
No news is bad news.

Strategic Partnership **Annual Plan 2017**



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Colophon

Text

Free Press Unlimited and European Journalism Centre

DTP and design

Babette Hilhorst

For further information, please contact
Knowledge & Quality team Free Press Unlimited
info@freepressunlimited.org

IATI identifier Free Press Unlimited: NL-KVK-52957535

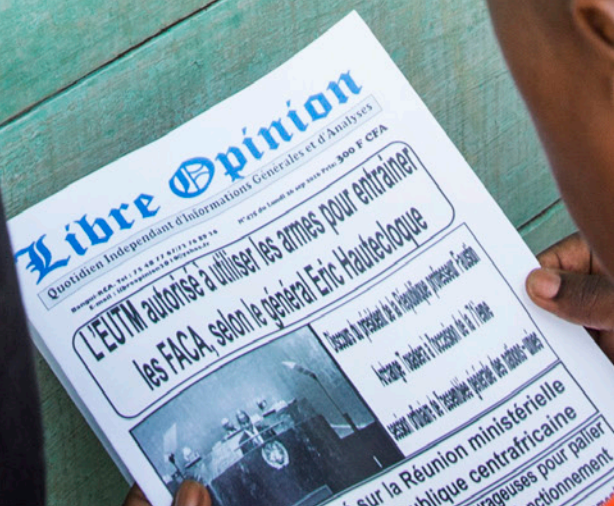
IATI identifier European Journalism Centre: NL-KVK-41078390

Table of Contents

1. Management Summary	5
2. Re-introduction: Theory of Change No News is Bad News	6
3. Priorities for 2017	12
Developing Southeast Asia	12
Developing Africa	13
Fragile Africa	15
Fragile MENA / Asia	16
Latin America	17
International program	18
4. Budget 2017	22



News stand. Bangui, Central African Republic.
September 2016 © Jeppe Schilder



1. Management Summary

Free Press Unlimited and the European Journalism Center together with the Dutch Ministry for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation are about to review the first year of their Strategic Partnership. Although this is an annual plan with the aim to look forward to the next year of collaboration, a short review of the start is at place.

Short recap of 2016

This first year was mainly focussed on setting out the baseline for the program No News is Bad News. As such, the alliance started in February with two pilot countries namely Indonesia and Tanzania. The alliance choose for these countries because of the long and strong track record as well as the good and extensive relationship with all kind of partners (so not limited to media-actors) of both the European Journalism Center and Free Press Unlimited. The baseline was performed as a three day workshop for which also the Ministry (in this case the embassies) were invited to participate. A kick-off already took place in November 2015 during the FPU partner meeting Johannesburg, while EJC brought its primary boundary partners together in Istanbul in March 2016 for practical introductions to the Theory of Change, baseline preparations as well as to develop synergy across initiatives in lobbying and advocacy. Out of the 17 countries within the programme No News is Bad News, up to November 1, we have performed and finalised 11 baseline studies (Bangladesh, Bolivia, CAR, DRC, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan, Somalia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe). Three more are planned for the last months of 2016 (Burundi, Mali). The other three remaining countries (Iraq, El Salvador, Nigeria, Senegal) will be conducted in the first quarter of 2017. The outcomes of the baseline studies are diverse which in itself is not a surprise considering the different context of the countries. The studies confirm the validity of the Theory of Change of No News is Bad News, and give good

insight in the space of civil society, the gender-balance in media reporting as well as safety for journalists. They form the basis of the focus for the year to come.

Shrinking space for civil society

A dialogue platform has been set up about shrinking civic space with 8 of the 25 strategic partnerships, the Ministry of Foreign affairs and Civicus who will actively work on improving the enabling environment. The aim is to ensure collective learning, provide opportunity for mutual assistance and joint advocacy when and where needed. A pilot phase has started with eight partners in eight countries to jointly share knowledge and information and identify common interests. Free Press Unlimited and Hivos are in the lead and are exploring the methodology of scenario planning to organise structured and purposeful dialogues.

In the next paragraphs we will focus on the regional and international aspects of our program for 2017. A bigger and more detailed overview in the country plans for 2017 can be found in IATI.

2. Re-introduction: Theory of Change No News is Bad News

The existence of an enabling environment is a precondition for Civil Society Organisations (CSO) to perform their role as advocates for inclusive and sustainable growth and development. Access to information, independent media, and freedom of expression should therefore be an integral part of any development policy that aims to foster the strength of civil society and increase people's participation in achieving poverty reduction and more equitable societies.

The common objective of the five-year program

No News is Bad news is:

Media and journalists, as independent players in civil society, constitute a diverse and professional information landscape and function as catalysts for change

This common objective can be achieved through three intermediate outcomes:

1. An enabling environment for the media is established, conducive to freedom of expression
2. Media serve the interests of the public and act as a watchdog on their behalf
3. Journalists and media actors work professionally and are effective and sustainable

Key actors across civil society, government and the public sector stakeholders will have to engage strategically to realize these outcomes. Media play a crucial role in inclusive and sustainable growth and development, linking grass-roots civil society concerns to national and global policy levels. FPU/EJC, together with the Ministry, support media in functioning as change catalysts in their societies. This partnership will increase and leverage the impact of the common objective.

