Call for Proposals (Stage 1) – Nexus Funding Facility

October 2025 | NFF Regional Secretariat – Nexus Funding Facility (NFF)

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Deadline for application: 23 November 2025

1. Nexus Funding Facility

The Nexus Funding Facility (NFF) is a regional, multi-donor mechanism administered by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to operationalize the Humanitarian–Development–Peace (HDP) Nexus in the Lake Chad Basin. It provides **catalytic financing**[1] for area-based and cross-border initiatives that both address urgent humanitarian needs and tackle the underlying drivers of vulnerability, conflict, and underdevelopment.

Anchored in a commitment to **localization, people-centred programming, and quality funding**, the NFF emphasizes flexible, multi-year resources that enable adaptive programming and long-term impact. It is governed by a Regional Board (the Board) providing strategic oversight, supported by an Independent Technical Review Committee (ITRC) for technical assessments of project submissions. A Dakar-based Regional Secretariat (the Secretariat) manages day-to-day operations and engages proactively with national partners and stakeholders, including through regular field missions to ensure alignment with nationally validated priorities.

By moving beyond fragmented interventions toward integrated, coordinated responses, the NFF seeks to **strengthen resilience, foster sustainable solutions, and contribute to a more effective and efficient aid architecture** in line with ongoing international aid reforms. It promotes inclusive partnerships, invests in local capacities, and ensures all supported projects are conflict-sensitive, inclusive, and results-oriented—contributing to collective outcomes grounded in the rights, needs, and aspirations of affected communities.

In line with the IASC definition, the **HDP Nexus is understood as a whole-of-system approach** in which humanitarian, development, and peace actors deliver complementary, coordinated, and

[1] Catalytic funding is financing that enables change beyond the immediate scope of the project by unlocking additional resources, creating conditions for scale-up, or testing innovative approaches that can be replicated or adapted elsewhere. It is intended to trigger broader impact, policy change, or sustainable solutions that continue after the funding ends.

layered interventions. These should be grounded in joint analyses of needs, risks, and root causes, and translated into shared outcomes supported by predictable, flexible financing and reinforced through evidence-based advocacy. Applicants must clearly show how their proposals will put the Nexus into practice—addressing conflict drivers, reducing vulnerabilities, strengthening local systems, and contributing to long-term peace and resilience—while respecting the distinct mandates of each pillar.

Two-Stage Application Process

This Call for Proposals will be conducted in two stages. **Stage 1- Call for proposals** consists of an expression of interest, where applicants submit a request for information, a concise concept note and an indicative budget using the templates provided in the annex. Concept notes should address the NFF priorities for Chad and Cameroon as articulated in Annex D sections 4 and 5. Based on the assessment of the request for information forms and concept notes submitted by the deadline, a shortlist of applicants will be invited to **Stage 2 – Full Proposal Submission**, which will use the official UNDP templates. This approach allows broad participation at the first stage, while ensuring that final proposals meet UNDP's corporate requirements and provide the necessary level of detail for funding decisions.

2. Operational Context and Geographic Priorities

The Lake Chad Basin (LCB) continues to face overlapping crises driven by conflict, displacement, food insecurity, and environmental degradation. As of mid-2025, the region hosts more than six million forcibly displaced persons, including internally displaced people, refugees, and returnees. The NFF aims to support catalytic interventions that align with national Nexus priorities, targeting highly vulnerable areas (including through cross-border collaboration between Chad and Cameroon as appropriate to address Nexus challenges). The NFF aims at fostering complementarity between humanitarian, development, and peace actors.

A **strategy for the first round of NFF funding for Chad and Cameroon**, outlining country-specific Nexus priorities, developed jointly with the National Nexus Task Forces, and providing detailed guidance for country-level or cross-border interventions, is available in **Annex D** at the end of this Call for Proposals.

The **subsequent sections** of this Call therefore present only a **high-level summary** of each participating country's priorities under the NFF. These summaries and the detailed explanation of national priorities for Cameroon and Chad in sections 4 and 5 of the strategy (Annex D) are intended to orient applicants toward the main thematic and geographic parameters guiding this Call. Annex D also anchors these priorities regionally, explains the Nexus concept and provides some guidance to those applicants interested in developing Cameroon-Chad cross-border interventions.

Cameroon

Cameroon has identified five interlinked priorities under the Nexus approach: (1) strengthening integrated livelihoods and food and nutrition security, (2) expanding sustainable and inclusive basic social services, (3) fostering social cohesion, peacebuilding, and humanitarian disarmament, (4) enhancing climate resilience and natural resource governance, and (5) strengthening localization and inclusive governance.

Building on these pillars, the national priority for Cameroon guiding this Call is to strengthen community resilience, peace, and inclusion. This will be pursued through integrated actions that promote sustainable livelihoods, food and nutritional security, inclusive basic services, peacebuilding and humanitarian disarmament, climate resilience, and participatory governance of natural resources and local institutions. Particular attention is given to cross-border dynamics, with the Far North (Extrême-Nord) region as the geographic focus, including hard-to-reach areas.

Chad

In Chad, the priorities for the NFF — (1)strengthening essential social services, (2) improving livelihoods and food security, (3) fostering social cohesion and community participation, (4) promoting inclusive local governance and institutional legitimacy, and (5) enhancing climate resilience and disaster risk preparedness — were validated in the Lac and Hadjer-Lamis provinces, under the leadership of the provincial authorities and with the support of the Resident Coordinator's Office and UNDP, which co-chairs the National Nexus Task Force.

These consultations brought together representatives from decentralized state services, local authorities, civil society organizations, NGOs, and UN agencies. The participants confirmed these national Nexus priorities while adapting them to the specific contexts and dynamics of each province.

In the Lac Province, participants emphasized the need to translate the Nexus into concrete actions that respond to the needs of communities affected by displacement, while strengthening coordination with existing local and provincial authorities. In the Hadjer-Lamis Province, discussions focused on vulnerabilities linked to climate change, pressure on natural resources, and pastoral mobility, calling for interventions that combine climate resilience, disaster risk preparedness, and inclusive local governance.

3. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

To ensure transparency, quality, and alignment with the NFF approach, the following eligibility requirements and evaluation criteria apply to all applications submitted under this call.

Eligibility Requirements

In line with UNSDG guidance applications are open to organizations across the Humanitarian–Development–Peace (HDP) spectrum, including UN agencies, international NGOs, and National NGOs/ Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)[2].

Eligibility will be determined based on the Request for Information (RFI) template and the concept note provided respectively in Annex A and B.

All applicants must **hold valid national registration in the country of operation** for the entire duration of the proposed project[3] and demonstrate a proven track record in delivering programming relevant to their proposed area of intervention.

In addition, eligible local NGOs/ Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) must demonstrate prior experience working directly with communities in the target areas identified for Chad and Cameroon. Proven local presence, trusted community relations, and operational experience in these localities will be considered essential to ensure contextual relevance, conflict sensitivity, and effective delivery.

Eligible projects must be **multi-sectoral, demonstrate strong integration of all three Nexus pillars** (humanitarian, development, peace), and address the geographic and thematic priorities outlined in Section 2 and sections 4 and 5 of Annex D. Proposals must present a clear operational strategy, with each consortium member contributing in a complementary rather than duplicative manner.

