



# **ICT as tools for peace building, crisis management and disaster recovery**

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**UN Climate Change Conference**

**12 December 2009, Copenhagen**

- “Global warming, man-made and natural disasters will sadly grow in scale and frequency. Through experience, I firmly believe that ICTs, when used effectively reduce loss of life...”

Martti Ahtisaari, Nobel Peace Laureate 2008, former President of Finland, Member of ICT4Peace Advisory Board



# How did the Foundation begin?

**ICT4Peace Foundation aims to enhance the performance of the international community in crisis management through the application of ICT in line with Paragraph 36 of the WSIS Tunis Commitment:**

*“We value the potential of ICTs to promote peace and to prevent conflict which, inter alia, negatively affects achieving development goals. ICTs can be used for identifying conflict situations through early-warning systems preventing conflicts, promoting their peaceful resolution, supporting humanitarian action, including protection of civilians in armed conflicts, facilitating peacekeeping missions, and assisting post conflict peace-building and reconstruction.”*

*The unique and crucial  
Role of ICT in  
Preventing, Responding  
to and Recovering from  
Conflict  
or any humanitarian  
disaster*

**Information and  
Communication  
Technology  
for Peace**

**The Role of ICT in Preventing,  
Responding to and Recovering  
from Conflict**

Preface by  
**Kofi Annan**

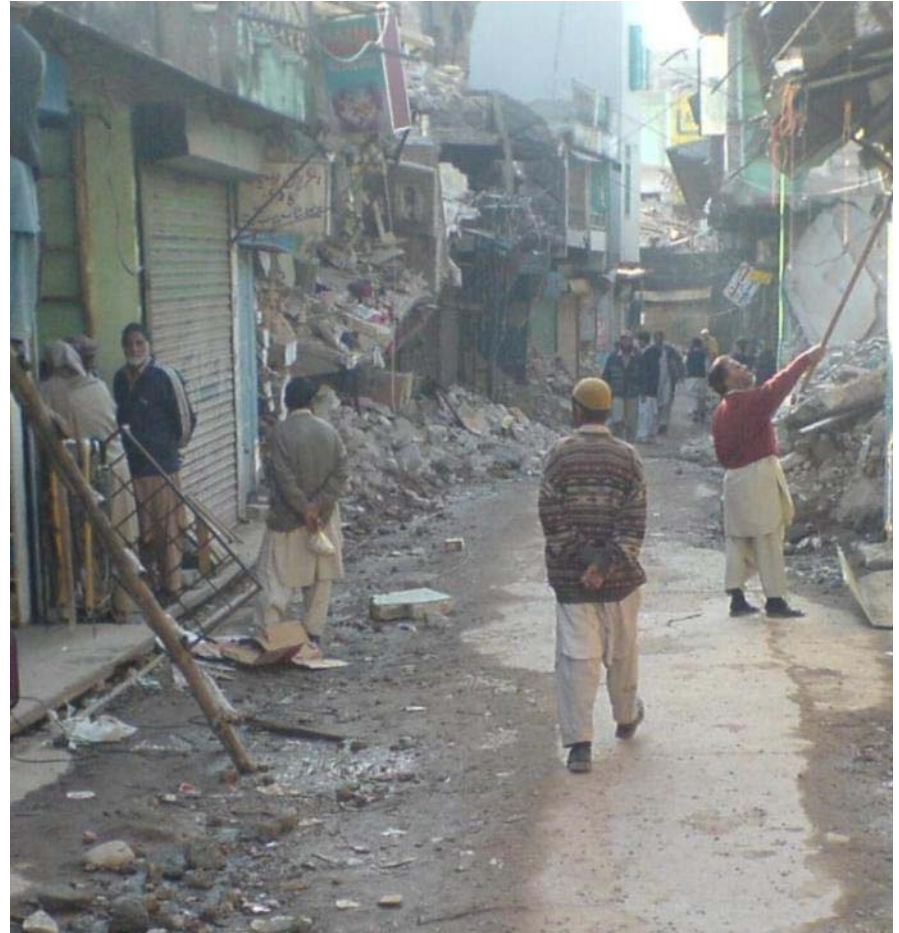
Foreword by  
**Micheline Calmy-Rey**

By **Daniel Stauffacher, William Drake,  
Paul Currión and Julia Steinberger**



# Disaster Management today

- Lots of communication and IT tools, but ...
- Limited content e.g. maps, HIC, Reliefweb, IRIN
- Training, mainly on use of hardware and software – not content
- Some training on peace keeping
- New technology not easily available





# Some good practice

- GSM network in Kabul
- Early warning systems
- Tampere Convention
- GooB – Governance out of a Box
- Banda Aceh after the tsunami
- Muzaffarabad earthquake



# ICT Gaps in Crises and Disaster Management

- Coordination between organizations and actors
- Information flow
- Mapping of the total information needs
- Content, Connectivity, Access
- ICT Support to victims
- Applications exist but are not used



