

# No news is bad news.

**Strategic Partnership** Annual Plan 2019

## **Colophon**

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# Introduction

In this Annual Plan we describe the developments in the external context and we summarize the annual plans for the 22 countries that are part of the No News Is Bad News Programme. The last chapter includes the plans for the International Programme of No News Is Bad News. Annex 1 is the annual budget for 2019.

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.

Although the context analysis is rather worrisome, we see that progress can be made. The conclusions of the mid-term review (attached) are rather positive. Partner capacity in policy change and advocacy has increased and the programme is having a positive impact on society. In terms of the enabling environment for the media we see changes in attitudes and practices of national governments through policy change and advocacy. The watchdog role of the media has been enforced effectively. Considering local impact we see positive changes in good governance, human rights and gender equality. Less impact was seen in relation to the sustainability of media outlets, even though partner capacity has increased in terms of financial management and leadership. Also the safety and security of our partners and related media outlets need more attention in the form of trainings and tools. Worth mentioning are the increase in gender-sensitive media content and in the support to female journalists. Many partners are making efforts to train and employ female journalists and to develop gender-sensitive content, which has a positive impact on gender equality in media content, in media organisations and in society.

While taking into account the conclusions of the mid term review, in each country programme we strive to contribute to the three Intermediate Outcomes (IOs) of the Theory of Change of the No News is Bad News Programme:

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

# Annual Plan **South-East Asia**

Countries 2019	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*	73	73	Bad	Repressed

\*New in 2019

## **Nepal**

Violence against journalists and the impunity of the perpetrators of this violence remains a significant problem in Nepal. In the period January to June 2018 Free Press Unlimited's partner Freedom Forum recorded 72 press freedom violations. Especially during elections, journalists have been arrested without warrants and some have been tortured in detention. Moreover, new provisions in the Criminal Codes Act of Nepal relating to privacy and defamation are restrictive to the press freedom. The newly adopted Privacy Bill conflicts with the Right to Information Act and is not in line with international standards of right to information.

Under IO1, Free Press Unlimited will continue to support partner Freedom Forum with research and evidence-based advocacy for Freedom of Expression and reduced impunity against press freedom violations. Successful advocacy initiatives regarding right to information (RTI) will be further developed (for example by the production of an RTI podcast).

Under IO2, NEFEJ will be supported to continue producing its kids news bulletin Naya Pusta and to further explore possibilities to make it a sustainable product. Collaboration with other stakeholders like schools is foreseen. NEFEJ will also increase professionalism of journalists and accountability towards the government on climate change through investigative journalism fellowships. Freedom Forum will receive continued support with gender media monitoring.

Under IO3, the quarterly gender media monitoring activities will be complemented in 2019 by providing support for the development of gender policies within media houses and by a female leader fellowship.

## **Indonesia**

In May 2018, president Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's government passed a tough new anti-terror law, and law enforcement agencies started taking firm action. At the same time, religious radicalism also intensifies. 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. Religious radicalization is posing increasing pressure on citizen journalists; promoting tolerance and public service journalism becomes a risky profession. Unfortunately, partners signal this as a trend that will only intensify in the coming period.

Under IO1, Free Press Unlimited aims to improve the regulation and enforcement for the protection of press freedom. Partner Indonesian Association for Media Development (PPMN) will conduct meetings and advocate with stakeholders in at least 5 provinces. AJI/Press Council and PPMN will advocate for press freedom during the election campaign.

Under IO2, Free Press Unlimited will continue the investigative journalism fellowship and the IndonesiaLeaks projects with PPMN, Tempo Institute, and the IndonesiaLeaks partners to support journalists to investigate and expose corruption, human trafficking and wrong-doing by those in power.

Under IO3, Free Press Unlimited will organise digital safety training and gender mainstreaming training for the fellows and for Tempo staff.

## Bangladesh

Press Freedom is also worsening in Bangladesh. In April 2018 the government approved its new Digital Security Bill, which even enhances the restrictions against press freedom of the ICT Act that it replaced. 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 Free Press Unlimited and BNNRC had submitted recommendations. 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. In recent months the 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.

Under IO1, for policy change & advocacy activities the partners BNNRC and SACMID work with a wider coalition of CSOs and government agencies. Free Press Unlimited takes regular part in coordination meetings of all strategic partnerships organized by the Dutch Embassy in Dhaka.

Under IO2, Free Press Unlimited will empower journalists of marginalized groups to work at community radio stations (or other independent media) and continue the Female Fellowships and the Men4Women campaign with partner BNNRC and community radio stations. Free Press Unlimited will

also support partner SACMID with media literacy curriculum development for secondary schools and training for teachers.

Under IO3, Free Press Unlimited will build the capacity of radio stations to earn revenue from commercial advertising (with BNNRC and community radio stations). Free Press Unlimited will build the capacity of its partners BNNRC and SACMID in project proposal writing and fundraising.

