



REPORT FROM THE HIGH-LEVEL FORUM

INCLUSION, LEADERSHIP AND
PARTICIPATION BY WOMEN AND GIRLS IN
HUMANITARIAN ACTION, RISK-SENSITIVE
RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE IN
THE LAKE CHAD BASIN

YAOUNDÉ, SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2021

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**WOMEN, PEACE
AND SECURITY**
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS	6
INTRODUCTION	7
Context	7
Objectives of the forum	7
STRUCTURE OF THE FORUM	10
DAY 1	
Opening Ceremony	10
Theme 1: Advance gender equality, social inclusion and leadership of women and girls in the Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Early Recovery and Resilience in the Lake Chad Basin Region	11
Theme 2: Inclusion, participation and leadership of women and girls in humanitarian action, early recovery and resilience processes in the Lake Chad Basin	13
DAY 2	
Theme 3: Make disaster risk reduction (prevention, preparedness and recovery) and climate change adaptation gender sensitive in the Lake Chad Basin	14
Theme 4: Protecting women and girls in humanitarian situations in Lake Chad Basin	17
DAY 3	
Theme 5: Humanitarian, Development, Gender-Peace Nexus sensitive to gender	19
Theme 6: Financing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in crisis zones	20
Theme 7: Group work and formulation of recommendations	21
TABLE OF RECOMMENDATIONS	22
GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND PERSPECTIVES	26
APPENDICES	29
Detailed program	29
Synopsis of sessions	36
List of participants	45
Link to Forum resources: Women's Resilience to Disasters Knowledge Hub	49

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ABEFAB	Community Action for the Welfare of Children and Women in Burkina Faso
ALVF	Association to Combat Violence Against Women
AU	African Union
CADRI	Capacity Building for Disaster Reduction Initiative
CAPI	Integrated Priority Action Framework
CBO	Community Based Organization
CEPI	Consultancy and International Partnership Firm
CONASUR	National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DDDR	Disengagement, Demobilization, Disassociation and Reintegration
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LCBC	Lake Chad Basin Commission
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NORCAP	Norwegian Capacity
PAN	Pesticide Action Network
REFEDE-Mali	Women’s Network for Environmental Rights in Mali
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VRA	Vulnerability Risk Assessment
WCA	West and Central Africa
WFP	World Food Programme
WSCO or Female SCO	Women-led Civil Society Organization or Defending Women’s Rights

INTRODUCTION

Context

From September 14 to 16, 2021 in Yaoundé, a high-level forum was held on the subject: **«Inclusion, leadership and participation by women and girls in humanitarian action, risk-sensitive recovery and resilience»**. Co-organized by the UN Women Regional Office for West and Central Africa and the Lake Chad Basin Commission and co-financed by Japan, this forum brought together and involved, online and face-to-face over three days, nearly two hundred actors, practitioners and researchers in the fields of humanitarian action, disaster risk management and resilience. The organization of this forum is part of the project, *«Strengthening the Resilience of Women and Girls Affected by Conflict, Violent Extremism and Climate Change in the Lake Chad Region»* which is being implemented by UN Women at country (Cameroon and Nigeria), region and global levels, in collaboration with state actors, civil society actors, regional institutions and international actors, including the members of the Regional Network Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA).

Positing gender equality as the sine qua non for effective humanitarian, recovery, resilience and development responses in situations of conflict, violent extremism and climate change-related disasters, the forum brought together facilitators and women leaders from civil society and women’s rights’ organizations from Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Mali and Chad; representatives of UN agencies, international organizations and NGOs, donors such as Japan, ECHO, DFID, USAID, Canada, Germany, Spain, ADB, World Bank, Sweden; representatives of regional intergovernmental structures such as the LCBC (co-organizer), AU, ECOWAS, ECCAS, G5 Sahel; representatives of the governments of Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria and Niger; researchers, partners of UN Women, as well as UN Women staff (several countries, regional level and global level).

Participants discussed five main themes: humanitarian action, protection, disaster risk reduction, HDP Nexus and financing. The latter were the subject of five separate and complementary sessions aimed at identifying and discussing strategies for **«advancing gender equality and social inclusion, and women’s**



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and girls’ leadership in humanitarian action, disaster risk reduction and resilience building in the Regional Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience Strategy for areas affected by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin Region (Regional Stabilization Strategy) ».

Objectives of the forum

The objectives of this high-level forum were to:

- **Provide a platform** to bring together the Lake Chad Basin humanitarian community, including women’s rights organizations, national and international stakeholders, and donors to have a harmonized understanding of the status of gender mainstreaming in the regional stabilization strategy (in its Pillar 9, in gender mainstreaming, and strategic objective 30 on monitoring and accountability).
- **Identify strategies** to increase women’s participation in humanitarian action, stabilization, recovery and resilience processes. In line with SSR strategic objective 38 (promotion of women’s participation, empowerment and socio-economic rights) and 39 (youth empowerment, participation and protection).
- **Promote knowledge sharing** on gender mainstreaming in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation in the LCB. In accordance with SSR Strategic Objectives 22 (Supporting Sustainable Livelihoods) and 25 (Ensuring Environmental Sustainability).

- **Discuss the enabling and disabling factors** for the protection of women and girls in crisis contexts. Particular attention was paid to identifying emerging issues in the protection of women and girls affected by crisis. This is in line with SSR strategic objective 37 (protection of women and girls) and 39 (empowerment, participation and protection of youth).

A very varied program over three days made it possible to structure and moderate the work by panels, specialists and speakers, some of whom were there in person and others online (see Appendix 1 for the detailed program of the work). This report gives an account of the content of the work, following the development of the program, and ends with a summary of the main recommendations that were adopted by the participants at the end of the work.

The following strong recommendations were formulated by the different panels that moderated the work on the different themes on the agenda and were validated by the participants, in person and online, who followed the work with great interest.

1. On Risk and Disaster Management, the forum recommends that in all member countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the ministries in charge of women should automatically be members of the demobilization committees and associated with all disaster risk management projects in the field in order to sustain and stabilize the results for women, to revitalize and operationalize women's networks at country and regional levels through a women's platform that will work in close collaboration with the donors.
2. On **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**, participants recommended that more in-depth research be conducted in the field, and that the results in the form of accurate and detailed data be shared with all stakeholders in accordance with internationally recognized principles and standards. They also hope that the responses to the state of violence against women will reflect the full range of women's concerns in this region and be brought as much as possible to the attention of donors and international institutions such as the Lake Chad Basin Commission Governors' Forum with a

view to finding funding and appropriate solutions to improve the status of women and girls in this region.

3. In view of the low level of financing really devoted to the resolution of the numerous difficulties encountered by women in the Lake Chad Basin, it was highly recommended that specific and ongoing actions be carried out with a view to the effective release of the promised financing on a lasting and programmed basis to support structuring development projects in the region, by guaranteeing privileged access to this financing for Civil Society Organizations led by women or defending women's rights (Female CSOs).
4. On the Humanitarian Action, Development and Peace NEXUS, the forum participants agreed and insisted on the need for all actors to work relentlessly in favor of women's empowerment, particularly through the implementation and financing of income-generating projects and the education of women and girls. This is to bridge the gap between humanitarian action and long-term development. To do this, strategic funds will have to be allocated to structuring projects with the participation of local actors such as female CSOs and the local authorities. This direction focused on participation will increase the accountability of donors, female CSOs, and governments to ensure that sustainable solutions are found to profoundly change the condition of women and girls facing exclusion, disasters, violence, and climate change in the Lake Chad Basin and against whom humanitarian action has many limitations.
5. Finally, in view of the depth of the subject and the dynamic and participatory nature of the forum, the participants, while welcoming the successful initiative by UN Women and the LCBC, highly recommend that this forum experiment be renewed in the near future to continue to raise awareness and train institutional actors, state actors, donors and female CSOs on the complexity of the major phenomena that jeopardize the development of women and girls in the LCB region, as well as in other regions in Africa and the world so that concrete and appropriate solutions may be found.



STRUCTURE OF THE FORUM

DAY 1: Opening Ceremony

The participants were welcomed by the Regional Advisor of the Women, Peace and Security, Humanitarian Action and Disaster Risk Reduction Unit of the UN Women Regional Office for West and Central Africa, Marie-Josée Kandanga. The official ceremony was followed by a welcome address from the Regional Director of UN Women for West and Central Africa, Oulimata Saar, who presented the Forum as a platform for exchange and networking to promote gender equality in the Lake Chad Basin and asked participants to focus on gender and vulnerable communities and to formulate holistic solutions and feasible recommendations to this effect, while thanking all those present.

The Vice President of the Economic Commission for Central African States (ECCAS), Her Excellency Francesca Tatchouop Belobe, then mentioned that the forum was ideal for enabling a better understanding of the gender dimensions in disaster risks as well as women's and girls' participation in crisis and disaster management governance. She then briefed the audience on the importance ECCAS is giving to improving, increasing and investing in risk and disaster reduction, and finally providing a better response to disasters in the Lake Chad Basin region.

The ceremony ended with the opening speech of Ms. Martine Ongola, Director of the Department for Economic Promotion of Women, representative of the Minister for the Promotion of Women and Family



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in Cameroon who in turn stressed the commitment of the Cameroonian Ministry to work with women, men, girls and boys for efficient management so that as many people as possible may benefit from it in the Lake Chad Basin. She also underlined that policies and projects are set up by the Ministry and its partners to this effect so that equal attention is given to vulnerable communities and to gender, but also that the Cameroonian government has developed a pilot document in risk reduction and disaster management in the Far North region affected by the ravages of Boko Haram, a document that integrates gender issues, in order to address the inequalities that persist in the area.

Theme 1: Advance gender equality, social inclusion and leadership of women and girls in the Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Early Recovery and Resilience in the Lake Chad Basin Region

The first session of the forum introduced the agenda of the three days of discussions and focused on the integration of gender in policies and plans of the regional institutions. Assisted by the representative of the Minister for the Promotion of Women and Family in Cameroon, **Ms. Kandanga** reiterated the central position of gender in humanitarian action, risk management and resilience. Recalling the key recommendations of the Beijing conference on women's rights, **Ms. Kandanga** lamented that despite the significant institutional and political mobilization to advance the rights of women and girls, significant inequalities remain.

In this same context of the introductory session of the high-level forum, **Mr. Chika Charles Aniekwe**, the Coordinator and Head of the Secretariat, Regional Stabilization Strategy Program of the LCBC region, presented the commitments on gender equality in the Regional Stabilization Strategy, as well as the status of monitoring progress in the countries of the region, while sharing good practices with all participants.

According to **Mr. Chika Charles Aniekwe**, pillar nine (9) of the Regional Stabilization Strategy of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the African Union in the affected areas of Cameroon, Chad and Nigeria, is a key element in the strategy of inclusion and capacity building of women and youth in conflict situations. Indeed, the protection of women and girls, the promotion of their participation, their rights and their capacities, as well as the monitoring and accountability of the different actors are essential. He presented the strategy as an inclusive and participatory instrument based on a bottom-up approach where different governmental, NGO and civil society actors, as well as international organizations, could work together for the effective implementation of the Regional Stabilization Strategy and disaster risk reduction in the Lake Chad Basin. **Ms. Adetoun Bolanle**, Director of Gender Development at the Economic Commission for West African States (ECOWAS), also presented the ECOWAS programs for the promotion of gender equality in risk reduction and during humanitarian crises. The increase in the number of disasters in West Africa, as well as the inability of states to provide sustainable responses in the region to the effects of disasters on the population, has led ECOWAS to develop an

action plan with a particular focus on gender and vulnerable communities. More specifically, it emerged from the presentation that **the ECOWAS Strategic Action Plan on Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction** is based on the continent's international and regional instruments such as the **Sendai Framework** in which there are four main priorities including gender in the context of disasters. According to **Ms. Bolanle**, it also became apparent that there are many challenges in the implementation of this action plan, namely: funding problems and the lack of involvement of private sector actors. Thus, she advocated for advocacy and continual awareness-raising on gender and women's issues in the financing of prevention and response plans to various crises.

