



Role of Community Radio in Disaster Risk Reduction

WEBINAR SERIES REPORT



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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

When communication infrastructure has been destroyed in a disaster, community radio stations play a major role in providing detailed disaster information. However, in India, these community radio stations are not being well-recognized as medium of disaster communication. They face lot of issues in accordance with their respective region regarding institutional, infrastructural and financial support.

In this event, we have tried to highlight the needs of the CRS, recognizing their important role in disaster management and DRR. This is also our first step towards a policy draft on the role of CRS in DRR highlighting the needs and demands for mainstreaming them in the Disaster Management of country. We have speakers from around the country to discuss these issues. At the outset, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the honourable Chief guests and speakers Shri Rajendra Singh (Honourable Member, NDMA and Former Director General, Indian Coast Guard), Dr. Nivedita Haran (Ex Add. Chief Secretary, Government of Kerela), Prof. Santosh Kumar (NIDM), Shri Rajeev Kumar Shukla (Ex. AD AIR), Dr. B.S. Panwar (President, Community Radio Association of India), and. I also thank the imminent speakers Mr. Ashish Kumar Panda, Mr. Sarbjit Sahota Sahota, Emergency Specialist (DRR) UNICEF, Sh.Suneel Sharma, Vice President, Zone4solutions, RJ Shashi, Mr. Sachin Menkudale, Mr. Sandeep Kulshreshtha, Mohmad Suhail Wani, Mr. Rajan Kumar, Mr. Manvender Negi, Mr. Sarath Babu Rayaprolu, Mr. Awdhesh Kumar and Dr. I. Arul Aram who throughout the webinar series pointed out the regional differences in terms of their extent, requirements and work experience.

It gives me immense pleasure in acknowledging the cooperation and I extend my gratitude to Ms. Tanushree Verma, Head (Training and Research), Zone4solutions who immensely moderated the webinar and the supporting staff of Zone4Solutions as without them it would not have been possible to organize the webinar.



Mr. Nakul Kumar Tarun
Director, Zone4solutions

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INTRODUCTION

Accurate information management and transmission is a part of Disaster Management. In all phases of the Disaster Management cycle- prevention, mitigation, preparedness, recovery and rehabilitation precise data, timely information and knowledge dissemination plays a vital role. Early Warning System including accurate forecasting, warning and alert dissemination in a densely populated and disaster-prone country like India is always an important tool for mobilizing timely resources during emergencies. It is a well-known fact that broadcasting information about available resources, aid supply along warnings helps the community to prepare better according to the severity of the disaster. With the availability of technology, in the recent few decades, disaster management methods have been shifted from the post-disaster (response and recovery) approach to the pre-disaster (preparedness and mitigation) approach. This bottom-top pre-disaster approach emphasizes localized understanding and community preparedness to reduce the damages, losses with reduced costs and recovery.

Community Radio Stations functions with a basic belief, 'from the people, for the people, by the people. In this sense, community radios are an effective communication tool to reach out and serve the poorest community and share vital information in their own language. Not only this, but the community radios are also significant for development initiatives, awareness campaigns for nature conservation, agriculture, regional culture and education, contributing to the development of the community. Community radios are valuable assets for disaster management, also. During the time of emergency, it has been the most effective means to disseminate preparedness and relief related information packed in their own dialect. It helps in developing strategies and building awareness so that communities can prepare better in advance. For instance, during the Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004), Anna Community Radio in southern India assisted communities by providing a platform to share their grievances, broadcasting information about relief support, camp locations, precautions to be taken, etc.

1.1. The role of Community Radio in Disasters

Disasters cause infrastructural and communication destruction, preventing the development of society. In order to strengthen the community's disaster management capacity, it is essential to support the communities to develop their capacities in their own way. In this sense, the community needs guaranteed access to information and data related to each aspect of the disaster, emergency, related vulnerabilities and capacities. Though this can be done through regular mock drills, community need assessments, RWA level discussion, however, it is also a fact that needs and capacities vary within the complex community which even they are unaware of. Therefore, mass media and especially community radios can play a major role in understanding the community and developing their capacities as a whole. The exchange of information and cooperation at the household level is the core idea of CBDRR. The quality and characteristics of the information communicated can be determined by the medium of transmission. It also plays a stellar role in building disaster resilient communities through encouraging women leadership and providing a chance to be change-makers. The ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, long-lasting lockdowns and partial shutdowns have created havoc around the world and in our country to a great extent. Amidst the crisis, community radios have helped the communities by providing information about Coronavirus, protective behaviour, and providing access to health-related information and services. For this purpose, disaster management by community radios can be characterized in three stages.

TABLE 1: ROLE OF CRS IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Pre-Disaster Stage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise Community awareness of disasters that frequently affect the region. • Preventive measures like signs of disaster, information about stockpiling of food, medicines, water etc. • Early Warning • Expert disaster prevention advices, opinions. • Community oriented emergency drills.
During Disaster Stage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the audience- peace and calmness to the audience, share the grievances and grief • Public service announcements, updates on losses and damage. • Request for support- donations and drives for relief with proper information of needs. • Support disaster needs and impact assessments, relief and emergency response.
Post-Disaster Stage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post disaster counselling-healing sessions. • Provide call in or talk back programme. • Share information regarding support and logistic distributions.

Community radio's accessibility, participatory, localized, customized, and deinstitutionalized characteristics make it unique and therefore, vital to reaching the last mile. Local communities can minimize emergency damage and raise the voices of vulnerable groups, especially women in such situations, which are often invisible.

WEBINAR REPORT

2.1. Rationale of the Webinar Series

In December 2002, the government of India released a policy that allowed well established educational institutions to set up community radios. In order to promote development and social change, the government of India in November 2006, implemented new Community Radio Guidelines permitting Non-Profit organizations to own and operate community radio stations. With the new policy in place, it opened doors for community radio as a platform for development, social change and voice of the community in concern. As we are aware that Community radio is a type of radio service that caters to the interests of a particular area in need of mass awareness. The broadcasting material of community radio has to be popular to the local audience but can be a secondary issue for more powerful broadcast groups.

Today 322 stations are functional under Community Radio Association with one Secretary general, three Joint Secretaries, six vice presidents and twenty executive members. On 16 November 2006, the government of India advised a set of new Community Radio Guidelines that allowed the NGOs and other civil society organizations to possess and operate community radio stations. According to government sources, about 4,000 community radio licenses had been on offer across India. Community radio specializes in providing local information for the local people.

In situations of Natural Calamities, often radio networks are the only surviving means of connection. Community Radio is a tool which is location specific and often in the local language / dialect making it the ideal tool for communication in such a situation. There are some instances in Japan and abroad in which community radio became the prime vehicle for information sharing for communities during disaster emergency relief as well as post disaster recovery. Community radio also plays an important role in disaster risk reduction, especially in pre-disaster preparedness and mitigation through awareness raising that targets different community groups. However, in order for community radio to take its effective role, participation, involvement and ownership of the local community is extremely important.

Zone4solutions organized a webinar on Community radio as a tool of Disaster Risk Reduction on 26th June amongst representatives from varied sectors like media and Disaster Management with following objectives:

- Discussion of basic concept of community radio and its history.
- Establishing inter linkage between community radio and Disaster Management.
- Role of community radio and mitigating impact of disasters.
- Community engagement and community radio for risk reduction.

The zonal level webinars for all the six zones of Community Radio Association were also organized viz: North, West, South, East, North East and Central under three webinar series: Central and West Zone; North and North East Zone; and South and East Zone.

2.2. Session Proceedings

2.2.1. Welcome Address: Mr. Nakul Kumar Tarun

Director, Zone4soultion

Mr. Nakul Kumar Tarun, Zone4Soultion, welcomed all the participants, international delegates, and dignitaries. He set the session in motion by explaining the need for a community radio station

and how it is helpful in DRR initiatives, especially preparedness and mitigation. He highlighted the fact that radio stations that cover relatively less area can play a major role in providing detailed information required by the community in a particular region as information is collected by the community itself to be shared with local listeners.

2.2.2. Inaugural Speech: Shri Rajeev Kumar Shukla

Ex. ADG AIR

A crucial role Community radio stations can play is addressing the diversity of DM issues. This role needs to be recognized and respected.



FIGURE 1: MR. SHUKLA ADDRESSING THE AUDIENCE

Key Takeaways

- Mr. Shukla introduced the different utilities and advantages of community radio stations such as it is cheap, accessible to all and is available for each dialect and language and they have a very special connection because they do not aim very big. They are symbolized as companions and serve a very targeted population.
- He explained that there are 3 tiers of radio broadcasts in India (national, regional, local)- Public service broadcast (AIR), private commercial broadcast stations which have contributed to a large extent to community development and DRR initiatives in accordance with their CSR funds. Community radio stations at the local level cover large areas and are in many dialects and important languages. Conversely, this serves as a limitation also as it is time and cost consuming to broadcast in so many dialects.
- Mr. Shukla highlighted that community radios play a major role during disasters/emergencies/pandemics. These stations translate the important information into a communicable language in a micro-management style, reaching the last mile of connectivity.
- As the technology is reaching all, it is now important to understand the scope of community radio, their micro-extent and reach.
- The emergency as it is connected with lives, livelihoods and ultimately the nation's economy. Hence, it is essential to have well-equipped community radio stations. It is appreciable that many agencies are working towards it, however, technical and organizational support is needed.
- Media literacy and its integration in disaster management especially with the DM initiatives implementation is essential.
- He suggested developing SoPs for community radio broadcasting and the radio fraternity as a whole (print media, and social media also) by the national DM authorities like NDMA, NIDM alike AIR DM SoP.

