



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Multi-Donor Programme
on Freedom of Expression
and Safety of Journalists

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Overall Programme Information

Special Account:

Multi-Donor Programme on Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists

Geographical scope/benefitting countries:

Global action

Africa: Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, The Gambia, as well as regional actions

Arab States: Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen

Asia and the Pacific: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan

Central and Eastern Europe: South Eastern Europe and Turkey

Latin America and the Caribbean (regional action)

Budget codes:

Outcome 1: 408FOE5040

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ABOUT THE MDP

The Multi-Donor Programme on Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists (MDP) was approved by UNESCO's Director-General and reviewed by the Executive Board in its 200th session (Decision 19) in October 2016, to help facilitate UNESCO's work to implement the Programme of the Organization's Communication and Information Sector, as outlined in the MLA 1 of Programme V in the 39 and 40 C/5, under its Expected Result 1 ("Member States are enhancing norms and policies related to freedom of expression, including press freedom and the right to access information, online and offline, and are reinforcing the safety of journalists by implementing the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity"). It thus supports activities to promote the adoption and application of relevant policies and normative frameworks to strengthen the environment for freedom of expression and press freedom, and to enhance the safety of journalists, as well as to foster sustainable and independent media institutions.

Funds in the MDP also contribute to the achievement of Expected Result 2 of the same MLA1 of Programme V ("Member States have benefited from enhanced media contributions to diversity, gender equality and youth empowerment in and through media; and societies are empowered through media and information literacy programmes and effective media response to emergency and disaster"). It supports activities to facilitate pluralism and participation in media, promote gender equality in both media production and content, and empower citizens with increased media and information literacy competencies.

The MDP was formally created in 2017, and it received its first substantial support in mid 2018¹. The MDP falls under the authority of the Director-General and it is managed by the Communication and Information Sector Assistant Director-General, and in particular by the Chiefs of the Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists Section, and Media and Information Literacy and Media Development Section . The pooling of funding under it promotes programmatic coherence, donors' coordination, and gives UNESCO some flexibility to channel funds towards emerging programmatic priorities and the most pressing needs to achieve its Expected Results. It enables the CI Sector to address complex issues relating to freedom of expression and safety of journalists, through the design and implementation of holistic and medium/long-term interventions at national, regional and global levels. The clear advantage of this mechanism is that it allows UNESCO and its partners to achieve greater impact and sustainability, whilst reducing transaction costs and fragmentation of activities in the same field. It also offers the opportunity of enhancing synergies with our Regular Programme as well as with other Extra-Budgetary projects, fostering optimization among our core activities.



In the past three years, the MDP has served to advance UNESCO's role in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 16, Target 10, by underpinning the Organization's work at global, regional and national level to enhance access to information, fundamental freedoms and the safety of journalists for the creation of peaceful, just and inclusive societies. It currently supports national actions in 22 countries from four regions. Besides national-level activities, the programme supports global initiatives, as well as regional actions in Africa, Latin America, and South Eastern Europe.

¹ Through a Programme Cooperation Agreement between UNESCO and Sweden, represented by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), covering the period 2018 -2021.

The MDP has two major Outcomes:

1. Outcome 1 (corresponding to Programme V/MLA1/ER1 in the 39 and 40 C/5):

“Member States are enhancing norms and policies related to freedom of expression, including press freedom and the right to access information, online and offline, and are reinforcing the safety of journalists by implementing the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity”.

2. Outcome 2 (corresponding to Programme V/MLA1/ER2 in the 39 and 40 C/5):

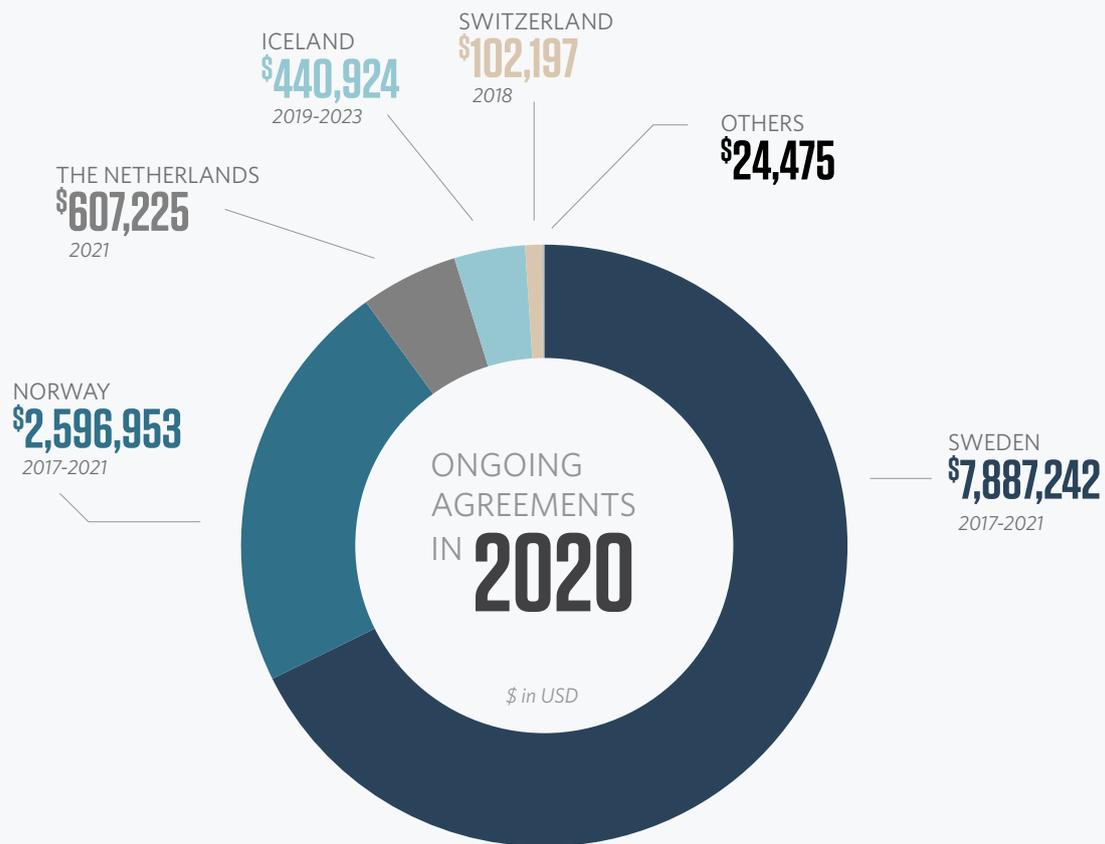
“Member States have benefited from enhanced media contributions to diversity, gender equality and youth empowerment in and through media; and societies are empowered through media and information literacy programmes and effective media response to emergency and disaster”.

THE MDP IN 2020

The efforts undertaken in 2020 build on previous actions supported by the MDP, but also other relevant achievements supported through regular programme and extra-budgetary funds, including the FIT project funded by Sweden “Promoting Freedom of Expression, Media Development, and Access to Information and Knowledge,” which ended in July 2018.

This is the third annual narrative report, which assesses progress towards the achievement of the abovementioned outcomes during the period of 1 January to 31 December 2020. The funding received in 2020, whether through instalments from previous agreements, or new agreements signed in the past 12 months, has allowed continuity of previous work, the initiation of actions in new target countries, or expanding support due to emerging needs globally and nationally, always in line with the approved rules and regulations of the Multi-Donor Programme. This has allowed UNESCO to respond to emerging priorities and seize the opportunity to support Member States that have demonstrated their commitment and need for media reform.

In 2020, Sweden/Sida amended its Programme Cooperation Agreement with UNESCO for 2018-2021 of 68,500,000 SEK (around 7,597,000 USD) to increase its contribution for 2020 by 2.5 million SEK (\$289,427). Another new generous contribution was from Norway for 14 Million NOK (around 1,6 Million USD) to be paid in two instalments in 2020 and 2021. In December, the Netherlands signed an agreement with UNESCO to contribute to the MDP with 506,666 EUR (around 605,000 USD). A new installment from Iceland was received in 2020, as part of an ongoing agreement for 54 Million ISK (around 440,924 USD) for the period between 2019 and 2023. Austria contributed with 5,429 USD which makes its total contribution since 2017 to the MDP: 13,512 USD. Luxembourg marked its first contribution to the MDP in 2020 with 3,311 USD.



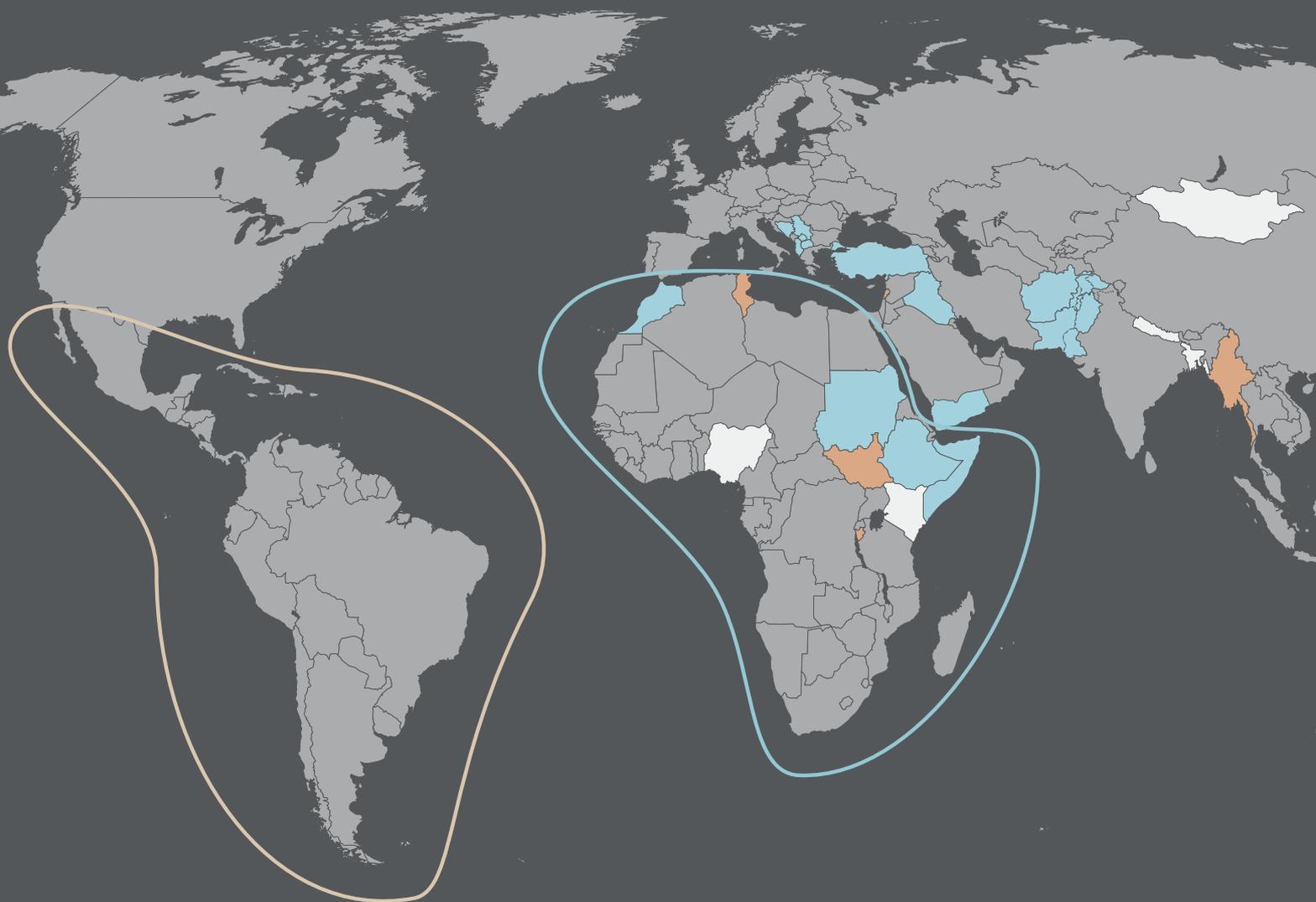
*estimated figures, might vary according to exchange rates

The additional funds received allowed UNESCO to support new countries, namely Iraq and Yemen, and extend immediate support by responding to the emerging priority in Lebanon post the port explosions. However, the most prominent role that the MDP has played in 2020 was its strong support to UNESCO's rapid response in addressing the urgent needs linked to the Covid-19 global health crisis especially in combating disinformation and enhancing access to verified and vital information, in addition to enhancing the safety of journalists while covering the pandemic. A specific section in this report showcases the global, regional and national actions implemented with the MDP support.

While new challenges arose in relation to the pandemic, requiring innovative approaches for implementation, whether in working with partners or reaching beneficiaries or adapting to the new priorities of duty-bearers, 2020 still allowed UNESCO to upscale its activities, building on previous results in all focus areas. Its approach in influencing policy reform through its standard-setting actions and normative work has allowed it to achieve positive change in various regions. This report provides a comprehensive account on the impact of these actions and the MDP's comparative value.

For 2021, the MDP team has identified new emerging priorities and is expanding UNESCO's support to a number of new countries including Jordan (response to the 3rd wave of the Covid-19 crisis), Zambia, Mexico and Peru (support to the 2021 elections). Additionally, further support to election processes in countries already benefiting from the MDP will be provided including Ethiopia, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Somalia and Syria, plus a regional initiative in Latin America.

WHERE WE WORK



THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS



OUTCOME 1:

Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Pakistan, Iraq, Yemen, Burundi, South Eastern Europe and Turkey



OUTCOME 2:

Nigeria, Mongolia, The Gambia, Bangladesh, South Sudan, Nepal, Kenya, Tunisia, Palestine, Burundi, Myanmar



OUTCOME 1 + 2:

South Sudan, Tunisia, Palestine, Myanmar, Burundi



Africa Regional



LAC regional

1 SUMMARY

As in previous years, the theory of change guiding the MDP continues to drive its intervention logic for the choice of activities and actions implemented in 2020. This is articulated through a dual approach which focuses on:

- reinforcing the capacities of duty bearers with a view to improve legislative frameworks and policies relative to freedom of expression, the safety of journalists, community media, media and information literacy, and access to information, while also
- empowering rights holders and local media stakeholders, journalists' unions, along with relevant academia and civil society. Many of the actions implemented in 2020 build on previous activities and achievements reached in 2018 and 2019, thereby ensuring continuity and sustainability.



LEGAL AND POLICY REFORMS

Important examples of multi-year momentum are evident in many of the MDP's policy advice and advocacy activities, for instance:

- UNESCO has been assisting Sudan by assessing the former country's media landscape and drafting a Media Reform Roadmap, and by revising draft laws and ensuring their compliance with international norms. (see details under Outcome 1, Output 4 and in the country pages).
- In South Sudan and Pakistan, the MDP strengthened the capacities of both countries' Access to Information Commissions by developing a series of request forms and simplified regulations in the former, and by helping set up an online appeal system in the latter. (see details under Outcome 1, Output 4 and in the country pages).

- In Gambia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Bangladesh, Burundi, Nepal and South Sudan, the MDP continued to support community media sustainability policy reforms through research and the development of policy recommendations, which dovetailed into the design of capacity building and advocacy activities for duty bearers and community media stakeholders (see details under Outcome 2, Output 1 and in the country pages).
- Advocacy efforts towards duty bearers for an improved legislative framework for Media and Information Literacy have continued in 2020, and national policies were drafted and formulated for strengthening Media and Information Literacy in Nigeria, Palestine, Kenya, Myanmar and Mongolia. (see details under Outcome 2, Output 4 and in the relevant country pages).
- Furthermore, in order to best accompany and guide UNESCO Officers in these activities and following the suggestion by Member States that UNESCO adopt a unified approach, the MDP has initiated the production of an internal guide on how to develop efficient policy advice and support media law reform.

In 2020, the MDP also supported the capacities of media self-regulatory bodies in Eastern Europe and Turkey to increase their outreach and efficiency through co-financing a European Union project entitled “Building Trust in Media in South East Europe and Turkey”. Support was also extended to the Ethiopian Editors Guild and Myanmar Press Council, whose capacities were enhanced through experience sharing and dialogue with counterparts in their respective regions.



COUNTERING HATE SPEECH

With regards to hate speech, monitoring studies were conducted in Burundi, which held three electoral cycles in 2020, and in Syria, within the framework of the project implemented in collaboration with the Syrian Centre for Media and Freedom of Expression. This was done in continuation of a first monitoring cycle which had been launched in 2019 and had culminated in an unprecedented meeting of Syrian media managers and editors of state and independent media to discuss its results and formulate recommendations about combatting hateful speech in Syrian media content.

MEDIA AND ELECTIONS

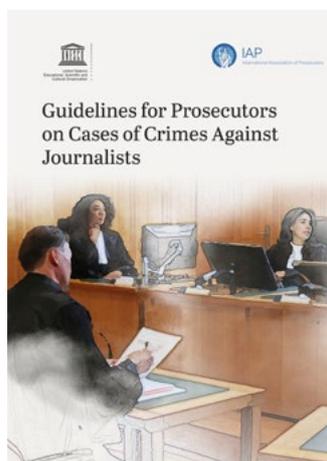
Policy advice was also provided in Myanmar in preparation of the country’s November 2020 General Election, most notably through the updating of the country’s While the election was lauded as free and fair by both international observers and the Myanmar Union Election Commission, its results have since been disputed by the country’s military, and political events in early 2021 have jeopardized this achievement.



In Mauritania, the MDP helped organize a regional conference entitled “the Role of the Media in Enhancing the Fairness and Credibility of the Electoral Process” in collaboration with the Organization of Arab Electoral Management Bodies, the National Electoral Commission of Mauritania and the UNDP Regional Electoral Support Project.

Support to elections will remain a priority area of the MDP’s action in 2021 in countries such as Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Somalia, Syria and across Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in new target countries such as Zambia, Mexico and Peru.

In Lebanon, this support to elections will be part of a wider project to help the reconstruction of Beirut and of Lebanon as a whole within the framework of the LiBeirut initiative, which was launched by the Education and Culture Sectors and joined by CI in the last quarter of 2020. MDP support will enable the Lebanese media to support the upcoming elections, and inform the public in an accurate way, allowing a plurality of voices, by accompanying the electoral cycle independently and professionally, and thereby reinforcing its transparency and legitimacy, with the aim of helping Lebanon fulfil its promises of reforms to international donors and to its own people.



JUDICIAL OPERATORS’ CAPACITY BUILDING

The strengthening of the capacities of judicial operators continued in 2020 through the Judges Initiative, which launched the 6th edition of its MOOC “International Legal Framework on Freedom of Expression, Access to Public Information and the Safety of Journalists” in Latin America and the Caribbean. Actions in the region also benefited from the upscaling of cooperation with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, including capacity building programmes for journalists. Two additional MoUs were signed in 2020 with the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors and the International Association of Prosecutors. This newly established cooperation has already yielded results, as the International Association of Prosecutors collaborated

with UNESCO to produce and publish a new resource entitled “[Guidelines for prosecutors on cases of crimes against journalists](#)”. In addition to this, UNESCO also organized a series of [webinars](#) on legal challenges to freedom of expression in relation with the COVID-19 pandemic, which culminated into the publication of new guidelines titled “[COVID-19: the role of judicial actors in the protection and promotion of the right to freedom of expression](#)”.

At national level, a letter of intent was signed by UNESCO and the Supreme Judicial Council of Lebanon, with a view to bridging the gap between the media and the judiciary in the country. Discussions have also advanced with Morocco’s Ministry of Justice regarding the signing of a MoU which would enable student judges to benefit from trainings on freedom of expression. In Tunisia, the capacities of magistrates and members of the media were reinforced through a series of trainings on the safety of journalists and the rule of law. In South Sudan and Myanmar, international days provided an opportunity to establish contact with the judiciary and plan new cooperation through joint actions in 2021. Next year, a global toolkit and course will be developed for judicial operators.

UN PLAN OF ACTION

The implementation of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity was further reinforced through advocacy in Pakistan, South Sudan and Afghanistan, the development

of a country-specific action plan in Syria, as well as capacity-building in Sudan, South Sudan, Palestine, Iraq and Eastern Africa, with the latter four integrating COVID-19-related components into their trainings. The MDP also supported the creation and/or strengthening of mechanisms in Palestine, Iraq, Tunisia and Paraguay, as well as gave the impetus for the creation of a continental one in Africa, which includes all 55 African Union Member States. In addition, as part of its emergency response to the crisis in Lebanon, the MDP provided technical and financial support to an emergency Media Recovery Fund for journalists affected by the Beirut blasts, and is leading an interagency initiative to fund civil society projects aimed at reconstructing Beirut. All these initiatives will continue to be consolidated throughout 2021 aiming at the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the UN Plan (2022), and assistance will also be extended to a project aiming to support investigative journalism in Mexico.



SAFETY OF WOMEN JOURNALISTS

The MDP has also contributed to projects aiming at enhancing the safety of women journalists, whether through co-funding or by conducting complementary actions. The specific challenges and threats faced by women journalists were analysed through a uniquely comprehensive study on online violence against women journalists and best practices to counter it, launched in collaboration with the International Centre for Journalists in 2019 with initial findings released in 2020, and the full report due in 2021. This survey will feed into the global study which has two main aims: assessing the scope and impact of the problem of online harassment around the world and developing concrete recommendations to all stakeholder groups on how to combat online violence. With direct funding from the MDP, the safety of women journalists was also integrated in trainings and other activities in Syria, Pakistan, Palestine, Myanmar, South Sudan, Yemen and Latin America and the Caribbean, and the creation of a reporting mechanism to enhance the safety of women journalists in Iraq.

COMMUNITY MEDIA SUSTAINABILITY

UNESCO, over the course of 2020, continued to support the sustainability of community media in Bangladesh, Burundi, Gambia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, South Sudan and Tunisia. Multi-stakeholder policy dialogue, including duty bearers and community media representatives, continued on the basis of assessments and studies and informed by national consultations, with the aim of

building a basis for addressing the gaps in the local media laws, thereby strengthening media pluralism and democracy. These activities were accompanied by building the editorial, journalistic and managerial capacities of community media, and by fostering community media networks and strengthening their advocacy skills. Across the eight countries, more than 1500 duty bearers and media workers, 364 community radio stations and 10 community media networks benefited from UNESCO's support towards community media sustainability.



MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY

Media and Information Literacy (MIL) in targeted countries has advanced significantly during the reporting period, with milestone achievements in the development of national MIL policies and strategies. Policy makers raised their awareness and acquired new knowledge on MIL, through a series of national multi-stakeholders' consultations on MIL policies and strategies. In Myanmar, the process led to the formal establishment of a National Committee for the Promotion of MIL within the Ministry of Information. The Committee was mandated to implement various initiatives to foster a media

and information literate society through national media, libraries and community centers. In Mongolia, a national MIL policy and strategy was formulated and adopted by stakeholders from governmental and non-governmental sectors. A draft policy and strategy document was submitted to all members of the Mongolian Parliaments' Standing Committee for Education, Culture, and Science. The first national MIL Policy and strategy document for Kenya has been prepared and validated through a national stakeholders' conference. In Nigeria, 22 institutions from across the 6 geopolitical zones of the country have piloted the localized MIL curriculum, and the National Commission of Colleges of Education decided to introduce MIL as a compulsory subject.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic around the world caused significant challenges and delays in the implementation of activities in some countries covered by the Multi-Donor Programme. In few of them, UNESCO officers had to reorganize their workplans and reschedule activities, with some having to be moved to 2021.

Response to the COVID-19 crisis was orchestrated at global level, through initiatives such as the setting up of an information hub website which promotes CI materials and a dedicated [Resource Center for Responses to COVID-19](#), as well as two global awareness-raising campaigns. The MDP also contributed to the development of a [MOOC](#)



for journalists facing and covering the COVID-19 pandemic through underwriting organizational assistance, translation into Arabic, along with efforts for further fundraising. Through its co-financing ability, the MDP was able to mobilize new funds from the European Union to address the COVID-19 pandemic through a new project entitled "[#CoronavirusFacts: Addressing the 'Disinfodemic' on Covid-19 in conflict-prone environments](#)". The MDP was later successful in raising further funding from the WHO's COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund for a 2021 new project titled "[#CoronavirusFacts, Addressing the infodemic by empowering journalists and citizens](#)".

At national and sub-regional level, capacity development on Covid-19 for journalists and media workers continued across all four regions, with specific activities in Yemen, Iraq, Palestine, Myanmar and Eastern Africa. In the latter, trainings and discussions held during a series of webinars were transformed into a special edition of the Eastern Africa Journalism Review entitled "Media Pandemics - Seeking Journalistic Answers in Eastern Africa". [Radio stations were likewise mobilised](#) to counter disinformation on COVID-19, for which professional radio spots were produced and widely diffused on air in over 12 languages, including African languages such as Fulfulde, Haoussa, Mandingue, Peul, and Swahili, among others. Pre-rolls for [social media and TV clips](#) were also produced and circulated widely. Concerning [Media and Information Literacy resources](#), UNESCO developed as well visuals, graphics and social media elements, including MIL and Parenting, Distinguishing Facts from Opinion, Information Overload, Quality Journalism and other topics helping people to assess information during the pandemics. Besides, over 50 [MIL and COVID webinars](#) were held together with partners of the MIL Alliance.

WORLD TRENDS REPORT ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

The World Trends Report, which remained in 2020 a key reference for academia, civil society and Member States, also helped raise awareness about the COVID-19 crisis through two issue briefs titled "[Journalism, press freedom and COVID-19](#)" and "[The right to information in times of crisis: access to information - saving lives, building trust, bringing hope!](#)". Furthermore, important progress was made towards preparing the 2021 global edition of the World Trends Report, including through identifying its main theme, "Journalism as a public good".

AWARENESS RAISING AND ADVOCACY

As part of its role in strengthening ongoing advocacy and awareness raising, the MDP supported global celebrations of World Press Freedom Day in the form of an online high-level dialogue, which took place on 4 May, and subsequently in the form of the World Press Freedom Conference, a joint celebration of World Press Freedom Day and the International Day to End Impunity which took place on 9-10 December in The Hague, Netherlands, and which gathered over 3,500 participants from more than 130 countries through an hybrid online format. The WPFC saw the setting in motion of important initiatives such as the launch of the standing "Forum of Legal Actors", the launch of the first international guidelines for prosecutors on investigating and prosecuting crimes against journalists, and the launch of the findings of UNESCO's global survey on online violence against journalists. The event was further marked by the signing of the Hague Commitment to increase the safety of journalists, a political commitment which was endorsed by close to 60 countries, and the announcement of a new partnership between UNESCO and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) which will strengthen press freedom and the safety of journalists, with an endowment of 7 million euros announced by the Dutch Foreign Minister.

In the field, in countries such as Myanmar, Pakistan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Palestine and regionally in Latin America and the Caribbean, and Eastern Africa, celebrations of international days were an occasion to engage local stakeholders and duty bearers and, in some cases, reaffirm local authorities' commitment to advance freedom of expression, the safety of journalists and access to information, as well as establish cooperation with new partners and create synergies. The moment fed into preparations for the 2021 global celebration of WPF, to be held in Namibia under the theme "Information as a Public Good", and marking the 30th anniversary of the historical Windhoek Declaration which was later endorsed by UNESCO Member States and which led to the UNGA declaring World Press Freedom Day.

World Radio Day (WRD) 2020 was celebrated with 566 events in 134 countries under the theme 'Radio and Diversity'. The International Day advocated for pluralism in radio, comprising the mix of public, private and community radio as well as their different technological options such as DAB+, FM, AM, podcasting, etc. WRD 2020 also encouraged diverse representation in the newsroom in terms of genders, origins, religions, ages, and social and socio-economic backgrounds. Fifty-one languages were featured in the WRD 2020 campaign, 754 press articles worldwide mentioned WRD's theme, and 1.347.465 people were reached via UNESCO's Facebook and Twitter accounts. A total of 31 UNESCO Field Offices organised events and the views of the official WRD 2020 video rose by 2073% compared to the previous year (going from 4.168 views to 90.575 views) thanks to the MDP contribution.

Furthermore, the **Global Media and Information Literacy Week**, commemorated from 24-31 October 2020, was a major occasion for stakeholders to review and celebrate the progress achieved towards "Media and Information Literacy for All" under the theme 'Resisting Disinformation: Media and Information Literacy for Everyone and by Everyone'. The theme for Global MIL Week 2020 highlighted how we can look at addressing disinformation and divides by recognizing our shared interest in improving everyone's competencies to engage with the opportunities and risks in today's landscape of communication, technology, and information. It was celebrated with 321 events in 73 countries, generating more than 480.000 impressions of MIL related content on UNESCO'S social media pages.

MONITORING

The monitoring of project implementation and progress towards outcomes according to the results framework was done on a regular basis through email exchanges and online meetings between HQ and the Field Offices, in particular with regards to the work plans which had to be modified in light of the COVID-19 crisis. Furthermore, all programme specialists involved have benefitted from the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, and Guidelines for Outcome Documentation, two documents that were produced last year to support monitoring and evaluation of progress towards results. Leftover budget from postponed or cancelled activities was either reprogrammed for Covid-related activities or transferred to 2021. Formal reporting was also completed via UNESCO's planning and monitoring system SISTER (System of Information on Strategies, Tasks and the Evaluation of Results) and through field colleagues' collection and submission of data for the preparation of this annual report. This has contributed to monitoring under the 40 C/5 CI Expected Results and has fed into statutory reports to UNESCO's Executive Board on the execution of the programme.

