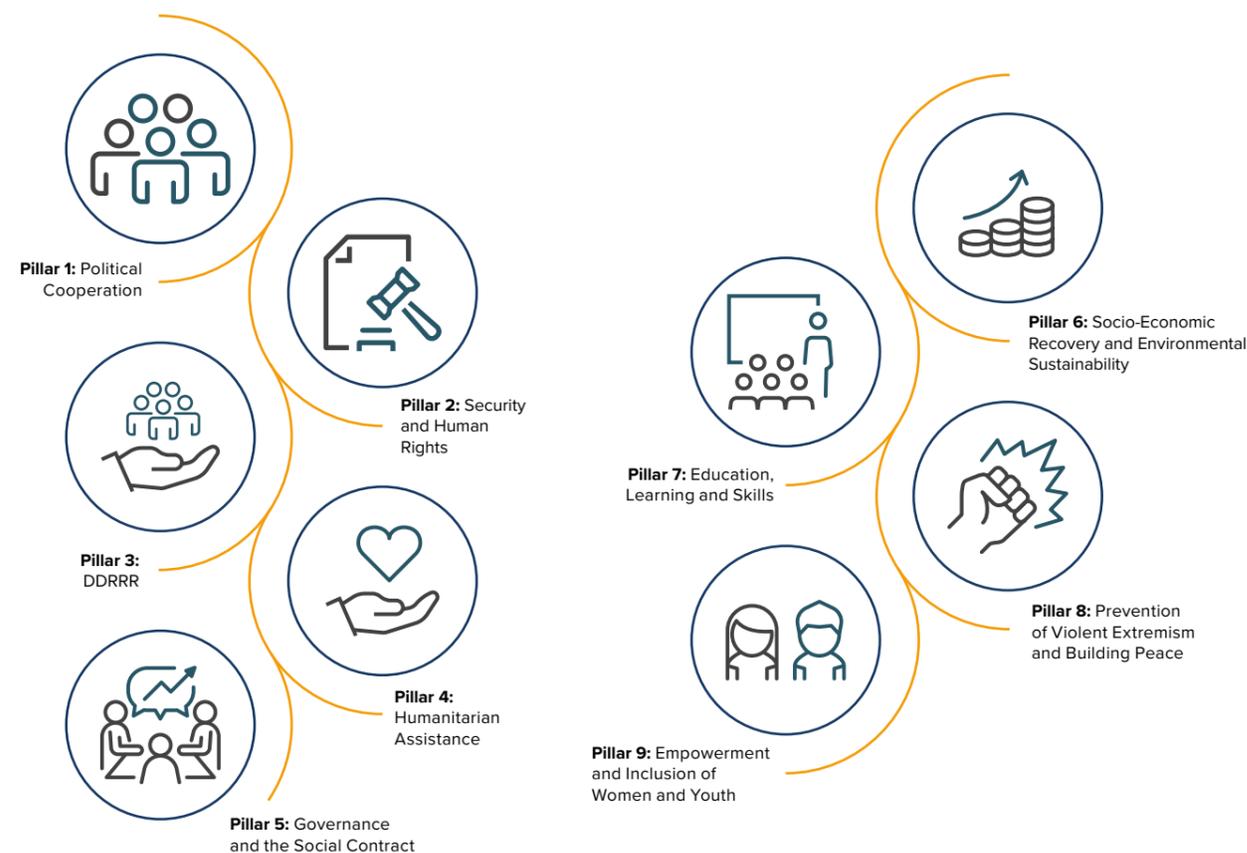
This Excludes Contributions to the Regional Window Amounting to \$16,080,091.82

