

SEPTEMBER 2021

## Mid-Term Survey

Regional report on the results of the midline survey in the Lake Chad Basin region: Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria.



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## I. Introduction

The Lake Chad Basin region is currently facing a deep socio-economic, political, security and environmental crisis. RESILAC proposes a pro-resilience approach that contributes to the economic recovery and the strengthening of the resilience of the most affected territories. To this end, the project implements activities to promote economic development, preserve social cohesion and strengthen the institutional capacity of the authorities in Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad<sup>1</sup>. The project embodies in a single large-scale initiative the multi-country, multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach to strengthening the triple nexus of "humanitarian aid, development and peace".

In its third year of implementation, RESILAC is currently working in 13 intervention municipalities in the four countries, directly reaching more than 90,000 people. This report presents the consolidated results of the mid-term survey conducted between June and July 2021 in the four intervention countries among 2,905 people. The objective is to provide an overview of the evolution of the context and to measure the progress made by the project.

## II. Methodology and limitations of the survey

The field data collection was preceded by a regional training workshop on the approaches and methods used by Groupe URD. Under the coordination of the Regional Coordinator and with the support of various partners, the Pillar 4 managers (Kabirou Samaila in Niger, Jean Nkaa in Cameroon, Mahamat Laouane in Chad and Anda Zakaria in Nigeria) trained and supervised a team of 60 field enumerators who administered the questionnaires in Kanuri, Hausa and Peulh.

The heterogeneity of the zones and the lack of updated and reliable baseline demographic data justified the choice to carry out a non-random purposive sampling. In Chad and Cameroon, areas were selected according to programmatic weight, community tensions, access (security measures and hazards) and community commuting patterns. In Niger and Nigeria, all intervention areas were covered. As for the respondents, the aim was to diversify the typical units to include the widest possible range of cases, regardless of their statistical frequency. The survey was structured through structured questionnaires with a focus on individual face-to-face interviews and open-ended deliberative exchanges to explore key issues.

However, the results must be interpreted with caution due to the following limitations: the information is drawn directly from the respondents' statements during the individual face-to-face interviews, the existence of social desirability and/or confirmation<sup>2</sup> bias in the responses on sensitive topics (conflicts, natural resources, project support, etc.), and interruptions related to the security context.

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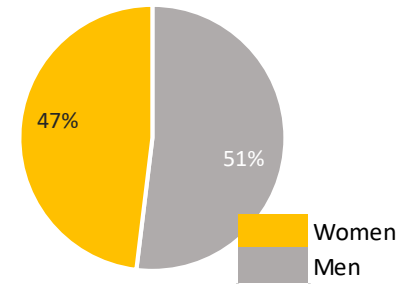
<sup>1</sup> Co-funded by the European Union (Emergency Trust Fund for Africa) and the French Development Agency (AFD) for an initial period of 4 years (2018-2021), RESILAC is implemented by an international Consortium (Action Against Hunger - lead partner, CARE and Groupe URD) in partnership with the CCFD - Terre Solidaire network, Search For Common Ground and local organisations in the four intervention countries.

<sup>2</sup> Mainly studied in social psychology, social desirability and/or confirmation bias refers to the tendency of individuals to give socially desirable and/or norm-consistent responses to the detriment of sincerely expressing their personal opinions and beliefs. These biases can be induced by a social context in which it is particularly important for the individual to be appreciated by others (e.g. a project beneficiary's opinion of the operators), and mitigate the validity of conclusions drawn on the basis of these responses.

### III. Socio-demographic profile of respondents

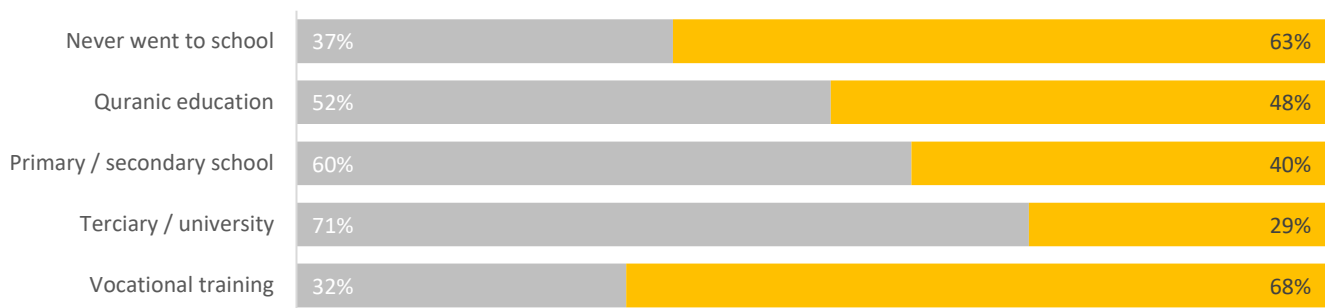
In order to capture all the realities of the different intervention areas, the survey covered 2,905 people from different socio-economic strata in the four countries, 47% of whom were women.

Mostly rural residents, 85% of those surveyed were from host communities, with a small representation of IDPs and returnees in Chad and Niger and IDPs in Nigeria.



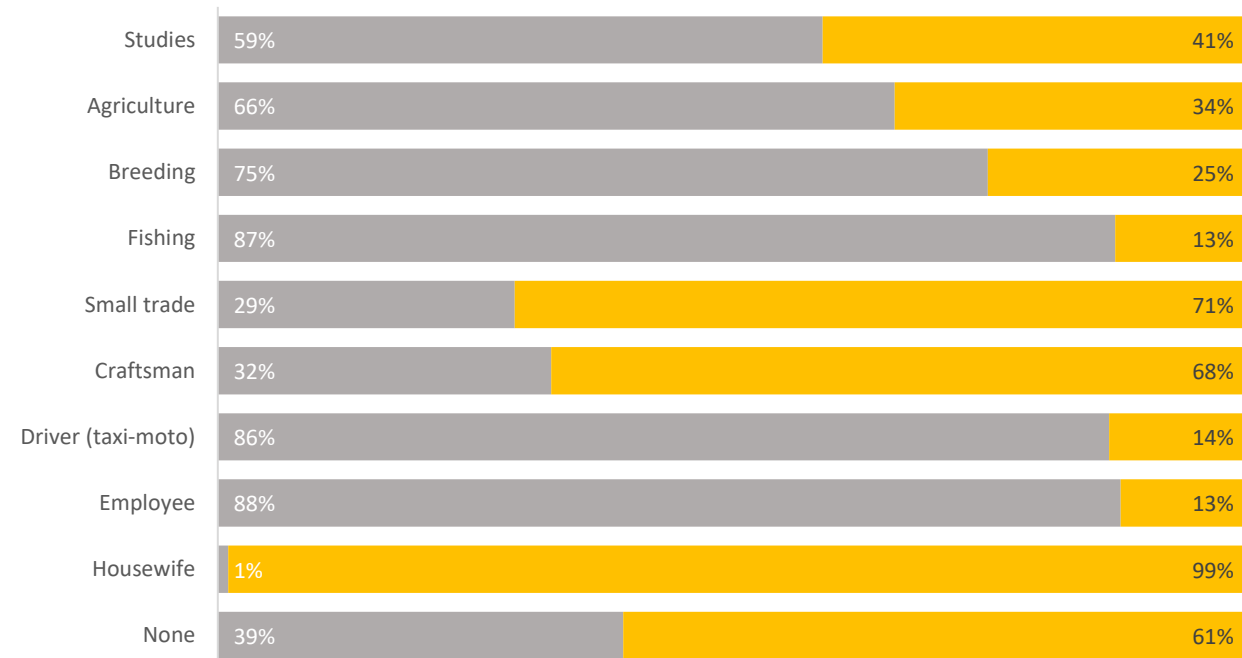
In terms of education, the intervention areas are the least educated in each country: of the people surveyed, nearly half had attended Koranic school, but barely 36% had been to school, and only 2% had had access to higher education and/or vocational training. Of the 10 people who had never studied, 6 were women.

Fig. 0 Distribution of education level (men/women)



On average, the men surveyed are 38 years old and are mainly engaged in agriculture, livestock breeding and petty trade, while the women are 35 years old on average and are engaged in petty trade, household chores and handicrafts.

Fig. 0 Distribution of professional activities (men/women)





## IV. Key results

### 1. A solid Community Social Capital (CAS) despite the deterioration of the context

Despite the resurgence of the security and socio-economic crisis, as well as the impact of the health crisis linked to covid-19, **the social fabric of the communities seems to be consolidating in the intervention areas.** The rate of evolution of the CAS score is 8% since the beginning of the project, confirming the importance of actions oriented towards living together, inter-religious dialogue and citizenship at the local level.

### 2 A population vulnerable to psycho-trauma and psychological suffering

The results show a slight increase in psycho-traumatic symptoms in the intervention zones, where **barely 34% of people consider themselves to be in a state of well-being.** The traumas identified are most often linked to the resurgence of insecurity, attacks by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG), intra-family conflicts and gender-based violence.

### 3. Natural resources subject to instrumentalization

The communities consulted feel that they are increasingly confronted with conflicts related to natural resources and intra-community conflicts. Paradoxically, **83% of respondents consider that natural resources are distributed equitably among all members of their community.** The intensity of the security crisis seems to justify the exceptionality of restrictive measures, attenuating the responsibility of national authorities for the management of territories.

