

No news is bad news.

Strategic Partnership Annual Report 2018

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 (NNIBN) in 2018. Progress is reported per region against the Annual Plan 2018, as well as challenges, lessons learned and adaptive measures. The Financial Report 2018 is added as a separate document.

Within the regional chapters below we first analyse the actual context in which the programme operates. We show how each country ranks on the Freedom of the Press Index, developed by Freedom House. Since this data is only available up to 2017, we have also added the World Press Freedom Index of 2018 by Reporters without Borders, and the Civic Space Monitor of 2018 by Civicus. The World Press Freedom Index is determined by the following criteria: pluralism, media independence, media environment and self-censorship, legislative framework, transparency, and the quality of the infrastructure that supports the production of news and information. The categories used for press freedom are very bad, bad, problematic, fairly good, good. The CIVICUS Monitor provides data on the state of civil society and civic freedoms in 196 countries. The data inform a country's civic space rating as closed, repressed, obstructed, narrowed or open.

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 (IO1):** An enabling environment for the media is established, conducive to freedom of expression;
- **Intermediate Outcome 2 (IO2):** Media serve the interests of the public and act as a watchdog on their behalf;
- **Intermediate Outcome 3 (IO3):** Journalists and media actors work professionally and are effective and sustainable.

Free Press Unlimited (FPU) planned to start a country programme in Myanmar in 2018, as foreseen in the application procedure. In May 2017, a 10-day fact-finding and needs assessment mission to Myanmar was conducted and a pilot programme was designed. Unfortunately, the potential local partner did not pass the due diligence and the programme could not start in 2018. In December 2018, the European Journalism Centre (EJC) conducted a scoping mission to Paraguay in which two partners were accepted into the 2019 - 2020 programme.

The Mid Term Review in 2018 resulted in an adaptation of the Theory of Change of the programme. The new Theory of Change is included in Appendix I. For more information, please refer to the report shared with DSO in 2018 and attached in IATI.

South-East Asia

| Countries 2018* | Freedom of the Press (0=best, 100=worst) | | Press Freedom Rating (Reporters without Borders) | Civic Space Rating (Civics) |
|-----------------|---|------|---|--------------------------------|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2018 |
| Nepal | 54 | 52 | Problematic | Obstructed |
| Indonesia | 49 | 49 | Bad | Obstructed |
| Bangladesh | 61 | 62 | Bad | Repressed |

* Myanmar was mentioned as a new country in the Annual Plan 2018, but the programme has not yet started.

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

Press Freedom worsened in Bangladesh. In April 2018 the government approved its new Digital Security Act, which even enhanced the restrictions against press freedom of the ICT Act that it replaced and conflicts partly with the Access to Information Act. According to partner Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) it is used primarily to punish government critics, protect religious sentiment and intimidate. In May 2018, Bangladesh was reviewed during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), for which FPU and BNNRC had submitted recommendations related to community media. Even though the Bangladesh government formally acknowledged and accepted recommendations related to guaranteeing freedom of expression and diminishing pressure on human rights defenders, the real practice is reverse. Only weeks after the promises and the UPR review, the authorities cracked down hard on street protests and arrested reporters, photo journalists and activists. FPU expressed its concern both publicly and during a meeting with the Ambassador of Bangladesh in the Netherlands, as well as with the Minister of Information and the Chief Information Commissioner. Increased foreign criticism forced the authorities to take more serious measures to protect freedom of expression. In September 2018 the authorities accepted 178 out of 251 recommendations made by the UPR review, among which pledges to work with civil society to protect freedom of expression, and public commitment that journalists and bloggers can carry out their activities without fear of arrest or retribution. The Chief Information Commissioner expressed interest to

collaborate with BNNRC on the implementation of the RTI Act 2009. As part of this action, BNNRC organised a Training of Trainers for 33 community radio broadcasters on how to implement the RTI Act at community level.

In Indonesia, president Joko “Jokowi” Widodo’s government passed a tough new anti-terror law in May 2018, and law enforcement agencies are taking firm action. At the same time, religious radicalism also intensified. Press Freedom is in decline and journalists fear repercussions and experience discouragement, not just from government but from media owners who have conflicting interests – this caused a delay of the first publication of an IndonesiaLeaks story. Three of the originally nine media in this collaboration decided not to publish. With the support of FPU, partner PPMN (Association for Media Development) developed a Press Freedom Index to collect data at provincial level. In 2018 this data was used to make local governments aware of the importance of a free, independent press. PPMN lobbied for stricter measures to protect media and journalists against violence in several provinces. An MoU was signed with the governor of Bengkulu as a result for protecting press freedom. A similar agreement with the governor in West Papua is pending. In preparation of the 2019 elections, several seminars and workshops were conducted in Surabaya, Bandung and in the provinces of East and West Java. More than 170 participants participated from different ranks of local government, the election regulator and executor, journalist associations, and political parties. This resulted in signed agreements between media and local governors to ensure the independence of journalists in covering the upcoming elections.

In Nepal, violence against journalists and the impunity of the perpetrators of this violence remains a significant problem. With the support of FPU, Freedom Forum continued to monitor all press freedom violations and cases of impunity of violence against journalists with its provincial network of stringers (set up in 2017) to monitor violations in their province, and recorded a total of 94 press freedom violations in 2018. Especially during the presidential elections in 2018, journalists were arrested without warrants and some were tortured in detention. Freedom Forum made a significant contribution to a safer environment for media professionals through its Legal Helpdesk. Two journalists were released on bail and one case was handed over accordingly from the police to the Press Council following a letter from Freedom Forum. Freedom Forum also renewed the website <http://nepalpressfreedom.org/main/>, which maps violence against journalists.

New provisions in the Criminal Codes Act of Nepal relating to privacy and defamation are restrictive to press freedom. The new Privacy Bill conflicts with the Right to Information Act and is not in line with international standards of right to information. In 2018 Freedom Forum joint hands in fostering a nation-wide alliance with other media-related organisations to advocate for a review of the Mass Communication Bill. As a result, the recent amended provision that defined satire and other sarcastic caricatures (306 – 2 c) as defamation has been removed. A new provision 306 (3) (h) has been added stating that ‘An act done or any broadcast and publication made with the good intention that favors public interest, protection of virtue and morality does not amount to the defamation.’

The November 2nd event to end impunity for crimes against journalists organized by Freedom Forum in Nepal served as a platform for the families of murdered and disappeared journalists (since the Maoist insurgency in 1996) to share their personal stories. One account was that of Dhan Bahadur Rokaya, daughter of disappeared journalist Pabitra Rokaya. Following the event, her family’s case was covered by the mainstream media as a main headline.

Advocacy and Support for Community Radio Stations (IO1 and IO3)

In Bangladesh, community radio stations enjoy a relative degree of media freedom to broadcast under the header of ‘development news’. 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. In 2018, in the

light of the new “Community Radio Installation, Broadcast and Operation Policy”, two important trainings/workshops for community radio stations were organized by BNNRC. A total of 17 Community radios were trained to put to practice the recently adopted new policy, with implications for advertisement and financial sustainability of the stations.

In Indonesia, in response to the earthquake and the disastrous tsunami in Palu, Sulawesi, PPMN and FPU joint hands and responded quickly by setting up a disaster response programme for affected radio stations and journalists and supported them with equipment in order to continue reporting about the disaster.

Workshops on the sustainability of community radio stations were organised in West Kalimantan (Pontianak), North Sulawesi (Manado) and North Sumatera (Medan) and attended by 61 participants. Two community radio stations (Rakom RPI 107.8 and Radio Ambcom Kreatif 107.7) obtained broadcasting licenses thanks to advocacy efforts. To increase participation in good governance by citizen journalism, 103 citizen journalists (44 women) in 8 districts and cities, including Papua, West Kalimantan and North Sulawesi, were supported to produce media content.

Investigative Journalism (IO2)

In Nepal, NEFEJ launched the Haki Haki multimedia webportal (<http://www.hakahakionline.com>), a website that is packaging all investigative media content produced by NEFEJ itself and treats environmental issues and climate change. The website has reached 143,864 hits/visits at the end of the project period. In order to promote the webportal better, NEFEJ organized an in-house multimedia training for its online staff. In addition 24 journalists in investigative journalism on climate change and environmental issues through a three-day summer school. From 24 participants, the 14 most qualified participants were selected to continue with a fellowship. In total 16 stories were published on the Haki Haki webportal and in the media-outlets where the fellows work (BBC Nepali, Nagarik Daily, TV Today, The Himalayan Times, Surya Daily, Desh Sanchar online, Kantipur, RSS, NTV/RSS, Madhya Nepal, South Asia Chuking, Naya Patrika Dainik). Until now, 7 stories have had impact on local governance. An example is a fellow who wrote a story about the lack of safe drinking water in Olani. In response, the Rotary club of Dhangadi supported Olani with a safe drinking water facility. Another story about solid waste disposal by a local government in a dense forest area was followed and copied by many



Live broadcast by Radio MAHANANDA 98.8 fm; Chapainawabgonj District, Bangladesh. Picture by Bashir Ahmed Sujan, 2018.

journalists and created pressure to manage solid waste properly. As a result of an investigative article produced by one of the fellows, a national-wide media debate was triggered about the government's plan to construct an international airport which will sprawl over more than 8045 hectares by clearing a forest area of 2.4 million trees, and will affect both southern Nepal as well as northern India. The fact that the government was planning the construction of a new airport, was publically unknown. NEFEJ organized 4 provincial media discourses around its fellowship programme (with around 200 participants in total). An unintended fifth media discourse was held in order to clear up the confusion around the construction of the new airport. NEFEJ has been the main catalyst in making this public as well as setting the agenda for Nepali media to cover this event.

