

The crisis currently affecting the Lake Chad Basin (LCB), which has displaced 3,125,239 Internally Displaced Persons as of May 2021, is one of the worst humanitarian situations in the world. The crisis, which is affecting North-East Nigeria, Far North Cameroon, Lac Province in Chad and Diffa Region in Niger, has generated widespread displacement and engendered a deep social, political, economic and health crisis.

In the Far-North region of Cameroon, **82,586 households of 514,747 individuals** have been displaced as of **March 2021** (DTM Mobility tracking Round 22, March 2021). Constant insecurity added to lack of access to food and basic public services such as water or health highlighted by Multi Sectorial Needs Assessments (MSNA, December 2020) affects mobile and host populations in the Far North region and weakens community resilience against exploitation by Violent Extremist Organizations.

At the same time, **124,310 returnees** have come back to their locations of origin (DTM Mobility tracking Round 22), thanks to a better access to arable land (55% of locations) or the improvement of the security situation (38% of locations). Returnees represent 24 per cent of the populations affected by displacements in Cameroon. This points to the importance of addressing root causes of the crisis in the LCB, of strengthening resilience and sustainable development, and finding durable solutions for displaced populations, in order to favour durable returns.

To this end, IOM has been implementing, since 2019, the Stability Index (SI), the purpose of which is to evaluate the perception of stability of areas hosting displaced and returned populations in the LCB. The SI also seeks to understand which factors most influence a location's perception of stability, so as to identify areas of priority intervention and inform transition and recovery programming, with the ultimate aim of strengthening stability on conflict- and displacement-affected regions. **This report presents the result from the latest Stability Index round conducted in March and April 2021 in Cameroon.**

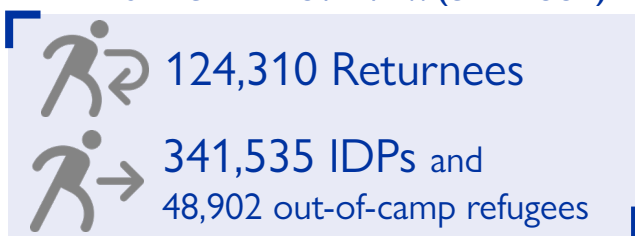
## Methodology

The **Stability Index (SI)** aims to provide evidence-based analysis to better capture persistent community vulnerabilities and grievances and inform tailored interventions seeking to respond to these concerns. The SI aims to foster recovery and stability, lay the foundations for the sustainable return of displaced persons, and prevent additional forced displacement.

The **Stability Index** is based on data collected through key informant interviews conducted at locality level. Key informants (local authorities, community leaders, etc.) were interviewed in their locality by IOM enumerators in **March-April 2021** in all four countries of the Lake Chad Basin (Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria).

The tool serve as a **measure of stability** in targeted areas in the LCB to enable governmental authorities and partners to develop better strategies, and prioritize and plan resources in fragile, unstable areas for coherent and comprehensive interventions that link humanitarian, recovery, and stabilization approaches. Indicators used in the Stability Index are measured in order to identify which ones have a stronger impact on stability.

### DISPLACEMENT OVERVIEW (CAMEROON)



### DATA COLLECTION OVERVIEW

1 REGION	6 DEPT	884 LOCATION S
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The key informant method has the advantage of allowing the coverage of many localities, but its main limitation lies in the fact that only one, or a few informants, report on the views of a community. Multiple KI were interviewed for each locality, allowing IOM to crosscheck information.

The index correlates data available on displaced and returnee population with 31 main indicators, grouped in three scales to measure the stability of an area and create a location stability score. Scales are:

- 1) Access to livelihoods and basic services,
- 2) Social cohesion,
- 3) Safety and Security.

These indicators represent a set of minimum or critical living conditions that are necessary to make a place stable and more conducive to durable solutions. In practical terms, the Stability Index measures levels of stability and analyze which factors are relatively more impactful on the decisions of population to remain in place or to move. Questions on the perception of stability by the community (Feeling of stability, future intentions, Evolution of the situation in the last 6 months) are used, as the "anchor questions", which are tested to assess the impact of each indicator (3 scales) on this perception of stability .

These indicators are formulated into a survey format and interviews with key informants are conducted in all locations welcoming mobile populations of the Far North region of Cameroon as of March 2021, plus a few additional locations.

