

RED O!!!

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NIGERIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY



Celebrating 162 years of service to Humanity



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Welcome

MAY 2025

The month of May 2025 was bustl ng w th events; however, much of the focus was on plann ng for World Red Cross Day, celebrated globally on May 8 to honor the pr nc ples of the Internat onal Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Th s s gn f cant day also marks the b rthday of the founder of the Internat onal Red Cross Movement, Jean Henr Dunant, a Sw ss bus nessman, ph lanthrop st, and the f rst rec p ent of the Nobel Pr ze. Th s year, the Red Cross proudly turns 162 years old, and we are celebrat ng across N ger a w th great enthus asm.

Earl er n the month, we successfully launched the T ffany C rcle West Afr ca n Abu a, N ger a. Th s n t at ve a ms to address the 'feast or fam ne' cycles that often challenge us n the human tar an sector.

Add t onally, we have exc t ng updates from our partners, nclud ng the Internat onal Comm ttee of the Red Cross, Norweg an Red Cross, and the Br t sh Red Cross. The French Red Cross may also be on ng our collaborat on sooner than ant c pated.







Celebrating World Red Cross Pay 2025

World Red Cross Day is observed globally on May 8th, marking the birthday of Sir Henry Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross movement. At the NRCS Headquarters, we commemorated this significant day with a road walk for humanity. We were joined by colleagues from the IFRC, ICRC, and partner National Societies, including the British Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, and French Red Cross.





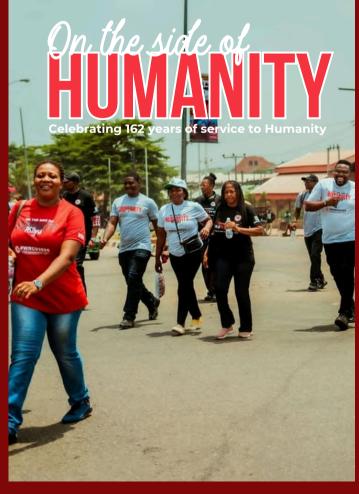








The theme for this year is "On The Side Of Humanity" This theme invites us to reflect on our shared human experiences and to take steps toward creating a more inclusive and understanding world.









WORLD RED CROSS DAY: FCT BRANCH BLOOD DONATION & HEALTH PROMOTION

By Roseline Eke, Communication Officer FCT Branch

Volunteers are the cornerstone of our national society's achievements and celebrations. During WRCD 2025, we demonstrated acts of kindness by reaching out to communities with support, raising awareness, and serving with various skills. These activities significantly enhanced our visibility.























WRCD ADAMAWA: DIGNITY KITS DISTRIBUTED TO VULNERABLE PERSONS

By Aisha Joda, Communication Officer Adamawa Branch

The Adamawa Branch of the Nigerian Red Cross Society, in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), observed the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (WRCD) in the northern region of the state, particularly in Michika and Madagali. These areas have been profoundly impacted by armed conflict.

To mark the occasion and uphold the theme of the day – #OnTheSideOfHumanity, several activities were organized: A live radio show to sensitize the community on the RCRC movement, A road show, Sensitization sessions were held on hygiene promotion and Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), dignity kits were distributed to vulnerable groups, including young teenage girls, pregnant women, and mothers of young children.







Tiffany Circle West Africa: Bridging the Humanitarian Funding Gap



By Gbubemi Uba, GM Fundraising, Social Enterprise

In the face of increasing humanitarian challenges across West Africa—from climate disasters to displacement and food insecurity—consistent, reliable funding remains the greatest obstacle to saving lives. The recent launch of the 'Tiffany Circle- West Africa' in Abuja, Nigeria, represents a potential breakthrough in addressing this critical funding gap, creating a sustainable pipeline of resources that can reach communities when they need it most.

