

The crisis currently affecting the Lake Chad Basin (LCB), which has displaced 3,0125,239 Internally Displaced Persons as of May 2021, is one of the worst humanitarian situations in the world. The crisis, which is affecting North-East Nigeria, Far North Cameroon, Lac Province in Chad and Diffa Region in Niger, has generated widespread displacement and engendered a deep social, political, economic and health crisis.

The conflict in the LCB has drawn attention to lack of access to basic public services such as water, health, education, judicial remedies and law enforcement, and brought the lack of effective governance in conflict affected areas to the limelight. The vulnerabilities have weakened community resilience against exploitation by Violent Extremist Organizations.

At the same time, as some areas have become more stable, there has been documented evidence of displaced persons returning to their areas of origin or habitual residence. As of May 2021, 1.75 million former IDP Returnees had returned to their location of origin. This combination has pointed to the importance of addressing root causes of the crisis in the LCB, of strengthening resilience and sustainable development, and finding durable solutions for displaced populations.

To this end, IOM has been implementing, since 2019, the Stability Index (SI), the purpose of which is to evaluate the stability of areas hosting displaced populations in the LCB. The SI also seeks to understand which factors influence a location's stability, so as to identify areas if priority intervention and inform transition and recovery programming, with the ultimate aim of strengthening stability on conflict- and displacement-affected regions.

**This report presents the results from the latest Stability Index round conducted in March and April 2021 in North East Nigeria.**

## Methodology

The **Stability Index (SI)** aims to provide evidence-based analysis to better capture persistent community vulnerabilities and grievances and inform tailored interventions seeking to respond to these concerns. The SI aims to foster recovery and stability, lay the foundations for the sustainable return of displaced persons, and prevent additional forced displacement.

The **stability index** is based on data collected through key informant interviews conducted at locality level. Key informants (local authorities, community leaders, etc.) were interviewed in their locality by IOM enumerators in March-April 2021 in all four countries of the Lake Chad Basin (Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria).

The tool serves as a **measure of stability** in targeted areas in the LCB to enable governmental authorities and partners to develop better strategies, and prioritize and plan resources in fragile, unstable areas for coherent and comprehensive interventions that link humanitarian, recovery, and stabilization approaches. Indicators used in the Stability Index are measured in order to identify which ones have a stronger impact on stability.

The key informant method has the advantage of allowing the coverage of many localities, but its main limitation lies in the fact that only one, or a few informants, report on the views of a community. Multiple KI were interviewed for each locality, allowing IOM to crosscheck information.

The index correlates data available on displaced and returnee population with 31 main indicators, grouped in three scales to measure the stability of an area and create a location stability score. Scales are:

- 1) Access to livelihoods and basic services,
- 2) Social cohesion,
- 3) Safety and Security.

These indicators represent a set of minimum living conditions that are necessary to make a place stable and more conducive to durable solutions. The Stability Index measures levels of stability and analyzes which factors are relatively more impactful on the decisions of populations to remain in place or to move. Questions on the community's perception of stability are used as the "anchor questions", which are then tested to assess the impact of each indicator on the perception of stability.

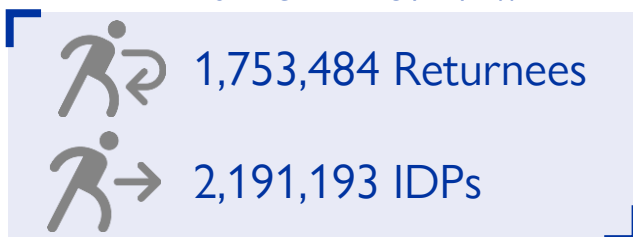
These indicators are formulated into a survey format and interviews with key informants are conducted in each location (1,893) in Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria in March-April 2021.

## Stability Index Calculation

The stability index uses the Principal Component Analysis model to assess the impact of each indicator on the perception of stability of an area and then provides a specific value per indicator. These ratios make it possible to evaluate which indicators have a greater statistical impact than others on the perception of stability in the respective areas. Each indicator thus has a value associated with it, which allows for the calculation of a « livelihood and basic services score », a « social cohesion score » and a « safety and security score ». These three scores are then combined to create the stability index. The index ranges from 0 (low perception of stability) to 100 (high perception of stability).

