



First Response Radio
Ready When Disaster Strikes

1,2 Qtr 2019

Impact report

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EQUIP

Kit upgrade for international FRR team

We're excited to share the news of a kit upgrade for our international FRR team! The suitcase studio which stays at international HQ, to be used by our international team, was an old demo kit and not up to the life-saving standards that are required. In light of the many international deployments during the last year alone, we recognised that the international team needs a kit that is flexible and ready to deploy in countries that don't have an FRR team.

The upgrade now includes the latest modern life-saving equipment and is ready for our international team to use.



Click to see a complete list of what's in a FRR suitcase studio.



A big thank you to our donors for making this possible, enabling FRR to continue it's great work!

TRAIN

Pakistan: Training of Trainers

FRR has been working in Pakistan since the 2005 Kashmir earthquake and successfully launched the full FRR Pakistan team in March 2018. This year, from the 30th June - 5th July 2019, 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. There was great participation and discussions during the workshop and the team is going from strength to strength.





Not only is the team equipped to respond to future disasters but they're now qualified to provide radio response training. The trainers will 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 which required immediate action from the FRR Pakistan team. With thanks to our longstanding local partner, VoK 105.4FM, they allowed 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 a tropical cyclone. Cyclone Idai was one of the deadliest on record to affect the region in recent years. Although FRR doesn't have a local team in place, following the devastating impact of Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, UN OCHA and other local partners requested our help on the ground 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 in order to equip a local FM station to get back on the air, while providing training on the use of our suitcase studio as they went. The team arrived in Beira on Friday 29th March 2019 and with all roads closed, were flown by government helicopter into Buzi, an isolated town suffering from wide scale flooding.

By Saturday 30th March 2019 the team were able to assist the team at radio Buzi 104.3FM in being the first radio station back on air in the Buzi area.

Watch this video from UN OCHA capturing the moment that FRR helped to put Buzi back on air.





The station was able to engage with local communities and provided critical information to stop further spread of diseases such as cholera. After leaving Mozambique, the FRR team left their equipment temporarily to be operated by Radio Buzi, enabling the station to navigate the later stages of the disaster relief. As of July 2019 the team returned to Buzi to pick up the equipment and return it to the UK.

We'd like to thank our partners at the CDAC Network, UN OCHA, Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) and all the local partners that connected with and opened doors for our team during their time in Mozambique, for their great cooperation and coordination in responding to the needs of those in Beira and Buzi.



A special mention to our network partners HCR UK for their efficiency in sending the team and we thank them for the phenomenal job they did in such a short space of time!

IMPACT

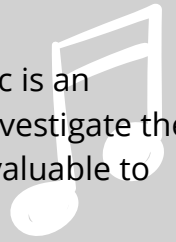


Lessons from the BIHAR Case Study 2017

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.

Community members told the researchers that they valued information about missing persons, health facilities and advice on preparing clean drinking water.

This study followed earlier research in the Philippines in which we found that music is an essential element for psycho-social recovery. With this in mind FRR continued to investigate the importance of music in disaster recovery and found that folk music is particularly valuable to those who listened to First Response India broadcasts.



There are several other findings in this case study that will be invaluable to further help all our FRR teams continue their great work. It is hoped the full report will be published very soon. Further details will be provided as to where it will be made available.



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