

South Borno Emergency and Recovery Assistance Program (SUBERA)

Funded by USAID/ Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)



Photo: Livelihood grant-recipient Na’omi Yakibu selling vegetables in Gombe market. She was displaced by Boko Haram violence and has reestablished her livelihood using the livelihood grant provided by Mercy Corps. Photo by Tom Saater.

Fiscal Year 2016, Quarter 4 Report
July 1 – September 30, 2016

I. Program Overview

The humanitarian crisis in North East Nigeria caused by Boko Haram and the counter insurgency continues to create massive needs for urgent humanitarian response. According to the most recently published figures¹ 14.8 million people (out of a population of 15.2 million in the four states of Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, and Gombe) are affected by the crisis. This population was already living in precarious conditions and an estimated 7 million people, including displaced and hosted civilians (including those confined/restricted by insurgents and the

¹ 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) for Nigeria

Nigerian Armed Forces), are currently in need of humanitarian assistance. This massive displacement has led to the disruption of livelihoods and a lack of access to markets. 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 to survive after their savings and assets have been depleted.

Mercy Corps is implementing the OFDA-funded South Borno Emergency and Recovery Assistance (SUBERA) program, which aims to meet the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected populations in South Borno and Gombe States, restoring their food security and access to livelihood opportunities with safety and dignity. SUBERA is an expansion of Emergency Assistance to Conflict Affected Populations (EACAP), which itself was an expansion of Strengthening Opportunities and Access to Resilience (SOAR).

Since July 2016, Mercy Corps has implemented livelihoods recovery activities, the provision of non-food items, and access to water, sanitation, and hygiene through the SUBERA program, which aims to benefit an additional 41,200 individuals since EACAP ended in June 2016, (out of which 32,960 are IDPs and 8,240 are vulnerable host community members). SUBERA expands on the existing interventions from EACAP by including Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) interventions and in mainstreaming protection; it also adds South Borno State as an area of implementation.

Cumulative, SUBERA/EACAP/SOAR is targeting 120,750 individuals, of which 96,470 are IDPs, between July 2014 and June 2016.

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

Security: During the reporting period, the insurgency movement known as Boko Haram split into two different factions, with one being led by Abubakar Shekau and the other by the Islamic State-appointed Al-Barnawi. The internal upheaval of Boko Haram, with the start of the rainy season and its associated logistical challenges, may be the reason behind the current limited activity of insurgents in Mercy Corps' areas of operations.

In Borno State, suspected Boko Haram members were, reportedly, arrested in Sabon Gari and in Kwaya Kusar. Mercy Corps inquired with the International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO) and local community leaders, none of which could verify the reports. The stories of the arrests were likely based on rumors, but Mercy Corps continues to remain vigilant and investigate any potential security incidents.

In Gombe State, violent clashes, reportedly over land, between the Tangale communities from Biliri and Kaltungo LGAs led to Mercy Corps suspending travel between Adamawa and Gombe States. Travel was suspended for a day, after which the situation had cleared and travel could resume.

Population movements: According to the latest figures published,² two of the LGAs where Mercy Corps operates: Hawul and Biu, have seen the return of 15,519 (previously) displaced persons. Mercy Corps has not witnessed large movements of IDPs in South Borno and Gombe States during the reporting period. What we have observed is that the IDPs in South Borno are internally displaced in their own LGA and some have started moving back to their villages of origin.

Operations: In November 2015 and January 2016, Mercy Corps conducted detailed needs assessments of Biu, Kwaya Kusar, and Hawul LGAs in Borno State. The purpose of the assessments was to inform our humanitarian programming in North East Nigeria. As the assessments found that there were large unmet needs in these areas, Mercy Corps submitted a request for a modification. OFDA subsequently granted a modification to scope and budget, expanding the program to South Borno and providing SUBERA with an additional 2,000,000 USD, allowing us to assist 41,200 individuals until 30 June 2017.

² IOM's [Displacement Tracking Matrix](#), Nigeria Return Assessment, August 2016

In July 2016, a subsequent needs assessment was conducted in Damboa LGA,³ focusing on Damboa and Sabon Gari. The assessment established the severity, scale, and range of humanitarian needs in Damboa LGA. Based on this assessment, Mercy Corps discussed and agreed with OFDA to expand activities to Damboa LGA.

