

MULTINATIONAL JOINT TASK FORCE
THE J9 CIVIL-MILITARY COORDINATION CELL

MEDICAL OUTREACH OPERATIONS ACROSS MNJTF SECTORS

SECTOR 3 – MONGUNO – FRIDAY 20 AUGUST, 2021

REPORT

The situation induced by the Boko Haram and other terrorist groups in the four riparian countries around Lake Chad – Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria have deepened instability, slowed economic growth and engendered deep humanitarian concerns in the region. In response to this, the African Union and the Lake Chad Basin Commission in 2015, signed an agreement for the operationalization of the Multi National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) to bring an end to the Boko Haram insurgency in the Region.

Despite the significant progress made by the MNJTF, it is agreed that the time has come to “facilitate the implementation of overall stabilization programmes by the LCBC Member States and Benin in the affected areas, including the full restoration of state authority and the return of IDPs and refugees”.

To achieve this, the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) was tasked by its Member States to facilitate the mechanisms and processes required to consolidate the gains of the MNJTF. In this view, the LCBC and partners developed the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region. This strategy is commonly known under its short form "*Regional Stabilization Strategy, RSS*".

With this in mind, the MNJTF, tasked to facilitate and participate to the implementation of the RSS, has been pledging for support from various partners to carry out a series of Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) for the benefit and relief of rural communities in all four Sectors of the Force.

It is in this context that the United Kingdom has manifested their desire to provide a direct support to the MNJTF to finance Medical and Dental outreach operations across the four Sectors.

The operations consist of three subsequent phases. The first phase is the need assessment on ground followed by the purchase of medicines as well as various medical accessories; in the second phase, the medicines and accessories are handed over to Sectors, while the third phase focuses on the medical outreach itself in the communities of each Sector. Sector 1 (Cameroon) and Sector 4 (Niger) has previously done the phase 2 of the operations respectively on 13 and 26 July 2021.

On this Friday 20 August 2021, Sector 3 (Nigeria) is hosting the handover ceremony in the legendary hospitality city of Monguno. Having landed early in the morning at the Sector Headquarters helipad, the eighteen-member team from Force HQ in N'Djamena led by Colonel Antoine HOUNKPE, the Chief J9 Cell in charge of the coordination of civil-military activities, was given a warm welcome by Brigadier General MG MUTKUT, commander Sector 3.



As Colonel Antoine HOUNKPE, the Chief J9 Cell, mentioned right from the outset, that he was mandated by MNJTF Force Commander, Major General AK IBRAHIM who wished he could personally come to Monguno to lead this paramount activity, had he not been impeded in the last minute by other official duties.



Amongst the delegates from N'Djamena were Colonel Baker, the Chief CCL (the French acronym for Coordination and Liaison Cell) in support of the MNJTF. Colonel Ricardo Baker was also the representative of the United Kingdom Government, in lieu of Mrs. Segolene HOBSON who could not be on ground.



Also was in attendance, the Humanitarian Liaison Officer at the African Union Mission Support Team (AUMST), in the person of Mr. Temitope FAMUYIDE representing both the African Union and the LCBC.

Amid an overcrowdy venue downtown Monguno, Brigadier General MG MUTKUT, commander Sector 3, was handed over a symbolic batch of medicines by Colonel Antoine HOUNKPE, the Chief J9 Cell, on behalf of the MNJTF Force Commander, Major General AK IBRAHIM.





Brigadier General MG MUTKUT, Commander Sector 3, upon praising MNJTF Force Commander, Major General AK IBRAHIM, and the UK Government, invited his guests to join him for a tour of the setting where the sheds had already been put in place to start the phase 3 of the medical outreach operations, right now and here in Monguno.



Brigadier General MG MUTKUT also informed that two other locations in Sector 3, namely Baga and Gubio had been identified to receive the medical outreach team in the coming days.

Despite Brigadier General MG MUTKUT, Sector 3 Commander's unwillingness to talk about it, one important thing he privately revealed to me and that ultimately could not go unnoticed, was that Sector 3 had added their own to the operations, by providing other medicines and a dozen of wheelchairs to be offered to people with disabilities. Very humble by nature, Brigadier General MG MUTKUT who also speaks fluently the French language, would not like to rattle on the matter.





The Chief J9 Cell, Colonel Antoine HOUNKPE, holding a child to whom a deworming medicine is being administered by the Sector's medical team.

As planned, Mr. Temitope FAMUYIDE was given the opportunity to lay down the basis of the Community Dialogue with community leaders, in line with the RSS Pillars 5 and 6.



Brigadier General MG MUTKUT, Commander Sector 3 alongside Colonel Antoine HOUNKPE, representing the MNJTF Commander offering mosquito nets and delivering kits to local pregnant women.

Immediately upon completion of the handover ceremony, the populations started aligning for the medical and dental consultations. The N'Djamena team took off around 1200 hours.