



From crisis to development around Lake Chad

Strategy for an Integrated, Holistic
and Sustainable Response

United Nations Population Fund
West and Central Africa Regional Office



UNFPA Executive Director, Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin , in an address where he defends the involvement of the youth on the first line of the humanitarian response: ***"We can no longer afford to leave young people behind. It is time to make the humanitarian system work for young people by engaging them, addressing the particular risk factors they face, and maximizing their ability to drive a local response, rebuilding and re-energizing their communities and countries."***

In The Huffington post : Young People on Frontlines of Humanitarian Response
(http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-babatunde-osotimehin/young-people-on-frontline_b_8072870.html)



From crisis to development around Lake Chad

Strategy for an Integrated, Holistic
and Sustainable Response

UNFPA Regional Office for West and Central Africa



List of acronyms

AU	African Union
DD	Demographic Dividend
DTM	Data Tracking Management of the OIM
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
GBV	Gender Based Violence
LCB	Lake Chad Basin
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
OIM	International Organisation for Migrations
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SMIAR	Global System for Information and Early Warning
UNS	United Nations System
SWEDD	Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend in the Sahel
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund

Table of content

Foreword	6
Acknowledgements	8
1. Introduction	9
2. The demographic dividend as holistic paradigm for development	12
3. Development challenges for countries around Lake Chad	16
4. Strategic considerations	22
Build community resilience through youth and women empowerment	22
Promote the political commitment of the governments to accompany the implementation of the AU Road Map for the DD	24
Adopt an integrated and holistic approach of partnership for development with the countries	27
Promote the commitment of the funders and public/private sponsors to invest more for durable solutions to the challenges for development in the countries	28
5. Conclusions	30
6. Bibliography	33

List of tables and graphs

Graph 1

Doubling time of the population by country according to population growth	16
---	----

Table 1

Indicators of the humanitarian situation in the countries around Lake Chad	19
--	----

Graph 2

Variation of the median age by regional category (in years)	21
---	----

Graph 3

Comparative graph of the trend in the number of internally displaced persons due to conflicts and the trends in the funds allocated from 2010 to 2015 to countries around Lake Chad	29
---	----



Foreword

The response to humanitarian crises and its relation with general issues of economic and social development, have been on the agenda of several meetings that I was part of while in the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), first as the Director of the Division of the programmes in charge of emergency issues and development at the global level, and subsequently as Regional Director for West and Central Africa. The meetings of the inter-agencies committee coordinated by Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) also offered an opportunity to reflect on the initiatives implemented as a response to recent humanitarian crises in the world, specifically in the countries around Lake Chad.

On all these occasions, we advocated to have issues related to the dynamics of demography to be given greater consideration by those concerned about the security environment in West and Central Africa, that is, in countries around Lake Chad where the demographic growth is still high. We specifically supported this approach during the Oslo 24 February 2017 donors' roundtable on Nigeria and region around the Lake Chad Basin—which was a success in the mobilization of resources. However, despite the general consensus that emerged regarding the need to tackle the root causes of the conflicts, one cannot help but notice that progress remains constrained. Clearly, to date the prescribed solutions to stamp out the crisis are far from optimal.

Despite the increase in funds for humanitarian emergencies, the increase in the number of crisis is such that these funds are becoming increasingly insufficient to cover the needs.

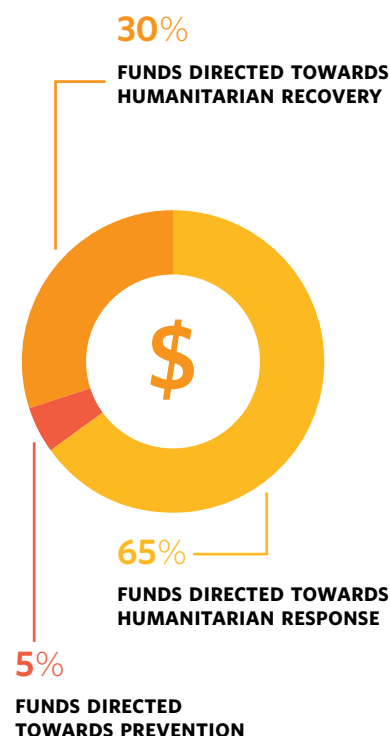
Much of the funding continues to be directed towards humanitarian response (65%) and recovery (30%) at the expense of prevention, which comprises only 5 per cent of the allocated funds. This allocation will continue being inefficient given that it does not guarantee durable solutions to the crisis. Thus, there is a clear need to envisage a balance in the allocation of the humanitarian funds.

A more balanced, more strategic and less costly response, through interventions that better target the root causes of the crisis rather than the symptoms would in the long run be best.

