

Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery, and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region (RS-SRR)

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Preface

The Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) was established by the Fort-Lamy (N'Djamena) Convention on 22 May 1964 by the four countries bordering Lake Chad: Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, and Chad. The Central African Republic joined the organization in 1996, and Libya was admitted in 2008. Sudan, Egypt, the Republic of Congo, and the Democratic Republic of Congo held observer status.

About RS-SRR:

In 2018, the LCBC, with support from the African Union (AU) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), launched a Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery, and Resilience (RS-SRR) for the Lake Chad Basin regions affected by the Boko Haram crisis: Cameroon (The Far North and North Region), Niger (Diffa Region), Nigeria: the Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States) and Chad (Lac and Hajder-Lamis Provinces.

The RS-SRR seeks to establish a common approach and an inclusive framework for all stakeholders to support a timely, coordinated, and effective transition from stabilization to early recovery and the resumption of stalled development processes. It is anchored on commonalities while considering the peculiarities of each of the concerned states and addressing the root causes of the crisis in the region to enhance resilience.

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Acknowledgments

The Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) expresses its sincere thanks to the various institutions and actors who have supported implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region (RS-SRR) in 2022.

We are most grateful to the African Union for its strong political cooperation and for facilitating the LCBC's engagement with the African Union Peace and Security Council (AU-PSC).

We would like to recognize the immense support of the African Development Bank, the World Bank, and the United Nations System, especially the Offices of the Resident Coordinators in the four affected countries, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), and the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA).

The financial and technical support of the International Support Group was highly instrumental in attaining some of the goals of the RS-SRR in 2022. We are, therefore, most grateful to these donors for their support in this regard. The Lake Chad Basin Commission wishes to extend special thanks to the staff of its Secretariat for their exceptionally hard work in advancing RS-SRR implementation for the past year. Additionally, we would like to extend a special acknowledgement to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for continuing to facilitate and support RS-SRR implementation, including through the support to the Secretariat.

Lastly, we would like to thank Delphine Colbeau for preparing this report.

Acronyms and abbreviations

AFDB	African Development Bank
AU	African Union
BMZ	Bundesministerium Für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit
СВО	Community-Based Organization
CIMIC	Civil-Military Cooperation
CONOPS	Concept of Operations
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CSC	Community Stabilization Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CTED	UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
DDRR	Disengagement, Disassociation, Reintegration, and Reconciliation
DDRRR	Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, Reintegration, and Resettlement
DIMS	Directory Information Management Systems
EU	European Union
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
HDP	Humanitarian-Development-Peace
HQ -	Headquarters
IDPS	Internally Displaced Persons
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISS	Institute for Security Studies
ISWAP	Islamic State – West Africa Province
JAP	Joint Action Plans
JAS	Jama'atu Ahlis-Sunna Lidda'Awati Wal-Jihad
KMP	Knowledge Management Platform
LCBC	Lake Chad Basin Commission
MEAC	
MNJTF	
NGO	
NSAGS	
	UN Office of Counter-Terrorism
ODA	
PBF	
PVE	
RS-SRR	
RSF	
SOPS	
SPRR	
SRSG	
UNDP	
UNHCR	
UNOCA	
UNODC	
UNU	-
VEO	
WFP	-
WEF	

Foreword

I am delighted to present the 2022 Annual Report for the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram Affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region.

The RS SRR, adopted by the Lake Chad Basin Commission and endorsed by the African Union in 2018, provides a framework for our collective efforts for stabilization and lays the groundwork for early recovery and long-term development of the eight territories around Lake Chad that have been affected by the conflict in the region. The RS SRR addresses the root causes of the conflict by utilizing a triple nexus approach and, in an inclusive manner, engaging all types of stakeholders at all levels.

Fourteen years into the conflict, armed groups continue to spread violence in Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria. About 2.7 million people are internally displaced the majority in Nigeria, while over 280,000 have fled their homes to seek refuge in neighboring countries. Besides the humanitarian crisis caused by the conflict, households and communities in this region are facing increasing vulnerability due to complications from climate change and extreme weather events and the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially on education, livelihoods, and food security. The resulting humanitarian crisis in the region is one of the largest in the world. Over 11 million people need humanitarian assistance and protection. About 4 million people are food insecure, with 400,000 children experiencing malnutrition. Young people face few prospects for jobs that could lead to economic stability.

However, against this backdrop, we are witnessing islands of stability, which gives us hope. We have seen people who have faced multiple displacements over many years return to their ancestral homes and start rebuilding their lives. We have witnessed markets reopening, further facilitating trade and economic growth. Social infrastructures such as permanent housing, schools and clinics have been rehabilitated or constructed. All these actions lay the foundation for social cohesion and sustainable peace. Most recently, we have also witnessed the mass exits of over 100,000 former fighters and associates and have initiated the process for effective rehabilitation and reintegration.

The Lake Chad Basin Commission and all our partners at the community, territorial, national, regional, and international levels continue to rally around the RS SRR. This report documents the partners' efforts in 2022 and showcases evidence of progress in implementing the RS SRR. It also documents their challenges and makes clear recommendations for the future.

This report is important as it documents not only the fifth year of implementation of the strategy but also the last year of the first fiveyear phase. As we look towards articulating the future of the RS SRR, this report will serve as an important element.

I invite you to read the 2022 Annual Report for the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram Affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region. I profoundly hope that the successes recorded in this report will inspire and motivate the continued political, technical, and financial support needed to galvanize the resources and collaboration required to implement this strategy fully.



Amb. Mamman NUHU

Executive Secretary, LCBC and Head of Mission, MNJTF

Executive Summary

The Lake Chad region remains one of the most protracted conflict and crisis zones globally, impacting millions across Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria. Since the conflict began, around 350,000 people have lost their lives, and indirect fatalities due to conflict-induced factors continue to rise. In 2022, the conflict has left 11 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and 2.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). Severe food insecurity reached its highest point in four years, affecting 5.6 million people during the lean season.