Mr. Mahamadou Samake, Head of the G5 Sahel Governance Department, then presented the G5 Sahel's efforts in mainstreaming gender for disaster risk reduction, resilience and recovery processes. Seen as a good practice, **Mr. Samake** emphasized the commitment of the G5 Sahel to gender issues in his presentation. These are included in the G5 Sahel Development and Security Strategy. By mentioning the instruments and tools of the G5 Sahel for the promotion of gender, in this case **the G5 Sahel women's platform** which contributes to taking gender into account and the specific priorities of women and girls in several areas in the G5 Sahel countries while aiming for a harmonious, secure, equitable, inclusive and sustainable development in the Sahel region. **The Integrated Priority Action Framework (CAPI)** was also one of the key points of this communication, which highlighted the interactions between private and public partners. In addition, the head of the G5 Sahel Governance Department noted that there are many challenges such as the principle of subsidiarity of States, and the insufficient coordination between State actions that limits the smooth operation of the actions undertaken by the G5 Sahel for the promotion of gender in risk and disaster reduction. Thus, he recommended focusing on the economic development of women in order to strengthen their resilience, to support quick impact projects, to take into account the diversity of the actors involved and to promote actions aimed at restoring trust between the civilian population and the Security Forces.

Regarding good practices in the countries of the region, **Ms. Aïssatou Djibo Brazaki**, Technical Advisor of the Ministry for Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management of Niger, then took the floor to inform the audience about the experience of the State of Niger in including women in risk and disaster reduction and humanitarian action. After briefly summarizing the security situation in the context of Niger and the LCB, and using the example of the case of the Diffa region, she spoke about the efforts of the government of Niger to promote gender equality in humanitarian contexts. In this context, she mentioned Article 8 of Niger's Constitution adopted in 2020 that informs the humanitarian policy and disaster management in favor of gender equality and women's empowerment. She also noted that the implementing decrees for this policy are in the government circuit and that improvements in the education, health and social security sectors are major realizations of this policy in favor of gender equality, the inclusion of women in humanitarian action, stabilization and resilience in the Republic of Niger. However, she emphasized the need for additional efforts, especially with regard to the synergy of actors. She also recommended, among other things, the correct consideration of women in development and their contribution to the national GDP.

Ms. Kandanga, moderator of this panel, then took the floor to share with all participants and panelists the key lessons learned on the good practices by the various governments present at this forum. This led in particular to the testimony from **Nigeria**, by **Ms. Lilian Ngusuur Unaegbu**, UN Women Nigeria on the efforts implemented by the Ministry for women's questions and the Ministry for Agriculture; from **Mali**, by **Ms. Sissoko Goundo**, President of the Network of Women for Environmental Rights in Mali (REFEDE-MALI), on the management of Covid-19 and the rights of vulnerable groups; from **Chad**, by **Ms. Aniyéré Fatimé**, Gender Focal Point of the LCB Commission, on the implementation of a gender and women's action plan in conflict areas.

This panel provided an overview of the normative and legal framework for gender equality and the empowerment and protection of women and girls in regional and national strategies for disaster risk reduction, stabilization, resilience and recovery in crisis situations.

Following this presentation on the good practices related to the subject in the States of the region, the participants in the room and online asked several



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questions and made comments on, amongst other things: the role of the G5 Sahel in combating sexual violence during conflicts, the improvement of the living conditions of women and girls in the Lake Chad region plagued by several forms of insecurity, women's initiatives to cope with the action of radical Islamists, as well as the use of new technologies by women in a conflict situation.

To these various questions, **Mr. Samake** stressed in his response that the G5 Sahel is constantly striving to respond to these various challenges but its action remains limited by the legislation of the various states in the region which are not yet harmonized on the issue. **He hoped that in the future these States would be able to coordinate their different legislations to provide a harmonious response to the situation of women in this conflict zone.**

In addition, the intervention of **Ms. Beatrice Teya**, Humanitarian Affairs Officer at the UN Women Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa, focused on the use of new technologies by experts in the humanitarian field to promote the inclusion and leadership of women in humanitarian action and disaster risk recovery. This intervention allowed several participants to share different experiences, including the use of audio headsets with pre-recorded messages to continue educating people in rural areas on the phenomenon of gender-based violence in Chad; the use of toll-free telephone lines to alert authorities and urgently continue combating violence against women and girls; and finally, the use of the Zoom application to continue livestock training during the Covid 19 period in several countries in the region.

Theme 2: Inclusion, participation and leadership of women and girls in humanitarian action, early recovery and resilience processes in the Lake Chad Basin

The next session focused on **Inclusion/Participation/Leadership of women in humanitarian action, recovery and resilience processes**. In a completely hybrid format, it was mainly moderated and led by **Ms. Bénédicte Giaever**, Executive Director of NORCAP. The main panelists were, **David Coffey**, Policy Specialist, Humanitarian Action and Crisis Response, UN Women, **Ms. Salamatu Kemokai**, NORCAP Expert, GBV/RPA, CSO Capacity Building Program in LCB, Nigeria and **Ms. Husna Ibrahim Abdullahi**, Chairperson of Yobe State Women's Network, Nigeria.

On a theoretical and conceptual basis, speakers in this panel compared global and regional frameworks and commitments to women's and girls' rights in crisis situations. In addition, they discussed gender-sensitive locations and their consequences in the region in their various presentations. The panel was divided into two parts.

In the first part, which was essentially virtual, the moderator, **Ms. Giaever**, presented the security situation in the LCB and the need to include gender in humanitarian action. Then, **Ms. Salamatu Kemokai** highlighted NORCAP's project in the LCB. This project covers Nigeria, Niger, and Chad and is defined as an inclusive aid localization project that considers women without excluding men and their roles in promoting women's rights. It supports and contributes to capacity building, inclusion, participation, structures and voices of women, as well as their rights in women's organizations. The presentation of the strategy implemented by NORCAP revealed the importance of **inclusion, integration, empowerment, engagement, decision-making and participation of women** in humanitarian crisis processes. Within this framework, three civil society platforms, created at the territorial, national and regional levels with two representatives for men and women, allow for an increase in the visibility of civil society organizations led by women and young people. However, **Ms. Salamatu** stressed that there is still work to be done despite the progress seen on the ground. **Ms. Salamatu** recommended that additional funding with capacity building and a more local approach to resilience and stabilization strategies in Nigeria, for example, be considered.

Ms. Husna Ibrahim Abdullahi, President of the Yobe State Women's Network in Nigeria and President of the NGO Women and Youth Empowerment Initiative,

then shared the experience of the NGO she manages, which works for the participation and leadership of women in humanitarian action. Highlighting the global and local context of women in the LCB and Yobe State, Nigeria, she spoke about the need to address the specific needs of women and girls through the involvement of women in decision-making processes about their rights, recognition and support for women's leadership in humanitarian contexts. She also emphasized **the need for flexible funding for women's organizations engaged in humanitarian action**. She also acknowledged that efforts are being made, but called for a strengthening of initiatives.

Mr. David Coffey, Policy Expert, Humanitarian Action and Crisis Response Specialist, UN-Women Global Team, closed the panel with a presentation on **«Introduction to the Concepts. Global and regional frameworks and commitments»**. This presentation highlighted key concepts, regional and international frameworks and commitments on the issue of women's participation, leadership and inclusion in humanitarian action, recovery and resilience processes. It was found that only 0.2% of humanitarian aid was allocated to women's organizations in the last two years. This aid remains largely insufficient, affecting the quality and quantity of funding for capacity building. He concluded that **more equitable access to funding would be essential to achieving greater inclusion of women and girls in humanitarian action**.

Moderated by **Ms. Beatrice Teya**, the second part of the session on Inclusion/Participation/Leadership of Women in Humanitarian Action, Recovery and Resilience Processes consisted of a presentation by **Mr. Isaac Eni**, Director of the Japanese NGO Sasakawa Africa Foundation in Nigeria on the theme of **«Economic Empowerment and Livelihoods of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Situations»** and comments, discussions and contributions from participants. **Mr. Isaac Eni** presented the projects and actions that this NGO carries out in Nigeria in the production of seeds, crop processing, as well as value-added intervention in the production of rice, groundnut oil, cassava flour, etc. It also does livestock and marketing of finished products. Thus, this organization contributes to the strengthening of resilience and the empowerment of women in areas in humanitarian situations, in partnership with UN Women.

Questions raised after this presentation focused on funding and gender inclusion in humanitarian action as well as the need for a comprehensive restructuring of the humanitarian system to eliminate inequalities that affect women at the grassroots level and the strengthening of local NGOs in this area.

Mr. Eni's presentation raised many reactions and questions about the lack of markets for women's products and Sasakawa's initiative in this area was appreciated. Furthermore, the use of modern technologies to promote women's activity and business was emphasized and encouraged in contrast to the continuing of rudimentary technologies and stereotypes that do not promote women's financial empowerment. Finally, the

problems of the use of chemical products in agriculture as well as the specific help given to people living with a handicap were evoked.

However, the presenter emphasized that the competitive position of the manufactured products lies in their value in the market and that some of the local technologies used serve as a protective measure for these products. As for the financial emancipation of women, the NGO is constantly **educating men to make them aware of their wife's contribution to the economic well-being of their household**. The issue of pesticides is also the subject of education for populations in order to train them on the importance of healthy food and an ecological agriculture.

DAY 2

Theme 3: Make disaster risk reduction (prevention, preparedness and recovery) and climate change adaptation gender sensitive in the Lake Chad Basin

The second day consisted of two important sessions. The first was on the theme of «Making disaster risk reduction (prevention, preparedness and recovery) and climate change adaptation gender sensitive in the Lake Chad Basin». This session was moderated by **Ms. Aurélie Nziwoue Ngueti**, Protection, Gender and Inclusion Officer for the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC). It featured presentations by **Mr. Toshihisa Nakamura**, Programme Manager for the Lake Chad Basin Women's Resilience Project, UN Women, Global Team; **Mr. Olivier Abayisenga**, Technical Specialist for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Sahel Resilience Project, UNDP; and **Mr. Hervens Silme**, Regional DRR Specialist and Regional Co-Facilitator for CADRI, IOM Regional Office for West and Central Africa (WCA).

