

September 2021

BACKGROUND: The conflict currently affecting the Lake Chad Basin (North-East Nigeria, Far North Cameroon, Lac Province Chad and Diffa Region Niger) has displaced 3,0125,239 people as of May 2021. The crisis is one of the worst humanitarian situations in the world, generating widespread displacement and engendering deep social, political, economic and health crises.

While new displacements continue to take place, some areas have become more stable and have seen the return of displaced persons. As of May 2021, 1.75 million individuals have returned to their location of origin in the LCB region (in addition to the 3 million IDPs).

In order to find durable solutions for internal displacement — whether through return to communities of origin, local integration, or relocation and to prevent new displacements in the region, it is critical to understand the relative levels of stability in locations hosting returnees or displaced populations.

To better measure this phenomenon and provide structured solutions, IOM has launched the Stability Index (SI), to evaluate the stability of areas hosting returnees or displaced populations in the LCB. The SI seeks to understand which factors influence a location's stability in order to identify priority interventions for transition and recovery, with the goal of strengthening the resilience and stability in this conflict and displacementaffected region. In practical terms, the Stability Index measures perceptions of stability and analyzes which factors have relatively larger impact on the decisions of populations to remain in place or to move. The tool can serve as a measure of stability in targeted areas in the LCB to enable governmental authorities and partners to develop better strategies, and to prioritize and plan resources in fragile, unstable areas for coherent and comprehensive interventions that link humanitarian, recovery, and stabilization approaches.

While pilot SI surveys were carried out in Nigeria, Chad and Cameroon in 2019, the first round of a harmonized SI data collection in all four countries of the LCB took place in 2021. This report presents results from the March-April 2021 Stability Index round of data collection conducted in Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria and Niger.

1. Methodology

The **Stability Index** collects data through key informant interviews at the lowest possible administrative level, the locality level (see Annex for further information on the locality selection process). Key informants, including mayors, community leaders, aid workers, etc. were interviewed in each location (n = 1,893) by enumerators in March-April 2021 in all four countries of the Lake Chad Basin (Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria).

The key informant method has the advantage of allowing the coverage of many localities. Multiple key informants were interviewed in each locality, allowing IOM to cross-validate information. However, its main limitation lies in the fact that only a few informants report on the views of a community.

The index correlates data available on localities with indicators, grouped in the following three scales:

1) Access to Livelihoods and Basic Services

- Access to drinking water
- Access to health centers
- Delaying medical care (due to COVID)
- Delaying medical care (not due to COVID)
- Farmland cultivation and access
- Fishing grounds usages and access
- Habitat access
- Habitat destruction due to conflict
- ICT access
- Electricity access
- Local market activity and stocks
- Primary education access
- Public sector employee presence

DISPLACEMENT FIGURES



1,752,743 Returnees 3,012,239 IDPs

2) Social Cohesion

- Equal access to basic services
- Cattle theft reported
- Illegal occupation of HLP
- Robbery personal effects
- Daily public life activity
- Social cohesion and community support systems
- Community tension
- Identity documents possession
- Participation in public affairs

3) Safety and Security

- Access to legal remedies
- · Activities by non-state armed groups
- Formal curfew
- Informal curfew
- Freedom of movement
- · Local crime trends
- · Security incident over resources
- Serious security incidents
- Security forces presence
- Police presence
- Non-State Armed Groups presence
- Community perception of security

These indicators represent a set of critical living conditions that are necessary to make a place stable and conducive to durable solutions for internal displacement.

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.

1.1 Stability Index Calculation

The Stability Index uses Principal Component Analysis (see Annex for further explanation) to assess the impact of each indicator on the perception of stability in an area hosting displaced or returned populations, and then provides a specific value per indicator. These calculations make it possible to evaluate which indicators have a relatively greater statistical impact on the perception of stability. Each indicator thus has an associated value that enables the calculation of a «livelihood and basic services score», a «social cohesion score» and a «safety and security score». These three scores are then combined to create the Stability Index. The index ranges from 0 (low perception of stability) to 100 (high perception of stability).



September 2021

1.2. Data collection overview

The data collection was conducted in March and April 2021, covering a total of 1,893 locations in Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria and Chad, as per below.

ı			
	CAMEROON	6 DÉPARTEMENTS	883 LOCATIONS
	NIGER	4 DÉPARTEMENTS	180 LOCATIONS
	NIGERIA	36 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS	608 LOCATIONS
	CHAD	3 DÉPARTEMENTS	221 LOCATIONS

2. Stability Scores Analysis

2.1 Stability Index Score by Country

The average Stability Index score of the 1,893 assessed locations was 74/100, with a wide range of scores on the three scales per country.

COUNTRY	STABILITY INDEX SCORE	LIVELIHOOD & BASIC SERVICES	SOCIAL COHESION	SAFETY AND SECURITY
Cameroon	69/100	52	69	74
Niger	79/100	51	86	72
Nigeria	74/100	73	73	69
Chad	94/100	44	91	96
Overall	74/100			

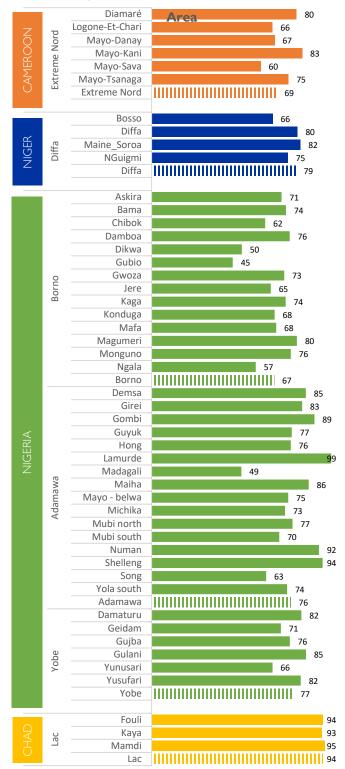
When reviewing the Stability Index score at region or state level (first administrative level), the lowest average Stability Index scores are in Borno (67/100), in Nigeria and Extreme North (69/100), in Cameroon.