### 4 Future prospects: a comprehensive and adapted socio-economic reintegration system

Generally speaking, the young people supported through the education-training-integration system are satisfied with the quality of the service and its direct effects. Of all the respondents who have started a micro-project, **67% are reintegrated into economic life and the majority have already reinvested the earnings obtained in their community.**

### 5 Agriculture as a key to climate change mitigation and socio-economic revitalization

The average rate of adoption of the innovative agricultural techniques identified and promoted by the project is 91%. The people surveyed note a **better yield, an increased quality of their production and a slight improvement in soil fertility.** This has an impact on the increase of their income, the decrease of the debt rate and the improvement of their households' living conditions. For example, **19% of people have already been able to reinvest in the purchase of new land, livestock or equipment for agricultural production.**

### 6 Decentralization mitigated by lack of financial and technical resources

Of all the organisations (institutional actors, CBOs and CBOs) surveyed, 76% stated that the project helped them to make decisions on their territory, particularly the institutional actors. That said, **among the 19 organisations supported, only 10% had an initial level of consolidated organisational maturity.** On the other hand, the results show a positive progression of women's participation in the decision-making spheres of local organizations, from an average of 16% in 2019 to 34% at present.

### 7. A more responsible response that listens to the communities affected by the crisis

In all the intervention countries, **88% of the people surveyed felt sufficiently informed** about the project. As for the relevance of the action, in line with the findings of the project's evaluation exercises, **87% felt that the support received corresponded to their expectations.** Similarly, **84% said that RESILAC made a difference in their lives.**

## V. THEMATIC ANALYSIS BY OBJECTIVE

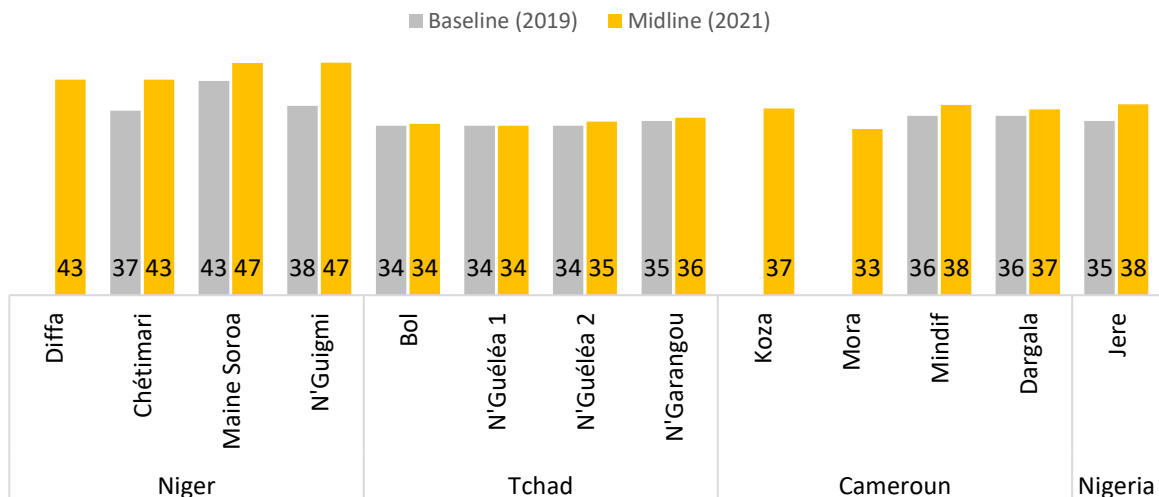
SO 1 / Strengthen human capital, social cohesion and collective and sustainable management of natural resources

### #1. Community Social Capital (CAS) <sup>3</sup>

Today, more than **17 million people** are directly affected by the humanitarian crisis in northeast Nigeria, the Far North region of Cameroon, western Chad and southeast Niger<sup>4</sup>. Socio-economic and security conditions in the intervention areas have deteriorated sharply since the start of the project, particularly since 2020, when the region has seen an increase in GANE-related violence of about 60%<sup>5</sup>.

Despite this, the survey results show a **positive evolution of community social capital**, from 36 to 39 out of a total of 50 since the previous survey, confirming the importance of social ties and mutual aid at the local level as a capital resource towards the resilience of territories.

Fig. 1 Evolution of CAS score by country and commune of intervention



Social capital increased more in areas where the social infrastructure was already stronger and more robust, such as in Niger (change from 39 to 45 since 2019). This reflects a **less fragmented community, where mutual support and collective commitment mitigate the impact of external factors**. In contrast, Chad and Cameroon, which have experienced a particularly deadly past year, have the lowest scores and have made the least progress since the start of the project (change from 34 to 35 and 36 to 37 respectively).

However, it is worth illustrating the individual questions on the scale, which more accurately reflect the experiences and self-reporting of communities, with no significant variations between different groups and countries.

Fig. 2 Results of the Community Social Capital (CSC) scale by question

<sup>3</sup> The score is based on the communities' opinion of social capital, with respect to homogeneity, tensions, sociability, mutual aid, governance and commitment; these are the intangible resources that a community has to contribute to its development. A higher score represents greater community social capital.

<sup>4</sup> CARE, 2021

<sup>5</sup> Africa Center for Strategic Studies, 2020

## Members of the community...

■ Strongly disagree   ■ No agreement   ■ No opinion   ■ I agree.   ■ Very much in agreement

Q1. ...consider themselves, above all, national



Q2. ...share, for the most part, the same living conditions



Q3. ...trust each other most of the time



Q4. ...easily identify key people



Q5. ...know when important community events are taking place



Q6. ...usually work together on important issues



Q7. ...are often part of a community group or association



Q8. ...come together to find solutions to common problems



Q9. ...are encouraged to participate in decisions that affect them



Q10. ...have enough money to support community improvement programs

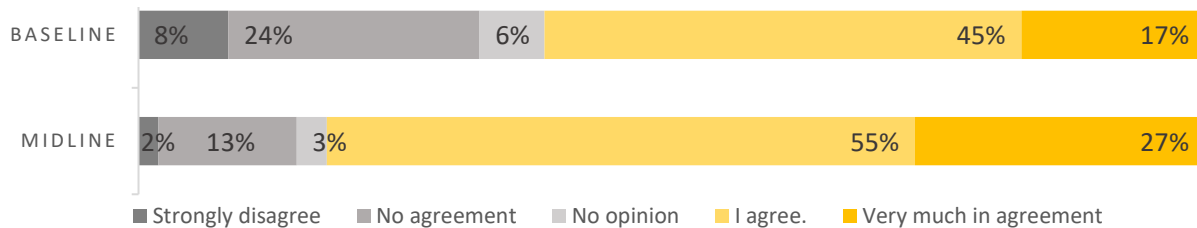


## #2. Equitable access to natural resources

In all of the intervention countries, the security crisis seems to have accelerated the commodification of access to natural resources, in addition to other upheavals such as the change in the specialisation of wetlands, where anthropic pressure has dropped considerably, and their takeover by the GANEs, which tax access to resources and exclude or accept certain actors. However, the results of the survey show a rather positive evolution of people's opinion on equitable access to natural resources: **82% of people believe that resources are equitably accessible**, while only 2% strongly disagree.

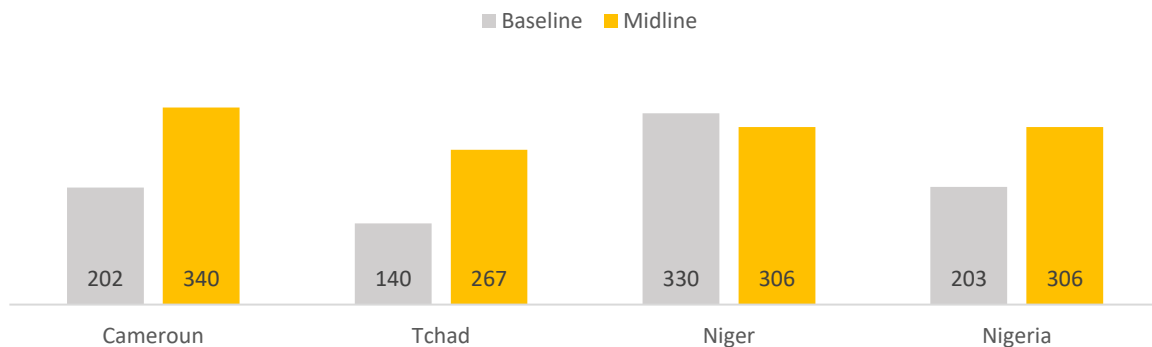
Fig. 3 Evolution of the perception of access to the NRN

Q. Natural resources are equitably available in my community



Today, the security crisis is reported as the main constraint to accessing resources (risk of attack or kidnapping, militarized national control, etc.). **The intensity of the crisis would seem to justify the exceptionality of restrictive measures vis-à-vis the populations, mitigating the responsibility of national authorities on the management of territories and improving the opinion of communities on national governance of resources.** During the initial baseline survey in 2019, the people surveyed deplored the influence of power relations on the distribution and quality of land, managed directly by village chiefs with little involvement of the community or state actors.

Fig. 4 Comparative evolution of the number of "agree" or "strongly agree" responses to the question "Natural resources are fairly accessible in my community"



In addition to this, it should also be noted that the countries where the project activities are most advanced are those where the number of people with a positive opinion has increased the most. **In Chad, 4 local conventions have already been developed and signed, the rate of progress is 91%, much higher than in other countries.** The local conventions formalize a scheme reconciling environmental management and the concerted and sustainable exploitation of natural resources in 878 villages of the Lake Province, 23% of which are located on islands.