The RS-SRR, jointly adoptedby the LCBC and endorsed by the African Union (AU) in 2018, provides a framework for regional cooperation, coordination, and harmonization of efforts, aligning with the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. The report shows that significant progress was made by the RS-SRR implementing partners and the Secretariat in 2022 across the nine pillars of the strategy despite security volatility and escalating violence.



Significant strides within the framework of Political Cooperation and partnerships, such as the Wilton Park conference, were made with a view to amplifying the impact of initiatives. Additionally, resource mobilization efforts successfully built a robust financial pipeline.

The consolidation of Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) through partnerships with the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF). Operational capacities and infrastructures of security support providers were bolstered. In addition, capacity-building efforts focused on human rights and gender-based violence, strengthening the foundation of human rights principles within security forces and enhancing civilian protection and justice.

Several milestones contributing to fostering a heightened and harmonized awareness among key regional stakeholders concerning the vital aspects of Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, Reinsertion, and Reintegration of Persons associated with Boko Haram and Transitional Justice. A range of community-based reintegration and reconciliation activities, including the establishment of several community-based reconciliation committees, also contributed to RS-SRR.

Three million people in need of humanitarian assistance were targeted, addressing their immediate food and nutritional needs.

Key achievements included:

Over 1,244 inter-community dialogues were organized, focusing on strengthening peaceful coexistence and preventing conflicts, ultimately fostering harmonious community living. In parallel, institutional actors were supported to foster collaboration and a shared vision of good governance and strengthening of the social contract.

Support for gender-responsive policies, such as the validation of the National DDR Gender Strategy in Cameroon. Youth empowerment efforts reached over 2,000 young individuals across the region, promoting sustainable engagement through partnerships between youth leaders and community decisionmakers. Women's participation in economic activities was a highlight, with women representing 50% of beneficiaries in cash-for-work initiatives and receiving training in various fields like tailoring and agriculture.

Implementing cash-for-work programs involving over 4,000 participants, providing productive business grants and assets to 13,814 individuals, and rehabilitating vocational institutions to offer training to 500 young individuals. Empowerment efforts targeted 1,000 young people, fostering economic self-sufficiency.

Training programs benefiting over 15,000 people in various skill areas. Improved access to quality primary education reached over 30,000 children, with a significant focus on enhancing instruction, providing educational materials, and rehabilitating or constructing educational infrastructure. Outreach initiatives on peaceful co-existence, fostering community trust, and contributing to conflict resolution reached nearly 509,000 people. Counter-narrative efforts to resist extremist ideologies through training programmes in Nigeria reached over 300 government officials.



Despite the notable progress of 2022, enduring obstacles have been identified by the partners, such as :



Notwithstanding ongoing challenges, the RS-SRR remains a vital instrument in addressing the Lake Chad Basin crisis. Continued political, security, and financial support, expanded civil society representation, and international partnerships are essential to achieving the strategy's goals and bringing stability and peace to the region. The critical recommendations covered in this report include:



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I. – Introduction:

A. Context The Lake Chad region is one of the world's most protracted conflict and crisis zones. Despite certain positive developments, a persistent wave of high-intensity violence impacts the lives of millions in Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria. This unrelenting brutality greatly strains already limited natural resources and basic social services. While Nigerian President Buhari declared Boko Haram a "technical defeat" in 2015 when the Nigerian military reclaimed significant territories seized by the group, violent attacks continue with alarming frequency.

Over the past few years, the conflict landscape has evolved significantly. In 2016, Boko Haram splintered, and various other extremist factions emerged, local militias, organized criminal outfits, and intra-community conflicts. The epicenter of these violent attacks remains primarily focused on Nigeria and the border regions shared by Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria. In 2022 alone, there were 1,200 recorded security incidents in the Lake Chad Basin area involving non-state armed groups (NSAGs), state security forces, and civilians, encompassing intra- and inter-group conflicts. Tragically, these incidents resulted in approximately 3,800 fatalities.¹ This marks a slight increase from 2021, when 1,100 incidents were reported, resulting in 4,000 deaths, underscoring the persistent and devastating impact of violence in the sub-region.

The death of Abubakar Shekau in May 2021, the long-serving leader of the Jama'atu Ahlis-Sunna Lidda'Awati Wal-Jihad (JAS) faction of Boko Haram, triggered a wave of surrenders. Between May 2021 and March 2023, over 90,000 individuals, primarily affiliated with JAS and associated with other violent groups, surrendered to national authorities and security forces. While this presents an opportunity to bolster efforts for the reintegration of former JAS combatants and steer the region toward reconciliation and peace, if not managed meticulously, mass surrenders carry the risk of exacerbating community divisions, grievances, relapses, recidivism, and the initiation of a new cycle of conflict.

After nearly 13 years of ongoing conflict, armed groups continue to propagate violence, leaving a staggering 11 million people needing comprehensive assistance. During the 2022 lean season, an estimated 5.6 million people faced severe food insecurity—the highest figure in four years. Furthermore, there are approximately 2.9 million IDPs, with 2 million residing in Nigeria alone.² Since the inception of the crisis, around 350,000 people have lost their lives in attacks, clashes, and explosions in Nigeria alone. Indirect fatalities, including those resulting from conflict-induced diseases and hunger, are estimated at 35,000 across the entire region. These numbers continue to rise, exacerbated by additional adversities such as floods, droughts, and the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹ACLED Data (2022). 1,232 incidents and 3,740 deaths: <u>https://acleddata.com/dashboard/#/dashboard</u> ²OCHA (2023). <u>Lake Chad Basin: Humanitarian Snapshot (As of 08 December 2022)</u>.

Considering the challenges confronting the Lake Chad region, both the LCBC and the AU recognized the imperative of a united regional approach to address the crisis. The LCBC developed the RS-SRR, which was approved by the LCBC Council of Ministers inn August 2018 endorsed by the AU Peace and Security Council later the same year. The strategy complements coordinated military response to combat violent extremist armed groups, spearheaded by the MNJTF, in collaboration with the four affected countries' national security and defense forces. In July 2019, the Regional Stabilization Facility (RSF) for the Lake Chad Basin, a multi-donor initiative, was formally inaugurated to support the initial phases of the RS-SRR. Managed by the UNDP, this facility became operational in October 2019 and has received funding from several donors and partners.

