

## Emergency Assistance to Conflict Affected Populations (EACAP)

Funded by USAID/ Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)  
Fiscal Year 2016, Quarter 3 Report  
April 1 – June 30, 2016



*Mercy Corps staff conducts a nutrition sensitization in Tongo, Funakaye LGA, Gombe State [Photo Credit: Mercy Corps]*

### I. Program Overview

The humanitarian insecurity in northeast Nigeria caused by Boko Haram and the counter insurgency continues to create an urgent humanitarian need. According to most recent published figures, 14.8 million people (out of a population of 15.2 million in the four states of Borno, Yobe, Adamawa and Gombe) are affected.<sup>1</sup> The affected populations were already living in precarious conditions and an estimated 7 million people, including displaced persons and their hosts, are currently in need of humanitarian assistance. This massive displacement has led to the disruption of livelihoods and lack of access to markets and agricultural land. Poor host communities have been sharing resources with one of the largest internally displaced person (IDP) populations in the world and are now relying on negative coping strategies after their savings and assets have been used.

Mercy Corps is implementing the OFDA-funded Emergency Assistance to Conflict Affected Populations (EACAP) program, which aims to respond to the mounting relief needs of conflict-affected communities in Gombe State. The expansion of the Strengthening Opportunities and Access to Resilience (SOAR) project, now called EACAP, has allowed Mercy Corps to provide urgently-needed support to additional conflict-affected IDPs in recently-accessible Local Government Areas (LGAs) through interventions in livelihoods, provision of household commodities, and protection. Overall, the project aims to benefit 100,874 individuals, out of which 72,975<sup>2</sup> are IDPs, while the remaining are vulnerable host community members.

### II. General Update with Security Context, Situation Overview, and Operational Summary

**Security:** During the reporting period, Gombe State saw periods of relative peace and calm. However, these were interrupted with a few incidents. The most significant was the death of a prominent Islamic scholar on

<sup>1</sup> 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) for Nigeria

<sup>2</sup> Revised beneficiary target numbers to account for modified scope and timeframe.

May 29, who was robbed as he was travelling from Gombe town. In addition, there was a clash between communities in Billiri, and Kaltungo local governments over land. The military and police intervened.

*Population movements:* The movement of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has slowed in Gombe State. The EACAP team still periodically hears from stakeholders about new IDPs settling in certain communities but at a much lower level than at the peak of the crisis.

*Operations:* As Mercy Corps identified a continued need to address the vulnerabilities in the EACAP-targeted communities, Mercy Corps requested and received a No Cost Extension (NCE) of three months, allowing the program to continue until September 30, 2016. The NCE will allow us to support 1,000 new households with either livelihood grants or non-food item (NFI) vouchers.

*Humanitarian Coordination:* Mercy Corps continues its active role in humanitarian coordination groups. At the Abuja level, ongoing participation within sector working groups, HCT (Humanitarian Country Team) and an INGO forum ensures collaboration at all levels. At the state level, Mercy Corps continues its coordination with SEMA (State Emergency Management Agency) and NEMA (National Emergency Management Agency) in Gombe and Adamawa, as well as LGA heads of office and relevant stakeholders. Mercy Corps, as NFI sector lead in Gombe, held a coordination meeting with Nigerian Red Cross and SEMA to discuss NFI interventions in Gombe State. Mercy Corps officially handed over coordination of the gender-based violence (GBV) sub-sector to UNFPA at a meeting between Mercy Corps, UNFPA, and the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

*Staff Development:* Mercy Corps sent two staff members to the annual Girl Effect University Workshop in Uganda (April 18-22). The workshop was an interactive session on how to design and implement high quality adolescent girl programming and touched on how to better meet the unique needs of girls in a humanitarian setting. In addition, Humanitarian Access Trainings were attended by three Mercy Corps staff.

### III. Project Performance

#### AWARD-LEVEL BENEFICIARIES

Cumulative Period Targeted		Reporting Period Reached		Cumulative Period Reached	
Total	IDP	Total	IDP	Total	IDP
100,814	72,575	12,831	7,201	111,375	82,065

#### SECTOR 1: ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND MARKET SYSTEMS

**Objective:** To provide displaced households and host communities with resources to meet immediate needs and sustain local markets.