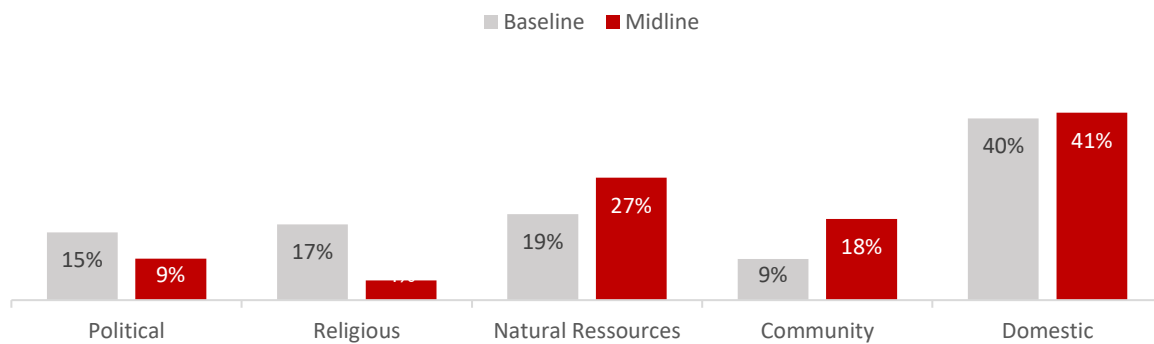
### #3. Community Conflicts

According to the regional study carried out by Groupe URD in 2020<sup>6</sup>, the security crisis has become entrenched in already fragile contexts where the state is weak and a source of mistrust, access to basic services is restricted and ethnic tensions can be quickly activated and exploited. The reduction in grazing land, combined with forced population movements and constraints on access to certain areas, which are direct consequences of the crisis, have exacerbated agro-pastoral conflicts over land and access to resources, creating a climate of suspicion and fear that has encouraged the resurgence of certain religious and/or ethnic cleavages.

The results of the survey confirm this trend: **communities believe that they are increasingly confronted with conflicts related to the exploitation of natural resources and intra-community conflicts.** They constitute, respectively, 27% and 18% of the most recurrent conflicts indicated in 2021, whereas they represented 19% and 9% during the initial survey in 2019.

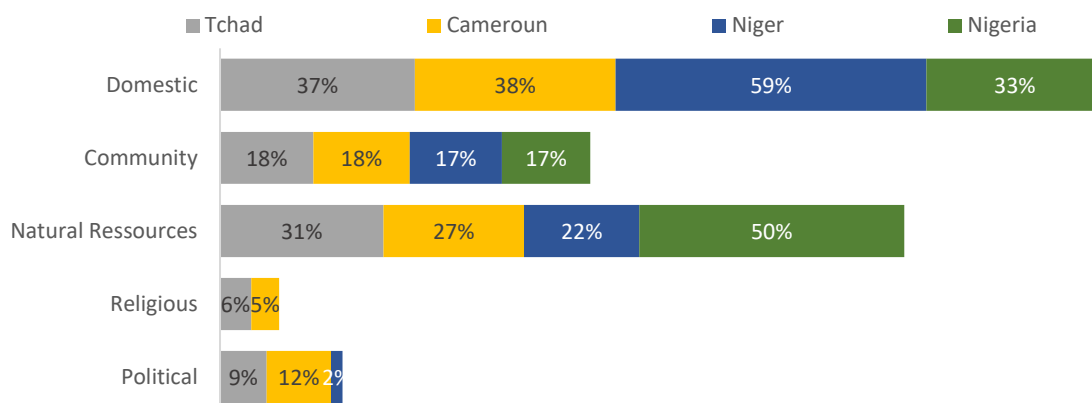
Fig. 5 Comparative evolution of the most recurrent conflicts identified by the communities

Q. Does this community "often" or "all the time" face conflicts such as:



These tensions have been particularly acute in Chad and Nigeria, which have experienced one of their deadliest years, marked by large-scale GANE attacks on civilians and highly militarized national responses.

Fig. 6 Distribution by country of the most recurrent conflicts identified by the communities



<sup>6</sup> "Lake Chad Basin: Supporting social cohesion through endogenous mechanisms for conflict prevention, mediation and resolution", Groupe URD, 2020

#### #4. Mental Health and Wellness <sup>7</sup>

The populations of the Lake Chad Basin face many obstacles that impact the family, social and economic dimensions and can lead to an increase in psychological disorders. In addition, the most affected areas are characterized by a lack of professionals and specialized mental health care services.

The results of the survey reflect a fairly low level of well-being in the intervention zones, where **66% of respondents would be in a state of subjective psychological distress**.

With the exception of Niger, the information collected in the intervention zones shows that barely a third of the people would be in a state of well-being (between 18% and 33%), excluding project beneficiaries. **The traumas identified are most often linked to the resurgence of insecurity, GANE attacks, intra-family conflicts and gender-based violence.** The most frequent symptoms of psychological distress vary from sleep disorders, depression, fatigue, loss of appetite and psychosomatic complaints.

Fig. 7 Subjective well-being status

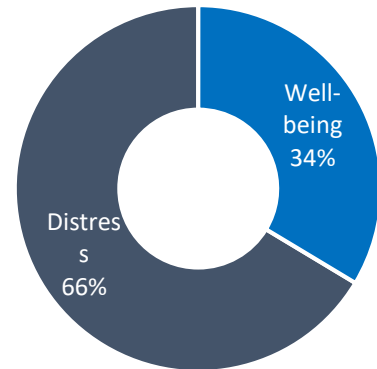
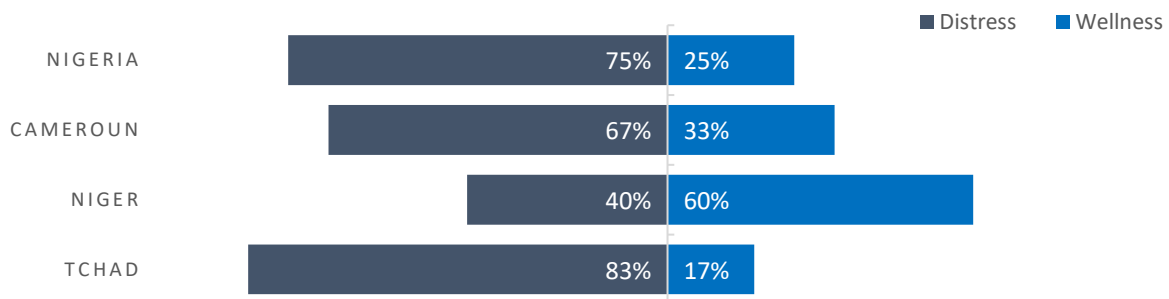


Fig. 8 Country distribution of subjective well-being



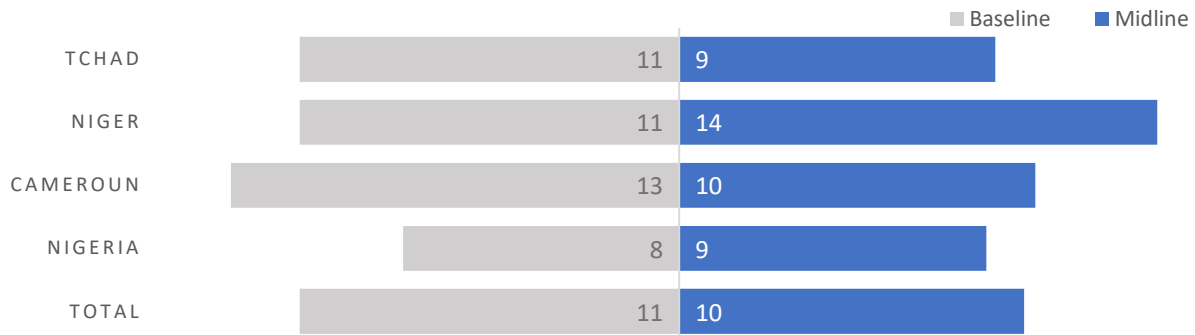
In 2019, the results of the initial survey indicated the link between economic hardship and well-being (only individuals with higher annual incomes were above the minimum well-being threshold). Today, the data collected offer a more detailed reading through which we see **interdependent links between the individual feeling of well-being and community social capital**. Psychological suffering weakens not only people's productive capacities but also their ability and willingness to cooperate, to live together, to project themselves into the future and to trust others.

The results translate into a **regional average of 10 out of a total score of 25**, while the threshold for well-being is 13, slightly lower than in the previous period. This would indicate a **general decline in well-being**, particularly in Chad and Cameroon, where the averages for the intervention areas declined by 2 to 3 points respectively.

<sup>7</sup> The score is based on the international WHO-5 scale developed by the World Health Organization, which measures a person's subjective state of well-being.

In **Chad**, forced displacement, violence against a family member, and attacks (explosions or fighting) linked to the **security crisis** are the main causes identified. The same causes are identified in the areas closest to the epicenter of the crisis in **Cameroon** (Koza and Mora), while in Mindif and Dargala the difficulties experienced are more related to **economic conditions**. Chad and Cameroon are also the countries where the average community social capital has increased the least (1 point of change), suggesting an interdependence between the two variables.

Fig. 9 Comparative evolution of the average subjective well-being by country

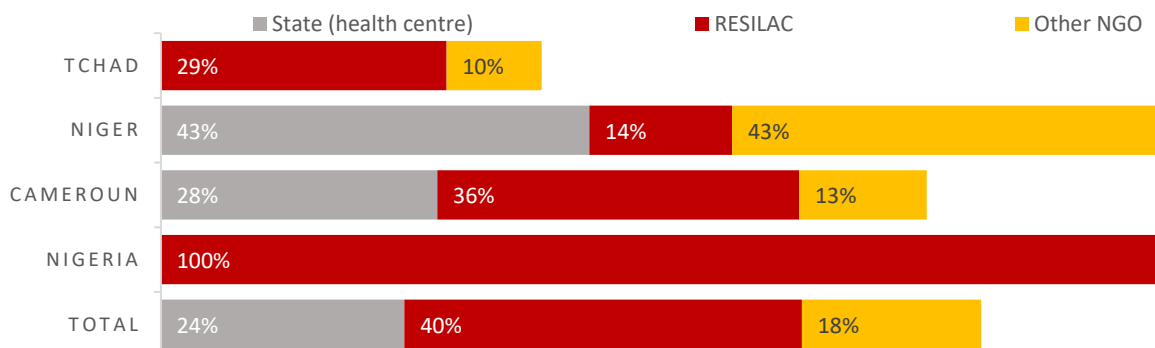


Despite the high level of psychological needs of the population, **the Lake Chad Basin region is characterized by a lack of specialized mental health professionals and services, as well as** a weak integration of these issues into national health policies. Psychosocial support services are, for the most part, provided by international actors working in humanitarian emergency aid. However, health structures lack the skills to deal with people in psychological distress.