The RS-SRR provides a framework for regional cooperation, coordination, and harmonization of the efforts in the four LCBC Member States to achieve stabilization, recovery, and resilience in the Boko Haram crisisaffected regions of the Lake Chad Basin. It aligns with the principles of the 'New Way of Working' and the 'Whole of Society' approach to strengthen the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus. It underscores the importance of local, national, and regional ownership, leadership, coordination, and partnerships. The strategy comprises Nine Pillars of intervention with Forty Strategic Objectives, reflecting its comprehensive and ambitious scope, underscoring the substantial investment and long-term, coordinated efforts required to overcome this regional crisis. It implies establishing and consolidating regional capacities and structures for managing a unified regional crisis response and localizing similar structures to ensure interaction between regional, national, and territorial policies and programs. Notably, the Strategy advocates for institutionalizing a regional capacity within the LCBC, strengthening the organization's focus to encompass security, peace, and development.

The strategy defines the establishment of the RS-SRR Secretariat and its mandate, encompassing various responsibilities. It serves the Steering Committee for Strategy Implementation, ensuring efficient oversight and execution of the strategy's initiatives. Moreover, it provides invaluable support for regional-level civil-military cooperation, fostering stakeholder collaboration and synergy. The Secretariat also facilitates cross-border cooperation mechanisms, which include platforms like the Lake Chad Governor's Forum and a Regional Civil Society Platform, along with other dialogue initiatives. Additionally, it plays a partnership and aid coordination function for the RS-SRR implementation and assumes responsibility for establishing a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework, enabling annual reporting to assess progress effectively. The ongoing mapping of all ongoing, completed, and proposed initiatives of the Strategy, as well as the development and maintenance of the strategy results and resources framework, enhances regional donor coordination and liaison. Furthermore, it engages in research and knowledge management activities and conducts regional communications work to ensure effective dissemination of information. Lastly, the Secretariat contributes to capacity development support for the LCBC and other forms of political and cross-border cooperation, reinforcing the Strategy's goals and objectives.

Overview of the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery, and Resilience



Evolution of the implementation in 2022

C.

The implementation context of the RS-SRR in 2022 unfolded within a highly challenging security landscape characterized by security volatility. This period witnessed a surge in intra and inter-faction crises, marked by targeted attacks on military and government installations. Predatory attacks on civilians persisted, causing significant humanitarian and protection concerns, and the scope of attacks expanded, particularly in Nigeria's northern zones. The period also saw an escalation in military offensives, including Operation Yancin Tafki II in December 2021 and Operation Lake Sanity from March to June 2022. These operations aimed to restore the social order in affected communities and create opportunities for IDPs and refugees to return to their homelands. There were deliberate, targeted assaults on the military, undermining security efforts. In parallel, Boko Haram groups engaged in community outreach efforts, seeking to influence local dynamics, with Islamic State - West Africa Province (ISWAP) conducting a "hearts and minds" campaign in communities.

Meanwhile, kidnappings for ransom became increasingly prevalent, targeting humanitarian and development actors, as well as community members, adding another layer of complexity to the security environment. Humanitarian personnel, in particular, faced heightened risks due to attacks directed at them. Mass surrenders and defections involving approximately 80 to 90 000 individuals associated with Boko Haram, including women and children, posed complex reintegration challenges. Inter-communal clashes fueled by resource competition further complicated local dynamics and exacerbated instability.

Despite these challenges, significant strides were made in 2022 in advancing the implementation of the Strategy. The successful organization of the third Steering Committee meeting in June in Douala was an important milestone. The Steering Committee emphasized members' commitment to mobilizing political, security, and financial support for the strategy. It called for continued civil-military cooperation and requested expanded civil society representation in the Steering Committee. In terms of increased coordination efforts, regular meetings with the International Support Group were conducted throughout the year to uphold robust regional donor liaison and coordination. The RS-SRR also forged and deepened partnerships with international entities, notably establishing collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, Reintegration, and Resettlement (DDRRR) activities, as well as with the United Nations University (UNU), building upon their work concerning the mass disengagement and reintegration of former associates with Boko Haram and violent extremist groups.

Furthermore, crucial groundwork was laid for monitoring and learning as baseline studies and indicators for the Strategy's results framework were finalized, offering guidance to all stakeholders engaged in the eight targeted territories, including international partners, civil society organizations, and local/national authorities. Simultaneously, the Secretariat published a Guidance note facilitating effective utilization of the Territorial Action Plans (TAPs), results framework, and the support offered by the Secretariat. The year 2022 also witnessed the development of an array of knowledge products, including territorial profiles for each of the eight targeted regions, featuring regional conflict analyses and comprehensive perception studies. Additionally, the RS-SRR conducted a critical study on the crime-terror nexus in the Lake Chad Basin, which has been published and disseminated.³ An updated regional conflict analysis,⁴ a study on the prevention of recruitment and effective reintegration efforts of former Boko Haram associates in the Lake Chad Basin region in collaboration with the UNU,⁵ and a forthcoming regional study on CIMIC best practices⁶ are expected to enrich the knowledge repository further. In parallel, research efforts delved into the intricate issues surrounding weapons and ammunition dynamics in the Lake Chad Basin region in collaboration with UNDP, the UN Department of Peace Operations, and the Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA).⁷ Meanwhile, the Knowledge Management Platform (KMP) reached its technical finalization and became operational.

a la production

³ UNDP (2022) "<u>Crime and Terror Nexus: The Intersections Between Terror and Criminal Groups in the</u> <u>Lake Chad Basin</u>".

⁴ UNDP (2022) "<u>Conflict Analysis in the Lake Chad Basin</u>".

