NIGERIA - STABILITY INDEX, LAKE CHAD BASIN FINDINGS ROUND 1 OF 2021

August 2021

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 a deep social, political, economic and health crisis.

The conflict in the LCB has drawn attention to the lack of access to basic public services such as water, health, education, judicial remedies and law enforcement and brought the lack of effective governance in conflict-affected areas to the limelight. The vulnerabilities have weakened community resilience against exploitation by Violent Extremist Organizations.

At the same time, as some areas have become more stable, there has been documented evidence of displaced persons returning to their areas of origin or habitual residence. As of May 2021, 1.75 million former IDP Returnees had returned to their location of origin. This combination has pointed to the importance of addressing root causes of the crisis in the LCB, strengthening resilience and sustainable development and finding durable solutions for displaced populations.

To this end, IOM has been implementing, since 2019, the Stability Index (SI), the purpose of which is to evaluate the stability of areas hosting displaced populations in the LCB. The SI also seeks to understand which factors influence a location's stability to identify areas of priority intervention and inform transition and recovery programming, with the ultimate aim of strengthening stability in conflict- and displacement-affected regions.

This report presents the latest Stability Index round conducted in March and April 2021 in North-East Nigeria.

Methodology

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

The **SI** is based on data collected through key informant interviews conducted at the local level. Between March and April 2021, IOM's enumerators interviewed key informants (local authorities, community leaders, etc.) in all four countries of the Lake Chad Basin (Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria).

The tool serves 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 to identify those with a stronger impact on stability.

DISPLACEMENT OVERVIEW

1,753,484 Returnees

2,191,193 IDPs

DATA COLLECTION OVERVIEW

3	36	608
STATES	LGAs	LOCATIONS

The key informant method has the advantage of allowing the coverage of many localities, though its main limitation lies in the fact that only a limited number of the key 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 and,
3) Safety and Security.

These indicators represent a set of minimum living conditions necessary to make a place stable and more conducive to durable solutions. The Stability Index measures levels of stability and analyzes factors that are relatively more impactful on the decisions of populations to remain in place or to move. Questions on the community's perception of stability are used as the "anchor questions", which are then tested to assess the impact of each indicator on the perception of stability.

These indicators are formulated into a survey format, and interviews with key informants are conducted in each location (1,893) in Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria in March-April 2021.

Stability Index Calculation

The stability index uses the Principal Component Analysis model to assess the impact of each indicator on the perception of stability of an area 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 in the respective areas . Each indicator thus has a value associated with it, which allows for 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).

Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

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Contact: iomnigeriadtm@iom.int **https://displacement.iom.int/Nigeria**

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Data collection overview

This round of the Stability Index data collection covered 608 locations across 36 local government areas (LGAs) in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) states in North-East Nigeria.

BORNO	14 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS	200 LOCATIONS
ADAMAWA	16 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS	327 LOCATIONS
YOBE	6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS	81 LOCATIONS

Results

Stability Index Score (average, by scale and by state)

The average Stability Index score for the 608 locations assessed was 74/100. Yobe recorded the highest average Stability Index score (77/100) while Borno recorded the lowest score (67/100). The most influential variable on the perception of stability in North-East Nigeria was 'Daily Public Life', situated in the 'Social Cohesion' scale. When considering the different scales per state, the determining factors of the perception of stability can be identified at the state level. Yobe scored considerably higher than Borno in 'Daily Public Life' what was reflected in the average SI score for the state. Similarly, Borno scored the lowest on 'safety and security' (62/100) what impacted the overall SI score of the state. Borno is the most conflict-affected state in North-East Nigeria and has a long history of attacks by NSAG which led to widespread displacement of civilians and a situation of generalized violence. Yobe scored considerably higher in 'safety and security' (78/100) what resulted in better access to livelihoods and basic services (77/100) and improved social cohesion between the members of the communities (77/100).