Parliamentarians and Participants during a group discussion on steps towards improvement of community media in South Sudan

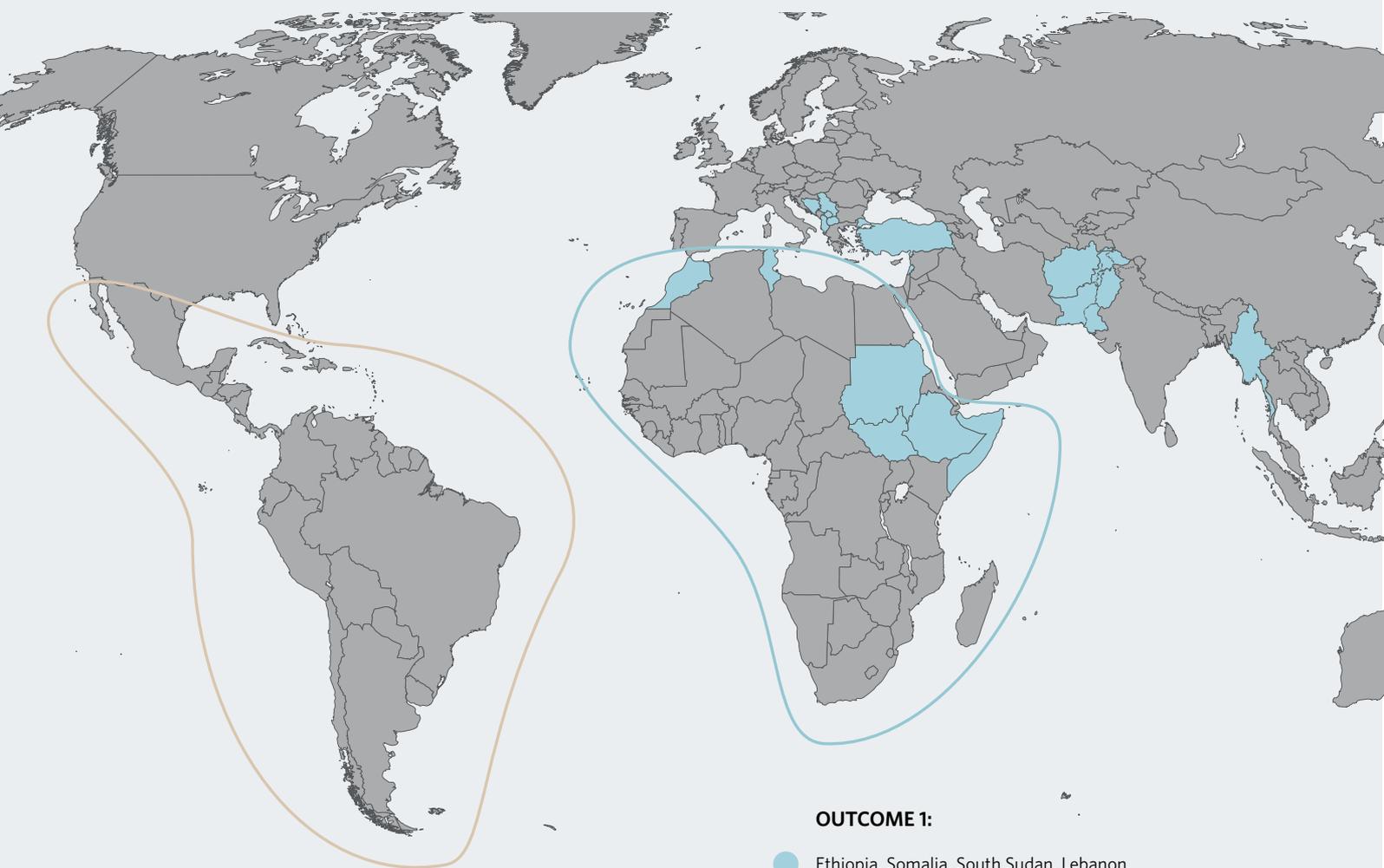


2 PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

Below is an analysis of the progress made towards the achievement of the MDP outcomes through actions implemented under each of the contributing outputs. A more detailed assessment is included in section 10, dedicated to country/region summaries.

OUTCOME 1

ENHANCING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS



THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS

OUTCOME 1:

- Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Pakistan, Iraq, Yemen, Burundi, South East Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia and *Kosovo) and Turkey
- Africa Regional
- LAC regional

*(under UNSCR 1244)

OUTPUT 1

AWARENESS RAISING INITIATIVES SUPPORTED AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS

Despite challenges related to Covid-19, it was still possible with MDP support to organise significant activities around key dates on the calendar:

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:



27 World Press Freedom Day celebrations



58

countries endorsed the Hague Commitment to increase the safety of journalists



33 IDUAI commemorations



21 IDEI celebrations

New partnership between UNESCO and OHCHR on the safety of journalists



THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS

COMMEMORATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL DAYS

● World Press Freedom Day (27)

National celebrations

Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Ghana, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco and Tunisia (joint event), Myanmar, Namibia, Palestine, Pakistan, South Sudan, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, USA, Zimbabwe, Yemen

Regional celebrations

- Latin America and the Caribbean
- South East Asia (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Timor-Leste)
- West Africa (Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone)

Global celebrations

- 1 online dialogue (held online from HQ in Paris)
- World Press Freedom Conference in the Netherlands (joint celebration of WPFDF & IDEI)

Asia & the Pacific: 6, Western Europe & North America: 2, Arab Region: 6, Latin America & the Caribbean: 2, Africa: 9

● International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists (21)

National celebrations

Afghanistan, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Iraq, Italy, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Palestine, Senegal, South Sudan, Thailand, Uruguay

Regional celebrations

Latin America and the Caribbean

Global celebrations

World Press Freedom Conference in the Netherlands (joint celebration of IDEI & WPFDF)

Asia & the Pacific: 6, Western Europe & North America: 1, Arab Region: 3, Latin America & the Caribbean: 7, Africa: 3

● International Day for Universal Access to Information (33)

National celebrations

Afghanistan, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guatemala, Haiti, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palestine, Peru, Senegal, South Sudan, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay

Regional celebrations

Africa, Arab Region

Global main event

held online

Inter-regional celebration

UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean in Jamaica and UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa in Zimbabwe

Asia & the Pacific: 7, Western Europe & North America: 1, Arab Region: 3, Latin America & the Caribbean: 10, Africa: 10

Advocacy and awareness raising actions and initiatives represent a central pillar of UNESCO's approach in promoting freedom of expression, the safety of journalists, and access to information. Through the commemorations of three major international Days, as well as awareness raising campaigns at global, regional and national levels, activities implemented under the MDP have contributed to bringing these issues to the forefront, to reinforce partnerships and synergies and, at times, to strengthen political commitment towards legal reform and the creation of a free and safe environment for media workers. While the COVID-19 pandemic limited the number of events held worldwide in 2020, UNESCO made use of the maintained commemorations to raise awareness about the impact of the health crisis and its implications on fundamental freedoms and the media.

In commemoration of World Press Freedom Day, UNESCO held on 4 May 2020 an online dialogue, bringing together high-level participants for an interactive discussion on press freedom and tackling disinformation in the COVID-19 context. Speakers included UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, the UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay, renowned investigative journalist Maria Ressa and Facebook's head of Global Policy Management Monica Bickert, among others. Moderated by the prominent journalist Jorge Ramos, the debate featured pleas for the importance of free, independent and fact-based journalism. The online dialogue also featured a number of senior political representatives, who, either live or through video messages, underlined the need for political commitments to bolster independent media. These speakers included Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of Norway, François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, Sebastian Kurz, Chancellor of Austria, Egils Levits, President of Latvia, Stefan Blok, Minister of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands, and Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of France. The event was live streamed in English, French and Spanish on social media platforms and attracted around 43.500 views on Facebook, 37.000 views on Twitter and 3.500 on YouTube.

Awareness on the significance of press freedom in times of COVID-19 was also reinforced through a global media campaign launched around World Press Freedom Day. In cooperation with the creative agency DDB, UNESCO developed a campaign titled "FACTS", highlighting the importance of independent, fact-based media to counter the spread of disinformation, especially related to the COVID-19 health crisis. The FACTS campaign was widely relayed on social media by media outlets and civil society organizations in Europe, North America, Latin America and Asia through around 150 posts on social media in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Bosnian-Croatian, Thai and Hungarian. Major media around the world such as CNN, The New York Times, The Guardian, Le Monde, France Médias Monde, Rappler, Canal 22 Mexico, the Financial Times, Le Monde, Libération, The Guardian, Los Angeles Times, the Wall Street Journal, The Globe and Mail, Politco, CB News, Influencia, El Heraldo, La Prensa and many more featured the campaign either in print or online. The campaign was also broadcast live on TV by France Info and featured on the radio by RFI.

The [World Press Freedom Conference 2020 \(WPFC\)](#), which was co-organized by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, was initially scheduled to take place in April 2020 and had to be postponed to December 2020 due to travel restrictions and complications created by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was in consequence held online and transformed into a joint commemoration of World Press Freedom Day (WPFDD) and the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists (IDEI). Over 3,500 participants registered to the event and participated in interactive debates and interviews with influential journalists (such as Maria Ressa, Christiane Amanpour, Lina Attalah, Matthew Caruana Galizia, Carmen Aristegui and Jineth Bedoya, among many others) and experts about the most pressing issues facing the media today. The conference was a unique hybrid digital experience, with sessions co-organized with 19 international NGOs and partners mixing online and face-to-face debates, in a dynamic TV format. Selected channels were broadcasted by UN Web TV, and 47 on-demand videos about WPFC and record sessions remain available on YouTube.

The main session to commemorate IDEI, as part of the WPFC on '[Strengthening investigations and prosecutions to end impunity for crimes against journalists](#)' raised awareness about the key challenges to freedom of expression and enabled the exchange of best practices to identify concrete solutions in the fight against impunity. The session notably analyzed the role of law enforcement officers and prosecutors in the investigation and prosecution of perpetrators of attacks against journalists on the one hand, and discussed the relationship between security forces and journalists on the other. The event was moderated by renowned human rights lawyer Nani Jansen Reventlow, and included the participation of Jeanette Manning, Attorney-Director of the NATGRI Center for International Partnerships and Strategic Collaboration, Ian Lafrenière, who has been a trainer for security forces on freedom of expression and safety of journalists since 2013 and is now Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs of the National Assembly of Quebec, and Gomolemo Moshoeu, Chief Executive Officer of the South African Judicial Education Institute, and Rapporteur of the "Forum of Legal Actors" created during the conference with support from The Netherlands for a number of years (see below).

A key outcome of the WPFC was the signing of a new partnership between UNESCO and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) which will strengthen press freedom and the safety of journalists, with an [endowment of 7 million euros](#) announced by Dutch Foreign Minister Stef Blok. Furthermore, a ministerial roundtable convened at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands resulted in the [Hague Commitment to increase the Safety of Journalists](#), a political commitment for the protection of journalists endorsed by 58 countries.

Another key outcome was the launch of the [Forum of Legal Actors](#) on 9 December, during which the Conference centred on the key role of judicial actors, in particular prosecutors and security forces, to strengthen investigations and prosecutions of crimes against journalists and to protect of freedom of expression. The Forum, launched in partnership with the Asser Institute (Netherlands), Free Press Unlimited and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, identified 6 key recommendations for protecting freedom of expression at the global, regional and national levels. It created a space for legal professionals, including, judges, prosecutors and lawyers, from diverse geographical regions to share knowledge and best practices on the topic. The Conference was also marked by the launch of the first international [guidelines on Investigating and Prosecuting Crimes against Journalists](#) with the International Association of Prosecutors, and the launch of the findings of [UNESCO's Global Survey on Online Violence Against Women Journalists](#), which provides shocking data on the scope and impact of online violence worldwide.

In parallel, awareness-raising initiatives around IDEI commemorations were augmented by a global social media campaign titled 'Protect Truth. Protect Journalists' which was disseminated on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and in the media in 6 languages, in coordination with field offices. The campaign widely relayed the highlights of the [UNESCO Director-General's report on the safety of journalists and the danger of impunity](#) and raised awareness about the magnitude of crimes against journalists as well as the dangers faced by local journalists around the world, and notably succeeded in creating partnerships and involving major media on this issue, such as Al Jazeera, Forbes, Le Figaro, Yahoo News and France 24. It directly reached 3 million people on social media, and the campaign video generated 680K views.



UNESCO'S NEXT NORMAL CAMPAIGN

UNESCO's global [Next Normal campaign](#), launched on 25 June, raised the essential questions that people face all over the world in the ongoing COVID-19 global crisis. The campaign featured a 2 minute 20 seconds, fact-based film created by DDB Paris available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. The campaign included a message to raise awareness on the persistence of impunity for crimes against journalists and the importance of independent media.

The film was supported by major media across the world, especially through over 477 spots on TV networks like CNBC, Canal+, Euronews, France24, FranceTV, PlusTVAfrica, PBS Malta, and PBS Namibia. The broadcasting of the Next Normal campaign on TV networks represented above 1,150,000 USD worth of in-kind contributions. The film also reached above 1 million views online (including over 360,000 views on UNESCO's English, French and Spanish Youtube and Facebook channels).

In **Myanmar**, where World Press Freedom Day was celebrated twice, once in May, and once in December as a joint celebration of WPF and IDEI in line with the main global conference, events proved a timely occasion to strengthen awareness among the public about the impact of COVID-19 on freedom of expression. Most importantly, these events were an opportunity to approach and engage with new stakeholders such as the Myanmar Union Supreme Court and the Anti-Corruption Commission on the issue of the safety of journalists. These two bodies have since the event expressed interest in further collaborating with UNESCO on these issues in 2021. However, the process stopped with the military coup which took place on 1 February 2021.

In **Tunisia**, celebrations of World Press Freedom Day also focused on the impact of the pandemic on freedom of expression, the safety of journalists and access to information within the framework of an online webinar entitled "Journalism in times of crisis". Awareness about this issue was enhanced through a campaign on COVID-19-related safety measures targeted at journalists, which was elaborated in cooperation with the Union of Tunisian Journalists (Syndicat National des Journalistes Tunisiens). In neighbouring **Morocco**, awareness was raised around WPF through a digital campaign conducted with local media as well as the publication of a series of interviews in the press. Moreover, the planning of an awareness-raising campaign on access to information geared towards public information officers and focal points, whose role is to enhance the implementation of ATI legislation in the country, civil society and citizens has been advanced, with the production of videos set to begin in early 2021.

Celebrations of international Days likewise served to reinforce existing collaboration and form new partnerships in **Pakistan**, where over 160 stakeholders were engaged and more than 19,000 people were reached through awareness-raising campaigns launched around WPF, International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) and IDEI. In particular, IDEI served to raise awareness about the specific issues faced by women journalists in the exercise of their profession. Cooperation on advocacy issues pertaining to press freedom and journalists' safety was extended to new partners such as the Pakistan Information Commission, Sustainable Social Development Organization, the European Union, the Embassy of Netherlands, the Embassy of Sweden, the High Commission of Canada, and the Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights.

In **Ethiopia**, the national conference celebrating WPF had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was instead replaced by an online awareness-raising campaign promoting freedom of expression, media freedom and safety of journalists, which also encouraged professional reporting in times of COVID-19. A national webinar about the importance of access to information in times of crisis was held in commemoration of IDUAI, and served to build synergies with governmental bodies such as the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, the Ethiopian Institute of Public Health and the Ethiopian Ombudsman.

The reaffirmation of political resolve to continue reforming and improving the situation of freedom of expression, journalists' safety and access to information remained in 2020 a staple of the WPF, IDUAI and IDEI celebrations in **South Sudan**. For instance, on the occasion of WPF, the government media regulator underlined their commitment to fostering relations with media stakeholders and creating an environment which promotes freedom of expression and media freedom as fundamental rights, in line with the 2011 South Sudan Transitional Constitution. Celebrations of IDUAI saw the Deputy Minister for Information call attention to his government's commitment to ensure the full implementation of the right to access to information, highlighting its role in the current pandemic as well as in the nation-building process. Finally, IDEI was the occasion to engage, for the first time, on media-related issues with the judiciary, which expressed during the event keenness to cooperate with UNESCO and the South Sudanese media sector to promote justice and the fight against impunity.

In **Palestine**, commemorations of IDEI were held under the theme "The Palestinian Reality and International Comparisons of Freedom and Violations Against Journalists", and were marked by discussions between journalists, media representatives and academics on Palestinian law and international standards pertaining to freedom of expression online and offline. A joint celebration of WPF and Human Rights Day was also held in December in collaboration with the Offices of the Dutch and Swedish Representatives as well as OHCHR, through a high-level webinar highlighting the importance and challenges to freedom of expression online and offline, along with the role of human rights defenders. This event enabled the building of synergies as well as provided a platform for discussion and experience-sharing among national counterparts.

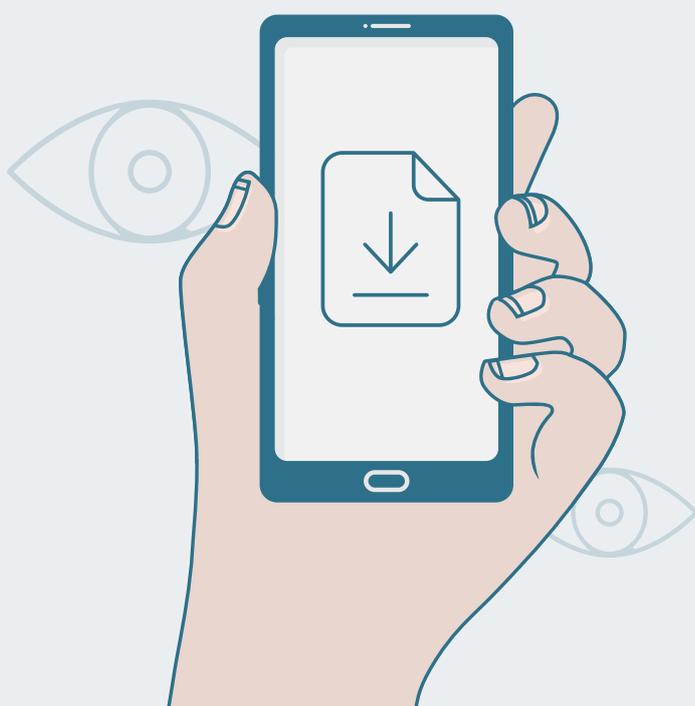
More than 12,600 people were reached and sensitized to the safety of journalists, freedom of expression and access to information across **Afghanistan** through commemorations of IDEI and IDUAI and associated awareness-raising initiatives. The celebration of IDUAI, which was jointly organized with the country's Access to Information Commission (AIC), gave the AIC the means to discuss their concerns with participating Afghan authorities regarding the implementation of the ATI law and the difficulties encountered by citizens in accessing public information.

Celebrations of WPF in **Latin America and the Caribbean** were held regionally, in coordination with 11 Field Offices. Several events, such as a webinar entitled “Indispensable Journalism: a virtual discussion on violence against women journalists” and organized together with FLIP, and the online dialogue on press freedom and ATI in times of COVID-19 held alongside the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, helped reinforce awareness among relevant stakeholders as well as the general public. They also served to honour the 2020 recipient of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, Colombian journalist Jineth Bedoya, who later took part in WPF. In parallel to the celebrations, an awareness-raising campaign in Spanish on disinformation in times of the COVID-19 pandemic reached over 50,000 people from April to May. Materials from the campaign, which was developed in partnership with UNDP, were subsequently translated into 5 languages, including Myanmar.

Sub-regionally in **Eastern Africa**, celebrations of WPF took the form of a series of awareness-raising and training webinars, held in collaboration with the East African Editors Forum and Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA). Following a series of 4 trainings through which the capacities of Eastern African journalists were strengthened on digital, physical and psychosocial safety, participants made several [recommendations](#) which included proposed measures that they deem necessary to be put in place to sustain independent journalism in the region. They further called on the private sector, governments and media development partners to consider journalism as an essential service by providing necessary cushioning of the media from the negative COVID-19 effects. Discussions which took place during the webinars in turn inspired the elaboration of a special edition of the Eastern Africa Journalism Review which was published in September 2020 under the title “Media Pandemics - Seeking Journalistic Answers in Eastern Africa”.

OUTPUT 2

WORLD TRENDS IN FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA DEVELOPMENT REPORT



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:



A new Issue Brief series of the World Trends Report launched:



Three issue briefs on journalism and press freedom in times of COVID-19, safety of journalists during protests, and access to information in times of crisis

84,714

views and downloads of the entire WTR series in 2020

The first publication of the World Trends Report in Freedom of Expression and Media Development (WTR) in 2014 introduced a comprehensive, factual, data-driven reference tool on press freedom and media independence, the safety of journalists, access to information and related topics, such as pluralism and gender equality and representation in and through the media. Since then, the World Trends Report has become a key reference for academia, civil society and Member States, and has informed UNESCO's research and policy work in many countries. It has for example shaped national guidelines, frameworks and media reform strategies in Syria, Sudan, Iraq, and Morocco, where the Ministry of Foreign Affairs bases its annual freedom of expression assessment on the framework of the World Trends Report. Beyond these countries supported by the MDP, Canada's [Guidelines on Supporting Human Rights Defenders](#) also cite the World Trends Report, and the WTR has been referenced in several UN resolutions as well.

The World Trends report also served in 2020 as a reference for resource guides and handbooks. This included, for example, a resource guide on the safety of women journalists online by the OSCE and a [handbook for delegations](#) by Media4Democracy. Regional intergovernmental bodies likewise look towards the World Trends Report, such as a Council of Europe [Ministerial Conference on safety of journalists](#) and a [European Parliament report on media freedom](#), along with a [report on freedom of the media and AI](#) by the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

Members of civil society too used the WTR with regards to monitoring towards the SDGs. This was for instance the case in Latin America, where the civil society coalition Voces del Sur cited UNESCO's In-Focus report on safety of journalists in their [2020 report on implementation of SDG 16.10.1 in Latin America](#).

An innovation to the World Trends Report series in 2020 was the development of a brand of "issue briefs", which have allowed UNESCO to provide a voice in timely current affairs. In the run up to WPF, UNESCO released a first issue brief on [journalism, press freedom and COVID-19](#), which served as a background for the 4 May online high-level dialogue. The brief observes trends such as the rise of disinformation, actions taken by technology companies, and regulatory measures to counter it. It also covered challenges to the safety of journalists, and the economic impact of the crisis, which continue to pose an existential risk to much of the news media industry. The brief has served as the first source in a [joint emergency appeal for journalism and media support](#) by 181 media development organizations (led by the Global Forum for Media Development). Major think tanks, such as the Inter-American Dialogue and the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, also cited the brief in their reports.

A second issue brief on the [safety of journalists covering protests, available in eight languages](#), was later published and achieved coverage in major news outlets such as the [New York Times](#), [Al Jazeera](#) and [France 24](#), among others. A third issue brief, entitled "[The right to information in times of crisis: access to information – saving lives, building trust, bringing hope!](#)" was then published on the occasion of the International Day for Universal Access to Information.

In addition, UNESCO published in 2020 a World Trends Report In-Focus edition titled "[Reporting Facts: Free from Fear or Favour](#)", which covered issues related to media independence and media capture, in line with the global theme of World Press Freedom Day "Journalism Without Fear or Favour". Connected with the launch of the preview of this study, a webinar was organized to launch discussion on the topic, which included journalists and civil society leaders from around the world. It is accompanied by an [awareness-raising video](#) on the concept of media capture.

Through these publications, the World Trends Report series has helped shape UNESCO's programming and strategy. For example, a new initiative on media viability—born of a partnership with the IPDC and the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA), and to be implemented by the Economist Intelligence Unit, Free Press Unlimited, and academics at Columbia University and the International Center for Journalists—was informed primarily by the brief on journalism, press freedom and COVID-19. The series also informed diplomatic and foreign policy efforts. The [Meridian Global Journalism Initiative](#), formed in 2020 that includes an alliance of civil society and media organizations, cited the issue brief on journalism, press freedom and COVID-19 at the top of its list of resources.

While managed from within the Section for Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists, and funded through the MDP, the WTR series grew in participation to include staff members from across the CI Sector. An internal editorial committee was formed to help determine the direction of the report and peer review manuscripts. Through this, the World Trends report exceeded its targets for the number of contributing experts involved, as some 45 experts contributed in 2020. This included five authors of issue briefs and InFocus reports, 20 statistical experts (2 from UIS), and 20 UNESCO/CI editorial team members.

Further, important progress was made towards the production of the 2021 global report, including through identifying a main theme of “journalism as a public good”. The data component of the report has also been substantially strengthened. In February 2020, the CI Sector and the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) convened an expert meeting with 20 leading media development experts to discuss their existing datasets and research projects, and to identify cooperation possibilities. The workshop enabled discussions on issues related to the collection of primary and secondary data for the global WTR, as well as identified sources for data for the themes to be covered by the Report.

Following a feasibility study commissioned by the UNESCO Institute of Statistics and the aforementioned February 2020 meeting, the CI Sector and UIS determined that the most effective approach would be for the CI Sector to take the lead in implementing the activities, with technical support provided by UIS, starting 2021.

By the end of 2020, a bidding process for a first contract to identify and collect data related to media viability to feed into the special chapter in the 2021 global report on journalism as a public good led to this component being awarded to the Economist Intelligence Unit.

Challenges for data collection include a lack of internationally comparable data on the range of themes covered by the WTR (particularly in the global south), the requirements in time and budget required to collect such data, and the need for more transparency, particularly from internet companies. A study commissioned by the UNESCO Institute of Statistics in 2019 had reached similar conclusions. Given these challenges, the CI Sector produced an action plan on the way forward, identifying a reoriented approach and identification of potential data and necessary expertise, to be implemented by CI with the technical support of UIS.

OUTPUT 3

SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS ENHANCED, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN PLAN OF ACTION ON THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS SUPPORTED, PARTICULARLY AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL, AND WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO WOMEN JOURNALISTS

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:



Capacities of close to 13,000 stakeholders reinforced on the safety of journalists



Safety mechanisms supported in Palestine, Tunisia, Iraq, Paraguay and Africa



A new continental digital platform on the safety of journalists in Africa created across all African Union Member States



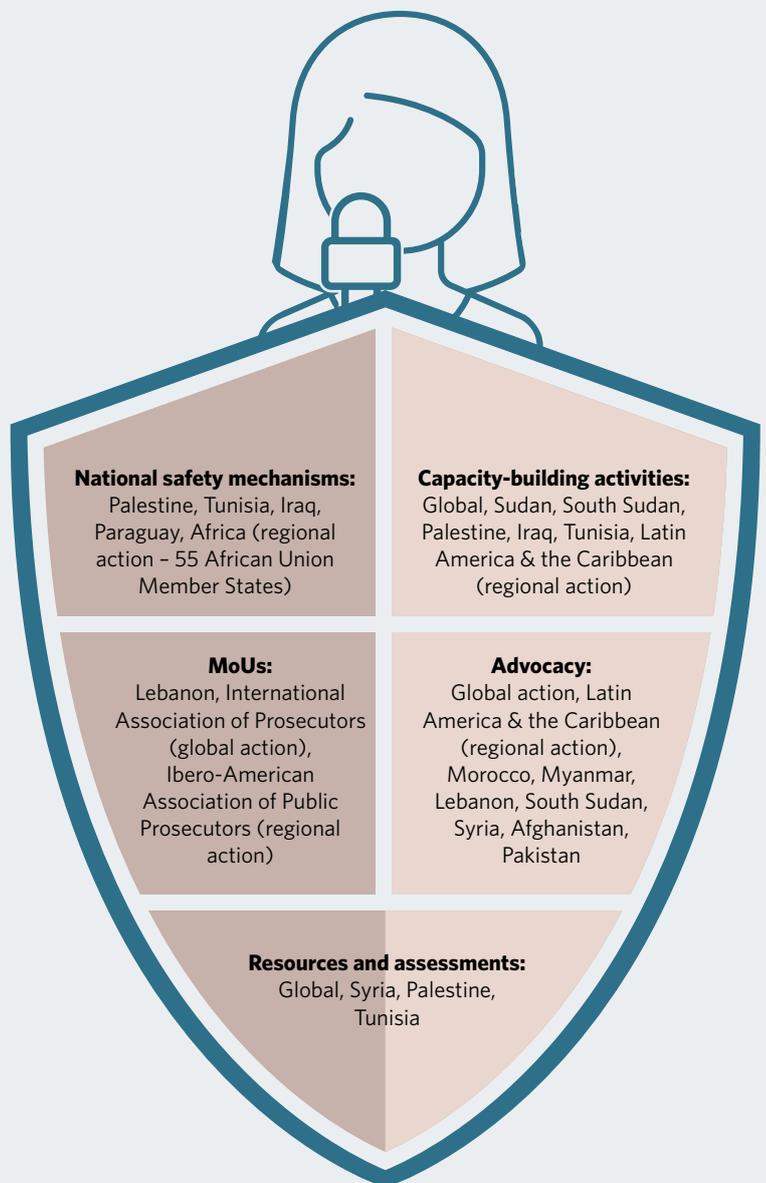
Over 2,300 judicial operators trained in Latin America & the Caribbean



Emergency response provided in Lebanon through the Media Recovery Fund



A new regional capacity-building programme on human rights for journalists launched with IACHR



As the lead UN agency in the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, the creation of a safe and enabling environment for journalists and media workers represents a priority area of action under the MDP. Since its inception, the MDP has made substantial contributions to the implementation of the UN Plan in its target countries and has notably supported the creation or enhancement of national mechanisms of prevention, protection, and/or monitoring at both national and regional level. These efforts have been consolidated through advocacy, the promotion of dialogue, the sharing of good practices, capacity-building for both journalists and duty bearers, as well as the development of guidelines and other resources, always with a country-sensitive approach. At global level, the MDP has also supported monitoring the safety of journalists, as well as the production of the newsletter on the implementation of the UN Plan of Action. The experiences have enabled input to be given to the expanded range of “Groups of Friends on the Safety of Journalists”, comprised of delegations in four capitals.

At national level, in **South Sudan**, continued advocacy on the importance of the safety of journalists led to an improvement in the handling of incidents, as roles and duties between the Media Authority (the government body responsible for regulating the media) and security organs have been streamlined. On the occasion of commemorating IDEI in Juba, the Managing-Director of the Media Authority highlighted that it had investigated and successfully resolved or mitigated over 60 media complaints and cases of breach and violations of South Sudan’s media laws.

Furthermore, the safety of women journalists in South Sudan was reinforced through trainings on digital and physical safety. These trainings were organized in collaboration with the Female Journalists Network of South Sudan, which has become a regular partner of UNESCO Juba, and has been highly involved in organizing activities such as the commemorations of International Days in South Sudan. UNESCO also organized a variety of activities pertaining to the safety of journalists in times of COVID-19, regarding which more information can be found under Section 4 of this report.

Meanwhile, the development of an action plan for the safety of journalists in **Syria**, which had kickstarted in 2019, was completed under the reporting period. As a first step towards the elaboration of the action plan, several focus group meetings were organized with Syrian journalists and media organizations (including State and independent journalists) in order to explore their views on safety issues and the development of guidelines. Following these discussions, a needs assessment mapping gaps in availability and accessibility of safety and support mechanisms in response to violence against journalists was concluded, with a particular focus on women journalists. The action plan was then drafted based on this assessment, and once completed was shared with international NGOs and OHCHR for their review and input. The action plan, which will be subject to reviews and adjustments based on stakeholders’ feedback throughout 2021, will guide UNESCO’s forthcoming actions in Syria in the field of the safety of journalists. Three major international NGOs, namely the Committee to Protect Journalists, Free Press Unlimited and the International Federation of Journalists, have already expressed their interest and commitment to work with UNESCO on the actions and initiatives listed in the Action Plan.

In **Afghanistan**, where the safety of journalists is of particular concern, the MDP continued to engage with Afghan authorities regarding this issue, in an effort to enhance the implementation of the UN Action Plan on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. The MDP notably supported the organization of the Joint Committee of the Media and Government (JCMG) meeting, which was chaired by Afghanistan’s Second Vice-President and attended by representatives of the international community and the UN. This meeting led to the production of recommendations for follow-up action. The JCMG was also supported in preparing a report in response to the UNESCO Director General’s requests for information on the status of judicial enquiries into the killings of journalists, thereby feeding into UNESCO’s monitoring of killings of journalists and the elaboration of the Director General’s Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity.