The document elaborating this strategy was produced with the support of Professor Alioune Sall with collaboration from colleagues of the UNFPA Regional Office for West and Central Africa. It is the result of an open reflection on the crisis in countries around Lake Chad (namely, Chad, Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria) and is based on an analytical situation of these countries.¹ It gives us the opportunity to cast a critical eye on the efficiency of the response that affects the countries surrounding Lake Chad.

The data, evidence and our experiences compel us to think that peace, security, stability and the development of the countries around Lake Chad remain essentially dependent on the acceleration of a demographic transition, without which we will continue to see rapid increases of an unmet social demand.

The strategic approach proposed in this document shows the need to move towards a more holistic and integrated approach, collectively with all the stakeholders including the governments of the affected countries, to order to attain sustainable development. Such an approach based on a theory of change will help to reduce the verticality of the humanitarian and development programmes in this region as well as deliver an efficient, concrete, comprehensive and more durable response to the inherent needs of the affected populations. Potentially as an innovation of the 2030 Agenda, this strategy could begin around the « One UN » approach—through the implementation of a joint programme between the agencies of the United Nations system. Later, while continuing to work with the four countries surrounding Lake Chad in the pilot phase, it could broaden up to other partners in support of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS).



Mabingue NGOM
UNFPA Regional Director
for West and Central Africa

1. «Demographic Dynamic and the Crisis of Countries around Lake Chad», UNFPA, AOC, 2017.

1

Introduction

All countries surrounding Lake Chad are prone to security and humanitarian crisis, accentuated by regular attacks perpetrated by terrorist groups.

From kidnappings to summary executions, through the systematic destruction of schools and health centres, the asymmetric conflict brought by terrorist groups has not only resulted in several millions of displaced persons and the impoverishment of the most vulnerable populations - especially women and youth. It also is the consequence of the shift of economic, social, political and religious dynamics coupled with a rapid demographic growth in the midst of the expanding and massive deterioration of the environment and ecosystem.

The modalities of responses to this conflict are very often² structured on a reactive mode-- with the humanitarian action and the military interventions assuming most of the efforts invested by the governments and their bilateral and multilateral partners. It is an undeniable fact that the label of terrorism, in all the abjectness that it raises, as the single cause to the crisis is simplistic in any way by the fact that the complexity and the entanglement of the dynamics of crisis is ignored. Yet, an in-depth and multi-scalar understanding of these dynamics forms an essential prerequisite to the formulation of a durable strategy for the resolution and prevention of conflicts.

-
2. A relevant parallel, often ignored to the benefit of cultural presentations or civilizational superficiality, was made by MM Mohamedou between terrorist organisations in West Africa and in the Sahel, and the big drug cartels in Latin America. Their resilience and strength are in parasitic interaction with their immediate social environment, and exploitation of the most vulnerable and easily influenced, by forcibly capitalising on the limited opportunities offered to the latter.

This document aims to bring clarity on the multiplicity of the underlying dynamics, which gives pertinence to this alternative and which justifies the implementation of a targeted action that extends beyond military action, within which demography is an essential and structuring variable. This strategy is based on the situation analysis of the same countries mentioned in “Demographic Dynamics and the Crisis of Countries around Lake Chad”, produced in-house by the UNFPA Regional Office for West and Central Africa. In particular, the notion of the demographic dividend will be brought to the fore as a paradigm likely to structure the action, not only within a perspective of conflict resolution but also of development. The relevance of population in the specific context of the countries around Lake Chad will then be explained and the strategic considerations concerning the action taken will then be proposed.

Here, the objective is to attract the attention of decision-makers on the necessity of a continuum between humanitarian action and strategy for development, in line with the integrated vision of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.





Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General to the United Nations, in her speech to the Security Council of 9 March 2017: ***"my single clear message today is that the solution lies in the holistic thinking. The 2030 agenda provides a blue print and a tool for providing a better future for the people of the Lake Chad Basin."***

2

The demographic dividend: a holistic approach to the development paradigm

While presenting characteristics that emerge from scientific discipline, development is a concept, resulting from an ensemble of preconceptions that come out, more or less consciously, from an ideological posture. To this day, the influence of economic thinking, has certainly maintained its ascendancy on alternative approaches to development.

However, the economic is subject to change. Thus, the centrality of the structural adjustments that was part of the doxa of the 80s is no longer appropriate. Without abandoning the liberating credo, the institutional discourse on development is enriched and today, it is admitted that economics constitutes only one of its many dimensions.

The architecture of global programmes such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), demonstrate this evolution of conceptions of development.

In practice, however, the economic dimension continues to be prominent in the minds: that of the original point of a causal chain which would be the process itself of development. In particular, the idea that the solution to social challenges results, from the resolution of the economic challenges, while those that fall within the political or security sphere, continue to prevail. Although, the argument could be defended, such a conception is dually limiting:

- First from a conceptual point of view because it is based on the hypothesis of a one-way causality while the economic and social factors should be taken into account in their interactions.
- Secondly, because it restricts the scope of action to a space that is mainly economic and the practice of which shows us that it can have limited impact.