### Stability Index Calculation

The Stability Index used the Principal Component Analysis model to assess the impact of each indicator on the perception of stability of an area hosting displaced or returned population, and then provides a specific value per indicator. These ratios make it possible to **evaluate which indicators have a greater statistical impact than others on the perception of stability of areas**. Each indicator thus has a value associated that allows to calculate a « livelihood and basic services score », a « social cohesion score » and a « safety and security score ». These three scores were then combined to create the Stability Index. The index ranges from 0 (low perception of stability) to 100 (high perception of stability).

## Stability Index Score

**Global score : 69/100**

In Cameroon, 884 locations, among which 859 hosting mobile populations (IDPs, returnees or out-of-camp refugees) were assessed.

Out of 884 locations assessed, 711 were perceived as **safe** by the key informants and obtained an average stability score of 74. 173 locations were considered **unsafe** and obtained an average stability score of 47 (Figure 2).

In **87 per cent of assessed locations, local populations do not expect to move in the next 6 months** and in **52 per cent of locations, populations consider the situation as more hopeful in the last 6 months** (Figure 2).

These 3 questions (stability, intention of movement and future expectations) are used as dependent variable, tested in the analysis to assess the impact of each indicator (livelihood and service, safety and security, etc.) on the perception of stability. (Figure 2).

## Regional overview

The overall stability scores in the 6 départements vary between **60 for Mayo-Sava** and **83 for Mayo-Kani**, where most of the conditions necessary for stability are met (Figure 1), and the **global stability perception score is 68**. Stability Index scores at the village level however vary importantly, indicating that there are important differences of levels of stability between locations in the region (Case study p.4). The lowest score is 11 for **Mbzagabai (Tokombéré, Mayo Sava)** and the highest score is 97 for **Djingliya montagne (Koza, Mayo Tsanaga)**. Compared to Nigeria, Niger and Chad, Cameroon has the highest number of locations with the lowest scores.



Figure 1: Average stability score by département

The lowest average sub-index score is the livelihood and basic services category. (Figure 4). This indicates that the livelihood conditions in the average locality are further away from the best possible scenario (full access to all measured livelihood and services indicators, or a score of 100) than they are from the best possible scenario in terms of security or social cohesion.

Figure 2: Locations where populations feel safe (1), feel they can stay in the longer term (2) and where the situation is more hopeful than before (3)

