



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# Lake Chad Basin crisis

## Response strategy (2017–2019)

Mitigating the impact of the crisis and strengthening the resilience  
and food security of conflict-affected communities





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and food security of conflict-affected communities

**Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria**

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# Foreword

In the Lake Chad Basin, insecurity and unprecedented levels of population displacement have severely disrupted availability of and access to food and put livelihoods under extreme pressure.

A renewed commitment is required to provide timely support to the millions of people in need. In particular, the next main planting season starting in May is a unique opportunity to tackle alarming levels of food insecurity by helping crisis-hit families to produce their own food. Failure to provide assistance this year will likely deepen the critical levels of hunger and exacerbate tensions among communities that have just begun to return to peace.

While we respond to the most pressing needs, it is equally important to start building longer-term resilience to shocks, as noted by Mr António Guterres, the United Nations Secretary-General, in his opening remarks at the joint press conference of 22 February 2017 on humanitarian crises. We need to move towards a risk reduction and risk management approach that is planned, flexible and adaptable, rather than relying on costly crisis management at a later stage.

FAO's Lake Chad Basin Response Strategy is designed to address the far-reaching impacts of the crisis and to build resilient livelihoods through a multidisciplinary perspective. It benefits from FAO's wide expertise in the areas of food security and nutrition, creating and

diversifying income-generating opportunities, and integrating the management of natural resource while strengthening food security analysis and coordination. The Response Strategy also lays the foundations for enhanced synergies with United Nations agencies, national and regional institutions, and civil society.

Strengthening agriculture-based livelihoods represents a unique entry point to foster socio-economic relief and growth. As the main source of employment and income for over 80 percent of the population in the Lake Chad Basin, the agriculture sector has the potential of generating renewed opportunities for all, including youth. Creating the conditions for sustainable social, economic and environmental recovery can in turn help mitigate conflict drivers and foster conflict prevention. This is key in helping people to stay on their land, when they feel safe to do so, and create the conditions for the return of displaced people.

Over the past centuries, resident communities around Lake Chad have made the most of a complex socio-economical and agro-ecological setting. They have shown an extraordinary capacity to adapt to changing environmental patterns. Today we should not miss the opportunity to strengthen the populations' ability to cope with and recover from the current crisis. It falls in line with our commitment to deliver on the promises of the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda for Humanity to Leave No One Behind.



**Mr Bukar Tijani**

Assistant Director-General  
Regional Representative for Africa



**Mr Dominique Burgeon**

Director, Emergency and Rehabilitation Division  
and Strategic Programme Leader





# Acronyms

<b>AAP</b>	Accountability to affected populations
<b>CdR</b>	<i>Caisse de résilience</i>
<b>CFSAM</b>	Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission
<b>CILSS</b>	Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
<b>EFSA</b>	Emergency Food Security Assessment
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FEWS NET</b>	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
<b>GAM</b>	Global acute malnutrition
<b>IDP</b>	Internally displaced person
<b>IED</b>	Improvised explosive device
<b>IFES</b>	Integrated Food-energy System
<b>IPC</b>	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>LCBC</b>	Lake Chad Basin Commission
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental Organization
<b>OCHA</b>	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>PDES</b>	Economic and Social Development Plan ( <i>Plan de développement économique et social du Niger</i> )
<b>PNSA</b>	National Programme for Food Security ( <i>Programme national de sécurité alimentaire du Cameroun</i> )
<b>RCPCA</b>	Food Crisis Prevention Network ( <i>Réseau de prévention des crises alimentaires</i> )
<b>SAFE</b>	Safe Access to Fuel and Energy
<b>SAM</b>	Severe acute malnutrition
<b>SDDCI</b>	Strategy for sustainable and inclusive development ( <i>Stratégie de développement durable et de croissance inclusive Niger 2035</i> )
<b>SMART</b>	Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions
<b>UNHCR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund
<b>UXO</b>	Unexploded ordnance
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

# FAO's response (2017–2019)

## Niger

field office **Diffa**

**FAO requires USD 11 million**

**Targeted beneficiaries 155 000 people**

### TARGETED AREAS

*Diffa region: departments of Bosso, Diffa, Goudoumaria, Mainé Soroa and N'guiguimi*

### ACTIVITIES

- Support agricultural value chains through innovative practices
- Improve and rehabilitate infrastructures along transhumance corridors (vaccination parks and water points)
- Increase and diversify incomes through the sustainable exploitation of forestry resources
- Support community dialogue
- Support transboundary farmers' organization, focusing on dialogue around trade and sustainable natural resources management

## Chad

field offices **Bol, Mao**

**FAO requires USD 12.5 million**

**Targeted beneficiaries 120 000 people**

### TARGETED AREAS

*Lake region: departments of Mamdi and Wayi; Bar El Gazal region, the departments of South and West; Kanem region: the department of South and Wadi Bissam; Hadjer-Lamis region: the department of Dagana*

### ACTIVITIES

- Ensure basic livelihood needs and access to basic services (agricultural production, support to local governance and financial services)
- Provide capacity building for the development of agricultural value chains to provide income and employment opportunities to youth
- Develop and pilot innovative approaches targeting households with malnourished children under five and women to reduce malnutrition

## Nigeria

field office **Maiduguri**

**FAO requires USD 191 million**

**Targeted beneficiaries 2.5 million people**

### TARGETED AREAS

*Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States*

### ACTIVITIES

- Support food crop production (distribute fast-maturing, nutrient-rich cereal and pulse seeds, and fertilizer)
- Provide seed multiplication assistance
- Establish post-harvest storage facilities
- Support vegetable and fruit production
- Rehabilitate food processing and agricultural infrastructure
- Provide livestock emergency support (restocking, vaccination, animal feed)
- Rehabilitate infrastructure (water tanks, post-harvest storage, livestock infrastructure, market facilities, etc.)
- Promote alternative livelihoods (aquaculture, food-processing, etc.)
- Engage in forestation/reforestation and SAFE
- Support food security coordination and analysis

## Cameroon

field office **Maroua**

**FAO requires USD 13.8 million**

**Targeted beneficiaries 200 000 people**

### TARGETED AREAS

*Adamawa region: departments of Mbéré, Djérem, Faro-et-Déou and Mayo-Banyo; Far North region: departments of Diamaré, Logone-et-Chari and Mayo-Tsanaga; North region: departments of Benoué, Mayo-Rey and Mayo-Louti*

### ACTIVITIES

- Support food crop production (maize, rice, sorghum, cowpea and off-season vegetable crops)
- Establish small animal production units
- Establish post-harvest storage facilities
- Set up cereal processing units
- Improve and rehabilitate infrastructure along transhumance corridors (vaccination parks and water points)
- Coordinate food security actions

## Regional component

regional offices **Accra, Dakar**

**FAO requires USD 3.7 million**

### ACTIVITIES

- Provide technical and operational support to country-level interventions, leveraging and aligning regional and global initiatives
- Strengthen coordination including at the transboundary level

• Facilitate joint monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment of the strategy

• Ensure research and knowledge sharing

• Disseminate national lessons learned and good practices

• Provide technical support on security issues

# 1. The Lake Chad Basin crisis and impact

## 1.1 Boko Haram insurgency

Boko Haram-related violence in northeastern Nigeria has spilled over into neighbouring Sahelian countries in the Lake Chad Basin – specifically, Cameroon, Chad and the Niger – with devastating effects on food security and livelihoods. The violence has driven millions from their homes and hampered access to agricultural lands and assets, creating massive humanitarian needs in an area already characterized by food insecurity, poverty and environmental degradation.

By reinforcing the Multinational Joint Task Force operations in 2016, the main towns and many of the villages previously under Boko Haram’s control were recaptured. Increased access to these areas, particularly in Borno State in northeastern Nigeria, has revealed an extensive and expanding humanitarian crisis. Despite the steady reduction of areas under Boko Haram’s control, the violence has continued, particularly suicide bombings and targeted attacks aimed at civilians and the security forces. This has resulted in loss of lives, destruction of infrastructure and disruption of trade and communications, potentially destabilizing inter-community relations.

The Lake Chad Basin is grappling with a complex humanitarian emergency across northeastern Nigeria, Cameroon’s Far North, western Chad and southeastern Niger. In the most affected areas of these four countries, conflict and displacement are adding to other structural factors that are undermining the livelihoods of the population, increasing food insecurity and poverty and diminishing access to basic and social services (water, sanitation, health and education).

### In numbers

The Lake Chad Basin crisis is currently one of the largest humanitarian crises in the world:



**11 million**  
people in need of assistance



**6.9 million**  
severely food insecure people



**515 000**  
children suffering from severe acute malnutrition



Under five mortality rates in IDP locations  
**four times** the emergency threshold



**2.5 million**  
displaced people (second largest displacement crisis in the world)

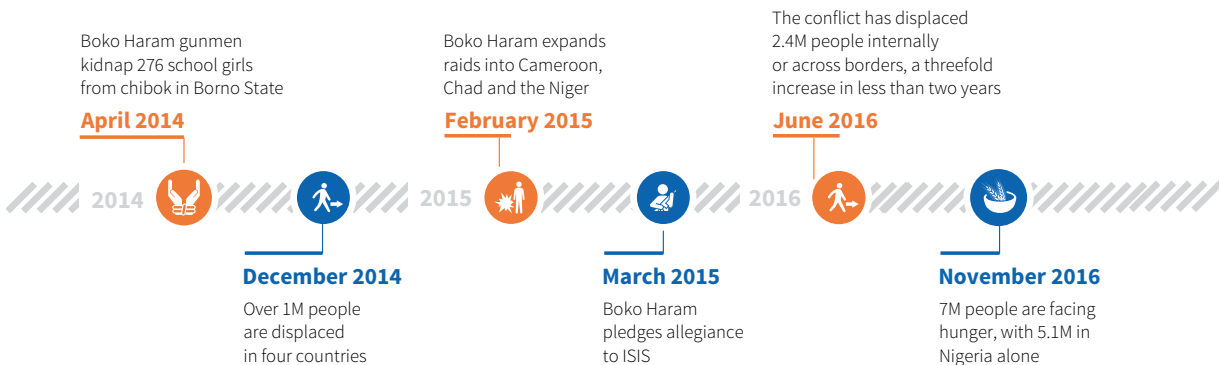


**75.7%** of IDPs are staying with host communities, increasing their vulnerability



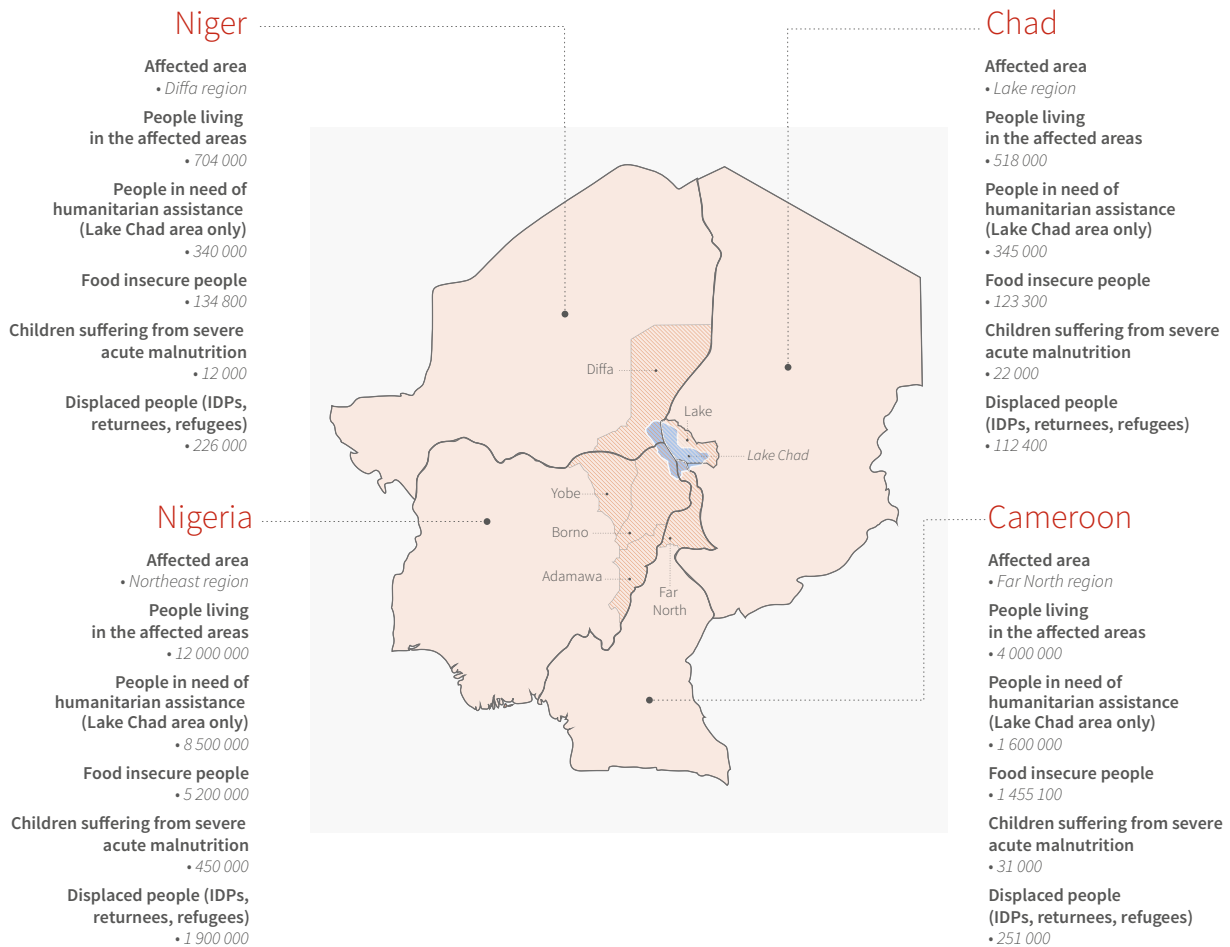
**1 million**  
returnees

### KEY MOMENTS



Source: OCHA Humanitarian Needs and Requirement Overview, December 2016

## 1.2 Impact on livelihoods and food security



Sources: Adapted from Lake Chad Basin Humanitarian Response Plan, January 2017; Emergency food security assessment (EFSA), September 2016; Cadre Harmonisé, March 2017; and International Organization for Migration, March 2017

## Displacements

Migration is part of the subregion's history, with borders serving as exchange points rather than obstacles. Cross-border movements were traditionally undertaken for economic and education purposes, to find grazing land and to visit or settle with family or communities of the same ethnic group. Migration patterns started to change as violence committed by Boko Haram increased, disproportionately affecting the borderlands. Temporary border closures have limited movement and restricted cross-border trade.