The same goes for the increased attention granted to security issues, in so far as it is generally articulated to modalities of action which falls within military intervention, and this, often excluding all other approaches to the apprehension and the resolution of insecurity; mostly the socio-political approaches that one can sometimes see, are only marginally the subject of much more than a simple mention.

In this simplistic universe, the demographic dividend signals a break, or, at least, a turning point, by three characteristics:



- > It is, first of all, a framework of development of which the consequences raise positively from the economic scope, and negatively from the security scope, but its initial conceptual stages come from demography;
- > Secondly, in practice, the demographic dividend requires the establishment of the scope of action of the economics in a specific space where growth points are no longer enough to measure the performance;
- > Thirdly, it makes it possible to grasp the security issues not only on the reactive mode of the military intervention, but to broaden this range to modalities relating to social and health work, that naturally include taking into account the cultural dimensions.

Beyond the current demographic dynamics and the associated window of opportunity, the demographic dividend implies to structure development thinking, and consequently the related action, like a multi-dimensional process and worthy of a multidisciplinary treatment. This is how reference is made to the five areas of the demographic dividend that is the demographic transition through the acceleration of the decline in fertility rates, the economy, health, education and good governance. It is also where



its potential to be an integrating paradigm of development comes from. Moreover, as a structuring paradigm, the demographic dividend conveys a concrete process and easily displayed and experienced in other regions of the world where it played a central role in government policies aiming for a structural transformation.³

To adopt the demographic dividend as an integrating paradigm requires in the final analysis, prioritizing an approach that revolves around three assumptions:

- The first is that development is human. One recognizes the evidence, well known from the futurists, of the strong structuring power of demography in the evolution of societies;
- The second is that the future is open. By managing the demographic dynamics and their consequences, societies can evolve towards the future that they deem not only possible, but also desirable;
- The third is that it is necessary, like the concept of human security compared to the narrow definition of security, to re-establish the centrality of the individual, namely the youths, and not Governments, as the ultimate goal of partners' action to development and public policies.

3. The notion is understood as transformation not only of the economy, but also of the social fabric and the political space. It depends on the capacity building of the populations to be proactive, and show resilience when dealing with contingency.



BOX 1: EASILY UNDERSTAND THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND

The demographic dividend is the economic growth generated by having a larger proportion of people of working age.

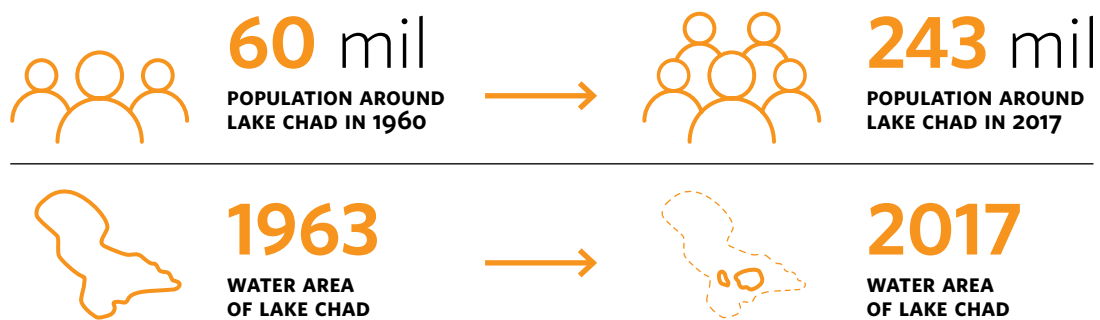
In other words, a demographic dividend is an enhancement of economic growth that happens whenever the proportion of the population potentially active is superior to the category of underage or working age. The creation and the realisation of a demographic dividend is based on empowerment, education and employment as well as on an increase of the savings and investments in the most productive populations.

The demographic dividend, in its concept, answers the SDG vision of "leave no one behind" in that it offers an entry point towards sustainable development through empowerment, particularly the right to universal access of sexual and reproductive health services for all. An efficient response to unmet needs in family planning for the vulnerable populations in the developing countries reduces the social burden on families in favour of an investment that is beneficial to education, health and the economy sector.