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[2] The term "CSO" refers to not-for-profit entities such as non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, indigenous peoples' organizations, and academic institutions. For the purposes of this Call for Proposals, "CSO" refers exclusively to national CSOs. International NGOs are not considered national or local CSOs, although they may participate in consortia as separate entities. With regard to the Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Societies: while they are often regarded as part of civil society in international frameworks (including the IASC), they are distinct in nature. The RCRC Movement benefits from its own well-established funding mechanisms and direct channels of support from public authorities, as enshrined in its auxiliary role in the humanitarian field. In addition, the RCRC network has a strong focus on humanitarian response and emergency systems. By contrast, this Facility is designed to strengthen independent national CSOs—particularly those without dedicated international funding streams—and to promote their role in medium- to long-term development and peacebuilding efforts.

[3] If national registration is issued on an annual basis, applicants must hold registration valid for at least the remainder of the current registration year at the time of submission.

To maintain equitable participation and manage coordination, **each organization may submit no more than one application per country**. Proposals that do not meet the eligibility requirements, are received after the deadline or fail to use the official templates will be excluded from review.

Selection Criteria

All eligible submissions will undergo an independent, peer-reviewed technical evaluation led by the Independent Technical Review Committee (ITRC). The selection process consists of two stages:

Stage 1 – Call for Proposals Review:

Review of the Request for Information template, assessment of concise Concept Notes and indicative budgets (templates provided in the annex). This stage is open to all eligible applicants. After confirmation of pre-eligibility based on information and documentation provided, each Concept Note and budget will be scored independently, followed by a consensus meeting to consolidate feedback and finalize the shortlist. Proposals that do not meet the minimum requirements—such as use of the correct templates, demonstration of geographic eligibility, presence of an eligible national CSO partner, or sufficient integration of the HDP Nexus—will not be scored.

Stage 2 – Full Proposal Review:

Shortlisted applicants will be formally invited to submit a detailed full proposal using the official UNDP Call for Proposals template. Full proposals will again undergo a technical evaluation by the ITRC, including assessment of theory of change, detailed results framework, risk analysis, budget clarity, and sustainability. Final grant decisions will be endorsed by the Regional Board.

To promote meaningful and context-specific submissions, the evaluation will prioritize the overall quality, feasibility, and strategic relevance of proposals. While detailed scoring criteria will guide the review process, fixed numeric weights will not be published, in order to avoid “tick-the-box” submissions and allow for a holistic assessment. Applicants are encouraged to present innovative and people-centred approaches that are responsive to identified needs and demonstrate realistic and sustainable outcomes.

Consortia & Further Partnerships

Proposals must be submitted by a **consortium of three specialised partners**, **with at least one nationally registered CSO** that maintains an active operational presence in the targeted areas listed in the previous section. To promote local leadership and sustainability, local NGOs and communities should be involved in shaping strategic directions and building the consortium project from the beginning. **Hence project ideas should be driven and developed locally** (with and for stakeholders in provinces and regions).

For **cross-border initiatives**, exceptions may be granted to allow **up to four specialized partners**, provided the expanded consortium is clearly justified, demonstrates complementarity, and aligns with the strategic and operational criteria outlined under point 2 and in Annex D.

Consortia are encouraged to submit **realistic and transparent budget requests** that reflect each partner's operational track record, role, and demonstrated capacity to deliver. Allocations should be commensurate with partners' expertise and absorption capacities. For local partners, **budgets should remain proportionate to their operational scope, with a ceiling of up to USD 150,000 under this first round**. As part of the due-diligence process, the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) assessment will help confirm that proposed budgets are appropriate and aligned with the financial and programmatic capacities of all consortium members.

All NGOs meeting the eligibility criteria (as highlighted above) can become members of a Consortium, and therefore can receive funds as direct grant recipients. Further partnerships outside the formal consortium are not encouraged (e.g., NFF recipients should not provide sub-grants to other partners/ NGOs) as the consortium should be designed to include all necessary and complementary capacities from the outset. However, this does not preclude the possibility of collaboration with smaller, remote entities—such as emerging refugee-led organizations—where such engagement promotes cross-border cooperation, inclusivity, or locally driven innovation. Nevertheless, these collaborations should not involve additional resource transfers (sub-granting) and all funds should be exclusively managed by each fund recipient.

Once shortlisted, all consortium members that are not yet considered an *assessed partner*[4] by UNDP will undergo **a due-diligence process to confirm compliance with UNDP financial and programmatic standards** and eligibility for NFF funding. [5]

This process includes a financial assessment under the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT), a partnership capacity assessment, and the submission of the full Call for proposal. The full financial due-diligence requirements will be presented and explained during dedicated briefing sessions ahead of the publication of this call. In addition, the Secretariat will provide ongoing technical support to CSOs throughout the application period.

[4] In the UNDP context, an *assessed partner* refers to an implementing partner that has completed UNDP's formal capacity assessment process described subsequently.

[5] This process is commonly referred to as a HACT (Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers) assessment and may be conducted by UNDP or accepted from other UN agencies (UNFPA, UNICEF, UNWOMEN) if based on the same standard.

Selection Criteria

Submissions will be assessed holistically against the following core elements:

- **Mandatory linkage:** Every submission **must demonstrate alignment** with the reviewed Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery, and Resilience of the Boko Haram-Affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region (RS SRR). Link in French here: https://cblt.org/download/sr-srr-2-0/ **Proposals that do not reference this framework will be deemed non-eligible.**
- **Broader strategic fit:** In addition to the RS SRR, the review panel will assess each proposal's overall **strategic relevance**: how clearly it defines the problem and how well it aligns with national nexus priorities, the designated geographic focus, and other pertinent regional or global frameworks.
- **Technical Soundness and Feasibility**: Clear Theory of Change and Results Framework aligned with the RS SRR or the Special Multi-Partner Delivery Fund[6], with SMART objectives, realistic outputs, and an achievable timeline.
- **Catalytic Impact and Innovation**: Integration across HDP pillars, potential to scale, replicate, or unlock additional financing or policy shifts.
- **Gender, Protection, and Inclusion**: Clear demonstration of gender-responsiveness, protection mainstreaming, meaningful participation of vulnerable groups, and compliance with UNDP gender marker thresholds.
- **Consortium Capacity and Local Engagement**: Complementary roles among partners, strong operational track records, and clear accountability and communication plans.
- **Value for Money and Sustainability**: Budget clarity, cost-effectiveness, sustainability strategies, and environmental safeguards.
- **Cross-Cutting Considerations**: Alignment with climate-responsible approaches, human rights and humanitarian principles, Do No Harm, and protection risk mitigation.
- **Compliance and Format**: Adherence to the official templates and submission guidance, including the required structure, formatting, and annexes.

[6] All proposals must demonstrate clear alignment with the RS SRR as well as the SMDF's Theory of Change, which seeks to address the root causes and drivers of conflict through integrated, locally owned, and context-specific interventions. Applicants should show how their proposed activities contribute to restoring security and basic services, revitalizing local economies, and strengthening governance and social cohesion. Where possible, interventions should build on existing national and regional frameworks such as stabilization frameworks, development plans, humanitarian needs reports or complement ongoing programmes, and contribute to measurable collective outcomes. A simplified examples can be found on p.19 of the revised RS SRR here: https://cblt.org/download/rs-srr-2-0/

4. Application Guidance

This section sets out the financial parameters, project-duration limits, and formatting requirements that every consortium must follow when preparing its Request for Information, Concept Note and budget templates—and, if shortlisted, its Full Proposal. A complete comparison table between Concept Note and Full proposal can be found in annex C.

