

**Forum:** Security Council (SC)  
**Question of:** Addressing Crisis in the Lake Chad Basin  
**Student Officer:** Jason Baek, Deputy Secretary-General

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## Introduction

Located in Central Africa, specifically in the Sahel region, Lake Chad is considered one of the grandest freshwater lakes in Africa, having spanned over 1,000,000 km<sup>2</sup> at one point in history.<sup>1</sup> The freshwater is directly supplied by the Chari River, and notably has a very shallow average depth, which characterizes why its size fluctuates so much between seasons, even after taking into account the dry climate of the region.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, Lake Chad shares its borders with a total of four countries, including Chad, Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria. Because the water source is completely surrounded by land, local residents tend to rely on the lake for their living, which it now holds responsible for an aggregated total of 30 million people.<sup>3</sup>

The main problem precipitating the crisis at Lake Chad Basin is its decline in size. The Lake's shrinkage was not a sudden phenomenon. In 1960, the lake was estimated to have an area of 26,000 km<sup>2</sup>, which by 1983 shrunk rapidly to 10,000 km<sup>2</sup>,<sup>4</sup> and finally, in 2000 its surface area totaled a modest 1,500 km<sup>2</sup>. Various media identified the cause of this occurrence differently; for example, the *Journal of Geophysical Research* pinpointed overgrazing and desertification,<sup>5</sup> whereas the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) emphasized climate change as the primary reason. At the same time, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) criticized that human activity including improper dams and irrigation also played a significant role.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Drake, Nick, and Charlie Bristow. Bodele Shorelines - School of Geography and the Environment. 14 Nov. 2005, [www.geog.ox.ac.uk/research/climate/projects/bodex/bodele\\_shorelines.pdf](http://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/research/climate/projects/bodex/bodele_shorelines.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Mahmood, Rashid, et al. "Predicted and Projected Water Resources Changes in the Chari Catchment, the Lake Chad Basin, Africa." AMETSOC, American Meteorological Society, 1 Jan. 2020, <https://journals.ametsoc.org/view/journals/hydr/21/1/jhm-d-19-0105.1.xml>.

<sup>3</sup> "Our Work in the Lake Chad Basin." ShelterBox, 12 Apr. 2022, [www.shelterbox.org/where-we-work/lake-chad-basin-crisis/](http://www.shelterbox.org/where-we-work/lake-chad-basin-crisis/).

<sup>4</sup> "International Lake Environment Committee." LAKE CHAD, <https://web.archive.org/web/20100206160207/http://www.ilec.or.jp/database/afr/afr-02.html>.

<sup>5</sup> Hassan, Tina A. Nigeria: Helping to Save Lake Chad - AllAfrica.com. 24 May 2012, <https://allafrica.com/stories/201205240556.html>.

<sup>6</sup> Gajilan, Chris. "Climate Change and Diminishing Desert Resources." CNN, Cable News Network, 18 June 2007, <http://edition.cnn.com/HEALTH/blogs/paging.dr.gupta/2007/06/climate-change-and-diminishing-desert.html>.

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Nonetheless, the heart of the matter is that the lake has remained unchanged in the last few decades, while the population continues to increase, making the lives of local citizens progressively more unsustainable. Even more, the growing instability of the region has made the Lake Chad Basin particularly vulnerable to terrorist organizations, most prominently Boko Haram. Over the last ten years, the terrorist group has been actively expanding its influence over the region by exploiting poverty-driven individuals and deluding them with terrorist ideals. Often they would provide loans and promise a better future, making it possible for them to recruit large masses of young boys and adults. Recruited personnel would then be indoctrinated, frequently through drugs, only to be expended for suicide attacks.<sup>7</sup> For instance, on 5 December 2015, a total of 30 people were killed due to a suicide attack by three bombers on the island of Koulfoua. In fear of unanticipated attacks, terrified people have no choice but to flee and seek refuge in camps, in which 2.4 million people have been estimated to be displaced.<sup>8</sup> This never-ending cascade of poverty and insecurity is what makes the crisis at the Lake Chad Basin so intricate and multifaceted.

In the status quo, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) approximated that at least 10 million people are in desperate need of humanitarian aid.<sup>9</sup> The gravity of the matter really stands out when hearing that in the four countries forming the Lake Chad Basin, the maternal mortality rate is 774.3 deaths for every 100,000 live births.<sup>10</sup> Camps harboring internally displaced persons (IDPs) are experiencing privation, including shortages of food, shelter, and sanitation, as well as healthcare and education. The ever-worsening climate of the region is only exacerbating the ongoing problem of deprivation and malnourishment, inevitably thrusting families into the hands of terrorist organizations. In addition, corrupt governments and the constant emergence of rebellious parties have diseased the basin with conflicts between non-state armed groups and military forces. Governments have enforced strict military control in an effort to contain terrorism; however, such restrictions have pressured citizens to localize in infertile environments, making the impact of climate change drastically more detrimental.

Boko Haram proved to be one of the most challenging obstacles faced by the basin, as the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) revealed that there were over 10,000 recorded deaths between

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<sup>7</sup> Welle, Deutsche. "Lake Chad: Climate Change Fosters Terrorism: DW: 07.12.2015." DW.COM, 12 July 2015, [www.dw.com/en/lake-chad-climate-change-fosters-terrorism/a-18899499](http://www.dw.com/en/lake-chad-climate-change-fosters-terrorism/a-18899499).

<sup>8</sup> Ban Ki, Moon. "Condemning Deadly Triple Suicide Attack in Chad, Secretary-General Reiterates Call for Countries Affected by Boko Haram to Address Root Causes of Violence | UN Press." United Nations, United Nations, 6 Dec. 2015, [www.un.org/press/en/2015/sgsm17394.doc.htm](http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sgsm17394.doc.htm).

<sup>9</sup> "Lake Chad Crisis in Depth: MSF." Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) International, 4 Feb. 2020, [www.msf.org/lake-chad-crisis-depth](http://www.msf.org/lake-chad-crisis-depth).