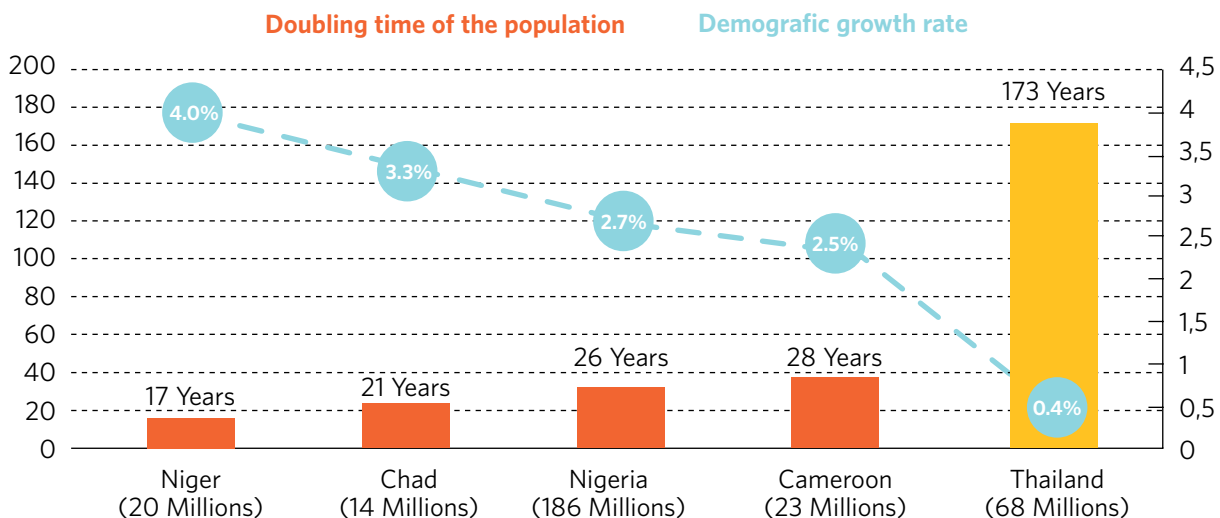
3

Development challenges for countries around Lake Chad

Like the sub-region of the Sahel, the countries around Lake Chad are within an area of high demographic growth. The regions demographic growth is indeed one of the highest in the world. The doubling of the population of each of the four countries was at a time inferior to that of a generation on average (25 years) as shown in the graph below. In 50 years, the population of those countries has more than quadrupled from 60 million in 1960 to more than 243 million inhabitants in 2017.



GRAPH 1 Doubling time by country according to the population growth
Source: UNFPA-AOC, 2017





Furthermore, the region is facing climatic changes, which aggravate the pressure on the land, agriculture, fisheries and water resources. The size of Lake Chad is only a tenth of what it was fifty years ago.

The size of Lake Chad is only a tenth of what it was fifty years ago. With its surface being only 2,500 square kilometres in 2017, fishing and agriculture has been reduced drastically.

In a context of an economy that barely transformed itself, is reliant on extensive subsistence activities like fishing and agriculture, these pressures result, once again, from a very high population growth rate, reinforced by the fact that the border area around Lake Chad is also a stopover zone for aspiring migrants towards Europe. The depletion of farmland and water resources, coupled with the lack of evolution in the structure of the local

economies and of a non-sustainable demographic growth over time, is an expected source of tension, even of conflicts, and the exacerbation of the pauperisation of the populations.



THE POPULATION OF THE REGION IS YOUNG AND MARKED BY THE VULNERABILITY OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS.

The fertility of adolescent girls (15 to 19 years old) is high and represents 15 per cent of the general fertility, while this contribution amounts to 10 per cent for Senegal. Married too early, these adolescent girls have little access to birth control with only 2 per cent against 39 per cent in Kenya and 64 per cent in Indonesia. The limited access to family planning services and the inferior status of women explain this low contraceptive prevalence.

In the education sector, countries surrounding Lake Chad register the lowest school enrolment rates, namely among girls. In 2013-2014, the gross rate of girls' school enrolment at primary level was of 29 per cent and only 1 per cent for the secondary level, when we consider only the areas directly affected by the crisis internal to the countries. Similarly, teenage girls have limited access to vocational training, employment, and health care. In 2014, only 1.3 per cent of young women have received credits for their economic activities.



ADOLESCENT FERTILITY IS HIGH AND REPRESENTS:

15% OF GENERAL FERTILITY

10% SENEGAL



ADOLESCENT WHO HAVE ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION

2%
LAKE CHAD REGION

39%
KENYA

64%
INDONESIA

This area has also become the object of increased attention with the apparition of the insurrectional Boko-Haram movement and its conflict with the regular armies of all countries of the region, and no longer Nigeria alone, has translated into severe deterioration of the humanitarian situation. Indeed, we talk of more than 2.6 million displaced persons (see table below), and this in a context particularly favourable to the increase of tensions between the populations.

TABLE 1 *Indicators of the humanitarian situation in the countries around Lake Chad*
Source : DTM OIM 2017

Indicators (2016 & 2017)	Cameroon	Chad	Niger	Nigeria
Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)	196,538	52,000	225,000	2,151,979
Number of IDPs benefiting from some assistance	15,168	28,750	135,621	41,359
Refugee population by asylum country or territory	342,973	369,540	124,721	1,395
Refugee population by country or territory of origin	10,581	14,940	1,390	167,988

As a result of its sociological and economic structure, the countries around Lake Chad make up a zone where informal economic activities, especially cross-border activities, are particularly intense.⁴

In addition, the region is quite particular due to the religious sociology of its populations. It constitutes the point of separation between an Islam based on brotherhood of Sufi persuasion that corresponds to an area of influence historically cherifien, which is under the allegiance of elites on its West bank, and a “reformed” Islam of Salafist inspiration on its East bank, which have regularly infiltrated the nomad populations of the Sahel and have found fertile ground amongst the poor and those of inferior lineage thus having limited space for political expression.