## Myanmar

For many decades during the military rule, all major print and broadcast media was fully owned by the state. Many citizens still think that all media are either pro- or anti-government as its primary purpose is either shaming or propaganda. In general there is a low level of information and media literacy. Free Press Unlimited's scoping visits in 2017 and 2018 resulted in a programme outline with a focus on media literacy of citizens and support to the production and distribution of investigative media content (also through fellowships). Free Press Unlimited could not start the planned programme in 2018 due to the tensions between Myanmar authorities and the Rohingya community, which exploded into a full blown international humanitarian crisis. The arrest and sentencing to seven years in prison of two Reuters journalists, and doubts about the journalistic independence of a potential partner to improve investigative journalism in the country, led to further delays.

After a discussion with the Dutch Embassy (on 25 September 2018), it was indicated that investigative journalism should continue to be encouraged. To engage in that, and possibly share risks, Free Press Unlimited will discuss with international partners the possibility to set up a basket-funding (joint fund) for stimulating producing and distribution of investigative journalism content.

However, the priority for engagement in 2019 will be media literacy (IO2), modelled after the success we had in Bangladesh. Media literacy is an area that no international organisations work on yet, and in a highly restrictive environment for press freedom, it is considered a more neutral approach. The media literacy pilot will consist of three phases:

1. Research and development phase (including identification of partner/s and stakeholders: media development NGO, interested schools, educational authorities, etc);

2. Implementation phase (training by Dutch expert and co-training by the Bangladesh team implementing the program in Dhaka, production of content for media literacy classes and testing, baseline study, training of teachers, delivery of pilot classes at selected schools); and
3. Evaluation phase (assessment of results and engagement, development of broader program)

Support from the Dutch Embassy will be essential in securing buy-in from Ministry of Education and other relevant school authorities.

# Annual Plan **Fragile Africa**

Countries 2019	Freedom of the Press (0=best, 100=worst)		Press Freedom Rating (Reporters without Borders)	Civic Space Rating (Civics)
	2016	2017	2018	2018
Burundi	80	85	Very bad	Closed
Central African Republic	71	71	Bad	Closed
Democratic Republic of Congo	78	82	Bad	Closed
Mali	37	37	Bad	Obstructed
Somalia/Somaliland	79/54	79/53	Very bad	Closed
Niger*	53	52	Problematic	Obstructed

\*New in 2019

## **Burundi**

Serious rights violations are continuing 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. The international community seems to be increasingly unable to influence the situation or have access to information on what is happening in Burundi.

Under IO1, Free Press Unlimited will join policy change and advocacy efforts with the EURAC network in Brussels.

Under IO2, Free Press Unlimited will continue to work with a partner who wants to stay anonymous, and depending on the decision to continue with partner Radio Culture, Free Press Unlimited will support the production of shows for youth and women as well as debates around different matters affecting them. The opening of an investigation by the International Criminal Court in The Hague creates a need in terms of knowledge of the institution and its procedures. To factually inform Burundian citizens on future developments, journalists should know how the Court works and understand what is currently at stake. We will look into specific activities in this field.

Under IO3, Free Press Unlimited will assist the partners to become more professional and legally registered as soon as the context will allow for it. We will also train and equip journalists to do their work in the safest ways possible.

## **Central African Republic (CAR)**

Security issues remain the key concern in CAR, with violent clashes still taking place in several parts of the country. Women and children in CAR are very vulnerable and rape has become a structural instrument of war. Physical attacks and threats against media and journalists are increasing. Newspapers are radicalizing their discourse and fail to maintain journalistic objectivity. Media outlets were raided by armed groups associated with the anti-Balaka militias or the former Seleka forces. Broadcasting equipment has been destroyed and staff of the radios have been forced to stop reporting. Individual reporters lack safety and there is widespread impunity for violence against journalists. Journalists work in extremely stressful situations receiving constant threats and intimidation. As a result self-censorship among reporters is rampant. In July 2018 three Russian journalists were assassinated under unclear circumstances.



Under IO1, although results have been marginal so far, Free Press Unlimited continues discussions with its partners on how to increase the enabling environment for the media. The possibilities for policy change & advocacy are extremely limited. The main aim is to see how media can play a role in restoring peace by improving access to reliable information, promoting dialogue, reconciliation and finally reconstruction of the country.

Under IO2, Free Press Unlimited aims to increase women-centered content in the media. Women should play a more active role in restoring peace, in reconciliation and in rebuilding the country. Free Press Unlimited will support the production of a radio programme in the local language Sangho called "Woman of Africa" to promote gender equality.

Under IO3, staff of community radio's will be strengthened in journalist skills, technical skills, governance, management and marketing. In rural areas community radios are the only medium available but the performance of their staff is mostly poor. They will receive coaching, training and advice in setting up and maintaining a governance structure that guarantees embedding of the radio stations in the community. Because of the deep wounds that six years of violent conflict left in the communities, a lot of coaching and mediation is needed to restore unity.

