



Fast Facts

Country: Somalia; Kenya; Burundi; Tanzania; Lesotho; Sudan; Uganda; Sierra Leone; Liberia; Côte d'Ivoire; Guinea; Afghanistan

Duration: January 2003 to December 2004

Implementing UN Agencies: OCHA

Other Implementing Partners: Private and state-owned radio stations; local media; local NGOs

Budget: \$3,587,035.90

Key Words: Empowerment; marginalized communities; access to public information

BACKGROUND

IRIN Radio was introduced in 2001 to provide individuals and communities with unbiased information on issues and events that affect their daily lives. In zones in which factors such as conflict, displacement, poverty, political instability, HIV/AIDS and environmental damage contribute to general insecurity, IRIN Radio's broadcasts sought to provide

listeners with important information that would strengthen their abilities to counter threats, advocate for their own rights, mitigate risks and thus enhance their own security. IRIN Radio also provided the opportunity for the listening audience to voice their opinions on current events – an option not always immediately available in the participating countries.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project sought to provide timely and accurate information to people and communities threatened in their survival, livelihood and dignity so that they could make more rational choices in matters affecting their lives. Towards empowering remote communities to take part in radio programmes and make themselves

heard, the project aimed to produce accurate context-specific programmes and content for use by local radio stations; to train journalists and community facilitators on journalistic skills; and to distribute self-powered radios to communities in remote regions.

BENEFICIARIES

The project's beneficiaries included remote rural communities with little or no access to public information or avenues to make their voices heard. At the same time, radio journalists received training on

journalistic skills and ethics to improve their capacity to report on issues and events in a fair and impartial manner.