⁵Sophie Huvé, Dr Siobhan O'Neil, Dr Remadji Hoinathy, Kato Van Broeckhoven with Mohammed Bukar, Fatima Yetcha Ajimi Badu, Teniola Tayo, Jessica Caus, and Adja Faye, MEAC Lake Chad Basin Case Study Report (United Nations University, 2022) "<u>Preventing Recruitment and Ensuring Effective</u> <u>Reintegration Efforts: Evidence from Across the Lake Chad Basin to Inform Policy and Practice</u>".

⁶ UNDP (2023), "Regional Study on CIMIC: Good Practices and Lessons"

⁷ Department of Peace Operations (DPO), Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA) (2022) "<u>Weapons and Ammunition Dynamics in the Lake Chad Basin</u>".

⁸ https://lis.cblt.org/lis/km

II. Progress across Pillars

La SR-SRR définit neuf piliers d'action prioritaires, offrant ainsi un cadre intégré et holistique pour une réponse à l'instabilité et aux défis de la région : Coopération politique ; Sécurité et Droits de l'Homme ; Désarmement, démobilisation, réhabilitation, réinsertion et réintégration des personnes associées à Boko Haram ; Assistance humanitaire; Gouvernance et Contrat Social ; Reprise socio-économique et durabilité environnementale ; Éducation, apprentissage et acquisition des compétences ; Prévention de l'extrémisme violent et consolidation de la paix ; Autonomisation et inclusion des femmes et des jeunes.

Pillar 1 -

Political Cooperation

Key partners: Action Locale pour un Développement Local et Participatif, Child Protection and Peer Learning Initiative, Governors' offices, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNOCA, SR-RSS Secretariat.

National ownership remains the foundational principle of the strategy. Throughout 2022, the landscape of political cooperation saw significant advancements and improvements, including:

The development of the Regional Action Plan 2022-2024: this comprehensive plan delineated the priorities for regional intervention, serving as the guiding framework for collective endeavors in the region. It underscored the importance of cross-border interventions as a dependable means to enhance cross-border human mobility and trade, fostering regional cooperation and integration ;

Effective governance and governance structures: a pivotal facet of their political cooperation efforts was the coordination of the RS-SRR governance structures. This encompassed support to the Steering Committee, Task Force, and Cluster Working Groups, each playing an indispensable role in aligning strategies and ensuring the implementation of the strategic objectives.

Harmonization of policy frameworks: in 2022, Chad adopted the National Action Plan for the effective implementation of the Regional Sub-Strategy on screening, prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration (SPRR). For their part, Niger and Nigeria elaborated a draft Memorandum of Understanding on Judicial Cooperation in the Fight Against Terrorism and Terrorism Financing.

Visits by the Chair of the Governors' Forum to strengthen political and transborder cooperation. H.E Governor Midjiyawa Bakari of Far North Cameroon visited, in his capacity as chair of the Governor's Forum, the Federated State of Borno and Yobe in August 2022 and the Diffa Region in February 2023. The aim of these working visits was to discuss with his fellow Governors on transborder cooperation in the security, socio-economic, and humanitarian domains. It also aimed at evaluating the realizations carried out within the framework of TAPs and Joint Action Plans (JAPs). The Governor also met with traditional leaders. Early 2023, Governor Midjiyawa Bakari conducted a working visit to the European Union, Brussels, Belgium and exchanged with representatives of the European External Action Service, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations and Directorate General of International Partnership, among others. The discussions concerned, in particular, the security situation in the Lake Chad Basin, the fight against violent extremism, post-conflict reconstruction, climate change, and preservation of water resources.

Establishment and strengthening of partnerships: throughout 2022, collaborative efforts with entities such as the United Nations, Peacebuilding Commission & Funds, International Support Groups, AU, Inter-Agency Task Force on the Lake Chad Basin, and various UN Agencies & Funds proved instrumental in amplifying the impact of their initiatives. These partnerships facilitated information sharing, resource mobilization, and a more coordinated approach, which, among others, translated into the formulation of a project proposal to the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and building on the 2020-2022 project supported by the African Development Bank (AfDB) through the project "Capacity building for the LCBC" to respond to the new AfDB call for proposals under its Prevention Envelope of the Transition Support Facility.

The Wilton Park conference held in March 2022 is an illustration of such partnership efforts. The UK supported the conference in its role as co-chair of the International Support Group to the RS-SRR. The conference was held in support of the recommendations of the third Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum and brought together key stakeholders and decision-makers from the four affected countries at national and sub-national levels, international experts in Disarmament, De-radicalisation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration and transitional justice, lead UN agencies and key donors.

Mobilization of financial resources: The mobilization of financial resources constituted a pivotal aspect of their strategy in 2022. Concretely, 2022 saw the development of a PBF proposal later approved in 2023 for USD 3.5 Million and involving UNDP Chad, Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria, and the i LCBC to promote the implementation of local and cross-border CSO-led peacebuilding initiatives in line with the priorities outlined in the Territorial Action Plans (TAP). A robust pipeline for financial resources was developed. Firstly, building on the successful partnership with the African Development bank 2020-2022, a concept note to enhance regional institutional capacity and sustain peace and build resilience in the region was drafted to AfDB's Prevention Envelope of the Transition Support Facility. The proposal encompasses funding up to USD 25 Million. Secondly, significant steps were taken to set up a new financing instrument for support to DDRR (Pillar 3) activities. Various stakeholders also supported resource mobilization efforts. Notably, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) for Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) actively participated in high-level events, including the Munich Security Conference in February 2022, where he emphasized the importance of international support for the RS-SRR and, particularly, the implementation of the TAPs. In engagements with authorities in Cameroon and Chad at the highest levels, increased attention to and resource allocation for regions affected by violent extremism, as well as enhanced cooperation and coordination among these states, were advocated for. UNHCR also prepared and contributed in 2022 to a third donors' conference that took place in Niamey, Niger in January 2023.

Mid-year, the RS-SRR Secretariat facilitated a **preparatory workshop for the upcoming Governors' Forum**. With participants from all eight Governors' Offices, the Government of Chad, MNJTF, AU, and cluster members, it enabled the agreement on four overarching themes for the Forum and some changes to the format, which made the event an important milestone.



