Joint Media Assessment Mission to Aceh

UNESCO Jakarta Office • International Media Support

Mission Report • 17 January – 2 February 2005

1. Introduction

In response to the earthquake and tsunami that struck northern Sumatra on 26 December 2004, the UNESCO Jakarta Office and International Media Support (IMS), a based in Copenhagen, fielded a joint media assessment mission to the province of Aceh from 19 to 27 January 2005.

The mission team travelled to the tsunami affected-areas, specifically including Banda Aceh and Meulaboh, in order to collect first hand information and conduct a needs assessment on the situation of the media, with an emphasis on local radio. In addition, the mission sought to provide basic emergency training for local broadcast media practitioners, as well as facilitate the provision of urgently required equipment.

The mission was comprised of Arya Gunawan (UNESCO Jakarta Office), Yunita Mandolang (UNESCO Jakarta Office), Torben Brandt (UNESCO/ IMS Consultant) and Thomas Hughes (UNESCO/ IMS Consultant), with technical and logistical support from the UNESCO Jakarta Office.

The findings presented in this report are based on the existing knowledge of UNESCO and IMS about Aceh and local broadcast media, as well as discussions with numerous local and national media practitioners and institutions, UN agencies, national and international non-governmental organisations and donors institutions. Thanks are expressed to all those with whom the mission team met, as well as the UN coordination, security and logistical operations in Banda Aceh.

2. General Situation

The earthquake and tsunami that struck northern Sumatra in Indonesia on 26 December 2004 wrought widespread destruction to the coastal areas of province of Aceh. Sizeable parts of the north and southwest coastline, including the in urban areas of Sigli, Banda Aceh, Calang and Meulaboh, have been either destroyed or rendered unsafe, with considerable loss of life particularly amongst vulnerable groups, including children and the elderly. As of 24 January, it was reported that in Aceh 94,584 bodies had been recovered, 132,172 persons are unaccounted for and 394,285 persons have been displaced[1]. Although family reunifications continue thereby reducing the number of reported missing persons, this is of a limited scale only and it is assumed that the vast majority of those missing have lost their lives.

In the district of Banda Aceh alone, 104,440 persons are believed to have been killed or are missing, accounting for 47% of the total population of the district[2]. Although precise figures were not available, it is also believed that of the approximately 80,000 inhabitants of Meulaboh, two-thirds have lost their lives. Furthermore, the earthquake and tsunami have resulted in widespread damage to local infrastructure, de-capacitating local services and rendering severe economic loss to the province.

---

[1] Indonesia Earthquake and Tsunami - Situation Report No 20 (UN OCHA, 24 January 2005)
[2] IDP Humanitarian Situation in Banda Aceh District - Occasional Paper No.3 (UN OCHA - 24 January 2005)

Whilst initial relief efforts conducted by the local and national authorities, and specifically the Indonesian military (TNI) which has sizeable presence in the province, have focused on the recovery and burial of bodies, a fortnight past before international relief efforts got substantively underway. At the time of the mission, it appeared that adequate quantities of emergency relief items were arriving in the province and numerous national volunteer and civil society groups, UN agencies and INGO's had initiated operations.

However, due the scale of the disaster, indications were that increased coordination was still required in certain sectors. Consequent health, nutrition and sanitation issues resulting from the destruction of local infrastructure and massive internal displacement pose a serious threat to the well being of the remaining population.

3. Media Landscape

The local media community has been severely affected by the disaster. Numerous print and broadcast outlets have been destroyed, with media practitioners reported missing or having lost their lives. In early January, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) estimated that 200 media practitioners are missing in northern Sumatra.

3.1. Broadcast Media

Approximately eleven radio stations have been seriously affected by the earthquake and tsunami, and a month after the disaster the broadcast media remains in a state of shock. Most of the stations have lost staff members, whilst four stations in Banda Aceh alone have lost their owners. Large parts of the surviving staff members are still mourning with their families in Banda Aceh, Meulaboh or back home in rural areas, with many still searching for missing relatives. Almost everybody is suffering from various degrees of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Buildings
The significant number of the 16 radio stations in Banda Aceh were situated in the devastated areas, and therefore have either been hardly damaged or completely destroyed. None of the damaged stations in Banda Aceh are considering a reconstruction at the original location, because of traumatic memories, as well as because the local government has not finalised decision making about what should happen to the land.