STATE	STABILITY INDEX SCORE	LIVELIHOOD & BASIC SERVICES	SOCIAL COHESION	SAFETY AND SECURITY
Borno	***67/100***	*66/100*	*67/100*	*62/100*
Adamawa	***76/100***	*75/100*	*76/100*	*72/100*
Yobe	***77/100***	*77/100*	*77/100*	*78/100*
Total	***74/100***	***73/100***	***73/100***	***69/100***

Borno

The overall stability scores in the assessed localities in the state of Borno varied between 28/100 (lowest score) and 86/100 (highest score). The average stability index score for the state of Borno was 67/100. When considering the scores at LGA level, the LGA with the highest stability index score was Magumeri LGA (77/100), followed by Monguno LGA (74/100) and Damboa LGA (74/100). The LGAs with the lowest stability index scores were Gubio LGA (43/100), Dikwa LGA (47/100) and Ngala LGA (56/100).

Adamawa

The overall stability scores in the assessed localities in the state of Adamawa varied between 23/100 (lowest score) and 100/100 (highest score). The average stability score for the state of Adamawa was 76/100. When considering the scores at LGA level, the LGA with the highest stability index score was Lamurde LGA (98/100), followed by Shelling LGA (93/100) and Numan LGA (92/100). The LGAs with the lowest stability index scores were Madagali LGA (49/100), Song LGA (62/100) and Mubi South LGA (70/100).

Yobe

The overall stability scores in the assessed localities in the state of Yobe varied between 55/100 (lowest score) and 91/100 (highest score). The average stability score for the state of Yobe was 77/100. When considering the scores at LGA level, the LGA with the highest stability index score was Gulani LGA (85/100), followed by Damaturu LGA (83/100) and Yusufari LGA (83/100). The LGAs with the lowest stability index scores were Yunusari LGA (43/100), Geidam LGA (71/100) and Gujba LGA (76/100).

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Country Score	Livelihood and basic services	Social cohesion	Safety and security
Average score 74/100	Average score 73/100	Average score 73/100	Average score 69/100

Stability Index Score

The stability index correlates data available on returnee population with 31 indicators, grouped in three scales to measure the stability of a return area and create a location stability score. Scales are 1) access to livelihoods and basic services, 2) perceptions of social cohesion, and 3) perceptions of security.

The indicators used to build the stability index are selected based on recent quantitative and qualitative research on the dynamics of post-conflict returns. These indicators represent a set of minimum or critical living conditions necessary to make a place stable and more conducive to durable returns. In practical terms, the model responds to the question, "Are there conditions on the ground that favours the stability of an area"?

Livelihood and basic services

The assessment of the livelihood and basic services scale has been done using 11 indicators:

- State of housing/habitats
- Primary school
- Health centres
- Local market
- Access to electricity
- Access to drinking water
- Farmland & fishing grounds
- Presence of public employment
- Access to ICTs

Social cohesion

The assessment of the social cohesion scale between populations in the locality was done using 8 indicators:

- Illegal occupation of land, habitat or property
- Robbery of assets
- Daily public life
- Social capital
- Relations between communities
- Access to services and markets
- Identity documents
- Participation in public affairs

Safety and security

The assessment of the safety and security scales and basic services has been done using 6 indicators:

- Security incidents
- Security concerns
- Presence of government/formal security forces
- Presence of Violent Extremist Organizations (VOE)
- Freedom of movement
- Access to legal remedies

Main factors influencing the perception of stability

The Principal Component Analysis is used to understand the impact of each variable on key informants' perceptions on the stability in the area and then provides a specific value per indicator.

This allows for the analysis of which indicators impact perceptions of stability among the population.

TOP 5 MOST INFLUENTIAL INDICATORS ON STABILITY BY COUNTRY

The information below shows the top 5 indicators used to measure the stability index, ordered by their impact on the feeling of stability (and therefore influence on the calculation of the stability index).