2.2 Stability Index Score by Département or Local Government Area (LGA)

A more granular overview of Stability Index scores by "Département" or "Local Government Area" (LGA) (second administrative level) is shown in the chart to the right. This overview allows for the identification of "Départements" or LGAs that are at both high and low extremes of the stability spectrum.

Stability Index Score by

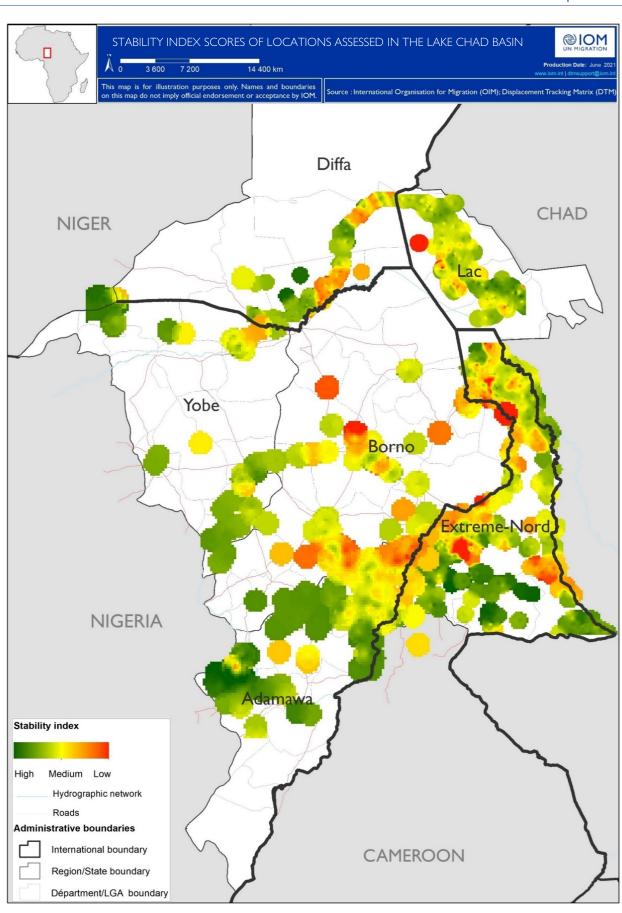
"Département" or Local Government







September 2021



September 2021

2.2. Stability Index Score by Locality

The locality Stability Index scores range from 11/100 to 100/100 across the Lake Chad Basin localities, with the lowest scores mainly found in Cameroon: 27 of the lowest-scoring 30 localities are found in Cameroon, with the remaining three in Nigeria – although it is worth noting that several localities in Nigeria are not included in this assessment due to physical insecurity impeding data collection.

Highest scores are mainly found in Chad and Nigeria: 20 of the 30 localities with the highest scores are in Chad, nine in Nigeria and one in Niger.

2.3 Perception of Stability

The first section of the questionnaire is focused on the key informants' perception of stability in the assessed communities. These questions are used as the "anchor questions", which are tested in the analysis to assess the impact of each indicator on the three scales (livelihood and social services, social cohesion, safety and security) on the perception of stability.

Three main questions were used to measure this perception of stability (see *Annex for further details*):

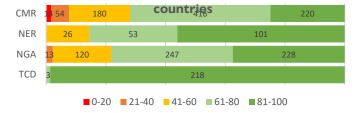
- 1. Feeling of stability;
- 2. Future intentions of the population;
- 3. Evolution of the situation in the last 6 months

The Stability Index score calculation is obtained by comparing the results of the first question on "feeling of stability" against all other indicators collected. It is this calculation, of the correlation of each of these 23 indicators with the perception of stability, that allows us to calculate the overall stability score as well as the scores for each scale.

The next paragraphs analyse the responses to the three questions on stability against the Stability Index score.

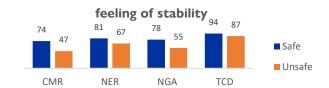
<u>Feeling of stability</u>: asked to choose the best statement describing the feeling of stability in the locality, most key informants (82%) responded they felt that the locality was safe and stable. Their

Distribution of localities by SI score and



answers correlate with the stability score in the same areas. In safe and stable localities, the average Stability Index score is 79/100, whereas in areas considered unsafe and unstable the average score is 53/100.

Average Stability Index score by



Ability to continue living in the locality: on the need to move from the current location soon due to safety and stability concerns, most key informants (88%) responded that the people in the location did not expect to move anytime soon. Borno State in Nigeria has the highest proportion of localities where people expect to need to move soon (24%).

Evolution of the situation in the last 6 months: to the question "How has your feeling of the situation in your locality changed over the last 6 months?" responses are quite different by country. In Nigeria, 74% of the localities assessed are more hopeful about the community than 6 months ago. This result is somewhat lower in Cameroon (52%) and significantly lower in Niger, where only 26% of localities are hopeful about the future.







September 2021

3. LOCALITY ANALYSIS

This section provides an overview of the localities with the highest and lowest scores across the four countries, along the three scales of analysis. It shows, for each of these localities, the score from worst possible answer (red) to best (green) for the main indicators collected. This allows the identification of the indicators on which programmes should focus in order to change the perception of stability (i.e. indicators that are red in low score localities and green in high score localities).