In the tables below, HH = households, M = number of males, and F = number of females. Where possible, beneficiary numbers are broken down by sex.

Sector-Level Beneficiaries					
Cumulative Period Targeted		Reporting Period Reached		Cumulative Period Reached	
Total	IDP	Total	IDP	Total	IDP
38,884	30,959	10,119	6,642	42,816	31,414
Indicators		TARGET	PROGRESS	TOTAL PROGRESS	
Sub-sector 1.1 Livelihoods restoration (Adapted for NCE activities)					
Number of people assisted through livelihood restoration activities		1,000	10,119 987 HH (384M /603F)	10,119 987 HH (384M /603F) <i>NCE only</i>	
Percent of beneficiaries reporting their livelihoods restored within three to six months after receiving support		n/a	10%	10%	

Total USD amount channelled into the program area through sub-sector activities	200,000 USD	198,737.80 USD	198,737.80 USD <i>NCE only</i>
<b>Sub-sector 1.2 Microfinance (From Original Activities)</b>			
Number of people or medium and small enterprises starting to receive financial services or continuing to receive financial services due to USAID/OFDA support	800	_3	1,533 (578M / 955F) <i>Original activities</i>
Percentage of financial services account/groups supported by USAID/OFDA that are functioning properly	Village Savings and Loan (VSLA): 40 groups, 100%	-	VSLA: 56, 100% <i>Original activities</i>
Total USD amount channelled into the program area through subsectors activities	n/a	-	n/a

**Progress Narrative: Livelihoods Restoration:** EACAP successfully supported 987 households with grants for livelihood activities with a value of approximately USD 100 each. The exact amount provided to each beneficiary depended on their livelihood proposal. In preparation for each disbursement, trainings were conducted on basic bookkeeping, hygiene management, and sustainability of the activity. The trainings were designed to equip beneficiaries with sufficient knowledge on small business start-up and management to effectively utilize the cash grants awarded.

During this reporting period, EACAP completed the selection of livelihood grant beneficiaries, choosing 851 households, with the remaining 149 households being protection referrals. Out of the total 1,000 households, 987 have received the first tranche of livelihoods disbursements. The disbursements to thirteen households are still pending. Of these disbursements delays (valued at 360,680 NGN or 1,262.20 USD based on the May 9 exchange rate, the first day of disbursement), five were due to a technical malfunction with the electronic platform that was used. These five issues will be reported on in the next reporting period. The remaining eight beneficiary households did not show up to the disbursement site. EACAP is assessing whether need still exists for these eight. These activities will be reported on in the next report. The second tranche of livelihood disbursements was still ongoing at the end of the reporting period. Therefore, the second tranche will be reported on in the next quarterly report.

**Progress Narrative: Microfinance (VSLAs):** Activity completed.

## **SECTOR 2: AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY**

**Objective:** Conflict-affected and vulnerable populations have reconstituted productive assets for agricultural production.

<b>Sector-Level Beneficiaries</b>					
<b>Cumulative Period Targeted</b>		<b>Reporting Period Reached</b>		<b>Cumulative Period Reached</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>IDP</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>IDP</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>IDP</b>
7,280	5,824	-	-	589	430

  

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>TARGET</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>	<b>TOTAL PROGRESS</b>
<b>LIVESTOCK</b>			
Number of animals benefiting from or affected by livestock activities	n/a	-	18,172 animals
Number of people benefiting from livestock activities	400	-	589 (502M/87F)
Number of veterinary interventions in livestock activities	n/a	-	674,929
Number of animals treated in livestock activities	n/a	-	674,929

<sup>3</sup> All Microfinance Activities have been completed under regular EACAP activities in previous reporting periods. There are no further updates to report.