<sup>10</sup> NGOM, Mabingue. Demographic Dynamics and the Crisis of Countries around Lake Chad. UNFPA, [wcaro.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA-WCARO-BLT-EN-LAKE%20CHAD-DYNAMICS-WEB.pdf](http://wcaro.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA-WCARO-BLT-EN-LAKE%20CHAD-DYNAMICS-WEB.pdf).

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2009 and 2016. Furthermore, the insurgent group is keeping a tight rein on roads and transportation within the territory.<sup>11</sup> As a result, the method of supplying humanitarian assistance becomes heavily limited and hazardous, considering terrorist groups are fully equipped with modern military technologies such as drones.<sup>12</sup> The cumulative magnitude of casualties engendered by the Boko Haram violence is immeasurable. In fact, ever since their first appearance in 2009 in Nigeria, their terrorizing campaign left 3.3 million people in food insecurity<sup>13</sup>, destructed thousands of infrastructures ranging from schools, health facilities, and farms, and forced the lives of 264,000 refugees in just Nigeria.<sup>14</sup> Despite the immense gravity and urgency of the crisis, the region only receives 20% of the essential funds necessary to power contingency plans, delineating how little international attention the Lake Chad Basin crisis receives.<sup>15</sup>

Unfortunately, the long list of adversities doesn't cease there. The contraction of the lake and the growing dominance of terrorist groups have transformed the basin into a battlefield where farmers and stockmen compete to procure inadequate resources. With the diminishing availability of niches and sources of livelihood encompassing the lake, the tension between farmers and herders reached its all-time peak, as a consequence of the inflow of pastoralists into an initially agrarian community. They have actively exhibited hostility toward each other through initiatives with malevolent intents; for example, farmers would deliberately contaminate water ponds with insecticides and burn forests to harm the herds while pastoralists would capture and vandalize farms in response. Asymmetrical distribution of land generated by agricultural schemes such as River Basins irrigation projects and the *Fadama* Program, as well as privatization of forestlands further narrowed the limited storage of land. Subsequently, criminal activities became ubiquitous, as people illegally and forcefully attempted to secure their own ground. Notorious examples include *Bokoloji* and *Udawa* pastoralist groups who migrated into the Lake Chad region with full possession of artilleries and military apparatus, which capacitated them to effectuate

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<sup>11</sup> Iweze, Daniel. "Insurgency in the Northeast Region of Nigeria and Its Implications on Inter-State and Trans-Border Mobility, 2009-2016." *Taylor & Francis*, 28 Apr. 2020, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00083968.2019.1700809>.

<sup>12</sup> Salaün, Tangi, and John Irish. "Explainer: Chad's Strategic Interest to France, Western Allies." Reuters, Thomson Reuters, 21 Apr. 2021, [www.reuters.com/world/africa/chads-strategic-interest-france-western-allies-2021-04-20/](http://www.reuters.com/world/africa/chads-strategic-interest-france-western-allies-2021-04-20/).

<sup>13</sup> Campbell, John, and Asch Harwood. "Boko Haram's Deadly Impact." Council on Foreign Relations, Council on Foreign Relations, 20 Aug. 2018, <https://www.cfr.org/article/boko-harams-deadly-impact>.

<sup>14</sup> Dunn, Gillian. "The Impact of the Boko Haram Insurgency in Northeast Nigeria on Childhood Wasting: A Double-Difference Study - Conflict and Health." *BioMed Central*, BioMed Central, 24 Jan. 2018, <https://conflictandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13031-018-0136-2>.

<sup>15</sup> "Lake Chad Basin Crisis Response Plan 2022." *Global Crisis Response Platform*, IOM, 22 Feb. 2022, [https://crisisresponse.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11481/files/appeal/pdf/2022\\_Lake\\_Chad\\_Basin\\_Crisis\\_Response\\_Plan\\_2022.pdf](https://crisisresponse.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11481/files/appeal/pdf/2022_Lake_Chad_Basin_Crisis_Response_Plan_2022.pdf).

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kidnapping, robbery, arson, abductions, rape, and a myriad of other unspeakable deeds without being challenged by the laws. In the early 2010s, a confrontation between the *Fulani* pastoral group and local farmers ensued in Borno State, which brought about 40 deaths and dozens more severely injured.<sup>16</sup> Their presence prevailed, as the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) proclaimed that the Fulani pastoralists were responsible for no less than 1,229 deaths in 2014 in Nigeria alone. Throughout the years, there have been surplus instances of atrocities perpetrated by certain proprietors, which total an appalling 37,500 killings.

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Another criminality that is symbolic of the region is cattle rustling. As the name suggests, cattle rustling is the act of stealing cattle, which is practiced with an exorbitant frequency due to its distinguished portability and marketability. Once stolen, not only does it become implausible to trace the livestock's real owner, it proposes invaluable profit as it can serve to produce meat and dairy. To make matters worse, the value of cattle per ton jumped exponentially from 60% to 240% in just 9 years, inescapably becoming earmarked by military groups as the medium to finance their campaign.<sup>18</sup>

While the crisis escalated, the world did endeavor to terminate it. Up to this point, the crisis at the Lake Chad Basin can be classified into three aspects that are closely interlinked together: humanitarian crisis, terrorism, and farmer-pastoralist conflict, in which the overarching stimulus is the depleting storage of the Lake Chad. First and foremost, in terms of tackling the deficiency of humanitarian aid, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been spearheading, notably through development blueprints that aim to fulfill ecological needs. Moreover, the UNDP partnered with the Ministry of Ecology to allocate \$1.7 million of funds to empowering female activities, revitalizing vegetation, and boosting agricultural productivity. Poverty and starvation were strategically taken care of, as they provided agricultural kits to 400 households, sowed xerophilous seeds over 40km<sup>2</sup>, and planted 40,000 acacia trees throughout multiple regions, which collectively remedied the underperforming food production.<sup>19</sup> In the face of these tangible solutions, the desired goal is still remote from being achieved.

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<sup>16</sup> Ahmadu, Hamman Jumba. "Conflict of Livelihood and Survival: The Absurdity of Farmers Versus Pastoralists Conflict in the Lake Chad Basin of Nigeria." *Academic Research International Protect and Secure Your WiFi : [Https://Bit.ly/vpn\\_secure](https://bit.ly/vpn_secure)*, edited by Haruna Ayuba, vol. 9, SAVAP International, 2018, pp. 128–139.

