

No news is bad news.

Strategic Partnership Annual Report 2017

Colophon

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Introduction

In this report we analyse the developments in the external context and the progress made by the No News is Bad News Programme in 2017. In line with the Annual Plan 2017, progress is reported per region, as well as challenges, lessons learned and adaptive measures. What we do not analyse in this report is whether our Theory of Change and its assumptions still hold true. The reason for this is that this is currently done by means of an extensive Mid-Term Review. The report of this review will be available in September 2018.

Within the regional chapters below we first show how each country ranks in the Freedom of the Press Index, developed by Freedom House. What follows is a grouping of results with reference to the programme's Intermediate Outcomes (IO). In each region we strive to contribute to all three outcomes within our Theory of Change:

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

South-East Asia

Countries 2016 - 2020	Freedom of the Press (0=best, 100=worst)	
	2016	2017
Nepal	54	52
Indonesia	49	49
Bangladesh	61	62

Lobby and Advocacy for Press Freedom and Safety of Journalists (IO1)

In Bangladesh in particular, 2017 was marked by increased arrests, harassment and police violence against media and online journalists, secular bloggers and various human rights activists. Journalistic activities have become increasingly criminalized through several laws -adopted in the past year- which further prohibit expressions which are “excessively critical of state priorities” or “hurt religious belief”. Similar to these developments in Bangladesh, violence and harassment against journalists has also been a significant problem in Indonesia. Our joint lobby with partners in Bangladesh and Indonesia focused on addressing the ongoing impunity of crimes against journalists during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). An important achievement was that during the May 2017 UPR session for Indonesia, the country was criticized for its worsening record on human rights, including police violence and harassment of media workers and human rights defenders. In Bangladesh we lobbied for efforts to end impunity through recommendations which were included in the UPR submission.

Although the situation is better in Nepal, impunity pertaining to the journalists killed and disappeared during the Nepal Civil War (1996-2006) has not been addressed. In 2017 police violence occurred against journalists recording a demonstration. Lobby by our partner Freedom Forum helped put the issue of impunity for violence against journalists on the agenda and to free several illegally detained journalists. Freedom Forum raised awareness on the issue by conducting and publishing research and by organizing discussion events. Freedom Forum also trained 7 stringers and set up a provincial network of stringers to

monitor and report freedom of expression violations in their province. In Indonesia our partner PPMN followed up on the Press Freedom Index they published in 2016 regarding 24 provinces. The indicators in this index will now be used by the provincial authorities to measure progress.

Lobby for Community Radio Stations (IO1)

Community radio stations enjoy a relative degree of media freedom to broadcast under the header of ‘development news’. This is one of the reasons that Free Press Unlimited has decided to focus mainly on community radio stations in Bangladesh and Nepal. Access to media is lower in rural areas, where most people live. These (mostly poor and illiterate) people can be reached primarily through community radio.

Significant progress was made in improving the capacity of and enabling environment for community radio stations:

- The capacity for lobby and advocacy of our partner BNNRC, the umbrella organisation for community radio stations in Bangladesh, has improved: the organisation has a two-year strategic plan, stronger internal capacity, works with more relevant stakeholders, and lobbies for licenses for the establishment of more community radio stations.
- A major achievement of lobby efforts is the new Community Radio Policy that was approved by the Government of Bangladesh at the end of the 2017. This policy allows community radio stations to sell 10 percent of their total air time as advertising, which paves the way for more financial sustainability of the radio stations.

- In both Nepal and Bangladesh, progress was made regarding Right to Information (RTI) at the local level. In Nepal, as a result of lobby efforts, the National Information Commission called upon local districts officials to follow RTI regulations, while in Bangladesh community radio stations were supported to use and to encourage their audience to use RTI for information requests.