**Progress Narrative: Agriculture and Food Security:** Activity completed.

### **SECTOR 3: LOGISTICS, SUPPORT AND RELIEF COMMODITIES**

**Objective:** To provide vulnerable households with NFIs.

<b>Sector-Level Beneficiaries</b>					
<b>Cumulative Period Targeted</b>		<b>Reporting Period Reached</b>		<b>Cumulative Period Reached</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>IDP</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>IDP</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>IDP</b>
53,340	34,804	61	61	64,823	49,700

**Progress Narrative: Relief Commodities** In this quarter, Q3, EACAP completed the second tranche of NFI e-voucher top-ups to 2,000 households that was started in Q2. In Q2 as detailed in the last report, eight households out of the 2,000 household target did not receive the e-voucher due to missing or invalid cards. These were explored further, and the cards were reprinted. The remaining eight beneficiaries were able to receive the support and shopped for NFIs during this reporting period. Their information is detailed in the table below. Following the second tranche, post-distribution monitoring (PDM) was conducted in May among 200 households, demonstrating that all surveyed EACAP beneficiaries used their vouchers to purchase NFIs. However, beneficiaries also were surveyed on their other needs. According to the beneficiaries surveyed, they were most in need of food with 85.5%; followed by livelihood with 43%; shelter with 21%; education 18.5%;

<b>Indicators</b>			
<b>NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIs)</b>	<b>TARGET</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>	<b>TOTAL PROGRESS</b>
Total number of NFIs distributed by type	7,620 (7,000 consumable kits / 620 new arrival kits)	8 e-vouchers <sup>4</sup>	7,620 (5,000 consumable kits / 620 new arrival kits / 2,000 e-vouchers)
Total cost of NFIs by type	5,000 consumable kits \$36 620 new arrival kits \$219 2,000 consumable kits \$200	-	5,000 consumable kits, \$29.45 620 new arrival kits, \$142 1,992 e-vouchers, \$142 <sup>5</sup>
Total number of beneficiaries receiving NFIs	7,620 HH	61 (38M/23F) 8 HH (5M/3F)	7,620 HH (64,762 beneficiaries, 30,792M, 34,031F)
Total number of LLINs distributed	8,000 LLINs	-	8,000

healthcare 11%, and farming with 9.50%. Of the respondents, 60.5% were male and 39.5% were female.

<b>Beneficiaries Receiving NFI e-vouchers and 4 LLINs</b>						
<b>S/N</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>LGA</b>	<b># of HHs</b>	<b># of individuals</b>		
				<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Dundado	Akko	106	367	426	793
2	Kumo		69	206	308	514
3	Sabon kaura		38	181	244	425
4	Garin galadima		26	97	135	232
5	Tudun kwaya	Billiri	48	117	133	250
6	Golkos		143	719	916	1635
7	Lasale	Kwami	69	219	270	489
8	Wuro dole		64	268	318	586
9	Malam sisi		58	189	300	489

<sup>4</sup> This is the number of e-voucher cards distributed, not the total number which redeemed the full 28,000 NGN value.

<sup>5</sup> Exchange rate used at time of determining transfer value was 197 NGN to 1 USD.

10	Garin azumi		10	32	39	71
11	Kwami		172	771	946	1717
12	Nafada	Nafada	89	262	418	680
13	Birin bolawa		185	941	858	1799
14	Birin fulani		44	184	192	376
15	Talase	Balanga	144	407	521	928
16	Bambam		174	514	738	1252
17	Balam sani		143	415	577	992
18	Kembu		41	90	155	245
19	Tongo	Funakaye	36	144	193	337
20	Bajoga		216	808	1205	2013
21	Ashaka gari		125	504	714	1218
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>2,000</b>	<b>7,449</b>	<b>9,592</b>	<b>17,041</b>

#### **SECTOR 4: PROTECTION**

**Objective:** Community-based prevention and response mechanisms for addressing protection risks are strengthened, with a particular focus on gender-based violence mitigation, and the effectiveness of humanitarian response in Nigeria is strengthened through improved collection of data on IDPs.

