The North East has suffered tremendously in the past six years. We have all been witness to the destruction of infrastructure, farmlands, businesses, and trades, of schools and the loss of school years. Rebuilding, restoring and rehabilitating what has been lost or damaged will cost money and time.

...the tasks before us are many and profound but paramount: to fix brick and mortar and to mend hearts and minds damaged by senseless, murderous violence.

His Excellency, the Honorable
Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
Prof Yemi Osinbajo SAN GCON

Led by the Government of Nigeria and supported by the European Union, the United Nations, and the World Bank, the North-East Nigeria Recovery and Peace Building Assessment (RPBA) is a systematic analysis of the physical, social and economic impacts of the conflict with Boko Haram. The assessment builds on previous studies and analyses detailed information collected by the states, resulting in an overarching framework for stability, peace building and recovery of the region.

Since 2009, nearly 15 million people have been affected by the violence of Boko Haram and the resulting military operations in North-East Nigeria. More than 20,000 lives have been lost and 1.8 million people displaced due to the violence. The conflict has triggered a humanitarian crisis that is putting an increased strain on food security and social services.
The impact on a range of sectors, including infrastructure, education, health and nutrition, agriculture, the environment, livelihoods and many other vital areas has worsened pre-existing socio-economic disparities. While progress is being made by the Government of Nigeria and the Multi-National Joint Task Force on security in the North-East, work needs to be done to meet the huge humanitarian needs in some states and commence comprehensive recovery in others.

The RPBA covers six states in the North-East region - Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe - and informs a collective vision and strategy on peace building and recovery, as well as a framework for coordinated support. The assessment is structured around three components and across four cross-cutting themes:

- Peace Building, Stability and Social Cohesion
- Infrastructure and Social Services
- Economic Recovery
- Cross Cutting Themes – Gender, Youth, Human Rights and Explosive Remnants of War

The assessment estimates the total need for recovery and peace building across the above three strategic areas of interventions at US$ 6.7 billion. This includes:

- Interventions for Peace Building, Stability and Social Cohesion estimated at US$ 151 million, including: strengthening the resilience of host communities, supporting safe and voluntary return and resettlement of displaced populations; social cohesion and violence prevention, including sexual and gender based violence (SGBV); local governance and citizen engagement; and justice, small arms control and community security.

- Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Social Services interventions estimated at a total of US$ 6 billion. The highest needs are for the reconstruction of houses (US$ 1.2 billion), followed by agriculture (US$ 881 million), and education (US$ 721 million), among many other physical and productive sectors.

- Macroeconomic and fiscal recovery needs estimated at a total of US$ 473.5 million. Interventions focus on the private sector, trade and finance, job-creation, livelihood support and facilitating economic restoration.

On the basis of the RPBA the Government of Nigeria will now create a plan of action to prioritise and sequence stabilisation and recovery interventions, as well as create an institutional framework that will ensure coordination between the different levels of government (Federal, State and local government) and partner organisations. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and a resource mobilisation strategy are also being developed. Overall implementation will be adapted by the States based on their current context, including the security situation and how it will impact the safe and voluntary return of displaced people. The Government is currently designing a Road Map to detail the way forward including the development of the action plan, supporting frameworks and operational systems.

This road to recovery is likely to be fraught with challenges and setbacks, but ultimately it will be the clarity of purpose and specificity of actions laid out under a post-RPBA implementation framework that could see the North East through these tumultuous times. Collective national commitment and sustained implementation momentum will be the other key determinants of how successfully the objectives of preventing crisis relapse and promoting resilient and sustainable recovery are met.