2.2.3. Key Note Address: Dr. B.S. Panwar

President, Community Radio Association of India

Community radios are not only media to provide information, but media to make victims survive. It is the finest medium for community empowerment

Key Takeaways

- Mr. Panwar introduced the challenges the community radio stations (350 and more) are facing w.r.t to reach a large population, finance disbursement and sector sustainability. Furthermore, there is a lack of national policies/provisions for the community radio stations initiatives.
- He briefed the audience about the relevance of community radios in DRR such as low-cost medium, especially suited for remote communities and reaching to affected populations when other means of communications are disrupted. This was introduced in World Radio Day observed on 13th February each year.

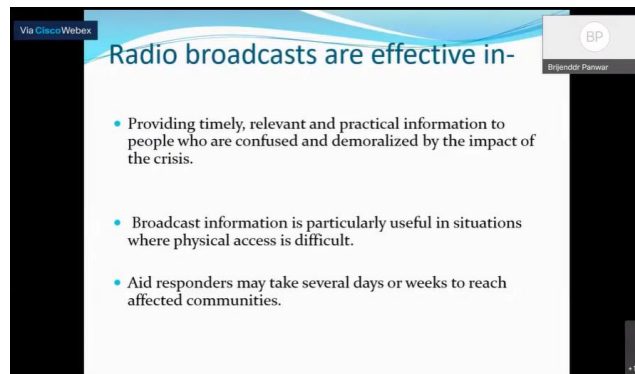


FIGURE 2: PRESENTATION SLIDE ADDRESSING THE ROLE OF CR IN DRR

- Disaster management and DRR is a continuous process, therefore, community radios are the perfect tools for community engagement and participation-based disaster management as a medium of interact between policy implementors and community. In other words, cost effectiveness, accessibility, inclusiveness of community radio creates an ecosystem to nurture community awareness and engage with the issues, holistically and on daily basis.
- He provided insights on the pre, during and post disaster facilities provided by community radio:

Pre-disaster	During Disaster	Post Disaster
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Broadcast Public Awareness Campaign ○ Promote social initiatives ○ Disseminate warning and alerts ○ Reflect plan of emergency responses ○ Develop DM network of state agencies, NGOs, CSOs -national, regional and local ○ Board cast and conduct public meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disaster Warning dissemination ○ Mobilize volunteer groups ○ Broadcast about emergency evacuation ○ Debunk rumors and hoax ○ Broadcast timely updates, safe zones and medium to reach ○ Provide platform for govt, donor agencies and NGOs to interact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordinate with authorities for efficient rescue and relief operations ○ Provide platform to interact and share traumatized experiences ○ Broadcast awareness and messages about relief camps, management of mass death, waste disposals, WASH, etc. ○ Coordinate for Need assessments

- Mr. Panwar also shared the role of HAM Radios, the wireless communication network in disaster management and suggested the connection of HAM radio availability and the community radios. Additionally, he recommended that government and local government have to be more open to working with community radios in order to have better results in emergency response and promote DRR activities.

After the keynote session, the moderator of the programme, Mr. Awdhesh Kumar along with the guest speakers launched the School Safety E-Poster Competition organized by CRA and Zone4Solutions. The theme was *Making Save Learning Environment Safer from Disaster for School Kids*.



FIGURE 3: LAUNCH OF SCHOOL SAFETY E-POSTER COMPETITION

2.2.4. Technical Session 1: Community Radio: Voice of People, for & by the people

Presenter: Mr. Ashish Kumar Panda

Central Secretariate Services, GoI

The power of listening is far more impactful than the power of seeing. To bring change by amplifying the voice of the most marginalized is the goal of the community radio.

Key Takeaways

Mr. Panda briefed the audience about the reach of broadcast radios- AM band reaches 99% of the population while FM radio reaches 65%. The community radio stations help to fill the gaps at a very low cost and try to reach the voiceless population. He highlighted a few instances such as:

- Radio FTII 90.4 FM, Maharashtra (2006): where individuals and community groups can use it to communicate their issues, without any burden. They have conducted programs related to COVID-19, agriculture, TB, climate change awareness, adolescent issues-HIV AIDS and has become a powerful medium due to huge public participation. This example shows that increased youth participation will also increase inclusiveness and a sense of togetherness in the community.

- Radio Udaan, Punjab (2014): reach out to people with visual impairment with the prime objective of creating an inclusive and empowered community free from all stereotypes. The programs are produced and broadcast by a group of 30 visually challenged individuals. This instance exhibited that the radio is an influential but underutilized tool as radio Udaan reached 100 countries and over 20000 every month.
- Apno Radio, 90.4 MHz, Rajasthan (2005) under Banasthali Vidyapith: promotes self-reliance and women empowerment focusing on social issues and rural communities. They broadcast a variety of programs on women education, health & nutrition, agriculture, the environment and community development. To reach the most vulnerable population, the team works with 100 village volunteers and organizes workshops for radio production and presentation techniques.
- Vidyavani, 107.4 FM, Maharashtra (2005) under SSPU: air program related to civic issues, education, health and caters to 650 college students and the community. This provides a platform for students to showcase their talents, providing insights about career opportunities and raising awareness about social conduct and issues.
- Vasundhara Vahini, 90.4 MHz, Maharashtra: serves as a tool of social transformation and provides insights to the farming community. They encourage community interaction via letters, SMS, phone calls and encourage community-centric programs with a universal theme, dialogues, tolerance and peace. The fundamental principle of the team is the reliance on the community for survival and providing a voice to the voiceless.
- Henvalvani, 90.4 MHz FM, Tehri: disseminated accurate information during COVID Pandemic, generally communicating knowledge on agricultural issues, weather reports and local civic issues. During COVID-19 the radio station played a major role in debunking the fake rumours and making the community aware of the preventive behaviour, also supporting emergency relief material distribution operations.
- Radio Namaskar, Odisha: played a crucial role in informing the community about COVID-19 appropriate behaviour and helped the migrant workers during the lockdown. Their focus area is local self-governance, human rights, access to food, education and information, DM, social issues and promoting indigenous trade and culture.
- Pasumai Radio, 90.4 FM, Tamil Nadu: compose and use folk songs, skits, jokes in local dialects to connect with the community and make people aware of the concept of social distancing amidst COVID-19.
- Radio Mattoli, Kerala: is the state's first CR to broadcast in the indigenous Paniya tribal dialect and caters to 350,000 listeners. With the basic infrastructure and modest salaries, the radio station team works together with the community to amplify the voice of the ground. During the COVID-19 the radio team are working tighter with SDMA to promote the COVID-19 appropriate behaviour and address their queries.
- On the basis of the presented instances, Mr. Panda, highlighted the benefits of the CR: promoting the cultural and local identity of the area/target group, promoting community access to the local context focusing on community issues, events, achievements and aspiring local talent by providing a platform for them. During times of emergency, these community radios share vital information in a more understandable way and offer a voice to the voiceless including marginalized sections of society. He also mentioned the role CRs play for mental wellbeing, especially during COVID-19.
- Community radio plays a pivotal role for the masses. It is not limited to solving problems facing the common man. Community radio also provides a strong platform from where she/he can freely disseminate his ideas before community members. Thus, community radio has become an important instrument to strengthen the freedom of speech and expression.

- He also emphasized the guidelines for CRS provided by the Ministry of I&B: eligibility for operating a CRS. Additionally, he mentioned the National Community Radio Awards (2012) as a way to encourage the operation of CRSs.
- In these concluding remarks, Mr. Panda suggested the use of advanced technology and policies, schemes, programmes, infrastructural and financial distribution to promote CRs and communities.



FIGURE 4: PRESENTATION SLIDE FOR THE CONCLUSION OF THE SESSION

2.2.5. Technical Session 2: Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction

Presenter: Mr. Sarbjit Sahota

Emergency Specialist, DRR Section, UNICEF India

Community Radio play an important role at demand side. They enlighten the community and the development agencies with knowledge, skills and attitude for community resilience.