By March 2017, the Lake Chad Basin crisis had resulted in nearly 2.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and returnees, making it the second largest displacement crisis in the world (after the Syria crisis), and the most rapidly growing one.<sup>1</sup> The number of displaced people has tripled over the past two years, with 53 percent of them women and 62 percent children.

Overall, 92.9 percent have been displaced because of the insurgency, 5.5 percent due to community clashes, particularly between herders and native farmers, mainly in Nigeria, and 1.5 percent because of natural disasters, mainly in Cameroon's Far North which experiences periodic flooding.<sup>2</sup>

1 Lake Chad Basin: Crisis Overview (OCHA, January 2017)

2 IOM. 2016. Within and Beyond Borders: Tracking Displacement in the Lake Chad Basin, Regional Displacement and Human Mobility Analysis Displacement Tracking Matrix, December 2016 (available at: [https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/press\\_release/file/IOM-WCA-LCBC-Regional-DTM-Dec2016.pdf](https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/press_release/file/IOM-WCA-LCBC-Regional-DTM-Dec2016.pdf))

Most of the displaced are in Nigeria's northeastern states, but Cameroon, the Niger and Chad also have high levels of displacement,<sup>3</sup> as follows:

- **Nigeria:** 1.9 million people
- **Cameroon:** 251 000 people
- **Niger:** 226 000 people
- **Chad:** 112 400 people

In Nigeria, 75.7 percent of the IDPs stay in host communities, while the rest live in camps or camp-like settings. The decision to settle in camps seems to be the last resort for households with no economic means or assets. Relatively better off households, or households with diversified assets, often settle in urban areas where they can manage the higher cost of living and possibly invest in starting a business. According to an FAO assessment carried out in November 2016, IDPs living in host communities were often given a plot of land to cultivate – agreements mostly facilitated by traditional authorities. A lease may or may not be paid in money or in kind. The arrival of a large number of Nigerians in border areas of Cameroon, Chad and the Niger, combined with ongoing cross-border attacks, are putting already impoverished host communities under extreme pressure. As a result, host communities are in serious need of assistance to respond to emergency needs and longer-term problems of disease outbreaks, cyclical drought, chronic food insecurity and malnutrition.

Around 29 percent of the displaced living in camps (open camps, collective settlements, transitional centres) engage in small-scale agriculture, 27 percent work as day labourers, 24 percent are involved in petty trade and 15 percent collect firewood. Land is available for cultivation in 89 of the 124 displaced camps in Nigeria.

Displacement dynamics are complex. People have often been displaced multiple times, with each displacement further reducing their initial assets and deepening their vulnerability. Given the limited livelihood opportunities in displacement areas due to the fragile socio-economic system and high concentration of IDPs, even families that had not lost their assets when initially displaced are increasingly resorting to negative coping strategies.

As many areas of origin of displaced people have been secured, IDPs are beginning to return. As of December 2016, there were more than 1 million returnees in the affected regions of the four Lake Chad countries<sup>4</sup>, compared with roughly 200 000 in April 2016.<sup>5</sup> However, insecurity or the perception of insecurity in the areas of return, the scale of Boko Haram's presence and/or number of attacks, the presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), destroyed infrastructure, military operations and price fluctuations complicate the situation, making it increasingly unpredictable. Some of the IDPs hosted in metropolitan areas (Maiduguri, Damaturu) without assets to return to may have found alternative opportunities in urban or peri-urban areas, and will therefore be less likely to return to their areas of origin.

Around 66 percent of the displaced people surveyed in camps and host communities in Nigeria in December 2016 cited food as their biggest unmet need, an increase from 49.5 percent in October 2016. Given that agriculture was the main source of livelihood for most of the IDPs prior to their displacement, access to land is vitally important to help farmers grow food crops, raise livestock and engage in other livelihood activities during the lean season, thus avoiding the loss of a fourth consecutive harvest.

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3 The figures of displaced people per country do not include refugees.

4 IOM. 2016. Regional Displacement Tracking Matrix: Lake Chad Basin Crisis Dashboard, December 2016

5 Compiled data from OCHA and IOM sources

## Food security

According to the more recent food security assessment, more than 6.9 million people are currently severely food insecure in the affected regions of the four Lake Chad countries.<sup>6</sup> The breakdown per country is as follows:

- **Nigeria:** 5.2 million people
- **Cameroon:** 1.4 million people
- **Niger:** 134 800 people
- **Chad:** 123 300 people

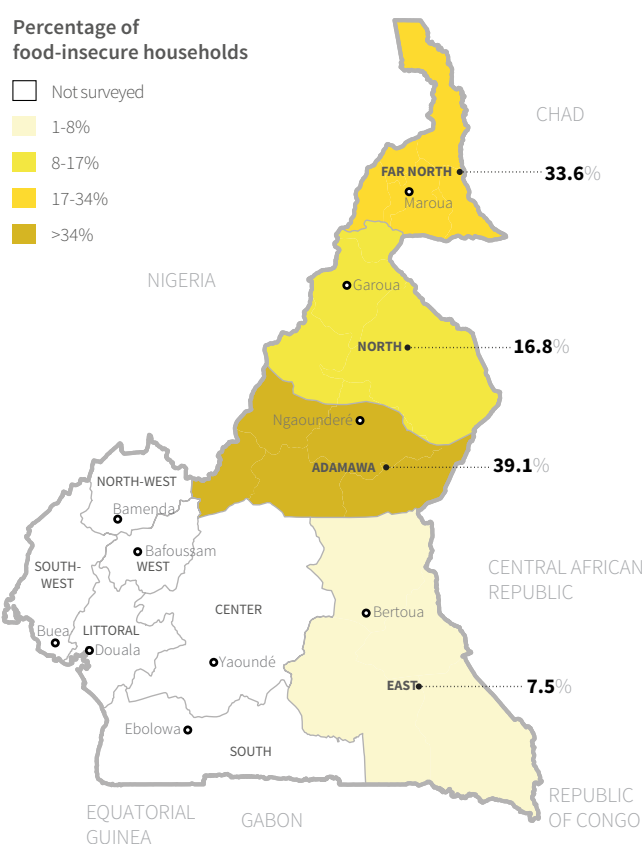
Before the protracted, conflict-induced humanitarian situation, the region had struggled with local food and nutrition insecurity for decades.

Staple food prices (cereals) in most markets have risen, compared with the previous five-year average.<sup>7</sup> In Nigeria and the Niger, staple food prices have increased in the affected areas by 50 to 100 percent, mainly due to insecurity and increased transport costs.<sup>8</sup> During the lean season (June-August 2017), prices are expected to increase further. According to the *Cadre Harmonisé* maps, the food security situation across the Lake Chad Basin will not improve in most regions and will worsen in others.

Despite the reopening of the border between Nigeria and Cameroon in mid-November 2016, the high viability threshold of pastoral activities is leaving pastoralists more vulnerable. Border closures and disruptions in traditional transhumance flows and livestock markets are affecting food security and livelihoods, and straining water resources and grazing areas in the four countries, whose economies are strongly integrated and interdependent. Insecurity and military restrictions on trade are affecting food prices and access, reducing the ability of households to cope. Livestock prices in Chad and Cameroon have dropped by 30 to 50 percent because the countries are unable to export to neighbouring markets in Nigeria.

On 12 December 2016, the Food Crisis Prevention Network (*Réseau de prévention des crises alimentaires* [RPCA])<sup>9</sup> issued an alert on the food security situation in northeastern Nigeria (Abuja Declaration, 12 December 2016), calling on the international community, technical and financial partners and other stakeholders to mobilize support

### CAMEROON Prevalence of food insecurity per region, EFSA, 2016



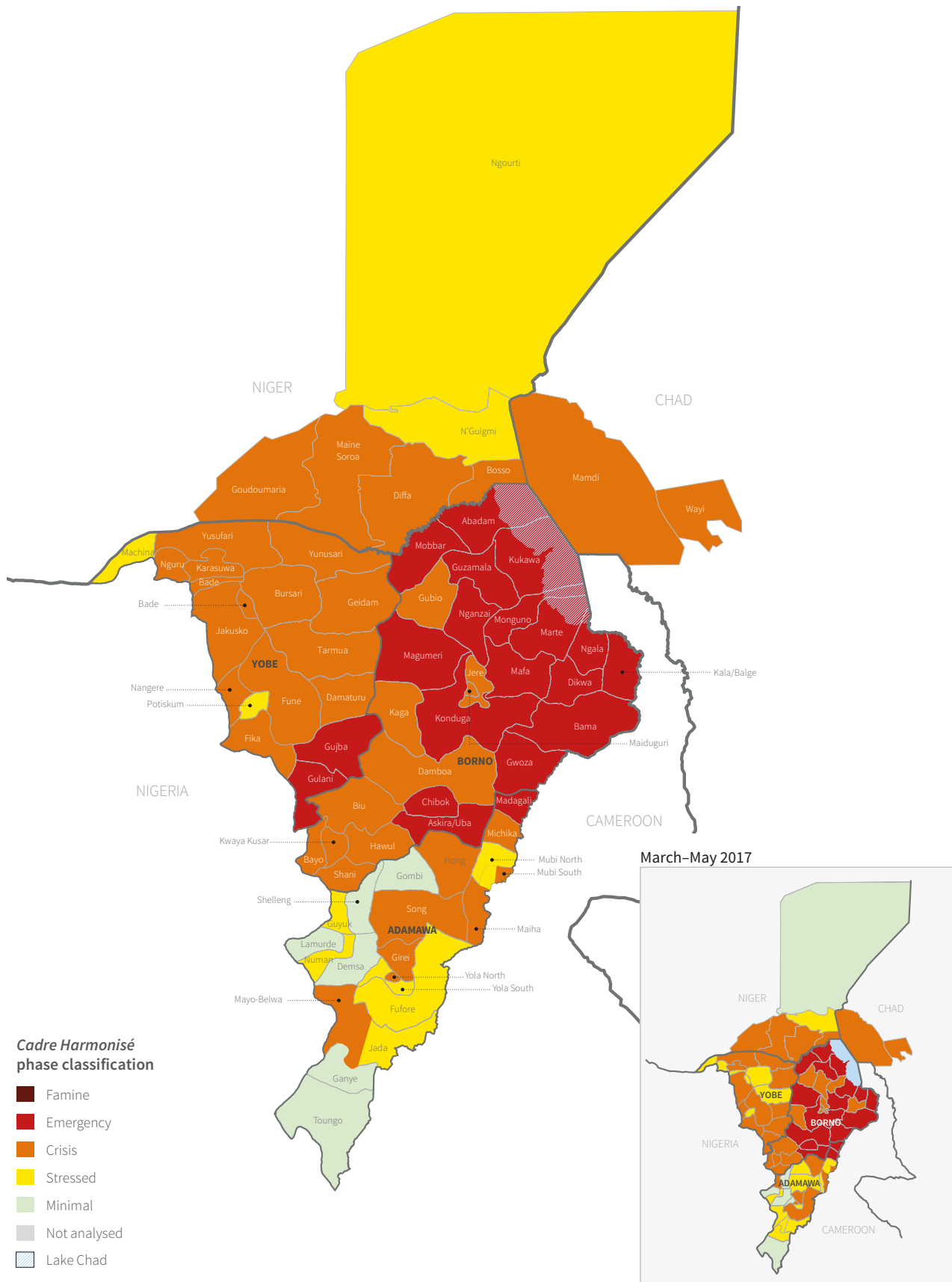
Source: Food security classification in Cameroon (EFSA, 2016)

<sup>6</sup> *Cadre Harmonisé*, March 2017; EFSA, September 2016.

<sup>7</sup> Nigeria *Cadre Harmonisé* October 2016, Chad *Cadre Harmonisé* October 2016, Cameroon EFSA, September 2016

<sup>8</sup> World Food Programme (WFP). 2016. Vulnerability Analysis Mapping Bulletin 5, December 2016 (available at [http://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/wfp\\_nga\\_mvammarketsdec2016.pdf](http://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/wfp_nga_mvammarketsdec2016.pdf))

<sup>9</sup> RPCA. 2016. *Food and nutrition situation in the Sahel and West Africa*. Final communiqué, Abuja, Nigeria, 16 December 2016 (available at: <http://www.oecd.org/site/rpca/meetings/RPCA-food-nutrition-situation-EN.pdf>)



Source: Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)/Cadre Harmonisé, March 2017

for the affected areas. A Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) alert was issued in parallel. The FEWS NET alert pointed to a potential famine (Phase 5 of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC]) in the Bama local government area, given the inaccessibility of large areas of Borno State to civilian actors, including humanitarian partners, and the severity of food insecurity observed in the accessible adjacent areas. However, without additional information, this could neither be confirmed nor disproven.<sup>10</sup>

According to an assessment conducted in December 2015 by Diffa Food security technical Group on Boko Haram crisis' impacts on livelihoods and CFSAM November 2016 in Cameroon, it was noted that conflict had had dramatic consequences on agriculture/livestock and fishery sectors: important losses of production means, impossibility to have access to production sites, destruction of marketing channels for inputs supply.

## Nutrition

The nutritional status of the affected population is also a serious concern. An estimated 515 000 children across the four countries were suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in January 2017<sup>11</sup>, up from around 175 000 children at the beginning of 2016.<sup>12</sup>

According to latest surveys, the global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates are well above 10 percent throughout the areas around Lake Chad<sup>13</sup>.