Founded by a renowned international fundraiser, Absa Kane- with support from the Red Cross Foundation and Swiss Red Cross, this womenled philanthropic network creates sustainable funding pipelines for communities facing crises in Nigeria, Senegal, Togo, and Ghana. "Until now, Africa had no representation in this global network," notes Kane, highlighting how the initiative transforms the unpredictable nature of humanitarian aid into consistent, locally-driven support.















Tiffany Circle West Africa: Bridging the Humanitarian Funding Gap



Unlike traditional humanitarian funding that often follows media cycles, the Tiffany Circle model maintains resources when other donors move on and international attention wanes. "In humanitarian work, we see countless examples where initial relief efforts are well-funded, but communities are then left without support for recovery," explains Bhupinder Tomar, Head of Delegation for the IFRC. This approach addresses the dangerous gap between emergency response and long-term rebuilding, ensuring communities aren't abandoned during their journey from crisis to recovery.

The initiative builds on women's established roles as first responders, transforming their natural leadership into structured, ongoing humanitarian action.

Victoria Kolawole, Chairman of Lagos State Branch of the Nigerian Red Cross Society, emphasizes this connection: "Women must be leaders wherever they are. We are resilient, and we are honest. With the right support, there's nothing we can't do." Through innovative funding mechanisms including digital platforms and micro-donations, the Tiffany Circle is making humanitarian giving accessible to ordinary citizens.

As climate-related disasters increase and displacement continues across West Africa, this network of committed women philanthropists offers more than just funding—it provides assurance that vulnerable communities will never be forgotten when the world looks away