<sup>17</sup> Ahmadu, Hamman Jumba, and Haruna Ayuba. "Academic Journals - African Journal of Political Science and International Relations - the Role of Group Solidarity in Conflict between Farmers and Fulani Pastoralists: A Case Study of Northern Nigeria." *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations, Academic Journals*, 31 May 2018, [academicjournals.org/journal/AJPSIR/article-full-text/43E79B357286](http://academicjournals.org/journal/AJPSIR/article-full-text/43E79B357286).

<sup>18</sup> Kwaja, Chris, and Katie Smith. *Transnational Dimensions of Conflict Between Farmers and Herders in the Western Sahel and Lake Chad Basin*. Apr. 2020, [www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SFCG\\_Policy\\_Brief\\_Transnational\\_Dimension\\_to\\_FH\\_Conflicts.pdf](http://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SFCG_Policy_Brief_Transnational_Dimension_to_FH_Conflicts.pdf).

<sup>19</sup> Aid and International Development Forum (AIDF). "UNDP Projects Aim to Prevent Further Deterioration of Lake Chad." *AID & International Development Forum*, 27 Nov. 2018, [www.aidforum.org/topics/environment/undp-projects-aim-to-prevent-further-deterioration-of-lake-chad/](http://www.aidforum.org/topics/environment/undp-projects-aim-to-prevent-further-deterioration-of-lake-chad/).

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According to the 2022 report by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), of the required \$2.53B to fund the 2022 humanitarian response plans, only \$113M was gathered, barely reaching 4% of the bare minimum to bring about an appreciable change.<sup>20</sup>

Secondly, so as to achieve the potential eradication of terrorism, the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) was established through a coalition between Nigeria and its neighboring countries: Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. The joint force was assembled with the ultimate purpose of offering protection against dangers posed by Boko Haram<sup>21</sup>, along with other goals of executing various humanitarian operations, retrieving governance back to the state, and facilitating the advent of IDPs. As ambitious as the ideas may sound, the MNJTF definitely strengthened the connection between involved countries, and although momentarily, halted the proliferation of Boko Haram from 2015 to 2016. Additionally, the coalition sundered the terrorist group into smaller contingents, allowing forces to secure captivated civilians and distribute humanitarian assistance. On the contrary, mixed emotions exist when evaluating the overall success of the MNJTF, primarily because at the end of the day, Boko Haram maintained its composure. The task force was critically flawed with regard to their coordination, as they had a debilitated hierarchical system to fittingly command and catalyze military operations. Other rudimentary factors such as lack of funds also contributed to the survival of terrorism even after implementing counter-insurgency operations.<sup>22</sup>

Lastly, to resolve the communal dissonance between farmers and pastoralists, governments have predominantly recruited a military unit to subdue the conflicts in an arduous way that brings more harm than good. To take Chad as an example, the government allocates at least 15% of its annual budget to these security forces; in other words, other sectors that are equally as important, including weak governance and lack of health facilities and education, are virtually neglected. This puts governments in a

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<sup>20</sup> "Lake Chad Basin: Humanitarian Snapshot (as of 14 April 2022) - Chad." ReliefWeb, 14 Apr. 2022, [reliefweb.int/report/chad/lake-chad-basin-humanitarian-snapshot-14-april-2022](https://reliefweb.int/report/chad/lake-chad-basin-humanitarian-snapshot-14-april-2022).

<sup>21</sup> Olawoyin, Kayode Wakili, et al. "The Multinational Joint Task Force and Nigerian Counter-Terrorism Operations in the Lake Chad Region." *The Copernicus Journal of Political Studies*, 9 Oct. 2021, [apcz.umk.pl/CJPS/article/view/36528](https://apcz.umk.pl/CJPS/article/view/36528).

<sup>22</sup> Azzarone, Giulia. "The Multinational Joint Task Force: Achievements and Challenges - L'Osservatorio: Research Centre on Civilian Victims of Conflicts." *Homepage - L'Osservatorio: Research Centre on Civilian Victims of Conflicts*, [www.losservatorio.org/en/civilians-in-conflict/reports/item/2106-the-multinational-joint-task-force-achievements-and-challenges](https://www.losservatorio.org/en/civilians-in-conflict/reports/item/2106-the-multinational-joint-task-force-achievements-and-challenges).

strange dilemma, as deploying security forces, for the most part, acts counterintuitively by intensifying the situation; however, complete withdrawal of these forces would guarantee chaos in the region.<sup>23</sup>

## Definition of Key Terms

### Lake Chad

Lake Chad is the name of the freshwater lake located in Central Africa, surrounded by four countries: Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria, and Niger. The lake presents a wide variety of significance to over 30 million people living around it, including its usage as a source of water, catalyst for farming, and the sustainer of biodiversity in the region. However, beginning from the 1960s, Lake Chad's vast storage of water dwindled to just 1,500 km<sup>2</sup> as a result of climate change and human activity, which posed unprecedented ecological and security threats to millions of people.<sup>24</sup>

### Lake Chad Basin

Lake Chad Basin refers to the landmass that centers around Lake Chad, which is shared by countries of Algeria, Central African Republic, Libya, Chad, Cameroon, Sudan, Nigeria, and Niger. Due to the arid climate and shrinking size of the lake, the region has been inundated with terrorism and military conflicts to capitalize on insufficient resources. Incompetent governments constituting the basin have made little progress to ameliorate the livelihoods of local citizens, and innocent people are subjected to poverty and deprivation.

### Boko Haram

Boko Haram is the largest and the most dominant Islamic terrorist party functioning in the Lake Chad Basin. Its holy grail is to "create a 'pure' Islamic state ruled by sharia law," in which they are not hesitant to commit jihadist attacks such as suicide attacks.<sup>25</sup> Ever since their first terrorizing appearance in 2009, the extremists seized considerable control over the region and its people, as they made capital out of the impoverished to recruit more advocates and exercise absolute authority over the region. Due to Boko Haram's dominance, there have been an estimated total of 35,000 deaths, and it is said that in 2020, 1.8 million students were deprived of education as a result of the conflict. Moreover, over 40% of the health

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<sup>23</sup> Kwaja, Chris, and Katie Smith. Transnational Dimensions of Conflict Between Farmers and Herders in the Western Sahel and Lake Chad Basin. Apr. 2020, [www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SFCG\\_Policy\\_Brief\\_Transnational\\_Dimension\\_to\\_FH\\_Conflicts.pdf](http://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SFCG_Policy_Brief_Transnational_Dimension_to_FH_Conflicts.pdf).

