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FY15 Q4 Quarterly Report
July – September 2015
Emergency Assistance to Conflict-Affected Populations-V
(EACAP V)

PROGRAM SUMMARY	
Award No.	AID-OFDA-G4-14-00109
Start Date	July 15, 2015
End Date	April 14, 2016
Report Date	October 30, 2015
Total Award	\$1,600,000

Executive summary

Emergency Assistance to Conflict-Affected Populations - V (EACAP-V) is a 9-month emergency response program operating in 20 Internally Displaced Person (IDPs) camps and surrounding host communities in Mweso-Birambizo¹ and Karisimbi Health Zones, North Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. The program comprehensively responds to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) needs of conflict-affected populations in order to reduce mortality and morbidity related to water-borne illnesses. With USAID/OFDA support, Mercy Corps works with a local partner Yme Grands Lacs (YGL) to manage the Nyabyunyu pumping and gravity water system delivering potable water to the IDP camps around Goma in collaboration with local Lac Vert and Mugunga host communities. Additionally, through EACAP-V Mercy Corps has signed a partnership agreement with a local NGO, Netrese, for hygiene promotion activities in five IDP sites (Mpati, Kivuye, Nyange, Bibwe, and Kalengera) located in remote areas of the province.

During the first quarter of the EACAP-V project (July–September 2015), activities were focused on construction work for water and sanitation systems, as well as hygiene promotion in the target camps. Mercy Corps continued to provide water and to maintain water systems in all camps including pumping and treatment systems, gravity-fed water systems and spring catchments. Mercy Corps has been regularly participating in coordination meetings such as the WaSH cluster and the CCCM working group in Goma, and in weekly inter-agency meetings in Kitshanga, to ensure that our interventions are coordinated with other actors to meet the needs of IDP populations in North Kivu.

¹ Mercy Corps provides permanent support to 20 camps, and could have the capacity to extend punctual services to ten additional camps in Birambizo area, although recent large-scale displacements in the region may limit our financial capacity to

1. Program Overview

Persistent conflict in the North Kivu region of Eastern Congo continues to negatively impact the lives of tens of thousands of civilians. An estimated 109,548 IDPs reside in the 20 IDP camps in which Mercy Corps currently operates, and these camps still require extensive external support due to their steady growth. Overall, the current provision of services in and around the camps is not adequate to meet the needs of the displaced and host populations. Furthermore, movements of populations remain unpredictable due to the intense fighting between armed groups, which has also led to the deterioration of the sanitary infrastructure in many IDPs camps. Cholera is endemic to the region, and inadequate sanitation infrastructure and hygiene practices increase the risk of outbreak. In response to this chronic emergency, Mercy Corps continues to provide essential WaSH services in IDPs camps in North Kivu, preventing the spread of cholera.

Award Level Beneficiaries

2. Contextual Update

2.1. Security

The ongoing conflict in North Kivu Province has escalated over the past year following the launch of SOKOLA II, the offensive of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) against the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR). Clashes between the regular army and the rebel group in different areas of the province, in particular in Rutshuru and Masisi territories, have resulted in large-scale preventive and reactive displacements. Many additional factors have increased camp populations in the target area, including: increased activism of other armed groups, such as the Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo (APCLS) and the Mai Mai group led by Checka in Walikale Territory; violent ethnic tensions in Walikale, Masisi and Rutshuru; and increase in harassment, forced labor and banditry directly affecting civilians. As a result of heightened instability, thousands of newly displaced people have joined spontaneous camps as well as camps covered by Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) in Mweso and Birambizo health zones.

2.2. Movements of Population

The statistics on movements of population shared by OCHA on September 25th, 2015 (*“Analyse des mouvements de population en Province du Nord Kivu”*) confirm the concerning trends observed at the field level. Notably, there were 123,649 new internally displaced persons in September only, bringing the consolidated number of IDPs since January 2009 to 744,494 people (against 604,562 in June for

Sector	Cumulative Targeted	Period	Reporting Period Reached		Cumulative Reached	Period
	Total	IDP	Total	IDP	Total	IDP
WaSH	125,000	100,000	151,048	109,548	151,048	109,548

instance).

In Mercy Corps' areas of intervention, the trends are reverse in Goma (with a decreasing IDP population) and in Masisi and Rutshuru (with an increasing IDP population).

Goma

In Goma there were 12,665 displaced people in September 25, 2015. Contrasted with the data from June, when there were 15,221 IDPs, there is a clear decrease in the number of displaced people: roughly 2,556 or 16.8%. This decline could be related to updates of site statistics around Goma and the closure of the Lac Vert IDPs camps.

Masisi

Most IDPs living in camps (about 25% of the total number of IDPs in the province) are found in Masisi (118,629 persons) and Rutshuru (49,703) territories, where Mercy Corps operates. Furthermore, recent fighting in Rutshuru and Masisi has caused civilians to find refuge in Ibuga, Kashuga, Mweso and Kitshanga. Between July and September, Ibuga, Kashuga 2, Mpati, Kivuye and Mweso camps received about 9000 new IDPs. Some of these people arrived from Kalembe Kalonge and Remblai camps that were damaged during clashes in the area in early September.

2.3. Staff movement

Mercy Corps' staff use vehicles purchased through USAID/OFDA funding for all movements, while transport of materials to the field is carried out using a rental truck.

3. Performance Summary

Sector 1: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH)

1. *a) Achievements during reporting period*

From July to September 2015, Mercy Corps continued ensuring access to clean drinking water, sanitation facilities, and supported hygiene promotion in a total of 20 IDPs camps, 17 in Masisi – Rutshuru and Walikale Territories and in three camps outside of Goma (Mugunga I, Mugunga III, Bulengo).

