



## AENN DISTANCE LEARNING MONITORING SYSTEM AND ITS USE IN LEARNING AND ADAPTATION OF COVID-19 INTERVENTIONS; PRESENTED AT THE BEC-GRN WEBINAR

### USAID-AENN OVERVIEW

The USAID-funded Addressing Education in Northeast Nigeria (AENN) activity supports safe formal and nonformal education for over 200,000 children and youth in 150 communities in Borno and Yobe states. AENN provides teacher training and materials to support literacy, numeracy and social-emotional learning; mobilizes communities around nonformal education; and supports governments to strengthen the education system.

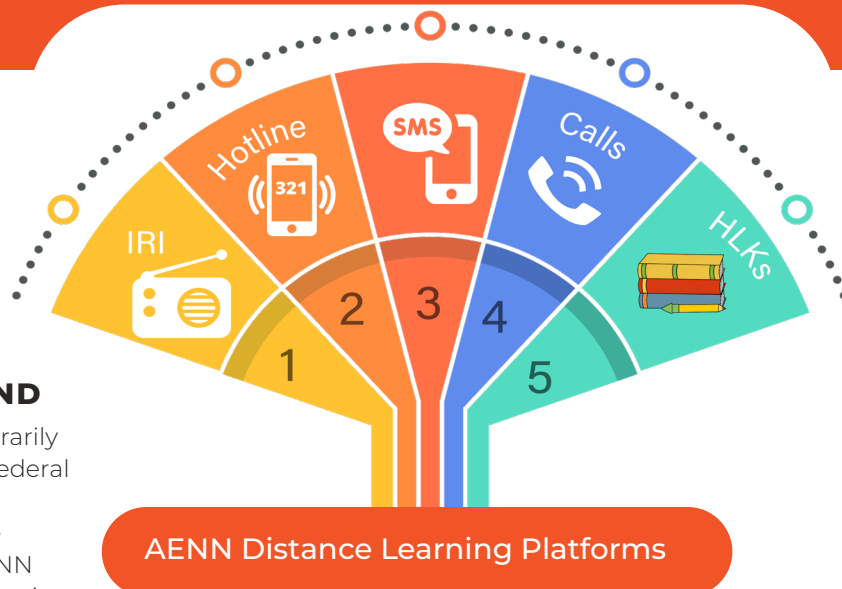
### AENN DISTANCE LEARNING: BACKGROUND

All AENN Nonformal Learning Centres (NFLCs) were temporarily closed on Tuesday, 24 March 2020 in compliance with the federal government's directive to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In response, AENN developed and implemented a distance learning program to keep children and youth engaged. AENN used multiple platforms for the distance learning program so it could reach as many beneficiaries as possible, regardless of access to technology or caregiver literacy level. AENN distance learning platforms included:

- weekly interactive radio lessons
- a hotline with guided audio activities
- SMS messages for parents
- phone calls from LFs to provide coaching and monitoring
- home learning kits (HLKs) for communities without access to radio signals.

### PROCESS AND RESULTS

To promote program participation and create avenues for feedback, the AENN Activity developed a comprehensive monitoring strategy to monitor and assess its distance learning activities. Resources include monitoring tools, scripts, guides, and questionnaires to monitor the uptake and effectiveness of the distance learning activities. The monitoring strategy is based on a phone tree to support parents and caregivers in overseeing distance learning. Learning Facilitators (LFs) and Community Based Management Committees CBMCs support caregivers and parents through regular phone calls. CBOs and Master Trainers support and monitor the Learning Facilitators through phone calls and tablet based monitoring. All monitoring information is uploaded to a dashboard for analysis by the project.