In Chad, the National Nutrition Survey, carried out with the Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) methodology in October 2016, shows that the Lake region has a GAM rate close to 10 percent and a chronic malnutrition rate of 36 percent, which is above the 30 percent World Health Organization (WHO) threshold. The situation has deteriorated significantly since last year's surveys for all eastern, western and northern Chad<sup>14</sup>.

In Cameroon, the GAM rate in the Far North region is approximately 15 percent, and the SAM rate is 2.2 percent in the Logone and Chari division.

Compared with last year, the situation in the Niger's Diffa region has improved, but it remains worrisome with a GAM rate of 13.8 percent and a SAM rate of 2.4 percent<sup>15</sup>.

As for Nigeria, the GAM rate in the northeastern region is 9.5 percent, the second highest in the country, while the SAM rate is 2.6 percent. Recent assessments in Borno and Yobe States confirm pockets of extremely high malnutrition, with the GAM and SAM rates above the warning threshold ( $10 < \text{GAM} < 15$ ), while the WHO SAM crisis threshold (above 2 percent) is present in the newly accessible areas of Borno and Yobe States.<sup>16</sup> Overall, 450 000 children suffer from SAM in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, with almost 300 000 in Borno alone.

## Agriculture

The conflict has had a significant impact on agriculture in the Lake Chad Basin, the main source of livelihood for most of the area's rural households. Communities have repeatedly been targeted by insurgents, with the aim of acquiring resources and forcing vulnerable populations from their homes. The perception of insecurity and the threat of being kidnapped have prevented farmers from fully engaging in agricultural activities. Over the past few years, the involvement

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10 FEWS NET. 2016. Borno Analysis, 13 December 2016

11 OCHA 2017. Lake Chad Basin: Crisis Overview (as of 11 January 2017)

12 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (available at [https://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_92623.html](https://www.unicef.org/media/media_92623.html))

13 Nutrition and mortality assessment (SMART) of October 2016

14 Chad: SMART October 2016

15 EFSA August 2016 - *Évaluation de la sécurité alimentaire en situation d'urgence complexe dans la région de Diffa*, August 2016

16 OCHA. 2017. Humanitarian Needs Overview (available at [http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ocha\\_nga\\_2017\\_hno\\_13012017.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ocha_nga_2017_hno_13012017.pdf))



of Boko Haram in looting harvests and cattle, and disrupting the region's fish trade, has been widely reported. In Nigeria's northeastern States of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe, insecurity and restriction of movement due to the presence of the armed group have severely constrained agricultural activities. This has exacerbated the challenges producers already faced (e.g. erratic rainfall and lack of basic social services). The destruction of infrastructure and the disruption of existing limited services have also contributed to decreases in agricultural production throughout the affected areas.

In Chad, at the end of the 2015/16 agricultural season, cereal production was estimated to be 11 percent lower than the previous year, with a per capita availability of 155 kg, lower than the FAO minimum standard of 159 kg<sup>17</sup>. In Cameroon, rainfed cereal production was lower in 2016 compared with previous years, with an estimated 3 percent decrease in the east, a 5 percent decrease in the north, an 18 percent decrease in Adamawa and a 25 percent decrease in the Far North region. Insecurity has been a hurdle for agropastoralist activities, with a 15 percent decrease in areas planted with cereal crops.<sup>18</sup> Also in northeastern Nigeria, the production of cash and staple food crops is well below average, mainly because of low rainfall and insecurity preventing farmers from accessing their fields.

Population displacements as a result of the conflict have increased pressure on host communities and on already limited natural resources (e.g. water and land), reducing food and water availability, while heightening the risk of social tensions. Arable land has been used for shelter for IDPs, further fragmenting farmlands, while the production of maize and sorghum, important staple crops in the region, has been restricted to avoid creating hideouts for the insurgents. The use of fertilizers for agriculture has been restricted in most conflict-affected states, as they can be used to produce IEDs. The suspected presence of IEDs and UXOs on agricultural land is also limiting farming activities.

The security situation has affected the seed system. An October 2016 FAO assessment in Nigeria's States of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa showed that most farmers had a fairly resilient informal seed system in the past, with strong social networks and multiple crops grown by every household. Since the insurgency, informal and formal seed systems have been disrupted. Certified seeds from formal sources are reportedly too expensive for many, especially poor farming households and IDPs, to buy, with bad roads and insecurity increasing transportation costs, translating into higher prices.

Before the crisis, the affected areas already faced a high risk of disease outbreaks, including transboundary animal disease, cyclical drought and other natural disasters. These factors, combined with the current overuse of natural resources and high concentration of people and animals in limited spaces, are testing the ability of humanitarian and government actors to respond. As such, there is a risk of the crisis spreading throughout the Sahel region and into northern parts of the Central African Republic.

## Fisheries

Until the Boko Haram crisis, fisheries provided nutritious food, employment and income to many families in the region. The overall fisheries production in Lake Chad in 2014 was reportedly between 80 000 and 100 000 tonnes/year, with an estimated value of between USD 54 million and USD 220 million.<sup>19</sup>

Currently, fishers face many challenges. In addition to climate variability, which is shrinking the lake, the Nigerian armed forces placed an embargo on fishing activities in order to reduce the risk of insurgents using the lake to generate revenue (e.g. by stealing fisheries products). The presence of the insurgents and the embargo have disrupted fishing activities throughout the region as well as sales through local and export markets, depriving communities of their main livelihood and forcing thousands of families to flee to safer ground, abandoning their boats and fishing gear.

Fishers in the Niger's Diffa region, who were making USD 1 515 a year before the crisis by selling smoked and dried fish, are now making USD 420 a year – a 72 percent drop in their yearly revenue.<sup>20</sup>

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17 *Cadre Harmonisé*, Bulletin, March 2016

18 ESFA, September 2016

19 Regional Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries baseline report, Lake Chad, compiled by FAO (Graaf & co), March 2014.

20 OXFAM. 2017. *Red gold and fishing in the Lake Chad Basin*. Briefing note, February 2017.

In Nigeria's Borno State, a December 2016 FAO assessment shows that fishers have recently begun moving back to Monguno. In Cameroon, the rehabilitation of the Maga Dam<sup>21</sup> is expected to improve fishing activities in the area. In Chad, many of the displaced in the Bol and Bagasola areas have started returning to their villages of origin, at least those that are safe to access. However, houses were destroyed and most of the canoes, nets and other fishing equipment were swept away. Returning fishers need basic support to enable them to resume their livelihood activities.

## Livestock

Another pillar of the Lake Chad economic system is the livestock sector. In the conflict-affected areas, livestock have been deliberately killed or looted by the insurgents or abandoned by herders fleeing violence. The early start of the pastoral lean season – with water points and pastures drying out – has further deteriorated livestock body conditions. The situation has been aggravated by the border closures and inaccessibility of some areas due to security constraints. Transhumance flows, including across borders – a common coping strategy in the face of fodder shortages – are impeded. The resulting concentration of animals is straining already limited water and pasture resources, which could threaten animal health as well as heighten tensions between herders and farmers, further destabilizing the region. The current border closures and disruption of livestock markets are affecting food security, nutrition and livelihoods in the four Lake Chad Basin countries, whose economies are strongly integrated and interdependent. The crisis is having an impact on livestock traders, processors and animal health workers. Milk collectors, mainly women and youth, can hardly supply markets as many herders have lost their animals. To continue their businesses, they are reconstituting powdered milk, often under poor hygienic and sanitary conditions

While the technical capacity in terms of both quantity and quality is available at all levels, the lack of financial and material resources is a major constraint to increasing livestock production and restarting the regulatory work and provision of services.

In addition to meeting the livestock sector's immediate needs, special attention should be paid to existing tensions between pastoralists and farmers. Clashes between the two groups are reported daily. This mistrust is leading to a strong perception among farmers that pastoralists are to blame for the problems. This will need to be taken into account at the global level and in the aid interventions targeting these groups.



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21. The Maga Dam will be rehabilitated within the framework of the World Bank-funded "Flood Emergency Project" (*Projet d'urgence de lutte contre les inondations*).



## Access to markets

Disruptions to markets, stemming from border closures and restricted movement of goods and people, are affecting all four countries and pushing food prices higher. According to the Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment<sup>22</sup>, many of the markets still in operation have reported business slowing down because of the eroded customer base and limited purchasing power. Markets in Nigeria's Borno and Yobe States have closed to prevent Boko Haram from profiting from them, while suicide bombers have repeatedly targeted markets in Cameroon's Far North region, forcing them to shut down. In the Niger, the Kindjendi and Gagamari markets in the Diffa region were officially closed to block the insurgents' supply routes.

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## 1.3 Institutions and governance in the Lake Chad Basin

The scale of the crisis' impact on food security and livelihoods requires a regional approach, with coordination from all stakeholders, in order to strengthen the resilience of the affected populations and produce visible quick wins. Governance challenges in northeastern Nigeria and the border areas in Cameroon, Chad and the Niger have resulted in poor development outcomes, and are a driver of conflict and a constraint to the response.

The Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), created in 1964, is a supranational entity whose mandate is to sustainably and equitably manage the Lake Chad countries (and neighbouring Central African Republic and Libya) and other shared water resources of the Basin; to preserve the ecosystems of the Lake Chad Conventional Basin; and to promote regional integration, peace and security across the Basin. Its role is especially linked to monitoring, regulating and harmonizing the management of the natural resource basin. A consolidation process got under way in 2000 for the LCBC to reorganize itself, define a vision, develop a strategy and also provide capacity building and policy engagement opportunities. In order to create a secure space in the areas affected by the insurgency and facilitate emergency deployment and aid delivery, the LCBC member states and Benin established a multinational border Joint Task Force in 2014. Each national army deploys in its own territory, but, in accordance with particular rules, the four armies could be deployed in neighbouring countries, extending to a distance of less than 25 km.

In the context of this strategy, the data are based on the Humanitarian Response Plan coordinated by OCHA in response to the Lake Chad Basin crisis that provide for better transparency in the governance of the humanitarian response. FAO will continue supporting the improvement of food security and nutrition analysis based on the *Cadre Harmonisé* methodologies in cooperation with CILSS, WFP, FEWS NET, governments and Non-governmental Organization (NGOs). FAO will also undertake specific assessments both at country and regional levels on the impacts of the crisis on food security and livelihoods (seed system security evaluation, livestock and pastoralism, fisheries, trade, impacts on the local economies, small and medium enterprises, etc.), with a particular focus on women, girls and youth. FAO will continue to support governments' and partners' efforts to collect and consolidate data on the number and profiles of refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities affected by the crisis. Finally, FAO will support existing task forces, in particular LCBC, to encourage the formulation of governments' and other partners' response plans.

In Nigeria, three important agricultural programmes – the FADAMA (floodplains) Programme, the Community-Based Agriculture Rural Development Programme and the National Programme for Food Security – were disrupted. The Buhari Plan aims to provide an integrated framework to coordinate all initiatives for sustainable peace and development in the country's northeast.

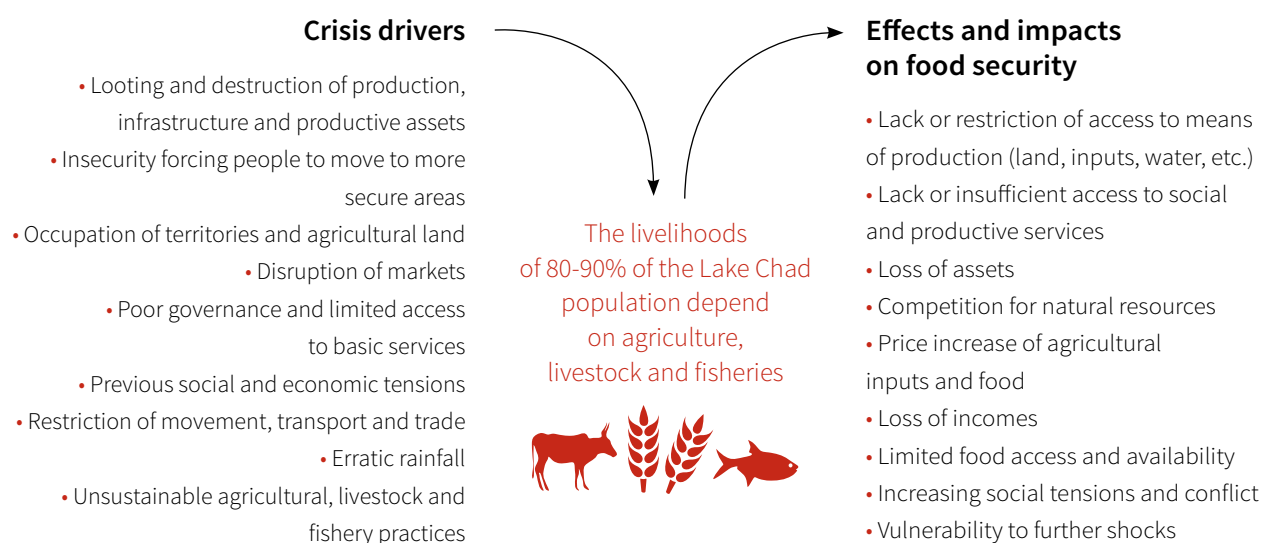
In Chad, the National Rural Sector Investment Plan (2016-2022) serves as a strategic framework to coordinate and plan all interventions in the rural sector around five priority thematic areas: sustainable natural resources development and climate change adaptation; rural infrastructure and equipment development; agro-silvo-pastoral and fisheries value chain development; food security and nutrition, gender and strengthening of rural household resilience; and research, adoption and dissemination of technologies, human and institutional capacity strengthening.

As far as Lake Chad is concerned, the Government has limited capacity to address the needs of the rural population in the region. The decentralized technical services in the agriculture, fisheries and livestock sectors rely on resource partners to provide basic services. If no action is taken, communities' vulnerability to shocks will remain high in terms of food security and nutrition. Furthermore, negative coping mechanisms, such as labour migration, will likely increase.