RRI (Radio Republic Indonesia), situated on the edge of the devastated zone, is expected to reconstruct its facilities when possible. In addition, TVRI (TV Republic Indonesia), affected by the earthquake but not the tsunami, expects to reconstruct its main building containing administration offices and studios. In Meulaboh all four FM stations have been damaged.

Equipment
Almost every radio and TV station has lost a substantial part of its equipment and many have lost everything. This, combined with the lack of power supply, has meant that no local stations were able to broadcast in the first few weeks after the tsunami.

Emergency Stations
A few days after 26 December, PIKA (Centre for Information and Communication for the Acehnese), a consortium of national and local media associations' including the Department of Communication of the University of Indonesia, with PRSSNI (Indonesia's Association of Private Radio Broadcasters) in the leading role, established two emergency FM station at Banda Aceh and Meulaboh, called Suara Aceh FM. This station has produced content with the help of radio broadcasters from other provinces, working together with local broadcasters from various local stations since late December. These stations are expected to phase out as soon as the local broadcast sector is again activated.

Present Situation – Airwaves
The listeners in Banda Aceh presently have approximately seven different listening options, even though most stations have frequent power cuts causing long breaks in the broadcasting. As mentioned above, Suara Aceh FM will broadcast until the local media have recovered. Baiturrahman FM (music) is back on the air. A new community radio stations, called Suara Muhamadiyah has been established with the help of the *68h News Network* under the auspices of the national Muhamadiyah organisation (a national mainstream Islamic social welfare and educational organisation)*.*

Radio Prima FM also has been helped back on the air by 68H in a temporary station established in the home of the owner. Prima FM is regarded as one of two FM stations that, before the tsunami, met the public service demand for news, background and balanced coverage of local politics and conflicts. The other one, Nikoya FM, is now in the process of being re-established. TVRI and RRI are also producing local content, broadcasted through the national broadcasts, but on a limited scale compared to the pre-tsunami production level.

Radio Content
All active stations are having problems reaching pre-tsunami capacities of programming quantity and quality, which means that they are also far from being able to reach a level where they can meet the demand for intensified coverage of the humanitarian operations.

Future Broadcast Landscape
It is not clear whether all radio stations in Aceh will be able to recover, especially not amongst the stations that have lost their owners. There are also indications that a number of new community radios will be established in the coming weeks and months.

3.2. Print Media
As with the local broadcast media, the print media has been severely impacted by the disaster, with significant loss of life, trauma amongst surviving media practitioners and the destruction of office and printing resources. Of the approximate nine daily, weekly and monthly publications either produced in Aceh (or Medan in the neighbouring North Sumatra province) or specifically targeting Aceh, only four are reportedly being printed, including Serambi Indonesia (Banda Aceh based daily publication in the Kompas group), Modus (Banda Aceh based weekly tabloid), Rakyat Aceh (Medan based daily publication) and Waspada (Medan based daily publication).

Other local publications not currently being produced include Kontrast (Banda Aceh based weekly investigative publication), Aceh Kita (Banda Aceh based monthly magazine and online publication), Modus (Banda Aceh based weekly tabloid), Aceh Tribun (Banda Aceh based weekly tabloid), MediaNAD (Banda Aceh based weekly newspaper) and Analisa (Medan based daily newspaper).

Of particular note is the Serambi Indonesia daily newspaper. As the first publication to restart in the impacted areas, the conditions and obstacles it faces are indicative of those faced by others. In addition, Serambi has a professional reputation and is widely consider a central pillar of the local media landscape in the province. Despite the destruction of the first floor of its offices and the equipment therein, extensive damage to its printing press and the numerous staff members (including 11 journalists and editors), Serambi Indonesia resumed publication on 1 January with a limited number of staff and a print run of 15,000 to 18,000 copies per day (down from 30,000 to 40,000 before 26 December).