1. Daily public life
2. Freedom of movement
3. Security incidents
4. Petty crime incidents
5. Activities by Non-State Armed Groups

Some variables have less influence on stability:

1. Habitat access
2. Public sector employees
3. Social cohesion
4. Tension
5. Delaying medical care (COVID related)

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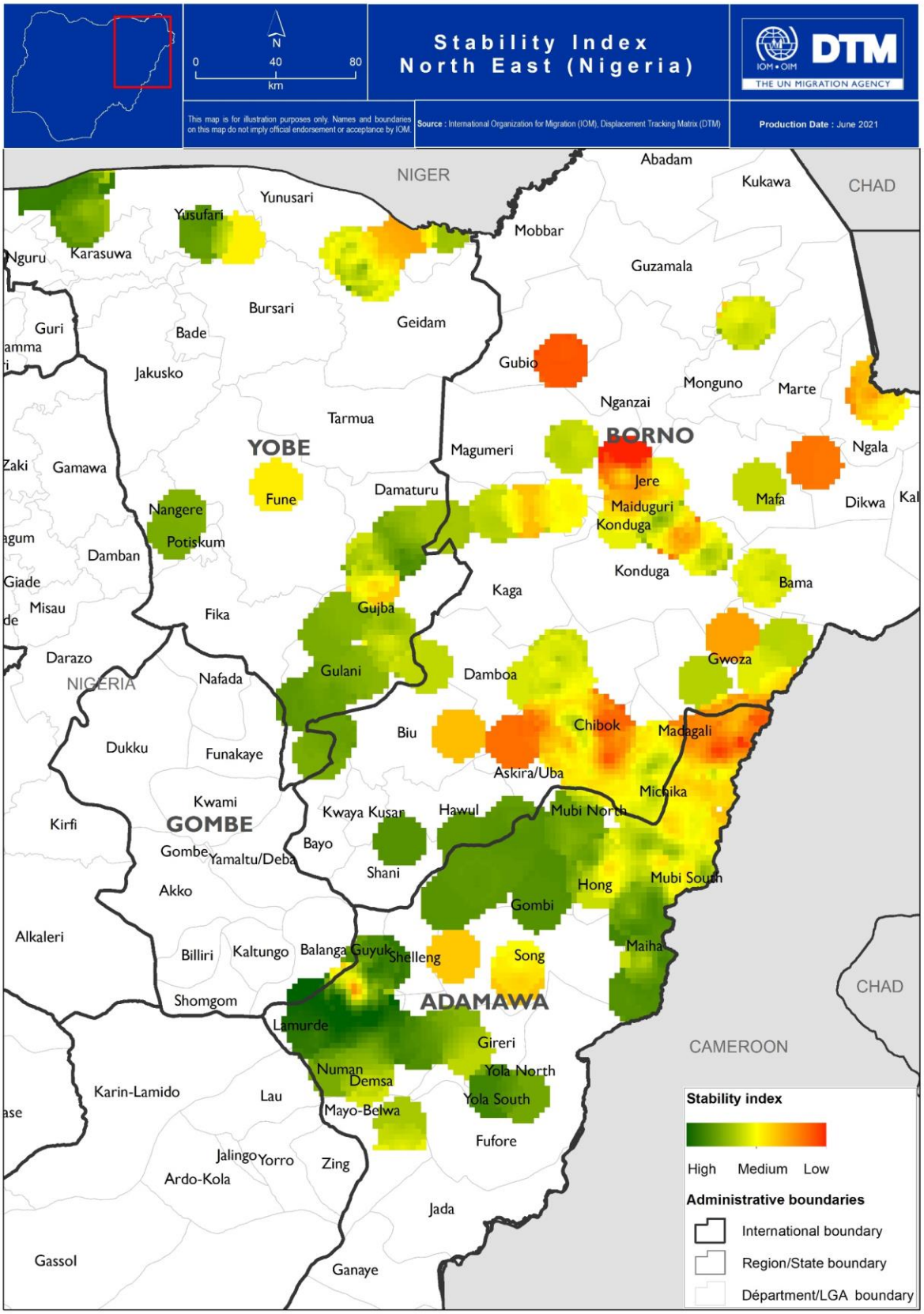

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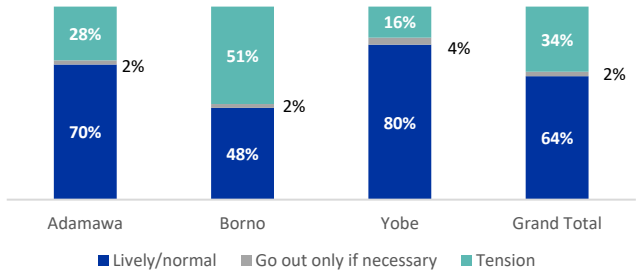
Key Stability Index Variables analysis

