

REPORT OF THE SUB-REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP TO STRENGTHEN THE DIGITAL SKILLS OF COMMUNITY RADIO JOURNALISTS TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF SERVICE IN TIMES OF CRISIS AND COVID-19

Participants :



Cameroon – Chad – Central African Republic (CAR)

<https://youtu.be/NfAxOTCKOAg>

Organised in a semi-present

With the support of the International Programme for the Development of
Communication (IPDC)/UNESCO

From 22 to 23 February 2022

Centre for communication and sustainable development for all (CECOSDA)

Declaration N° 00001195/RDA/J06/BAPP
Head office: Yaoundé (Montée Jouvence)
P.O BOX: 30975 TEL: 222 31 18 75
Website: www.cecosda.org
Email: infos@cecosda.org

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I- INTRODUCTION

The International Program for the Development of Communication (IPDC) is a program of the United Nations for Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) aimed at strengthening media development in developing countries. It is within this framework that the Centre for Communication and Sustainable Development (CECOSDA) received financial support to organise a sub-regional workshop aimed at training thirty (30) community journalists on digital and mobile journalism for service continuity in times of crisis and Covid-19. This workshop brought together three (03) countries of the sub-region, namely **Cameroon, Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR)**.

From 22 to 23 February 2022 in Yaoundé in Cameroon, Bangui in CAR and N'djamena in Chad, thirty (30) community radio journalists, ten in each country, were trained on the use of digital media including the use of Whatsapp Business, video editing and the production of visuals with their smartphones.

The participants were educated on crisis management, in order to develop critical thinking and to avoid disinformation and violence.

II- INTERVENTIONS/SPEAKING AT THE WORKSHOP

The representative of the Director of the UNESCO Yaoundé Regional Office, Mr. MOKNI NEJIB - *Head of the Communication and Information Sector* - in his opening remarks urged community journalists to make good use of the video, audio and image production skills they have been given in order to support the IPDC program in the promotion of community E-journalism in the Central African sub-region. The UNESCO Cameroon Project Officer, Mr. HUGUES NDIH, urged the journalists to remain objective and professional in their work.



Figure 1: Presentation of the UNESCO Cameroon Project Officer

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Officials from state institutions were also present. The President of the High Council of Communication (HCC) of the CAR Mr. POUAMBI José Richard made a presentation on digital and the law in CAR and encouraged journalists to check the source of information and not to systematically transfer information received online without prior processing. This recommendation was also reinforced by the Director of the Communication, Arts and Culture and Youth and Sport Division - UNESCO CAR who was present at the workshop.



Figure 2: Presentation of the High Council for Communication - CAR

III- DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACTIVITIES

The welcome, presentation and installation of participants were done online and in the room (semi-present). The welcome speech was given by the moderator Mrs. NJANZOU Ramatou, which marked the beginning of the activities. The opening speech was given by the Head of the Communication and Information Sector of UNESCO Cameroon, and then the participants and trainers from Chad, CAR and Cameroon introduced themselves.

The training itself took place on the 22nd around four (04) sessions:

- How to use digital technology to continue one's work as a journalist in times of security crisis and COVID-19
- How to use your Smartphone to create an image to raise awareness in your community
- Correction of the practical exercises on the production of audio and video content with Smartphones
- How to animate the Whatsapp business of your community radio
- How to edit a community awareness/information video using your smartphone

The second day of training was devoted to the correction of practical exercises on audio and video content production with smartphones. All participants successfully produced video and image content and shared it on the training group.

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IV- INNOVATIONS IN TRAINING

1. An efficient technological device

To ensure the success of this inter-country event, CECOSDA set up technological devices to connect the three countries taking part in the workshop without interference.

- A videoconference kit connecting the training rooms of each country
- An online registration link for all participants
- A Whatsapp group for exchange between participants
- Two laptops used for projection and screen sharing via the Zoom application.
- Tie microphones and walkie-talkie microphones used for speaking.
- An internet box with two different operators for optimal connectivity during the workshop
- Video conferencing platform with special hosting

2. Institutional strengthening of the community radio networks of each participating country

CECOSDA took the opportunity of this workshop to strengthen the institutional capacities of the **Green Alert Network**, the Chad Community Radio Network and the Media house of CAR by offering to each of them the **Internet KIT, 4G boxes** purchased in the framework of the workshop organisation.