3.1 <u>Livelihood and Basic</u> <u>Services — Comparative</u> <u>analysis of localities with</u> highest and lowest SI scores

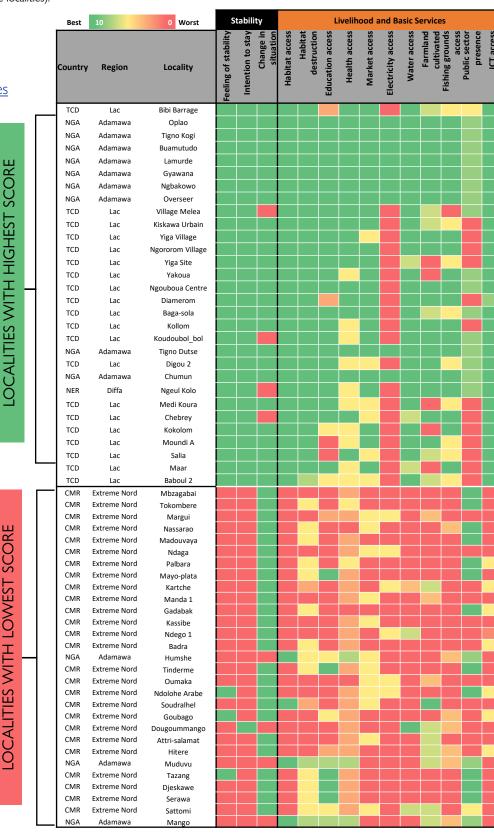
This table shows the scores of the key livelihood and basic services indicators and the three stability "anchor questions" for the localities with the highest and lowest scores in the four regions of the Lake Chad Basin.

It is interesting to note that some indicators are low (red) across both the localities with the highest and lowest scores: example, access electricity and public sector employee presence. This indicates that while programmes could support these areas of focus, they would not necessarily affect the overall perception of stability, as the localities with highest stability scores also score poorly (red) on these indicators.

Other indicators, however, clearly have a significant impact on the perception of stability. Access to habitat, access to drinking water and information and commun-ication technology (ICT) are all low (red) for the localities with a low stability score and high (green) for localities with

low (red) for the localities with a low stability score and high (green) for localities with high stability scores, indicating that these indicators are significantly influencing the perception of stability.

Scale shown for each indicator moves gradually from red (worst possible response for the indicator) to green (best possible response for the indicator). The score for each indicator is rescaled to range between 0 to 10. A score of 10 indicates a good situation (the most positive answer possible) and is depicted in green. A score of 0 indicates the worst possible answer for this indicator and is depicted in red. These scores are not directly linked with the calculation of the Stability Index score.





September 2021

3.2 Social Cohesion
— Comparative
analysis of localities
with highest and
lowest SI scores

This table shows the scores of the key social cohesion indicators and the three stability "anchor questions" for the localities with the highest and lowest scores in the four regions of the Lake Chad Basin.

SCORE

HIGHEST

OCALITIES WITH

SCORE

LOWEST

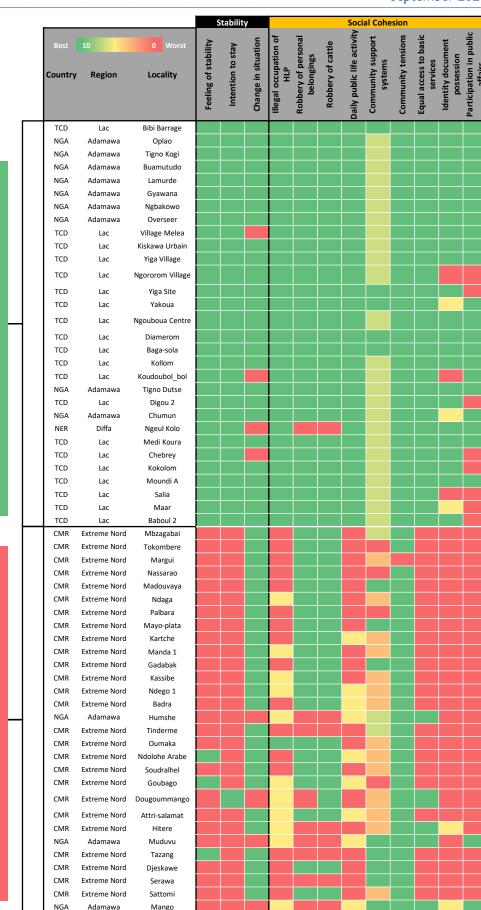
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OCALITI

Some indicators are low (red) across the localities with the lowest and highest stability scores: identity document possession and the participation in public affairs. This indicates that programmes could support these areas of focus, they would not necessarily affect the overall perception of stability, as the localities with highest stability scores also score poorly (red) on these indicators.

Other indicators are clearly divided and heavily impact the perception of stability: illegal occupation of habitat, land and property (HLP), the liveliness and economic activities in the streets of the locality (daily public life activity) and the egual access to basic services all have a low score (red) for localities with the lowest stability scores and a score (green) localities with the highest stability scores indicating that these indicators have a strong influence on the perception of stability and therefore be prime mav focus for areas of programmatic interventions.





September 2021

3.3 <u>Safety and Security</u>
— <u>Comparative</u>
<u>analysis of localities</u>
<u>with highest and</u>
lowest SI scores

This table shows the scores of the key safety and security indicators and the three stability "anchor questions" for the localities with the highest and lowest scores in the four regions of the Lake Chad Basin.