In Niger, the institutional context is more favourable to the development of sustainable mental health care and psychosocial support initiatives (involvement of local actors, more complete decentralisation). This remains the main challenge in Chad, while in Nigeria, despite the existence of resources and strategic policies / national reference documents, the response remains very dependent on non-governmental organisations.

Fig. 10 Psychosocial support services identified

Q. Is there a psychosocial support service in your area? If so, who provides it?

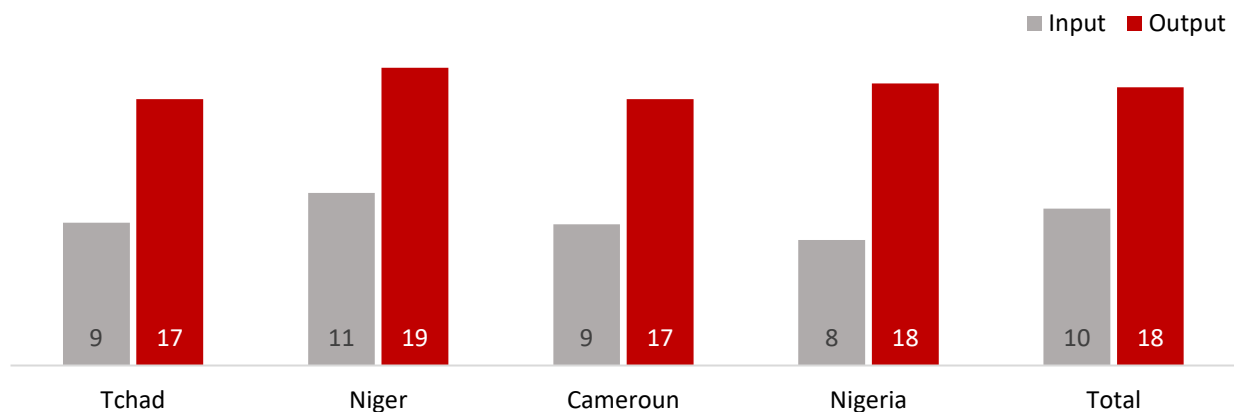


Among the institutional actors interviewed, **51% knew of the existence of a psychosocial support service in their area**. As for who provides the service, 24% indicated the State / community health centres, 40% identified the RESILAC project and 18% international NGOs. Coopi was mentioned once in Chad, Help was mentioned three times in Niger, IRC twice in Niger and once in Cameroon, and Plan, Caritas, MSF and the Red Cross were mentioned once in Cameroon.

In this particularly difficult context, RESILAC provides several types of psychosocial support aimed at improving the general state of well-being, strengthening self-esteem and developing psychosocial skills for better integration into the socio-economic activities of their communities. The populations most affected by the crisis benefit from psychological care (individual or group) through rapid support lasting 5 weeks.

The results collected since the beginning of the project show the effectiveness of the proposed system: **100% of the people supported improve their state of well-being** by about 8 points. In Nigeria, where this support is provided with the support of a local partner organisation, the rate of improvement between the beneficiaries' self-assessment of well-being before and after the support is significantly higher.

Fig. 11 Comparative change in welfare of direct beneficiaries before and after care



### What effects (expected and not expected)?

The information gathered during the evaluation exercises shows that the people assisted feel valued thanks to the renewal of their self-esteem and the improvement of their psychological and psychosomatic symptoms. Beyond the **improvement of individual well-being**, this assistance would have important effects on their **ability to project themselves and invest in the future**, the **consolidation of intra-family relationships** and social ties.

Group care seems to be particularly positive in this respect: regular meetings and the sharing of emotions or intimate experiences make it easier for people to get to **know, appreciate and trust each other**. In the four intervention countries, and in particular in Nigeria, this implementation strategy has had a particularly concrete effect on the **stabilisation of households**, breaking down divisions (between generations, ethnic groups, social strata, etc.) and **encouraging mutual aid in the areas most affected by the security crisis**. In Chad, mental health beneficiaries have now set up voluntary community support groups incorporating "tontine" systems to support others in distress.

## Improved well-being and self-esteem

*"I learned to control my thoughts and especially my fears with tricks that seemed simple and banal but effective. Gradually my condition improved and I even started a small business.*



Photo 1: RESILAC Cameroon 2021 All rights reserved ©.

Xara is a 34-year-old female head of household and mother of six children from a village near Mora. The people of this locality face a very volatile security context, with abuses perpetrated by armed groups, as well as limited access to livelihoods and basic health services. Protection needs are high, especially among women.

During a psycho-education session conducted by the project, Xara was identified by the mental health team. She was showing symptoms of post-traumatic stress following the murder of her ex-husband and the recruitment of her son by GANE. Xara received individual care and psychological follow-up before participating in the TICOM workcamps.

Over the course of the sessions, she went from a depressed state, where she was unable to evoke beautiful memories, to a more resilient state of elaboration of her psychic trauma. The remarkable evolution of her mental state was accompanied by an improvement in her socio-economic conditions. Thanks to the savings from the TICOM project, Xara is now involved in selling tea and doughnuts in her locality.



## SO 2 / Promote economic recovery and resilience through access to employment and intensified production systems adapted to climate change

Once considered a "national periphery", the Lake Chad Basin had enjoyed a flourishing economic dynamism. The combination of flood recession agriculture, extensive livestock farming and fishing had allowed the region to enjoy a certain economic dynamism for the benefit of an extremely mobile and cosmopolitan population. Today, in addition to being an area emblematic of the threats of climate change, the socio-economic, political and security context has been weakened by GANE attacks and forced displacement of populations.

### #5. Socio-economic reintegration of youth <sup>8</sup>

The RESILAC project accompanies the region's dynamic forces through a sequential process integrating a cycle of functional literacy, technical vocational training and support for setting up and launching micro-projects. According to the results, **the assessment of the quality of the service and its direct effects is very positive, with an average score of 3 (out of a total of 4).**

Fig. 12 Average assessment score for the education-training-integration system by country



However, the results show some **variation between countries, with a much higher rating in Niger (4 out of 4), and a much lower rating in Nigeria (2 out of 4).** This could be partly explained by the different implementation modalities: in Niger, the service is provided through a specialised local partner and the collaboration of national services, while in Chad, Cameroon and Nigeria, the service is provided directly by the project agents with the support of national services. In addition, the scheme is part of an ongoing process with an estimated duration of six months. However, **the articulation and fluidity of the different stages have been disrupted by the health crisis, particularly in Nigeria, where literacy and vocational training are still in the process of starting up, impacting the beneficiaries' assessment of the whole process.**

<sup>8</sup> A scale of 1 to 4 (1 being very dissatisfied and 4 being very satisfied) was developed to measure the average level of appreciation for quality. Specifically, beneficiaries rated the relevance of the service, the adequacy of the conditions, the competence of the training staff, the effectiveness and the direct effects. This was done for each stage of the cycle: functional literacy, vocational training and support in setting up and launching a micro-project.

## What effects (expected and not expected)?

In general, the respondents emphasized **the positive impact of the support on the management of their professional activities**: reading, writing and doing small calculations are key skills for better management and administration. **Of all the respondents who had started a micro-project, 67% felt that this support had enabled them to reintegrate into economic life.** Among them, the majority consider that they have reinvested the gains obtained in their community by increasing their income, transferring their skills to their peers or integrating new people into their economic activity.

In addition to this, beneficiaries also highlighted other unexpected positive effects such as a **sense of autonomy, participation in community life and improved family relations**: carrying out daily tasks on their own (using mobile phones, accessing information, shopping at the market, etc.), taking a more active role in community meetings and maintaining better relations within the households.

### Socio-economic reintegration of youth in Cameroon

*"I am really proud of the change that the RESILAC project has brought to my life and to my village. Now I can feed my family, pay for my children's and younger brothers' schooling, and take care of my wife. Also, the inhabitants no longer travel long distances to do their shopping!"*



*Photo 1 Beneficiary of the education-training-integration scheme RESILAC Cameroon 2021 All rights reserved ©*

Today, Haman runs his shop built with local materials, from which he makes an average monthly profit of 125,000 CFA francs. He has bought the necessary materials to build a larger shop with permanent equipment, a device that allows him to make transactions more quickly, and two heads of cattle with which he is starting to raise livestock. Within five years, his dream is to install the first mill in the village for processing peanuts and cereals and to open a second shop for one of his younger brothers.

Haman Souley is a young father of four. Originally from the village of Maoudine, he participated in the Community Interest Work (TICOM) set up by the RESILAC project in Mindif before joining the socio-economic integration scheme. For three months, the income from his participation enabled him not only to ensure the food ration of his household, but also to cover the school and medical expenses of his children and stabilize his household.