As part of Mercy Corps' scale-up of activities in South Borno, WASH and M&E technical support staff from Mercy Corps headquarters, as well as Mercy Corps' Regional Humanitarian Advisor, travelled to Gombe and South Borno to provide guidance on our humanitarian expansion and to mentor Mercy Corps Nigeria's humanitarian staff.

Humanitarian Coordination: Mercy Corps continues its active role in humanitarian coordination groups in Abuja (national level) and Maiduguri (Borno State-level).

In southern Borno, Mercy Corps continues to coordinate closely with key actors including Medicines sans Frontiers, and ICRC, while maintaining ongoing discussions with others, such as UNICEF, Save the Children, and Oxfam, to ensure complementarity of efforts in assistance provision.

Mercy Corps has been elected the host of the Nigeria INGO Forum, starting January 2017, for a two-year period. The decision to have an agency host for two years, rather than the usual six months, was made so as to ensure consistency, continuity, and strong leadership. Mercy Corps will use this opportunity to support the forum in improving inter-agency coordination and expanding existing initiatives to strengthen the capacity and response of all humanitarian actors including INGO Forum-members, local actors, and other key stakeholders.

Staff Development: During the reporting period, three Mercy Corps staff participated in a Humanitarian Access training and two in a Crisis Management training. Both the Humanitarian Access and the Crisis Management training were facilitated by Mercy Corps on behalf of the Nigeria INGO Forum. More information on the trainings is found under Sector 5.

Through three four-day sessions, the Mercy Corps humanitarian team received Hostile Environment Awareness Training from experienced trainers from [Safer Edge](#). The trainings took place in Biu, Mercy Corps' current hub for humanitarian operations in South Borno. The humanitarian staff learned how to respond to different scenarios likely to require immediate first aid, as well as how to ensure the safety and security of themselves and their team-members when in the field.

III. Project Performance

AWARD-LEVEL BENEFICIARIES

Cumulative Period Targeted ⁴		Reporting Period Reached		Cumulative Period Reached	
Total	IDP	Total	IDP	Total	IDP
120,750	96,470	63	-	111,438	82,652

SECTOR 1: ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND MARKET SYSTEMS

Objective: Vulnerable displacement-affected households are able to meet their immediate needs, recover their livelihoods, and access savings and loans.⁵

Sector-Level Beneficiaries		
Cumulative Period Targeted	Reporting Period Reached	Cumulative Period Reached

³ Available on Relief Web at <http://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/nigeria-damboa-local-government-area-lga-borno-state-rapid-needs-assessment-july-2016>

⁴ SOAR/EACAP/SUBERA targets are not broken down into reporting periods. The numbers found under this heading are for the entire program duration.

⁵ The objective prior to July 2016 was "To provide displaced households and host communities resources to meet immediate needs and sustain local markets."

Total	IDP	Total	IDP	Total	IDP
48,600	38,880	-	-	42,816	31,414
INDICATORS		TARGET	PROGRESS	TOTAL PROGRESS	
Sub-sector 1.1 Temporary Employment					
Number of people employed through cash for work activities, by sex.		1,500	-	-	
Average total USD amount per person earned through cash for work activities.		237,60 USD	-	-	
Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities.		531,600 USD ⁶	-	-	
Sub-sector 1.2 Livelihoods Restoration⁷					
Number of people assisted through livelihood restoration activities, by sex.		45,500 6,500 HH ⁸	-	3,987 HH (2,047M /1,940F)	
Percent of beneficiaries reporting their livelihoods restored within three to six months after receiving support.		N/A	N/A	N/A ⁹	
Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities.		650,000 USD ¹⁰	-	465,048.80 USD ¹¹	
Sub-sector 1.3 Microfinance¹²					
Number of people, disaggregated by sex, or MSEs newly receiving financial services or continuing to receive financial services due to USAID/OFDA support.		1600 ¹³	-	1,533 (578M / 955F)	
Percentage of financial services account/groups supported by USAID/OFDA that are functioning properly.		80 VSLAs 100%	-	56 VSLAs 100%	
Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities.		N/A	N/A	N/A	

Progress Narrative:

During the reporting period, Mercy Corps identified intervention communities and established Community Relief Committees in Kwaya Kusar and Damboa LGAs.

Kick-Off Meetings: During the reporting period, external kick-off meetings were held for Kwaya Kusar and Damboa LGAs. As our two intervention areas in Damboa LGA, Damboa and Sabon Gari, are located at a distance from one-another, two separate kick-off meetings were held.