<sup>24</sup> Hassan, Tina A. Nigeria: Helping to Save Lake Chad - AllAfrica.com. 24 May 2012, <https://allafrica.com/stories/201205240556.html>.

<sup>25</sup> Walker, Andrew. *United States Institute of Peace Special Report*. United States Institute of Peace, June 2012, <https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/SR308.pdf>.

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facilities in the region are dysfunctional, which illustrates the civilian impact Boko Haram has had throughout the years.<sup>26</sup>

### **Farmer-Pastoralist Conflict**

The farmer-pastoralist conflict refers to the long history of clashes between farmers and pastoralists around Lake Chad. With the decreasing size of the lake, farmers who plant and harvest crops, and herders who graze and herd livestock frequently found themselves in skirmishes to keep the resources exclusively. As a consequence, countless people were killed or severely injured to a point where it necessitated the state security forces to intervene and resolve the conflict, which did not go successfully either. As mentioned previously, the arrival of belligerent tribes such as *Udawa* and *Bokoloji* with modern military equipment further aggravated the farmer-pastoralist conflict.<sup>27</sup>

### **Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)**

In 1964, alerted by the rapidly depleting deposit of water in Lake Chad, the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) was established through coordination between the most imminently affected countries: Nigeria, Niger, Chad, and Cameroon. Since then, the LCBC has served to superintend the consumption of various resources available from the lake and to facilitate various funds and partners to help resolve the crisis at the Lake Chad Basin.<sup>28</sup>

### **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)**

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) refer to groups of individuals compelled to abandon their country in an effort to escape from being engaged in violence or other urgent matters of similar nuance.<sup>29</sup> In the Lake Chad Basin and in other areas of close proximity, a myriad of camps filled with IDPs is present throughout. These people who vacated their original homes lack humanitarian resources and require international assistance to help them return back to where they belong. In a report created in 2019 that analyzes displacement in the Lake Chad Basin, from 2016 to 2018, there was an estimated total of

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<sup>26</sup> Sanni, Kunle. "Boko Haram: 350,000 Dead in Nigeria -- UN." *Premium Times Nigeria*, 29 June 2021, <http://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/470476-insurgency-has-killed-almost-350000-in-north-east-undp.html>.

<sup>27</sup> Ahmadu, Hamman Jumba. "Conflict of Livelihood and Survival: The Absurdity of Farmers Versus Pastoralists Conflict in the Lake Chad Basin of Nigeria." *Academic Research International Protect and Secure Your WiFi* : [https://bit.ly/vpn\\_secure](https://bit.ly/vpn_secure), edited by Haruna Ayuba, vol. 9, SAVAP International, 2018, pp. 128–139.

<sup>28</sup> "Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)." Kofa Study, 12 Dec. 2021, [www.kofastudy.com/courses/ss3-commerce-2nd-term/lessons/lake-chad-basin-commission-lcbc-week-7/topic/lake-chad-basin-commission-lcbc/](http://www.kofastudy.com/courses/ss3-commerce-2nd-term/lessons/lake-chad-basin-commission-lcbc-week-7/topic/lake-chad-basin-commission-lcbc/).

<sup>29</sup> "Emergency Handbook." UNHCR, [emergency.unhcr.org/entry/44826/idp-definition](https://www.unhcr.org/entry/44826/idp-definition).

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2,497,549 IDPs, and it was also revealed that 94% of those cases were due to conflict, followed by almost 6% of the cases being attributed to communal clashes.<sup>30</sup>

### **Climate Change**

Climate change refers to gradual and permanent changes in atmospheric conditions. The Lake Chad Basin, which is located in the Sahel region with desertified land, experiences an accelerated form of climate change, as the temperature increases 1.5 times more rapidly than in the rest of the globe.<sup>31</sup> Furthermore, climate change has been diagnosed as the primary cause of the lake's failure, revealing an inseparable connection with Lake Chad.

### **Timeline of Key Events**

#### **1960 - Lake Chad Begins to Shrink Rapidly**

Before the 1960s, Lake Chad was considered a melting pot of diverse species of fish, and an invaluable resource for all organisms living around it. However, really beginning from the 1960s, the lake began to diminish rapidly as a result of the accelerated rate of climate change and brought a chain of complications of all sorts to the surface like a ripple effect.<sup>32</sup>

#### **May 22, 1964 - Foundation of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)**

The unusual changes in the lake were unmistakably spotted by countries bordering it, and in order to address the issue, they established the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) in 1964. Since then, the countries collectively worked together to minimize collateral damage from the lake's depletion.<sup>33</sup> Its primary objective was to preserve biodiversity and water sources in the Lake Chad Basin, and some notable contributions include the provision of agricultural equipment and materials to over 1,000 farmers and conducting of multiple surveys and monitoring reports to refresh mostly outdated analysis on the status of the basin, such as the "Cross-border Problem Analysis of the Lake Chad Basin."<sup>34</sup>

#### **1994 - Foundation of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF)**

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<sup>30</sup> Within and beyond Borders: Tracking Displacement in the Lake Chad Basin ... International Organization for Migration, Mar. 2019, [www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1486/files/dtm/lake\\_chad\\_basin\\_dtm\\_201903.pdf](http://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1486/files/dtm/lake_chad_basin_dtm_201903.pdf).

<sup>31</sup> "This Is How Niger Is Battling Climate Change - Niger." ReliefWeb, 21 Oct. 2021, <https://reliefweb.int/report/niger/how-niger-battling-climate-change>.

