

**WORKING GROUP ON WOMEN, YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY WEST
AFRICA AND THE SAHEL -
CHAD REPRESENTATION**

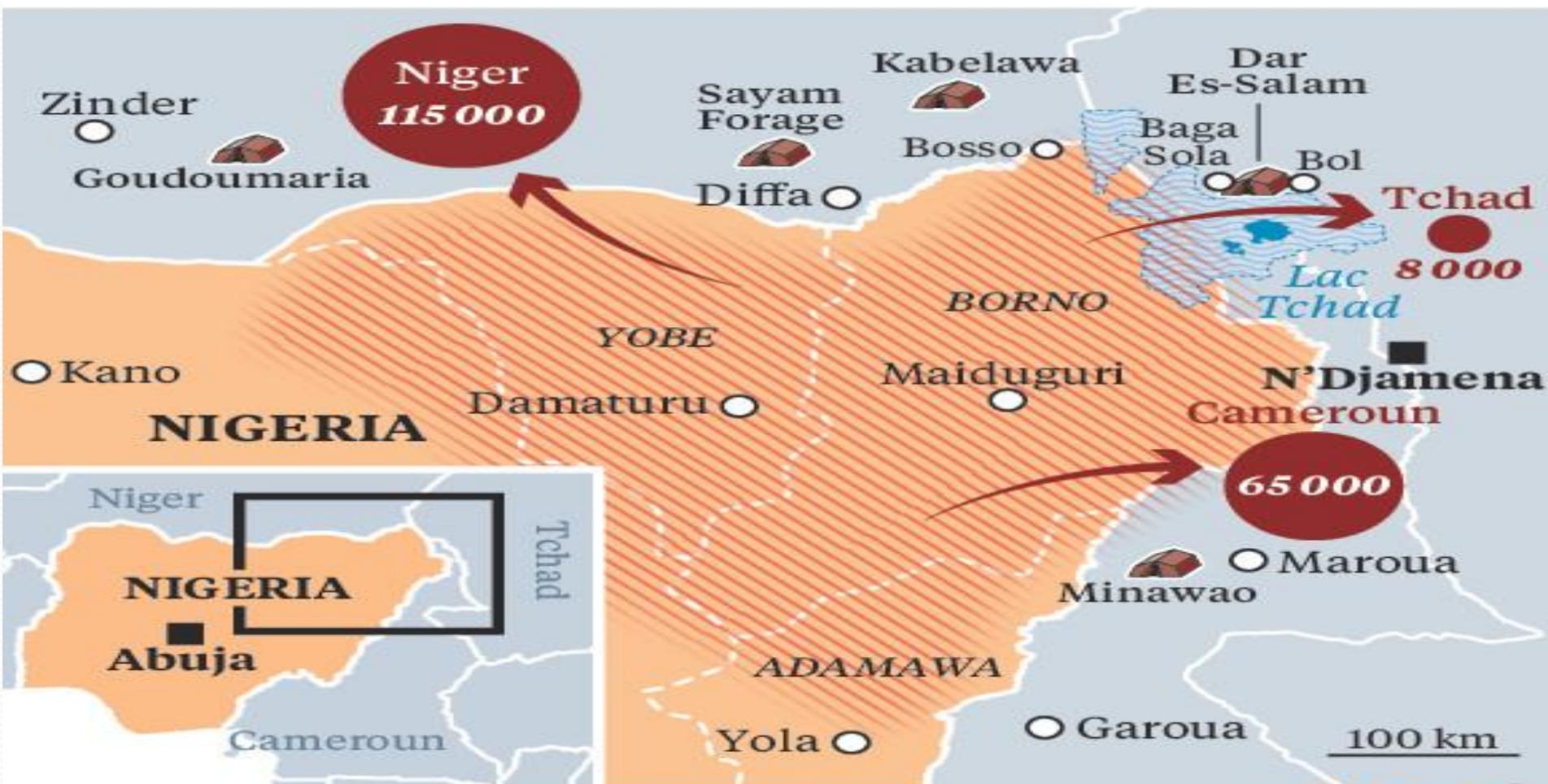
***SITUATION OF WOMEN AND YOUTH IN AREAS
AFFECTED BY THE ACTIVITIES OF BOKO HARAM***