Financial parameters

The current Call is launched under an estimated **overall funding envelope of approximately USD 5.8 million for this cycle**. The final amount available for project grants will depend on the number, quality, and scope of proposals received, as well as on administrative and programmatic considerations. **Each consortium may request a minimum of USD 1 million and up to a maximum of USD 2.9 million for the full project period. For any consortium made up exclusively of national organizations, the total amount requested should range between USD 250,000 and 450,000.** Budgets must be submitted in United States dollars, and overhead costs may not exceed 8 percent of direct eligible costs.

All funding decisions will be subject to a financial assessment under the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) and a partnership capacity assessment, which will determine the appropriate financial ceiling and risk mitigation measures for each applicant.

While allocations to local partners under this first round should not exceed an indicative ceiling of USD 150,000, proposals should **demonstrate how these partnerships will strengthen local leadership and sustainability.** It is further expected that larger or international partners within the consortium actively support the institutional and technical capacity of their national counterparts, for example, through mentoring, joint implementation, and targeted training in areas such as financial management, compliance, or results reporting, to enable a gradual increase in locally managed resources over time.

Larger consortium members, particularly international actors, should work with local counterparts to strengthen administrative, financial, and program delivery capacities, enabling fairer budget distribution and greater local leadership in future cycles.

Project duration

Projects funded through this Call may run for up to 24 months from the date of grant signature.

Proposals requesting a shorter implementation period are acceptable but must include a clear justification, explaining why a condensed timeline is feasible and how the consortium will still achieve sustainable results.

Submission format

All applicants must use the official templates provided with the Call package:

- Request for Information template (Annex A)
- Concept Note – Word template (Annex B**): maximum 4 000 words**, set in a standard font and size with normal margins.
- Indicative Budget – separate Excel template (Annex C): one worksheet per consortium, matching the narrative budget lines.

Documents that exceed the word limit or arrive after the deadline will be deemed ineligible without review.

5. Timeline

Phase	Weeks	Dates	What happens
Publishing NFF Call for Proposals (CfP)	Week 0	15 Oct 2025	Secretariat publishes CfP package (guidance, templates, deadlines) online and informs via email and over social media
Regional Briefing	Week 0	16 Oct 2025	Online regional session + repeat national briefings; due-diligence guidance shared.
Country-level Briefing Sessions	Week 1	National Briefings: 21–23 Oct 2025, as well as HACT	NFF Secretariat to present the call to all interested parties (UN, CSO, INGO, GOV) at national level. Followed by a separate HACT briefing online.
CfP Submission Window	Weeks 1–5	Closes 23 Nov 2025 (midnight Dakar)	Consortia submit their application, concept note and indicative budget.
Screening & Shortlist	Weeks 5–7	5 Dec 2025	Review of submissions by ITRC, final scoring and recommendation of short-listed consortium/consortia.
Board Review (reading)	Week 8	8–12 Dec 2025	Board reviews ITRC recommendations. Share comments via email. NFF to also share ranking, ITRC explanatory note and recruitment process to show transparent, and fair process.
Board Endorsement	Week 9	15 Dec 2025	Board endorses shortlist. Secretariat informs shortlisted and rejected consortia.
Full Proposal Stage	Weeks 9–15	15 Dec 2025 → 30 Jan 2026	Shortlisted consortia prepare full proposals (UNDP CfP format: log-frame, risk, budget).
Financial Due-Diligence (parallel)	Weeks 9–15	16 Dec 2025 → 30 Jan 2026	HACT / financial capacity checks of CSO partners.
Technical Review (ITRC)	Weeks 16–17	1–13 Feb 2026	ITRC scores proposals
Board Review & Endorsement	Weeks 18–19	16–23 Feb 2026	Board online review of ITRC final decision 16–20 Feb; Final endorsement via online meeting on 23 Feb.
Contracting & launch	Weeks 20–25	March–April 2026	Grant agreements signed; inception workshops finalise workplans, reporting, risk matrices.
Implementation Period	—	24 months	Project execution. One no-cost extension possible with justification.

6. Support and Contact

For additional information, clarification, or technical assistance, applicants are encouraged to contact the NFF Regional Secretariat based in Dakar. NFF Regional Secretariat contact: secretariat.nff@undp.org

Request for Information (annex A), Concept Note (annex B) and Budget (annex C) should be sent to secretariat.nff@undp.org

Deadline for application: 23 November 2025

7. Annexes

A. Request for Information Template
B. Concept Note Template
C. Preliminary Budget template – Provided in Separate Excel format
D. Strategy for first round of NFF funding

Annex A :

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) FROM CSO/NGO

1. OBJECTIVE

This is a Request for Information (RFI) from national and/or international CSOs/NGOs for potential partnership with UNDP in delivering outputs for development projects requiring expertise and experience in areas as outlined in section **2. Operational Context—and Geographic Priorities of this document.**

2. INFORMATION REQUESTED

Interested CSOs/NGOs are requested to fill out the below questionnaire, attaching all supporting documentation where specifically requested. If you are an international NGO, please provide information and documentation relating to your permits and licenses for your local presence in the country.

Please note that **attachments should be provided to support each answer to the questions**. All questions must be answered directly and clearly. Extraneous information that are not directly responding to the questions will only constrain the ability of UNDP to positively assess the CSO/NGO's alignment with UNDP requirements.

All CSOs/NGOs whose information are found to be consistent with UNDP programme needs will be sent a subsequent questionnaire to enable UNDP to conduct a Capacity Assessment.

Topic	Areas of Inquiry/ Supporting documentation	Response
1. Proscribed organizations	1. *Is the CSO/NGO listed in the UN's list of proscribed organizations, UNDP Vendor Sanctions List, or indicted by the International or National Criminal Court?* 2. *Is the CSO/NGO banned by any other institution/governments? If, yes, please provide information regarding the institution/Government and reasons.*	
2. Legal status and Bank Account	1. *Does the CSO/NGO have a legal capacity to operate in the UNDP programme country, and does it comply with the legal requirements of*	

	the country to register and operate an NGO/CSO? *<u>Please provide copies of all relevant documents evidencing legality of operations.</u>* 2. *Does the CSO/NGO have a bank account? (Please Submit proof indicating latest date)*	
3. Certification/ Accreditation	*Is the CSO/NGO certified in accordance with any international or local standards (e.g., ISO), such as in:* ● Leadership and Managerial Skills ● Project Management ● Financial Management ● Organizational standards and procedures ● Other	
4. Date of Establishment and Organizational Background	1. *When was the CSO/NGO established?* 2. *How has the CSO/NGO evolved since its establishment? (no more than 2 paragraphs)* 3. *Who are your main donor/ partners?* 4. *Please provide a list of all entities that the CSO/NGO may have an affiliation with.* 5. *In how many cities/provinces/regions/ countries do you have capacity to operate in? Please provide a complete list and indicate the size of the offices in each location.*	
5. Mandate and constituency	1. *What is the CSO/NGO's primary advocacy / purpose for existence?* 2. *What is the CSO/NGO's mandate, vision, and purpose? (no more than 2 paragraphs)* 3. *Is the CSO/NGO officially designated to represent any specific constituency?*	
6. Areas of Expertise	1. *Does the CSO/NGO have expertise in any of the key areas identified above in this RFI?* 2. *What other areas of expertise does the CSO/NGO have?*	
7. Financial Position and Sustainability	1. *What was the CSO/NGO's total financial delivery in the preceding 2 years? Please provide audited financial statements for the last 2 years. If audited financial statements are not available, please provide an explanation regarding why it is not possible to obtain them.* 2. *What is the CSO/NGO's actual and projected inflow of financial resources for the current and the following year?*	