3. A dynamic Whatsapp group

A Whatsapp group was created and is very dynamic to date, allowing participants from the three countries to continue to share their work and receive corrections from each other.

The screenshots below illustrate the interactivity of the participants who are eager to learn new skills and enthusiastic about having taken part in such a workshop.

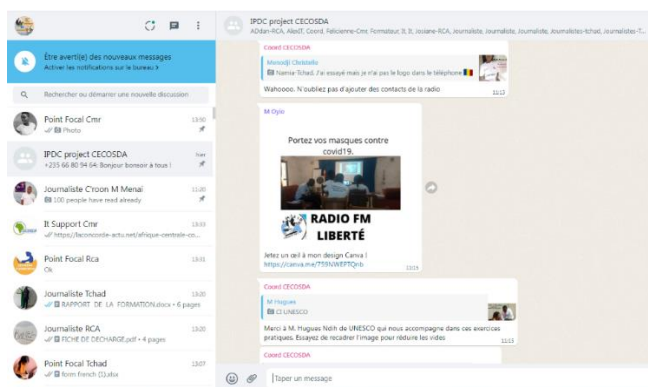


Figure 1: Presentation and corrections of visuals submitted in N'Djamena (using Canva)

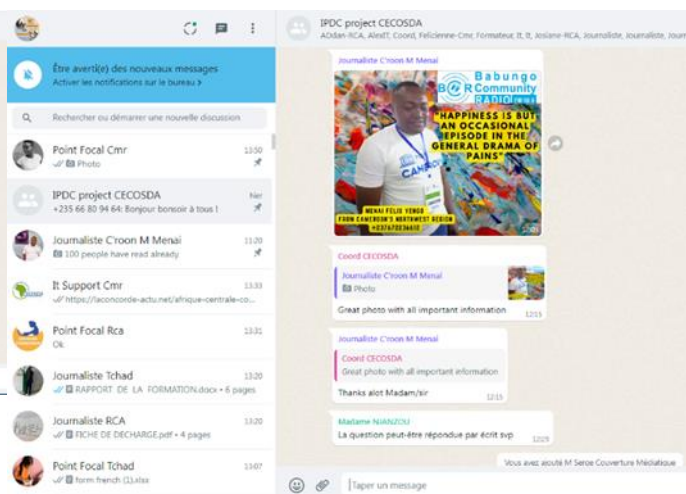


Figure 2 : Presentation and corrections of visuals submitted in

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Yaoundé (using Canva)

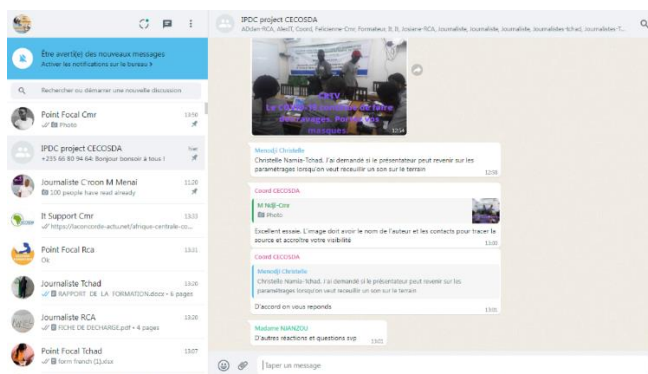


Figure 3 : Presentation and corrections of visuals submitted in Bangui (using Canva)