Investigative Journalism (IO2)

Corruption is a significant problem in all three countries. Free Press Unlimited and partners managed to stimulate investigative journalism in Nepal by focussing on RTI (described above) coupled with an investigative reporting fellowship programme. In Indonesia the capacity and professionalism of media outlets is higher than in the other two countries. An important success in Indonesia was the launch of IndonesiaLeaks¹ in December 2017. This is a secure whistleblowing platform where citizens can leak sensitive information anonymously to participating organisations (10 media houses and 5 CSO's). Citizen journalists' networks were formed -consisting of 60 volunteers in three provinces- to promote the accountability of authorities on delivering public services. An example of high-impact investigative journalism is a story on migrant workers and terrorism networks which was researched and published by CNN Indonesia and KBR (a national network of over 600 radio stations). This led to action by the Indonesian Government, which formed a task force to investigate the trail of human trafficking from Indonesia. The IOM nominated the two reporters for the 2017 Prize for Best Investigative Report on Human Trafficking.

Inclusive Content and Gender Equality in the Media (IO2 and IO3)

In all three countries women are subject to a high degree of gender inequality in the media and in society at large. In addition, media content often does not take into account children and youth. This is evidenced by media content monitoring which is done in Nepal as part of the No News is Bad News programme. Media content is monitored on gender inclusiveness through a weekly study of nine national dailies and five of the biggest online news portals and their twitter accounts. In Bangladesh, community radio stations involved in No News is Bad News use gender content monitoring to monitor their performance. Gender is mainstreamed through all activities of No News is Bad News in terms of participation of women in trainings and project activities.

Progress on gender equality has been strongest in Nepal, where a gradual increase in the use of female sources and reporters has been measured at the national dailies in 2016-2017. For example, leading newspaper Kantipur previously did not mention their female reporters in bylines, while now it does. Furthermore, our partner NEFEJ was supported in publishing their kids news bulletin "Naya Pusta". A significant portion of the stories (87 out of 412) covered issues that matter specifically to girls, and a majority of the kids interviewed were girls (323 out of 512). Eleven stringers (freelance journalists) from various districts were trained to ensure that content from outside Kathmandu Valley is included. These stringers also monitor the impact that Naya Pusta's stories have in the district communities.

In Bangladesh, community radio stations broadcasted programmes and organized discussions to raise awareness on gender topics and issues affecting women, such as long-term family planning methods, postpartum family planning, post-abortion care and adolescents' reproductive health & hygiene. Additionally, radio stations organized "courtyard" meetings between local authorities and newly married couples to facilitate exchange of information for access to family planning support and materials.

In Indonesia, a fellowship programme increased the capacity of female journalists to work on different stories to promote gender equality. Furthermore, 150 radio stations in 9 provinces broadcasted talk shows and programmes on gender equality as part of the No News is Bad News programme. In Bangladesh 36 youth, including 13 from the marginalized Dalit community, were trained in a Fellowships Programme. The fellows produced more than 500 radio programmes, features and articles covering important social issues for communities, through which they brought problems to the attention of policy and decision makers.

On 8 March, International Women's Day, Free Press Unlimited organised the Men4Women March in Southeast Asia. Hundreds of male employees from our media partners in Nepal, Indonesia and Bangladesh took to the streets to express their support for the fight for equal rights.



Rally participants of Men4Women march during International Women's Day on Wednesday March 08, 2017 at Jawlakhel, Kathmandu, Nepal. Photo by Shailendra Kharel in 2017.

Fragile Africa

Countries 2016 - 2020	Freedom of the Press (0=best, 100=worst)	
	2016	2017
Burundi	80	85
Central African Republic (CAR)	71	71
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	78	82
Mali	37	37
Somalia/Somaliland	79/54	79/53

Lobby and Advocacy for **Press Freedom** and **Safety of Journalists (IO1)**

In all five countries impunity for violence against journalists remains high. Free Press Unlimited supported lobby and advocacy and capacity-strengthening strategies in Fragile Africa that focus on the enabling environment. We have also promoted the understanding of the vital importance of media among key stakeholders, such as civil society, the public sector, government officials, and security forces.

In Burundi, due to the political crisis, the situation is hostile for media inside the country but also for the many media outlets in exile. Connecting partners to international actors was successful: most of our partners gave input to international mediation processes such as the UPR and several initiatives from the African Union, the European Union and bilaterally with Embassies.

In the Central African Republic (CAR), the security and humanitarian situation deteriorated rapidly in 2017. Many threats against journalists came from armed militants. We organized 5 meetings between media and local authorities to lobby for the safety of journalists. As a result, paramilitary forces were instructed by their superiors on the basic principles of press freedom. In case of misunderstandings and arbitrary measurements, media associations can now contact high level officials to settle things.