In the first panel of this session, **Mr. Nakamura** spoke first, stressing the need to take gender into account in risk reduction and climate change adaptation policies in the region around the Lake Chad Basin. The global mapping of disasters presented highlighted the unequal relationship of men and women to risk, with women having been the most affected for several decades. There is a heightened risk for women in conflict situations that is compounded in the context of the COVID 19 pandemic. In this context, he pointed out UN Women's action in favor of the dissemination of key normative frameworks



Photo: Joseph Antoine Meki/UN Women

and mechanisms for disaster risk reduction and climate change in several countries of the Lake Chad Basin such as the Sendai Framework and the African Union Action Plan for DRR. He urged investing in disaster risk reduction for improved responses and promotion of gender sensitive policies. The work of this panel highlighted the different needs related to **the inclusion and participation of women in disaster risk reduction, and the strategic link that must exist between the normative, programmatic**

work and coordination of actors on equality and women's leadership at local, national, regional and global levels. The panel also made recommendations on simplifying DRR to make it understandable to non-practitioners, including women's organizations, and on the need for a bottom-up approach, involving more states and local organizations. **Mr. Nakamura** drew attention to the opportunity to take advantage of these global conferences and mechanisms to amplify the voices of female CSOs, or simply to learn more about gender-sensitive DRR by widening their expertise. This means concretely that they can engage in the preparation of sessions, including side events at key international conferences (Global and Regional Platform, COP, CSW, etc.) to highlight the gender dimensions of the Lake Chad Basin crisis, but also to show what works to build resilience in this specific context. They can ask their governments to request **the deployment of a CADRI mission to review the country's DRR capacity and mechanisms and identify ways to improve them. They can engage with DRR and resilience partners to support gender-sensitive implementation of the Sendai Framework, and also advocate for gender-sensitive reporting as part of the Sendai Monitor. They are also encouraged to be part of a global coalition, taking advantage of the Equality, Feminist Action for Climate Justice action coalition.**

Mr. Hervens Silme presented the ways in which gender mainstreaming in national disaster risk reduction planning can be achieved. He presented the tool that UNDP uses in the prevention of risks and disasters in the region. The Joint International Capacity Building Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction, **CADRI**, aims to equip government evaluators and planners with a country-specific analytical framework for assessing climate and disaster risk management and reduction capacities that can be used and adapted by all decision-makers in the sector. Moreover, it is a modular tool that can be adapted to different contexts, taking into account technological development while integrating gender. This is an aspect that particularly aroused the reaction of the regional advisor of UN Women, **Ms. Kandanga**, who mentioned the possible opportunities of the CADRI plan for **national civil societies that should request their respective governments to benefit from it and to take advantage of the training that will be planned.**

Mr. Olivier Abayisenga, UNDP Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) technician, then presented the project implemented in capacity building and gender inclusion in DRR and the participation of women's organizations

in the region, covering seven countries, three of which are in the LCB (Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Senegal). Indeed, the **Sahel Resilience Project 2019-2022**, implemented in collaboration with UN Women, academic networks, regional institutions, etc. is jointly funded by the Swedish government and UNDP. It is broken down into four priorities and five objectives, a strategy that is integrated into national and regional public policies. The project will:

- 1) Facilitate the availability of data broken down by gender, age and disability that will allow monitoring of the integration of the Sendai Framework for DRR and the African Union Action Program;
- 2) Strengthen risk governance by strengthening regional and national regulatory, policy and budgetary frameworks to translate disaster and climate data into risk-based development;
- 3) improve regional recovery and resilience processes based on underlying risks (disasters and climate change);
- 4) Strengthen regional and national capacities in urban risk management and building resilient urban areas;
- 5) Promote innovation and knowledge exchange through regional dialogues and South-South exchanges. The project integrates gender via five axes: the provision of broken down data; the analysis of risks and vulnerabilities integrating gender and disability; the support to the inclusion of gender in legal frameworks, policies, strategies and programs; the nomenclature of expenditures on DRR and climate; and the promotion of the participation and influence of female CSOs in decision-making spaces on DRR. The multi-hazard early warning and early action system offers a new opportunity for African countries to prevent and prepare for multiple hazards with a gender perspective

The second panel of this session focused on good practices for the inclusion of gender in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). In this context, **Ms. Goundo Sissoko**, president of the Network of Women for Environmental Rights in Mali (REFEDE-MALI), highlighted the initiatives undertaken by her association in Mali, as well as its successes and difficulties in the field. Based on the experience acquired by REFEDE-Mali members in several networks and training frameworks at the international level, REFEDE-MALI conducts several initiatives and projects with local populations in the area of women's leadership training for resilience and



Photo: Joseph Antoine Meki/UN Women

disaster reduction and raising awareness of women on the dangers related to the use of chemicals (agriculture, gold panning, cosmetics, cooking etc.). However, she did not fail to point out the fragility of this action in a context of multidimensional crisis related to terrorism, climate change, and the scarcity of funding at the local level in Mali. On this basis, **she recommended increasing political accountability at the global level for the inclusion of gender in disaster risk reduction; improving the conceptual formulation and popularization of disaster risk reduction concepts to raise awareness at the community and local levels.**

Ms. Marceline Tou Soalla, president of the Community Association for the Well-Being of Children and Women

in Burkina Faso (ABEFAB) then took the floor to highlight the experience of the Burkinabè women's civil society organization she leads in this area. She highlighted the achievements of her organization in risk and disaster management in Burkina Faso, and reviewed the normative framework related to this issue in her country. She also highlighted the important action taken by the government of her country with the support of its technical and financial partners through **the adoption of several laws** over the past ten years to cope with disasters, climate change and various humanitarian risks created by terrorism, among others. In this regard, she mentioned **the creation of the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR)**. However, she noted that **the place of rural communities and women still needs to be strengthened in this national system.**

Mr. Thierry Balloy, IFRC Head of Delegation for Central Africa presented the Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2021-2030 in Central Africa by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent. This strategy includes capacity building, leadership and participation, climate change, and best practices for gender inclusion in the protection of populations faced with catastrophe. In addition to the inclusive first aid training that is at the heart of the Red Cross' work, there is a strong focus on people with disabilities, mothers' work in community outreach and community preparedness for epidemics and pandemics. The IFRC's work is particularly important in West and Central Africa. It has been particularly felt in Cameroon in recent years in the response to humanitarian emergencies in several regions of the country.

Theme 4: Protecting women and girls in humanitarian situations in the Lake Chad Basin

The third panel of the day was entitled «Protecting Women and Girls in Humanitarian Situations in the Lake Chad Basin». **Ms. Madina Dia**, regional gender coordinator, IRC, moderated the session with the participation of **Mr. Oswald Muderwa Chishugi**, GBV regional advisor for West and Central Africa, GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR), **Ms. Oriane Bataille**, regional GBV and Protection specialist, IOM.

The three main presentations focused on **regional frameworks and commitments, monitoring of progress regarding the protection of women and girls in humanitarian situations in the countries of the region, good practices in the field, and prospects for the future.** **Mr. Oswald Muderwa Chishugi** presented the regional frameworks and commitments that demonstrate the progress of gender mainstreaming in the protection of women and girls in multiple crises across the countries of the LCB region. His presentation also took stock of good practices in the region in this area and established perspectives for the future. In his presentation, he talked about gender-based violence, Humanitarian architecture and the need to take action against GBV in the region. He highlighted the link between humanitarian commitments on GBV and the fight against sexual abuse and exploitation, as well as conflict-related sexual violence in the International Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Finally, he emphasized the importance of considering the different dimensions at the global, regional and national levels in order to carry out appropriate action in favor of protection against GBV in crisis situations. He mentioned that several states in West and Central Africa have a HNO/HRP humanitarian needs plan: Nigeria, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, CAR and Chad, and others a support and emergency preparedness mechanism: Guinea Conakry, Ivory Coast, Benin, Togo Mauritania, Congo Brazzaville. This demonstrates the importance that these states are gradually giving to DRR.

Ms. Oriane Bataille dwelt on the project of women's participation in IDP camps and similar environments.

The Women's Participation project aims to enable technicians responsible for the management of IDP, refugee and returnee camps to promote strategies to improve the participation of women and girls in displacement sites and to mitigate the risks to women and girls. This project is an integral part of the larger «Safe from the Start» initiative. IOM contributes to the identification of protection needs and risks, capacity



Photo: Joseph Antoine Meki/UN Women

building of women and adolescent girls, vocational training and implementation of livelihood activities for women, health supplies to all women of childbearing age, and awareness raising on GBV and gender equality. An illustration of the different normative frameworks in West and Central Africa on protection and GBV was made. Some prospects were presented, such as **capacity building for all the members of the sub-cluster on GBV; emphasizing the essential role of women's organizations in the implementation of security spaces and in the participation in the humanitarian program cycle; continuing the training of GBV sub-clusters; strengthening the collaboration with the gender task force and the PSEA at the regional level and in the countries; define a joint framework for collaboration between the GBV sub-clusters and the Gender task force in order to conduct gender analyses capable of orienting programs and ensuring the inclusion and leadership of women within the humanitarian coordination and finally lobbying governments, regional institutions and development actors for implementation of GBV strategies including in the Humanitarian Development and Peace Nexus.**

The second panel of this session focused on the exchange and sharing of good practices and experiences on the theme «Innovate to combat GBV». **Ms. Aissa Doumara**, a member of the association fighting violence against women in Maroua (Cameroon), highlighted the efforts of her association in protecting women and girls in humanitarian crisis situations in the LCB in general, and in Cameroon in particular.

She spoke of the government's commitment to integrate international legal instruments in the protection of human rights, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the fight against Boko Haram in the region by involving civil society and the various development partners. While she stressed that efforts are still needed, she also noted that the care of women and girls by the ALVF consists of a **multidisciplinary psychological, legal, health and economic assistance**. The approach aims at empowering women personally, legally, politically, socially and economically. **It is important to develop more holistic approaches to addressing the needs of survivors of violence, and partnerships with the media and education sector.** In the same vein, **Ms. Aichatou Moulaika**, President of the NGO LARASSU based in Niger, mentioned the context of action of her NGO by underlining the low rate of literacy and schooling in Niger which weaken the capacities and the empowerment of women and young girls. She highlighted the experience of her NGO which co-operates with several global and regional partners in the field of human rights and which specifically addresses the issue of gender equality. In Niger, GBV has been taken into account in action plans and policies. The COASFEM/PRD strategy of the NGO LARASSU in terms of GBV policy, protection and empowerment of women and girls is an approach based on the identification and involvement of community-based organizations (CBOs) at the community level, the organization of GBV training and communication workshops and behavioral change in the holistic management of GBV survivors as well as the inclusive implementation of the policy despite the challenges observed, such as the commonplace nature of domestic violence, early marriage and socio-cultural constraints. To address this situation, the panel **called for the encouragement and pursuit of policies for women's empowerment, affirmative action in their favor, as well as strict enforcement of laws passed in favor of women and accountability of affected communities in the various states.**



Photo: Joseph Antoine Meki/UN Women

The session was closed by **Ms. Corita Tassi**, expert in protection and gender, ECHO Regional Office for Latin America. She discussed the importance of taking action against GBV using a risk-based approach. For her, GBV must be analyzed in a transversal way in a Humanitarian, Peace and Development Nexus approach. They must be placed at the heart of humanitarian action. ECHO appears in this context as an actor that contributes to the humanitarian response in the regions where women and girls are affected. It would be important to take them into account in disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action and recovery policies and promote good practices, with **inclusive action integrating civil society in resilience processes**. It should take into account the action of men and **plan humanitarian and non-humanitarian advocacy, while involving security actors.**

The session of this second day ended with a cultural event (song and dance) which was offered by the **Association «TAYAKOUA-Guiziga»**, originating from Maroua in Cameroon and which staged the gender inequality in the access of women to humanitarian aid, the overburden of tasks left to women, the violence and the abuse of orphans and widows by men (uncles) of the family as well as the pregnancies and the early marriages

DAY 3

Theme 5: Humanitarian, Development, Gender-Peace Nexus sensitive to gender

The third day of the forum was articulated around three axes. First the session on **«Humanitarian, Development, Peace Nexus Sensitive to gender»**, then the session on **«Financing Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls in Crisis Areas»**, and finally **the group work on the recommendations.**