Key partners: Action Locale pour un Développement Local et Participatif, AU, COGINTA, European Union (EU)/ STABLAC, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Governors' offices, UNDP/RSF, UNODC.

The Security and Human Rights pillar continues to play an indispensable role in achieving the overarching goals of the RS-SRR as it addresses the immediate security and protection of civilian concerns and lays the foundation for long-term stability and the realization of human rights. The year 2022 witnessed noteworthy developments:

Consolidation of Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC): the collaboration with the MNJTF at both headquarters (HQ) and sector levels on CIMIC advanced in 2022. A training workshop for the MNJTF in September 2022 catalyzed the initiation efforts to review and enhance the military doctrine related to CIMIC within the MNJTF Concept of Operations (CONOPS). The objective was to articulate better the central role of CIMIC in MNJTF's operational planning and implementation, thereby equipping MNJTF officers and HQ and Sector levels to identify and pursue CIMIC objectives more effectively. This initiative is poised for further development and expansion in 2023.

33 security and justice infrastructures were built or rehabilitated, including through the RSF. Those included on-call dormitories in Cameroon and essential office buildings in Chad. In Niger, constructing a fixed security position in Bosso strengthened operational deployments and community safety. Moreover, Nigeria saw the construction of 16 security infrastructure projects, bolstering security presence across multiple regions. These developments not only improved the working conditions for security personnel but also contributed to local community safety.

Collaborating with communities and security providers, notamment la FMM, pour renforcer les capacités est restée au cœur des activités. Mille cinq cent vingt et un agents de sécurité ont reçu une formation sur les droits humains et les violences basées sur le genre. Cette initiative vise à inculquer une base solide de principes relatifs aux droits de l'Homme au sein des forces de défense et de sécurité, renforçant ainsi la protection des civils et la justice. En outre, un projet axé sur le soutien aux femmes et aux filles victimes de violence basée sur le genre dans la région de l'Extrême-Nord au Cameroun a donné des résultats positifs, avec des améliorations significatives des taux de dénonciation et de l'autonomisation des femmes pour faire valoir leurs droits ;

Support to the MNJTF also encompassed operational capacities with the provision of 1184 Radiocommunication equipment, eight short-range tactical drones, four vehicles, 572 Counter Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), Forensic and evidence collection equipment, 500 Night vision goggles, and 60 fully equipped boats delivered through 2023 as well.

Support services, including psychosocial, legal, psychological, health, and nutritional assistance, were provided to children, women, and men detainees. These interventions aimed to uphold the dignity of detainees. Support was extended to three prisons located in the Extreme North region of Cameroon, specifically in Maroua, Mokolo, and Kaélé.

Further contributions in 2022 included the provision of Mission Subsistence Allowances to HQ MNJTF Staff Officers, the finalization of the CIMIC Cell action plan, and the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the collection of exploitable information and material.

Pillar 3 — Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, Reinsertion and Reintegration of Persons associated with Boko Haram

Key partners: CPPLI, GIZ, Governors' offices, ISS, IOM, NEEM Foundation, Peace by Africa, Radio Ndarason Internationale, RS-SRR Secretariat, sub-regional LCBC CSO chapter, United Kingdom, UN Department of Peace Operations, UNDP, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (OCT) and Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UNDPO-ODA-LCBC AND UNDPO-IOM-ARN.

In 2022, the DDRRR of Persons associated with Boko Haram Pillar witnessed pivotal contributions, underscoring the sustained commitment of all partners to steer the transition from conflict towards reconciliation and reintegration, not only aiming to reduce violence and enhance security but also to strengthen community resilience.

Throughout the year, several milestones contributed to fostering a **heightened and harmonized awareness among key regional stakeholders** concerning the vital aspects of DDRRR, Transitional Justice, and SPRR. These milestones encompassed significant events, such as a regional workshop on a holistic regional and national approach to SPRR in March with participants from the four countries and a national seminar on the same issue in Cameroon in April. A bilateral Niger-Nigeria workshop on the cooperation of criminal and law enforcement authorities around screening, investigation, and prosecution took place in June. In November 2022, with support from UNODC, UN CTED and OCT, Chad adopted a National Action Plan for the implementation of the regional SPRR Paper. A cycle of capacity building and technical support activities for the DDRR Steering Committee of Chad was also organized to support the elaboration of a national DDRR strategy. In June, the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) convened a roundtable in Niamey, Niger on transitional justice. In Nigeria, UNDP, IOM, UNICEF, and UNODC have agreed with the Borno State Government on UN support to the 'Borno Model', which makes reference to Pillar III of the RSS and the SPRR Pillar Paper.

The year also witnessed a range of community-based reintegration and reconciliation activities, with survivors receiving Mental health and psychosocial support training and several community-based reconciliation committees being established. In the Lac Province of Chad, activities focused on promoting acceptance of returning former associates, the provision of psycho-social support to community members, former associates, and victims of VEO-related violence, the provision of basic services such as water to communities, and the information and capacity building of community leaders on DDRR. In Niger, over 300 community members residing in areas affected by Violent Extremism Organizations (VEO) activities received vocational training and start-up kits for income-generating activities to address key factors for enrollment and build community buy-in towards DDRR activities. Through the LBC Programme's support of Operation Safe Corridor, 602 graduates completed the rehabilitation programme and have left the facility to reintegrate into their communities. Humanitarian support, mainly WASH and Shelter, for the camps established by the Borno State Government to manage the mass. Nineteen unaccompanied (10 boys, nine girls) and two separated children were reunified with their families, and more than 25 children associated with armed forces and armed groups were identified and supported with community-based reintegration materials through the DDR process in Madagali, Nigeria. Funding to a local CSO also enabled eight deradicalization sessions with women, laying the groundwork for future programming in this area.