In Indonesia, PPMN administered the whistleblower platform for the media, IndonesiaLeaks. In July 2018, a series of preliminary activities were held for the participating media and initiators of IndonesiaLeaks (JARING, Tempo, CNN Indonesia TV, KBR, AJI and Tempo Institute), including a translation workshop, a technical Training of Trainers, and a digital security workshop. In August 2018, the IndonesiaLeaks Festival was organized to promote the platform to the public. The festival featured a public debate on the topic of 'Journalism, Public Information Access and the Digital Age'. Around 150 people attended the festival (see picture below).

Since its launch in December 2017, IndonesiaLeaks has received a total of 12 leaks. One of these leaks was followed up by seven media outlets. Together they worked on a story, that was published in October 2018 and that generated a lot of response. The topic of the investigative report was the alleged destruction of evidence at the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) by investigators and the police. The evidence destroyed consisted of financial records showing payment of bribes to a number of officials, including the former Jakarta chief of police and the current chief of the Indonesian police. Because this report was released during the presidential election campaign period, there were positive and negative reactions to the story. Some initially accused IndonesiaLeaks of having a political motive for launching the investigative report and of creating and circulating a hoax. The initiators, members and partners of IndonesiaLeaks, coordinated to generate public support through information events and prepared for the eventuality of legal claims being made.

In the meantime, 7 high impact stories produced by the fellows from the Investigative Fellowship initiated by Tempo Institute were published in 2018. The fellows are using the Public Information Disclosure Act (RTI) for their investigations on topics like human trafficking, illegal mining & logging, environmental pollution, marihuana production and distribution, civil servants corruption. They work closely with a range of national and local CSOs/NGOs (>20) to gather information.



IndonesiaLeaks Festival with a public debate on the topic of 'Journalism, Public Information Access and the Digital Age'. Picture by PPMN, 2018.



Images by PPMN, 2018.



School screening NayaPusta in Kathmandu. Picture by FPU, 2018.

The in 2017 produced investigative stories on human trafficking from Nusa Tenggara to Malaysia, a joint collaboration with Malaysia Kini, resulted in bringing one of the perpetrators to justice. The Editor in Chief of The Reporter, from Taiwan, said that the results of the coverage had encouraged the Taiwanese government to improve regulations regarding the system of contracts and protection of workers on their fishing vessels. Ground-breaking cooperation with Kompas newspaper (a competitor of Tempo) in follow-up to a story about a cover-up of illegal logging in Papua, resulted in measures taken by the Ministry of Environment.

In Bangladesh, in a response to the Rohingya refugee crisis from Myanmar, FPU worked with BNNRC and the Ministry of Information of Bangladesh to obtain a temporary license, which would allow the signal of the community radio in Cox Bazar to reach the Rohingya refugees. The request for the license is still under review.

Media Literacy and Inclusion of Youth (IO2)

In Nepal, the kids TV news bulletin "Naya Pusta" (with partner NEFEJ) continued to produce and broadcast three times a week on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at prime time on Avenues and on

NTV plus. In total, the team produced and broadcast 156 episodes (a total 4,686 stories) that covered climate change and environmental related topics that are specifically tailored to children. A total of 11 schools were visited to screen a compiled version of Naya Pusta, interact with the target group and collect feedback on the show. The Central Child Welfare Committee and Federation of Nepalese Journalists awarded two members of Naya Pusta for being child friendly journalists.

In Bangladesh FPU's partner SACMID conducted a baseline on media literacy in 20 schools with more than 1,500 student respondents. The baseline included recognizing fake news and dealing with cyber-bullying. Media literacy groups were formed at 10 schools with 247 students in 9th grade (age group 14-16). This is an 25 percent increase compared to the initial target group due to high interest in the programme. SACMID included digital safety awareness as one of the 4 main elements in the proposed media literacy classes in secondary schools. The pilot materials produced by SACMID were tested in 5 schools with 4 classes each. On the basis of results, evaluation and feedback from participants and teachers, the conclusion is that at least 100 secondary



Men 4 Women campaign March 8th, 2018 in Bangladesh. Picture by BNNRC, 2018.

school students can identify propaganda out of media messages, are able to differentiate reality from media-created facts and can search Internet for various sorts of information more effectively. SACMID also organized important round table discussions engaging different actors. As a result, media literacy became an important topic for various stakeholders - from educators to government officials, international development organisations, parents and students. SACMID's expertise is requested frequently by organisations and educational institutions and has succeeded to draw the attention to media literacy as an emerging and urgent issue in the media landscape of Bangladesh.

Women 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. This is evidenced by gender media monitoring which is done in Nepal by partner Freedom Forum. Media content is monitored on gender inclusiveness through a weekly study of nine national dailies and of five of the biggest online news portals and their twitter accounts. In combination with "feedback visits", an increase has been observed in the number of female by-lines and sources in newspapers and online media, as well as a changed perception among media houses and editors regarding women's presence in the newsroom. Editors from Nayapatrika, Republica, and The Rising Nepal have stated that they now assign reporters to search for at least 1 female news source. Following an interface meeting in which one female

journalist said it was difficult to report on issues due to the insecurity of working late at night, Republica newspaper started a pick-and-drop service for its female journalists. In the provincial media monitored by Freedom Forum between July and September 2018, only 14% of all by-lines were for female journalists, and only 16% of sources cited were women. One way to make the tide to turn faster is to get more women to the top. For that reason, FPU is planning to start a training programme for female leadership in Nepalese media in 2019.

In Bangladesh, the journalism fellowships by BNNRC for women and marginalized groups continued in 2018. A total 40 fellows took part in the fellowship and produced a large number of materials (more than 300) on government services for vulnerable groups and on gender discrimination. A dedicated website for the fellowship programmes was launched: <http://youthwomenfellow.bnnrc.net/>.

In Indonesia, 10 fellows from radio, print and online media participated in the Women Fellowship Citradaya Nita organised by PPMN, and produced a total of 80 programmes (in 10 districts and 7 provinces) about access to information and ICTs for economic empowerment of women. Through the media content and campaigns produced by the fellows, various groups of female entrepreneurs received assistance from local government agencies and universities to expand their enterprises.

Fragile Africa

| Countries 2018 | Freedom of the Press (0=best, 100=worst) | | Press Freedom Rating (Reporters without Borders) | Civic Space Rating (Civicius) |
|--------------------------|---|-------|---|----------------------------------|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2018 |
| Burundi | 80 | 85 | Very bad | Closed |
| Central African Republic | 71 | 71 | Bad | Closed |
| DR Congo | 78 | 82 | Bad | Closed |
| Mali | 37 | 37 | Bad | Obstructed |
| Somalia/Somaliland | 79/54 | 79/53 | Very bad | Closed |

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

In all five countries impunity for violence against journalists remains high. FPU supported advocacy and capacity development in Fragile Africa to improve the enabling environment. FPU and partners also promoted the importance of media among key stakeholders, such as civil society, the public sector, government officials, and security forces.

Serious rights violations continued in Burundi, including executions and hate speech at the highest level of government. Many journalists in Burundi are declared state enemy and have to do their work underground, in exile, or have to practice extreme self-censorship to stay alive. Three staff members of FPU's partner Radio Culture were mistreated by police forces in August 2018 while trying to cover a story. The international community seems to be increasingly unable to influence the situation or have access to information on what is happening in Burundi. The Annual Plan 2018 for Burundi included advocacy through regional and international channels on the safety and security of journalists and media practitioners, but no constructive dialogue was possible with the Burundian government. The entire peace process is stagnated and the environment for independent media keeps on being very hostile in Burundi, as well as for exiled media. But connecting CSO's and media to international actors has been successful, as most of our partners have been giving input to international mediation processes, such as the UPR of the UN and several initiatives

of the African Union, the European Union and with Embassies bilaterally. CSOs and media organisations advocated for press freedom on different occasions and on different levels. So this low score is not because of lack of efforts but because of a government that is absolutely not willing to change their policy and behaviour. Several meetings were held in Brussels with a range of media and CSOs to strategize how to influence European Union (EU) and African Union delegates. Meetings were also held in The Hague and Geneva to influence Dutch government policy. Further steps have been made to become a member of an EU high-level advocacy initiative. FPU was invited to EURAC's General Assembly in December and was accepted as a new member for 2019. FPU participated in an advocacy meeting organised by EURAC - a letter to push for an inclusive inter-Burundian dialogue was sent to different international stakeholders, resulting in the participation of some CSOs in the process.