81K+

Estimated  
beneficiaries  
reached

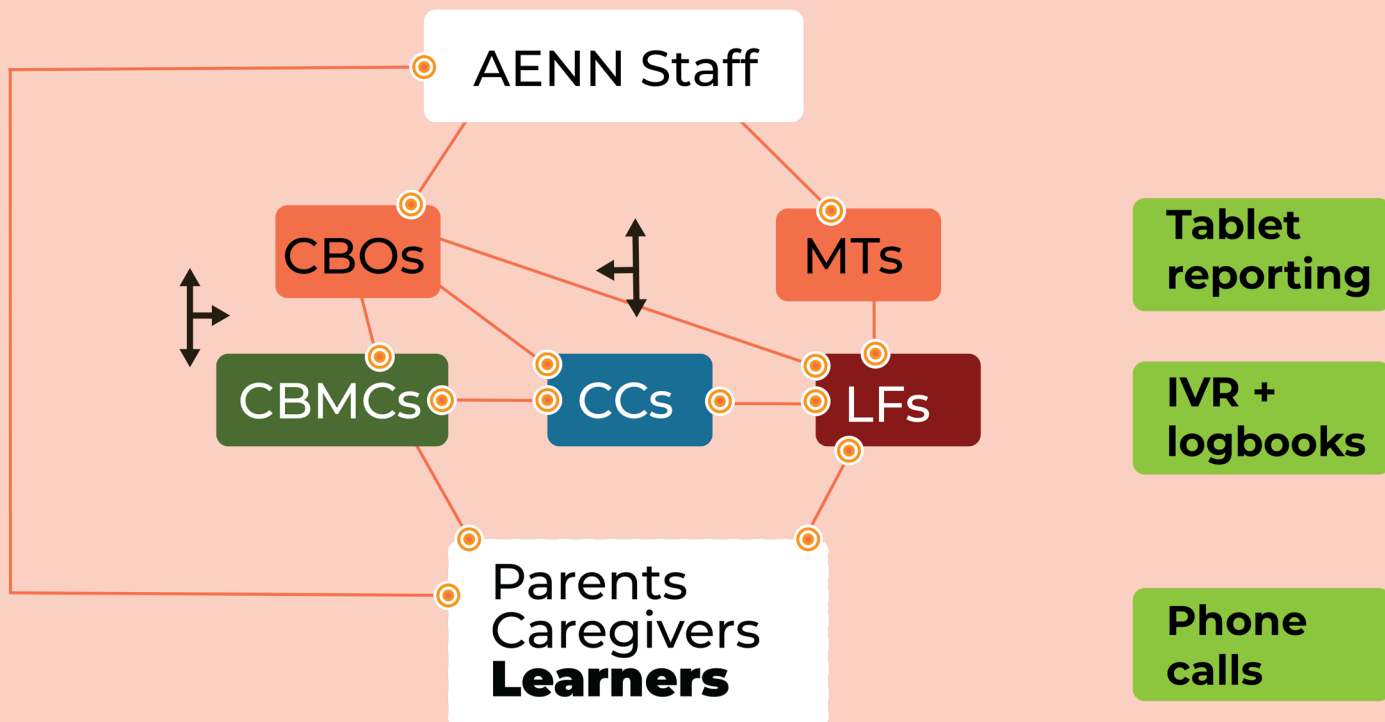


LGAs of Borno &  
Yobe reached with  
radio signals



3,210

Radio sets procured and  
distributed to learners  
with challenges



## AENN's Phone-Based Monitoring System during Covid-19

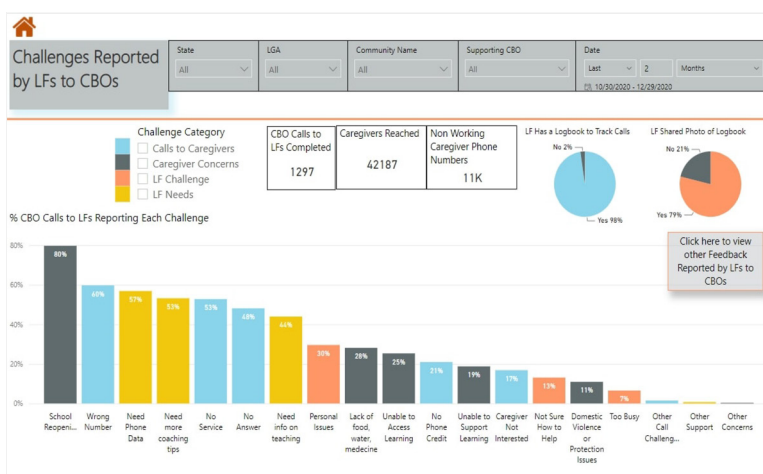
### QUALITATIVE DATA COLLECTION

AENN complemented quantitative data with qualitative data from a small sample of parents and caregivers. Open-ended questions revealed that parents required ongoing guidance to support distance learning. Findings and recommendations are below:

- Finding 1:** Caregivers believe materials like paper and pens are required for learning  
**Recommendation 1:** During support calls, LFs can provide alternative learning options, such as tracing letters in the sand.
- Finding 2:** Caregivers without literacy skills do not use AENN SMS content.  
**Recommendation 2:** LFs can provide verbal guidance to caregivers on how children can copy letters and numbers from SMS, or recommend getting help from literate family members.
- Finding 3:** Learners were listening to radio programming in groups, including siblings and others not enrolled in AENN programming.  
**Recommendation 3:** AENN staff should review radio scripts to emphasize safe group learning with COVID-19 risk mitigation.
- Finding 4:** Caregivers lack understanding of terms like "Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)" and "Psychosocial Support (PSS)" but not the concepts themselves.  
**Recommendation 4:** LFs should provide a contextualized explanation of SEL/PSS activities in the local language.

### PHONE ASSESSMENT

To track learning outcomes, AENN conducted learning assessments over the phone with a sample of learners. Although testing content was limited by the phone format, preliminary assessment results show that the majority of AENN learners performed well on listening comprehension, phonological awareness, number sense, and story problems. Additional evidence is forthcoming.



### Distance Learning Dashboard

### SUMMARY

In May 2020, AENN rapidly rolled out a robust distance learning and monitoring program to provide ongoing education opportunities to children and youth in Borno and Yobe states. Quantitative and qualitative research show marked success and important lessons learned.