In the first few days Sermabi was distributed for free at IDP camps and on the street, with the retail price subsequently being reduced from IDR 2,000 (approximately 23 US cents) to IDR 1,500 when it was sold again. Revenue from advertisement has dissipated, with the publication charging nominal rates for the publication of missing person advertisements. The newspaper has also lost numerous subscribers and cannot be transported to the west and south of Aceh due to the destruction of transportation infrastructure and priority needs for relief items. Further logistical problems are caused by the fact that the newspaper is being set and printed approximately 250 km further along the northern coastline at Lhokseumawe. Although the Kompas group sent journalist to assist the newspaper, there is a serious human resource shortage. As a result, the staff of the weekly investigative sister publication, Kontrast, have been redirected to work on Serambi.

In general, the print media in Aceh is in urgent need of office space, equipment, printing facilities and human resources. In particular, through loss of life and trauma, those publications in the impacted zones are now understaffed and in the coming weeks training for new staff members will be required. Moreover, the lack of access to everyday office facilities significantly restricts the capacity of the publications. It should also be noted that due to the economic impact of the disaster, publications have had to reduce purchase prices and the number of copies being printed. Numerous subscribers are also missing or killed and the damage done to transportation routes has limited distribution areas, thus also reducing income.

The national publications produced centrally in Jakarta are available in Banda Aceh, although these have a national focus and cannot adequately address issues from a local perspective or perform the function of the 'fourth estate' at the provincial level.

3.3. Media and Humanitarian Information
At the time of the mission there was a noticeable lack of humanitarian information being disseminated through the media to local communities. Primarily due to the necessity to prioritise the distribution of relief items, those UN agencies and INGO's active in Aceh have focused their communication efforts through direct dialogue with community representatives.

Humanitarian information activities that are getting underway include the distribution of 'missing persons' and 'I am alive' lists by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to local radio stations. In addition, amongst others, Oxfam is working on the production of health messages for local radio and Save the Children intends to publicise lists of missing children on two radio stations.

In general it seems that the local media has not yet been effectively or consistently used as mass medium for health, nutrition and sanitation education and publicising immunization campaigns. In circumstances where there have been a number of reported cases of acute respiratory infection and skin diseases, reflecting poor sanitation conditions, and it is assessed that there is a serious risk of disease (including amongst others cholera, typhoid, tetanus, hepatitis, measles and others illnesses, as well as mosquito carried illnesses such as malaria and dengy fever) there is an urgent need for widespread humanitarian information campaigns to avoid unnecessary loss of life. Some of the local broadcast media, including TVRI in Aceh and Suara Muhamadiyah community radio in Banda Aceh, have interviewed medical experts on health and sanitation issues, although these efforts remain individual and uncoordinated.

There is also an urgent need to address trauma related issues. Significant proportions of the local community are suffering severe mental health repercussions due the devastation and loss of life. Although it is noted that any trauma related counselling must be conducted with the proper professional supervision, the shear size of the task in Aceh means the local mass media might be usefully harnessed. In this regard, as the local media begins to discuss trauma issues by their own fruition, there needs to be training and awareness to ensure that this is undertaken in a productive manner.

The training undertaken by the mission team with a number of local radio stations (see 5.1) provided a forum in which media and the humanitarian aid community were brought into direct contact, sometimes for the first time. In this regard, the participation of ICRC, WHO (World Health Organisation) and Oxfam in the training offered a useful 'test case' for the further development of such interaction, possibly through a forum such as a media centre.

3.4. Media and Socio-Political Stability

The local media has played a stabilising role in the Aceh over the past years, particularly relating to the conflict between the Government/TNI and Free Aceh Movement (GAM). With the rapid influx of external parties both from within Indonesia and internationally, the potential for rumour and misinformation is considerable. The need for objective and balanced information, particularly based on professional and reliable sources from within Aceh, will therefore be essential in the coming weeks and months.