## **DR Congo**

The first half of 2018 was a political uncertain period with an unclear electoral calendar. In July the news arrived that president Joseph Kabila was not going to run for a third mandate. The election date is, under pressure from the international community especially Belgium and USA, fixed on December 23rd, 2018. With 77 cases of crimes against journalists in 2017<sup>1</sup>, safety of journalist is one of the main priorities for the programme in DR Congo.

Under IO1, Free Press Unlimited will continue to support Journaliste en Danger (JED) to set up a targeted campaign to end impunity for crimes against journalists. Important steps forwards have been made with the increased visibility and external communication of JED. Free Press Unlimited will also work on advocacy for a media bill in which community radios are legally allowed and regulated, improving the number and quality of new community media actors that are now considered as private commercial radio's suffering from high tax impositions.

Under IO2, Free Press Unlimited will continue to support partners to improve the standards of journalism to be more in line with international standards of ethics, diminishing brown-envelope journalism and self-censorship. The Press Union UNPC will receive continued supported to effectively register and distribute press cards to journalists, to increase their safety and access to information. The number of press cards need to be increased from 1,800 to over 2,500 in 2019. Free Press Unlimited will also continue to promote gender-sensitive content through gender media monitoring and training of journalists. Free Press Unlimited and partner Fédération des Radios de Proximité de la RDC (FRPC), through its large network of local radio stations, will continue to improve reliability, accuracy and timeliness of news reporting, especially in hard to reach, remote rural areas. Audiences will be better served with content about reconstruction, cohesion and gender issues.

Under IO3, Free Press Unlimited will continue to support partners to increase their visibility, safety and security. With partner Union Congolaise des Femmes des Médias (UCOFEM) media actors will be trained on gender-sensitive content, verified by gender media monitoring.

## **Mali**

The security situation of Mali has not improved since 2017. Ethnic clashes and radical terrorism divide the society, separating the country into North (Tuareg independence fighters and radical Islamists) and South (government-ruled part of Mali). Attacks on journalists have declined but press freedom is 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. Within the country's highly hierarchic 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. That is why the Mali programme is focusing on youth empowerment, gender awareness raising, capacity building and advocacy.

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1 Numbers for 2018 have not yet been published

Under IO1 Free Press Unlimited will continue to support APPEL Mali, an informal movement of online media organisations advocating for an extended and inclusive media law for online journalism. Free Press Unlimited will organise a training for its members to organise advocacy campaigns towards the authorities.

Under IO2, Free Press Unlimited will continue to support partner Kunafohi.com to produce online content in current affairs for young and urban people, which includes a weekly news show by rappers and the development of other creative formats. Free Press Unlimited will support partner CULTUR'ELLES to produce an interactive reality TV format called 'l'instant The' for young people, to promote active citizenship. The format will be also accessible to youth from the North. Finally, Free Press Unlimited will support partner Sahelien.com to create inclusive online content prioritizing the view and opinions of Malians living in border regions and who's live are affected by the impact of human trafficking and migration. Sahelien.com is an online news outlet operating in the Sahel region in collaboration with citizen journalists.

Under IO3, Free Press Unlimited and Tuwindi will continue to implement training and awareness-raising activities for journalists and media outlets in gender-sensitive reporting. Media outlets will be coached and prepared to apply for a gender media label. The third edition of the Mali Media Awards (MAMA 2019) will highlight the importance of quality journalism and gender inclusiveness.

### **Somalia/Somaliland**

In November 2017 the ruling party candidate Muse Bihi Abdi was declared the winner of the presidential election in the breakaway republic of Somaliland. Since then border conflicts with neighboring Puntland and diplomatic quarrels with Federal Somalia have overshadowed the relationships. 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. A spark of hope is the forthcoming meeting of the Ministers of Information on neutral grounds in Tanzania.

Under IO1, FOU and its media support partners (Media Ink, SOLJA, MAP and NUSOJ) will improve awareness among Somali security forces on the rights and existing laws that protect journalists in Somalia through a 'Council of Peace' on media laws and the right to freedom of expression. This approach contributes to UNESCO's strategy for National Mechanisms for Journalists' safety in Somalia.

Under IO2, Free Press Unlimited and partners will facilitate increased collaboration between Somali journalists and CSOs for holding decision makers accountable through investigative reporting and storytelling. Free Press Unlimited will organise a Training of Trainers for its media support partners in 'media for social change', investigative journalism, and citizen journalism, and organise media monitoring on quality, ethics and gender. Through the development of an Ethical Charter, Free Press Unlimited will improve awareness among Somali journalists on the respect of the rules and ethics of fact-based journalism and gender sensitive reporting. Finally, Free Press Unlimited aims to stimulate media productions on youth and gender issues that challenge (inter-) cultural issues with media outlet partners Radio Hirad, net-citizens and CSO.

Under IO3, Free Press Unlimited will organise a Training of Trainers for partners to train Somali journalists on individual safety.