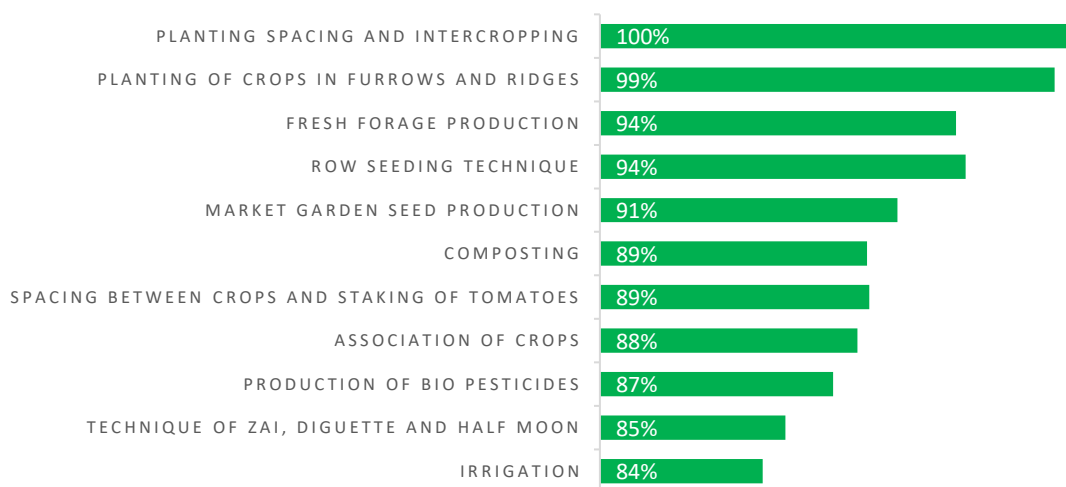
Based on his previous experiences, Haman decided to open a small business with the support of the project. He was trained in accounting, merchandise administration, management and group dynamics, etc.

## #6. Support for producers

In terms of agro-ecological zones and livelihoods, the region is highly heterogeneous across countries. However, the pressures on smallholders who depend on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods are particularly acute in all four countries. Low soil fertility, limited and erratic rainfall, high land pressure and limited or inadequate know-how to cope with climate change hamper the productivity/output of production systems, which are often at a standstill.

RESILAC accompanies farmers through the recovery of local techniques and practices to climate change in Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and experimental sites, and promotes their large-scale dissemination in rural areas. Among the learners surveyed who participated in the training and awareness sessions, the **average rate of adoption of innovative techniques is 91%**. This means that almost all farmers have learned the methods and are applying them in their fields. The most successful methods were **planting spacing and intercropping, furrow and ridge sowing, row sowing and fresh fodder production**.

Fig. 13 Rate of use of innovative agricultural techniques and practices



Farmers use the different techniques they have learned for a variety of crops. The most popular, according to information gathered in the four countries, are onions, okra, chilli, sorghum and beans. Other popular crops include tomatoes, garlic, and cucumbers in Chad; groundnuts, maize, and cotton in Cameroon; and salad, millet, and sesame in Niger.

### What effects (expected and not expected)?

According to the survey results, innovative agricultural practices are highly praised by the community. The efforts made upstream to identify and update traditional techniques adapted to each context (studies, interviews, observations, etc.) have not been in vain. Today, **84% of the farmers surveyed affirm that the techniques respond to the problems they encounter in their farming activities.**

Although the application in the fields is still in the start-up phase, the people surveyed have already noted some direct effects on their production thanks to the adoption of these techniques: **62% feel that they have improved their yield**, having obtained a better cost-investment or even a higher production; **12% underline an increased quality of their production/harvest**, with faster growth of the seeds and a better quality of the products; **5% have also noted an improvement in the fertility of the soil**, which would have a positive impact during the next seasons. In addition, 10% of people noted **other effects such as a decrease in the rate of indebtedness, an increase in their income and a strong progression in the coverage of their household needs**.

As for indirect effects, 19% of people have already been able to reinvest in the purchase of new land, livestock or equipment for their agricultural production and 78% of people have already transferred their know-how to their peers or feel able to do so.

Fig. 14 Direct effects on agricultural production

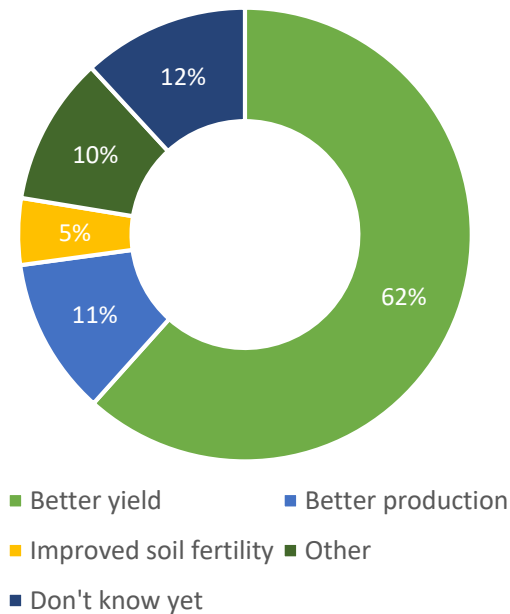
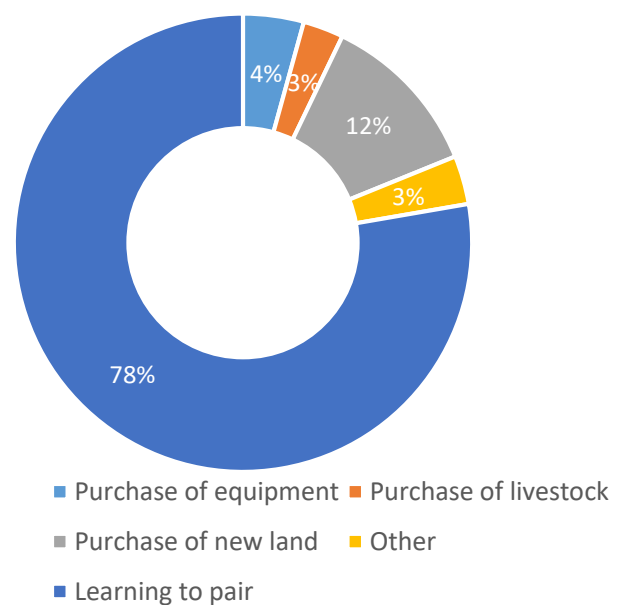


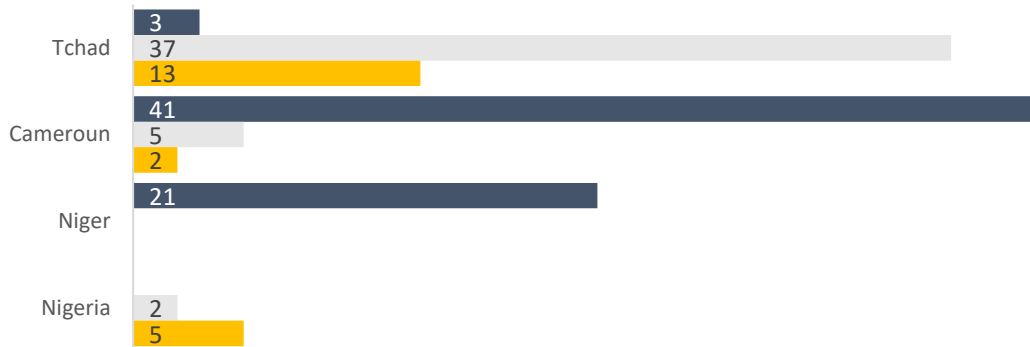
Fig. 15 Indirect effects outside the field



### SO 3 / Enhance and consolidate the actors of the territories by promoting dialogue and commitment and by strengthening their capacities

Due to the geographical and political remoteness of the national capitals and the relatively recent decentralization process, the deconcentrated services of the States and the actors of the civil society often have limited resources and skills. In this sense, the project supports the various actors in their role as project owners for local development and territorial management, around communal development plans, and in accordance with national policies and strategies.

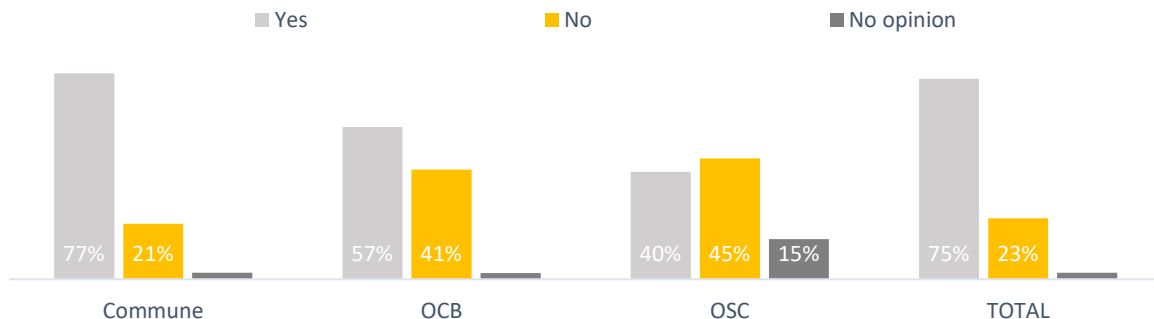
Fig. 16 Type and number of actors interviewed



For most of the actors surveyed, **83% participate in the mechanisms and committees set up for the concerted governance of the project**. As for the opinion on their role in the steering, the results of the survey indicate that **75% of the stakeholders feel they play a significant role in the implementation of RESILAC**, while 25% have the opposite opinion or have not expressed an opinion. This percentage varies according to the type of stakeholder, suggesting a lesser involvement of CBOs and CSOs: of the latter, 41% and 45% of those interviewed think they do not play a significant role. This could be explained by the large number of respondent organisations in Chad that are not targeted for capacity building. However, **76% of the actors surveyed affirm that the project helps them to make decisions in their territory**. The disaggregated results show that the positive appreciation is more shared among institutional actors, without however noting significant variations between parties or between countries of intervention.