Multiple impediments exist in the countries where we work. Worldwide press freedom has declined for the past eight years in a row. Government and non-state actors hostile to press freedom do not allow an effective

civil society to flourish. In many countries, regulatory frameworks are absent and impunity for violence against journalists is rampant.

Lobbying and advocacy for social change depend in large part on the ability of CSO's to communicate openly and securely. Media pluralism is important for civil society development and democracy. Public service media inform all citizens. Private media strengthen the sector economically and community media offer a platform for participatory citizen engagement. Also ownership of media institutions has become a major challenge.

In many countries, governments exercise control over content through direct media ownership or through business conglomerates that do not serve the public interest. Lack of both professional training for media managers and access to new technologies makes a professional, sustainable media landscape impossible. This has undermined the possible public service orientation of media.

FPU/EJC and the Ministry advocate that the fundamental rights of freedom of expression and freedom of the press should be prioritized on (inter)national political agendas. Media can actively influence and catalyze processes of societal change, which make it an advocacy actor in its own right. Traditional and electronic media highlight under-reported issues (e.g. gender or sustainable livelihoods), ensure accountability of policy makers (e.g. basic service delivery) and give marginalized groups a voice in the public space (e.g. children or indigenous peoples).

FPU/EJC define lobbying and advocacy as an ongoing strategic process of influencing decision makers, systems and structures at different levels aiming at changing policies, laws, attitudes and power relations for the betterment of people affected by the issue. The media perform a watchdog role towards power holders and decision makers. By ensuring platforms for transparency

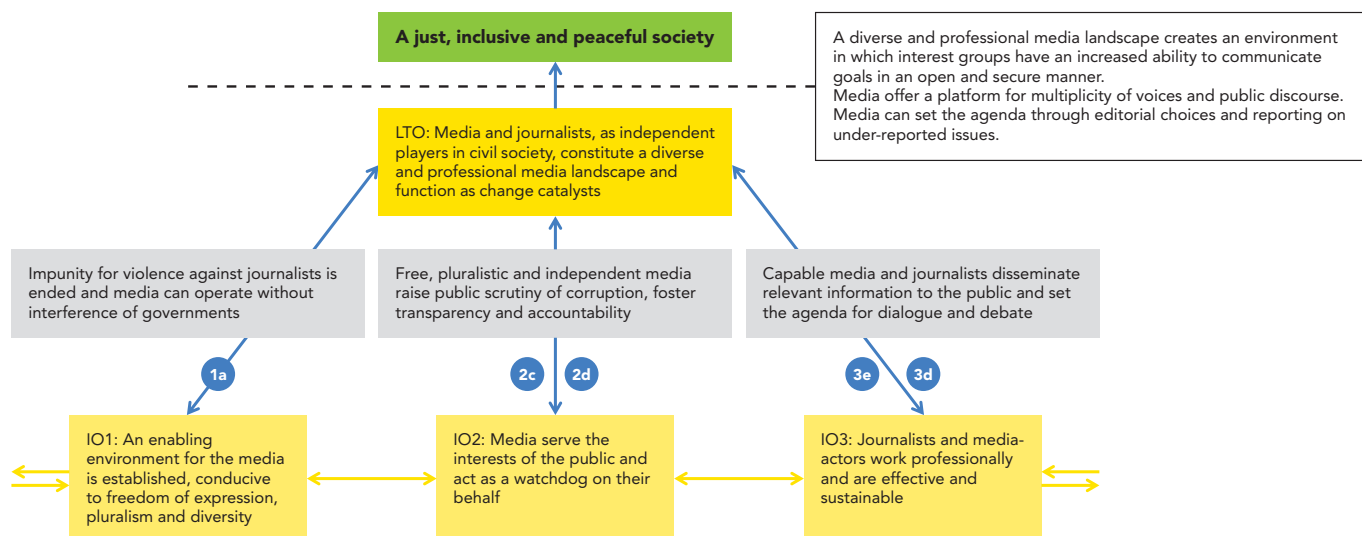


Figure 1. Theory of Change 'No News is Bad News'

and accountability, independent media and professional journalism are indispensable components of an enabling environment in which individuals and CSO's can engage in national and grassroots advocacy.

FPU and EJC aim to include local stakeholders in the development of approaches and needs assessment, leading to joint policy formulation and gap analysis that then form the basis for its interventions, support, and lobbying and advocacy formulation.

MEAL - Monitoring and Evaluation for Accountability and Learning 2017

During the baseline workshops realised in 2016, the Theory of Change of the programme No News is Bad News, has consistently been validated by the partners. The local partners also recognized the challenges the programme identifies in the Enabling Environment (IO-1), in the Watchdog role of the media (IO-2) and in the field of professionalism and sustainability of the media (IO-3).

The partnership with Freedom House has given local partners the opportunity to provide input on the Freedom of The Press country reports. As a result of these baselines, the insights developed and key lessons learned will be shared and discussed with Freedom House in December 2016.