# ICT4Peace inventory wiki



1. The Impact of the Internet
2. Early Warning and Conflict Prevention
3. Operations and Support
4. Technical Development
5. Post-Conflict Reconstruction

<http://inventory.ict4peace.org>



# Disaster management

A photograph showing three men in a disaster-stricken area. The man on the left, wearing a white t-shirt and an orange neckerchief, is pointing towards the background. The man in the middle has sunglasses on his head and is looking towards the right. The man on the right is wearing a blue shirt and has his hand to his chin, appearing to be in deep thought. The background is filled with rubble and debris, indicating a recent disaster.

**Chaos - First week**

**Organized Chaos - Next  
three weeks**

**More organized - After a  
month**

# London Bombings

- 7 July 2005
- Within 24 hours, the BBC had received 1,000 stills and videos, 3,000 texts and 20,000 e-mails.



# “Saffron Revolution” in Myanmar in 2007

- 100,000 people joined a Facebook group supporting the monks
- No international TV crews allowed in the country
- Mobile phone cameras were the first footage of the monks protest
- Blogs from Rangoon were the only sources of information
- The junta shut down all Internet and mobile communications



# Power of SMS

- *“My name is Mohammed Sokor, writing to you from Dagahaley refugee camp in Dadaab. Dear Sir, there is an alarming issue here. People are given too few kilogrammes of food. You must help.”*
- It will never happen, but it would be interesting to measure the impact on donor support if alongside regular food rations, WFP could hand out mobile phones and a list of VIP telephone numbers.
- Simple SMS text messages from refugees can become an effective mechanism to hold aid agencies and govt’s accountable.

# Power of SMS

- The web is littered with examples on how SMS helped in the immediate aftermath of the tsunami in Indonesia and Sri Lanka.
  - *“I'm standing on the Galle road in Aluthgama and looking at 5 ton trawlers tossed onto the road. Scary shit.”*
  - *“Found 5 of my friends, 2 dead. Of the 5, 4 are back in Colombo. The last one is stranded because of a broken bridge. Broken his leg. But he's alive.”*
  - *“Made contact. He got swept away but swam ashore. Said he's been burying people all day.”*
  - *“Just dragging them off the beach and digging holes with his hands.”*