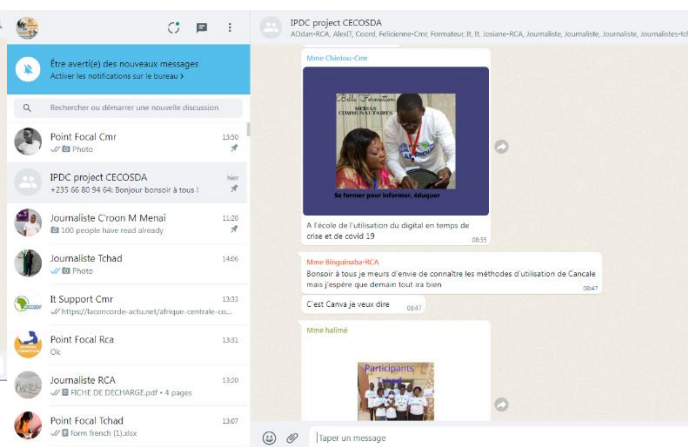


Figure 4 : Presentation of visuals on how to use Canva

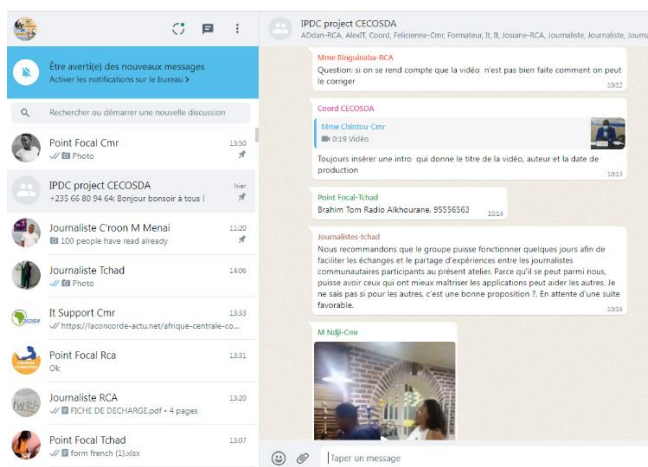


Figure 5 : Using CapCut

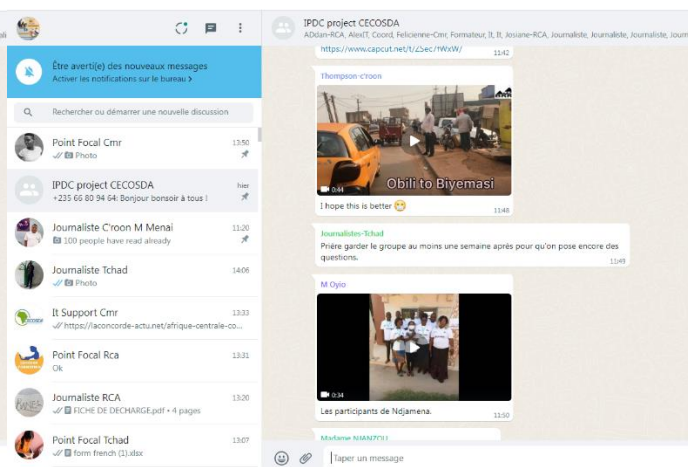


Figure 6 : Suggestion by a participant to keep the group

4. Training for trainers

With the aim of matching the level of knowledge acquisition, CECOSDA organised a training of the different trainers of the 03 countries online for a duration of four (04) hours on Saturday 19 February 2022.

5. The 3 in 1 approach

03 countries, three groups, 01 workshop through video conferencing and a harmonised organisation with focal points and their trainers in each country and a technological device.

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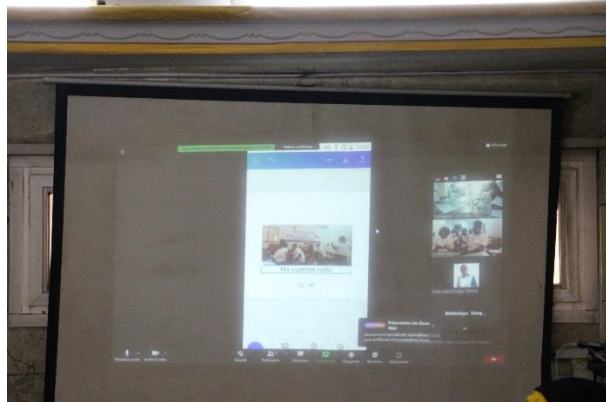


Figure 3: Screening of the Canva course

V- VISIBILITY AND MEDIA COVERAGE

The event was widely covered by the media in all three countries.