### **Niger**

Since the beginning of the 2007 Tuareg insurgency in the north, the High Council for Communication (CSC) has closed a number of outlets, and pronounced bans on coverage of certain topics in the media, and of reporting from the northern part of the nation. Amnesty International has complained that these measures are in violation of Niger's commitments to International Law. Reporters Without Borders accuses the government of harassing journalists, following high-profile arrests and libel cases brought against newspapers and TV.

2019 is the first year that Free Press Unlimited operates in Niger. In June 2018 a scoping study was done by Free Press Unlimited together with PAX, another Dutch NGO, and an intervention strategy was developed with the aim to contribute to inclusive security and migration policies. While EU and EU Member State engagement in the Sahel with regard to security and migration is remarkably intensive and dynamic, it remains very much a state affair. The point of view and contribution of

civil society is weak or lacking. To achieve sustainable solutions, support of the population is indispensable. Civic voices need to be heard in the security and migration debates that now take place primarily between the governments of the G5 Sahel and the EU and Member States.

In 2019, funds of NNIBN will be allocated to research in collaboration with Amnesty International (IO1); to a regional conference (IO1); and to a series of investigative articles (IO2). Local partners are Air Info and L'événement.

# Annual Plan **Developing Africa**

Countries 2019	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	Under review
Zimbabwe	74	74	Bad	Repressed
Senegal	49	47	Problematic	Under review

## **Nigeria**

Conflict continues to plague the nation from the North with Boko Haram, the middle belt with the herdsmen crisis and the south with ethnic tensions rising. In 2018 media organizations, including Free Press Unlimited's partner Premium Times journalists have 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 organizations. Free Press Unlimited offered assistance through Reporters Respond (see International Programme below). In 2019, Free Press Unlimited will begin to work in the Northern part of the country with a new partner, PAGED. Safety and security precautions will need to be taken to ensure that risks can be mitigated in the best possible way.

Under IO1, Free Press Unlimited and partner PTCIJ will improve the Press Attack Tracker (based on feedback) to realise its potential as an advocacy tool (see <https://ptcij.org/press-attack-tracker/> for more information). The publication on the State of Press Freedom in Nigeria will be reviewed and made into an online version. The report will be launched on November 2nd (International Day of Impunity of Violence against Journalists). In addition, Free Press Unlimited and PTCIJ will collaborate with the Nigerian Union of Journalist and the Nigerian Press Council to organise a seminar and a conference on the welfare of journalists and journalists rights. Campaign slogans and educational materials will be developed and distributed to journalists across Nigeria.

Under IO2, Free Press Unlimited will organise a refresher course for media houses managing the leaks.ng whistleblower platform and new members who may join in 2018/2019 (see <https://leaks.ng/> for more information). Free Press Unlimited will also promote gender-sensitive human-interest content on conflict ridden areas in the North of the country with partner PAGED.

Under IO3, Free Press Unlimited will promote female leadership and good practices on gender in the newsroom with its partner Wole Soyinka Center for Investigative Journalism (WSCIJ). Free Press Unlimited will also organise a 3-day management training for 20 newsrooms with a special focus on the welfare of journalists, in collaboration with the WSCIJ (to facilitate the gender policy aspect of the training).

## **Kenya**

Kenya media continue to operate in a precarious environment following new laws that are increasingly giving the state greater control over media. For example, the Media Council of Kenya was established as a self-regulating body, but now is 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. There has also been a rise in the number of journalists harassed or attacked by government or politicians. The attacks are now not only coming from the national government and security agents but are being perpetrated by criminal gangs on the order of regional county governments.

Under IO1, European Journalism Centre will support partner AfricaonAir with policy change and advocacy activities for press freedom and safety of journalists and with monthly public debates on governance and media accountability by national and community broadcast media outlets.

Under IO2, European Journalism Centre will continue to support partners AfricaonAir and Top Story Africa with investigative content and with the use of data and innovative digital tools and platforms. AfricaonAir will be supported to interact with pan-African media networks and work closely with local CSOs such as Human Rights Watch. Top Story will implement the 3rd Top Story investigative journalism challenge reality TV show that will air on KTN. European Journalism Centre will expand 'Kenya Interrupted' to 'Africa Interrupted': a newsletter highlighting female journalist reportages and gender issues.

Under IO3, European Journalism Centre will collaborate with Article 19 to organise a journalist safety training (physical and online) and to develop internal policies for partners AfricaonAir and Top Story Africa. Attention will be paid to sustainability strategies and business planning.

## **Tanzania**

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. The lack of political will and action for press freedom in Tanzania is still a concern and there is a need to critically analyse and continue to apply different approaches to challenge all the ways in which this fundamental freedom is being suppressed.

Under IO1, Tanzania Media Foundation (TMF) will continue to work with the local media CSO community for policy change and advocacy, safety and regulatory issues. European Journalism Centre will strengthen TMFs role as 'neutral ground' where L&A actors can

discuss and strategize actions in the areas of freedom of speech/access to information/ and open data. New 'platforms' for discussion and debate (face-to-face as well as online), are core components of TMF's new Media Lab space, which was launched in June 2018.