⁶ This number includes 175,200 USD, budgeted under Objective 4: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, for tools and material.

⁷ Prior to July 2016, Livelihoods' Restoration was sub-sector 1.1.

⁸ This is a combination of SOAR (3000 HH), EACAP (1000 HH), and SUBERA (2,500 HH).

⁹ To be reported on at the end of the program.

¹⁰ This is a combination of SOAR (150,000 USD), EACAP (200,000 USD), and SUBERA (300,000 USD).

¹¹ The SOAR livelihood grants were matched from a private donation of 150,000 USD.

¹² Prior to July 2016, Microfinance was sub-sector 1.2.

¹³ This is a combination of SOAR (800 individuals) and SUBERA (800 individuals).

At the kick-off meetings, the chairman of the LGA, senior LGA officials, district heads (traditional leaders), representatives from the market traders' union, and other community leaders were in attendance. The meetings were used to identify intervention communities and to start the formation of Community Relief Committees (CRCs).

Together with Biu and Hawul, Damboa and Kawya Kusar make up the four LGAs in which Mercy Corps will implement SUBERA. Kick-off meetings for Biu and Hawul LGA were held, prior to this reporting period, in May and June, respectively.

Community Volunteers: The CRCs formed in Hawul and Damboa LGAs provided Mercy Corps with a list of potential community volunteers. The candidates were interviewed by Mercy Corps, and those selected received training on Do No Harm, Mercy Corps' Code of Conduct, and community mobilization.

The purpose of the community volunteers is to assist Mercy Corps in the implementation of our humanitarian activities. In return, all volunteers have a contract with Mercy Corps, detailing their duties, and are provided a small stipend to cover transportation and other expenses related to their work.

Temporary Employment: The formation of CRCs also kick-started the process of implementing the cash for work (CFW) activities. The CRCs are now in the process of deciding if they want to handle the management of CFW projects themselves or setup separate project management committees to do so.

Progress Narrative: Livelihoods Restoration: During the reporting period, Mercy Corps has, as part of humanitarian activities carried out with funding from the European Union's Commissioner of Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), identified and trained Protection/GBV master trainers in Biu, Kwaya Kusar, and Hawul LGAs. The master trainers will train Protection/GBV women's groups, which will feed into the livelihoods activities by ensuring that those women most at risk and most in need apply for the livelihood grants provided by SUBERA.

Progress Narrative: Microfinance (VSLAs): Based on our recent experiences of applying the Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) methodology in an emergency context, SUBERA will provide residents of our target communities, both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, with the option of joining one of the 40 VSLAs to be set up under SUBERA.

As the VSLAs provide a strong, informal social safety net, SUBERA will conduct community sensitization activities to encourage that those who are most vulnerable and/or possess special needs are included in the VSLAs.

SECTOR 2: LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND RELIEF COMMODITIES¹⁴

Objective: Vulnerable households are able to meet their essential non-food item needs.

Sector-Level Beneficiaries					
Cumulative Period Targeted		Reporting Period Reached		Cumulative Period Reached	
Total	IDP	Total	IDP	Total	IDP
67,340	53,872	-	-	64,823	49,700
INDICATORS		TARGET		PROGRESS	TOTAL PROGRESS
Sub-sector 2.1 Non-Food Items					

¹⁴ Prior to July 2016, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities was Sector 3.

Total number and per item USD ¹⁵ cost of NFIs distributed, by type. ¹⁶	5,620 ¹⁷ (5,000 consumable kits at 36 USD / 620 new arrival kits at 219 USD)	-	5,620 (5,000 consumable kits at 29,45 USD / 620 new arrival kits at 142 USD)
Total number and per item USD value of cash/vouchers distributed for NFIs, by type.	4,000 ¹⁸ e-vouchers (2,000 e-vouchers at 120 USD / 2,000 e-vouchers at 112 USD)	-	1,992 e-vouchers at 142 USD
Total number of people receiving NFIs, by sex and type.	67,340 9,620 HH (9,000 consumable kits / 620 new arrival kits)	-	7,620 HH (64,762 beneficiaries, 30,792M / 34,031F)
Total number of LLINs distributed. ¹⁹	8,000	-	7,968

Progress Narrative: Non-Food Items:

During the reporting period, SUBERA commenced registration of beneficiaries in Sabon Gari, Damboa LGA. The registration was ongoing at the end of the reporting period. Seeing as the registration was completed in Q1 of the 2017 Fiscal Year, it will be reported on, in greater detail, in the next quarterly report.

