The Lake Chad Basin (LCB) and Liptako-Gourma (LG) regions are facing a multidimensional crisis exacerbated by the rise of extremist activities, political instability, violence, and internal displacement. In response, UNDP has established the Regional Stabilization Facility (RSF) in both regions to foster trust between communities and government authorities, leading to opportunities to lay the foundation for long-term peacebuilding, recovery, and development.

Despite security, political, and climatic challenges among others, the RSF has delivered quick-impact interventions that have enabled many displaced people in their communities to return to their homes, rebuild their lives, and create a future for themselves and their families.

Since 2019, donors have contributed over $300 million to support stabilization initiatives across 61 sites in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria.

Stabilization efforts have strengthened trust between communities and government authorities by:

- Strengthening local security and safety
- Restoring essential social services (education, health, water)
- Revitalizing local economic opportunities

Construction of a culvert in Bandiagara, Mali ©UNDP Mali
WHAT WE ACHIEVED

Stability for nearly 1 million people

The data collected in the Lake Chad Basin region shows that since 2019, the RSF has successfully stabilized 16 areas where it operates: 6 in Cameroon, 6 in Nigeria, and 4 in Chad.

As a result, over 900,000 women and men now live their lives in greater stability.

RETURNING HOME

In 2023, more than 500,000 internally displaced persons have returned to their homes in Lake Chad Basin and Liptako-Gourma regions after years of displacement.

The RSF has invested in critical infrastructures for basic social services, livelihoods, community security, and social cohesion, thus building the foundations for displaced people to return to their communities and rebuild their lives.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

There have been notable improvements in people’s perceptions of safety and security in programme sites across the Lake Chad Basin and Liptako-Gourma regions.

In 2023, approximately 1,150,000 people (54% of whom are women) reported feeling safe and secure, marking an increase of 480,000 people (54% women) since 2020.

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RENEWING THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

Local governments, police, and other core institutions now have better capacity to address community security and other concerns that led to the initial outbreaks of conflict, thus improving the social contract.

86% of people in Lake Chad Basin (across Cameroon, Chad, and Nigeria), 71% in Burkina Faso and 24% in Mali are satisfied with the security services provided by the government in 2023. 78 percent of households in Lake Chad Basin (across Cameroon, Chad, and Nigeria) and 51% of households in the Liptako-Gourma region (Burkina Faso and Mali) are satisfied with access to essential social services in 2023.

In the Liptako-Gourma region, the proportion of households in target locations that feel confident in the process of restoring the social contract has significantly increased from 46 percent in 2022 to 65 percent in 2023.
For eight years, I was in a camp for internal displaced people because our community was destroyed. With the help of the government and the stabilization project, we returned home. I received 100,000 Nigerian Naira to start a business. I’ve opened a mini shop, and business is doing well so far. This has been very helpful to me and my family, as we can provide for our basic needs.

Pusam Modu,
mother of seven and start-up grant recipient, Ngarammam, Nigeria
When invited to join the football team, I immediately accepted as it was an opportunity to foster positive exchanges with our host community. It was my first time playing football; usually, it’s the boys who play. Through football, I felt we were becoming a team, and it was amazing. I even became the captain and won several tournaments. It gives me hope for a better future, not just for me but for our entire community.

Solange, 32 years old, displaced from Kassalare, Hadjer Lamis, Chad.

Leaving our home was an extremely difficult decision, but fortunately, in Baltram, we felt very welcomed and accepted. We received land and agricultural equipment to help restart our farming activities. Today, I can cultivate corn and some rice, regaining a semblance of the normal life I had in Kassalare. I also have access to a small school, which was not the case in Kassalare. Workshops on conflict prevention were organized, along with social activities to bring people together, such as football matches between host communities and displaced persons.