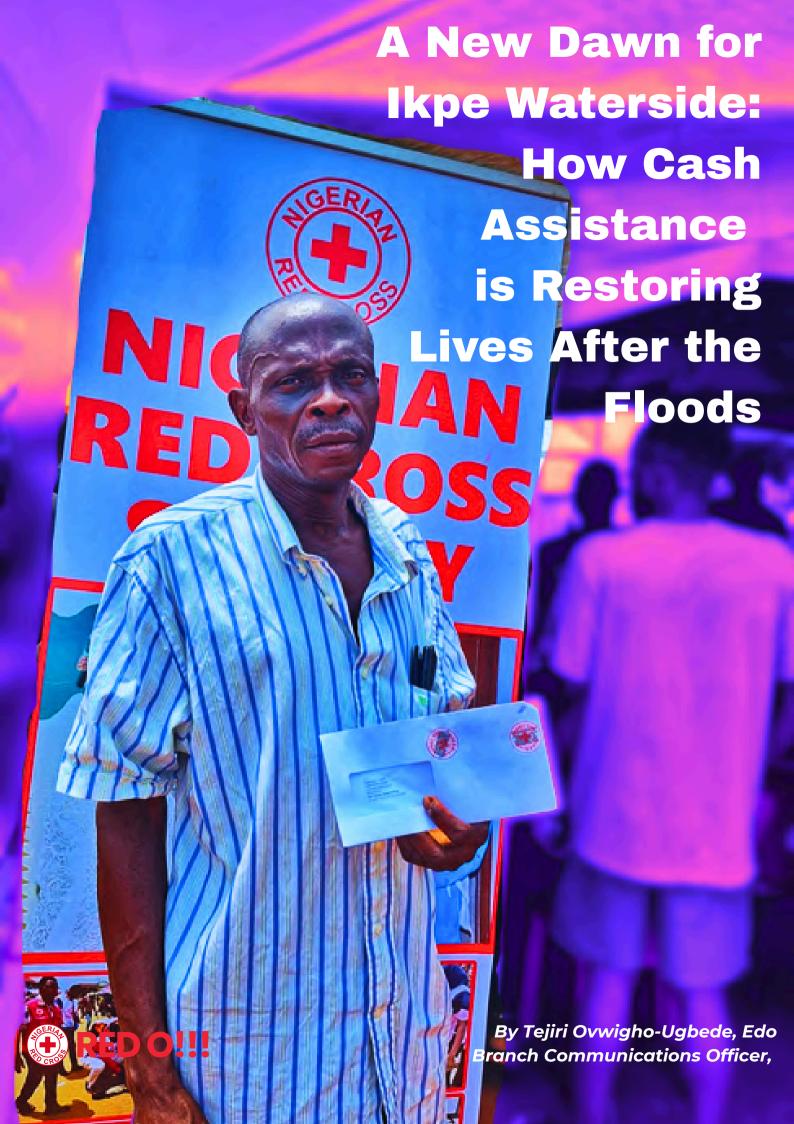












In the quiet but determined community of Ikpe Waterside, perched along the Benin-Abraka Road in Edo State, Nigeria, life has long become a delicate balance between resilience and despair. Every year, like clockwork, the floods come — sweeping through homes, swallowing hard-earned possessions, and leaving behind trails of wreckage that the people had no choice but to brave.

Harrison Sani, a respected former Vice Chairman of the community, knows the story only too well. Standing amidst the scattered remnants of battered homes, he speaks for many when he says, "Normally, the flood usually comes every year, and it always affects us. We lose a lot of things... We always need help, but it doesn't always come."

The floods do not discriminate. Year after year, they rip through families' lives with a cruelty that seems almost personal. The people of Ikpe Waterside have become used to patching up their losses with hope alone, stretching their meagre resources thinner with each passing season. Yet hope, though powerful, is not always enough.

This year, however, brought a different kind of tide — not of water, but of compassion. The Nigerian Red Cross Society arrived in Ikpe Waterside with Cash Voucher Assistance — a lifeline extended to a community long left to endure in silence.

For Harrison and his neighbours, the arrival of the Red Cross is more than just an intervention; it is an answer to unspoken prayers. "I thank the Red Cross, and I also thank the government for allowing them to come and help us," he said, his voice firm with emotion. "We pray that from now on, we will be receiving help, and they will continue to come to our aid."

The cash assistance offers not just a chance to repair homes and replace destroyed belongings, but also the dignity of choice. Throughout Ikpe Waterside, a new kind of movement has started. Hammers echoe against wood, conversations buzz with plans for rebuilding and for the first time in a long while, the future seemed a little less daunting.

"We hope to see you in our community soon," Harrison adds, his face breaking into a rare smile, "to see how much your support has contributed to our wellbeing. Una do well o, Red Cross — uwese!"

Usually, the flood comes every year, and it always affects us.
We lose a lot of things... We always need help, but it doesn't always come











REACHING THE VULNERABLE: 100 HOUSEHOLDS SUPPORTED By OLUWAFEMI GLADYS,

Communication Officer, OYO BRANCH

As part of our 162nd anniversary celebrations, "On the Side of Humanity," the Nigerian Red Cross Society, Oyo State Branch, proudly flagged off our "Operation Feed 20,000 Families" project. We've successfully reached 100 vulnerable households in Ajobo Community, Oranyan, providing them with essential food assistance, including rice, beans, garri, groundnut oil and palm oil. This initiative has brought relief to people living with disability, the elderly and women-headed households, thus enhancing their food security and well-being.



WRCD 2025: BORNO BRANCH SUPPORT PREGNANT WOMEN WITH HYGIENE KIT

BY YABINTU ALLI, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, BORNO BRANCH



In its efforts at hygiene promotion and disease prevention, the Nigerian Red Cross Society in Borno State with support from ICRC and the Norwegian Red Cross, supported pregnant and nursing mothers with Hygiene kits.

As part of the 2025 World Red Cross celebration, 100 beneficiaries from Yerwa Clinic of Maiduguri benefited from this gesture.







Promoting
Inclusion For All





Dignity
Access
Participation
Safety



RED O!!!











RESTORING DIGNITY: NIGERIAN RED CROSS REACHES WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES ACROSS NIGERIA

By KHENE ANANI, NRCS Senior Communications & Advocacy Officer

In communities across Nigeria, the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) is bringing light and dignity to women with disabilities. With support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), through its Capacity Building Fund for Protection, Gender, and Inclusion, NRCS recently distributed dignity kits to 110 vulnerable women with Disabilities across six states—Nasarawa, Niger, Plateau, Kogi, Benue, and Kaduna.