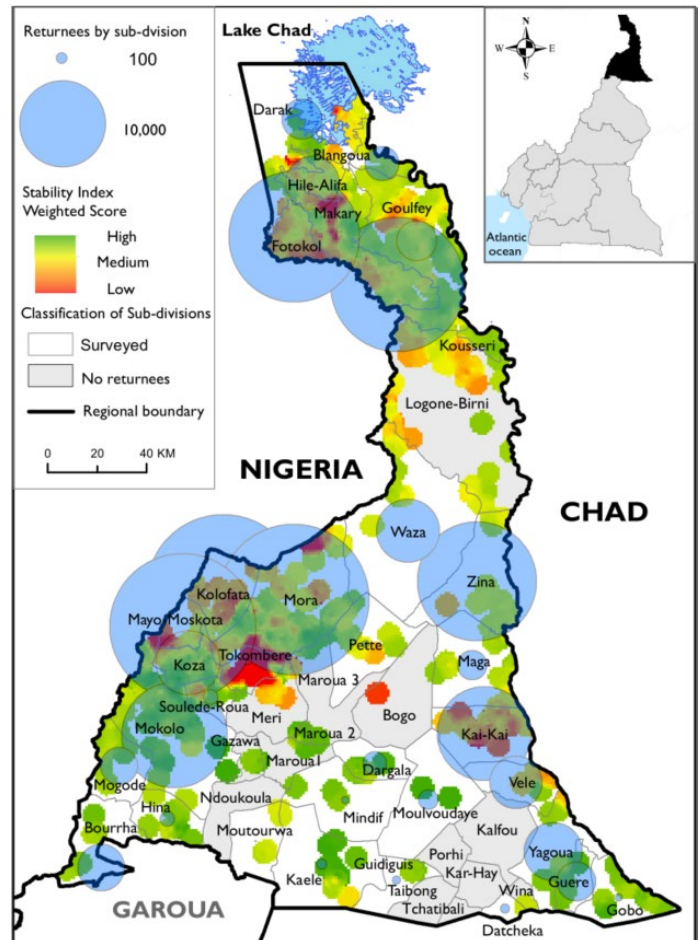
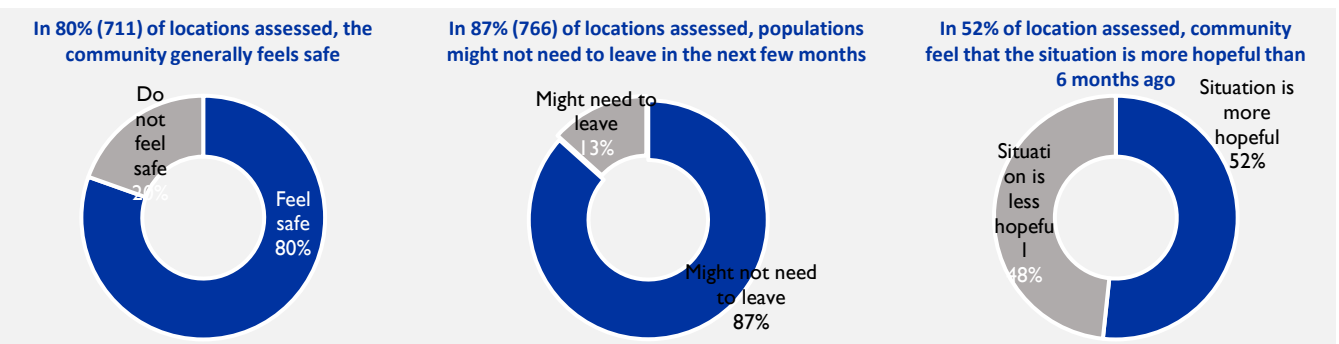


Figure 3: Stability Index score in Cameroon and presence of returnees

This map is for illustrative purposes only. Representations and the use of boundaries and geographical names on this map do not imply official recognition or acceptance by IOM.

Figure 4: Average score of each Stability Index category

Livelihood and basic services	Social cohesion	Safety and security
Average score <b>52</b>	Average score <b>69</b>	Average score <b>74</b>

## Presence of displaced populations

In the Far North, **124,310 returnees** have come back to their locations of origin (DTM Mobility tracking Round 22, March 2021), thanks to a better access to arable land or the improvement of the security situation. Returnees are not necessarily going back to most stable locations (Figure 3), however, **60% of them returned to areas considered as ‘safe’ by key informants – compared to 76% of IDPs – and 75% to areas where key informants consider displaced population would not need to leave in the next few months, compared to 88% for IDPs.** This last indicator seems to favour returns more significantly.

## Key Stability Index Variables

The Stability Index uses a Principal Component Analysis to understand the weight of the impact of each variable on the perception of key informants of the stability of the locations assessed.

### Top 5 most influential indicators on stability in Cameroon

- 1 **Daily public life**
- 2 **Freedom of movement**
- 3 **No security concerns**
- 4 **Access to legal remedies**
- 5 **Possession of identity documents**

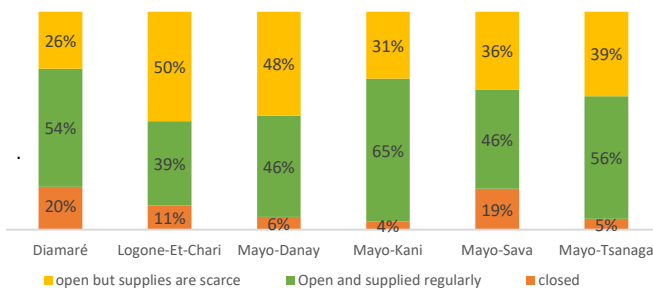
On the other hand, some variables have less influence on the Stability Index calculation, either because they are marginal or recurrent in almost all locations assessed, as it is the case for **1. Violent Extremism** and **2. tensions over resources**, impacting almost all locations in the Far North.

## Scale 1: Livelihood and basic services

Scores obtained by indicators of scale 1 are comparatively low (52 on average, Figure 4) and contribute to a lower overall stability score.

