



## **SAVING LIVES, SAVING SOULS**

441 E Roosevelt

Ste 100

Zeeland, MI 49464



# **WATER WINS**

## **SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER**





# WATER

## Dear Faithful Water Wins Supporters,

A few weeks ago, I had the honor of meeting with our Waterwins Team and people closely associated with us in Abuja and Jos, Nigeria.

We have not been able to visit our area in north-western Nigeria due to kidnapping/criminal activity in a few years. Most non-indigenous people have left the EKA, and even the indigenous people have fled to the cities south (Kontagora) and north of EKA (Rijau) for weeks at a time to escape 'bandits'. These 'bandits' are groups of criminals, heavily armed, on motorcycles, raiding the rural areas; they show up in groups of few hundreds at a time. They are mainly looking for money or the EKA equivalent being cattle, oxen, and camels; and since most of the animals are stolen by now, agriculture is completely manual.

**In spite of all the disruptions, Water Wins continues to support our team in the EKA, both financially and with our prayers and encouragement.** We have only drilled 6 wells to date in 2022, many of our students are too fearful to go to school, our evangelism supervisor was called back to Taraba State by the CRC-N – BUT we will continue to serve the indigenous people still living in the EKA.

While in Nigeria, I was overwhelmed by the **unity** of the Water Wins Team because we know we have a God who is our Protector and Provider! We take great comfort in the words of Joshua 1:9 *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."*

We hope the update from Amos, our project leader, can give you insight to the struggle yet Hope of our team. Please keep the Water Wins team and the people of the EKA in your prayers! **Thank you for your continued support, what a difference it is making for those in great need.**

Mario Veldhuijzen  
Water Wins North America

# WATER WINS

## A Visit From the New Chief of Warari



The new chief of Warari, *Wakili Bahago*, pictured in the middle, visited Water Wins at Kamfani on the 15th of June to bring greetings for the good relationship we have developed over the past years. He was emotional narrating the story of how they lost children many years ago due to waterborne diseases and how it was difficult to survive without water. He came all the way to say thank to Water Wins and all those involved in transforming the EKA with clean water and schools etc. He also prayed for God's blessings on Waterwins to continue to reach out to the needy in his district of Warari and beyond . Mathew Ali and Ibrahim Nasamu were handy to join Amos in welcoming the district head to Water Wins.

## Project Plans for 2022-2023 Fiscal Year



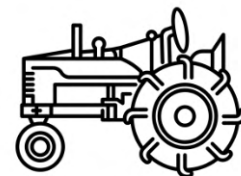
30 Wells  
Drilled



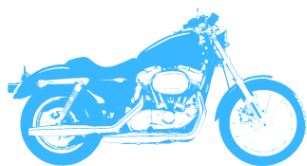
100 Handpumps  
Serviced



Expand  
Bible Clubs



Tractor Purchase  
for Farmers to rent



2 Motorcycles  
purchased



Increase Fertilizer and  
Animal Vaccine sales



# WINS W

## Update from WW Project Leader Amos Ukerchia

### **Can you describe the security situation and the experience of Bandits in Niger State?**

The bandits operate using motorcycles and guns. They move around in different communities stealing cows from farmers and kidnapping. They come out on 50 to 70 motorcycles carrying 3 persons on each. The Bandits have camps in a large forest in Kaduna state, from where they come out to operate. They are not targeting any particular group of people or religion as their mission is to steal cows and to kidnap people for ransom. They become violent when people resist them from taking their animals or being kidnapped.

Thankfully, the insecurity situation in EKA has significantly improved since the federal government deployed the Nigerian Army to different locations in EKA; for instance, there are Army bases at Warari, Bangi, and Makuku with 150 officers in each formation or base.

### **It's been a very challenging year for your family with the security situation in the EKA – can you share how you are doing and how your family is managing the stress from the violence/security risk in the EKA?**

Patience, my wife, was amazing in supporting me in the face of those difficult moments which made it simple in terms of managing the stress from the violence across EKA. We prayed and trusted in God. It was a difficult moment for us as a family to help our children at that time; we had to adjust to homeschool since Patience is a teacher. Another way that helps in the face of these challenges is living a simple life that will not draw people's attention to us because bandits have informants that communicate to them where to go.

Now the bandits' operations are normally known because we have developed a communication network in EKA in a way that people make phone calls to say they sighted the bandits on motorcycles in this location or that location. In that way, it helps us to know the direction the bandits are headed and how we can take cover if necessary. At the beginning of these attacks, it was difficult to predict them; it is easier now, so we know how to maneuver the situation.



Left to right: Pst Ezekiel Sudu, Pst Kingsley Barde, Amos, Pst Iliya Justus, Mario, Yunkur, John, Simon, Joseph, Mrs Enoch

# TER WIN

## Update Continued

**Your team leaders were scattered across Nigeria – how were you able to keep the Water Wins project moving forward? Stress, fear, etc. change perspectives - How have your priorities as a team shifted through these experiences, and how have they impacted your strategies for the new fiscal year beginning 7/1/2022?**

For 2 months there were no activities going on because we could not predict the situation; I had to go back to Kamfani to study the situation through community members that were still there in EKA. After a while, we decided to let the team leaders come back to EKA, and we gradually reopened all our activities.

There was stress and fear because some of our team members had to spend 3 days at the riverside just to avoid being kidnaped; that has not changed our perspective because we sat down with the team and encouraged them. Some wanted to quit but after the round table prayer and encouragement, we are all together doing what God has called us to do. We just need to be wise in making decision in the face of these challenges.

Our Annual 2021/2022 plans were so much affected; not being able to visit some of the communities we needed to, children dropping out of school, only 6 wells were completed against 40 as planned, the outbreak of diseases like measles that killed many children because our clinic was closed for two months, etc.

We have come back **STRONGER** with a great **RESOLVE** for our July 1, 2022 Annual plans to continue our impacts in the communities. Our focus this year will be on 1) *Community visits for all our interventions* 2) *Bible clubs* and 3) *Vocational skills development*.

### **What are a couple of things you would like to share with our North Americans?**

We want you to know how deeply we appreciate all your financial donations, your prayers, and how the children feel loved for being in school, drinking clean water, and many other things. Let's continue to pray for peace in EKA and security in Nigeria.

Fondly,

Amos

Water Wins Leader



Amos, Patience, and their kids

# INS WAT

## 2nd Annual CENTURY Bike Ride to support Water Wins

Water Wins and Partners Worldwide are hosting this event on **September 17, 2022 in St. Charles, IL** – there's still time to join the ride! Last year 20 bike riders trekked the 100 miles to support well drilling. If you're not up for the ride, please consider financially supporting the Century Team.

*Follow this link for more information:*

<https://support.partnersworldwide.org/campaign/water-wins-century-ride/c412287>



If you are reading this online, please visit our website at **[www.waterwins.com](http://www.waterwins.com)** to make a donation.

### CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO WATER WINS

Mail to:  
**Water Wins**  
**441 E Roosevelt**  
**Suite 100**  
**Zeeland, MI 49464**

Water Wins is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization as a program under Partners Worldwide and the InnoGroup Foundation.  
All financial donations are tax deductible.

**Thank you for your support!**

If you need more information on our project,  
**contact:**

Carolyn Vanwieren  
616-402-3277  
[carolyn@waterwins.com](mailto:carolyn@waterwins.com)

## STAY CONNECTED!



[www.waterwins.com](http://www.waterwins.com)



[www.facebook.com/waterwins](https://www.facebook.com/waterwins)