In the Niger, the Government adopted the Strategy for Sustainable and Inclusive Development (*Stratégie de développement durable et de croissance inclusive Niger 2035* [SDDCI]), which consists of a long-term vision to ensure social and economic development in the country. SDDCI consists of five-year economic and social development plans (*Plan de développement économique et social du Niger* [PDES]), which are the anchor points for sectoral strategies. PDES aims to promote the economic, social and cultural well-being of the population, and is the reference framework for all interventions in the Niger. Among the PDES' five strategic axes, the third one, entitled "food security and sustainable agricultural development" corresponds to the 3N Initiative "*les Nigériens nourrissent les Nigériens*" (Nigerians Nourish Nigerians), the country's "zero hunger" strategy.

The Government of Cameroon has also developed its National Programme for Food Security (*Programme national de sécurité alimentaire du Cameroun* [PNASA]), aimed at securing local production (agriculture, fisheries and livestock) through the support of micro-projects.

## 1.4 Analysis of the drivers and structural factors contributing to the impact of the crisis



Focusing solely on the conflict and insecurity as the cause of the crisis oversimplifies the complex, interrelated socio-economic and ecological issues affecting rural and urban livelihoods in the Lake Chad Basin region. Population growth<sup>23</sup>, harsh competition over natural and economic resources, lack of basic social services and income opportunities, the marginalization of vulnerable groups (returnees, youth and women), negative coping strategies and social divisions based on livelihood, ethnic or religious lines, as well as governance issues, have been identified as the main underlying factors of the crisis.

Returnees will face challenges as they move back to their areas of origin, and could find their lands occupied and homes and infrastructure destroyed. Because of a persistent fear of sporadic attacks, IDPs often remain displaced in the closest town. In addition, the extent of mined areas is currently unknown and may limit the return of farmers to the field. As a result, there is an outstanding gap in livelihood opportunities for affected communities. Recent studies revealed that economic status is a primary social asset and youth especially are vulnerable to being lured into armed groups by the prospect of starting or expanding a business. The lack of livelihood opportunities and employment, once returnees have settled back in their villages of origin, has been cited by many IDPs as an immediate threat to social cohesion, especially with regard to youth.<sup>24</sup> Hence livelihood support to returnees should be carefully targeted.

The different states of Lake Chad depend on rainfall and water levels. Since the beginning of the 21st century, it has been “Small Lake Chad”. The Lake’s production potential is at its maximum. Seasonal variations are important and allow for flood-recession crops, fish growth and vegetation biomass, which is available for herds. However, the environment is extremely vulnerable, and variables such as climate change, unpredictable rainfall and water intake due to population pressure (irrigation, industries and cities) or pollution could have an impact. The nature of climate change over the long term is not yet known; however, it is likely that rising temperatures and water consumption will have a negative impact on the Lake.<sup>25</sup>

23 According to the World Bank in 2015: Cameroon +2.5%, Chad +3.3%, Niger +4%, Nigeria +2.6%


24 UNICEF. 2016. *Bad Blood*. International Alert

25 World Bank. 2015. Lake Chad Development and Climate Resilience Action Plan, November 2015



## 2. FAO's strategic framework

FAO will adopt a twin-track approach to respond to the immediate food production and nutrition needs of the affected populations, while also strengthening their capacities to diversify and accumulate assets to further build their resilience.

 **Beneficiaries** • 3 million food insecure people (mainly refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities) with focus on women and youth

 **Duration**  
• 2017–2019

 **Budget**  
• USD 232 million

### Objective

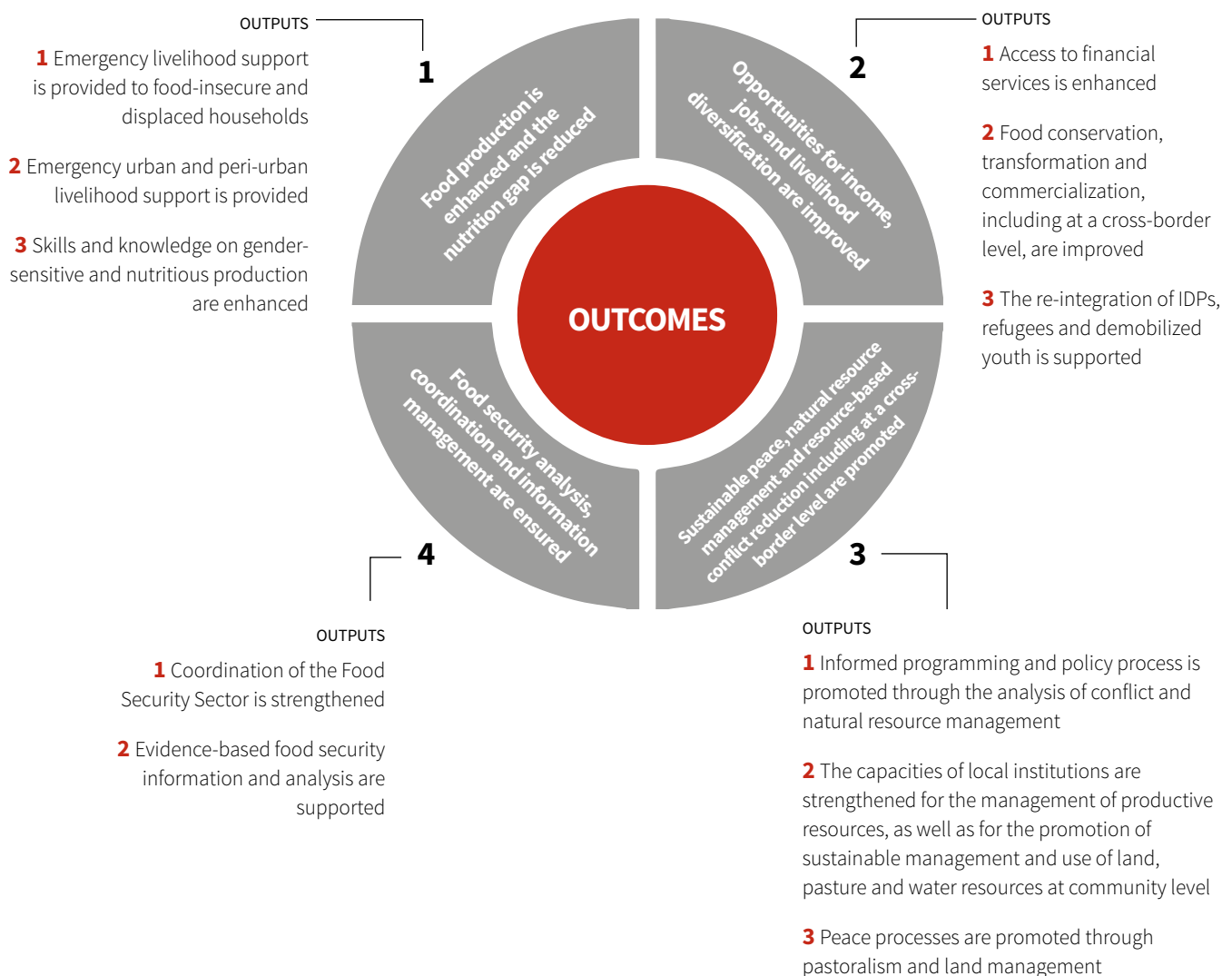
Contribute to improving the food security and nutrition and to strengthening the resilience of vulnerable host communities and displaced populations (IDPs, refugees and returnees) in the crisis-affected areas in Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria.

### Key partners

Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and their decentralized services, United Nations agencies, Food Security Sector partners, national and international NGOs, CILSS and LCBC.

### Results

FAO's strategic framework will be implemented through four outcomes and their respective outputs, following a progressive development from Outcome 1 to Outcome 4.



## 2.1 Strategic outcomes and outputs

FAO's strategic framework will be implemented through four outcomes and their respective outputs. It follows a progressive development from Outcome 1, which focuses on lifesaving activities through an integrated emergency approach, to Outcome 4 that pertains to food security analysis, coordination and information management.

### **Outcome 1: Food production is enhanced and the nutrition gap is reduced (lifesaving activities)**

By supporting the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors, FAO and its partners will ensure that the targeted populations resume food production through immediate livelihood support.

The 2017 rainy season and 2017/18 dry season are critical for tackling the staggering levels of food insecurity by helping at-risk families produce their own food. For IDPs, returnees and their host communities, smart investments in food production can reap huge benefits as they can lower dependency on food aid and provide livelihood opportunities in areas that have not had harvests in up to three years, and where food prices are extremely high. In addition, supporting affected communities to produce their own food will help restore their dignity.

In Nigeria, the Niger, Chad and Cameroon, collaboration and joint programming between FAO and WFP focusing on IDPs and host communities will have a double impact on their food security. WFP will provide food assistance to respond to their immediate food needs, and FAO will provide productive inputs, enabling beneficiaries to produce their own food for both household consumption and income generation so that in the medium term they can become independent from food assistance. Furthermore, collaboration between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and FAO will be fostered in the four countries to strengthen livelihood-based programmes to support both the reintegration of returnees with productive support for agriculture, livestock and natural resource management and the development of income-generating activities for refugees.

#### **Output 1.1 Emergency livelihood support is provided to food insecure and displaced households**

FAO will primarily aim to increase food production and restore livelihoods through the provision of inputs, services and cash (Cash+ approach). This will be done by:

- providing quality short-cycle, drought-resistant and nutritional seeds, tools and environmentally friendly fertilizers to support the planting seasons, accompanied by technical support and farmer training;
- supporting animal health and production systems through livestock destocking or restocking, and providing emergency animal feed and animal health interventions (i.e. vaccinations, deworming);
- supporting the resumption of fishing activities in Lake Chad and inland areas (through the provision of fishing equipment, capacity building on improved practices, post-harvest loss reduction and processing and the ecosystem approach to fisheries);
- promoting appropriate and sustainable agricultural, livestock and fisheries practices and need-based support to extension services;
- supporting off-season agricultural opportunities, including vegetable and non-timber forestry products (honey, shea butter, arabic gum, tubers, moringa, etc.);
- promoting sustainable land and water management practices and technologies, including integrated landscape management, conservation agriculture, composting, water harvesting and small-scale irrigation techniques; and
- providing protection kits (fuel-efficient stoves, solar lanterns and whistles) and training on the use of new technologies

#### **Output 1.2 Emergency urban and peri-urban livelihood support is provided**

IDPs and host communities in urban and peri-urban areas may have little or no access to land, hence specific activities are envisaged as listed below. These activities, as well as those under Output 1.1, will be accompanied by Cash+ schemes.

- nutrition-focused microgardening support (including inputs and capacity building);
- improved practices in family poultry and small ruminant production to reduce the risk of economic losses affecting



- livelihoods (training and community sensitization);
- provision of protection kits (fuel-efficient stoves, solar lanterns and whistles) and training on the use of new technologies; and
- support to livelihood diversification opportunities, with a focus on small added-value food processing schemes

### Output 1.3 Skills and knowledge on gender-sensitive and nutritious production are enhanced

To maximize the nutritional impact, the response will promote production and consumption of crops and livestock products with high micronutrients (iron, vitamins A and C, zinc), energy and protein content. Particular attention will be given to support a combination of productive and income-generating microenterprise activities in order to diversify livelihoods and provide more regular sources of income to protect and develop productive assets in rural and urban areas. Specific activities will include:

- the provision of training to both men and women on nutrition education, food preparation and preservation and optimum utilization of food at the household level;
- capacity building of community-based extension for improved nutrition-sensitive food production;
- strengthened collaboration between health and agriculture sectors to maximize nutrition benefits;
- monitoring and measurement of the impact on households, such as improvements in income, dietary diversity scores and household food insecurity access scale; and
- provision of dried meat from destocked livestock to households with malnourished children under the age of five.



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## Outcome 2: Opportunities for income, jobs and livelihood diversification are improved

By supporting rural livelihoods and income generation, the strategy aims to enable vulnerable targeted population to recover sustainably from the crisis. Priority will be given to youth in order to drive the social and economic stabilization of the region in the longer term.

### Output 2.1 Access to financial services is enhanced

Financial services will be made accessible to the targeted population enabling them to increase income opportunities, reduce risks and become their own agents of change. This will be achieved by:

- supporting savings and loan schemes, such as village savings and loan associations, including the *caisses de résilience* (CdR) approach;
- establishing linkages between savings and loan associations and advocacy toward financial institutions on scaling up; and;
- supporting policies on microcredit and rural finance.

### Output 2.2 Food conservation, transformation and commercialization, including at a cross-border level, are improved

Markets in affected areas have been closed or are functioning at much lower levels than before the crisis. Dedicated support for resuming the trading system would increase income opportunities. At the regional level, there will be particular emphasis on rehabilitating local and regional markets with possible cross-border activities between the Niger (Diffa) and Chad (Lake region) and between the Niger (Diffa) and Nigeria. The following activities that add value to agricultural production will be supported and promoted with the objective of rehabilitating and relaunching the local economy:

- support the establishment of farmer, herder and fisher associations to improve their management performance, with particular attention to the employment of women and youth;
- support agroprocessing and added-value of agricultural, livestock and fisheries products;
- facilitate the marketing of agricultural products through information sharing between stakeholders;
- support producers with skills and knowledge on agribusiness, food processing and conservation and commercialization;
- exchange experiences between farmer associations on innovative practices;
- introduce bio-enterprises in urban areas, including the provision of equipment, training and marketing;
- support input supply systems (private sector) and credit supply systems;
- rehabilitate infrastructure, trade networks and local and regional markets; and
- support the rehabilitation and establishment of livestock infrastructure and services (pastoralist wells, animal feeding and veterinary stores, vaccination and deworming infrastructure).