This historical and social map explains, partly, why the Boko-Haram insurrection, would have benefited from the interaction with its immediate social environment to develop itself. Boko-Haram is first of all a rebel movement, which developed on the basis of social discontent emerging from a growing disenchantment within the populations of the region towards the central States on one hand, but also towards the religious “establishment”, in a context of low employment, lack of perspectives for a prosperous future, the absence of administrative support towards public service, influences of declared religious movements presenting a strong political aspect.

This context was favourable to the emergence of social cadets capable of conquering a certain legitimacy by producing an articulated speech around the defence of a Muslim identity and the opposition to an oppressive State.⁵ Due to these elements, the military response to this declared Islamist insurgency alone is insufficient to the extent where in the best case, it does not solve the connection between the rebel movement and the social ground upon which the insurgency continues to survive on despite the efforts to curb

4. Which vibrancy results also from the exploitation of the oil resources of Lake Chad, mostly within Chad.

5. We will note that this speech is all the more significant as Boko-Haram offers a social space of realisation, specifically by employment and marriage.

them. In the worst-case scenario, a military response fails to distinguish members of the rebel movement from those of the immediate social environment – which reinforces the case of this strategy; an inclusive and holistic approach to address the core needs of the populations.

For those who are concerned about finding a durable solution to the security issues of the countries around Lake Chad and to stamp out the artery that continues to feed the rebel movement by the prolific support to the helplessness of the marginalized population of the region, the emphasis needs to focus on an approach which takes into account the social and cultural realities of the region.

Upstream, it is then a matter to reclaim the legitimacy of the secular institutions, local or national, administrative or religious.

And one of the most powerful levers in such a perspective is that of social action relayed by these institutions themselves, which need to be rehabilitated. It is also about managing the sources of frustrations of the local populations, and more precisely those linked to employment, which itself is deeply linked to the phenomenon of poverty prevailing in the region. It passes through the capacity building of the local populations, who we must remember, are for the most part the young populations.

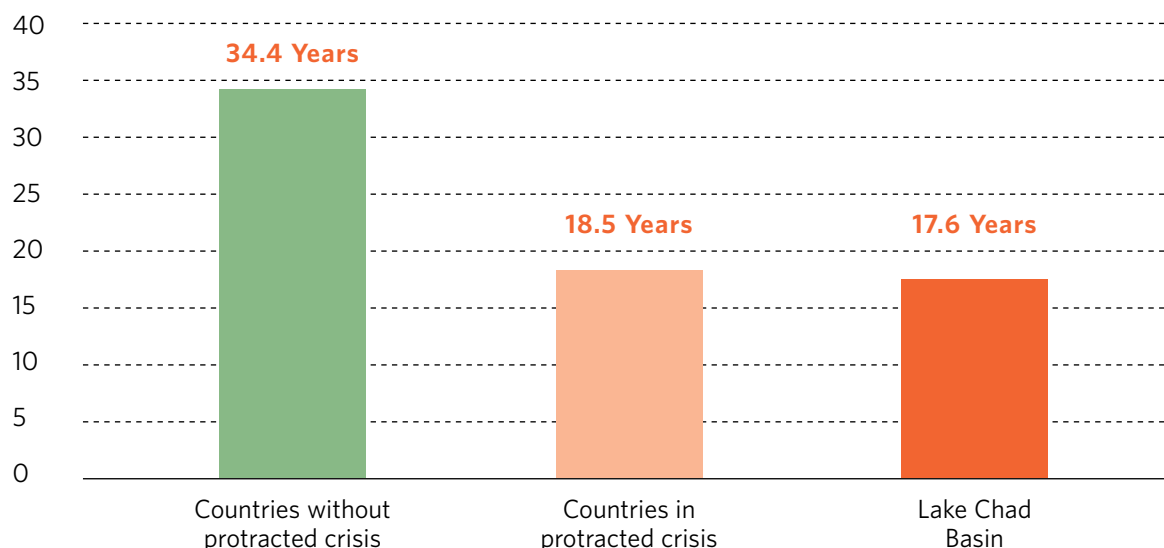
6. According to the SMIAR of the FAO, a prolonged crisis is defined as being an environment within which an important part of the population faces severe risks of death and disease and can see its means of livelihood disrupted, over a long period. The prolonged crisis presents the following characteristics: natural disasters or repeated conflicts, long period of food crisis, disturbance of means of subsistence and of the institutional capacity sufficient to react to crisis.

