



Official Launch of the Rehabilitation Projects of Baga Sola and Liwa High Schools, in Chad's Lake Region

The Governor of Chad's Lake Region symbolically laying the first brick for the rehabilitation of Baga Sola and Liwa High Schools. Pictured Left to right: Prefect of Fouli, Governor of Chad's Lake Region, Prefect of Kaya and Baga Sola Mayor.

On August 14, 2018 a ceremony was held in Baga Sola, Chad to mark the official launch of the rehabilitation projects of Baga Sola and Liwa High Schools, in Chad's Lake Region. These projects will revitalize schools that were damaged during attacks from Boko Haram, giving them the capacity to educate more students. The extremely low literacy rate of this region, as well as geographic and social isolation, are often cited by Chadian authorities, as well as traditional leaders, as driving forces to explain the attraction of violent extremist groups by the population of Lake Chad. With about 3,000 in attendance, the ceremony participants included local authorities, community leaders, representatives of international NGOs, women's and youth associations, and students. In the speeches that were delivered (by the Prefect of the Department of Kaya (Baga Sola), the PACC-Tchad COP and the Regional Delegate for Education), speakers thanked USAID-OTI for these rehabilitation efforts, explained the objectives of these projects, and encouraged local authorities and surrounding communities to mobilize themselves around the two projects to ensure their success. Locals also participated by performing traditional dances for the attendees.

In his speech, the Regional Delegate for Education remarked that, *"All these beautiful buildings that will be built here, will be for us, for our children and for our communities. This ceremony is a solemn occasion to*

express our sincere gratitude to USAID and the American people for their support of the Government of Chad and the people of the Lake regions [in] strengthening the resilience of [our] communities affected by violent extremism. I would like, on behalf of the educational community, to reassure USAID-OTI about our willingness to mobilize and commit ourselves to the success of these projects."

The engineering teams of MAG Building and Société Africaine de Commerce Général et de Travaux Publics (SACTP), who will be performing the rehabilitation and expansion aspects of these projects, presented an overview of the infrastructure plans and the Governor of the Lake Region officially launched the rehabilitation work by symbolically laying the first brick.

A parent who attended the ceremony expressed his gratitude: *"Today, there is a partner who wants to help us build a high school [and] it's a good thing because it's for our children. I am happy, and I thank them."*

See [accompanying tweet](#) for additional photos.

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