Fig. 17 Appreciation of participation in project management by type of stakeholder

Q. My organization plays a significant role in the implementation of RESILAC

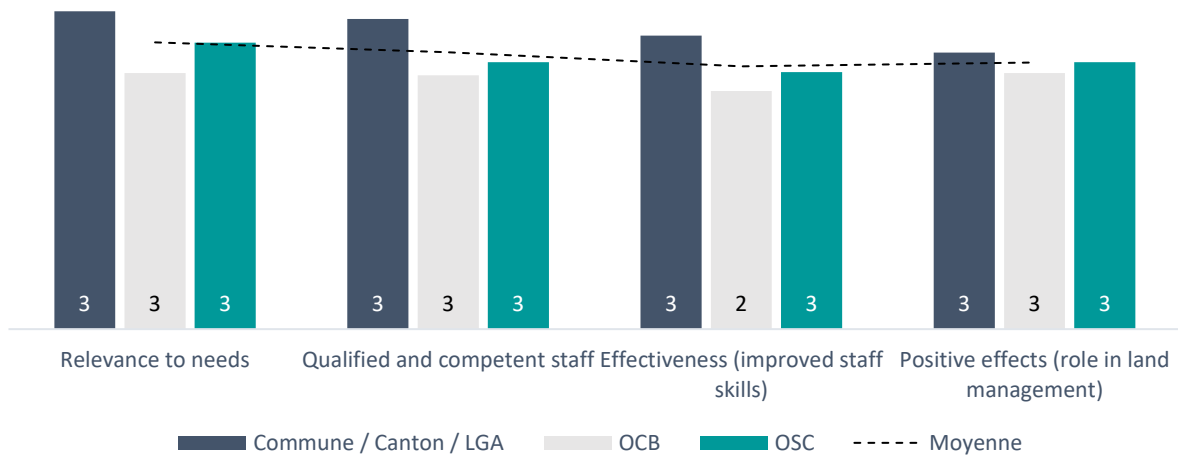




## #7. Strengthening local actors <sup>9</sup>

RESILAC offers various accompaniments and trainings adapted to strengthen the skills of the different actors. The CBOs are supported in their functioning through training and sensitization on citizenship and community development, while the CSOs are consolidated through a holistic structuring support. After three years of implementation, the results show that the average assessment of stakeholders on the evolution of their role is 3 (out of a total score of 4), indicating a **fairly positive level of satisfaction with the support and capacity building offered**.

Fig. 18 Average assessment score on the evolution of their role by type of actor



Overall, 19 organisations accompanied since the beginning of the project were evaluated using the ECOAS tool<sup>10</sup>: 13 territorial entities (4 communes in Cameroon, 4 communes in Niger, 3 LGA in Nigeria and 2 Prefectures in Chad) and 6 CSOs (4 in Nigeria and 2 in Cameroon). The results show that **out of the 19 local bodies assessed, only 10% have a consolidated level, 58% have an emerging level and 32% are still at the initial level**.

## #8. Genre

Gender inequalities in the Lake Chad Basin have worsened as a result of the crisis in the region: women have seen their access to economic and productive resources reduced in a fragile context of climate change and prevailing insecurity. However, gender equality and women's empowerment is a key factor for sustainable development and stability in the region.

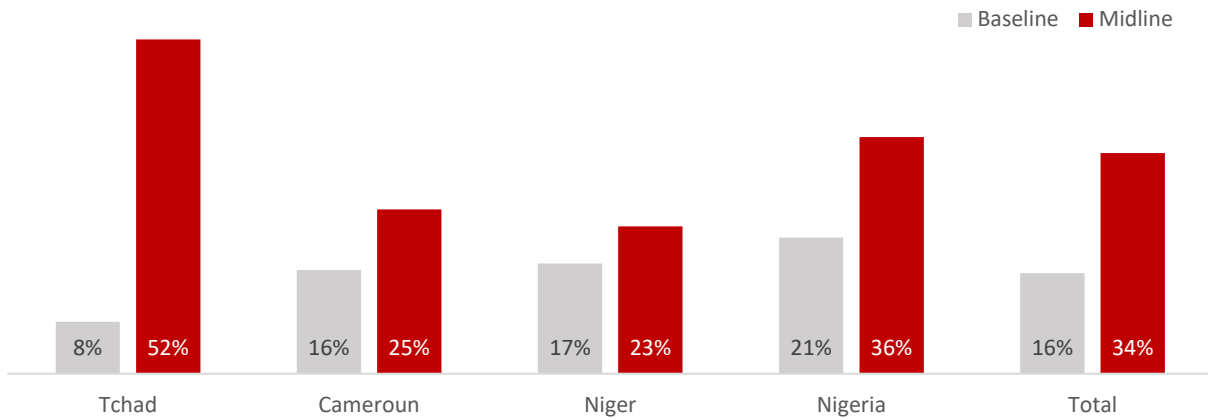
<sup>9</sup> A scale of 1 to 4 (1 being very dissatisfied and 4 very satisfied) was developed to measure the average level of appreciation of the actors on the evolution of their role thanks to the support and guidance of the project.

<sup>10</sup> Based on CARE's institutional strengthening methods, a self-assessment tool was developed for project stakeholders, the Organizational Capacity and Structural Support Assessment (OCSA). The objective of this tool is to help stakeholders assess their organizational competencies around four issues: (1) staff competencies, (2) the level of maturity of their plans and strategies, (3) governance arrangements and procedures, and (4) available assets. The results of the assessment result in a score between 1 and 4, where 1 is considered initial capabilities, 2 emerging, 3 consolidated and 4 established.

Special emphasis is placed on gender mainstreaming in the RESILAC project. To contribute to this, activities related to institutional and organisational strengthening ensure that women's participation in the local bodies involved in the implementation of the project is strengthened.

The results of the survey show the fruit of these efforts through a positive evolution from an **average of 16% women's participation in committed local organizations in 2019 to 34% at the date of this report.**

*Fig. 19 Evolution of women's participation in the decision-making spheres of local organizations by country*



OS4 / Produce useful knowledge for the quality of the project's interventions in a crisis context and for the decision-making of local actors

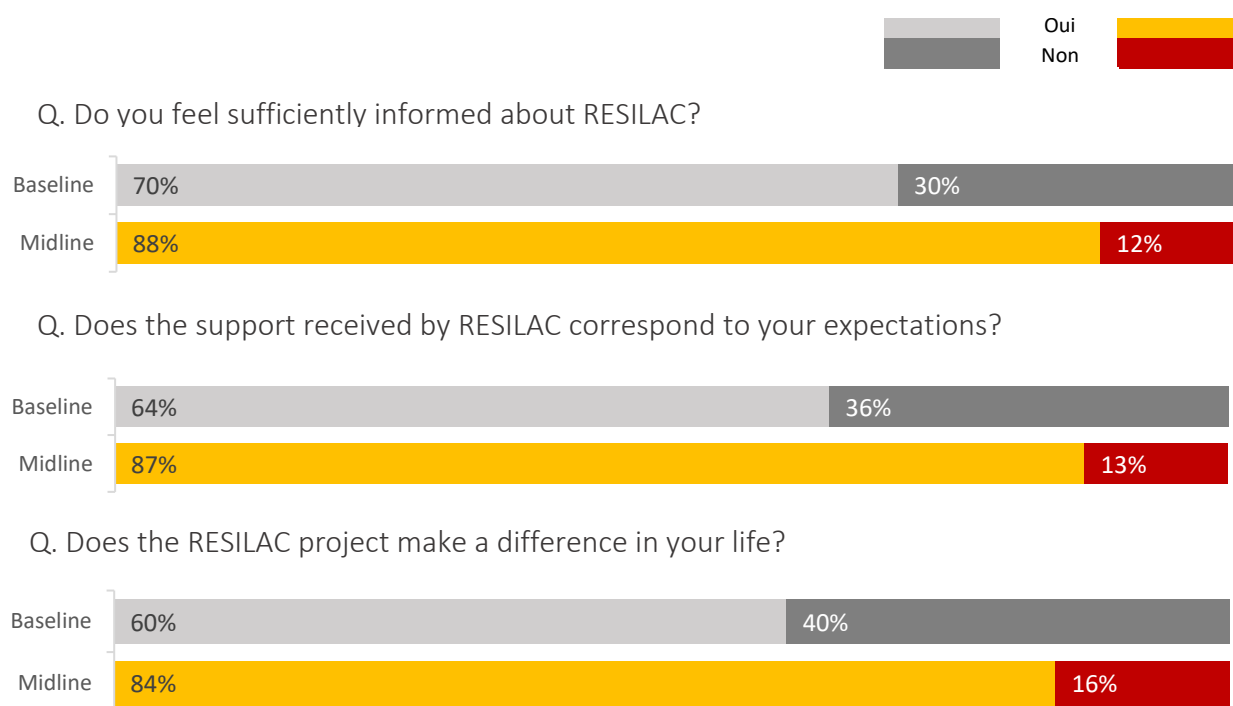
The low influence of communities in the interventions that concern them is one of the main obstacles to the relevance and quality of solidarity actions in the Lake Chad Basin region. RESILAC is particularly attached to the commitments of the Fundamental Humanitarian Standard in order to contribute to an adapted aid, appropriate to the needs and based on communication, participation and feedback.