**Access to a local market** is the most influential indicator (rank #6) of scale 1, followed by **access to drinking water** (rank #10). Markets in 20 per cent of locations in Diamaré, the most stable sub-division, are closed. While access to health centre was the most significant indicator in 2019, it now ranks #22.

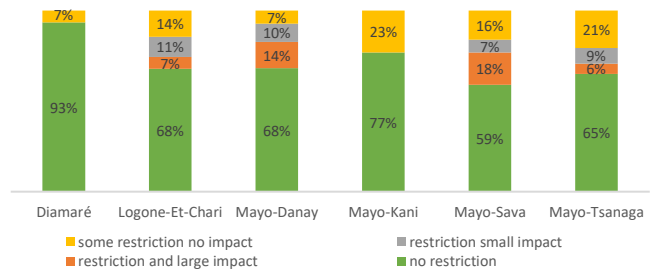
Figure 5: Access to a local market by division



## Scale 2: Safety and security

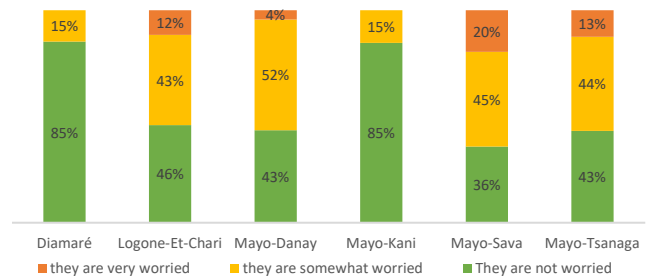
Safety and security related indicators have a **high impact** on stability. **Freedom of movement** is key in the perception of stability by key informants, in a context where freedom of movement is constrained by security and climate issues and the COVID-19 pandemic led to further restrictions in mobility. Restriction of movement has been more important in Mayo-Sava bordering Nigeria and Mayo-Danay, where seasonal floods usually isolate locations for a long period of time.

Figure 6: Freedom of movement indicator by division



The **absence of security concerns**, linked to a relatively small number of incidents in the locations and **access to legal remedies** are also important variables on stability. In Mayo-Sava and Mayo-Dana, populations in 14 and 13 per cent of locations assessed have no access to either formal or informal forms of justice.

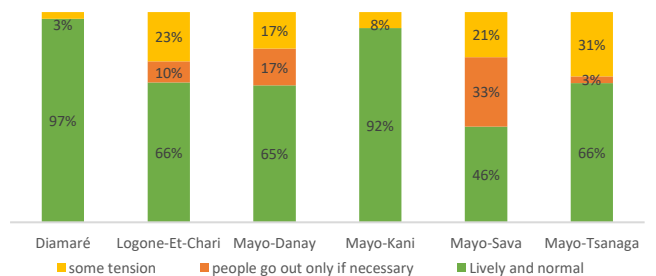
Figure 7: Security concerns indicator by division



## Scale 3: Social cohesion

The perception of **daily public life** in the localities assessed is the most influential indicator (rank #1) as it is particularly tangible: Mayo-Sava has the highest percentage (33%) of localities where people only go out if necessary and few people are in the streets, followed by Mayo-Danay. In Diamaré and Mayo-Kani, active daily public life increases the perception of stability. The social cohesion indicator with the second-highest impact on perception of stability is the **possession of identity documents** (rank #5).

Figure 8: Daily public life score in Cameroon by division



## Case Studies

Localities selected for this case study are located in the same sub-division but have a drastically different Stability Index score, given the variation of specifically impactful indicators, such as the absence or presence of curfew or access to legal remedies.

### HITERE (Score 26)

**Hitere (Mayo-Moskota, Mayo-Tsanaga)** has a stability score of **26, which** is quite low compared to average country score (68). The lowest score in Cameroon is however 11, for **Mbzagabai (Tokombéré, Mayo Sava)**. Hitere is hosting 711 displaced individuals.

According to the key informants interviewed, people in the locality may need to leave soon because of stability or safety concerns. Despite the decrease of incidents related to armed groups in the last 3 months, the frequent incidence of security events combined to a formal curfew worries the population. Access to services and housing is very low, the local market and school are closed, water and electricity supply is scarce, and the lack of resources has an impact on both displaced and host populations. People fear to go out and the absence of access to legal remedies and the absence of public servants contributes to lower stability in the location.