In this regard, considering the current instability, the need for professional local media will be of increasing importance. With the Government and GAM entering into direct dialogue as of 28 January in Helsinki, there is the potential for a resolution to the conflict.

However, although ceasefires were declared following the tsunami, the TNI also reported that it had killed approximately 200 GAM members in the days and weeks after 26 December[3]. In this light, it must be noted that the peace process remains in its infancy with numerous hurdles to be overcome.

Moreover, reports indicate that a number of national and international non-Acehnese groups are promoting social, religious and political agendas. In addition, as the practices and customs of the external groups come into contact with those of the local communities, this might create the potential for friction that could hinder relief and recovery efforts, as well as derail any ongoing conflict resolution process.

It appears that care is being taken by the UN agencies and larger INGO's in the province to be sensitive to local customs and practices. However, previous humanitarian operations around the world show that regardless of the goodwill that may exist in the first instance, as there seems to be amongst the local community in Aceh at present, tensions will inevitably emerge that may play into the hands of those groups seeking to harness public discontent for specific purposes not in line with bringing peace, stability and socio-economic development based on good governance and respect for human rights.

The role of the media in informing the local population about the post-disaster recovery efforts and potential peace process, as well as acting as a conduit for expression amongst local communities, will be a considerable challenge amidst the devastation caused by the earthquake and tsunami. However, without an accurate and objective local media countering misinformation, conditions could be rife for the radicalisation of popular opinion, increased socio-political instability and an escalation in violent conflict.

4. Media Related Project Activities

4.1. National and International Actors
The section below provides an overview of the activities of national and international actors that are either foreseen, currently underway or completed. The list only presents an overview and it may not be comprehensive as the situation remains fluid. In this regard, the information has been included in this report to try to clarify the complicated media support situation, provide opportunities for collaboration and avoid duplication. All the details listed below must be rechecked by any party seeking to use it as a basis for comment or action.

68H Radio News Network
The national radio network 68H, which has approximately four hundred member stations nationwide, responded to the emergency by deploying a 15 person team to re-establish Radio Prima in Banda Aceh, providing a transmitter (1KW), mast, mixing desk, generator and other items, as well as six-months of operational costs and a ground water well.

68H also plans to provide similar assistance packages in early February to re-establish Radio Megaphone in Sigli and Radio Dalka in Meulaboh.

---

[3] 'Talk with GAM tough but govt to see it through' (Jakarta Post, Vo. 22 No. 270, 30 January 2005)

In addition, they have established the Suara Muhamadiyah community radio station in Banda Aceh under the auspices of the national Muhamadiyah organisation (a national mainstream Islamic social welfare and educational organisation), with plans to do the same in Sigli and Meulaboh.

These short-term activities are being undertaken with the assistance of the Media Development Loan Fund (MDLF) and Asia Foundation. 68H is also cooperating with Free Voice in developing a long-term proposal for assistance to approximately six radio stations in the province.

Alliance of Independent Journalist
The Alliance of Independent Journalist (AJI) is appealing for financial assistance to assist families of journalists who have lost their lives or are missing. In addition, AJI is working with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) and others on the establishment of the Aceh Media Centre (MCA) in Banda Aceh, with supporting coordinating posts in Lhokseumawe, Medan and Jakarta. This will potentially include the publication of information on Aceh through a website and newsletter, as well as a database(s) on victims, conditions in the field and donor support.

Combine Resource Institute
The Combine Resource Institute (CRI) intends to work with the World Bank to establish a post-tsunami emergency information and communication system. This will include approximately 10 information relay points that provide information from a number of locations for use in the local media. These information points may subsequently develop into community radio.

Free Voice
Free Voice, based in Amsterdam, is seeking to assist approximately six radio stations in the province. This provisionally includes two in Banda Aceh (Radio Nikoya and Radio Suara Perempuan) and three to four along the southwest coast (these stations are still to be identified). In addition, Free Voice is considering options for the distribution of transistor radios, assistance to the daily newspaper Serambi Indonesia, and aid for the relatives of deceased or missing media practitioners. Free Voice is working with 68H on developing proposals for the broadcast related activities.