Specific achievements during the reporting period include:

Water Supply Infrastructure

- Continued management of a water pumping, treatment, and distribution station serving Bulengo (70,000 liters/day). Under EACAP V, as of July 2015, Mercy Corps signed a sub-grant agreement with the local organization Yme Grands Lacs in order to provide YGL with financing to continue to supply water free-of-charge in Mugunga III and Mugunga I IDP camps.
- Mercy Corps regularly carries out weekly random water testing at household and water point levels in the camps around Goma. Through these water-testing activities, Mercy Corps is able to verify that water is potable and meets the North Kivu WaSH Cluster standards, both at delivery points and at the household level.

Sanitation Infrastructure

- Construction of 50 new latrine stalls. (*see more detail in Annex 3*)
- Rehabilitation of 49 existing latrines.

- Construction of 29 new hand-washing facilities.
- Distribution of 10 hygiene kits and 15 replacements kits for latrine maintenance to WaSH committees, the Relais Communautaires (RECOs) or the Mères Chefs.
- Treatment and sealing of 1163 full latrines in 20 camps.
- Construction of 52 new shower facilities and repair of 185. (*see more detail in Annex 4*)
- Continued awareness-raising to promote self-management and encourage beneficiaries to maintain hygiene and sanitation facilities in their communities.

Hygiene Promotion

- Weekly hygiene promotion sessions (704 focus groups, 706 door-to-door visits) by 505 RECOs and Mercy Corps' community mobilizers, operational in target IDPs camps/sites and reaching 34,212 people.
- 13 theater performances conducted in the camps to spread awareness on good hygiene practices and highlight risks in displaced communities.
- Mercy Corps reinforced the sensitization campaign using the child-to-child approach in the camps.
- Mercy Corps continue raising awareness through the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach in three villages (i.e. Katahando, Kalonge, Mbuihi).
- Dissemination of daily radio messages (Community Broadcast on Kalembe and Pole FM) about good hygiene practices and the prevention of cholera.
- Disinfection of huts and infrastructures during a mass campaign of clean IDP camps.
- Distribution of 260 bags of powdered soap.

Environmental Health

- Mobilization of camp communities to empty 113 waste pits.
- Latrines cleaned once or twice daily by camp volunteers under the supervision of trained personnel (e.g. RECOs and Mere Chefs²).

1. b) Challenges and Lessons Learned

• 1 Spatial issues for sanitation facilities in some camps

The space problem still persists in such camps as Motoko, Kashuga I&II and Muhanga where camps are located on private land. Mercy Corps continues to work in close coordination with the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) who has the authority to manage land issues and the placement of infrastructure. CNR negotiates areas with residents and sometimes moves displaced people into administrative blocks that are not saturated to free space for sanitation facilities. Mercy Corps is also piloted the use of empty-able latrines in Kashuga II for instance to reduce the need for additional space.

• 2 Theft of infrastructure during the closure of Lac Vert camp

As part of the preparation for the dismantling of Lac Vert camp, Mercy Corps was on site on September 17, 2015 and found that 26 shower doors (made of plastic sheeting over a wood frame) and 76 latrines doors had been dismantled overnight and the materials had disappeared. Mercy Corps investigated this loss by interviewing members of the displaced population as well as the CNR and IOM camp managers, who reported that the materials were stolen by Lac vert residents and IDPs. Note that, as IDPs and host communities shared infrastructure in the Lac Vert camp, Mercy Corps decided to leave the latrines and

² There is a *Mere Chef*, assigned to each administrative block in the camps who is responsible for managing a rotation of latrine cleaning duties among each household in the block.

showers to the host community to avoid open defecation in this cholera-endemic area after the closure of the camp.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

Sector 1: WaSH

Project monitoring has been implemented by WaSH field-engineers and hygiene-mobilization staff with oversight from the program manager. Monitoring of implementation activities take place through regularly conducted joint field visits with various stakeholders (IDP Committees, Camp Managers, UNHCR, National Commission for Refugees) to examine data quality, provide on-site mentoring to stakeholders, collect success stories, solicit beneficiary feedback and to ensure proper procedures are in place. Weekly reports collected from the field are then consolidated into monthly progress reports.

The data is then used to inform periodic management meetings during which the team reviews data, identifies trends, and proposes adaptive changes to programming when necessary. In order to estimate infrastructure needs in accordance with North Kivu WaSH cluster standards, Mercy Corps relies on official population statistics released by PU-AMI, the National Commission of Refugees (as camp managers), UNHCR and the Government of North Kivu each month (often coordinated through the Camp Coordination and Camp Management – CCCM Working Group). The program team also participates in coordination meetings to stay abreast of cross-sectorial issues and events that concern the target IDPs camps.

5. Coordination

Sector 1: WaSH

Mercy Corps regularly participates in the following coordination meetings in order to ensure coherence in program implementation strategies and that needs are covered as effectively as possible:

- WaSH Cluster in Goma
- Working groups for camp coordination and management in Goma organized by UNHCR
- Working group for IDPs site coordination and management in Goma organized by IOM
- Weekly coordination meetings organized by OCHA in Kitchanga
- Bi-weekly coordination meetings organized by the National Commission for Refugees (camp manager in Mweso Health Zone)

6. Conclusion

Sector 1: WaSH

During this quarter, Mercy Corps has provided essential water, sanitation, and hygiene services to 151,048 people living in 20 IDPs camps and host communities across the Mweso-Birambizo and Karisimbi Health Zones in Masisi Territory and Goma City. During the next quarter more effort will be focused on the construction of sanitation infrastructure to maintain standards in all IDPs camps. Mercy Corps plans to conduct an assessment and response in some IDPs camps in Birambizo health zone to cover gaps due to the withdrawal of some WaSH partners in the area.