<b>Sector-Level Beneficiaries</b>					
<b>Cumulative Period Targeted</b>		<b>Reporting Period Reached</b>		<b>Cumulative Period Reached</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>IDP</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>IDP</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>IDP</b>
2,090	1,640	2,651	498	2,948	521

<b>Indicators</b>			
<b>PROTECTION</b>	<b>TARGET</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>	<b>TOTAL PROGRESS</b>
<b>4.1 Protection coordination, advocacy and information</b>			
Number of people trained in protection	2,050	-	297 (234M / 63F)
Number of people trained in IDP profiling	40	- <sup>6</sup>	-
<b>4.2 Prevention and Response to GBV</b>			
Number of people trained in GBV prevention or response	2,050	2,651 (761M /1,890F)	2,651 (761M/1,890F)
Number of people benefitting from GBV services, disaggregated	2,050	12 (12F)	12 (12F)
Percentage and number of IDP women's groups who are confirmed to have received economic and social support through participation in project related activities	37	149 (2M/147F)	149 (2M/147F)

**Progress Narrative: Protection** During the previous quarter, Q2, a two-day training of trainers (TOT) workshop was conducted for 37 master trainers. In this reporting period, the master trainers put their skills to use by training the youth and women cohorts in all the intervention communities. EACAP also worked with the women trainers to provide training and coaching sessions to the youth leaders in their respective communities. Consequently, the planned refresher course for youth leaders previously mentioned became unnecessary.

In Q3, EACAP conducted a risk mapping exercise involving all 260 GBV and Psychological First Aid (PFA) trained community leaders and 37 master trainers, across 8 LGAs and 33 communities. Findings from the mapping exercise helped to inform the GBV referral pathway for Gombe State, which was developed at a

<sup>6</sup> This specific training was canceled as International Organization of Migration (IOM) was planning a similar training. Mercy Corps is continuing training exercises that contribute to the capacity and cohesion of the INGO Forum.

workshop on May 10. The workshop was facilitated by Mercy Corps with technical support from UNFPA and ActionAid. Among the many stakeholders participating in the workshop were representatives from Ministry of Women Affairs, ActionAid, UNFPA, Ministry of Health, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and representatives from the local government, general hospitals, and police.

### **SECTOR 5: RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE**

**Objective:** Strengthen humanitarian space in Nigeria by building the capacity of local humanitarian workers.

<b>Sector-Level Beneficiaries</b>					
<b>Cumulative Period Targeted</b>		<b>Reporting Period Reached</b>		<b>Cumulative Period Reached</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>IDP</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>IDP</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>IDP</b>
120	N/A	99	N/A	199	N/A

<b>Indicators</b>			
	<b>TARGET</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>	<b>TOTAL PROGRESS</b>
<b>5.1 Risk Management Policy and Practice</b>			
Number of people trained in disaster preparedness, mitigation and management	120	99	199
Number of trainings conducted	2	5	6
Percentage of people trained who retain skills and knowledge after two months	96	-	-

**Progress Narrative:** In this quarter, EACAP hosted five trainings on humanitarian access by Conflict Dynamics International. The purpose was to build capacity of local humanitarian workers to better understand and overcome humanitarian access challenges, as well as improve negotiation skills in a manner that is consistent with core humanitarian principles. Some military personnel, as well as staff from the NEMA and SEMA were also trained. Military personnel were included with the goal of having them understand the principles of humanitarian access, helping to facilitate their role in ensuring safe access to affected communities. Including the military proved successful, with participants requesting that this be done in future trainings as well.

### **SECTOR 6: HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

**Objective:** Support involvement of local organizations into the humanitarian system in Nigeria and improve the scope and quality of information gathering.

<b>Sector-Level Beneficiaries</b>					
<b>Cumulative Period Targeted</b>		<b>Reporting Period Reached</b>		<b>Cumulative Period Reached</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>IDP</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>IDP</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>IDP</b>
100	N/A	-	N/A	-	N/A

<b>Indicators</b>			
	<b>TARGET</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>	<b>TOTAL PROGRESS</b>
<b>6.1 Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management</b>			
Number and percentage of humanitarian organizations utilizing information management services	20	-	-
Number and percentage of humanitarian organizations directly contributing to information products	40	-	-
Number of products made available by information management services accessed by clients	4	-	-

**Progress Narrative: Mapping exercise local actors:** The first draft of the local actors mapping for North East Nigeria was received by Mercy Corps and shared among the members of the INGO forum. The consultant who conducted the mapping presented the findings at a Mercy Corps-facilitated meeting and received feedback and input to be incorporated into the final report. The process of refining the final report is still ongoing.