<sup>32</sup> Pope, C.T. "Vanishing Lake Chad - a Water Crisis in Central Africa." Vanishing Lake Chad - A Water Crisis in Central Africa | Circle of Blue | WaterNews, 24 June 2008, [web.archive.org/web/20090502034457/www.circleofblue.org/waternews/world/vanishing-lake-chad-a-water-crisis-in-central-africa/](http://web.archive.org/web/20090502034457/www.circleofblue.org/waternews/world/vanishing-lake-chad-a-water-crisis-in-central-africa/).

<sup>33</sup> LCBC, [cblt.org/](http://cblt.org/).

<sup>34</sup> Amelung, Annika. "Applied Water Resource Management in the Lake Chad Basin." Startseite, Jan. 2021, <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/92991.html>.



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Established in 1994, the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) served to counter insurgency in the basin, most prominently Boko Haram. Following its creation, the MNJTF fulfilled a number of roles; for example, since 2021, the MNJTF rescued more than 200,000 IDPs and facilitated various programs to safely deliver humanitarian assistance to those in need.<sup>35</sup>

### **July 2009 - Boko Haram's First Violent Act**

In 2009, Boko Haram made its first public appearance as a violent, jihadist group. Founded by Mohammed Yusuf in Nigeria, the terrorist group burgeoned to a level that is unmatched in all of the Lake Chad Basin and is considered the underlying influence that is forcing people to live as IDPs/refugees.<sup>36</sup> The damage engendered by Boko Haram is incommutable, considering the military expenditure governments have exhausted to fortify the region. In the periods between 2011 and 2018, there have been 2,021 official attacks by Boko Haram and have cost the lives of over 37,500 people.<sup>37</sup> Although the implementation of counter-insurgency measures has diminished the impact of Boko Haram considerably in 2016, their existence and prospects for causing more threats are undeniable. In fact, rebels invaded the Kuje prison in Nigeria in July 2022 and freed approximately 600 inmates suspected of being Boko Haram associates, depicting that their coordination abilities are still robust.<sup>38</sup>

### **December 5, 2015 - Suicide Attack at Koufoua**

On 5 December 2015, on the island of Koufoua, three female suicide bombers struck a public market, which left at least 30 people dead and hundreds more injured. This event is considered to be one of the deadliest insurgencies from Boko Haram and was publicly condemned by the former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon for its atrocity and downright violation of human rights.<sup>39</sup>

## **Position of Key Member Nations and Other Bodies**

### **Nigeria**

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<sup>35</sup> "MNJTF Humanitarian Achievement." Multinational Joint Task Force, 29 Apr. 2022, [mnjtfimm.org/mnjtf-humanitarian-achievement/](https://mnjtfimm.org/mnjtf-humanitarian-achievement/).

<sup>36</sup> "2021\_UNODC Calls for Accountability and Justice to Ensure Sustainable Peace in the Lake Chad Basin Region." United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime, [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/terrorism/latest-news/2021\\_unodc-calls-for-accountability-and-justice-to-ensure-sustainable-peace-in-the-lake-chad-basin-region.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/terrorism/latest-news/2021_unodc-calls-for-accountability-and-justice-to-ensure-sustainable-peace-in-the-lake-chad-basin-region.html).

<sup>37</sup> Campbell, John, and Asch Harwood. "Boko Haram's Deadly Impact." Council on Foreign Relations, Council on Foreign Relations, 20 Aug. 2018, <https://www.cfr.org/article/boko-harams-deadly-impact>.

<sup>38</sup> Welle, Deutsche. "Nigeria: Rebels Attack Prison, Free All Boko Haram Suspects." DW.COM, 6 July 2022, <https://www.dw.com/en/kuje-prison-escape-nigeria/a-62383895>.

<sup>39</sup> Ban Ki, Moon. "Condemning Deadly Triple Suicide Attack in Chad, Secretary-General Reiterates Call for Countries Affected by Boko Haram to Address Root Causes of Violence | UN Press." United Nations, United Nations, 6 Dec. 2015, [www.un.org/press/en/2015/sgsm17394.doc.htm](https://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sgsm17394.doc.htm).

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Nigeria has arguably been the most severely targeted by the direct consequences of the Lake Chad Basin crisis, partly as a result of Boko Haram taking its origin in Nigeria.<sup>40</sup> For this reason, Nigeria has been actively leading the path to eradicate the root causes of this regional catastrophe once and for all. The government's efforts to counteract the existing problems are mostly revealed through their involvement in collaborative and institutional activities with neighboring countries, most notably including the MNJTF and LCBC that tackle vigilante groups and climate change, respectively. Up till now, however, the Nigerian government has mostly responded to the growing insurgency through military means, due to the fact that the corrupt political system has disabled itself from taking further measures other than simple military strikes.<sup>41</sup>

### **Niger**

Niger constitutes a significant portion of the northern hemisphere of the Lake Chad Basin, putting the nation at a similar spot as Nigeria. The country has been plagued with recurring droughts and widespread poverty ever since it became independent from France in 1960, which has been directly linked to political instability including instances of coup d'état. To resolve the humanitarian threats, Niger began to seek oil and gold reserves as its last resort to revitalizing the economy. Furthermore, the current president of Niger, Mohamed Bazoum, asserted that the "most immediate priority is the deadly jihadist insurgency causing chaos in the west of the country and across the broader Sahel region," publicly revealing the hostility towards Boko Haram.<sup>42</sup>

### **Chad**

Likewise, Chad has been strictly condemning rebellious parties, especially since the death of Idriss Déby, the president of Chad that reigned for over thirty years but got killed in action.<sup>43</sup> As one of the foundational members of the MNJTF, Chad has been involved in several military operations, including Operation Sharan Fage initiated in December 2021, which effectively destroyed camps and insurgent groups.<sup>44</sup> In the face of climate change, Chad has publicly announced its commitment to unconditional reduction in greenhouse gases by 18.3% until the year 2030 and assessed that the nation's

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<sup>40</sup> Campbell, John, and Asch Harwood. "Boko Haram's Deadly Impact." Council on Foreign Relations, Council on Foreign Relations, 20 Aug. 2018, <https://www.cfr.org/article/boko-harams-deadly-impact>.