In addition, in synergy with the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA), UNESCO coordinated a high-level meeting which gathered heads of Afghan media outlets and representatives of the international community, among which the Ambassadors of the Netherlands and Sweden, to discuss future areas of strategic collaboration and the safety of journalists. These discussions then fed the elaboration of 2021 workplans for actions in Afghanistan, which will include safety trainings for journalists.

The implementation of the UN Plan was likewise consolidated in **Palestine**, where UNESCO continued to support both the national mechanism for monitoring the safety of journalists, which had been launched in 2019 under the patronage of the Prime Minister of Palestine, and the network of safety officers which was launched the same year. In both cases, this was done through a series capacity-building for the involved stakeholders and safety officers in both the West Bank and Gaza, with support from UNESCO through the MDP, OHCHR as well as local NGOs. As a result, Palestine submitted its first report on the safety of journalists in response to the Director General's request for information on the status of judicial enquiries into the killings of journalists. This was done through a concerted effort involving the government, civil society and the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate.

Further, as part of its response to the COVID-19 crisis, the UNESCO Ramallah Office held training sessions introducing the Arabic translation of the UNESCO handbook "Journalism, 'Fake News' and Disinformation: A Handbook for Journalism Education and Training" and developed, together with the Media Development Center (MADA) and the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate resources such as a handbook for reporters in high-risk environment as an immediate response to the health crisis. Additionally, the UNESCO Ramallah Office organized various capacity-building activities, such as a training on press freedom under emergency rules issues by the Palestinian government, as well as a series of trainings on the COVID-19 pandemic which covered news verification, gender sensitive coverage, disinformation and solutions-based journalism.



"I was able to guide and advise some fellow journalists on covering the coronavirus pandemic, and how to protect themselves. With the assurance that nothing is worth putting your life at risk for. And that your safety is more important than any news".

- Fady Elhassany, freelance journalist from Palestine and member of the Safety Officers Network, set up with the support from UNESCO.

Read more testimonies and stories of impact in the MDP's "Let Free Media Thrive" magazine.

The monitoring mechanism on attacks against journalists led by the Union of Journalists in Tunisia (Syndicat National des Journalistes Tunisiens – SNJT) and which has been piloted since 2018 with the support of the MDP and OHCHR continued to be supported throughout 2020, following the reinforcement of its methodology and coordination mechanism in 2019. As in previous years, the SNJT produced monthly reports as well as an annual one on the safety of journalists in Tunisia, which also highlight the specific challenges faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Iraq, a new target country under the reporting period, the creation of a new reporting mechanism for threats, harassment and violence against women journalists was initiated. This mechanism will take the form of a telephone hotline, which will be operated by women police officers who will have been specifically trained to handle these incidents. While this process encountered delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, training materials have been prepared, and a list of trainees has been established. The trainings were set to begin in February 2021.

UNESCO also gave in 2020 the impetus for the historic creation of a [continental digital platform on the safety of journalists in Africa](#). This platform, which was formally launched in January 2021, allows for the monitoring, reporting and follow-up on cases of violence against journalists in Africa by both duty bearers and rights holders. It brings together numerous African media stakeholders, four African Union bodies, as well as leading international press freedom NGOs, thereby creating important synergies and bridging gaps in the fight against impunity for crimes against journalists. This project was carried out within the framework of the amended Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa (2019), and contributes both to the implementation of the UN Plan of Action and to the mandate of the ACHPR Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa.

In **Paraguay**, whose Court of Justice had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNESCO in 2015 regarding the enhancement of freedom of expression and access to information, a rapid response mechanism for journalists and communications workers was launched in the form of a digital help desk called “Mesa para la Seguridad de [Periodistas](#)” (or “Safety of Journalists Desk”). This mechanism, whose development benefited from support from the MDP and IPDC in its early stages, aims at preventing, defending and ensuring justice in cases of threats, assaults and crimes against journalists in Paraguay. The initiative was set up by Paraguayan State institutions and journalists’ unions with the support of UNESCO to comply with the UN Plan of Action.

Following the Beirut port explosions that left **Lebanon’s** capital city devastated, the MDP provided immediate technical and financial support for an emergency Media Recovery Fund coordinated by the Samir Kassir Foundation. The emergency Fund, who succeeded in fundraising 1 million USD thanks to an initial contribution from the MDP, has been supporting local journalists affected by the blasts through psychosocial support, the provision of equipment, personal support (including safety insurance), the creation of an online resource database (with a focus on documents related to the explosions) and capacity development activities ranging from digital safety to investigative journalism. The implementation of the UN Plan of Action was also reinforced in Lebanon through collaboration with the Supreme Judicial Council of Lebanon, whose judges have been sensitized to issues related to freedom of expression and the safety of journalists.



“The explosion affected me physically and psychologically. I suffered many wounds on my back and right leg, and it was difficult for me to leave home for more than 30 days. [...] After getting my energy back, I went back to field work.”

- Anthony Merchak, Lebanese TV reporter. Anthony went on reporting on the damages nearby the site of the explosion for two months.

Read more testimonies and stories of impact in the MDP's "Let Free Media Thrive" magazine.

In **Pakistan**, seven focus group discussions were held with policy makers from different political parties to deliberate on cybercrime laws and their implications on freedom of expression and the safety of journalists. As a result, 86 policy makers and duty bearers were sensitized with a view to strengthen the legal framework on safety of journalists and freedom of expression by revising 2016 Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act. Partnership and coordination were also sustained with the Parliamentary Commission for Human Rights and Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs to reinforce and strengthen 5 Working Groups on SDG 16.10.1 (1 at federal level, and 4 at provincial level). The Ministry of Human Rights likewise formed a Task Force on SDGs related to Human Rights, of which UNESCO has been made a member. As a result of regular engagement with the Ministry of Human Rights in advocacy, crimes against journalists were included in their human rights database in coordination with the National Police Bureau.

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF JUDICIAL OPERATORS AROUND THE WORLD

In **Latin America and the Caribbean**, the launch of the Judges Initiative's 6th edition of the [Massive Open Online Course \(MOOC\)](#) "International Legal Framework on Freedom of Expression, Access to Public Information and the Safety of Journalists" strengthened in 2020 the capacities of over 2,300 judicial officers from 21 countries. These officers come to reinforce an informal network established since the inception of the Initiative in 2013 of over 17,000 trained judicial operators committed to the reinforcement of the implementation of the UN Plan of Action and to the application of international standards within their national contexts in Latin America, Africa and the Arab Region.

Building on the signing of a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) in October 2019, UNESCO expanded collaboration with the Court through the creation of a network of high-level senior journalists from Latin America, with the aim of responding to human rights issues and the rise

of hate speech across the region. This activity, carried out in collaboration with the Court, the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and the Rule of Law Program for Latin America of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, then led to the creation of an online capacity-building programme for journalists entitled “Diploma for Journalists on Human Rights”, which also received support from the European Commission. Participants notably gained knowledge and skills on issues pertaining to the functioning of the IACHR, challenges to the safety of journalists in the region, discrimination and hate speech, democracy and the rule of law, among other themes. This series of courses received 1,300 applications, from which 40 participants were selected for the new edition of the masterclasses in 2021.

In **Africa**, a key outcome was the June 2020 ruling by the ECOWAS Court of Justice which stated that the September 2017 internet shutdown ordered by the Togolese government during protests was illegal and an affront to the applicants’ right to freedom of expression. The ECOWAS Court of Justice has been engaged in exchanges and dialogue with UNESCO on international standards related to freedom of expression within the framework of the Judges Initiative since 2017, and signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) with the Organization in May 2019.

At global level, the knowledge and awareness-raising of judges, judiciary actors and civil society was expanded to the realm of prosecutors. This was made possible through the launch of the first international [Guidelines for prosecutors on cases of crimes against journalists](#), in December 2020, which provided key recommendations for prosecutors. The guidelines, currently available in nine languages, developed in cooperation with the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP), will further raise magistrates’ awareness and skills regarding issues of freedom of expression and journalists’ safety, in combination with capacity-strengthening programmes for prosecutors.

In addition, strong partnerships were established with associations of public prosecutors – namely the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors (AIAMP) and the IAP – with whom UNESCO signed two Memoranda of Understanding, respectively in May and December 2020. Greater visibility was given to these new partnerships through the organization of two Facebook live events with the President of AIAMP, Jorge José Winston Abbott Charme, in May 2020 on the one hand, and with the President of the IAP, Cheol-kyu Hwang, and the Secretary General of the IAP, Han Moraal on December 2020 on the other.

El Rol de los Procuradores en la Protección de los Periodistas, la Libertad de Expresión y el Acceso a la Información

Charla en vivo con:
Jorge José Winston Abbott
Presidente de la Asociación Ibero Americana de Ministerios Públicos

Siga la transmisión por: [facebook/UNESCOes](#)

  **Asociación Ibero Americana de Ministerios Públicos**

 **LIVE** **20 de mayo**
16:00 CET (GMT+2)

In continuation of these efforts and adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic, in June 2020, a webinar series on the legal challenges to freedom of expression in relation with the COVID-19 health crisis was organized by UNESCO, the Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas, the Bonavero Institute for Human Rights and the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism (Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford) with the support of Open Society Foundations, and in partnership with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the ECOWAS Court of Justice and the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

The webinars (available in [Spanish](#), [English](#) and [French](#)) featured 553 participants and 4,291 YouTube viewers, including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, legal experts and former judges from the aforementioned regional human rights courts, the European Court of Human Rights, university experts and academics.

As a result of the webinars, UNESCO published guidelines titled "[COVID-19: the role of judicial actors in the protection and promotion of the right to freedom of expression](#)" in 9 languages (6 UN official languages, Burmese, Khmer and Portuguese) and disseminated them across a wide network of judicial schools, legal professionals and civil society organisations. These guidelines were produced in the framework of this programme for judicial actors, and will support the work of members of the judiciary and prosecution services in upholding the respect of the rule of law, freedom of expression and safety of journalists during and beyond the pandemic.

SÉRIE DE WEBINAIRES
Les défis juridiques pour la protection de la liberté d'expression au temps du COVID-19

29 juin | 15:00 - 16:45 (BST)



Juge Sylvain Oré
Président de la Cour africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples



Hélène Tigroudja
Membre du Comité des droits de l'homme des Nations unies



Joan Barata
Center for Internet and Society; Cyber Policy Center; Université de Stanford



Juge Paulo Pinto de Albuquerque
Ancien juge de la Cour européenne des droits de l'homme



Baronne Françoise Tulkens
(modératrice)
Membre du groupe d'experts de haut-niveau pour la liberté d'expression

Organisateurs :    

Partenaires :    

“No state of emergency can justify blocking access to justice or [delivering] a justice that does not work”, said Ricardo Pérez Manrique, a judge at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, stressing that “neither the rule of law nor human rights are suspended or go into a state of latency” during that time.

Judge Darian Pavli, from the European Court of Human Rights, emphasized the fact the “information is a perishable commodity” and that, in the context of a pandemic, access to accurate and timely information can help save lives.

At national level in **Lebanon**, a letter of intent was signed by UNESCO and the Supreme Judicial Council of the country, whose judges benefited from trainings on freedom of expression, the safety of journalists as well as other communications-related topics, such as the drafting of an action plan for dealing with media online and offline. This collaboration comes to bridge the gap between the media and the SJC, whose credibility and independence have been questioned by some Lebanese actors as a result of Lebanon's context of political unrest and the port explosions. This cooperation is being amplified throughout 2021.

Discussions around the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Justice of **Morocco** advanced in 2020, with the aim of allowing student judges to benefit from trainings on freedom of expression. Additional activities involving the judiciary such as the launch of the Justice and Media Dialogue were planned for 2020 but had to be postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a redirection of priorities within the Moroccan judiciary. Planning for the relaunching of this initiative in 2021 has nevertheless significantly progressed, and will include capacity-building for student lawyers, judges and prosecutors, as well as members of the media and other duty bearers. In neighbouring Tunisia, the capacities of the magistrates and members of the media were reinforced through a series of trainings on the safety of journalists and the rule of law, which also contributed to promoting mutual understanding and dialogue between these two groups.

In **South Sudan**, celebrations of IDEI were the occasion to engage for the first time on media-related issues with the judiciary, who expressed during the event their keenness to cooperate with the media sector and support it through the promotion of justice and the fight against impunity. These newly established relations will be consolidated in 2021 through the conducting of capacity-strengthening activities for South Sudanese judicial actors. Similarly, in Myanmar, the joint celebration of WPF and IDEI led to new collaborations with the Myanmar Union Supreme Court and the Anti-Corruption Commission on the issue of the safety of journalists, which UNESCO had hoped to continue pursuing in 2021.

Over the last year and in light of the gender-specific risks which affect women journalists, UNESCO has upscaled its activities specifically targeted towards the safety of women journalists. The Organization for instance launched a major research project on online violence against women journalists, in partnership with the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), which included a global survey of 900 women journalists from 125 countries. Results from the survey were published in December in the report '[Online violence against women journalists: a global snapshot of incidence and impacts](#)', available in 5 languages. The main findings were discussed during a session at the World Press Freedom Conference entitled 'Online violence: The New Front Line for Women Journalists - #JournalistsToo'.

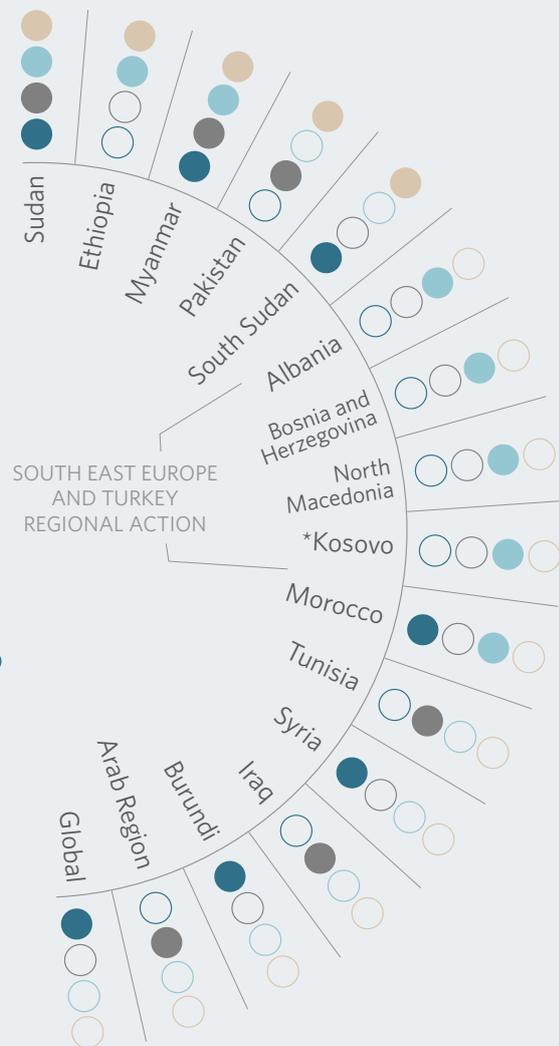
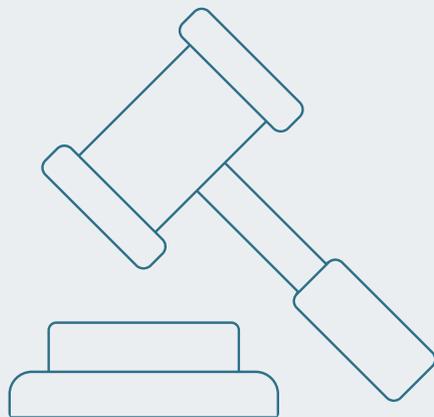
This survey feeds into a trailblazing UNESCO-commissioned study on effective measures in addressing online harassment of women journalists. This study has been conducted throughout 2020 and will be launched at World Press Freedom Day 2021. The study draws on diverse research methods including the above-mentioned survey, 15 country case studies, big data analysis and over 160 qualitative interviews.

UNESCO has also shared its expertise in the field by contributing to a number of reports such as the [latest report](#) by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, which focused on the topic of combating violence against women journalists.

OUTPUT 4

POLICY ADVICE PROVIDED TO, AND CAPACITIES REINFORCED OF, DUTY BEARERS TO IMPROVE LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS RELATED TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION ONLINE AND OFFLINE.

POLICY ADVICE AND MEDIA LAW REFORM
 CAPACITY BUILDING
 ADVOCACY
 RESOURCES AND ASSESSMENTS



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:



Finalization and approval of the Media Roadmap Reform in Sudan



Policy advice for new draft laws in Ethiopia, South Sudan and Pakistan



Updating of the Election Reporting Guidelines for Journalists in Myanmar



Reinforcement of the capacities of 5 media councils in South East Europe and Turkey and two journalists' association in Myanmar and Ethiopia



Launch an online appeals system for Pakistan's Information Commission



Monitoring studies on hate speech in Burundi and Syria

Strengthening the capacities and commitments of duty bearers to improve their practices and regulatory frameworks regarding issues pertaining to freedom of expression, safety of journalists and access to information remained in 2020 a major area of focus for the MDP. As in previous years, the MDP offered policy advice and technical support to various institutions and stakeholders, from ministries to access to information commissions and journalists' associations; and was able to help advance legislative reform in several Member States. The implementing team at HQ and in the field consistently ensures that the support provided by UNESCO under the MDP is tailored to specific country priorities, aspirations and political context, and is adapted to their security situations and level of governmental willingness, while always being aligned with international freedom of expression standards.

As the MDP continues to upscale its advocacy and policy advice activities, especially in the area of media reform, it has started to work in 2020 on producing an internal guide on media law reform in order to best accompany UNESCO Officers in their efforts in supporting Member States and working with partners. This guide, launched in early 2021 and was followed by a training offered to all CI programme officers, to enable UNESCO, through all of its field offices around the world, to adopt a unified approach, a need which had previously been highlighted by UNESCO Member States and MDP Donors.

In its efforts to support **Sudan's** post-revolutionary transition, UNESCO has since November 2019 and throughout 2020 organized a series of high-level meetings (among which 13 workshops and 66 expert meetings) across the country in order to collect information about the media situation in Sudan, identify gaps, and discuss priorities. These meetings included Ministers, media stakeholders, legal entities, policy makers and representatives from civil society, and benefited from the participation of over 700 media professionals. These exchanges enabled UNESCO to produce an assessment of Sudan's media landscape based on UNESCO's Media Development Indicators (MDIs). The assessment was finalized in the summer of 2020, and then served as a basis to draft a Media Reform Roadmap, which outlines gaps and issues such as the safety of journalists, advocacy for the rights of media professionals, and the compliance of laws and policies with international standards. Additionally, a National Team for Media Reform of 202 members was formed as a result of this process. The Roadmap was finalized in mid 2020 and was approved by the Sudanese Minister of Culture and Information in September 2020. Throughout this process, UNESCO was able to rely on the support and active participation of Sudanese authorities, who will continue to engage with UNESCO to reform the country's freedom of expression, media freedom and access to information legislative framework in 2021. Furthermore, UNESCO sought to strengthen the capacities of local journalists to combat disinformation, hate speech and violent extremism, themes of crucial importance for transitioning countries. Over 300 Sudanese journalists from all over the country took part in these capacity-building sessions, of which over 50% were women.

In like manner, UNESCO continued to support **Ethiopia's** democratic transition by providing advice regarding the reform of the country's media legal framework. The collaboration, initiated with the country's Justice and Legal Affairs Advisory Council in 2019, had made way for the drafting of three media laws, one of which was adopted by Parliament. In 2020, UNESCO supported the redrafting and alignment of the two remaining laws on access to information and cybercrimes with international standards. Ahead of the submission for their adoption, UNESCO aims at involving national stakeholders and rights holders such as media experts, professional associations and civil society in discussions around these drafts in 2021.

In addition to policy advice at the legislative level, UNESCO sought in 2020 to strengthen the capacities of the Ethiopian Editors Guild through dialogue with its regional counterparts, which enabled the recently established Guild to draw from their experiences and incorporate their advice regarding good practices.

In **Tunisia**, in an effort to help consolidate the democratic achievements and civil liberties obtained by Tunisian citizens as a result of the 2011 Jasmine Revolution, UNESCO upheld advocacy efforts for the drafting and alignment of media laws with international standards through dialogues with the Higher Authority for Audiovisual Communication, CSOs and other institutional partners.

In light of **Myanmar's** November 2020 General Elections and building on advocacy and policy advice provided throughout 2019, UNESCO continued to facilitate dialogue between the Myanmar Press Council and the Myanmar Union Election Commission. Through this, UNESCO was able to contribute to updating the country's [Election Reporting Guidelines for Journalists](#), a resource which served to encourage free and fair coverage of Myanmar's electoral process. The role of media in times of elections was also explored within the framework of Myanmar's 8th Media Development Conference, during which UNESCO organized several discussions on the role of the media, ethical practices and self-regulations during electoral cycles. While the elections in Myanmar were lauded by free and fair by both international observers and the Electoral Commission, the Myanmar army has repeatedly made claims of widespread fraud, and it remains unclear how the military coup which occurred on 1 February 2021 will affect upcoming actions in the country.

Under the reporting period, UNESCO also resumed South-South cooperation in terms of policy advice, as several dialogues between the Myanmar Press Council and ASEAN peers such as the Indonesian Press Council were organized on topics such as media law reform, self-regulatory mechanisms, safety of journalists, the role of women journalists, and media sustainability. The dialogue series provided a platform for both bodies to discuss and share their experiences and best practices and come to reinforce a collaboration established in 2019.

The role of media in times of elections was too at the heart of a regional conference organized in **Mauritania** under the theme “The Role of the Media in Enhancing the Fairness and Credibility of the Electoral Process” and organized in collaboration with the Organization of Arab Electoral Management Bodies (ArabEMBs), the Independent National Electoral Commission of Mauritania and the UNDP Regional Electoral Support Project. The conference, which took place on the sidelines of the ArabEMBs 4th General Assembly brought together electoral management bodies, media outlets and experts to explore the role of media in elections in the Arab region, share experiences and best practices in the electoral sphere and delve into the emerging trends in social media and elections.

INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM SESSION ON “ELECTION IN TIMES OF DISINFORMATION”

On 13 November, UNESCO and UNDP co-organized a workshop on raising awareness about the essential role of the media and electoral stakeholders in ensuring trust during the election process, as part of the Internet Governance Forum.

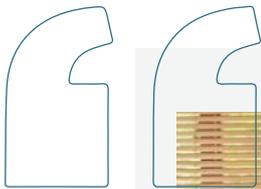
Centred on the thematic track of ‘Trust’, the online session focused on current trends and aspects of disinformation and their effect on elections, as well as presented good practices to tackle the spread of disinformation in electoral periods, particularly in the context of the global COVID-19 pandemic. As a key outcome, the session highlighted the essential role of journalists and electoral stakeholders, the importance of Media and Information Literacy (MIL) to empower citizens and building trust in public electoral bodies.

Mathilde Vougy, Programme analyst for the European Commission-UNDP Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance, stated, ‘Trust in the electoral commission is the number one factor of credible elections.’

The dialogue enhanced the active participation of key actors involved in election and media during the Internet Governance Forum and provided important discussions and sharing of good practices on Internet governance issues.

Through its co-financing of a European Union project titled “Building Trust in Media in **South East Europe and Turkey**”, the MDP contributed to the piloting of Media and Information Literacy (MIL) in formal education, to supporting media self-regulatory bodies of the region to increase their outreach and efficiency, as well as to assisting young journalists and media outlets to address disinformation through improving their good governance, respect for labour rights and fact-checking techniques. Its support to five press and media councils in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244) to reinforce media self-regulation and media professional standards led to increased outreach and functioning of said councils, as they report an increased number of media outlets belonging to the system of self-regulation and an increased number of complaints received, thereby proving that these bodies are better known and used by citizens.

In the field of access to information, UNESCO continued providing support and counsel to ATI bodies in **Pakistan**. UNESCO for instance assisted the Pakistan Information Commission in developing and launching an online appeals management information system (AMIS) to process information requests of citizens. The system has helped the Pakistan Information Commission in managing more than 600 Information requests and/or appeals since its launch. In the Baluchistan province, UNESCO facilitated consultations with stakeholders to gather recommendations for a new Right to Information Law. The recommendations were accepted by the concerned Minister and will be presented in the Provincial Assembly in 2021. Simultaneously, amendments to the 2016 Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act which address concerns raised by journalists regarding their safety, were shared with parliamentarians, and are to be presented in Pakistan's National Assembly (see Output 3 for more details on this initiative). Another notable achievement in this field has been the constitution of an internal committee by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications to deliberate upon submitted recommendations on safeguarding freedom of expression while enforcing cyber crimes legislation.



“[AMIS] is definitely going to facilitate citizens in exercising their fundamental human right of getting access to information held by public bodies and facilitate the commission in managing, indexing and retrieving records of appeals in professional manner”.

- Zahid Abdullah, Federal Information Commissioner at the Pakistan Information Commission

Read more testimonies and stories of impact in the MDP's "Let Free Media Thrive" magazine.

Similarly, in **South Sudan**, as a result of UNESCO's continued technical support to the South Sudan Information Commission which enabled the Commission to develop and adopt a 3-year strategy document in 2019, a total of 11 forms and simplified regulations on Access to Information were developed in 2020 as steps towards operationalization of the 2013 Access to Information Act. The documents developed will facilitate easy access and requests for information by the public from government and private institutions. The simplified regulations on access to information will be launched in 2021. Moreover, in support of South Sudanese authorities' efforts to improve legislative and institutional frameworks related to freedom of expression online and offline, UNESCO supported development of the country's first-ever draft data protection bill in partnership with the National Communications Authority and the ICT for Development Network, which will, once voted into law, protect citizens' and journalists' data. UNESCO also supported, in partnership with the Media Authority, the finalization of the Journalists' Code of Ethics, which will be launched in 2021 with the aim of promoting professional journalism in South Sudan.

In **Morocco**, where UNESCO has been assisting authorities in implementing the country's access to information legislation, the Organization produced in synergy with the Moroccan Ministry of Economy, Finance and Public Administration and various CSOs an easy-to-follow guide for public information officers to address civil society's regarding ATI in times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, journalism education regarding access to information, the safety of journalists and justice and the

media was enhanced through the integration of a series of master classes within the 2020-2021 curricula of the Rabat Higher Institute of Information and Communication (Institut Supérieur de l'Information et de la Communication) journalism school.

In **Iraq**, foreseen parliamentary hearings with civil society organizations specialized in media development to discuss possible enhancements to Iraq's freedom of expression legal framework had to be delayed to 2021 as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. In the meantime, UNESCO Baghdad nevertheless initiated collaboration with members of the National Safety of Journalists Committee as well as various NGOs, and parliamentary hearings have been tentatively scheduled to take place in 2021.

In **Burundi**, a new target country for support in terms of Outcome 1 in 2020, UNESCO launched together with its implementation partner the Panos Institute Great Lakes (Institut Panos Grands Lacs) a monitoring exercise of electoral coverage and hate speech in anticipation of Burundi's three electoral cycles (presidential, legislative and municipal elections in May; senatorial elections in July; communal and neighborhood elections in August). The project was co-financed by the MDP, which enabled IPGL to monitor 7 Burundian media outlets (namely Télévision Nationale, Radio Culture, Radio Nderagakura, Radio CCIB FM, le Renouveau Burundi, Ubumwe, Burundi-eco) while additional funding by Wallonie Internationale de Bruxelles and Deutsche Welle Akademie allowed IPGL to extend the monitoring to 6 more outlets. This exercise resulted in the publication of monthly monitoring reports, as well as capacity building sessions for 70 Burundian journalists on journalistic ethics in times of elections. The monitoring exercise found that, globally, there were no major incidents in the coverage of the three electoral cycles, although some hateful discourse on the part of some politicians was relayed by several news outlets. IPGL also found a lack of precision, balance and variety of sources in electoral coverage. Furthermore, the allocation of media space was widely unequal between political candidates, and very few were allowed to exercise their right of reply. At the end of the exercise, IPGL produced a list of recommendations for Burundian media to improve their coverage of elections and ensure impartiality.

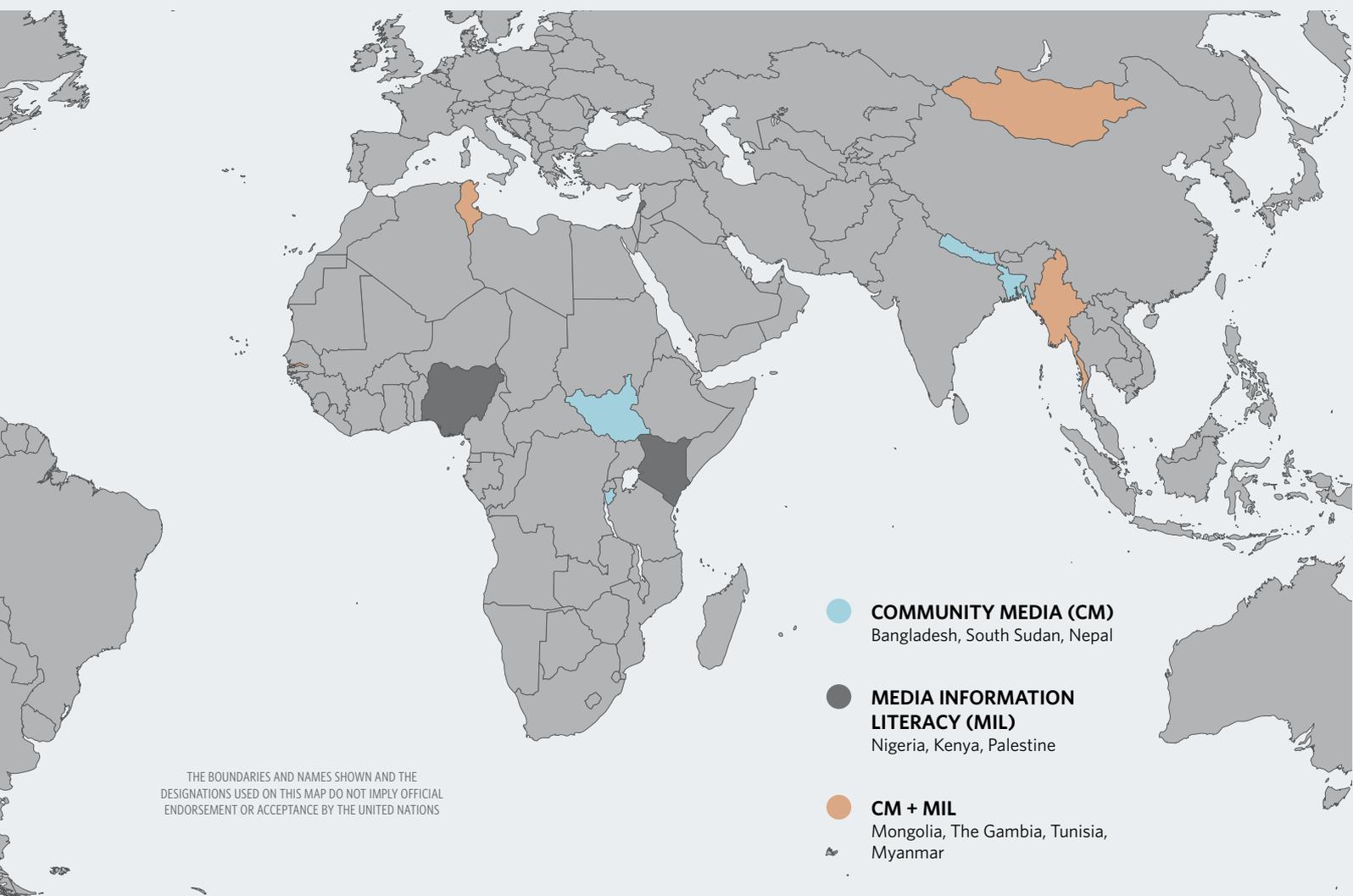
A monitoring study on hate speech was likewise conducted in **Syria** as part of the "Monitoring hate speech and incitement to violence in the Syrian media" project, in collaboration with the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression. Aside from the monitoring component, the project enabled the creation of a pool of Syrian media monitors, and supported an awareness raising campaign on social media, and advocacy actions. The latest monitoring builds on recommendations on countering hate speech in Syrian media content which had been formulated in 2019 during a meeting of Syrian media managers and editors in Paris, following a first monitoring study. This second round of monitoring, which took place from February to November 2020, provides an overview of hate speech in Syrian media in 2020, establishes comparisons with the findings of the first round of monitoring, as well as provides a new set of recommendations to counter hate speech and its harmful impact on Syrian society. The comparative study will be launched in 2021 during a webinar bringing together international and regional organizations and experts to discuss the results of the study and possible future actions.