Indeed, while comparing the structure by age in the countries facing situations of prolonged crisis,⁶ including the countries around Lake Chad, one notes that comparatively to countries not subjected to crisis, the population is dominated by the youth on average younger than 18, against 34 year olds in countries without crisis. This relation is confirmed by prior studies namely the one conducted by Elisabeth Leahy and her allies (2007). It showed that countries with a young age structure were more likely to be confronted with situations of insecurity compared to those with a mature age structure.

GRAPH 2

Variation of the median age by regional category (in years)

Source : UNFPA, AOC, 2017



Finally, it is about addressing the problem of growing demographic pressure in the region, in a context marked by scarcity of land and water resources for the households and for the villages, worsened by an increasing deterioration of the climate. Good governance, economy, education, health including family planning, which the «levers of the demographic dividend» are considered essential for the action.

Furthermore, it is necessary to address the consequences of the conflict, specifically the crumbling of the economic and social fabric resulting from the massive displaced populations, and to overcome its consequence: precariousness, mainly among women and children.⁷

It should be noted that the type of action required to address these issues is, once more, precisely one based on a multidimensional approach, which is necessary for the establishment of the milestones of demographic dividend occurrence. It consists in a multidimensional approach combining the protection of the most vulnerable populations, especially women and youths and the establishment of an environment conducive to their empowerment. First through education and training, but also through sexual education and family planning, by promoting their role in the social dynamics of the region thus to give them a form of social representation, but maybe political as well, itself being the condition for an expanded opening on the economic sphere beyond the informal. This type of measures will make it possible to help the youth of the countries around Lake Chad to be the constructive force that it desperately aspires to become. A youth apt in carrying the objective of a demographic dividend.

7. Women and children are the first victims of the increase of violence, of the environment of refugee camps. The later are particularly favourable to all kind of abuse and the exploitation of the youngest, be it sexually, through work, or enrolment more or less forced in criminal or terrorist organizations.

4

Strategic considerations

*"You want the miserable rescued,
I want misery suppressed."* – Victor Hugo



CIVIL SOCIETY

Interventions that could affect the current demographic trends in the countries around Lake Chad are articulated around the following 4 axes with respect to the various stakeholders (Government, technical partners, donors, civil society). The recommendations contained in this strategic note constitute a starting point to suggest the actions to be taken by the various stakeholders to ensure the long term development and the stability of the region.



DONORS

Build community resilience through youth and women empowerment

The mobilisation of the community and religious leaders (who are very influential in their communities, respected, listened to and credible) as well as the youth organizations to accompany and accelerate the transformations in progress, making sure that they are adapted to the cultural realities of each countries.



TECHNICAL PARTNERS

It is important to interact with the organizations from the civil and religious society and to promote the establishment of a dialogue between the latter and the governments. According to the logic of empowerment that is at the core of the actions aiming for the capture of the demographic dividend, it is important that the decisions prone to affect the populations integrate their point of view. On the other hand, it is important to facilitate the expression of the aspirations of the different social groups to the governments. Once more the opening of a sphere of political expression is an important condition for the promotion and empowerment of the youth and women, and the various stakeholders are able to accompany such a political expression in a peaceful and constructive setting, as opposed to the violent mode that can prevail in a context of conflict.



GOVERNMENT

**INTERVENTIONS THAT
COULD AFFECT THE CURRENT
DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS
IN THE COUNTRIES AROUND
LAKE CHAD**

Beyond the interactions with the government, and at community level, the dialogue between the representations of the various components of the civil society becomes crucial. The adjustment of the demographic dynamics involves work, closely connected to the cultural heritage of the populations



concerned. To promote change of certain behaviours in the sexual practices, reproductive health and relations between men and women, requires a delicate approach of these questions given their sensitive nature, in order to ensure their adoption.

This cultural tact constitutes an asset upon which it would be wise to capitalize in order to promote the initiation of a dialogue between various social groups, mostly when their relations are characterized by the existence of tensions. It is particularly the case between the youth and secular religious authorities, which anomaly mirrors the State and its divisions.

Promote the political commitment of the governments to accompany the implementation of the AU Road Map for the DD

The policy makers of the countries situated around Lake Chad can improve their governance and strengthen national institutions by the introduction of reforms which reflect the international commitments in matters of development and reinforce the rule of law, the responsibility to questions connected to human rights, justice, equality and gender equity.

They could also support the development and the implementation of national development policies taking into account resilience strategies, by the integration of an analysis of the dynamics of the population based on data and analysis of their connections with sustainable development, the occurrence of conflicts, the political unrests and the security or humanitarian crisis. The governmental action should encourage and support the development and the implementation of joint projects similar to the “Empowerment of Women and the Demographic Dividend in the Sahel (SWEDD)” initiative. The governments should affirm their will to support actions in favour of the demographic dividend (Health, Education, Employment, Governance, etc.) by availing adequate resources.



