



Humanitarian News Offers Critical Support in Haiti

In response to January's devastating 7.0 earthquake in Haiti, Internews is working on the ground with local Haitian media and humanitarian aid agencies to get critical information directly to the people who need it most.

With a team of local reporters, Internews produces a daily humanitarian news broadcast, *Enfomasyon Nou Dwe Konnen* (News You Can Use) currently airing on 27 local radio stations. In January, Internews distributed nearly 9,000 wind-up radios provided by the U.S. military, through 19 local radio station partners.

Internews has conducted rapid assessments of the damage caused by the earthquake to broadcast media in the greater Port-au-Prince area in order to determine stations' capacity to broadcast and the type of programming available to the affected population. These assessments are informing donors and humanitarian agencies on the types of long-term support needed by Haiti's local media to serve their communities as they rebuild.

Internews responded immediately following the earthquake, with support from The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Pierre and Pamela Omidyar, USAID, the Arca Foundation, and individual donors.



UNICEF

Daily production of *Enfomasyon Nou Dwe Konnen* began on January 21, with critical information about water distribution points, openings of displaced persons camps, public health advisories and more.

"We're trying to find out how those people are living," said Haitian journalist Johnny Cesar Etienne, part of the daily reporting team. "Are they able to get food? Are they able to get water?"

Local journalists hired by Internews gather news and produce the program, while also receiving humanitarian reporting training. Most stations air the programming as soon as it arrives, via CDs distributed personally by the Internews team.

Internews has provided small

Continued, next page



UNICEF

TOP: Journalist Johnny Cesar Etienne interviews a man in an internally displaced persons camp. "We're trying to find out how those people are living. Are they able to get food? Are they able to get water?" said Etienne. ABOVE: Two boys in a camp listen to a portable radio.

"The radio station is the people's life right now. Without the radio station, the country is dead. Without the radio station, we can't communicate. We don't have anything."

Roselaure Revil, quoted in the January 20 Associated Press story, *Haiti Radio Fills Information Void in Disaster*



Headlines and Lifelines

Enfomasyon Nou Dwe Konnen, the daily humanitarian news program produced by Internews, is available on Internews' web site in Creole, with selected stories translated to English.

The daily program contains a variety of short news bulletins on topics of importance, a "Mailbox" segment which responds to listeners questions, and a feature report from the field.

This is the outline of the show on February 23rd, the 30th episode of the program:

REGISTRATION - The International Organization for Migration (IOM) on Tuesday launched a registration campaign of families at the Champ de Mars camp. The idea is to get accurate information about families so they can be resettled as soon as possible.

INSURANCE - The government-run insurance company, OACVT, is open again allowing drivers to get insurance for their cars, or drivers to register their old cars.

HEALTH - Medical experts with

the Ministry of Health are warning about possible outbreak of conjunctivitis. We offer suggestions on how to keep clean and avoid contamination.

MENTAL HEALTH/AFTER-SHOCKS - Port-au-Prince residents once again were awakened by aftershocks. People were tense and scared this morning. We offer tips from mental health experts about what to do to keep healthy.

PRESIDENT PREVAL - President Rene Preval says that humanitarian aid should not kill local production. He calls for more jobs to be created.



Journalist Frederick Alexis records a story for *Enfomasyon Nou Dwe Konnen*.

WEATHER - No rain in the forecast, but it will be cold this weekend.

MAILBOX - National Police spokesman Frantz Lerebours answers questions from one listener who is an escaped prisoner who wants to know how to turn himself in. Police are still recruiting.

FOOD - World Food Program spokesman Fredrique Pierre tells listeners that his organization will

now focus on feeding school-age children weeks before school is scheduled to open.

HEALTH/feature story - Lt. Gen. Ken Keen, commander of the Joint Task Force Unified Response, took a short helicopter trip to the SS Cavour, an Italian hospital ship that has helped treat children. *ENDK* reporter Jeho Abraham went along and brought us back his report.

From front page:

grants to media partners, such as Ushahidi and Global Voices, to help them provide on-the-ground support to citizen media and crowd-sourced information efforts.

Through partnerships, *Enfomasyon Nou Dwe Konnen* has also been aired by media partners such as Radio France International and Voice of America, broadening the number of people who hear the program daily.

Internews is a founding member of the Inter-Agency Group on Communicating with Disaster Affected Communities (CDAC) that includes UNOCHA, key agencies such as the Red Cross and Save the Children, and other media assistance providers including the BBC World Service Trust and the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Members of CDAC are sharing updates and resources on a group web site, <http://criscomm.ning.com/>.



From left, Phillipe Allouard, Johnny Cesar Etienne, and Yves Colon work on the daily program lineup. Colon, a Haitian-born journalism lecturer at the University of Miami, is working to mentor the local journalists hired to report for *Enfomasyon Nou Dwe Konnen*.

UNOCHA has charged Internews as the lead agency on the ground to coordinate CDAC members' humanitarian information and media assistance activities in order to achieve maximum impact across Haiti's ravaged media landscape.

Internews' work in Haiti has been reported on by *TIME* Magazine, Unicef, the Associated Press, National Public Radio's *On the Media*, and other international news outlets.

Internews recently completed a project in Haiti

working with a network of 40 community radio stations throughout the country. The project, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, began in 2006 and focused on journalism trainings and technical skills for radio production.