### Output 2.3. The re-integration of IDPs, refugees and demobilized youth is supported

In collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and national authorities, FAO will follow the movement of displaced people. Once they return to their homes, a process of reintegration will be supported through the creation of income-generating activities, awareness raising and dialogue. Specific activities will include to.:

- improve livelihood options, particularly for youth, through access to strategic agricultural inputs, basic services and income-generating activities by implementing FAO's Cash+, food for work and other conditional cash-based approaches;
- support demobilization, disarmament and reintegration processes through a comprehensive platform, including livelihood support, provision of basic services and reconciliation approaches in collaboration with other agencies, with FAO taking the lead on assessing agricultural needs and providing related inputs and skills; and
- scale up of farmer field and life schools to promote life skills education, literacy, awareness on gender-based violence and nutrition and vocational training.



### **Outcome 3. Sustainable peace, natural resource management and resource-based conflict reduction, including at a cross-border level, are promoted**

FAO aims to implement a holistic approach that addresses some of the dynamics of the Lake Chad crisis by creating the conditions for sustainable social, economic and environmental recovery. It will integrate its response to the crisis with efforts to mitigate drivers of the conflict, so as to strengthen local systems and communities.

The insurgency is rooted in a long-term process of discrediting state institutions, and is linked to the inefficient management of public and private investments in the area, rapidly changing demographics around Lake Chad and increasing influence of radicalism where there is a widely shared sense of abandonment and marginalization. The third outcome of FAO's strategy should look into issues around social cohesion, social capital and conflict mitigation as entry points to communities, building around natural resource management and land tenure. This outcome is mainly focused on northeastern Nigeria.

#### **Output 3.1 Informed programming and policy process is promoted through the analysis of conflict and natural resource management**

The first step in preventing conflict is to improve knowledge on natural resource management dynamics to inform programming and implementation of any activity. An analysis is key to monitoring and evaluating conflict sensitivity, as well as informing conflict-sensitive programming. Conflict sensitivity ensures that the design, implementation and outcomes of interventions do not undermine peace or exacerbate the conflict, and contribute to peace, where possible (within the given priorities). This will be achieved through the:

- mapping and analysis of existing tenure regimes, land administration and management institutions and other stakeholders, including grazing areas (localization, legal status, ecological biomass production, etc.);
- study on the conflict's impact on land access and management of productive resources, especially of livestock production systems (including patterns of internal-seasonal livestock migration within and beyond country boundaries);
- provision of gender and generational analysis of land use and water utilization; and
- research on how conflict impacts food security and how food insecurity may affect conflict dynamics – with a research programme embedded into concrete interventions – to build the evidence base to demonstrate how improving food security, rehabilitating agriculture and building resilience can contribute to conflict prevention, sustainable peace and stability.

#### **Output 3.2. The capacities of local institutions are strengthened for the management of productive resources, as well as for the promotion of sustainable management and use of land, pasture and water resources at community level**

The creation and support to various mechanisms of dialogue will be especially important in the implementation of activities in the four countries. Within the context of the Lake Chad conflict dynamics, it is important to rely on local authorities while ensuring gender equality and the adoption of a cross-border approach to increase social cohesion. The following activities will be implemented.

- creation of natural resource management committees (with representation by both men and women), including cross-border committees, when possible;
- strengthening of community awareness and enhancement of dispute resolution capacity;
- capacity building of communities and their institutions, including women's groups, to identify risks and hazards as the basis for developing natural resource management plans;
- pilot land productive capacity planning and monitoring in the context of emergency displacements; and
- promotion of approaches that address the multisectoral challenges associated with the lack of energy access, particularly intercommunal conflicts and forest degradation.

### Output 3.3. Peace processes are promoted through pastoralism and land management

Areas where conflict exists between farmers, pastoralists and fishers, or between host and displaced populations, should be identified and tackled through a negotiated territorial development approach, whenever possible. In this context, the specific issues of pastoralism and nomadic people's place in the current situation, along with the role of customary institutions, will be addressed. Efforts will be made to strengthen conflict resolution capacity and support the concrete application of negotiations relying on the technical capacity of a conflict resolution team. This will be achieved by:

- strengthening pastoralist organizations/associations to participate in dialogue events on land management;
- promoting cross-border networking within pastoralist, farmer or fisher organizations/associations;
- building alliances promoting humanitarian country team/UN country team discussion on the 'conflict' theme in order to have a common position on governance issues; and
- supporting existing peace processes, recognizing that many coexist simultaneously at different levels, from community dialogue to more formal processes, from the perspective of agriculture (crop, livestock and fisheries) sector reforms, land tenure and related activities.



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## Outcome 4: Food security analysis, coordination and information management are ensured

The constant monitoring of the food security situation is key to ensuring the evaluation of the strategy's results. The coordination of food security actions will ensure better impact and avoid duplication towards a more efficient use of resources.

### Output 4.1. Coordination of the Food Security Sector is strengthened

FAO strongly believes that through coordinated and integrated complementary interventions, it is possible to enhance the resilience of households and communities. It is committed to expanding joint programming initiatives with UN agencies and other international and national organizations. In the context of the Lake Chad crisis, which involves four countries, this coordination is particularly important.

Government institutions in charge of emergency response in the four countries<sup>26</sup> are facing important challenges in terms of information, coordination and operation, despite their laudable efforts. In fact, these institutions have heterogeneous capacities and their capability has also been affected by insecurity. Recognizing the challenges, FAO is committed to supporting existing task forces and coordination mechanisms to encourage the formulation of governments' and other partners' response plans, in particular LCBC. Governments are FAO's primary partners for technical advisory services and support in policy development. Engagement with local communities and institutions is essential for resilience building through institutional arrangements, information management, livelihood production and resource management practices. National and international NGOs have deployed additional humanitarian staff in recent months, allowing for greater collaboration but also requiring more coordination and complementarity of actions and information sharing at all levels (governments, UN agencies, NGOs, resource partners and civil society organizations). The identification of appropriate implementing partners will be essential to establish a relationship of trust with beneficiaries, particularly in locations where conflict has seriously compromised the social fabric, and/or access remains a constraint. Beneficiaries of this output will include all stakeholders involved in food security, in particular all the institutions participating in the national coordination platforms/commissions, namely NGOs, UN agencies and government representatives. Activities to be implemented are as follows:

- deploy cluster/sector coordinators and information management officers as needed;
- lead joint needs assessments and coordinate/supervise partners' assessments;
- define sectoral strategies of response and contribute to response plans;
- coordinate the implementation of food security interventions in order to identify gaps in geographic/target group coverage and avoid duplication;
- develop links among food security group members and private sector, governmental initiatives and other development projects;
- strengthen countries' capacity for food security coordination and promote partnerships;
- manage food security information on current and planned activities and sharing among partners to inform decisions, including through the production of coordination maps;
- document best practices and lessons learned; and
- lead joint advocacy to resource partners and other institutions.

### Output 4.2. Evidence-based food security information and analysis are supported

Reliable and shared information about affected populations and their needs is key for a well-coordinated humanitarian response. IOM, UNHCR and the United Nations Population Fund are supporting governments to enhance available baseline data. Food security analyses will be carried out based on information streams, including market information, livestock health and migrations, rainfall data, crop assessments, food security and nutrition monitoring and SMART nutrition surveys. This will contribute to IPC analyses, indicating the level of food security at county level. A further step in the analysis will be carried out to profile levels of vulnerability of the population and most appropriate responses.

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<sup>26</sup> In the Niger: *Dispositif national de prévention et de gestion des catastrophes et crises alimentaires*; in Nigeria: National and State Emergency Management Agencies; in Cameroon: *Direction de la protection civile*; in Chad: *Comité d'action pour la sécurité alimentaire et la gestion des crises and Commission nationale d'accueil et de réinsertion des réfugiés et des retournés*



FAO will expand the use of seed security assessments to gather information on the best way to provide crop seed support. In particular, these assessments will identify areas suitable for the implementation of seed fairs, which were a highly successful means of increasing access to locally produced and preferred crop seeds among vulnerable farming families in 2016.

All information collected under this Output will support decision-making on priority interventions and coordination among relevant humanitarian assistance partners. The IPC inclusive partnership approach has been implemented at national and local levels; this component will proactively engage NGOs and agencies in the country throughout the data-analysis-coordination cycle. The information collected under this component will be disseminated to all partners to improve coordination and the adoption of coherent and adequate response approaches. The following activities will be implemented:

- support the enhancement of food security and nutrition analysis based on the *Cadre Harmonisé* (Nigeria, the Niger and Chad) and CFSAM (Cameroon) methodologies, in cooperation with CILSS, WFP, FEWS NET, governments and NGOs;
- undertake specific technical assessments both at country and regional level on the impacts of the crisis on food security and livelihoods (seed system security evaluation, livestock and pastoralism, fisheries, etc.), with a particular focus on women, girls and youth;
- continue supporting governments' and partners' efforts to collect and consolidate data on the number and profiles of refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities affected by the crisis; and
- enhance capacity building on methodologies for food security monitoring and needs assessments in the four countries.

## 2.2 Strategy in the countries

In the context of the Lake Chad Basin strategy, FAO appeals for a total of USD 232 million to assist 3 million people in need over the 2017–2019 period. **For 2017, FAO requires a total USD 73.6 million** to support beneficiaries through life-saving activities.



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# Cameroon



Estimated budget  
**USD 13.8 million**



Targeted beneficiaries  
**200 000 people**

Under the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan for Cameroon, **FAO has appealed for USD 4.6 million for 200 000 beneficiaries in the targeted areas.** The priorities of the crisis response are to:

- assist beneficiaries through support in food crop production (cowpea, maize, rice, sorghum and off-season vegetables);
- establish small animal production units through the construction of granaries and setting up cereal (rice, maize and sorghum) processing units; and
- reduce farmer-grazer conflicts by improving infrastructure along transhumance corridors through the construction of vaccination parks and water points, as well as pasture restoration.

The major constraint is related to insecurity in the area. Most affected populations are in those districts close to the Nigerian borders (Fotokol, Hile Alifa and Makary) and subject to regular insurgences by Boko Haram.

From a logistics point of view, most of the roads are almost or totally inaccessible during the rainy season (usually from June to September). FAO Cameroon has intensified its activities in the Far North since the onset of the Boko Haram crisis and is still mobilizing funds to meet the increasing needs of the population. Two years ago, FAO started to ensure a presence in Maroua to facilitate the follow-up of field activities. A future UN office in Kousseri will further strengthen this presence, ensuring proximity with affected communities.

## Partnership:

FAO collaborates with the decentralized services of the Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock in project implementation and with local NGOs like *Service d'appui aux initiatives locales de développement* present in the field. FAO seeks to play a key role in coordinating, with WFP and the national counterpart PNSA, sectoral interventions based on ongoing monitoring of the situation on the ground, food security and livelihood needs assessments, as well as sectoral planning of coordinated interventions at the state level to ensure synergies.

## Targeted beneficiaries:

The targeted beneficiaries are returnees, IDPs, host families and refugees not residing in camps. However, emphasis is generally on female-headed households, as women are the most affected by the crisis and more vulnerable to shocks.

## Targeted areas:

- Adamawa region: Departments of Mbéré, Djérem, Faro-et-Déou and Mayo-Banyo;
- Far North region: Departments of Logone and Chari, Mayo Tsanaga and Diamaré;
- North region: Departments of Benue, Mayo Rey and Mayo Louti.

# Chad



Estimated budget  
**USD 12.5 million**



Targeted beneficiaries  
**120 000 people**

Under the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan for Chad, **FAO has appealed for USD 5.1 million for 80 000 beneficiaries in the targeted areas.** The priorities of the crisis response are to:

- strengthen the capacities of the targeted population to cope with the consequences of the crisis, addressing the difficulties they face in meeting livelihood needs such as food, non-food items and access to basic services, due to their limited resources (production, income or savings);
- address the historical context of the region's low nutrition scores by providing innovative approaches in the area and targeting households with malnourished children under the age of five and women;
- provide income and employment opportunities to youth; and
- maximize the impact on different social groups (farmers, herders).

The main operational constraints are weak technical support services for the agriculture, livestock, environment and health sectors.

FAO Chad has suboffices in Bol and Mao that will ensure field presence, permanent collaboration with various local stakeholders and monitoring of activities implemented on the ground.

## Partnership:

FAO will continue to partner and coordinate activities with WFP, the UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR, international and local NGOs and other stakeholders working in the area of food security and nutrition. FAO will continue to take a leading role in ad hoc coordination and regular subcluster meetings.

## Targeted beneficiaries:

The targeted beneficiaries are mostly refugees, IDPs and host communities.

## Targeted areas:

- Lake region: Departments of Mamdi and Wayi;
- Bar El Gazal region: Departments of South and West;
- Kanem region: Departments of South and Wadi Bissam;
- Hadjer-Lamis region: Department of Dagana.

# Niger



Estimated budget  
**USD 11 million**



Targeted beneficiaries  
**155 000 people**

Under the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan for the Niger, **FAO has appealed for USD 2 million for 60 000 beneficiaries in the targeted areas.** The priorities of the crisis response are to:

- promote socio-economic activities to empower women and young people, including initiatives and innovations around value chains, such as irrigated production around cuvettes, the establishment and development of small perimeters of land (e.g. market gardens) and processing of agricultural products and cross-border trade (sweet pepper, milk, cheese, smoked/salted/dried fish, sheep fattening, poultry farms);
- support transhumant livestock farming by assisting movement of pastoral communities and providing services;
- integrate forestry resources to increase and diversify community incomes;
- establish a framework for exchanges between cohabitating communities to create a climate of dialogue, social inclusion and social cohesion, using farmer field schools, listening clubs and the Mata Masu Dubara approach (savings and loan groups); and
- build a cross-border network of farmer organizations to overcome certain constraints and difficulties surrounding transactions on natural resources and economic activities among the people of the Lake Chad Basin.

The FAO Representation in the Niger set up a suboffice in Diffa in 2014 to respond to beneficiary needs in a timely manner. The office currently has an agronomist and a driver, but new experts (livestock specialist, livelihood/resilience specialist) are being recruited to reinforce the office's operational capacity and strengthen coordination of food security interventions in the field. Since 2014, the office has been coordinating the FAO action plan in response to the Boko Haram crisis, which focuses on providing agricultural and veterinary inputs to vulnerable crisis-affected local farmers and herders to safeguard their assets and household food security and enhance their livelihood resilience.