HEALTH



EDUCATION



EMPLOYMENT



GOVERNANCE

ACTIONS THAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD AFFIRM THEIR WILL TO SUPPORT

It is necessary to avoid at all cost a recurrence of the precedence of the African Youth Charter adopted in 2006 in which a declination in national policies was never carried out, even worse, to date a number of countries still have not ratified the charter.

An important programmatic challenge in such a context is precisely the manner in which it is possible to decline the strategic orientations defined at continental level in a national programme of feasible actions, and in which the impact is apparent enough in the short term to register the action overtime, this one making sense on a relatively long term. The reliance on the five levers of the demographic dividend, that goes beyond while including them. These two dimensions, in a particular articulation could naturally be requested for the formulation of contextualised inputs compared to the specific national issues.

For example, expertise in the evaluation of the social dynamics and the one relative to the issue of gender can result in relevant inputs as part of initiatives for conflict resolution, and actions aiming to promote the access to education. Beyond these specific considerations, the promotion of the demographic dividend as paradigm for development must systematically related issues in the formulation and implementation of government policies, as any of the growing issues linked to gender or to sustainable development. This is the way one should consider the importance of the demographic dimension in the evolution of societies.





Adopt an integrated and holistic approach of partnership for development with the countries

The experience of the countries around Lake Chad can be used as a laboratory for the concretization of the integration between the Agencies of the United Nations System through the development and the implementation of a joint programme with a humanitarian component to address the challenges of the region. It would revolve around the different levers of the demographic dividend. The fact to put in place this type of programmes presents clear challenges that go beyond those consisting in overcoming the silo mentalities which manifest as reluctances more or less conscious to envisage the issues, to address beyond the conceptual and methodological constraint which is that of a given field of expertise. We can indeed add the operational difficulties linked to the programmatic modalities which can differ on aspects of key importance, like for example the temporal horizon at the end of which the objectives are inscribed, or the establishment of a hierarchy of priorities between the said objectives, even if they are common.

The new frameworks of development such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union Agenda are promising for the emergence of the continent.

With its integrated approach, which unifies all sectors of development around the variable population, the achievement of the SDG in Horizon 2030 and the realization of the Africa that we want in 2063 largely depend on the attainment of the demographic dividend.

The articulation for the decision-makers and the partners in development, through research and advocacy, the relations between demographic dynamic and the armed conflicts to ensure the financing of the programmes such as family planning, girls education, maternal and child health and the prevention of unwanted pregnancies and early marriages, which taken as a whole, reduce fertility and mortality.

The implementation of such an approach should be based on a theory of change for countries around Lake Chad. Such a theory could serve as global strategic framework of development and of research for stability in countries around Lake Chad, which general approach would specifically promote the transformation of the institutional multiplicity which determine the rules of the social game in the countries around Lake Chad – including the UNFPA's and its conditions of collaboration with the other institutional stakeholders towards an architecture favourable to the capture of a demographic dividend in the region.

Promote the commitment of the funders and public/private sponsors to invest more for durable solutions to the challenges for development in the countries

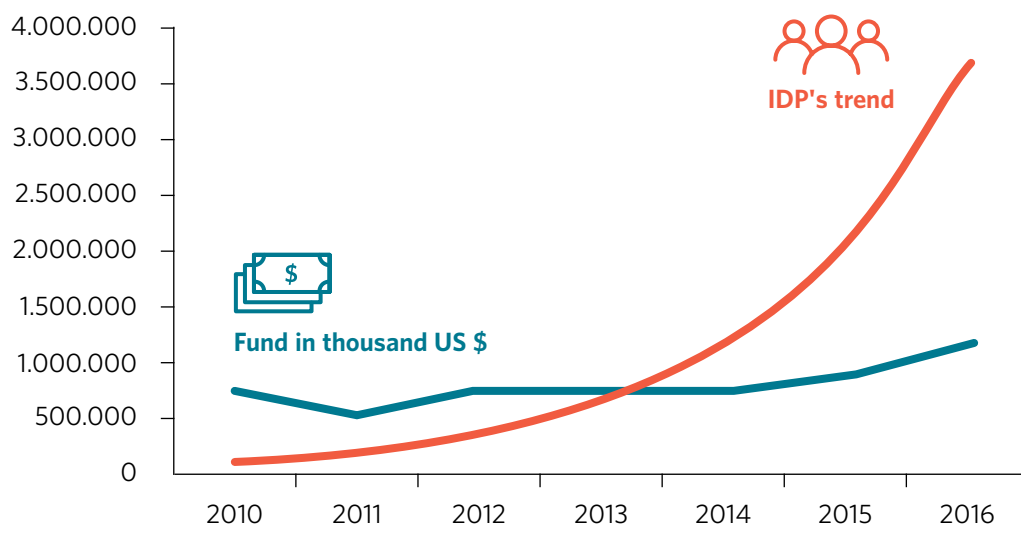
Despite an upward trend of the mobilized funds in favour of the crisis in the countries around Lake Chad, we witness from 2010 to 2015, a more rapid increase in the number of persons affected by the crisis. Hence, funds mobilized are relatively less and less sufficient to cater to the needs of the populations. The international community needs to urgently consider the crisis in the countries around Lake Chad as a global disaster likely to spread to all the countries of the Sahel, where the socio-economic and cultural context is not so different from the one in countries around Lake Chad.