The main outcomes for 2017 are:

1. In general terms, there will be a plan of adjustment of the MEAL System after the external Review.
2. Realisation of baseline workshops for El Salvador, Nigeria, and Iraq and one for Senegal.
3. Consolidate quarterly reporting by IATI.
4. Finalize quantification of indicators for all SP countries
5. Monitor outputs and outcomes according to the Indicator Framework and the Most Significant Change Technique.
6. Evaluation Pilot Most Significant Change and define the developed methodology for its implementation. Start training and implementation in the SP countries
7. Planned is one Outcome Harvest Meeting per SP country.
8. Local discussion of National Press Freedom based on Freedom House Report, progress on outcomes, follow up to agreements of Lobby and Advocacy.
9. Stories of success and challenges are gathered and published using the Methodology of Stories to Tell.
10. Gender Media Content Monitoring will be digitalised. Boundary Partners start to implement the Method as an institutional practice and use it as a guiding tool for their policy
11. Developing a toolbox on Gender and Media to support Boundary Partners with implementation of Gender Media Policies.

No News is Bad News - Indicator list	
Intermediate Outcome 1: An enabling environment for the media is established, conducive to freedom of expression, pluralism and diversity	
1.a.	CSOs support and defend the enabling environment for Media as a condition for L&A
2.a.	CSO's lobby and advocate actively for journalist safety
3.a.	Relevant policy makers and legislators establish legal and regulatory frameworks
Intermediate Outcome 2: Media serve the interests of the public and act as a watchdog on their behalf	
4.a.	Media and CSOs relate strategically to achieve common goals in Lobby and Advocacy
5.a.	Media hold power-holders to account
5.b.	Media are accountable to their publics and address and investigate relevant themes and topics
6.a.	Media produce and transmit content that is gender-sensitive, inclusive, reflects social & cultural diversity and facilitates participation
Intermediate Outcome 3: Journalists and media actors work professionally and are effective and sustainable	
7.a.	Media use the skills to work as change catalysts in Lobby and Advocacy
8.a.	Media operate as efficient and self-sustaining organizations
8.b.	Media deal effectively with safety and security threats (physical, digital, psycho-social, legal)
9.a.	Media implement policies and actions to foster gender equality in their organizations

Figure 1. Progress on the outcomes of the No News is Bad News programme will be measured across 11 indicators

"No News is Bad News" Actively working on / concrete plans to work on											
Country/ indicator	1	2	3	4	5a	5b	6	7	8a	8b	9
Bangladesh											
Bolivia (EJC)											
Burundi											
CAR											
DRC											
El Salvador											
Indonesia											
Iraq											
Kenya (EJC)											
Mali											
Nigeria											
Nepal											
Pakistan											
Somalia											
Tanzania (EJC)											
Zimbabwe (FPU)											
Zimbabwe (EJC)											
International Program											
International L&A											
Innovation											
Reporters Respond											

Figure 2. Overview of indicators relevant to planned activities that will measure progress in the Strategic Partnership countries

Contacts with embassies and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In 2017 FPU/EJC (as we have been in 2016) will be in close contact with embassies and explore further opportunities for cooperation in fields of advocacy on safety of journalists, press freedom, freedom of expression and impunity for crimes against journalists. As agreed within the framework of No News is Bad News, FPU/EJC expect embassies in all countries to actively monitor and report on cases of impunity for violence against journalists, to raise cases of impunity to international prominence, to publicly and via diplomatic channels defend journalists and media organisations that are victim of impunity, to press governments to improve the enabling (legal) environment for journalists and media and to bring perpetrators of violence against journalists to justice, and to monitor trials (in coordination with EU delegation and other embassies). Where needed we count on the support of embassies:

- to assist in practical support to media practitioners and journalists including providing a safe house or evacuation for journalists under immediate threat, arranging visas (temporary asylum in the EU), and providing safe channels for information and goods delivery.
- to set up, assist with and support donor coordination to increase harmonization and added value of all donor efforts in the field of media development and improvement of the enabling environment.
- to have a more active approach in organising network events and debates that involve the national government and local authorities. A more active attitude in linking NGO's, media organisations, CSO's and the national governmental to support media and reporters

Specific activities in 2017: In **Tanzania** FPU/EJC expects to count on embassy support for the Open Data Movement at the international and national level, as on other central themes for 2017; monitoring of Open Data Laws and support and monitoring of Freedom of Access to Information requests. In **Zimbabwe** FPU/EJC expects the embassy to support Access to Public Information and the open data movement at the international and national level. The regional Dutch Embassy in Costa Rica, that is an embassy for the entire **Central American region**, is excited that we are involved in the region and have invited us several times for reflection and sharing around the SP. Exploration of a joint activity or event in the region, preferably advocacy related, is on the agenda as well. In **Nigeria**, the embassy is hosting a meeting on February 7 in Abuja for all the organisations active as strategic partnership. While the embassy office in Lagos is focused on trade and Dutch business in Nigeria, the embassy has been supporting local projects with funds from the Human Rights Fund related to our field of work. FPU/EJC expressed an interest in working together with the embassy on EU guidelines for Human Rights Defenders. The embassy warned that capacity is low and that it might not be able to dive into everything. In **Senegal**, EJC and local partners will cooperate with local organizations on access to information laws including new local contacts made at the NL Dakar embassy, who responded enthusiastic on this point.