As Sabon Gari does not, at the moment, have a market capable of providing our beneficiaries with all of the items in our NFI basket, SUBERA is planning to host up to three fairs at which vendors, transported there by SUBERA, will set-up temporary stalls so that beneficiaries can redeem their vouchers.

SUBERA has mobilized and signed contracts with 47 NFI vendors in Biu and trained them on voucher processing and safeguarding against exploitation and abuse.

In Damboa, SUBERA has mobilized vendors and 33 of them have signed an expression of interest in working with Mercy Corps to provide NFI to our beneficiaries.

SECTOR 3: WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

Objective: Vulnerable households are able to meet their basic water supply, sanitation, and hygiene needs.

Sector-Level Beneficiaries					
Cumulative Period Targeted		Reporting Period Reached		Cumulative Period Reached	
Total	IDP	Total	IDP	Total	IDP
2,600	2,080	-	-	-	-
INDICATORS			TARGET	PROGRESS	TOTAL PROGRESS
Sub-Sector 3.1 Water Supply Infrastructure					

¹⁵ Prior to July 2016, the per item USD cost was a separate indicator

¹⁶ Prior to July 2016, this indicator was "Total number of NFIs distributed by type".

¹⁷ This is a combination of SOAR(5,620 NFI kits), EACAP (2,000 NFI kits), SUBERA (1,000 NFI kits), and roll-over funding from EACAP to provide an additional 1,000 NFI kits.

¹⁸ This is a combination of EACAP (2,000 e-vouchers at 120 USD), SUBERA (1,000 e-vouchers at 112 USD), and cost-savings from EACAP, allowing us to provide an additional 1,000 e-vouchers at 112 USD.

¹⁹ This indicator was dropped as of July 2016. It remains in the table to show results of finished activities.

Number of people targeted by the water supply infrastructure program, as measured through: <i>Average liters per person per day collected from all sources for drinking, cooking and hygiene.</i>	15	-	-
Number of people served by the water supply infrastructure program, as measured through: <i>Estimated water supplied per beneficiary in liters per person per day.</i>		-	-
Number of households targeted by water supply infrastructure, as measured by: <i># households collecting all water for drinking, cooking and hygiene from improved water sources.</i>	371 HH	-	-
Sub-Sector 3.2 Sanitation Infrastructure			
Number of people receiving hygiene promotion, as measured by: <i># of people who report proper disposal of feces the last time they defecated.</i>	70,000	-	-
Number of people receiving hygiene promotion, as measured by: <i># of people who report using a latrine the last time they defecated.</i>	70,000	-	-
Number of people served by the sanitation infrastructure program, as measured by: <i># people per usable latrine.</i>		-	-
Sub-Sector 3.3 Hygiene Promotion			
Number of people receiving direct hygiene promotion (excluding mass media campaigns and excluding double counting).	70,000	-	-
Number of people receiving hygiene promotion, as measured by: <i># of respondents who know 3 of 5 critical times to wash hands.</i>	70,000	-	-
Number of people receiving hygiene promotion, as measured by: <i>Number of households with soap and water at a hand washing location.</i>		-	-
Number of village water user committees created/trained, as measured by: <i># of village water user committees active at least 3 months after training.</i>		-	-

Number of water points developed, repaired, or rehabilitated, as measured by:			
# of water points that are clean and protected from contamination.		-	-

Progress Narrative: During the reporting period, as part of our humanitarian portfolio of programs in South Borno, Mercy Corps has established sanitation committees (SATCOMs) in Biu, Hawul, and Kwaya Kusar LGAs. As the members of the SATCOMs have been trained in hygiene and sanitation promotion, SUBERA will make use of the SATCOM-members as our hygiene promoters under SUBERA's hygiene promotion activities in the above-mentioned LGAs.

Water Supply Infrastructure: Drawing on the labor acquired through CFW activities under sub-sector 1.1., SUBERA will facilitate the construction and rehabilitation of communal water points, such as boreholes.

Progress Narrative: Sanitation Infrastructure: SUBERA will construct or renovate latrines and hand washing facilities. Along with the construction/renovations, SUBERA will establish and support Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Committees (WASHCOMs), ensuring that latrines are emptied and maintenance takes place.

