

Internews Europe – Consultant – Media Sustainability Evaluation Chad Humanitarian Information Service

Job Announcement

Job Title: Consultant - Media Sustainability Evaluation
Location: Abeche, Chad
Reports To: Internews Chad Country Director
Assists: Country Director
Duration: Short term consultancy
Starting Date: First Quarter 2010

GENERAL FUNCTION:

Internews Europe is seeking a short-term, experienced media development consultant to conduct a field assessment and develop a strategic plan about media sustainability in a humanitarian economy in Eastern Chad, in particular focusing on Internews' Humanitarian Information Service.

BACKGROUND:

Internews is an international media assistance organisation whose mission is to empower people worldwide with the news and information they need, the ability to connect, and the means to make their voices heard. In Eastern Chad Internews operates the radio – based Humanitarian Information Service (HIS) in order to support the information needs of Darfuri refugees, a growing IDP community and the host population.

For information on Internews' humanitarian aid work: <http://www.internews.org/global/er/default.shtm>

On the air in Eastern Chad since late 2005, the Humanitarian Information Service is a network of 3 community and humanitarian radio stations in Iriba, Goz Beida and Abeche, Chad. HIS fills a critical gap in current assistance efforts, providing people detached from their homeland with accurate information on humanitarian relief services that impact their basic survival, and providing psycho-social comfort via the transmission of personal messages. Information broadcast by HIS informs, protects, empowers, and affects behavior change in the target audiences: refugees, IDPs, and local populations. These programs are produced in Arabic and French, as well as in local languages relevant to the areas where they are most spoken and understood by the refugees.

HIS also fulfills a crucial need by helping the humanitarian community liaise directly with the beneficiaries. HIS reaches out to UNHCR, other UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs about how to best use media and the different types of programming available to best transmit their messages.

Without an end to the violence in Darfur, the refugee situation in Eastern Chad is expected to worsen. The radio stations are currently all supported by donor funding, and the economy is vastly distorted by the humanitarian community. As Internews proposes to position the community radio stations for transition over to reliable and reputable local Chadian organizations within the next 5 years, we are looking to begin the process through a thorough assessment of innovative and practical means of achieving this end.

Internews plans to deploy a consultant with expertise in the sustainability of community radio to investigate such a strategy. The assessment is expected to look at the current situation, to analyse the impact of the humanitarian economy, to look for and assess potential local partners and to provide practical advice and a 3-5 year strategic plan on the way forward.

KEY TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Conduct preliminary research and design assessment methodology
- Conduct intensive field assessment in Eastern Chad looking at
 - 1) creative solutions to generating income for stations
 - 2) the distortion of local economies caused by the presence of the humanitarian community
 - 3) Potential local partners and strategies for working together and
 - 4) sustainability of skills and technology
- Liaise with Internews' staff on the ground, other experts as required, and regional management to design and implement assessment
- Write professional assessment for publication
- Develop 3-5 year strategic plan for implementation

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Native or fluent French speaker
- Experience in and understanding of a humanitarian environment
- Experience living or working in Africa, preferably in a conflict, or post-conflict environment
- Comprehensive understanding of media sustainability and effective business models in such economies
- Practical journalism and/or media development background
- Degree in a relevant field, or equivalent experience in evaluation and monitoring
- Excellent written English, with samples of previous similar written work
- Innovative and creative thinker
- Ability to work in harsh conditions in the field
- Ability to work quickly and under deadline pressure

TO APPLY:

- Please send your application file in French (resume in French and English, motivation letter and the names and contacts of three referees) to Sophie Boudry Gabillet, Administrative & HR Director at jobs@internews.fr
- Reference to mention: 3378-1 MSE + *your name*
- Deadline: 15th January 2010