

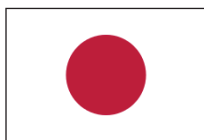
HIGH-LEVEL FORUM:

INCLUSION, LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION
OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN HUMANITARIAN
ACTION, RISK-INFORMED RECOVERY
AND RESILIENCE



**YAOUNDE,
CAMEROON
FROM
14TH TO 16TH
SEPTEMBER
2021**

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Geographic Coverage

The high-level forum discussions focus on the situation in the Lake Chad Basin countries (Chad, Nigeria, Niger and Cameroon), while creating a dialogue with countries in the sub-region (such as Mali and Burkina Faso) that are affected by multiple interrelated crises (conflict, violent extremism and the effects of climate change) and can facilitate an exchange of experiences.

The dialogue at the regional and global level involves institutions in the affected area, such as the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the G5-Sahel and the African Union.

Organisers

The high-level forum is organized within the framework of the Project **“Strengthening Resilience of Women and Girls affected by Conflicts, violent extremism and climate change in the Lake Chad Region”**, implemented by UN Women in collaboration with the Lake Chad Basin Commission and partners at the national and global levels, with support from the Government of Japan.

Location and dates

The forum will be held at the Mont-Fébé Hotel in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 14th to 16th September 2021 in English and French, with simultaneous interpretation.

Modality of participation

In the context of Covid19, the forum will be held in person (limited number) and online.

Context :

Achieving gender equality in settings affected by conflict, violent extremism, and climate change, is key for effective, and efficient humanitarian and recovery response, which builds resilience to future disasters. Humanitarian, disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change, and development actors have developed **several gender policies, strategies, and guidelines** such as: i) The Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (2019)¹ ; ii) the IASC Policy (and Accountability Framework) on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action² ; iii) the IASC Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action (2018)³ ; iv) the OCHA Policy Instruction on Gender Equality⁴ ; v) the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction⁵ ; vi) the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Disaster Recovery guidance⁶ , PDNA guideline Volume B on Gender⁷ vii) the Grand Bargain commitments to advancing localization, inclusive participation and accountability for affected populations.

In the West and Central Africa region, these global frameworks and tools have been translated into different strategies including the **ECOWAS Gender Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction**⁸ , and the **Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of Boko Haram Affected Areas in the Lake Chad Basin** (the Regional Stabilization Strategy, RSS)⁹. Despite this progress, in the West and Central Africa, there are multiple barriers hindering the systematic and effective integration of gender equality and inclusion in humanitarian response, risk-informed recovery, and climate and disaster resilience building.

At regional level, the Regional Stabilization Strategy is expected to drive, rationalize, and complement various initiatives and interventions aimed at stabilizing and building resilience in eight states and provinces affected by Boko Haram. The Regional Strategy is underpinned by a set of nine guiding principles, including gender mainstreaming. It is recognized in the strategy that issues of gender are at the heart of the crisis around Lake Chad and will be central to its sustainable resolution.

1 - <https://corehumanitarianstandard.org/the-standard>

2 - <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-reference-group-gender-and-humanitarian-action/iasc-policy-and-accountability-framework-gender>

3 - <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/fr/operations/bangladesh/document/gender-handbook-humanitarian-action-2nd-edition>

4 - <https://www.unocha.org/es/themes/gender-equality-programming>

5 - <https://www.undrr.org/publication/sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030>

6 - <https://www.gfdrr.org/en/publication/gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment-disaster-recovery>

7 - <https://www.gfdrr.org/sites/default/files/publication/pdna-guidelines-vol-b-gender.pdf>

8 - https://www.gfdrr.org/sites/default/files/publication/ECOWAS%20GSAP_EN_Final.pdf

9 - <https://www.peaceau.org/uploads/regional-stabilisation-recovery-and-resilience-strategy-rss-.pdf>

The Boko Haram crisis caused numerous protection issues and human rights violations including sexual and gender-based violence. Because of gender inequalities and their specific needs, children, women, and girls, boys are facing high risks and vulnerabilities in this context.

Countries in the region rank highly in the gender inequality index. Of the 189 countries ranked in 2020, Niger (189), Chad (187), were among the 10 countries with the highest gender inequalities, followed by Nigeria and Cameroon (ranked respectively 161, 153)¹⁰ . Because of these inequalities, forced marriage and female genital mutilation for example are largely widespread and poorly reported. The prevalence of child marriage in the region is very high: 76% in Niger and 61 % in Chad¹¹ . In addition to GBV, women and girls face many barriers accessing their basic needs and those of their children given they are the principal caretakers.

There are significant funding gaps. The challenges faced by women are registered in a context where gaps between humanitarian, recovery, and resilience needs and the resources available are significant. As of January, 2021¹² , the Humanitarian Response funding gap was of 56% in Cameroun, 57% in Chad, 40% in Niger, and 49% in Nigeria.

In addition, the meaningful integration of gender into humanitarian, risk-informed recovery, and resilience building is hindered by limited institutional capacity and lack of accountability of humanitarian actors . There is a lack of understanding and experience of key actors¹³ on how to systematically consider the needs of men, boys, women, and girls, in decision making processes and practice. This requires technical expertise which is not always available. In instances where technical expertise is not required, gender integration in programming is not a priority or is considered as time consuming.