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



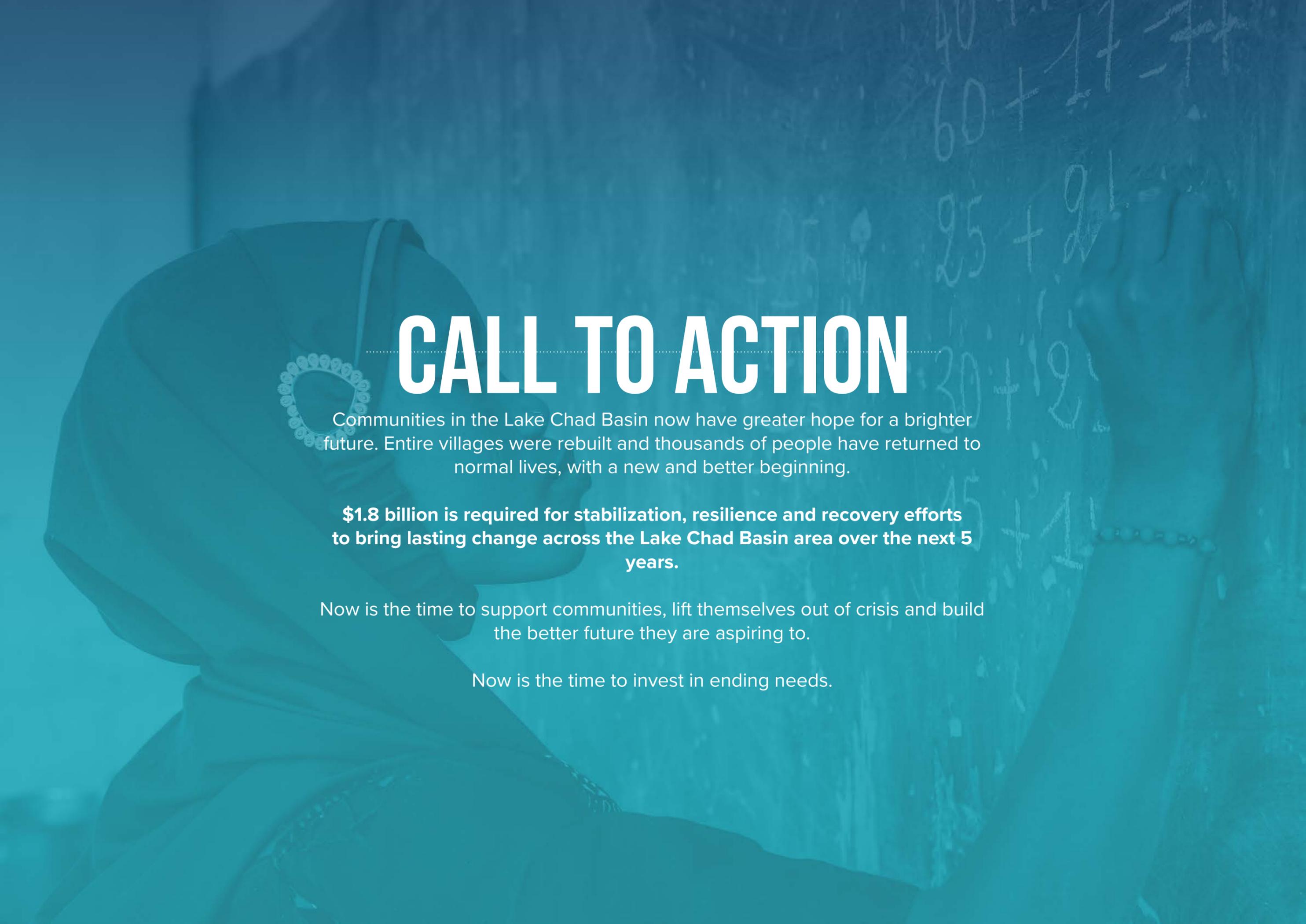
- Nigeria - \$1,079,053,125.48**
 Adamawa - \$229,997,435
 Borno - \$590,000,000
 Yobe - \$ 259,055,690
- Niger - \$92,080,111.17**
 Diffa - \$92,080,111.17
- Cameroon - \$603,000,000**
 Far North - 342,500,000
 North Region - 260,500,000
- Chad - \$73,808,129.29**
 Hadjer Lamis - 30,986,823.45
 Lac Province - 42,821,305.84

Investment Focus Areas RS-SRR Pillars



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.



A woman wearing a dark headscarf and a necklace is looking towards a chalkboard. The chalkboard is filled with handwritten mathematical problems, including addition and subtraction exercises like '60 + 25 =', '90 + 10 =', '30 + 10 =', '45 + 3 =', and '11 + 1 ='.

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.



Lake Chad Basin Commission

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