In the Central African Republic (CAR), security issues remained the key concern, as violent clashes took place in several parts of the country. CAR was the country with the worst deterioration of -33 on the world press freedom ranking. Physical attacks and threats against media and journalists increased. Newspapers radicalized their discourse and failed to maintain journalistic objectivity. Media outlets were raided by armed groups associated with the anti-Balaka militias or the former Seleka forces. Broadcasting equipment was destroyed and staff of the radios were forced to stop reporting. Self-censorship among reporters was

rampant. In July 2018 three Russian journalists were assassinated under unclear circumstances. FPU's plan to set-up a central desk to start with the registration of threats and violence against journalists in 2018 has not yet been possible. FPU's partner ARC managed to organise a May 3rd event, albeit with some delay after violent clashes on May 1st.

Journalists in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) also struggled with a decline in press freedom. Campaigns were organised by FPU's partner on 3 May (World Press Freedom Day) and 2 November (International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists) and reached a large audience. A vehicle parade was organized in Kinshasa on 3 May, and giant billboards showed the campaign's slogan "Engageons Nous pour la Liberté de Presse". The events were covered by nearly all national television and radio channels. JED published the annual report on Safety of Journalists in DR Congo and presented the report on 2 November. JED also organised a one-day workshop with the Ministry of Justice on ethics and deontology of journalism, and provided juridical assistance to 4 journalists that needed legal support. Postponed presidential elections finally took place on December 23rd, 2018.

In Mali, ethnic clashes and radical terrorism divided the society. Attacks on journalists declined but press freedom was still fragile. Since 2017, the High Authority of Communication (HAC) is trying to regulate the radio sector, where hundreds of community radio stations broadcast without legal permission. At the same time the government is incapable of providing relevant and life-saving information to all citizens, especially to those living in the North.

In March 2018, Somaliland closed its borders and arrested numerous people from Somaliland based on alleged violations of the 'National Interest'. Critics of Somaliland's self-proclaimed independence were jailed. Journalists were not longer allowed to meet their Somali peers without fearing persecution. In the second half of 2018, the number of arrest went down, presumably rather because of self-censorship by the journalists than because of more tolerance. Partner SOLJA organised a Media Advocacy Strategy workshop in which 40 participants attended. The objective of the workshop was to bring together civil society organisations, lawyers, media organisations, human rights defenders and activists, and produce a joint declaration and media safety advocacy strategy. A total of 80 media actors attended another (capacity building) workshop about media laws and media code of ethics.

Two regional advocacy meetings ("Councils of Peace") were organised and were attended by a total of 100 people. The peace talk approach was highlighted by UNESCO as one of the working national mechanisms for journalist's safety. During the peace councils all parties concerned spoke about a safer working environment for journalists. Based on cases studies, the participants discussed which challenges journalists are facing and why a safe working environment is so important. Significant results were booked in Puntland. The participants established a committee for the protection of journalists, with representatives from media, police and civil society organisations, like the Puntland Women Lawyers Association. They also set up two helplines, one for male and one for female journalists who are in danger. In November, media and police even drew up a step-by-step plan broadening their cooperation to increase the safety of journalists. The peace councils also proved to be a success outside the sessions. In six cases, the police commissioner, who had been ordered by a politician to arrest a journalist, called MAP first. This shows that the police understood that this arrest warrant was unlawful. MAP managed to resolve the issues through dialogue.

Advocacy and Support for Community Radio and Online Press (IO1 and IO3)

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. Partner APPEL (the association of online media houses and professionals) received training to conduct advocacy in a structured and professional way in order to influence the government to formalise the online media sector on behalf of its members. In 2018 APPEL submitted a proposal to the Ministry, condemned violations of freedom of speech, and participated in a press conference to liberate 3 Malian journalists.

In CAR, partners organised International Radio Day and ARC gave institutional support to 7 community radio stations. Two antenna towers (one for Radio Kemo in Sibut and one for Radio Esca in Bangui, close to KM5) were provided¹. In total 250 staff of community radio stations trained in journalistic skills (26% female), and 60 staff of community radio were trained in technical skills (33% female).

In DR Congo partners advocated for an improved regulatory and legal framework for online media, for the recognition of community radio stations, and against the arbitrary closures of media outlets. FPU supported partner Actualité.cd, the biggest online



Radio Maïgaro in Bouar, Central Africa Republic. Picture by FPU, 2018.

news website, with a training in mobile reporting and storytelling, a mobile news app, and with institutional support.

Promoting the **Watchdog** Role of the Media (IO2)

In the DRC FPU supported its 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. In 2019 2.345 press cards were provided (572 to female journalists). Partner FRPC trained 101 journalists coming from 62 community radio stations in election reporting and informed them on the electoral calendar of the presidential elections in the DRC. Audio portraits of 18 out of 21 presidential candidates were produced and distributed to more than a hundred rural radio stations so that people in remote areas also were informed on the programs of the different candidates. Six 25 minutes radio magazine programme were produced to inform Congolese citizens on the election process.

In CAR, in January 2018, ARC offered its services as secretary for the distribution of press cards and

received the necessary equipment to do so. A press card printing machine was bought and sent. ARC did intensive advocacy towards the Ministry of Information to start with the distribution, but the decision making process with the union UJCA and the Ministry of Information delayed the process with administrative obstacles, like problems with opening a bank account for the press card committee. By December 2018, the press cards could still not be distributed.

In Burundi all partners were trained on secure communication methods. This proved to be useful during election reporting on the Referendum in the beginning 2018, as none of the partner journalists got into serious danger.

In Mali, partner APPEL serves as platform to build capacity within the sector on media ethics. In 2018 APPEL organised debates around work ethics for its members. In CAR, ARC supported 9 community radio stations to play an important role in conflict prevention, promotion of peace and reconciliation and the impact on social cohesion.

In Somaliland and Puntland, partners Media Ink and MAP Increased collaboration between Somali journalists and CSOs in holding decision-makers accountable for their actions or omissions, through investigative reporting and storytelling. They improved the awareness among Somali journalists of respect for the rules and ethics of fact-based journalism, gender-sensitive reporting and individual safety, as well as the awareness among Somali security forces on the rights and existing laws that protect journalists in Somalia. Regular media monitoring shows challenges and opportunities in terms of reporting. Two weekly radio shows (Somalia and Puntland) investigate on relevant issues, based on the daily needs of the audiences. Journalists, CSO and blogger create synergies in order to hold power holder to account. They co-produce the two radio shows.

Media Content for Youth (IO2)

In Mali, within the country's highly hierarchical culture, youth has no access to real participation. Radical Islamic groups try to silence any upcoming youth empowerment and women suffer from the rise of conservative interpretations of Islam. Both groups are underrepresented in the media. Through the rap-news from FPU's partner Kunafoni young rappers deliver the news in a way that engages Malian youth. Since 2017, the bulletins also made their debut on Malian television: twice a week, Renouveau TV broadcasts the rap-news. Accompanied by music, they talk about important issues in their country. The presidential elections in 2018 were widely discussed. The video journalists of Kunafoni interviewed young Malians at demonstrations for the opposition and the rappers reported the official results and allegations of fraud. The number of followers on Facebook has grown since March 2018 from 26,500 to almost 40,000. A 'Spiderman' video of Parisian balcony climber returning home to Mali went viral. In 2018, Kunafoni was rewarded with a second place in Le Prix Francophone de l'Innovation Dans les Médias, a prize for innovative media formats in the French speaking world. To make the rapping newsreaders even more well-known to Mali youth, Kunafoni will be going on tour with live performances throughout the country in 2019. FPU also supported Kunafoni to improve its financial and administrative capacities, and it now has multiple donors thanks to its exposure and success.

In Burundi, FPU supports the youth platform Ndafise Ikibanza where young people reflect on issues that affect and interest them. In 2018, 11 shows have been produced and broadcast 33 times on 4 Burundian radio stations. The programme is made in a participatory

way, with youth journalists co-producing and also with a call-in aspect and live chats, so audience engagement is stimulated during the broadcast of the programme. This is the only way to keep young people's involvement and voice heard in the closing and hardening Burundian society at the moment. The quality of the monthly programming has notably improved through coaching of Radio Culture in the first half of 2018 by a gender and participatory youth expert. A public event, the "Académie des Talents", took place in August 2018 during which young people were encouraged to showcase their (hidden) talents.

Women in the Media (IO2 and IO3)

In Burundi Radio Culture produced the radio programme Ntusigare Inyuma with and for rural women. Through focus group discussions and listening groups the perspectives and interests of women and girls are taken into account.

In DR Congo partner AFEM continued to produce the radio show 'Témoignage Spécial', a gender sensitive magazine programme reporting on day-to-day issues from a female angle. In 2018, 24 radio programs were produced out of which 18 were published online accompanied by articles. Three of these were recorded publicly during lives debates/discussion events. The productions discuss social issues experienced by the communities surrounding Bukavu and share stories of local women or highlight their perspective. AFEM's website and Facebook page have been improved and updated regularly throughout the year. The Facebook reached close to 3,000 followers. The audience actively engages with AFEM to give feedback, discuss with the team, make topic suggestions, or suggestions for improvements. In total there were 800 messages from listeners on daily topics covered, 78 phone calls, close to 400 sms and 46 visits.