In the latter half of 2022, the **groundwork for transitional justice mechanisms** commenced, with stakeholders from states, regional actors, civil society, and UN agencies collaborating to establish a data collection methodology. This collective effort, involving a broad spectrum of contributors, will aid future research and shape policy recommendations in the coming year. Simultaneously, the LCBC partnered with the UN University for research within their Managing Exit from Armed Conflict (MEAC) project, providing valuable insights into the perspectives of ex-combatants and violence victims, further informing policy decisions for the evolving Transitional Justice programs in the region.⁹

⁹ Sophie Huvé, Dr Siobhan O'Neil, Dr Remadji Hoinathy, Kato Van Broeckhoven with Mohammed Bukar, Fatima Yetcha Ajimi Badu, Teniola Tayo, Jessica Caus, and Adja Faye, MEAC Lake Chad Basin Case Study Report (United Nations University, 2022) "<u>Preventing Recruitment and Ensuring Effective Reintegration Efforts:</u> <u>Evidence from Across the Lake Chad Basin to Inform Policy and Practice</u>."

Pillar 4

Key partners: Action Locale pour un Développement Local et Participatif, Association Mains Unies Pour l'Espoir, Association pour la Promotion du Développement Durable, Civil Society Coalition for Poverty Eradication, Child Protection and Peer Learning Initiative, GIZ, Governors' offices, UNHCR, United Kingdom, World Food Programme (WFP)

By the end of 2022, across the Lake Chad Basin, 11 million people needed humanitarian assistance, and 7.6 million were targeted by aid.¹⁰ In the context of implementing the RS-SRR strategy in 2022, efforts continued to advocate for sustaining ongoing humanitarian aid in the region while concurrently introducing measures for recovery and resilience-building. These initiatives aimed to empower communities towards self-reliance and prevent further deterioration of the precarious food and nutrition security situation. Several noteworthy contributions and interventions made in this regard encompassed:

Partners targeted a **beneficiary base of over 3 million people**, including refugees, IDPs, and host communities. Notably, among these beneficiaries, 372,000 individuals were situated in the regions of North and Far North, Cameroon, aimed at addressing their immediate food and nutritional needs.

For example, through activities supporting internally displaced women and girls, victims of inter-community conflict in the Logone-et-Chari region of Cameroon were provided food, sleeping materials, hygiene kits, and other items.

In addition to addressing the ongoing humanitarian challenges, specific attention was devoted to **supporting an additional 400,000 individuals who fell victim to floods**. This response included assistance to approximately 30,000 flood victims residing in the Far North Region of Cameroon.

Since 2020, over 400,000 IDPs, 54 percent of women, have returned to their homes in the Lake Chad area. There are now clear indications that in 2022, perceptions of stability and security in JAP sites have signifyicantly improved over those held in 2020 and 2021. An estimated 1.3M women and men in the 31 active programme sites now feel increasingly safe, contributing toward the restoration of the social contract. Further, communities in JAP locations now show a higher level of satisfaction with state security services than they did in previous years. In particular, this year, more than 15,000 IDPs have been brought back to their respective localities by the State of Diffa, Niger, with the support of humanitarian and development actors.

In September 2022, a roundtable took place in Lomé, Togo, gathering development and humanitarian actors to discuss how development initiatives can support the sustainable return of forcibly displaced people or their long-term inclusion in host areas, including in the Lake Chad Basin region.

¹⁰ OCHA (2023). Lake Chad Basin: Humanitarian Snapshot (As of 08 December 2022).

Pillar 5

Governance and the Social Contract

Key partners: Action Locale pour un Développement Local et Participatif, Action pour la Protection, Santé, Environnement et Lutte contre la Pénurie Alimentaire, Child Protection and Peer Learning Initiative, COGINTA, EU/STABLAC, Governors' offices, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, RS-SRR Secretariat, United Kingdom, UNDP/RSF, UNOCA

In 2022, significant contributions were made to address critical aspects of governance, such as infrastructure development/rehabilitation and community engagement. These initiatives are essential for the overall well-being and development of the affected communities and to restore the social contract:

On the **infrastructure** side, 35 social service infrastructure facilities, including schools and health centers, were either rehabilitated or constructed, further enhancing access to essential community services. A notable achievement was the implementation of renewable energy technologies in 29 public facilities and infrastructure out of a total of 132, contributing to sustainability and efficient resource utilization.

A total of 1,373 permanent **housing units** were successfully constructed, adding to the ongoing effort to provide stable housing for vulnerable populations, and over 100 water points have been built or rehabilitated in JAP locations.

In parallel, efforts were made to equip community leaders and young people with the skills necessary to address peace and social cohesion issues. Additionally, over 1,244 inter-community dialogues were organized, focusing on strengthening peaceful coexistence and preventing conflicts, ultimately fostering harmonious community living.

Regarding **support to institutional actors**, regular coordination meetings took place between Governors' offices and RS-SRR implementing partners, fostering collaboration and shared vision. Support was provided to the Borno State Delivery Unit in its setup for delivery of the Borno State Development Plan, including support to Strategic Transformation Initiative teams in holding monthly technical review/coordination meetings and providing technical support.





Pilier 6

Socio-Economic Recovery and Environmental Sustainability

Key partners : Action Locale pour un Développement Local et Participatif, Civil Society Coalition for Poverty Eradication, BMZ, Governors' offices, UNDP/RSF, UNHCR, WFP

Socio-Economic Recovery and Environmental Sustainability are foundational for long-term stability and resilience in the region as they foster economic autonomy, reduce vulnerability to recruitment by extremist groups, and mitigate resource-related conflicts. Notable achievements to revive the local economy in 2022 include:

Over 4,000 people participated in **cash-for-work programmes**, and 13,814 benefited from **productive business grants and assets**. In particular, 509 producers of Waza in Cameroon were provided with productive assets, and 60 women in Mozogo received equipment for processing agricultural products. This support has enabled the farmers of Waza to continue their farming activities and expand their farmed areas.

In the Diffa region, Niger, five **vocational institutions were rehabilitated**, and 500 young individuals (250 females and 250 males) from 18 communities received technical and vocational training, with over 70% actively engaged in their chosen trades.

A milestone was reached by training 1,000 young people (500 females and 500 males) in Income Generating Activities. They were provided with cash transfers to acquire essential trade equipment, promoting economic empowerment and self-sufficiency.

