



THE REGIONAL STABILISATION FACILITY NEWSLETTER



LAKE CHAD BASIN

MAY 2020



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CHAD

\$32,000 (XAF 18.3M) disbursed to finance scholarships for 61 young Ngalamia students

NIGER

Approximately **800** Ngagam inhabitants provided with clean water

NIGERIA

216 skilled/unskilled workers benefit from cash for work scheme with

Empowered lives despite COVID-19 challenges

The implementation of the RSF at both national and regional windows has been impacted by the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic within the Lake Chad Basin countries and territories. Early assessments suggest implications on political stability, livelihoods, security, and possible displacement of populations in the region.

Despite these challenges, the key actors at the national windows are relentless in fulfilling their mission.

In this May issue, our national teams present their engagements to put into motion the action plans initially adopted by adjusting to current realities in the field.

In Cameroon, a series of training courses to strengthen the capacities of actors were initiated since April which continue in the far north of the country with a view to strengthening the capacities of actors on the ground. In Chad, the national window strengthened the capacities of young people through scholarships to boost their economy. In Niger, various infrastructures have been put in place to address the needs of affected populations. In Nigeria, the team is strengthening community engagement by building peace between communities and supporting livelihoods.

CAMEROON

278 people from cooperatives trained in agricultural production technical in Amchide, Limani and Kolofata

In Cameroon, since April, the RSF has undertaken major projects including a series of training projects to strengthen the capacities of smallholders in Mayo-Sava (Far North Region).

In May, 54 groups comprising 278 people (including 155 women and 123 men) were trained, as well as 18 heads of agricultural staffs from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER).

The MINADER is equally in charge of monitoring the beneficiaries of the project. The National Window also offered it an endowment in computer equipment made up of:

- 06 computers
- 03 multifunction printers
- 09 ink cartridges

This equipment will allow MINADER to be more efficient and autonomous in its monitoring mission.

71 Judicial officers trained in governance, rule of law and dialogue



Focus Group with Judicial Police Officers in Mora.

Credit photo/UNDP Cameroon

The series of training initiated by the RSF in Cameroon has been extended to 71 Judicial Police Agents (APJ) and Judicial Police Officers (OPJ) from the localities of Kolofata and Mora in the Division of Mayo-Sava.

This was an opportunity to strengthen their capacities in terms of local judicial governance and the rule of law, in particular on dialogue between civilians and the police.

The objective of these training is to improve the skills of these officers on mechanisms for accessing fair justice, which depends on the return to peace, strengthening of dialogue and the establishment and maintenance of confidence between civilians and the forces of law order.



Handing over of computers to the MINADER regional representative by the Prefect

credit photo/UNDP Cameroon



Family photo at Mora's prefecture

credit photo/UNDP Cameroon

CHAD

Increasing livelihood opportunities for the communities

In Massakory (Hadjer Lamis Province) the RSF Team met with provincial authorities to organize the reception and safe storage for later distribution of agricultural and fishing equipment meant for Guitté's producers.

The objective of this meeting was to jointly identify the beneficiaries and discuss on the modalities of distribution of these agricultural and fishing equipments to the beneficiaries.

Since this activity was coinciding with the agricultural campaign in both provinces the Governor and participants present took advantage of the activity planned to run from June 1st, 2020 to June 15th, 2020 to look for a way forward. As one of the outcomes of the session, it was decided that they will take advantage of the agricultural campaign and quickly organize



Symbolic ceremony of handing over agricultural and fishing items to some of the identified representatives of farmers and fishermen of Ngalamia (Left : Prefet of Mamdi, Right : National Window's Coordinator) / Photos : UNDP Chad



Reception of seeds, agricultural and fishing items by the Representative of the Canton of Bol / Photo : UNDP Chad

a mission of reception and launching of the activities of distribution of seeds (corn, millet, peanuts, beans, etc.) and agricultural types of equipment in Guitté for fear of missing the agricultural campaign which begins by June 1 and ends around June 15 2020, for crops (corn, millet, bean, peanut).

For the village of Ngalamia, in collaboration with local authorities, the National Window organized a symbolic ceremony of handing over agricultural and fishing items to representatives of farmers and fishermen of CBOs from that locality. An actual distribution will follow in June 2020.

EMPOWERING THE YOUTH THROUGH FUNDING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR VOCATIONAL TRAININGS TO BOOST THE ECONOMY

The National Window officially handed over much the needed funds to the Governorate of the Lake Chad Province. This fund, amounting to XAF 18,300,000, is intended to finance the scholarship program for sixty-one (61) young local students.

The scholarship covers a two years vocational program and this support will contribute to cover the first year. It aims to promote capacity building for young people by improving their employability through vocational training in promising sectors to fill local, national and regional labor market needs.