In DR Congo partner FRPC trained 36 female journalists of community radio stations in Gemena, Kasubalesa and Tshikapa in gender sensitive reporting and improved their technical skills in radio production. They increased their technical knowledge in sound recording, editing and ICT skills so that they are less dependent on their male colleagues. The radio stations received production equipment like voice recorders, laptops, microphones etc. Partner AFPC produced 16 bi-weekly radio broadcasts of the programme Wali Ti BeAfrika (Women of Afrika) with a young group of female aspirant journalists who are coached on the job by a senior editor in chief. The programme was broadcast by 6 stations a.o. state broadcaster Radio Centrafrique, Radio Kemo in Sibut, and Radio Maigaro

in Bouar. Also in DR Congo, UCOFEM organised gender media monitoring of 20 Congolese media outlets. Participating media were: RTNC-TV, RTNC-Radio, Le Potentiel, Digitalcongo.net, Antenne A, Top Congo, Africa News, 7/7, CCTV, RTGA, Le Phare, Actualité. CD, Numerica, Okapi, Forum des As, RTCE, B-One, La Prospérité, CNTV, SSM. In addition UCOFEM updated the 2018 version of FERES, a list of more than 4,000 female resource persons that can be contacted by Congolese media. UCOFEM increased its visibility online and improved its capacity to campaign by using social media (12 female journalists were trained) and mobile journalism with the use of smartphone (10 female journalists were trained). Finally they organised an award ceremony for the most promising young female journalists in DR Congo.

In Mali, Tuwindi is a civi-tech organisation specialized in gender, good governance and accountability by the means of digital communication. Together with a large coalition of CSO, media and government institutions Tuwindi developed and implemented a media label (GIP) for good practice with regards to gender inclusiveness, editorial independence and

professionalism. On a regular base, Tuwindi conducts a gender media monitoring survey, which serves as a baseline for the GIP label. Malian media organisations are trained, coached and labeled according to their level of gender inclusiveness, editorial independence and professionalism. In order to highlight and to promote quality journalism in Mali, Tuwindi, in collaboration with a number of relevant media stakeholders, organizes the annual Mali Media Awards (MAMA). MAMA has become the most important media award in Mali.

In Burundi, a collaboration with the youth initiative YAGA led to an innovative and lively women's day celebration on March 8th, 2018, which was live broadcast on the radio programme. Radio Culture continues to produce and broadcast the monthly show Ntusingare Inyuma with and for rural women.

In Somalia, SOLJA organised a "Women in Media Conference" in March 8th, 2018. In Puntland, MAP organised the Men4Women March on the same day (see picture below).



Men 4 Women campaign March 8th, 2018 in Puntland. Photo by Media Association Puntland (MAP).

Developing Africa

| Countries 2018* | Freedom of the Press (0=best, 100=worst) | | Press Freedom Rating (Reporters without Borders) | Civic Space Rating (Civics) |
|-----------------|---|------|---|--------------------------------|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2018 |
| Nigeria | 51 | 51 | Bad | Obstructed |
| Kenya | 58 | 58 | Problematic | Obstructed |
| Tanzania | 55 | 58 | Problematic | Repressed |
| Zimbabwe** | 74 | 74 | Bad | Repressed |
| Senegal | 49 | 47 | Problematic | Obstructed |

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

** Information of FPU's programme in Zimbabwe is confidential and activities have been left out of the Annual Report and are not published in IATI

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

The legal framework of media regulation in Tanzania has continued to be one of the main concerns for press freedom in the country. Laws such as the Cybercrimes Act, the Statistics Act, and the Media Services Act still negatively affect the practice of journalism in Tanzania and criminalise the dissemination of information. In early 2018, the Government of Tanzania introduced new online content regulations for the Electronic and Postal Communications Act. The regulations require producers of online content such as bloggers and companies or individuals offering radio and TV streaming services to obtain a license and pay a fee of up to \$900 to put their content online. This requirement inhibits press freedom and creates unequal use and access to media space. In 2018 the East African court took on a case regarding the 2016 Media Services Act and found that it was contrary to democratic principles (decision will be taken in March 2019).

In Senegal freedom of the press is a principle guaranteed by the Senegalese constitution. However, the new Press Code voted in 2017 was still not implemented in 2018. Defamation laws are still in the legal system and journalists can be sent to court and imprisoned. Offences such as dissemination of false news and offence to the head of state or religious leaders are still included in the Press Code. A lot of

media practise self censorship to avoid being attacked. The recent Presidential elections (February 2019) brought about a wave of defiance and an expression of distrust against the media accused of being too partisan (either pro-government or pro opposition). A new government has been appointed but so far no concrete measures regarding the press were taken, while social media has been put under more surveillance.

In both Tanzania and Senegal, EJC focused on supporting a platform for CSOs and media outlets to foster advocacy. In Senegal this initiative focussed primarily on 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, as well as on journalists' rights, ethics issues, press freedom and combating self-censorship.

Kenyan media continue to operate in a precarious environment following new laws that are increasingly giving the state greater control over media and fail to meet international standards and are detrimental to the workings of a free press. For example, the Media Council of Kenya was established as a self-regulating body, but is now a statutory organisation that receives government funding, and the Cabinet Secretary for Information has the right to reject names submitted for appointment to the Council board. Press freedom

advocacy groups went to court to challenge 26 sections of the Computer Misuse and Cyber Crimes Act, which among other things criminalise journalists. The Kenyan authorities also introduced new censorship directives that violate freedom of expression. If these directives, which are being challenged in court, are allowed to operate, then anyone who posts a video on their social media account would require a government license. Another concern is the practice of bundling laws that threaten press freedom in miscellaneous Acts of parliament, which critics see as a way to avoid greater public scrutiny of these bills before they're enacted into law. In 2018 EJC provided training support to its partners for effective advocacy towards government bodies to strengthen press freedom, journalist safety and freedom of expression.

In Nigeria freedom of speech and press are guaranteed officially, but not always respected in practice. Conflict continued to plague the nation in 2018. Media organisations, including journalists of FPU's partner Premium Times, faced repeated harassment, unlawful detainment and arrests. These incidents were fortunately short-lived, however court-cases still continue creating financial and legal burdens on media organisations. FPU offered assistance through Reporters Respond (see International Programme below) and continued to support the Press Attack Tracker of partner Premium Times Centre for Investigative Journalism, a platform that tracks incidents of violations against journalists in Nigeria. Incidents that are verified are reported on the website <https://pressattack.ng/>. The Press Attack Tracker continues to grow and it is used by international stakeholders to monitor safety and security of journalists in Nigeria. Furthermore, a coalition has been set up to advocate for the protection of press freedom.

Zimbabwe underwent elections in July 2018, following the military coup in November 2017 after which vice president Emmerson Mnangagwa became the de facto ad interim president. The overall political situation worsened, forcing also FPU's partner to keep low profile for a while until normal work could be resumed. 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, and on the identification of new partners for the No News Is Bad News Programme.

Promoting Investigative (Data) Journalism (IO2)

In Nigeria, FPU and partners launched a secure whistleblowing platform, Leaks.ng, in 2017, which in



2018 grew to have 18 media houses and media CSOs as members. The Leaks.ng platform coalition (powered by PTCIJ) exposed a couple of stories on corruption within the Nigerian government leading to much commotion in the country.

In Tanzania, EJC increased the skills of media partners in investigative and data journalism techniques in collaboration with partner Tanzania Media Foundation (TMF). "Media Lab" was launched in June 2018 with the presence of Dutch embassy representatives including Deputy Head of Mission Lianne Houben (see picture). Media Lab is an innovative one-of-a-kind space on TMF premises to nurture and coach young journalists on new technologies for investigative journalism, expanding audiences and reaching rural and other underserved communities. The launch also served as the event where EJC's Data Journalism Handbook, translated into Swahili language, was launched. The handbook has been distributed to media professionals, especially regionally based, that are interested in enhancing their data journalism skills.

EJC supported Media Lab's data journalism fellowship programme and expanded an in-house ToT programme. Also in 2018, a team of local data journalism experts was built within Tanzanian newsrooms and training institutions. In-house data journalism units were set up and gender was mainstreamed in all interactions with the media. EJC ran workshops for local CSOs interested in utilizing their own data sets for advocacy purposes, in cooperation with the Dutch LGBTQI rights organisation COC's local CHESA network of health organisations and clinics.



Top Story Student Teams in Kenya. Picture by EJC, 2018.

In Senegal EJC continued its work with Dakar-based journalism school E-jicom, with regional independent news service Ouestafnews and with Africa Check (Francophone). An investigative journalism fund was launched in 2018, featuring an international jury, with the first eight awarded projects mainly focused on local corruption. A small investigative grants programme was expanded for E-jicom journalism trainees for distribution via Ouestafnews network, focused on targeting development issues and good governance. E-jicom trainees also worked directly for Africa Check (Francophone) consistently contributing throughout 2018 to their regular Bulletins that push back on fake news and disinformation.

