Each year, Sida conducts a humanitarian allocation exercise in which a large part of its humanitarian budget is allocated to emergencies worldwide. The allocation and subsequent disbursement of funds takes place in the beginning of the year to ensure predictability for humanitarian organizations and to allow for best possible operational planning. In an effort to truly adhere to the humanitarian principles, Sida’s humanitarian assistance is grounded in the four humanitarian principles, and in particular impartiality, with its compelling urge to ensure that humanitarian action is carried out based on “needs alone”, giving priority to the “most urgent cases of distress”. Therefore, Sida’s allocation methodology is grounded in several objective indicators such as; the scale of humanitarian needs (number of people in need), the severity of humanitarian needs (including food insecurity/IPC levels), the number of people targeted for the humanitarian response, the financial coverage of the respective humanitarian appeal, national capacities to respond and underlying risks, as well as distinct indicators related to forgotten crises. Sida also strongly supports the humanitarian coordination structures. Besides this initial allocation, another part of the humanitarian budget is set aside as an emergency reserve for sudden onset emergencies and deteriorating humanitarian situations. This reserve allows Sida to quickly allocate funding to any humanitarian situation throughout the year, including additional funding to the Lake Chad Basin Crisis.

For 2019, the Lake Chad Basin Crisis is allocated an initial 265 000 000 SEK. Close monitoring and analysis of the situation in the four affected countries (Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria) will continue throughout the year and will inform possible decisions on additional funding.

### 1. CRISIS OVERVIEW

#### 1.1. Type of crisis

**Conflict**

- **Background/Underlying cause**: The conflict in the countries covering the Lake Chad Basin (Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria) has its roots in the islamic salafi-jihadi movement called Boko Haram which used to be based in Maiduguri in Borno state of Nigeria. The movement has an ambition to impose a stricter interpretation of Sharia laws to, as the movement claim, fight widespread corruption, that is a result from western (colonial) education and values. From the formal establishment of the group in 2009 internal violence in Nigeria escalated. In 2014, it reached a level were in a short period of time about 2.3 million people fled their homes. Of these over 200,000 fled across the border to neighbouring countries, most of them to Niger and Cameroon and some to Chad. An increased offensive of Nigerian army to fight the Boko Haram movement, establishment of multinational joint force, and probably other factors, have led to a proliferation of Boko Haram aggressions in the neighbouring countries. For a long time, there was a denial in Cameroon, Chad and Niger, that there was a “home grown” extremist movement, but as borders between the countries were closed and security tightened up, a slow realisation has evolved showing that there are fractions of the movement that are part of national security concerns in all four countries. The area around Lake Chad in all four countries have the commonnality of being the least developed part of each country, and in large being very far from the capitals. An internal cross-border trade and economy has evolved, but in combination with population growth and environmental degradation, as well as the feeling among people that they were being neglected by their states, created a growing-ground for an anti-government movement. Other conflicts affecting the four LCB countries is dealt with in the respective country chapter.

- **Main stakeholders in the conflict**: The conflict is an asymmetrical conflict with on one side the armed group Boko Haram, and later the break-out fraction calling itself IS West Africa. Early in the process it was decided that an international UN stabilisation/peacekeeping mission was not the desired way to move forwards with the security concerns of the Lake Chad Basin area. Instead a four-country joint force’s mission was created and gained funding from the respective governments and internationally. The multi-national joint force has tried to secure the lake area, by evacuating the large being very far from the capitals. An internal cross-country joint force has tried to secure the lake area, by evacuating the large being very far from the capitals. An internal cross-border trade and economy has evolved, but in combination with population growth and environmental degradation, as well as the feeling among people that they were being neglected by their states, created a growing-ground for an anti-government movement. Other conflicts affecting the four LCB countries is dealt with in the respective country chapter.
Cross border implications: The refugee situation of Nigerians in Chad, Niger and Cameroon has triggered different types of refugee response in the respective countries. In Cameroon, there is an encampment only policy and all Nigerian refugees are placed in one camp outside of Maroua in the extreme north of the country (Minawao Refugee Camp). In Chad, a similar approach was chosen and the establishment of the Dar es Salaam camp near Baga Sola was the only refugee option for Nigerians in Chad. In Niger, the initial approach was to host Nigerian refugees in host communities, but as security issues and some doubts that some of the refugees also could have affiliations with Boko Haram, a mixed approach was elaborated in cooperation with UNHCR.

- **Trends:** The Boko Haram triggered conflict in the Lake Chad Basin region is a stagnant low-intensive conflict but were no party has complete control of the territory concerned. Scattered attacks occur in the four countries, with low predictability and with civilian loss of life and property as a result. Triparty agreements have been elaborated between Nigeria UNHCR and Cameroon on the safe return of Nigerians to their homes. In Cameroon, this has taken on a dimension were the returns are more of a refoulment nature and discussions on the safety of returning Nigerians is being questioned, as they for the most part are not able to regain their homes but are instead hosted in IDP camps in Nigeria.