Key Takeaways

- Mr. Sahota familiarized the audience with the term displacement and highlighted that community radios always play a vital role during emergencies bridging the gap between development authorities/agencies and the community (especially the one living on the edge) by highlighting what is needed and by whom.
- He shed light on the emergency relief mega camps which require community and family preparedness at a larger scale and appreciated that only community radios can reach these camps.
- Mr. Sahota briefed the audience about the journey of 'initial steps' of CBDRR (shift from reactive to proactive approach), an approach for community capacity building (knowledge, skills and attitudes) for overall resilience building. This introduced risk-informed planning and resource mobilization at the community and school levels.
- He also shared the learning along the process such as the connecting interaction between the community and the government authorities, training and school safety programmes (deductive learning), etc. He mentioned that like the developmental agencies, CRs work on the 'demand side' i.e., they work to inform and empower at-risk communities to prepare for response to vulnerabilities and hazards. Community radio can be effectively used for disaster management in educating people on preparedness, mitigation, rescue, relief and rehabilitation. Locally relevant programmes relating to knowledge, content and experience sharing on disaster

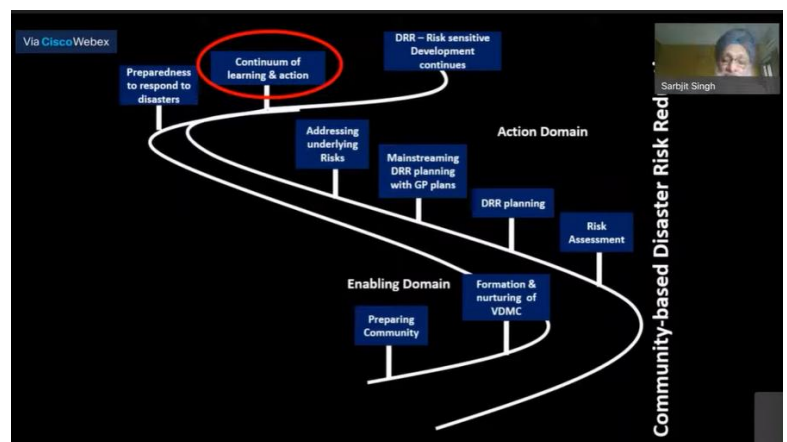


FIGURE 5: PRESENTATION SLIDE ABOUT UNICEF ACTION PLAN FOR CBDRR

emergencies can be broadcast to a larger audience with the help of a network of community radio stations.

- Last but not least, Mr. Sahota mentioned that at-risk people and governments need to come together for their own interest to make themselves aware of the needs and plan for the development work and community radio stations can make it happen.

2.2.6. Technical Session 3: Experience Sharing with RJ

Presenter: RJ Shashi

Radio Mirchi, Patna

Digital media and Community Radio need to work together to interact with the community effectively.

Key Takeaways



FIGURE 6: RJ SHASHI ADDRESSING THE AUDIENCE

- Mr. Shashi firstly, shed lights on the ongoing situation in the state of Bihar (floods in northern part whereas droughts in the southern part) and expressed that the multi-disaster situation in the state (amidst COVID-19) is resulting a various misinformation by COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines in the region.
- RJ Shashi shared his experience (tiku-talk) where they had to debunk the fake rumours and explained the benefits of COVID-19 vaccine with the use of magicians and people believed that. Thus, community radio is amongst the most powerful tools for community outreach as it provides an enabling platform for the community to interact with experts.
- According to him, the community radio is very well connected to the at-risk communities (similar to village chaupal charcha). Community radios have always considered simple solutions to major issues concerning the local community. Like FM community radio can use the networking of social media, other ways of interaction like jingles, short videos to aspire the community. Focus and attention should be given to ensure that these programmes gather the attention of the people in the community. The programmes should generate interest, excitement and curiosity in the minds of the people, which will help the listener to get connected to the programme initiatives.
- Nowadays, digital media and community radio work parallel and need to supplement each other for the community radio revolution. During the COVID-19 pandemic community radios are working at the ground level more intensely than ever. The only need is to join people interactively on more than one platform to serve them and make them aware of initiatives, good practices. He urged that the community radio teams need to work to support the health workers, especially.
- Every community radio has its challenges depending on its geographical area, rural-urban differences, natural calamities, financial issues, tribes and languages. However, innovation is the key to sustain a community radio for long and make it popular. Innovation, ownership and a feel of responsibility towards society will certainly lift a community radio up to its vision and objectives.

2.2.7. Platform Open to All

One of the participants, Mr. Joy Chandran enlightens the audience about HAM radio. He introduced the eligibility to get a license and operate a HAM radio. He also explained that HAM radios are utilized mainly for technical researches and communication, during times of emergency (when other means of communication are disabled), HAM radios can be used by trained personnel on the request of the undersigning government authority.



FIGURE 7: MR. JOY CHANDRAN EXPLAINING

During the Q&A session, many participants along with the guest speakers discussed about the role community radio broadcasting plays in debunking the COVID-19 misinformation and fake rumors.

And in the concluding remarks, Mr. Rajeev Kumar Shukla expressed that community radio broadcasting was needed for the continuous dissemination of appropriate and accurate information during disasters. A strong network of community radio stations can have a greater impact across the country than any other medium. And to make the suitable utilization of the broadcasting media during emergencies, institutional and technical support from the government are the needs of the hour.

2.2.8. Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks

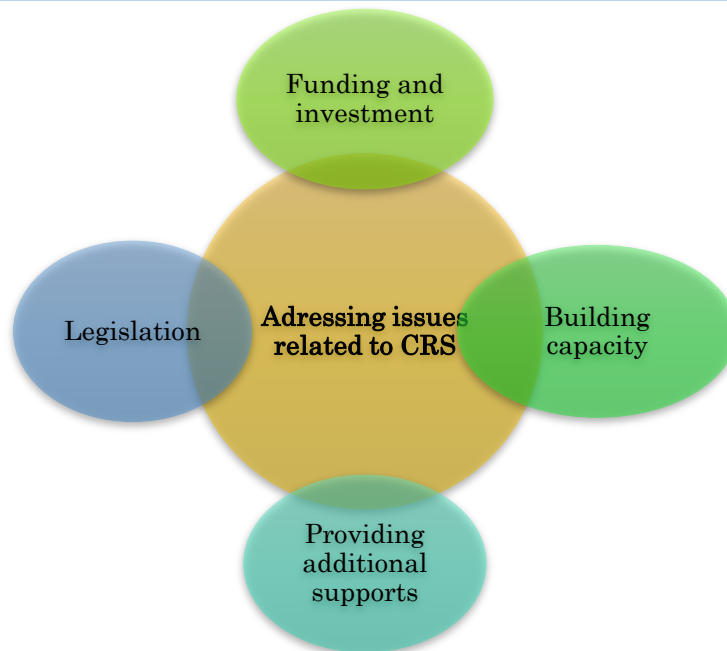
Mr. Nakul Kumar Tarun, Director, Zone4Solutions, extended his gratitude to the guests, and audience for their valuable contribution with a keynote that zone4solutions is always available for every possible technical support and will try to expedite the processes.



FIGURE 8: MR. KUMAR HIGHLIGHTING THE KEY NOTES OF THE EVENT

Mr. Suneel Kumar, Vice President, Zone4Solutions, also extended his gratitude to the guests and the audience. While sharing the key highlights of the event, Mr. Kumar said that the event was fruitful as we discussed the main pillars of DRR i.e., community and communication to a great extent. CRS play an important role in disseminating information. More importance should be given to CRS but funding is a major problem for many CRSs. It is necessary to arrange funds for the CRSs because they work during crisis times even when all other media fail to communicate. He thanked the speakers for shedding light on the ground reality of CRS extent, issues

2.3. Thoughts on Future Steps



2.4. Programme Flyer




Webinar on
COMMUNITY RADIO FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

26th JUNE, 2021 - 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (IST)



 Chief Guest Shri Rajeev Kumar Shukla <small>Former Additional Director General, All India Radio</small>	 Keynote Speaker Dr.B.S. Panwar <small>President, Community Radio Association of India</small>	 Special Presence Shri. Sunil Sharma <small>Vice President, Zone4Solution</small>	 Convener Shri Nakul Kumar Tarun <small>(Disaster Management Expert) Director, Zone4Solution, India</small>
 Invited Panelist Shri Saugthi Sahota <small>Emergency Specialist Disaster Risk Reduction Section UNICEF India</small>	 Invited Panelist Shri Ashish Kumar Pandya <small>Consultant & Faculty Member, NIDM, India</small>	 Invited Panelist RJ Shaahji <small>Radio Mirchi</small>	 Interviewer & Moderator Dr. Anandhesh Kumar <small>Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Bombay, India</small>

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KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REGIONAL WEBINAR SERIES

Central and West Zone - 3rd September 2021

North and North East Zone - 8th October 2021

South and East Zone- 4th December 2021

1st REGIONAL WEBINAR

CENTRAL AND WEST ZONE

3.1. Session Proceedings

3.1.1. Welcome Address: Mr. Nakul Kumar Tarun

Director, Zone4soultion

Mr. Nakul Kumar Tarun, Zone4Soultion, welcomed all the guests, participants, international delegates, and dignitaries. He set the session in motion by explaining the need for regional webinar series to highlight the need and role played by a community radio station during emergencies especially for preparedness (community awareness). He highlighted the fact: Community radio is amongst the most powerful tools for community outreach. The uniqueness of CR programs is the timeliness and evolution of the programs with the changing time and issues. This is very beneficial in terms of DRR.



FIGURE 9: MR. TARUN ADDRESSING THE AUDIENCE

3.1.2. Inaugural Speech: Prof. Santosh Kumar

NIDM

It is the community who we serve. Community radios can be an effective way to know the real problems of the community and always be with them.