CHAD

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Nigeria, la situation autour du lac Tchad

-  Zone d'influence de Boko Haram
-  Nombre de réfugiés
-  Camp de réfugiés



Sources : ONU (Programme alimentaire mondial), OCHA **LA CROIX** 

PLAN

- I. CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION
- II. COMMITMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE DURING AND AFTER THE ACTIONS OF BOKO HARAM
- III. ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES
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CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

- ✓ Chad is a country in Central Africa with an area of 1,284,000 km² with much of its territory located in the Sahelian belt which has undergone several periods of war (in 1963, 1979 followed by drought and famine in 1984).
- ✓ Chad, like all Sahelian countries, faces numerous constraints, including the actions of terrorist groups, illicit trafficking, theft of cattle and inter-communal conflicts.
- ✓ Political instability has worsened with recent events: the Sudanese, Central African, Mali and Libyan crises, the actions of extremist groups.

CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION Cont

- ✓ Especially the incursions of Boko Haram **jihadist** in **the Lake Chad Basin Region** and in West and Central Africa compromising peace, internal and sub-regional stability:
 - More than 20,000 dead since 2009;
 - More than 2.4 million displaced,
 - Anti-insurgency measures with the following effects: evacuation of areas, prohibitions on travel or trade;
- ✓ The first manifestation of violent extremism and radicalization was recorded in the region from 2014. The first attacks took place in the island of Ngouboua on 13 February 2015: a paroxysm reached in 2015 and early 2016 with attacks along the Border of the Lake of villages, markets, fields, ferric and places of worship, even in the capital.

CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION Cont

- ✓ On the national territory, the Lake is a region of Chad which shares its borders with three countries, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon with an area of 2300 km² and 451 369 inhabitants is a largely insular region grouping populations of:
 - Different nationalities, cultures, lifestyle and religion;
 - Including agriculture, livestock, market gardening, trade and trafficking of all kinds (narcotics and small arms).

CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION Cont

- ✓ These attacks have had a serious impact on the lives of people in general and women in particular.
- ✓ According to the sources of the regional delegation of women and the social action of the Lake in total:
 - 117,577 individuals, or 29,033 families, are registered in the 50 displaced settlements set up;
 - 6,952 refugees including 5,374 in the Bagasola camp and 1,578 outside the camp (December 2016), the majority of whom are women and children.
- With socio-sanitary, psychological and economic consequences.

COMMITMENTS OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE SEARCH OF PEACE DURING AND AFTER THE ACTIONS OF BOKO HARAM

- ✓ Women and young people remain the most vulnerable to violence such as sexual slavery, forced marriage and forced recruitment;
- ✓ That is why they have a say in peace and security. They must be involved in peace and security processes to protect them against such violence, particularly sexual violence.
- ✓ Thus, women and young people from the areas affected by the activities of Boko Haram organized themselves into associations in order to carry out awareness-raising, education and participation in citizenship rights and duties, actions prevention and fight against conflicts.

COMMITMENTS OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE SEARCH OF PEACE DURING AND AFTER THE ACTIONS OF BOKO HARAM Cont

✓ At Community level:

- vigilance committees composed of young people and women are set up in each village to make the denunciation and sometimes fighting and capture of elements of Boko Haram;
- the native women of the region are warlike in nature and often take the “sagaie” to accompany men, and for others they accompany them by the “youyous” to motivate them in combat. Thanks to that, several attempts have been foiled.