	3. *Please provide a list of projects with description, duration, location and budget over the past 2 years (arrange from biggest budget to the lowest).*	
8. Public Transparency	1. *What documents are publicly available?* 2. *How can these documents be accessed? (Pls provide links if web-based)*	
9. Consortium	1. *Do you have the capacity to manage a consortium?* 2. *Do you currently, or have you in the past, managed or been involved with a consortium? If yes, provide a list of all consortia, the list of partners in the consortia, the role in the consortia, and the total financial budgets involved.* 3. *Do you have a formal alliance with other CSOs/NGOs? If yes, pls. identify and provide details.*	

3. CLOSING DATE

A completed RFI with requested attachments must be submitted to: **secretariat.nff@undp.org** by 23 November 2025

Annex B:

Nexus Funding Facility Concept Note

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1. Basic Project Information

Project Title:
Lead Organization:
Focal Point (Name, Email, Phone):
Consortium Members: *(List each organization with its focal point's name and contact details)*
Country / Region of Implementation:
Cross-Border Component *(if applicable)*:
Total Budget Requested (USD):
Proposed Project Duration (in months):
Other Funding Secured for this Project: (*Provides the value and source if any other funds have been secured)*
Date of previous HACT or micro-assessment by UN agencies: *(leave blank if not applicable)*

2. Consortium Structure (≈200 words)

- *Roles and comparative advantages of each partner (at least one national CSO required)*
- *Existing collaboration or joint initiatives*
- *Organigram may be annexed*
- *National Registration certificate for all partners*
- *Evidence of operational expertise and proven track record in the proposed HDP intervention area*
- *Planned partnerships with other local actors. Note: Overhead costs should not be applied to funds passed on to additional partners.*

3. Context & Rationale (≈ 300 words)

Provide a brief snapshot of the conflict, security, political, and socio-economic conditions in the target area, and clearly state the priority challenges the project will address. This section should be concise and focus on the most relevant facts; detailed analysis should be annexed.

- **Context snapshot**: In a few sentences, summarise the main conflict dynamics, security risks, governance and political factors, and socio-economic trends affecting the target area. Highlight any cross-border dimensions, displacement patterns, or environmental/climate-related pressures that directly shape needs and vulnerabilities.
- **Priority challenges**: Identify the top 2–3 specific issues the project will tackle, explain why these are critical for the target group(s), and show how they align with approved NFF priorities.
- **Needs assessment:** Indicate if a dedicated needs assessment exists for this project (max. 4,000-word annex). Provide a short overview of its key findings, including:

  – Main needs of the target group(s) and barriers to participation (by sex and age).
  – Existing capacities and service gaps
  – How baseline data and beneficiary figures were established
  – References to existing or joint assessments used.
- **Consultation with local authorities:** Explain how you consulted with local administrative authorities in the target regions, and with other relevant stakeholders, to validate identified needs and ensure alignment with local priorities.

4. Objectives & Preliminary MEL (≈ 200 words)

Define what the project aims to achieve and how change will be tracked. Include:

- *SMART objectives & scope: Present 2 clear, measurable objectives, along with headline activities and the geographic focus*
- *MEL: Identify the primary target groups and list 3 top-line indicators*

5. Strategic Alignment (≈ 300 words)

Demonstrate how the proposed intervention aligns with the main strategic frameworks guiding action in the Lake Chad Basin. Reference only those that directly shape the project design.

***Mandatory reference:** Every proposal must align with the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery, and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region (RS SRR), and, where applicable, the relevant Territorial Action Plans (TAPs)*

derived from that Strategy. This linkage must be explicit in the proposal. The RS SRR Results Framework is available in Annex 4 (pages 59–63) of the strategy document.[7]

Additional frameworks (if relevant):

- *Action Agenda on Internal Displacement*
- *Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for the target country or area*
- *Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)*
- *National nexus, resilience, or stabilization strategies formally endorsed by the government.*

Justification: *Clearly explain how the intervention contributes to these frameworks' objectives and targets. Highlight complementarities with ongoing or planned initiatives by government, humanitarian, and development actors, and describe how the project will fill existing gaps rather than duplicate efforts.*

[7] https://cblt.org/download/rs-srr-2-0/REGIONAL STRATEGY

6. High-Level Results Framework (≈ 300 words)

*Applicants should present a **simplified, outcome-level results framework** that clearly links intended changes to measurable outputs and indicators. This framework should be concise, focusing on what the project aims to achieve and how progress will be measured.* ***For an example see below in row of Outcome 2.1***

Intended Impact *(One high-level change the project aims to contribute to — long-term and beyond the direct scope of the project.)*
Intended Outcome *(Specific medium-term change the project seeks to achieve within its duration.)*
Outcome indicators, including baseline and targets: *(Indicators should align with the RS-SRR; list baseline values and targets for each.)*
Project title:

Expected Outcome	Output Indicators	Baseline (Year 0)	Target Year 1	Target Year 2	Final Target	Data Source	Data Collection Methods & Risks	Assumptions
Outcome 1	1.1 [List first output indicator]							
	1.2 [List second output indicator]							
	1.3 [...]							
2.1 e.g Strengthened livelihoods and economic resilience of vulnerable households	*2.1 Number of households adopting improved agricultural techniques*	*0*	*250*	*500*	*750*	*Farmer training records, field monitoring reports*	*Quarterly monitoring visits; risk of over-reporting by participants*	*Rainfall patterns remain within seasonal norms; no major pest outbreaks*
	2.2 [...]							
	2.3 [...]							

7. Theory of Change (≈ 200 words)

Explain how the project will lead to desired change.

- *Narrative describing cause-and-effect logic*
- *Key assumptions and risks*
- *Optional: simplified visual diagram*
- *An example can be found under the Adjusted Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery, and Resilience (2025–2030) https://cblt.org/download/rs-srr-2-0/*

8. Activities & Timeline (≈ 300 words)

Provide a high-level view of implementation. ***See Output 1 as example***

Output	**Key Activities / Milestones**	Responsible Party	Timing (by Quarter or Year)
e.g. Output 1:	*Launch community engagement*	*CSO partner*	*Q1–Q2, Year 1*
	Pilot livelihood support activities		
Output 2			

9. Risk Management (≈ 200 words)

For the **Concept Note stage**, applicants should briefly identify up to five high-level risks that could affect project delivery or results. These may include operational, reputational, political, financial, administrative, or other relevant categories. For each risk, provide a short description of its potential implications, likelihood, and impact, along with proposed mitigation measures. At this stage, a concise overview is sufficient; more detailed analysis will be required if the proposal is shortlisted for the full proposal stage.

Risk Category	Description of Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures	Monitoring Mechanism
e.g. Operational	*e.g. Access restrictions due to insecurity*	*High / Medium / Low*	*High / Medium / Low*	*Explain measures*	*Suggest Mechanism*
e.g Financial/ Administrative					

10. HDP Catalytic Impact (≈ 300 words)

*Explain why this project is **distinctly innovative** in the given context. Include:*

- *Examples of integrated peace–development–humanitarian outcomes*
- *Innovative elements or adaptive practices that challenge business-as-usual approaches*
- *Potential for replication, policy influence or financing leverage*
- Explanation how peace considerations contribute to conflict prevention, social cohesion, or local peacebuilding efforts.