Journalists in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are also struggling with a decline in press freedom, with 121 cases of violence against journalists registered in

2017. Our strategy was based on campaigning for press freedom and safety of journalists on May 3rd (World Press Freedom Day) and November 2nd (International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists). The events and campaigns reached a large audience consisting of media professionals, government officials, civil society actors and international organisations. A vehicle parade was organized in Kinshasa, and giant billboards showed the campaign's slogan "Engageons Nous pour la Liberté de Press". The events were covered by nearly all national television and radio channels.

Positive developments can be seen in Somalia since the election of a new president with cross-clan support, the emergence of a youthful and reform-minded parliament, and renewed international interest in 2017. In October 2017, 20 media and 5 civil society organisations brought together by Free Press Unlimited collaborated and negotiated with the government about the amendment of the new media law. So far, 14 provisions out of 18 have been agreed upon as a result of the negotiations. In Somaliland we organised discussions between media stakeholders and the police. As a result, the number of illegal arrests by police has dropped from 31 cases between January and July to 4 cases between August and November. In Puntland we lobbied with the ministries, judges and media outlets to have a joint workshop on the new Media Law. As a result of this workshop 40 participating judges and journalists from five media organizations signed a joint declaration on the safety of journalists.

Lobby and Advocacy for Community Radio and Online Press (IO1)

In the DRC we advocated for an improved regulatory and legal framework for community radio stations, for the prevention of arbitrary closures of media outlets and for the establishment of a regulatory body. Developments look promising and concrete measurements are expected in 2018.

Online press in Mali is not covered by the existing media law, which exposes online journalists more easily to random intimidations and restrictions when it comes to press freedom. In collaboration with our partners, other media organisations and unions we started a series of meetings with government officials to address this issue. Results are expected in 2018.

Press Cards for Journalists (IO1)

In January 2017, after an intense lobby, the Ministry of Information in Somaliland mandated our partner SOLJA to issue press cards. With these cards, 514 journalists (82% male, 18% female) can approach government institutions more easily, have more access

to information and important meetings. In the DRC we supported our partner UNPC with the improvement of the procedure to register journalists and supply them with press cards, which increased their legitimacy and access to information.

Quality and Inclusiveness of Media Content (IO2)

In Mali the focus was on countering radicalization and in Burundi on reflecting the diversity of Burundian audiences. In CAR we supported 9 community radio stations to play an important role in conflict prevention, promotion of peace and reconciliation and the impact on social cohesion. Audience research showed a positive impact. In CAR, DRC, Mali and Somalia we have promoted gender-inclusive content production and gender media monitoring. In the DRC we supported our partner UCOFEM to do nationwide gender-content monitoring, and to develop a database of female resource persons for media professionals. In Mali we also supported gender content monitoring; media outlets that pass the criteria can use a special gender label and announce themselves “officially” as



MAMA Radio in South Kivu, DRC, broadcasts on gender-related topics and brings different stakeholders on its show to discuss issues that women are faced with in the region (town and rural areas around). Photo by AFEM in 2017.

gender sensitive. In Somalia, media houses from all over Somalia sent female journalists to the training of our partner Media Ink. As a result 8 radio stations promoted 9 female journalists to higher positions such as directors and editor in-chief within their organizations in Somaliland and Somalia.

Promoting Ethical Standards of Journalism (IO3)

Free Press Unlimited supported strategies in the Fragile Africa countries that focus on providing accurate, independent and relevant information for target audiences, including in remote and rural areas. In all countries we have strengthened the capacity of journalists and media organisations to raise the standards of journalism and to reduce brown-envelope journalism and self-censorship. In Somalia we supported the development of a journalism curriculum for both degree and diploma programmes based on the UNESCO Journalism Curriculum Manual, adapted to the Somali context. So far, 5 out of 10 universities based in Somalia and Somaliland have started using the curriculum. In Somaliland we supported campaigns against brown-envelope journalism (Sharur/Qabax), during which five very well-known Somali journalists condemned it. In the DRC we encouraged journalists to adhere to ethical standards during the upcoming election period (originally planned for end 2016 but postponed till December 2018).