# Some key differences

## International Organizations

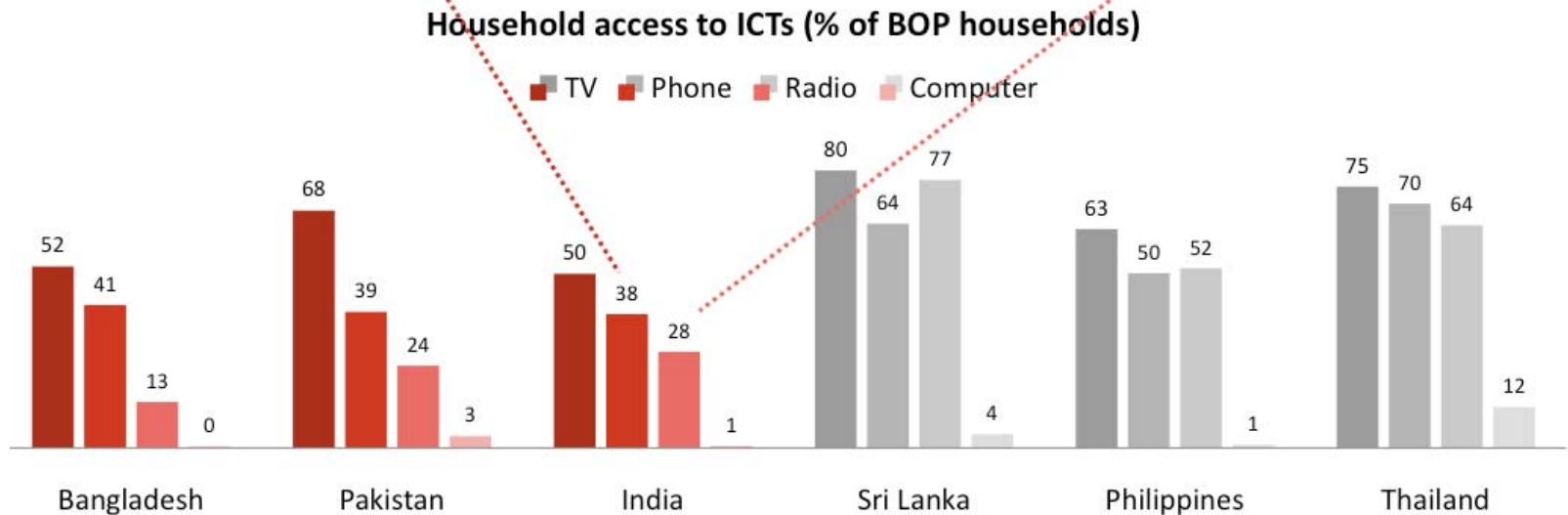
- Agency focused & closed
- Inward looking
- Generally verified / agency produced or trusted source
- Set up for dissemination
- Proprietary data formats and systems
- No interoperability
- Hard to learn
- Web 1.0

## Others

- Crowd sourced and open
- Outward looking
- Verifiability an option, not default
- Designed for scalability
- Open source / Open data standards
- Potential of interoperability high
- Easy to learn
- Web 2.0