11. Gender (≈ 200 words)

Explain how gender responsiveness and equity principles are woven through the design and delivery of the project and indicate the intended UNDP Gender Marker (GEN 0–3)[8] for each output. Consider:

- *What gender-specific barriers exist in the target area?*
- *How will the project ensure that women and girls participate meaningfully in planning, implementation, and benefit delivery?*
- *What measures will be taken to mitigate GBV risks?*

[8] In line with UNDP's corporate guidelines and the Women, Peace and Security agenda, proposals and budgets must be gender sensitive. At least 70% of the budget should target activities rated Gender Marker 2 or 3, with 15% specifically for Gender Marker 3 activities.

12. Protection (≈ 200 words)

Explain how the project identifies and mitigates protection risks, upholds the "do no harm" principle, and strengthens safety and dignity for affected populations. Consider:

- *What are the key protection risks in the proposed area (e.g., GBV, child protection, landmines)?*
- *What measures will be implemented to prevent harm and ensure safe, inclusive access to services?*
- *Will the project include complaints/feedback mechanisms or protection focal points?*

13. Inclusion & Community Accountability (≈ 200 words)

Describe how the project ensures meaningful participation, equitable access, and accountability to all affected groups. Consider:

- *Identify key vulnerable groups in the target area*
- *Describe how these groups will be involved in the design, implementation, and monitoring of activities*
- *Outline tools such as complaints and feedback mechanisms*
- *Explain how data will be disaggregated (e.g., by sex, age, disability, displacement status) and how findings will be used to adapt programming.*

14. Budget Narrative (≈ 300 words)

Provide a high-level cost overview of budget provided in Annex 2:

- *Summary of gender-responsive allocations (≥70 % GEN 2/3; ≥15 % GEN 3)*
- *Partner & output cost shares, highlighting major cost drivers.*

15. Communication & Knowledge Management (≈ 200 words)

Outline how the project will share knowledge and maintain visibility.

Include:

- *Learning capture and dissemination plans*
- *Communication activities with stakeholders and donors*
- *Planned communication products.*

16. Climate Marker (≈ 200 words)

Briefly explain how the project addresses climate risks, contributes to adaptation and/or mitigation, and integrates climate considerations into its design, delivery, and monitoring.

17. Exit Strategy / Sustainability (≈ 200 words)

Explain how results will outlast the funding period. Include:

- *Handover and transition strategies*
- *Organisational and community Institutional capacity-building*
- *Links to ongoing national or regional processes*
- *Risk mitigation for post-project phase to address potential challenges in maintaining results after funding ends.*

Annex D:

Strategy – First round of funding from the Nexus Funding Facility (NFF) Cameroon & Chad

Consolidated strategy document based on national priorities and their contribution to the Regional Stabilisation, Recovery and Resilience Strategy (RS SRR) of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)

Note: This annex was translated by AI from the original French version.

1. Introduction – Why this document

This strategy document has four objectives: 1) to present the national priorities identified in Cameroon and Chad; 2) to show how these priorities fit in with the CBLT's Regional Stabilisation, Recovery and Resilience Strategy (RS SRR); 3) to identify opportunities for cross-border programming between Cameroon and Chad; 4) serve as a basis for the first call for proposals from the Nexus Funding Facility. The document is therefore both descriptive and forward-looking, providing a coherent framework for national and regional actors.

In both Cameroon and Chad, separate processes were conducted under the leadership of national authorities, with the support of United Nations Resident Coordinator's Offices. These processes mobilised National Nexus Task Forces (NNTFs), multi-stakeholder platforms bringing together relevant ministries, UN agencies, technical and financial partners, and civil society. Each of these processes identified a set of national Nexus priorities, which are included and consolidated in this document.

These priorities received approval in principle in each country and were then reviewed by the NFF Regional Board, which met for the first time on 4 June 2025 in N'Djamena (Chad). This meeting, organised in a hybrid format, brought together the governments of the Lake Chad riparian countries, the United Nations, the African Union Commission, and key technical and financial partners (Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the African Development Bank, and the Netherlands). It was co-chaired by François Batalingaya, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Chad, and Ambassador Mamman Nuhu, Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC).

At the end of its deliberations, the Regional Board:

- confirmed the relevance of the priorities submitted by Cameroon and Chad,
- decided to launch a call for proposals on this basis,
- and mandated the NFF Regional Secretariat – composed of UNDP, UNHCR, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and LCBC – to prepare a strategy document consolidating these priorities and explaining their complementarities.

This document responds to that mandate. It:

- presents the national priorities as developed in each country under the leadership of national authorities and validated by the Nexus platforms;
- shows how these priorities contribute both to national stabilization and development objectives and to regional dynamics;
- identifies opportunities for cross-border programming between Cameroon and Chad, given the geographic and social continuity of their targeted areas;
- and illustrates the overall contribution to the Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience (RS-SRR) of the LCBC.

Thus, the present document represents the strategic translation of the mandate entrusted by the NFF Regional Board and will serve as a key reference for the first Call for Proposals in Cameroon and Chad.

2. The Nexus Funding Facility and the Nexus Spirit

The Nexus Funding Facility (NFF) is a product of the Special Multi-Partner Delivery Fund (SMDF). According to the project document that established it, the NFF is designed as a catalytic instrument to operationalize the Humanitarian–Development–Peace (HDP) Nexus approach. It aims to bridge the gaps left by traditional funding mechanisms by financing integrated, flexible, and targeted interventions in fragile contexts—demonstrating that collective action can simultaneously address emergencies, tackle structural causes, and strengthen peace.

The project document highlights three defining features of the NFF:

1. **Flexibility** – the ability to deploy rapid financing in changing contexts.
2. **Catalytic nature** – serving as a lever to mobilize other donors around integrated programming.
3. **Multi-level anchoring** – priorities are set nationally (through the Nexus Task Forces), while regional coherence is ensured through the Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery, and Resilience (RS-SRR) of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC).

A growing international consensus on the Nexus approach

The Nexus approach is part of a global movement:

- The **World Humanitarian Summit (2016)** warned against fragmented responses and called for action “beyond silos.”
- The **Agenda for Humanity** and the reform of the UN **Resident Coordinator system** institutionalized this orientation.

- The **OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC)** adopted in 2019 its operational recommendations on the Nexus, emphasizing coordination, complementarity, and coherence of interventions.

Reference: OECD/DAC – Recommendation on the Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus. Available at: https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/public/doc/643/643.fr.pdf

The vision of donors and partners

Several bilateral and multilateral partners have integrated the Nexus approach into their policies:

- **Germany:** Its 2017 foreign policy guidelines (*Krisen verhindern, Konflikte bewältigen, Frieden fördern : krisen-verhindern-data.pdf*) established that prevention and resilience require simultaneous action across humanitarian, development, and security dimensions. Since 2022, Germany's development cooperation strategy has reaffirmed the Nexus as a cross-cutting principle.
- **United Kingdom (FCDO):** Through its *Integrated Review* (2021), The Integrated Review 2021 - GOV.UK and other cooperation policy documents, the FCDO highlighted the need to link development, diplomacy, and humanitarian response to strengthen resilience in fragile regions such as the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin.
- **Netherlands:** In its *Leading from the Front* policy (2018–2022), the Netherlands emphasized supporting local actors and national NGOs in fragile contexts, using the Nexus to leverage peace and human security.
- **Sweden:** The Swedish International Cooperation Strategy (2016–2022) underscored the integration of humanitarian, development, and peace dimensions, with strong emphasis on gender equality.
- **European Union:** The 2017 Joint Communication by the EU and EEAS (*Resilience, Development and Security in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States*) made the Nexus a cornerstone of EU external action, particularly in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa.