EJC continued to organise programmes in Kenya and Senegal to educate the wider public about the importance of independent (investigative) journalism and about media literacy. In Kenya, in partnership with AfricaonAir, it supported a nationwide broadcast reality TV show, Top Story Africa, with a weekly audience that averages 2 million viewers and by the end of Season 2 hit 4 million. This is an investigative journalism TV show for journalism students, which also informs citizens about the vital role of quality journalism in good governance/accountability, and that it takes well trained, fearless, ethical journalists to produce it (see picture below). The show has a strong social media presence creating debates among journalists and

citizens, with the hashtag #TopStory always trending top 5 in Kenya on the evenings it is broadcast. EJC also supported monthly debates on governance and media accountability on national and community broadcast media and built capacity of partners to interact and strategically integrate into pan-African media networks and engage with local CSOs. In Senegal this was done by organising trainings on ethics and fact-checking in schools, together with Africa Check.

Women and LGBTQI in the Media (IO2 and IO3)

In Nigeria, a start was made in 2017 through a leadership-fellowship for mid career female journalists. In 2018, FPU's partner Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism offered a fellowship to 20 female journalists in Nigeria's newsrooms and built their capacity in investigative journalism and leadership skills. The number of applications for the Female Leadership Programme more than doubled in 2018 with applicants coming from 11 different countries. Following active engagement with their newsroom managements on the importance of female inclusion, some fellows lobbied for more female positions in the board of their media houses, which was successful in some cases. While the fellowship programme provided an opportunity for participants to produce more gender responsive stories, some fellows are now recognized for their expertise on women's issues and are invited to talk or

write about this. A number of fellows organized events or trainings to further disseminate the knowledge and skills they gained during the fellowship.

In Northern Nigeria, the violence of Boko Haram left deep wounds in the lives of the people, especially women and girls. In 2018 FPU and partner PAGED made a documentary "Uprooted" that illustrates their stories, and organised community screenings of the documentary followed by debates on the changing gender roles in the north of Nigeria. Participants (male and female) acknowledged that the debates changed gender norms within their own households. Journalists who attended the debates were able to produce more in-depth human interest stories on the conflict in the north of Nigeria through a gender sensitive lens.

In Kenya, a regular online newsletter was initiated in 2017 with reports by female journalists on security, terrorism, and politics. The main objective was to increase women's overall voice and visibility in the media in Kenya. In 2018, the initiative and scope were scaled up to the regional level to include journalists from Tanzania, Malawi, Rwanda and Uganda, and renamed 'Interrupt Africa'². It features stories written by women, is curated by women and also serves as a platform for networking, story production and training for female journalists in the region.

In Senegal journalists were regularly trained in 2018 on how to avoid stereotypes in the media through a series of events implemented with E-jicom (see picture below), and in Zimbabwe young women from rural grassroot organisations were trained as citizen journalists. In Senegal EJC partnered with COC to provide training of their local LGBTQI activist groups on messaging and integrating media into their advocacy strategies. In Zimbabwe EJC partnered with Taboom Media and Gay and Lesbian Zimbabwe (GALZ) in 2018 to train the GALZ alliance in media engagement strategies. Workshops on LGBTQI-sensitive media content were held with over 20 local journalists to raise awareness of and combat hate speech/media stereotypes, and to encourage ethical, serious reporting on under-reported issues impacting the LGBTQI community in Zimbabwe.

Fragile MENA / Asia

| Countries 2018 | Freedom of the Press (0=best, 100=worst) | | Press Freedom Rating (Reporters without Borders) | Civic Space Rating (Civics) |
|----------------|---|------|---|--------------------------------|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2018 |
| Iraq | 71 | 71 | Very bad | Repressed |
| Pakistan | 64 | 65 | Bad | Repressed |

Advocacy for Press Freedom and Safety of Journalists (IO1)

Journalists in Iraq continue to face threats of all kinds (physical, psycho-social, legal and digital), from all sides (government, militia, security forces). Female media professionals face particular threats and harassment, having to overcome cultural and religious barriers. Safety of journalists is not engrained in media organisations, which do not take responsibility for their employees' security in the field or online. Crimes against media workers continue to go unpunished. In 2018 FPU co-organised a meeting in Copenhagen with international CSOs working on journalist safety and impunity in Iraq. Another meeting was co-organised in Baghdad with UNESCO, addressing journalist safety through discussion and giving input to the Voluntary National Review (VNR) report and to the Director General (DG) of UNESCO on crimes against journalists. The Iraqi government reported to UNESCO and set up a special monitoring system for reporting on journalist killings and crimes against media professionals. This commitment was reiterated during a multi-stakeholder meeting with UNESCO.

In Pakistan, a report by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ, 2018) outlines how - despite recording less journalist killings - press freedom continues to decline. "The country's powerful military quietly, but effectively, restricts reporting by barring access, encouraging self-censorship through direct and indirect acts of intimidation, and even allegedly instigating violence against reporters. Journalists who push back or are overly critical of authorities are attacked, threatened, or arrested". Journalists are often not prepared regarding their own (digital) security. FPU's partner the Digital Rights Foundation (DRF) provided ongoing feedback to the Ministry of

Internet Technology and Telecommunications regarding the preliminary Personal Data Protection Act, and submitted recommendations for the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018. During the drafting of the Safety & Welfare of Journalists Bill, DRF produced a policy brief and made recommendations which were taken up in the current version. Leading up to the elections in July 2018, all partners in Pakistan coordinated election reporting/monitoring³. One partner developed an election violence map to monitor rigging, violence and other crimes during the elections.

Inclusion of Media Dark Areas (IO2)

FPU works with partner KirkukNow to contribute to high-quality, ethical and independent news for the contested areas of Iraq. In 2018 KirkukNow has almost doubled its readership via its website and social media channels. To improve the quality of its products, KirkukNow improved the professional capacity of its staff through training on ethical, conflict and gender sensitive reporting. The organisation has developed a business plan to improve their financial independence and sustainability over the coming two years. During the Iraqi elections KirkukNow played a central role by informing internally displaced people in the contested areas of Iraq (Kirkuk, etc.) about their rights and the process to cast their vote.

In Pakistan, FPU supports Pamir Times as an independent media organisation in the politically deprived and underserved regions of Gilgit-Baltistan, Chitral, and Kohistan. In 2018 Pamir Times produced and shared independent information to and about these regions through their website and growing social media, publishing articles and video reports regularly in Urdu, English, Wakhi and Burushaski. They succeeded in growing their audience across

all platforms, by developing their social media skills, publishing more multimedia reports and frequently reviewing and improving the quality of their content. Pamir Times' reporting is now increasingly recognized as a reliable source of information. This can be seen in the way Pamir Times is being cited by international think tanks, NGOs, PhD researchers, and other media organisations. Their reports have led to action taken by authorities, such as a series of reports leading to the improvement of general conditions in schools.

FPU works with partner Tribal News Network (TNN) in the border regions of Pakistan (Federally Administered Tribal Areas and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa). In 2018 TNN produced reliable, independent radio programmes as well as reports on their website, in Pashto, Urdu and English. Their reporting addressed the information needs of the public in these marginalised areas, with particular attention for women. Daily news bulletins were broadcast by 7 partner radio stations with an estimated overall audience of 350,000 listeners. In order to reach audiences beyond TNN's partner radio stations or those without Internet access, TNN launched a Call-to-Listen news service that allows anyone to listen to a bulletin of the latest news by telephone, which currently receives on average 2,000 calls a day. Several of TNN's reports led to action by authorities towards tangible change. TNN increased its capacity to produce live news bulletins on Facebook and video reports to be used on social media.

With partner Bytes for all, FPU strengthened the PakVoices⁴ platform in 2018 in order to further citizen journalism in media dark regions of Pakistan. The citizen journalists that wrote for PakVoices contributed to increased information flows from media dark regions. Building their capacity in mobile journalism and in producing multimedia content, the citizen journalists can now use techniques that do well on social media. PakVoices reports continue to promote transparency and good governance.

Enabling Environment for Women in the Media (IO1, IO2 and IO3)

In both Iraq and Pakistan, threats to female journalists are more frequent than to male journalists. In Pakistan, partner DRF established the Network of Women Journalists for Digital Security in 2017. In 2018 the Network of Women Journalists for Digital Security grew from 45 members in 2017 to 95 members across the country. With gatekeepers in each region connecting and coordinating trainings and opportunities for the network, significant strides have been made towards its sustainability. Network members take active part

in trainings⁵, produce articles on digital security and remain in constant communication with each other to provide support, tools and opportunities. In 2018 DRF increased the understanding and capacity in digital security and quality ethical journalism of 62 female journalists of the Network, who were trained during two workshops on issues such as source verification, fake news and social media behaviour.⁶

In Iraq, FPU continued to support partner Metrography to expand the reach and impact of their photo products by improving sales and visibility, nationally and internationally. Among other things, they partnered with World Press Photo and organised various exhibitions inside the country. Furthermore, Metrography trained female refugees (and internally displaced women) in the art of photography and creative storytelling. Last but not least, the organisation lobbied for stricter enforcement of copyright law in Iraq. This has led to a successful court case through which a photographer was able to enforce payment of pictures that were published without compensation, which has opened the door for other photographers to do the same in the future.

