First Response Radio
Information Saves Lives

First Response Radio. 2016 Annual Report

First Response Radio is a network of radio broadcasters, NGOs and Government partners. Our members have been working in disaster areas since the Tsunami of 2004, providing critical information via radio, as aid. First Response Radio (Ltd) is a not-for-profit company delivering "Radio in a Suitcase" equipment and training to build rapid response capacity around the world.

Summary: In 2016, FRR responded to 2 disasters, led 4 training events, and put 1 new suitcase in the field.

FRR INDIA:

India is struck by natural disasters frequently. Having a First Response Radio team equipped and ready to respond after a disaster can mean the difference between life and death for members of the affected community. The FRR India team just received a new Suitcase Studio, and plans are in the works to have more training to increase local capacity.

FRR NEPAL:

Following the Nepal earthquake, Radio Rasuwa, a small radio station in the mountains, had their studio, antennae, and transmitter damaged and were not able to broadcast. FRR loaned them a "Radio in a Suitcase" to use while their equipment was being repaired, keeping them on the air at a vital time.

An FRR team returned to Nepal in April to deliver the repaired transmitter, reconnect with Nepalese contacts, and collect all the loaner "Radio in a Suitcase" equipment which will be stored back in Kathmandu. Radio Rasuwa has now been able to transition back to regular operation.

PAKISTAN EVENT:

After Nepal, Mike Adams went to Pakistan to meet with one of First Response Radio's founding members, Hazeen Latif. Together they teamed up to lead a one-day Taster Event, showcasing FRR to potential partners.

FRR was pleased to have the support of the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) and the National Disaster Management Authority Pakistan (NDMA). PEMRA provided full permission to bring suitcase radio equipment into the country. Syed Muhammad Ayub Shah, the Deputy Director for

ICT of NDMA, spoke at the event. He called FRR a very "beautiful concept", "meaningful" and "practical" for responding after a disaster. He also said that "where there is communication, there is life", and that the NDMA would "love to incorporate (FRR) to be a part of our community."

With such strong support from government organizations, we feel encouraged and confident that all the pieces are falling into place to build a FRR Pakistan disaster response team very soon.

INDIA TOT:

On October 13-15, an historic event occurred. For the first time in FRR history, a Training of Trainers was conducted long distance. The students were in India, and the facilitator was in Cambodia. The entire 3-day TOT was completed by using video chats and phone calls. This marks a revolution in training that will enable FRR leadership to build teams and do more from remote locations.

TYPHOON LAWIN:

On Tuesday, October 17th, First Response Radio Philippines did Early Warning messaging anticipating Typhoon Lawin passing through Northern Luzon, Philippines. This was the first time FRR served a role in Early Warning. They were working in coordination with the Humanitarian community and in cooperation with Philippines Government Office of NDDRMC, Broadcasting on the station DZMR in Santiago Isabela, they were able to share information from UNOCHA COP partners, and PIA to the community. FRR Philippines officially deployed their Alpha team to respond in the aftermath of Typhoon Lawin.

ACEH EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE:

On December 7th, 2016, a 6.5 earthquake struck the Indonesian island of Sumatra. 104 people died in the quake, with at least 1,000 people injured.

FRR Indonesia officially deployed a response team to support the Aceh station and help with relief efforts after the quake. FRR's local partner in Aceh had requested support and the FRR Indonesia Coordinator deployed from

Jakarta to support this local partner. The small team from Jakarta took a suitcase radio transmitter and Wind-Up radios to distribute to the community. FRR has been working to train and support an existing local radio station in the affected area to provide Critical information and Two-Way communications with the community.

RADIO IN DISASTER RESEARCH PAPERS:
Two research papers were written by Karin Hugelius, RN, RNA, MSc. Mrs. Hugelius conducted extensive research following Typoon Haiyan (Yolanda) in the Philippines 2013 regarding FRR and the role that radio plays in recovering from disasters. The first study, published in "Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness" analyzed the content of the FRR broadcasts.

"Disaster Radio for Communication of Vital Messages and Health-Related Information: Experiences From the Haiyan Typhoon, the Philippines"

Objective: Crisis communication is seen as an integrated and essential part of disaster management measures. After Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) in the Philippines 2013, radio was used to broadcast information to the affected community. The aim of this study was to describe how disaster radio was used to communicate vital messages and health-related information to the public in one affected region after Typhoon Haiyan.

The second study evaluated their impact on the affected community of Tacloban.

"To silence the deafening silence": Survivor's needs and experiences of the impact of disaster radio for their recovery after a natural disaster"

In the aftermath of the Haiyan typhoon, disaster radio was used to spread information and music to the affected population. The study described survivors' experiences of being in the immediate aftermath of a natural disaster and the impact disaster radio made on recovery from the perspective of the individuals affected.

To read her papers and findings, please follow the link below:

Disaster Response for Recovery: Survivor's experiences, and the use of disaster radio to promote health after natural disasters

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