As part of the protection mainstreaming, SUBERA will ensure the availability of separate, lockable toilets for women and men.

Progress Narrative: Hygiene Promotion:

The emphasis of the hygiene promotion activities will be on safe treatment and storage of water, on ensuring the safety and privacy of the users of the sanitation facilities, and on promoting hand washing with soap.

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.

Sector-Level Beneficiaries					
Cumulative Period Targeted		Reporting Period Reached		Cumulative Period Reached	
Total	IDP	Total	IDP	Total	IDP
2,090	1,640	-	-	2,948	521
Indicators					
PROTECTION		TARGET	PROGRESS	TOTAL PROGRESS	
4.1 Protection coordination, advocacy and information					
Number of people trained in protection by sex		2,050	-	297 (234M / 63F)	
Number of people trained in IDP profiling by sex		40	-	-	
4.2 Prevention and Response to GBV					
Number of people trained in GBV prevention or response by sex		2,050	-	2,651 (761M/1,890F)	
Number of people benefitting from GBV services, disaggregated by sex		2,050	-	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	-	-	

Progress Narrative: All activities under Protection have been completed. As of July 2016, SUBERA is mainstreaming protection. Protection mainstreaming is reported on under each of the different sectors.

SECTOR 5: RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE

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

Sector-Level Beneficiaries					
Cumulative Period Targeted		Reporting Period Reached		Cumulative Period Reached	
Total	IDP	Total	IDP	Total	IDP
120	N/A	63	-	262	N/A

Indicators			
	TARGET	PROGRESS	TOTAL PROGRESS
5.1 Risk Management Policy and Practice			
Number of people trained in disaster preparedness, mitigation and management, by sex	120 people	63	262
Number of trainings conducted	2 trainings	4 trainings	10 trainings
Percentage of people trained who retain skills and knowledge after two months	80% of 120 people	-	-

Progress Narrative: In this quarter, SUBERA hosted two trainings on Humanitarian Access and two trainings on Crisis Management.

Humanitarian Access Training: The Humanitarian Access trainings took place June 30 to July 1, 2016 in Abuja, and September 20 – 21, 2016 in Maiduguri. The training in Abuja included participants from the INGO Forum-members, whereas the training in Maiduguri had a wider audience -in particular, Brigadier General Ali Nani, the officer in command of the Nigerian Armed Forces' 8th Division, and staff from the Borno State Governor's Office.

The inclusion of military personnel assisted in opening dialogue and understanding of the principles of humanitarian access, which helps to facilitate the military's role in ensuring safe access to affected communities by humanitarian NGOs. As more areas become accessible for humanitarian actors, coordination between humanitarian, civilian and military authorities increases in importance.

Crisis Management Training: During the reporting period, two Crisis Management trainings were facilitated by Mercy Corps - one in Abuja and one in Maiduguri. The initial plan was to have training in Abuja, and two trainings in Maiduguri, but flight delays and cancellations lead to a delay in getting the crisis management trainer to Maiduguri. As a result, one of the trainings originally scheduled to take place in Maiduguri had to be cancelled. In both of the Crisis Management trainings, the participants were staff of INGO Forum-members and UN Organizations.

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.

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

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

Progress Narrative: Mapping exercise local actors - The local actors mapping report has been finalized and disseminated widely through the INGO Forum and UNOCHA. As a result of the local actors mapping, the INGO Forum now has an overview of not only the local actors with whom they can partner in their future interventions, but also an overview of the gaps in the capacity of local actors.

Based on the needs identified in this in-depth overview of capacity, Mercy Corps will facilitate a Project Management Training for local actors in North East Nigeria. This training is scheduled to take place in November 2016.

SECTOR 7: AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY²⁰

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

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

Indicators	TARGET	PROGRESS	TOTAL PROGRESS
LIVESTOCK			
Number of animals benefiting from or affected by livestock activities	n/a	-	18,172 animals
Number of people benefiting from livestock activities, by sex	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

Progress Narrative: All activities under Agriculture and Food Security have been completed.

IV. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM): The M&E Team conducted a PDM survey of the recipients of livelihood grants in Gombe State. Thirty percent of the recipients in each of the 15 targeted communities took place in the survey. When asked in September, 68.3% of the sampled recipients reported having had their income increase..