The number of female photojournalists who that signed up for Metrography's coaching programme increased from 39 in 2017 to 137 in 2018. The 14 women who were selected received a four-day training and created impressive photo stories about women's rights, strong women and climate change. Their photos were exhibited at 5 locations in Iraq as part of Metrography's annual photo festival, and five women appeared on TV programmes. The growing success of Metrography was marked with special recognition at the end of 2018 when the managing director was selected as a jury member for the World Press Photo competition.

Investigative Journalism (IO2)

In 2018 FPU continued to support Pakistan Press Foundation with its long-term fellowship for Investigative Journalism in Pakistan. In 2018, 31 journalists took part in this fellowship, resulting in the publication of 23 investigative reports. The quality and reputation of the fellowship has grown, with PPF receiving over 300 applicants for the two rounds of fellowships offered in 2018. Additionally, FPU supported PPF to set up a Journalism Training Center to generate revenue by providing facilities to other organisation to host trainings on for example election reporting.

Latin America

| Countries 2018 | Freedom of the Press (0=best, 100=worst) | | Press Freedom Rating (Reporters without Borders) | Civic Space Rating (Civicas) |
|----------------|---|------|---|---------------------------------|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2018 |
| Bolivia* | 49 | 53 | Problematic | Obstructed |
| El Salvador | 39 | 41 | Problematic | Obstructed |
| Guatemala | 58 | 58 | Bad | Obstructed |
| Honduras | 67 | 66 | Bad | Repressed |

*EJC is in the lead in Bolivia

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

In Bolivia, the government's confrontational position with the media continues to tighten and it does not accept any criticism. In this context, most journalists revert to self-censorship for fear of reprisals. Several journalists have lost their jobs after they reported corruption or maintained a critical opinion of the Government. Throughout 2018 EJC's partner APLP actively defended the 1925 Bolivian Print Law and helped galvanise national members in their advocacy to stop the revision to the national penal code that would have penalised journalists found guilty of slander with jail time. APLP and EJC support Bolivian journalists being attacked by the government to temporarily leave the country or live in one of APLP's safe houses in La Paz. Legal support is paid and public press conferences around the cases are organised. APLP's weekly radio talk show *Ágora* regularly features discussions around issues of journalism safety. APLP also broadcasts via FB Live, averaging 80,000 viewers/month and 10-15,000 digital listeners per show.

The Government also maintains its policy of economic suffocation of independent media that does not offer advertising to independent media, distributing almost all of its resources to media that is friendly to the ruling party. This violates the Constitution and international treaties on freedom of expression. APLP continued to advocate at the level of the Bolivian parliament via supportive MPs to establish an independent government agency that fairly distributes government media advertising spending to all Bolivian media.

President Evo Morales proposed a "Law against Lying", which has been rejected by all journalistic associations. Instead, a law for the access to information is needed as an instrument to fight corruption and the lack of transparency in public administration. This law continues to languish in Parliament in spite of consistent advocacy by APLP. In July 2018, partner Fundación para el Periodismo (FPP) hosted a public advocacy panel, broadcast on Facebook Live: Truth and Post-Truth in Journalism in the 21st Century, featuring Carlos Mesa, journalist and former president of Bolivia and journalists from El País (Spain) and Clarín (Argentina) with over 500 guests in attendance to discuss the worrying trends of disinformation in Spanish-language media and specifically in the build-up to the Bolivian presidential elections in 2019. It created a wide public debate and a backlash from the Morales government.

In 2018 FPU and partners continued to work on creating a safer work environment for journalists in Central America, holding politicians to account when freedom of speech and information is not respected. While freedom of speech is in theory guaranteed by the constitution in the 3 countries, and most protection laws are in place, journalists often face threats and practice self-censorship when covering topics on drugs and human trafficking, corruption, organized crime, and related human rights violations. The harassment and threats come from authorities, but also drug traffickers, individuals aligned with companies operating in indigenous communities, and local security forces. In Honduras, in 2018 partner ASOPODEHU lobbied and advocated for 4 different cases of threats to journalists

towards the government, urging the activation of the national Framework to Protect Journalists. FPU continued to support ASOPODEHU to organise safety training for journalism students and to develop a digital security manual, and provided support to the digital newspaper pasosdeanimalgrande.com as a platform for reporting violations of human rights and freedom of expression.

Of the three countries, only El Salvador's government has really been open to collaboration on this matter. FPU's partner in El Salvador actively engaged with different levels of governments and is seen as an authority on this issue now. A Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration was signed between FPU's partner Fundación Latitudes and the government of El Salvador. This was put in practice when a journalist was threatened with murder and had to go into hiding and received state protection in March 2018. Fundación Latitudes was chosen to be the chair of the Asociación Periodistas de El Salvador (APES) and special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. Every 6 months, Fundación Latitudes presents an update on cases of aggression against the press and other situations that compromise the freedom of speech and freedom of the press in the region. On the 3rd of May, Fundación Latitudes organised a big event in which they presented their latest report. Furthermore, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in May 2018 between Fundación Latitudes and the police force in El Salvador to jointly train both journalists and police officers on safety and protection issues concerning freedom of speech.

FPU's partners' participated in UNESCO meetings on designing a regional plan for journalists safety and a debate was co-organised on journalist safety with representatives from all 3 countries plus Mexico during the FOROCAP (Central American Journalism Forum) called Taller Matar al Mensajero. Alliances have been formed with Cristosal, UNHCR, University of Minnesota, ISDEMU (Institute within the Ministry of Gender), Ministry of Security, and the Unit of Attention to Victims in El Salvador. Active efforts were made to link partners for input sessions organized by UNESCO and local governments, such as a regional session in Costa Rica and a country specific session in El Salvador.

Accountability of Power Holders (IO2)

In Bolivia, EJC's Fondo Spotlight in cooperation with FPP continued to impact good governance and accountability. The fourth and fifth rounds of competitive application calls took place in 2018. Several media outlets established investigative journalism, data and research units in their newsrooms

after reporters won Spotlight grants to develop in-depth follow-up pieces. The article Public Health in Cochabamba demonstrated the lack of funding and adequate health care staffing and infrastructure in Cochabamba and the consequences for the population. As a reaction, the audience created a complaint mechanism on Facebook, sharing their own hospital experiences. The governor and mayors blamed each other for the problems. Another article "Consequences of high levels of contamination of the Choqueyapu River and its repercussion on the health of the citizens of La Paz" influenced local officials to make statements to other papers after the publication. This provoked big debates on social media. The city is now looking for alternative locations for the polluters. EJC and FPP also supports citizen journalists in La Paz to create local journalism through Citizen Observatories. This comes in the form of a dedicated website (<http://lapazcomovamos.org/>) and a monthly newsletter.

In Central America, a photo book was developed with FPU's partners in 2016, 2017 and 2018 with photo journalists from all over the region, to influence governments and hold them accountable. It was presented to duty bearers and power holders in 2018 to show the social impact of their politics, including a traveling exposition in the region, with invitations to government officials. This serves to raise awareness about the difficult working conditions of journalists and to remind the government of their responsibility to protect them. A 100 photos were selected for an exhibition at the photojournalism festival in September 2018, and about 1,500 people attended the opening ceremony. This exhibition travelled through the entire region and was also on display in the Dutch Embassy in Costa Rica.

In Guatemala, partner Nómada continued to hold power holders to account through the monthly production of 4 features, 1 interactive piece and 2 opinion blogs covering justice, transparency and accountability of political actors, under Creative Commons license (with public rights to distribute content while quoting the source). Their inline content had a reach of more than 4 million unique visitors in 2018.

Media Literacy and Audience Engagement (IO2)

In Bolivia in 2018 FPP built on their successful advocacy towards the Ministry of Education, which led to a strengthened Memorandum of Understanding in 2017. This Memorandum formalizes the introduction of a media literacy course into the national school curriculum. In 2018 this led to participating teachers

across the country to improve their tech/media literacy skills, e.g. how to recognise 'disinformation'. As a consequence, teachers unions decided to join FPP to advocate as a collective to the Ministry of Education to make media literacy part of national secondary school curriculum. With leverage from the Federal Ministry, FPP is now working with the education departments to ensure implementation of the curriculum consistently across the country and to ensure capacity of teachers to give the media literacy lessons. So far, 1,850 teachers were trained and over 30,000 students received six media literacy training sessions. This way, youth will be empowered to become engaged citizens. A dedicated resource site for teachers and students is regularly updated: <http://educamedios.org/>. Additionally, FPP ran two competitive contests for youth (secondary school students) in 2018 "The Interview of My Dreams" and "Journalist for a Day" where teams of high school students interview their role models (heroes) or report on issues affecting their schools. The top three reports of each contest were published in the national media. EJC also partners with FPP on *Primera Plana/Front Page*, a competitive journalism reality TV show for

journalism students broadcast nationwide on the ATB network. Winning teams were awarded internships at media outlets across Bolivia (see picture below).

