

Skype Conference Call 19 January 2010 - Haiti

Participants:

IMS (Jesper Højberg, Peter-Bastian Halberg and Robert Shaw)

Internews (Mark Harvey, Caroline Giraud, Guillaume Michel and Alison Campbell)

Freevoice (Kenneth Toll)

AMARC (Steve Buckley)

OSI (Jane McElhone)

RSF (Benoit Hervieu)

Internews

Humanitarian operations are being coordinated by UNOCHA – Imogen Wall is their comms person and Internews are the designated lead agency on the ground for coordinating activities around communicating with affected populations.

Internews is working to implement and coordinate information flows and is also working with MSF. Internews is also looking at the mid-term response around reconstruction issues and envisages a 12-18 month process and then after that will move into core development needs.

In terms of what is set up on the ground, Thomson Reuters Emergency SMS service is up and running, Ushahidi crisis map is up and running, and Internews are now starting to get an idea of the capacity of PAP radio stations as well as the larger network of stations that has been long-term supported by Internews and AMARC. RSF are also in process of setting up a media centre in PAP and Radio France have a 4-6-man team that is broadcasting in both Creole and French.

Internews noted that the key online central zone for information is the CDAC website - <http://crisescomm.ning.com/>

RSF

They have 2 RSF reps in PAP - Francois Bugingo and Clothilde Le Coz along with 2 reps from their partner organization, Quebecor.

The RSF mission arrived in Haiti on 17 Jan and are in the process of setting up a small emergency communications centre to assist communications amongst journalists in PAP in order to enable them to cover the situation and thereby assist the process of providing assistance to the population. Also, with help from Internews they are going to carry out an analysis of the media situation.

Due to be operational by the start of next week, the centre will be equipped with laptops, mobile phones and generators provided by the Quebecor. The Canadian embassy in Haiti has offered to house the emergency centre within its compound.

The creation of this centre of operations will be followed by reconstruction assistance – again in partnership with Quebecor – for Haiti’s media, which are virtually all currently unable to function. This will be one of the targets of the donations raised by the appeal already issued by Reporters Without Borders.

RSF hopes to get news media in countries that are providing significant amounts of aid to Haiti, such as Canada, Brazil, the United States and France, to become financial and logistic sponsors of Haitian media that need rebuilding and is looking for support on this issue from other international media orgs.

AMARC

AMARC will establish a base station near the border at Radio Enriquillo, Dominican Republic in Tamayo.

AMARC-Haiti is hosted by an organisation called SAKS, based in PAP their executive director is a member of the AMARC board and they now know that he is alive and well. Their offices are destroyed but the staff are alive and doing ok.

AMARC has around 24 organisations in the country with at least 10 in areas strongly or severely affected – they have little news from all their contacts. The stations broadcast primarily in Creole. There are two overlapping networks - AMARC Haiti, which has around 10 members in affected areas, and 'Ramak' which is a USAID project that supports 40 stations across Haiti, some of which are AMARC members and some not. There are some community radios not in either network.

AMARC plans to work mainly with community radios outside of PAP and will have 2 colleagues arriving on Saturday 23 January. 12 stations have been damaged including 8-9 AMARC members. Overall they still have very little info so far.

* SAKS - building destroyed, staff OK, contact Sony Esteus 34095029

* REFRAKA - building destroyed, 1 staff injured, others OK

Community radios in affected areas, or nearby

West Department

* Radyo Echo (Petit Goave - West)

* Radyo Kominote Kolfa Pye (Vallée, Petit Goave - West)

* Radyo Zetwal Peyizan (Fondwa/Leogane - West)

* Radyo Saka (Grand Goave - West) - involved in local relief effort

* Radyo Vwa Klodi Mizo (Gabion, Cayes - West)

Radyo Men Kontre (Petit Goave - West)

Radyo Boukman (Cité Soleil, Port au Prince - West)

Radyo Kenscoff Inter (Kenscoff - West)

Radyo Azuie Inter (Fond Parisien - West)