Developing Africa

Countries 2016 - 2020*	Freedom of the Press (0=best, 100=worst)	
	2016	2017
Nigeria	51	51
Kenya	58	58
Tanzania	55	58
Zimbabwe	74	74
Senegal	49	47

*Except for Nigeria, the European Journalism Centre is in the lead in all Developing Africa countries

Lobby and Advocacy for Press Freedom and Safety of Journalists (IO1)

In Tanzania, several laws were passed restricting Freedom of the Press. Journalists can now be prosecuted on charges such as 'interpreting statistics wrong'. Legislation against cybercrime can also be applied to legitimate media outlets. It is unclear for journalists how they can stay safe from criminalisation, leading to a strong increase in self-censorship. As a result of these developments, the No News is Bad News strategy for Tanzania had to be adapted. Instead of supporting a press freedom platform, aimed at lobbying to expand rights, the programme now has a defensive strategy, focused on teaching media practitioners how to still function in the new situation. The European Journalism Centre and their partners analysed the new media laws with the help of legal experts to create clarity on exactly where the red lines are. This knowledge is spread among journalists so that they can be safer.

In Senegal the situation is ambiguous. The country traditionally has a relatively free media sector, but the government has also adopted a new press code last year, which has been criticized for opening the door for more control. The European Journalism Centre initially focussed on building a platform for CSOs and media outlets to do lobby and advocacy, primarily for a Right to Information law, but it has now also given strong pushback to the government's repeated attempts to introduce harmful legislation, such as criminalising 'malpractice' for journalists.

Meanwhile in Kenya, restrictions were mostly related to the contested and chaotic periods before and during the elections. Media were harassed by politicians and attacked by security forces. The European Journalism Centre adjusted the programme in Kenya to focus primarily on election coverage, which faced many challenges and needed more effort than anticipated.

In Nigeria freedom of speech and press are guaranteed officially, but not always respected in practice. To address this, Free Press Unlimited and Premium Times supported the development of the Press Attack Tracker², a platform that tracks incidents of violations against journalists in Nigeria. The platform was launched and has since received 245 reports. Reports that are verified are reported on the Premium Times website. Furthermore, a coalition has been set up to advocate for the protection of whistleblowers. As a result of these efforts, a whistle-blowing bill has now passed initial readings and is awaiting approval by the House of Representatives.

In Zimbabwe, the situation for media was already highly restrictive (the worst in the region). Since the change in government in November 2017, it is uncertain what developments will follow. Throughout the year, the European Journalism Centre focused on establishing and strengthening links between media partners and local CSOs concerned with issues of national development, corruption and accountability.

Promoting Investigative Journalism (IO2)

In Nigeria, Free Press Unlimited and partners launched a secure whistle blowing platform, leaks.ng, which is managed by seven independent media houses. Citizens can now safely use it to send sensitive information that deserves public knowledge to journalists. Our partner Premium Times published five critical investigative pieces on press freedom, one of which revealed the illegal use of surveillance programs by State governments.

Increasing Media Literacy (IO2)

The European Journalism Centre organised programmes in Kenya and Senegal to educate the wider public about the importance of independent (investigative) journalism and about media literacy. In Kenya through a nationwide reality TV show, Top Story Africa, with a weekly audience of up to two million viewers. Audience surveys were done in which 1,100 homes were questioned on their impressions of journalist's work, connection to democracy and accountability of elites (results pending). In Senegal this was done by organising trainings on ethics and fact-checking in school, together with AfricaCheck.

Inclusion of Women in the Media (IO3)

In all five countries, women are disadvantaged and receive less respect than their male counterparts in journalism and media. Stereotypical content about men and women dominates the news. Countering this is an important priority in the No News is Bad News programme. Progress was made in 2017 through a leader-fellowship for female journalists³ in Nigeria. Fifteen journalists were trained and mentored, so far resulting in the publication of fourteen stories and one female journalist being promoted to an expert-function. In Kenya, a regular online newsletter was initiated with reports by female journalists on security, terrorism, and politics. In Tanzania journalists were trained how to avoid stereotypes in the media and in Zimbabwe young women from rural grassroot organisations were trained as citizen journalists.



Female reporters in Kenya. Photo by the European Journalism Centre 2017.

