



First Response Radio
Ready When Disaster Strikes

2018

**EQUIP
TRAIN
RESPOND
IMPACT**

IMPACT REPORT

In 2018 FRR upgraded 2 suitcase radio kits, launched a new team in Pakistan and responded to 5 disasters in the Philippines, India and Indonesia. FRR shared "best practice" results at a research launch in Geneva and began to measure impact of the 2017 flood response in Bihar, India.



#COMMUNICATIONISAID

EQUIP



In January the First Response Radio kit in Indonesia was checked over and repairs carried out on some of the suitcase studios and transmitters, ready for deployment later in the year.



TRAIN

Pakistan

New FRR team launched in Pakistan

FRR successfully launched a new FRR team in Pakistan in March 2018. Thanks to hosts HCR Pakistan, a new team of 15 people is equipped, trained and ready to respond should an emergency need arise. Representatives from Pakistan Red Crescent, Prime Minister's Office, Pakistan Relief, Pakistan Mission Society and FCTP completed the FRR training workshop and field trial.

We are grateful to these organisations for putting forward such quality candidates for the course and also to PEMRA, NDMA and Tearfund for providing excellent guest speakers.

Thanks also go to our great hosts, VoK FM105.4 who allowed the FRR team to use their radio station during the 72 hr field trial in Muzzafarabad. During the trial the team prepared and broadcast program content related to disaster recovery, preparedness and aired survivors' stories in a community that had been devastated by a major earthquake in 2005.





Shared Learning, Bali

FRR - Healing Hearts, Saving Lives

Teams from India, Indonesia, Pakistan, and the Philippines attended the first FRR Shared Learning Event held in Bali, Indonesia in November 2018.


Team members said they got value from meeting other team members and developing relationships. "When disaster happens, we will know we are not alone, and other teams will support us in prayer, encouragement, advice or help."

For the first time ever FRR teams raised an antenna on a 20M bamboo pole with just rope and manpower. Other key skills were practiced, as less experienced members learned advanced techniques from more experienced teams.

Teams used the 'opportunities and threats' exercise to create plans for 2019 and identified common strengths and challenges.

Teams shared stories about how they benefited from good, established partnerships with NGOs and government, as well as positive responses from the affected communities served by FRR.

Common Challenges included the need for more people to be trained, especially women, and the need for better data collection and research.



RESPOND

India

Kerala Floods

FRR India sent 2 team members to Kerala state on 13th Aug after the worst flooding in around 100 years had led the government to evacuate around 64000 people to IDP camps. While assessing the situation and interviewing affected community members, NGOs and local government, the team found themselves in the midst of further heavy rains and flooding - quickly changed tack and produced programs broadcast via a local AM station giving information about emergency relief.

The local AM station provided FRR India with 15 min slots on 4 consecutive days during which they also provided information and advice to people who were in IDP camps. For many this was their first ever experience of displacement. As people returned to their homes advice was given on dealing with snakes and dead animals as well as good hygienic practices. Alongside the very practical concerns, FRR Radio programs helped people dealing with grief and trauma.



Indonesia

Lombok Earthquakes

Following a series of 6.0 + earthquakes, FRR Indonesia deployed to the island of Lombok, Indonesia in September. First Response Indonesia (FRI) was on the air in North Lombok on 97.7FM using the Suitcase Studio, transmitter and antenna.



Palu Earthquake and Tsunami

Calls started pouring in when FRI went on air in partnership with Radio Nebula in Palu from 7th Oct, using the strapline "Radio Nebula FM - raising up Palu - with First Response Indonesia". Community members main request was for the team to pass on information about their needs to the government.

“ Wow....
We never got so
many calls before
... that was very
effective. Thanks
for the help! ”

Red Cross Indonesia (PMI) worker

An Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) worker told FRI about the response to his radio interview on reuniting families. 'Wow.... We never got so many calls before ... that was very effective. Thanks for the help!'

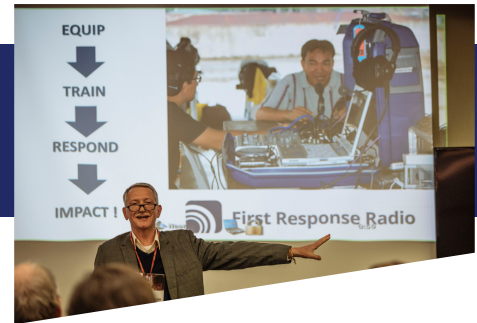
Finding missing persons was the number one listener concern reported in calls to the FRI/ Radio Nebula team, even before food, water and shelter. 1000 solar radios donated by Galcom International Inc. Canada, were received by the Red Cross in Palu, Indonesia. FRR cooperated with the Indonesian Government and the Red Cross to facilitate their distribution to "women friendly spaces" and "Child friendly spaces" so they could access information on the radio while visiting these centers.

Banten/Sunda Tsunami

FRI supported Krakatau FM93.7 in response to the Sunda Strait Tsunami. Humanitarian programming started on Dec 24th, within 48 hours of the disaster. Within 72 hours they were also distributing radios, both to the affected community and to responders, so they could listen to the community voices. True community engagement!



IMPACT



World Radio Day 2018

For World Radio Day FRR presented research at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) office of the UN, Geneva. The results of the PhD thesis, 'Disaster Response for Recovery' *, carried out in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda (Philippines, 2013), showed a significant mental and physical health benefit to those who listened to the emergency radio station set up by FRR. Music was found to be a key component in recovery.

*Disaster Response For Recovery

Disaster Radio contributes to survivors' recovery, sense of security & well-being:

- *Providing timely and relevant information.*
- *Being an ongoing, entertaining and encouraging presence during the disaster aftermath.*

Bihar 2017 study started

First Response Radio India, (FRR India) deployed two mobile production teams to Bihar in August 2017 to support local communities recovering from the floods. Disaster response radio programs were aired on AM stations and on a SW station.

Research was launched in November to evaluate the impact of FRR India during the flooding. Firstly to define the broadcast content. Secondly the surveys will ask listeners what value they got from the FRR content and ask other members of the Humanitarian Broadcast community how FRR broadcasts helped to improve their response. Thirdly, utilizing a standardized health questionnaire, the study will evaluate if there are differences in health between those who did and those who did not listen to FRR content.

This study should enable comparisons with the Typhoon Haiyan results.



First Response Radio (FRR) 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. Our goal is to set up a radio station for the affected community within 72 hours of a disaster. The best way to build this capacity is to equip and train teams before disaster strikes.



info@firstresponseradio.org