### TOUROU CENTRE (Score 94)

**Tourou Centre (Mokolo, Mayo Tsanaga)**, has a stability score of **94**, among the highest scores of stability. The highest score in Cameroon is 97 for **Djingliya montagne (Koza, Mayo Tsanaga)**. Tourou site, a spontaneous site of IDPs located next to Tourou centre, has a lower score of 48. Tourou centre is welcoming almost 5,000 displaced individuals and Tourou site around 3,200 displaced individuals.

People in the locality of Tourou Centre do not need to leave soon because of safety or stability concerns and the situation is more hopeful than six months ago with a decrease of security incidents in the past 3 months. Public services are quite developed with an equitable access to a health centre, primary education, housing, and a strong presence of security and police forces. Freedom of movement is fully permitted and there is no curfew. On the contrary to Tourou site. The population has access to both formal and informal legal remedies. Habitat or property are occupied legally in Tourou centre, contrary to Tourou site.

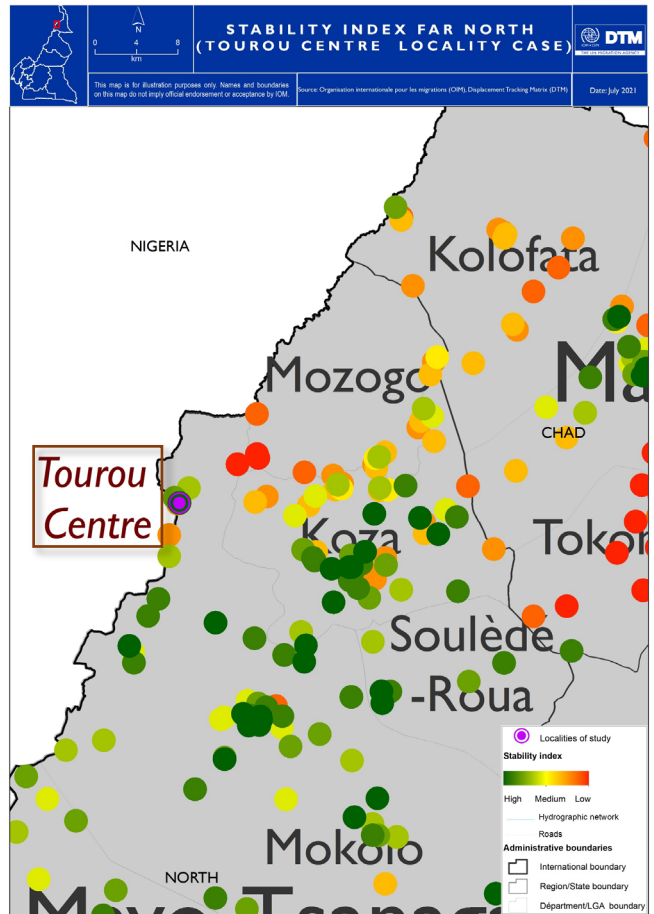
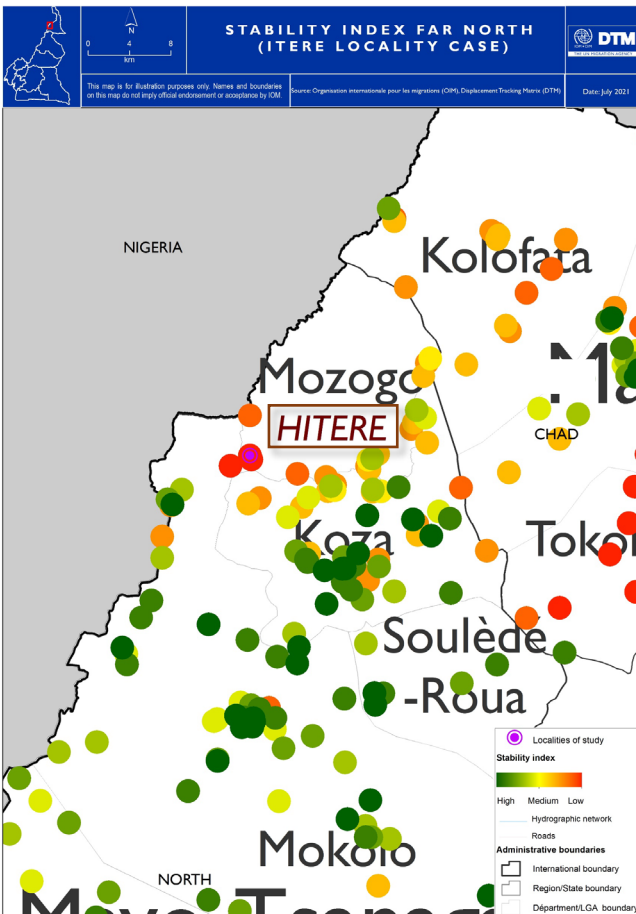