The session on the «Humanitarian Nexus, Peace and Development» from a gender perspective was moderated by **Mr. Jahal B Rabesahala de Meritens**, Humanitarian Coordinator Peace Development, Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, Cameroon, **who** opened the session with a presentation on the operationalization of the Humanitarian, Peace Development Nexus in Cameroon. He presented the Nexus in its two main strategic and operational aspects. He emphasized the need for peacebuilding operations to address all three components of the Nexus at the same time and not one after the other. The HPD NEXUS is thus a framework that all development action plans must fit into. **Mr. Jahal points out that the Nexus is built on three pillars: protection, social cohesion and local governance. The Nexus also requires that actions be taken with each component of the population in mind, rather than considering them as a single entity.** Similarly, **local municipalities should be placed at the heart of this action as major players in the coordination of the HPD NEXUS** so that actions can effectively and sustainably reach each of the identified components. Finally, he **recommended that the Nexus be implemented in conflict zones so that grassroots populations, the men, women, and young people, can play an important role in stabilization and peacemaking strategies.**

Ms. Khady Ba Faye, Program Coordinator in the Peace and Security Unit at the UN Women Regional Office, pleaded in her presentation for the consideration of gender in the fight against extremist violence. **Ms. Ba Faye** presented a study on the situation and the role that women play in the various security crises in the LCB region, especially women associated with the Islamic sect Boko Haram, who are often forced to do so. Her study shows that survivors of these crises are stigmatized by communities, lack reintegration strategies, and often emerge from these situations with significant trauma that cannot be ignored in crisis



Photo: Joseph Antoine Meki/UN Women

resolution and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR). It indicates that psychological assistance should also be made available to them in the same way as to the repentant men of the sect. For this reason, it makes the link between the resolution of conflicts and the consideration of the gender component in this process and recommends a more collaborative approach by the different actors involved. **It also emphasizes the need to address corruption and justice-related obstacles, to involve communities more in the peace process and ensure that they accept the integration of Boko-Haram women and girl survivors, to provide funding for their socio-economic reintegration, and to put gender-responsive DDR at the heart of national recovery strategies, among others.**

In the same vein, **Ms. Nathalie Gendre**, Senior Program Coordinator (DDR) for IOM in Geneva, also presented a paper on IOM's Disarmament, Disassociation and Reintegration (DDR) program. In the latter, it is a question of **dissociating the male fighters from the women**, who for a long time have been disregarded in relation to the former. Recently, women's issues in conflict zones have been addressed differently, with better integration of the gender approach, which today constitutes a third generation DDR. This is a comprehensive approach in which women are included in DDR programs from start to finish. **This approach requires inclusion of communities, making gender analysis a priority, promoting women's participation**

in public policy, recognizing the marginalization and stigmatization of women from these affected groups, developing the transformational potential of gender in public policy, and building the capacity of DDR actors.

Ms. Sandra Sotelo Reyes, Justice Advisor on Gender in Resilience and Climate Change, Oxfam, presented the importance of gender in building resilience, at the beginning of this second part of the panel on lessons learned and good practices on the Nexus. To this end, after establishing the different reasons for the inclusion of gender in resilience, she presented the **Vulnerability Risk Assessment (VRA) methodology** on the analysis of vulnerabilities and risks by integrating gender. This is an approach based on understanding, a tool of proposal and social

capital, which in an innovative way would facilitate the analysis of vulnerabilities and risks that would affect gender inequalities.

At the end of the panel, **Ms. Ramatoulaye Dieye**, Regional Gender Advisor, World Food Programme (WFP) for West and Central Africa, presented the HDP Nexus for WFP. These nine guiding principles are based on a partnership and coordination of all actors in the theater of operations, but also on the information and protection of the affected populations. WFP's NEXUS program focuses on meeting people's urgent basic and nutritional needs; strengthening livestock and self-reliance; ensuring access to basic services and investing in human capital; strengthening social cohesion and community integration; and reinforcing the transition to stable national structures

Theme 6: Financing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in crisis zones

The session on «**Financing Gender Equality, Women's Participation/Leadership in Humanitarian Action, Recovery and Resilience Processes**» was facilitated by **Ms. Regina Baiden**, Regional Advocacy Advisor, Care International. **Ms. Kandanga**, UN Women regional advisor, presented the different axes of financing gender at the global level: the coalition for gender equality, reproductive health, climate justice for gender, technology for gender equality, women's movement and leadership, etc. She recognized the progress made in the situation of women at the global level since the Beijing conference, but which are still very negligible when one adds up the years that have passed in the fight for gender equality. She also returned to the need to focus on youth and the need to accelerate change. It is within this framework that the Pact on Women, Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action (Compact) was established. It is an action to accelerate changes focusing on financing, participation, economic security, protection, leadership. She recalled that any state can be a member of the Compact. She closed her remarks by inviting the participants to **take note of the Compact and to encourage their countries to sign it.**

Ms. Regina Baiden also addressed the issue of humanitarian actors in the LCB, particularly CARE's work in the area. To this end, she stressed that the priority of humanitarian action in this region of Africa is based

on resources, funding, participation and leadership of women. She then proceeded to present the context and assessment of humanitarian actors in the LCB as well as the situation of donors who are experiencing a failure to increase funding to the women's group in conflict-affected and fragile states. It also notes low funding for gender equality, low awareness of women-led organizations, etc. In this context, CARE **advocates for a cross-sectional view of the issue on the part of donors and different actors in the field, systematic monitoring of the reports and funding of partners and women's associations, and increased funding for gender equality.**

The joint presentation by the women's organizations, presented by **Ms. Aissa Doumara and Ms. Goundo Sissoko**, on financing for gender equality, noted the constraints related to financing in the Sahel and LCB. The challenges seem to be major and to this end, they recommend a series of measures among which we could mention **capacity building of women's associations in the LCB regions and the Sahel, to better equip them, put women at the heart of disaster risk reduction strategies, finance the modernization of agriculture and livestock, strengthen partnership and networking, promote recycling and reforestation activities, etc.** These presidents of women's networks recommend the establishment of **specialized funds, advocacy for better material support, as well as the**



Photo: Joseph Antoine Meki/UN Women

support of municipalities by including in their budgets the financial needs of women and long-term financing in this regard.

Ms. Delphine Brun, Senior Inter-Agency Gender Advisor, OCHA, closed the panel with a presentation on humanitarian financing in Central and West Africa. She noted the funding shortfalls in both the LCB and Sahel regions, and pointed out that humanitarian crises do not receive the necessary funding to meet the various needs, which is detrimental to gender justice. Humanitarian crises present one of the main barriers to gender funding in the LCB, such as very short funding cycles and scarcity of funding. At the local level, the barriers to funding for women's equality are beliefs and resistance to change, and for this reason it is imperative to act on them. At the end of her presentation, she listed good practices in gender financing. She mentioned the SIDA approach which has created an international environment that is favorable to the promotion of gender equality and the rights of women and girls. Some of the successes of this policy are the reinforcement of the States' capacities to prosecute the perpetrators of GBV and the assistance to victims of these crimes. It recommends **an increase in women's participation in peace processes and a specific UNFPA/UN Women grant at the global level**



Photo: Joseph Antoine Meki/UN Women

for the prevention and response to GBV. To improve funding for humanitarian assistance, she suggests **drafting guides for developing projects based on gender analysis** and ensuring the implementation of announced projects, piloting funding with more flexibility and requiring **less burdensome reporting for local organizations.** Finally, she summarized what is currently underway at the LCB in this area. She concluded her remarks by calling for **a commitment from the different parties to reduce the gap between humanitarian and development issues.**

On the subject of financing, **Ms. Kandanga** was keen to point out to the participants the great gap that exists between the grand promises of financing regularly made to benefit women in international meetings by donors and governments and the actual release of these funds on the ground. She encouraged the actors present to **do a follow-up and a reinforced advocacy for an effective provision of the promised financing with an access favored for the women and their organizations notably at the local level.**

After these concluding remarks, **Ms. Kandanga** proceeded to the distribution of the working groups which constituted the last articulation of this third and last day

Theme 7: Group work and formulation of recommendations

Group work to identify the recommendations that resulted from this Forum was instituted based on the findings and questions posed during the various interventions specifically related to the LCB and Sahel context. The methodology adopted was to identify the main axes discussed during the presentations and to divide the participants into four groups to reach a consensus on the recommendations for a better consideration of women and girls in areas affected by disasters and crises.

- Working Group I- Humanitarian Action and Localization of Aid.

- Working Group II- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
- Working Group III- Protection and Gender-Based Violence
- Working Group IV- NEXUS Humanitarian-Peace-Development and Financing

Following the group work, a plenary restitution took place during which the various proposals from the participants were amended and realistic and achievable recommendations were formulated, addressed to regional institutions, governments, donors, humanitarian actors, international organizations and women’s civil society organizations, as listed below.



Photo: Joseph Antoine Meki/UN Women

TABLE OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, the main outcomes of the forum were formulated as practical recommendations that are summarized in the tables below, with a view to guiding, inspiring and promoting all future humanitarian, risk management or development actions of regional institutions, governments, donors, humanitarian actors or international organizations and women’s civil society organizations.

These recommendations emphasize the consideration of the differentiated needs of women, girls, men and boys in planning and responding to multiple crises, including:

- An inclusive gender approach involving all national, regional and international actors in disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action and resilience;
- The central place of women and girls in humanitarian policies and actions in conflict areas;
- Systematic inclusion of gender into national development plans;
- Increased funding for gender promotion and female CSOs;
- Capacity building of local humanitarian actors on gender issues in disaster risk response, recovery and resilience processes.

As another concrete result of this forum, it should be noted that **Ms. Goundo Sissoko** of REFEDE-Mali, informed the forum participants that this work gave the opportunity to women’s civil society organizations of the countries present to commit to establishing a regional network of CSOs that will work to promote gender in humanitarian responses, peacebuilding and disaster risk reduction.

Beyond these main global results, specific recommendations were also addressed to the different categories of actors in the region, based on the findings, reflections, and information that constituted the communications and debate throughout the forum. For better use in future work, these recommendations are presented in the table below:

1. HUMANITARIAN ACTION AND LOCATION OF AID
General findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low appreciation of local NGOs in humanitarian action.• Weak local coordination of humanitarian action• Low involvement of the governments concerned in humanitarian projects• Weak consideration of women and girls living with disabilities in humanitarian operations• Weakness of actions in the field of education.• Low resilience of local NGOs and associations• Constraints related to cultural weight and beliefs in the promotion of gender at the level of communities, authorities and humanitarian actors.• Lack of key local gender-specific data• Lack of use of new technologies to strengthen the resilience of NGOs and Women’s Associations.• Lack of framework within which women’s NGOs can operate.

Recommendations by category of actor	
The govern-ments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance local women’s organizations so that they are credible and equipped to receive donor funding. • Create training programs to build the capacity of these local associations and NGOs • Encourage the state to play a leading role in supporting women’s NGOs and those working for humanitarian action and the resilience of women and girls in conflict zones • To help states build their own humanitarian policies that do not depend solely on policies and international organizations. • Encourage and assist governments to maintain educational structures in conflict and disaster areas.
Civil society organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the strategy for girls’ education during and after disasters/crises. • To ensure mutual and complementary support of the action structures in the field. • Promote synergy at the local level between international and local organizations. • Integrate the humanitarian issues of Peace and Development of the LCB in the global policies of the countries of the region and deal with them in synergy with all actors (Governments, International Organizations, local CSOs) • Encourage and strengthen the sharing of good practices among female-led organizations to enhance their effectiveness and credibility.
International Organizations and Donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematically involve local organizations in the design and implementation of humanitarian programs to better reflect the local context. • Emphasize gender as a condition for project funding in humanitarian action. • Strengthen funding for local women’s NGOs to ensure their resilience in the face of competition from international NGOs. • Focus on women and girls with disabilities to ensure full inclusion in humanitarian projects.

