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South Borno Emergency and Recovery Assistance Program (SUBERA)

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

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I. Program Overview

The humanitarian crisis in North East Nigeria caused by Boko Haram and the counter insurgency continues to create massive needs for an urgent humanitarian response. According to the most recently published figures¹ 14.8 million people across Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States are affected by the crisis. This population was already living in precarious conditions and an estimated 8.5 million people, including displaced and hosted civilians (including those confined/restricted by insurgents and the 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 (NFI), 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.

Cumulatively, SUBERA/EACAP/SOAR is targeting 120,750 individuals, of which 96,470 are IDPs, between July 2014 and June 2017.

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

Security: During the reporting period, the rainy season came to an end in Mercy Corps' operating areas. This resulted in an increased range of movement for the Nigerian Armed Forces, but also for the two Boko Haram factions.

In the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of SUBERA, (Biu, Hawul, Kwaya Kusar, and Damboa in the south of Borno State), the security forces, namely the Nigerian Armed Forces and the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), have increased security measures.

Mercy Corps had a security incident in Damboa, when two Mercy Corps staff, as well as a Mercy Corps-hired enumerator, were briefly detained by security forces in Damboa. Mercy Corps' Field Senior Management Team subsequently met with the security forces in Damboa and agreed to inform the military ahead of any movements in Damboa. Consequently, Mercy Corps now informs the military before travelling to Damboa, and we check-in with the military upon arrival and departure from the town. Furthermore, all Mercy Corps staff operating in Damboa now check-in every two hours with the Security Focal point to ensure that should Mercy Corps staff be detained, it is discovered promptly.

In November, a civilian convoy under military escort was attacked while travelling between Maiduguri and Damboa. Mercy Corps is well aware of the hazards of travelling on this road. Due to this, as well as Mercy Corps' policy of avoiding the use of military and armed escorts, Mercy Corps continues to ban any and all movement along the Damboa-Maiduguri Road.

¹ 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Nigeria

Population movements: According to the latest figures published by the International Organization for Migration (IOM),² two of the LGAs where Mercy Corps operates – Hawul and Biu – have seen the return of 19,182 (previously) displaced persons. It is, however, worth noting that IOM categorizes any IDP returning to his/her LGA of origin as having returned, whereas Mercy Corps notices that many IDPs in southern Borno are displaced within their own LGA, as they believe it unsafe to leave the respective LGA capitals in order to return to their villages of origin.

From our communities in Damboa LGA, we know that smaller amounts of IDPs have arrived in Damboa town, almost all of them from Damboa LGA, and are seeking refuge from the heightened hostilities resulting from the end of the rainy season and increase in military operations.

Operations: During the reporting period, Mercy Corps moved into its new field office in Biu after operating for eight months in a transitory office space. The new office in Biu now serves as our main humanitarian hub in southern Borno. Mercy Corps also acquired a guest-house adjoined to the office, which has room to accommodate expat staff-members working in southern Borno, as well as visiting national and international staff.

Furthermore, Mercy Corps started the process of acquiring a field office in Damboa to serve as a base of operation for our activities there. Having a field office in Damboa will minimize our staff's exposure to security risks, as we are currently driving along the same road day after day to implement activities in Damboa, which makes our movements predictable. Furthermore, by establishing this presence in Damboa, we will be closer to our implementing communities, allowing us to better monitor our implementation and minimize remote management.

In addition, Mercy Corps has to spend approximately three hours total travelling time in order to get to and from Damboa. This leaves our staff with only five hours inside Damboa, and comes with a much higher fuel usage. Consequently, having an office in Damboa provides the added benefits of allowing our staff to work eight hours in our communities, and limits our fuel consumption. The latter is especially important during periods of fuel shortages.

Mercy Corps adjusted the value of the NFI vouchers from the 28,000 NGN, initially envisioned, to 40,000 NGN. This was necessary because of the increase in the price of NFIs, in particular laundry soap, mattresses, and blankets, meaning that to acquire the same items previously available for 28,000 NGN one now has to pay 40,000 NGN.