Figure 9 and 10 : Stability score of case study locations (Hitere and Tourou Centre)

The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries



## Case Studies

Division	Mayo-Tsanaga	Mayo-Tsanaga	Mayo-Tsanaga
Sub-division	Mayo-Moskota	Mokolo	Mokolo
Locality	HITERE	TOUROU SITE	TOUROU CENTRE
Feeling of Stability	Orange	Orange	Green
Intention to stay	Orange	Green	Green
Change in situation	Green	Orange	Green
Habitat access	Orange	Green	Green
Habitat destruction	Orange	Yellow	Green
Education access	Orange	Green	Green
Health Access	Orange	Orange	Green
Market access	Orange	Green	Green
Electricity access	Orange	Green	Green
Water access	Orange	Yellow	Green
Farmland cultivated	Yellow	Orange	Green
Fishing ground access	Orange	Orange	Orange
Presence of public employment	Orange	Green	Green
ICT access	Orange	Yellow	Green
Serious Security incidents	Orange	Green	Green
Security incident over resources	Green	Orange	Green
NSAG incidents	Green	Green	Green
Petty crime	Green	Green	Green
Community perception of security	Orange	Orange	Orange
Security forces presence	Green	Green	Green
Police presence	Orange	Green	Green
VoE presence	Green	Green	Orange
Freedom of movements	Orange	Orange	Green
Formal Curfew	Orange	Orange	Green
Informal Curfew	Green	Orange	Green
Access to legal remedies	Orange	Yellow	Green
HLP illegal occupation	Orange	Green	Green
Robbery of personal belongings	Orange	Green	Orange
Robbery of cattle	Orange	Green	Green
Daily public life activity	Orange	Green	Green
Community cooperation in case of problem	Orange	Yellow	Green
Tension within community	Green	Orange	Green
Equal access to basic services	Green	Orange	Green
Identity document possession and access	Orange	Orange	Green
Participation in public Affairs	Orange	Green	Green
<b>Stability index score</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>94</b>

Figure 11: Score by indicator compared between Hitere, Tourou Site and Tourou centre

The Stability Index score in different localities of a same sub-division can vary drastically. In such case of figure, it is important to identify which diverging factors in a similar context could be targeted to increase stability.

In the case of Hitere, Tourou site and Tourou centre, which have low, medium and high stability scores, indicators evolving between the three locations, located in the same sub-division, could help identifying potential drivers for stability. **Habitat destruction, access to legal remedies, freedom of movements, formal curfew, possession of identity document and participation in public affairs**, among others, seem to be **variables to take into account for effective programming**.

On the contrary, if converging factors, such as NSAG incidents, petty crime, presence of security forces, health access, fishing ground access are not influencing the Stability Index score, it does not mean they are not contributing to stability. **However, they might be more difficult to target as a driver for stability**, since they generally apply to none or to all locations assessed.