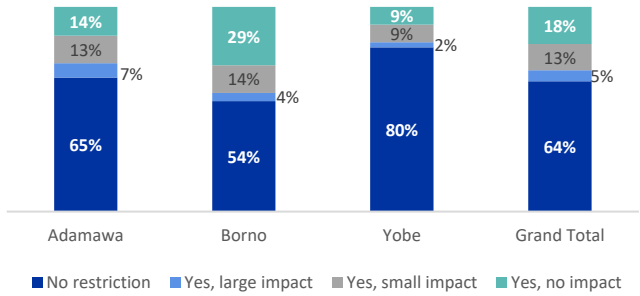
1. Daily public life

In the BAY states of North-East Nigeria, the experience of current daily public life was the most influential variable on the perception of stability in the assessed localities. In 64 per cent of the localities, daily life was described as lively and normal. In 34 per cent of the localities, residents were able to carry out their daily activities, despite the situation remaining tense. In 2 per cent of the localities, very few people were in the streets, and people left their homes only when absolutely necessary.



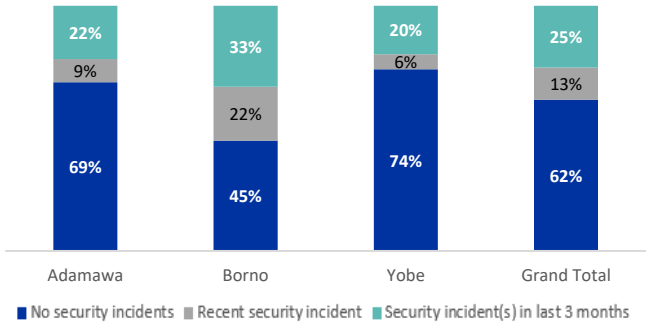
2. Freedom of movement

Freedom of movement and the presence of restrictions played a key role in the perception of stability among key informants. In 64 per cent of the localities, there were no restrictions in residents' movements. In the state of Yobe, this number was reported at 80 per cent. Yobe is also the state with the highest average stability score among the BAY States, demonstrating the correlation between freedom of movement within the community and the perception of the location's stability.



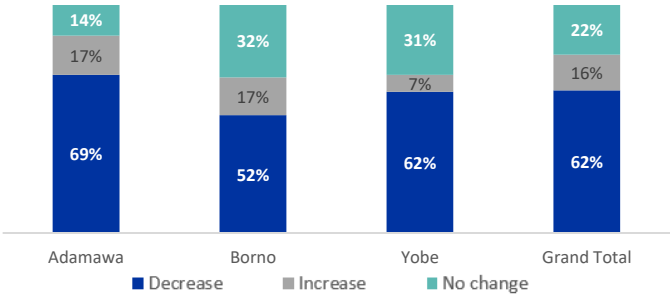
3. Security incidents

Safety and security incidents were also important indicators in determining the stability situation in the assessed localities. In 62 per cent of the localities in Yobe, no security incidents were reported in the three months prior to the assessment. This was the highest score in the BAY states and was reflected in the fact that Yobe had the highest average Stability index score. Contrarily, in only 45 per cent of the locations in Borno, no security incidents were reported in the months prior to the assessment. This is reflected in a lower average Stability Index score for the state.



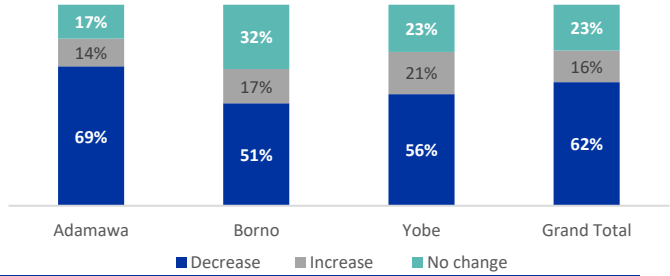
4. Petty crime

The evolution of petty crime (theft, kidnapping, small scale crimes) played an important part in the perception of stability in a locality. If the evolution in a petty crimes in a locality is positive (a decrease in the number of incidents related to petty crimes), the stability index score for the locality tends to be higher. In both Adamawa and Borno, 17 per cent of the localities witnessed an increase in petty crime rates in the months before to the assessment. This is reflected in in the overall SI score of the state.