The Nexus spirit in practice – multi-actor examples

International experiences have demonstrated how the Nexus approach has been successfully applied:

- **Somalia:** In areas recovered from Al-Shabaab, OCHA, UNICEF, IOM, and local NGOs coordinated with the Somali Government to rehabilitate basic services, establish interim administrations, and launch economic recovery programs. This integrated approach reduced humanitarian dependency and strengthened local institutional legitimacy.
- **Iraq:** The *Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS)*, implemented by UNDP in close partnership with UNHCR, OCHA, and numerous local NGOs, enabled the reopening of over 1,600 essential infrastructures and facilitated the return of millions of displaced persons.

- **Syria (Northeast):** Joint EU-funded programs supported by OCHA and UNHCR linked rehabilitation of essential services (water, electricity) with local reconciliation initiatives, preventing non-state armed groups from monopolizing legitimacy.
- **Sahel (Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso):** Under the Integrated Resilience Programme, the EU, UNICEF, IOM, and several international NGOs (CARE, Action Against Hunger) combined food security, land restoration, and inclusive local governance, thereby reducing tensions related to transhumance.
- **Colombia:** Following the 2016 peace accord, the EU, the World Bank, the UN, and numerous local NGOs jointly invested in rural development, public services, and community-based transitional justice.
- **Philippines (Mindanao):** International NGOs (NRC, Conciliation Resources) collaborated with UNICEF and IOM to link rehabilitation of schools and health facilities with peacebuilding processes after the Bangsamoro agreements.

The specific role of the NFF and its collective Secretariat

In this spirit, the NFF stands out for its collective governance:

- A **Regional Board** provides strategic direction and transparency;
- **Regional Secretariat** (UNDP, UNHCR, NRC, LCBC) ensures technical coordination;
- **National Nexus Task Forces (NNTFs)** define priorities at country level;
- An **Independent Technical Review Committee (ITRC)** ensures quality and impartiality.

The NFF is therefore not an additional sectoral fund, but a collective instrument for coherence and transformation. It embodies the conviction that by investing in integrated projects, one can achieve a triple dividend: saving lives, strengthening resilience, and consolidating peace.

3. Context and Rationale

3.1. A Region in Protracted Crisis

The Far North of Cameroon and the **Lac and Hadjer Lamis Provinces of Chad** lie at the heart of a **protracted regional crisis** combining armed violence, mass displacement, socio-economic fragility, and climate pressures.

- Since 2009, the atrocities committed by **Boko Haram** and later by the **Islamic State in West Africa (ISWAP)** have deeply destabilized the areas surrounding Lake Chad.
- The region remains the **epicenter of forced displacement**: more than **six million people** have been uprooted across the basin, including over **200,000** in the Lac Province (Chad) alone and nearly **600,000** in Cameroon's Far North.
- Basic services (water, health, education) are either overstretched or non-existent, heightening tensions among host, refugee, and displaced communities.

- Climate change compounds insecurity: the lake has lost nearly 90 percent of its surface area in just a few decades, disrupting the balance among fishermen, farmers, and herders.

3.2. Why a Nexus Approach Is Essential

In such a context, **strictly humanitarian or purely development responses are not sufficient**. The **Nexus** becomes a necessity for four main reasons:

1. **Needs are simultaneous:** it is necessary to save lives, rebuild public services, support livelihoods, and prevent violence at the same time.
2. **Causes are structural and cross-border:** economic marginalization, the absence of the State, and competition over resources go beyond administrative boundaries and call for coordinated solutions.
3. **Communities demand tangible results:** in the interviews and consultations conducted by the Nexus Task Forces, populations expressed the need for actions that combine human security, essential services, and economic opportunities—not merely temporary assistance.
4. **Responses must be coherent and coordinated:** multiple actors—humanitarian, development, peace, and security—often operate in the same territories without a shared framework. The Nexus offers a space for joint planning, complementarity of mandates, and alignment with national and regional priorities.

3.3. A Changing Regional Dynamic

The choice of a **regional strategy** by the **Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)** reflects the conviction that the crisis cannot be addressed solely at the national level.

- The **RS SRR** was adopted to provide a **shared vision** for the riparian states and their partners. It emphasizes the importance of strengthening community resilience, restoring state legitimacy, and promoting durable solutions to displacement.
- Recent analyses (**ISS, 2025**) confirm that border areas are becoming increasingly volatile, with a rise in **resource-related violence** and a growing presence of **non-state actors** seeking to replace the State by providing basic services.
- In this context, programming that links **humanitarian assistance, local governance, economic recovery, and social cohesion** remains the only way to prevent these territories from descending into a **cycle of chronic instability**.

3.4. Justification for NFF Support

The NFF provides specific added value in this context:

- It helps fill the gaps left by traditional sectoral funding, which is often too compartmentalized to address the complexity of needs.

- It offers the flexibility required to operate in areas where the security situation evolves rapidly.
- It ensures both national and regional ownership, as priorities are defined by national authorities and aligned with the regional framework of the RS-SRR.
- It opens the way for cross-border solutions—for example, in the management of shared natural resources, border markets, or pastoral community mobility.

In short, the context of the Lake Chad Basin fully justifies the adoption of a Nexus programming approach. The priorities defined by Cameroon and Chad not only respond to their internal needs but also contribute to a regional dynamic in which coordinated action is essential for achieving lasting stabilization.