## Partnership:

In the Niger, as part of the common convergence approach, FAO is a member of the Diffa Regional Technical Working Group on Resilience. This strategy could enhance this framework in a way that could be more operational and proactive. The framework's limitation is that it brings together only UN agencies, while the involvement of other actors, such as NGOs and technical services, would be more appropriate.

## Targeted beneficiaries:

Special attention will be given to women and youths who are victims of the crisis.

## Targeted areas:

- Diffa region: Departments of Bosso, Diffa, Goudoumaria, Mainé Soroa and N'Guigmi

# Nigeria



Estimated budget  
**USD 191 million**



Targeted beneficiaries  
**2 500 000 people**

Under the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan for Nigeria, **FAO has appealed for USD 62 million**. Some USD 35 million are required in the first half of 2017, including USD 20 million to support distributions for the main cropping season that will take place from April to June 2017. For the 2017 main season, FAO is targeting 1.35 million people through the distribution of fast-maturing, nutrient-rich cereal and pulse seeds, fertilizer, assistance in seed multiplication, post-harvest storage, vegetable and fruit production and food processing and rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure.

FAO activities under the Humanitarian Response Plan also include:

- livestock interventions (restocking, vaccination, animal feeding);
- infrastructure rehabilitation (water tanks, post-harvest storage, livestock infrastructure, market facilities, etc.);
- promotion of alternative livelihoods (aquaculture, food-processing, etc.), afforestation/reforestation and safe access to firewood and alternative energy; and
- support to food security coordination and analysis (including co-leading the food security working group and the *Cadre Harmonisé*).

A recent FAO mission revealed that IDPs have access to land and there is no evidence of tension with host communities at this stage, meaning there is a real opportunity to significantly increase food production and availability in 2017. However, agriculture-based livelihood interventions are underfunded. Missing the main planting season will force many IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host communities to rely on expensive and logistically challenging food assistance into 2018. This will have a broad negative impact, such as rising hunger, lack of economic and employment opportunities and possible harmful consequences including youth radicalization and enrolment in armed groups, resulting in continued civil unrest. Pastoralists have almost been forgotten in the crisis response, and urgently require support to protect and rebuild their herds.

In the worst affected areas of Borno and Yobe, reaching people is a major challenge because of restricted access due to high levels of insecurity.

The security threat in Maiduguri is real. Suicide attacks are frequent and may affect implementation of the FAO programme. In fact, some of these attacks took place close to the FAO Office or in locations where FAO has planned to distribute agricultural inputs and where technical officers conducted interviews during fact-finding missions. Risk mitigation measures are being applied to the extent possible.

## Partnership:

- FAO Nigeria is committed to ensuring meaningful, effective and informed participation of stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of FAO programmes and projects. FAO Nigeria will enhance transparency, two-way communication and information provision, and enable fair and representative participation of all sections of the affected populations, including the most vulnerable and marginalized. Therefore, FAO will engage the entire implementation chain of its strategy, from the state Ministries of Agriculture and Natural Resources to the local government area chairs, UN agencies, NGOs and returning farmers.
- Prior to the Boko Haram insurgency, the States of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa had benefited from three important agriculture development plans placed under the leadership of the state Ministries of Agriculture and Natural Resources: the FADAMA (floodplains) programme (now in its third cycle), financed by the World Bank; the Community-Based Agriculture Rural Development Programme, financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development; and the National Programme for Food Security, supported by FAO through its Special Food Security Programme. The insurgency has severely disrupted these agriculture development programmes. Most assets provided to the farmers

are now lost. However, substantial institutional memory remains within the local institutions. Relevant technical expertise is still present in areas such as irrigation in flood plains or dry areas, agricultural input distribution, farmer groups and credit associations, fisheries and aquaculture. Post-Boko Haram recovery initiatives must build on this technical expertise and institutional memory to ensure the sustainability of our intervention.

- FAO Nigeria will also foster the FAO/WFP/Ministry of Agriculture joint leadership of the Food Security Working Group by supporting the organization of meetings twice a month at state level and once a month at federal level. Through the Working Group, FAO will also support intersectoral coordination, evidence-based assessments (Cadre Harmonisé, joint food security and market assessments, etc.) and capacity building. The partnership with WFP will also aim to maximize the impact of the twin-track approach, combining emergency food assistance provided by WFP through in-kind food or cash-based transfers, and FAO's fast tracking of smallholder agriculture production through the provision of seeds, tools, fertilizer and small-scale livelihood starter kits in all Cadre Harmonisé Phases 3 to 5 locations in Borno and Yobe States.
- FAO will also establish a strong partnership with UNHCR and the United Nations Development Programme in the framework of durable solutions to support both the reintegration of returnees with productive support for agriculture, livestock and natural resource management, and the development of income-generating activities for refugees. The partnership with UNCHR will also be enhanced for Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) to address energy demand, for example through the promotion of fuel-saving cooking practices and fuel-efficient technologies for cooking and productive uses.
- FAO will also implement its strategy through recognized NGOs as well as through associations qualified in entrepreneurship, value chain and financial inclusion programmes.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the local government area authorities will be instrumental in identifying returnee caseloads and agriculture potential in the sites where they resettle. FAO will also make regular use of the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix, as well as the UN multisectoral assessments in recently liberated area. One of the causes of Boko Haram's emergence in northeastern Nigeria was the local perception, particularly among youth, of the lack of government commitment to addressing local issues. FAO will not only help returnees restart their life in their villages of origin, but also help the government structures re-establish themselves in the local government areas and rural areas, promoting trust among Nigerians and their local authorities. All local government area meeting the criteria of Cadre Harmonisé Phases 3 to 5, refugees, IDPs and host communities will be targeted in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States. The main limit to area coverage will be restricted access due to insecurity for both farmers and implementing partners

### Targeted beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries will be selected among the recent IDPs affected by the latest insurgency on the basis of the following criteria:

- households and communities living in areas under *Cadre Harmonisé* Phases 3 to 5.
- returning households with limited inputs for agricultural production, preventing them from fully cultivating the available land;
- returning households identified as vulnerable by the community and confirmed by field surveys;
- returning IDP households with malnourished children in the nutritional recovery centres;
- returning IDP households with limited or no access to alternative income-generating activities;
- returning IDPs not covered by other projects or assistance;
- IDPs returning to transitional host communities; and
- host communities providing temporary access to land for IDPs and transitional returnees (a significant number of IDPs in northeastern Nigeria tend to return in their original villages in two steps to adjust to security constraints, first reaching an area where a host community provides access to land for cultivation, then moving back to their original village once security permits).

### Targeted areas:

- Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States



### 3. FAO's strategic approach

#### 3.1 A twin-track approach to the Lake Chad Basin crisis

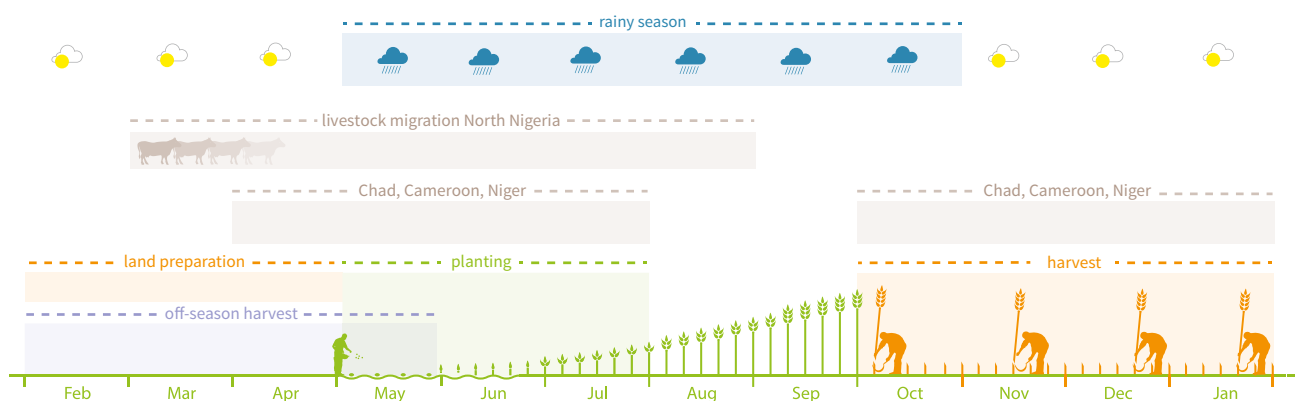
Participants at the May 2016 Lake Chad Basin Second Regional Security Summit in Abuja, as well as Stephen O'Brien, the Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator in his statement to the UN Security Council on 12 January 2017, stressed the importance of providing lifesaving assistance to those in need, while also addressing the root causes of the crisis.

Considering the fragile socio-economic and ecological system in which this crisis is occurring, the emergency response strategy should prioritize sustainable and equitable access to resources and services, as well as the sustainable growth of livelihood opportunities. Strengthening resilience by linking emergency interventions to lasting recovery is essential.

FAO's response strategy will **rapidly address the food insecurity situation**, focusing on emergency assistance for food production (agriculture, livestock and fishery), while also **tackling the drivers of conflict and instability in the region**. The response to immediate needs will be an entry point to longer-term activities that will contribute to strengthening the resilience of the population. The strategy will build on the region's emergency programme, and feature a coordinated and integrated regional approach.<sup>27</sup>

Emergency livelihood support during the lean season is essential to avoid losing the fourth consecutive harvest. Food assistance and livelihood support interventions should be conducted in parallel. Returnees moving back to formerly Boko Haram-controlled areas must be provided with appropriate support to resume agricultural activities, while ensuring adequate access to services and protection. **Providing seed and agricultural inputs before the planting season (May–July) is essential to ensure staple crop harvests, which will have the greatest impact on food security in the region.** Other activities to ensure rapid food production in other sectors are equally critical, such as fisheries and livestock during the lean season.

Figure 1. Average agricultural calendar for the Lake Chad Basin



27 Nine-month action plan for Nigeria (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6328e.pdf>), 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria)

## 3.2 FAO activities for resilience strengthening and risk mitigation

FAO's strategy for the Lake Chad Basin will be articulated around specific technical approaches with proven results in similar contexts, including:

- Cash+ approach;
- *Caisses de résilience* (CdR);
- Safe access to fuel and energy (SAFE);
- Ecosystem approach to fisheries;
- Sustainable natural resource management; and
- Conflict prevention, sustaining peace and social cohesion.

### Cash+ approach<sup>28</sup>

The innovative Cash+ approach, developed and tested by FAO in several countries, including Burkina Faso, Lesotho, the Niger, Mali, Mauritania and Somalia, offers a great opportunity to address immediate needs while strengthening livelihoods assets in the longer term. Cash+ is an integrated approach to boost the livelihood and productive capacities of vulnerable populations through a **combination of cash transfers and the provision of short-cycle agricultural/livestock inputs along with technical training** (e.g. on crop production management and improved techniques<sup>29</sup>). It offers opportunities for smart investments in food production. The combination of cash and productive assets is flexible and can be chosen according to the seasonality, livelihood zones, market opportunities and expressed interest of the beneficiaries. Inputs include: seeds (nutrient-rich and short-cycle varieties); small livestock (poultry, small ruminants, guinea fowl, etc.); energy and protection kits (fuel, stoves and solar lanterns); livelihood diversification facilities (processing or stocking facilities, beekeeping kits, zeer pots, tree seedlings, etc.); and urban and peri-urban microgardening tools (vertical and bag agriculture tools). When well designed, Cash+ interventions will restore livelihoods, provide diversified income opportunities and help affected communities build back better.

### *Caisses de résilience* (CdR)<sup>30</sup>

The CdR approach is an integrated community-centred approach that strengthens (i) social, (ii) technical and (iii) financial dimensions in a mutually reinforcing way. It establishes **and/or strengthens an association to manage a fund to finance social or income-generating activities**. To access the fund, members of the association must follow rules established by the group and be trained by FAO. More specifically:

1. The integrated community-based methodology will improve **social capital** and help identify needs of specific groups in the displaced and host communities, providing assistance to both, notably regarding land tenure issues, natural resource sharing, etc. The groups will be key to promoting inclusion, building trust and dialogue among people facing similar challenges and encouraging a commitment to improve livelihoods and social cohesion. They will help facilitate integration within the host community. The groups can also address social issues and increase people's awareness and knowledge through specific sessions on health, nutrition, literacy and gender equality, depending on the context.
2. The approach brings **new skills and technical innovations** to displaced groups and vulnerable host communities that have to adapt to a new economic and environmental context and often engage in new livelihood strategies. The skills development takes place through participatory training and focuses on good practices for sustainable production, natural resource management, climate change adaptation and income generation, complemented by practical vocational training and entrepreneurship. This enables members to be in a better position to seize economic opportunities, either by creating their own businesses around market opportunities or improving their employability during or after displacement. The application of technically sound good practices will improve revenues and foster

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28 For more information: [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/p2p/Documents/flyer\\_PtoP\\_bassa-bis.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/p2p/Documents/flyer_PtoP_bassa-bis.pdf)

29 Through a participatory approach and technical demonstrations on the use of improved techniques.

30 For more information: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5869e.pdf>



community-based natural resource management. The approach can focus on farming practices, sustainable land and water management and integrated landscape management, as well as small-scale businesses, such as food processing, vegetable production, dairy production and petty trade, depending on the context.

3. An important part of the CdR approach is facilitating **access to financial services** to support income generation and stability. Displaced communities have limited access to formal financial services. Once there is a certain level of trust between members, the approach introduces a group-based savings and loan mechanism. Members can start regularly collecting their savings in a box (caisse) to build their capital. Once enough capital is available, the groups can decide to provide small loans to their members to invest in income-generating activities and/or household expenditures. Such a financial mechanism can positively influence food consumption and increase household expenses on services such as health and education. In order to ensure the sustainability of the savings and loan schemes, members receive training to strengthen their financial capacities and are coached to implement technical and/or social good practices.