COMMITMENTS OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE SEARCH OF PEACE DURING AND AFTER THE ACTIONS OF BOKO HARAM Cont

- ✓ The civilian **vigilante** committees responsible for monitoring the comings and goings both in the villages and at the weekly markets are all on the alert. For example, on May 18, 2016, it was possible to intercept three kamikaze candidates on their way to the Bol market.
- ✓ Women were also organized to assist other female victims by food and non-food items such as mats, soap, clothes, tea, etc.)

COMMITMENTS OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE SEARCH OF PEACE DURING AND AFTER THE ACTIONS OF BOKO HARAM Cont

- ✓ In the refugee **and IDP Camps** , they are the ones who take care **of homes**: a role recognized by men:

"If we find 1000frs or 500frs we prefer to buy a cutter or a knife that we give to our women".

- ✓ Why a cutter or a knife for women?

"It allows them to cut wood or reeds to make mats and resell in order to feed the family even if sometimes only porridge is better than nothing"

COMMITMENTS OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE SEARCH OF PEACE DURING AND AFTER THE ACTIONS OF BOKO HARAM Cont

- ✓ Young people have set up peace ambassadors in the country's secondary schools.
- ✓ Established a framework for concertation for peaceful coexistence by the three major religious denominations (Muslim, Catholic and Protestant) and religious women are members of this interfaith platform are engaged in raising awareness against violent extremism.
- ✓ The Ulemas women formerly confined to the rear guard of the religious assemblies, decided to preach to other women in the zones of predilection of terrorism.

COMMITMENTS OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE SEARCH OF PEACE DURING AND AFTER THE ACTIONS OF BOKO HARAM

Cont

- ✓ There is good cooperation between the police and the population. In most cases, it is the population that informs the police in case of suspicious movement or unknown presence.
- ✓ In Chad, the **Lack** area is subject to socio-cultural constraints, but more and more women are listening because many of them have had to report their children and their husbands.

It is currently recognized in the region that only women tell the truth!

ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

III.1 Achievements

Faced with this situation, the Chadian government through its ministerial departments concerned have been sparing no effort to relieve the people living, not living and security. These include:

- The involvement of **women** and youth organizations in the fight against terrorism and the promotion of peace and development;
- The existence of **vigilante** committees;
- The enactment of the Anti-Terrorism Act; (Law No. 034 / PR / 2015 of 05 August 2015 on the Suppression of acts of terrorism)

Implementation of mechanisms related to the G5 Sahel;

- The establishment of the joint security force along the borders concerned;
- The establishment of a framework for concertation for peaceful coexistence by the three major religious denominations (Muslim, Catholic and Protestant) by the establishment of a national day of prayer for peace.

Achievements and Challenges Cont

III.2 Challenges

The challenges for mobilizing women and youth for peace and security include:

- ✓ Women's participation in decision-making bodies;
- ✓ Women's participation in mediation and conflict resolution;
- ✓ Improving the schooling rate
- ✓ Mobilizing resources for young people and women
- ✓ Creating employment for women and young people
- ✓ A creation of employment for women and young people

CONCLUSION

With regard to the participation of young women in social, political and economic life, and to promote gender equality, participants in the last general assembly of UN member states stressed that the 860 million young women and girls living in developing countries are not only a statistical figure but also 860 million dreams and voices that have the power to make a difference in this world.

CONCLUSION Cont

- ✓ Faced with wars and crises of all kinds, those who give life spare no effort to preserve life at the risk of losing their own lives. Thus, the four countries of the Lake Chad basin (Chad, Nigeria, Cameroon and Niger) are indifferently affected by the scourge of Boko Haram, in a context of financial crisis and political and social tensions.
- ✓ They therefore need the support of the Security Council and the international community as a whole to succeed in their efforts to restore stability and strengthen the resilience of affected communities, especially women and youth.

RECOMMENDATIONS

➤ **To Partners:**

- Support the implementation of the G5 Sahel national action plan;
- Strengthen the capacity of existing CSOs in the fight against Violent Extremism (VE) and the consolidation of peace;

➤ **To the Government:**

- Develop and implement gender-sensitive policies and programs, especially in the fiscal area.