



OCHA United Nations Office
for the Coordination of
Humanitarian Affairs

Communication & Community Engagement in Southern & Eastern Africa

Newsletter | 2nd Quarter 2018

This quarterly update is compiled by OCHA ROSEA to support growth in innovative policy, practice and partnerships in humanitarian action to better engage with disaster-affected communities across Southern and Eastern Africa.

CwC News in Southern & Eastern Africa



[How can we better support innovation in emergencies](#)

Agnes Schneidt, Innovation Officer (Energy and Environment), looks back on UNHCR's operations in Uganda and lessons learned for the future:

We began providing support to the Uganda operation in September 2016 in the wake of the South Sudan Emergency Response in West Nile Region. This included four missions to date. Our primary focus was to

facilitate the design of Communicating with Communities initiatives and the establishment of appropriate feedback mechanisms to detect and report potential fraud and other issues.



[Do humanitarian agencies really NEED to be accountable to communities?](#)

Sharon Reader, Community Engagement and Accountability Senior Advisor with IFRC Africa, explores why humanitarian agencies don't NEED but SHOULD:

Do humanitarian agencies really NEED to be accountable to communities? Unfortunately, the answer to this question is no, we don't. [...] If I were to ask, "SHOULD humanitarian agencies be accountable to communities?" the answer would be an emphatic yes.



['I knew I would be able to restart my life': New hope in north east Nigeria after Red Cross cash transfers](#)

IFRC West Coast Cluster Office reflects on the role of cash transfers in north east Nigeria:

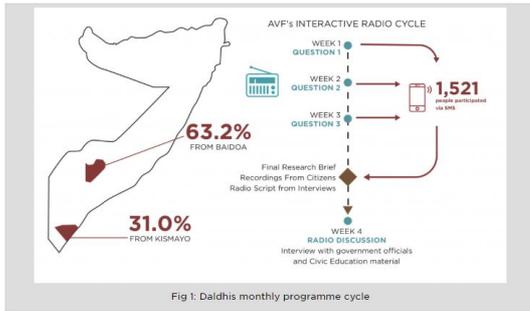
"When I was informed that I would be among the beneficiaries of the Red Cross, I was excited because I knew I would be able to restart my life," said Hadiza confidently with a spark in her eye. "In two years, I should have about nine goats, I won't have to worry anymore."



[Strengthening community radio in Zambia](#)

BBC Media Action has been focusing on empowering community-based radio stations in Zambia through training to better connect local communities to local policy and decision-makers:

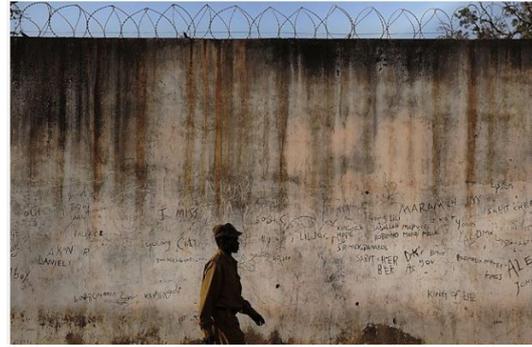
Despite the popularity of community radio in Zambia, stations face challenges. They often lack the training and resources to produce good, editorially sound programming. Operationally, stations struggle to generate predictable and sufficient income and to manage their staff, resources and equipment effectively.



[How digital platforms are building community trust in local governance in Somalia](#)

Isatou Batanon, Social Policy Specialist with UNICEF Somalia, highlights the establishment of new Federal Member States (FMS) and most recently of elected district councils:

The establishment of these local governance structures, which are closest to the population and best placed to respond to local needs, offers promising opportunities for stability and security in the country.



[Rehabilitation radio: how drama is helping change attitudes in South Sudan](#)

Henning Goransson Sandberg, BBC Media Action Research Manager, talks about his visit to Tonj prison:

I am here to speak to inmates who have taken part in radio listening clubs facilitated by presenters from Döör FM, the local radio station. They have been discussing Life in Lulu, BBC Media Action's radio drama about the residents of a small village. The drama, now in its fifth season, is broadcast across South Sudan and explores a number of issues including non-violent ways to resolve conflict.



[Community voices driving decisions: Kenya Red Cross and IFRC share the lessons learned on accountability to communities](#)

The Kenya Red Cross Society has published an independent research showing that the integration of accountability to communities has had a tremendous impact on the way the organization works with communities:

"As a movement we have no choice than being accountable to people. We are there to serve and to work with the people in the communities. They are the ones that know what works and what does not", Abbas Gullet, Secretary General of Kenya Red Cross Society, says.

CwC Workshops in the Region



Communication & Community Engagement in Humanitarian Action workshop

The regional workshop “Communication & Community Engagement in Humanitarian Action – from Words to Action” took place on 29-31 May in Nairobi, Kenya. It was co-organized by CDAC, IFRC, UNICEF and OCHA as part of the Communication and Community Engagement Initiative. More than 60 participants from 11 countries participated: Burundi, CAR, Chad, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan. There were participants from community-based organizations, governments, NGOs (including media development), Red Cross and UN agencies. Each country team had an opportunity to present existing collective work and to plan future activities. The overall aim was to support progress toward the Grand Bargain (and various other) commitments on improving collective systems for community engagement in response coordination. A comprehensive report will soon be shared.

Global CwC News & Jobs

[Innovation Award: UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs 2018](#)
(UNHCR)

[Client-Responsive programming framework: IRC’s approach to accountable programming](#)
(IRC)

[The Last Hurdle? Removing the communication with communities ‘competitive disadvantage’ in humanitarian action](#)
(CDAC Network)

[Tracking the Grand Bargain from a field perspective](#)
(Ground Truth Solutions)

[A humanitarian ombudsman revisited?](#)
(ALNAP)

[CHS Alliance appoints Tanya Wood as Executive Director](#)
(CHS Alliance)

[CCE/C4D Jobs/consultancies](#)
(C4D)

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