4. National Priorities – Cameroon

4.1. Political and Institutional Anchoring

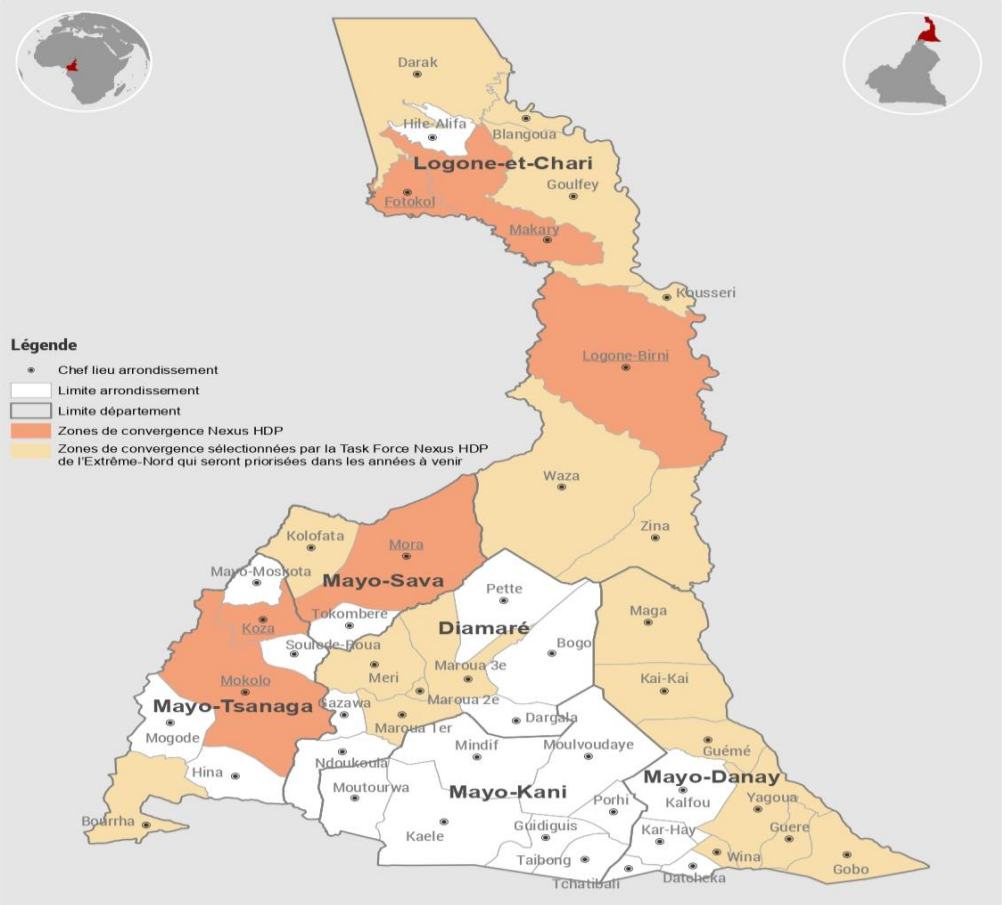
Cameroon launched its **Nexus process in 2019**, under the leadership of the **National Nexus Committee** established within the **Office of the Prime Minister**, with support from the **Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO)**. The mechanism is co-facilitated by two **regional platforms**, notably in the **Far North region**, which remains the epicenter of the crisis.
This process brings together sectoral ministries, UN agencies, technical and financial partners, NGOs, and academia. It is anchored in the country's national recovery policies and aligned with the National Humanitarian Strategy.

The country has validated a set of thematic priorities that reflect both humanitarian urgencies and the imperatives of development and peace.

4.2. Geographical Focus

The **priority area** is the **Far North region**, particularly the departments most affected by:

- the presence of **non-state armed groups**;
- **massive population displacements** (nearly **117,000 Nigerian refugees** and **475,000 internally displaced persons**);
- **structural poverty**, affecting nearly **three-quarters of the population**, with **1.2 million people** facing acute food insecurity.



4.3. Thematic Priorities (as defined by the NNTF)

The priorities below were defined through national and regional consultations, particularly in the **Far North region**. For each priority, illustrative examples are provided to help partners better understand the types of activities that may contribute to them. These examples are indicative and not exhaustive.

All these thematic areas converge around a **shared national vision**. In summary, and as detailed in the priorities presented below, these orientations align toward an **overarching objective** of strengthening **community resilience, peace, and inclusion**. This objective will be achieved through **integrated actions** that promote sustainable livelihoods, food and nutritional security, inclusive basic social services, peacebuilding and humanitarian disarmament, climate resilience, and participatory governance of natural resources and local institutions. Particular attention is given to **cross-border dynamics**, with a **geographical focus on the Far North region**, including hard-to-reach areas.

This overarching approach serves as a guiding framework for implementation. Project applicants are encouraged to propose any activity consistent with the spirit and objectives of the corresponding priority.

In line with this approach, the national priorities are as follows:

- **Integrated strengthening of livelihoods, food, and nutritional security:** climate-resilient agriculture, revival of agropastoral and fisheries activities, income diversification, vocational training, economic inclusion of youth and women, cooperative models, and improvement of community nutrition.
- **Sustainable and inclusive basic social services:** rehabilitation and expansion of health, education, and water–sanitation infrastructure; improved service quality; inclusion of vulnerable groups; community participation; and local accountability.
- **Social cohesion, peacebuilding, and humanitarian disarmament:** support for community mediation mechanisms, socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants, prevention of local conflicts, promotion of intercommunity dialogue, and strengthening of social fabric and trust between populations and authorities.
- **Climate resilience and natural resource governance:** community early warning systems, sustainable management of water, land, and forests, preparedness and response to climate shocks, restoration of degraded ecosystems, prevention of resource-based conflicts, and promotion of inclusive and participatory local governance of natural resources.
- **Localization and inclusive governance:** strengthening the capacities of decentralized institutions and local actors, active participation of civil society organizations and communities, inclusive and conflict-sensitive planning, mutual accountability among stakeholders, and promotion of local leadership in the implementation of Nexus actions.

4.4. Expected Results

- **Households and communities** have diversified, resilient, and inclusive livelihoods that enhance food security, nutrition, and the economic empowerment of women and youth.
- **Basic social services** (health, education, water, and sanitation) are functional, accessible, and equitable, and are managed with the active participation of communities.
- **Local governance and social cohesion mechanisms** are strengthened, facilitating dialogue, mediation, socio-economic reintegration, and conflict prevention.
- **Communities strengthen their resilience** to climate shocks through early warning systems, sustainable management of natural resources, and ecosystem restoration.
- **Decentralized institutions and local actors** exercise increased leadership in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of Nexus actions, ensuring inclusion, transparency, and accountability.

5. National Priorities – Chad

5.1. Political and Institutional Anchoring

Chad finalized its **political transition** in **September 2024** and entrusted the implementation of the **ATI/Nexus** to a **national coordination mechanism** led by the **Ministry of Finance, Budget, Economy, Planning, and International Cooperation**, in coordination with the **Ministry of Social Action, Solidarity, and Humanitarian Affairs**, the **Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization**, and the **Ombudsman's Office**. **UNDP** serves as **technical co-chair and administrative agent**, alongside national and international NGOs. The process identified **three main priority zones**: the **East** (hosting Sudanese refugees), the **South** (affected by intercommunal tensions and forced displacement along the Central African border), and the **Lake Province**, which remains the area most affected by insecurity and prolonged internal displacement. The **Hadjer Lamis Province**, adjacent to the Lake, was also included as a **transition and pressure zone**, where challenges are intensified by **mobility and competition over resources**.

5.2. Geographical Focus

- **Lake Province**: areas of Bol, Liwa, and Bagasola, heavily affected by attacks, displacement, and the collapse of basic services.
- **Hadjer Lamis Province**: neighboring canton areas characterized by chronic poverty and resource-related tensions**.**

The **Lake** and **Hadjer Lamis** provinces were selected for their **complementary dynamics** within the **Nexus framework**. The **Lake Province** remains one of the areas most affected by population displacement and the direct impacts of armed conflict, with a significant presence of displacement-affected communities—including **internally displaced persons, returnees, and host populations**. The local economy, historically based on **fishing, livestock, and small-scale cross-border trade**, has been severely disrupted by insecurity, deteriorating infrastructure, and reduced access to essential social services. These factors call for a **territorial and integrated approach** consistent with the Nexus logic.

For its part, the **Hadjer Lamis Province** plays a **strategic role as a transit and reception zone**, where demographic pressure, pastoral mobility, and the effects of **climate change**—including land degradation and recurrent flooding—exacerbate the vulnerability of local communities. Although less exposed to direct violence, the province faces growing risks related to **food security, natural resource management, and local governance**, which likewise require Nexus-based interventions to prevent the erosion of community resilience and strengthen locally integrated actions.

