

“News from Aceh” Speaks to a Province as it Rebuilds after Disaster

In Indonesia, Tsunami-Stricken Residents Mark 100th Episode of Radio Program

Internews celebrated the 100th episode of the daily two-hour “Peuneugah Aceh” (News from Aceh) radio program in June and kicked off a new phase in the work to rebuild and rehabilitate the media of this tsunami-stricken province of Indonesia.

With the support of the Knight Foundation, the British Department for International Development (DFID), and the Dutch NGO Hivos, Internews has worked with the radio and television media of Aceh since soon after the disaster struck on December 26, 2004.

FIRST PHASE – IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Internews sent a media assessment team to Aceh in early January. Based on the team’s findings, Internews is implementing a dual-approach development program. Realizing that the local broadcast market

Using satellite technology provided by First Voice International (FVI) Satellite Network Services, the program is distributed via satellite to digital radio receivers placed at 25 Aceh radio stations and 200 Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps. The stations relay the program or tape and rebroadcast it as they like. It has proved particularly effective as a means of communicating with areas where neither print nor television are viable mediums.



“Peuneugah Aceh” reporter interviews a radio guest for the daily broadcast. The two-hour program features updated reports from the entire province, vital information on health and other civil services, and entertainment.



Digital receivers are loaded on boats for delivery to radio stations and displaced persons camps in Aceh province.

could not produce vital information while they rebuilt, Internews, in co-operation with key staff at local station Radio Prima, assembled a team of Indonesian journalists to produce a two-hour emergency radio program called “Peuneugah Aceh.” The program is produced in a production studio Internews built in Banda Aceh, the capitol of the Indonesian province of Aceh.

POSITIVE AUDIENCE RESPONSE

The shows cover rehabilitation and reconstruction topics, and include reports from throughout Aceh province mixed with traditional music, storytelling, and comedy. Audience response has been overwhelmingly positive. Listeners are calling and writing their stations to support the program.

An IDP camp coordinator called “Peuneugah Aceh” reporter Dodi Setiawan to express gratitude for a radio program which highlighted the lack of clean water in Lhong Raya IDP camp. The water truck was not entering the camp area due to difficult, muddy roads. A few days after the program was broadcast the water truck arrived to distribute clean water.

The director of Permata Hati Hospital in Punge expressed his thanks to the station for airing a story on the hospital reopening, letting people know that health services were once again available.

SECOND PHASE – REBUILDING & TRAINING

Most of Aceh’s radio stations are back on the air, but with inadequate broadcast equipment – many stations lost all of their equipment in the tsunami. Internews proudly joined an unprecedented collaboration among Indonesian and international organizations, distributing computers with digital editing software and portable



A group tests a digital radio receiver. These receivers pick up “Peuneugah Aceh” via satellite and relay the program or tape it for rebroadcast.



KAMILEEN REHN - INTERNEWS

Title music for "Peuneugah Aceh" is recorded in the Internews studio in Banda Aceh. The artists who developed the theme music are among Aceh's last traditional musicians. Part of their response to the tsunami tragedy was to create and record musical compositions of stunning emotional depth.

field recorders to 19 stations. Internews is providing training on this equipment in the field.

An Internews Humanitarian Reporting Advisor is conducting training courses in basic skills for the new journalists who have replaced those lost in the disaster. Advanced training and thematic training such as conflict reporting are also provided.

PARTNERSHIPS TO REBUILD

Internews will also team with Centurion Risk Assessment Services to offer safety training to journalists who will need to know how to stay safe while covering stories in Aceh.

Internews donated an Infocaster system to TVRI, the only TV station in Aceh. The Infocaster allows the station to divide the screen

during its local programming window, so that space can be sold to the international development community.

Through subgrants to the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI), Internews will help build the Medan Media Center, a focal point for journalists in Aceh to access information and training. Internews is also partnering with Pro Media Indonesia, a group that will work with the community radio

INTERNEWS INDONESIA



Pak Daniel, chief radio engineer (left) and Firmansyah, Executive Producer of "Peuneugah Aceh," with UNICEF envoy Christine Hakim in the Banda Aceh radio production studio. The program celebrated the broadcast of its 100th episode in June.

ence in touch with their communities and their culture.

ABOUT INTERNEWS

Internews® Network is an international non-profit organization that works to improve access to information for people around the world by fostering independent media and promoting open communications policies. Internews' programs are built on the conviction that providing people with access to vibrant, diverse news and information empowers them to make their voices heard and to participate effectively in their communities.

Internews projects currently span Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and North America. Formed in 1982, Internews Network, Inc. is a founding member of Internews International, whose members work in 50 countries.

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