



**First Response Radio**  
Ready When Disaster Strikes

# EQUIP TRAIN RESPOND IMPACT

**1st + 2nd Qtr 2020**

## From the International Coordinator - Mike Adams

The FRR network continues to provide suitcase radio equipment and train partners. In 2020 every team is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic at their home stations. Never before has there been a disaster that has affected all FRR teams in Pakistan, India, Indonesia and the Philippines at the same time.



#COMMUNICATIONISAID

**KAMI DELIVER  
INFORMASI,  
ANDA CUKUP**

**#DIRUMAHAJA**

**#HEARTLINENETWORKFIGHTCOVID19**

# EQUIP



## Suitcase Radio delivered to Deutsche Welle

This year FRR delivered disaster response equipment, including the complete Suitcase Radio Station, to Deutsche Welle Akademie (DWA). Deutsche Welle (DW) is a German public state-owned international broadcaster and DWA is their international center for media development.

FRR and DWA met through the CDAC Network in 2019 and again when FRR partner, HCR UK spoke at the Deutsche Welle Akademie conference in 2019. DWA is running a pilot program to help to rebuild media outlets in post-crisis environments and FRR is excited to engage further with CDAC Network partners in their work to provide communications as aid.

Part of the process of delivering equipment is testing the kit. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to do this in person, but this resulted in the first ever cross-border equipment check via Zoom!



# TRAIN



In addition to providing equipment, FRR planned to run a major disaster radio training program for Deutsche Welle Akademie in Malawi. Originally scheduled for March 2020, unfortunately both the training event and the field trial had to be postponed due to the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. While we are disappointed not to be able to hold the event, this was clearly the right course of action to take and we hope to be able to return to Malawi in 2021.

# RESPOND



## COVID-19: INFORM, ENGAGE, ENCOURAGE All FRR teams respond to global pandemic

For the first time in FRR's history, a disaster has required a response from all FRR teams simultaneously. The emergence of COVID-19 in early 2020 which resulted in the ongoing pandemic has had a huge impact on the way that FRR teams are operating this year. All teams are drawing on 15 years of disaster training and experience as they create COVID-19 response content.

The focus of the response has been:

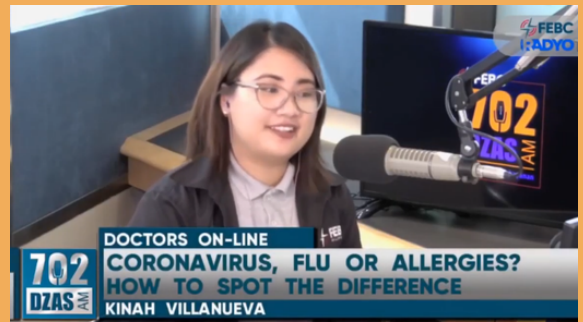
- **INFORM,**
- **ENGAGE**
- **ENCOURAGE**

FEBC's FRR teams have developed programs that:

- **Provide useful and accurate information**
- **Look for ways to engage local communities in discussion**
- **Comfort and encourage the communities**



Check out this video from FEBC Philippines showing the work that FRR has been doing in the Philippines.



## India: Cyclone Amphan strikes during COVID-19 national lockdown



In May 2020, as the global pandemic led nations around the world to adopt strict national lockdowns, the region of Eastern India was faced with a second disaster. On May 20th, Cyclone Amphan struck the coastal area of West Bengal causing devastation in several districts and bringing affected areas, including the state capital Kolkata, to a standstill.

Due to the national lockdown, the FRR India team couldn't travel to the affected area. FRR India's first priority was to ensure the safety of team members from a local radio partner in Kolkata. The team in Kolkata were safe but grounded and the radio station had been unable to broadcast due to the damage from the cyclone.

Once the station was able to broadcast again, FRR India worked with the local Kolkata team to respond to the affected communities by broadcasting FRR disaster response content.

The response programs provided listeners with information on safety measures, the latest rescue and relief information as well as tips on health and hygiene.

# IMPACT



## FRR's COVID-19 response resonates with local communities

Although the COVID-19 crisis is still ongoing, we are already seeing the impact of FRR's response through community listeners' feedback. Here are a few stories that have come out of Pakistan regarding the work of FRR.

"Your programs are providing authentic and meaningful ways for the prevention of the COVID-19. You have proved that you really take care of your listeners in all circumstances. Keep this good work and God bless you all".

"Thanks for sending me these informative booklets that have really helped me to take care of me and my family during this pandemic. Apart from all protective measures, I have learnt to trust in the Lord through your special program series. Thank you for sharing the true love of God with us. God bless you all."

"The situation in our area during the COVID-19 was worst and my family was badly affected during this strict lockdown in our area. Radio was the only source of information and comfort to us"



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 we have discovered to build this capacity is to equip and train teams before disaster strikes.



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