**#9. Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) <sup>11</sup>**

The results of the survey indicate a positive evolution of the project's quality approach, with an average improvement rate of 34% since the initial survey conducted in 2019. In a particularly fragile and volatile context, the results are promising in terms of the project's capacity to listen, participate and learn. However, the high rate of improvement is partly explained by the state of progress of the activities, most of which were still in the start-up phase at the time of the initial survey, whereas today the effects on the living conditions of the communities are undeniable.

In all the intervention countries, **88% of the people surveyed felt sufficiently informed about the project**. As for the relevance of the action, in line with the findings of the project's evaluation exercises, **87% felt that the support received corresponded to their expectations**. Similarly, the results show that **84% say that RESILAC makes a difference in their lives**.

Fig. 20 Evolution of the communities' opinion on the communication, relevance and effects of the action



<sup>11</sup> A three-question rating scale was developed to allow stakeholders to express their opinion on the quality of the response and its adequacy to expectations and needs. The CHS criteria prioritised in the RESILAC quality score are: a humanitarian response based on communication, participation and feedback (4), an adapted and appropriate humanitarian response (1) and a coordinated and complementary humanitarian response (6).

## PILLAR 1: Human capital, mental health and natural resource management

### 1. Rate of increase in the social capital of the targeted communities (CAS)

**Target value: 41 out of 50**

Despite the resurgence of the crisis, the social fabric of the communities seems to be consolidating and evolving, on the whole, by 3 points (total score from 36 to 39, i.e. an evolution rate of 8% since the beginning of the project). This confirms the importance of actions oriented towards living together, inter-religious dialogue and citizenship at the local level.

### 2. % of beneficiaries who demonstrate a significant role in peace building

**Target value: 20%**

With the exception of Niger and Cameroon, the number of people participating in community mobilization activities focused on living together, inter-religious dialogue and citizenship continues to increase to 33% of project beneficiaries.

### 3. % of people followed up who show an improvement in their well-being

**Target value: 70%**

Despite the general context, the care offered by RESILAC confirms its effectiveness: 100% of the people who benefited from the assistance saw an improvement in their state of well-being at the end of the service.

### 4. % of people trained in Psychological First Aid showing an improvement in knowledge

**Target value: 80%**

At least 89% of trained community workers have mastered strategies on how to provide initial support to people immediately after a crisis or shocking situation.

### 5. % of reinforced youth who show improvement in positive functioning

**Target value: 70%**

93% of the beneficiaries show an improvement in their psychological state and their functioning in different areas of life. This has positive effects on their ability to project themselves into the future, which is key to their socio-economic integration.

### 6. % of individuals (youth and women) who feel they have equitable access to natural resources

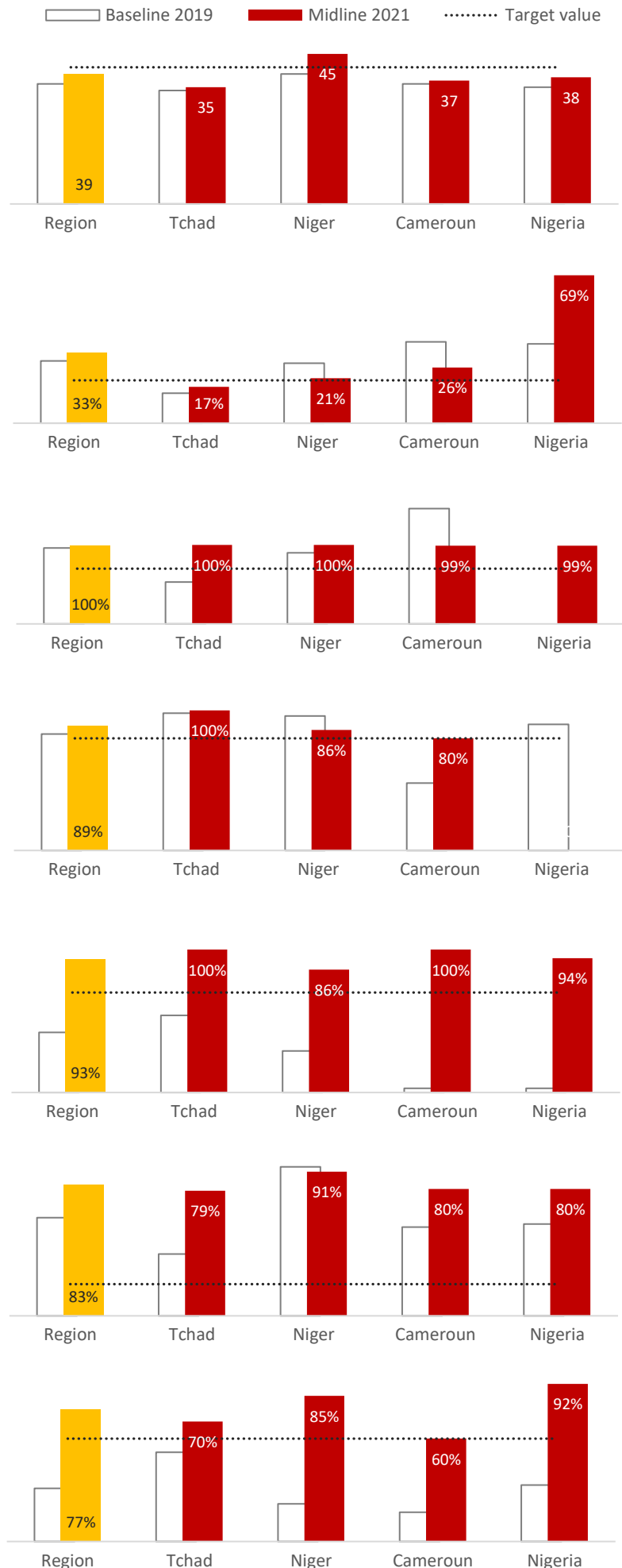
**Target value: 20%**

Despite the deterioration of the context of intervention, 83% of people consider that natural resources are distributed equitably in their community.

### 7. % of individuals who believe that inter-community conflicts have not increased

**Target value: 60%**

The communities feel that they are often or almost always confronted with conflicts related to the exploitation of natural resources and intra-community conflicts.



## PILLAR 2: Economic recovery, access to employment and climate change

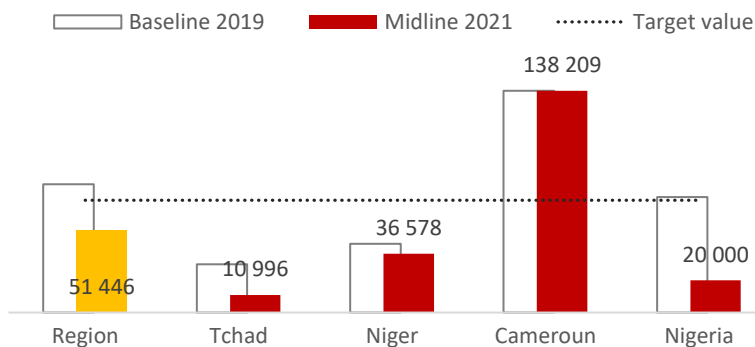
### 8. Amount of money saved by young people in employment and reinvested in starting an economic activity

**Target value: 70,000 XAF**

Halfway through the project, the people supported have reinvested approximately XAF 51,446 in the launch of an economic activity. This indicator should increase and find balance once the integration pathway is closed in the whole region.

**Number of micro and small enterprises supported: 878 in total**  
(Cameroon 35%, Nigeria 27%, Chad 21% and Niger 17%)

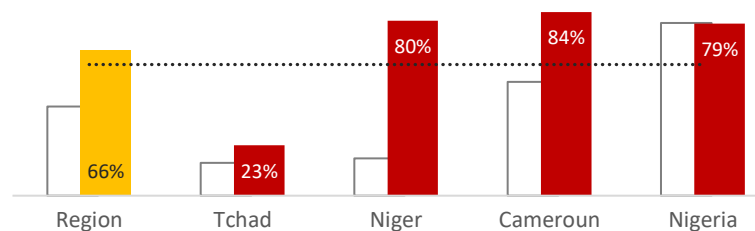
**Number of people supported through vocational training: 2,199 in total**  
(Cameroon 35%, Niger 33%, Chad 18% and Nigeria 14%).



### 9. % of the young HIMO who have integrated the professional integration processes

**Target value: 60%**

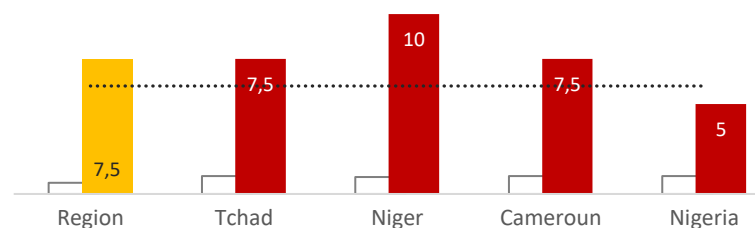
With the exception of Chad, programmatic readjustments during implementation have increased the number of labour-based youth who have access to the entire vocational integration pathway, reaching 66% for the entire region.



### 10. Average level of appreciation of the education-training-economic integration system

**Target value: 6 out of 10**

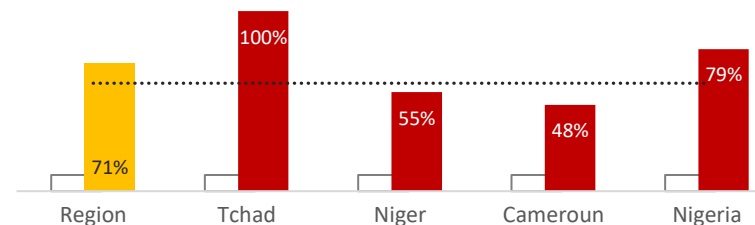
The people supported are, on the whole, satisfied with the quality of the service and its direct effects, particularly in Niger. In Nigeria, literacy and vocational training are still in the process of starting up, which has an impact on the beneficiaries' assessment of the whole process.