International Federation of Journalists
The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has collected funds for families of journalists affected by the disaster. In addition, IFJ will work closely with AJI for the establishment of a media centre.

International News Safety Institute
The International News Safety Institute (INSI) has thus far sent 50 first aid kits to AJI.

Internews
The Internews office in Jakarta has established a journalist support fund to provide small stipends that will allow local journalists to begin reporting again while the reconstruction happens.

Internews has also procured and deployed equipment ranging from 30 Watt FM suitcase radio stations to cell phones, phone cards, mini-disc recorders and first-aid kits, as well as helped reequip a number of radio stations including Radio Prima (together with the 68H Radio Network), Radio Muhamadiyah (together with the 68H Radio Network) and Radio Suara Aceh (together with the PRSSNI group).

In the longer term, Internews intends to deploy one radio technician and one broadcast/humanitarian journalism resident trainer to oversee equipment installation, station reconstruction and training and programme production addressing humanitarian information, including how to network with the international relief agencies and report on post-traumatic stress. The dissemination of humanitarian information might be undertaken in collaboration with First Voice International (the non-profit sister organisation of World Space).

PIKA
The Centre for Information and Communication in Aceh (PIKA), a consortium consisting of PRSSNI, MPPI, SPS, University of Indonesia and others, undertook a media landscape assessment in Aceh. This consortium is also considering options for setting up a media centre.

PRSSNI
The national radio broadcasters association (PRSSNI), which is part of the PIKA consortium, has established Radio Suara Aceh in Banda Aceh and Meulaboh. These stations have been created as an emergency measure and, at present, are expected to broadcast for a limited period of time only.

Radio Netherlands
Radio Netherlands is starting an action programme to set up a number of emergency radio stations, which will in due course be built up into permanent stations. In this regard, they are currently assessing the potential for support and an assessment mission is expected in Indonesia during the first week of February. The Indonesian transmissions of Radio Netherlands will pay attention to the fundraising by the Dutch domestic broadcasters. Radio Netherlands is also appealing to its 6,000 partner stations around the world to collect money and equipment.

World Bank
The World Bank is working with Combine to establish a series of information relay points (see section on CRI), as well as the distribution of a number of radio receivers.

Other actors to be consulted vis-à-vis coordination activities should include *Voice of America*, *BBC World Service Trust*, *British Council*, *Friedrich Ebert Stiftung* and *Common Ground Indonesia.*

4.2. Coordination
Under the conditions of intense international attention and pledges of assistance for the local media, the need for proper coordination and cooperation between national and international organisations is crucial. This is particularly so as many of the media development actors do not have a presence on the ground in Aceh and are working through remote sources of information.

In this context there was considerable potential for duplication between media development organisations. As an example, Radio Nikoya in Banda Aceh has been targeted by approximately four international organisations for similar assistance (although this problem has now been identified and all parties consulted have indicated willingness to be flexible in order to avoid duplication). However, in order to avoid overlap, duplication must be identified at an early stage before funding commitments are locked to predefined programmes and activities are set in motion.

UN OCHA has established a media coordination meeting, although such information sharing will require a motivating force to sustain it, as well as ensure that it reaches those organisations remotely undertaking projects without a permanent presence on the ground.

5. Mission Activities

5.1. Training
During the UNESCO/ IMS mission in Banda Aceh, a total of 20 media practitioners from six FM radio stations, including Baiturrahman FM 98.5, SIS FM, Prima FM, Megah FM, Suara Muhammadiyah and Suara Aceh (SIS FM) (see annex) were offered a three day training programme, aiming to strengthen the local radio coverage on the emergency situation.

The training took place from 23 to 25 January 2005 in the Suara Aceh FM editorial room in Banda Aceh. In order not to delay the daily and urgently needed coverage on the emergency situation, the training was condensed into 2 to 3 hours daily sessions.