Fragile MENA / Asia

Countries 2016 - 2020	Freedom of the Press (0=best, 100=worst)	
	2016	2017
Iraq	71	71
Pakistan	64	65

Lobby and Advocacy for Press Freedom and Safety of Journalists (IO1)

In both Iraq and Pakistan, violence against journalists is widespread. Repression and threats come from both the government and from groups in society, as a result of the continued rise of religious extremism and ethnic and linguistic divisions. In some areas press coverage is dangerous and difficult. The No News is Bad News programme aims to increase the safety of journalists by means of protective measures and lobby against impunity.

The Pakistani government is adopting more and more legislation that limits the space for independent media. For instance, blasphemy laws are used to silence dissenting voices, also online. Last year the government proposed a Journalist Safety Bill which would criminalise certain journalistic activities. Free Press Unlimited supported a joint lobby by three partners together with other Pakistani CSOs, which has led to the withdrawal of the Journalist Safety Bill by the Parliament. A parliamentary committee was set up to come with a new proposal. We have also engaged with Pakistani CSOs to submit shadow reports for Pakistan's UPR (Universal Periodic Review) and ICPPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) mechanisms. Several recommendations have been taken over, and the organisations involved have formed a joint lobby agenda.

In Iraq we co-organised a public event at the occasion of World Press Freedom Day (3rd of May) in Baghdad. During this event, and as a result of our lobby, the Iraqi government submitted a report to the Director-General of UNESCO about journalists that were killed and the judicial follow-up. In Pakistan, we also contributed to an official list of killed journalists, recognized by CSOs, UNESCO and the Pakistani government. In

both countries the governments officially recognized these cases, which is a significant step in the process of combating impunity.

Inclusion of Media Dark Areas (IO2)

There are several so-called 'media dark areas' in Iraq and Pakistan, which are not reported on by national media because of their poverty and marginalisation or because they are politically sensitive. In the disputed territories of Iraq, the conflict between various parties has been played out through the media. The struggle between the government of the Kurdish region and the Federal government makes it very difficult for the few independent media outlets not to be seen as agents for the other side while they try to maintain independent reporting. By consistently engaging with all groups in the disputed territories, our media partner KirkukNow has managed to remain seen as neutral and independent. With our support, they succeeded to report ethically sound and locally relevant stories about the disputed territories in Iraq (in Turkmen, Arabic & Kurdish), which were recognized with Human Rights Reporting Awards (1st and 3rd prize) for KirkukNow reporters.

Another example of reporting on media dark areas in Iraq comes from our partner Metrography Photo Agency. With our support, Metrography exhibited two photo stories related to water pollution and the Mosul dam⁴ affecting local communities. This led to a direct response from the Iraqi Minister of Water and the stories were picked up by other Iraqi media.

In Pakistan, a training of citizen journalists in media dark areas was organised with the support of Free Press Unlimited. Their stories were taken up by national media. Throughout 2017 there were many examples of provincial governments taking action on concrete issues as a result of their stories.

Inclusion of Women in the Media (IO3)

In both Iraq and Pakistan, threats to female journalists⁵ are more frequent than to male journalists. In Pakistan, we managed to establish a Network of Female Journalists for Digital Rights, providing safe online spaces and digital security. It currently has 45 members. In Iraq, our partner Metrography trained female photographers and organised an exhibition with the work of 8 female photographers in 2017. Our partners also worked on gender equality within their own organizations. Participation of women in trainings was increased by establishing quota.



Metrography photo exhibition in Iraq by 8 female journalists. Photo by Metrography, 2017.

Latin America

Countries 2016 - 2020*	Freedom of the Press (0=best, 100=worst)	
	2016	2017
Bolivia	49	53
El Salvador	39	41
Guatemala	58	58
Honduras	67	66

*the European Journalism Centre is in the lead in Bolivia

Lobby and Advocacy for Press Freedom and Safety of Journalists (IO1)

In Bolivia, the government's confrontational position towards the media is hardening and the government does not accept any kind of criticism by journalists. Bolivia has some of the best legislation regarding Freedom of the Press and Print Laws. However, the government has been attempting to restrict this laws during the past year. Together with APLP, the largest union of Bolivia, the No News Is Bad News programme supported advocacy against these attempts. Partners have managed so far to organise enough support among labour unions and civil society to prevent restrictions of these rights. The programme strengthened the capacity of partners to monitor and hold the line on self-censorship, and continues to support advocacy efforts for full implementation of the Freedom of Information Law and journalism safety policies. The programme also established a new player in the debate about press freedom: APLP Radio Online.