5. Activities by Non-State Armed Groups

According to the Principal Component Analysis, the rate of incidents involving Non-state Armed Groups (NSAG) also had an influence in the perception of stability. In the months prior to the assessment, key informants reported a decrease in incidents linked to the activities of NSAG in 62 per cent of the localities assessed. If the evolution of incidents is positive (a decrease in incidents related to NSAG, the SI score tends to be higher.



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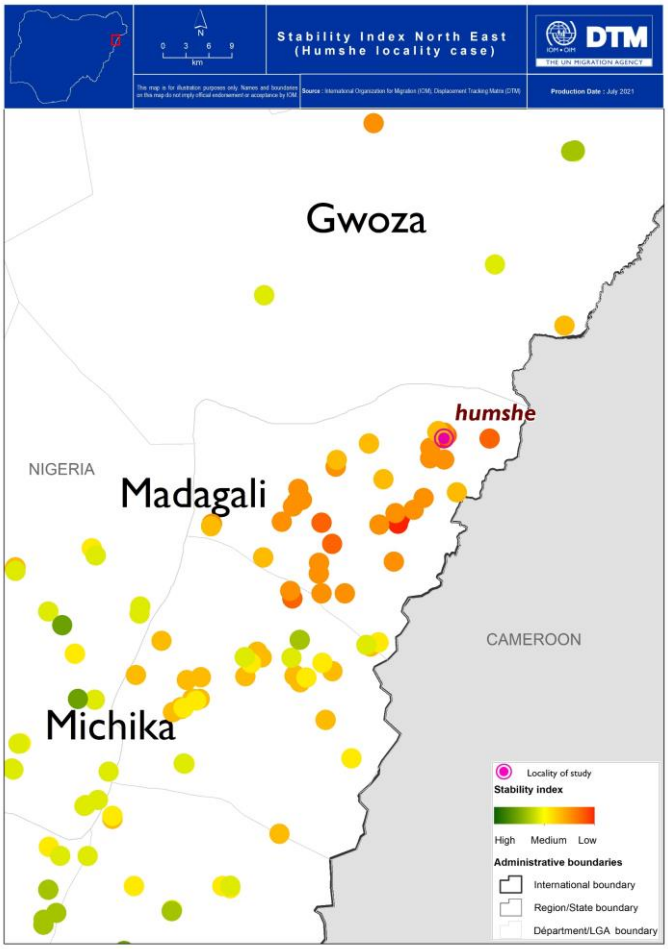
Case Studies

Humshe, Adamawa State

Located in Madagali LGA, Adamawa State, **Humshe** is close to the Cameroonian border. Compared to Nigeria's average Stability Index score (74/100), Humshe has a very low score of **23/100**, the lowest of all assessed localities in the BAY states.