The provincial youth empowerment programme is coordinated by a Provincial Monitoring Committee. The funds were directly transferred into the official bank account of the Committee.

The support will promote the stabilisation of populations in general and empower young girls and boys in particular thereby turning them into sustainable development agents, security and social cohesion actors which Chad and the Lake Chad Basin need.



The National Window of Stabilisation officially handing over the check to the General Secretary of the Governor of the Lake Chad Province to support youth's scholarships / Photo : UNDP Chad



Construction of boundary wall at Governorate of Diffa

Credit photo/UNDP Niger

NEW INFRASTRUCTURES TO EMPOWER DIFFA'S COMMUNITY

Several activities have been initiated in Diffa and the process is now more visible. The Rehabilitation of Governor's Office is finally completed with a new wing providing additional office spaces.

Security and work environment have been improved for the project coordination team, including the construction of a boundary wall and installation of a solar streetlight at the Governorate of Diffa.

New infrastructures and livelihood opportunities have been developed in Diffa and Bosso.

In Ngagam village, 800 persons will have access to clean water. The old water infrastructure have been rehabilitated In Bosso, 750 students will see their learning environment and thus their success rate improved.

"Clean Water for 800 persons in Ngagam"

Education: Rehabilitation/construction of 3 primary schools and 2 middle schools ongoing, including boundary walls/fences and 6 new classrooms which will be adequately equipped.

Health: The Bosso health clinic which is under rehabilitation/construction will be improving thus the delivery of health services to approximately 2,500 households. Four ambulances for the four Health Centres will be soon delivered in Diffa.



Rehabilitation of water infrastructure in Ngagam

Credit photo/UNDP Niger

NIGERIA: SUCCESS STORY



I have two wives and eight kids, we were dependent solely on the food we get from NGOs, but this additional income helps us to supplement what we are getting from NGOs,

ALIYU UMARA, 35 YEARS OLD AND A BRICKLAYER WORKING ON THE WALL CONSTRUCTION
(PICTURE 2)

Banki: Laying the foundation for stabilization and strengthening COVID-19 response -- brick by brick

Straddling the border between Northeast Nigeria and Cameroon, the garrison town of Banki has witnessed the destruction of essential infrastructure, a decrease in trade, the loss of livelihoods, and displacement of entire families since the start of the insurgency in Lake Chad Basin Region.

As one of the 4 communities in Borno State targeted by the Regional Stabilization Facility (RSF), Banki is the recipient of a set of support packages which include the building of protection fence wall. Began in early 2020, the construction along dug-up a trench aims to prevent attacks from outside and improve the community's security. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly complicated the situation and compounded existing vulnerabilities in the region.

According to the United Nations, an outbreak in the protracted conflict and security zones of the North-East could be very damaging and set back years of hard-won gains. In Banki, where it is estimated that more than 19% of the residents live without shelter or in collective unpartitioned makeshift abodes, it is particularly challenging to implement preventative measures including sanitary and physical distancing. Its 42,000 residents, mostly internally displaced persons (IDP), live in highly congested camps with little access to water and sanitation.

The current rate of spread of COVID in Nigeria increases the risks of mass infections in settings like Banki. As decongestion of the IDP camps is one of the most urgent and efficient ways to prevent this, the Borno State Government has designated the expansion of the IDP camps as a top priority for its COVID-19 response. With the technical support of the RSF, the Borno State Ministry of

Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement (MRRR) is building the 2.3 km protection wall for the expanded camp area. The expanded fence is expected to facilitate the building of new shelters, accelerate decongestion, and help set up quarantine areas.

Also, given the region's ongoing volatility and its attendant stream of refugees, including 200 Nigerians who crossed into Banki from nearby camp in Cameroon in April, every effort is made to complete the protection wall in time to move them into the expanded safe space which is set to house 500 temporary shelters and isolation quarters and help reduce congestion in the IDP Camp.

Providing technical support for the expansion of the wall and freeing up space within the camp, does not only meet key RSF objectives, it is a testament to its repurposing flexibility: the extension project not only helps improve Banki's protection from external security threats and the community's COVID-19 preparedness, it also helps create immediate income opportunities for IDPs.

Dozens of men and women, including unemployed local youth, contribute their skills to the construction of the wall and earn a daily income as masons, carpenters, iron smelters, bricklayers, and handiwork. "I am happy that this wall is under construction now for our protection. Prior to the wall construction, we experience attacks from the insurgents, sometimes they come into the IDP camp were majority of us reside to cart away our food items and livestock. In addition to that, I am grateful for the cash for work scheme because it has provided me with earnings to cater for my family.

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