### **Safe access to fuel and energy (SAFE)<sup>31</sup>**

This is a multidisciplinary methodology to address the multisectoral challenges associated with energy in emergencies, comprising three interlinked pillars:

1. **Ensuring a sustainable supply of energy** through the establishment and promotion of agro-forestry techniques, which can provide fuel and food from the same land, communal woodlots and other modes of reforestation and afforestation, sustainable natural resource management and the use of agricultural residues and other alternative fuels, including renewables. This can include Integrated Food-energy Systems (IFES), which are agricultural systems that produce both food and energy on the same land or in the same integrated production system. Food and energy crops can be cultivated at the same time, such as in agroforestry systems, or in sequence, through crop rotations. Synergies that exist between renewable energy production processes and crop and livestock production can also be maximized through the use of a variety of agro-industrial technologies, such as gasification or anaerobic digestion that recycle or reuse by-products and other residues.
2. **Addressing energy demand**, for example through the promotion of fuel-saving cooking practices and fuel-efficient technologies for cooking and productive uses. The use of fuel-efficient stoves can save 10 to 50 percent of the biomass that would be consumed when using a three-stone fire.<sup>32</sup> Fuel-saving cooking techniques include saving on water for boiling, cutting food into smaller pieces before cooking, pre-soaking beans before cooking, using the fire continuously, preventing the loss of steam by using lids and managing the fire and other simple procedures that can reduce the amount of wood or other biomass needed for cooking.
3. **Promoting sustainable livelihoods and diversifying livelihood activities** in order to build resilience. The establishment and sustainable management of woodlots and agroforestry can be promoted as a livelihood activity for both men and women. FAO has identified a number of resilient IFES that can produce food, energy and marketable products for income-generation from the same land or from an integrated farming system. Women can also use local materials to produce fuel-efficient stoves, such as mud, ceramic or metal stoves, for safer and cleaner alternatives to the three-stone fire, and sell them to generate income.

FAO intends to promote this approach, addressing women in particular, to reduce environmental, health and protection risks associated with the lack of fuel in displacement settings in the Lake Chad region. FAO will provide food security and protection kits consisting of a durable and portable fuel-efficient stove, a solar lantern and a whistle for attracting attention in case of an assault or harassment during firewood collection trips. A rapid fuel needs assessment should be carried out prior to the procurement and distribution of stoves and lanterns in order to ensure the most appropriate technologies are selected. Training on the use of these technologies, awareness raising on risks associated with the collection and use of firewood as well as fuel-saving cooking practices should also be provided.

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31 For more information: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bo563e.pdf>

32 For more information: [https://energypedia.info/wiki/Improved\\_Cookstoves\\_%E2%80%93\\_What\\_is\\_it\\_all\\_about%3F](https://energypedia.info/wiki/Improved_Cookstoves_%E2%80%93_What_is_it_all_about%3F)

The establishment of tree nurseries can address the longer-term issue of environmental degradation by developing plans for afforestation/reforestation, both for productive and protective purposes, including in areas heavily affected by the extraction of firewood and forest degradation and deforestation. An assessment of the potential fuel wood supply should be conducted to identify potential gaps related to demand. These plans should be developed in close coordination with relevant partners and communities who use the forest areas.

### **Ecosystem approach to fisheries<sup>33</sup>**

This approach seeks to improve the resilience of people who rely on the Lake Chad Basin's resources for their livelihoods. The interaction between fisheries and ecosystems requires identification of four main ecosystem compartments: (i) a biotic compartment, including target fish resources, associated and dependent species and the living habitat (seagrass, algal beds, corals); (ii) an abiotic compartment, characterized by its topography, bottom types, water quality and local weather/climate; (iii) a fishery compartment, in which harvesting and processing activities take place, with a strong technological character; and (iv) an institutional compartment, comprising laws, regulations and organizations needed for fisheries governance. Humans are part of the biotic component of the ecosystem from which they draw resources, food, services and livelihood, as well as part of the fishery component, which they drive. These components interact and are affected by: non-fishing activities; the global climate; other ecosystems, usually adjacent, with which they exchange matter and information; and the socio-economic environment as reflected in the market, relevant policies and societal values.

Taking into consideration the whole ecosystem approach described above, FAO will implement activities to reduce post-harvest fishery losses, improve the added value and marketing of fishery products and strengthen management capacities of fishing communities operating in Lake Chad.

This approach is integrated into the programme to rehabilitate and strengthen the resilience of socio-ecological systems of the Lake Chad Basin, in collaboration with LCBC, which is now adapting to the new context of displacement and potential conflicts in accessing natural resources.

### **Sustainable natural resource management<sup>34</sup>**

Sustainable natural resource management is the adoption of land and water use systems that, through appropriate management practices, enable users to maximize the economic and social benefits of those resources while maintaining or enhancing their ecological support functions. Its application requires collaboration and partnership at all levels – land and water users, technical experts and policy-makers – to ensure that the causes of the degradation and corrective measures are properly identified, and that the policy and regulatory environment enables the adoption of the most appropriate management measures. Sustainable natural resource management is considered an imperative for sustainable development and plays a key role in harmonizing the complementary, yet historically conflicting goals of production and environment. Thus one of the most important aspects is this critical merger of agriculture and the environment through twin objectives: maintaining long-term productivity of the ecosystem functions (land, water, biodiversity), and increasing productivity (quality, quantity and diversity) of goods and services, particularly of safe and healthy food.

In the Lake Chad Basin, to tackle the increasing risk of conflict and competition over limited natural resources, national authorities will need support to analyse and sustainably manage available resources in order to improve the food security of IDPs and host communities without undermining the ecosystems' capacities to provide services to future generations.

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33 For more information: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-y4773e.pdf>

34 For more information: <http://www.fao.org/nr/land/sustainable-land-management/en/>



## Conflict prevention, sustaining peace and social cohesion<sup>35</sup>

Violent conflict is the main reason behind forced displacement. It disrupts development, significantly affects food security and nutrition and is extremely costly to both individuals and countries. Yet, little attention is dedicated to conflict prevention and mitigation and how interventions supporting agriculture, resilient livelihoods, food security and nutrition, and poverty reduction can contribute to sustaining peace. More and better work needs to be done to contribute to sustaining peace across humanitarian, development and peacebuilding pillars, drawing on all available resources. Conflict prevention ultimately leads to lower costs for peacekeeping, peacebuilding and humanitarian response. To contribute to this, FAO intends to focus on two main aspects:

- 1. Knowledge, learning and analysis** to better understand and build the evidence base to demonstrate how improving food security, rehabilitating agriculture and building resilience can contribute to conflict prevention, sustainable peace and stability. In the Lake Chad context, this includes:
  - **The role of youth in preventing conflict:** the marginalization of youth and lack of viable economic and livelihood opportunities are often behind social unrest and violent insurgencies.
  - **How food security and nutrition interventions may build resilience** to violence and insecurity, especially if geared toward reducing social inequalities and building social cohesion.
  - **Understanding how conflict impacts on food security** and **how food insecurity can affect conflict:** how livelihoods are shaped by conflict and how interventions may affect results (e.g. not only what is delivered, but who delivers it and how it is delivered).
  - **People's perceptions:** how perceptions of insecurity and conflict versus acts of violence drive livelihood dynamics. In brief, whatever is subjectively believed to take place drives actual choices.
  - **Climate change and land degradation:** these play a role as drivers of economic insecurity and conflict stressors, while conflict-induced displacement also creates further land use pressure.
  - **Understanding local conflict dynamics:** this is key to informing conflict-sensitive programming, which may also influence household targeting. A programme of analysis and learning is therefore embedded in the strategy's design.
- 2. Land issues seen through a people-centred approach:** governance of land and other natural resources is recognized as one of the root causes of conflicts. Increasing competition over land and asymmetrical power dynamics within decision-making processes, if not addressed through inclusive and transparent mechanisms, can create a set of perceived injustices and potential conflicts. Land and its link with humanitarian priorities is therefore an entry point for building stability. Dealing with land in conflict is above all about rebuilding the broken socio-ecological contract involving the space, the people and the institutions interacting over land, and re-establishing a process of trust and dialogue among stakeholders. In the Lake Chad crisis, it is important to understand the various tenure systems, including formal and informal property rights, existing customary institutions and practices, relations between traditional and formal rights and authorities, etc. Without this clear understanding, identifying the appropriate beneficiaries for humanitarian and resilience-building support becomes challenging. Additional dimensions relevant in the Lake Chad region should be considered, including: gender dynamics; natural resource management in displacement and resettlement contexts; possible tensions over pastoralist transhumance; and traditional livelihoods and institutions. Land is not only relevant for sustaining peace, but can be a critical instrument for ensuring the immediate success and longer-term sustainability of humanitarian interventions.

In this sense, FAO's strategy is to promote a people-centred approach to building stability based on the following principles:

- **Foster dialogue and deal with asymmetrical power relations:** identify the stakeholders and engage them in dialogue with a rights-based stance in which everyone is seen as an agent of change. Through the Green Negotiated Territorial Development approach, the weaker and marginalized stakeholders are strengthened and empowered to actively participate in decision-making processes in an attempt to reduce power asymmetries.

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35 For more information: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5591e.pdf>



- **Embrace the past, present and future:** while devising transitional solutions to increase tenure security, an inclusive dialogue should be opened on a longer-term sustainable plan. The process should deal with rights lost before or during the crisis, provide temporary solutions for the present and establish measures to promote long-term rural development and good governance.
- **Secure land rights to contribute to peacebuilding:** conflict erupts when land and other resources on which people depend come under threat – whether real or perceived. Securing people’s rights to land can directly contribute to alleviating this threat and eventually to state-building processes by enhancing the legitimacy of central and/or local government. The reference for it is the “*Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of tenure of Land Fisheries and Forests*”<sup>36</sup>.
- **Build on (and strengthen) existing measures:** customary and informal tenure governance systems often contain discriminatory practices, especially toward women and youth. Although imperfect, existing systems have a local legitimacy and sustainability. Hence, they cannot be replaced by artificially built systems but rather infused with positive changes that require time and effort for social legitimacy and ownership.
- **Start small:** working through what exists can provide an entry point to overcome the challenges of the tenure governance system. The more complex the conflict, the more localized and specific the beginning of the solution must be.

36 For more information: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/i2801e/i2801e.pdf>

### 3.3 Key variables influencing security scenarios and their implications on FAO programming

Given the unpredictability of the security situation, FAO's strategy has been designed with a flexible operational framework to adjust according to the context. A multiscenario planning exercise was undertaken, identifying different options for the coming years.

The scenarios described in the Annex will guide the project management decision-making process on how, where and when to allocate resources. Some of the features indicating which scenario is underway might already be observed; others might come to light later in the process, requiring reorientation.

Furthermore, key variables have been identified that will determine the evolution of the situation and consequent adjustments, as outlined below:

Level	Variables
Lake Chad area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities of Boko Haram</li> <li>Weather patterns in the region (drought, floods) and their impact on food security</li> <li>Dynamics of population displacements</li> <li>Land access and land tenure issues</li> <li>Result of the military and security campaign</li> <li>Behaviour of military and civil defence forces/vigilantes</li> <li>Internal conflict in Boko Haram</li> <li>Government investment in infrastructure and basic services in the Lake area</li> <li>Management of borders</li> <li>Level of military cooperation between the LCBC countries</li> <li>Level of international military support received</li> <li>Level of international aid for the Lake Chad Basin crisis</li> </ul>
National level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impact of oil price decreases and security evolution in the direct hinterland region</li> <li>Political development in the rest of the country and in neighbouring countries (border closure, other conflicts or disasters)</li> <li>National food production and its impact on food prices</li> <li>Impact of currency devaluations and exchange rate fluctuations.</li> </ul>
Global	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evolution of oil prices in the global market</li> <li>Evolution of cereal and food prices in the global market</li> <li>Global dynamics in the Jihadist sphere, especially the links with North Mali and Somalia's Al-Shebab, as well as the situation in Libya</li> </ul>

In addition to the political unpredictability, the agricultural vitality of the Lake area also depends on the evolution of its ecosystems and socio-economic activities.

If the Lake were to remain in its current configuration, insecurity would be the main impediment to fully exploiting the rich natural resources. The exploitation system put in place by the population is based on mobility (from one part of the Lake to the other, or between the Lake and the hinterland), and the diverse activities and purposes of the spaces. If the security situation were to improve, the context would favour the resumption of food production and trade.

If the configuration of the Lake were to change, the ecosystem would likely become less productive, directly affecting the livelihoods of the population. The population's traditional coping strategy is migration, mainly from the north basin of the Lake to the south basin, or the use of irrigated agriculture when the Lake Chad expands depending on the season. In this scenario, the population in need of support would include people looking for alternative livelihoods due to the evolution of the Lake as well as people forced out of their home by insecurity. If agriculture does not offer economic opportunities, particularly in a context of demographic pressure, high levels of unemployment can lead to the enrolment of youth in armed groups, further aggravating insecurity.



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### 3.4 Partnering with other actors

In each country, FAO works with various partners and stakeholders and is part of a cluster/sector on food security with other UN agencies and international NGOs. FAO has developed a close partnership with WFP in order to maximize the impact of the twin-track approach.