Training Content
Each training day concentrated on a specific theme.

- Day 1 (Sunday 23 January): How to inform on radio about the thousands of missing persons and families reuniting.
- Day 2 (Monday 24 January): How to deal with post traumatic disorder healing in radio programmes.
- Day 3 (Tuesday 25 January): How to prioritise and adopt amongst the overwhelming amount of information about the ongoing post-tsunami recovery operations.

Training Methodology
Being in a situation where the audience has been affected by trauma and many lives potentially remain in danger due to health threats, and when those who do the reporting are facing the very same problems, it was necessary to make the participants concentrate on seeing the situation from outside – from a "birds eye perspective" – subjugating their consciousness about their own problems as much as possible. This was done by concentrating on the skills of making radio programmes, in order to create a feeling of daily working life conditions, normalisation and self-confidence.

11

Each session followed the same 3-step structure:

- Identifying the audience need for information and dialog.
- Developing a number of programme format suggestions suitable for each type of content.
- Discussing the common and individual obstacles and advantages of the described formats with the participants.

Apart from the concrete content of the training, it seems that the three-day training also had some positive side effects. The four FM stations present had the opportunity to exchange professional experiences. The advantage of sharing information and sources needed to cope with the overwhelming need for information as regards the tsunami recovery became clear. In this regard, the idea of creating a more formalised network was introduced.

5.2. Equipment
During the mission UNESCO helped Suara Aceh FM, which is often interrupted by power cuts, by providing a generator. Due to the lack of field recording equipment in Prima FM, the station was given a Marantz field recording set. In addition, Prima FM had serious problems housing staff members that had lost their homes. As a temporary solution, UNESCO and IMS facilitated the provision of six tents and cots from WHO and the Government of Switzerland to be located next to the station.

6. Recommendations

6.1. Theoretical Considerations
The provision of timely and accurate humanitarian information can play an equivalently important role as the provision of relief items. Without local media it is difficult to inform local populations where assistance is available and how to avoid serious health related threats. Local media play a central role in providing such information, as well as help reunite relatives and inform about the effects of the crisis on their local areas. The media also offers the opportunity for international organisations to win trust amongst local communities and enhance the security of staff members, thereby increasing the chance of success in their work. Where information vacuums exist, due to the destruction of local media institutions, this removes an important component for humanitarian operations and can leave local populations unaware and unable to properly deal with the threats they face.

Furthermore, a lack of credible information can seriously increase people's insecurity, exacerbate fear and frustration, and even trigger social, religious and political conflict. Sustainable development and peace is built on democracy, adherence to the rule of law and respect for human rights and media should play a key role in advancing these.

In this regard, a key component for supporting the media in Aceh will be bridging the gap between the immediate objectives of the rapid reestablishment of local professional media and provision of humanitarian information, with the longer-term goals of promoting freedom of expression and the development of a credible, professional and independent media that can function as the 'fourth estate'.

The effects of media facilitating and maintaining socio-political stability and allowing for democratic and economic development can be viewed in terms of the negative repercussions that inaccurate or propagandistic reporting may have in terms of fuelling tensions and provoking conflict. Conversely, the media may potentially have a positive impact if founded upon basic professional standards, combined with diverse access to information, reasonable financial resources and adherence to ethical codes. In this regard, a professional and vigorous media community can both prevent and resolve conflict, through the automatic functions of furthering awareness and knowledge, promoting participatory and transparent governance, and addressing grievances emanating from grassroots levels.

The reestablishment of a strong professional local media in Aceh must therefore be of primary concern, both in the immediate term for the coordinated and widespread provision of humanitarian information and trauma counselling, as well as the immediate to long term to address conflict resolution and counter instability spread by misinformation and social, religious and political agitation.