Each kit contained essentials like soap, reusable sanitary pads, disinfectants, body creams, and flip-flops—items many of us take for granted, but which brought real relief and joy to the women and girls who received them.

"We want them to know we see them, we hear them, and they belong in everything we do," said Mrs. Fatima Ibrahim-Nasir, Director of Protection, Gender & Inclusion, + Education at NRCS. This wasn't just a distribution—it was a statement of respect and inclusion.

All the recipients of the Dignity Kits expressed heartfelt thanks. To them, the gesture was more than aid—it was recognition of their dignity and worth.

Mrs. Lilian Adeogba from IFRC explained the deeper goal: true inclusivity. "We need to understand their needs, meet them where they are, and work together to find solutions," she said.

Let's all do our part. When we stand together, listen, and act with compassion, we help create a more inclusive world—one where no one is left behind.







fiypo fiypo







WRCD IN KANO: PROMOTING HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

By Ibrahim Gidado, Kano Branch Communications Officer

The Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) Kano Branch commemorated the 2025 World Red Cross Day with a series of impactful activities. A medical outreach provided free health screenings for 1,000 beneficiaries, covering malaria, hepatitis, diabetes, and more. The branch also conducted a live radio awareness program on Rahma Radio to highlight the significance of the day.

The celebration featured a vibrant roadshow promoting humanitarian work and first aid, as well as first aid competitions and quizzes for volunteers from all 44 LGAs of Kano State. The top performers received prizes, fostering healthy rivalry and teamwork among participants.

Additionally, the NRCS Kano Branch donated hygiene promotion items to the Nigerian Correctional Service, Kano Command, and handed over Monkeypox IEC materials to the Ministry of Healh. These activities demonstrated the branch's commitment to humanitarian service and community engagement.







Osun Branch embarks Blood Donation Drive on



Do you know that 150,000 people die each year because they cannot access blood transfusions in time?

In a bid to reduce these worrying statistics the Osun Branch of the Nigerian Red Cross organized a successful blood donation drive in partnership with Osun State University Teaching Hospital and UniOsun Sustainable Development Solutions (SDS) to commemorate World Red Cross Day. This initiative tagged Osun Donate aimed to collect blood donations and promote awareness about the importance of blood donation in saving lives.

BY SAMUEL IFEOLUWA. Communication Officer Osun Branch



The event brought together volunteers, students, and community members who donated blood to support patients in

The partnership with the hospital reflects the Red Cross's mission to alleviate human suffering, promote community well-being and also highlight the Red Cross's commitment to humanitarian work.

KWARA BRANCH GIVES THANKS





Members of the Nigerian Red Cross in Kwara Branch gathered for a heartfelt thanksgiving service to mark World Red Cross Day. The event served a dual purpose as it was a time to show gratitude following a recent motor accident that saw several volunteers injured. Special prayers were offered for their recovery and continued safety.













WRCD: ZAMFARA BRANCH DEDICATES A WEEK TO **WRCD ACTIVITIES**

By Bello Nura. Zamfara Branch Communications Officer

The branch celebrated World Red Cross Day with a series of activities from May 8th to 11th, 2025.

- Road shows in Gusau and other LGAs
- First Aid competition among schools
- Radio phone-in program at Vision FM
- Visit to an orphanage home for sanitation and donation

Football match between Red Cross and Nigerian Police Force teams The celebration aimed to promote the Red Cross's humanitarian work and values. So many people wanted to join after the awareness creation activities





ICRC, NRCS Participate At High Level IHL Dialogue 2025 in Abuja



MEMBERS OF THE NCIHLIN AND STAKEHOLDERS HOLDING UP IHL IEC MATERIALS AFTER THEIR OFFICIAL UNVEILING

By Khene Anani-Nnabugwu, Senior Communications & Advocacy Officer

The National Committee for the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law Treaties in Nigeria (NCIHLIN) hosted the "HIGH LEVEL IHL DIALOGUE 2025" in Abuja, attended by key representatives from the Nigerian Red Cross Society, including Secretary General Dr. Ahmed Kende. The event unveiled IEC materials on IHL implementation to raise awareness and featured a panel discussing the Rome Statute, 1949 Geneva Conventions, and Nigeria's obligations.