Humanitarian Coordination: Mercy Corps continues its active role in humanitarian coordination groups in Abuja (Federal level) and Maiduguri (Borno State-level). Furthermore, Mercy Corps hosted the local GBV-subsector working group for southern Borno.

During the reporting period, Mercy Corps continued to coordinate closely with Medicins sans Frontieres, ICRC, Oxfam, UNICEF, and Save the Children. Seeing as we operate in the same areas, the purpose of the coordination meetings is to continuously improve and ensure the complementarity of our individual humanitarian interventions, preventing any overlaps, as well as to share information regarding the safety of our operating areas.

In November, Mercy Corps hosted the first stakeholders' review meeting for southern Borno. The meeting included representatives from the Nigerian police, the LGA councils of Biu, Hawul, Kwaya Kusar, and Damboa LGAs, the CJTF, and Mercy Corps' Community Relief Committees, as well as senior officers from the Nigerian Armed Forces and traditional leaders. Representatives from Oxfam and Save the Children were also in attendance.

² IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix, Nigeria Return Assessment, December 2016. IOM has not visited and assessed Mercy Corps' other two operating LGAs, Damboa and Kwaya Kusar.

At the stakeholders' review meeting, representatives from the communities in which we operate expressed gratitude for the work we have done so far, while also requesting further assistance in the future.

Staff Development: During the reporting period, Mercy Corps brought in technical support staff from our headquarters in Portland, Oregon, United States in an effort to improve on our program responses, strengthen the capacity of our national team through the transfer of tools and knowledge, as well as provide general recommendations for further expansion opportunities. Senior Advisors from the fields of Protection, Nutrition, and Adolescent Girls and Youth Programming all visited our offices in the field and provided trainings and mentoring to our local staff.

III. Project Performance

AWARD-LEVEL BENEFICIARIES

Cumulative Period Targeted ³		Reporting Period Reached		Cumulative Period Reached	
Total	IDP	Total	IDP	Total	IDP
120,750	96,470	13,916	11,119	125,354	93,771

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.

Sector-Level Beneficiaries					
Cumulative Period Targeted		Reporting Period Reached		Cumulative Period Reached	
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 ⁴	-	-	
Sub-sector 1.2 Livelihoods Restoration ⁵					
Number of people assisted through livelihood restoration activities, by sex.		45,500 6,500 HH ⁶	-	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 ⁷	
Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities.		650,000 USD ⁸	-	465,048.80 USD ⁹	

³ SOAR/EACAP/SUBERA targets are not broken down into reporting periods. The numbers found under this heading are for the entire program duration.

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

⁵ Prior to July 2016, Livelihoods' Restoration was sub-sector 1.1.

⁶ This is a combination of SOAR (3000 HH), EACAP (1000 HH), and SUBERA (2,500 HH).

⁷ To be reported on at the end of the program.

⁸ This is a combination of SOAR (150,000 USD), EACAP (200,000 USD), and SUBERA (300,000 USD).

⁹ The SOAR livelihood grants were matched from a private donation of 150,000 USD.

Sub-sector 1.3 Microfinance¹⁰			
Number of people, disaggregated by sex, or MSEs newly receiving financial services or continuing to receive financial services due to USAID/OFDA support.	1600 ¹¹	-	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: Temporary Employment: During the reporting period, Mercy Corps conducted Cash for Work sensitizations in 18 communities across Biu, Hawul, and Kwaya Kusar LGAs. On top of this, Mercy Corps also conducted sanitations in the Sabon Gari community in Damboa LGA, bringing the total number of sensitized communities during the reporting period to 19. The sensitizations covered the criteria for community projects and the Cash for Work modality. Once the communities understood the process and requirements, Mercy Corps then assisted all 19 communities in forming Project Management Committees.