UNESCO continuously provides technical input focused on legal frameworks and implementation of the law in the field of freedom of expression, access to information and safety of journalists to each working group session held within the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process. In 2021, a project will be launched with funding from the MDP, with the aim of supporting different stakeholders in their engagement with the UPR, with the goal to enhance the potential of this intergovernmental mechanism in fostering freedom of expression. At the outset of the project, UNESCO is producing guidelines on engagement targeted at different stakeholder groups. Further activities will include trainings on UPR engagement, the production of further tools, the organization of expert meetings and consultations as well as research and advocacy elements.

OUTCOME 2

ENHANCING MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS TO DIVERSITY, GENDER EQUALITY AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN AND THROUGH MEDIA; AND EMPOWERING SOCIETIES THROUGH MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY PROGRAMMES

Two new outputs were added under this Outcome area in late 2020, in order to reply to Member States' demands and address the increased need for gender equality in media (Output 2) as well as media's crisis preparedness and response (Output 3). The new outputs will generate impact and results in 2021, which is why the results under this Outcome rest upon the two previously existing output areas related to community media sustainability (Output 1) and Media and Information Literacy (Output 4).



OUTPUT 1

COMMUNITY MEDIA SUSTAINABILITY SUPPORTED THROUGH STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES, REINFORCED COOPERATION AND INCREASED KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS AMONGST POLICY MAKERS OF THE SECTOR'S NEEDS, SUPPORTING SDG 16.10

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:



8

Member States took steps needed to create a supportive environment for community media



364

Community radios empowered

62

in Africa



10

National community media networks strengthened



WRD commemorated in

566

events in

134

countries

Community media is key to media pluralism and diversity. It is an alternative to public and private broadcasting and press, in that it is non-profit, community-owned and offers a platform to express community-based concerns. The emergence of stronger community media sectors in target countries is an indication of the strengthening of democracy and participation in the push for sustainable development. A strong community media sector, particularly for underserved and marginalized groups, is critical to advance information access and freedom of expression. Through the MDP, UNESCO aims to strengthen recognition and to improve the legislative environment surrounding community media by training duty-bearers and raising their awareness about the importance of supporting the sector.

In this framework and under the MDP set of actions in 2020, **eight Member States**, including four in Africa, have continued to support the emergence of an improved framework for community media sustainability through providing technical expertise in this field, through capacity building of community media and duty bearers, through fostering community media networks and their advocacy skills, and by providing a space for multi-stakeholder dialogue which can drive policy debates. In 2020, more than 1,500 participants were involved in on- and offline capacity building activities and consultancies, and 5 training videos were produced, reaching more than 8,000 beneficiaries.

While UNESCO guided local stakeholders in conducting a series of national community media sustainability consultations in **Bangladesh, Burundi, Gambia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, South Sudan, and Tunisia** in 2019, this year's activities focused on seeking continuity for the provided support and on delivering direct support to reach the recommendations and meet the needs identified in the previous year.

The UNESCO's Office in **Bangladesh** delivery of support for community radio stakeholders in 2020 was based on a comprehensive Community Radio Action Plan and Roadmap for 2019-2020 which had been developed in 2019. It includes a strategy to advocate for the community radio sector in Bangladesh, to build its capacities and sustainability, to strengthen the network of community radio stations as well as to enhance their visibility and coordination. The activities which have been carried out in 2020 led to increased awareness and visibility of Bangladesh's vibrant community radio sector towards local and international actors through roundtable discussions, audio-visual productions and capacity building activities for duty bearers, resulted in enhanced commitments to further develop the sector, and contributed to improved media pluralism through an increased number of community radio stations in Bangladesh. In addition, the editorial, journalistic and managerial capacities of more than 70 participants from 18 community radio stations were increased.

UNESCO continued to cooperate with the government of **Burundi** in work to align with the standards set out in UNESCO's Community Media Sustainability Policy Series. Within the framework of the activities supporting community media, the action plans have been validated and supported by the government. The Ministry of Communication also validated the results of the assessment on the sustainability of community radios and its recommendations, as well as those of the national consultation on the community radios' judicial status. UNESCO is advocating for the government to take into account the recommendations which were developed during the national consultations on community media sustainability. During the national consultation on the legal status of community radio stations, the government reassured "its firm commitment to creating an environment conducive to the emergence of community radio stations that truly serve development." Indeed, the National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2027, which focuses on rural development, recognizes the relevance for the development of community radios insofar as their socio-economic role for communities is considered essential. In Burundi, 10 community radio stations were supported through the activities.

In the **Gambia**, UNESCO developed a draft policy for community media sustainability. Qualitative interviews with Gambian stakeholders and international media development organizations have informed the policy. The Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure (MOICI) is committed to engage in a policy debate, though the Parliament had not resumed work until the end of 2020. Therefore, UNESCO continued to discuss community media sustainability with key individuals at the MOICI in order to prepare efficient advocacy and a constructive policy dialogue once the Parliament reopens.

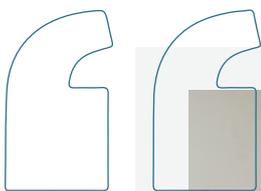
In **Mongolia**, community media is still not formally recognized under the media regulatory framework. Against this backdrop, UNESCO's efforts throughout 2019 were concentrated on increasing the understanding and capacities of community radio stakeholders through the Community Radio Association of Mongolia (CRAMO) to advocate for supportive policy changes with regulatory bodies. In 2020, public awareness on the importance of community media has further increased through two programmes produced by 15 UNESCO-trained community radio managers and staff. As a result, the newly elected governors and representatives of SOUMS (local authorities in Mongolia) have expressed their support for community radio in October 2020, including by securing the salary from the SOUMS income for community radio staff, and providing workplaces for the community radios. In addition, UNESCO has been working to improve the technical and the editorial capacities of managers, staff and volunteers of the 9 community radio stations in Mongolia, with a special focus on digital broadcasting. As a result of UNESCO's interventions, all nine stations now enjoy a social media presence and have been provided with an online platform for digital programmes.



In **Myanmar**, UNESCO's efforts were focused on building a coalition of national and international CSOs (43 organizations, including the existing 5 community pilot projects) to strengthen coordinated advocacy efforts to push forward the legislation needed to regulate the community media sector. A baseline report, prepared by AMARC Asia Pacific with support from UNESCO, was launched in July 2020. It included policy recommendations aimed at ensuring the sustainability of community radios in the country and at mobilizing multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral support for community radio, including the creation of a Community Media Support Network. These efforts were accompanied by the provision of capacity building for community media producers and enhancing the small Community Media Support Network. UNESCO proposed to the Ministry of Information (MoI) to hold a bilateral dialogue in order to discuss the outcomes from the previously mentioned activities related to the licensing of community radio, and the representation of community media in the Broadcast Council to be created with the approval of the Broadcasting By-Laws. The bilateral dialogue was supposed to be pursued in 2021, which at the time of redaction of this report seems unlikely due to the changed political context in Myanmar.

In 2020, the MDP was successful in continuing multi-stakeholder dialogue towards an improved framework for community media sustainability in **Nepal**, which started in 2019, as well as in building capacities of community radio broadcasters. The activities involved more than 270 community radio stations. The pandemic has stressed the relevance of community media to inform and communicate with communities and, through UNESCO's support, there is an increased understanding of the relevance of community media that is driving the policy debate. Local level representatives highlighted the role of local governments in enhancing the capacity of community radio stations, resource mobilization at a local level and in coordinating with local governments to raise general awareness about social issues. The project has also contributed to building the capacities of 15 community radio broadcasters through hands-on production trainings with the aim to improve the quality and reach of life-saving COVID-19 messages for the community. In addition, 200 community radios were supported to develop educational programmes for school children during school closures reaching more than 800,000 pupils.

In **South Sudan**, UNESCO engaged with the government in a policy debate towards an improved framework for community media, which had been prepared in 2019 and which will be continued in 2021. To that end, a position paper was developed in the framework of UNESCO's support to the South Sudan Community Media Network and its 30 members. These efforts were accompanied by advocacy trainings for the members of the South Sudan Community Media Network, during which they were equipped with knowledge and skills on advocacy towards lobbying for improved policies. It should also be highlighted that UNESCO promoted regional exchange and knowledge-sharing to strengthen the Sudan Community Media Network in exchange and knowledge-sharing activities with members of the East African Community Media Network, especially the Kenyan and Tanzanian Community Media Networks.



“Radio stations need to be aware of the opportunities and successes that come with harnessing diversity, there is a very strong business rationale that underlies the case for diversity in the radio industry, the creation of a more dynamic diverse programming and the development of a diverse workforce can attract larger listening audiences[.]”

-Nicodemus Ajaik, Access to Information Commissioner of South Sudan

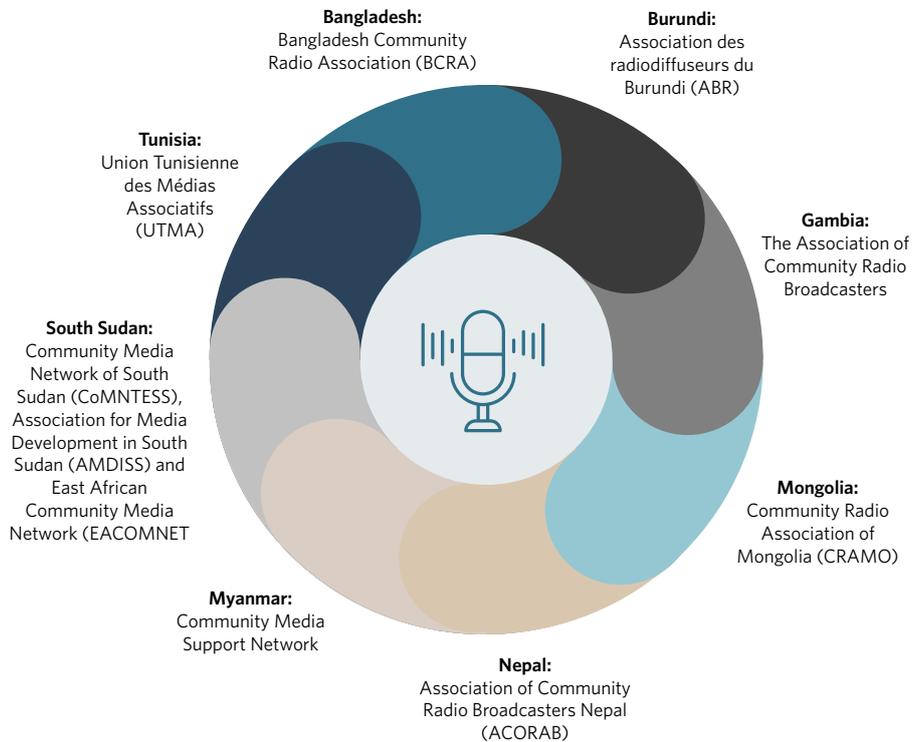
In **Tunisia**, UNESCO continued to encourage the development of the community media as well as coordination among actors. In 2020, UNESCO notably engaged with the Higher Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HAICA), 22 community media, CSOs and other institutional partners in a debate about the social relevance of community media based on a study grounded in UNESCO's Community Media Sustainability Series. This debate will be accompanied by a study about community media sustainability in Tunisia which will provide the foundation for informed policymaking, and which will be finalized in 2021.

Number of community media empowered through improved technical and editorial capacities to serve diverse audiences, engage in networking and coordination, and/or advocate for greater sustainability of the sector.



Nepal	270
South Sudan	30
Tunisia	22
Bangladesh	18
Burundi	10
Mongolia	9
Myanmar	5
Total:	364

NUMBER OF NATIONAL OR REGIONAL COMMUNITY MEDIA NETWORKS LAUNCHED OR STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE COOPERATION AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING



Celebrating its 9th edition in 2020, **World Radio Day** (WRD) continued to set the standard for the visibility of UNESCO International Days. The 2020 theme was “Radio and Diversity”, giving radio stations a wide array of opportunities and angles to celebrate the Day, and focusing on improving diversity on the airwaves through different technological options, platforms and in particular varied editorial contents and programme types. WRD 2020 called on radio stations to uphold diversity, both on the airwaves and in their newsrooms. It was a promising opportunity to highlight their ability to reach out to the widest audience and shape a society’s experience of diversity, making radio an arena where all voices can speak out, be represented and be heard. In short, WRD 2020 aimed at helping radio stations celebrate humanity in all its diversity, as a platform for participatory democracy.



THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD RADIO DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Czechia, Dominican Republic (the), Ethiopia, Finland, France, Greece, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands (the)

Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines (the), Republic of Korea (the), Republic of Moldova (the), Romania, Russian Federation (the), Serbia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the), United Republic of Tanzania (the), United States of America (the), Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia

Africa: 34, **Arab States:** 16, **Asia and the Pacific:** 24, **LAC:** 24, **Europe and North America:** 19, **Central and Eastern Europe:** 17

A total of [566 events were registered from 134 countries](#) (including 34 countries in Africa) – surpassing last year’s number of celebrations. Traffic to the [World Radio Day website](#) was very strong and higher than the previous year as well – 35,835 visits in Jan.- Feb. 2020, and 17,533 visits on 13 February 2020 alone. The World Radio Day hashtag became a global trending topic on Twitter.

Online visibility was also unprecedented with the dedicated **WRD2020 communication tools** that **have reached more than 1.3 million people** on UNESCO social media platforms. WRD2020 official videos attracted a total of 90,575 views, which is a very high number by UNESCO standards.

To celebrate the diversity not only of radio but also the richness of our cultures, the WRD2020 slogan “We Are Diversity; We are Radio” was translated into 51 languages including Aymara, Fulani, Japanese and indigenous languages from Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America.

The success of the Day was helped by significant contributions from UNESCO Field Offices, with at least **31 (12 in Africa)** offices organizing events or celebrations. The striking results and visibility demonstrate that UNESCO has succeeded in having WRD earn its place as a widely recognised and celebrated International Day.



OUTPUT 2

STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES OF MEDIA DECISION-MAKERS, PRACTITIONERS AND CIVIL-SOCIETY GROUPS TO SUPPORT SDG 5 THROUGH IMPROVED GENDER AND YOUTH REPRESENTATION AND PORTRAYALS IN MEDIA

This output area was newly created in late 2020 with the aim to address the increased need for gender equality in editorial content.

In the field of gender equality in and through the media, a revision of UNESCO's GSIM (Gender Sensitive Indicators for Media) was launched at the end of 2020. The revision's aim is to remove, update or modify indicators that are not relevant or effective, and to improve indicators that work well or propose new ones, particularly by taking into account the digital evolution of the media (transition to digital of traditional media, social media) as well as the evolution of gender equality since 2012 by integrating violence against women and girls, LGBTI rights, intersectionality, gender identities and representations of men in media.

CI/MID has also increased the impact of its handbook "[Reporting on Violence against Women and Girls: a Handbook for Journalists](#)" by translating and publishing it into Arabic (December 2020) and Spanish (mid 2021).

OUTPUT 3

MEMBER STATES AND MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS' CAPACITIES STRENGTHENED FOR CRISIS PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE AND SUPPORTING SDG 13 AND SDG16.



This output area was also newly created in late 2020 and will only generate impact in 2021. It has been designed to tailor and deliver action on the background of increased demand from Member States for support to media in the field of Crisis Preparedness and Response. In the field of terrorism, UNESCO has launched a revision of its guide "[Media and Terrorism - A Handbook for Journalists](#)" by integrating new forms of terrorism linked to extreme right-wing movements, including supremacist, racist and anti-feminist movements, as well as taking into account the role of new media and social networks in the organization of terrorist movements.

OUTPUT 4

MEMBER STATES CAPACITY OF MIL ENHANCED TO CRITICALLY ASSESS AND USE MEDIA, INCLUDING SOCIAL MEDIA, AND SUPPORTING SDG4 AND SDG17

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:



MIL Week:
over 320 events in

76

countries



480

Professionals with
advanced knowledge of
MIL policy best practices
in 6 Member States



390

Teachers/educators with
improved capacities to
adapt and apply MIL



73

Youth Organizations
empowered to integrate MIL
in their operations, and 150
youth leaders trained



4 synergetic
collaborations among

110

stakeholders'
organizations

The diffusion of Media and Information Literacy (MIL) in targeted countries has advanced significantly during the reporting period, with milestone achievements in developing national MIL policies and strategies. Policymakers raised their awareness and acquired new knowledge on MIL through a series of national consultations on MIL policies and strategies.

In **Myanmar**, the process led to the formal establishment of a national committee to promote MIL within the Ministry of Information. The Committee for the Promotion of MIL is mandated with the implementation of various initiatives to foster a media and information literate society through national media, libraries, and community centers. In the last quarter of 2020, the Ministry of Information of Myanmar started developing its MIL Action Plan for 2021-2022. The capacities of 34 government officials from 17 ministries were strengthened on MIL through a webinar organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in November 2020. Besides, MIL has been integrated in the 4-year Education Degree College Curriculum of Myanmar. These initiatives are uncertain given subsequent political developments in the country.

In **Mongolia**, a national MIL policy and strategy was formulated and adopted by stakeholders from governmental and non-governmental sectors. The draft policy and strategy document was submitted to all members of the Mongolian Parliament's Standing Committee for Education, Culture, and Science. In 2020, a steering committee within the Mongolian government was established for developing and implementing the systematic national policy adopted in 2019 to ensure collaboration of all stakeholders, with members representing governmental and non-governmental sectors, including ministries, educational and teacher training institutions, as well as NGOs and CSOs.

The first national MIL Policy and strategy document for **Kenya** has been prepared and validated through a national stakeholders' conference. In 2020, the technical capacities of 19 Kenyan legislators (Members of Parliament and Senators from the Parliamentary Committee on ICTs) and religious leaders, alongside 60 media professionals, practitioners, and regulators, were strengthened on MIL to ensure advocacy and lobbying by the legislators for the development of a National MIL Policy for Kenya.

In **Nigeria**, 22 institutions from across the six geopolitical zones of the country have piloted the localized MIL curriculum, and the National Commission of Colleges of Education decided to introduce MIL as a compulsory general. In 2020, 104 Master trainers from 80 Colleges of Education across Nigeria were trained on the effective use of the MIL curriculum in schools. The vital need to mainstream MIL curriculum into the school system through the Nigeria Educational Resource Development Council was agreed upon by 10 Nigerian institutions.

In **Palestine**, the first MIL Policy Paper in Palestine was produced and will be introduced in the development of a national policy on MIL.

UNESCO continued to reinforce dialogue among duty bearers and rights holders to enable change. In **Nigeria**, the MIL Coalition has been revitalized to facilitate coordination of MIL activities and promote synergies between policymakers and civil society actors. The three national consultations on MIL policies and strategies in **Kenya, Mongolia, and Myanmar** enabled dialogue between rights holders and duty bearers, thus reflecting various stakeholder groups' perspectives. UNESCO also supported cooperation across multiple Ministries of Government to ensure a more integrated approach and sustainable development of MIL in **Palestine**.

The capacities of young people and youth organizations on MIL were enhanced throughout 2020. In **Kenya**, 70 young persons from 36 youth organizations in 16 counties acquired skills to integrate MIL in their institutional operations and policies. In **Palestine**, 40 young Palestinians from 5 universities (3 in the West Bank and 2 in Gaza) were trained to become MIL multipliers and trainers, which will ultimately raise awareness of at least 300 media students inside these universities on MIL.



Total of **481** professionals trained

Myanmar	200
Mongolia	113
Palestine	68
Kenya	60
Nigeria	40



Total of **393** teachers/educators trained

Mongolia	121
Nigeria	104
Myanmar	77
Kenya	46
Tunisia	45

2020

Key figures about Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2020



#GlobalMILWeek



321 events held around the world to commemorate Global MIL Week 2020



73 countries celebrated Global MIL Week



21 events **9** UNESCO field offices organized



6 organizations/individuals recognized and received the UNESCO MIL Alliance Awards 2020



Over **480,000** impressions of content related to Global MIL Week 2020 on UNESCO's social media pages



Over **1 000** people registered for the Global MIL Week online conference, with an average of **250** participants attending each session



144 shortlisted participants from **42** countries participated in the Global MIL Youth Hackathon and **5** winning teams were selected



3 cities/department announced that they were ready to pilot the UNESCO Global MIL Cities Framework: Central Department, Paraguay; Kingston, Jamaica; and Puebla, Mexico



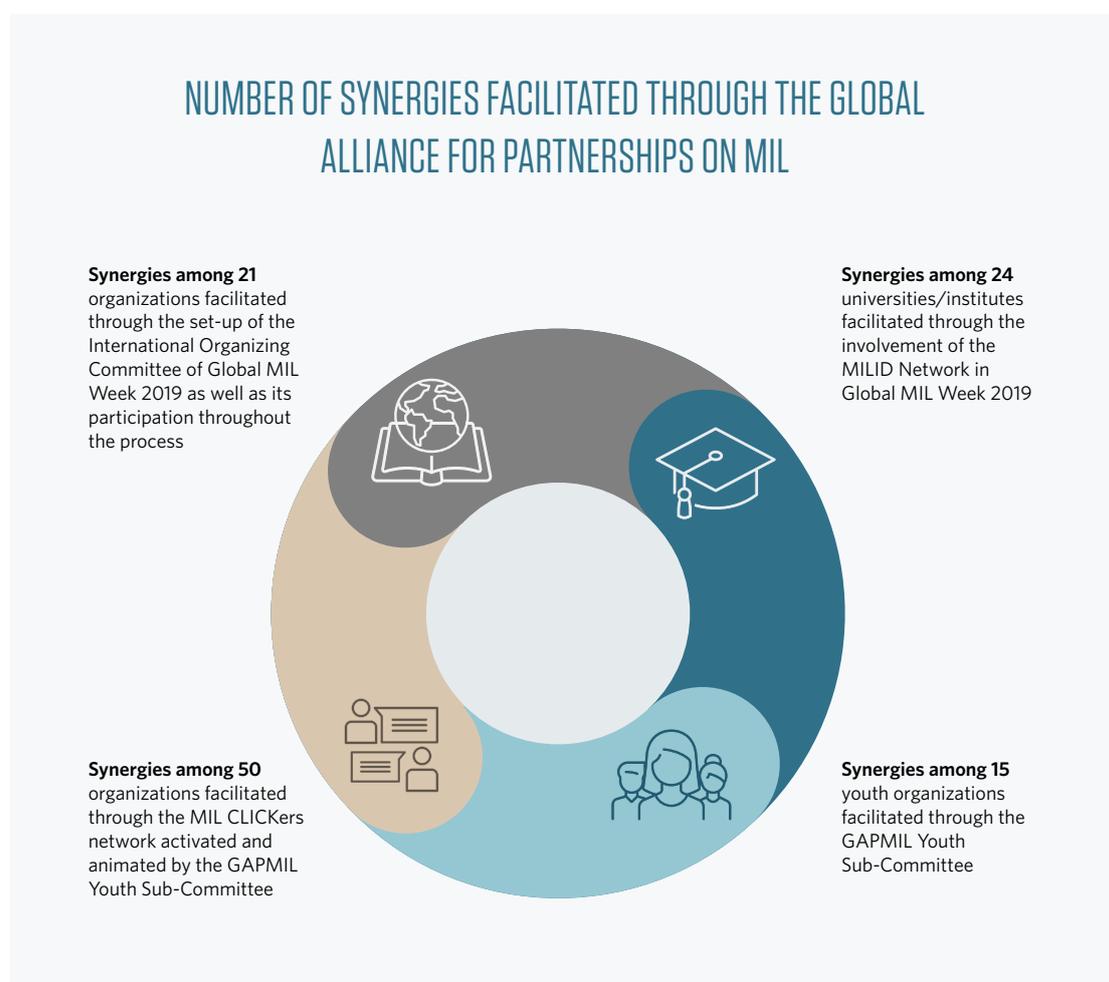
"Over **19,000** visits to the Global MIL Week official website and the Virtual Conference Hall, over **1 000** people registered for the Global MIL Week online conference"



A series of promotional videos by Eric Nam, Korean/American K-pop star who served as a global ambassador for MIL, were liked over **19,000** times, viewed over **137,000** times and shared over **2,380** times

In addition, the **Global Media and Information Literacy Week**, commemorated from 24-31 October 2020, was a major occasion for stakeholders to review and celebrate the progress achieved towards “Media and Information Literacy for All” under the theme ‘Resisting Disinfodemic: Media and Information Literacy for Everyone and by Everyone’. The theme highlighted how society can look to addressing disinformation and divides by recognizing the shared interest in improving everyone’s competencies to engage with the opportunities and risks in today’s landscape of communication, technology, and content. In this way, MIL – along with Global Citizenship Education – can aid progress towards the SDGs by equipping citizens with the knowledge, skills, values and practices to be engaged as critical-thinking citizens in societies. These competencies can empower citizens for involvement in media development, access to information and knowledge for all, and freedom of expression, which all have implications on how the struggle against disinformation can be pursued.

It was celebrated with 321 events in 73 countries, generating more than 480.000 impressions of MIL related content on UNESCO’s social media pages.





A reporter is interviewing a medical staff inside a hospital following all guidelines and sanitary measures.

3 COVID-19 RESPONSE

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Global MOOC for journalists available in 6 languages – 9,000 attendees from over 160 countries
- Launch of two global campaigns, “FACTS” and “Next Normal”
- Co-financing of EU projects “Building Trust in Media in South East Europe and Turkey” and “#CoronavirusFacts”
- Publication of guidelines for judicial operators on protecting FOE in times of COVID-19
- Capacity-building at global level, in Eastern Africa and in 7 countries
- Publication of resources globally, regionally in South East Europe and Turkey, Eastern Africa and Africa, as well as in 6 countries
- Launch of two WTR issue briefs on “Journalism, press freedom and COVID-19” and “The right to information in times of crisis”
- Radio spots produced and broadcasted in over 12 languages
- Over 50 MIL and COVID-19 webinars held with partners of the MIL Alliance

The COVID-19 outbreak is a global public health crisis with multiple ramifications that resonate deeply with UNESCO's mission, including that of the Communication and Information Sector (CI). In response to the pandemic and its consequences on all aspects of life and recognizing the key role of the media in addressing this crisis, UNESCO has worked to empower media professionals, by strengthening their capacities, increasing their skills and knowledge, and enhancing their safety to deliver vital, and verified life-saving information to the public.

Through its rapid response, the MDP has supported projects and the production of resources aimed at promoting accurate information as well as countering disinformation on the pandemic, while also empowering citizens to critically process what they read and hear about COVID-19 through Media and Information Literacy. While some of the information below has been noted earlier in this report, their significance to the pandemic makes it relevant to reference them here in order to show how the MDP empowered a wide set of complementary and cross-pollinating activities that together constitute a coherent and comprehensive response to the wide-ranging crisis and its intersections with communications and information issues.

The activities include the setting-up of an [information hub website](#) in order to promote CI materials and initiatives, to share resources on how to tackle disinformation, and to promote good practices. It also includes the coordination of all the CI Sector's communication initiatives on COVID-19 with UNESCO's Department of Public Information and partners. In parallel, a dedicated [Resource Center for Responses to COVID-19](#) to support media, enhance access to information, and leverage digital technologies in the fight against the pandemic was set up in 7 languages with joint funds from the MDP, the Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and the European Union. Core resources continue to be added to this online platform.

In terms of awareness-raising, the MDP supported two initiatives at global level around World Press Freedom Day. On 4 May, an [online high-level dialogue](#) brought together high-level participants such as the UNESCO Director-General, the United Nations Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and renowned journalists to discuss the issues of press freedom and disinformation within the context of the COVID-19 crisis. A global awareness-raising campaign titled "[FACTS](#)" and developed in collaboration with creative agency DDB was also launched around World Press Freedom Day. This campaign, which highlighted the importance of independent and fact-based media to counter the spread of disinformation, was widely relayed on social media and in print in several major media outlets. (For more details about these initiatives, see Section 2 of this report).

Within the framework of the World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development series, as discussed above, UNESCO published two issue briefs entitled "[Journalism, press freedom and COVID-19](#)" and "[The right to information in times of crisis: access to information – saving lives, building trust, bringing hope!](#)", examining both the challenges to and importance of these two fundamental freedoms in the current context of the pandemic.

UNESCO also published two policy briefs entitled "[Disinfodemic: deciphering COVID-19 disinformation](#)" and "[Disinfodemic: dissecting responses to COVID-19 disinformation](#)", which offer critical insight into the fast-growing COVID-19 related disinformation that is impeding access to trustworthy sources and reliable information.

Through its co-financing of a European Union project entitled "Building Trust in Media in South East Europe and Turkey", the MDP supported a study titled "[The critical role of press and media councils in times of COVID-19](#)", as well as the production of "[Guidelines for inclusive media reporting on COVID-19](#)". Most notably, this co-financing modality was instrumental in mobilizing new funds from the European Union to address the COVID-19 pandemic through another project titled

"#CoronavirusFacts: Addressing the 'Disinfodemic' on Covid-19 in conflict-prone environments", which allowed for synergies and cost-sharing at the global level, but also in some field offices such as Baghdad and Addis Ababa. The MDP also co-financed the contracting of a consultant to implement this project from HQ.