The NRCS Secretary General, Dr. Ahmed Kende led a session on the significance of the Nigerian Red Cross Emblem for protecting humanitarian reflects efforts. This dialogue Nigeria's commitment to international humanitarian law and respect for humanitarian principles.







WORLD RED CROSS DAY 2025: NRCS BENUE BRANCH CELEBRATIONS

BY MARY IKEH, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, BENUE BRANCH



In commemoration of the World Red Cross Day WRCD celebration, Nigerian Red Cross Society NRCS Benue State Branch carried out a series of activities in the various divisions. Basically, what we did this year are those things that mark out the Red Cross as different in most communities. Activities that touch the hearts and minds if the communities that we operate in. Activities that show that we care.



Distribution of Non Food items to more than 120 families at a camp for Internally Displaced Persons



Radio Show on the essence of humanity at ------Radio Station in Makurdi?



ROAD SHOW



Comprehensive sanitation and clean up within and outside the IDP Camp





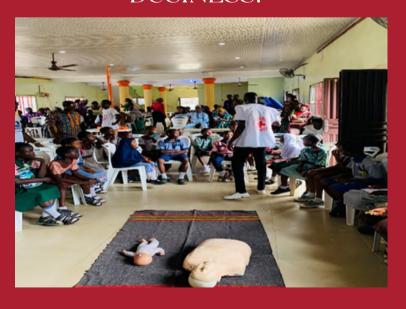








Remember: FIRST AID IS EVERYONE's BUSINESS!





OYO, NIGERIA

By OLUWAFEMI GLADYS, Communication Officer, OYO BRANCH

The Karim Adeyemi Foundation Safe School Initiative, in partnership with the Oyo State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) and the Nigerian Red Cross Society Oyo State Branch, has taken a significant step towards promoting safety in schools. The foundation donated 50 fully equipped first aid boxes to public schools in 6 local government areas in the stateThe initiative, themed "KARIM ADEYEMI FOUNDATION SAFE SCHOOL INITIATIVE: First Aid for All," was flagged off at LDC Primary School, Gbagi, Ibadan.

A total of 50 schools from Egbeda, Akinyele, Lagelu, Ido, Oluyole, and Ona Ara local government areas will benefit from this initiative. The Nigerian Red Cross Society Oyo State Branch played a crucial role in training students on how to use the first aid boxes effectively. Led by First Aid Trainer Tunde Adegboro, the team taught students essential first aid skills, including CPR and emergency response techniques.

This initiative aims to equip students with lifesaving skills and promote a safer learning environment in public schools across Oyo State, Nigeria.







"162 NO BE BEANS" - 2024 WORLD RED CROSS DAY CELEBRATION.

By Amoma Mofe, NRCS Senior CEA Officer

It all began with a rhythm of "Sweet Melody" echoing through the air, and yes, you better do the dance Chella, my darling!

With fanfare and joy bubbling over, volunteers lit up the grounds of our National Headquarters in Abuja. The energy? Electric. The smiles? So wide, you'd think we each sprouted an extra 130 teeth overnight!

Drums pounded, voices soared, and laughter mingled with dance as our ever-energetic Red Cross youths brought life to the celebration. Vibes nah water! Because this wasn't just any day, it was our day. The one day we pause to truly celebrate what we stand for, World Red Cross Day. Our collective birthday. 162 years of standing #OnTheSideOfHumanity.

The "sweet melody" wasn't just a song, it became a movement. We took it to the streets of Utako, marching all the way to the famous Berger Bridge and back. The "Red Cross effect" rippled outwards as passersby couldn't help but join the dance. It was unity. It was joy. It was humanity in motion.