A survey on the inclusion of forcibly displaced people in Social Protection systems in the four countries is expected to inform future advocacy and strategic engagement for integration in national social protection systems.

Additionally, in Diffa, which hosts over 250,000 displaced people, partners are working closely with local authorities and communities to **provide legal access to land for displaced families** to facilitate their socioeconomic inclusion while contributing to improving the local economy.

Learning, and Skills

Key partners : Action Locale pour un Développement Local et Participatif, Association pour la Promotion du Développement Durable, Action pour la Protection, Santé, Environnement et Lutte contre la Pénurie Alimentaire, BMZ, Child Protection and Peer Learning Initiative, Governors' offices, RESOPPERHAN, UNDP/RSF, United Kingdom,



Equipping people, particularly marginalized communities, with the knowledge and abilities needed for socioeconomic inclusion is critical in breaking the cycle of poverty and addressing some of the root causes of instability in the Lake Chad Basin region. In 2022, significant progress was made in providing access to education, vocational training, and skills development:

More than 15,000 people received **training to improve their economic inclusion**. In Cameroon, 1,233 (513 women; 475 youth) were trained in tailoring, conservation production techniques, fattening techniques, and processing of agricultural, fishery, and livestock products. In Chad, 1,780 (1,023 women) benefited from informal training on management and financial management, such as managing small grants and community infrastructure (including providing tools, such as simplified templates for leasing). In Niger, 30 youths were trained on solar photovoltaic system mounting practices. In Nigeria, 12,150 (5,393 women) were prepared and sensitized on modern farming techniques for dry and wet seasons, starting businesses, managing business finances, cooperative saving schemes, and home gardening techniques.

This pillar also contributed to **increased access to quality primary education** for over 30,000 children, enhancing educational opportunities for the youth in the region. Between April and September 2022, 110,000 children in Borno and Yobe states benefited from improved instruction and distribution of education materials, and over 2,300 teachers and facilitators were trained on improved instructional practices. The rehabilitation and construction of 8 education infrastructure facilities further improved access to quality primary education. Notably, children from vulnerable households who had previously dropped out of school returned to pursue their education.

In particular, through a project aimed at **combating violence against children in the education sector** in Cameroon, significant achievements were realized in 2022. Three hundred sixty-seven children's self-expression structures were established in partner schools, which serve as platforms for reporting and addressing rights violations. Additionally, support was provided for educating approximately 1,000 vulnerable children, covering expenses like school fees, exams, school supplies, and obtaining birth certificates. Promoting non-violent education involved collaborative efforts to develop gender-sensitive internal rules and a code of good conduct in primary schools, capacity-building for teaching staff in 50 primary and secondary schools, and support for various educational institutions with materials and resources. Sensitization initiatives reached nearly 2,000 teachers and 600 students, emphasizing their roles in fostering non-violent education practices.

Prevention of Violent Extremism and Building Peace

Key partners: Action Locale pour un Développement Local et Participatif, Governors' offices, IOM, UNDP/ RSF, UNHCR, RNI, WFP

By fostering resilience at the community level and promoting peaceful dialogue, this pillar contributes to fighting extremist ideologies and overall stability in the region. In 2022, activities included community engagement, counter-narrative initiatives, and the establishment of mediation committees to address conflicts and build peaceful coexistence. Some of the results achieved involve:

Vigilance against manipulation was emphasized through counter-narrative efforts to resist extremist ideologies. For instance, in Nigeria, two training of trainers were organized on Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) and Disengagement, Disassociation, Reintegration, and Reconciliation (DDRR). A total of 80 government officials from 17 government institutions participated. The training within their organizations reached over 300 people.

A total of 11 Community Stabilization Committees (CSC) were established. These committees were crucial in community planning and facilitating dialogues with government and security forces—six in Cameroon, three in, and two in. In Cameroon, there are 22 female members across the six new CSCs. In response to heavy flooding in late 2022, the CSCs mobilized their communities to build dikes to mitigate flood damage. In Nigeria, the capacities of 200 CSC members across eight RSF locations were strengthened on public safety and security, community dialogue and mutual trust with government and security agents. CSCs are contributing towards building community trust, for example, in Limani, Cameroon, where the reduction in the number of terrorist attacks has been partially attributed to the local CSC. This finding is also backed up in Chad, where CSCs were noted to play important roles in liaising with local authorities and directly resolving local conflicts. For example, in Baltram, the CSC heard and successfully resolved six community conflicts between farmers and herders.

Mediation committees, numbering 27 across Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria, successfully addressed 483 out of 588 conflict cases, with the remaining 105 cases referred to competent authorities for resolution.

An extensive outreach effort reached 508,779 indirect people, comprising **host communities**, **IDPs**, **refugees**, **and returnees**, **with information on peaceful co-existence** across 27 communities.



Empowerment and Inclusion of Women and Youth

Key partners: Action Locale pour un Développement Local et Participatif, Action pour la Protection, Santé, Environnement et Lutte contre la Pénurie Alimentaire, Association Mains Unies Pour l'Espoir, Association pour la Promotion du Développement Durable, Child Protection and Peer Learning Initiative, EU, GIZ, Govenors' offices, IOM, UNDP, UNDP/RSF, UNHCR, United Kingdom, PLAN International, WFP

Empowering women and youth to contribute to community development, economic activities, and conflict prevention is an essential component of the RS SRR strategy. This pillar saw significant achievements in 2022:

At the **policy level**, the development of gender-responsive tools was supported. For instance, in Cameroon, the National DDR Gender Strategy 2021-2025, a comprehensive framework for strengthening gender-specific assistance within national DDR processes, was validated. The Chad National Action Plan adopted in November 2022 on SPRR assigns an essential role to the Ministry of Gender and National Solidarity, stipulates that national authorities would integrate a gender dimension into screening processes through the identification of the number of women associated with Boko Haram and referring women to relevant services according to their needs.