2. DISASTER RISK REDUCTION /RRC	
General findings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low participation of women and their organizations in decision-making and risk and disaster management spaces. • The State is almost the only actor in front of international organizations. • Low awareness of international mechanisms and commitments by female CSOs. • Insufficient funding and difficulties in accessing funding by female CSOs. • Very punctual and short-term financing, prioritizing responses to humanitarian needs. • Low capacity to mobilize available resources due to project eligibility criteria. • Weak capacity of female CSOs to influence and advocate with governments. • Weak accountability of actors. • Lack of monitoring and mutual accountability mechanisms • Lack of synergy among organizations and trained leaders involved in risk and disaster management on the ground. 	
Recommendations by category of actor	
Regional Institutions	Revitalize and operationalize the national CSO and regional/LCB/G5 networks to optimize interventions on the ground. Establish an LCB women’s platform to promote and secure gender.
Governments	Create a digital platform and make it operational for risk and disaster management in the region.
Civil Society Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create a network of CSOs that would allow them to work in synergy around the theme of DRR and to moderate the associative and civic life in their different countries. • Strengthen the capacities of CSOs, especially female CSOs, to make them credible and eligible for donors
Donors and International Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize the principle of mutual accountability between partners, CSOs and local communities. • Create a three- or five-year institutional support fund for CSOs. • Promote the involvement of female CSOs in needs assessment, project development and implementation. • Gender mainstreaming as a requirement for DRR projects.

3. PROTECTION AND GBV	
General findings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak advocacy for women’s participation in humanitarian action. • Low funding to combat GBV • Little consideration of gender in humanitarian programs. • Low participation of women in national strategies. • Low capacity of women-led CSOs to access funds to combat GBV. • Gaps in the coordination of initiatives against GBV. • Lack of sharing and inadequate data in GBV protection programs. • Weak political will on the part of the states to implement Pillar 9 of the regional stabilization strategy, which focuses on gender equality and women’s leadership. • Lack of commitment from donors to keep their funding promises. • Low participation of government institutions and funding in Pillar 9. • Insufficient understanding of the HDP Nexus by the different actors involved in the LCB. • Insufficient multi-sectoral responses and inappropriate strategies to reduce the vulnerability of women and girls in the Region. 	
Recommendations by category of actor	
Regional institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present the recommendations of this forum at the LCB Governors’ meeting scheduled for October 2021 in Yaoundé. • Ensure that the participation and coordination of women’s organizations in the regional stabilization strategy is done by women-led organizations.
Governments and Humani-tarian Actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite governments to have adequate funding for GBV and DDR programs. • Develop, implement and evaluate GBV programs based on detailed data actually collected and consolidated in the field. • Governments should provide funding and take the lead in strengthening and coordinating the fight against GBV with the support of humanitarian actors. • Increase women’s involvement in humanitarian policy and action frameworks • Promote institutional partnerships in the protection and fight against GBV. • Strengthen stakeholders’ commitment to sharing and using data on GBV
Donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and make available sufficient funding to support GBV and DDR programs in the region. • Use the detailed data to determine funding for GBV and DDR programs.

4. NEXUS HUMANITAIRE-PAIX-DEVELOPPEMENT	
General findings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is little coordination and synergy of action between local organizations, governments, and law enforcement, as well as collaboration between humanitarian organizations and law enforcement, which leads to friction, miscommunication, and frustration. The persistence of compartmentalized actions between actors in the region reflects a difficulty in adopting the Nexus approach; the three dimensions (humanitarian-development and peace) are rarely integrated and are implemented separately.the lack of quality analyses and solid databases is not conducive to scientific and rigorous programming of actions in the field. In the Nexus, the weakest link is the aspect of peace and peacebuilding, which leads actors to prioritize the management of urgent day-to-day problems, and to move away from issues of policy and governance and the establishment of sustainable economic infrastructure, for example. The weakness of institutions appears everywhere as the root of the problem, which is expressed in poor governance and the misallocation of resources among the population. The Nexus can be represented as a tree with humanitarian action as the fruit or the most sensitive part that raises the most funds; development would represent the trunk, but peace and security would be the roots at the base that remain invisible and rarely interest humanitarian organizations There is little coordination in the region of CSOs that can obtain funding and generate results. The role of the State is crucial in the development of the Nexus. The analysis of vulnerabilities and risks remains crucial for the implementation of the Nexus because it highlights the lack of capitalization of good practices to demonstrate the impact of the results obtained. Unlike humanitarian action, development is a long-term process, even if it thrives on small-scale, rapid interventions. The same is true of peace, the results of which are assessed in the long term. Unfortunately, humanitarian actions in the region do not always incorporate this perception. These humanitarian actions rarely combine the short, medium and long term. They also do not take sufficient account of the local context, nor of the territorial action plans in the states, nor of the regional stabilization strategy 	
Recommendations by category of actor	
Regional institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate the synergy and promotion of the Nexus into the projects of all regional actors (LCBC, G5 Sahel, etc.) in an urgent and comprehensible manner Encourage all humanitarian actors to strengthen the development, peace and security, and education components of all their programs.
Civil society organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the key stakeholders in these 3 Nexus themes and ensure that women's organizations are appropriately engaged in each of the components. Strengthen local decision making and reflect the local context in the Nexus
Governments and donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that education, especially for youth and girls, is given a prominent place in the implementation of the Nexus. Establish frameworks for dialogue between development, humanitarian, and peace actors and donors, with an important role for local authorities, religious, and community leaders, so that they can meet regularly to share information and ensure the sustainability of interventions. Define a modus operandi between the different actors of the humanitarian action, to promote dialogue with the different stakeholders, including the defense and security forces, as well as women's organizations Putting women and girls at the center of resilience, DRR and Nexus operationalization;
International Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve communication on the Nexus, Humanitarian Action, Development, Peace and Security in order to achieve a better understanding and collaboration between all external and local actors and to ensure the sustainability of solutions to crises on the ground;

5. FINANCING	
General findings	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> There is little funding for CSOs, especially female CSOs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many of the promises made by the various donors remain unfulfilled. Little funding is devoted to peacemaking and peacebuildin Stakeholders face many challenges in identifying and mobilizing available funds. These difficulties are due, among other things, to the absence of a cartography and a typology of the funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is also often a divergence in priorities between public and private actors, which constitutes a blockage for action on the ground. The low level of fund release is also explained by: weak advocacy with donors, poor accountability of beneficiaries and inadequate monitoring/evaluation of projects. There is also a low level of involvement of States in certain actions carried out by international actors in the region. Female CSOs are ill-equipped to access donor funding There is a clear lack of specificity for women's organizations in the allocation of funding by donors. Gender-related commitments in project documents are not always implemented on the ground. The SG/UN requirement to allocate 15% of funding for gender equality within the UN in conflict countries is not always met (except by BBF or UN Women). Local CSO governance is often characterized by weak inclusion of youth, women, people with disabilities, and a difficult generational transition 	
Recommendations by category of actor	
Regional institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure regular funding for the G5 Sahel regional women's platform so that it can play its role in the region. Strengthen the capacity of states and local actors to develop advocacy for funds, to ensure accountability of beneficiaries and good monitoring/evaluation of projects. To ensure and support the accompaniment of the State in the actions carried out in the various countries. Build convergence between the priorities of public and private actors to define an effective strategy for mobilizing funds .
Governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sufficient funds available for GBV, DRR and DDR programs. Develop, implement and evaluate GBV programs on the basis of detailed data and ensure that the different actors in the field are committed to sharing them in accordance with the principles and standards. Encourage leadership and financial support from governments to strengthen and coordinate the fight against GBV with the support of humanitarian actors. Involve women more in the development of DRR, DDR and recovery policies and encourage their participation in humanitarian actions. Promote institutional partnership in the protection and response to GBV at the local, regional, national and international levels. Maintain an up-to-date mapping and typology of available and potential funds, and make them available to CSOs and local actors.
Civil society organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on building the capacity of female CSOs to access and manage funding. Ensure inclusive governance of local CSOs (youth, women, people living with disabilities) and foster a permanent generational transition within them.
Donors and International Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to funding the various needs and types of interventions to meet immediate, medium and long-term needs and facilitate predictability of funds and interventions with privileged and simplified access for women and female CSOs. Set aside specific envelopes and funding quotas for female CSOs with donors. Ensure the effective implementation of gender-related commitments in project implementation. Ensure that all UN agencies apply the 15% gender equality funding quota in all their programs. To sustainably address the marginalization of women, girls and female CSOs in the region through the following actions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The provision and effective release of funding in a sustainable and predictable manner for the projects that concern them. the realization of development and capacity building projects for these vulnerable groups, through targeted and adapted education.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND PERSPECTIVES

The numerous exchanges and discussions held during the Forum highlighted the progress and shortcomings of gender mainstreaming in humanitarian action, recovery and resilience processes in the Lake Chad Basin.

At the conclusion of the forum, the participants expressed the strong wish that the numerous negative findings and recommendations they made could be widely disseminated and taken into account in the future projects and programs of the various actors. They also expressed the hope that discussions and awareness raising on this issue could continue in other forums not only in the region but also in other parts of the world where women and girls face violence, disasters and various conflicts.

The participants also hoped that the forum organizers would be able to present the recommendations they made as advocacy for women and girls at the LCB governors' meeting scheduled for October 4-5, 2021 in Yaoundé.

The Regional Advisor for Women, Peace, Security, Humanitarian Action and Resilience, from the UN Women regional office, **Ms. Marie Josée Kandanga**, in her closing speech, stressed the importance of the issues addressed for the condition of women and girls in the Lake Chad Basin as well as the efforts that still need to be made by the different actors for a better integration of gender issues in the international and national policies and actions in the region. She also welcomed the effective holding of this first major meeting organized by UN Women during the period of COVID-19 on behalf of the West and Central Africa office in partnership with the LCBC and in partnership with the Government of Japan. Finally, she promised that this office will continue to be attentive to the situation of women and girls in the two regions it covers. She did not fail to express her deep gratitude to the Cameroonian government for hosting the forum, to the LCBC and the Japanese government for their collaboration and support, to all the different actors

who contributed to the success of the forum and to all the participants who made themselves available to attend. The floor was then given to some participants in person and online who expressed in turn their great satisfaction for the quality and diversity of the work, in particular several representatives of CSOs Women admitted that it was more like a training session they could also benefit from during the forum on the various topics discussed.

Participants generally agreed that the High Level Forum on the Inclusion, Leadership and Participation of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action, Resilience and Disaster Recovery in the Lake Chad Basin had achieved its objectives and led to an in-depth analysis of the gender situation and gender equality in humanitarian action, recovery and resilience processes. This forum was a great moment of exchange and sharing of knowledge, good practices, experiences, as well as strengthening of networking between the CSOs and several national and international actors.



Photo: Joseph Antoine Meki/UN Women

APPENDICES

DETAILED PROGRAM

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**

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

(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.

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.

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.



