

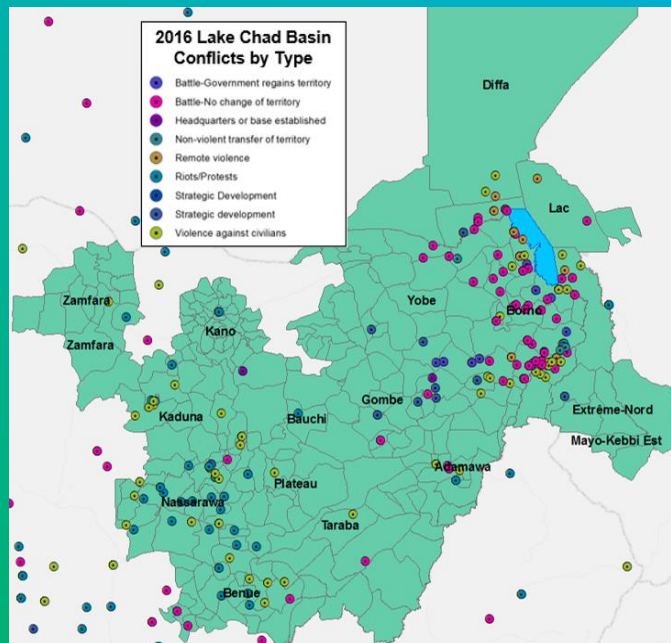
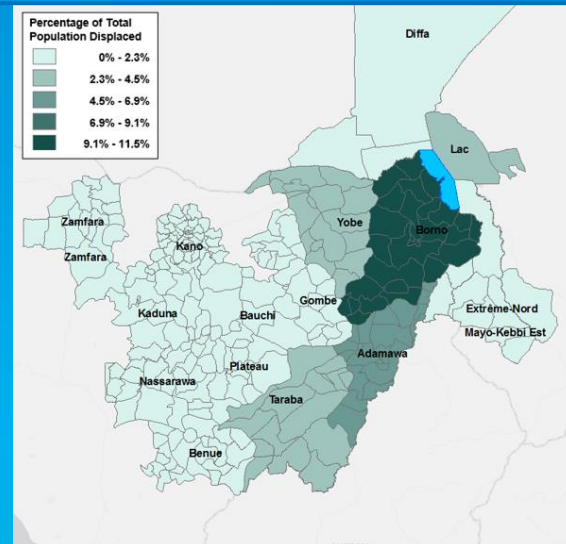
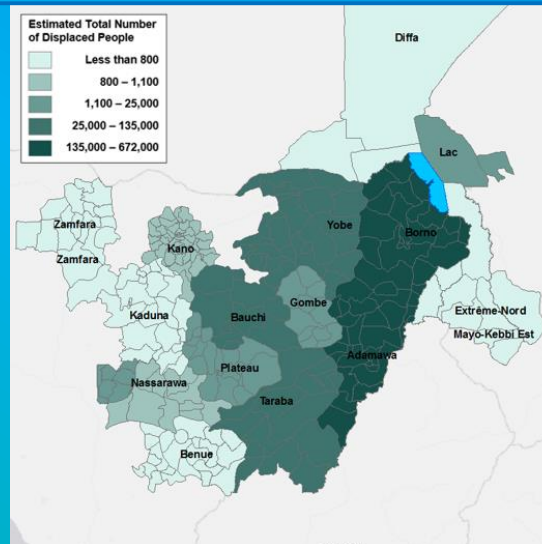
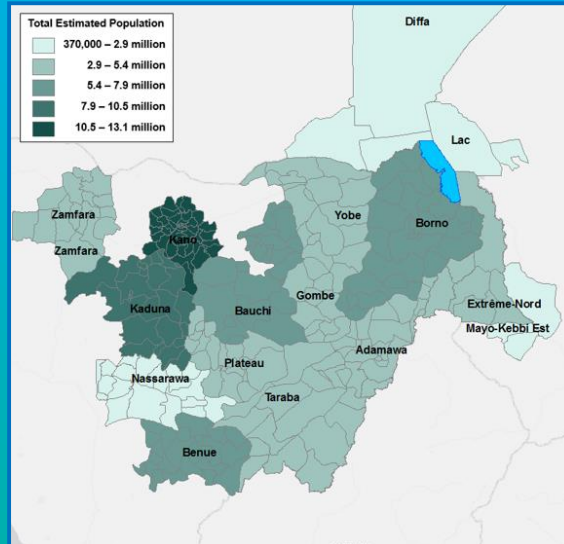
Lake Chad Basin Crisis: Displacement and Violent Extremism Compounded by Climate Change

Background

The increasing drought and violent extremism in the Lake Chad Basin of Africa has created a rapidly worsening situation of displacement. The economic devastation and growing threat of terrorism is interfering with the development and governance of the region. The presence of the extremist group, Boko Haram, plays a significant role in destabilizing the region's security. Forming an innovative regional strategy to combat the problems of ecological devastation, humanitarian crisis, and violent extremism will be essential to stabilizing this important area in West Africa.

Method

- First, I downloaded shapefiles of political subnational divisions for Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria, and Niger and merged them into one file.
- I joined the estimated population data table to the merged countries file to create a choropleth map showing total population distribution. I did the same for the estimated displacement data table.
- I then created a choropleth map showing displacement as a percentage of the total population.
- I added labels to the administrative regions in the merged countries shapefile by selecting the most central subregion of each and creating a new layer.
- I added a table with data on the conflicts recorded in the region so far in 2016. These focused on attacks by violent extremist groups in the area, and so I mapped the data using x-y values and assigned colors to symbols based categories for the type of attack/conflict that occurred in each spot.
- Finally, I added legends and a basemap to showcase the data.



Conclusion

The maps reveal a positive correlation between proximity to the Lake Chad Basin and both displacement and conflict. As climate change and increased human activity has accelerated the desertification and worsened the impact of shifting weather and flood patterns, the resulting displacement has coincided with increased violent activity. With resource scarcity increasing, agricultural production decreasing, it is likely that this region will continue to see these trends of greater displacement and conflict from violent extremist groups.



The Lake Chad Basin includes Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria.

References

The Humanitarian Data Exchange Website: <https://data.humdata.org/>.

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- UNOCHA (Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian) Website: <http://www.unocha.org/>.