Youth empowerment efforts reached 2,048 young individuals, including 870 girls, across Niger, Cameroon, and Nigeria. This involved assessing and mapping 724 key health, education, and youth participation infrastructures within the Lake Chad Basin. It also led to fruitful partnerships between local youth leaders and community decision-makers, promoting sustainable youth engagement in the region. The importance of women's empowerment was well illustrated by establishing the Women's Platform building in Guité, Chad, providing a secure space for women to partake in community decision-making and engage in diverse community and economic endeavors.

Efforts continued for the **participation of women in the economic life**. Women played a significant role in the cash-for-work initiatives, representing 50% of beneficiaries, further promoting gender equality and financial empowerment. In addition, in Cameroon, 513 women received training in tailoring, conservation production techniques, fattening techniques, and processing of agricultural, fishery, and livestock products. In Chad, 1,023 women benefited from informal training in management and financial management. In Nigeria, 5,393 females were trained and sensitized on modern farming techniques, business management, finances, cooperative saving schemes, and home gardening techniques. In the Lac and Hadjer Lamis regions of Chad, women's groups benefited from installing solar systems in 10 sites, while 75 women received training in the Village Savings and Loan Association approach, promoting economic independence and financial inclusion.

Concerning **protection**, 1,521 security providers on human rights and gender-based violence reinforce the commitment to safeguarding vulnerable individuals. In Borno State, 431 children and adolescents, including children with disabilities facing abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence, were reached with comprehensive case management services through the support of caseworkers and social workers from the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development.

Urgent assistance was also provided to 1,865 vulnerable pregnant and breastfeeding women in the Far North region of Cameroon through cash transfers. Additionally, 65,082 children aged 6-23 months, including both females and males, received support in the Far North and North regions.



III. – Conclusion and Recommendations

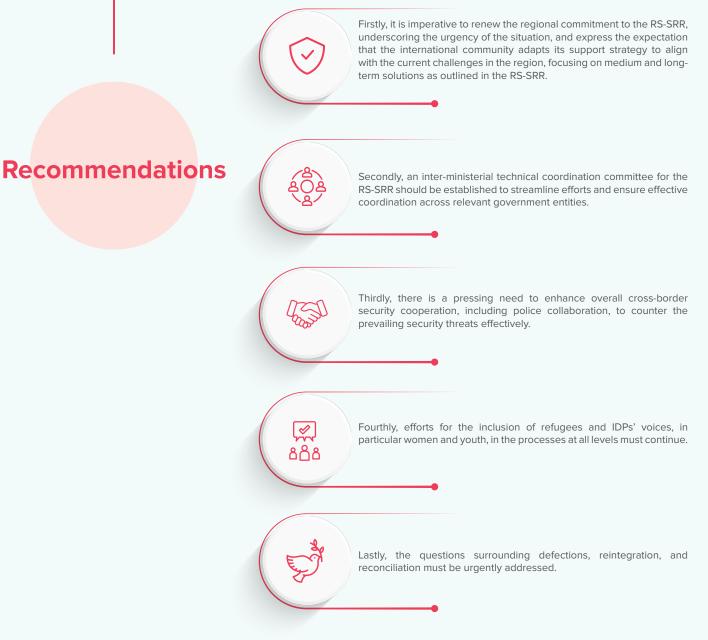
The Regional Stabilization Strategy for the Lake Chad Basin has made significant contributions in 2022 to address the multifaceted challenges posed by instability in the region despite a very challenging implementation context. The successes lie not only in its numerical achievements but also in its holistic and collaborative approach. By fostering cooperation among regional governments, civil society organizations, and international partners, the strategy has demonstrated the potential for transformative change in the Lake Chad Basin.

A whole-of-society approach to addressing the complex crisis of the Lake Chad Basin means that the efforts of institutional actors are part of a broader framework. Involving non-state actors such as local community-based organizations (CBOs), local civil society organizations (CSOs), and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), especially those situated among affected communities, is a priority of the RS-SRR. As such, finalizing the first phase of the Directory Information Management Systems (DIMS) was an important step achieved in 2022. As a comprehensive accreditation framework and a single-entry point for CSOs to coordinate among and between CSOs and other actors, it will facilitate the bridge for citizen participation.

While acknowledging the significant progress made in 2022, it is imperative to recognize that challenges persist. These challenges encompass financial constraints, technical hurdles, coordination issues, and international terminologies, approaches and reporting that need to be better aligned. Key challenges include a significant funding gap and security risks posing threats to staff and beneficiaries, limiting physical access. Stabilization approaches could also benefit from being further harmonized.



Sustainable stabilization remains an ongoing endeavor, and continued commitment, innovation, and adaptation will be essential to build on the momentum generated, including by the fourth Governor's forum. Several recommendations should be considered to address the challenges confronting the RS-SRR implementation context effectively.



As the region continues its journey toward lasting peace and prosperity, it is essential to continue prioritizing a comprehensive approach to stabilization, recovery, and resilience that fosters regional cooperation and collaboration.

ANNEX 1 – List of respondents to the questionnaire

ENTITY / ORGANIZATION	ТҮРЕ
UNOCA	United Nations
Action Locale pour un Développement Local et Participatif	CSO
APSELPA : Action pour la Protection, Santé, Environnement et Lutte contre la Pénurie Alimentaire	CSO
Association Mains Unies Pour l'Espoir (AMUPES)	CSO
Association pour la Promotion du Développement Durable (AP2D)	CSO
Borno State - Head RSS Office Maiduguri	Governor' Office
British High Commission, Abuja	Bilateral partner
Child Protection and Peer Learning Initiative (CPPLI)	CSO
Civil Society Coalition for Poverty Eradication (CISCOPE)	CSO
Department of Peace Operations / Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions / DDR Section	United Nations
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	Bilateral partner
Diffa Governors Office	Governor' Office
Institute for Security Studies (ISS)	International NGO
ЮМ	United Nations
RESOPPERHAN	CSO
RS-SRR Secretariat	RS-SRR Secretariat
Services du Gouverneur de la Région du Nord- Cameroun	Governor' Office
The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs	Bilateral partner
UNDP	United Nations
UNDP / Regional Stabilization Facility	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations
UNODC	United Nations
Far North Governor Office	Governor' Office



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