6.2. Intervention Areas
Based on the findings of the mission, a number of key recommendations for the immediate and medium terms have been identified. These recommendations can be divided into three main activity areas:

- Media Coverage
- Media Content
- Information Sharing and Activity Coordination

6.2.1. Media Coverage
The reestablishment of broad local media coverage covering the majority of the population in Aceh is of primary importance for the humanitarian and post-tsunami recovery efforts, as well as longer-term conflict resolution and socio-economic development based on respect for human rights and democratic principles and practices.

i. Radio Stations
A number of radio stations with professional reputations for news production before the tsunami have been destroyed. Amongst these are Radio Nikoya in Banda Aceh and Radio Dalka in Meulaboh, which are members of the Local Radio Network for Democracy (a network consisting of 30 radio stations across Indonesia that was initiated in 1999 by UNESCO with supports from the Danida).

As a priority, such stations should be re-established. These activities could be divided into two phases, with the first providing emergency assistance to immediately get the stations re-broadcasting, and the second to provide equipment, training, new premises and other resources to ensure that the stations are back to and beyond their pre-tsunami professional capacity. The second phase should also provide equipment and training for other stations, which have been either supported through alternative funding sources and/or not directly affected by the tsunami, but have IDP communities in their localities.

Such initiatives should be closely coordinated with the broadcast media related activities of other national and international organisations, including 68H, Combine, Free Voice, VoA, Internews and Radio Netherlands.

ii. Radio Receivers
With the widespread destruction of property and infrastructure along the coast and relocation of local populations to IDP centres, there is an urgent need for the provision of radio receivers. The distribution of these should include both specific target locations (such as IDP camps) and isolated communities along the coast. Distribution should be undertaken in co-ordination with NGO/INGO providing other emergency relief items. The type of receivers provided should be specific to the circumstances and availability of electricity at the locations in question. A number of donors and INGO's intend to provide receivers, although mostly on a limited scale and close coordination will therefore be essential to avoid duplication.

iii. Media Centre
With the destruction of infrastructure and working resources amongst the broadcast and print media, many have been forced to either relocate or identify new offices and layout/printing facilities. The establishment of a media centre providing computer facilities and Internet access will offer communal resources that allow local media to restart activities.

Such an institution should also serve as an 'information hub' and seek to ensure adequate local and national media oversight of the medium and long term recovery efforts, as well as any ongoing peace process. In addition, in the medium-term, the centre could provide editing/production facilities and training opportunities, as well as archived media materials about the tsunami and information on cultural, educational and social issues. Potential national co-operating partners in developing such an institution might include AJI and PRSSNI/PIKA.

6.2.2. Media Content
Support for the continuation of professional media content as was already in progress before 26 December, as well as the further development of skills on 'new' post-tsunami issues, will be essential. In this regard, the content of the media is of equal importance as the coverage in providing humanitarian relief, assisting with and overseeing recovery efforts, promoting conflict resolution and countering misinformation.

i. Humanitarian Information
Although emergency relief efforts are still underway, the distribution of humanitarian information is limited. The majority of UN agencies and INGO have concentrated efforts on the distribution of relief items, leaving local media to fill the information vacuum for the local population. However, as victims of the tsunami themselves, the local media is neither prepared nor able to properly undertake the task. In the immediate term, humanitarian information relating to health and nutrition issues will be essential.

Assistance is therefore required in the production and dissemination of humanitarian information through local broadcast and print media.

This should take the form of a 'production unit', which should work with UN agencies and INGO's to prepare health related PSAs (Public Service Announcements) to be disseminated through the local broadcast and print media. In the medium term, training activities should seek to develop the local media's capacity to undertake such work directly themselves.

ii. Professional Media and Socio-Political Stability
Activities in Aceh over the past two years have focused on the professionalisation of the local media, with a particular focus on developing content addressing conflict resolution. In the post-tsunami short and medium terms, the provision of timely and accurate information will be essential for countering rumours and misinformation. With the local media in a disorganised state and lacking the necessary resources to resume work at full capacity, the lack of information could fuel insecurity and endanger the fragile balance of the local social, religious and political context. This situation is particularly pressing with the ongoing rumours concerning the alleged 'Christianisation' of the province and increasing presence of hard-line groups such as were present in other conflict areas in Indonesia.