Mercy Corps' Project Management Committees are in charge of leading the process of identifying community projects and potential Cash for Work participants to partake in them. The Project Management Committees were sensitized on the importance of the community projects benefitting the whole community, not just specific individuals, and that the community projects must include work that is suitable for vulnerable groups – in particular the elderly, people with disabilities, at-risk women and children, and caregivers for separated and unaccompanied children – as these groups will be included as Cash for Work beneficiaries.

During the reporting period, all of the 19 Project Management Committees identified community projects that they would like to implement using the Cash for Work modality, and shared these with Mercy Corps. Subsequently, Mercy Corps' M&E Team compiled all of the suggested community projects into a database.

The process of reviewing and selecting suitable community projects that adhere to the criteria specified above, began and will continue in Q2 of FY2017. Furthermore, Mercy Corps will form at least six additional Project Management Committees in Damboa LGA.

Progress Narrative: Livelihoods Restoration: During the reporting period, Mercy Corps conducted focus groups discussions (FGDs) in 18 communities across Biu, Hawul, and Kwaya Kusar LGAs, as well as in the Sabon Gari in Damboa LGA. At the 19 FGDs, Mercy Corps received information in regard to which groups are particularly vulnerable in the respective communities, as well as what income generating activities were likely to be profitable, as well as safe, for our beneficiaries to participate in.

The FGD participants suggested that the cost of starting an income generating activity would range from 10,000 to 40,000 NGN, depending on the activity and the location. Many suggestions were to purchase goods, either for the purpose of taking them to market and sell as they were, or to process them in order to sell them at a profit - for example by purchasing maize and paying for the use of a grinding machine in order to be able to sell the resulting maize meal at a profit.

In regard to potential income generating activities, as those mentioned above, many stressed that this was their livelihood prior to the Boko Haram insurgency displaced them or destroyed their means of generating income.

Following the FGDs, Mercy Corps distributed application forms to our Community Relief Committees and informed the members of our operating communities that they needed to fill in said forms in order to apply for the livelihood cash transfers.

¹⁰ Prior to July 2016, Microfinance was sub-sector 1.2.

¹¹ This is a combination of SOAR (800 individuals) and SUBERA (800 individuals).

Mercy Corps has received 2,814 application forms from the 19 communities and is currently selecting 1,900 to receive a livelihoods cash transfer worth approximately 120 USD. In selecting the beneficiaries, Mercy Corps prioritizes women and child-headed households, IDPs, and people with no means of income. Furthermore, Mercy Corps also prioritizes that the individual beneficiary's proposed income generating activity is feasible, safe, and preferably something with which the beneficiary has experience doing.

An additional 600 beneficiaries will be selected from communities in Damboa LGA in Q2 of FY2017, making the total number of beneficiaries 2,500.

Progress Narrative: Microfinance (VSLAs): From the FGDs discussed above, Mercy Corps was also able to get a clearer picture of the current access to credit for our beneficiaries. While there are indeed some options, they were rarely available and most were not viable. For example, several major traders are willing to provide loans, but they charge very high interest rates, with one focus group telling us that the rate could range from 40% to 100% interest. Furthermore, while some farmers were willing to provide small interest free loans, this scheme involved the lender paying the farmer back in labor – making it effectively more of a salary advance than a loan. This highlighted that the VSLAs will fill in a significant gap in regard to access to financial services in our operating areas.

During the reporting period, Mercy Corps' livelihoods team sensitized the 19 communities on the process of establishing the VSLAs and on our intention to recruit a VSLA village agent for each of the communities. In order to find good candidates, Mercy Corps sat down with and explained to the Community Relief Committees of the 19 committees what the role the VSLA village agent is and what criteria the person must fulfill – such as that the person must be able to speak, read, and write English as Mercy Corps will rely on the village agent to report to our livelihoods team. Mercy Corps then asked each Community Relief Committee to recommend three suitable candidates. Mercy Corps will interview the proposed candidates, and select one agent per community, in early Q2 of FY2017.