Solange holding her trophy ©UNDP Chad
The return of police and gendarmerie forces to Seytenga brought relative calm, inspiring my family and others to return. Engaging in the stabilization cash-for-work project, 308 women, including myself, rehabilitated public infrastructure and degraded land, receiving payments on our phones. Investing in breeding, I now own a ram and five goats. Beyond financial gains, the sense of community contribution motivated other women to return. With income from livestock sales, I run a successful galette-selling business, supporting family expenses. Today, I feel fulfilled, ensuring my children's well-being and earning social respect within my community.

City Cisse,
Deputy Community Coordinator of Seytenga Women’s Group, Burkina Faso
As of December 2023, approximately 1.7 million people (53 percent women), living across the Lake Chad Basin and the Liptako-Gourma regions, have benefitted from RSF support in 61 locations in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria.

Figure 1: Share of Population Reached by Country

- Nigeria, 47%
- Cameroon, 29%
- Chad, 5%
- Mali, 9%
- Burkina Faso, 7%
- Niger (LG), 2%
- Niger (LC), 2%
**IMPROVED COMMUNITY SECURITY**

**INFRASTRUCTURES**

240 SECURITY AND JUSTICE INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES

have been constructed, rehabilitated, or equipped. This includes police and gendarmerie stations, security staff quarters, courts and judicial buildings, offices, dormitories, security positions, immigration facilities, security trenches, perimeter walls, community conflict management centers and strategic outposts, building furniture. Equipment includes operational equipments, furnishings, and logistical support vehicles.

**SOLAR-POWERED STREETLIGHTS**

5,061 SOLAR-POWERED STREETLIGHTS

have been installed in major public places, including main roads and nearby newly built infrastructures. They contribute to improving nighttime safety, encourage economic activities beyond sunset by deterring potential security threats, and serve as a sustainable solution to providing community lighting.

**LOCAL PLANNING**

33 COMMUNITY STABILIZATION COMMITTEES

have been established and supported in the Lake Chad region. They now plan and monitor the implementation of joint action plans under the stabilization intervention. The mechanism ensures that all segments of the community are represented in decision-making and that decisions meet the specific needs and priorities of women, girls and community members at risk of recruitment into extremist groups.

**CAPACITY BUILDING**

MORE THAN 5,000 SECURITY AND JUSTICE SERVICES’ MEMBER

have been trained on human rights, gender-based violence prevention, and the management of criminal proceedings within the context of violent extremism.

**SOCIAL COHESION**

MORE THAN 2,900 PEOPLE

have been trained in promotion of social cohesion, gender equity and community-based participatory planning approaches. They include local government and municipal agents, NGOs, CSOs, community committees, as well as members/staff of local structures involved in stabilization.

**EARLY WARNING**

29 EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

are in place in programme sites in Lake Chad region. These communication tools allow for the participation of informal security forces, crucial actors in the security system.
Our village has completely transformed, especially at night, as every street is now illuminated. Children play, young girls dance to traditional tunes, and the trauma of insecurity is less palpable in Tam because there is no fear during the night; everyone goes about their business. We never imagined such a Tam, which we now call ‘Tam Birin,’ meaning ‘New Tam.’

Toura Aboucar,
Youth Representative of Tam, Niger
ESSENTIAL SOCIAL SERVICES

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

421 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURES

were built, rehabilitated or equipped. This includes health centres, primary schools, colleges, housing for teachers, WASH infrastructures, operating facilities, latrines, showers, roads and administrative buildings.

INFRASTRUCTURE EQUIPPED RENEWABLE TECHNOLOGIES

251 PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURES

were equipped with renewable technologies, including solar panels, solar generators, and electric generators. This has provided reliable power to critical infrastructure, such as medical centres that previously had frequent power outages but now have a constant supply of electricity, contributing to improved working conditions and public access.

PERMANENT HOUSING UNITS

NEARLY 5,800 PERMANENT HOUSING UNITS

have been constructed, providing households with permanent shelter in the Lake Chad Basin (Nigeria and Chad). Together, these units can accommodate approximately 40,000 residents. The housing units strengthened housing security for local populations and are expected to contribute to improving access to housing for populations affected by armed conflict and violence and enabling the return of IDPs.