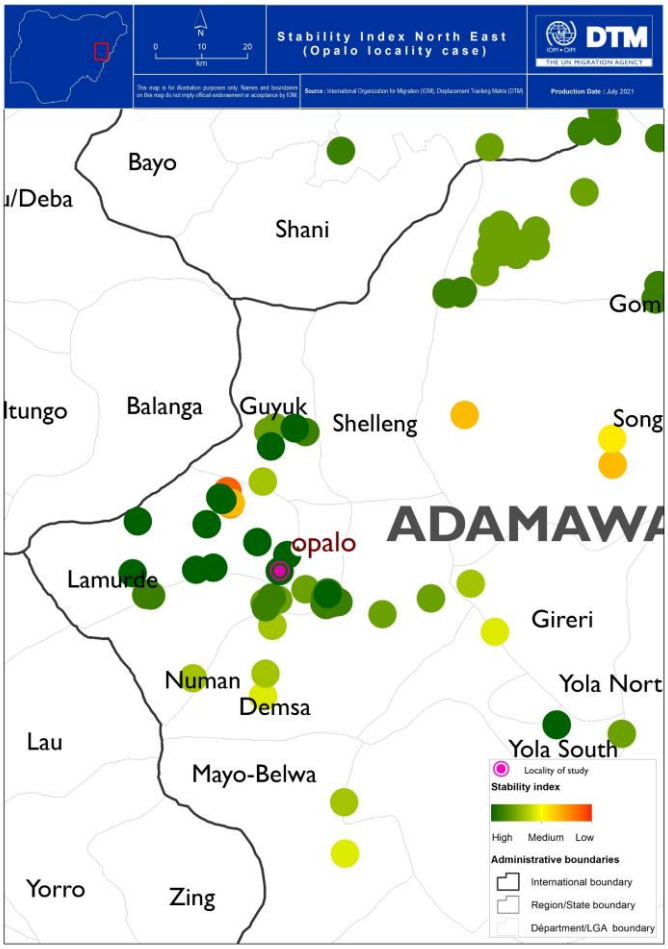
Based on the SI, Humshe's residents may need to leave soon due to stability or safety concerns. When considering the most influential variables for the BAY states, the residents' freedom of movement in Humshe is heavily restricted, impacting the population. Key informants described the daily public life as rather tense. Both security incidents and petty crime have increased in the months prior to the assessment, and serious security incidents were reported.



Opalo, Adamawa State

Opalo is a locality in Lamurde LGA, situated in the western part of Adamawa state and has a score of stability of **100/100**. Opalo has the highest Stability Index score of all localities assessed in North-East Nigeria.

The locality is considered very stable and residents do not need to leave soon because of any safety or security concerns. In fact, there is no restriction of movement in Opalo and key informants described the daily public life as lively and normal. Petty crimes and security incidents both decreased in the months prior to the assessment and no serious security incident has been reported.



Disclaimer

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

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The main objective of the Stability Index tool is to provide a detailed analysis that allows for the development of tailored programmes at the locality level in order to improve the perception of stability of a specific location.

The report demonstrates that the perception of the stability of localities hosting displaced populations in North-East Nigeria is highly dependent on the safety and security situation of the locality. While the most influential variable for stability in Nigeria's BAY states (Daily Public Life) was situated in the Social Cohesion Scale, other key variables were all situated in the Safety and Security scale.

The top 5 indicators used to measure the stability index in North-East Nigeria, ordered by their impact on the impression of stability, were: daily public life, freedom of movement, security incidents, petty crime and activities by Non-State Armed Groups. This highlights that stability in a location is likely to improve by transition, recovery and development programmes that have an impact on the social cohesion and the safety and security situation of the location. The great advantage of the Stability Index tool is that it allows for the programming of targeted strategies based on the factors that have the largest impact on the perception of stability in a specific locality.

The localities with the lowest Stability Index scores were mainly located in the state of Borno and along the border with Cameroon's Far North region, demonstrating that the conflict transcends national boundaries. Localities situated at the border are often subjected to security issues which have a major impact on the population and hence, on the stability of the location.

For programmatic purposes, the creation of 'clusters' of similar localities could support impactful interventions. To create these clusters, it is recommended to use two main criteria: geographic proximity and comparable Stability Index scores of the locations . Per cluster, the most influential variables could be identified allowing target programme development. In order to achieve an increased level of stability in clusters presenting a rather low average Stability Index score, program development should focus on restoring local economic activities and daily public life, supporting freedom of movement as well as the reduction of security incidents and petty crimes. Clusters presenting a rather high average Stability Index score include locations that are conducive for the implementation of strategies for durable solutions.

The weight of the variables and the influence they have on the perception of stability of a certain location provide a clear overview for IOM, Government and partners of the dynamics of the location and how the different indicators interact. This will enhance the understanding of the stability in a certain locality or region, and allow for informed and targeted program building with the aim of strengthening community resilience and promote sustainable development.

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