3. Priorities for 2017

Developing South East Asia

Countries 2016 - 2020	Freedom the Press 2016 (0=best, 100=worst)
Nepal	54, partly free
Indonesia	49, partly free
Bangladesh	61, not free

Context: Although the media landscape in all three countries is vibrant, censorship, violence against media workers, issues of ownership and lacking skills and capacity are impediments to a critical and professional media scene. In Bangladesh for instance, political considerations influence the distribution of government advertising revenue and subsidized newsprint, on which many publications depend. Private media owners and corporate interests are also able to influence content through the allocation of advertising. Community radio is well-developed in Bangladesh and Nepal and forms a vital source of information for remote communities. Both Bangladesh and Nepal belong to the poorest nations in the world while an uneven distribution of resources in Indonesia leaves large communities impoverished. In Bangladesh, social exclusion and gender discrimination, poor governance and widespread illiteracy are the main contributing factors for poverty, migration and human trafficking as well as high levels of child marriages. Nepal's dependence on foreign aid and remittances leaves the country's economy extremely vulnerable. In Indonesia and Bangladesh, radical extremism is badly affecting minorities of religious, ethnic and sexual orientation and is putting increasing pressure on freedom of expression. Poverty and weak governance in the region lead to pervasive corruption.

Strategy for Dialogue and Dissent in 2017

Intermediate Outcome 1

The strategy for the regional program in 2017 will focus on actively promoting women entrepreneurship, fighting gender inequality and women and girls' empowerment. FPU and its partners will cooperate closely with civil society groups, women groups and other stakeholders in lobbying for implementation of the laws that prohibit child marriages, abuse and discrimination of women, and better monitoring of these laws, and that measures against perpetrators are taken. FPU with its partners will lobby and advocate against impunity for violence against journalists and for improvement of legal protection and better law enforcement and for safety and protection of journalists and bloggers. To contribute to a better enabling environment for journalists and media to work professionally, cooperation is established with the Indonesian Press Council, responsible for monitoring and regulation of press and media freedom.

Intermediate Outcome 2

In **Nepal**, FPU together with CSO's and community radio's will inform and raise awareness on gender inequality, including women trafficking, child marriages and harmful and discriminatory practices against girls and young women by the production of high quality media content and investigative reports. And in **Bangladesh**, media literacy programmes aim to promote and produce media content for children and youth treating news for kids. In **Indonesia**, the focus will lie on the distribution of high quality investigative reporting. At the same time, Tempo and other mainstream media establish a common collaborative platform for investigative projects, IndonesiaLeaks, holding authorities to account, on the one hand, and making media accountable to its audiences, on the other.

Intermediate Outcome 3

In all countries FPU will strengthen the capacity of journalists in investigative reporting, applying right to

information laws, data- and digital journalism, data-tracking and/or research. FPU and their partners will work jointly with CSO's and other stakeholders to mainstream gender equality and equity both in their internal organisations, as well as in media content and activities. In **Nepal**, this will focus on development of high quality media products informing, monitoring and raising awareness on gender inequality, including women trafficking, child marriages and harmful and discriminatory practices against girls and young women. In **Bangladesh** FPU will strengthening the capacity of partners that work on safety and protection of journalists. No concrete plans are underway to become active in the Philippines and Myanmar in 2017. FPU aims to move to those countries following successful completion of efforts in the region.

Developing Africa*

Countries 2016 - 2020	Freedom the Press 2016 (0=best, 100=worst)
Nigeria	51, partly free
Kenya	58, partly free
Senegal	49, partly free
Tanzania	55, partly free
Zimbabwe	74, not free

* Except for Nigeria, EJC is in the lead in all Developing Africa countries

Context: The region is passing a hard time for the population and the media, with less access to liable media and information. In **Nigeria** freedom of speech and press are guaranteed officially but not respected in practice. In Zimbabwe Press Freedom declined; most media are dominated by the state, also the newly licensed community media; Gender is underdeveloped in the sector. Also in **Kenya** the Government has continued to gain greater control of media. The President appears to have a personal distaste for the media and said publicly that newspapers are only 'suitable for wrapping meat'. Harassment of journalists is increasing. Between July-September 2016, politicians and the police attacked five journalists. A photojournalist was killed over a picture he had taken. Journalists work in an atmosphere of fear and intimidation. Playing the watchdog role is

harder and sometimes dangerous. Lack of skilled staff often results in sensationalist reporting. Media houses hardly invest in training. **Tanzania** implemented new laws on media and Access to Information in 2016 which impinge on freedom of expression. These undemocratic laws need to be challenged in the High Court to ensure media to fulfill their role as change catalysts. Tanzanian media do not show much diversity in terms of sources and perspectives, limiting the media's ability to perform its watchdog role. Low capacity of journalists is a major problem as well as a lack of influential women journalists.

Strategy for Dialogue and Dissent in 2017

Intermediate Outcome 1

In **Zimbabwe**, through its partnership with The Source, EJC will support lobby and advocacy activities on the restrictive media environment and increasing government accountability, access to information and open data and citizen engagement in media platforms. In Tanzania EJC will organise forums to reflect, take stock and set a course for future L&A actions on open data in the region. In **Kenya** EJC will contribute to the creation of an enabling environment with safe/encrypted platforms where development and investigative journalism can thrive (such as Kenyaneditor.com, Afrileaks) and perform its watchdog role. In Senegal, EJC and local partners will cooperate with local organizations on access to information laws including new local contacts made at the NL Dakar embassy working in the FOI field.