Key Takeaways

- Prof. Kumar expressed the need for the specific roles CRs play where policies can support.
- CRs helps in highlighting the risks, vulnerabilities and capacities of the region which the national level broadcasting/national level programmes are unable to notice. Prof. Kumar suggested having a policy on supporting CRs for disseminating information during all phases of the DM; provisions for dialogue with the people; seeking support for CRs in designing seasonal emergency plans/programmes, disseminating programs, implementing and updating the programs.
- He also emphasized designing a framework for community radios to understand their needs, expenditure, license policies, bandwidth policies and issues, area coverage, etc. This will help us to understand the challenges which responsible authority it concerns.
- Prof. Kumar, lastly mentions that it is important to understand community risk perception. This is an important aspect of CBDRR, SFDRR, PM 10 Point Agenda and other national DM policies, however, we are unable to reach that core part of the community. CRs can help us in this aspect bridge the gap between the people and government. Therefore, to have a capable community, the pillar CRs need to be strengthened.



FIGURE 10: PROF. KUMAR ADDRESSING THE AUDIENCE

3.1.3. Key Note Address: Dr. B.S. Panwar

President, Community Radio Association of India

Community radios need to be recognized as MEDIA.

Key Takeaways

- He highlighted that we have an abundance of knowledge to share and work upon, however, we face problems while linking with the at-risk community. Secondly, he emphasized that community radios need to be appreciated and financial, institutional and infrastructural support needs to provide for the development of quality awareness programmes.
- He summarises his views in the 3 below-mentioned points
 - An urgent need for laws, regulations and policies for CRs in DRR,
 - Need for capacity building of CRs to integrate them in all the stages of disaster management,
 - Need for the introduction of new technologies such as HAM radios in community radio and capacity building for it.

3.1.4. Technical Session 1: Community Radio: Voice of People, for & by the people

Presenter: Mr. Ashish Kumar Panda

Central Secretariate Services, GoI

Community radios can pave the way for us to move forward together inclusively towards disaster resilient community in the near future.

Key

Takeaways

- Mr. Panda mentioned that in 2020, at least 389 disasters have occurred in the world. Though the intensity and frequency of disasters are increasing, due to a few factors like technology and innovation, lessons learned from the past experiences we can be able to decrease mortality rates to some extent.
- The frequency of hydro-meteorological disasters will increase due to climate change and will continue to affect vulnerable communities. Thus, community preparedness is the need of the hour and CRs can play a major role in understanding and meeting the local needs, evolving indigenous knowledge and wisdom w.r.t. hazards and mitigation, organizing communities for downward accountability, identifying the vulnerable groups, on the one hand, and on the other hand it works as an interface between the government and community and connects the last mile, etc.
- Furthermore, Mr. Panda explained the role of CRs in DM phases starting with prevention and mitigation where CRs can help in establishing a culture of preparedness; in preparedness, CR helps in dissemination early warning, guiding the community, identifying and mobilizing the resources; during the response, CRs become the closest to the community and work as agents of relief services. He also appreciated and highlighted the contributions CRs have made during COVID-19.
- Not only during emergencies, if we look at the generic role, but community radios have also played a major role in providing platforms to the disadvantaged groups of society such



FIGURE 11: MR. PANDA ADDRESSING THE

as providing platforms to women and LGBT to raise their concerns, youth to showcase their talent, PwDs to get a sense of belongingness, elderly to use their expertise.

- He suggested connecting youth with community radios as an employment opportunity or a revenue model that can be developed in a way as youth are the face and future of India. So, the government may provide subsidies in the procurement of the equipment or provide skill development training to utilize youth knowledge and futuristic approach for DRR.

3.1.5. Technical Session 2: Challenges and Issue of Community Radios - Western Zone

Presenter: Mr. Sachin Menkundale

Vice President, West Zone, CRA

Different regions face diverse and different disasters; thus, policies and capacity building should be w.r.t these disasters.

Key Takeaways

He highlighted that different region have different social concerns, different disasters and associated vulnerabilities. Therefore, while drafting policies there is a need to understand the needs of community and community radios in that region. For instance, in Maharashtra, one part faces heavy rainfall but another drought, therefore, the community radios of those regions need to be equipped with knowledge and resources to help the needful in the time to emergency



FIGURE 12: MR. MENKUDALE ADDRESSING THE AUDIENCE

3.1.6. Technical Session 3: Challenges and Issue of Community Radios – Central Zone

Presenter: Mr. Sandeep Kulshreshtha

Vice President, Central Zone, CRA

Key Takeaways

- He highlighted that community radios play a major role in providing a platform for local experts in a different sector to share their views, opinions and suggestions. This needs to be taken care of while drafting policies related to CR role in DRR, that how to get these local experts involved in the planning and designing development policies.
- He also mentioned that the financial support and knowledge networking needs of community radios need to be considered for IEC campaigns and accurate information dissemination.



FIGURE 13: MR. KULSHRESHTHA ADDRESSING THE AUDIENCE

3.2. Audience Feedback

More than 150 participants from various countries participated in the program. The participants appreciated the initiative taken up by the zone4solution in providing the platform to CR community to discussion their needs and next steps to mainstream community radio in DRR.

3.3. Vote of Thanks

Mr. Nakul Kumar Tarun, Director, Zone4Solutions, extended his gratitude to the guests, and audience for their valuable contribution with a keynote that for all technical support needs, zone4solution is always available, and we do our best to expedite to document the takeaways of the webinar.

3.5. Programme Flyer

CRA **Zone4 Solutions**

Second Regional Webinar on

Role of Community Radio in Disaster Risk Reduction

Central and West Zone

Key Agenda:
Stakeholder Consultation for Disaster Risk Reduction Policy Making for Community Radio

CHIEF GUEST: PROF. SANTOSH KUMAR, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT (NIDM)

CONVENER: SH. NAKUL KUMAR TARUN, DIRECTOR, ZONE4SOLUTION

SPECIAL GUEST: DR. B.S. PANWAR, PRESIDENT, COMMUNITY RADIO

SPEAKER: SH. ASHISH KUMAR PALDUA, CENTRAL SECRETARIAT OFFICER, GOVT. OF INDIA

SPEAKER: MR. SACHIN, VICE PRESIDENT, WEST ZONE, CRA

SPEAKER: MR. SANDEEP KURUSHTRA, VICE PRESIDENT, CENTRAL ZONE, CRA

MODERATOR: MS. TANUSHREE VERMA, HEAD TRAINING & RESEARCH, ZONE4SOLUTION

NATIONAL COORDINATOR: DR. AJAYDESH KUMAR, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR (CIVIL ENGINEERING), INVERTIS UNIVERSITY, UP

DATE: 3rd SEPTEMBER 2021
TIME (IST): 10.30 AM-12.00 NOON
MEETING ID: 25104222981
PASSWORD: RADIO

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2nd REGIONAL WEBINAR

NORTH AND NORTH EAST ZONE

4.1. Session Proceedings

4.1.1. Welcome Address: Mr. Nakul Kumar Tarun

Director, Zone4soultion

Mr. Nakul Kumar Tarun, Zone4Soultion, welcomed all the guests, participants, international delegates, and dignitaries. He set the session in motion by a well-informed risk community that is said to be resilient and community radios work as a building pillar for it. However, community radios are not well-equipped to do so. This concern raises the need for capacity building of community radios to get mainstreamed in DRR. There is an urgent need for a political environment where CRs can work and provide support to at-risk communities. He discussed the points documented in the last webinars:



FIGURE 14: MR. TARUN ADDRESSING THE AUDIENCE

- Need of financial support to construct CRS in the vulnerable regions and to optimize the existing ones.
- Provide technical advisory.
- Provide budgets and procedural support for skill training and CR community development.
- Establishment of an Emergency Response Team of CR community to provide support to CRs in the disaster-affected region.
- Establishment of an Emergency Fund for CRS.
- Development of emergency frequency.
- Provision to provide support to community radios like student radios on campus to operate at the multi-host level.

4.1.2. Inaugural Speech: Shri Rajeev Kumar Shukla

Former ADG AIR

Key Takeaways

- He initiated his speech by saying that no need is a substitute for other media, all media can and should co-exist. While drafting any DM policy & program, it is essential to understand their different functions during emergencies.
- He also mentioned that community radios and AIR are natural companions. However, CRs work at micro-level communication (last-mile connectivity), which makes them more effective for DM initiatives and operations. Therefore, the policy draft related to disaster communication should have a section on community radios, their functioning and effectiveness w.r.t the region it serves.



FIGURE 15: MR. SHUKLA ADDRESSING THE AUDIENCE

- He mentioned the work done by CROPC in this direction (community awareness about lightning, development of the Damini App). He suggested keeping cloudburst and lightning as two important disasters where community radios can reach the community.
- He highlighted the different organizations, agencies and government departments such as UNICEF, Science and technology dept., academic campus, agricultural institutes etc have worked with/for community radios. There is a need for collaborative work of all the forums to empower and strengthen the knowledge networking community radios.
- Last but not least, Mr. Shukla suggested government authorities and the audience should appreciate and recognize the utilization of battery operating radios in the emergency kits as much as possible. He also suggested checking whether the community radios in the recurring disaster-prone regions are well operationalized or not.