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### DISPLACEMENT OVERVIEW



### DATA COLLECTION OVERVIEW

3 STATES	36 LGAs	608 LOCATION S
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## Data collection overview

This round of the Stability Index data collection was conducted in March and April 2021, covering a total of 608 locations across 36 local government areas (LGAs) in the states Borno, Adamawa and Yobe in North East Nigeria.

BORNO	14 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS	200 LOCATIONS
ADAMAWA	16 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS	327 LOCATIONS
YOBE	6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS	81 LOCATIONS

## Results

### Stability Index Score (average, by scale and by state)

The average Stability Index score for the 608 locations in North East Nigeria was 74/100. Out of the BAY States (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe), the state of Yobe had the highest average stability score (77/100) and the state of Borno recorded the lowest score (67/100). When considering the three scales separately, the state of Borno scored the lowest on 'safety and security' (62/100), while in the state of Yobe, the highest average safety and security score was recorded (78/100). For the scales 'livelihoods and basic services' and 'social cohesion', the scores recorded in Yobe (both at 77/100) and Adamawa (at 75/100 and 76/100, respectively) were similar, and considerably higher than the scores in the state of Borno. In all three of the scales, the highest scores were recorded in the state of Yobe.

STATE	STABILITY INDEX SCORE	LIVELIHOOD & BASIC SERVICES	SOCIAL COHESION	SAFETY AND SECURITY
Borno	67/100	66/100	67/100	62/100
Adamawa	76/100	75/100	76/100	72/100
Yobe	77/100	77/100	77/100	78/100
<b>Total</b>	<b>74/100</b>	<b>73/100</b>	<b>73/100</b>	<b>69/100</b>

### Borno

The overall stability scores in the assessed localities in the state of Borno varied between 28/100 (lowest score) and 86/100 (highest score). The average stability index score for the state of Borno was 67/100. When considering the scores at LGA level, the LGA with the highest stability index score was Magumeri LGA (77/100), followed by Monguno LGA (74/100) and Damboa LGA (74/100). The LGAs with the lowest stability index scores were Gubio LGA (43/100), Dikwa LGA (47/100) and Ngala LGA (56/100).

### Adamawa

The overall stability scores in the assessed localities in the state of Adamawa varied between 23/100 (lowest score) and 100/100 (highest score). The average stability score for the state of Adamawa was 76/100. When considering the scores at LGA level, the LGA with the highest stability index score was Lamurde LGA (98/100), followed by Shelling LGA (93/100) and Numan LGA (92/100). The LGAs with the lowest stability index scores were Madagali LGA (49/100), Song LGA (62/100) and Mubi South LGA (70/100).

### Yobe

The overall stability scores in the assessed localities in the state of Yobe varied between 55/100 (lowest score) and 91/100 (highest score). The average stability score for the state of Yobe was 77/100. When considering the scores at LGA level, the LGA with the highest stability index score was Gulani LGA (85/100), followed by Damaturu LGA (83/100) and Yusufari LGA (83/100). The LGAs with the lowest stability index scores were Yunusari LGA (43/100), Geidam LGA (71/100) and Gujba LGA (76/100).

Country Score	Livelihood and basic services	Social cohesion	Safety and security
Average score 74/100	Average score 73/100	Average score 73/100	Average score 69/100

## Stability Index Score

The **stability index** is based on key informant data collection at locality level. It correlates data available on returnee population with 31 indicators, grouped in three scales to measure the stability of a return area and create a location stability score. Scales are: 1) access to livelihoods and basic services, 2) perceptions in terms of social cohesion and 3) perceptions of security.

The indicators used to build the stability index were selected on the basis of recent quantitative and qualitative research on the dynamics of post-conflict returns. These indicators represent a set of minimum or critical living conditions that are necessary to make a place stable and more conducive to durable returns. In practical terms, the model responds to the following question: « Are there conditions on the ground that favour the stability of an area? ».