Today, we see that despite the increase in mobilized funds for identified humanitarian emergencies, the frequency in the emergence of crisis is such that these funds are insufficient to cover the needs (cf. graph 3).



GRAPH 3

Comparative graph of the trend in the number of internally displaced persons due to conflicts compared to the trends in the funds allocated from 2010 to 2015 to countries around Lake Chad
Source: UNFPA-AOC, 2017



Moreover, a big part of these funds is channelled towards the humanitarian response (60%) and the reconstruction (30%) at the expense of prevention representing only 5 per cent of the humanitarian funds allocated to crisis in general. This distribution key of funds could be ineffective, as it does not guarantee a durable solution to the crisis. A strategy for an integrated, holistic and durable response would deserve more consideration to contain simultaneously the number of crisis and the number of affected persons, while laying the foundation for peace, security and development.



5

Conclusions

The demographic dividend is an approach, which the actuality results directly from the demographic dynamics faced by the continent.

All the countries around Lake Chad are engulfed by a conflict, which the consequences on populations of the region are catastrophic from the humanitarian and socio-economic point of view. A conflict that is also the result of a particular social ground, where anomy towards the State and the religious institutions commingle, where a subsistence economy dominates and informal trade thrives, where agricultural land, fishing and water resources are depleting, resulting in displaced populations and migrations towards Europe.

Conflict resolution, in a context of humanitarian emergency, passes through the establishment of modalities of responses aiming to rescue the displaced populations.

To solve the original causes of the population displacement is obviously a long-term undertaking. Nonetheless, overtime it is important to prepare the reinsertion of this population within normalised social structures, meaning, to bring them to build resilience to humanitarian crisis. Life within refugee and displaced camps, when possible, should not be one of hiatus in the fundamental rights of the displaced, meaning in the fundamental dimensions that are health, including sexual, and education, nor a postponement



of the freedoms by the exploitation of the most vulnerable, in the employment, sexually, nor finally one of a spiral leading to criminal activities.

Conflict resolution passes also through the breaking of the intimate connection that links the insurrectional movement and its immediate social environment, seen throughout all the countries around Lake Chad. And thus by conditions of approaches in conflict resolution that go beyond the military solution and for which the demographic dividend can effectively play simultaneously the role of crisis recovery and of development for the region.

It is appropriate that the different stakeholders of development and humanitarian work collectively to ensure the continuous commitment of the States in the adoption of a less militaristic approach to the conflict, but rather a more social one, with the establishment of dialogue between these States and the marginalized populations of the region.



In a video address to the representatives gathered at the United Nations Headquarters in New York for the Sixth Annual Youth Forum on 30 January 2017, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres invited the youth to contribute to the realization of a better future for all:

"All of you have the talent, energy and ideals to prevent conflicts, defend human rights, secure peace and realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

Bibliography

A Gendered Approach to Countering Violent Extremism: Lessons Learned From Women in Peace building and Conflict Prevention Applied Successfully in Bangladesh and Morocco, Brookings Institution Policy Paper, Kristina London Couture, Brookings Institution, 2014.

Accélération du dividende démographique: quelques réflexions sur les cadres stratégiques de l'UNFPA et de l'Union Africaine, Alioune Sall, Institut des Futurs Africains, 2016.

Boko-Haram : Radicalisme islamique ou insurrection sociale? JF Bayart, MM Mohamedou, The Graduate Institute, Geneva, 2015.

Dynamique démographique et la crise autour du lac Tchad, UNFPA, AOC, 2017

Démographie et Sécurité, Actes d'un atelier tenu à Paris le 14 novembre 2000, RAND, sous la direction de Laurent Murawiec et David Adamson.

Promouvoir le développement : renforcer la résilience face à la violence et à l'extrémisme, Commission européenne, 2015.

UNIVERSITY of California, Berkeley, Bixby Center for Population, Health and Sustainability: The interplay between population dynamics and conflict, 2015.

*Delivering a world where
every pregnancy is wanted
every childbirth is safe
and every young person's
potential is fulfilled*



United Nations Population Fund
West and Central Africa Regional Office
Route du King Fahd Palace,
Almadies – PO Box 21090 Dakar



www.unfpa.org
wcaro.unfpa.org



@UNFPA_WCARO



@UNFPAWCARO