



CONTEXT

The WASH Water Supply Rehabilitation (WSR) ERU is one of the latest/newly approved ERUs that have been added to the Catalogue of Surge Services available to National Societies responding to emergencies. The first WASH WSR ERU was deployed in 2022 to Malawi for a Cyclone response. The ERU has been deployed 5 times to-date in floods, cyclones and more recently to Cholera outbreak response operations in Zimbabwe. The ERU has been deployed to Operations in Malawi, Pakistan, Zimbabwe and Kenya, the learnings from these deployments continue to influence and guides how the module is evolving.



Success factors

1

Dynamic & Adaptable – allows adaptation of team composition, based on operation as well as the capacity of the receiving NS. The range of numbers of delegates can vary from 1 to 5.

2

As Local as Possible, as Global as Necessary – Building on NS expertise, combining this with the WSR capacities to reach humanitarian outcomes, deployments include trainings with the ONS and NSs from the region to strengthen regional surge capacities and expanding the WASH expert pool for future responses.

3

Innovative – the module is exploring broad options for delivery of water including **Cash-4-Water** tested with positive results in cholera response operations in urban contexts. Although the WSR is deployed in emergencies it focuses on providing durable and sustainable & environmentally friendly water solutions.



Recommendations

1

Deploy with other modules – in some contexts especially Cholera/AWD outbreaks, opportunities exist to have greater impact if the WSR deploys alongside the CCMC and HWTS or by integrating different profiles into the WSR.

2

Important to know requesting NS Capacity – this will ensure the correct Team Composition, as well as which profiles would be identified in the NS to be embedded to work with the ERU team.

3

Assessments key to Success – good assessments prior to the deployment ensures the correct team composition, activities, budget, and effective delivery of services.

“The WSR ERU is always evolving with a focus on identifying how to better serve people affected by crises”



Water Supply Rehabilitation ERU

Supports NSs to assess & deliver water through rehabilitation and if necessary, establishment of new water supply infrastructure. The WSR consists of a small team of specialized delegates with limited equipment and rapidly assessing the state of existing infrastructure and implementing solutions.

- 1–5-person team (Team Leader, Water Supply Engineer, Hygiene Promoter, Logistics, Admin, etc.)
- More information on [GO](#)



Norwegian Red Cross Delegate discussing, together with Kenya Red Cross WSR ERU team, the causes of the malfunctions of a handpump in Tana River, Kenya.

Additional considerations

Flexible financing – earmarked pledges to operations at the same time with the ERU Team Members going in with Working Advances to ensure activities start-off while the financing via the pledge is processed.

Financing – while pledges for activities are made to the Emergency Appeal, there is a need to ensure flow of funding between the IFRC and National Society, in some deployments implementation of activities has been delayed by funds transfers between NS and IFRC. **Functional Markets** – the WSR is one of the few ERUs that is not equipment heavy and uses local markets for procurement of water rehabilitation equipment. There is however a need to ensure that the markets are functional and can provide quality components required for the delivery of services.

Complementarity with the Public Health CCMC ERU – in outbreaks such as cholera, where the CCMC is deployed to reduce mortality and morbidity due to cholera through early response at community level, the WSR can support with access to clean water (to the ORPs/affected communities)



Due to the specificity of system, standardization of ERU equipment is very difficult, thus the WSR ERU is a very lightly equipped ERU and rely on local markets for supply.
Local Water Committees, repairing a broken pipe of a Water System in Tana River, Kenya.



Rehabilitated Borehole in Zimbabwe.