## Livelihood and basic services

**The assessment of the livelihood and basic services scale has been done using 11 indicators:**

- State of housing/habitats
- Primary school
- Health centres
- Local market
- Access to electricity
- Access to drinking water
- Farmland & fishing grounds
- Presence of public employment
- Access to ICTs

## Social cohesion

**The assessment of the social cohesion scale between populations in the locality has been done using 8 indicators:**

- Illegal occupation of land, habitat or property
- Robbery of assets
- Daily public life
- Social capital
- Relations between communities
- Access to services and markets
- Identity documents
- Participation in public affairs

## Safety and security

**The assessment of the safety and security scales and basic services has been done using 6 indicators:**

- Security incidents
- Security concerns
- Presence of government/formal security forces
- Presence of Violent Extremist Organizations (VOE)
- Freedom of movement
- Access to legal remedies

## Main factors influencing the perception of stability

The Stability Index uses a Principal Component Analysis to understand the impact of each variable on the perception of key informants of the stability in the area and then provides a specific value per indicator.

This allows for the analysis of which indicators have the most impact on the perception of stability among the population.

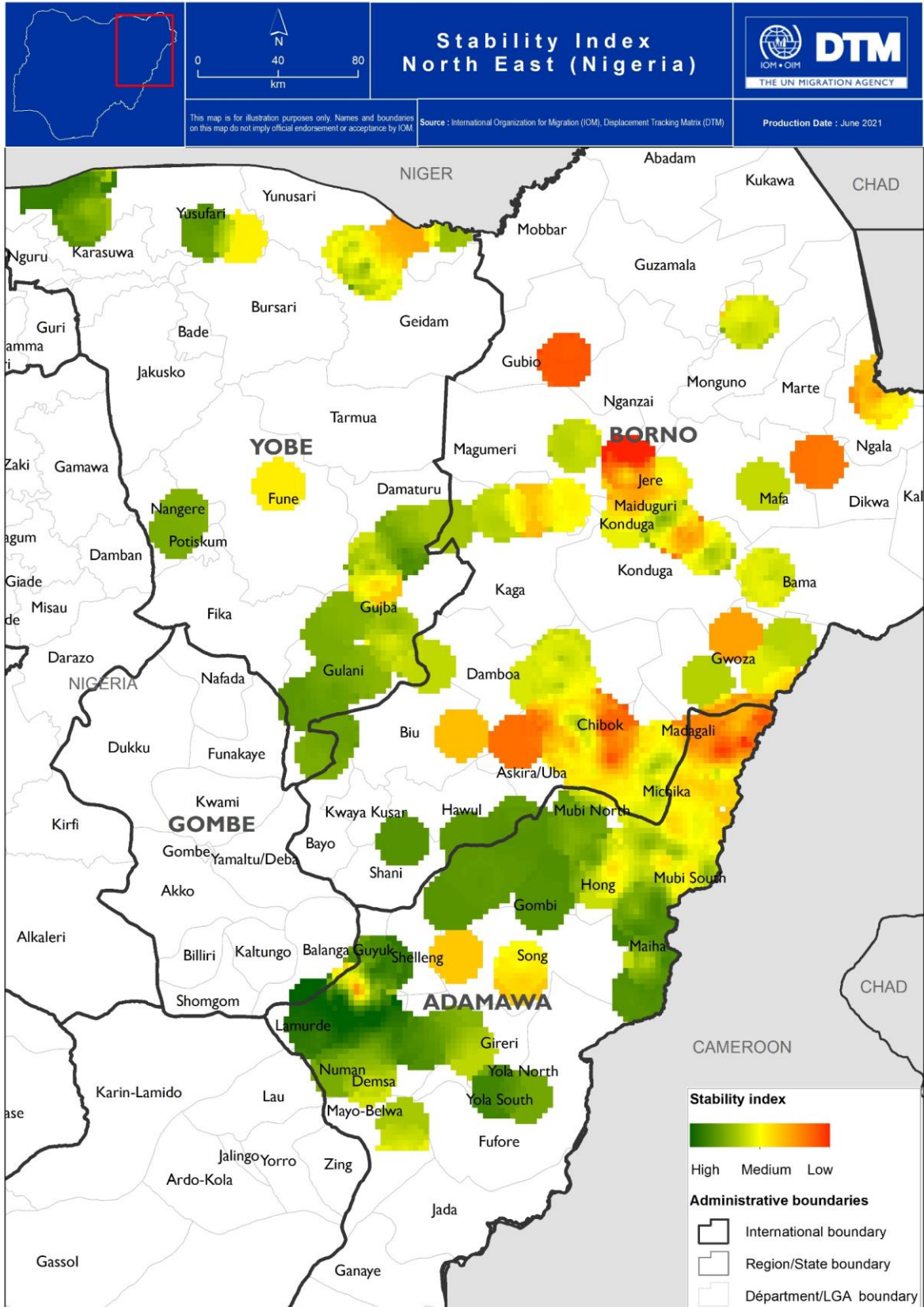
### TOP 5 MOST INFLUENTIAL INDICATORS ON STABILITY BY COUNTRY

The information below shows the top 5 indicators used to measure the stability index, ordered by their impact on the feeling of stability (and therefore influence on the calculation of the stability index).