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

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	Questions/Comments	
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	Questions/Comments	

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	Questions/Comments	
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, <i>Association Communautaire pour le Bien Être de l'Enfant et de la Femme</i> 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 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		Aïchatou 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: <i>“Effective strategies for rehabilitation and reintegration of women and girls formerly associated with Boko Haram and other armed groups in the LCB”</i>	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



SYNOPSIS OF SESSIONS

General Introduction

Over the past decade, the four countries bordering the Lake Chad Basin (Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria) have faced a variety of challenges, resulting from a complex combination of a multitude of factors, including armed conflict involving non-state armed groups, extreme levels of poverty, climatic upheaval and most recently the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic and related prevention measures have had a greater economic and social impact on women and girls, exacerbating their already precarious situation in the region¹⁴. According to the Lake Chad Basin Humanitarian Overview (OCHA, July 2021)¹⁵, «in the Lake Chad Basin, 10.5 million people need humanitarian assistance, including 5.1 million people struggling with food insecurity – the worst increase in four years –; 400,000 children are severely malnourished and 2.8 million internally displaced across the Lake Chad Basin. We count 5.1 million food insecure people - the worst increase in four years - 400,000 severely malnourished children, and 2.8 million internally displaced people in the Lake Chad Basin. After 12 years of violence, basic social services and already limited natural resources are severely strained».

The Cameroon Forum provides a unique opportunity for dialogue, exchange and adoption of common strategies by different stakeholders from governments, the United Nations (UN) system and multilateral agencies, as well as civil society. This is for humanitarian action, early recovery, and resilience programmes in favour of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.



Photo: Joseph Antoine Meki/UN Women

The discussions will focus on six main themes:

1. Advancing gender equality and social inclusion, and the leadership of women and girls in the Regional Stabilisation, Recovery and Resilience Strategy for Areas Affected by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin Region (RSS)
2. Women participation and leadership in humanitarian action, recovery and resilience processes. Making Disaster Risk Reduction (prevention, preparedness, and recovery) and adaptation to climate change gender-responsive in the Lake Chad Basin (LCB)
3. Protecting women and girls in humanitarian settings in the LCB
4. Working on the Nexus Humanitarian-Peace-Development from a gender perspective
5. 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?

DAY 1: 10h20 am - 1h00 pm

Inaugural lesson: Advancing gender equality and social inclusion, and the leadership of women and girls in the Regional Stabilisation, Recovery and Resilience Strategy for Areas Affected by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin Region

In August 2018, the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the African Union Commission had agreed on the **Regional Stabilisation, Recovery and Resilience Strategy for the Boko Haram Affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin (RSS)**¹⁶. Based on four objectives, the Lake Chad Basin Regional Stabilisation Strategy is designed to address the stabilisation, resilience and recovery needs of the populations affected by the Boko Haram exactions. It aims, among other things, to generate **applicable policies and programmes** geared towards the short-, medium- and long-term stabilisation and development of the Lake Chad Basin region while addressing the root causes of the crisis to build resilience. Planned to last five years, the RSS covers eight territories¹⁷ and is **based on nine pillars**: cross-border political cooperation; security and human rights; disarmament, demobilisation, reintegration, and resettlement of people associated with Boko Haram; humanitarian assistance; governance, education, capacity building and gender approach. In its methodological approach, the RSS places an emphasis on children, youth, and women, stressing that: «gender issues are at the heart of the Lake Chad crisis and will also be at the centre of its sustainable resolution». Therefore, «gender mainstreaming and a focus on addressing the needs of youth» are recognised as cross-cutting issues but also through **Pillar 9: Empowerment and Inclusion of Women and Youth**. Since the adoption of the RSS, **much progress has been made in its institutionalisation**: official launch of an RSS fund by the UNDP, establishment of the Secretariat for the RSS programme, launch of national and regional CSO platforms; forum of governors of RSS territories, establishment of thematic working groups, etc.

Approximately 3 years after the adoption of the RSS, this opening session will question the level of implementation of the commitments of the RSS **with regard specifically to gender mainstreaming, including youth**.

The Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) will be given the floor for a brief reminder of the commitments and progress made in terms of gender in the different countries to so far. The focus will also be on the accountability framework of the RSS in the area. It will also identify good practices, constraints, and challenges. In the same line of thought, **government representatives of the countries**

present (Cameroon, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria) will make brief interventions to highlight specificities in their countries, with an emphasis on promising experiences for the implementation of the RSS in terms of gender. Presentations will also be made by the sub-regional institutions (**ECCAS, ECOWAS, G5-Sahel**) that geographically cover the LCBC member countries. These institutions will review their commitments in the field of gender and identify some good practices and challenges. With this last point, the opening session will make it possible to identify synergies to be developed between the sub-regional institutions regarding the implementation of the RSS.

Suggested questions:

- What are the major commitments contained in the different policies (with a focus on innovations and specificities with respect to the LCB context) regarding gender equality in humanitarian action and stabilisation and resilience processes?
- What is the level of implementation of these commitments at the LCB country level, drawing out promising good practices adapted to the LCB context?
- What are the perspectives for the future?

Panel Discussion:

- **Chika Charles ANIEKWE**, Coordinator and Head of Secretariat, LCBC-RSS Program
- **S.E. Francisca Tatchouop Belobe**, Vice-President, ECCAS
- **Dr. Sintiki TARFA UGBE**, Director (Humanitarian & Social Affairs), ECOWAS COMMISSION
- **Mahamadou Samaké**, Chief of the Governance Department, G5 Sahel
- **Gender Focal Points - LCB Country Representatives** - Cameroon, Mali, Niger, Nigeria

Moderator:

- **Marie-Josée Kandanga**, Regional Advisor Women, Peace, Security-Humanitarian Action/Disaster Risk Reduction, Regional Office-WCA, UN Women

¹⁴ The impact of COVID-19 on women <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digitallibrary/publications/2020/04/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women>

¹⁵ <https://reliefweb.int/report/chad/lake-chad-basin-humanitarian-snapshot-19-july-2021>

¹⁶ <https://www.peaceau.org/uploads/strategie-regionale-de-stabilisation-de-redressement-et-de-resilience.pdf>

¹⁷ Cameroon: North and Extreme North Regions; Niger: Diffa region; Nigeria: Adamaoua, Borno and Yobe States; Chad: Lake and Hajder-Lamis regions.

DAY 1: 2h30 - 5h15 pm

Women inclusion/participation/leadership in Humanitarian action, recovery, and resilience processes

The complexity of the humanitarian crisis in the LCB over the past decades calls for a **holistic and transformational response**. Crises and conflicts have differentiated impacts on different members of the affected communities. Due to the gender dimensions of crises/conflicts, gender inequalities are exacerbated leaving women and girls more vulnerable/exposed than men and boys. Although the concept of gender vulnerability is important for understanding the different ways in which women and men are affected by disasters, **it is important to keep in mind that this vulnerability is not inherent but is based on a power imbalance between women and men**, which is the source of systematic discrimination in all areas. In such a context, women and girls are easily **portrayed as passive and vulnerable beneficiaries** and their actual and potential contributions, including their leadership as first responders and their central role in community resilience, remain largely untapped assets. Also, the opportunities for changing power roles that crises offer remain **‘missed opportunities’**. Yet, the evidence clearly shows that, when women and girls are fully involved and participate in defining and implementing strategies, this can **facilitate sustainable community resilience**, recovery, and reconstruction efficiently and effectively. It is this context that justifies the numerous commitments made at international and regional levels to better involve/lead women and girls in crisis/conflict situations. However, in the LCB, many of these **commitments are not always materialised** in the daily lives of women and girls, with the result that humanitarian operations are struggling to **respond in a sustainable way to the needs and priorities of women and girls and affected communities**. Many challenges persist: lack of training for different actors; poor accountability of humanitarian actors; persistent gender discrimination; etc.

This session will begin with a **brief explanation of key concepts related to the topic**, before giving a comprehensive presentation of the legal framework in the field with a focus on accountability mechanisms.

In the era of «Grand Bargain 2.0¹⁸», the session will look at the implications of localizing gender-sensitive

humanitarian aid in the LCB. What are the key entry points for its operationalisation and how can the accountability of the humanitarian community in this area be increased?

Voices from the field will come from two civil society organisations. A representative of women’s organisations will be invited to share their perspectives, knowledge, challenges and good practices on community resilience, with a focus on economic empowerment and resilient livelihoods (particularly in the context of the COVID-19 epidemic). The focus should be on the strategies developed to overcome the challenges faced as a women’s/feminist organisation working in humanitarian action. The second organisation will focus on empowering women and girls through **resilient, climate-sensitive**, and risk-informed agriculture.

Suggested questions:

- What is the level of participation of women in humanitarian planification/coordination mechanisms in LCB countries and how are they consulted?
- What are the wishes of women to improve their humanitarian assistance and what are the specific priority needs not sufficiently addressed by actors?

Panel Discussion:

- **Maria Karadenizli**, Program Specialist, Humanitarian Action and Crisis Response, UN Women
- **Aminata KONE**, NORCAP, GBV/AAP Expert, LCB CSO Capacity Building Program-Niger
- **Husna Ibrahim Abdullahi**, President, Women and Youth Empowerment Initiative (WOYEIN)
- **Isaac ENI**, Sasakawa Foundation

Moderator:

- **Benedicte GIAEVER**, Executive Director of NORCAP
- **Beatrice Teya**, Regional Advisor Women, Peace, Security-Humanitarian Action/Disaster Risk Reduction, Regional Office-ESARO, UN Women

DAY 2: 9h00 am - 1h00 pm

Making Disaster Risk Reduction (prevention, preparedness, and recovery) and adaptation to climate change gender-responsive in the Lake Chad Basin

With very high vulnerability indices, coupled with low capacities to adapt and respond to hazard risks in general, the ECOWAS sub-region is particularly prone to disasters, especially due to the general lack of institutional DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) resources to prevent, mitigate and respond to disasters. According to the World Bank, 86.7% of the world’s 15 most vulnerable countries are in Africa, including seven countries in the ECOWAS sub-region.

Disasters, whether caused by viruses or natural hazards, are not felt uniformly by everyone in society. Across the board, from life expectancy to education, health, violence, livelihoods, and nutrition, **women are negatively and disproportionately impacted by disasters, climate change, and other threats including pandemics, as the COVID-19 crisis has clearly demonstrated**. Differential impacts between women and men, and unequal exposure, vulnerability, and capacities to cope are attributed to: **i) discrimination and unequal access to opportunities, natural resources, other productive resources (such as land and credit) and information; ii) unequal access to finance, technology, knowledge, and mobility; iii) socially constructed differences in capacities and capabilities; and iv) discriminatory social, cultural, and legal norms and practices**.

The two sessions will introduce key concepts and provide an overview of **how global** (*Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Commission on the Status of Women, etc.*) **and regional** (*ECOWAS DRR Action Plan 2015-2030, LCBC Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management*) **disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation frameworks consider gender equality and women’s empowerment**. Representatives of women-led organisations will be invited to share their perspectives, knowledge, challenges and good practices in community resilience, with a focus on prevention and preparedness, **particularly in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak**.



