



# High-Level Conference on the Lake Chad Region

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

#LakeChadBerlin

## Panel on Resilience for Sustainable Development

### **Background**

Poverty, climate change and violent conflict have impacted lives and livelihoods in the Lake Chad Region negatively affecting millions of people, especially women and children. Besides humanitarian aid and stabilization, there is critical need to urgently scale up resilience and development-oriented activities to support people and communities recover as quickly as possible, help prevent a further deterioration of the crisis and build up resilient structures so that potential future shocks can be mitigated. Therefore, both governments and development actors are called to work hand in hand.

The underlying causes for the LCB crisis relate to aspects of high inequality, perceived social injustice, lack of social service provision, historic marginalization, inadequate economic opportunities, high levels of poverty and the impact of climate change and land degradation. These pre-existing structural constraints and deficiencies had already reduced the ability of the population and social and economic systems to cope with conflict-induced disruptions. The conflict accelerated this process of erosion, disrupting farming and pastoralist livelihoods, freedom of movement, commerce, local governance and the provision of basic services. Women and young people have been particularly marginalized as security reduces and livelihood opportunities diminish, simultaneously, competition over natural resources, due to the impacts of climate change, has exacerbated tensions in the region.

More than 10 million people are affected by the crisis in the LCB year after year and achieving the 2030 Agenda might not be a reality for them. To break the dependence on humanitarian assistance and to put the region on the path of sustainable development, with a view to leaving no one behind, humanitarian, stabilization and development agents must work in cooperation to build resilience of individuals and communities. Building resilience is a people-centered approach aiming to reduce vulnerabilities by strengthening people's capacities to cope, withstand shocks and stresses and their ability to build back better. At the same time building resilience of institutions and systems of administration and governance is essential to put them in a position to serve their citizens.

Resilience-building and development activities in the LCB often lack sufficient investment, coordination and effectiveness. A recent mission facilitated by UNDP and OCHA indicated how scaling up development investment and coordination in the LCB could be more effective in breaking the vicious cycle of poverty, climate change and conflict and focus on building resilience of people and communities. For instance, several donors have started allocating development funds that allow for increased risk in programming, making interventions more flexible and creative in terms of design and ability to adapt.

The discussions in the High-Level panel will aim at identifying the types of medium/longer-term development actions that should be undertaken jointly and in cooperation with humanitarian and stabilization interventions, to build resilience in the LCB and pave the way for sustainable development.

### **Objectives**

The overall objective of the High-Level Panel is to identify opportunities to scale-up development-oriented interventions to improve resilience in the Lake Chad Basin Region to durably reduce the needs, risks, and vulnerabilities of individuals and communities, with a specific focus on women and girls, and enabling an effective role of institutions to achieve this goal.

The discussion will seek to:

- Highlight recent efforts in the LCB that have contributed to strengthening institutional as well as regional water resource management capacities and enabled systemic resilience through the restoration of livelihoods and access to social services, promoted economic growth, improved governance and environmental management, and rehabilitated priority economic infrastructure;
- Query the type of reforms that can be undertaken by governments to bring transformational change including through greater geographical equity in the allocation of public resources and more effective decentralization;
- Identify the type of medium to long term development interventions that are needed to address vulnerability and risk and the operational constraints to implement these interventions in the LCB region;

Discuss how development partners can be more effective to ensure complementary impacts and increase their support in the LCB region in cooperation with humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding interventions to address core underlying structural constraints and deficiencies;

### **Expected Outcomes**

- The discussion will aim at giving a strong political signal that military solutions will not be enough to create positive peace and stability and there is an urgent need to scale up development-oriented interventions to address underlying causes of the crisis;
- The discussion will aim at identifying key development interventions which can be implemented immediately by Governments with the support of development partners to strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability;
- The discussion will demonstrate that scaling up development-oriented interventions is possible by involving communities, integrating more risk-tolerance, flexibility and adaptability in programme design as well as investing in game changing actors such as women and youth;
- Encouragement to enhance development coordination, linking humanitarian, peacebuilding and development interventions in particular at local and governorate level.