



Participants:

UNICEF, OCHA, DFID, ACF, FAO, Global Framework for Climate Services, UNFPA, Office of the Special Advisor on the Sahel, UNDP, World Vision, IRC, NRC, ICRC, ILO, WFP, OHCHR, IFRC, IOM, Save the Children, ECHO, USAID, UNCDF.

1. Introduction

The meeting was co-chaired by UNICEF Regional Director Marie-Pierre Poirier and OCHA Head of Office Sofie Garde Thomle and convened on the occasion of the visit to Dakar of a joint UNDP/OCHA inter-agency mission to the Lake Chad Basin (LCB) from 2-13 July 2018. The objective of the mission was to develop a common/inter-agency narrative on what is required to build resilience in the LCB, notably the types of interventions needed, in preparation of the Oslo II conference. This year's conference, which will take place on 3-4 September 2018 in Berlin, aims to serve not only as a pledging conference, but to also provide meaningful substance to the discussion on LCB issues. The document that will be prepared by the mission will serve both as an advocacy document and substantive input for the conference.

2. Briefing on the joint mission for preparing the Oslo II conference on Lake Chad Basin countries

The joint mission was represented in the meeting by Aliou Dia - UNDP Team Lead Climate Change and DRR in the RSC Addis Ababa and mission lead, Phil Vernon - UNDP Consultant on Resilience in the Regional Programme in RSC Addis Ababa, and two colleagues that connected by phone, Stephanie Julmy - HAO from OCHA NY, and Antoine Haarman - UNDP Crisis Response Unit in Geneva. Before presenting the key findings, the team emphasized:

- Extensive resilience programming is already being implemented by partners in the LCB and it will be important to build on the work that has already taken place and that the focus is on scaling up existing efforts;
- We continue to face an important acute humanitarian crisis in the LCB and although the Oslo II conference will also highlight longer term needs, the crisis is far from being over and significant collective lifesaving efforts continue to be required.

The 12-day mission took place in Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Nigeria and included consultations with a wide range of actors, including national and local authorities, donors, development actors, humanitarian partners including NGOs, as well as host communities and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Maiduguri and northern Cameroon.

Some of the key issues/challenges identified during the mission included:

- *Coordination*: Given the wide range of resilience initiatives currently ongoing, there is a need for stronger coordination at several levels (local, regional, national) to better understand who does what. The UNISS coordination mechanism could support this.
- *Prioritization of LCB regions*: In some countries, the level of needs are high beyond the LCB regions and there is a need to ensure that LCB is not unduly prioritized compared to other areas where needs may be greater.
- *Absorption capacity*: The government and partners' operational capacity is limited in a number of areas.
- *Reconciliation and reintegration*: Although ongoing issues of insecurity still inhibit returns, the governments are in some cases communicating that the return is safe. Not much evidence of reconciliation programs was observed, and it has been highlighted as a priority to improve social cohesion.

Additionally, the mission noted a sense among beneficiaries of being neglected by the state, and that restoration of dignity and self-respect was needed. There are signs of humanitarian dependency and limited government capacity to ensure that coordination improves. Despite substantial committed funds (including for development), not all donors are yet fully on board as they seem to be waiting for some conditions to change.

Recommendations will be shared in the forthcoming mission document. Some preliminary recommendations mentioned were the need to build upon the existing focus on resilience, prioritize the issue of economic opportunities for young people, ensure community-focused and adaptive programmes, improve coordination mechanisms, strengthen local governance and inclusive, accessible social services. Prioritization must remain on the most vulnerable, with a focus on young people and women. Social cohesion (including reconciliation) was also stressed as a priority area.

Discussions & Recommendations:

- Partners highlighted the importance that humanitarian needs not get lost in the conference discussions, including the serious issue of people denied access to aid.
- There was a call for proposed action to be more concrete, with greater precision on current gaps and who needs to do what where.
- Reconciliation was called for, not just within communities but also between communities and authorities.
- Working in siloes (i.e. security, development, etc.) was cited as a major problem in the Sahel, and resilience work must be more coherent
- Many participants echoed the need to capitalize on the ongoing resilience and development work that is already in place: rather than reinvent, work to strengthen coordination.
- The Nigeria crisis was pointed out as the origin of the problem and the need to look at underlying causes.
- There needs to be a humanitarian approach that is more long-term, working with host communities and looking at structural causes, and that also considers research that was done for the SDGs.
- Other suggestions included leveraging the private sector, more discussion with donors and understanding of their priorities, and strengthening the role of local governments and using the capacity of local NGOs.

Action Points:

- UNDP will share a draft of the mission document with OCHA for circulation to the Resilience Working Group and the Regional IASC around 24 July for comments.

- A participant recommended that the UNISS mapping be used as a base to cost resilience needs, building on the work that has been done by the Regional Resilience Technical Working Group and UNCTs. UNDP will follow up with OCHA and UNICEF co-chairs of the resilience working group on this.