Variable	Scale	Rank	Variable	Scale	Rank	Variable	Scale	Rank
Daily Public Life	Social Cohesion	1	Participation In Public Affairs	Livelihood & Services	12	Access to Health Centers	Livelihood & Services	22
Freedom of Movement	Safety and Security	2	Habitat Access	Livelihood & Services	13	Tension	Social Cohesion	23
Security Concerns	Safety and Security	3	Farmland Cultivation	Livelihood & Services	14	Petty Crime Incidents	Safety and Security	24
Access to Legal Remedies	Safety and Security	4	Access to Electricity	Livelihood & Services	15	Activities by Non State Armed Groups	Safety and Security	25
Identity Documents	Social Cohesion	5	ICT Access	Livelihood & Services	16	Cattle Theft	Social Cohesion	26
Local Market	Livelihood & Services	6	Primary Education	Livelihood & Services	17	Formal Curfew	Safety and Security	27
Access to Services	Social Cohesion	7	Public Sector Employees	Livelihood & Services	18	Fishing Ground	Livelihood & Services	28
Security Incidents	Safety and Security	8	Social Cohesion	Social Cohesion	19	Robbery Personal Effects	Safety and Security	29
Illegal Occupation of Land	Social Cohesion	9	Delaying Medical Care (COVID)	Livelihood & Services	20	Resource Tensions	Safety and Security	30
Access to Drinking Water	Livelihood & Services	10	Informal Curfew	Safety and Security	21	Violent Extremism	Safety and Security	31
Habitat Destruction	Livelihood & Services	11						

Figure 12: Stability Index indicators by weigh and scale

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations can be induced for the Stability Index's findings to inform and guide programmatic planification, in order to encourage and support durable returns in the region.

### 1. Focus intervention on fields with the most impact on stability

Programmatic fields should focus on **aspects considered as having the most impact on stability perception by displaced populations**, including:

- Daily public life
- The possibility to move freely
- The number of security incidents
- The access to legal remedies and documentation

In areas of Cameroon where the Stability Index score is rather low while welcoming returnees and IDPs, programmes should most urgently focus on **restoring local economic activities and public life, supporting freedom of movements as well as accessibility to legal remedies and identification documents** in order to achieve a high level of stability. **Social cohesion and general access to services** should also be taken into conflict sensitive programing, especially in locations where the influx of IDPs or returnees might strain already limited capacity to ensure service provision. Additional conflict prevention and resolution as well as peacebuilding interventions could be implemented to reduce the number of security incidents and reinforce police and security forces against violent extremism in the region.

### 2. Rely on geographic and contextual proximity to develop positive spillover effects

Geographic and contextual specificities should also be taken into account to favour the development of a stable environment in neighbouring locations, as a positive spillover effect.

A location of cluster of locations with a low Stability Index score could be paired with a location or cluster of locations geographically close by and with high score to support programming to support a "domino effect". This could be implemented between localities surrounded by spontaneous sites of IDPs, as it is the case in Tourou (cf. case study p.4), ensuring IDP populations beneficiate from the same rights, equal access to services than host populations in the area.

### 3. Identify key variables for an efficient intervention

The capacity of populations to stay in the location in the next few months seems to be impactful to favor return movements. Programmatic interventions should either focus on taking action to ensure returnees will be able to stay in the medium term, for humanitarian and stabilization programming mainly or conduct longer-term development interventions in locations where this variable is already positive.

