



High-Level Conference on the Lake Chad Region

Federal Foreign Office, Berlin - Germany, 3 - 4 September 2018

#LakeChadBerlin

Background Paper

High-level Panel on Crisis Prevention and Stabilization on 3 September 2018

The intensity and expansion of Boko Haram (BH) activities since 2009 has posed significant challenges to the stability of the Lake Chad region, and led to massive internal and cross border displacement, destruction of lives and properties, human rights abuses, and a disruption of government institutions and apparatus. Security is still one of the foremost concerns of communities across the four Lake Chad Basin countries. In response not only to this growing threat but also seizing the opportunity to prevent a protracted crisis with the aim of fostering solutions for stability and peace in the region cross-border cooperation is crucial to develop coherent approaches on stabilization and prevention.

Stabilization in the Lake Chad Region is understood as a support of political processes on the ground in order to 'contain' violence. Stabilization seeks to enable first steps towards reconciliation between parties to the conflict and to establish social and political consensus as a foundation for legitimate political structures and long-term development.

To promote stabilization and establish a foundation for recovery and development five objectives are pivotal:

- Supporting political processes to develop a common regional approach on stabilization in the four countries of the Lake Chad Basin
- Strengthening of local governance and reconciliation
- Supporting Security Sector Reform, including community security and progress regarding Multi National Joint Task Force
- Building foundations for a DDR-process; supporting DDR of former fighters, Civilian Joint Task Force members and vigilantes
- Ensuring rule of law throughout the process of stabilization to achieve reliable, effective and accountable institutions

At the Oslo Humanitarian Conference Germany, together with the co-hosts Nigeria, Norway and the United Nations as well as Lake Chad riparian countries Cameroon, Chad and Niger initiated the Consultative Group on Prevention and Stabilization in the Lake Chad Region, which provides a strategic platform for discussion on crisis prevention and stabilization in the region.

Following the first meeting of the Consultative Group in Berlin in September 2017, UNDP facilitated a series of consultations and policy dialogues at both at LCB Regional and country-level to identify the key issues on stabilization and deradicalization in Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria. These consultations were conducted through a participatory approach with government representatives, both at the national and local levels, community leaders, NGOs or Community Based Organizations, and other stakeholders.

In May regional actors at the sub-national level met in the framework of the “Lake Chad Governors’ Forum” in Maiduguri in order to foster regional cross-border cooperation among decision-makers. The instigated political process is aimed at contributing to the ongoing efforts of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the African Union to develop a full-fledged stabilization strategy for the region.

Regarding to an effective SSR-strategy the African Union Policy Framework on Security Sector Reform adopted in 2013, represents a major step in addressing the issue of African ownership of current SSR approaches. The following principles might frame the SSR Lake Chad discussion: (1) Linkage between SSR and regional integration, (2) adherence to a national defined vision of SSR and (3) parameters for external support for SSR, (4) tailoring SSR processes to the unique histories and cultures of the national context, (5) adherence to the principles of accountability and transparency, (6) primary responsibility of Member States for the coordination of SSR assistance. In addition the ECOWAS SSR principle “regional and national ownership” might be addressed as well.