One of the most effective tools for ensuring stability is reliable and accurate information from the local media. In the medium term it will be essential to link the local media into local sources of objective and accurate information in Aceh, particularly amongst academics and civil society. Whilst a media centre would provide a forum for such interaction, the co-operative structure resulting from the production and dissemination of humanitarian information could provide a network.

6.2.3. Information Sharing and Activity Coordination
The current situation in Aceh relating to emergency assistance for the media is complex and includes numerous actors, the majority of whom do not have a permanent presence in the province. With numerous national and international organisations preparing activities, the potential for overlap and duplication is considerable. There is accordingly a need for an 'information focal point' that could work closely with media development organisations. In order to function in practice, this should not be a co-ordinating role and function only as an information-sharing platform, thereby allowing specific organisations to co-ordinate activities amongst themselves.

Annex 1: Map of Tsunami Affected Areas in Aceh (UN HIC, 15 January 2005)

Annex 2: Profiles of Radio Stations in Banda Aceh (not comprehensive)

RADIO PROFILE IN ACEH								
1	**Name of radio station Address**	**Baiturrahman FM 98.5** Menara Selatan Mesjid Raya Baiturrahman 0651-7405966 0813 6016 9477	**SIS FM** Jl. Teuku Umar 285D, Banda Aceh M. Ryan 0812 6918 272	**Prima FM** Jl. Fatahillah No. 4 Geuce, Banda Aceh Irwan 0856 1158 737	**Megah FM** Jl. Patimura No. 12 Blower, Banda Aceh 0651-7409531 0651-7408125	**MS-One FM** Jl. Hasan Saleh, Neusu, Banda Aceh T. Fahril 0813 6017 7700	**Suara Muhammadiyah FM** Jl. Muhammadiyah No. 91 Muhammadiyah University Complex, Batoh, Lueng Bata, Banda Aceh (temporarily) Sri Rosnijar 0852 6004 2664 Nonong 0813 60133 658 Posko 0651-7408140	**Radio One FM** or **Bias** for OXFAM Jl. Panglima Polem No. 126, Banda Aceh 0651-636009 Sri Maryati 0816 342479
2	**Staff numbers Descrip-tion of roles**	23 persons Manager = 3 Administration = 4 Reporter = 4 Announcer = 12	27 persons Announcer = 20 Admin = 5 Office boy = 1 Security = 1	32 persons Reporter = 11 Manager = 7 Announcer = 10 Technician = 1 Office boy = 1	10 persons	12 persons		20 person
3	**Owner-ship**	Private	Private	Private			Community radio	
4	**Effects of Tsunami**	Totally demolished	Totally demolished 2 staff are missing	Building is totally demolished Equipments are broken 4 staff are	Small scale of damage	Damage	Nothing. It's a new radio station	Nothing.

				missing			
5	**Urgent problems faced**		Lacking of transportation and communication tools	Lacking of equipment	Have not rebroadcasted yet. No electricity power available	Lacking of broadcasting and studio equipment, and facing financial problem.	Lacking of resources, equipment, music collection, adequate tower, lisence.	
6	**Type of prog-ramming**	News, talkshow, music, religious affairs	Music 80% News 20%	News, Talk Show, Information	Acehnesse music 80% Oldies music 20%	Talk show, ethnic, entertainment	Talk show, news, religious affairs	Music
7	**Broadcast range**		Banda Aceh, Aceh Besar, Sigli, Sabang	1000 watt	135 KM		10 KM	Banda Aceh and surroundings
8	**Field equip-ment**	-	-	Need to have tape recorder for reporter, mini transmitter, 3000 watt transmitter, OB van, web, camera digital, news room, production equipment, an adequate studio.	-	-	-	-
9	**Coopera-tion with hum-**	-	-	ICRC, PMI, sekolah rakyat	-	-	-	-

	anitarian					
1 0	**External support**	-	-	Emergency broadcasting equipment from KBR 68H	Reportage equipment, and all supporting equipment	Emergency broadcasting equipment from KBR 68H