Photo: Joseph Antoine Meki/UN Women

Panel Discussion:

- **Rahel Steinbach**, Disaster Risk Reduction Program Specialist, UN Women
- **Olivier Abayisenga**, DRR Technical Specialist, Sahel Resilience Project, UNDP
- **Chika Charles ANIEKWE**, Coordinator and Head of Secretariat, LCBC-RSS Program
- **Goundo Sissoko**, President, Réseau des Femmes pour les Droits Environnementaux (REFEDE-Mali)
- **Tou Soalla Marceline**, President, Association Communautaire pour le Bien Être de l’Enfant et de la Femme in Burkina Faso
- **Thierry Balloy**, Head of Delegation - Central Africa, IFRC

Moderator:

- **Thierry Balloy**, Head of Delegation - Central Africa, IFRC

¹⁸ <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/grand-bargain>

DAY 2: 2h30 - 5h15 pm

Protecting women and girls in humanitarian settings in the LCBC

Armed conflict, natural disasters, and humanitarian emergencies **can significantly weaken a society's ability to protect its people, including from sexual and gender-based violence**. Women and girls are at **increased risk** of violence during conflict and humanitarian crises due to displacement, breakdown of social structures, lack of law enforcement, potential entrenchment of harmful gender norms, and loss of livelihoods for men and women in the community, among other factors¹⁹. In the LCB region, violence against women and girls is a **serious patriarchal and cultural problem, reinforced by conflict**²⁰. **Social norms that condone the use of violence** by men as a form of discipline and control reinforce gender inequality and perpetuate gender-based violence. Women and girls are more likely to be victims of sexual and gender-based violence. This violence takes many forms: domestic violence, rape and sexual assault, child marriage, female genital mutilation, trafficking for sexual exploitation, and economic violence (deprivation of work, education, etc.). In addition, thousands of women and girls have been abducted, raped, or forcibly married and continue to be used as suicide bombers against their will or out of religious conviction and radicalization²¹. In the LCB countries, women and girls **have less power than men - over their bodies, their decisions, and their resources**. They continue to live **with trauma and stigma, which hinders their social and economic reintegration**. In addition, because of the difficulties they face, women and girls are forced to engage in survival sex and other **negative coping strategies**²², including survival sex and early marriage.

In this context, protection mechanisms must **seek to address the structural barriers** that women and girls face and **create an enabling environment for their development**. This includes **promoting discussion with men and boys**, as well as traditional and religious leaders; **educating girls and women**; and ensuring that their **sexual and reproductive rights are respected, and their health preserved**. Holistic GBV prevention and response services **must be available and accessible, including for the most vulnerable, from the beginning of the crisis**. In addition, targeted support must be provided to women for the development of income-generating activities, activities that will promote gender equality. Women and girls must be actively involved as decision makers in the planning, design, implementation, and monitoring of protection measures to ensure that these measures are effective.

This session will open with a **presentation on the commitments made by the humanitarian community to protect women and girls in crisis, stabilization, and resilience processes**. It will also look at the progress made in the field of protection of women and girls in the different countries of the BLT. **Good practices and perspectives** for the future in the region will also be highlighted. Two women's organizations will share the **innovative strategies they have put in place** to effectively protect and empower women and girls in the context of crises. The session will focus on prevention, response to sexual and gender-based violence and risk mitigation. Also, key aspects related to the protection of women and girls in BLT will be highlighted.

19 <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/What%20works%20to%20prevent%20%26%20respond%20to%20violence%20against%20women%20and%20girls%20in%20conflict%20and%20humanitarian%20settings%20-%20Evidence%20brief.pdf>
20 <https://www.peaceau.org/uploads/strategie-regionale-de-stabilisation-de-redressement-et-de-resilience.pdf>
21 Idem
22 <https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/security-crisis-lake-chad-basin-erodes-women-s-livelihoods>

Proposed questions:

- What are the major commitments to the protection of women and girls in humanitarian action and stabilization and resilience processes in the LCB?
- What is the level of implementation of these commitments at the country level in the BLT, drawing out promising context-specific good practices?
- What makes an effective and efficient intervention against GBV in the LCB countries?

Panel Discussion:

- **Noemi Dalmonte**, Regional GBV Advisor – West and Central Africa-Team Leader, GBV AoR
- **Aissa Doumara**, President, Association de Lutte contre les Violences Faites aux Femmes, Cameroon
- **Moukaila Aichatou**, President, ONG LARASSU, Niger

Moderator:

- **Madina Dia**, Gender Regional Coordinator, IRC, Regional Office

DAY 3: 9h00 - 11h00 am

Working on the Nexus Humanitarian-Peace Development from a gender perspective

Introduction on the Nexus

The 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and subsequent initiatives took the **humanitarian-development peace** Nexus to another level, that is, to include **peace** in the analysis and response to the needs of people in complex and/or protracted crisis. The triple “Nexus process” is understood as an approach involving **“sharing analysis** across humanitarian, development and peace actors that informs the definition of **collective outcomes (COs)** aimed at reducing humanitarian **need, risk and vulnerability**”²³. Based on these collective outcomes or common priorities, humanitarian, development and peace actors can join up their **programming** through their respective strategic planning documents²⁴. The Nexus process should be **context specific**, based on complementary

planning, effective **coordination, financing** beyond project-based funding, and **sequencing** in formulation and implementation²⁵. **The New Way of Working (NWOW)** is designed for contexts where short-term humanitarian action and medium- to long-term development programming are required **simultaneously**.

Operationalizing the Nexus is complex, as for each element of the Nexus (humanitarian, development, peace) actors and **stakeholders** are different²⁶, the legal **frameworks**²⁷ are not the same and the **timeframes** are also different²⁸. Inter-institutional linkages are difficult to activate, and the implementation is dependent on the context volatility. The UNSDG Cooperation Framework Companion Piece offers specific orientations for a joint analysis, coherent strategic planning, joint programming, funding, and financing. The IASC

23 Review of Progress on Mainstreaming Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls (GEEWG) into the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus Agenda, IASC, May 2021.
24 For instance, the Common Country Analysis (CCA), the Cooperation Framework, the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) or the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) or the Integrated Strategic Framework (ISF) are developed with stakeholders across the development, humanitarian and peace dimensions, underpinned by human rights, gender equality, people-centered approaches and conflict sensitivity to provide a comprehensive and integrated analysis of the situation and address the root causes of crises, current and emerging risks and vulnerabilities at all levels (cross-border, national, subnational and community).
25 UN Sustainable Development Group
26 Including diverse Ministries, UN entities, government partners, front-line responders, volunteers, civil society, donors, International Financial Institutions, and the most marginalized people.
27 Including international frameworks such as: 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement, Post 2020 Biodiversity Targets, the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact on Safe and Orderly Migration, the Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security and Youth Peace and Security and the resolutions on sustaining peace, as well as international human rights treaties, international humanitarian law and refugee law.
28 In this sense, collective outcomes can be identified in HRPs and peace operation reviews (short term, 1-2 years), Cooperation Frameworks (medium term, 3-5 years) and National development plans, national disaster risk reductions strategies, peacebuilding plans or visions (long term, 5-15 years).

Guidance on Localization provides a specific chapter and indicators. **Mainstreaming gender into the triple Nexus** process involves both enhanced **mainstreaming** in humanitarian, development, and peace interventions, **and seeking synergies** between the three Nexus elements that can further promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls²⁹. The UN Systemwide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP) and the UN-Country Team (UNCT) Performance Indicators offer an important practical orientation for gender mainstreaming in the Nexus process. The IASC GRG Task Force on Gender mainstreaming in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus also works on providing practical orientations on its operationalization (analytical tools, definition of COs and funding).

Operationalization of the HDP Nexus from a gender perspective: case of Cameroon

This session will showcase concrete **lessons learned** on the operationalization of the triple Nexus and its gender aspects in Cameroon. It will discuss on how the working group Task Force on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus is³⁰ working to support the National Development Strategy (2020-2030) and **overcoming the challenges** they face, especially in the Extreme North. It will give **orientations** on immediate and medium-term practical measures to address challenges such as funding and decentralization, the lack of common understanding on the peace component and the rule of law³¹, the civil-military coordination, and the participation of women-led and women-rights organizations.

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»

This session will present the findings of the report led by UN Women with the support of the Government of Japan. It will provide some insight on the challenges faced by women and girls and the rehabilitation and reintegration actors. It will focus on strategies to adapt policy and programming initiatives to the reality for successful rehabilitation and reintegration of women and girls. It will draw on the experiences from the civil society organizations and the Lake Chad Basin Stabilization Strategy.

Panel Discussion:

- **Jahal B. Rabesahala de Meritens**, Humanitarian Development Peace Coordinator, United Nations Resident Coordinator Office, Cameroon
- **Khady Ba Faye**, Women, Peace and Security Program Manager, UN Women, Regional Office
- **Julie LAFRENIERE**, Gender Technical Lead Team, Oxfam Global Humanitarian
- **Ramatoulaye DIEYE**, Regional Gender Advisor, WFP West, and Central Africa Office

Moderator:

- **Jahal B. Rabesahala de Meritens**, Humanitarian Development Peace Coordinator, United Nations Resident Coordinator Office, Cameroon

DAY 3: 11h20 am - 1h00 pm

Funding for gender equality Women participation/leadership in Humanitarian action, recovery, and resilience processes

The commitments of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the **2016 World Humanitarian Summit** confirmed that gender equality, respect for women's and girls' human rights and their empowerment in political, humanitarian and development arenas is a universal responsibility. During the World Humanitarian Summit, the high-level panel on «Women and Girls: Catalyzing Action to Achieve Gender Equality» resulted in 446 commitments. A total of **509 commitments targeting interventions for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls were made, including increased funding for gender-sensitive humanitarian programmes**. Member States and UN entities, the private sector and civil society organisations recognised the need to support women and local women's organisations as a central part of humanitarian action.

However, current public and private funding for disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action is insufficient to address the priorities of women and girls and build their resilience. As of January 2021, the funding gap for humanitarian response was 56% in Cameroon, 57% in Chad, 40% in Niger and 49% in Nigeria. Despite multilateral, individual donor and UN agency initiatives since the 2016 Summit, donors and UN agencies have not significantly funded women's groups in fragile and conflict-affected states: seven of the top 11 donors have allocated less than 1% of aid to fragile states³². Funding for front-line women's organisations in fragile and conflict-affected areas represents only 0.2% of total bilateral aid³³, despite an upward trend in total aid committed to support gender equality efforts.

Resource allocation must be based on a thorough analysis that identifies effective interventions for the implementation of humanitarian and disaster risk reduction programmes, as well as the implementation of investments that are women-led and build resilience. This requires tools to assess women's specific needs and contributions, strengthening women's involvement in the design of projects and programmes and their budgets.

Gender-responsive investments in DRR and humanitarian assistance by governments and international organisations must ensure adequate allocation of resources to enhance the capacities of women, especially the poorest and most disadvantaged, and strengthen their resilience to conflict, climate change and disasters. This includes investing in **women's resilient livelihoods, social protection and social services** to reduce gender inequalities, and investing in **public and private infrastructure** that responds to the priorities of various groups of women and generates direct or indirect financial returns (e.g. economic and social benefits), as well as **increasing contributions to common funds for peace**. It is also important that donors and organisations are **held accountable for the quality and inclusiveness of their partnerships and collaborations with women-led** and women's rights organisations.

This session will focus on **the localisation of humanitarian aid and aid for crisis and disaster resilience (including the COVID-19 pandemic) and women's empowerment** in West and Central Africa. The objective of the discussion is for **front-line women's organisations, international organisations on the ground, regional institutions, and donors, to share innovative solutions for financial products, mechanisms and tools** for gender-responsive programming in humanitarian aid, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

²⁹ Review of Progress on Mainstreaming Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls (GEEWG) into the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus Agenda, IASC, May 2021

³⁰ Put in place in May 2019, under the joint responsibility of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

³¹ Les analyses géopolitiques de l'aide sécurité et développement sont-ils interdépendants ? L'approche Nexus vue du Cameroon, Décembre 2020, IRIS France.

