



First Response Radio
Ready When Disaster Strikes

2019

**EQUIP
TRAIN
RESPOND
IMPACT**

IMPACT REPORT



In 2019 FRR replenished radio stockpiles in Indonesia, held a ToT event in Pakistan, and responded to 5 disasters in 5 countries including a first deployment in Africa. FRR also shared disaster response findings at a conference in Germany and contributed to a study on 'The Power of Radio'.



#COMMUNICATIONISAID

Photo credit: Suzanne Fenton, ETC

EQUIP



Kit upgrade for FRR International Team

In order to be ready for more international deployments the kit upgrade now includes the latest technical equipment, ready for use by the international team.

Replacement Radio stockpile arrived at FR Indonesia

1000 radios donated by FEBA UK arrived at the First Response Indonesia (FRI) head office. The Tecsun G88 radios replenished the previous FRI stockpile that was used up during the Palu 2018 earthquake. "Indonesia is always at risk of experiencing further natural disasters and so having a large stockpile of radios allows us to reach a greater audience and save more lives."



TRAIN



Pakistan Training of Trainers

This year FRR held a Training of Trainers (TOT) event in Murree Hills. The event, hosted by HCR Pakistan saw 6 new trainers complete the FRR TOT workshop.

The trainers are qualified to lead future FRR workshops, teaching other national groups and organisations in Urdu, the national language. This is a big milestone for FRR Pakistan and we're grateful for the hard work of everyone involved to make this event a huge success.



No sooner had the training been completed than the monsoon season arrived in Pakistan. We thank our longstanding local partner, VoK 105.4FM, for allowing team members of FRR Pakistan to use their radio station during the Neelum Valley Floods in July 2019. The team presented a live response show taking calls from emergency workers from the Pakistan Red Crescent Society to give updates to affected communities

RESPOND



Mozambique Cyclone Idai: FRR's first deployment in Africa!

In March 2019 large parts of Southern Africa were hit by Cyclone Idai, one of the deadliest on record to affect the region in recent years. Although FRR doesn't have a local team in place in Mozambique, following the devastating impact UN OCHA and other local partners on the ground requested help to get lifesaving messages and information on air to affected communities.

An international FRR team, sent by our network partners HCR UK, was deployed to Beira in Mozambique. The team arrived in Beira and were flown by government helicopter into Buzi, an isolated town suffering from wide scale flooding. Within a couple of days the team was able to assist radio Buzi 104.3FM to be the first radio station back on air in the Buzi area.



The FRR team left their equipment temporarily with Radio Buzi, enabling the station to cover the later stages of the disaster relief. HCR UK later returned to close FRR operations, evaluate the impact of FRR's response in Buzi and return radio equipment to the UK. The transmitter and generator were left in Mozambique with FOT FM, a partner of FEBC, with the hope that it can be used by a future FRR team.

Thanks to partners:

CDAC Network, UN OCHA, ETC and HCR-UK



**The moment FRR helped
put radio Buzi back on air
(credit UN OCHA)**



Indonesian Capital Rocked by Earthquake Shocks

On the 2nd August 2019 a 6.9-magnitude earthquake jolted the southern coast of Banten. FRR Indonesia, which is based in Jakarta, reported that the quake rocked buildings in the city centre. FRR Indonesia assessed the situation and, as radio stations stayed on air with all staff safely accounted for it was clear that no deployment was needed.

India: Heavy Monsoons Cause Flooding


Several parts of Southern India have faced severe flooding which required action from the FRR India team. No official deployment was required but during the emergency period, FRR India worked with local radio stations in Kerala to broadcast programmes providing people with advice and encouragement.

Pakistan Earthquake Assessment Reveals Training Opportunities

In September a 5.8 earthquake struck the eastern region of Pakistan close to the city of Mirpur. FRR Pakistan was on standby as they assessed the initial impact and need for communications. The team travelled to Mirpur, visiting radio stations in the most affected areas. Although some radio station buildings had been damaged, the stations themselves were still broadcasting. On hearing about FRR's work, both Radio Pakistan and other private radio stations expressed interest in future training on relevant disaster relief content and procedures. There was no further need for deployment but we are grateful for FRR Pakistan's response that has opened up new connections and potential partnerships in the future.

Philippines Radio Distribution Saves Lives

It was a busy end to 2019 for FRR Philippines as the country experienced several earthquakes along with Typhoon Kammuri. The team had taken preventative steps by issuing public safety announcements on how to stay safe during disasters as well as pre-distributing radios to local communities. This kind of preparedness has definitely helped to minimize casualties and limit the damage. Although there was no deployment, FRR Philippines were on the air broadcasting warnings and other disaster-related content throughout each of the disasters.



IMPACT



Lessons from the Bihar, India 2017 case study

In a recent evaluation of the First Response India flood response in Bihar in 2017, researcher Dr Eila Murphy heard key government and radio representatives explain the importance of radio in disaster relief efforts. Yet through surveys and interviews we found that people in affected communities do not have access to radios. Therefore response experts were advocating for disaster preparedness plans to include the pre-positioning of radios in disaster prone areas. This insight strengthens the importance of FRR's signature policy on radio distribution.

There are several other findings in this case study and it is hoped the full report will be published very soon. Further details will be available later.

'The Power of Radio' Study

Radio has been used in humanitarian aid efforts after natural disasters over the last 15 years. This study, published in July 2019, aims to provide an overview of the use and impact of humanitarian radio in natural disasters from a health perspective.

We are thankful for the combined efforts of Karen Hugelius (School of Health Sciences, Sweden), Mike Adams (FRR) and Eila Romo-Murphy (HCR UK) in making this report possible.



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Review

The Power of Radio to Promote Health and Resilience in Natural Disasters: A Review

Karin Hugelius ^{1,*}, Mike Adams ² and Eila Romo-Murphy ³

Cyclone Idai: Mozambique

The return trip to Mozambique in July 2019 gave a chance for the HCR UK team, FRR's partner, to assess the impact of their response to Cyclone Idai.

On arrival in Buzi, the team spotted a youth group presenting programmes under the supervision of a teacher in the town. It was encouraging to see the impact of radio in real-time and the cross generational sharing of skills and resources.

Through interviews with key informants, several NGOs indicated that the temporary cholera treatment clinic in Buzi closed earlier than planned because there were fewer cases than anticipated. They attributed this to the effectiveness of Buzi FM in supporting other messaging outlets (motorbike passengers with megaphones, posters and face to face).



The response to Cyclone Idai was new territory for FRR. There are more lessons to be learnt, but there are encouraging signs that the foundations have been laid for a future FRR team to be stationed in Africa.



FRR Orientation in Mirpur, Pakistan

FRR Pakistan returned to Mirpur in December 2019 to host an orientation event and continue to build relationships with members of the humanitarian and government sectors. The event was a great opportunity to share more about the work of FRR and it was exciting to see many organisations give their support. We'd like to thank FRR Pakistan Coordinator, Hazeen Latif, for organising such a successful event.

Deutsche Welle

In October 2019 the Deutsche Welle (DW) Akademie conference in Germany brought together members from the CDAC network and other organisations using media in forced migration settings. Johnny Fisher of HCR UK spoke on behalf of FRR, presenting findings from his return trip to Mozambique following FRR's deployment during Cyclone Idai.



CDAC

The FRR Studio Suitcase was a great draw at the International Disaster Response Expo 2019 in London. While we rightly place a lot of emphasis on the training of teams and on fostering good relationships, it's good to be reminded of the value of the equipment we use which allows us to respond to crisis quickly.



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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.



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