



MANAOUA TEUTEUM Bernard, SILC supervisor for Caritas in Mokolo, Far North, Cameroon, meets with a SILC group in Makanda village. The 33-year-old oversees SILC groups within CRS' STaR II program and has become very passionate about it. ©Jennifer Lazuta/CRS.

Stabilization and Reconciliation in the Lake Chad Region (STaR) Project – Phase II

The Lake Chad Basin (LCB) crisis has severely affected bordering communities in Chad, Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria since 2009. The conflict has led to the destruction of homes, livelihoods, and infrastructure, displacing families, and exacerbating vulnerabilities. It has also weakened the ability of local governments to respond to the needs of citizens and hindered the recovery of post-conflict communities.

Phase I of the STaR project started in 2019 with a €15,000,000 funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) via KfW (German Development Bank). In this phase, CRS supported LCB communities whose lives have been threatened by food insecurity, conflict, displacement, and climate change.

In Phase II, launched in September 2021, the STaR project continues to contribute to stabilization and reconciliation in the most affected regions of the LCB crisis, supporting 59,000 people in around 90 communities. The project aims to improve access to basic services such as water, health, markets, roads, and education; expand livelihood opportunities by providing agricultural inputs and

opportunities for temporary employment through Cash-for-Work (CFW) activities; strengthen social cohesion between host communities and displaced populations; and strengthen governance at local government and community levels through joint local economic development, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and conflict mitigation.

STAR PHASE II QUICK FACTS

Project Type	Resilience / Recovery
Activity Sectors	Infrastructure, Economic Revitalization, Social Cohesion, and Local Governance
Funder	BMZ / KfW
Funding	€10 million
Locations	Chad, Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria
Target Participants	Youth & women, IDPs, refugees, host communities, and returnees
Timeframe	15 Sept 2021 – 14 Sept 2024

STaR PHASE II ACTIVITIES

The STaR Phase II project is implementing activities under the following four project components, with the aim of serving a total of 16,000 project participants in Chad, 16,000 in Cameroon, 15,000 in Niger, and 12,000 in Nigeria:

1. Infrastructure and Services

CRS facilitates community access to functional social infrastructure and services by constructing or rehabilitating 79 community infrastructure projects. STaR Phase II prioritizes solar-powered Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) infrastructure where feasible. The project also trains infrastructure management committees created to sustain private sector infrastructure projects.

2. Economic Revitalization

STaR Phase II supports community access to income-generating opportunities by facilitating the participation of women and young people in Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC), which help individuals gain access to new sources of credit. Through this component, CRS equips young people with the business skills needed to recover and diversify their livelihoods, as well as develop new ventures. In addition, smallholder farmers are trained on post-harvest management processes and marketing, SMART Skills, and best practices for family agriculture. Seeds and tools are provided to families, including bags for post-harvest storage.

3. Social Cohesion

CRS continues to build social cohesion in communities through participatory community planning. The STaR II project equips community-based social cohesion facilitators trained on the 3Bs (binding, bonding, and bridging) 4Ds (discovery, dream, design, and deliver) approach to support social cohesion efforts in their communities. A network of Youth Ambassadors for social cohesion is set up, and the project ensures that community-based disaster risk reduction plans are developed in a participatory manner through local committees.

4. Local Governance Capacity Building

STaR Phase II works with local governments and community authorities to plan conflict-sensitive relief and rehabilitation efforts, including organizational development plans and local economic development plans.

STAR PHASE II IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

Chad:	Caritas N'Djamena
Cameroon:	Diocese of Maroua-Mokolo
Niger:	Caritas Développement Maradi (CADEV/Caritas Maradi) & Développement pour un Mieux Être
Nigeria:	Federation of Muslim Women's Associations of Adamawa (FOMWAN) & Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC Adamawa)

STaR PHASE II KEY OBJECTIVES

- Targeted communities can sustain social infrastructure developed by the project.
- Targeted families increase resilience to economic shocks.
- Targeted communities feel more cohesive.
- Targeted communities have development plans designed in a participatory and inclusive manner.

STaR PHASE I & II RESULTS

STaR Phase II builds off the encouraging results of STaR Phase I (implemented from May 2019 through February 2023) in Chad, Niger, and Nigeria. Below are some milestones the project has achieved as of **28 February 2023**:

Infrastructure and Services	
Infrastructures built	168
Community rehabilitation plans drafted	80
Economic Revitalisation	
Farmers who received seeds/tools for farming	21,000
Farmers trained on post-harvest management	34,000
Youth who received livelihoods training/support	3,000
Total amount generated by SILC groups	€ 607,000
Social Cohesion	
Social cohesion facilitators trained	258
Youth Ambassadors trained	340
Local Governance and Capacity Building	
Local Government Areas with organizational development plans	118



Sarah Medougue, aged 19, is a Peace Ambassador with the STaR II project in Mokolo, Far North, Cameroon. ©Jennifer Lazuta/CRS.