WATERPOINTS

159 WATER POINTS

have been built or rehabilitated, significantly improving the access of households to clean water in targeted sites. This includes solar-powered boreholes, human-powered pumps, distribution pipelines and water towers.
There have been notable improvements in perceptions of provision and access to essential social services (health, education, and WASH) in Nigeria and Chad since 2020. In Nigeria, there is an increase in the proportion of households expressing satisfaction with provision and access to essential social services from 2020 to 2022 and from 2022 to 2023. In Chad, there is an increase in the proportion of households expressing satisfaction with the provision of and access to essential social services from 2020 to 2023.

Before the installation of the solar energy system, power cuts affected our work at the maternity hospital in Seytenga, Burkina Faso. This was a real problem during deliveries. With only three hours of electricity a day, we depended on solar lamps or telephone torches for night shifts. The new system set up with the support of the Stabilization facility guarantees a power supply 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, which greatly improves the efficiency of care. Thanks to this, we have seen an increase in prenatal consultations and deliveries.

Salimata Talata, midwife at the Seytenga maternity hospital, Burkina Faso
Working as a nurse, assigned to medical structures in Diffa since 2015, I witnessed tragedies, including attacks on women and children. The workload was immense, with long hours due to the influx of refugees. Reassigned to the Garin Dogo dispensary in 2021, I was able to observe the interventions of the Stabilization Facility, with complete renovations, the provision of ambulances and medicines. The clinic now operates normally, even at night. The Garin Dogo medical dispensary has improved the health of the population by reducing infant mortality and ensuring safer childbirths. The installed lighting creates a sense of security for nighttime staff. To further improve health services, I would like to see wells rehabilitated, water self-sufficiency and ongoing training for health staff.

Ramatou Ali,
Nurse at Garin Dogo medical dispensary, Diffa region, Niger
EVALUATIVE EVIDENCE FROM NIGERIA

PROGRESS MADE AND AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

While the village of Ngarannam no longer had a school, a 12-class school was built and a playground is under construction, for a capacity of 500 students (40 students per class) compared to the current enrollment of 200 students.

The field survey conducted in Banki and Ngarannam confirmed the significant volume of infrastructural achievements and the overall quality appreciated by the communities. Although certain limits were identified concerning delays in construction or maintenance.

In 2023, 94.6% of households (92.2% of women) say they are satisfied with access to social services (education, health, hygiene, water and sanitation), compared to 91.1% in 2022 and 89.8% in 2021.

In Ngarannam, a phenomenon of school dropout has been observed during the rainy season, with attendance falling by almost 40% linked to the fact that children keep their brothers and sisters at home, or – for the oldest – help their parents with farming. The CSC have focused their community awareness efforts on education to address this situation.

Teachers interviewed expressed their gratitude towards the Stabilization Facility, stating that it “created an environment conducive to access to education for community members”.

In Banki, some community members have expressed satisfaction with the privacy provided by having sanitary facilities, such as latrines.

Source: Midterm evaluation of Regional Stabilization Facility of Lake Chad Basin, ACK International, November 2023

A classroom in Ngarannam, Nigeria © UNDP Nigeria
**LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES**

Targeted households have been provided with livelihood opportunities in both regions, in order to improve ability for people to generate income and sustain themselves.

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**IMPROVE BUSINESSES**

**92,000** PEOPLE

Have received livelihood support from the RSF in Lake Chad and Liptako-Gourma regions. This includes business grants, business assets, quick-fix training and cash-for-work schemes.

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**GRANTS AND ASSETS**

**AROUND 35,000** PEOPLE

Have benefited from grants for the creation of businesses and assets such as transport tricycles, motorcycles, motorized pumps, wheelbarrows, agricultural sprayers, pot carriers, fishing equipment, improved seeds and agricultural inputs. These business grants and productive assets are expected to contribute to the revival of local economies through an increase in productive activities and trade.

