The Regional Stabilization Facility (RSF) is a financing facility developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with support from Germany, Sweden, UK and the European Union (EU), to facilitate the implementation of the Regional Stabilization Strategy (RSS) of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC). The RSS seeks to restore security and bring relief to communities affected by Boko Haram insurgency in Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria.

The facility was launched on July 17 2019 during the 2nd Governors Forum in Niger, by the UNDP Africa Director, Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa together with representatives of the various partners and Governors. It aims to provide immediate stabilization within 18 months, to improve community safety and security; restore essential infrastructure and basic services; and provide livelihood opportunities for households in the affected communities. It will also provide extended support to the LCBC to strengthen its capacity.
In Cameroon, as part of efforts to stabilize communities affected by the Boko Haram crisis, 1000 young people are being empowered to engage in sanitation, reforestation, rehabilitation of roads and public infrastructure building activities.

The programme titled “Cash for Work”, is to provide jobs and curb youth unemployment in the affected communities: Kolofata, Mora, Amchidé, Limani and Gancé in the Far North Region of Cameroon. The intervention is part of activities being implemented under the UNDP-led Regional Stabilization Facility to facilitate the implementation of the Regional Stabilization Strategy of the Lake Chad Basin.

The “Cash for Work” programme, has commenced with clean-up exercise, where the beneficiaries will be remunerated through mobile money services.

The youth were provided with sanitation equipment under the programme and these were officially launched by the Governor of the Far North Region, Midjiyawa Bakary, Mayors, officials of UNDP and other key government, traditional and religious stakeholders in the region on 5 February 2020.
UNDP has donated office and transportation equipment to strengthen the administrative functions of the local authorities of Lac and Hajder-Lamis regions in Chad on 11 February 2020. The items donated include office furniture, computer hardwares, office stationeries, canoes with motors and motorcycles.

The donation aims to strengthen local governance including administration, community mobilization and coordination towards the stabilization of the Lake Chad Basin.

The gesture is in line with the objectives of the regional stabilization facility programme, being implemented by UNDP, to enhance capacity for the implementation of the regional stabilization strategy of the Lake Chad Basin Commission.
Regional Technical Stabilization Committee and Four Local Committees Engaged in Niger

The first meetings of the regional stabilization technical committee and the local committees for each of the four locations were held in Diffa, on 4 and 27 February 2020, respectively.

The regional technical committee, drawn from various institutions, is expected to carry out functions including supervising the implementation of decisions of the steering committee of the stabilization programme; bring challenges to the attention of the steering committee and work with the committee to resolve them.

Stakeholders present at the meeting include the Governor of the Diffa region, the President of the Regional Council, the Mayor of Diffa, traditional and religious leaders, youth, women, defense and security forces and representatives of sectorial ministries such as Education, Health, Agriculture, Water, Environment and Infrastructure.

Traditional and religious leaders, youths and women reiterated their commitment in promoting social cohesion and proactively formulated recommendations to facilitate projects implementation in their communities.

The regional technical committee meeting was presided by the Governor of the Region of Diffa, Mr. Issa Lémine, whiles the local committee meeting for each locality was presided by the Prefect under which jurisdiction the village falls.

Joint Action Plan for each of the four target communities (Baroua, Bosso, N’gagam and Tam) have been developed and validated.
Upgrade to Water Supply Set to Improve Lives in Damboa, Borno State in Nigeria

As access to and delivery of basic services are key to ensuring the stabilization of communities in Northeast Nigeria, communities in Gumsuri and Damboa, Borno State, are poised to benefit from an extensive rehabilitation of the water distribution system.

The Damboa water supply scheme upgrade is being implemented by UNDP in Nigeria, in consultation with the Borno State’s Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASSA), under the Regional Stabilization Facility.

The project covers the design, operation, and rehabilitation of water distribution and pumping systems. The upgrade began in December 2019, with the drilling of a new solar-powered borehole in Gumsuri and the replacement of damaged/protection of water pipes.

This was followed by the construction of two animal water troughs at strategic locations along the Gumsuri-Damboa pipeline in order to ease tensions between nomadic herdsmen and local communities, who are eager to secure access to stable water supply.

In order to overcome difficulties in transporting fuel through volatile supply routes, UNDP has also introduced solar-powered systems to the Damboa waterboard to ensure a sustainable water supply to the community.

The rehabilitation of the Damboa-Gumsuri water supply system is part of a multi-sectoral stabilization package in the Damboa community, which also supports the enhancement of local security, and the creation of immediate income-generating opportunities.

Damboa is one of the 7 target communities selected for the Nigerian Window of the Regional Stabilization Facility. The other communities are Gulak (Adamawa State); Ngarannam, Banki, Monguno (Borno State); Buni Yadi and Kanama (Yobe State).
Stakeholder engagement and active role in the implementation of the Regional Stabilization Strategy (RSS) is very critical to restore security and essential infrastructure, and provide basic services for communities affected by the Boko Haram insurgency in the Lake Chad Basin regions. To ensure ownership of the implementation of the strategy, UNDP supported the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) to sensitize 40 staff on 22 February 2020 in N’Djamena, Chad.

The sensitization session afforded the staff the opportunity to improve their understanding of the RSS and the Regional Stabilization Facility. The event discussed the implementation roadmap including monitoring and evaluation plan as well as communications plan, with key responsibilities and roles.

Similar sessions in a form of a roadshow have already taken place with key Governments and other partners in Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger; and scheduled to take place in Nigeria and Senegal in March 2020, to get buy-in for the strategy.

**Highlights**

**Cameroon**
Five Joint Action Plans (JAPs) developed for Amchide, Limani, Moskota, Hile Alifa, and Blangoua (Far-North region).

**Chad**
Two JAPs developed for Village de Guitte (Hadjer Lamis region) and Village de Ngalamia (Lac region)

**Nigeria**
JAPs for the 7 target communities approved and activity implementation commenced, except in Kanamma. The communities are Gulak (Adamawa State); Banki, Damboa, Monguno, Ngarannam, (Borno State); Buni Yadi and Kanama (Yobe State)

**Niger**
Four JAPs developed for Boso, Baroua, Ngagam and Tam (Diffa region).