Intermediate Outcome 2

In **Nigeria**, FPU aims to promote online investigative journalism. The program will focus on strengthening collaboration between media-actors, CSO's, NGO's and the general public on net freedom and press freedom issues. Production of quality, investigative stories will help amplify the voices of advocacy groups on important issues, including human trafficking, to hold government and big companies to account. The program further intends to support activities with regard to data protection and privacy and will explore a secure whistleblowing platform for citizens to leak sensitive information.

In **Zimbabwe** the media partners will cooperate closely with civil society groups to promote women empowerment in the country. Accountability Journalism will make up an ever-increasing component of The Source's story outputs in 2017. EJC will support **Tanzania's** contribution and participation within the larger, global open data movement and Open Data



UN Peacekeeper in Bouar, Central African Republic.
September 2016 © Jeppe Schilder

Partnership Program. In **Kenya** EJC will collaborate with its partner to support increased government accountability and transparency, press freedom and safety/security, to empower youth to become engaged media literate citizens, to improve quality of journalists and to empower citizens to increase their engagement in the democratic process. In Senegal, EJC and partners will participate in advocacy forums on ethics, and support the production and tracking of investigative pieces on governance and pressing development issues.

Intermediate Outcome 3

In **Zimbabwe**, FPU will support through training the strength of the capacity of local citizen reporters, the production of content and further capacity building of the Mobile Community Zimbabwe project in order to make it sustainable. EJC will increase capacity building of investigative and multi-media skills as The Source expands its nationwide stringer network in 2017 and overhauls its website as part of its long term visibility and sustainability strategy. In **Nigeria**, the program will focus on the safety and security of journalists online by training journalists on digital, physical and psycho-social safety. EJC will implement activities focusing on creating data journalism experts and mainstreaming knowledge within **Tanzanian** newsrooms and training institutions. EJC will strengthen the capacity of media to interact and strategically network with CSO's and key international stakeholders involved in the open data movement. In 2017 EJC will start capacity strengthening activities aimed at journalists in Senegal which will focus on promoting and producing investigative journalism, utilising and mainstreaming digital media throughout all components of the training curriculum, and fact-checking capacity building.

Fragile Africa

Countries 2016 - 2020	Freedom the Press 2016 (0=best, 100=worst)
Burundi	80, not free
Central African Republic	71, not free
Democratic Republic of Congo	78, not free
Mali	37, partly free
Somalia and Somaliland	79/54, not free/partly free

Context: The security situation for the countries in the Fragile Africa region remains dire. The situation for the media in the Fragile Africa region remains extremely challenging. Somalia is one of the most dangerous places in the world for journalists to work, radio stations in CAR and Burundi have been under attack and a large group of Burundian journalists live in exile. The media landscape in the DRC is anarchic and many journalists are lacking skills in basic journalism. Press freedom in Mali has seriously deteriorated and in all countries, impunity for violence against journalists remains high. Burundi is slipping back into conflict, while the new government in the Central African Republic, installed in March 2016, has not yet succeeded to reduce tensions and violent clashes between the Seleka and anti-Balaka forces. Political tensions and violent clashes are on the rise in the Democratic Republic of Congo due to the expiring mandate of president Kabila and uncertainties around the new election date and a faltered dialogue process with opposition parties in September 2016. Mali is still struggling with the consequences of the 2012 fight for independence by Tuareg militants and the violence unleashed by the radical jihadist groups of Al Qaeda in the Maghreb and Ansar al Dine. Ethnic clashes and recruitment of youth by radical groups in the South of Mali in 2016 has endured instability. In Somalia, recurrent and protracted conflict poses a serious challenge for the rebuilding of state institutions, but with the installment of a full federal government in Mogadishu, some hope for positive change has set foot.

Dialogue and Dissent Strategy for 2017

Intermediate Outcome 1

Free Press Unlimited will support lobbying and advocacy and capacity strengthening strategies in the Fragile Africa region that focus on the enabling environment. In **Mali**, the Democratic Republic of Congo (**DRC**) and the Central African Republic (**CAR**), FPU and local partners will promote understanding of the vital importance of media among key stakeholders, such as civil society, the public sector and government officials, and security forces. Local partners will advocate for an improved regulatory and legal framework in relation to establishment and regulation of community radio, the prevention of arbitrary closures of media and establishment of a regulatory body. In **Burundi**, FPU and local partners, while extremely difficult, will keep on stimulating dialogue within the media but also with government bodies.

Intermediate Outcome 2

Free Press Unlimited will support strategies in the Fragile Africa region that focus on providing accurate, independent and relevant information for target audiences, including in remote and rural areas. In **Mali** this will focus on countering radicalization and in **Burundi** on reflecting the diversity of Burundian audiences. In **CAR, DRC, Mali** and **Somalia**, Free Press Unlimited and local partners will promote gender inclusive content production and gender media monitoring.

Intermediate Outcome 3

Free Press Unlimited will support strategies in the Fragile Africa region that focus on strengthening the capacity of journalists and media organisations, including basic journalism skills training for male and female journalists and media houses. In **CAR, DRC** and **Mali** FPU will focus on raising the standards of journalism by focusing international standards of ethics, brown-envelope journalism and self-censorship. Finally, safety of journalist will not only be addressed by basic skills training and ethics, but also by focusing on safety

training for journalists and, in **Burundi**, providing safe spaces for dialogue and dissent between media, CSO's and government stakeholders (Ministry of Information) in order to stimulate dialogue and debate.