Natural disaster

- **Nature of disaster:** Lake Chad is an endorheic lake basin with very shallow open water surfaces. The deepest parts of the lake are just over 10 metres deep. The subterranean lake basin is vast and covers most of the territory of Chad, parts of Niger and all the way up to southern Algeria. The two rivers flowing into Lake Chad (Logone and Chari) are heavily exploited for irrigation along their river basins. This makes the lake extremely sensitive to fluctuations in water inflow and temperature that affects evaporation with a consequence that the open water surface today is only 10% of what was observed during the 1970s. The effects of climate change, lack of livelihoods, demographic growth and insecurity are central driving forces in the Lake Chad Basin Crisis. The dried-out lake basin is mostly decertified and saline due to a large concentration of natron.

- **Frequency:** The vulnerability of households is part of the yearly weather conditions, but also the general cyclical climate pattern, where three distinct seasons (March-July hot, dry; July-October, wet warm; and November-March, cooler, dry) define what can be grown and where water can be found. A rainy season that has been dryer than normal can result in devastating effects as well as heavy rains that can cause flooding and flash-floods that inundate fields and wash away crops.

- **Resilience and coping mechanisms:** Populations are generally used to and have adapted to the climatic conditions and lack of basic services. Many children have never been to school because there has never been one there for them; and health facilities are rarely or never visited, because of the lack of them or poor services offered. For livelihoods, diversification and semi-nomadic lifestyles as well as trade and seasonal migrant work has kept the population afloat. However, with conflict, climate change and population growth, these coping mechanisms have been undermined or completely eroded.

1.2. Geographical areas and affected population

- The geographic area affected by the crisis is relatively limited. The number of people affected in the greater lake area are in the excess of 17 million and people in need are close to 11 million, 0,5 million children suffer from acute severe malnutrition and over 2,5 million people have had to flee their homes. (figures form May 2018). Most of the beneficiaries are found in Nigeria, followed by Chad, Cameroon and Niger. The distance between Diffa in Niger and Maroua in Cameroon is about 300 km. The distance between Baga Sola in Chad to Maiduguri in Nigeria is similar. Hence, the geographic area affected by the LCB crisis is very limited.

- The general level of vulnerability in the LCB region is very high and depends specific aspects of vulnerability and conditions and perspectives for crisis affected women, men, girls and boys, including the displaced persons, refugees, the elderly and persons who belong to marginalised social and ethnic groups.
1.3. **Critical assumptions, risks and threats**

- In 2018 several steps were taken to solve the conflict in the region and to normalise and secure the area. A follow-up conference to the Oslo Nigeria and LCB conference in 2016 was held in Berlin. Also, a LBC Governors' conference was held in Maiduguri in 2018 to discuss necessary steps to stabilisation, security and development. The process of normalisation is continuing in all four countries, but with the large number of persons displaced and the need to recover infrastructure and livelihoods as well as rebuilding, or building infrastructure and basic services, the task of return to normalcy is a long-term commitment between governments, local authorities, civil society, humanitarian actors and development partners.

- Security threats and unpredictable political scenarios make any assumption on either improvement or deterioration difficult to foresee. Elections will be held in Nigeria in 2019, and that presents a risk for civil unrest. Current president Buhari has constitutional legal possibility to seek to be re-elected (and is running for re-election).

1.4. **Strategic objectives and priorities of the Humanitarian Response Plan**

- The LCB crisis has a consolidated needs overview, as well as a UNHCR lead RRRP plan. The other response plans are elaborated in each of the HCTs in the four affected countries. Therefore, in this HCA the overall response plan presented is only the Nigeria RRRP situation and funding requirements for that particular crises- The more detailed response plans and allocations is presented in each sub chapter for each country. In the country response plans other crises related needs that affects the country, in addition to the LCB related crisis is presented.

2. **IN COUNTRY HUMANITARIAN CAPACITIES**

2.1. **International and regional assistance**

- **Donors**: The largest donors in the region include USAID and BPRM, ECHO, DfID, GiZ, Canada, Norway and Sweden.

- **Regional organisations**: The main regional organisation that is present in the LCB region is the Lake Chad Basin Commission, created in 1964 to address the use of water and resources of the lake. The organisation is active both on a normative and legislative level as well as operatively with projects to promote climate change adaptation and recovery of the lake area.

2.2. **Access situation**

- Access in all four countries is difficult due to security threats and poor infrastructure. Roads are in bad condition or non-existent. Humanitarian access is secured by UNHAS who serve the four regional capitals Bol, Diffa, Maiduguri and Maroua. Borders to Nigeria have been closed or semi closed for periods to avert security threats. Some border crossings between Chad and Cameroon have been also been closed temporarily for security reasons.

3. **SIDA’S HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN**

3.1. **The role of Sida**

- **Earlier assistance and results**: Sida humanitarian support has been focused on the Lake Chad Basin areas of the four concerned countries since the start of the crisis. Several partners are supported in all four countries. A gradual shift from emergency response to a more durable solutions oriented approach has been developed by Sida partners in the region.
Lessons learnt: The regional aspect of the crisis as well as the cross-border aspects have been largely overlooked as security has made it virtually impossible to travel overland between the countries. Four separate HCTs have not brought regional aspects to the centre of the analysis, other than the UNHCR Nigeria RRRP and the Humanitarian Needs and Requirement Overview compiled by UNOCHA.