³² According to a CARE International study: «C'est le moment pour une meilleure négociation: comment le système d'aide ne tient pas compte des femmes et des filles en situation de crise»

³³ <https://undocs.org/en/S/2020/946>

Panel Discussion:

- **Joint presentation from women organizations** of Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria
- **Delphine Brun**, Senior Gender Advisor, GENCAP and Amidou Baba Doumbia, Gender Focal Point, OCHA
- **Chika Charles ANIEKWE**, Coordinator and Head of Secretariat, LCBC-RSS Program
- **Japan Embassy**, Speaker TBC

Moderator:

- **Regina Baiden**, Regional Advocacy Coordinator for west Africa, Care International

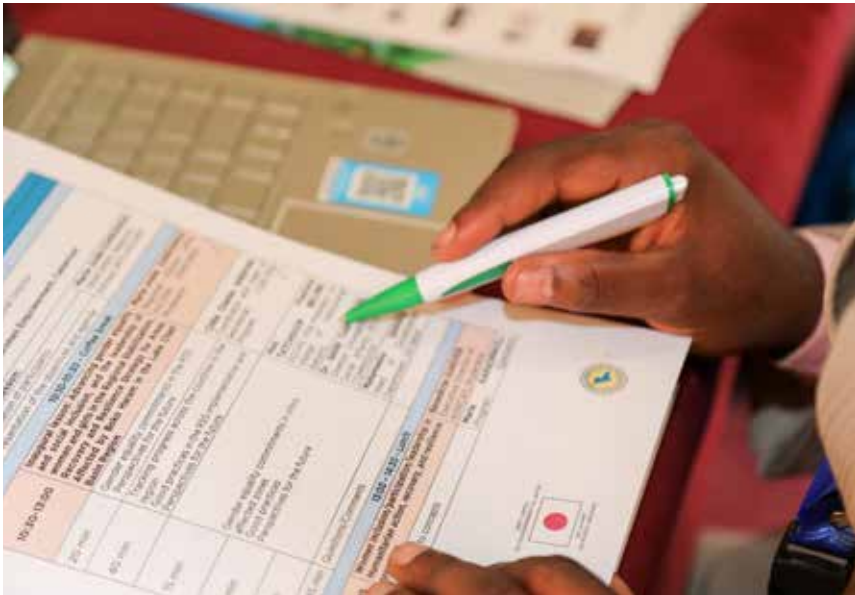


Photo: Joseph Antoine Meki/UN Women

DAY 3: 13:00 - 17:15 pm

The Way Forward: Building on the Forum's Conclusions and Recommendations

Participants will work in groups on the recommendations that emerged throughout the Forum, and these will be presented in a final plenary session. Recommendations will be followed up by the Forum organizers.

Moderator:

- **Marie-Josée Kandanga**, Regional Advisor Women, Peace, Security-Humanitarian Action/Disaster Risk Reduction, Regional Office-WCA, UN Women

LIST OF PARTICIPANS



Photo: Joseph Antoine Meki/UN Women

Surname	First name	Organization
Abayisenga	Olivier	UNDP
Aje	Maryam	African Youth for Peace Development and Empowerment, Nigeria
Akamba	Elanga	Sight Savers Loyoc Cameroon
Akame Mfoumou	Cécile	Cameroon Red Cross
Amidou	Doumbia	OCHA Cameroon
Aniekwe	Chika Charles	Lake Chad Basin Regional Stabilization Strategy
Aniyéré	Fatimé	Lake Chad Basin Regional Stabilization Strategy
Ayissi	Esther	MINEPAT Cameroon
Ba Faye	Khady	UN Women
Baiden	Regina	Care International
Balloy	Thierry	UNFPA
Bataille	Oriane	IOM

Surname	First name	Organization
Bone	Franck	MINPROFF Cameroon
Bossoma	Taini	ONG FANDY KAMOUAYE Niger
Brun	Delphine	OCHA Cameroon
Chishugi	Oswald	UNFPA
Coffey	David	UN Women
De Giuli	Silvia	UNOCA
Dia	Madina	IRC
Diaby	Marietou	UN Women
Dikoume	Angélique	UNFPA
Djibo Brazaki	Hamssatou	Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management, Niger
Doumara	Aissa	ALVF Cameroon
Ebong Arim	Christian	Ministry of Health, Cameroon
Eni	Isaac	Sasakawa Africa Association Nigeria
Eyong	Clarisse	UN Women
Gana	Falmata	Coordination des Associations pour le développement du Lac, Tchad
Gendre	Nathalie	IOM
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Ibrahim Abdullahi	Husna	Yobe state Network of Womenled organisations Nigeria
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Karadenizli	Maria	UN Women
Kemafoua	Yollande	MINPROFF Cameroon
Kembo Takam Gatsing	Hermine	Ministry of Justice, Cameroon
Kharailah Ngola	Georgette	Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation, Cameroon
Kone	Aminata	UN Women
LT/Colonel Viorong	Emilienne Bienvenue	State Secretary of Defense, Cameroon
Luthi Solé	Laia	UN Women
Magnikeu Ngamo	Diane Félicité	UN Women
Mbarga Zang	Henri D	National Security General Delegation, Cameroon
Meki	Joseph	UN Women

Surname	First name	Organization
Mekombe	Thérèse	Association des Femmes Juristes, Chad
Mekoulou Atangana	Charles Marie Richard	National Security General Delegation, Cameroon
Mengue	Valerie	UN Women
Mevoungou Ebogo	Julia Michèle	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cameroon
Moudalabaye	Appoline	Government of Chad
Moukaila	Aichatou	ONG LARASSU Niger
Moustapha Ahmed	Abdoul Nasser	UN Women
Nakamura	Toshihisa	UN Women
Ndiaye	Aminata	G5-Sahel
Ngusuur Unaegbu	Lilian	UN Women
Nikwigize	Novella	UN Women
Nziewoue	Aurélie	IFRC Cameroon
Ongola	Martine	Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and Family, Cameroon
Ovambe	Anita	UN Women
Ramatoulaye Dieye	Ramatoulaye	WFP
Sakai	Tatsuki	Embassy of Japan in Cameroon
Samake	Mahamadou	G5-Sahel
Sandy	Ulrich Bienvenue	UN Women
Sarr	Oulimata	UN Women
Silme	Hervens	IOM
Sissling	Daniel	NORCAP
Sissoko	Goundo	Réseau des Femmes pour les Droits Environnementaux (REFEDE-MALI)
Sotelo	Sandra	Oxfam
Soukou Ep.Touunkara	Sophie	Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and Family, Cameroon
Soukou Ep.Touunkara	Sophie	Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Mali
Tassi	Corita	ECHO
Tatchouop Belobe	Francisca Benedicta	ECCAS
Teya	Beatrice	UN Women
Tou Soualla	Marceline	Association Communautaire pour le Bien Être de l'Enfant et de la Femme au Burkina Faso
Touré	Tata	ODI Sahel, Mali



Photos: Joseph Antoine Meki/UN Women



What is the WRD Knowledge Hub?

The Women's Resilience to Disasters Knowledge Hub (the WRD Hub) is an integral part of the WRD programme. It is an online platform facilitating access to comprehensive genderrelated disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience knowledge, research, and expertise.

The WRD Knowledge Hub is the first of its kind to provide consolidated access to data, tools, research and expertise on the gender dimensions of disasters and threats such as climate change and COVID-19.

The WRD Knowledge Hub aims to support disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and resilience practitioners around the world as well as women's organisations and gender machineries build genderresponsive systems and implement actions that ensure women and girls are more resilient to disasters and climate change.

The WRD Programme

The Women's Resilience to Disasters (WRD) programme proposes a comprehensive package that renders the lives and livelihoods of women and girls, resilient to disasters, climate change, and other threats (e.g. COVID-19). It focuses on:

1. **Building the enabling environment** and ensuring prevention, preparedness, and recovery policy frameworks, systems, processes, tools, and practice are gender responsive.
2. **Targeted action** to ensure women and girls are prepared to withstand multiple hazards, recover from disasters, and increase their resilience to future risks.

The WRD programme is being championed in the Pacific by the Australian government and is being

replicated through sister programmes in other regions across the globe, including the Caribbean and Lake Chad Basin.

The Women's Resilience to Disasters Knowledge Hub is the first online platform to offer a one-stop shop for all gender-related disaster and resilience knowledge

Rationale for the WRD Hub

Gaps in disaggregated impact data and analysis. Recent research highlights disproportionate disaster impacts on women. A study on the 'Gender and Age Dimensions of Disasters' led by UN Women and UNICEF found huge gaps in the availability, quality, comparability, and relevance of quantitative data - disaggregated by gender, age, and disability. This represents a significant barrier in understanding and analysing the granularity within groups and differential intersectional impacts, thus preventing gender, age, and disability responsive disaster risk reduction and resilience decision making, policy formulation, and practice.

Gaps in knowledge management, evaluation, and communications. Until now, existing information was spread among different custodian agencies and platforms limiting opportunities for peer learning, and sharing stories, women's voices, good practice, lessons, and tools across regions to support replication and upscaling. Similarly a joint UN Women, UNDRR, and UNFPA Gender and DRR study highlighted a gap in the sharing of tools and guidance between UN agencies and a further 45% percent of external respondents had not used United Nations tool.

Who is it for?

The primary target audience of the WRD Knowledge Hub will be disaster risk reduction, climate change, gender, inclusion, and resilience policy-makers and practitioners at local, national, regional, and global levels. The WRD Knowledge Hub will provide a one-stop shop on the ‘why’, “what” and ‘how to’ of gender-responsive resilience building, while also providing a platform for women’s organisations to amplify their messages and demands around gender-responsive resilience. A secondary audience will be stakeholders interested in learning more about gender-responsive prevention, preparedness, and recovery.

The Women’s Resilience to Disasters Knowledge Hub is linked to a vast library of gender, disaster risk reduction, and resilience literature on Prevention Web - the world’s only global knowledge platform on disaster risk and resilience, reaching a community of over 90,000 monthly visitors. Its cross linkage to UN Women’s website with its significant body of resources will ensure gender experts and women’s organisations also have access to gender-responsive DRR knowledge, research, and tools. In addition, the WRD Knowledge Hub is developing and sharing specific knowledge products and tools created to respond to needs and gaps.

How does it work?

The one-stop shop Knowledge Hub shares the following:

- The WRD Library with publications, tools, and case studies on gender-responsive DRR and resilience.
- Articles and documents organised into key topics related to gender and disasters, for example on women’s leadership and empowerment, or gender-responsive assessment.
- The WRD Policy Tracker identifying national and regional progress engendering legislation, policies, strategies, and plans including alignment with the Sendai Framework Target E.
- The WRD Toolbox of resources organised by topic, including templates, guidelines, training kits, advocacy material, to foster gender responsive practice.
- A WRD Community of Practice to maximise knowledge exchange through blogs, webinars, and training supported by an Expert Register, enabling users to access expertise for specific thematic areas and geographies.

The WRD Knowledge Hub puts a strong emphasis on a feminist approach to knowledge management, by ensuring that women’s narratives and experiences are valued equally as knowledge. It also serves as a platform to foster South-South knowledge exchange on gender-responsive resilience building and enable the sharing of good practices and lessons learnt.

The WRD Knowledge Hub also aims to champion women’s agency and leadership in addressing risks and underlying risk drivers including gender inequality. To this end, the WRD Knowledge Hub provides a dedicated space for women and girls to share their perspectives, experiences, and good practice.



The “Women’s Perspectives” section in the WRD Knowledge Hub full version



The Policy Tracker is a key WRD tool, tracking gender-responsive & inclusive framework.

Visit the WRD Knowledge Hub:
<https://wrd.unwomen.org/>

The WRD Programme is funded by:



For more information contact:
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UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities: Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems; Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence; Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.



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