Back at the HQ, our National President, Prince Oluyemisi Adeaga, stood tall, his voice a beacon: "We are the ones pledged to the humanitarian cause. And we will keep that vow, by lifting others, by serving, by standing firm in our values."

Our international partners echoed the same call. From the IFRC Head of Cluster......., British Red Cross Head of of Country Karsten Voigt to Norwagien Red Cross..... Morris Mooson, paid heartfelt tributes to volunteers, the silent heroes who brave danger to reach the most vulnerable.

But, Achalug, just when you think you know how this story ends something else happened.

CAPI was born.

A project with heart. A project with urgency. The Child Accident Prevention Initiative designed to protect our children, our future, from the tragic consequences of road accidents.

As someone who was that child once, struck down by a vehicle on my way from school, unable to walk for three long months, I know what this means. I was lucky. Many aren't. Some never make it back. Some never walk again. CAPI is here to change that.

With ideas already in motion, to produce reflective jackets for school children, road safety education in schools, Community-based CAPI Marshals at high-risk zones.

Aligning this project with the 2024 World Red Cross Day wasn't just symbolic, it was purposeful. It reminded us all that our mission isn't a slogan. It's a lifeline, a sure sign of hope.

This year's theme, #OnTheSideOfHumanity, isn't a tagline, it's our daily reality.

And CAPI? It's the next chapter in that story. A chapter where every child gets home safe.



"LASSA FEVER, NO STAIN " – A SURVIVOR'S TALE

By Amoma Mofe, NRCS Senior CEA Officer

In the hustle and bustle of Delta Line Motor Park, Asaba, a radiant young woman named Ruth serves steaming food to eager customers under the shade of her mobile cart's umbrella. Her infectious laughter and the nickname "Stainless Baby", a name fondly given by her father draw smiles from many. But behind that smile is a story of resilience, survival, and second chances.

Just a few months ago, Ruth was fighting for her life after contracting Lassa Fever, a deadly disease spread by rats ,yes, rats! In February 2024, she returned from Lagos to her family home in Aghanike Farm Settlement, a rural hamlet straddling the border of Delta and Edo States. With her youngest child in tow, Ruth was hoping for peace, but what awaited was far from it.

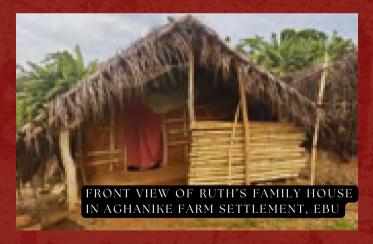
Her symptoms began subtly, weakness, fever, vomiting, and profuse coughing. Thinking it was malaria or typhoid, her family took her to a nearby pharmacy. But her condition worsened. She was rushed to St. James Hospital in Illah, then to Federal Medical Center, Asaba, and eventually referred to Irrua Specialist Hospital in Edo when Lassa fever was suspected. The diagnosis was confirmed.

For Ruth's mother, the journey was a nightmare. The family, simple farmers, drained their meager savings on medical bills. Church members, distant relatives, and friends rallied together with donations. Mama Success fasted, prayed, and held onto hope even as others in the hospital lost their battles with the disease.

Ruth spent over two months in isolation, undergoing treatment for both Lassa Fever and kidney complications. Her prayers were answered when her test came back negative, and she was finally discharged in May.











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RUTH SHOWING US ONE OF THE CONTAINERS SHE STORES HER FOODSTUFF





"LASSA FEVER, NO STAIN" – A SURVIVOR'S TALE

Now based in Asaba, Ruth works as a food vendor assistant, saving up to open her own business. She is hyper-conscious about hygiene, covering her food and warning others not to eat anything rats might have touched. "Lassa Fever is real," she says, recalling the horrors of the hospital and the many lives lost. "It's deadly. Be careful."

Her mother, who is now a vocal advocate for food safety, She recalls a time she would cut out a ratbitten part of food and eat the rest. "Never again," she insists advising others to "throw it all away. Don't risk it."