4.1.3. Key Note Address: Dr. B.S. Panwar

President, Community Radio Association of India

Key Takeaways

- He appreciated the pointers discussed by Mr. Tarun in his welcome address, pointing them out as very relevant and concrete.
- He highlighted the need for capacity building of all the associated radio jockeys on mainstreaming DM and DRR in their programs (preparedness, response, and rehabilitation) and how to act in times of emergency as community radio is the fastest medium to reach the public.

4.1.4. Technical Session 1: Discussion on local hazards of Northern India in view of DRR

Presenter: Mohmad Suhail Wani

Consultant, Disaster Management, JK SDMA

Planning should be risk informed.

Key Takeaways

- Mr. Wani explained the physiology of northern India and associated disasters.
- He indicated that people, researchers, administration are aware of local disasters, how much damage they can cause; the only requirement is capacity development at all levels of governance and response.
- Mr. Wani also explained the structure and functions of SDMA such as HRVA, risk and need assessments to understand the dynamic local context to guarantee a bottom-up approach.
- He emphasised local capacity building, training, knowledge development, and human resource development and appreciated the work done by community radios. The planning and policy drafting should be risk-informed to ensure a sustainable community. In doing so, the public-private multi-stakeholder partnership will play a major role.



FIGURE 16: MR. WANI ADDRESSING THE AUDIENCE

4.1.5. Recap of the Previous Sessions

Presenter: Mr. Awdhesh Kumar

Ass. Professor, Dept. of Civil Engineering, Invertis University

Mr. Kumar recalled the introductory national-level webinar held on 26th June, 2021 which paved the way for the three region-level webinar series. He laid emphasis on the key highlights of each

session such as role of CR in CBDRR, role of HAM Radio. He mentioned that different regions have different development and disaster related issues, therefore, there are different issues that each community radio would face. It is essential to understand these regional gaps for an effective policy draft.



FIGURE 17: PRESENTATION SLIDE-RECAP OF THE PREVIOUS WEBINARS

Furthermore, he also briefed the audience about the effectiveness of the E-Poster competition launched in June by Zone4Solutions and CRA along with other partners. The detailed of the result announcement event were given below:



FIGURE 18: PRESENTATION SLIDE OF E-POSTER COMPETITION

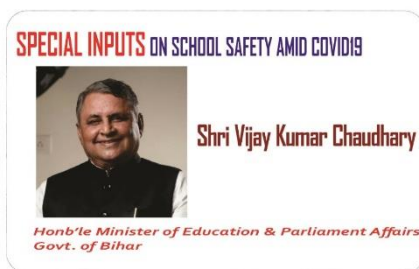
We all are aware that global school closures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic present an unprecedented risk to children’s education, protection and well-being. Children who are one of the most vulnerable sections of our society are hardest hit by school closures. Children are not the face

of this pandemic but they risk being among its biggest victims. While they have thankfully been largely spared from the direct health effects of COVID-19 - at least to date – the crisis is having a profound effect on their wellbeing. A new report says that more than 3 million kids are at a risk of mental health problems resulting from the pandemic. Children’s mental health has been the biggest casualty during the lockdown, a lot of behavioural changes during lockdown.

Keeping the psychological condition of students and engaging them in some creative fun activities Zone4solution a leading firm working on “Disaster Free India” has organized national level online poster making competition on school safety for school going children (6-18 years).

Zone4Solutions received overwhelmed response from school students from across the country with 6000 + entries. All the entries were further reviewed by panel of eminent judges from field of Disaster management and art & culture:

1. Shri Kamal Kishor, Member, NDMA
2. Shri S N Pradhan IPS, DG, NDRF
3. Shri Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal, ED, NIDM
4. Shri Dr Nitin Malik, Registrar, Dr Bhim Raw Ambedkar University, Delhi
5. Shri, R. N Singh, Managing trustee, Global Rescue Foundation
6. Shri Subrata Kundu, Principal SOS Hermann Gemeiner school, Faridabad
7. Dr Nilu Sharma, Principal, Imperial Heritage School, Gurugram
8. Shri Virendra Singh Panwar, President, Community Radio Association of India
9. Shri Suneel Kr Sharma, Vice President, Zone4solution, New Delhi
10. Er. Awdhesh Kumar, Asst. Professor, Invertis University, Bareilly.
11. Dr Mukta Girdhar, Disaster management expert, Freelancer



A prize distribution ceremony for the winners was held on 23rd July 2021 from 10.30 -11.30 am which was graced by the presence of Shri Vijay Kumar Choudhary, Hon’ble Minister of Education and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Bihar all the eminent judges .

Event ID: 184 756 0193 Password: EPOSTER

DECLARATION OF WINNERS

National School Safety e-Poster Competition on
MAKING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT SAFER FROM DISASTER FOR SCHOOL KIDS



4.1.6. Technical Session 2: Discussion on local hazards of North-Eastern India in view of DRR

Presenter: Mr. Rajan Kumar

Training and Capacity Building Coordinator, DDMA, District Sirmaur (H.P)

Planning and designing programmes that improves the quality of lives of the people are produced by community radios and this should include conceptualization of DM too.

Key Takeaways

- Mr. Kumar introduced the geomorphology and main hazards of the region: earthquakes, landslides and floods. He also shed light on the issues and concerns the authorities and community are facing due to recurrent hazards such as water logging, undulated roads and less connectivity.
- While talking about the role of CR in DRR, Mr. Kumar suggested that CRs should have a mandate Disaster management day in a week when they introduce a new concept of DM to the listeners.

4.1.7. Technical session 3: Challenges and Issue of CR- Northern Zone

Presenter: Mr. Manvender Negi

Executive Member, CRA; Station In charge, Mandakini Aawaz, Uttarakhand

Key Takeaways

- Mr. Negi initiated his talk with the experience the Mandakini ki Aawaz faces during Uttarakhand Flash Flood, 2013 calamities and how this community radio has been integrated into the regional disaster management risk information and early warning dissemination.
- He also highlighted the policy developed by the state govt on the same and provided support for disaster resilient community radio stations. He also appreciates the insights of the CRS emergency fund, emergency transmitter, CRS team capacity development and involvement with national/ regional relief forces for timely initiatives.
- Mandakini ki Aawaz took the proactive approach and established public awareness programs where they introduced daily weather forecasting, disaster-resilient building techniques, resource mobilization.

4.1.8. Platform Open to All

One of the participants shared his experience during the 2011 and 2012 cyclones in Tamil Nadu where they used equipment called Cell on Wheels (COW) to arrange a temporary network to revive the main communication network. Another participant from Punjab highlighted that the hooters/ sirens/ loudspeakers can also be used to disseminate warnings.

The participants appreciated the initiative taken up by the zone4solution in providing the platform to the CR community to discuss their importance in community preparedness and social behaviour change and to mainstream community radio in DRR.

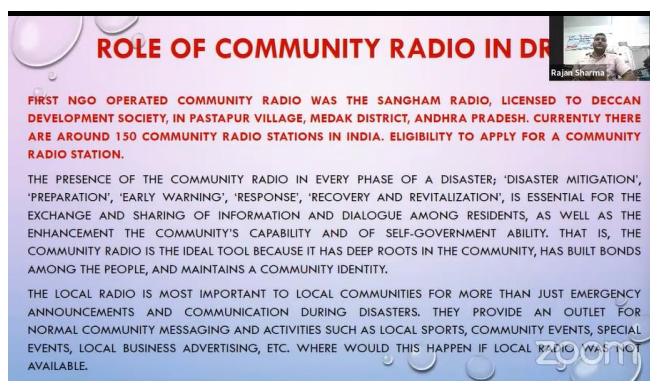


FIGURE 19: PRESENTATION SLIDE ON ROLE OF CR IN DRR



FIGURE 20: MR. NEGI ADDRESSING THE

4.2. Vote of Thanks

Mr. Nakul Kumar Tarun, Director, Zone4Solutions, extended his gratitude to the guests, and audience for their valuable contribution with a keynote that India has regional diversity of disasters too, thus community radios of different will have different issues and concerns. Therefore, as indicated in the sessions there is an urgent need for technical and operational strengthening of community radios. He urged each listener, radio jockey to share their concerns with zone4Solutions from any available media so that it can get included in the policy draft.

4.3. Programme Flyer

**3rd Consultation Webinar on
Role of Community Radio in Disaster Risk Reduction
North and North East Zone**

Key Agenda:
Stakeholder Consultation for
Disaster Risk Reduction Policy
Making for Community Radio

Speakers and Moderators:

- CHIEF GUEST:** SH. RAJESH KUMAR SHUKLA, AOD, ALL INDIA RADIO
- CONVENOR:** SH. NAKUL KUMAR TARUN, DIRECTOR, ZONE4SOLUTIONS
- SPECIAL GUEST:** DR. B.S. RAJAN, PRESIDENT, COMMUNITY RADIO
- NATIONAL COORDINATOR:** DR. ANWESH KUMAR, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, CIVIL ENGINEERING, NITRRS UNIVERSITY, UP
- SPEAKER:** MR. MANVENDER HOSE, EXECUTIVE MEMBER, CRA
- SPEAKER:** MOHAMMAD SHAMUL WAZIR, CONSULTANT, DISASTER MANAGEMENT, JK SOMA
- SPEAKER:** SH. RAJAM KUMAR, TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING COORDINATOR, SOMA DISTRICT - SIRSAKUR (H.P)
- SPEAKER:** MR. BHASKAR JYOTI BHUYAN, VICE PRESIDENT, HORTY EAST
- MODERATOR:** MS. TANUSHREE VERMA, HEAD TRAINING & RESEARCH, ZONE4SOLUTIONS

DATE: 8th OCTOBER 2021
TIME (IST): 10.30 AM-12.30 NOON

zoom
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3rd REGIONAL WEBINAR

SOUTH AND EAST ZONE

5.1. Session Proceedings

5.1.1. Welcome Address: Mr. Nakul Kumar Tarun

Director, Zone4soultion

Mr. Nakul Kumar Tarun, Zone4Soultion, welcomed all the guests, participants, international delegates, and dignitaries. He set the session in motion by stating there is a need to harness the potential of community radios and reach out to locals in their own dialects. He again introduced the noble cause of this webinar series i.e., to understand the underlining differences, issues and capacities of community radio which can be considered while drafting a policy draft on the role of community radios in DRR.