SECTOR 2: LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND RELIEF COMMODITIES¹²

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	13,892	11,119	78,715	60,819
INDICATORS		TARGET		PROGRESS	TOTAL PROGRESS
Sub-sector 2.1 Non-Food Items					
Total number and per item USD ¹³ cost of NFIs distributed, by type. ¹⁴		5,620 (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)

¹² Prior to July 2016, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities was Sector 3.

¹³ Prior to July 2016, the *per item USD cost* was a separate indicator

¹⁴ Prior to July 2016, this indicator was "Total number of NFIs distributed by type".

Total number and per item USD value of cash/vouchers distributed for NFIs, by type.	4,000 ¹⁵ e-vouchers (2,000 e-vouchers at 120 USD / 2,000 e-vouchers at 112 USD)	1,983 NFI paper vouchers at 92 USD ¹⁶	3,975 vouchers (1,992 e-vouchers at 142 USD / 1,983 paper vouchers at 92 USD)
Total number of people receiving NFIs, by sex and type.	67,340 9,620 HH (9,000 consumable kits / 620 new arrival kits)	1,983 HH (13,892 beneficiaries, 7,404M / 6,488F, 11,119IDPs)	9,603 HH (78,715 beneficiaries, 38,196M / 40,519F)
Total number of LLINs distributed. ¹⁷	8,000	-	7,968

Progress Narrative - Non-Food Items: During the reporting period, Mercy Corps finalized beneficiary registration in Sabon Gari (Damboa LGA) and selected 2,002 beneficiary HH to receive NFI-vouchers worth 40,000 NGN (approximately 92 USD¹⁸). In particular, female and child-headed households, households with elderly and/or chronically ill persons, and households with no or very few NFIs were given priority during the beneficiary selection.

Due to the lack of a functioning market in Sabon Gari, Mercy Corps transported 20 NFI vendors from Biu to Sabon Gari, where they participated in a three-day fair at which SUBERA beneficiaries were able to redeem their vouchers for NFI goods - e.g. blankets, tarpaulins, cooking sets, soap, laundry detergent, and jerry cans for water storage.

Prior to the fair, Mercy Corps entered into negotiations with the vendors in order to ensure that the goods were to be sold at a fair price and be of good quality. Also, Mercy Corps engaged in discussions with the military officers in charge of security in Sabon Gari, as the reason behind the lack of a functioning market there is, at least in part, due to the military not allowing large crowds.

As the military would not allow an actual fair/market to take place, Mercy Corps had to ensure that the vendors were spread out across all of Sabon Gari, avoiding the formation of crowds at any time. The military did not have any objections to this set up and the fair proceeded as planned from December 13 to 15, 2016.

A total of 1,983 beneficiary HH collected their voucher within the reporting period. Mercy Corps has subsequently reached out to the 19 absentee beneficiaries in order to arrange for them to receive their NFI voucher.

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

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ Using the exchange rate of 1 USD = 431.30 NGN

¹⁷ This indicator was dropped as of July 2016. It remains in the table to show results of finished activities.

¹⁸ Using the exchange rate of 1 USD = 431.30 NGN

Sub-Sector 3.1 Water Supply Infrastructure			
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:			
<i># of water points that are clean and protected from contamination.</i>		-	-

Progress Narrative:

Water Supply and Sanitation Infrastructure: During the reporting period, Mercy Corps' WASH Team conducted quick initial assessments in order to determine locations for water point rehabilitation. From this, the WASH Team has decided to rehabilitate 12 water points (four in Buratai, four in Sabon Gari, and four in Damboa town). These initial assessments will be followed up by a more thorough needs assessment in order to ensure that we select water points according to the following criteria: the water points distance from the population it is to serve, the total number of people the water point served before breaking down, and the total number of people the water point will be able to serve after rehabilitation.