1. Daily public life
2. Freedom of movement
3. Security incidents
4. Petty crime incidents
5. Activities by Non-State Armed Groups

Some variables have less influence on stability:

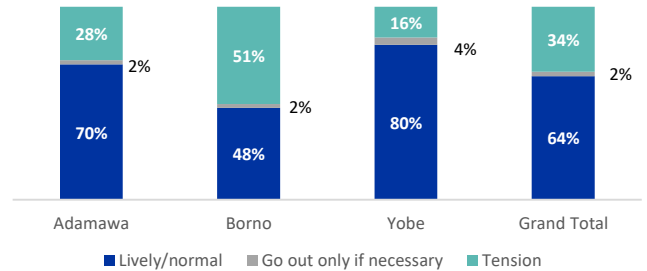
1. Habitat access
2. Public sector employees
3. Social cohesion
4. Tension
5. Delaying medical care (COVID related)



## Key Stability Index Variables analysis

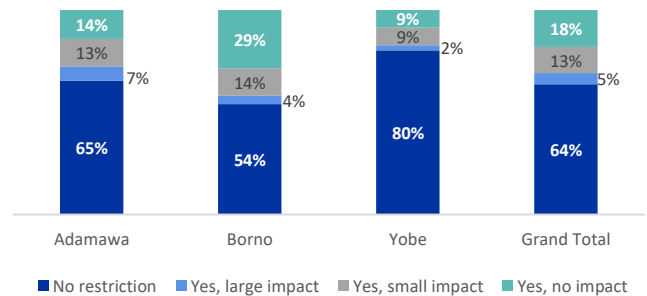
### 1. Daily public life

In Nigeria, the experience of current daily public life was the most influential variable on the perception of stability in the assessed localities. In 64 per cent of the localities, daily life was described as lively and normal. In 34 per cent of the localities, residents were able to carry out their daily activities, but the situation is tense. In 2 per cent of the localities, very few people were in the streets, and people left their homes only when absolutely necessary.



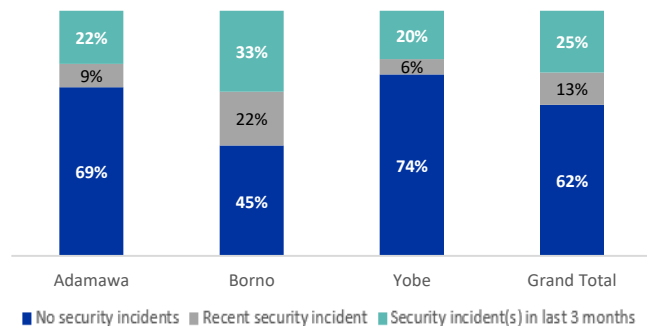
### 2. Freedom of movement

Freedom of movement and the presence of restrictions played a key role in the perception of stability among key informants. In 64 per cent of the localities, there were no restrictions in residents' movements. In 18 per cent of the localities, movements were restricted but this had no impact on the residents. Only in 5 per cent of the localities, movements were restricted, and this had a major impact on the residents. Three per cent of the locations were under a state of emergency.