The countries in Central America also have quite advanced legal frameworks and protection schemes, but in practice these are not being followed up. Free Press Unlimited worked on creating a safer work environment for journalists with local partners through safety training for journalists and by monitoring and analysing the existing legal frameworks, keeping politicians to account when freedom of speech and information is not respected. A Human Rights workshop with 28 government officials in Guatemala was organised with a focus on practical methods to ensure freedom of expression.

Accountability of Power Holders (IO2)

In Central America scandals of corruption by elites continue to shake the region, without any action from authorities. We have stimulated public accountability of powerholders and politicians through 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. With our support, our partner Nómada succeeded in uncovering stories around some great scandals in Guatemala, such as the story of a fire that killed around 40 girls in a detention center. Nómada organises debates and events so that they constantly stay aware of what is going on with their target audience and what they would like to see investigated/ reported. In Bolivia, the European Journalism Centre supported Fundación Para el Periodismo to set up an Accountability Fund (Spotlight).

Media Literacy and Inclusion of Youth (IO2)

In Bolivia, the programme of Fundación Para el Periodismo was expanded in 2017 to include components on youth digital safety: how to fact-check and identify disinformation. An agreement was reached with the Ministry of Education to embed six weeks of Media Literacy into the national secondary school system and teachers colleges. This way, youth will be empowered to become engaged citizens. In Honduras, Free Press Unlimited assisted partners to 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.

Gender Sensitive Media Content (IO2)

In Guatemala, Free Press Unlimited supported its partner Nómada to launch a new magazine called Vulcánica, a specialized Latin American feminist magazine. Nómada also received support of the feminist Colombian journalist and activist, Catalina Ruiz Navarro, who helped them to integrate a diversity of articles around strong and representative women from the activist movements across the region. In Honduras, Free Press Unlimited trained youth journalists who organised a photo exhibition showing images of their daily lives. In El Salvador, we supported Fundación Latitudes to produce Magazine 5.6 with an analysis of the image of women in the press. In Bolivia the European Journalism Centre supported Fundación Para el Periodismo (through Spotlight, mentioned above) to award many grants to content on violence against women. Fundación Para el Periodismo introduced its first Diploma in 'Gender Violence and Women's Rights'.

Innovative Business Models for Media Outlets (IO3)

In Central America, Free Press Unlimited launched market research into possible payment and business models for independent (digital) media. These media play an important democratic role in countries such as El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua, where many radio and TV channels and newspapers are affiliated with the state. The research findings enabled us to support 3 media outlets (Nómada, El Faro and Confidencial) with innovative business models and funding streams, like debates, TedTalks, monthly 'pizza-beer-get-to-know-your-journalists-evenings', crowdfunding, as well as public/private partnerships.



Safety training in El Salvador in cooperation with Fundación Latitudes. Photo by Fundación Latitudes, 2017.

International Programme

Monitoring and Evaluation for Accountability and Learning (MEAL)

In 2017, the Monitoring and Evaluation for Accountability and Learning (MEAL) team of the No News is Bad News programme organised baseline workshops in the four countries in which we had not done so in 2016. In Somalia and Pakistan, we experimented with the Outcome Harvesting evaluation method. The main advantage of this method is that it also measures results (outcomes) that we could not anticipate in advance. Together with our Somali partners, we spent three days answering the question which social actors have changed their behaviour or practices thanks to the activities of the No News is Bad News programme? The partners wrote down all the outcomes, presented them to each other, updated them, and together they analysed what the programme had delivered up to that point. A total of 32 outcomes were defined. With our partners in Pakistan we piloted long-distance outcome harvesting via Skype and email, which resulted in 43 outcomes.

In addition to outcomes, we collected Most Significant Change stories to find out what our projects mean for journalists. So far we have collected 59 stories, 31 of which have been published on our website and in our newspaper No News is Bad News, which we distributed during Free Press Live (see below under International Programme). With these outcomes and stories in hand, we can check if the assumptions made in our Theory of Change are still in line with reality: does the desired change indeed happen as we anticipated, or should we revise our strategy? This will be further explored during the Mid-Term Review in 2018.