The needs assessment described above will take place in all of the targeted LGAs in southern Borno. Mercy Corps will also use the needs assessment to determine the location and type of latrines to be constructed.

Before we commence the rehabilitation of water points and construction of latrines, Mercy Corps will conduct a Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) survey in the locations chosen for intervention. Together with the needs assessment, this will serve as a baseline for the WASH intervention under SUBERA.

WASH is a priority to many communities, which is witnessed by the fact that several of the Project Management Committees, described under Cash for Work, have submitted requests for WASH community projects, in particular rehabilitation of water points.

Hygiene Promotion: During the reporting period, the Mercy Corps-trained sanitation committees (SATCOMs), conducted soap distributions and hygiene promotion activities in southern Borno State. These SATCOMs have been trained in hygiene and sanitation promotion as part of another Mercy Corps-implemented humanitarian program in Biu, Hawul, and Kwaya Kusar, funded by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). The SATCOMs will continue under SUBERA as Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Committees (WASHCOMs) in their communities. As SUBERA will be a larger scale than the ECHO-funded program, new WASHCOMs will be formed, taking into consideration Mercy Corps' lessons learned from establishing, mentoring, and conducting hygiene promotion activities alongside the SATCOMs.

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		2,050	-	12 (12F)	

services, disaggregated by sex			
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	24	-	286	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	24	286
Number of trainings conducted	2 trainings	1	11 trainings
Percentage of people trained who retain skills and knowledge after two months	80% of 120 people	-	-

Progress Narrative: During the reporting period, SUBERA facilitated a three-day project management training for local NGOs in Maiduguri, Borno State.

Project Management Training: The Project Management Training for local NGOs took place from November 15 – 17, 2016 in Maiduguri. A total of 24 representatives, from 24 local NGOs, participated in the training.

The training was designed to cover the gaps identified by the local actors mapping conducted by the INGO Forum and disseminated widely during the previous reporting period. As such, all of the participating NGOs had been mapped during the local actors mapping, and the training was created to specifically address their shortfalls in capacity. The specific objectives of the training were: to provide the participants with the capacity to seek and attract funding for program ideas, teach the participants the basics of program design, and teach the participants how to draft programmatic updates and reports for donors and partner-organizations.

Following the training, the participants provided very positive feedback to Mercy Corps, stating that they felt the skills acquired during the training were helping them position themselves as viable local partners for INGOs in North East Nigeria. According to one participant, Grace D. Balami (State Coordinator for Development Initiative for African Women (DIFAW)), “[My abilities have improved around] program design, proposal writing and [creating] communication plans, and I can now help my NGO in these areas.”

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: During the reporting period, as stated above, Mercy Corps responded to the needs identified in the local actors mapping report by facilitating a Project Management Training for local NGOs.

Furthermore, in preparation for Mercy Corps becoming the host of the INGO Forum, Mercy Corps consulted the other members of the INGO Forum as to what kind of coordination activities and products they would like to see instituted. The feedback from the INGO Forum members was incorporated into the proposal Mercy Corps submitted to OFDA on November 23, 2016.

SECTOR 7: AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY¹⁹

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			
LIVESTOCK	TARGET	PROGRESS	TOTAL PROGRESS
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.

¹⁹ Prior to July 2016, Agriculture and Food Security was Sector 2.

IV. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Markets Assessment: During the reporting period, the M&E Team, with assistance from a Mercy Corps Cash Programming Advisor visiting from our headquarters in Portland, lead a markets assessment that included seven markets across southern Borno State. The M&E Team interviewed 263 market patrons and 32 vendors over a period of five days.

The assessment revealed that the markets in our operating areas are functioning, that the essential food and NFI commodities required by our beneficiaries are readily available, and that there are supply-chains in place to allow traders to replenish their stores quickly, should demand increase.