Fragile MENA / Asia

Countries 2016 - 2020	Freedom the Press 2016 (0=best, 100=worst)
Iraq	71, not free
Pakistan	64, not free

Context: Iraq and Pakistan face various security challenges with direct negative consequences for its population, the media landscape and civil society. Ongoing ethnic and religious fighting and cleansing, mass displacement of people continues to fuel conflict in Iraq. A weak and corrupt government and a weak



economy enhance social unrest. In Pakistan political instability, social inequality, widespread illiteracy, religious extremism and ethnic and linguistic divisions all combine to prevent the country from achieving its economic potential and the growth needed to provide for its young, rapidly expanding population of 180 million. Ongoing violence and repression make Iraq one of the world's deadliest places for journalists. The media landscape is divided along sectarian or partisan lines and tends to promote and reproduce hate speech. Independent media is experiencing difficulties as a result of state repression, the deteriorating security situation, partisan funding structures and dwindling funds from international donors. In Pakistan, the media landscape is lively and varied, multilingual and relatively liberal. The enabling environment for free expression, however, is weak because many journalists lack proper training, standards of ethical journalism are lacking, leaving the media sector open to abuse by political and business interests. Reporting on certain security-related issues is a highly dangerous undertaking, making Pakistan one of the most dangerous countries to work.

Strategy for Dialogue and Dissent in 2017

Intermediate Outcome 1

FPU and its partners will campaign for freedom of expression and press freedom, protection of journalist and prosecution of perpetrators of violence against journalists. They will promote collective action, research and monitoring through professional bodies and press clubs in support of a safer working environment, to allow free expression through improved legislation on access to information and the end of impunity.

Intermediate Outcome 2

FPU will help local partners to work for a stronger coordination, alliance forming and agenda setting with other media development organisations. FPU and partners will promote awareness among the public of professional ethical standards and the role of professional media in society. FPU will attempt to mobilize forces to set up a deradicalisation program for youth. Together with professional organisations, FPU will promote women rights and campaign to give women, youth, communities in the periphery and IDPs a louder voice in the media and promote media literacy programs.

Intermediate Outcome 3

FPU will, together with and through its local partners, organise trainings to improve professional, facts-based

independent journalism and ethical reporting, serving the interests of the public, and promote investigative journalism especially in media-dark areas. They will develop activities to promote women leadership in the media. Local partners will provide training to journalists on physical and digital security, increase the capacity of young media professionals and improving their access to traditional media outlets, and will promote facts-based, independent journalism & ethical standards among media.

Latin America*

Countries 2016 - 2020	Freedom the Press 2016 (0=best, 100=worst)
Bolivia	49, partly free
El Salvador (Guatemala and Honduras)	39, partly free (58, partly free; 67, not free)

* FPU is in the lead in El Salvador, EJC in Bolivia

Context: Central America's "Northern Triangle" (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras) is not reaching its full potential, leading to a society in which poverty, inequality, corruption, social exclusion and violence are still rampant. It is no surprise that violence against journalists and media practitioners is far from unusual in the region, which leads to a situation with little room for a balanced debate and a lack of analysis of the underlying problems such as poverty and a deep-rooted culture of social violence. In El Salvador, for instance, the constitution provides for freedom of the press, and while this right is generally respected in practice, harassment following coverage of corruption and gang violence has increasingly led reporters to engage in self-censorship. Since the civil wars in Central America ended, organised crime and gang-culture reign, making it an epicenter of criminal activities that cause great insecurity for the population and face repressive measures from the state with a growing role of the military. In August 2016, the presidents of the 3 countries have announced that a joint anti-crime task force will be deployed and will comprise of personnel from the three nations' security, justice, intelligence and defense sectors. The current political and socio-economic system lacks sustainable development and alternative options for livelihood. The populations continue to suffer from lack of fundamental freedom and safety and social inequality. Gender equality is a point of attention as women and girls seem to bear

the brunt of the livelihood- and safety problems in society. In Bolivia, the media landscape is polarized and dynamic. Bolivia is ranked 91st in the 2015 Freedom of the Press Index by Freedom House. There is growing concern over the expansion of state-owned channels and conversion of public media into a “proselytizing force” for the president. Permanent tension exists between the press and the government. Violence against journalists has decreased but self-censorship is rampant. Press freedom is more tenuous after the Law Against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination passed in 2010, which includes sanctions for publishing information deemed as racist or discriminatory. The journalism profession is seen poorly by the general public. A new law which allows the government to close CSOs without judgement--the so-called “Act of NGOs and Foundations”--was recently deemed legal by the country’s Constitution Court.

Strategy for Dialogue and Dissent 2017

Intermediate Outcome 1

In **Central America**, FPU will work on creating a safer work environment for journalists with local partners by monitoring and analysing the existing legal frameworks, keeping politicians to account when freedom of speech and information is not respected.

In **Bolivia** EJC will build capacity of partners to monitor and push back against self-censorship and heighten awareness of press freedom violations (at the domestic and international levels), advocate for full implementation of the Freedom of Information Law and journalism safety policies. The program also will increase the scope and breadth of media literacy programs for teachers and youth through lobbying and advocacy with key ministries and the national university system.

