



## CONTEXT

On September 8, 2023, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck central Morocco, killing 2,946 and injuring 5,674 people, with 59,674 houses damaged or destroyed. The IFRC responded by launching an Emergency Appeal and deploying two WASH ERUs, supported by multiple Red Cross societies. From 20 December it was decided to merge the MSM20 and M15 ERUs into one joint WASH ERU team led by Swedish Red Cross.

The inclusion of four delegates from Africa and MENA Regions in the WASH ERU team was critical to providing quality support to affected populations, fostering relevant exchange of experiences and strengthening the capacity of the ERU as well as Moroccan Red Crescent (MRC). Dedicated Movement collaboration to enable and support these regional deployments reinforced commitments to IFRC localization goals and increased diversity within the ERU while offering valuable lessons along the way.



## Success factors

1

### Relevant skills, resources and languages –

Regional delegates contributed strong technical expertise in WASH implementation and resources or tools rapidly adaptable to the local context and ERU objectives. Also, their proficiency in Arabic and French and cultural awareness was vital to the ERU team's ability to effectively engage MRC and local counterparts and more efficiently implement activities.

2

### Increased NS exchange and insight –

Regional delegates' familiarity with other NS perspectives and practices increased the ERUs understanding to support MRC with operational challenges and the ERU handover strategy. They brought first-hand experience of community engagement, volunteer management and capacity building efforts across the disaster management cycle - enriching the ERU's approaches towards increased impact and sustainability.



## Recommendations

1

### Early, repeated and coordinated action –

Checks for regional delegate availability and financing should be made from the decision to launch the ERU and periodically. PNS holding ERUs should follow up with IFRC Surge, technical and HR focal points in Geneva and Regional Offices (ROs) regarding how to promote and facilitate deployments.

2

### Attention to administrative support and logistics –

There should be special consideration for planning of contracts, visas, per diem, equipment and briefing details to ensure successful regional delegate deployments. Debriefing sessions should include RO thematic and HR focal points, NS deploying managers and colleagues. These have been identified as valuable feedback and information sharing opportunities.



## WHAT ARE WASH ERUS M15 AND MSM20:

**M15 ERU** provides water treatment and distribution for 15,000 people, up to 225,000 liters/day, and 200,000 liters/day storage. It includes basic sanitation for 5,000 people and water transport for dispersed populations.

**MSM20 ERU** provides sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion for up to 20,000 people, focusing on disease prevention. The team includes sanitation engineers, a hygiene promoter, and local contractors for construction.



The WASH ERU and MRC investigate the conditions of local infrastructure with a community member during an assessment in Al Haouz province.



Many residents join a participatory mapping session led by the WASH ERU and MRC on where to locate new latrines, showers and water points in the village of Tizrati in Taroudant province.

## ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

### ERU deployment coherence with Capacity Strengthening Plans

Increase the integration of ERUs in regional sector-specific capacity strengthening plans, through linkages to Surge development processes, deployment mechanisms and National Society Development initiatives. ERU-holding PNSs and IFRC can continue to improve preparedness for regional delegates to deploy in ERU teams and can together support increased awareness across the regions on what ERUs offer and how they function as a response tool.

### Contracting through IFRC Regional Offices

From an HR and duty-of-care perspective, it was deemed most suitable for IFRC ROs to manage contracts with regional delegates deploying to Morocco. Although there may be some need for flexibility in particular cases, common guiding principles can be elaborated to support contracting decisions for regional delegate ERU deployments and reduce confusion in the case of delegates who are actively enlisted in several rosters (ie. IFRC RRMS, ERU holding NS, own NS).



In an MRC office in Marrakech, a regional WASH ERU delegate demonstrates water quality testing as part of a practical WASH training for MRC volunteers. Strengthening the capacity of MRC to continue to implement WASH activities was a priority in the ERU handover and exit strategy.