5.3. Thematic Priorities (as defined by the NNTF)

The priorities below were developed at the **national level** and validated through **regional consultations**, particularly in the **Lake** and **Hadjer Lamis provinces**, under the leadership of provincial authorities and with the participation of NGOs and UN agencies.

In the **Lake Province**, the meeting held in **Bol** brought together a wide range of stakeholders under the chairmanship of the Governor, who emphasized the need to **translate the Nexus into concrete actions** that respond to the urgent needs of displacement-affected communities, while **strengthening coordination** with existing provincial structures.

In the **Hadjer Lamis Province**, the consultation organized in **Massakory** confirmed the national priorities while highlighting **specific regional needs**. Participants emphasized the **heightened vulnerability** of communities to climate hazards and land pressure, calling for interventions that integrate **disaster risk preparedness, climate resilience, and strengthened inclusive governance**.

For each priority, illustrative examples are provided to help partners better understand the types of activities that may contribute to them. These examples are indicative and not exhaustive: project applicants are encouraged to propose any activity consistent with the spirit and objectives of the corresponding priority.

- **Essential social services:** This priority aims to improve equitable and sustainable access to essential social services—such as primary health care, inclusive education, water, and sanitation—for displacement-affected populations (internally displaced persons and host communities). It also includes the rehabilitation or, where necessary, construction of facilities required for the functioning of these services, ensuring community participation—particularly of women and youth—in their management and maintenance.

- **Social cohesion, peace, and local governance:** This priority focuses on conflict prevention and management, and on strengthening social cohesion and community participation in local governance. Special attention will be given to fostering cohesion between displaced and host populations through initiatives that address shared needs and generate mutual benefits. The objective is to build trust among communities, enhance women's and youth participation in local mediation and governance mechanisms, and promote an environment conducive to lasting peace and stability.

- **Local governance and rule of law:** Support to the development of communal or cantonal development plans (including integration of climate and environmental risk management into local development planning); establishment of accountability mechanisms; para-legal services for housing, land, and property (HLP) issues; and creation of systems for climate risk preparedness and response (floods, droughts) linked to local development planning.

- **Livelihoods and climate resilience:** Support to fishing, agriculture, and pastoralism through climate-resilient practices and improved resource governance, alongside temporary support mechanisms during lean seasons when staple goods are unavailable in markets to ensure food security. This includes vocational training and job creation for youth and women, especially in processing and local crafts sectors.

- **Durable solutions for displaced populations:** Support for access to civil documentation and land regularization (HLP) for displaced persons and host communities, as well as local integration, access to employment, and essential services.

5.4. Expected Results

- **Measurable improvement** in access to and sustainability of essential services.
- **Strengthened local legitimacy** through the implementation of participatory local development plans.
- **Improved income and economic opportunities**, particularly for youth and women.
- **Durable solutions** for displaced persons and returnees, reducing their dependence on humanitarian aid.
- **Enhanced local governance**, ensuring more equitable management of resources.

6. Regional Linkages and Cross-Border Inspiration

6.1. Keep the Regional Dimension in Mind: The Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience (RSS-SRR)

This chapter aims to link the national priorities identified in **Cameroon** and **Chad** (Chapters 4 and 5) with the **regional vision** of the **Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)** and its **Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience (RSS-SRR)**. It pursues two objectives:

- To show how strictly national interventions already contribute to the RSS-SRR.
- To inspire cross-border Cameroon–Chad proposals through shared themes and concrete opportunities.

6.2. Complementarity between the NFF and Other Nexus Initiatives in the Lake Chad Basin

The Nexus Funding Facility (NFF) aims to strengthen the coherence and collective impact of interventions across the humanitarian–development–peace Nexus in the Lake Chad Basin. It promotes complementarity between projects funded by the NFF and other ongoing Nexus initiatives in the region. For example, the **RESILAC programme**, financed by the **French Development Agency (AFD)** and the **European Union**, is mobilizing around **€40 million for its second phase** to support economic and social resilience in several cross-border areas.

Other programmes and partnerships led by **United Nations agencies**, **bilateral donors**, and **international NGOs** also contribute to the implementation of the Nexus. The NFF remains open to coordination and the creation of synergies with these initiatives in order to avoid duplication and to maximize positive impacts on local communities.

6.3. Why is the Nexus Central Here?

As explained in Chapter 2, the **humanitarian–development–peace Nexus** aims to overcome compartmentalized approaches. In the Lake Chad Basin, this is a necessity, as the crises are simultaneously **humanitarian** (violence, displacement), **structural** (poverty, climate), and **political** (state fragility). Thinking in Nexus terms from a **cross-border perspective** further reinforces this relevance, since the root causes do not stop at national boundaries.

The maps below are taken from the **World Bank report** *Lake Chad Regional Economic Memorandum – Overview (2021)*. They provide an overview of the administrative areas included in the definition of the "Lake Chad Region," notably the **Far North of Cameroon** and the **Lac and Hadjer-Lamis provinces** in Chad.

Source: World Bank, *Lake Chad Regional Economic Memorandum – Overview (2021)*. Available at: https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/114351636438975173/pdf/Overview.pdf

6.4. For National Proposals (Cameroon or Chad)

Even without a cross-border component, a national action already contributes to the RSS-SRR, as it addresses common factors:

- Persistent armed violence by Boko Haram/ISWAP,
- Prolonged mass displacement and pressure on host communities,
- Structural poverty and youth unemployment,
- Weakness of public services,
- Climate shocks affecting water, land, and pastures.

6.5. For Cross-Border Proposals (Cameroon–Chad)

Some challenges can only be effectively addressed **together**. Here, the **cross-border Nexus** becomes particularly relevant.

Important geographic information

- **Lac (Chad) – Far North (Cameroon):** direct border through the lake area and land and river corridors.
- **Hadjer-Lamis (Chad) – Far North (Cameroon):** actual border along the Logone/Chari River. This is a shorter stretch, constrained by hydrology (floods, droughts) and limited infrastructure, yet it remains a functional corridor with riverbank markets, transhumance routes, and seasonal mobility.

Common axes *(inspirational, non-prescriptive framework)*

- **Axis A – Essential services & resilience:** WASH, health, education, climate adaptation, durable solutions for displaced persons.
- **Axis B – Livelihoods & value chains:** fishing, pastoralism, agriculture, youth/women entrepreneurship, markets.
- **Axis C – Governance & social cohesion:** communal planning, mediation, accountability, paralegal land mechanisms.

Concrete cross-border opportunities *(inspirational, non-prescriptive framework)*

- **Value chains:**
    - *Fishing (Lake & Logone):* preservation, hygiene, standards, cold chain infrastructure, transport.
    - *Pastoralism:* shared access agreements to resources, conflict prevention, shared water points.
- **Cross-border markets:**
    - *Kousseri–Ngueli, Baga-Sola–Fotokol, Logone riverbank markets*.
    - Harmonization of market days, reduction of informal barriers, market structuring.
- **Joint services/infrastructure:**
    - Secondary roads (Far North ↔ Lac), anti-flood structures, co-managed water systems.
- **Social cohesion:**
    - Twin community committees (Cameroon–Chad).
    - Cross-border youth and women platforms.
- **Early warning & climate:**
    - Shared data on floods/droughts.
    - Community radio networks.
- **Protection & mobility:**
    - Joint protocols for referral of displaced persons/nomadic populations.
    - Harmonized civil documentation and legal protection mechanisms.

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