FIGURE 21: MR. TARUN WELCOMING THE AUDIENCE

5.1.2. Inaugural Speech: Shri Rajendra Singh

Honourable Member, NDMA and Former Director General, Indian Coast Guard

Key Takeaways

- Disasters are not bound by political, social, economic or geographical boundaries. Disaster affects all and is increasing exponentially due to many factors. It distresses the vulnerable and the poorest of all due to their less capacity to endure the recurring shocks. Thus, effective disaster management has received increased attention in National and International forums.
- In this sense, community radios play a vital role in outreaching to all with the available information in all stages of disaster management. To promote community radio, in 2002 the GoI India released a policy that allowed well established educational institutions to set up community radios. In order to promote development and social change, the government of India in November 2006, implemented new Community Radio Guidelines permitting Non-Profit organizations to own and operate community radio stations. Mr. Singh highlighted that there is a need to have a comprehensive guideline, policy to address the issues related to community radios.
- He mentioned that the country has 329 operational CRS, out of which 142 are being run by academic institutions, 166 by CR related organizations and 21 by agriculture-related organizations. He assures that government has a considerable amount of budget to support the community radios and appreciates the initiative taken up by Zone4Soultions.
- The community radios help the organization, institutions, volunteers and community itself to become a game-changer as agents of social change which will ultimately help in building a



FIGURE 22: MR. SINGH ADDRESSING THE AUDIENCE

disaster-resilient community. Therefore, collaborative and cooperative efforts of all the stakeholders are needed for DRR.

5.1.3. Key Note Address: Dr. Nivedita Haran

Ex Add. Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala

Community Radio provide sense of security to the community, therefore their role in DM is undeniable.

Key Takeaways

- Government agencies are incapable of reaching the last mile. This work is done by community radios in our country.
- She introduced and appreciated the HAM Radio and other radio systems that functioned during the Kerala floods and saved millions of lives.
- CRs can also be a very good agent to learn from the past. The community tends to forget past experiences. It is the community radios that keep them reminded about what had happened and how to be prepared for the next, especially during the monsoons.
- Dr. Haran also expressed her insights on replication of learned experiences and said this can help one region to learn from another region, especially capacity development for CRs.
- She also highlighted how community radios can reach the last vulnerable member of the society, it can an elderly, a child, a woman, etc., taking up the inclusive approach of CBDRR.
- She also highlighted that the program should be creative, interesting (such as folklore) and in their own language. This is how the DRR programs can become part of their cycle.
- Dr. Haran suggested that CSR funding can also be utilized along with the government funds, non-state actors and individual level efforts are needed to reach each household for DRR.



FIGURE 23: DR HARAN ADDRESSING THE AUDIENCE

5.1.4. Recap of the Previous Sessions

Presenter: Mr. Awdhesh Kumar

Ass. Professor, Dept. of Civil Engineering, Invertis University

Mr. Kumar summaries the key highlights of the journey of this webinar series commenced in June with National- level webinar on role of CR in DRR and updated on how far we have reached in understand the diverse issues related to CR reliability and effectiveness along with current state of operational CRs. He emphasized on the so far understand such as need of capacity development of CRS; lack of financial, technical and infrastructural support for the local and national authorities; lack of community awareness on disaster management and DRR; establishment of CRs disaster- resilient CRs at local level with local human resources.

He also urged the participants and the radio community to share their ideas, queries and feedbacks on the provided website link (<http://www.zone4solution.in/Ideas-for-Community-Radio>), so that we can get more vibrant and important points that will be collated in the proposed policy draft.

COLLATE IDEAS FOR COMMUNITY RADIO

TO COLLATE IDEAS FOR THE POLICY FRAMEWORK FROM ALL QUARTERS AND SEGMENTS OF COMMUNITY RADIO, PAN INDIA, WE CAN HAVE A SEGMENT AT THE ZONE4SOLUTION WEBSITE, USERFRIENDLY, WHERE ANYBODY CAN VISIT AND DROP POINTS, CONCERNS, ISSUES, WHICH MIGHT THEN BE INCLUDED IN THE DRAFT PAPER FOR POLICY FRAMEWORK.

The objective of this message

Disaster management in itself is a continuous and ongoing process. It happens all year round and not only when disasters strike. Community radio is an all-year round, everyday medium, making it one of the perfect tools for community engagement and ensuring participation for community based disaster management. Where community truly represents the many isolated communities that do not have reach to modern-day media. The role of community radio is tremendous in natural calamities. A public radio station with a reach of 15-20 km becomes highly powerful with the integration of mobile telephony in real-time. However, CR is facing many challenges that can be resolved by policy support in view of role of CR in DRR. Thus it is requested to provide various important points to be included in the policy brief that can further be discussed and finalised.

WRITE YOUR IDEAS HERE

Activate Windows

FIGURE 24: PRESENTATION SLIDE SHOWING SITE LINK FOR COLLATING IDEAS FOR CRS

5.1.5. Technical Session 1: Issues Related to Mainstreaming CR In DRR

Presenter: Dr. B.S. Panwar

President, Community Radio Association of India

Key Takeaways

HAM Radio is the last post during the emergency. Therefore, this needs to be integrated in every community radio.



FIGURE 25: DR. PANWAR ADDRESSING THE AUDIENCE

5.1.6. Technical Session 2: Disaster Management in India and Role of Community Radio in View of Disaster Risk Reduction

Presenter: Mr. Ashish Kumar Panda

Central Secretariate Services, GoI

Skilled CRS can play a vital role during golden hour.

Key Takeaways

- Community radios are not just used during emergencies. As highlighted before, they are the agent of social behaviour change in the midst of COVID-19. They connect all the developmental factors, policies such as poverty alleviation, employment generation, agricultural and allied activities, etc.



FIGURE 26: MR. PANDA ADDRESSING THE AUDIENCE

- If we talk more about social behaviour change, societal position and sense of ownership and belongingness influence the community too. Community radios provide this cohesiveness during disasters and normal times.
- Mainstreaming CRS in development planning via PRI, SHGs etc can pave the way for the integration of CRs in DM as disaster management and development are recognized as two sides of the same coin.
- In terms of development, effective communication networks in rural areas will bring improvements in health, education, skill development. Digital marketing can also play a vital role in CR income generation.

5.1.7. Technical Session 3: Role of Amateur Radio in DISASTER management

Presenter: Mr. Sarath Babu Rayaprolu

*Founder and CEO, Get a Call India
OPC Private Limited*

Key Takeaways

- HAM Radio is not utilized for commercial broadcasting and is technical utilized differentially for public safety (police and fire) and professional two-way radio services (maritime, taxis, aviation, etc).
- He explained the different uses of HAMs: talking, DXing, Assisting with emergency and disaster communication, digital communication with the internet, etc. It is an ideal tool for broadcasting and multi-point distribution applications as ground station tracking is not required, the inter-satellite handoff is not needed, and less number of satellites are needed to cover the entire earth.
- Mr. Babu shared his experience of Tsunami (2004), where HAM supported the GoI, local authorities by providing a second line of communication for relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation in the Andaman Islands, supported the local people and foreign tourists by informing their whereabouts to people in the mainland of India. Similar work was done during the Odisha Cyclone.
- He also explained the eligibility and way to get an Amateur Station Operators License.
- Mr. Babu shed light on the flaws/limitations/suggestions in regards to the Amateur Radio during disasters such as a lack of trained NDMA/Redcross/NGO Volunteers/Students to operate the amateur radios, absence of state of art for amateur radio stations, lack of national-level volunteers networking and setups for wireless repeaters to connect the last mile.

