



IOM HAITI

Communicating with the IDPs



Background

Communication for social change allows people to improve their lives through civic participation in governance. This has historically been weak in Haiti and may explain some of the chronic underdevelopment of the country. Media is also a tool for development because when people express dissatisfaction through media it enhances public services and empowers marginalized groups.

Two way communication in camps



A team of 60 Community Mobilizers is in the camps every day, assessing the situation and listening to the priorities of the displaced, in ways that are often missed in

surveys. They convey this to humanitarian actors and relevant authorities. They also share essential humanitarian information with camp residents. The Mobilizers run a number of innovative programs, each of which provides a tool to listen to and speak with the affected population.

Live nationwide radio broadcasts



IOM produces a live radio show from a different camp every day. It is broadcast nationwide in Creole and reaches some 70% of the territory of Haiti. The show gives audiences an opportunity to

express themselves, to talk about camp life and to hear expert advice from IOM and other experts.

Graphic newspaper for the camps

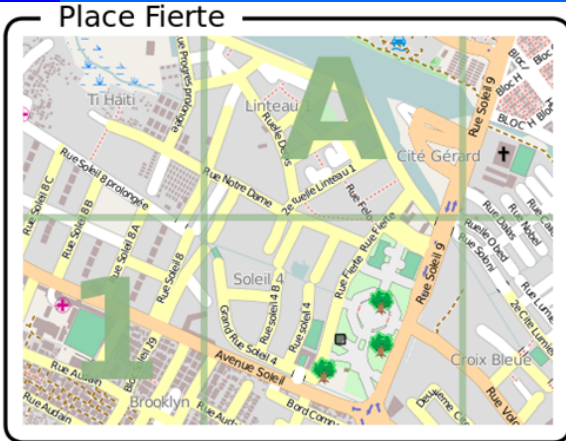


The communications team produces a popular newspaper called Chimen Lakay (Finding Home) aimed at people of low literacy. It offers advice in an accessible form on subjects like registration, gender based violence and hurricane season.

Information Kiosks

Information Kiosks are being placed in as many camps as possible. Some 200 of the simple wooden units will be distributed before the end of November. Each kiosk has a locked suggestion box and more than two thousand letters have been received to date. The letters provide a unique insight into the unfolding human tragedy the scale of which can defy the imagination. Some of the letters describe the suffering of hardworking families who have been devastated by the quake.





Mapping with communities

IOM's also has an innovative community led mapping project in which individual volunteers are trained in the use of GPS. Detailed community maps are then printed and placed on the information kiosks. Over 500 individuals have been trained in mapping techniques this way.



Disaster Risk Reduction

IOM has assembled key messages on disaster risk reduction specifically for camp residents. IOM has engaged with partners such as the DPC, the Red Cross, and UNOPS to diffuse these messages directly in camps and to assist our partner organizations in communicating about risk reduction to the camps they work in.

A Letter to Somebody

Amid the suffering has come a torrent of pent up emotion. Direct engagement with the

population has resulted in an enormous postbag of letters. Some are cries for help, others heartfelt pleas on behalf of suffering friends and relatives. One man from the town of Jeremie asks for help in getting home from his wretched tent in Cite Soleil, where his

Croix des bouquets

Hilaire X

To the members of all concerned organizations

Thank you for understanding our suffering. I see that you are trying to address many of our problems and some of our greatest needs.

I have only two lines to write : Among us are people who have lost a parent, a friend, neighbors, people who were close and even our jobs. When the terrible catastrophe befell us, it affected so many aspects of our lives, we are stressed, we are starving we desperately need work. I, for example, lost my husband on 5 May 2010. He had a stomach ulcer and died from lack of food after we lost our business in the earthquake.

Now, I have three children to feed and send to school. I'm not so old, but I have to work to get the money I need to get my business going and to look after my children. Please do something for me. We do not want to die of hunger, and furthermore I need to send my children to school. ..

Thank you for taking the time to listen to us.

May God bless you, Greetings to all of you.

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