SCORE

HIGHEST

OCALITIES WITH

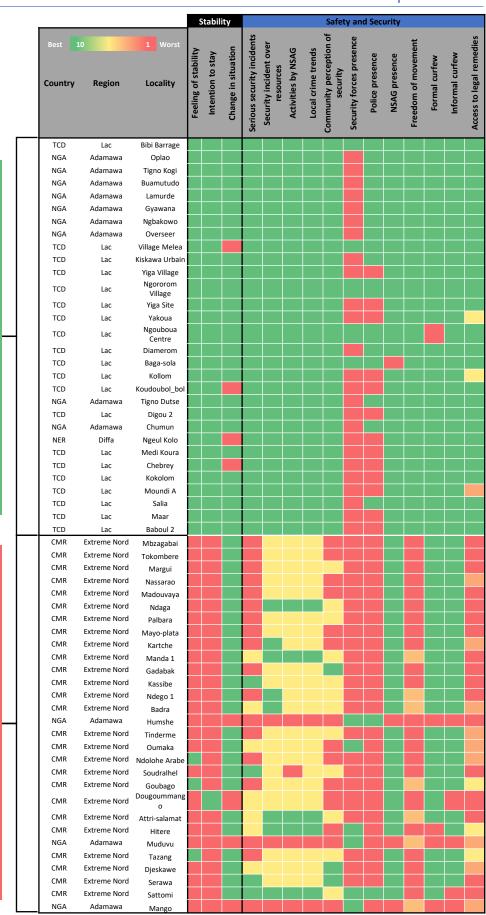
SCORE

IES WITH LOWEST

OCALITI

Some indicators are low (red) across the localities the lowest and highest stability scores: Security force police presence and presence in the locality. This indicates that while programmes could support these areas of focus, they would not necessarily affect the overall perception of stability, as the localities with highest stability scores also score poorly (red) on these indicators.

Other indicators are clearly divided and heavily impact the perception of stability. freedom movement (the ability to move around the locality freely) and the community perception security (whether residents are worried about security in the locality) all have low scores (red) for the **lowest** SI localities and a high scores (green) for localities with the highest stability scores indicating that these indicators have a strong influence on the perception of stability.





SECURITY

September 2021

4. Analysis Of Main Indicators Influencing Stability

The Stability Index uses a Principal Component Analysis to understand the impact of each variable on the perception of key informants of the stability in the area and then provides a specific value per indicator.

This allows for the analysis of which indicators have the most impact on the perception of stability among the population. For a more detailed overview of what each indicator measures, see Appendix.

4.1 Top influential indicators on the perception of stability by country

LIVELIHOOD

TOP 5 MOST INFLUENTIAL INDICATORS ON PERCEPTION OF STABILITY BY COUNTRY SOCIAL COHESION

	CAMEROON	CHAD	NIGER	NIGERIA	
1	Daily Public Life Activity	Illegal Occupation of Land	Robbery Personal Effects	Daily Public Life	
2	Freedom of Movement	Informal Curfew	Non-State Armed Groups Activities	Freedom of Movement	
3	Community Perception of Security	Delay in Access Medical Care	Freedom of Movement	Security Incidents	
4	Access to Legal Remedies	Freedom of Movement	Security Incidents	Robbery Personal Effects	
5	Possession of Identity Documents	Security Incidents	Illegal Occupation of Land	Violent Extremist Incidents	

This analysis provides insight into the possible programmatic and policy responses that need to be implemented in the target communities:

The freedom of movement stands out as an influential indicator cutting across all four countries, highlighting that this important issue should be a consideration for programmatic work throughout the region. Security also ranked as an influential factor in all countries — although it is noteworthy that the most influential explicit security indicator in Cameroon was the community perception of security (the extent that residents are worried about security) whereas for the other three countries the dominant explicit security indicator was security incidents (the experience of a serious security incident in recent months). While daily public life is the most important factor in both Cameroon and Nigeria (which are also the countries with the

two lowest overall stability scores), it does not rank in the top five for either Chad or Niger.

This breakdown of the most influential indicators reveals a stark difference between the relative impact of the three sub-categories of thematic indicators - security indicators represent the largest proportion of influential indicators, although social cohesion indicators rank as the most influential in each country. Only one livelihood indicator is represented – access to medical care in Chad, indicating that the other two thematic categories may have more influence on the perception of stability.

Sections 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 provide a description of the most influential indicators on perception of stability for the three scales livelihood and basic services, social cohesion and safety and security by country.



September 2021

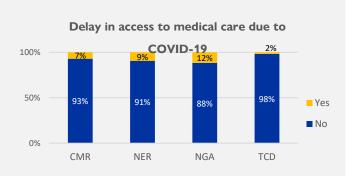
4.2 Scale 1: Livelihood & basic services

This section analyses the key variables that influence the perception of stability related to livelihood and basic services.

Delaying medical care (due to COVID)

Question: "At any time in the last 4 weeks, are you aware of residents delaying getting medical care because of the COVID-19 pandemic?"

This variable was highlighted as a key indicator in Chad impacting the perception of stability among communities. If there is no delay in accessing medical care due to COVID-19 in the locality, the Stability Index score tends to be higher.

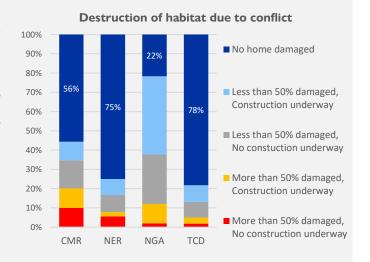


Destruction of habitat due to conflict

Question: "Describe the damage to homes caused by the ongoing conflict?"

