

MONDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2008 (16.30pm – 18.30pm)

Workshop 5: Disasters and emergencies : Role of Communication

ATHENS VIEW, LEVEL 9 (R/G) , English, Arabic

Workshop Title: Disasters and emergencies: the role of communication in supporting beneficiaries in humanitarian responses

Workshop Coordinator: Imogen Wall, BBC World Service Trust and Mark Harvey and Mark Frohart, Internews

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Language: (Please mark one) English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic

Workshop description:

1. What are the main points you want to raise in the workshop?

The role of media in humanitarian responses is generally only considered in relation to international coverage of disasters. There is also, however, a key role of media and much broader information and communication efforts in providing beneficiaries with information. This includes information so they know what's happened, how they can respond, how they can find their families and how they can have some ability to hold the response accountable.

This will be a joint BBC World Service Trust/Internews workshop.

2. Give some background information to the issue you want to raise.

The background information can be found in the recently published BBC World Service Trust policy briefing which can be found at:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/trust/news/2008/10/081022_emergency_response_briefing.shtml

3. List three key questions you want the workshop to address.

- a) Is the role of information and communication in humanitarian responses inadequately recognised in disaster responses?
- b) What should media support organisations do in response to this issue?

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c) How can media development organisations work more effectively together to address this issue?

4. What would be the main desired outcome of the workshop?
- Greater awareness among media development organisations;
 - Joined up advocacy around the issue targeted at humanitarian agencies and those that support them;
 - Increased cohesion and coordination of responses.