10 - <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>

11 - <https://www.unicef.org/wca/media/2596/file>

12 - <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/west-and-central-africa/west-and-central-africa-regional-funding-status>

13 - https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/gender_thematic_policy_document_en.pdf

Objectives :

- **Provide a platform for bringing together the Lake Chad Basin Humanitarian Community** including women-focused/women's rights organizations, national and international stakeholders, to have a harmonized comprehension of the status of Gender Integration within the Regional Stabilization Strategy.
- **Identify strategies to increase women's participation** in Humanitarian action stabilization, recovery, and resilience processes, in line with RSS Strategic Objective 38 (promoting women participation, empowerment and socio-economic rights) and 39 (youth empowerment, participation and protection).
- **Foster knowledge sharing on gender integration** in DRR and adaptation to Climate Change in the LCB, in line with RSS Strategic Objectives 22 (supporting sustainable livelihoods) and 25 (ensuring environmental sustainability).
- Discuss on **enablers and barriers for women and girl's protection** in crisis contexts. Special attention will be paid on the identification of protection emerging issues for women and girls affected by crisis. In line with RSS Strategic Objective 37 (protecting women and girls) and 39 (youth empowerment, participation and protection).

Each session will enable exchange on international, regional and national **norms, and standards; case studies; good practices and lessons learnt** at regional, national, and local levels and **recommendations** by several actors:

- **Representatives of women-led and women's rights organizations** coming from Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.
- **UN Agencies, International Organizations and NGOs**
- **Donors**
- **Intergovernmental structures:** LCBC (as co-organizer), AU, ECOWAS, ECCA, G5Sahel.
- **Representatives of the governments of** Chad, Nigeria, Cameroon and Niger
- **UN Women staff** from headquarters, regional offices and country offices
- **Co-implementing partners:** Sasakawa Africa Foundation and ALVF
- **Other Actors:** Academia, Media and partners and stakeholders across the countries in the region.

Program (GMT+1) :

Day 1 : 14 September 2021		
8:30 – 9:00	Registration and welcome coffee	
9:00 – 10:10	Opening Session	
40 min	Opening Remarks Oulimata SARR , UNWOMEN Regional Director Embassy of Japan Ministry of Family and Women Empowerment, Cameroon LCBC	
30 min	Introductive session:	Marie-Josée KANDANGA , UNWOMEN, Regional Advisor WPS-HA/DRR
	-Presentation of participants	
	-Presentation of the objectives and agenda	
10:10-10:30 - Coffee break		
10:30-13:00	Inaugural lesson: Advancing gender equality and social inclusion, and the leadership of women and girls in the Regional Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience Strategy for Areas Affected by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin Region	Marie-Josée KANDANGA , Regional Advisor WPS-HA/DRR, UNWOMEN - Moderator
20 min	Gender equality commitments in the RSS Perspectives for the future	Chika Charles ANIEKWE , Coordinator and Head of Secretariat, LCBC-RSS Program
40 min	Tracking progress across the countries in the region Good practices in the RSS implementation and Perspectives for the future	
15 min	Gender equality commitments in crisis affected zones Good practices Perspectives for the future	Hon. Francisca TATCHOUOP BELOBE , ECCAS Vice President (in charge of Institutional Reform)
15 min		Dr. Sintiki TARFA UGBE , Director (Humanitarian & Social Affairs), ECOWAS COMMISSION
15 min		Mahamadou SAMAKE , Head of Governance Department, G5-Sahel
45 min		Questions/Comments
13:00 – 14:30 - Lunch		
14:30 – 15:45	Women inclusion/participation/leadership in Humanitarian action, recovery, and resilience processes	Benedicte GIAEVER , Executive Director of NORCAP, Moderator
40 min	Introduction to concepts	Maria KARADENIZLI , Program Specialist

	Global and regional frameworks and commitments	Humanitarian Action and Crisis Response, UNWOMEN Global Team
20 min	Gender Responsive Localization: what does it entail for the LCBC region?	Aminata KONE , NORCAP, GBV/AAP Expert, LCB CSO Capacity Building Program-Niger
15 min	<i>Questions/Comments</i>	
15:45 - 16:00 - Coffee break		
16:00 - 17:15	Women inclusion/participation/leadership in Humanitarian action, recovery, and resilience processes (continuation)	Beatrice TEYA , Humanitarian Specialist RO East&Southern Africa, UNWOMEN, Moderator
20 min	Women participation/leadership in Humanitarian in practice	Husna IBRAHIM , President of the Yobe state Network of Women led organizations
20 min	Economic empowerment and livelihoods for women and girls in humanitarian settings	Isaac ENI , Sasakawa Fondation
20 min	<i>Questions/Comments</i>	