Another notable achievement was the contribution of the MDP to a [MOOC for journalists facing the COVID-19 pandemic](#) through organizational assistance and fundraising. The MOOC was thus co-organized by UNESCO with the UNESCO Chair in Communication at the Knight Center for Journalism at University of Texas, in collaboration with WHO and UNDP, and with additional funding from the European Union. The course is designed to equip media professionals with adequate knowledge and safety measures to exercise their role for accurate and professional reporting, coupled with detecting and combating disinformation in times of crisis. Initially available as a four-week course in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese (with an additional module for Latin America), the MOOC is now available as a self-paced course and has been translated into Arabic and Russian thanks to additional funds provided by the MDP. Translations into Chinese and Hindi are also underway. It has attracted over 9,000 attendees from over 160 countries so far.

Knowledge sharing and capacity-building efforts for members of the judiciary to face this crisis were conducted in a virtual format, notably through a webinar series on the legal challenges related to freedom of expression in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the support of key partners, including regional human rights courts such as the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), the ECOWAS Court of Justice and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR). This was followed by the [publication of guidelines](#) on the role of judicial actors in the protection and promotion of the rights to freedom of expression, access to information and privacy in relation with COVID-19.

At regional level, UNESCO coordinated virtual sessions in Eastern Africa by including the Kenyan, Ethiopian, Ugandan and Tanzanian Editors Guilds and Forums in hosting webinars on the physical and psychological safety of journalists, media independence, newsroom safety and newsroom innovation in times of COVID-19. Based on these discussions, the Eastern Africa Editors Forum commissioned stories authored by experienced journalists and locally influential media personalities and elaborated a special edition of the Eastern Africa Journalism Review entitled "[Media Pandemics - Seeking Journalistic Answers in Eastern Africa](#)" which provides an assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on media in the region. At continental level in Africa, cost-sharing by the MDP and the European Union allowed for the development of a fact-checking toolkit for African journalists available in English, French, Arabic and Amharic.

Several COVID-19 response projects were also undertaken at national level. In Yemen, where the health depleted system is struggling to contain the outbreak of the virus, and where the proliferation of disinformation is particularly perilous, UNESCO organized a series of capacity-building sessions for journalists together with the Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalists (ARIJ) under the theme "[Strengthening the media response to COVID-19 in Yemen](#)". The trainings consisted of three webinars on 1) safety procedures, mitigating measures and ethics, 2) scientific journalism and scientific vulgarization, and 3) verification tools and Media and Information Literacy. Through this, 44 journalists, among which 20 women, were equipped with the necessary skills to best inform the public, raise awareness about the pandemic and fight against disinformation.

Similar trainings were organized in **Bangladesh, Iraq, Nepal, Palestine** and **South Sudan**. In South Sudan, safety trainings were supplemented by the distribution of safety kits to journalists, the development of media guidelines for COVID-19 reporting as well as the creation of a media desk within the Ministry of Health. In Iraq, close to 900 journalists were trained on safety measures, COVID-19 reporting and

debunking disinformation through cost-sharing between the MDP and the European Union project #CoronavirusFacts. The UNESCO Baghdad Office, as a result of these trainings, also developed and distributed special guidelines on COVID reporting and disinformation. Meanwhile, in **Palestine**, the Arabic translation of the UNESCO handbook “Journalism, ‘Fake News’ and Disinformation: A Handbook for Journalism Education and Training” was launched, and an assortment of resources for Palestinian journalists covering the pandemic were developed together with the Media Development Center (MADA) and the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate.



“Similar to mainstream media, Community Radio is also playing a very important role in disseminating different awareness-raising messages and life-saving information to the communities, especially to the remote ones.”

Ms. Anna Minj, Director, Community Empowerment Integrated Development Programme, BRAC & Bangladesh Community Radio Association (BCRA)

In **Myanmar**, efforts to respond to the COVID-19 crisis within the framework of the MDP mostly focused on the psychosocial safety of journalists, and on providing them with the knowledge and skills to best preserve their mental health. 49 journalists covering the pandemic were successfully trained in the field of psychosocial support, and UNESCO developed a resource entitled “[Guidelines for Journalists Covering COVID-19: Professional Standards and Tips for Physical and Psychological Well-Being](#)”. The Guidelines are available online and will be published in early 2021 along with an additional resource entitled “Psychosocial Support Guidelines for Journalists”.

In **Tunisia**, an awareness-raising campaign targeted at journalists regarding safety measures to adopt within the context of the pandemic was elaborated and disseminated in cooperation with the Union of Tunisian Journalists (Syndicat National des Journalistes Tunisiens – SNJT). Meanwhile, in neighbouring **Morocco**, efforts focused on helping information officers in answering civil society’s concerns regarding the right to access information through the development of an easy-to-follow guide, elaborated in collaboration with the Moroccan Ministry of Economy, Finance and Public Administration and CSOs.

Radio stations were mobilised to counter disinformation on COVID-19, for which professional radios spots were produced and widely diffused on air in over 12 languages, including African languages such as Fulfulde, Haoussa, Mandingue, Peul, and Swahili, among others. Pre-rolls for social media and TV clips were also produced. Concerning Media and Information Literacy resources, UNESCO developed as well visuals, graphics and social media elements, including MIL and Parenting, Distinguishing Facts from Opinion, Information Overload, Quality Journalism and other topics helping people to assess information during the pandemics. Besides, over 50 MIL and COVID webinars were held together with partners of the MIL Alliance.



Female police officer participating in the training for female journalists safety in Iraq

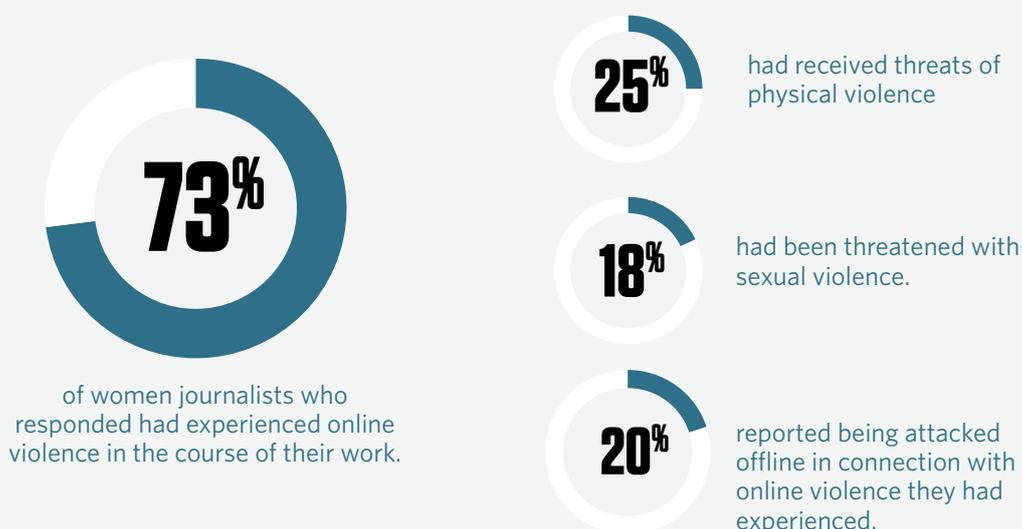
4 CONTRIBUTION TO PRIORITY GENDER EQUALITY

By establishing Gender Equality as one of its two global priorities, UNESCO has reinforced its commitment to the promotion of equality between men and women across the Organization's mandate. In line with UNESCO's Gender Equality Action Plan for 2014-2021 and with Sustainable Development Goal 5 (empowerment of women and girls), gender equality is streamlined through all of the MDP's actions and represents both a fundamental element to advance sustainable development and an end in itself. Efforts implemented within the MDP have thus been conceived to be gender equality relevant. This is by corresponding to one of three approaches distinguished by UNESCO: gender sensitive, by identifying and acknowledging gender differences and inequalities; gender responsive, by identifying aforementioned disparities and articulating policies and initiatives to address them; as well as gender transformative, by implementing actions that challenge discriminatory policies and practices. In all this, the actions supported by MDP are also adjusted to the specific national or regional context in which they are carried out. Some of the information below has been noted earlier in this report, but is reflected here for the purposes of illustrating relevance to this thematic priority.

A major specific intervention built on the 2019 launch, by UNESCO and the International Center for Journalists, of a comprehensive study on online violence against women journalists and on best practices to counter it. This was co-financed by the MDP. Despite having to be extended due to difficulties in conducting field research because of COVID-19 restrictions, this study made considerable progress in 2020. Within its framework, a global survey was launched in 7 languages (French, English, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Chinese and Portuguese) in the fall of 2020 and was conducted with 900 validated respondents. Its findings were presented during the 2020 World Press Freedom Conference and showed, for instance, that 73% of women respondents reported having experienced online harassment in the course of their work, and 20% of them said they had been abused and attacked offline in connection with online violence targeting them.

This survey feeds into the global study which has two main aims: assessing the scope and impact of the problem of online harassment around the world and developing concrete recommendations to all stakeholder groups on how to combat online violence. This global study, characterized by a gender-transformative approach, aims, through combatting online violence, at strengthening the participation of women journalists and media workers in public discourse. Upon its publication, in 2021, the study will also contribute to reinforcing UNESCO's position as a leading institution in fighting online gender-based violence and attacks against freedom of expression.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE GLOBAL SURVEY ON ONLINE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN JOURNALISTS



The regional project “Enhancing a gender responsive film sector in the South Mediterranean Region”, which was launched in 2017 within the **Maghreb-Mashreq** region, continued into 2020 and was concluded at the end of the year. This project was co-funded by the European Union and UNESCO through the MDP, and carried out by the UNESCO Rabat Office in synergy with UN Women, Mena Media Monitoring and the Salé Film Festival in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. This project focused on gender within artistic freedom and freedom of expression. It aimed, through a holistic approach, to enhance gender equality in the film industry, encourage filmmakers to address gender equality and women empowerment through film, tackle gender stereotypes as well as promote the role of women film professionals.

In three years, this project led to considerable achievements such as the production of the first study in the region presenting the results of a monitoring exercise of gender equality in Arabic films and film industry; the creation of an [online directory](#) of women film professionals and an advocacy campaign for the promotion of gender equality; the launch of a process of sensitization of national public entities, supporting film development and gender sensitive creative industries in the Maghreb-Mashreq region; the establishment of “[SISTERS IN FILMS](#)”, a support programme/network for the exchange of expertise, personal development, and solidarity among women professionals; the launch of the Call of Salé on gender equality in the media; capacity building for women film professionals and producers and creation of an anthology film entitled “Chronicles of Her”; support for film and audiovisual schools and the organization of film screening series targeting youth and women; and, finally, the strengthening of the participation of women film professionals in the Maghreb-Mashreq region in festivals through the “Her Films” programme and through networking at the regional level. The project reinforced the capacities of local CSOs and of more than 200 community actors in monitoring and advocating for gender equality, as well as enabled the listing of more than 190 women film professionals from the region in the “Arab Women in Film” directory.

RESULTS OF THE MEDFILM PROJECT:

- Launch of the Call of Salé in 2019
- 7 implementation partnerships signed with CSOs from each beneficiary country
- Creation of the “Arab Women in Film” online directory, with more than 190 professionals listed
- Advocacy campaign for the promotion of gender equality within the film industry reached over 2 million people
- 8 women filmmakers benefitted from the SISTERS IN FILM support programme
- 240 film professionals, among which 80 women, worked on the “Chronicles of Her” anthology film
- The “Her Films” programme enabled 30 women film professionals to take part in festivals and conferences in the region
- Capacities of local CSOs and of more than 200 community actors reinforced on monitoring and advocating for gender equality

With support from MDP, in Iraq, where the safety of journalists is of particular concern, the creation of a reporting mechanism for threats, harassment and attacks against women journalists has been initiated. This mechanism, which will take the form of a telephone helpline, will be operated by women police officers who will have been trained to handle these kinds of incidents. In a country where women journalists seldom dare file formal complaints or seek legal and psychological support due to taboos, the creation of such a mechanism, which is expected to be completed in early 2021, represents a highly significant step in addressing violence against women journalists.

A gender-sensitive approach was adopted in the development of an Action Plan for the safety of journalists in **Syria**, where UNESCO officers made sure to include actions specifically focused on the safety of women journalists as well as gender-specific indicators for evaluation and monitoring of the plan. As part of **Palestine's** COVID-19 response, a series of capacity-development workshops reinforced gender-sensitive coverage in relation to the pandemic. In **Myanmar**, dialogues facilitated by UNESCO between the Myanmar and Indonesian Press Councils focused, in addition to media law reform and the safety of journalists, on the role played and challenges faced by women journalists. In Pakistan, policy advice and advocacy activities regarding cybercrime laws focused on the online violence against women journalists.

The empowerment of networks of women in media was an area of focus under the reporting period in **South Sudan**. Throughout 2020, UNESCO continued to support and engage with the Female Journalists Network of South Sudan to improve women leadership, management and representation in the media sector. For instance, through UNESCO's support, the Female Journalists Network successfully took the lead in organizing national media events in commemoration of the 2020 International Day to End Impunity for crimes committed Against Journalists. In addition, women journalists have been trained on gender responsive reporting to improve the outlook of women representation in the South Sudan Media through this network, and 35 women journalists were trained on digital and physical safety.

Furthermore, in order to ensure that the needs of women journalists are met and their voices are represented, UNESCO continued to directly engage the Female Network Representatives during the planning and implementation of its projects. Emphasis was thus placed on 50/50 gender balance for the selection of participants to participate in capacity building or advocacy initiatives. This approach has ensured gender equality and representation in UNESCO programming and delivery.

In **Yemen**, where UNESCO organized a series of webinars under the theme "Strengthening the media response to COVID-19 in Yemen", officers ensured that half of participants were women. Similarly, in **Sudan**, where UNESCO held capacity-building sessions on preventing violent extremism and hate speech as well as on disinformation, women journalists represented respectively 58% and 56% of participants. Furthermore, special attention was given to women's voices throughout the project implementation in Sudan: out of 15 contracted consultants, 6 were women (40%), and the implementing team made certain that women represented at least one third of participants in the media reform workshops.

In **Latin America and the Caribbean**, celebrations of World Press Freedom Day provided an opportunity to raise awareness about violence against women journalists and its impact on freedom of the press in the region through a webinar organized together with the Fundación Para La Libertad de Prensa (FLIP), and featuring Jineth Bedoya, laureate of the 2020 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize and activist against gendered violence. The issue of violence against women was also raised through an online capacity-building programme for journalists entitled "Diploma for Journalists on Human Rights, which was created in collaboration with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and other partners, and which featured a module entitled "Violence against Women: A View from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights". In like manner, UNESCO Islamabad officers availed

themselves of celebrations of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists in Pakistan to raise awareness among participating stakeholders on the issues faced by women journalists and the online violence they face.

Additionally, Gender Equality has been integrated into UNESCO's support activities for community media and Media and Information Literacy as a cross-cutting feature in all countries. This means that not only gender balance during activities will be safeguarded, but that the gender perspectives dovetails into the design of the activities. To stress the relevance of gender, an extra output area 2 has been integrated into Outcome 2 which will generate results in 2021. However, gender perspectives have been integrated into community media support activities on the national level. For instance, in Bangladesh, during the round-table discussions with community media stakeholders organized at the occasion of World Radio Day (February 2020) as well as during the Re:Connect **Bangladesh** Stakeholder Meeting (October 2020), important aspects of gender equality, gender mainstreaming as well as gender and journalism, including challenges faced by women reporters, were discussed. Aspects of gender inclusiveness and the need to produce tailored content that supports the mainstreaming of gender roles in society were also expressed. Participating stakeholders highlighted that community radio stations in Bangladesh make a substantial contribution to narrowing the skills gap between men and female women by inviting women to their programmes to share experience, and broadcasting health-related programmes as well as by providing healthcare support targeted at women listeners. In fight of sexual harassment, community radio stations reported on their work pressing local police to take effective actions as well as in providing a help desk for young women to seek assistance and/or relevant information related to sexual violence and harassment.

In **Mongolia**, the localized version of the MIL curriculum was used as a central reference point for all the capacity-building workshops, which has integrated critical thinking skills regarding content that promotes gender stereotypes in the media.



Interview at Bush Radio

5 CONTRIBUTION TO PRIORITY AFRICA

The adoption by UNESCO of its Global Priority Africa intends to respond to Africa's current development challenges and represents a commitment by the Organization to support African States, the African Union as well as regional communities in releasing the continent's full potential and achieving its priorities. In line with UNESCO's medium-term goals set for 2014-2021, the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, actions implemented by the MDP across the African continent have focused on raising awareness and strengthening the capacities of rights holders, including journalists and media workers. A second area of focus is developing the capacities of duty bearers and strengthening advocacy on the importance of safeguarding freedom of expression and access to information in order to ensure rule of law, good governance and transparency. Certain information presented below has been referenced earlier, and is cited here in order to present a comprehensive overview of MDP's impact on Priority Africa in particular.

At continental level, UNESCO gave impetus for the creation of a digital platform on the safety of journalists in Africa, which serves as a monitoring, reporting and follow-up mechanism which includes all 55 African Union Member States. The process of creating this platform involved numerous African media stakeholders, from its steering committee (which gathered African stakeholders such as the African Editors Forum (TAEF), the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ), The Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and UNESCO Addis Ababa Liaison Office to the AU and UNECA) to its implementing partners, and represents the first time four AU bodies (namely the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa at the African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights (ACPHR), the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), the African Governance Architecture (AGA), and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)) have come together to support the safety of journalists on the African continent.

The creation of this platform, which was carried out within the framework of the amended Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa (2019) represents a considerable achievement in the fight against impunity for crimes committed against journalists, and comes to strengthen both the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity and of the mandate of the ACHPR Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa.

At sub-regional level, UNESCO coordinated with the Eastern Africa Editors Forum a series of webinars and capacity-development sessions for journalists which culminated into the elaboration of a special edition of the Eastern Africa Journalism Review entitled "[Media Pandemics - Seeking Journalistic Answers in Eastern Africa](#)" which provides an assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on media in the region.

In 2020, the MDP added **Burundi** to its target countries under Outcome 1 and co-financed a monitoring project on media coverage of hate speech during the country's three electoral cycles. In a country where political polarization and tensions have heightened since the 2015 political crisis, this project allowed UNESCO's implementing partner, the Panos Institute Great Lakes (Institut Panos Grands Lacs (IPGL)) to evaluate levels of hate speech, diversity of information, balance and allocation of media space between various political candidates, and produce recommendations to Burundian media based on its findings.

Building on actions launched in November 2019 to support **Sudan's** post-revolutionary transition through policy advice, UNESCO continued throughout 2020 its consultations of local media stakeholders and assessment of Sudan's media landscape, in anticipation of the development of a Media Reform Roadmap. This Roadmap, which was finalized in the summer, was well received by Sudanese media stakeholders, and was approved by the Sudanese Minister of Culture and Information

in September 2020. The way ahead is now clear, and UNESCO will continue to work closely with Sudanese authorities and civil society to reform 6 laws relative to freedom of expression, media freedom and access to information. Likewise, as part of **Ethiopia's** democratic transition, UNESCO sustained policy advice activities and assisted the country's Justice and Legal Affairs Advisory Council in revising two draft laws on access to information and cybercrimes to ensure their compliance with international norms and standards. In **Tunisia**, dialogue and advocacy efforts about the alignment of media laws with international standards were maintained throughout the year.

In similar fashion, UNESCO expanded on past achievements in strengthening the capacities of the **South Sudan** Access to Information Commission and assisted the Commission in developing simplified regulations as well as 11 forms which will facilitate easy access and requests for information by the public from the government and private institutions. The simplified regulations will be launched in 2021. In addition, UNESCO provided support to South Sudanese authorities to improve its legislative and institutional frameworks related to freedom of expression online and offline, most notably through the development of the country's first ever draft Data Protection Bill, in partnership with the National Communications Authority and the ICT for Development Network.

The MDP continued to support the sustainability of community media in Burundi, South Sudan, Gambia and Tunisia through policy dialogue and capacity building for them and their networks, with the aim of improving the relevant governing framework and hence, contributing to diversity and pluralism. In the **Gambia**, the draft policy for community radio sustainability is now discussed with the Ministry of Information. The same applies to the other countries mentioned above. Trained media professionals are paramount to ensure an ethical, independent and pluralistic media landscape. To this end, the MDP through dedicated and tailored workshops and seminars has enhanced the capacity of almost 50 community radio stations, and five networks of media professionals in Burundi, Gambia, South Sudan and Tunisia.

Three of the seven target countries for MIL actions in the MDP are in Africa. UNESCO has been supporting the development of national MIL policies and strategies in the **Gambia, Kenya, and Nigeria**. The first national MIL Policy and strategy document for **Kenya** has been prepared and validated through a national stakeholders' conference. In **Nigeria**, 22 institutions from across the six geopolitical zones of the country have piloted the localized MIL curriculum, and the National Commission of Colleges of Education decided to introduce MIL as a compulsory general. Additionally, the MIL Coalition has been revitalized to facilitate coordination of MIL activities and promote synergies between policymakers and civil society actors. The national consultation on MIL policies and strategies in Kenya enabled dialogue between rights holders and duty bearers, thus reflecting various stakeholder groups' perspectives.

The capacities of young people and youth organizations have enhanced on MIL. In **Kenya**, 36 youth organizations in 16 counties of Kenya acquired skills to integrate MIL in their institutional operations and policies. Stakeholders in Africa have been more actively engaged in advocating for MIL. The celebration of **Global MIL Week 2020 was reverberated in 8 African countries with more than 25 national and local events**.

More information regarding actions carried out in Africa can be found in regional and country pages.



View of destroyed buildings as the inspection of the scene continues after a fire at a warehouse with explosives at the Port of Beirut

6 CHALLENGES AND RISKS IN IMPLEMENTATION, REMEDIAL ACTIONS AND LESSONS LEARNT

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic around the world caused significant challenges and delays in the implementation of activities in a number of countries. In many of them, UNESCO officers had to reorganize their workplans and reschedule activities, with some having to be moved to 2021. For example, the development of a toolkit for the judiciary in Asia and the Pacific had to be postponed to 2021 and will instead be replaced by the development of a global toolkit along with a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC). It was likewise imperative to postpone the roll out and piloting of the “Elections & Internet, Social Messaging and AI – A Practical Guide for Electoral Practitioners” to 2021, as more than 50 elections around the world were postponed because of the pandemic. In all cases, a big part of the budget, whether saved due to substituting physical events with online versions, or from postponed activities, was allocated to new activities or additional components to existing ones, to respond to needs around Covid-19. A small budget was also transferred to 2021, enabling UNESCO field officers to quickly resume their activities at the beginning of the following year until their new envelopes were allocated.

In the face of these challenges, UNESCO officers adapted their activities to be held remotely/online, modified their workplans to include COVID-related components in already planned activities or organized new ad hoc ones to respond to the health crisis. For instance, UNESCO organized a series of webinars on the legal challenges to freedom of expression in relation with the COVID-19 pandemic, and developed resources such as policy briefs on COVID-19 and freedom of the media, disinformation, and access to information in times of crisis. In addition, UNESCO officers in countries such as Yemen, Iraq, Palestine and South Sudan organized trainings on COVID-related safety measures, COVID-19 reporting and combatting disinformation.

Nevertheless, unequal access to the internet, recurring connectivity issues and at times limited electricity supply proved strenuous in several countries and posed an additional challenge for some UNESCO officers. Likewise, the low digitization of some stakeholders or beneficiaries brought some activities to a halt, as was for instance the case for the justice and media dialogue in Morocco. Furthermore, the COVID-19 crisis in some cases rerouted and reorganized the internal priorities of some duty bearers, which were as a result less interested in engaging in previously planned activities.

With regards to celebrations of international days, commemorations around the world were reduced in number due to the pandemic which restricted the feasibility of holding in-person events, the uncertain development of the crisis and travel restrictions. This was for instance illustrated by the 2020 World Press Freedom Conference 2020 which was originally planned for 22-24 April 2020 as an onsite event in The Hague, Netherlands. However, due to the pandemic and the resulting travel restrictions and sanitary measures, the Conference was postponed to December 2020 and was held online instead, in a hybrid format merging in-person elements with online participation.

With regards to the Judges Initiative, it was administratively demanding to establish partnerships with the two associations of prosecutors and to ensure strong visibility of said partnerships using online resources. Further, inviting the participation of judges and legal professionals for the webinar series on legal challenges to COVID-19 proved to be challenging due to the fatigue caused by a large number of online events.

Overall, the inherent flexibility of the MDP enabled it and its implementing team to rise to meet the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic and to swiftly organize a response to the crisis at global, regional and national levels, through dedicated activities mainly supporting the safety of journalists in the field, access to information, and countering disinformation.

At national level, UNESCO officers in Lebanon faced a singular set of challenges as the country was hit by two major crises, namely the spread of COVID-19 and the Beirut port explosions, adding to an already complex situation of political unrest and economic strain. Actions therefore had to be immediately redirected to answer emerging needs in terms of the safety of journalists, freedom of expression, access to reliable information and the fight against COVID-19-related disinformation. Efforts also focused on providing assistance to communities affected by the blast through an inter-agency initiative led by UNESCO within the framework of the LiBeirut taskforce, and to assist journalists affected by the disaster through an emergency Media Recovery Fund.

Beyond the COVID-19 crisis, a certain number of pre-existing challenges persisted. For instance, as in previous years, political instability and frequent changes in government complicated the implementation of activities in countries like Iraq. The situation in Yemen and Syria has not been less complicated. In Afghanistan, the highly precarious security situation and incidents of targeted violence continued to represent a high factor of risk. In countries such as Palestine and Myanmar, a lack of political will, and at times a certain reluctance, persisted in stalling reform processes.

Furthermore, the context of the pandemic highlighted the relevance of supporting community media to communicate with their audiences and to deliver reliable information. In the framework of the available programme budget, it has been a challenge to appropriately respond to the increased requests for support from community media in other Member States, especially in Africa.

More information about country-specific challenges, remedial action and lessons learnt can be found in the country and regional summaries under section 10.

In times of crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, facts are vital. Disinformation spreads as fast as the virus itself and journalists are on the frontline in the fight against the distortion of truth. All over the world, reporters do their best to uncover facts and evidence, helping us understand the world we live in, the crisis we're going through and the future that awaits us. Today, we can pay tribute to them by reminding everyone that in times of crisis and disinformation, more than ever, we need a free press.

nurses, 
doctors 
and
facts 
are life
savers.

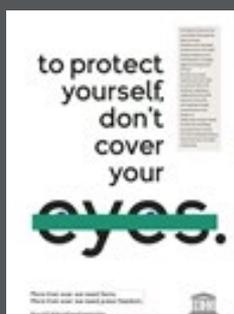
7 VISIBILITY



Visibility is key to the MDP's activities and in particular awareness-raising and agenda-setting. A number of these activities and achievements have been mentioned earlier in this report, and are referenced again here as part of a comprehensive portrayal of how the MDP was able to achieve prominence.

The MDP [webpage](#) was constantly updated to support the outreach and visibility of the Programme's priorities and impact, on the global, regional and national levels through the efforts of the MDP's Communications Officer. This includes the publication of country [factsheets](#) as well as [video](#) testimonies from the field on the impact of the MDP's work. Additionally, news items and feature stories were produced to highlight major events and achievements and share resources and publications with partners and beneficiaries. Furthermore, visibility was reinforced through a number of awareness raising initiatives and advocacy campaigns along the year.

The global "FACTS" media campaign, which was developed by the Paris-based creative agency DDB and UNESCO with the aim of giving prominence to fact-based journalism in combating the COVID-19 pandemic and disinformation, was shared by over 100 media outlets, among which major outlets such as The New York Times, The Guardian, The Washington Post, Rappler, France Médias Monde, Inter Press Service, PRISA and Aristegui Noticias. In addition, 1,445 articles mentioning World Press Freedom Day were published around the world in the 6 official UN languages. Three million mentions of the hashtag were recorded around the Day, and over 2 billion impressions were recorded of the hashtag [#WorldPressFreedomDay](#). In addition, 1,445 articles mentioning World Press Freedom Day were published around the world in the 6 official UN languages. [#PressFreedom](#) were recorded around the Day, and over 2 billion impressions were recorded of the hashtag [#WorldPressFreedomDay](#). In addition, 1,445 articles mentioning World Press Freedom Day were published around the world in the 6 official UN languages.



FACTS CAMPAIGN

- **+100** media outlets shared the campaign
- **74k** views for the High-level Dialogue
- **1,445** articles published mentioning World Press Freedom Day



The High-level dialogue which was held on 4 May to discuss press freedom in times of the COVID-19 pandemic, and which gathered high-level participants such as the UN Secretary General, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs and prominent journalists such as Maria Ressa and Jorge Ramos had received 43k views on Facebook and 37k views on Twitter, generating respectively 17k and 339k impressions, as of 14 May 2020.

In addition, UNESCO and Twitter joined forces by launching the #ThankAJournalist hashtag campaign to acknowledge journalists' role in bringing verified information to the public against the spread of falsehoods about the COVID-19 pandemic. Within the framework of this partnership, Twitter agreed to offer Ads for Good to about 20 international press freedom organizations in order to raise the visibility of their work during WPF. Twitter also continued promoting dedicated emojis for #WorldPressFreedomDay and #PressFreedom.



More than 80 articles were published about the December 2020 World Press Freedom Conference in newspapers and on online news sites, as well as items on radio and TV. These include The Guardian, Rappler, Aristegui Noticias, dozens of Dutch local papers, among others, and an AFP dispatch was disseminated by news aggregators worldwide. An op-ed by Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs Stef Blok was published in Dutch newspaper FD and the Financial Times; and an interview with Hatice Cengiz, Jamal Khashoggi's fiancé who took part in a session about his assassination, was also published by EenVandaag.

After the event, 47 on-demand videos of sessions were published on YouTube, which generated close to 250,000 views as of December 2020. Throughout the World Press Freedom Conference, 1,150 messages about the event were posted from around 650 different accounts on social media. These included messages and retweets from influential journalists and top speakers such as Rana Ayyub, Christiane Amanpour, Maria Ressa, Jineth Bedoya, Larissa Rhodes, Joe Malouf and Aristegui Noticias.

The global study on online violence against women journalists, whose findings were presented during WPF, was mentioned in various prominent media outlets such as Rappler, Deutsche Welle, Al Jazeera, the Independent, the Conversation and El País. It was also the subject of a podcast entitled "We have to stand together against online violence", produced by a participant in the World Press Freedom Conference Youth Newsroom.



WORLD PRESS FREEDOM CONFERENCE

- More than 1,150 messages on social media generating 32.6 million impressions
- Over 80 articles published in newspaper and online media
- 250,000 views for on-demand videos

The IDEI global awareness campaign “Protect the Truth. Protect Journalists” benefited from the support of key media outlets, including Al Jazeera, Forbes, Le Figaro, Yahoo News and France 24. Key actors such as Reporters without Borders; UN Under-Secretary General for Global Communications Melissa Fleming; the Department of State of United States of America; and Julie Posetti (Global Director of Research at the International Center for Journalists) shared UNESCO campaign messages. High-profile personalities, such as renowned journalists Christiane Amanpour, Jorge Ramos, and Rasha Qandeel also retweeted the campaign on their social media accounts.

