



CONTEXT

Between July and October 2024, Nigeria experienced widespread flooding that severely impacted water systems. Stagnant floodwaters contaminated wells, boreholes, rivers, and groundwater with sewage and surface runoff, reducing access to safe drinking water. Public health risks escalated, with sharp increases in waterborne diseases such as cholera, acute diarrhea, and typhoid. In Borno State alone, 7,485 cholera cases and 319 deaths were reported by mid-October.

At the Nigerian Red Cross' request, the IFRC deployed an Advance WASH ERU Team Leader to assess needs and recommend appropriate support. Assessments revealed serious disruptions to clean water access and highlighted the need for borehole rehabilitation. As a result, a WASH ERU: Water Supply Rehabilitation was deployed. This Case Study focuses specifically on the sustainability aspects of the WSR approach.



Success factors

1

Sustainable Solutions – all materials used in the rehabilitation of water points were locally sourced, ensuring the community will be able to maintain and replace parts overtime. This approach ensures continued functionality beyond the ERU's departure.

2

Working with the Community – the community and volunteers actively participated in the rehabilitation, strengthening ownership. The ERU team trained 25 village committees in their management and maintenance.

3

Building back Better – the approach went beyond simply repairing damaged water-pump components. The team also elevated 50 boreholes aprons above ground level to safeguard them against future flooding ensuring long term access to clean water for the communities even in times of flooding.



Key Achievements

1

Water pumps repaired – 202 hand pumps in 31 communities were repaired during the deployment.

2

Community members Trained – 50.029 community members participated in Hygiene Promotion activities. Additionally, 25 water committees were established or re-trained to ensure better sustainability of the newly rehabilitated handpumps.

3

WSR knowledge transfer - Capacity building is a key element of the WSR deployment, enabling Nigerian Red Cross staff and volunteers to continue WASH activities in Bauchi State under the IFRC Emergency Appeal after the WSR team's departure.

“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.

- 2–3-person team (Team Leader, Water Supply Engineer, Logistics/Admin/Finance)
- More information on GO



Nigerian Red Cross staff member carries out a training for the water committees in Bauchi State, Nigeria. After the training they are able to repair commonly occurring issues with the Afridev Handpumps that are fitted into their boreholes.

Additional considerations

WSR Deployment - The WSR has been successfully deployed multiple times in recent years. As a light ERU, it can rapidly respond when requested in the early stages of an emergency, providing timely and flexible support to meet urgent needs.

Financing - While earmarked pledges for activities are made to the Emergency Appeal, ensuring a smooth flow of funds between IFRC and the National Society remains critical. In some deployments, delays in transferring funds have slowed the implementation of activities. Strengthening financial processes and flexibility is essential.

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 cholera affected communities.

Foundation for Long-Term Programming - In Nigeria, the WSR deployment empowered the Nigerian Red Cross to sustain WASH activities under the Emergency Appeal after the WSR team's departure. This continuity not only addressed immediate needs during the floods but also positioned the National Society to engage donors and transition into long-term programming.



Due to the specificity of system, standardization of ERU equipment is not possible, thus the WSR ERU is a very lightly equipped ERU and rely on local markets for supply of goods and services. NS WASH Eng. is checking the state of a newly constructed elevated apron in Bauchi State, Nigeria.



The elevated apron in the borehole will ensure a minimum access to safe water during next floods in the locations where the WSR ERU was present in Bauchi State, Nigeria.