<sup>41</sup> Klobucista, Claire. "Nigeria's Battle with Boko Haram." *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, 8 Aug. 2018, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/nigerias-battle-boko-haram>.

<sup>42</sup> "Niger Country Profile." BBC News, BBC, 12 Apr. 2021, [www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13943662](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13943662).

<sup>43</sup> "Chad Crisis: Army Refuses to Negotiate with Rebel 'Outlaws'." BBC News, BBC, 25 Apr. 2021, [www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-56882555](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-56882555).

<sup>44</sup> "After Shekau: Confronting Jihadists in Nigeria's North East." Crisis Group, 28 Mar. 2022, [www.crisisgroup.org/africa/west-africa/nigeria/b180-after-shekau-confronting-jihadists-nigerias-north-east](http://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/west-africa/nigeria/b180-after-shekau-confronting-jihadists-nigerias-north-east).

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foremost priorities are improving access to clean water, strengthening agriculture, livestock, and fishery, and presenting more accurate weather forecasts.<sup>45</sup>

### **Cameroon**

The fact that Cameroon is located directly adjacent to Nigeria has kept the country vigilant against the threats of insurgencies. In recognition of Cameroon's efforts, Mr. FALL and Mr. ANNADIFF, both special representatives of the Security Council, applauded Cameroon's progress in implementing stabilization and recovery policies in regions swept by Boko Haram, in conjunction with an intricate set of measures to disarm and reintegrate previous members of Boko Haram. Like many other countries, however, Cameroon failed to circumvent the consequences of climate change, which significantly subverted Cameroon's plans to devise a solid framework for democracy and national unity.<sup>46</sup> As of right now, a few approaches have been put forth, such as the creation of the National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) that aids Cameroonians; however, the ultimate goal of curbing the effects of climate change is still far from reach.<sup>47</sup>

### **Central African Republic (CAR)**

As for CAR, in addition to the problems revolving around the basin, the country has been suffering from the civil war that embarked in 2013, which triggered communal clashes and mass displacement of people.<sup>48</sup> Earlier in March of 2022, a peace dialogue was arranged, due to President Faustin Archange Touadera's longing for a "Republican Dialogue for reconciliation." Despite the bold aspirations, the talk was not met with much fruitful discussion and put CAR back to square one as one of

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<sup>45</sup> Chad - Climate Centre. Climate Centre, 2021, [www.climatecentre.org/wp-content/uploads/RCCC-ICRC-Country-profiles-Chad.pdf](http://www.climatecentre.org/wp-content/uploads/RCCC-ICRC-Country-profiles-Chad.pdf).

<sup>46</sup> "Lake Chad Basin - Special Representatives Fall and Annadif Conclude a Five-Day Visit to Cameroon and Chad." UNOWAS, 24 Oct. 2021, [unowas.unmissions.org/lake-chad-basin-special-representatives-fall-and-annadif-conclude-five-day-visit-cameroon-and-chad](http://unowas.unmissions.org/lake-chad-basin-special-representatives-fall-and-annadif-conclude-five-day-visit-cameroon-and-chad).

<sup>47</sup> Banseka, Hycinth. "Cameroon: Preparing National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change and Its Investment Strategy (#492)." GWP, 31 May 2018, [www.gwp.org/en/learn/KNOWLEDGE\\_RESOURCES/Case\\_Studies/Africa/cameroon-preparing-national-adaptation-plan-for-climate-change-napcc-and-its-investment-strategy-492/](http://www.gwp.org/en/learn/KNOWLEDGE_RESOURCES/Case_Studies/Africa/cameroon-preparing-national-adaptation-plan-for-climate-change-napcc-and-its-investment-strategy-492/).

<sup>48</sup> Slimi, Ali. "Central African Republic Concludes Republican Dialogue." Foreign Brief, 27 Mar. 2022, [foreignbrief.com/daily-news/central-african-republic-concludes-republican-dialogue/](http://foreignbrief.com/daily-news/central-african-republic-concludes-republican-dialogue/).

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the poorest countries in the world.<sup>49</sup> In the status quo, CAR is mostly relying on assistance from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which has reached out to over half a million people.<sup>50</sup>

### **The United States of America**

It is a well-established fact that the U.S. protrudes immense animosity toward terrorist groups. As a result, the U.S. has been vigorously supporting the African nations through funding and reinforcing the security forces. According to an article written by Ben Taub, it was reported that the U.S. has spent “hundreds of millions of dollars on strengthening Sahelian security forces” to contain the spread of Jihadist movements. In this sense, the U.S. has been involved in the conflict at the Lake Chad Basin more than any other country, considering it supplemented millions of dollars to G5 Sahel Joint Force, along with military intellectuals designated to the MNJTF. Furthermore, the magnitude of support for humanitarian relief is also noteworthy, as the U.S. provided a grand total of \$760 million between the years 2017 and 2018, as reported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). These actions by the U.S. can be explained by its need for a partnership to fight back against violent extremism; however, there have been concerns raised regarding the possibility of contributing to corrupt political figures in the process of strengthening the autocrats, which needs to be addressed.<sup>51</sup>

### **The United Kingdom**

Of all the countries in the Lake Chad Basin, the UK is especially closely tied to Nigeria, having shared the history of colonial rule, which ended in 1960. As an aftermath of this period, plenty of UK diaspora reside in Nigeria, and vice versa. This obliges the UK to consider Nigeria as a home nation and prioritize Nigeria’s progress in fighting back the crisis. According to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, the government of the UK outlined that its aim is “to support a more resilient, stable, healthy and prosperous Nigeria that sees the UK as a strategic partner for peace, trade and economic development, and provides UK companies with opportunities in an expanding and globally significant market.”<sup>52</sup> The UK has been involved in a multitude of diplomatic missions; for instance, on

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<sup>49</sup> France-Presse, Agence. “Central African Republic Peace Talks End without Concrete Progress.” VOA, Central African Republic Peace Talks End Without Concrete Progress, 27 Mar. 2022, [www.voanews.com/a/central-african-republic-peace-talks-end-without-concrete-progress/6503818.html](http://www.voanews.com/a/central-african-republic-peace-talks-end-without-concrete-progress/6503818.html).