Day 2: 15 September		
8:30 - 09:00	Registration and welcome	
9:00 - 10:45	Making Disaster Risk Reduction (prevention, preparedness, and recovery) and adaptation to climate change gender-responsive in the Lake Chad Basin	Thierry BALLOY , Head of IFRC Country Cluster, Delegation for Central Africa
30 min	Introduction to concepts Global frameworks and commitments Tools and coordination mechanisms	Rahel STEINBACH , DRR Program specialist, UNWOMEN Global Team
30 min	Regional frameworks and commitments Capacity building for gender responsive DRR and participation of women organizations	Olivier ABAYISENGA , DRR Technical Specialist, Sahel Resilience Project, UNDP
20 min	LCBC frameworks and commitments Good practices in the RSS implementation Perspectives for the future	Chika Charles ANIEKWE , Coordinator and Head of Secretariat, LCBC-RSS Program
20 min	<i>Questions/Comments</i>	
10:45 - 11:30 - Coffee break		
11:30 - 13:00	Making Disaster Risk Reduction (prevention, preparedness, and recovery) and adaptation to climate change gender-responsive in the Lake Chad Basin (continuation)	Thierry BALLOY , Head of IFRC Country Cluster, Delegation for Central Africa

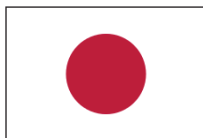
20 min		Goundo SISSOKO , President, Réseau des Femmes pour les Droits Environnementaux (REFEDE-Mali)
20 min	Best practices and lessons learned from field experience	Marceline TOU SOALLA , President, Association Communautaire pour le Bien Être de l'Enfant et de la Femme in Burkina Faso
20 min		Thierry BALLOY , Head of IFRC Country Cluster, Delegation for Central Africa
20 min	Questions/Comments	
13:00 - 14:30 - Lunch		
14:30 - 15:45	Protecting women and girls in humanitarian settings in the LCBC	Madina DIA , Regional Gender Coordinator, IRC, Moderator
40 min	<i>Regional frameworks and commitments</i> <i>Tracking progress across the countries in the region</i> Good practices in the domain Perspectives for the future	Noemi Dalmonte , Regional Gender Based Violence (GBV) Advisor - Team leader for West and Central Africa, GBV AoR
30 min	Questions/Comments	
15:45 - 16:00 - Coffee break		
16:00 - 17:15	Protecting women and girls in humanitarian settings in the LCBC	Madina DIA , Regional Gender Coordinator, IRC, Moderator
20 min	<i>Best practices: Innovating to fight against GBV</i>	Aissa DOUMARA , Association de Lutte contre les Violences Faites aux Femmes
20 min		Aichatou MOUKAILA , president, ONG LARASSU
35 min	Questions/Comments	

Day 3: 16 September		
8:30 - 09:00	Registration and welcome	
9:00 - 11:00	Working on the Nexus Humanitarian-Peace Development from a gender perspective	Jahal B. RABESAHALA de MERITENS , Humanitarian Development Peace Coordinator, UN Resident Coordinator Office, Cameroon
15 min	Operationalization of the HDP Nexus from a gender perspective: case of Cameroon	Jahal B. RABESAHALA de MERITENS , Humanitarian Development Peace Coordinator, UN Resident Coordinator Office, Cameroon

30 min	Integrating gender dimensions in the fight against violence extremism: Presentation of the results of the study: “Effective strategies for rehabilitation and reintegration of women and girls formerly associated with Boko Haram and other armed groups in the LCB”	Khady BA FAYE , Peace and Security Program Manager, UNWOMEN
15 min	Questions/Comments	
10:45 - 11:30 - Coffee break		
10:00-11:00	Working on the Nexus Humanitarian-Peace Development from a gender perspective	Jahal B. RABESAHALA de MERITENS , Humanitarian Development Peace Coordinator, UN Resident Coordinator Office, Cameroon
20 min	Best practices and lessons learned from field experiences	Julie LAFRENIERE , Gender Technical Lead Team, Oxfam Global Humanitarian
20 min		Ramatoulaye DIEYE , Regional Gender Advisor, WFP West, and Central Africa Office
20 min		Questions/Comments
11:00 - 11:20 - Coffee break		
11:20 - 13:00	Funding for gender equality Women participation/leadership in Humanitarian action, recovery, and resilience processes	Regina BAIDEN , Regional Advocacy Coordinator, Care International
15 min	Funding for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian, recovery, and disaster and climate resilience programming in West and Central Africa: What are the priorities?	Joint presentation from WLO from Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria
15 min		Delphine BRUN , Senior inter-agency gender advisor and Amidou DOUMBIA , Gender Focal Point, OCHA
20 min		Japan Embassy Cameroon (TBC)
30 min		Questions/Comments
13:00 - 14:30 - Lunch		
14:30 - 15:45	The Way Forward: Building on the conclusions and concrete recommendations of the Forum	Marie-Josée KANDANGA , Regional Advisor WPS-HA/DRR, UNWOMEN
20 min		Working groups and restitutions in plenary
40 min		
15:45 - 16:00 - Coffee break		
16:00 - 17:15	The Way Forward: Building on the conclusions and concrete recommendations of the Forum	
45 min		Plenary restitutions
40 min		Closing session



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