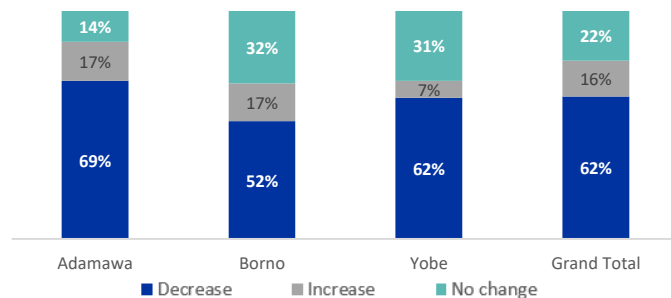
### 3. Security incidents

Safety and security incidents were also important indicators in determining the stability situation in the assessed localities. In 62 per cent of the assessed localities, no serious security incidents have occurred in the last three months. In 25 per cent of the localities, security incidents were reported in the last three months, but not during the last month. In 13 per cent of the localities, one or more serious security incident occurred during the last month.



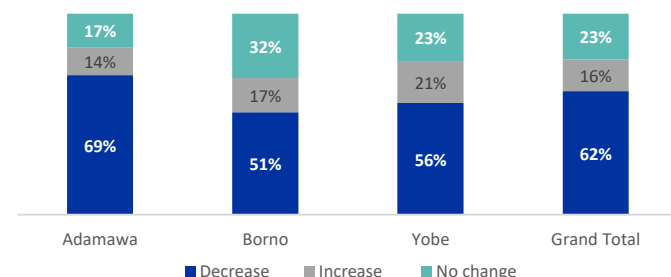
### 4. Petty crime

In 62 per cent of the localities assessed, a decrease in incidents related to petty crimes in the past three months was reported. To the contrary, in 16 per cent of the localities, an increase in incidents related to petty crimes was reported. In 22 per cent of the localities, no change in petty crimes was recorded during the past three months.



### 5. Activities by Non-State Armed Groups

In 62 per cent of the localities assessed, a decrease in the activities of Non-state Armed Groups (NSAGs) was reported during the past three months. In 16 per cent of the localities, key informants reported the increase of activities by Non-State Armed Groups during the past three months. In 22 per cent of the locations, no change in activities by NSAGs was reported during the past three months.





## Case Studies

### Humshe

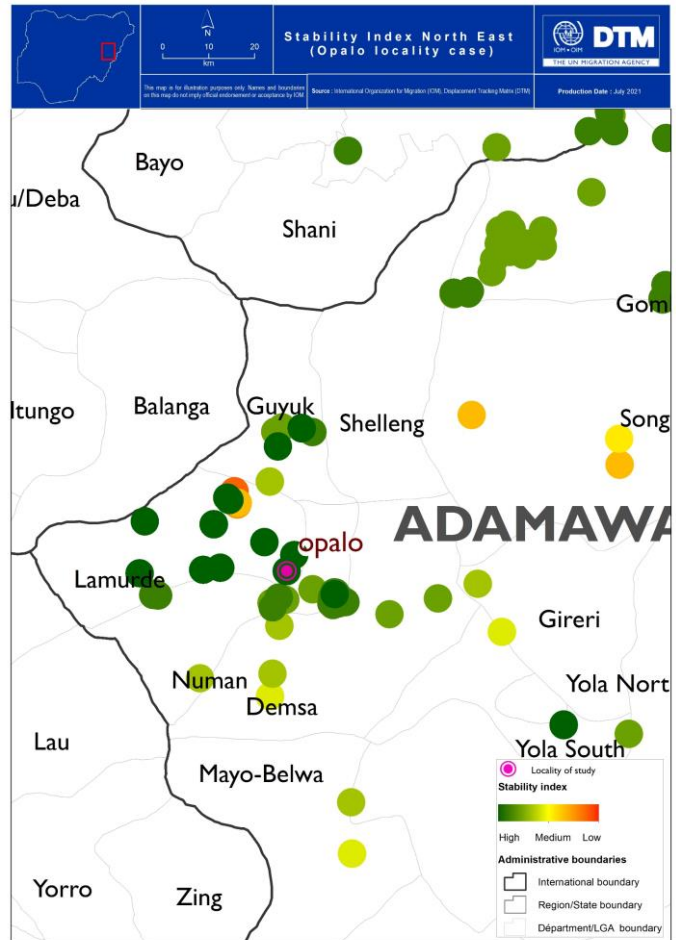
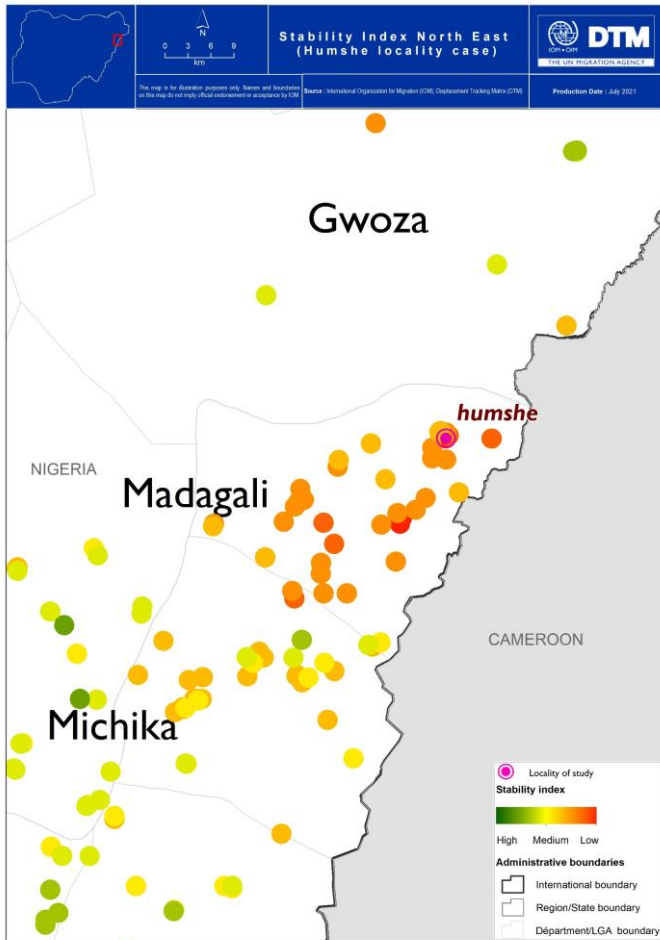
**Humshe** is a locality in Madagali LGA, situated in the state of Adamawa, close to the border with Cameroon. Compared to the average Stability Index score for Nigeria (74/100), Humshe has a very low score of **23/100**, which is the lowest score of all assessed localities in North East Nigeria.