- No homes in the locality were destroyed or badly damaged.
- Less than 50% of homes in the locality were destroyed or badly damaged, but reconstruction is underway.
- Less than 50% of homes in the locality were destroyed or badly damaged and NO reconstruction is underway.
- 50% or more homes in the locality were destroyed or badly damaged, but reconstruction is underway.
- 50% or more homes in the locality were destroyed or badly damaged and NO reconstruction is underway.

If habitat is not damaged or if construction is underway in the locality, the Stability Index score tends to be higher. The highest proportion of buildings damaged was found in Cameroon and Nigeria where respectively 20% and 12% of localities witnessed damages of more than 50% of the houses available.

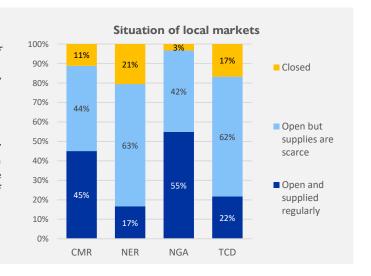


Availability of local market

Question: "Describe the situation of markets in the locality in term of supply and status?"

- The local markets and small shops are open and are regularly and reliably supplied.
- The local markets and small shops are open, but items are scarce.
- Local markets and small shops are closed.

The access to and supplies available in local markets is a key indicator impacting the perception of stability. If markets are open and supplied in the locality, the Stability Index score tends to be higher. Nigeria and Cameroon have the highest proportion of localities with markets open and regularly supplied.





STABILITY INDEX - LAKE CHAD BASIN

REGIONAL OVERVIEW ROUND 1 – MARCH/APRIL

September 2021

4.3 Social Cohesion - Descriptive analysis

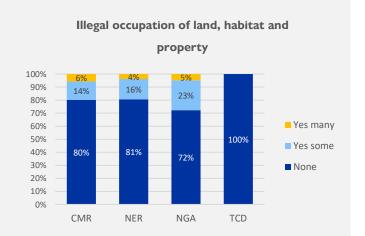
This section analyses the key variables that influences the perception of stability related to social cohesion.

Illegal occupation of land, habitat and property

Question: "Are land, habitat or property being occupied illegally (without authorization from family, neighbors, local authorities...) in the locality?"

- No, none.
- Yes, but land, habitat or property illegal occupation is not an issue impacting the whole locality (only a few or minor cases reported).
- Yes, land, habitat or property illegal occupation is a major issue impacting the locality.

Illegal occupation of land, habitat or property (HLP) plays a big role in stability perception in the localities assessed. Although these percentages may not seem very high, illegal occupation of HLP plays a large role in the perception of stability.



Daily public life (activities, market day, etc.)

Question: "Describe the current daily public life in the locality"

- Streets are lively and residents are able to carry out activities (going to the market, kids playing, going out, street vendors...) without worry.
- Streets are lively and residents are able to carry out activities (going to the market, kids playing, going out, street vendors...), but the situation is
- There are very few people in the streets and people leave their home only if absolutely necessary.

This question focused on the level of economic activities and liveliness in street of assessed localities. If streets are lively and activities are being carried out normally in the locality, the Stability Index score tends to be higher. Both Niger and Chad showed positive results with respectively 91% and 92% of localities where streets are lively and activities being carried out normally.

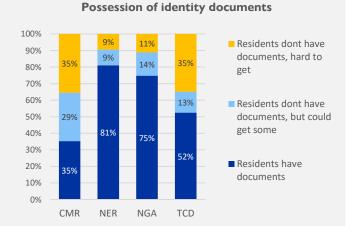
Daily public life in the locality 8% Street are empty and 90% people are staying home 34% 80% 22% 70% 60% ■ Streets are livelily and activities ongoing but 50% 92% 91% the situation is tense 40% 66% 64% 30% ■ Streets are lively and 20% activities being carried 10% out normaly 0% CMR NGA

Identity documents possession

Question: "Describe the situation with respect to identity documents" Most residents have identity documents.

- Most residents do NOT have identity documents, but it would be easy for them to get some.
- Most residents do NOT have identity documents, and it would be difficult for them to get some.

The possession and access to identity documents is another important variable in the perception of stability. If residents have identity documents in the locality, the Stability Index score is higher. Localities in Cameroon and Chad showed very low proportion of residents with identity documents or the ability to access documents if needed.





September 2021

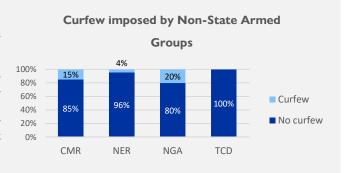
4.4 Safety and Security - Descriptive analysis

This section analyses the key variables that influence the perception of stability related to Safety and Security.

Curfew imposed by non-state actors

Question: "Is the locality under an informal curfew? (imposed by non-state actors)"

Curfew imposed by non-state armed groups (NSAG) is a key variable in the perception of stability. If no curfew is imposed by NSAG in the locality, the Stability Index score tends to be higher. To illustrate this point, none of the assessed locations in Chad are under an informal curfew and Chad is also the country with the highest Stability Index score, demonstrating the relationship between curfews and a location's stability.

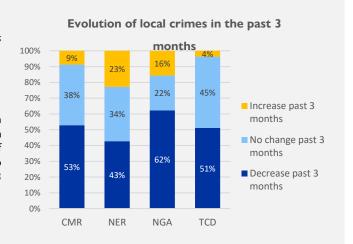


Local crime incidents

Question: "Describe the current incident trend linked with crimes (theft, small scale crimes) in the locality?"