Intermediate Outcome 2

FPU with local partners of **El Salvador, Guatemala** and **Honduras**, aims to stimulate public accountability of powerholders and politicians through supporting investigative reporting and research about sensitive topics such as corruption, abuse of power, gender-based violence and organised crime, using innovative tools such as leak platforms if feasible. Furthermore, FPU will increase the balanced and realistic portrayal and representation of Honduran youth groups in the media through media literacy projects and journalism trainings for young people and interested journalists.

In **Bolivia** EJC will partner with key local media and press freedom organisations as well as with practitioners and educators to support increased government

accountability and transparency and empower youth to become engaged citizens. Also citizens will be empowered to increase their engagement in the democratic process.

Intermediate Outcome 3

In **Central America**’s Northern Triangle FPU will support three media outlets in their search for financial sustainability by facilitating them with coaching and stimulate innovative try-outs to diversify their funding stream, so that they can adhere to their own editorial policy and can be truly independent in producing relevant content. Finally, FPU with local partners will work on creating a safer work environment for journalists by providing safety and security trainings to journalists on the ground.

In **Bolivia** EJC will improve quality and perception of journalists and decrease journalistic self-censorship. In order to support and improve their role as civil society watchdogs, the program will increase the capacity of journalists to produce high-quality investigative and accountability reporting and reporting of other neglected social issues, such as gender-based violence.

No concrete plans are underway to become active in Ecuador or Paraguay in 2017. FPU aims to move to those countries following successful completion of efforts in the region.

International program

In 2016, the crosscutting priorities Gender and Safety evoked priority interest of our Boundary Partners in all baseline workshops.

Gender

Gender equality is central to achieve the overall long-term objective of No News is Bad News that media and journalists constitute a diverse and professional media landscape and function as change agents. Media should advocate for gender equality and work towards increased participation and decision making of women in and through media. In all baseline workshops the parts that dealt with Gender in the Organisation and in the Content of the Media were most debated and proved to respond to a rightly identified need of the Boundary Partners. The Gender approach is part of all country plans 2017 and includes Gender-focused Media-Content monitoring and adjustment (mostly of design) of institutional Gender policies. On program level a Gender Media Tool Box will be developed to facilitate professionalisation of programs, interventions and communications. FPU and EJC will strengthen their own internal expertise and of their partners, also investing in networking and



Radio Maigaro, Bouar, Central African Republic. September 2016 © Jeppe Schilder

cooperation with international agencies and platforms promoting gender equality in and through media, such as Gender Links. The Capacity Development includes training at media houses (print, online or broadcast), including mainstreaming of gender on institutional and program/content level: adopt and practice gender policy, gender lens of each program, monitoring of media content, active contribution to gender balanced content etc.

Lobbying and Advocacy for an Enabling Environment
In 2016 all national baseline workshops took the "Freedom of the Press" reports of Freedom House as a starting point for discussion and analysis of the Enabling Environment. Those reports are used worldwide as prominent instruments in international Lobby and Advocacy for Media Development. In 2017 No News is Bad News will continue to use the Freedom House Reports for national analysis, addressing together with Freedom House several technical challenges to improve the reports and make them even more important and effective tools for connectivity between local, regional and international discussions. FPU/EJC will keep

involving all partners actively in the feedback around the analysis and updating of the reports.

The space for civil society organisations and media across large swathes of the developing world is under threat. While the Ministry and FPU/EJC aim to increase the capacity for dialogue and dissent as an enabler for social and economic development, governments and non-state actors seek to control and limit the space for dissent and want to undercut dialogue to enforce their dominance. A dialogue platform has been set up about shrinking civic space with 8 of the 25 strategic partnerships, the Ministry of Foreign affairs and Civicus who will actively work on improving the enabling environment. The aim is to ensure collective learning, provide opportunity for mutual assistance and joined advocacy when and where needed. In our point of view this specific topic needs special attention for the coming year. A pilot phase has started with eight partners in five countries to jointly share knowledge and information and identify common interests. Free Press Unlimited and Hivos are in the lead and are exploring the methodology of scenario planning to organise structured and purposeful dialogues. In 2017

FPU/EJC will continue to be an active participant in the group of strategic partners aiming to address this in five of the most challenging countries (Kenya, Pakistan or Egypt, Uganda, Central America and Burundi).

In 2017 the Universal Periodic Review of three countries within the program will take place (Indonesia, Pakistan and Guatemala) and three reviews taking place in 2018 will be prepared for (Burundi, Mali, Bangladesh). Together with our partners and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the program will use these opportunities to raise the international pressure on the mentioned states to take action on the issue of safety of journalists and other challenges to press freedom.

To address the lack of improvement on the level of safety on the ground, Free Press Unlimited tries to use international mechanisms to increase pressure on states to provide safety to journalists. An important ally in this field is UNESCO, the United Nations agency with the mandate to promote “the free flow of ideas by word and image”. The Director-General of UNESCO publishes a report every two years, citing all the cases of killings of journalists that took place in this period and the status of judicial investigations undertaken by the state concerned into these killings. Information contained in this report can be used as a monitoring tool for follow-up at the national level; when the report shows no action has been taken, civil society can call for prosecution in these cases. Free Press Unlimited assists UNESCO in collecting input from Member States for this report, by supporting local partners to request information from their authorities on the judicial follow up. We will also aim to further develop and focus our cooperation in this field during the coming year. Part of this cooperation is also the public event we will organise together with UNESCO on the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists on November 2nd. Which is a collaboration for the coming three years. A further mechanism used by Free Press Unlimited is the Universal Periodic Review, by continuously raising the issue of safety of journalists during the review of states where accountability for these crimes is low, FPU aims to create international pressure on states to take action.