<sup>50</sup> “Lake Chad Basin and Central African Republic Crises: Appeal.” International Organization for Migration, 1 July 2016, [www.iom.int/news/lake-chad-basin-and-central-african-republic-crises-appeal](http://www.iom.int/news/lake-chad-basin-and-central-african-republic-crises-appeal).

<sup>51</sup> Kraus, Brian von. “Lake Chad Basin: U.S. Involvement.” FireWatch Solutions, 4 Mar. 2021, [www.firewatchsolutions.com/lake-chad-basin-u-s-involvement/](http://www.firewatchsolutions.com/lake-chad-basin-u-s-involvement/).

<sup>52</sup> Committees.parliament.uk. Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, June 2021, [committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/36772/html/](http://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/36772/html/).

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21 March 2021, a diplomatic office was established in Chad under UK's command, which proved practical in bringing regional stability.<sup>53</sup>

### **France**

France is mostly involved in the Lake Chad Basin crisis through an alliance with Chad. Located in N'Djamena, Chad's capital, 5,100 French troops are garrisoned in the region to effectively monitor and strike against Jihadist militants. These forces were put in action in February 2019, when French aircraft destroyed the rebels marching in the capital. Since then, France has rather been passive in their interaction with the Lake Chad countries besides providing logistic advice and intellectual assistance.<sup>54</sup>

### **People's Republic of China**

China has surprisingly been heavily involved in the affairs of the Lake Chad Basin, beginning with the donation of \$100,000 to the LCBC on 16 August 2019. Moreover, China has supplied an abundance of weaponry to the MNJTF through the help of the African Union (AU) to assist in the anti-terrorism efforts.<sup>55</sup>

### **The Russian Federation**

Russia's primary interest in the Lake Chad Basin is the development of energy sources in the region, as Russia finds Africa and particularly the Basin as a market for Russia's nuclear energy industry. At the same time, because African nations usually lack the availability of adequate energy to back their rapid development, the partnership with Russia is ultimately worthwhile for both parties.<sup>56</sup> Among all the countries, Russia is most closely tied to Cameroon, having signed a military cooperation agreement on April 15, 2015. Recently, in regards to the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, Cameroon was one of the few countries that endorsed Russia's course of action and thenceforth deepened their bilateral affiliation.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> CMG, Jonathan Allen. "A Sustainable Peace Approach to the Lake Chad Region." GOV.UK, GOV.UK, 22 Mar. 2018, [www.gov.uk/government/speeches/a-sustainable-peace-approach-to-the-lake-chad-region](http://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/a-sustainable-peace-approach-to-the-lake-chad-region).

<sup>54</sup> Salaün, Tangi, and John Irish. "Explainer: Chad's Strategic Interest to France, Western Allies." Reuters, Thomson Reuters, 21 Apr. 2021, [www.reuters.com/world/africa/chads-strategic-interest-france-western-allies-2021-04-20/](http://www.reuters.com/world/africa/chads-strategic-interest-france-western-allies-2021-04-20/).

<sup>55</sup> Umar, ABUBAKAR. "Cooperation: The People's Republic of China Grants US\$100,000 to LCBC." *LCBC*, 16 Aug. 2019, <https://cblt.org/cooperation-the-peoples-republic-of-china-grants-us100000-to-lcbc/>.

<sup>56</sup> Freeman, Lawrence. "Nigeria Working to Save Lake Chad. Russia Powering Africa with Nuclear Energy: Africa and the World." *Africa and the World* | By Lawrence Freeman, 20 May 2019, [lawrencefreemanafricaandtheworld.com/2019/05/20/nigeria-working-to-save-lake-chad-russia-powering-africa-with-nuclear-energy/](http://lawrencefreemanafricaandtheworld.com/2019/05/20/nigeria-working-to-save-lake-chad-russia-powering-africa-with-nuclear-energy/).

<sup>57</sup> "Alarm in France, Lake Chad Basin, Sahel Countries as Cameroon Signs New Military Agreement with Russia." *Global Upfront Newspapers*, 21 Apr. 2022, [globalupfront.com/2022/04/21/alarm-in-france-lake-chad-basin-sahel-countries-as-cameroon-signs-new-military-agreement-with-russia/](http://globalupfront.com/2022/04/21/alarm-in-france-lake-chad-basin-sahel-countries-as-cameroon-signs-new-military-agreement-with-russia/).

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### **India**

Although India hasn't been physically associated with the conflict in the Lake Chad Basin, India has expressed a public condemnation for the inhumane attacks by Boko Haram and acknowledged that the crisis is imminent and full of security risks.<sup>58</sup>

### **Norway**

On 27 February 2017, Norway announced its decision to supply NOK 729 million, equivalent to around \$161 million, in an effort to curb the impact of poverty, climate change, and terror. An international forum was held in Oslo, where Børge Brende, the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs justified that “[the crisis] is affecting an area with a population of 26 million” and requires urgent commitment to provide humanitarian relief. The Norwegian government and NGOs have been closely collaborating with international organizations such as the IOM and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to deliver the support people in the Basin need.<sup>59</sup>

### **Kenya**

So far, Kenya has not made a move on the Lake Chad Basin crisis. There has been a simple comment made in a talk in 2015 about climate change and Lake Chad, where Judi Wakhungu, Kenya's Environment Minister, advocated for all countries to take responsibility for the Great Green Wall project to ensure its success in revitalizing deprived areas such as the Lake Chad Basin.<sup>60</sup>

### **Ireland**

For the most part, Ireland has been exercising their influence over the region through financial means. In 2017, the Ministers of Ireland publicized that Ireland will be providing €5.5 million (\$5.6 million) to the affected countries of the Lake Chad Basin and the CAR. An additional €4.3 million was also prepared to support partnered organizations such as the ICRC and UNHCR. Ireland has expressed

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<sup>58</sup> “Place in News: India Expresses Serious Concern over the Security Situation in the Sahel and Lake Chad Region.” IASbaba, 14 Jan. 2021, [iasbaba.com/2021/01/place-in-news-india-expresses-serious-concern-over-the-security-situation-in-the-sahel-and-lake-chad-region/](https://iasbaba.com/2021/01/place-in-news-india-expresses-serious-concern-over-the-security-situation-in-the-sahel-and-lake-chad-region/).