- There is an **increase** in these incidents in the locality in the past 3 months. There is **decrease** in these incidents in the locality in the past 3 months.
- There is **no change** in these incidents in the locality in the past 3 months.

The evolution of crime in the localities assessed played a key role in the perception of stability among key informants. If the evolution in local crime in the locality is positive (decrease in the number of incidents), the Stability Index score tends to be higher. Two countries witnessed a large increase in local crime rates in the past 3 months: Niger (23% of localities) and Nigeria (16%).

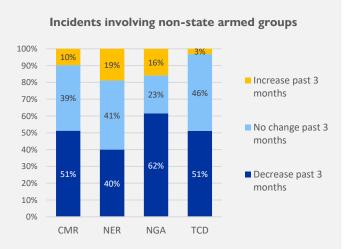


Activities by Non-State Armed Groups

Question: "Describe the current trend linked to activities by Non-State Armed Groups (kidnapping, terrorist attacks, fighting, raids, bombings, killings of security forces) in the locality?"

- There is an increase in these incidents in the locality in the past 3 months. There is a decrease in these incidents in the locality in the past 3 months.
- There is no change in these incidents in the locality in the past 3 months.

The evolution of the number of incidents involving NSAGs in the past 3 months in localities assessed also has a strong influence on the perception of stability. If there was a decrease in the number of incidents in the last months, the Stability Index score is higher. Two countries witnessed a large increase in incidents involving NSAG in the past 3 months: Niger (19% of localities) and Nigeria (16%)







September 2021

5. Cluster Analysis

As the Stability Index focuses its data collection at the lowest possible administrative level, it is difficult to develop generic recommendations for all four countries of the Lake Chad Basin. For programmatic purposes, the creation of "clusters" of localities could facilitate targeted interventions with the most impact, in line with the most influential variables in each cluster.

5.1 Stability Index Score by Cluster

27 clusters have been identified using two main criteria: geographic proximity and Stability Index score.

The average Stability Index score for these clusters ranges from 62/100 to 95/100.

Most clusters are located within the boundaries of one country (21), but 6 clusters span the borders two countries.

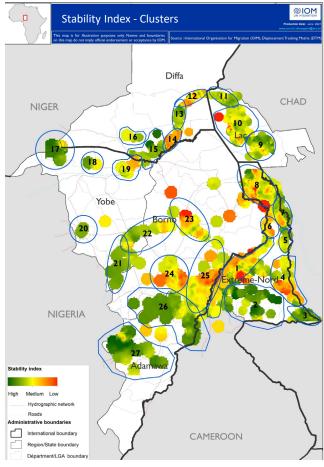
Clusters may be further grouped to facilitate the design of programmatic interventions. A coherent set of activities can be implemented for each group to achieve better perceptions of stability.

Example Cluster-Group Based Programmatic Approach:

- Low SI Clusters in Cameroon: The values of the different indicators of the Stability Index suggest that programmes in this cluster group should urgently focus on restoring local economic activities, supporting freedom of movement as well as accessing legal remedies and identity documents to achieve higher levels of perceived stability. (Clusters 4, 6, and 8)
- Low SI Clusters in Nigeria: Programmes should urgently focus on restoring local economic activities, supporting freedom of movement and reducing security incidents and petty crimes in order to achieve higher levels of perceived stability. (Clusters 23, 24, 25)
- Mixed High and Low SI Clusters: These clusters include a mix of localities with both high and low SI scores. Localities with a lower score have the potential to destabilize localities with a higher score, while high-scoring localities could positively influence those with lower scores. For instance, as illustrated in the table below, cluster 10 includes 22 localities with closed markets. Supporting the (re)opening of markets in these localities could have a potential positive impact on the whole cluster. (Clusters 9, 10, 11, 27)

Example	of discrepancies between market situations
	in mixed high and low SI clusters

Cluster	Closed (# of localities)	Open but supplies are scarce (# of localities)	Open and supplied regularly (# of localities)	Total
9	1	43	16	60
10	22	63	15	100
11	11	25	13	49
27	0	8	50	58



Cluster	Locations	Countries	Stability Index Score	# of Localities
1	Mayo Tsanago et Mayo Savana, Borno	Cameroon, Nigeria	69	223
2	Diamaré, Mayo Kani, Mayo Tsanaga	Cameroon	84	72
3	Mayo-Danay	Cameroon	84	19
4	Mayo-Danay, Logone et Chari	Cameroon	63	67
5	Logone et Chari	Cameroon	72	10
6	Logone et Chari	Cameroon	62	18
7	Logone et Chari	Cameroon	76	87
8	Logone et Chari, Borno	Cameroon, Nigeria	63	280
9	Mamdi	Chad	95	60
10	Fouli, Kaya	Chad	94	100
11	Fouli, Kaya	Chad	93	49
12	Nguigmi	Niger	68	17
13	Nguigmi	Niger	82	20
14	Diffa	Niger	66	28
15	Diffa, Maine Soroa, Yobé	Niger, Nigeria	85	106
16	Maine	Niger	74	5
17	Adamawa	Nigeria	86	23
18	Yobe	Nigeria	81	4
19	Yobe, Diffa	Nigeria, Niger	69	30
20	Yobe	Nigeria	84	2
21	Yobe	Nigeria	84	31
22	Borno, Yobe	Nigeria	75	22
23	Borno	Nigeria	68	30
24	Borno	Nigeria	66	67
25	Adamawa, Borno, Far North	Nigeria, Cameroon	65	156
26	Adamawa	Nigeria	83	133
27	Adamawa	Nigeria	89	58