Together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Free Press Unlimited will seek continuation of its current chairmanship of the International Programme for the Development of Communication panel of UNESCO.

Finally, FPU/EJC will develop pilot projects aimed at Sustainable Development Goal 16.10, indicator 1 related to journalist safety and indicator 2 on access to information in close relationship with Article 19, Civicus and other stakeholders. The pilots will take the form of south-south learning projects on how to work effectively on enhancing journalist safety or access to information. The pilot projects follow from a discussion in Jakarta in September 2016 at the Global Forum for Media Development meeting where criteria and data gathering methodologies were discussed to support UNESCO in reporting on SDG goal 16.10.

Safety

The program prioritizes safety as a basic pre-condition to make media and journalists do their work as change-catalysts on two levels: to deal with safety and security threats within the organisations (indicator 8.b) and to lobby and advocate for improvement of general safety conditions. Safety includes the physical, the psycho-social, digital and the legal domains equally. The No News is Bad News program 2017 mainstreams safety as central issue of concern within all country plans, developing specific programs and tools to increase safety of media actors. For all countries, the emergency fund Reporters Respond will continue to provide direct assistance to journalists and media outlets, to enable them to resume their work as quickly as possible when faced with violence or intimidation. On the digital security challenges FPU/EJC co-organises trainings on online safety, offers technical support and promotes a safe and accessible Internet (NetAidKit) for everyone within international coalitions of organisations active in this field. In 2017 technological innovation remains an important aspect the digital security program.

Innovation

FPU/EJC stays alert to implement, evaluate and carry innovations from the idea stage to a solution or product by means of standardized procedures for its partners. The already mentioned Net Aid Kit is an example of Innovation that facilitates digital safety on line. In 2017 FPU will reserve funds to be able to do rapid prototyping and conduct research on latest innovations in the field of media development or others that can be applied within FPU or EJC or in projects, attend events to engage with others in the field, collaborate with innovators and form new alliances. Therefore FPU/EJC reserves budget for Research & Development.



Road, Bouar. Central African Republic.
September 2016 © Jeppe Schilder

4. Budget 2017



Budget - Strategic Partnership 2017	Approved Budget 2017	Budget 2017	Budget 2017	Total 2017		Appr. Budget vs Total
Develop South East Asia						
Administration & PME	153.529	148.000	0	148.000		5.529
Lobby & Advocacy	201.529	186.000	0	186.000		15.529
Capacity development	302.294	315.000	0	315.000		-12.706
Knowledge and research	127.588	174.700	0	174.700		-47.112
Subtotal	784.941	823.700	0	823.700		-38.759
Develop Africa						
Administration & PME	204.706	131.450	64.833	196.283		8.423
Lobby & Advocacy	268.706	95.425	295.000	390.425		-121.719
Capacity development	403.059	210.225	142.333	352.558		50.500
Knowledge and research	170.118	56.800	33.208	90.008		80.109
Subtotal	1.046.588	493.900	535.375	1.029.275		17.313
Fragile Africa						
Administration & PME	255.882	271.000	0	271.000		-15.118
Lobby & Advocacy	335.882	276.000	0	276.000		59.882
Capacity development	503.824	549.000	0	549.000		-45.176
Knowledge and research	212.647	206.000	0	206.000		6.647
Subtotal	1.308.235	1.302.000	0	1.302.000		6.235

Fragile MENA Asia						
Administration & PME	153.529	216.000	0	216.000		-62.471
Lobby & Advocacy	201.529	180.000	0	180.000		21.529
Capacity development	302.294	373.000	0	373.000		-70.706
Knowledge and research	127.588	118.375	0	118.375		9.213
Subtotal	784.941	887.375	0	887.375		-102.434
Latin America						
Administration & PME	102.353	60.450	32.417	92.867		9.486
Lobby & Advocacy	134.353	50.000	147.500	197.500		-63.147
Capacity development	201.529	96.500	71.167	167.667		33.863
Knowledge and research	85.059	54.800	16.604	71.404		13.655
Subtotal	523.294	261.750	267.688	529.438		-6.143
ALL REGIONS						
Administration & PME	870.000	826.900	97.250	924.150		-54.150
Lobby & Advocacy	1.142.000	787.425	442.500	1.229.925		-87.925
Capacity development	1.713.000	1.543.725	213.500	1.757.225		-44.225
Knowledge and research	723.000	610.675	49.813	660.488		62.513
Total Regions	4.448.000	3.768.725	803.063	4.571.788		-123.788
Netherlands & International						
Administration & PME NL	750.000	688.025	59.088	747.113		2.888
Lobby & Advocacy	510.000	488.850	0	488.850		21.150
Development & Innovation	300.000	264.325	47.750	312.075		-12.075
Knowledge and research (PME etc)	402.250	325.000	30.000	355.000		47.250
Total Netherlands & International	1.962.250	1.766.200	136.838	1.903.038		59.213
Overall total	6.410.250	5.534.925	939.900	6.474.825	101%	-64.575