The overall objective of the mapping is to provide the data of local NGOs working in Borno, Adamawa, Yobe and Gombe. The data will provide information on who is doing what and where, thereby enhancing information sharing and management. Also, a communications training is planned for the local NGOs in the next quarter. During this training, they would be trained on how to utilize the information services of the humanitarian sector. With this in place, we can track the local NGOs utilizing the information management services.

#### IV. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

**PDM:** The M&E team focused on supporting the program teams during the implementation of each intervention to ensure that data collection processes were set up to allow EACAP to properly measure impact at the close of each intervention. In addition, as reported earlier, the M&E team conducted post-distribution monitoring (PDM) of its beneficiaries to verify that assistance had been received, verify what the beneficiaries purchased, gain feedback from beneficiaries and vendors, and learn about additional needs of beneficiaries. The M&E team worked with 200 beneficiaries to verify that beneficiaries used the NFI e-vouchers to purchase NFIs. The beneficiaries surveyed also mentioned that food was still a key need for their households.

**Price Monitoring:** M&E also took the lead on price monitoring to continually gauge how prices of its basket of goods change over time. This allows the program to adapt the value of its vouchers on an as-needed basis. During this reporting period, there was a fuel price increase and Naira devaluation. Therefore in the next reporting period, the team will carefully track pricing that may respond to these macro-level changes.

**Community Feedback Mechanism:** Mercy Corps received a total of 27 calls from beneficiaries via the phone hotline. Most of these calls concerned e-voucher operational issues such as pin errors, lost cards, and invalid transactions, as well as positive feedback to express appreciation.

#### V. Security

In response to the security context described above, Mercy Corps' security protocols are regularly revised in relation to risks and mitigation measures. During this reporting period that was largely calm, Mercy Corps did not make any major revisions to its security protocol.

#### VI. Challenges

**NFI - Glitches in electronic platform/Missing cards:** At times, the electronic platform that Mercy Corps uses for its e-vouchers can have glitches which result in non-functional cards or top-ups not being properly loaded on cards. Mercy Corps responds to this on a real-time basis by reprinting cards where needed. Another issue has been beneficiaries losing cards. In these cases, Mercy Corps needs to deploy staff to investigate each incident, properly identify the beneficiary, and reprint cards.

**Livelihoods - Technological challenges:** For the livelihood grants, eight beneficiaries missed the disbursement date for the livelihood grants. It is at times difficult to identify specific reasons for missing the disbursement date. At times, because of the nature of IDP populations, beneficiaries leave a given geography to return home or to another location. Each of the eight cases of missed disbursement were in the process of being investigated to understand what next steps the program should take. In addition, five beneficiaries' cards malfunctioned during the disbursement date, but these cards have been reprinted or the malfunctions were corrected.

#### VII. Plans for next quarter

Sector	Main activities
<b>Sector 1:</b> Economic recovery and market systems	<p>Closeout livelihood grants to targeted beneficiaries.</p> <p>Monitor and provide ongoing support to livelihood grant recipients to ensure they are set up for success.</p>

<b>Sector 2:</b> Agriculture and Food Security	<i>No activities planned</i>
<b>Sector 3:</b> Logistics, support and relief items	<i>Closeout NFI e-voucher distribution, reprinting cards where necessary to ensure that all targeted beneficiaries receive support.  Monitor NFI e-voucher recipients through PDM activities to capture impact of the program.</i>
<b>Sector 4:</b> Protection	<i>Mercy Corps will continue to provide support to the established protection women groups in communities, especially in emphasizing the referral pathways to relevant service providers.</i>
<b>Sector 5:</b> Risk Management policy and practice	
<b>Sector 6:</b> Humanitarian Coordination and information management	<i>Mercy Corps will continue to attend the protection sector working group meetings, as well as contribute to the coordination of the GBV sub-sector in Gombe State by UNFPA.</i>