To make journalists more aware on how their audiences engage with their productions, a workshop was organised by FPU during the FOROCAP (Central American Journalism Forum) in which journalists were put back in the audience's shoes. 18 journalists from the region participated in this and have increased their capacity to produce more audience-engaging pieces. All partners have improved their connection and interaction with their audience, although there is still room for improvement. As strong examples, live video-chats from Nómada show how they maintain contact with their audience, explaining complex political developments in easy-to-understand language, and also to answer live questions about this. Partners also now use Instagram stories with infographics as a way to update their younger audience on the daily news and have interaction with them using social media channels that are frequently used by specifically that audience, and preferred over traditional articles/TV shows.



Primera Plana winners 2018. Picture by EJC, 2018

Gender Sensitive Media Content (IO2)

In Guatemala, FPU continued to support partner Nómada to launch a new magazine called Vulcánica, a specialized Latin American feminist magazine. A two-day workshop on gender equality and micro-aggression was organised to foster feminist thinking in a daily basis among staff including the improvement of internal policies. In El Salvador, FPU continued to support Fundación Latitudes to produce Magazine 5.6 with an analysis of the image of women in the press. Fundación Latitudes also trained and coached 8 journalists in gender sensitive journalism (4 television reporters and 4 photo-journalists) in 2018.

In Honduras, Contracorriente was supported to produce a photo report and chronicle on the situation of women soccer fan clubs (double stigma and violence) and a report on restrictive laws for the development of sexuality of women and the LGTBQ community in the current dictatorship. A public event was organised to discuss the thematic specials on women in sports clubs.

In Bolivia, FPP implemented a 3-month diploma programme for 35 journalists on the specific topics of Gender Violence, Women's Rights and Journalism in the Amazonian city of Trinidad. It impacted the quality and quantity of gender issues-driven reporting, sensitizing journalists to the topic and encouraging media decision-makers (editors) to take reporting on the topic more seriously.

Also in Bolivia, the third round of Fondo Spotlight supported by EJC was dedicated specifically to gender issues-driven reportages, which were published in 2018. Journalists could apply for grants related to investigations into gender rights and gender violence. In total six reportages were developed, of which five by women. As a result, one female reporter, Leonor Flores of Radio Esmeraldo was invited to an event by the Electoral Tribunal of Chuquisaca to explain the results of her investigation. She was also distinguished by the Municipal Government of Sucre on the international day of women.

Journalist and author Karen Gil, published her book with the support of EJC "Tengo Otros Suenos" (I have other dreams) which focuses on stories of the struggles of Bolivian women, accompanied by a nationwide book tour and public discussion groups on the desperate situations facing many women in the country (see picture).



Innovative Business Models and Safety Training (IO3)

In Honduras FPU supported Contracorriente with capacity building activities in the field of financial and project management, organisational structure and strategy, editorial competences and setting up a crowdfunding campaign. Contracorriente was able to take part in FOROCAP 2018, to increase its visibility and to allow the journalists to learn and improve in their work.

Nómada hired business managers who are tasked with diversification of their portfolio and with public-private partnerships. ContraCorriente is starting to see how they can add this to their strategy as well. All partners managed to attract new grants and partnerships. Some of these are contracts with advertisers from the private sector, but a substantial part of their income is still coming from the traditional donor community in the form of grants. However, there is more diversification and especially Nómada is working towards decreased dependency on these grants.

In Bolivia FPP ran specialised short courses on journalist safety before and after each round Fondo Spotlight. In Central America FPU continued to support partner Fundacion Latitudes with its regional and holistic Riesgo Cruzado safety training, through which journalists are enabled to act responsibly in hostile situation where their personal safety is at stake. In 2018, 23 male and female journalists from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras were trained. The participants joined the safety network; an online platform facilitated by the Alertas de Riesgo app which includes a panic button for emergency situations that was established in 2016. A total of 43 journalist from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador which had participated in the 2017 or 2018 trainings participated in a security training adapted for urban environment. They learned how to safely cover social protests as well as how to mitigate and respond to specific arising in such hostile context (e.g. weapons, gasses, and violent behavior).

International Programme

Monitoring and Evaluation for Accountability and Learning (MEAL)

In 2018, FPU and EJC put a lot of time and energy into a thorough internal evaluation (the Midterm Review) of the NNIBN programme. The two most important questions were: what have we achieved in the last 2.5 years? And what can we learn from how those results were achieved, or not achieved? Has change occurred in the way we anticipated? We investigated what has changed for our partners, media and journalists in relation to the baseline situation and we organised Outcome Harvesting workshops and gathered Most Significant Change stories to determine whether our strategies worked. We examined a total of 39 strategies on the basis of 247 harvested outcomes and 107 stories. We drew up good examples of projects that have raised the safety of journalists and gender equality, successfully held the authorities accountable and helped media to stand on their own two feet. The key question – what does and does not work – resulted in an amendment to our Theory of Change (see

Appendix I). Some strategies proved to be less relevant or effective, others worked far above expectation. Our three intermediate goals remained intact, but in several cases, we changed the path towards reaching them and the results we wanted to achieve along the way. For instance, in the case of intermediate goal 1 (enabling environment) we discovered that we should not focus only on legislation and political influence. Economic factors can also make or break press freedom, like media being bought up by governments or media conglomerates that want to push independent media out of the market. So we added that to our Theory of Change with strategies for the survival of independent media. We also invited 20 students to test our Theory of Change against literature and asked external experts for their assessment of the evaluation.

The Midterm Review gives a good idea of what works and what doesn't, but also gives us new questions. Does more gender equality in the media automatically lead to content that does more justice to women? Is educating



Most Significant Change interviews by FPU in Bangladesh. Picture by Bashir Ahmed Sujan, 2018.



The annual Free Press Live event, held on the International Day to End Impunity for Violence Against Journalist.
Picture by FPU, 2018.

citizen journalists the best way of providing news to media-impoveryed and under-represented groups? And which business models are in fact the most effective for various media in conflict areas? These questions were included in a research agenda for 2019 and 2020.

Our evidence base was widened considerably in 2018. Since 2017, we have been collecting evidence in this database for our Theory of Change (ToC), like the strategies we thought up to achieve our three intermediate goals. It contains external publications, internal evaluations, case studies, stories from partners and much more. Each document is accompanied by a brief description, keywords, countries and of course what part of the Theory of Change the publication supports, clarifies or slates.

Media Landscapes. EJC commissions expert writers to map the entire journalism ecosystem of selected countries. In 2018 EJC developed the country profiles of Burundi and Nicaragua, which will be added to the existing online database early 2019.

International Advocacy for an Enabling Environment

Universal Periodic Review (UPR). In 2018 the Universal Periodic Review took place in a number of NNIBN partner countries. FPU was active in Mali, Burundi and Bangladesh. 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. On November 2nd, more than 300 journalists, policy makers, ambassadors and students stood up for journalists and justice during Free Press Live 2018 organised by FPU in The Hague. The event included the Free Press Awards and speeches by international speakers, by Minister Blok, by Director Operations FPU Ruth Kronenburg. For more information, see <https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/free-press-live>.

Press Released. EJC continued to support 'Press Released', an online platform and commentary series established in partnership with the not-for-profit editorial service Project Syndicate to stimulate debate and heighten awareness around the global challenges confronting media and journalists. Project Syndicate tracks where each commentary is published online and in print, and measures other indicators, such as audience engagement and offline impacts. In 2018, 26 Press Released commentaries were published 492 times in 169 publications. They appeared in 92 countries and in 31 languages, appearing in more 34,714,051 print copies around the world. These commentaries reached nearly 500,000 users on Facebook and more than 26 million users on Twitter, on Project Syndicate's social-media channels alone.

International Civil Society Safety Coalition. This Coalition, established on the initiative of FPU in 2017, now has 24 members. The aim is stand up firmly for the effective protection of journalists, through better cooperation between organisations similar to FPU. In Kenya, Mexico, Myanmar and Nicaragua, the coalition partners align their strategies with each other and draw up a plan per country to increase the safety of journalists. We established a working group that collects information and cooperates in the area of gender and media. We developed an international model policy for affordable basic insurance for freelance journalists. The Safety Coalition also turned out to be an excellent platform for reacting quickly to the increasing lack of safety for journalists in Europe. Shortly after the murder of Ján Kuciak FPU sent a pressing letter to the European Commission (EC), in which we insisted on better protection of journalists and prosecution of their murderers. The letter was signed by 17 organisations, 13 of which are members of the Safety Coalition.

SDG 16.10.1 and 16.10.2. In 2018 FPU supported GFMD to promote of the Sustainable Development Goal 16.10.1 and 16.10.2 related to safety of journalists, impunity, and public access to information, and to coordinate national input for the review of SDG 16.10.2. GFMD created of a joint advocacy toolkit and provided online hosting and coordination of working groups. FPU also collaborated 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 press freedom CSOs can use for monitoring in the framework of SDG 16.10.1.

Cooperation with Freedom House. In 2018 FPU supported Freedom House to review their work

on press freedom so that it reflects the changing landscape. In April 2018 Freedom House published of "Attacks on Record: The State of Global Press Freedom, 2017-2018". A special report, drawn from the findings of Freedom House's most recent research projects Freedom in the World, Freedom on the Net, and Nations in Transit.