The planned PDM activities to capture the impact of the NFI vouchers on beneficiaries in Gombe State have been postponed to the following quarter. Due to the refocusing of our humanitarian intervention to meet the urgent needs in South Borno, Mercy Corps has prioritized start-up activities and registration of beneficiaries.

²⁰ Prior to July 2016, Agriculture and Food Security was Sector 2.

As SUBERA will provide NFI vouchers in South Borno, the upcoming PDM activities in Gombe State will help provide lessons learned and recommendations for the next phase.

Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Support: A Mercy Corps Senior M&E Advisor joined the humanitarian team in the field to assist with capacity building of staff and updating our M&E tools and systems. During his stay, he mentored our M&E team, consisting of an M&E Manager, an M&E Officer, and two M&E Assistants, on advanced Excel usage, and conducted refresher training on [ONA](#), the platform used by Mercy Corps for beneficiary registration and base/end-line assessments.

The Senior M&E Advisor also reviewed and updated all of our existing data collection tools used by the humanitarian programs, created new tools for collection of information on the sanitation activity indicators and converted and uploaded all tools to the ONA platform.

Community Feedback Mechanism: Within the reporting period, Mercy Corps did not receive any feedback or complaints from SUBERA/EACAP beneficiaries via the phone hotline. This reflects the fact that EACAP has come to an end and SUBERA has yet to commence most of its activities. The hotline is still functional and continues to be promoted in the communities where we work.

V. Security

During this reporting period, Mercy Corps shifted its focus to southern Borno. The new operational context also comes with a new security environment. Therefore, Mercy Corps' Security Officer conducted a security assessment of the Biu-Damboia Axis, in order to determine accessibility of Damboa LGA, as well as a security assessment of the roads between Biu and Yola (Adamawa State), so as to identify additional evacuation routes.

In addition, Mercy Corps' Regional Security Advisor conducted security assessments of both our current and planned areas of operation in Borno State. This included Maiduguri, where Mercy Corps' humanitarian staff travels to attend state-wide coordination meetings. The assessments concluded that it is safe for Mercy Corps to carry out humanitarian work in our current operating areas, but that for Damboa LGA, in particular, certain mitigation measures must be taken. This includes keeping vehicles on hard surfaces only, ensuring that we do not come into contact with unexploded ordnances left behind from the fighting between Boko Haram and the Nigerian Armed Forces, and to avoid travelling there on market days (Mondays), as the risk of an attack is substantially higher on those days.

VI. Challenges

NFI Beneficiary Registration: Despite having sensitized the Community Relief Committee in Sabon Gari on the purpose of our registration activities, several people thought that Mercy Corps intended to register the entire population of Sabon Gari(home to a large population of IDPs). To resolve the issue, Mercy Corps reconvened the Community Relief Committee and re-sensitized them on our work, specifying that we have very specific vulnerability criteria and that an already fixed number of people would be registered.

Formation of Community Relief Committees: Mercy Corps CRCs consist of the community's traditional leader, an imam, a pastor, and a male and female representative of the IDP population, as well as a youth leader and a woman leader. This ensures that all groups within the community have a voice and are included in the process of providing relief to vulnerable residents of the community.

Whereas the standard makeup of CRCs was used in Biu, Kwaya Kusar, and Hawul LGAs, Mercy Corps had to adapt to the circumstances found in Damboa LGA. As Damboa LGA is severely affected by the crisis, the majority of the population is made up of IDPs and is not organized by youth, women, and religious leaders. Therefore, Mercy Corps has constituted CRCs consisting of the only leadership present, i.e. ward and village heads (traditional leaders). Mercy Corps continues to reassess the situation and will amend the membership of the CRCs as this becomes possible.

VII. Plans for next quarter

Sector	Main activities
Sector 1: Economic recovery and	Commence registration of beneficiaries in South Borno for livelihood

market systems	<i>grants, CFW, and VSLAs. Form community project management committees for CFW projects. Initiate establishment of VSLAs.</i>
Sector 2: Logistics, support and relief items	<i>Conduct price monitoring of NFI goods. Monitor NFI e-voucher recipients through PDM activities to capture impact of the program in Gombe. Beneficiary selection and distribution of NFI vouchers in South Borno.</i>
Sector 3: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	<i>Establish and train WASHCOMs.</i>
Sector 5: Risk Management policy and practice	<i>Project management training for local actors in North East Nigeria.</i>
Sector 6: Humanitarian Coordination and information management	Achieved already.