# No longer just the elite...

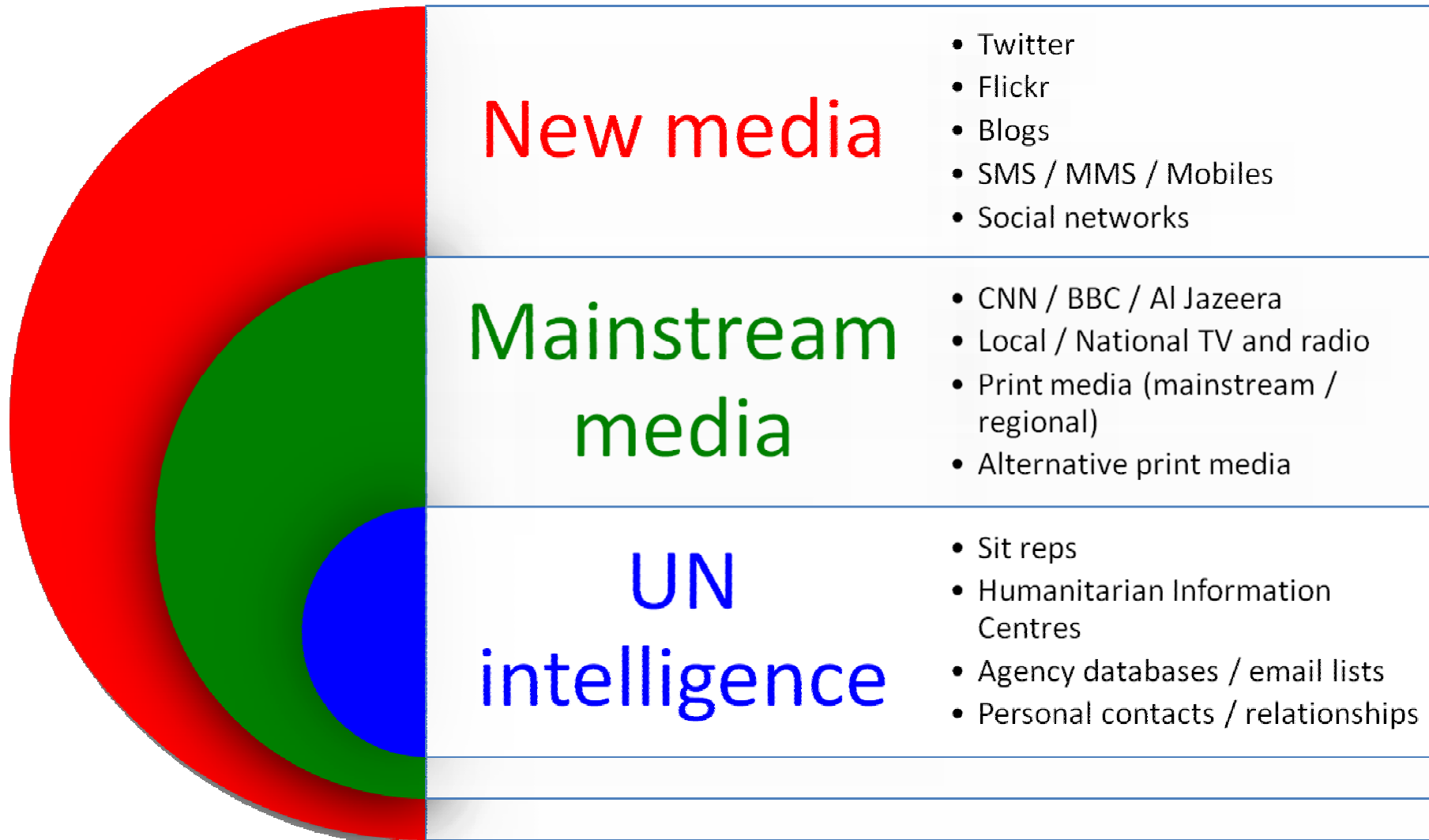
More **phones** in BOP households than **radios** and computers; catching up with TVs