Global Youth and News Media Award. In partnership with Google News Initiative and News-Decoder, EJC launched the first-ever global youth literacy prize at News Xchange in 2018 to raise awareness and advocate for news literacy among youth. Receiving the first award were the Parkland Florida High School newspaper The Eagle Eye in partnership with The Guardian US in their coverage of the March for Our Lives.

Safety & Gender

In 2018, FPU successfully advocated for more attention from the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) for the image-shaping role of media and about the crucial role media can play in the fight against gender inequality. To reinforce our advocacy in the area of gender and media, FPU joined the Dutch gender platform WO=MEN at the start of 2019.

Gender is cross-cutting in the NNIBN programme. Specifically, gender media monitoring is used to improve gender balanced reporting. In 2018, FPU and partner Tuwindi (Mali) developed a digital version of the Gender Media Monitoring tool. Together with our partners in Nepal, Congo, Somalia, and Mali, FPU systematically tracked how media report on women. FPU and partners discussed the results with the newsrooms that were monitored and show how things can be done differently.

FPU coordinated the annual global *Men4Women* event on International Women's Day (8 March) in 14 countries.⁷ All over the world, men took to the streets. With banners, music, debates and speeches, they made Men4Women into a worldwide movement. In Bangladesh, activities were organised in 13 different places all over the country. In DR Congo and Somalia over 100 men participated and in Nepal over 500 men joined Men4Women. Other participating countries were Pakistan, Zambia, Indonesia, Central-African Republic (CAR), Iraq, India, Venezuela, Nigeria and Mali. In the Netherlands, FPU and the platform Vaker in de Media asked men at the Mediapark in Hilversum, in Amsterdam and online to speak out. Many Dutch men joined Men4Women, including radio host Jörgen Raymann.

Through *Reporters Respond*, FPU continued to provide financial aid to media professionals and organisations whose profession puts them at risk of threats, injuries, vandalism or intimidation, enabling them to continue their work. Through the Journalists in Distress Network, FPU ensures that the information on media practitioners in distress is vetted, shared, collected and coordinated within an efficient international network dedicated to providing emergency support to journalists. In 2018, *Reporters Respond* received 190 applications, of which 73 were granted. The majority of cases were from the MENA and Sub-Saharan Africa region. For cases from the Democratic Republic of Congo, FPU collaborated with Journalistes en Danger (JED). JED granted 15 cases from DR Congo. In Syria, an emergency fund was implemented by the Syrian Journalists Association and the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression, through which 15 journalists were supported with the contribution of FPU. In Venezuela, due to the ongoing crisis, we worked together with local partner Redes Ayuda to support eight Venezuelan journalists. Finally, in collaboration with the Rory Peck Trust, a security training was provided to 16 Cambodian journalists.

Closer to home, FPU, the municipality of Hilversum and Protect.Defender.EU worked on the establishment of a journalists safe house to improve the situation of journalists in distress and provide them with shelter for a period of three months. Although the municipality Hilversum was initially enthusiastic, after the elections of May 2018 the budget was considered far too high. In close consultation with the municipality it was decided to reform the plan to a Shelter City.

Innovation

Activities around innovation focused on two main objectives: (1) to explore, experiment and implement new solutions for most urgent challenges media are facing (be it as product, service, process, organisational structure or business model); and (2) the encouragement of an innovative culture staff and partners become more creative, entrepreneurial, risk taking, explorative and hence innovative.

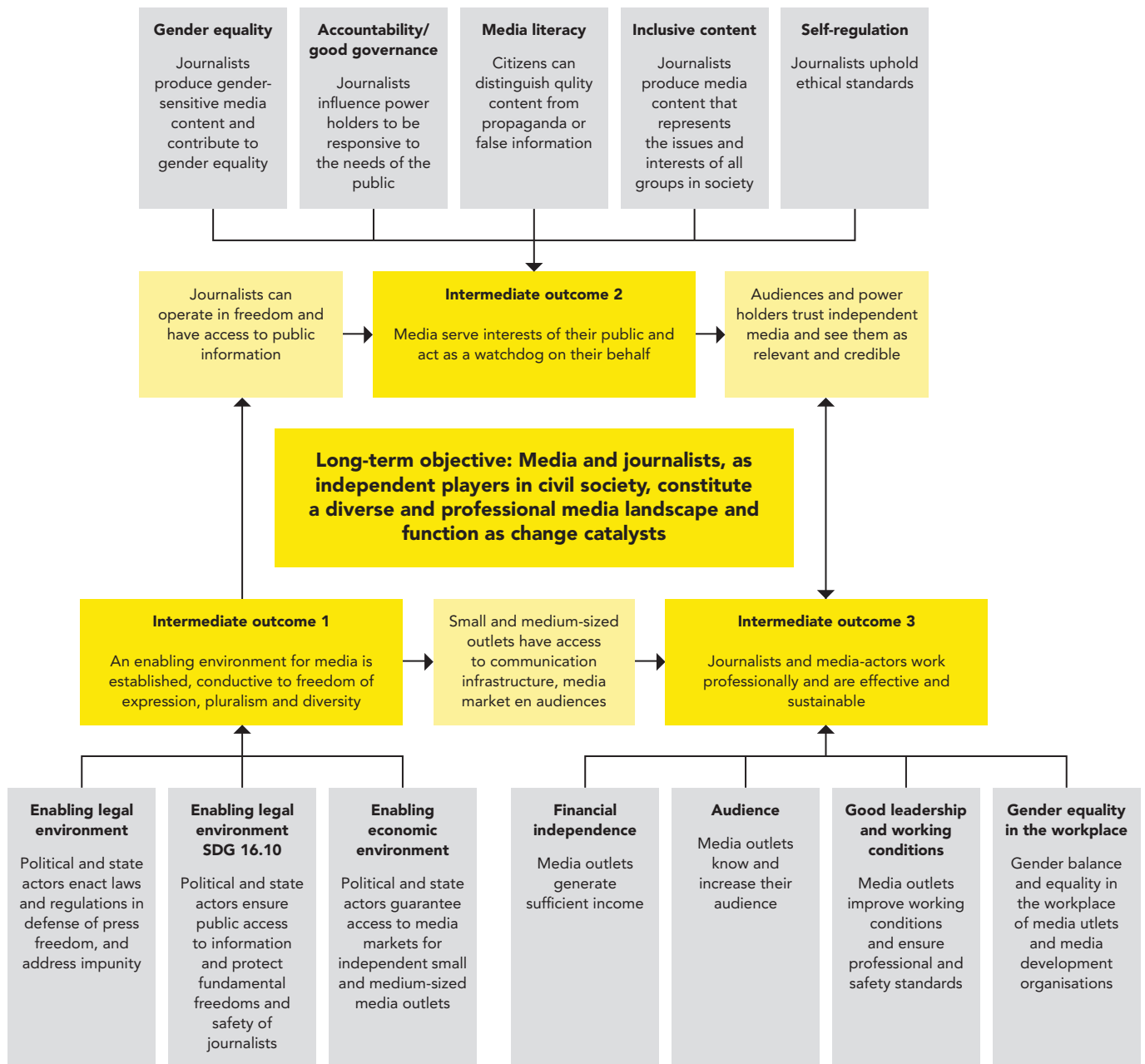
The following concepts were tested and developed by FPU in 2018:

- A chatbot for Radio Dabanga, phase 1 (developed in cooperation with Humanity X);
- A so called 'Decentralised Autonomous Newsroom', based on blockchain technology, in which articles will be published that fight gender stereotypes (developed together with Publicism). Tests run in 2019;
- Young people, in particular 13 year olds, and how they perceive and consume news, in what form and how they distinguish between what is reliable and fake (developed together with Studio Why). These insights helped gaining support of the Swedish Postcode Lottery on a project on Digital Media Literacy;
- Dutch and/or European audience and if, and how, they are interested in news from the media partners of FPU (in collaboration with Design School Netherlands and Studio Why);
- Podcast on the world of media and news from our partners and a concept to map and find the whereabouts of lost migrants children in Europe- both concepts were prototyped in a FPU hackathon.

EJC focussed on the following innovations:

- Press Released: editorial series began promoting and distributing podcasts on press freedom/crisis in media with columnists in a Q&A format
- APLP Radio Online: innovative press freedom/ journalism safety advocacy digital platform, bi-passing official censorship, Facebook Live/ broadcasts from Bolivia, with listener/viewer-ship also targeting international audiences including Bolivian diaspora and journalists/activists across the region.

Appendix 1: Revised Theory of Change



Endnotes

1. <https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/stories/how-a-community-radio-station-in-car-contributes-to-peace>
2. <https://us19.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=99b375cb3610da68d7c38c7f6&id=ece6fcc002>
3. <https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/news/local-media-in-pakistan-contributes-to-peaceful-elections>
4. <https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/projects/pakvoices-stimulates-and-supports-citizen-journalism-in-pakistan>
5. <https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/projects/online-safety-for-female-journalists-in-pakistan>
6. <https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/stories/safe-haven-from-the-trolls-a-network-for-pakistani-women-journalists>
7. <https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/news/men-in-14-countries-stand-up-for-women-in-the-media>



People deserve to know