3.2. Response Priorities 2018

- **Humanitarian Focus**: Sida will continue to support humanitarian response in all four concerned countries to respond to the needs due to the Lake Chad Basin crisis. Regional support will focus on refugee response. All Sida funded interventions must include gender integration and environmental consequence descriptions leading towards conservation of nature and plans for effective use of resources included in the proposals. Conflict analysis and a “do no harm” analysis is also required.

3.3. Partners

- Each country support to partners is presented in a separate HCA with its own analysis but kept together under the understanding of the Lake Chad Basin Crisis response. The only regional funding given is support to the UNHCR Nigeria situation RRRP.

3.4. The role of Sida

- **Earlier assistance and results**: Sida’s humanitarian support has been focused on the Lake Chad Basin areas of the four concerned countries since the start of the crisis. Several partners are supported in all four countries. No bilateral Sida development strategy is established with any of the four concerned countries. Some development support it given by Sida’s regional strategy for Africa, mainly to Prevention of Extremist Violence and support to Lake Chad Basin Commission. The Global strategy for peace and security also supports initiatives that one or several countries of the Lake Chad Basin. The new Sahel under the Africa Regional strategy initiative will be able to direct support to at least 2 of the 4 counties (Niger and Chad).

- **Lessons learnt**: The humanitarian needs analysis is extremely complex to do in a setting where the underlying vulnerability is due to general lack of resources and rights. Since humanitarian funding is not intended to work towards poverty eradication, the vulnerability and needs must be measured against a crisis situation other than poverty. This approach has led Sida to be much tighter in the allocation of life-saving humanitarian funds and support only those partners who are working in the most conflict and natural disaster struck areas of the concerned counties. The more underlying structural causes are addressed through multi-year funding to FAO. In the Sahel countries where Sida has bilateral cooperation strategies this has been done successfully as an integrated needs analysis between humanitarian and development cooperation funding streams and seamless programming with FAO. The hope from the Humanitarian analysis is that his may be duplicated in the operationalisation of the Sida Africa Regional Sahel initiative.

3.5. Response Priorities 2019

- **Humanitarian Focus**: In 2018 there has been a slight shift in the humanitarian needs in the four LCB countries that is reflected in the funding priorities. A general climate crisis and drought has affected the Sahel region I 2017 with consequences for harvests in 2018 and has put people otherwise able to cope through the lean-season in need of humanitarian assistance. Another dimension is that new conflict areas are emerging that affects the counties such as the border areas between Niger and Mali/Burkina Faso (Liptako Gourma) as well as in the North West, South west and Coastal region of Cameroon (Anglophone crisis) with large displacements and refugees from Cameroon going to Nigeria. The situation for the approximately 250 000 CAR refugees in Cameroon is still precarious and new arrivals are registered. Nigerian refugees are still being repatriated form Cameroon to Nigeria, despite the precarious security situation in Borno State in Nigeria. The largest number of People in Need (PiN) of humanitarian assistance is still found in Nigeria, but the number of People in Need in Cameroon is also increasing.
Field follow-up: Field follow-up will be in particular on the LCB crisis, but efforts are going to be made to also follow up on the Liptako Gourma situation in Niger and the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon and Nigeria (Cameroonian refugees). A roving position is suggested to fill the need to travel and follow partners in depth in their field operations during the year. As several of Sida humanitarian partners are working on a programme-based approach, field monitoring and dialogue is paramount to follow up and analyse if the assistance of supported partners really is reaching the people most in need.

3.6. Partners: Further details on the humanitarian operations of respective agency will be provided following the submission of full proposals by end of January 2019. Below is based on respective organisations “Initial Submissions” provided end October 2018.

- The only regional funding suggested for 2019 from the crisis allocation is support to UNHCR for the Nigeria RRRP. Regional support outside the crisis allocation is to ICRC and OCHA for key functions in protection and coordination. The details of partners in the four countries is presented in each country chapter following this regional crisis analysis. Monitoring and dialogue plan is also presented in each country chapter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended partner for Sida support</th>
<th>Sector/focus of work (incl. cross sectoral/multipurpose programming) and response modalities (e.g. in-kind, services, CVP or a mix)</th>
<th>Proposed amount</th>
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<td>UNHCR Nigeria RRRP</td>
<td>Nigerian refugees in Cameroon, Niger and Chad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td></td>
<td>49 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
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<td>48 000 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
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<td>Nigeria</td>
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<td>120 000 000</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>261 000 000</strong></td>
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Other support

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<th>Sector/focus of work</th>
<th>Proposed amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICRC</td>
<td>Regional Central African office in Yaoundé</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCHA</td>
<td>West and Central Africa Office in Dakar</td>
<td>4 000 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.7. Synergies with long-term development assistance

- Sweden is planning a special Sahel development initiative with focus on human security and resilience under the Regional Sida strategy for Africa that is in the process of being operationalised. This initiative will hopefully link into the humanitarian/resilience and peace and security funding that is already provided by Sida.