Sources and links:

- **Radio Tropical Info's** summarised the training workshop and its objectives on their Chad-based website:
<https://tropicalinfos.com/index.php/2022/02/22/medias-trente-journalistes-de-radio-se-forment-en-digital/>
- **Ezéchiel KITA KAMDAR** published an article on the website **tachad.com** thanking CECOSDA for the donation of the 4G box and the internet kit to Chad in the following article:
<https://www.tachad.com/medias-cecosda-forme-trente-journalistes-de-radio-en-digital>
- **Radio Alwida** reiterated on its Facebook page and website the opening remarks of the UNESCO Regional Director for Central Africa
<https://www.facebook.com/107703181781/posts/10158481669001782/>
www.alwihdainfo.com/Tchad-le-CECOSDA-forme-30-journalistes-sur-l-utilisation-du-digital-en-temps-de-crise_a111551.html
- **The newspaper "Les Autres Nouvelles de Centrafrique" Lanoca** published on its Facebook page and blog the teaching of the President of the HCC José Richard POUAMBI on the theme "how to use social networks to do community journalism without breaking the Central African law
<https://www.facebook.com/246504412680413/posts/913047292692785/>
<https://lanoca.over-blog.com/2022/02/atelier-sous-regional-de-formation-des-journalistes-des-medias-communautaires-sur-l-utilisation-du-digital-en-temps-de-crisis-et-de>
- **Emmanuel MANGUELLE, Publishing Director of the newspaper "La ConcordeInfos"** based in Yaoundé, Cameroon, highlights the various training modules acquired throughout the course:

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<https://laconcorde-actu.net/afrique-centrale-communication-en-période-de-crise-securitaire-ou-sanitaire-les-journalistes-des-radios-communautaires-a-lecole-du-digital/>

- **Felix MENAI of Radio Babungo** based in the North West of Cameroon published an article on the Facebook account of the said Radio: <https://www.facebook.com/1250305421768656/posts/2594478254018026/?sfnsn=mo>
- Chad-based **Radio Oxygène** has posted a video report on its Facebook page about the activities <https://www.facebook.com/radiooxygene96.3/videos/481200543711116/?app=fbl>
- **Chad actu** based in Chad summarises the course of the workshop and the different modules delivered <https://www.tchadactu.com/.../1570-tchad-le-cecosda-forme>
- Video link of the article published on CECOSDA's YouTube channel <https://youtu.be/NfAxOTCKOAg>

VI- SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT

To ensure sustainability of the project, the Whatsapp group of the training was maintained for continuous learning and experience sharing between the community journalists and CECOSDA.

In addition, through this workshop, the **Green Alert Network** which was a network of community journalists in Cameroon became a regional network, increasing from 35 members to 70 members at the end of the workshop.

The internet boxes given to the different journalist networks will enable them to strengthen the digitalisation of their activities.

VII- EVALUATION

A- A- POST- WORKSHOP EVENTS

Following the training, the journalists produced awareness-raising videos on Covid-19 as a continuation of the learning acquired during the training.

In addition to this, each radio station produced visuals and videos that were posted on the Whatsapp group to advertise their program.



Figure 4: Radio Babungo North -west Cameroon



Figure 5: Fouban Radio west Cameroon

B- TESTIMONIES OF THE BENEFICIARIES

Mr. ODJI KEDJI Didier from Chad thanked CECOSDA and IPDC for such a workshop

The satisfaction was so strong that Mrs. CHINTOUO Anne Marie thanked CECOSDA and requested another workshop on another theme.

Mr. BOUNGA Giscard appreciated the organisation of this workshop and thanked CECOSDA