People in the locality may need to leave soon because of stability or safety concerns. When considering the most influential variables for Nigeria, the residents' freedom of movement in the Humshe is heavily restricted and this has a major impact on the population. Key informants described the daily public life as rather tense. Both security incidents and petty crime have increased in the past three months and serious security incidents have been reported during the past month.

### Opalo

**Opalo** is a locality in Lamurde LGA, situated in the western part of the state of Adamawa and has a score of stability of **100/100**. Opalo has the highest Stability Index score of all localities assessed in North East Nigeria.

The locality is considered very stable and residents do not need to leave soon because of any safety or security concerns. In fact, there is no restriction of movement in Opalo and key informants described the daily public life as lively and normal. Petty crimes and security incidents both decreased in the last three months and no serious security incident has been reported.



### Disclaimer

The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries

## CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this report is to present the results from the latest Stability Index assessment, conducted in March and April 2021 in the states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe. The report demonstrates that the perception of the stability of localities hosting displaced populations in North-East Nigeria is highly dependent on the safety and security situation of the locality. While the most influential variable for stability in Nigeria's BAY states (Daily Public Life) was situated in the Social Cohesion Scale, other key variables were all situated in the Safety and Security scale.

The top 5 indicators used to measure the stability index in North East Nigeria, ordered by their impact on the impression of stability, were: daily public life, freedom of movement, security incidents, petty crime and activities by Non-State Armed Groups. This highlights that stability in a location is likely to improve by transition, recovery and development programmes that have an impact on the social cohesion and the safety and security situation of the location.

The localities with the lowest Stability Index scores were mainly located in the state of Borno and along the border with Cameroon's Far North region, demonstrating that the conflict transcends national boundaries. Localities situated at the border are often subjected to security issues which have a major impact on the population and hence, on the stability of the location.

The weight of the variables and the influence they have on the perception of stability of a certain location provide a clear overview for IOM, Government and partners of the dynamics of the location and how the different indicators interact. This will enhance the understanding of the stability in a certain locality or region, and allow for informed and targeted program building with the aim of strengthening community resilience and promote sustainable development.

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