<sup>59</sup> “Norway Will Provide NOK 1.6 Billion over Three Years to Nigeria and the Lake Chad Region.” Norgesportalen, 27 Feb. 2017, [www.norway.no/en/missions/UN/news/news-on-development-and-humanitarian-efforts/norway-contribution-lake-chad-region/](https://www.norway.no/en/missions/UN/news/news-on-development-and-humanitarian-efforts/norway-contribution-lake-chad-region/).

<sup>60</sup> Group, African Development Bank. “The Great Green Wall Is Helping African Countries to Mitigate Climate Change.” *African Development Bank - Building Today, a Better Africa Tomorrow*, African Development Bank Group, 7 Mar. 2019, <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/the-great-green-wall-is-helping-african-countries-to-mitigate-climate-change-15130>.

deep interest in the outcomes of the Basin and added that they will be committed to resolving the situations going forward.<sup>61</sup>

## Suggested Solutions

### **Boko Haram**

In the Lake Chad Basin, a huge portion of insecurity in the region is caused by Boko Haram and its Jihadist movement, being directly linked to the humanitarian crisis, economic instability, and corrupt governance. Although there have been counter-insurgency measures implemented to defeat terrorist organizations, those military initiatives proved temporary, as they ultimately failed to tackle the roots of the problem. By no means does this indicate that military operations were purposeless; civil defense is undoubtedly necessary but requires a strategic plan to effectively utilize funds and address this multi-faceted issue. Incompetent governments of the basin essentially fuel insurgent groups to burgeon, as neglected populations become their components. Even when considering such factors, a myriad of solutions that have been suggested or implemented turned out to be more easily said than done: Kabiru Adamu, a security analyst substantiated that there had been “major government initiatives that [were] meant to speed up development in the north-east, but little progress has been made.” An example is the National Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which has been put forth as a federal deradicalization effort but has not been enforced to its full potential.

Other challenges are posed, such as that the military forces are severely ill-equipped, in addition to the fact that much of the artillery in the nation is possessed by parties other than the security forces. It is also a widely accepted fact that the quality of the weaponry obtained by the opposition is far superior, which poses risks when engaging in direct combat. Theoretically, this is an easy fix given adequate funds and equipment; however, corrupt officials that mediate the transaction have embezzled a significant proportion of the money, preventing war potential from advancing any further. To make matters worse, some military personnel have seen the conflict as an opportunity to enrich themselves and have been engaged in battles perfunctorily, prolonging the fight against Boko Haram.<sup>62</sup> All in all, delegates must devise a tangible plan in the light of the economic statuses and political circumstances of victimized

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<sup>61</sup> “Latest Press Releases.” *Press Releases - Department of Foreign Affairs*, 3 July 2017, <https://www.dfa.ie/news-and-media/press-releases/>.

<sup>62</sup> Khalid, Ishaq. “Nigeria's Boko Haram Militants: Six Reasons They Have Not Been Defeated.” BBC News, BBC, 17 May 2021, [www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-57117296](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-57117296).

countries to bring an appreciable result, whether it be a new, revised military strategy or a method to ensure transparency.

### **Provision of Humanitarian Assistance**

At this instant, millions of people inhabiting the Lake Chad Basin are in desperate need of humanitarian aid, which this need heightened exponentially along with the emergence of COVID-19. The comprehensive problem in the basin has exacerbated far enough that humanitarian assistance alone won't repair the damage; even so, according to the research by Oxfam International, it is said that "development initiatives are falling behind and lack a shared vision and coordination, risking undermining the efficiency and long-term impact of these actions on people's lives." A majority of the affected countries are experiencing economic depression, and despite the presence of international donors sending help, resources continue to fall short to be able to overcome the lack of coordination and vastness of poverty in the region.

To resolve this issue, delegates must discuss ways to establish leadership to systemize the delivery of humanitarian relief by assessing various needs and priorities of different populations. Noting that most areas of the region are either controlled by Boko Haram or subjected to an ongoing conflict, the realistic concern is regarding how the resources will be safely and directly mobilized into the hands of the demanding citizens and on what basis and amount such distribution will be taking place. Another potential solution could be to alleviate some parts of the restrictions governments have imposed on citizens' livelihoods, which have been further intensified under the state of emergency. These restrictions have been pushing the IDPs over the brink and preventing them from recovering back to their normal lives. It is recommended that delegates search for ways to settle these displaced populations in safe economic occupations and promote improved exchange between communities to aim for long-term success in revitalizing public activities. **More ideas can be found [here](#).**<sup>63</sup>

### **Preserving the Lake**

Last but not least, there must be communal efforts to prevent the lake from depleting further. In a recent conference consisting of all members of the LCBC, five schemes were issued, of which was the restoration of Lake Chad through "scientific and technical innovations." Included in the plan was the creation of a monitoring platform that simplifies data collection, the undertaking of full-scale measures

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<sup>63</sup> Dabi, Nafkote, and Aurore Mathieu. Supporting Livelihoods in the Lake Chad Basin: Ways Forward ... - Dspace. OXFAM, Mar. 2018, [oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/620451/bn-supporting-livelihoods-lake-chad-basin-280318-en.pdf](https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/620451/bn-supporting-livelihoods-lake-chad-basin-280318-en.pdf).



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such as afforestation or drip irrigation to reduce the evaporation rate, and the adoption of discussed solutions like Integrated Water Resources Management. After all, Lake Chad is shared by multiple countries, thus delegates must bear in mind that regional cooperation is indispensable, as it presents limitless possibilities for a way forward. The collaborative endeavor can occur in the form of a biosphere reserve, an Economic Free Zone, or other creative strategies that embody this year's theme: *Bonds of Unity*.<sup>64</sup>

**It is highly recommended that delegates refer to [this](#) resolution drafted previously in the Security Council as well.**

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<sup>64</sup> African Business. “Saving Lake Chad.” African Business, African Business, 18 Apr. 2018, [african.business/2018/04/economy/saving-lake-chad/](http://african.business/2018/04/economy/saving-lake-chad/).

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