Under IO2, TMF will work with the CSO community for the production of investigative reportages on important social/development issues. Media Lab's new six-month mentorship of five "European Journalism Centre Fellows" (as well as non European Journalism Centre-Fellows) launches next month and will be focused on innovative approaches to accountability reporting and community engagement.

Under IO3, TMF will be supported with physical and online safety and security, and with their financial sustainability through revenue created through the Media Lab.

## **Zimbabwe**

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 Free Press Unlimited's partner Magamba Network to keep low profile for a while until normal work could be resumed. It still remains to be seen how things will unfold over the course of this year.

Under IO2, Free Press Unlimited will promote citizen journalism to empower young Zimbabweans to have a voice. With partner Magamba Network, TheFeedZW will be developed into a platform for informational video content. One of the goals is to enable young content makers to experiment with new content formats and test new tools and technologies to improve audience engagement. Partner Magamba will be encouraged to do more on gender.

Activities under IO1 and IO3 are confidential.

## **Senegal**

In parallel with its political stability, Senegal has traditionally enjoyed a reputation of a country where freedom of the press is respected: a principle, guaranteed by the Senegalese constitution. However, the media is facing major difficulties due to the lack of resources. Only a few media houses supported by politicians or business interests are surviving. The new Press Code voted in 2017 is yet to be implemented. Defamation laws are still in the legal system and journalist 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.

Under IO1, European Journalism Centre will support partners E-jicom and Ovestafnews to create a platform for networking and advocacy efforts on FOI Laws, journalists' rights, ethics issues, press freedom and combating self-censorship.

Under IO2, European Journalism Centre will support partners E-jicom and Ovestafnews with the production of issues/ investigative/accountability/governance reportages and with lgbt-sensitive content. E-jicom's fact-checking initiative 'Africa-check' will be supported to hold not only elites to account, but also the media itself. European Journalism Centre will stimulate partners to generate new forms of narratives (data journalism, multimedia, web-documentaries). European Journalism Centre will continue the Investigative Journalism Support Fund launched in 2018 with over 20 media outlets and journalist applying for funds in support of investigative journalism projects, mostly around corruption. The Fund will be expanded in 2019 and tracked for outcomes, audience engagement and potential impacts.

Under IO3, the focus will be on increasing the partners' skills on ethical journalism, raising professional standards and fact-checking, safety & security and the implementation of a business and fundraising strategy. E-jicom and Ovestafnews are aware of gender equality issues within their institutions and aim to develop policies and review current recruitment practices.

# Annual Plan **Fragile MENA / Asia**

Countries 2019	Freedom of the Press (0=best, 100=worst)		Press Freedom Rating (Reporters without Borders)	Civic Space Rating (Civicas)
	2016	2017	2018	2018
Iraq	71	71	Very bad	Repressed
Pakistan	64	65	Bad	Repressed

## Iraq

Journalists in Iraq continue to face threats on all sides (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 their own responsibility for their employees' security in the field or online. Crimes against media workers continue to go unpunished – though Iraq has reported for the first time in 2017 to the director general of UNESCO on crimes against journalists. Mainstream and local media do not cover nor cater for women, youth or IDPs. The use of stereotypes and insensitive reporting on these groups is widespread.

Under IO1, in collaboration with partners, UNESCO and other key international actors Free Press Unlimited will work with local Iraqi civil society on the safety of (especially female) journalists and on combating the culture of impunity by co-organizing the 2nd of November and 3rd of May events, as well as expert meetings on how Iraqi civil society can strengthen the reporting process of the Iraqi government to the DG of UNESCO on violence against journalists. Free Press Unlimited will stimulate exchange between UNESCO country offices (e.g. Pakistan and Iraq) to empower local staff working on freedom of expression.

Under IO2, Free Press Unlimited will support partners (Metrography, Kirkuk Now, Bo Peshawa and IWJF) with impact stories on relevant issues (like human rights, water, climate change) and with related advocacy efforts for good governance.

Under IO3, Free Press Unlimited will strengthen the journalistic capacity of partners in gender-sensitive reporting, mobile reporting and storytelling. Free Press Unlimited will support partners to develop financial sustainability plans based on joint fundraising and networking with other media players to increase their audience. Finally, Free Press Unlimited will organise a comprehensive safety training for partners (physical, digital and psychosocial).

## Pakistan

A recent report by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ, 2018) outlines how - despite recording less journalist killings - press freedom in Pakistan 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. In line with this, Free Press Unlimited has started exploring the potential feasibility of a secure whistleblower platform in Pakistan in collaboration with partner Pakistan Press Foundation (following the development of whistleblower platforms in Indonesia and Nigeria).