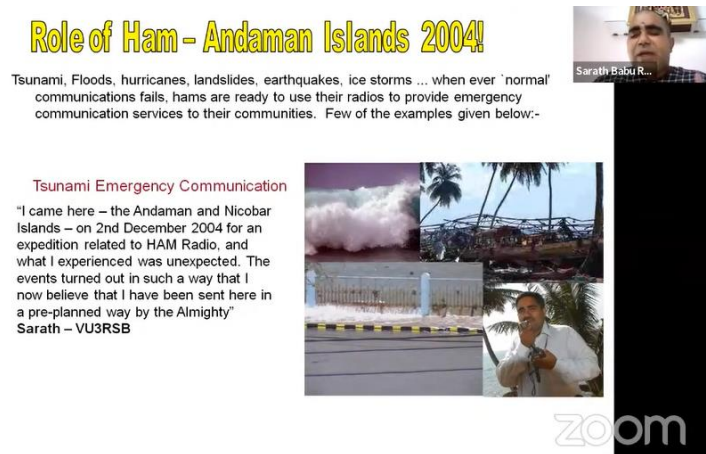


FIGURE 27: PRESENTATION SLIDE ON ROLE OF THE HAM RADIO DURING 2004 TUSNAMI

5.1.8. Technical Session 4: Challenges And Issue Of Community Radios – South Zone

Presenter: Dr. I. Arul Aram

Vice President (South), CRA

Key Takeaways

- Dr. Aram shared a failed experience where after the 2004 Tsunami, in Cuddalore District 54 cyclone-prone villages were linked with the KSDMA as part of the EWS. The learning was that

the CRs serve two-way roles, providing accurate information to local communities by authorities and visa-versa. This should be a continuous process.

- CRs are a crucial aspect of life for the community in the zone which usually gets affected by cyclones and floods. Due to the regular interaction of the community with experts, community preparedness is very high in the region, however, there is a need for improvement in CBDRR capabilities.
- He also shared thoughts on their own experiences where after the 2004 Tsunami, post-disaster people used the CR majorly to share their grievances, distribution of relief material and later on in normal times the CRS initiated to broadcast the knowledge building and entertainment programs.
- However, he highlighted that infrastructure development is very important for DRR.
- He also expressed that the community radios in the zone are made to serve the local community, especially women to educate and build their capacities. The community is being involved in content creation (offline activities) which ensures that their participation in planning, designing and broadcasting the programs. Offline activities and content creation are part of social behaviour change/change in social norms.



FIGURE 28: DR. ARAM ADDRESSING THE AUDIENCE

5.2. Platform Open to All

One of the participants appreciated the zone4solution initiative and asked that to move forward with such initiatives such as strengthening of CRs state administrative support is required, however, there is negligible administrative consensus for it at the state level, so how can these initiatives move forward? To this, Dr. Haran replied that we also need to push our limits and constantly spread awareness through other communication media. Also, she suggested that while sharing the information with the administration it is essential to add insights on how the initiatives will improve the quality of disaster management and DRR in the state.

ASDMA also suggested training or skill-building workshops for state-level volunteers, NCC, academic institutions, etc on operating HAM Radios or establishment CRs, as it can help them to initiate this activity in a more planned manner. Dr. Aram welcomed the thought and replied that such activities have been taking place in the south zone. Many engineering institutions are well-equipped with HAM radios and know the functioning of CRs. These continuous processes keep the DRR related initiatives sustainable.

Another considerable input was provided by Dr. Haran on the question related to the integration of CRs or HAM radios in SDMA/DDMAs. She shared her experience where the HAM radios were provided space in the control room to get connected with the affected population and region administration. Furthermore, she suggested not depending on the SDMA to establish CRs, establish one of your own with a group of sector experts with DDMA collaboration. This will provide the organizers to learn and work on different issues other than DM.

Dr. Haran also provides her inputs on the policy brief, suggesting adding spatial and temporal targets.

5.3. Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks

Mr. Awdhesh highlighted the keynotes of the webinar series stating the webinar series shed light on one of the most important emergency support functions, i.e., emergency communication. Communication is the first pillar for DRR and we need to strengthen it to the grassroots level. He appreciated the inputs provided by Dr. Haran, ASDMA and other participants.



FIGURE 29: MR. AWDHESH KUMAR HIGHLIGHTING THE KEY NOTES OF THE SESSION

Mr. Nakul Kumar Tarun, Director, Zone4solutions, extended his gratitude to the guests, and audience for their valuable contribution throughout the webinar series.

5.4. Programme Flyer

4th Regional Consultation Webinar on
The role of Community Radio in Disaster Risk Reduction
South & East Zone

DATE
 4th December, 2021

TIME (IST)
 10.30 AM - 12.30 NOON

zoom MEET
MEETING ID: 867 0905 3823
PASSWORD: ZONE4S

BREAK THE CHAIN OF COVID19
 GET VACCINATED | SANITIZE HANDS | WEAR MASK | MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING

***REGISTRATION IS FREE**
***e-CERTIFICATE WILL BE PROVIDED TO ALL ATTENDEES**

KEY AGENDA
 Stakeholder Consultation for Disaster Risk Reduction Policy Making for Community Radio

Speakers and Guests:

- CHIEF GUEST:** Shri Rajendra Singh, Member NDMA
- SPECIAL GUEST:** Dr. Nivadita Haran, IAS (Rtd), Ex Addl Chief Secretary, Govt of Kerala
- SPEAKER:** Mr. Sarath Babu Rayapro, Founder & CEO of Get A Call Limited
- CONVENER:** Mr. Nakul Kc Tarun, Director, Zone4solution
- SPEAKER:** Sh. Ashish Kumar Panda, Central Secretariat Officer, Govt. Of India
- SPEAKER:** Dr B.S. Panwar, President, Community Radio, Association
- SPEAKER:** Dr Anul Am, Vice president, South Zone, CRA
- SPEAKER:** Dr Shikhi Das, Vice President, East Zone, CRA
- MODERATOR:** Ms. Tanushree Verma, Head Training & Research, Zone4solution
- NATIONAL COORDINATOR:** Ex. Awdhesh Kumar, Assistant Professor (Civil Engineering), Invertis University, UP

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KEY HIGHLIGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The webinar series commenced in June and ended in December, 2021. The theme of this webinar series was to understand the crucial part community radios play in disaster management and DRR in India. Community radio stations are promoted by Indian government to inform, educate and aware local community in their own dialect and content. In India community radio have proved to be the cheapest and strangest medium for fulfilling communication gap between the government, local authority and community. The webinar series was an attempt to understand and highlight the various challenges which are faced by community radio station in two folds: while establishment and running in smooth manner; secondly in moving forward with DRR and development initiatives.



FIGURE 30: THE ORGANIZING TEAM AND PANELLIST OF THE 3RD REGIONAL WEBINAR

The discussion highlighted that the community radio stations are facing financial, technical and institutional challenges in India. The following points are the key highlights and the recommendations that will be converted in the policy draft as an outcome of this initiatives which is an collaboratives effort of Zonr4Solutions and Community Radio Association of India (CRA):

	Recommendations	Description
1	A set of more comprehensive and effective guidelines, policy (technical advisory) to run a community radio station	In India the first hurdles that the community radio stations face is lack of proper policy direction on how to use community radio during disaster management, the edibility and capacities for technician human resources; Training components on dissemination of early warning, steps to be taken during the emergency; Technical advisory for sessional content, utilization of expenditure, license policies, bandwidth policies and issues, area coverage etc.

2	Technical, managerial support and training for establishing and smooth running of community radio station in the vulnerable regions and to optimize the existing ones	<p>Community radio stations are facing some main hurdles like financial, sound management strategies and technical direction for content. Due to financial barriers, sometimes is quite difficult to procure certain equipment and software. More often maintenance of these community radio stations is also a big challenge, especially in the disaster-prone regions.</p> <p>Awareness and educational programs on establishing and operating a community radio should be provided.</p>
3	Budgets and procedural support for skill training and CR community development.	<p>Government is providing very less budget to community radio stations. Secondly, there is lack of proper training of the technicians and presenters. Due to lack of training, especially to address disaster management related issues, they are struggling to produce a quality program.</p>
4	Establishment of an Emergency Response Team of CR community to provide support to CRs in the disaster-affected region.	<p>Throughout the webinar series it was prioritized that during emergency/calamity, community radios are the first ‘team’ to reach the community. Right after disaster, it is often too difficult to reach the worst hit community and provide culturally appropriate relief supplies. However, it is not easy for an ‘outsider’ to understand the characteristics of the local people. There is no other way of overcoming this except by listening to the voice of various victims in their own language, dialect. Therefore, there is always a need of emergency team by standby to provide support to the emergency relief teams with the update to adjust their activities to meet the needs of the affected population.</p>
5	Establishment of an Emergency Fund for CRS.	<p>Financial preparedness is essential part of disaster management plan of any entity. Provisional, managerial and technical guidance is need to be provided to the community radios so that manage themselves during the time of emergencies. The ownership of the emergency budget can provide the community radios the confidence and assurance to meet the needs of the stations and provide accurate, timely information to the affected community.</p>
6	Establish emergency frequency/wavelength	<p>During emergency community radio station, it is essential to have an emergency wavelength with technically equipped people to operate such equipment/software. It helps to reach to all and work smoothly during disaster and post disaster. Furthermore, there might be persistent demand to relocate the transmitters during a calamity. Based on relevant information the CRS need to be provided with emergency transmitter and antennas during emergencies. CRS need to be furnished with repeaters to address a larger population uninterrupted during emergencies. Therefore, frequencies may be reserved for</p>

allocation to CRS lying in disaster-prone areas to create more opportunities

7	Provision to provide support to community radios like student radios on campus to operate at the multi-host level.	Multi-host broadcasting can help not only the campus but the community, especially to make them technically sound content during normal times and have more hands-on desks during emergencies. Additionally, building an online platform to interlink community radio is also essential so that they can share their knowledge and expertise.
8	Training student, red cross and state volunteers to operate amateur radios and community radios to build youth capacity.	During disasters community radios can also contribute to the emergency relief process of mutual understanding through its on-air and off-air activities with the help of emergency trained volunteers in the affected regions. This can contribute to the human networking to reach the last mile. When different kinds of people participate in the disaster community radio operations, it can gain trust because it will be unbiased, and can broadcast contents based on the viewpoints of the affected population. Therefore, government could support training programs in community radio to existing students, members of the community or to NGOs operating in the area.