In a historic first, a [joint statement was issued](#) by Chairs of the Groups of Friends on the Safety of Journalists and members of the Groups of Friends in Paris, New York, Geneva, Vienna (OSCE) and Strasbourg (CoE) on the occasion of IDEI. Official statements were also published by the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and by [High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell and Vice-President Věra Jourová](#), amplifying the messages of the campaign substantially.

Additionally, the visuals and content of the campaign were made available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, and therefore accessible to a wider range of audience and engagement.

KEY FIGURES OF THE PROTECT JOURNALISTS. PROTECT THE TRUTH CAMPAIGN INCLUDE:

- The [English campaign video](#) was the most viewed video ever on UNESCO's Twitter channel.
- Campaign content and messages, through the #EndImpunity and #ProtectJournalists hashtags, received a total of 43K global mentions (media articles & social media posts).
- UNESCO channels - including language and country accounts - posted 350 times.
- UNESCO content directly reached 3M people on its Facebook, Twitter and Instagram channels.
- Campaign video was watched 680K times in English, Spanish and French. The Russian, Chinese and Arabic video had approximately 10K views.
- The #EndImpunity and #ProtectJournalists hashtags generated around 30K engagements on UNESCO's Twitter, Facebook and Instagram channels.



IDEI CAMPAIGN “PROTECT JOURNALISTS. PROTECT THE TRUTH”:

- The English campaign video was the most viewed video ever on UNESCO's Twitter channel.
- 43K global mentions in the media and on social media
- 680k campaign views
- 3 million people reached directly by UNESCO content

Several UNESCO Field Offices created additional awareness-raising and communications materials around celebrations of international Days, as was for instance the case in Myanmar, Pakistan and Latin America, where video messages featuring renowned local stakeholders were disseminated around World Press Freedom Day. The UNESCO Office in Myanmar complemented global awareness-raising materials on COVID-19 by producing resources specifically tailored to Myanmar's context such as infographics presenting tips for journalists covering COVID-19 and key messages on COVID-19 and access to information.

With regards to events, webinars and capacity-building activities that were conducted online or live streamed, many remain available to consult freely online on UNESCO's website as well as on digital platforms such as YouTube.



As in previous years, activities carried out by UNESCO under the MDP garnered extensive local media coverage. For instance, in Sudan, the UNESCO Khartoum Office documented 67 articles on its policy advice activities since the inception of the project in November 2019, and 19 media records for its capacity-building activities conducted throughout 2020. Other initiatives, such as the participation of the Sudanese Minister of Culture and Information in a talk-show dedicated to World Press Freedom Day on 3 May 2020 further contributed to heighten the visibility of UNESCO's work among the local public. Similarly, in Myanmar, where UNESCO enjoys a wide network of partners who contribute to enhancing the visibility of its actions, activities ranging from commemorations of

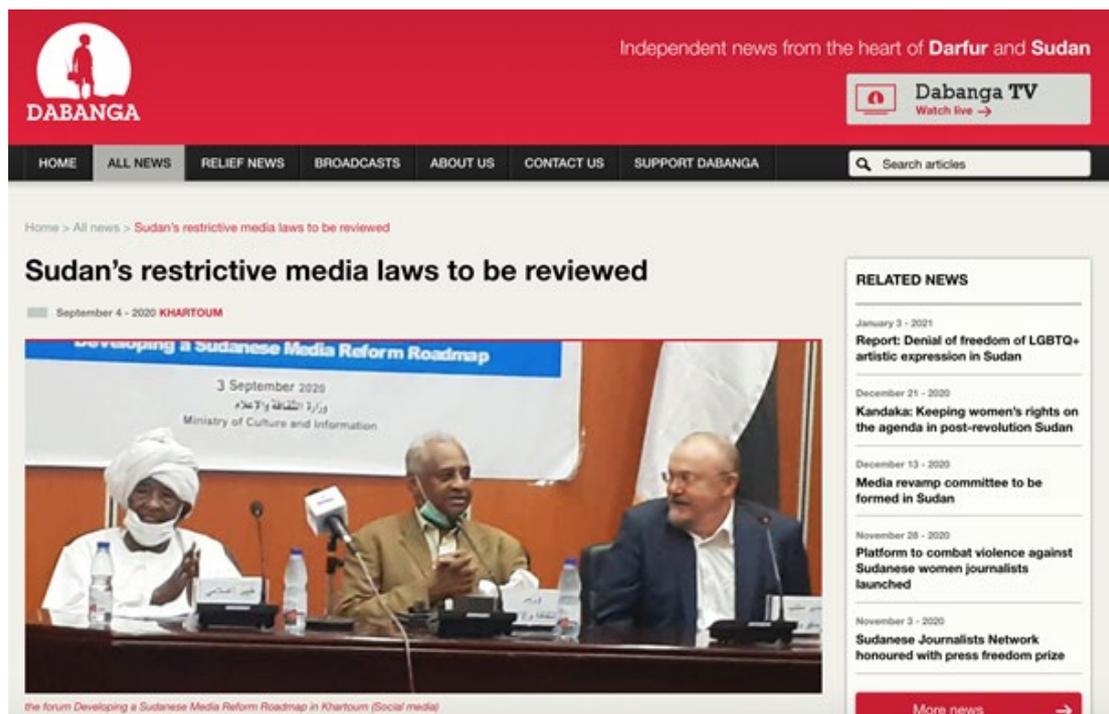
World Press Freedom Day, psychosocial safety trainings for journalists and dialogues on elections received widespread coverage from both state and independent media.



(Myanmar state TV) reportage on the launch of the Psychosocial Safety Guidelines



SUNA (Sudan News Agency) reportage on the signing of an agreement between the Ministry of Information and UNESCO



Dabanga (formerly known as Radio Darfur and owned by Free Press Unlimited) coverage of UNESCO's policy advice activities in Sudan



NOTIMEX (Mexican news agency) reportage on UNESCO’s awareness-raising campaign on COVID-19 disinformation

During 2020, World Radio Day and the Global MIL Week succeeded again in raising awareness and promoting the MDP actions and UNESCO activities due to their significant outreach to the general public. A total of 566 events were registered from 134 countries – surpassing last year’s number of celebrations. Traffic to the World Radio Day website was very strong and higher than last year as well with 35,835 visits in January-February 2020, and 17,533 visits on 13 February 2020 alone. The World Radio Day hashtag became a global trending topic on Twitter. Online visibility was also unprecedented with the dedicated **WRD2020 communication tools that have reached more than 1.3 million people** on UNESCO social media platforms. WRD2020 official videos attracted a total of 90,575 views, which is a very high number by UNESCO standards. To celebrate diversity, not only of radio but also the richness of our cultures, the WRD2020 slogan “We Are Diversity, We are Radio”, was translated in 51 languages including Aymara, Fulani, Japanese and indigenous languages from Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America.

73 Member States celebrated Global MIL Week 2020 with **321 events** (8 Member States in Africa with 19 events). Twitter joined the Global MIL Week as a major partner and launched the Teaching and Learning with Twitter guide jointly with UNESCO. The hashtags #GlobalMIL Week, #ThinkBeforeClicking and #ThinkBeforeSharing were disseminated by Twitter regional offices in 10 languages. In partnership with Cartooning for Peace, UNESCO launched the #GlobalMIL Week social media campaign. The MIL CLICKS learning series “MIL and Artificial Intelligence”, “MIL Parenting”, “MIL and Gender Equality”, and “MIL Footprint” were launched in 2019 within the framework of the MPD, and gained over 150,000 reach on Facebook.

On the country level, project partners and UNESCO offices ensured the visibility of actions by disseminating information about the project to stakeholders and targeted beneficiaries. News articles on planned and implemented interventions were published on UNESCO’s internal newsletters and social media accounts. Partners also shared their activities on their websites and social media platforms and ensured using the MDP logo on all correspondences, banners and publications.

Strengthening Capacities of Media Professionals and Regulators in Kenya on Media and Information Literacy (MIL)

Online Training

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MIL activity announcement in Kenya

Thursday September 3, 2020 | www.businessdailykenya.co.ke

Rolls-Royce self-harms by selling family silver

TURBULENCE
By Denis O'Riordan

Rolls-Royce's plans to buy chunks of the family silver look like self-harm.

Although the £2-billion deal is expected to be approved by the company's shareholders, it will leave the struggling British jet engine maker's lenders, who will be left with a permanent loss, somewhat unenthusiastic. Although flying hours are creeping upwards, the company is expecting 2020 losses to be 30 per cent below 2019 levels. And it could get much worse. Under what the earnings release called a "best case but plausible" scenario of further travel restrictions, Rolls-Royce's "going concern" will be eroded by a further £1 billion. Each time the company looks at the cash to buy back its own shares, it is told by its subsidiary that makes turbofan engines for jet engines, even the Boeing 737, that the wider market for an asset whose operating profit did by more than five times in the last six months is just 10 million pounds. And in terms of corporate governance, losing a major part of jet engine engines sounds very unhelpful.

The alternative to selling assets is selling shares. Current shareholders might balk, especially as the amount needed to buy back the corporate debt is greater than their current market valuation, according to a financial analysis. The UK government, which owned the majority of the former Rolls-Royce from 2011 to 2016, might need to help.

That sort of rescue may not be appealing, especially if it involves a debt restructuring, but selling the family silver only works if you've got something else to eat of.

Ensure safety at work as Covid-19 restrictions ease

HEALTH RISKS
GUIDELINES
By Neesh Bhatnagar

As countries gradually ease Covid-19 restrictions, as part of economic recovery plans, organisations are now faced with the challenge of ensuring that workplaces are safe.

The pandemic has transformed the workplace with many people now working remotely in the spirit of the service. Working from home was unimaginable only a few months ago. However, as the world returns to normal, organisations, many people have returned to work.

With the virus spreading rapidly, people now need to be advised on where they should go to work and how they should go to work. The European Council has developed some of the most comprehensive rules in the region.

Many countries have also adopted their own return-to-work safety and health protocols. The European Council has developed some of the most comprehensive rules in the region.

Covid-19 has evoked fear and uncertainty amongst workers and employers alike. It is important to ensure that workers and employers are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to manage the risk of contracting the virus.

Self-care and adherence to preventive measures by the authorities is paramount in keeping workplaces safe for everyone. Employers can do so much and employees therefore have a personal responsibility to protect themselves and others.

\$2.6BN
AMOUNT

Rolls-Royce to get to collect from Boeing in its payment

Time ripe for adopting media literacy initiatives

Letters

The editor will consider letters on legal matters. Opinions expressed within are not necessarily those of the editor or publisher. They may be edited for clarity, space or legal considerations. Send comments to letters@businessdailykenya.co.ke

It is time to consider the need to provide access to the internet for governments and citizens across the globe to actively provide, seek, acquire and practice media and information literacy skills and competencies in the Covid-19 pandemic has provided the most compelling of reasons.

Since the start of the spreading virus - which has ravaged the globe since December 2019, spreading world-wide in the process - the information pandemic has called attention to the need for media and information literacy skills and competencies in some quarters and conspiracy theories. This has resulted in an unfortunate situation that has complicated the effective management of the virus and an anxious global public that is desperate for factual, reliable and life-saving information.

What's more - a conspiracy has also made it possible to challenge across all sectors in the globe, exposing the soft underbelly of what individuals, countries, industries and companies had previously been used to as their comfort zones.

The so-called "new normal" has put everyone and everything back to "individual default settings", with most individuals and institutions relying on technology. It has also opened the way for conspiracy theories around media and information literacy such as internet connectivity, digital literacy, freedom of expression and information, access to information and on-line child safety, among others.

One of the most affected sectors in the media and information industry is the media and information literacy (MIL) for Quality Journalism. As observed by the media changes provided by digitalisation have created a new mechanism of human life, which has allowed traditionally passive audiences to become active participants in the whole ecology of news and information production, storage, access, retrieval, sharing and dissemination.

Journalists and media are no longer the sole players when it comes to producing and disseminating information.

Added to technology, each person is now able to produce their own content as well as access their own information on-line, which they share with others. This has created a new mechanism of human life, which has allowed traditionally passive audiences to become active participants in the whole ecology of news and information production, storage, access, retrieval, sharing and dissemination.

The shift has led to new voices and legacy media quite hard, and it has threatened journalists' jobs and the stability of media as a whole. However, the media are and will remain key actors in today's world. Therefore, they need to understand the change and develop the capacity to assess and respond to these and other risks and challenges through innovation.

One of the recommended ways is for the media, governments and organisations to embrace in their daily operations. As UNESCO has observed, without language, there is no journalism, without journalism, there is no democracy and development, and without MIL, there is no democratic human communication.

While media and information literacy addresses the application of critical thinking by audiences while consuming news and information, involving the burden of responsibility on the consumer of information and understanding the mechanisms behind the production of information clear and open access is increasingly becoming a new role of the media in this regard.

Quality journalism infused with MIL will lead to citizens' quality participation in public conversation and restore public trust in the legacy media while upholding the cardinal principles of the truth through the media in a world inundated with information and news overload.

To achieve this, media and information skills and competencies need to be enhanced and disseminated equitably among all citizens.

Management, Media, Communications and Public Relations



It is time to consider the need to provide access to the internet for governments and citizens across the globe to actively provide, seek, acquire and practice media and information literacy skills and competencies in the Covid-19 pandemic has provided the most compelling of reasons.

Newspaper article published in as a letter to the editor in the Business Daily, Kenya, on Thursday, September 1, 2020.



JOURNALISM

"Creativity without Fear or Favour", which was attended by UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Artistic Freedom and Creativity Ms. Deeyah Khan at WPF 2020

8 SYNERGIES, CO-FINANCING, AND COLLABORATIONS

The creation and reinforcement of synergies with partners and stakeholders with similar aims and mandates is essential in ensuring the best possible efficiency, visibility and sustainability of activities implemented under the Multi-Donor Programme. The MDP thus continues to collaborate with UN agencies – particularly the OHCHR, intergovernmental organizations, regional courts, civil society organizations and governmental instances (such as embassies at country level), as well as with other UNESCO sectors. Specialized networks of judges and judicial officers, access to information commissioners, journalists and others remain leading partners in consolidating UNESCO’s actions and ensuring their sustainability beyond the implementation period.

As in previous years, synergies were the cornerstone of the December 2020 **World Press Freedom Conference** which was organized together with the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and featured sessions co-organized with 19 Dutch and international NGOs. The event was also an occasion to showcase the synergies between the Communication and Information Sector and the Culture Sector’s work. The Culture Sector (CLT) notably held a session entitled “Creativity without Fear or Favour”, which was attended by UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Artistic Freedom and Creativity Ms. Deeyah Khan. CLT launched within this framework its report on “Freedom & Creativity”. Throughout the event, a strong presence of artists, press cartoonists and photojournalists was noted, as the Conference for instance included performances by Ahmad Joudeh, a dancer and choreographer who fled the Syrian War and settled in the Netherlands. Dutch-Namibian band Shishani & Namibian Tales marked the handover to the 2021 WPFDF host, Namibia. Collaboration with Cartooning for Peace (CFP) was also a feature of the event through an international competition for cartoonists from around the globe. CFP also organized both a physical and virtual exhibition of cartoons. In addition, during the celebration of World Press Freedom Day in May 2020, Cartooning for Peace joined forces with UNESCO for an international press cartoons campaign with a special focus on freedom of expression in times of COVID-19.

Other synergies with the Culture sector include the “Enhancing a gender responsive film sector in the South Mediterranean region” project, which was implemented inter-sectorially for over three years. This project, which aimed to enhance gender equality in the Maghreb-Mashreq film industry and tackle gender stereotypes, was co-financed by the European Union and carried out in partnership with UN Women, MENA Media Monitoring, the Salé Film Festival, as well as various CSOs.

The online seminar, Media and Information Literacy for Intercultural Communication: Countering Information Disorder and Hate Speech, held on 01-03 December in **Myanmar**, marked another successful cooperation between the two sectors. The course, which was organized by the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs (MoEA) with support from UNESCO Myanmar Office, emphasized the need to frame intercultural communication programs within MIL principles and practices. For example, multimedia materials should ensure historical accuracy, recognize authenticity of artistic elements, and avoid misrepresentation especially (negative) stereotyping of individuals and communities. It also emphasized the need for cultural workers to develop MIL competencies and called attention to the recently launched MIL Competency Framework for Myanmar developed with UNESCO support. Among the topics discussed between the 36 mid-level officials and MoEA staff from different federal states in Myanmar, were information disorder, hate and hate speech especially in the context of inter-ethnic relations; MIL principles and strategies to facilitate intercultural dialogue (communication); and guidelines in developing culturally sensitive MIL strategies and tools.

The following are the main outputs of the MoEA Seminar-Workshop:

- Draft Guiding Principles in the Development of Guidelines for Intercultural Communication (Dialogue) in Myanmar Using the MIL Framework
- Draft Guidelines for Culture-sensitive (responsive) Traditional Performances/Presentations/Ceremonies
- Draft Guidelines for Use of Cultural (Community) Artifacts & Symbols
- Guidelines for Culture-sensitive (responsive) Multimedia Productions

In **Nepal**, during school closures for months at a time due to the pandemic, the Communication and Information sector along with the Education sector at UNESCO's Kathmandu office collaborated for the development and broadcasting of radio classes for students of grade 9 and 10. This activity, in partnership with the ACORAB, helped hundreds of thousands of students to continue learning despite the challenges. UNESCO launched radio classes through 200 community radio stations, which benefitted 807,922 students between 28 June and 30 November 2020.

On a more general note synergies were created on the country level through effective participation and organisation of coordinating mechanisms among national and international support organisations. For instance, in Myanmar the UNESCO office team regularly liaised with colleagues from IMS/Fojo and Deutsche Welle Akademie to identify overlaps and create synergies regarding the support for community media. In **Bangladesh**, all activities were coordinated and implemented in partnership with other Community Media stakeholders, including the Bangladesh Community Radio Association (BCRA), the Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC), Deutsche Welle Akademie, and the UNESCO Chair on Community Media (University of Hyderabad). In Kenya, efficient coordination of the MIL project was ensured and enhanced through partnerships with institutions such as the Media Council of Kenya, Centre for Media and Information Literacy in Kenya and the Africa Centre for People Institution and Society and Communications Authority. In Nigeria, several key stakeholders have established sustainable synergetic partnership with UNESCO for the support of MIL in the country. Within the implementation of this project, UNESCO partnered with key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Education, NCCE, NATCOM and AFRMIL.

In **Latin America and the Caribbean**, collaboration with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) persisted beyond the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Court and UNESCO in 2019. It brought about the creation of a network of senior Latin American journalists who aim to respond to the restrictions on freedom of expression and the rise of hate speech that have been noted across the region. Joint actions with IACHR led to the creation of a series of masterclasses under the title of "Diploma for Journalists on Human Rights", which were put in place in collaboration with the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, the Rule of Law Program for Latin America of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the European Commission. Over 1,300 journalists applied, and a new edition of this project has been announced for 2021.

Synergies in Latin America and the Caribbean were also an essential element of celebrations of World Press Freedom Day across the region, which were held in coordination with 11 UNESCO Field Offices. These events helped reinforce awareness among relevant stakeholders as well as the general public by highlighting the importance of journalism and access to information in times of crisis as well as violence against women journalists. They were held in cooperation with partners such as the Fundación Para la Libertad de Prensa (FLIP), cultural institutions like the Bogotá International Book Fair, and fact-checking initiatives like LatamChequea and Colombia Check.

Synergies were likewise at the heart of the historic creation of a continental digital platform on the safety of journalists in Africa, which was made possible through the convening of a multi-stakeholder steering committee by UNESCO. This steering committee is comprised of the African Editors Forum (TAEF), the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ), the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), the UNESCO Addis Ababa Liaison Office to the AU and UNECA, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and Article 19. Other partners later joined the project, such as the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa of the African Commission for Human and People's Rights (ACPHR), the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), the African Governance Architecture (AGA), the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Committee to protect Journalists (CPJ), the African Freedom of Expression Exchange (AFEX), Free Press Unlimited (FPU), BBC Media Action and the International Media Support (IMS). The Council of Europe, whose platform on protecting and promoting the safety of journalists served as inspiration, also provided technical support throughout the project.

Actions pertaining to the safety of journalists in **Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, Tunisia, South Sudan, Afghanistan** and **Palestine** were also complemented by those implemented by CSOs such as the Committee to Protect Journalists, Free Press Unlimited, the International Federation of Journalists, the Union of Journalists in Tunisia (Syndicat National des Journalistes de Tunisie) and the Iraqi National Safety of Journalists Committee. Several activities were also carried out in synergy with UN bodies like OHCHR, WHO, UNICEF and UNAMA or local governmental bodies such as the South Sudanese Media Authority and the Afghan Joint Committee of the Media and Government.

In **South Eastern Europe and Turkey**, the MDP co-financed a European Union project entitled "Building Trust in Media in South East Europe and Turkey", which sought to pilot MIL in formal education, support media self-regulatory bodies of the region and increase their outreach and efficiency. The project is also a great example of intra-sectoral cooperation, supporting priorities of both Outcomes of the MDP, corresponding to both sections, the Section for Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists (FEJ) and the Section for Media and Information Literacy and Media Development (MID). The co-financing of activities and their implementation later proved instrumental in mobilizing new funds from the European Union to respond to the COVID-19 crisis through a new project named "#CoronavirusFacts: Addressing the 'Disinfodemic' on COVID-19 in conflict-prone environments", which allowed for additional synergies and cost-sharing for trainings of journalists on COVID-19 and disinformation in Iraq, or the development of a fact-checking handbook in Africa. The MDP also co-financed the contracting of a consultant to implement this project from HQ.

Further synergies relevant to the **COVID-19** response, be it at global or regional level, include the MOOC for journalists facing the pandemic, which was co-organized by UNESCO through the MDP (which also raised funds for it), the Knight Centre for Journalism, the Knight Foundation, WHO, and UNDP, and obtained additional funding from the European Union. The course has attracted over 9,000 attendees from over 162 countries.

The World Health Organization also supported MDP initiatives in **South Sudan**, namely for safety trainings and the provision of safety kits for local journalists alongside UNDP, UNICEF, Internews and the Association for Media Development in South Sudan (AMDISS).

In the field, initiatives to respond to the COVID-19 crisis locally frequently involved local partners, as was the case in **Palestine** where materials regarding the safety of journalists were developed together with the Media Development Centre (MADA) and the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate. In Yemen, webinars on safety procedures, scientific journalism and combatting disinformation were held together with the Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalists (ARIJ).

UNESCO's emergency response to **Lebanon's** crisis following the explosions that ravaged its capital and the rise of COVID-19 revolved around two main actions, both carried out in synergy with local and international partners. Firstly, UNESCO Beirut joined forces with the Samir Kassir Foundation and supported an emergency Media Recovery Fund coordinated by the Foundation. Thanks to an initial contribution from the MDP, the Samir Kassir Foundation was later able to fundraise 1 million USD from various international donors. Secondly, UNESCO, as part of the LiBeirut taskforce, led an inter-agency initiative together with UNODC and UNFPA to support civil society projects in support of communities affected by the blast.

With regards to policy advice, synergies were established in **South Sudan** with the National Communications Authority and the ICT for Development Network in view of the development of a draft bill on data protection. In **Pakistan**, partnership and coordination were sustained with Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights and Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs to reinforce and strengthen 5 Working Groups on SDG 16.10.1. In **Ethiopia**, building on successful cooperation throughout 2019, UNESCO continued to closely collaborate with the Justice and Legal Affairs Advisory Council in revising draft media laws. Meanwhile, in Sudan, policy advice activities continued to be co-financed by the British Embassy in Khartoum, who had offered financial support to UNESCO's work in the country in the fall of 2019. Synergies in Myanmar likewise enabled cost-sharing by organizing activities together with the **Myanmar** Press Council, International Media Support (IMS), the European Union's MyPol project, the US Agency for International Development (USAid) and the Department for International Development (DFID) along with local news media organizations.

Furthermore, the MDP has enabled intra-sectoral synergies such as those with the IPDC which culminated in the creation of the Regional Digital Platform for the Safety of Journalists in Africa. Additionally, a new initiative on media viability—born of a partnership with the IPDC and the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA), and to be implemented by the Economist Intelligence Unit, Free Press Unlimited, and academics at Columbia University and the International Center for Journalists—was informed primarily by the brief on journalism, press freedom and COVID-19, proving how the World Trends Report series, funded fully by the MDP, has shaped UNESCO's programming and strategy.

The proposals submitted to the IPDC for 2021, for projects in MDP target countries and regions, have been selected by field officers based on their complementarity with MDP supported projects and actions in order to allow for bigger impact, reach, and continued synergies within CI Sector.

The MDP further complements and synergizes with other extra-budgetary funding modalities supporting UNESCO's work on freedom of expression and safety of journalists, such as the Global Media Defence Fund (GMDF). The GMDF is a Multi-Partner Trust Fund developed under the framework of the Global Campaign for Media Freedom and the overall umbrella of the UN Plan of Action on Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. Established in late 2019 with major initial contributions from the United Kingdom and Canada, the GMDF is a responsive and effective mechanism to support not-for-profit organizations working on the ground at the local, regional, and international level in the undertaking or upscaling of projects that bolster journalists' legal protection and/or enhance media freedom through investigative journalism or strategic litigation.

While keeping a specific focus on enhancing the legal protection of journalists and safeguarding the environment in which these professionals undertake their work, the activities implemented in support of the four Outputs of the GMDF effectively synergize and complement the Outputs of MDP.

In synergy with UNESCO's efforts for the setting up or enhancing of mechanisms on safety of journalists, the GMDF supports activities that reinforce the operationalization of national mechanisms (and peer support networks) to ensure journalists' rapid access to legal assistance, bolster their defense and enhance their safety. The work undertaken by the Organization to enhance the knowledge and awareness of judges and judicial operators (Judges Initiative) on the judicial dimensions of safety of journalists and the importance of training prosecutors synergizes with the GMDF's support for the work of media lawyers and other relevant stakeholders to bolster the legal protection of journalists at the local, regional, and international level. This includes the setting up of monitoring mechanisms within peer support networks aimed at identifying journalists in need of legal protection, the establishment of legal units or protection teams for journalists (including with a focus on women journalists), and the support of media lawyers' networks, legal aid organizations, and other initiatives aimed at enhancing the legal protection of journalists facing threats, attacks, restrictions or pressures for the legitimate exercise of their profession. Such initiatives target a wide array of countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bhutan, Cambodia, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Kenya, Pakistan, Poland, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Ukraine, Yemen, Zimbabwe, amongst many others. The GMDF also supports the monitoring and evaluation of the strategic implementation and effectiveness of existing national monitoring, prevention, protection and prosecution mechanisms for safety of journalists issues in countries such as Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, and Honduras – thus contributing to reinforcing national frameworks for the protection of journalists.

UNESCO's awareness-raising and advocacy activities also synergize with the GMDF. The Fund's support to investigative journalism that contributes to reducing impunity and enhancing the safety of journalists is in line with UNESCO's work toward increasing public awareness, policy change, and strengthened political commitment to drive reforms in the field of the safety of journalists forward – as well as the monitoring and reporting of violence against journalists. The work of GMDF partners to monitor and advance journalistic investigations on cases of threats, attacks or the murder of journalists in Africa (DRC), the Arab States (including Iraq, Syria, Yemen), Asia and the Pacific (Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal), LAC (Brazil), and North America & Europe (North Macedonia) feeds into UNESCO's advocacy and awareness-raising efforts, while expanding their outreach and impact.

The GMDF's focus on structures fostering strategic litigation to protect environments where the legal frameworks are conducive to an independent, free, and pluralistic media ecosystem synergizes and complements UNESCO's awareness-raising and advocacy efforts. Local, regional and global GMDF partners are pursuing or supporting the launch of strategic litigation processes at the national, regional and international level to set lasting legal precedents –in line with international human rights standards– for the promotion and protection of freedom of expression, press freedom and safety of journalists. The GMDF has received voluntary contributions from the United Kingdom, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Luxembourg, and Serbia.

Cooperation with UNESCO's Sectors for Education and Social Sciences on MIL has magnified the impact of UNESCO's intervention. Cooperation with networks such as [MILID](#), the [MIL Alliance](#), and major radio and television broadcasters across the world magnified the related COVID-19 response with little or no financial contribution from UNESCO.

The MIL Alliance (or GAPMIL) was mobilized for free webinars on media and information literacy topics, featuring MIL leaders across the globe. Over 50 webinars were open to the general public, particularly youth, parents/guardians, and the aged.

Through the UNESCO-UNAOC UNITWIN Cooperation Programme on Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue (MILID University Network), academics shared their experience in research and dialogue to unite people under the cause of discerning factual information from destructive discourses to promote human solidarity, cultural diversity, and the fight against racism through media and information literacy.

The private sector was mobilized for a number of activities, including the Global MIL Week. Adobe, Pearson, APO Group, GSMA, Vodaphone, Weidong Cloud Education and Twitter, are some of the private companies that participated in the 2020 MIL Partnership Forum. As for high profile individuals, a series of promotional videos by Eric Nam, Korean/American K-pop star, who served as a global ambassador for MIL, were liked over 19,000 times, viewed over 137,000 times and shared over 2,380 times, thus maximizing UNESCO's visibility in the MIL field. UN organizations joined UNESCO for Global MIL Week, while some governmental or intergovernmental instances have accompanied the MDP work throughout the biennium, such as the European Commission, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, and some regional broadcasting organizations.

As previously stated, radio stations world over were mobilized to counter disinformation on COVID-19. CI produced a series of audio messages that were broadcast by a large number of networks of radio stations.



9 SUSTAINABILITY

The Multi-Donor Programme adopts a country-sensitive approach throughout the planning and implementation of its activities and involves national stakeholders along every step of the way so as to ensure local buy-in and sustained impact of MDP-funded actions beyond the implementation period. The Programme's actions are elaborated to respond to needs and priorities identified by national duty bearers and rights holders and to expand on previous initiatives and achievements, thereby ensuring their continuity and reinforcing their sustainability. They are then carried out in synergy with government authorities (ministries and specialized departments and/or agencies, parliamentary groups, embassies and diplomatic missions), intergovernmental organizations, national and regional courts, media organizations, journalists' syndicates, UN bodies and other media development stakeholders.

Activities implemented under the MDP are also characterized by their adaptability: by virtue of the Programme's inherent flexibility, officers on the ground are able to revise their work plans and adjust their approach in consultation with the MDP Coordinator at HQ, to achieve aspired results, and meet needs and emergencies as they appear, as was for instance the case in response to the outbreak of COVID-19 around the world.

In its policy advice and advocacy activities for progressive legislative reform in line with international standards, UNESCO ensures dialogue among duty bearers and right holders as well as inclusiveness of as wide a range of concerned stakeholders as possible, while also encouraging ownership of said activities. For instance, in Sudan, where UNESCO has supported the country's post-revolutionary transition, the Organization made sure to involve stakeholders from all regions of the country, and subsequently created a 202-member strong National Team for Media Reform. This team is comprised of media experts, media owners and managers, journalists, officials of the Ministry of Culture and Information and civil society representatives who took part in the assessment of the Sudanese Media Landscape and are committed to the reform process. In Ethiopia, the enduring collaboration and relations of trust established by UNESCO with Ethiopian authorities and the country's Justice and Legal Affairs Advisory Council enabled the Organization to sustain policy advice activities at the legislative level and help align the new access to information and cybercrime laws with international norms.