Under IO1, Free Press Unlimited and partners (Pakistan Press Foundation, Tribal News Network, Digital Rights Foundation, Bites for All) will campaign for (re)new(ed) legislation and mechanisms relating to journalist safety and freedom of expression, and cover threats against journalists in social media campaigns or in media content, including following up on court cases.

Partner DRF will be supported to monitor threats against journalists online/offline. (Citizen) journalists will be trained/informed of the legislation and provisions made to the media (e.g. use of the Right to Information Act).

Under IO2, Free Press Unlimited will continue to support an investigative journalism fellowship and form an active investigative journalism network among the fellows. The fellows will be supported to produce investigative reports on sensitive, local stories - backed up by Free Press Unlimited's partners that ensure follow-up reporting. Training will include gender-sensitive reporting, ethics, (digital) security, and the use of RTI laws.

Under IO3, Free Press Unlimited will build the capacity of partners to further develop business plans and strategies towards financial sustainability. The sustainability of all partners will be assessed, and provided with training/consultancy according to their needs (proposal writing, advertising/marketing, business planning).



# Annual Plan **Latin America**

Countries 2019	Freedom of the Press (0=best, 100=worst)		Press Freedom Rating (Reporters without Borders)	Civic Space Rating (Civicus)
	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
Nicaragua*	54	55	Problematic	Repressed

\*New in 2019

## **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. 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. 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.

IO1: European Journalism Centre will continue to support partner Asociación Periodistas de La Paz (APLP) with advocacy on behalf of media workers' rights and safety, independent media, and support expansion of public service programming (Radio Online). APLP's capacity will be increased to monitor and push back against self-censorship; to advocate for full implementation of the Freedom of Information Law; to defend the Press Law; to develop with the press sector a draft law to regulate the use of public resources intended for the purchase of publicity and propagandistic spaces in media (independent

advertising agency) to avoid the economic stranglehold of independent media that are considered critical of the government; and finally, to increase citizens' voice in the debate.

Under IO2, European Journalism Centre will support partner Fundación para el Periodismo (FPP) to continue advocacy to Ministries on behalf of media literacy courses in national curricula and to improve the image of media professionals and 're-position journalism' through nationwide media literacy initiatives (in collaboration with Universities) and high quality investigative reporting through the continuation of Fondo Spotlight and Primera Plana.

Under IO3, European Journalism Centre will provide partner support to improve the safety/security situation of female journalists, denounces the violation of women's rights, and strengthen associations of female journalists. European Journalism Centre will work with FPP on issues of long-term sustainability, business planning and gender policy.

## **Central America**

Since mid 2018 Nicaragua is added to the countries of intervention, due to the political crisis that broke out in April 2018 and is expected to continue into 2019 as well. While freedom of speech is in theory guaranteed by the constitution in the 4 countries (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua), 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 El Salvador Free Press Unlimited will continue to work with Fundacion Latitudes and in Guatemala with Nómada. In Honduras we have had tryouts in 2018 with partners ASOPODEHU and ContraCorriente that Free Press Unlimited will evaluate in order to decide if we continue with them in 2019. In Nicaragua it remains to be seen how the crisis will shape the needs of media partners over there and if current partner Confidencial is able to stay upright under all the pressure.

Under IO 1, Free Press Unlimited will continue addressing the enabling environment for the media and safety for media workers. Free Press Unlimited will closely follow the Voluntary Review on SDG16 that Guatemala signed up for.

Under IO2, Free Press Unlimited aims to hold power holders to account by providing support on investigative journalism and coach journalists on gender-sensitive reporting and portrayal and involvement of minorities (youth, women, girls) in media content. Free Press Unlimited will also organise a photojournalism exhibition that shows the impact of political decisions on society.

Under IO3, Free Press Unlimited will support further professionalisation of media houses. In Honduras Free Press Unlimited will build partner capacity on administrative and financial management. Nómada's audience involvement and engagement, plus its business model development is something that Free Press Unlimited is contributing to as well, and might become the focus of a learning or documentation trajectory for others.

# Annual Plan

## International Programme

### International Policy Change and Advocacy

**SDG 16.10.** In July 2019, Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) will be reviewed during the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) at the United Nations (UN). Among the targets of SDG 16, is target 16.10 that states to: *Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.* The task ahead for Free Press Unlimited is to deliver mechanisms to monitor and report on SDG 16.10's indicators SDG 16.10.1 & SDG 16.10.2 and to organize awareness raising events to influence the review of SDG 16 by UN Member States during HLPF July 2019. At the moment Free Press Unlimited is exploring the option of organizing these awareness raising meeting in countries that have signed up to review SDG 16 next year and where Free Press Unlimited has partners that are engaged in the SDG agenda, for instance in Pakistan.

**Sheffield Research Project.** In 2018 Free Press Unlimited invited the University of Sheffield to conduct a study into the monitoring of violence against media professionals. The first stage of the study came to the conclusion that limitations in the violations against journalists currently stands in the way of any comprehensive understanding of shifting trends in violations. Therefore, in 2019 the study's results will be used to contribute towards strengthening the monitoring of violations against journalists through the development of a pilot database that can be used to track progress and regress in relation to the Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 16.10.1.