The Delta State Disease Surveillance team, along with the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS), were crucial in Ruth's survival. NRCS Health Officer Joseph Odua, DSNO Etim Ifeanyi, and NRCS CEA Focal Point Ada Monyei worked tirelessly, tracing contacts and educating communities like Aghanike on how to prevent the disease. Thankfully, none of Ruth's contacts contracted the illness.

Ruth may not yet have achieved her dream of becoming a lawyer, but her courage and willingness to share her story are helping to protect countless others. True to her nickname, "Stainless Baby" emerged untouched by death's grip becoming a shining beacon of hope in the fight against Lassa Fever.

And through her smile, strength, and story, she reminds us that even in the darkest moments, there is light and life on the other side.





AVOID NRCS LOGO MISUSE



The NRCS logo symbolizes our commitment to humanity. Please ensure it is not altered or used for unauthorized purposes, such as personal, political, or commercial activities.

The official NRCS logo—featuring the red cross and circular inscription—is the only approved version for use.

Let's work together to uphold our values and mission!

WRONG LOGOS

















Contact the NRCS Communications

Department for the NRCS Official Logo:

commsdept@redcrossnigeria.org

In loving memory...

PAUL AHOLIAB SOLOMON

MAY 28, 1972 - MAY 24, 2025

Announcer: Faith Ohikhuare (BCO Taraba)

OBSEQUIES

It is with deep pain and sadness in our hearts that we announce the untimely death of our active volunteer, Paul Aholiab Solomon, who was tragically killed during the crisis that rocked Munga Lelau in Karim Lamido LGA, Taraba State. Until his death, he served as the School Unit Coordinator for the Division and was actively providing incident reports on the ongoing unrest.

This is also a deeply trying time for the Branch Secretary, Mr. Manja Martin, and his family, who suffered the loss of in-laws during the same attack. As a Branch, we stand in solidarity with them, offering our heartfelt prayers for comfort, strength, and divine consolation to the Karim Lamido Division and the entire Branch.

We also take this painful moment to reaffirm that humanitarian workers are not a target. The principles of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) must be respected—protecting all who serve selflessly in times of crisis. Attacks on volunteers violate not only our shared humanity but the core tenets of global humanitarian norms. May his soul rest in peace.





OBSEQUIES: AHMED SHEHU DAKE, BRANCH SECRETARY-SOKOTO



Late Branch Secretary, Sokoto- Mal. Ahmed Shehu Dake It is with profound sadness that the Nigerian Red Cross Society announces the passing of its esteemed Branch Secretary, Sokoto Branch-Mal. Ahmed Shehu Dake, who departed this world in the early hours of April 7, 2025-following a protracted illness while receiving treatment at the Specialist Hospital Sokoto, Nigeria

Mal. Dake exemplified the true spirit of humanitarianism throughout his distinguished career. A seasoned administrator and philanthropist, he dedicated his life to serving others with unwavering commitment, humility, and compassion. His selfless contributions to the Sokoto Branch of the Nigerian Red Cross Society, the Sokoto State civil service, and numerous communities across Nigeria have left an indelible mark that will continue to inspire generations of humanitarian workers. He is survived by his wife, children, and many grandchildren.

OBSEQUIES: CAPTAIN MUSA MUHAMMAD (RTD)



The Nigerian Red Cross Society also mourns the passing of its Deputy Head of Security, Captain Musa, a ex officer of the Nigerian army and remarkable humanitarian whose quiet strength and unwavering dedication embodied the very heart of our movement. Though he preferred to work behind the scenes, letting his actions speak louder than words, his impact resonated far beyond what his humble nature would ever allow him to claim.

As we bid farewell to this exceptional man, we celebrate not just a dedicated volunteer, but a teacher whose lessons were lived rather than spoken.

May his soul rest in perfect peace, and may his memory forever guide us in our commitment to serving humanity with the same grace, integrity, and unwavering faith that defined his remarkable life.











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