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**TRAININGS**

**AROUND 35,000** PEOPLE

Including farmers, breeders and fishers, have benefited from productive training related to the creation and management of micro-enterprises, agriculture, income-generating activities, micro-gardening, trades etc.

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**CASH FOR WORK**

**AROUND 22,000** PEOPLE

Were provided with cash for work opportunities. They participated in community infrastructure rehabilitation projects (infrastructures building, painting, public cleaning, waste management, drilling, and borehole rehabilitation) and generated income to improve their livelihoods.

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**INFRASTRUCTURES**

**218** PRODUCTIVE INFRASTRUCTURES

Were built or rehabilitated, including market stalls, closed shops, multi-purpose centers, agricultural warehouses and agro-pastoral centers. These assets serve as an economic base from which local community members can trade in a safe and productive environment, contributing to short- and medium-term economic development.

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Participants of the shea butter training in Gourcy, Burkina Faso
© UNDP Burkina Faso
As a mother of two in Bosso, Niger, I have witnessed the upheaval caused by the conflict and Boko Haram attacks. The return to Bosso, supported by stabilization efforts, has brought positive transformations. With the support received for my agriculture activities, I could set up a traditional incense and cosmetics business, employing local young people. My gross monthly income of 300,000 CFA francs enables my family to support itself. Today in Bosso, wedding celebrations and cultural activities have resumed, and we’ve seen the revitalization of education and healthcare. Now, my hope is to see women empowered through skills development and cooperative training, fostering a brighter future for our community.

Hadjia Haoua Maina Madou,
Farmer, livestock breeder, and producer of incense and traditional cosmetic products in Bosso, Diffa region, Niger

During the first phase of the programme, we cleaned the streets; the second phase was devoted to cleaning the gutters. The funds obtained through this work allowed me to open my own food processing store. This made me financially independent from my husband.

Fanta Bah,
cash-for-work programme participant in Bandiagara, Mali

Our village is slowly changing, allowing us young people to benefit from sustainable economic opportunities. I haven’t left the village for a year now, because I’ve been able to get a stable job with the companies in charge of the construction work. I earn a decent income that enables me to provide for my family.

Chamsou Soumana,
young man from Ingui working on the multifunctional centre, Niger
Participants in a cash-for-work programme in Mali
© UNDP Mali
REGIONAL COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

EXTENDED STABILIZATION

The RSF provides stabilization actors with knowledge and capacity to consolidate stabilization gains, improve cross-border coordination and cooperation, and promote social cohesion.

Regional Strategy on Stabilization, Resilience, and Recovery (RS-SRR): The Liptako-Gourma Authority (LGA) developed, with support from UNDP, the RS-SRR of Liptako-Gourma, which was presented to the LGA Council of Ministers in December 2023. This Strategy aims to provide the foundations for all stabilization, humanitarian, development and peacebuilding initiatives in the Liptako-Gourma region for the next four years. The Strategy’s action plan is expected to be developed in 2024.

The Inaugural Meeting of Defense and Security Focal Points of the Liptako-Gourma Authority: The LGA held the first meeting in Niamey in March, bringing together the Defence and Security Focal Points of the LGA Member States. The primary focus of the meeting was to develop a shared strategy to address security challenges within each country and across the region. The participants agreed to establish a tool for collecting information on security incidents and to review the regulations setting out the LGA’s attributes, composition, and functioning.

The RSF continues to work closely with the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) as its core institutional partner to strengthen regional collaboration and coordination. In 2023, the LCBC successfully transitioned from an RSF-managed to an LCBC-managed implementation of its ‘Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected areas of the Lake Chad Basin’.