**Global Partner Meeting.** Free Press Unlimited, in collaboration with European Journalism Centre, will organise a global partner meeting in Prague from 11 to 13 February, 2019. At this event the mid term review of the NNIBN programme will be shared and knowledge sharing will be facilitated between partners on the various intervention strategies. Another objective is networking for continued cross-country collaboration.

**Universal Periodic Review (UPR).** In May 2019, DR Congo's human rights record will be reviewed during the 33rd Universal Periodic Review in Geneva. Free Press Unlimited will harmonise advocacy activities with partner Journalistes en Danger (JED) and Reporters Without Borders. Other countries for which a NGO submission may be prepared in 2019 include El Salvador (34rd session October-November 2019), Kenya (35th session Jan-Feb 2020) and Honduras (36th session Apr- May 2020).

**UNESCO DG Report on the Safety of Journalist and the Danger of impunity.** Where warranted, Free Press Unlimited and her local partners will support collection of data for the UNESCO DG Report on the Safety of Journalist and the danger of impunity through coordinated local advocacy activities.

**Press Released.**<sup>2</sup> European Journalism Centre will continue this platform and commentary series, established in partnership with the non-profit editorial service Project Syndicate, to stimulate debate and increase awareness around the global challenges confronting media and journalists. High profile contributors are being approached around key dates (3 May, 28 Sept, 2 Nov) in order to amplify audience engagement. Public panels and debates on press freedom will take place at events such as Unesco World Press Freedom Day (Mexico City) and the Perugia International Journalism Festival in April. Press Released will strengthen new mediums/platforms and approaches for expanding awareness of press freedom such as the dedicated podcast.

**International Civil Society Safety Coalition.** Free Press Unlimited will continue to convene and take the lead in the CSO Safety Coalition together with IMS and Article 19. The aim is to jointly strategize and advocate on an international level, and enhance coordination on the ground in order to improve the safety of journalists. The focus of the coalition in 2019 will be on coordinating safety strategies in Myanmar,

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2 <https://www.project-syndicate.org/topic/press-released>

Iraq, Pakistan, Burundi, Kenya and wider Latin America. The working group on media self-assessment chaired by ACOS will continue and a new working group on gender and safety will start off. The main goals for the latter in 2019 are: to be in close contact about opportunities for joint international advocacy; the inclusion of a gender aspect in all international standards on safety; to come to a mapping of who is doing what and where; and to create networks of solidarity for female journalists where this is opportune. Free Press Unlimited has committed to take a leading role in this mapping process.

**Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).** In 2019 Free Press Unlimited aims to be in close contact again with the Dutch Government delegation to the 63rd session of the CSW to include the importance of the role of media in promoting gender equality in the outcome document of the session and in the Dutch interventions. Free Press Unlimited is currently exploring the option of organizing a side event together with International Media Support (IMS), International Women and Media Foundation (IWMF) and other members of the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD) potentially on work conditions and online harassment.

**Cooperation with Freedom House.** In 2019 Free Press unlimited will continue to support Freedom House's efforts to analyse and report on the state of Press Freedom, based on a new reporting methodology.

## Gender & Safety Mainstreaming

**Gender reference guide.** The already developed gender reference guide will be kept up to date and made available (online) to a wider audience. Safety reference guide. An online safety reference guide (resource space) will be developed in 2019. The guide will be designed in such a way that the majority of the content can be shared publicly on the Internet. To this end, an AMID trainee will be recruited.

**Reporters Respond.** Free Press Unlimited will continue the emergency support to media workers in distress, called Reporters Respond. Free Press Unlimited will also develop a training curriculum on trauma and on physical safety in collaboration with member organisations of the Journalists in Distress network.

**Gender.** Gender equality and women empowerment are strategic goals in the SDGs, as well as in the new policy brief of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The crucial role of media in channeling this empowerment is widely recognized. In 2019 it will be a priority to expand gender interventions within the No News Is Bad News Programme, building on successful interventions in various countries. More trainings on gender-mainstreaming will be organised for partners, gender media monitoring will be conducted and the successful Men4Women campaigns will be held on March 8th (International Women's Day) in most of the NNIBN countries to show solidarity with female journalists.

## Innovation

**Mobile Storytelling App.** The mobile application is a tool aimed at improving the quality of mobile produced stories for citizen reporters and journalists. The app consists of over 60 lessons on video, audio, photo, storytelling, journalism and security, story templates and guides to assist the user in creating professional looking stories. Additionally, the app has an editing suite that allows users to rearrange their clips, add narration and upload their stories to any third-party website. In 2019 Free Press Unlimited will continue the development of a new version of the editing app (started in 2018) and split this from the lessons for which a new online content-management system will be created for easy updating of lessons. The new platform will also serve to upload any new or existing Free Press Unlimited training material (beyond those in the app now).