Lobby and Advocacy for an Enabling Environment

Civic space. The space for civil society organisations and media across large swathes of the developing world is under threat. Governments and non-state actors seek to control and limit the space for dissent and want to undercut dialogue to enforce their dominance. We participated in the dialogue set up about shrinking civic space between the Ministry and 8 of the 25 strategic partnerships. A pilot project was initiated by Free Press Unlimited and Hivos to explore the methodology of scenario planning for structured and purposeful dialogue.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR). In 2017 the Universal Periodic Review took place in Indonesia, Pakistan and Guatemala. Together with our partners and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the No News is Bad News programme used this mechanism to put international pressure on the issue of safety of journalists and other challenges to press freedom.

Free Press Live on the Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists on November 2nd.

In the morning of November 2nd, Diane Foley (mother of murdered journalist James Foley and founder of the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation) and Leon Willems (Director Policy and Programmes, Free Press Unlimited) spoke in the Dutch House of Representatives during a special procedure organised by D66. The main topic of conversation was the impunity of crimes against journalists, which led to the Motion Sjoerdsma (see below). In the afternoon, we organised a public event 'Free Press Live' in The Hague. During the event we launched a manifesto calling on policy makers to protect journalists. Free Press Live was attended by 250 journalists, media workers, policy makers, students and others, and received widespread attention in the Dutch Media (RTL Nieuws, Goedemorgen Nederland, Algemeen Dagblad, Radio 1 Journaal and many other media) and an op-ed by Leon Willems on violence against journalists was published in 20 countries.

Motion Sjoerdsma. In the Netherlands we strongly supported an adopted motion from D66 (motion Sjoerdsma): a governmental emergency fund⁶ for journalists for legal aid, insurance or (safety) training.

Press Released. The European Journalism Centre launched Press Released⁷ in January 2017, a new platform and commentary series established in partnership with non-profit editorial service Project Syndicate to stimulate debate and heightened awareness around the global challenges confronting media and journalists. Each column is tracked for publication and measured for audience engagement and further impacts.

Intelligence and Security Services Act. In the Netherlands and in Europe we interfered in policies that threatened to limit press freedom. A hot issue last year was the new Dutch Intelligence and Security

Services Act. Our main criticism⁸ was that the law undermines the protection of journalists' sources. We organised a public campaign, wrote opinion pieces with the Society of Chief Editors and held discussions with members of parliament.

International Civil Society Safety Coalition. Safety of Journalists was the most important theme for which Free Press Unlimited lobbied internationally in 2017. To coordinate our work and our lobby on this issue better, Free Press Unlimited set up the Civil Society Safety Coalition together with ARTICLE 19 and International Media Support. The European Journalism Centre, Project Syndicate and international partners such as the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Reporters sans Frontières (RSF) and International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) also joined. Now the coalition consists of about 20 organisations and others are interested to join. Together, we have successfully lobbied for more emphasis on prosecution in the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

SDG 16.10.1. Free Press Unlimited initiated research in collaboration with the University of Sheffield to design a reliable methodology to investigate and document crimes against media workers. The goal of this project is develop an academically verified format that CSOs can use for monitoring in the framework of SDG 16.10.1.

Cooperation with Freedom House. In 2017 we continued to use the Freedom of the Press reports⁹ 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.

Safety & Gender

In 2017, Free Press Unlimited put its gender policy into practice worldwide and focused more attention on women in the media and on a stronger position for female journalists. A Gender Media Reference Guide was developed for our staff. Together with Gender Links (a South African NGO) we started with the development of a Gender Content Monitoring Tool. Inspired by the outline of our Gender Policy, we worked on a Safety Policy to be published in 2018.

Through Reporters Respond we have provided financial aid to media workers whose profession puts them at risk of threats, injuries, vandalism or intimidation, enabling them to continue their work. In 2017, Reporters Respond received 166 applications, 43 of

these applications were granted. Approximately 30 media workers were provided with new equipment. For cases from the Democratic Republic of Congo Reporters Respond was managed by Journalistes en Danger (JED). To support affected media workers from the Caribbean region after the Tornado season, we worked together with the Association of Caribbean Media Workers (ACM).

