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RESILAC project enters its second phase: a collective momentum well underway !

The Lake Chad Inclusive Economic and Social Recovery Project (RESILAC2)* is a regional initiative aimed at strengthening the resilience of populations through economic recovery, social cohesion, and sustainable land management in the countries bordering the Lake Chad Basin. Building on the achievements of its first phase (2018-2022), this new cycle, launched in January 2024 for a five-year period, entered a dense and structuring start-up phase in June 2024.

Beyond recruiting staff and setting up new partnerships, this first phase allowed the programme to establish its technical and operational foundations. Teams mobilised around trainings, territorial diagnostics, internal governance mechanisms, and the creation of key support tools (guidance notes, website, e-learning module, podcasts).

At the regional level, important progress was made with the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), including the drafting of a cooperation protocol and participation of RESILAC team in major sub-regional forums. Most institutional launch events were held in the three countries, marking a key milestone in anchoring the programme with national authorities and launching the first regional studies.

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RESILAC*2 ROLLS OUT IN CHAD, CAMEROON AND NIGERIA



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CHAD: Provincial launch and establishment of operational steering committee in Bagasola

On Tuesday 25th February 2025, a provincial launching workshop for RESILAC 2 “Economic Resilience and Social Inclusion of the Lake Chad” was held in Bol under the leadership of the General Secretary of Lake Chad province.

The main objective of the workshop was to mark the official start of the RESILAC*2 project in the Lake Chad Province, to present its key orientations for the region, and to establish the operational steering committee responsible for ensuring effective implementation. Both objectives were achieved, and the new committee also validated the action plan for the first half of the year.

The workshop featured several key presentations and discussions, with the following highlights:

- The decision to limit the number of intervention villages to 22 aims to maximise impact.
- A training centre was identified in the Wayi department (Ngouri), although it is currently unequipped. It was recommended that the project consider this asset in the context of youth vocational training.
- Villages will benefit from tailored activity packages adapted to their respective potential. It should be noted that not all 22 villages will benefit from every activity due to the project’s budgetary constraints.
- One of the lessons learned from RESILAC1 is the importance of avoiding staff mobility for key coordinators and departmental heads during the implementation of RESILAC2



CAMEROON: National launch and establishment of steering committee (1/2)

RESILAC*2 was officially launched on 13 February 2025 in Yaoundé by the Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT), in the presence of colleagues from Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Family) and MINEPIA (Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries),

Representatives from other ministries, as well as donors such as AFD and the European Union, civil society partners, and media stakeholders also attended the event.



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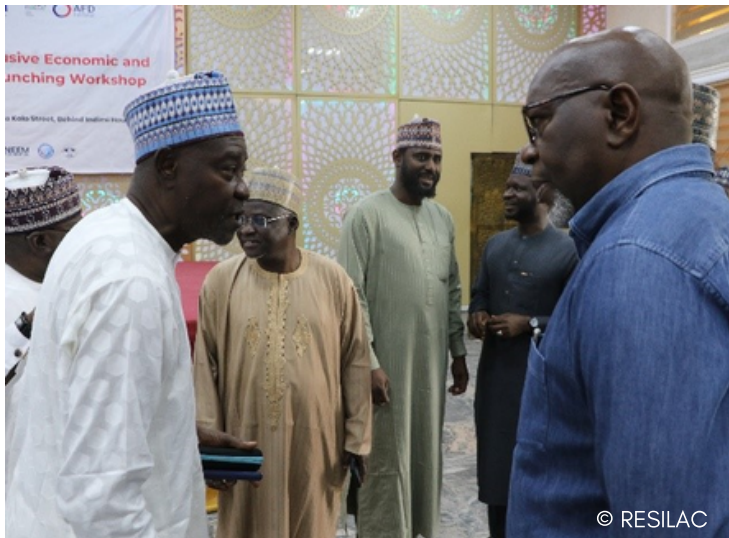


CAMEROON: National launch and establishment of steering committee(2/2)

This launch workshop was an opportunity to officially present the RESILAC*2 project to national authorities, humanitarian and development actors in Cameroon, civil society organisations, and the broader public, in order to foster greater understanding and collaboration.

In parallel with this event, RESILAC*2 Cameroon held its first meeting of the national steering committee, bringing together representatives from the aforementioned ministries.

The meeting officially confirmed the committee members, following a reading and review of the Terms of Reference governing the organisation and functioning of the committee, along with key recommendations for improvement. The committee also approved the 2025 roadmap.



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NIGERIA: Provincial launch in Maiduguri and establishment of operational steering committee

The launch workshop was held in Maiduguri on 5 and 6 February 2025, with the goal of strengthening common understanding around the project's deliverables, grant requirements, governance structure, and the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders.

The event also laid the groundwork for the establishment of the operational steering committee, an essential component to ensure effective project implementation.