Importantly, 95% of the market patrons interviewed stated that they can safely access the market, and 99% reported that key food items are always available – with 92% reporting the same for key NFI goods. The assessment confirmed our decision to utilize a markets-based approach to deliver relief assistance to our beneficiaries in southern Borno.

A Note on Beneficiaries Reached and Targeted: It should be noted that SUBERA's predecessor, EACAP, achieved results greater than its initial targets. Consequently, even when SUBERA's targets are added to those of EACAP, the tables will show some targets as having already been reached, despite the fact that several activities and distributions are still ongoing. This is due to the fact that the actual HH sizes for EACAP beneficiaries (in Gombe state) turned out to be larger than the estimated HH size of seven people. For SUBERA (in Borno state), however, the estimated HH size of seven people is proving to be very accurate. For example, for NFI beneficiaries in Sabon Gari, the average HH size is 7.01.

V. Security

Security Bulletins for southern Borno: During the reporting period, Mercy Corps developed security bulletins for Damboa LGA and Biu, Hawul, and Kwaya Kusar LGAs, respectively. The bulletins include all of the important security and safety information needed by Mercy Corps staff, such as whom to call in case of an emergency, what procedures to follow, what communications equipment to carry, the exact locations where drivers must check-in with the Security and Safety Officer, etc. These bulletins are a visual aid for our staff and do not replace the security protocols, rather, they help to make them clearer. The bulletins are updated regularly, so as to ensure that the information is always up to date.

Road Security Assessment: Mercy Corps' Safety and Security Officer conducted security assessments of the roads between our humanitarian hub in Biu and Yola, the state capital of Adamawa State. The assessment resulted in the identification of additional evacuation routes, should a situation require Mercy Corps to evacuate staff from Biu.

VI. Challenges

NFI Distributions in Sabon Gari: In communities such as Sabon Gari, where there are large unmet needs, crowds gather near distribution points and people who are not beneficiaries show up in the hopes of being able to claim relief aid. As the members of the Nigerian Armed Forces stationed in Sabon Gari are very specific about no crowds being allowed to form, Mercy Corps had to conduct a very decentralized distribution of NFI vouchers. Consequently, our distribution points were spread out as much as possible. The same was the case with the vendors for the Mercy Corps arranged NFI-fair. As the military would not allow an actual fair/market to take place, Mercy Corps had to ensure that the vendors were spread out across all of Sabon Gari, avoiding crowds to form at any time. The NFI-fair and distributions proceeded without any issues, and without crowds gathering.

Project Management Committees: During the reporting period, Mercy Corps formed 19 Project Management Committees, who subsequently supplied Mercy Corps with proposed Cash for Work community projects. However, despite having sensitized the Project Management Committees on the possible scale of the community projects, several of them only suggested very large-scale building projects, such as establishing new

roads or constructing a school. Mercy Corps subsequently went back to the five Project Management Committees in question and explained the limitations once more. Following this, the Project Management Committees suggested projects in line with the defined criteria, namely that the projects must serve the community, not just select individuals, are designed to use unskilled labor, do not require technical expertise that is not readily available, and are short term in nature.

VII. Plans for next quarter

Sector	Main activities
Sector 1: Economic recovery and market systems	<i>Select beneficiaries for livelihood opportunities and disburse the livelihood cash transfer. Hire and train VSLA Village Agents and commence formation of VSLAs. Select Cash for Work community projects.</i>
Sector 2: Logistics, support and relief items	<i>Distribute NFI-Vouchers to the remaining absentee beneficiaries.</i>
Sector 3: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	<i>Conduct WASH needs assessment to determine exact locations for WASH infrastructure construction and rehabilitation. Conduct KAP survey at the locations selected following the needs assessment.</i>
Sector 5: Risk Management policy and practice	<i>Achieved already.</i>
Sector 6: Humanitarian Coordination and information management	<i>Achieved already.</i>