Cross-Border Engagement: In support of the LGA in its stabilization efforts, UNDP started the implementation of livelihoods activities in cross-border locations in Burkina Faso–Mali and Burkina Faso–Niger borders. Programming interventions, which target about 100,000 people aim to support agropastoral and fishery production, land recovery and management, conservation of production, and improvement of cross-border trade. Additionally, interventions involve the construction of food stores to ensure food security and dairies for milk processing in order to build resilience and ensure sustainable livelihoods for people in situations of great vulnerability.

12 non-kinetic civil-military cooperation (CIMIC) related joint initiatives between RSS Secretariat and the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF).
KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

The Geospatial Information Stabilization Platform (GIStabilize) enables the collection and visualization of stabilization data to support conflict-sensitive programming to provide information on activities on the ground, improve coordination with partners, and improve the identification of opportunities and synergies.

UNDP Stabilization Academy was created to systematically strengthen a community of global crisis practitioners within UNDP. It focuses on building the knowledge and skills of stabilization teams to scale up stabilization as a clear path to peace. In partnership with Germany, two more cohorts (the fifth and sixth overall) were launched this year.

The LCBC Community Connect knowledge management platform serves as a resource for policymakers and practitioners supporting stabilization to share information, connect with others, and contribute to strategic efforts in the LCB region. The objectives are to serve as the go-to source for news and information on all aspects of the stabilization, recovery and development efforts around Lake Chad; as a repository for assessment reports, lessons learned, and good practices, both regional and global; and as a dynamic tool for coordination and the networking of like minds.

Conflict Analysis Network was established to bring together UNDP field teams, civilian and military officers, and UN partners (Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), IOM, OCHA and UNHCR) to share and consolidate collective knowledge and analysis pertaining to conflict dynamics in the region. Its focus will be on understanding the drivers of conflict and devising strategies to anticipate, prevent, and respond to diverse conflict dynamics. In doing so, the Network will facilitate information sharing, data collection and analysis among key actors working with stabilization sites.

Research and policy papers: To better identify emerging patterns and improve cross-border coordination and collaboration across the humanitarian, development, and security actors, a series of research and policy papers were developed in the Lake Chad and Liptako-Gourma regions, including on topics such as civil-military cooperation (CIMIC), Community Stabilization Committees (CSC), cross-border trade, and cash-for-work.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL CAPACITIES TO STEER AND SUPPORT STABILIZATION

The Special Multi-Partner Implementation Fund for the Lake Chad Basin Region, launched at the Third International Lake Chad Region Conference, aims to support the implementation of the RS-RRS. The Delivery Fund will be instrumental in facilitating joint action by UN agencies, governments, donors, civil society, and other public- and private-sector stakeholders to actively contribute to implementing RS-SRR pillars and to achieve collective impact in the LCB region.

The Nexus Funding Facility, launched at the Third International Lake Chad Region Conference, will support interventions on strengthening the humanitarian, peace, and development nexus in line with the RS-SRR humanitarian pillar. It will support one or a consortium of actors, including CSOs, in contexts where humanitarian needs have to be addressed in parallel with stabilization interventions that focus on security, social, and economic infrastructure and long-term development.

The Third High-Level Conference on the LCB, hosted by Germany, Norway and the United Nations (OCHA/UNDP), was part of the cycle of high-level conferences on Lake Chad. This conference serves as a crucial international political forum, capable of facilitating regional and cross-border consensus on the adjustments needed to effectively address the multifaceted challenges prevailing in the region.

The 4th Lake Chad Basin Governors’ Forum brought together governors of Boko Haram-affected territories and partners. It provided a strong platform for cross-border collaboration and coordination and explored opportunities for promoting peace and strengthening regional collaboration. A Civil Society Organization (CSO) Pre-forum, supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Norwegian Capacity to International Operations (NORCAP), convened representatives from 24 local and national CSOs across the Lake Chad Basin countries, identified strengths, challenges, and solutions related to localization and formulated policy recommendations for the Governors’ Forum.