As a result of continuous advocacy and regular engagement with the Ministry of Human Rights of **Pakistan**, crimes against journalists were included in their human rights database in coordination with the National Police Bureau. Legislative advocacy efforts by UNESCO likewise led to the inclusion of "implications of cybercrimes law on freedom of expression" in the agenda of the National assembly Standing Committee on Law and Justice in July 2020, thereby ensuring the sustainability of efforts to strengthen the implementation of the UN Plan of Action in the country. Furthermore, the Ministry of Human Rights formed a Task Force on SDGs related to Human Rights of which UNESCO has been made a member. In the country's Baluchistan province, UNESCO facilitated consultations with stakeholders to gather recommendations for a new Right to Information Law in accordance with international standards, which were then accepted by the relevant Minister and will be presented to the Provincial Assembly for discussion.

Meanwhile, in **Myanmar**, UNESCO continues to foster dialogue and relations between local media and electoral authorities. Following the brokering of an agreement by the Organization among concerned stakeholders in 2019, UNESCO further strengthened exchanges between the Myanmar Press Council and the Myanmar Union Election Commission and contributed to the updating of the Election Reporting Guidelines for Journalists. However, at the time of redaction of this report, it remains unclear if and how the political situation of Myanmar as of early 2021 will jeopardize the sustainability of this achievement.

UNESCO also continued to strengthen the capacities of Access to Information Commissions in **South Sudan and Pakistan**. In the former, UNESCO built on the adoption of a 3-year Information Commission Strategy in 2019 which it had supported in order to help the Commission develop a total of 11 forms and simplified regulations. In the latter, UNESCO supported the Pakistan Information Commission to develop and launch an online appeal management system (AMIS) for citizens to file information requests online via their website, which has helped the Commission manage over 600 requests and/or appeals since its launch.

The implementation of the UN Plan of Action for the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity was solidified in countries such as **Palestine, Iraq, Tunisia, Syria** as well as continentally in **Africa**. These advancements have set those countries on the right path towards a safer media environment with sustainable milestones such as the safety mechanisms and networks established in Palestine and launched in 2019 under the high patronage of the country's Prime Minister. UNESCO has continued to reinforce them through capacity-building and advocacy. In the meantime, Iraq saw the inception of a new mechanism for the safety of women journalists, and in Tunisia, the Monitoring Unit on attacks against journalists led by the Union of Journalists (SNJT) and piloted since 2018 with support from the MDP and OHCHR received further support to undertake its monthly monitoring and reporting activities within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In parallel, in Syria, the development of an action plan for the Safety of Syrian Journalists engaged a variety of key stakeholders from state, local and diaspora media, as well as specialized NGOs.

The launch of the continental platform for the promotion and protection of the safety of journalists in Africa was made possible by UNESCO's capacity to convene a multi-stakeholder committee mostly comprised of African media stakeholders (such as the African Editors Forum, the Federation of African Journalists and the African Peer Review Mechanism, among others) and mobilize four African Union bodies as partners to own and drive this project. This process builds on a series of consultations through conferences, national and sub-regional meetings, regional and interregional declarations and recommendations, and was carried out within the framework of the amended Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa (2019), thereby contributing to the mandate of the African Commission for Human and People's Rights Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa. Follow-up actions in 2021 will further strengthen the sustainability of this platform, as regional focal points will be trained, and sub-regional and national coordination mechanisms will be created, to ensure the involvement of as many African actors as possible.

National buy-in remains one of the strongest symbols of sustainability. This was demonstrated by authorities in countries such as **South Sudan**, where international Days served for government representatives such as the Deputy Minister for Information to reaffirm their commitment to ensure the full implementation of the right to access to information. Similarly, in **Afghanistan**, the participation of authorities in the commemoration of IDUAI as well as the convening of the Joint Committee of the Media and Government, which was chaired by the country's second Vice-President and gathered bodies such as the Attorney General's Office, the Ministry of interior, the Ministry of Defense, the Directorate of Intelligence, the Ministry of Information & Culture, demonstrated the level of governmental commitment towards improving the situation of Afghan media workers. In **Sudan**, actions were conducted under the auspice of the Ministry of Culture and Information, who took part in all activities. The participation of the Minister of Culture and Information to a televised talk-show on media freedom on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day further served to reinforce the visibility of Sudanese authorities' involvement and commitment to the reform process. The launch of the digital platform on the safety of journalists in Africa in January 2021 was marked by the endorsement and participation of the African Union Chairperson and President of South Africa H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa as well as the President of Burkina Faso H.E. Roch Marc Christian Kabore. The event also involved

the African Union Commission Deputy Chairperson H.E Thomas Kwesi Quaterly and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa Commissioner Jamesina Essie L. King.



“The Digital Platform for the Safety of Journalists in Africa is an important tool in promoting the safety of journalists and other media workers across Africa. We look to this digital platform to contribute to an enabling environment for the media to operate in AU member states through respect for the rights of journalists and media workers and an end to impunity for crimes against journalists. We urge all Africans, all institutions, and all heads of state and leaders of government to support this historic project.”

Message by African Union Chair and President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa on the occasion of the Launch of the Digital Platform for the Safety of Journalists in Africa <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-launch-digital-platform-safety-journalists-africa-29-jan-2021>

Bolstered by previous collaborations with regional courts and judicial actors around the world, UNESCO signed in 2020 two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with associations of public prosecutors with a view to strengthen the protection of freedom of expression, press freedom and the safety of journalists globally. The agreements are namely with the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors (AIAMP), signed in May 2020 to focus on the Latin American region; and with the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP), signed in December 2020, to focus on prosecutors globally. The strengthened dialogue with these two Associations will foster the work of UNESCO with judicial actors and expand specialized training on freedom of expression related issues to prosecutors. The agreements notably support cooperation to address the issue of impunity for crimes and attacks against journalists, especially as public prosecutors have a crucial role to play in protecting journalists who are threatened or attacked for their work. An agreement was also signed locally in Lebanon with the country's Supreme Judicial Council, while discussions are underway in Morocco for the signing of a MoU with the Ministry of Justice.

Furthermore, the [guidelines for prosecutors](#) on investigating and prosecuting cases of crimes against journalists serve as a crucial component to enable sustainable change, which will be reinforced by future capacity-building efforts with prosecutors. The guidelines identify the key elements to consider in the decision-making process when an alleged crime is committed against a journalist and propose a series of elements to be taken into account to proceed with the investigation and prosecution of these cases.

The launch of the Legal Forum in 2020 during the WPFC successfully identified issues that will be addressed during the 2021 and 2022 Fora in partnership with the Asser Institute (Netherlands), which aim to address root causes and find sustainable solutions. The Forum will pay particular attention to the Spanish and French-speaking communities in 2021 and 2022, respectively.

The WPF/IDEI Global Conference culminated in a new partnership between UNESCO and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) that will strengthen press freedom and the safety of journalists, with [an endowment of 7 million euros](#) announced by Dutch Foreign Minister Stef Blok. Further, a ministerial roundtable convened at the invitation of the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands resulted in the [Hague Commitment to increase the Safety of Journalists](#), endorsed by 58 countries. The additional generous funding, along with the wide commitment of all the signatory countries, will further expand and reinforce UNESCO's work and allow for sustainable solutions on global, regional and national levels.

UNESCO's approach to community media sustainability and MIL was built on the assumption that changes developed through the project activities will only remain if they will be enshrined in policies and regulations. And that training duty bearers and other project stakeholders will raise their capacities and knowledge through training, consultancies and advisory, and that they will carry this knowledge into raising the level of the policy debate, and hence sustain the knowledge within this debate. In Bangladesh, Burundi, Gambia, South Sudan, Mongolia, Tunisia, Nepal and Myanmar UNESCO assessed the situation for community media in cooperation with local partners and stakeholders, developed recommendations for improvement, which dovetailed into multi-stakeholder policy debate including duty bearers. As a result, community radio's relevance for rural communities was acknowledged as essential in Burundi's National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2027. In Gambia, a draft policy for community media sustainability has been developed and shared with the Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure (MOICI), which will lay the foundations for debates with lawmakers in 2021. The South Sudan Community Media Network has been trained in advocacy skills and effectively engaged in a debate with duty bearers towards an improved framework for community media. The UNESCO office in Tunis developed a position paper in towards the establishment of a pluralist, independent and democratic media environment by enhancing the sustainability of the community radio sector which has been shared and discussed with duty bearers. In Bangladesh, continuous advocacy efforts and capacity building for duty bearers for an improved governing framework for community media sustainability were supported through roundtable discussions and online panel discussions, which led to increased awareness for the relevance of the sector among duty bearers and local and international actors, and which contributed to increasing the number of community radio stations in Bangladesh from 17 to 19. In Mongolia, capacity building support for community media stakeholders increased their ability to advocate towards duty bearers for an improved governing framework for community media sustainability. It was planned to include duty bearers in a study tour to Nepal to learn from their experience, which has been carried forward to 2021. And in Nepal, a smart strategy was adopted by including advocacy for community media sustainability in actions related to countering the COVID-19 pandemic: Multi-stakeholder activities with public health authorities, civil society organizations, community-based organizations, UN Organizations, Local Governments and other institutions working were carried out to develop joint approaches against the pandemic with the objective of better informing local communities, and which provided an appropriate framework and resulted in increased awareness for the policy needs for community media sustainability.

Also, UNESCO's support to Media and Information Literacy resulted in sustainable change: In Myanmar, the Ministry of Information of Myanmar started developing its MIL Action Plan for 2021-2022. Besides, MIL has been integrated in the 4-year Education Degree College Curriculum of Myanmar. In Mongolia, a national MIL policy and strategy was formulated and adopted by stakeholders from governmental and non-governmental sectors. The first national MIL Policy and strategy document for Kenya has been prepared and validated through a national stakeholders' conference. Nigeria, 22 institutions from across the six geopolitical zones of the country have piloted the localized MIL curriculum, and the National Commission of Colleges of Education decided to introduce MIL as a compulsory general. In Palestine, the first MIL Policy Paper in Palestine was produced and will be introduced in the development of a national policy on MIL.



10 COUNTRY SUMMARIES

This section examines, in further detail, results achieved following actions funded through the MDP, and the progress towards outcomes in different target countries, as well as through regional actions in Africa and Latin America. Few countries have been added under the reporting period, namely Iraq, and Yemen, as well as one regional action in South Eastern Europe and Turkey.

REGIONAL ACTION IN AFRICA

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS

THE GAMBIA

NIGERIA

SOUTH
SUDAN

ETHIOPIA

SOMALIA

KENYA

BURUNDI

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Launch of a continental digital platform on the safety of journalists in Africa (dot in every single African country (including North Africa))
- Capacity-building for Eastern African journalists on physical, digital and psychosocial safety and COVID-19 reporting (star in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and South Sudan)
- Publication of the special edition of the Eastern Africa Journalism Review “Media Pandemics – Seeking Journalistic Answers in Africa”
- Launch of a fact-checking toolkit for African journalists in 4 languages

Burundi

Monitoring study on hate speech in times of elections (Outcome 1)

Ethiopia

Policy advice provided for two new draft laws on access to information and cybercrimes (Outcome 1)

The Gambia

Support in developing policy for community media sustainability (Outcome 2)

Kenya

Advance and enhance media contributions to diversity, gender equality and youth empowerment (Outcome 2)

Nigeria

Establishment of a National Coalition on MIL (Outcome 2)

Somalia

Support to safety mechanisms and election coverage (Outcome 1)

South Sudan

Production of a draft data protection bill (Outcome 1)



CONTEXT

In line with UNESCO's Global Priority Africa, efforts under the Multi-Donor Programme aim at strengthening and supporting media freedom, freedom of expression, the safety of journalists and access to information, which are essential elements for the consolidation of democracies across the continent and for the unleashing of Africa's full human and economic development potential. Seeing as the African continent comprises widely varying realities, the MDP deploys country-sensitive national actions in 7 countries (Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and The Gambia), sub-regional activities in Eastern Africa, as well as actions at continental scale, involving all 55 Member States of the African Union.

Bolstered by years of experience in supporting and reinforcing safety mechanisms in Africa, as was demonstrated by the organization of an interregional forum on safety mechanisms in Africa in 2018 or the support extended to mechanisms in Somalia, South Sudan and within the Eastern Africa Community, UNESCO gave in 2020 the impetus for the creation of a continental safety mechanism involving all 55 African Union countries. Following the establishment of a steering committee comprised of the African Editors Forum (TAEF), the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ), the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), the UNESCO Addis Ababa Liaison Office to the AU and UNECA, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and Article 19; an online platform on the safety of African journalists was created, inspired by the Council of Europe's Platform on the Promotion and Protection of the Safety of Journalists, who also provided technical guidance throughout this process. The platform notably involved four African Union bodies, namely the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa at the African Commission for Human and People's Rights (ACPHR), the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), the African Governance Architecture (AGA), and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The creation of this online coordination platform on the promotion and protection of the safety of journalists in Africa allows for real time monitoring, reporting and follow-up actions by both duty bearers and right holders, and represents remarkable progress in the fight against impunity for violence against journalists, while also creating long-lasting synergies among African media stakeholders, thereby bridging major pre-existing gaps. This activity was carried out within the framework of the amended Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa (2019), and contributes both to the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity and to the mandate of the ACHPR Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa. It also represents the culmination of a series of consultations, national and sub-regional meetings, interregional declarations and recommendations produced in the past thanks to funding from the MDP and IPDC.

The platform was launched on 29 January 2021 under the auspices of the African Union Chairperson and President of South Africa H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa and the President of Burkina Faso H.E. Roch Marc Christian Kabore, who both endorsed the platform and delivered video addresses and public statements. Guest speakers at the launch included the UNESCO Director General Audrey Azoulay, the African Union Commission Deputy Chairperson H.E Thomas Kwesi Quarterly, and the ACHPR Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa Commissioner Jamesina Essie L. King.

Under the reporting period, UNESCO also responded to the COVID-19 crisis sub-regionally in Eastern Africa through its Addis Ababa Liaison Office, which partnered with the East African Editors Forum and Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA) to strengthen the safety, security and capacities of journalists in Eastern Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and South Sudan). Through four trainings organized as part of the 2020 World Press Freedom Day Celebrations, a series of 4 trainings of Eastern African journalists on digital, physical and psychosocial safety were organized, after which participants made several [recommendations](#) which

included proposed measures and solidarity that need to be put in place, to sustain independent journalism in the region. They further called on the private sector, government and media development partners to consider journalism as an essential service by providing necessary cushioning of the media from the negative COVID-19 effects.

Discussions which took place during the webinars then inspired the elaboration of a special edition of the Eastern Africa Journalism Review which was published in September 2020 under the title “Media Pandemics – Seeking Journalistic Answers in Eastern Africa”. Through 13 articles written by editors and journalists from the region, this review explores the challenges the media industry is currently facing, while posing important questions about the possible enduring impact of COVID-19.



AREAS OF ACTION

Awareness-raising and advocacy	Enhancing journalists' safety	Policy advice and reinforcement of duty bearers' capacities
<p>Through a series of online webinars/trainings on physical, digital and psychosocial safety for Eastern African journalists organized on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day 2020, the capacities of local journalists to report on the COVID-19 crisis were strengthened, and awareness was raised on the impact of the health crisis on the viability of the media and press freedom.</p>		<p>Response to the COVID-19 crisis consolidated in Africa through support provided to the development of a fact-checking toolkit for African journalists (available in English French, Arabic and Amharic), in synergy with the European Union-funded #CoronavirusFacts project. This is also part of the Pan African Covid/Health Information, Resources and Training Partnership with African Union - Pan African Virtual and E-University (PAVEU).</p>
<p>Awareness about the impact of COVID-19 on Eastern African media further reinforced through the production and publication of a special edition of the Eastern Africa Journalism Review under the theme “Media Pandemics – Seeking Journalistic Answers in Africa”.</p>	<p>Implementation of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity has been considerably fortified across the African continent through the creation of an online coordination platform on the promotion and protection of the safety of journalists in Africa.</p>	
<p>The MDP supported the Amharic interpretation of a continental conference in commemoration of the 2020 International Day for Universal Access to Information which raised awareness on access to information in times of COVID-19 in Africa, the gender dimension of ATI, inequality gaps and challenges in covering COVID-19. The meeting rallied for support of legislations that guarantee the right to access to information in law and in practice during and after the COVID-19 crisis, and the ACHPR Special Rapporteur called on the 30 State Parties to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' rights which have yet to enhance their national legal frameworks on ATI to do so.</p>		



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Impetus and coordination efforts by UNESCO led to the historic creation of a continental [online platform](#) on the safety of journalists in Africa, which will allow for the monitoring, reporting and follow-up on cases of violence against African journalists, thereby strengthening the fight against impunity as well as the mandate of the ACHPR Special Rapporteur and the implementation of the UN Plan of Action.
- Successfully convened a multi-stakeholder steering committee and mobilized four African Union bodies as partners, along with major African media stakeholders and international press freedom NGOs to synergize, own and drive the creation of the online platform on the safety of African Journalists. This represents the first time these four AU bodies have come together to support the safety of journalists on the African continent.
- Rose to meet the challenges posed by the COVID-19 to freedom of expression, the safety of journalists and access to information by producing resources such as a fact-checking guide available in 4 languages and a special edition of the Eastern Africa Journalism Review, as well as by strengthening the capacities of Eastern African journalists on digital, physical and psychosocial safety through online capacity-building.



CHALLENGES, RISKS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

The impact of COVID-19 caused reprogramming and rescheduling of planned activities with regards to celebrations of international days and capacity-building for journalists. These were therefore realigned and adapted to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and held online instead, which at times proved difficult due to poor connectivity and internet shutdowns. The same challenges were faced by the implementing team during the creation of the digital platform on the safety of journalists in Africa, as the steering committee and other partners had to be convened online due to the impossibility of holding physical consultative meetings.



FORTHCOMING ACTION

In furtherance of the online platform on the safety of journalists in Africa, UNESCO will leverage in 2021 modern information technologies to provide access and engagement with journalists and persons living with disabilities. Further developments will also include a number of steps, such as:

- Supporting African media stakeholders in putting in place clear guidelines for CSOs and media networks outlining the steps/workflow to be followed in gathering, fact checking and reporting the media violations to the platform managers;

REGIONAL ACTION IN AFRICA

- Supporting the selection process and training of the 5 regional focal points, which will act as representatives of media networks and CSOs;
- Trainings at national level for representatives of national coordination mechanisms;
- Support creation of sub-regional and national coordination mechanisms to ensure the involvement of all actors, including those at the grassroots levels;
- Support the establishment of a Group of Friends on Safety of Journalists in Africa;
- Support African media stakeholders partnering in this joint initiative in putting in place an African Media Stakeholders Press Freedom Index;
- Support the AU Member States in development of national legislation on the right of access to information, as elaborated in the Model Law on Access to information in Africa;
- Support the Banjul Commission Special rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa in the dissemination and awareness raising on the content of the revised Declaration on Principles of Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa.

Support will be extended to several African countries who will hold elections in 2021, such as Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia and Zambia. In addition, the Guidelines for prosecutors on cases of crimes against journalists are being translated into various languages (such as French, Portuguese and Somali, among others) and will be disseminated with networks of judicial training institutes in Africa.

Support will also be provided to local stakeholders (UN Resident Coordinators, journalists, national human rights institutes) in their engagement with the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism. Activities will include capacity-building such as trainings to support actors in all stages of the UPR process: reporting to the working groups, engaging with the sessions and contributing to the implementation of recommendations.

Rwanda

BURUNDI

Democratic
Republic
of the Congo

Tanzania

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS



CONTEXT

After several years of a policy at odds with many of its former partners, Burundi seems to want to reopen dialogue with some of them. This is notably the case with the European Union, with the aim of lifting the budgetary sanctions imposed against the Burundian government at the beginning of the 2015 crisis in response to “serious human rights violations” attributed to the regime in place at the time. In January 2021, the Burundian president called on the national media regulator to “settle its clashes” with the media outlets it had sanctioned after the crisis related to the 2015 elections. In December 2020, the same president granted a pardon to four journalists from the Iwacu Newspaper that had been arrested on 22 October 2019 in Bubanza while they were on assignment. However, most Burundian journalists who fled the country because of the crackdown on the press that followed the 2015 crisis remain in exile, as the adequate conditions for their return to continue exercising their profession are not yet met. In February 2021, 7 journalists were still sentenced to life imprisonment by a decision of the Supreme Court dated 20 June 2020.

All of the Burundian media currently operating inside or outside Burundi are under the influence of either the government or the opposition and, as a result, professional practices are politically biased or influenced by self-censorship, and hate speech is on the rise. In this context, it is very complicated to support or initiate activities on issues such as the safety of journalists and institutional reforms in favor of freedom of expression.

Nevertheless, UNESCO continues to maintain good relations with the Burundian government in the field of communication and media and was among the few international organizations that was able to maintain dialogue with the government. Almost all activities carried out within the framework of UNESCO programs are co-organized with the Ministry of Communication, which very often presides over the opening and closing ceremonies.

In anticipation of the Burundian elections of 2020, which were held in three stages (presidential, legislative and municipal elections in May; senatorial elections in July; communal and neighbourhood elections in August), UNESCO launched in 2020 jointly with its implementation partner the Panos Institute Great Lakes (Institut Panos Grands Lacs - IPGL) a monitoring exercise of media content and hate speech during these electoral cycles. The project was co-financed by the MDP, which enabled IPGL to monitor 7 Burundian media outlets (namely Télévision Nationale, Radio Culture, Radio Nderagakura, Radio CCIB FM, le Renouveau Burundi, Ubumwe, Burundi-eco) while additional funding by Wallonie Internationale de Bruxelles and Deutsche Welle Akademie allowed IPGL to extend the monitoring to 6 more outlets.

This exercise resulted in the publication of monthly monitoring reports, as well as capacity building sessions for 70 Burundian journalists on journalistic ethics in times of elections. The monitoring exercise found that, overall, there were no major incidents in the coverage of the three electoral cycles, although some hateful discourse on the part of some politicians was relayed in some news media. IPGL also found a lack of precision and balance in electoral coverage, as well as a lack of variety of sources. Furthermore, the allocation of media space was widely unequal between political candidates, and very few were allowed to exercise their right of reply.

Local actors were involved in all stages of this project, from its preparation to its implementation thus ensuring local ownership, and IPGL ensured the sustainability of the actions by strengthening the capacities of beneficiaries involved.

Within the framework of the activities supporting community media under Outcome 2 - Output 1, the action plans have been validated and supported by the government. The Ministry of Communication also validated the results of the assessment on the sustainability of community radios and its recommendations, as well as those of the national consultation on the community radios' judicial status.

The country is engaged in the revision of the 2015 media law, and UNESCO is currently advocating for the government to take into account the recommendations which were developed during the national consultations on community media sustainability. During the national consultation on the legal status of community radio stations, the government reassured "its firm commitment to creating an environment conducive to the emergence of community radio stations that truly serve development." Indeed, the National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2027 which focuses on rural development recognizes the relevance for the development of community radios in so far as their socio-economic role for communities is considered essential.



AREAS OF ACTION AND PROGRESS

Policy Advice	Community Media Sustainability
In the first phase of the project, the Institut Panos Grands Lacs conducted a monitoring exercise of 7 Burundian media outlets and produced a report on their coverage of each electoral cycle. A consolidated report was then produced and presented at the end of the year to the journalists who participated in the capacity-building sessions (phase 2 of the project).	UNESCO succeeded in organizing a series of three national consultations on community radio sustainability, the last of which focused specifically on the legal status of community media.
The second phase of the project saw the capacities of 70 journalists from the 7 monitored outlets strengthened on the social responsibility of journalists and on journalistic ethics in times of elections.	This last consultation was preceded by an assessment of the status of community radios in the country in order to bring out the necessary elements for the definition of a legal framework that ensures the sustainability of community radios in Burundi.
The third phase of the project consisted in further strengthening the capacities of Burundian journalists through coaching sessions held in their respective newsrooms, as well as the broadcasting of awareness-raising messages on countering hate speech and encouraging peaceful cohabitation in times of and after elections, which were specifically targeted at the youth. These messages were aired by the media outlets which took part in the monitoring exercise, as well as some community radios.	Constructive dialogue with the Burundian government through inclusion of duty bearers in activities was maintained. The consultations and the assessment benefited from the participation of key actors from the media and telecommunications sectors, as well as from the administrations in charge of planning, finance and even the Presidency of the Republic. All these bodies and institutions validated the conclusions of these meetings as well as their recommendations.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Successfully monitoring Burundian elections in 2020, (presidential, legislative and municipal elections; senatorial elections; communal and neighbourhood elections) and producing monthly reports that enabled UNESCO to identify the areas that need further support, including the spread of hate speech in times of elections.
- Strengthened fair coverage of Burundi's three electoral cycles through training and in-house coaching Burundian journalists regarding the social responsibility of the media and reporting ethics in times of elections.
- The recommendations developed through multi-stakeholder activities were transformed into concrete proposals for the reform of the legislation and regulations regarding the press in general and community radio stations, with a particular focus on legal and institutional support favorable to the sustainability of community radio stations in Burundi.
- Community radios relevance for rural communities acknowledged as essential in the National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2027.



CHALLENGES, RISKS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

In spite of some technical issues, the partnership with Panos Institute Great Lakes enabled smooth implementation of all planned activities with regards to hate speech monitoring.

Community radio stations so far are not specifically mentioned in the laws governing the media sector in Burundi, yet the media landscape in Burundi remains dominated by community media. Burundi's National Development Plan (PND 2018-2027), the reference document for all development sectors in Burundi, provides for a significant financial allocation for the modernization of radio and television broadcasting and the strengthening of the institutional capacities of the media. Noting the absence of a specific regulatory framework for the establishment and operation of community radio stations in Burundi, UNESCO continues, under the MDP, to advocate for and advance the implementation of a community media sustainability policy in that country.

With the sectoral strategy of the Ministry in charge of Communication and the media currently being developed, and with the Minister's commitment to improving the legal framework for community radio stations, the latter will benefit from increased interest on the part of public authorities.



FORTHCOMING ACTION

- The assessment report about the status and governing framework for community media sustainability in Burundi, which includes recommendations, will be finalized and published.
- The report will serve as the basis for policy dialogue with the government of Burundi towards the implementation of the recommendations.
- Activities supporting advocacy skills of community media will accompany the process in order to ensure their effective and well-informed contribution to the policy debate.

Eritrea

Sudan

Djibouti

South
Sudan

Somalia

ETHIOPIA

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS



CONTEXT

The election of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in April 2018 led to a series of progressive measures with regards to freedom of expression and media freedom in Ethiopia, such as the release of hundreds of imprisoned journalists and the unblocking of over 250 media outlets. In addition, diaspora-based media were invited back into the country, and authorities are in the process of revising and reforming restrictive laws and regulations. These advances, while considerable, however remain vulnerable as long as they are not voted and enshrined into law. As several media freedom NGOs note, progress in terms of freedom of expression and of the media was counterbalanced in 2019 by a series of internet shutdowns and in 2020 by an anti-hate speech law whose vague provisions have drawn criticism from specialized observers. Recently, journalists reported having been barred from flying into the Tigray region, which is currently experiencing armed conflict.

Under the MDP, UNESCO has since 2019 actively supported this reform process and advocated for its alignment with international standards. Support and needs-based advice were for instance provided to various public institutions such as the Office of the Prime Minister and the Legal and Justice Affairs Advisory Council in 2019, which had prepared three draft media laws, one of which has been adopted by parliament. In 2020, UNESCO supported the redrafting and adjustment to international norms of the two remaining draft laws on access to information and cybercrimes. These efforts will be maintained into 2021 with the aim of involving more stakeholders, such as media experts, professional associations and civil society in discussions around these draft laws.

UNESCO Addis Ababa launched on World Press Freedom Day an online campaign promoting freedom of expression, media freedom and the safety of journalists within the national context of democratic transition. The campaign also aimed at encouraging professional journalism within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and generated discussions on how to reimagine the media in times of the COVID-19 crisis. Awareness was also raised on the importance of access to information in times of crisis through a national webinar organized on the occasion of the International Day for Universal Access to Information, in partnership with the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, the Ethiopian Institute of Public Health, and the Ethiopian Institution of the Ombudsman (the oversight body of ATI implementation). The event also served to highlight the importance of adopting and implementing ATI legislation, and received extensive media coverage in Ethiopia.

Building on 2019 achievements and experience in convening and strengthening the capacities of Ethiopian media stakeholders, the MDP extended in 2020 its support to the recently established Ethiopian Editors Guild. UNESCO Addis Ababa notably supported the Editors Guild in dialoguing and learning from its counterparts from the Eastern Africa region. Through this, members of the Ethiopian Editors Guild participated in the series of webinars on the safety of journalists in times of COVID-19 organized in Eastern Africa and in the elaboration of the special edition of the Eastern African Journalism Review (see Africa regional page for more information about these two initiatives).



AREAS OF ACTION

Awareness-raising and advocacy	Enhancing journalists' safety	Policy advice and reinforcement of duty bearers' capacities
<p>Launch of a national online campaign promoting freedom of expression, media freedom and safety of journalists and encouraging professional reporting in times of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>Capacities of the Ethiopian Editors Guild strengthened through dialogue with regional counterparts and its participation in a series of sub-regional webinars on safety of journalists in Eastern Africa. These trainings culminated into the publication of a special edition of the Eastern Africa Journalism Review entitled "Media Pandemics - Seeking Journalistic Answers in Eastern Africa", for which two members of the Ethiopian Editors Guild drafted articles entitled "Building a newsroom in the COVID-19 age" and "Riding the reform wave: the double edges of Ethiopia's new media laws".</p>	
<p>Awareness raised about the importance of the right to access information in times of crisis in synergy with the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, the Ethiopian Institute of Public Health and the Ethiopian Ombudsman.</p>	<p>Policy advice and technical assistance were provided to the Justice and Legal Affairs Advisory Council in redrafting and adapting the new access to information and cybercrimes laws.</p>	



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Continued support to Ethiopia's democratic transition through policy advice activities and the redrafting of new laws to align them with international standards. This enduring collaboration with Ethiopian authorities and with the country's Justice and Legal Affairs Advisory Council demonstrates the level of trust confided in UNESCO as well as the sustainability of the Organization's action in Ethiopia.
- Building on the convening of the Ethiopia Media Sector Alliance (EMSA) in 2019 by the MDP, the Programme persisted in strengthening the capacities of Ethiopian media stakeholders, by capacitating the Ethiopian Editors Guild and assisting it in dialoguing and drawing from the experience of its regional counterparts.
- National awareness raised on the importance of freedom of expression, the safety of journalists and access to information in times of COVID-19, with high participation from Ethiopian authorities and civil society.