Outcome of initiative taken by Zone4solution

Government of Uttarakhand released a guideline for establishment of new CR stations by Government and Non-Government organization with maximum fund of 20 lakh to be provided by the State Government over the period of three years. The initiative been taken as an outcome of the constant advocacy been done Zone4solutions and Community Radio Station. Recognizing the efforts of Community Radio in Disaster Risk Reduction process DR Dhan Singh Sharma released the guidelines to be implemented by Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority. Zone4solution further advocate for a national policy guidelines to be developed by NDMA and implemented by all the SDMAs in view of mainstreaming role of Community Radio in Disaster Risk Reduction.



FIGURE 31: THE ORGANIZING TEAM AND PANELLIST OF THE 2ND REGIONAL WEBINAR

आपदा न्यूनीकरण में सामुदायिक रेडियो की भूमिका पर राष्ट्रीय पॉलिसी हेतु ज़ोन फॉर सॉल्यूशन एवं कम्युनिटी रेडियो एसोसिएशन ऑफ़ इंडिया द्वारा चौथे राष्ट्रीय वेबीनार का सफल आयोजन



नई दिल्ली। अगनी आपदा प्रबंधन संस्था ज़ोन फॉर सॉल्यूशन एवं कम्युनिटी रेडियो एसोसिएशन ऑफ़ इंडिया द्वारा पिछले छः महीनों से सामुदायिक रेडियो के जारी राष्ट्रव्यापी कार्यक्रमों के अंशता में आज चौथे राष्ट्रीय वेबीनार का आयोजन भी सफलतापूर्वक हुआ, इस चौथे कार्यक्रम के साथ ही भारत के पूर्व पश्चिम उत्तर दक्षिण एवं मध्य पॉली क्षेत्रों से सामुदायिक रेडियो के प्रतिनिधियों ने ज़मीनी स्तर पर मौजूद चुनौतियों के बारे में विस्तृत चर्चाओं द्वारा महत्वपूर्ण जानकारियां जुटाने का एक पहला चरण पूरा हो चुका है, कम्युनिटी रेडियो की आपदा प्रबंधन क्षेत्र में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका एवं भविष्य की चुनौतियों के संदर्भ में प्रथम चरण में भारत सरकार के राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण एवं राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन संस्थान के विशेषज्ञों द्वारा भी महत्वपूर्ण इनपुट्स प्राप्त हुए हैं, अब अगले चरण में इन मिले इनपुट्स के विशेषज्ञ मंडल के बाद सामुदायिक रेडियो के लिए एक सशक्त पॉलिसी बनाने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है।

चौथे वेबीनार का शुभारंभ मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण के माननीय सदस्य श्री राजेंद्र सिंह जी एवं विशिष्ट अतिथि के रूप में डॉ. निवेदिता हरन, रिटायर्ड आईएफएस एवं पूर्व एडिशनल चीफ़ सेक्टर, मैकेनिकल सहायक, जयदेवर ज़ोन फॉर सॉल्यूशन श्री नकुल कुमार तरण एवं कम्युनिटी रेडियो के प्रेसिडेंट डॉ. वीएस पंतार ने संयुक्त रूप से किया, जिसके बाद कार्यक्रम के राष्ट्रीय समन्वयक श्री अवधेश कुमार, अरिस्टेट प्रोफेसर (सिविल इंजीनियरिंग, इन्वर्नल विस्थापितता) ने अब

तक की उपलब्धियों पर संक्षिप्त प्रस्तुति दी।

कार्यक्रम के संरक्षक एवं ज़ोन फॉर सॉल्यूशन के निदेशक श्री नकुल तरण ने बताया कि देश में सामुदायिक रेडियो को सुदृढ़ बनाने की दिशा में वे अपनी तरह का पहला बड़ा प्रयास है जिसमें देश के सुदूर क्षेत्रों में काम कर रहे लोगों ने अपनी चुनौतियों को पिछले छः महीनों व्यवस्थित ढंग से सामने आया रहा, क्योंकि ये इनपुट्स सीधे ज़मीन पर काम कर रहे लोगों से आते हैं इसलिए ऐसी पॉलिसी में गैप की गुंजाइश न्यून रहेगी जो सामुदायिक रेडियो क्षेत्र में काम कर रहे लोगों को समर्थन देने के साथ ही अंततः देश में आपदा न्यूनीकरण का सस्ता प्रयास करेगी।

श्री राजेंद्र सिंह जी ने सामुदायिक रेडियो पर जारी इस प्रयास की सराहना करने के साथ ही राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण की ओर से इस कार्य में सहायक सहयोग का आभार माना, डॉ. निवेदिता ने भी ज़ोन फॉर सॉल्यूशन एवं सीआरए द्वारा जारी इस कार्यक्रम को समय मॉन बनाते हुए भारत सरकार की विभिन्न योजनाओं के द्वारा इस प्रयास को और अधिक प्रभावी बनाने का संकेत की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी एवं सुझाव दिए।

तकनीकी प्रस्तुति सत्रों में केंद्रीय सचिवालय के अधिकारी श्री आशीष कुमार पांडा, नेट ए कॉल लिमिटेड के संस्थापक व सीईओ श्री सत्य बानू, गवर्नो, कम्युनिटी रेडियो एसोसिएशन, दक्षिण क्षेत्र के उपाध्यक्ष डॉ. अरुण अर्जुन एवं पूर्व क्षेत्र के उपाध्यक्ष डॉ.

शिशिर दास ने अपने अनुभव साझा किए।

प्रथम चरण के सफलता पूर्वक समाप्ति पर राष्ट्रीय समन्वयक श्री अवधेश कुमार ने हर्ष व्यक्त करते हुए जानकारी दी कि अब तक हुए विभिन्न देशव्यापी कार्यक्रमों में एनडीएमए (NDMA) के माननीय सदस्य श्री राजेंद्र सिंह, एनआईडीएमए (NIDMA) के प्रोफेसर संतोष कुमार एवं केंद्रीय सचिवालय सेवा के अधिकारी श्री आशीष कुमार पांडा जैसे भारत के शीर्ष आपदा प्रबंधन विशेषज्ञों के मार्गदर्शन के अलावा डॉ. इंडिया रेडियो के वरिष्ठ पूर्व एजीसी, श्री राजीव कुमार शुक्ला, रेडियो मिर्ची से प्रसिद्ध आरजे यॉनक, रेडियो मिर्ची से आरजे शशि एवं भारत में नोबिता कार्टून सीरीज की ऑफिशियल वॉचमैन रह चुकी सुषी शिखरन कोर समेत अनेक रेडिओलॉजिस्ट ने भी इस प्रयास को अपने विस्तृत रेडियो क्षेत्र के अनुभवों से समृद्ध किया, उन्होंने कहा कि प्रथम चरण की समाप्ति के बाद अभी भी 20 दिसम्बर तक ज़ोन फॉर सॉल्यूशन की आधिकारिक वेबसाइट पर सामुदायिक रेडियो पर अपने सुझाव दिए जा सकते हैं ताकि एक समावेशी नीति तैयार करने में सभी शान्तिपूर्ण बन सकें।

विशेषज्ञों, प्रतिभागी गणमान्य व्यक्तियों, प्रतिनिधियों आदि के सहयोग के साथ वेबीनार सफलतापूर्वक संपन्न हुआ। अंतरराष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम का संयोजन संचालन रैमिंग एवं अनुसंधान की टेड सुषी तनुषी वर्मा एवं समन्वय श्री अवधेश कुमार द्वारा किया गया, कार्यक्रम में श्री भगवती, श्री राजेंद्र आदि



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FIGURE 32: ZONE4SOULTIONS NEWSLETTER ON THE EVEN

REFRENECES

1. Chhetri, P., & Narayan, S. (2010). Engendered Disaster Management through Community Radio. *Women in Action*, 1(9).
2. Hibino, J. Matsuura, Shohei; Shaw, Rajib (2012). The role of community radio in disasters. In *The role of community radio in disasters* (pp. 30-30).
3. Ullah, M. S. (2020). Community Radio and People's Safety from Cyclone in Bangladesh. *The Journal of Development Communication*, 31(1), 34-45.

YouTube Links

National Webinar: <https://youtu.be/c8yGJbz0I7M>

1st Regional Webinar: <https://youtu.be/oUja37UMSmE>

2nd Regional Webinar: <https://youtu.be/0Rfy6xNT9aA>

3rd Regional Webinar: <https://youtu.be/fDs09VC9vX4>



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