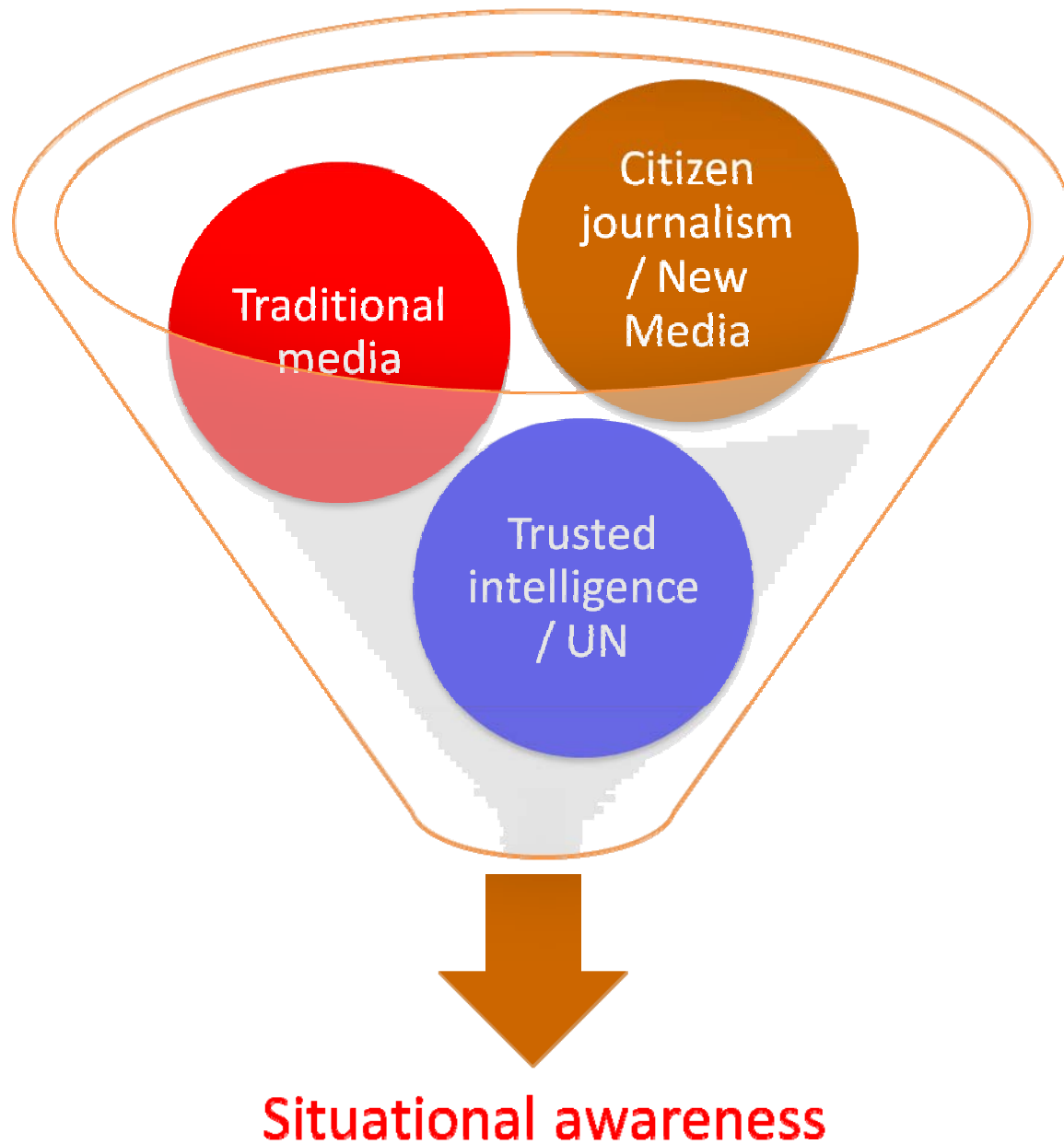


Source: ~10,000 sample, six-country Teleuse@BOP3 survey, October 2008

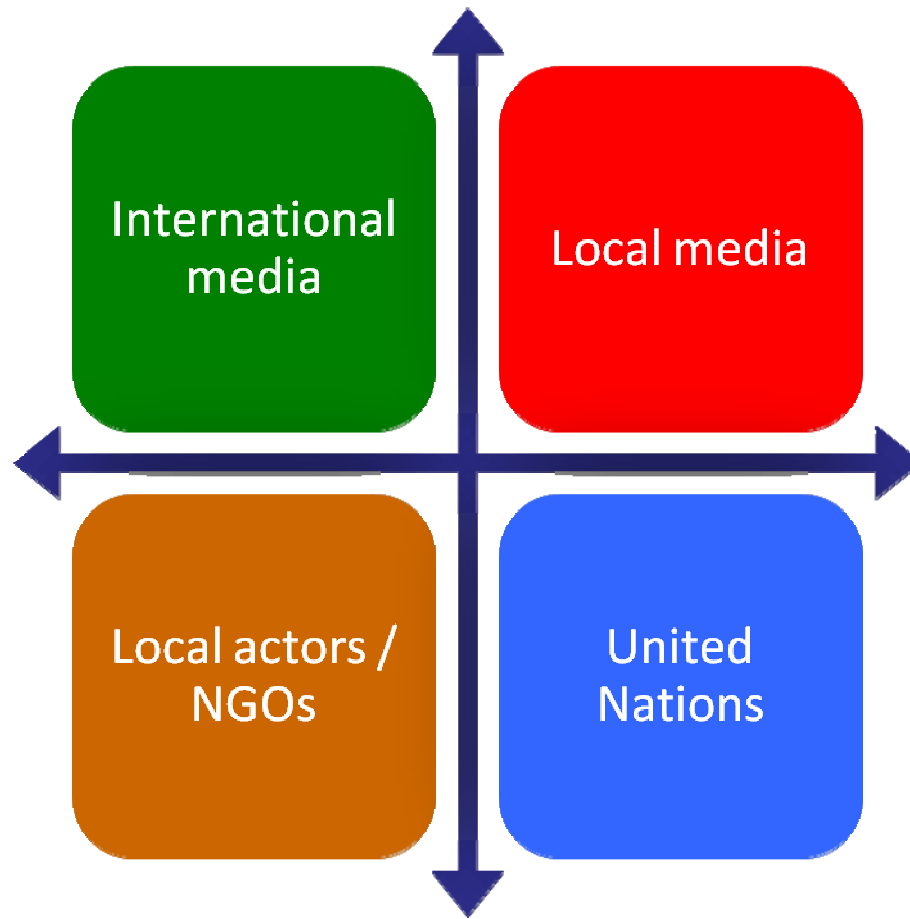


# Information breakdown



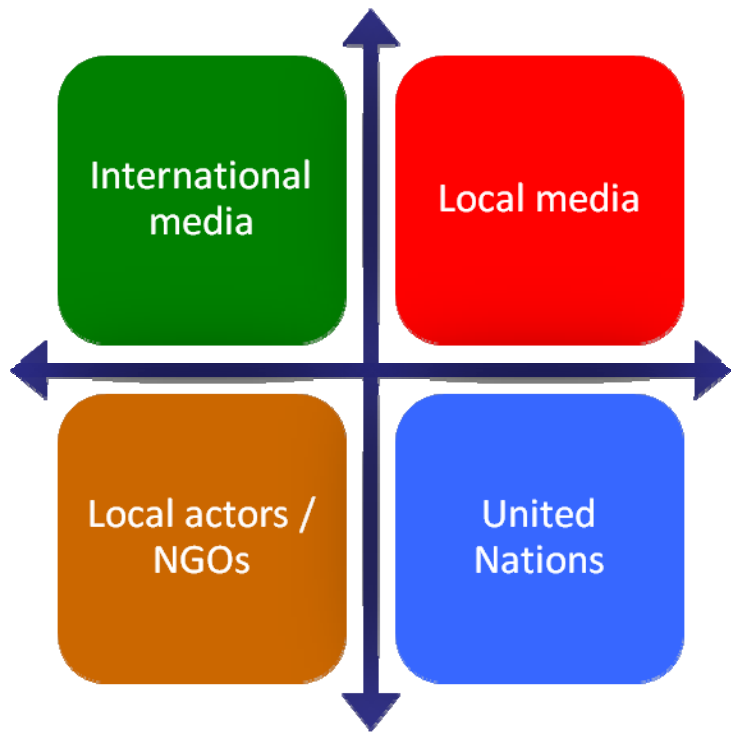


# Traditional dissemination of situational awareness





# The new actors are ordinary citizens & beneficiaries



## Citizens

- Ethnic groups
- Civil society
- Religious groups



## Beneficiaries

- IDPs and refugees

Shared situational awareness is *symbiotic*

# New ways of communicating and understanding

- Information and Communications Technologies
- Web 2.0 | Twitter | Flickr | YouTube
- Mobiles | SMS | MMS | Mobile video
- Email
- VoIP



**[www.ict4peace.org](http://www.ict4peace.org)**

**[www.facebook.com/ict4peace](https://www.facebook.com/ict4peace)**

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