September 2021

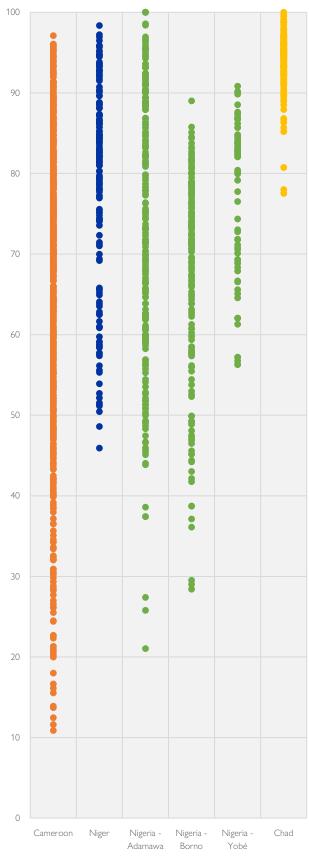
6. Conclusion

The main purpose of the Stability Index is to inform programmatic interventions that can improve the perceptions of stability at the locality or cluster level in order to facilitate durable reintegration of displaced populations in their communities of origin and to prevent future forced displacements. To take advantage of this index, the governments (at national and sub-national levels) of the Lake Chad Region and their partners should work closely together to identify localities/clusters and develop tailored programmatic interventions to increase the perception of stability based on the results of the different stability indicators, and particularly with the most influential variables.

Key Takeaways

- Focus programmes on key indicators of stability: For example, in Cameroon, the indicator "daily public life" and "freedom of movement" are the main indicators influencing the perception of stability. Programmes targeting these two indicators (i.e. improving income generating activities, facilitating access to local markets or promoting safe movements) are likely to have a strong impact on community member's perception of stability.
- Stronger focus on Safety, Security and Social Cohesion:
 Across all four countries, only one indicator belonging to the "Livelihood and Basic Services" scale is found in the top 5 influential variables. The primary variables for the perception of stability are found in the "Safety and Security" scale (14 out of 20 indicators) and the "Social cohesion" scale (5 out of 20 indicators). This highlights the need to develop policies and programmes that positively impact safety, security and social cohesion, in addition to the more "traditional" programmes that promote livelihoods and access to basic public services.
- Opportunities for programming along the Humanitarian-Development Nexus: Analysing the differences between the localities with the highest and lowest scores on the Stability Index (section 4) can provide useful insights into programme priorities. Different programmes are needed in localities on opposite sides of the stability spectrum. For example, in localities with very low stability scores, immediate humanitarian projects might be needed to improve access to water or information and communication technologies, while in localities with higher stability scores development programming may be more relevant.
- Higher impact using cluster analysis: Government
 authorities and their partners can programme more
 effectively and on a larger geographic scale than the
 locality level using a cluster approach. Clustering allows
 targeting of geographically nearby localities that present
 similar Stability Index scores. Localities with higher
 stability scores may be able to positively influence nearby
 localities with a lower score.

Stability Score by locality and region



September 2021

7. Annex

7.1 Additional Discussion of Methodology

Selection of Localities Explained

The selection of localities was as broad as possible in areas affected by displacement and/or returns in the Lake Chad Basin, which includes the Diffa region of Niger, the Far-North region of Cameroon, the Lac region in Chad and Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe regions of Nigeria.

A list of localities was created in every country based on data collected by IOM on displacement/returns and/or other existing data systems (census, administrative lists). All these localities were surveyed. The objective was to have a large enough number of localities both at country and regional level to ensure a solid statistical analysis.

In the context of the LCB, a locality is the administrative level 4 (lowest possible level). The level has a representation, whether formal (State) or informal (Chef de village).

Principal Component Analysis Explained

Principal Component Analysis is a statistical dimensionality reduction tool, which allows for the consideration of many variables by avoiding the typical concern of overfitting the model. PCA measures how each variable is associated with the others, the directions in which the data is dispersed, and the relative importance of each variable. Essentially, PCA helps identify the indicators that are associated with the largest changes in a key variable of interest – in this case, the perception of stability.

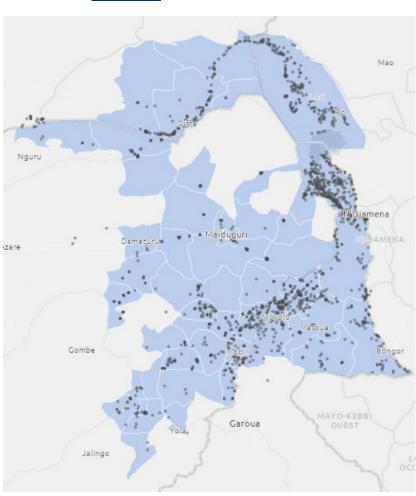
While each of the indicators is clearly important for informing programming along the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, **PCA** particularly useful demonstrating the impact of different indicators on one another, and the proportional influence of a given indicator on a given dataset. For example, while the availability of electricity and access to health care are both individually important factors, they also heavily influence one another (this is called collinearity). PCA helps to see beyond the collinearity and drives at influence in a more coherent way, which is critical to understanding complex phenomena like the nature and conditions of return.

Limitations

Some localities that were not accessible during the data collection period were not assessed due to security or logistical reasons. This may have introduced bias into the analysis as data points from some of the least secure locations were not collected. This limits the generalizability of the Stability Index in extremely insecure localities.