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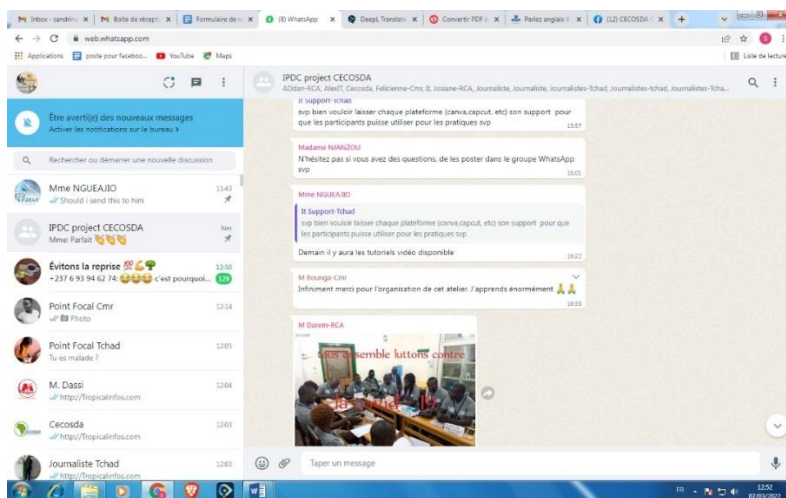


Figure 6: Thanks from Mr. BOUNGA from Cameroon for this workshop

VIII- PARTICIPANTS

Thirty (30) community journalists took part in the workshop, including ten (10) women, three (03) of whom were from Cameroon, four (04) from Chad and three (03) from CAR.

A certificate of participation was given to each participant present in the room, and by e-mail for those from Chad and the CAR, as illustrated in the captures below.



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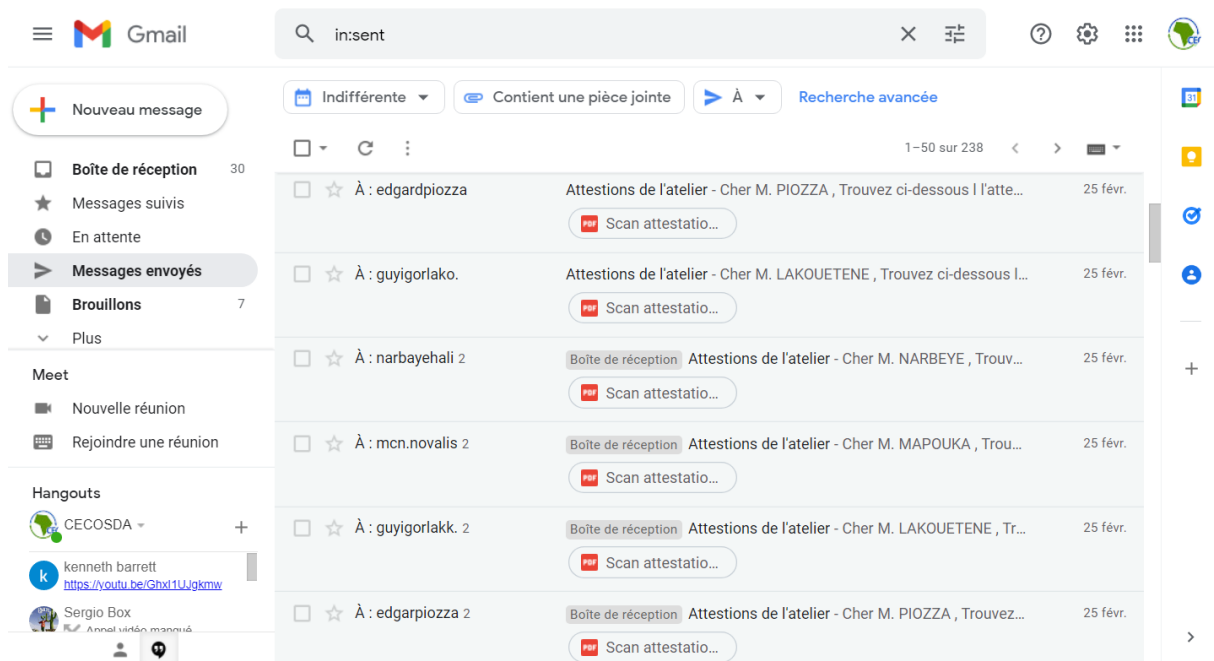


Figure 7: Capture sending certificates by e-mail to participants from Chad and CAR

IX- DIFFICULTIES

- Problem of the room (narrow, not allowing for proper distancing).
- The sometimes waddling internet connection caused some problems during the training. Fortunately, the relay trainers present in each country planned by CECOSDA were able to ensure the continuity of the training during the few moments of disruption.
- The level of internet access is not the same in all the countries of the region; this difficulty was overcome by purchasing two internet boxes to switch to different operators in case of disruptions.
- The creation of the Whatsapp group has enabled the continuity of exchanges during moments of instability of the zoom connection.