#### Example of partnering: FAO/WFP in Nigeria

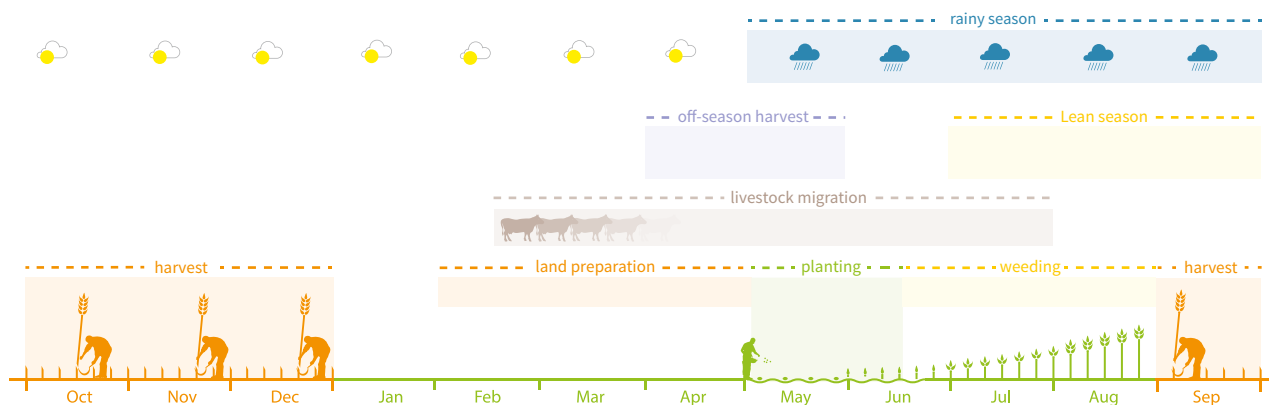
**Recommended humanitarian response strategy:** This concept note proposes urgent humanitarian assistance in the next few months to save the lives and livelihoods of IDPs, returnees and host communities in Borno and Yobe States. The joint FAO/WFP response will reduce food consumption gaps and needs, treat and prevent acute malnutrition and rebuild the livelihoods of vulnerable affected populations during the lean season, which is anticipated to start earlier than July. The livelihood support will need to start immediately in order to take full advantage of the forthcoming planting season starting in May. Missing the upcoming season will result in a serious protracted livelihoods crisis with consequences stretching well into 2018. The planned activities are part of the WFP and FAO Humanitarian Response Plan, and the requirements for the joint programme are already factored into the plan.

The joint response will take an integrated twin-track emergency response approach, combining emergency food assistance provided by WFP through in-kind food or cash-based transfers, and FAO fast tracking of smallholder agricultural production through the provision of seeds, tools and fertilizers as well as small-scale livelihoods starter kits in all *Cadre Harmonisé* Phase 3 to 5 locations in Borno and Yobe States.

The project will focus on three key emergency intervention areas targeting up to a total of 150 000 beneficiaries:

- coordinated food and nutrition assistance and agriculture-based livelihood support to IDPs, host communities and returnees;
- provision of food assistance plus livelihood starter kits, such as goats, sheep, poultry and fish farming kits, to targeted beneficiaries, mainly women in Phase 3-4 areas in Borno and Yobe; and
- joint distribution of fresh food with dry rations to foster nutritious and diversified food consumption; their production will also be sold in markets thereby boosting local economy.

Figure 2. Agricultural calendar for Nigeria









## 4. Cross-cutting priorities

### 4.1 Strengthen governance for a multi-stakeholder resilience agenda

Capacity building and institutional and policy strengthening are required to reinforce resilience, and are critical areas of focus across all outcomes of the strategy.

Through participatory engagement processes, FAO will contribute to the following:

- strengthening LCBC in its coordination, monitoring and facilitation function for improved water and natural resource management, together with the Lake's riparian countries;
- supporting LCBC in the management of information and documentation, and its ability to capitalize on lessons and share experiences across the basin to facilitate multilevel dialogue on water governance;
- enhancing the capacity of LCBC in terms of articulation between regional and national policies and between sectoral policies;
- maintaining the spatial multifunctionality of the region and multiactivity of exploitations, improving governance mechanisms determining the management of and access to natural resources in order to avoid exclusion, socio-political tensions and overexploitation;
- supporting food security and livelihood coordination mechanisms at local level, in southeastern Niger (Diffa), southern Chad (Lake), northern Cameroon (Maroua) and northeastern Nigeria (Adamawa, Borno and Yobe), through its role as co-leader with WFP in the food security clusters/sectors, or through thematic coordination mechanisms in partnership with the governments, NGOs, civil society, etc. These existing coordination bodies provide a good platform for dialogue, information sharing and training. FAO is present in the above-mentioned areas through its offices, recently opened or strengthened.

### 4.2 Gender

Community resilience, as well as hunger eradication, cannot be achieved without closing the gap between women and men in agriculture and food production, as well as ensuring the protection of vulnerable women. Conflict, displacement, fragile governance systems and the deterioration of infrastructure and basic services have widened inequalities between men and women, often resulting in an excessive burden on women. In the most conflict-affected areas, livelihoods have rapidly been disrupted, resulting in severely depleted or lost productive assets and massive displacement, with an increased number of female-headed households, and social safety nets lost. This also has an impact on child nutrition outcomes, as women may not have adequate time to feed and care for their children. While various policies and protocols exist in the four countries that support gender equality and participation, their implementation at national and local levels remains challenging. Access to technology is also limited, especially among women. Moreover, dowry payments are a threat to gender equality, with varying impact and influence between communities.

At the field level, this strategy will support a number of actions aimed at specifically addressing gender inequalities, including:

- supporting the improved use of technologies among women as well as access to inputs;
- addressing the inter-related dynamics affecting the burden of men and women by promoting complementary household (family) empowerment approaches to bridge the gender gap and support a reduction in gender-based violence;
- promoting agriculture as a more attractive livelihood option for boys and men;
- promoting women's marketing and producer cooperatives; and

- accelerating literacy and numeracy by integrating them into agricultural programming.

At the programmatic level, FAO has an important role to play in terms of:

- reasserting the importance of gender in livelihood programming, as well as leading efforts to coordinate and set standards and guidance among all agencies implementing appropriate gender-informed livelihood programmes at country level;
- playing a lead role in the humanitarian country team/UN country team to contribute gender analysis to the representation and understanding of livelihood systems, thus strengthening emergency and contingency planning; and
- strengthening gender analysis and assessment methodology in food security reports and emergency programme assessments, as well as promoting and supporting public institutions in establishing gender disaggregated databases and capacity for monitoring and reviewing indicators and processes.

In implementing the FAO programme, it is important to take into consideration women who have been forcibly recruited or associated with Boko Haram. Sometimes they have children born out of conflict-related sexual violence. Stigma, marginalization and violence against this group should be addressed. These women, who might be caretakers of small children, are at risk<sup>37</sup> of being rejected by their husbands and/or families, and are likely not to return to their villages of origin. Should conditions allow some of them to return, measures should be taken to offer livelihood opportunities, and care taken not to include them in any activity that could expose them to further risks.

### 4.3 Nutrition

The recent conflict highlighted the economic and social costs of acute and chronic undernutrition. Acute malnutrition mostly affects children under five and women, as well as other vulnerable groups. Children suffering from severe acute malnutrition are nine times more likely to die than their healthy peers. The increase in malnutrition has been driven by rising food insecurity, the spread of endemic diseases, limited access to safe water and sanitation and the declining availability of health and nutrition services, especially in states affected by conflict. Addressing malnutrition in this context requires complementary multisectoral strategies and approaches that respond both to long-term development challenges and immediate needs linked to the survival and well-being of families and communities.

Reducing malnutrition is crucial to strengthening resilience. When people are well-nourished, they are healthier, can work harder and have greater physical reserves. Moreover, households that are nutrition secure are better able to withstand, endure longer and recover more quickly from external shocks. The traditional role of agriculture in producing food and generating income is fundamental, but agriculture and the entire food system – from inputs and production, to processing, storage, transport, retailing and consumption – can contribute significantly to the eradication of malnutrition. Specifically, the food and agriculture sector can help strengthen resilience, while improving nutrition. Nutrition-sensitive interventions are embedded across many outputs. Examples of these include:

- aligning agricultural programmes and activities to address the specific types and causes of malnutrition in given contexts;
- integrating nutrition education and practical activities on household food utilization, while building on existing local knowledge and practices;
- ensuring agricultural diversification and increasing production of nutrient-dense crops and livestock;
- targeting nutritionally vulnerable groups, while ensuring equitable access to resources and income opportunities, also giving men and women enough time to feed and care for young children;
- enhancing processing, storage and preservation of foods in order to retain nutritional value, shelf-life and food safety; and
- increasing access to markets, especially for vulnerable groups.

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<sup>37</sup> International Alert-UNICEF, *Bad Blood*, 2016

## 4.4 Accountability to affected populations (AAP)<sup>38</sup>

Accountability to affected populations (AAP) is a people-centred approach, sensitive to the dignity of all human beings, the varying needs of different segments within a community and the importance of ensuring that women, men, girls and boys can equally access and benefit from assistance. FAO defines AAP from a human rights perspective as “an active commitment and enforcement by actors and organizations to use power responsibly by taking account of, giving account to, and being held to account by the people they seek to assist.”

FAO’s AAP work is underpinned by these seven core commitments that provide the framework for ensuring that its work is appropriate, relevant, responsive to needs and respectful of the dignity and capacities of affected populations:

1. strengthening leadership and governance to embed good practice within the Organization’s management structures and to ensure that FAO’s staff and implementing partners deliver on its commitments;
2. Ensuring greater and more routine transparency, two-way communication and information provision for affected communities;
3. offering means for communities to provide feedback on programmes and to submit complaints, and to ensure that they receive a timely response;
4. enabling fair and representative participation of all sections of affected populations, including the most vulnerable and marginalized;
5. mainstreaming AAP into needs assessment, design, monitoring and evaluation activities, ensuring an appropriate focus on AAP, participation in processes and continuous learning and improvement;
6. preventing sexual exploitation and abuse by FAO personnel and implementing partners, and putting in place adequate response mechanisms; and
7. collaborating with peers and partners to deliver on AAP commitments in a coordinated and coherent way.

In implementing the strategy, FAO will ensure that these seven commitments will be mainstreamed in the various phases of the project cycle. Special attention will be paid to opportunities to collaborate at the interagency level to ensure complementarities and coherence when engaging with communities.

## 4.5 Preserving the environmental capital of the Lake

The environmental capital of the Lake, and its productive potential, greatly depend on a complex set of variables in the Lake Chad Basin. However, attention should be kept on local actions taken to preserve the current and future environmental capital of this resource shared between the four countries. FAO will ensure its activities take into account the sustainability of the livelihoods related to the exploitation of the natural resources. This requires good knowledge of the ecosystems and their limits, and the establishment of appropriate practices in order not to jeopardize the system’s regenerative abilities. Educating the population on good practices and environmental sensitization is essential.

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38 For more information: <http://www.fao.org/emergencies/fao-in-action/accountability-to-affected-populations/en/>



## Annex: Identification of five possible scenarios

The analysis of the key variables mentioned in 2.3 led to the identification of a series of possible scenarios, as presented below:

Scenarios	Description
<p><b>The optimist scenario</b></p>	<p>The efforts to regain territory and to ensure security pay off, and more areas become accessible and borders are reopened in the medium term. The armies manage to avoid large-scale human rights abuses. A certain level of confidence is slowly established, with a progressive return of the populations to their areas of origin. UXO contamination turns out to be limited. In the newly liberated areas, the governments manage to redeploy at least a certain level of civil administration. Many IDPs might decide, however, to remain in the urban centres and develop new livelihoods there. Fishing, agriculture, livestock activities and trade resume actively, including transboundary activities, bringing good livelihood opportunities to a large segment of the population. Globally, agriculture activities and trade (allowing the area to benefit from the good production in the rest of the country) resume and significantly contribute to improving the humanitarian situation.</p>
<p><b>The second best scenario</b></p>	<p>Stabilization of large areas is ensured, but insecurity still remains an issue. Movements back and forth to the villages take place on a large scale, but people are still hesitating to resettle in their areas of origin. Some acceptable stabilization levels allow activities to resume and civilian government institutions to be progressively redeployed in some of the areas. Large parts of northeastern Nigeria remain more problematic. The real level of UXO contamination is unknown, but the perception of the issue affects the desire to go back to the villages of origin. There is no sign that the internal strife within Boko Haram risks the resumption of large-scale military or terrorist intervention. The level of trade between the Basin and the hinterland is on the rise, facilitating price decreases and better access to food for the population.</p>
<p><b>The limited improvement scenario</b></p>	<p>The efforts of securing the areas pay off, but not sufficiently to allow for a massive return to the areas of origin. In addition, oil prices evolve and currency devaluations seriously affect local government capacity to properly pay its officials and invest in basic services. Main routes and recaptured settlements are secured, but no further progress is made deep into the countryside. Markets resume in the main cities, but not in rural areas. Agriculture resumes in the far hinterland of the Lake, but not much farther away. Strife within Boko Haram raises issues on the evolution of the strategy of the actors of violence. The real level of UXO contamination is unknown, but the perception of the issue affects the desire to go back to the villages. The humanitarian system has to address many new displacements from the areas where stabilization efforts are taking place to cities and existing IDP concentration sites. Cereal production does not resume on a large scale while trade with the other countries does not function well enough to significantly reduce food prices.</p>
<p><b>The degraded scenario</b></p>	<p>Internal fighting in the Boko Haram leads to higher levels of military activities. Attacks resume with suicide bombing and security incidents increasing in number and gravity, leading to a reduced humanitarian community presence in Maiduguri. As people have completely eroded their asset base, they start to move away from the Lake area. Cities are further cut from their supply and trade routes, leading to new price increases that compound the political and economic crisis affecting the whole country (oil price decreases, pipeline sabotage in south Nigeria, etc.). The rainy season turns out to be below average, limiting even further the impact of the small-scale agricultural activities undertaken in 2016. This, compounded by the difficult situation worldwide (cereal prices in the international market remain high), drastically limits the capacity of the governments and aid agencies to supply sufficient food and livelihood assistance.</p>
<p><b>The worst case scenario</b></p>	<p>In the internal strife within Boko Haram, the most radical group takes over, with a clear alliance with “global Jihad”. This leads to the resumption of large-scale military operations and the multiplication of terrorist attacks and suicide bombings. The armies are confronted on multiple fronts with the resumption, for instance, of the crisis in Biafra and the surge of the insurrection in the Delta States. Multiple population displacements take place while humanitarian access is minimal and eventually the aid agencies in the local offices have to be evacuated. The International Task Force does not manage to get the situation under control and there is a significant spill-over effect on neighbouring countries.</p>







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