It is important to note that the Stability Index estimates informants' perceptions of stability and does not claim to provide an objective measure of this complex topic. Key informants are not randomly selected and may have different opinions about the stability in their locality than some of their neighbors.

7.2 – Map of localities assessed in the Lake Chad Basin





September 2021

7.3 – Survey Indicators

ANCHOR QUESTIONS: PERCEPTION OF STABILITY

These key indicators were used to measure the perception of stability in each locality. The key indicators where then tested against each of the thematic indicators below to identify the most influential thematic indicators on the perception of stability.

Feeling of Stability in the Locality

Describe the feeling of stability in the locality

Ability to Continue Living in Locality

Describes the feeling of the community about their ability to continue to live here

Changes in Stability Perception in the Last 6 Months

Change in this feelings over the last 6 months?

SCALE 1: LIVELIHOOD & SERVICES

Access to Drinking Water

Access to water and frequency of water provision in the locality

Access to Health Centers

Access to functioning health center in the locality or in neighboring town

Delaying Medical Care (due to COVID)

Residents delayed medical care because of the COVID-19 pandemic in the last 4 weeks

Delaying Medical Care (not due to COVID)

Residents delayed medical care for reasons other than COVID-19 the last 4 weeks

Farmland Cultivation and Access

Extent of farmland being cultivated in the locality

Fishing Grounds Usage and Access

Extent of fishing ground being used in the locality

Habitat Access

Proportion of community residents currently living in a habitat

Destruction of Habitat Due to Conflict

Extent of the habitat damaged due to conflict and of reconstruction access

ICT Access

Residents can connect (by mobile phone or WIFI) and improvement on network

Electricity Access

Access to electricity and frequency in the locality

Availability of Local Market

Markets open and supplied

Primary Education Access

Access to primary education and availability of schools in the locality or in neighbouring towns

Public Sector Employee Presence

Presence of public sector employee as per pre-conflict situation (public servants, teachers, nurses, etc.)



September 2021

7.3 – Survey Indicators

SCALE 2: SOCIAL COHESION

Equal Access to Basic Services

Indiscriminate access of populations in the locality to basic services and resources no matter their age, sex or group

Cattle Theft Reported

Cattle theft reported in the locality in the last 6 months

Illegal Occupation of House, Land and Property

Land, habitat or property occupied illegally (without authorization from family, neighbors, local authorities)

Robbery Personal Effects

Robbery of personal belongings in the last 6 months

Daily Public Life Activity

Street social activities and current daily public life in the locality

Social Cohesion And Community Support Systems

In case of problem with the supply of water or food in the locality, livelihood of cooperation between nearby communities

Community Tension

Incidents involving two community groups (religious, ethnic, herders/farmers, displaced/returnee/host communities) in the locality in the last 6 months

Identity Document Possession

Possession of identify documents and possibility of renewal if lost

Participation in Public Affairs

Residents' level of participation in local public and political life (civil society organizations, unions, committees, social gatherings, religious groups, sports activities)

SCALE 3: SAFETY AND SECURITY

Access to Legal Remedies

Access to legal remedies in the locality

Activities by Non-State Armed Groups

Current incident trend linked to activities by Non-State Armed Groups (kidnapping, terrorist attacks, fighting, raids bombing, killing of security forces) in the locality in the past 3 months

Curfew Imposed by State

Formal curfew for security reasons enforced by State

Curfew Imposed by Non-State Armed Groups

Formal curfew enforced by Non-State Armed Groups

Freedom of Movement

Residents' freedom of movement (to markets, to one's home, to the workplace, to farms, etc.) in the locality

Local Crime Incidents

Current incident trends linked with local crimes (theft, kidnapping, small scale crimes) in the locality in the past 3 months

Security Incidents Over Resources

Current incident trends linked to resources tensions (cattle raiding or killing, land conflict, communal clashes, etc.) in the locality in the past 3 months

Serious Security Incidents

Residents' concerned about security in the locality

Security Forces Presence

Presence of security forces in the locality

Police Presence

Presence of police/gendarmerie in the locality

Non-State Armed Groups Presence

Presence of Non-State Armed Groups in the locality

Community Perception of Security

Residents worried about security in the locality









International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency

Fragility, Solution and Mobility working group, IOM

The Stability Index is part of a larger body of work developed by IOM country teams in Iraq, Somalia, the Lake Chad Basin, and elsewhere—that improve strategic planning and implementation of transition and recovery programs. The Fragility, Solutions, and Mobility working group is working to provide a series of technical and strategic guidance and tools, including drafting a methodological framework to allow for a malleable, context specific but standardized approach to measuring fragility in new and emerging operations. The goal is an IOM-led global minimum standard for data collection and responsible data management for measuring and understanding indicators of fragility and stability through the deployment of analytical models in displacement and conflict contexts.

IOM's Transition and Recovery Division (TRD) and the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)'s work in this space allows for new and unique approaches aimed at consolidating and packaging existing methods, to achieve stronger outcomes and to better scale programming in fragile contexts. This approach provides a foundation from which to adapt and contextualize data-based evidence for the support of strategic planning and implementation of transition and recovery programs. Grounded in the principles of responsible data management, appropriate evidence can identify core factors of fragility, solutions, and mobility at the community level, and help identify how these factors impact the overall condition of the physical location and local community, and how these evolve over time.

IOM Regional Office for West and Central Africa

Zone 3, Route des Almadies Dakar BP16 838 Sénégal: Tel: +221 33 689 62 00 Fax: +221 33 869 62 33

Equipe RO Dakar – Regional Data Hub: rodakar-dataresearch@iom.int

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