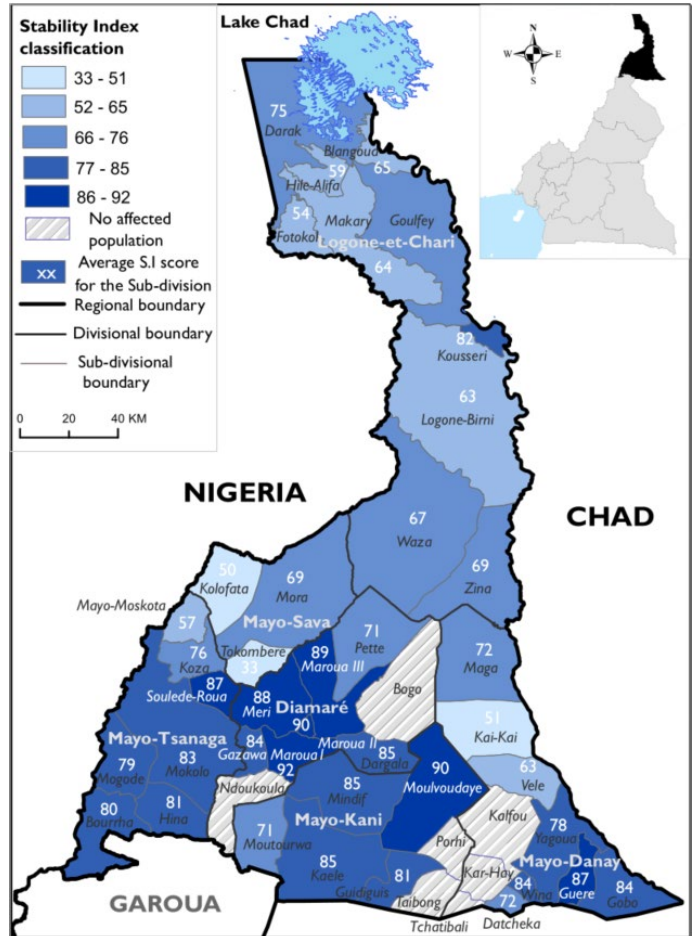


Figure 13: Stability Index average score by sub-division

### Humanitarian-Development-Peace NEXUS - convergence areas selection

As a first step, nexus intervention could focus on sub-division with a **low to medium scale (30-75) Stability Index score**, welcoming **returnee populations** and/or **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)** for mixed intervention. To favour durable intervention, convergence areas should be selected taking into account locations where populations consider **they can stay in the next few months and the situation has improved in the last six months**. Finally, it could either focus on areas with geographic and stability proximity for convergence of intervention or with stability differentiation for a positive spillover effect.

**Makary**, which hosts over 55,000 returnees and 13,000 IDPs (*DTM Round 22, March 2021*) where 65% of locations assessed estimate that the situation is more hopeful than the last 6 months and 80% of locations estimate the population does not need to leave in the next few months could be selected. Its proximity with Fotokol could enable synergies of interventions.

**Mora**, which hosts over 63,000 returnees and 17,000 IDPs, has 48% of locations estimating the situation is more hopeful and 93% of locations where population would not need to leave in the next few months could be selected as well. This also applies to **Kai-Kai** or **Koza**.

On the other hand, nexus intervention could also be developed in communes where the Stability Index is high but the situation deteriorating, such as **Darak**.

## ANNEX DOCUMENTS

### List of indicators

#### Scale 1: Livelihoods and basic services:

- C1. State of housing/habitats
- C2. Primary school
- C3. Health centres
- C4. Local market
- C5. Access to electricity
- C6. Access to drinking water
- C7. Farmland & fishing grounds
- C8. Presence of public employment
- C9. Access to ICTs

#### Scale 2: Safety and Security:

- D1. Security incidents
- D2. Security concerns
- D3. Presence of government/formal security forces
- D4. Presence of Violent Extremist Organizations (VOE)
- D5. Freedom of movement
- D6. Access to legal remedies

#### Scale 3: Social cohesion:

- E1. Illegal occupation of land, habitat, or property
- E2. Robbery of assets
- E3. Daily public life
- E4. Social capital
- E5. Relations between communities
- E6. Access to services and markets
- E7. Identity documents
- E8. Participation to public affairs

### Stability average score by sub-

Division/Sub-division	Stability Index average score
<b>Diamaré</b>	<b>80</b>
Dargala	85
Gazawa	84
Maroua I	92
Maroua II	90
Maroua III	89
Méri	88
Petté	71
<b>Logone-Et-Chari</b>	<b>66</b>
Blangoua	65
Darak	75
Fotokol	54
Goulfey	74
Hile-Alifa	59
Kousséri	82
Logone-Birni	63
Makary	64
Waza	67
Zina	69
<b>Mayo-Danay</b>	<b>67</b>
Datchéka	72
Gobo	84
Guémé	63
Guéré	87
Kai-Kai	51
Maga	72
Wina	84
Yagoua	78
<b>Mayo-Kani</b>	<b>83</b>
Guidiguis	81
Kaélé	85
Mindif	85
Moulvoudaye	90
Moutourwa	71
<b>Mayo-Sava</b>	<b>60</b>
Kolofata	50
Mora	69
Tokombéré	33
<b>Mayo-Tsanaga</b>	<b>75</b>
Bourha	80
Hina	81
Koza	76
Mayo-Moskota	57
Mogodé	79
Mokolo	83
Soulédé-Roua	87
<b>Overall score</b>	<b>69</b>

N.B. : the average Stability Index score by division (départements) was calculated based on the average score by localities of the département, not based on the average score by sub-division, thus giving more weight to sub-divisions with more localities than others. This is the reason why the average score by départements is not equivalent to the combined average score by sub-divisions.