Radyo Fondwa (Fondwa - West) - building destroyed, 2 died

South Department

* Radyo Vwa Peyizan Sid-VPS (Cavaillon - South)

* Radyo Vwa Pep Lakay (Corail Henry - South)

* Chandel FM (Verette - South)

Radyo Vwa Port-a-Piment (Port a Piment - South)

Experience FM (Arniquet - South)

South East department

* Radyo Kominote Belans (Belle-Anse - South East)

* Radyo Flanbo (Kay-Jakmel - South East)

* Radyo Sòyèt FM (Bainet - South East)

Radyo Anse a Pitre (Anse a Pitre - South East)

Radyo La Vallee Jacmel (La Vallee, Jacmel - South East)

Free Voice

Freevoice will not be participating directly or as part of any international mission to Haiti but do want to provide financial and technical support to media in the country.

They will work with others to co-fund the initial assessment mission and will also discuss other potential funding with partners but want to immediately guarantee these initial funds so that the assessment mission can begin.

OSI

OSI is looking to get involved in reconstruction efforts through the development fund and in cooperation with its local foundation, the Fondation Connaissance et Liberte, or Fokal.

OSI is donating an initial \$4 million to Haiti to aid earthquake victims. The money will be split evenly across four organizations involved in relief efforts in Haiti, including Medecins Sans Frontieres, Save the Children, CARE and Catholic Relief Services.

Fokal was set in 1995 to support urban reconstruction efforts to set up community centers, build libraries and make clean water available. Fokal wanted OSI to give this initial donation to get relief under way and they will guide OSI's next phase of involvement in Haiti.

Also mentioned that the International Federation of Journalists and its member organisations in the Americas are preparing an urgent assistance programme for media workers and journalists. IMS is in contact with the IFJ and will be following up with them.

OSI made reference to the Austin Forum, a network of journalists in Latin America and the Caribbean. These journalists are keen to find ways that they can assist their Haitian colleagues.

OSI also mentioned the possibility of linking up with the Canadian organization “Réseau Liberté” which is run by Réal Bernabé.

IMS

IMS is rolling out its response in collaboration with our international colleagues presently coordinated via CDAC. IMS can provide both financial and technical resources.

IMS mission to Haiti is lead and coordinated by Peter-Bastian Halberg until the deployment of Peter-Bastian Halberg, where Finn Rasmussen takes over the focal point role in Copenhagen.

IMS’ mission to Haiti is, in its first phase, approached in three steps.

- The ground is broken in by Robert Shaw who will arrive in Haiti on Friday the 22nd of January, Robert will concentrate on establishing the IMS presence and getting updated field information.
- Anne Poulsen will then arrive on Saturday the 23rd of January to work with Robert Shaw concentrating on relations with Haitian media and assessing the programme approach.
- On Jan 30th, Peter-Bastian Halberg will join the mission. PB concentrates on the coordination with CDAC and OCHA and to design and roll out humanitarian information programmes.

IMS is looking to bring journalists together with the Humanitarian actors, in order to maximise the packaging of humanitarian information that is training of journalists and humanitarian information people and linking them together. Overall, this can help secure

the coherency of messaging as well. On a longer run IMS aims to focus on facilitating feedback from the affected communities.

IMS will fill the geographical gaps outside PaP where there is limited or no communication infrastructure. IMS is working with CartOng to try to map the communication infrastructure.

Overall IMS will support local media practitioners and media in reconstruction (Long term aim) in liaison with other media supportive initiatives.

Outstanding Issues

- Need to coordinate reps from international media orgs in PAP
- Need to set-up easily accessible website to deal with back and forth updates by wide variety of actors – for the moment all actors can send information to Alison Campbell who can post on CDAC website – CDAC site was set up for more passive posting of policy issues on humanitarian crisis but members are quickly looking at revamping the site to be more of an interactive tool – individuals can already sign up and post new information through blogs.
- Set up email group of international media organizations from this call and others potentially wanting to become involved
- Internews can assist groups such as AMARC and others in need of office space in PAP – UNESCO have space