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- The difficulty of having training facilitators with the same level of competence in the countries. Having noted this, the CECOSDA team organised a training of trainers two days before the event to guarantee the same level of training in the different countries.
- The political context in CAR where a push alert would have created an internet blackout of one hour; fortunately the relay trainers were able to ensure the continuity of the training.

X- APPENDIX

Attached to this document are the press kit and press release, the attendance lists and the workshop program

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PRESS RELEASE

24 February 2022.

30 community journalists from Cameroon, Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR) trained on the use of digital technology to ensure continuity of their activities in times of security crisis and Covid-19

Yaounde, N'djamena, Bangui. Organised by the Centre for Communication and Sustainable Development (CECOSDA), with the support of UNESCO's International Program for the Development of Communication (IPDC), a sub-regional workshop to strengthen the digital skills of community radio journalists to ensure continuity of their activities in times of security crisis and Covid-19, was held from 22 to 23 February 2022 simultaneously in the three countries, Chad, Cameroon, and CAR. With a strong focus on learning mobile journalism, especially the use of the smartphone for editing videos and images for broadcast on social networks, the semi-presidential workshop brought together 30 community journalists, ten per country, at the Somatel Hotel for participants from Yaounde, at the Maison des Medias du Chad for participants from N'Djamena, and at the SENEVE Surl Room for participants from Bangui. Prior to the workshop, training was organised to ensure that the level of acquisition was the same in each country.

Officials from each country, the representative of UNESCO's regional office for Central Africa in Yaoundé, Mr MOKNI Nejb in Cameroon, the president of the High Council for Communication (HCC), Mr POUAMBI José Richard in CAR, and the UNESCO representative in Yaoundé, Mr NDIH Hugues in Cameroon, took part in the workshop with a presentation on the legal requirements for broadcasting information online using smartphones.

The community radios represented were: for Chad, Radio Mandela FM, Radio Oxygen, Radio Alqoran, Radio Arc en ciel, Radio FM Liberté; for Cameroon, Radio Yemba, Radio Bonakanda, Radio Foutouni, Radio communautaire du Noun, Chronique CRTV, Radio Aurore, Radio Vie et Development; for the CAR, RMCC, Radio Notre Dame, Radio Lengo Songo, Voix de miracles, RAVOCI, Maria, Radio Sewa

CECOSDA took the opportunity of this workshop to strengthen the institutional capacities of the Green Alert Network, the Chad Communication Radio Network and the Maison des Media de RCA by offering each of the institutions internet KITS, 4G boxes, were purchased to ensure the smooth running of the online training. At the end of this training, the new Village Alert Network was created, replacing the old Green Alert Network in the three countries. No doubt the Whatsapp group will continue to be used by the journalists to ensure their exchanges.

With the support of partners such as UNESCO's International Program for the Development of Communication (IPDC), CECOSDA will continue to support the training of community journalists to enable rapid and sustainable community development.

For more information on CECOSDA's community journalist training activities through its new Village Alert Network, please contact

Tel: 677 325 343/ 677 046 788/677712626

E-mail: infos@cecosda.org / cecosdacameroun@gmail.com

Website: www.cecosda.org

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FICHE DE PRÉSENCE CAMEROUN

N°	NOMS ET PRENOM	RADIOS	TÉLÉPHONE	KIT D'ECRITURE	SIGNATURE
1	Felix MENAI	Radio Babungo	+237 672236612	✓	
2	Thompson ATRA	Radio Bonakanda	+237 696 958827	✓	
3	Victor MANGUELLE	Directeur de publication LC Infos	+237 693849988	✓	
4	Serge NGOUADJIO	Chroniqueur CRTV	+237 656515632	✓	
5	Félicienne KENGNI KAMGANG	Radio Foutouni	+237 693562863	✓	
6	GeorgeNDJI	Chroniqueur CRTV	+237 698247213	✓	
7	Anne Marie CHINTOUO	Radio communautaire	+237 696158392	✓	
8	Nadege TATFO	Chroniqueur CRTV	+237 698670159	✓	
9	Giscard BOUNGA	Radio Aurore (Bertoua)	+237 677830490	✓	
10	Fabrice BELOKO	Radio Sawtu Linjiila (la voie de l'évangile)	+237 678382274	✓	