**Innovative business models.** The media environment is changing very fast. Traditional business models (subscribers and advertisement) are no longer sustainable, and innovative forms of income generation are needed. While outcomes cannot be predetermined, the process for developing innovations is structured around four stages (assessing, developing, testing, launching). Activities around innovation are focused on two objectives: the exploration of new ideas and the encouragement of an innovative culture. Free Press Unlimited will organise hackathon-like innovation sessions with media partners in two countries (to be determined) and in the Netherlands, and work out the results of these sessions into concrete solutions.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation for Accountability and Learning (MEAL)**

In 2019 the focus of MEAL will be on implementing the research agenda of No News Is Bad News (see report of the mid-term review) and on organising more formative and internal evaluations of selected country programmes to facilitate learning. The research agenda includes the most important knowledge gaps that remain after the internal mid-term review in 2018. Free Press Unlimited and European Journalism Centre will work with researchers and students to answer the questions. Several country programmes will be evaluated using appropriate and participatory mixed methods, like Outcome Harvesting and Most Significant Change but also other methods, depending on the questions that need to be answered.

# Annex 1: Annual Budget 2019

Budget - Strategic Partnership 2019					
	Approved Budget 2019	FPU Budget 2019	EJC Budget 2019	Total 2019	Approved Budget vs Total
<b>Develop South East Asia</b>					
A Administration & PME	153,529	208,000		208,000	54,471
B Lobby & Advocacy	201,529	350,000		350,000	148,471
C Capacity development	302,294	230,000		230,000	-72,294
D Knowledge and research	127,588	149,000		149,000	21,412
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>784,941</b>	<b>937,000</b>		<b>937,000</b>	<b>152,059</b>
<b>Develop Africa</b>					
A Administration & PME	204,706	127,000	80,000	207,000	2,294
B Lobby & Advocacy	268,706	70,000	230,000	300,000	31,294
C Capacity development	403,059	285,000	185,000	470,000	66,941
D Knowledge and research	170,118	121,000	30,000	151,000	-19,118
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,046,588</b>	<b>603,000</b>	<b>525,000</b>	<b>1,128,000</b>	<b>81,412</b>
<b>Fragile Africa</b>					
A Administration & PME	255,882	266,500		266,500	10,618
B Lobby & Advocacy	335,882	395,000		395,000	59,118
C Capacity development	503,824	440,000		440,000	-63,824
D Knowledge and research	212,647	226,000		226,000	13,353
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,308,235</b>	<b>1,327,500</b>		<b>1,327,500</b>	<b>19,265</b>
<b>Fragile MENA Asia</b>					
A Administration & PME	153,529	147,500		147,500	-6,029
B Lobby & Advocacy	201,529	175,000		175,000	-26,529
C Capacity development	302,294	300,000		300,000	-2,294
D Knowledge and research	127,588	122,000		122,000	-5,588
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>784,941</b>	<b>744,500</b>		<b>744,500</b>	<b>-40,441</b>

## Budget - Strategic Partnership 2019

	Approved Budget 2019	FPU Budget 2019	EJC Budget 2019	Total 2019	Approved Budget vs Total
<b>Latin America</b>					
A Administration & PME	102,353	65,000	40,000	105,000	2,647
B Lobby & Advocacy	134,353	50,000	70,000	120,000	-14,353
C Capacity development	201,529	120,000	74,000	194,000	-7,529
D Knowledge and research	85,059	38,000	40,000	78,000	-7,059
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>523,294</b>	<b>273,000</b>	<b>224,000</b>	<b>497,000</b>	<b>-26,294</b>
<b>ALL REGIONS</b>					
A Administration & PME	870,000	814,000	120,000	934,000	64,000
B Lobby & Advocacy	1,142,000	1,040,000	300,000	1,340,000	198,000
C Capacity development	1,713,000	1,375,000	259,000	1,634,000	-79,000
D Knowledge and research	723,000	656,000	70,000	726,000	3,000
<b>Total Regions</b>	<b>4,448,000</b>	<b>3,885,000</b>	<b>749,000</b>	<b>4,634,000</b>	<b>186,000</b>
<b>Netherlands &amp; International</b>					
E Administration & PME NL	750,000	715,000	61,250	776,250	26,250
F Lobby & Advocacy	510,000	501,000	25,000	526,000	16,000
G Development & Innovation	300,000	235,000	45,000	280,000	-20,000
H Knowledge and research (PME etc)	402,250	445,000	30,000	475,000	72,750
<b>Total Netherlands &amp; International</b>	<b>1,962,250</b>	<b>1,896,000</b>	<b>161,250</b>	<b>2,057,250</b>	<b>95,000</b>
<b>Overall total</b>	<b>6,410,250</b>	<b>5,781,000</b>	<b>910,250</b>	<b>6,691,250</b>	<b>281,000</b>

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