Innovation

Free Press Unlimited did rapid prototyping and conducted research on the latest innovations in the field of media development, attended events to engage with others in the field, collaborated with innovators and formed new alliances. The European Journalism Centre brought its Open Data/Journalism accountability network and Media Literacy lab to the table: repositories for tools and resources for on demand intervention, global best practice utilizing technical and mentoring approaches.

Chatbots. It is important for media outlet to interact with their audience. Together with the "Center for Innovation" of the University of Leiden, an audience engagement strategy and pilot software solution were developed. Chatbots and conversational user interfaces will be ready for use early 2018.

NetAidKit. Based on an external security assessment and an evaluation among end-users, the NetAidKit was improved to be safer and easier to use. The second iteration of the NetAidKit will become available during the first quarter of 2018. Additionally, plans were made for a version of the NetAidKit that works on Raspberry PI hardware. This will make the tool available to a much bigger group of end-users, for a fraction of the price.

Training Open Source Investigative Journalism. Our exile media partners contribute greatly to the amount of reliable news from areas where press freedom is under attack. It is a challenge to ensure the quality of their remote news reports. Fortunately, fact-checking has become better accessible thanks to online information from social media, satellite images, online archives and more. We invited Bellingcat to give a training to three exiled partners of Free Press Unlimited. Bellingcat is an international award-winning initiative of volunteers and full-time investigators, who conduct investigations with open-source tools into matters such as the crash of the Dutch MH17 plane in Ukraine.

Extra Activities in 2017

Water and Conflict Conference. Free Press Unlimited invited 12 journalists (from Iraq, Mali, Sudan, Ethiopia, the Netherlands and Nepal) for a climate reporting workshop and 2-day conference¹⁰ organised by the Planetary Security Initiative, a consortium of leading think tanks led by Clingendael. Our partner Metrography from Iraq organised a photo exhibition and presented 2 short video stories during the official opening dinner. Also invited to take part in the conference were politicians such as the Nigerian minister of Internal Affairs and the minister of Foreign Affairs for Mali. During this conference, the journalists were given the opportunity to interview these policy makers.

Training Children, Youth and Media. An extra activity within the International Programme was an international training for a selected group of partners in Children, Youth and Media. Young people and children are insufficiently represented in the media. The programmes that inform children in a responsible and professional way and give them a voice are scarce. The

focus of the training was on the development of media content that includes the voice of children and youth, showing them that their opinion matters.

Rappler. We supported Philippines-based media group Rappler with the organisation of a three-day conference focusing on issues affecting media and democracy in the digital age. Additionally we contributed to database development and data analysis to give insight into the suppression of media freedom and to undertake/develop activities to counter these developments. Results will be shared in 2018.

Media Landscapes. In collaboration with the European Journalism Centre we commissioned expert writers to map the entire journalism ecosystem of selected countries: Indonesia, Bangladesh, Iraq, Pakistan, Nigeria, Egypt, Sudan, Myanmar, Somalia, Nepal, and El Salvador. On the 3rd of May 2018 we will add these country profiles to the existing online database¹¹.



The annual Free Press Live event, held on the International Day to End Impunity for Violence Against Journalist.

Photo by Romy van den Boogaart, 2017.

Endnotes

1. <https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/news/safe-platform-for-whistleblowers-in-indonesia>
2. <https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/news/tracker-registers-violence-against-journalists-in-nigeria>
3. <http://reportwomen.org/frlp/>
4. <http://kirkuknow.com/english/?p=21726>
5. <https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/blog/mahrukh-jabeen-on-being-a-female-journalist-in-pakistan>
6. <https://www.freepressunlimited.org/nl/nieuws/free-press-unlimited-verwelkomt-verzoek-d66-noodfonds-voor-journalisten>
7. <https://www.project-syndicate.org/topic/press-released>
8. <https://www.freepressunlimited.org/nl/nieuws/verzoek-aan-rutte-stel-de-invoering-van-de-sleepnetwet-uit>
9. <https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/news/report-freedom-of-the-press-2017>
10. <https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/news/the-role-of-journalists-in-issues-surrounding-water-conflict-and-climate>
11. <https://medialandscapes.org/>