11 Monquelle Moubal LCI



FICHE DE PRÉSENCE TCHAD

22 10 2022









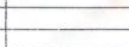

22 10 2022

N°	Noms et Prénom	ORGANISME	KIT D'ECRITURE	SIGNATURE	PRESENT	ABSENT
1	Djouwaikina Djimtabé	Radio Mandela FM	OK		oui	
2	Moné Laoutaye Marie-Rose	Radio Mandela FM	OK		oui	
3	Djenade Roger	Radio Oxygène	OK		oui	
4	Daba Providence	Radio Oxygène	OK		oui	
5	Abakar Idriss Hassan	Radio Alquoran	OK		oui	non!
6	Brahim Tom	Radio Alquoran	OK		oui	
7	Vangrou Abdoulaye	Radio Arc en ciel	OK		oui	non!
8	Ménodji Christelle Namia	Radio Arc en ciel	OK		oui	
9	Narbeye Halimé	Radio FM Liberté	OK		oui	
10	Oiyo-Allah Dingaoremte	Radio FM Liberté	OK		oui	

AHMAT MAHAMAT HASSANE

FICHE DE PRÉSENCE RCA

22/02/2023

N°	NOMS ET PRENOM	RADIOS	VILLES	TÉLÉPHONE	KIT D'ECRITURE	SIGNATURE
1	Josiane MIRVOLA	RMCC	Bangui	70 50 70 82	ok!	
2	Martinien WODE	Radio SEWA	Bangui	75 15 87 02	ok!	
3	Magalie BINGUINABA	RMCC	Bangui	70 94 13 74	ok!	
4	Tibaut RIBAR	Radio Note Dame	Bangui	72 28 88 00	ok!	
5	Sabrina NAÏLO	Radio Lengo Songo	Bangui	72 35 57 25	ok!	
6	Novalis Clotaire MAPOUKA	Voix de miracles	Bangui	72 13 40 99	ok!	
7	LAKOUETENE Elie Guy Igor	RMCC	Bangui	72 67 48 33	ok!	
8	Pépin Fred DAREM	RAVOCI	Bangui	72 79 93 95	ok!	
9	Abdan YONDO	Maria	Bangui	72 01 11 14	ok!	
10	Edgard Marius PIOZZA YAPANDET	RMCC	Bangui	72 01 06 46	ok!	
11	Josiane MIRVOLA	RMCC	Bangui	70 50 70 82		

Times		Speakers
8.30-9.00 a.m.	Reception, presentation of participants and installation of video-conferencing	CECOSDA
9am - 10. 00a.m	The Words of Welcome for the Opening of the Ceremony. (10 min)	CECOSDA
	The Opening Speech(15min)	<i>UNESCO Regional Director Central Africa</i>
First Session: Journalism on social networks and the law		
	How to use social networks to do journalism on the community without breaking Cameroonian's law (30 min)	representative of the National Communication Council of Cameroon
	How to use social networks to do journalism on the community without breaking Chadian's law(30min)	Representative National Communication Council of CHAD
	How to use social networks to do journalism on the community without breaking Central African's law(30min)	Representative National Council of Communication RCA
	Family photos(5min)	Each country will take a photo
Coffee break		
Second session: How to communicate and raise awareness on community health issues - the COVID-19 case		
11.15 - 11.45 a.m.	How to use digital to continue his work as a journalist in times of security crisis and covid-19	CECOSDA Yaoundé
11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	How to use your smartphone to mount an image to raise awareness of your community	CECOSDA
Lunch break		
Third session: How to use digital to disseminate information about his community		
2 - 3 p.m.	- Use of WHATSAPP BUSINESS for community communication purposes, in particular on COVID-19	CECOSDA
3 - 4 p.m.	- How to make a community awareness/information video using your smartphone	CECOSDA
4 – 5 p.m.	Evaluation and end of the first day	CECOSDA

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