The RESILAC*2 implementation team and stakeholders from Borno State across various sectors participated in the two-day workshop.

The first day focused on the internal project team whereas the second one brought together all stakeholders, including representatives from the Borno State Ministries and House of Assembly, the local government areas of Jere, Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC), and Konduga, along with representatives from the University of Maiduguri, Mohammed LAWAN College of Agriculture, traditional leaders, UNDP, and GIZ. In total, 89 participants (26 women and 63 men) attended in person, while 10 people joined online.

In summary, the launch workshop was a resounding success, with stakeholders leaving with a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. The collaborative spirit fostered throughout the event set the tone for a productive partnership, paving the way for the effective and efficient implementation of RESILAC*2 in Nigeria.



Amadou Mamane Issakou:
“Doing better with each phase”
A remarkable journey within RESILAC

My name is Amadou Mamane Issakou. I am a 38-year-old agricultural engineer with 12 years of experience in the humanitarian sector. I joined the RESILAC project from its inception in August 2018 in Niger, where I served as Programme Manager for Labour-Intensive Works (HIMO) and agricultural production with ACF Spain in Diffa. Since July 2024, I have been the National Coordinator for RESILAC*2 in Chad.

These experiences have significantly strengthened my management skills. I discovered the importance of resilience and adaptability, and I applied these lessons to improve coordination and team efficiency between 2020 and 2022, and once again since I took up my new post. This period has been instrumental in my professional and personal development.

As an anecdote, in June 2021, I was invited by the Diffa Governorate to a meeting presenting major projects in the region. [...] At the end of my presentation, **the Secretary General of the Governorate took the floor and said:**

« RESILAC may not have the budget of other projects presented here , but i had the opportunity to witness its achievements, which are so important for communities and I heard very poitive testimonies [...]. You can be proud of your work.»

For me, this is what sets the RESILAC project apart. It is implemented through a multi-country, multisectoral approach (Cameroon, Nigeria, Chad, and Niger), addressing various sectors such as economic recovery, social cohesion, and sustainable land management. [...]

The project has also integrated the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, allowing for a more holistic and sustainable response to the complex challenges of the region.

RESILAC has placed special emphasis on youth and women, offering them job opportunities and strengthening their resilience to climate change. [...]

The main difference I see between RESILAC*1 and RESILAC*2 lies in the will to improve by applying the lessons learned from the first phase: enhancing inclusion of the most vulnerable groups, reinforcing local governance through capacity-building, improving access to basic services, and strengthening community preparedness for climate shocks. This includes new initiatives to promote cross-border exchanges and foster climate-resilient production systems.

“What I particularly appreciate about RESILAC is the constant self-reflection and the drive to innovate. We are always striving to do better than before.”
[...]

Seeing the positive impact on the smiling faces of programme participants is a great source of satisfaction and motivation.

My only regret is that, given the limited budget allocated to the project, we are unable to do more in terms of developing market gardening spaces, building schools, and establishing health centres, which are sorely lacking in the project area. et impacts positifs sur les visages souriants des participants est une source de grande satisfaction et de motivation.

To read the full testimony, please follow this link:
(<https://en.resilac.net/t%C3%A9moignages-nora>).

CONTRIBUTIONS - #STUDIES & #KNOWLEDGE

Laying the groundwork to better understand and take action

During its start-up phase, RESILAC*2 launched several strategic studies at both local and regional levels. These will help guide programme activities in connection with the economic, social, and environmental dynamics of the targeted areas – and foster synergies with key actors in the subregion. Three major studies will begin in the coming months: :

Study on the labour market in the Lake Province - July 2025

In a context marked by displacement and economic hardship, RESILAC*2 will implement training, integration, and income-generating activities (IGAs). This study aims to assess how local markets operate, identify inclusive and sustainable employment opportunities, and better understand the specific barriers to youth and women's entrepreneurship. Among other outcomes, it will help tailor vocational training to the real needs of beneficiaries for improved economic empowerment.

Study on vulnerabilities and resilience to climate change - October 2025

Carried out in several municipalities, this participatory study will analyse climate risks, vulnerabilities of different social groups, and existing community and institutional coping strategies. Its findings will help define concrete actions to strengthen the resilience of local populations in the face of climate-related shocks.

Study on cross-border economies - October 2025

Linked to outcome 3.1 of the project, this study seeks to better understand the economic potential and transformations in the Lake Chad Basin in light of the ongoing multidimensional crisis. It will identify promising cross-border value chains, current obstacles, and possible forms of cooperation and coordination. The results will inform regional strategies – including those of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) – and support the creation of frameworks for economic exchange between actors

These studies will serve as a foundation to orient action, inform future programming, and strengthen knowledge sharing around key development and resilience issues in the Lake Chad

For more information, please visit our website: www.resilac.net

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