### 11. % groups and microenterprises using microfinance services

**Target value: 60%**

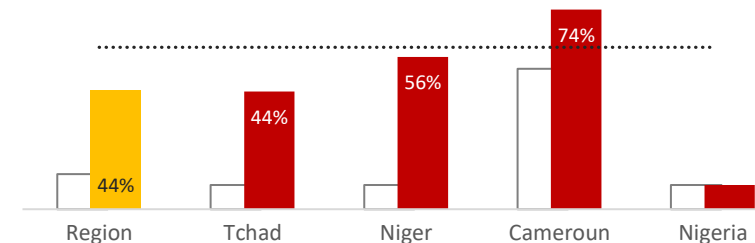
The rural groups and microenterprises supported by the project have been trained and sensitized to savings, in order to secure their income in the medium and long term. At mid-term, 71% of them have recourse to the various formal and/or non-formal microfinance services.



### 12. % of young people who have successfully completed the education-training-economic integration programme

**Target value: 60%**

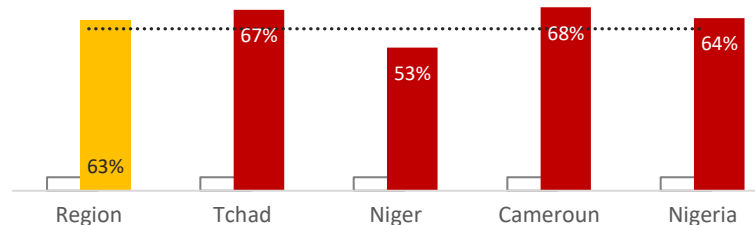
Of the total number of HIMO youths who have entered the labour insertion processes, almost 44% have already successfully completed the course. Due to the various factors that have disrupted the sequential articulation of the scheme, this indicator is expected to increase substantially during the last phase of project implementation.



### 13. % of producers having adopted three new agro-ecological practices

**Target value: 60%**

About 63% of the farmers would have adopted agro-ecological practices to fight against climate change. They note that their adoption has improved yield, production and soil fertility.





## PILLAR 3: Decentralization and strengthening of local actors

### 14. Average level of appreciation of the evolution of the role played in land management by the actors targeted for capacity building

**Target value: 6 out of 10**

After three years of implementation, the results show that the average assessment of stakeholders on the evolution of their role is 7.5 (out of a total score of 10), indicating a fairly positive level of satisfaction with the support and capacity building offered. RESILAC offers various coaching and training courses adapted to strengthen the skills of the various stakeholders.

**Number of territorial entities accompanied: 13 in total**

4 communes in Cameroon: Mindif, Dargala, Koza and Mora

4 communes in Niger: Diffa, Chétimari, N'Guigmi and Mainé Soroa

2 prefectures in Chad: Mamdi and Kaya

2 Local Government Areas in Nigeria: Jere and Monguno

### 15. % of communes/LGAs and CSOs accompanied that feel they play a significant role in the implementation of the project

**Target value: 50%**

75% of the stakeholders supported by RESILAC feel they play a significant role in the implementation of the various governance mechanisms and arrangements put in place. The social desirability bias, particularly in a context in which it is important for the recipient of support to be appreciated by the decision-maker, mitigates the validity of the conclusions drawn on the basis of these estimates.

### 16. Minimum % of women's representation in local institutions involved in project implementation

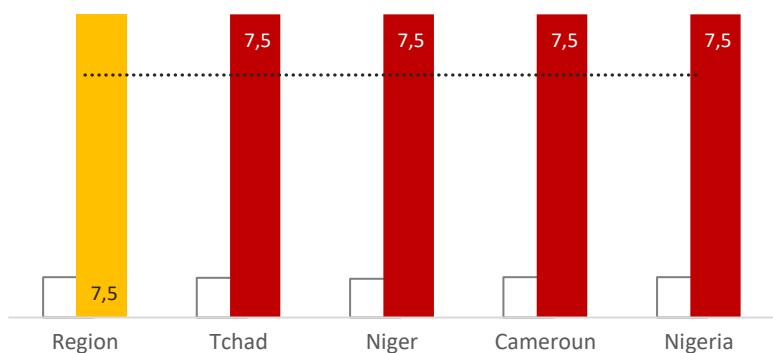
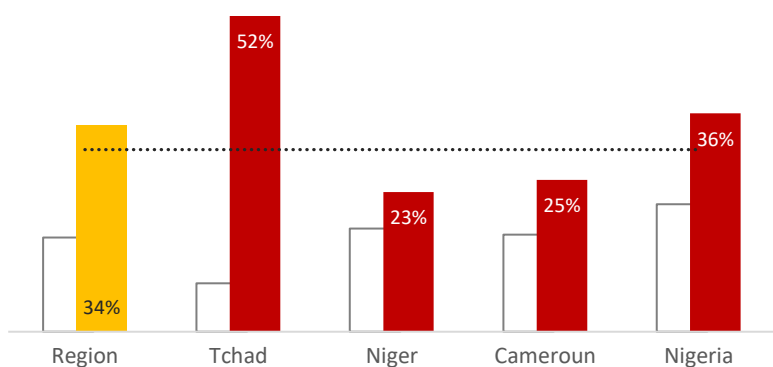
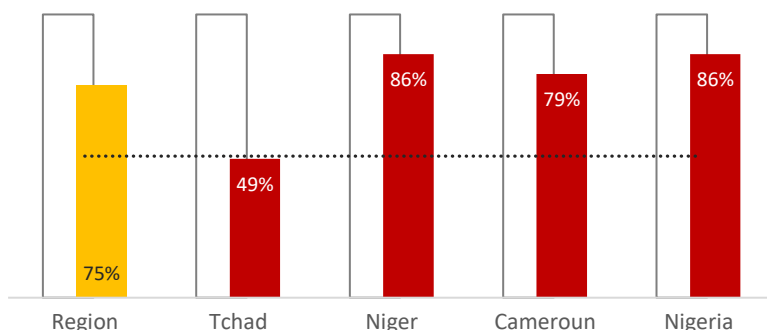
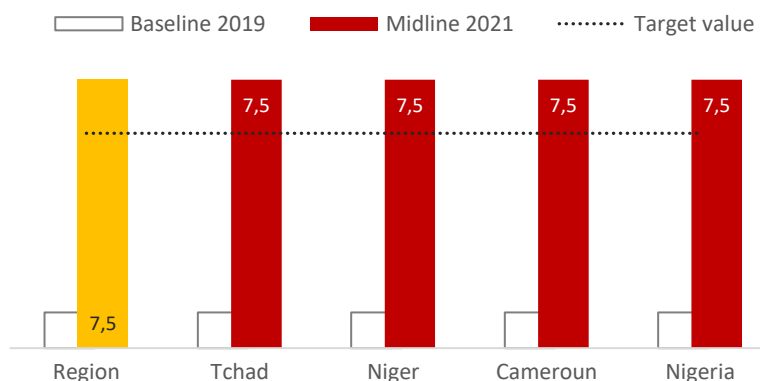
**Target value: 30%**

The participation of women in the local organisations involved has positively evolved to 34% at mid-term. This can be explained by the additional efforts made during the last year of the project on gender mainstreaming. In addition, the RESILAC project in Chad and Niger benefited from additional funding for the empowerment of women. This allowed for additional training and awareness-raising activities, particularly in Chad where the rate was particularly low, resulting in a strong increase in women's participation.

### 17. Average level of appreciation of the steering institutions on the quality of the capitalization process enabling them to take concrete measures

**Target value: 6 out of 10**

76% confirm that the project helps them to make decisions in their territory. This reflects the positive appreciation of the institutions supported on the capitalization process, which is 7.5 out of 10, slightly higher than the target initially planned.



## PILLAR 4: Knowledge Management and Learning

### 18. % of people who feel that RESILAC is based on communication, participation and feedback

**Target value: 90%.**

Across the region, 89% of people feel sufficiently informed about RESILAC, illustrating the consolidation of a climate of trust between the communities and the project teams. The consolidation can be explained by the adjustments made by the project teams to the mechanisms for reporting and processing feedback and sharing information, as well as the monitoring and support system.

This positive progress is most visible in Cameroon and Nigeria, where the various stakeholders had expressed the need to receive more information about the project.

### 19. % of people who feel that RESILAC is adapted and appropriate to their needs

**Target value: 90%.**

89% of people think that the multi-faceted support offered by the project in the different countries is adapted and appropriate to their needs. This assessment confirms the relevance of the project's intervention strategy, which aims to respond to certain immediate needs while trying to influence the root causes of the underlying problems.

To achieve this, the project has put in place a variety of building blocks to identify community needs and issues and to ensure that operational decisions are based as much as possible on the best use of existing information on needs, risks, vulnerabilities and capacities.

### 20. % of people who believe that RESILAC is a lever for change in their lives

**Target value: 90%.**

87% of people believe that the project is making a difference in their lives and in the lives of their community. The lower percentage in Cameroon is due to the inclusion of two new intervention areas, whose activities are in the initial stages of implementation.

What changes? The expected and non-expected effects most frequently mentioned by the people supported concern :

- (1) Improved well-being and social cohesion: self-confidence, sense of security, intra-family relationships and social ties. This has positive effects on mutual aid, awareness and collective commitment;
- (2) Access to employment and productive resources: increase in professional skills, capacity for autonomy, access to fertile land, household living conditions and reduction of debt. In addition, there is also greater participation in economic life through reinvestment.