CHALLENGES, RISKS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, national events commemorating international days had to be cancelled and held online instead. For instance, an online awareness-raising campaign was deployed instead of the previously planned WPFJ physical event, which too encountered difficulties as most media networks and associations involved with the campaign are rather new and often lack the capacities to lead national campaigns. The impossibility to hold meetings also changed the nature of policy advice activities, which were initially planned as public consultations. As a replacement, expert consultations were held in small groups online, and public consultations were postponed to 2021.

Ethiopia's political and systemic transition has recently been imperiled by the armed conflict which broke out in the Tigray region of the country in November 2020. This crisis resulted in the death of hundreds and displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, most of whom require humanitarian assistance. This crisis also has serious implications for the media, as some international observers have noted a polarization and "ethnification" of Ethiopian media, and as claims and counterclaims of disinformation are being widely circulated in an "information war". In addition, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission has expressed concern regarding the arrest of several journalists covering the conflict.



FORTHCOMING ACTION

In 2021, the MDP will continue to support Ethiopia's democratic transition and policy reform through capacity-building activities for the to-be-established Information Commission. Capacity-strengthening activities will also be extended to relevant duty bearers with a view of promoting and ensuring the implementation of the new media and access to information laws. Finally, UNESCO will continue to strengthen Ethiopian media stakeholders through technical support to the Ethiopian Media Women Association.

Senegal

THE GAMBIA

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS



CONTEXT

There are 12 radio stations in Gambia that define themselves as community media, almost all of which are members of the national Network of Community Radio Broadcasters. This organization was primarily established to foster the sharing of good practices at the national level. However, the prevailing legal framework, which the government has vowed to reform, has room for improvement towards community media sustainability.

Community media are legally recognized and given priority for broadcasting licenses. In 2017, the Government also published draft guidelines on ownership and cross-ownership in the broadcasting sector, but they have yet to be validated. However, this draft has no specific provision for community media and treats all broadcasters equally regardless of their size. If enacted, this could result in expensive licensing fees and limitations in advertising, which could strongly impede the sustainability of community media. Due to the possible consequences of such legislation, support for the reform of national media policy is growing to promote the adoption of fair and sustainable regulation.

The recommendations from a baseline study in 2019 together with another round of interviews with community media and in cooperation with the Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure (MOICI) dovetailed into the development of a draft policy paper for Community Media Sustainability in 2020. The government of the Gambia is presently engaged in reviewing and reforming the media legislation, and as part of this process, the Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure (MOICI) wishes to ensure the sustainability of all types of media: public, private/commercial, and community. The local community-based media are important for the communications needs of ordinary citizens, but they are facing great financial difficulties. Thus, the aim of the policy framework is to propose modalities and conditions for stable income generation and long-term sustainability for the community media. The policy framework builds on best practices and experience worldwide as compiled by UNESCO and the World Association of Community Radios, AMARC. The principles listed in the UNESCO Community Media Sustainability Policy Series form the backbone of the policy document.

Qualitative interviews with Gambian stakeholders and international media development organizations have informed the policy. The MOICI is committed to engage in a policy debate, though the Parliament had not resumed work until the end of 2020. UNESCO therefore continued to discuss community media sustainability with key individuals at the MOICI in order to prepare efficient advocacy and a constructive policy dialogue once the Parliament reopens.



AREAS OF ACTION

Awareness-raising and advocacy	UNESCO maintained a constructive dialogue with community media and duty bearers in The Gambia and continued to raise awareness for the sector's needs
	A policy for community media sustainability has been developed and shared with the Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure (MOICI)



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The draft policy for community media sustainability has been developed and shared with the MOICI.



CHALLENGES, RISKS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Political life in the Gambia was severely affected by the COVID-19-related lockdown, during which even civil servants were working from home, and which imposed numerous restrictions regarding mobility. While UNESCO tried to shift its support to online/remote measures, this proved difficult due to connectivity issues. Besides, the culture of online meetings and remote work is not sufficiently enshrined to reliably carry out remote activities. The strategy and the plan are in place, but the follow-up activities and debates related to the policy need to be continued into 2021.



FORTHCOMING ACTION

In 2021, UNESCO will follow up on the policy draft for community media sustainability and engage in a debate with the government and the Parliament. It is expected that the draft policy will generate comments and feedback worth discussing. UNESCO will also continue to strengthen community media's advocacy capacities in order to enable them to play a strong role in this essential policy debate.

KENYA

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS



CONTEXT

Kenya has a vibrant and diverse media scene. Whereas traditional media – newspapers, television and radio – still dominate, alternative channels, particularly social media, have become credible alternatives for certain audiences like the youth. While new technologies offer unique opportunities for participation in governance as enshrined in the Constitution, they also present threats in the form of disinformation, abuse of vulnerable populations and the dilution of the quality of public discourse on governance and other issues of public interest. In Kenya, widespread poverty, relative deprivation, high unemployment, limited education, and political marginalization contribute to radicalization and violent extremism.

Kenya's national long-term development blueprint, Vision 2030, which aims to transform it into an industrialized, middle-income country, recognizes ICTs as having a critical role in driving economic, social and political development. It is therefore envisaged that this can trigger MIL initiatives that will help to enhance the promotion of knowledge societies and foster the development of free, independent and pluralistic media with universal access to information and knowledge for good governance.

“Media and Information Literacy is important and we therefore we urgently need to develop and adopt a strategy and policy for the country. Without a policy, we risk coming up with laws thinking they will protect Kenyans from harmful media content, but in turn limit freedom of expression yet the benefits of access to information outweighs the limitations”

Mr David Omwoyo, Chief Executive Officer,
Media Council of Kenya

The Kenyan government invited UNESCO to develop a MIL programme to build the capacities of teachers in the country. This creates an opportunity for the integration of MIL curricula into formal and non-formal education in Kenya. Previously, UNESCO had been instrumental in setting up the Kenyan Centre for MIL, which is strengthening the capacities of youth organizations on MIL and led to the development of a draft Background Document on National MIL Policy and Strategy in 2015. This initiative has laid the foundation for MIL policy development in the country.



AREAS OF ACTION AND PROGRESS

Media and Information Literacy (MIL)

In its continued efforts to advance and enhance media contributions to diversity, gender equality and youth empowerment in and through media, as well as reinforce societies through Media and information literacy (MIL), UNESCO supported the strengthening of capacities of youth leaders by equipping them with competencies and skills on Media and Information Literacy for mainstreaming in their organizations, engagements and participation in civic activities in Kenya.

UNESCO supported the strengthening of capacities of 60 media professionals, practitioners, and regulators, 19 Kenyan legislators from the Parliamentary Committee on ICTS, and 27 religious leaders, equipping them with skills and competencies on media and information literacy and thus empowering them to advocate for the development of a national policy on MIL for Kenya, as well as to integrate MIL in their organizational strategies and plans in Kenya.

UNESCO furthermore supported awareness raising among the aforementioned stakeholders and youth leaders on the importance of MIL for achievement of SDGs and on the developed draft strategy and policy document on MIL for Kenya.

As a result, these implemented interventions have formed a good basis for advocacy and mobilization of government and ministries responsible for issues such as education and ICTs to ensure mainstreaming and prioritization of MIL in national dialogues in Kenya.

These activities contributed to increased competencies on MIL among citizens towards the realization of the 2030 sustainable development agenda in Kenya. The mobilization and advocacy of parliamentarians, religious leaders, media professional, and regulators through strategic sensitization on the already developed draft MIL strategy and policy document provides a good foundation for stakeholders to advance the national agenda for the development of a national MIL policy and also ensure that MIL is mainstreamed in the country's educational curriculum, along with development agendas such as the BIG 4 agenda and Vision 2030 agenda.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 70 youth leaders aged 18 to 35 from 36 organizations across 16 countries benefited from this initiative in Kenya. Support was also provided to media professionals, practitioners and regulators to enable them to advocate for the development of a national policy on MIL for Kenya and also ensure integration of MIL within their organizational strategies and plans in Kenya.
- In addition, UNESCO supported the strengthening of capacities of Kenyan legislators from the Parliamentary Committee on ICTs and of religious leaders on MIL and advocacy towards the development of a national policy on MIL for Kenya.
- UNESCO furthermore supported awareness raising among youth leaders, media professionals, regulators, religious leaders and parliamentarians on the importance of MIL for the achievement of SDGs and on the developed draft strategy and policy document on MIL for Kenya.
- The strategic engagement of diverse stakeholders during the capacity strengthening interventions enabled development of strategic partnerships for achievement of SDG 11 through enriching discussions and raising of critical awareness on the need for Kenya to prepare a national MIL policy for the country.
- The consultative engagements within the project enabled youth leaders, religious leaders, members of parliament, media professionals, and regulators to reflect, share, and exchange ideas on media and information literacy and explore modalities for preparing a draft national policy in 2021.



CHALLENGES, RISKS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

There were no major challenges faced except for delays in facilitating training workshops as per the agreed project timelines due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Remedial measures were adopted such as the use of adaptive technologies to facilitate the trainings as the government cancelled all physical activities and meetings.

A structural challenge is related to the Constitution of Kenya, which in 2010 created a decentralized system comprising 47 devolved political and administrative counties. Each of these units has the responsibility of ensuring quality childhood development within their respective regions. The challenge is to create cost-effective mechanisms to strengthen the technical capacities of teachers on how to integrate MIL into their plans and also support technical consultative engagement with the country governments to advocate for the adaptation of UNESCO's MIL Curriculum to early childhood learning institutions within their counties. UNESCO envisages that some counties with good results can be leveraged as MIL Champions to stir a coordinated discourse on the importance of MIL in Kenya.



FORTHCOMING ACTION

In 2021, the MDP plans to continue working on the existing tracks, to build capacities and raise awareness for Media and Information Literacy with the aim to develop and discuss a national MIL policy.



Niger

Chad

OUTCOME 2

Benin

NIGERIA

Cameroon

Central African Republic

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS



CONTEXT

Preparing young minds for a new world of information, technology, and media has become a huge priority for all educators, and especially so in Nigeria, where millions of youths make a very proactive use of technology and where the use of mobile phones is especially widespread. Hence, Media and Information Literacy becomes paramount to empower the youth with critical thinking skills and to provide quality information on legacy and social media platforms.

To facilitate the rollout of the mainstreamed MIL curricula that was achieved in the previous year, UNESCO Abuja supported the National Commission for Colleges of Education, to conduct Training-of-Trainers workshops for the Minimum Standards for Nigeria Certificate of Education (NCE). The workshop sought to empower Teacher Educators to prepare pre-service teachers, and trained a total of 104 teachers across 80 Colleges of Education. The key achievement of this is that the UNESCO MIL Teachers curriculum is being adapted and integrated into the General Studies Education component of the NCE Minimum Standards curriculum in Nigeria as a compulsory subject.

To mainstream the curriculum into other levels of education in the country, the project mobilized 10 different institutions comprising different duty bearers, policy makers and institutional agencies on curriculum development to promote the adaptation of the MIL curriculum into the Nigerian education system.

In addition, UNESCO Abuja supported the MIL Coalition of Nigeria (MILCON), as a channel to facilitate the coordination of interventions on MIL in Nigeria and to create synergies amongst stakeholders towards advocacy on National Policies. The support was geared towards strengthening the capacities of the members of the Coalition. In 2020, the Coalition was supported with a bias to engage the duty-bearers to support the works of MIL in the country.

The membership drive of the Coalition has increased so far to 60 members, thereby positioning it to further increase the capacity of its members to effectively advocate for improved national policies and interventions.



AREAS OF ACTION AND PROGRESS

Media and Information Literacy (MIL)

UNESCO Abuja supported the establishment of the MIL Coalition of Nigeria (MILCON) in 2017, as a channel to facilitate the coordination of interventions on MIL in Nigeria and promote synergies amongst stakeholders towards advocacy on National Policies. The support was geared towards strengthening the capacities of the members of the Coalition. Under the reporting year, the Coalition was supported to engage with duty-bearers to support MIL-related initiatives in the country.

The National Commission for Colleges of Education, the commission in charge of teachers, was supported to mainstream the effective delivery of Media and Information Literacy in classrooms. To facilitate the rollout of the mainstreamed MIL curricula, UNESCO supported the National Commission for Colleges of Education to conduct Trainings-of-Trainers (T-O-T) workshops for the Minimum Standards for Nigeria Certificate of Education (NCE). The T-O-T was planned for selected teacher-educators drawn from accredited government-owned and private Colleges of Education in Nigeria. The workshop sought to empower Teacher Educators to prepare pre-service teachers to teach and manage MIL as it relates to current global challenges of hate speech and fake news among youths.

In Improving sensitization and advocacy of MIL at a higher level with the duty-bearers and MDAs, UNESCO Abuja engaged with the NATCOM to mobilize key stakeholders to garner their support for MIL activities in the country, particularly on the mainstreaming of the curriculum in schools.

The Global MIL week was an opportunity to address the infodemic in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic: A webinar to observe the Global MIL week was held under the theme 'Creating a Peaceful Society: Media and Information Literacy, A Way Out' with a focus on communication in times of emergency. In the same context and under the same theme, a call for abstracts and papers was launched. This call aimed at determining the role of information and media in influencing societal values, attitudes and behaviors, to provide a platform for knowledge production and knowledge-sharing on MIL practices, as well as to explore ways to improve the communication landscape in the non-Sahel region of West Africa.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The establishment of a National Coalition (MILCON), which intends to facilitate the coordination of interventions on MIL in Nigeria, has become a formidable tool for the promotion of synergies amongst stakeholders and for joint advocacy on National Policies and integration of MIL into school's curriculum.
- The project has seen a rise in women participation in its activities, especially within the Non-Governmental Organizations in the country.
- Over twenty institutions in the country had pilot tested the MIL curriculum. In fact, some of institutions have adapted the use of the curriculum in some of their teaching subjects.
- The UNESCO MIL curriculum has become a teaching subject in the country as a compulsory General course in year one and two of the National Colleges of Education in the country.
- Key stakeholders have agreed to work together for the adaptation of MIL curriculum in all other level of education in the country.
- Some schools now have MIL clubs where MIL-themed activities are practiced during their extra-curricular activities. In this regard, establishing MIL clubs in some schools is regarded as a viable means and platform to expand the civic education movement towards incorporating students in primary and secondary schools as principal agents of social change.



CHALLENGES, RISKS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

The immediate challenge of the MDP's implementation in Nigeria is funding. More successes would have been recorded, if adequate funds were sourced. The support and coordination of the Coalition and UNESCO's advocacy with the national government provides a basis for further progress.



FORTHCOMING ACTION

In 2021, UNESCO will continue to work on the tracks of the previous years in order to contribute to sustainable change in the field of Media and Information Literacy. It is especially planned to involve key education stakeholders in advocacy and capacity building activities with the aim to bring the adaptation of the MIL curriculum to all other levels of education.



SOUTH SUDAN

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS



CONTEXT

One of the world's youngest countries, South Sudan has been marred by a civil war and political instability since it gained independence in 2011. While a peace agreement signed in 2018 contributed to partly alleviating tensions, its implementation has been described as precarious by the UN Security Council, and a number of safety concerns remain.

In spite of South Sudan being frequently reported as a dangerous place for media workers to exercise their profession, considerable progress was achieved in recent years, as no journalists were killed in South Sudan since 2018. In addition, its young media sector, despite its vulnerabilities, has been consistently growing and is becoming increasingly vibrant. As was highlighted by the Managing Director of the Media Authority, South Sudan's governmental body tasked with regulating the media sector, during the 2020 celebrations of IDEI, 175 media enterprises have officially been registered by the Authority to operate legally in the country, and about 900 international journalists have been accredited.

UNESCO actions in South Sudan have thus focused on supporting local authorities achieve a free, independent and safe environment for the media to thrive, as an imperative for nation-building and pacification. The strengthening of capacities of local media has likewise been an integral part of UNESCO's response, while also closely collaborating with the Access to Information Commission to support the operationalization of South Sudan's 2013 Right to Access Information Act, whose implementation was slowed down by the civil war.

As a result of UNESCO's support to community media development in South Sudan, there has been an increased number and hence increased diversity of community radio stations. According to the 2020 Media Authority report, over 40 community and/or faith-based radio stations have been registered and are serving their communities with reliable information highlighting a diverse and plural information space.

Through advocacy campaigns during international days such as World Radio Day, stakeholders have pledged to promote Access to Information through radio. For instance, during the 2020 WRD celebrations, Justine De Mayen, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Information, Communication Telecommunication and Postal Services stated, that the government is "highly committed to ensuring freedom of expression, access to information, radio journalism and safety of journalists." At least 200 stakeholders and 5,000 listeners were reached through live coverage of the event.

Through a series of workshops conducted in partnership with the Community Media Network of South Sudan, at least 80 beneficiaries were equipped with relevant skills to campaign for the recognition of the Community Media Network, as well as call for community media sustainability. In addition, as a result of the MDP's engagement with the national Community Media Network and various community radio stations, a position paper was developed and presented to Members of the Parliament advocating towards an improved governing framework for community media sustainability.

UNESCO's support for the Community Media Network of South Sudan has resulted in increased inter-regional cooperation, as it became a recognized member of the Eastern Africa Community Media Network.

In South Sudan, throughout 2020, UNESCO conceptualized an action plan to provide technical support and in-house training for 17 media institutions to air programmes focused on gender and tackling violence against women, covering topics such as child marriage, domestic violence and violence against women in conflict. This activity, which is being implemented in 2021, is based on "[Reporting on violence against women and girls: a Handbook for Journalists](#)". The activities also seek to improve the capacities of 6 regulatory and legislative bodies to improve gender equality policies in the media.

Building on notable achievements such as the adoption of a 3-year Information Commission strategy in 2019, UNESCO continued supporting the Commission and helped develop a total of 11 forms and simplified regulations on access to information, documents which will facilitate access by the public from the government and private institutions. Actions supporting policy advice in 2020 also included the development of the first ever draft Data Protection Bill in partnership with the National Communications Authority and the ICT for Development Network. This bill, once voted into legislation, will protect citizens' as well as journalists' data. Furthermore, in order to reinforce professional journalism in South Sudan, UNESCO joined forces with the Media Authority to develop and finalize a Journalists' Code of Ethics, which is set to be launched in 2021.

While in previous years efforts regarding the safety of journalists mostly focused on bolstering up mechanisms, activities in 2020 were redirected to urgently respond to the risks posed for journalists and media workers by the COVID-19 pandemic. Through capacity-development and the supplying of safety kits, UNESCO directly supported the safety of over 200 journalists and 20 media houses, while also developing media guidelines on reporting on COVID-19 and supporting the creation of a media desk within the Ministry of Health. UNESCO's COVID-19 response attracted attention from other stakeholders and enabled the establishment of partnerships with other UN agencies such as WHO, UNDP and UNICEF as well as Internews.


AREAS OF ACTION AND PROGRESS

Community Media Sustainability	Awareness-raising and advocacy	Enhancing journalists' safety	Policy advice and reinforcement of duty bearers' capacities
<p>Extended support to eight community radio stations to continue production and airing programmes with the aim of ensuring sustainability of community radios.</p>	<p>As a result of UNESCO's continued support and contribution towards advocacy and support to the government towards the achievement of a conducive, free, independent and safe media environment for journalists and media workers, over 200 stakeholders have been reached during the commemoration of International Days such as the WPPFD, IDUAI and IDEI.</p>	<p>Continued advocacy on the importance of the safety of journalists led to an improvement in the handling of incidents related to the safety of journalists, as roles and duties between the Media Authority (government body responsible for regulating the media) and security organs have been streamlined.</p>	<p>As a result of UNESCO's continued technical and financial support towards the South Sudan Information Commission, a total of 11 forms and simplified regulations on Access to Information were developed as steps towards operationalization of the Access to Information Act, 2013. The documents developed will facilitate easy access and requests for information by the public from government and private institutions. The simplified regulations on access to information will be launched in 2021.</p>
<p>Empowering community radio managers and community radio network directors through the strengthening of their capacities during a workshop on advocating for community radios to be recognized as a third sector of the media in South Sudan.</p>	<p>On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, the government media regulator reaffirmed their commitment to fostering relations with media stakeholders and creating an environment which promotes freedom of expression and media freedom as fundamental rights, in line with the 2011 South Sudan Transitional Constitution. In addition, a series of awareness-raising radio messages reached over 5,000 listeners.</p>	<p>The safety of journalists in times of COVID-19 was supported by UNESCO through trainings for journalists and media houses to ensure their safety. Over 20 media houses and 200 Journalists were supported at the height of the COVID-19 through capacity development as well as the provision of safety kits.</p>	<p>In support of the South Sudanese government to improve legislative and institutional frameworks related to freedom of expression online and offline, UNESCO supported the development of the first ever draft data protection bill in partnership with the National Communications Authority and ICT for Development Network. The law will mandate protection of citizens' data, including information on journalists to ensure their safety. Continuous efforts will be embarked on to ensure that the bill is passed into law.</p>
<p>Discussion and development of action plans on the basis of UNESCO's Community Media Sustainability Series during a multi-stakeholder workshop, which involved duty bearers and community radio network coordinators.</p>	<p>Celebrations of IDEI gave a platform for participants and stakeholders to produce a number of recommendations aimed at improving the media sector and safety of journalists. They were also the occasion to engage, for the first time, on media-related issues with the judiciary, which expressed during the event keenness to cooperate with the media sector and support it through the promotion of justice and the fight against impunity.</p>	<p>Media guidelines for journalists were developed to ensure journalists safety and ethical reporting during COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>UNESCO supported, in partnership with the Media Authority, the finalization of the journalists' code of ethics that will be aimed at promoting professional journalism in South Sudan. The document was approved by stakeholders present at the validation workshop, and will be launched in 2021.</p>

<p>Promotion of regional exchange and knowledge-sharing to strengthen the South Sudan Community Media Network, within the framework of a workshop involving members of the Kenyan and Tanzanian Community Media Networks. Exchange of lessons learned and relevant skills to foster the South Sudan Community Media Network's advocacy capacities and regional recognition.</p>	<p>Celebrations of IDUAL saw the Deputy Minister for Information reaffirm in a statement his government's commitment to ensuring the full implementation of the right to access to information, highlighting its role in the current pandemic as well as in the nation-building process.</p>	<p>In coordination with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and National Media Associations, UNESCO supported the establishment of a media desk at the MoH.</p>	
		<p>Safety of women journalists was reinforced through trainings on digital and physical safety through collaboration with the Female Journalists Network of South Sudan.</p>	
<p>Gender Preparation for technical support and in-house training for 17 media institutions to air programmes focused on gender and tackling violence against women. The activities seek also to improve capacities of 6 regulatory and legislative bodies to improve gender equality policies in media.</p>			



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Community Radio managers and South Sudan Community Media Network equipped with the skills to effectively run and sustain the network, and empowered with the capacities to advocate for a thriving community media sector in South Sudan.
- The community media network in South Sudan has been reinforced with relevant skills, experiences and knowledge to operate and bolster the network, whilst also ensuring regional cooperation and partnerships among community media networks in the East African region.
- At least 30 rights holders (Community Radio managers and CoMNTCESS members) equipped with knowledge and skills on advocacy towards lobbying for policies that are aimed at ensuring that the community media sector is recognized as a third sector of the media.
- A position paper has been developed by the South Sudan Community Media Network and submitted to Members of the Parliament for them to take action towards the improvement of the community media sector in South Sudan.

- At least 200 stakeholders reached during the national WRD celebration, and stakeholders informed and urged to improve the media environment for radio and community media broadcasters.
- Celebrations of international days continued to be used as platforms for advocacy and dialogue with authorities and witnessed the reaffirmation of political commitment by several high-ranking officials to continue working towards the strengthening of freedom of expression, media freedom, the safety of journalists and access to information in South Sudan.
- Noted improvements in the Media Authority's handling of incidents regarding the safety of journalists as a result of UNESCO's actions and support. On the occasion of IDEI, its Managing-Director highlighted that the Authority had investigated and successfully resolved and mitigated over 60 media complaints and cases of breach and violations of South Sudan's media laws. Moreover, a total of 175 media enterprises from different categories have been officially registered by the Media Authority to operate legally in the country, and over 900 international journalists have been accredited since 2017.
- Successfully supported the safety of South Sudanese journalists in times of COVID-19 through capacity-development, the supplying of safety kits, the development of media guidelines and the creation of a media desk within the Ministry of Health.
- By virtue of UNESCO efforts in response to the COVID-19 crisis, partnerships were established with the Ministry of health and other UN agencies such as WHO, UNDP, UNICEF and Internews, to enforce journalists' safety through a training on physical safety during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Building on previous capacity-development work and the close collaboration with the Access to Information Commission, a total of 11 forms and simplified regulations on Access to Information were developed to reinforce the implementation of the 2013 Access to Information Act.
- Development of a draft Data Protection Bill in partnership with national stakeholders which will, once voted into law, will protect citizens and journalists' data.
- In support of professional journalism in South Sudan, UNESCO helped develop and finalize a Journalists' Code of Ethics, which was approved by stakeholders and will be launched in 2021.
- Continued support to gender diversity within the South Sudanese media sector through support and collaboration with the Female Journalists Network of South Sudan, which took the lead in organizing the celebration of IDEI and the training of 35 women journalists, as well as the Female Network Representatives which were similarly involved in the planning and implementation of activities in 2020.



CHALLENGES, RISKS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Frequent changes in government officials and personnel took a toll on the implementation of activities, which were slowed down as a result. In response to this, UNESCO Juba frequently engaged with newly appointed officials in order to bring them up to speed on UNESCO activities, which contributed to secure their participation and avoid further delays.

The COVID-19 pandemic too posed a series of challenges which slowed down the implementation of activities. As a result, several activities had to be modified in order to take COVID-19 preventative measures into consideration, especially those which involved direct engagement with beneficiaries.



FORTHCOMING ACTION

Priorities for 2021 in South Sudan were established based on key recommendations from stakeholders such as local authorities, civil society organizations and media associations, while also complementing and building on past initiatives. However, due to an uncertain political environment and possible changes in government, these priorities are subject to change and might be revised during the year.

The UNESCO Juba Office will in 2021 continue advocacy work regarding the draft data protection bill, and will conduct capacity-building activities for judges, prosecutors and security officers on media laws, freedom of expression and the safety of journalists, thanks to the relations established with the judiciary within the framework of the 2020 celebration of IDEI. In parallel, UNESCO will support the establishment of a national safety mechanism for South Sudanese journalists and will continue collaboration with the country's Information Commission through the development of training manuals on ATI for CSOs and public information officers.

Besides, the MDP will also continue to extend its support to community media in South Sudan, through follow-up and continuous advocacy towards an improved governing framework for community media, through maintaining its support to the South Sudan Community Media Network and through capacity building initiatives for the network's members. Furthermore, output 2 under Outcome 21, is planning to carry out activities that aim at improving gender and youth representation and portrayals in the media through capacity building and awareness raising among journalists, notably on gender sensitive reporting.

REGIONAL ACTION IN ARAB STATES



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Iraq

Close to 900 journalists trained on COVID-19 safety and publication of reporting guidelines

Lebanon

Emergency response to the Beirut explosions through the Media Recovery Fund and an interagency initiative to support civil society projects

Morocco

Production of a guide for information officers on ATI in times of the COVID-19 pandemic

Palestine

Safety Officers Network and National Monitoring Mechanisms reinforced

Tunisia

Capacities of the judiciary and members of the media reinforced on the safety of journalists and the rule of law

Sudan

Finalization and approval of the Media Reform Roadmap

Syria

Monitoring study of hate speech in media content

Yemen

Reinforced independent media coverage and access to reliable information on the COVID-19 pandemic

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS

IRAQ

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS



CONTEXT

The recent history of Iraq has been blighted by violence and armed conflict as a result of the nearly 9-year-long Iraq War that devastated the country. This war left in its wake weakened state authorities along with a power vacuum which left the way open for armed jihadist group such as the Islamic State to seize parts of the country's territory and take control of the media in these areas. As a result, many journalists have died due to dangerous assignments or were killed in crossfire, and many others have been detained as reprisal for their coverage. Between 2000 and 2020, the [UNESCO Observatory of killed journalists](#) recorded 201 deaths of journalists in Iraq, the overwhelming majority of which remain unresolved.

The waves of protests which broke out across Iraq in October 2019 over corruption, lack of jobs and poor public services, and which led to the resignation of the Prime Minister, are considered by many international press freedom NGOs to mark an intensification of pressure and repression against Iraqi media workers. Many note a "repressive climate" which took the form of harassment, threats, assaults and legal sanctions, and which has led the International Press Institute (IPI) to consider that press freedom in Iraq had plummeted "to its worst level in over a decade" in late 2019. According to Reporters Without Borders, Iraqi journalists and media workers likewise faced pressure in their coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Within this context, the safety of women journalists is of particular concern. Already harassed for their work as journalists, they are also a target because of their gender, and because they dare to defy societal expectations regarding women's role in society. The harassment they face is considerably more virulent and malicious than their male colleagues, and many do not dare file complaints with the police or seek legal support. In response to this, UNESCO initiated in 2020 the creation of a reporting mechanism for threats against women journalists, with a focus on digital threats and cyber-blackmail. While this initiative was significantly delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, training materials have been prepared and women police officers have been selected to take part in the trainings, which are set to begin in February 2021. A training of trainers on safety for women journalists from 18 Iraqi governorates was likewise delayed and is set to take place over the summer of 2021.

With regards to policy advice, the holding of parliamentary hearings with civil society organizations specialized in media development to discuss possible enhancements to Iraq's freedom of expression legal framework were also foreseen for 2020, but unfortunately, they were also delayed to early 2021. In the meantime, UNESCO Baghdad initiated collaboration with members of the National Safety of Journalists Committee as well as various NGOs. Together with this Committee, UNESCO has also launched a survey which will contribute to the upcoming [World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development](#).

Despite delays in the implementation of preplanned activities, and challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, UNESCO Baghdad was able to reach close to 900 journalists through capacity development on COVID-related safety measures and countering disinformation. This was done through cost-sharing with the EU project #CoronavirusFacts. In parallel to these trainings, UNESCO also published special guidelines on COVID-19 reporting and disinformation, as well as produced and disseminated awareness-raising materials.



AREAS OF ACTION

Awareness-raising and advocacy	Enhancing journalists' safety	Policy advice
<p>As a part of the #CoronavirusFacts project on fighting COVID-related disinformation, funded by the EU with co-funding from the MDP, the UNESCO Baghdad Office developed audio messages, animations, infographics and key messages on the safety of journalists. The audio messages were aired in the form of podcasts by 12 radio stations across Iraq, and the visual materials were shared by 14 TV stations.</p>	<p>The groundwork was laid for the establishment of a mechanism to report threats against women journalists in Iraq, with a focus on digital threats and cyber blackmail. Training material for women police officers has been developed, and training of the officers will begin in early 2021.</p>	<p>In preparation of parliamentary hearings on enhancing the current freedom of expression legislation, UNESCO has been providing support and policy advice to members of the National Safety of Journalists Committee and NGOs.</p>

	In response to the COVID-19 crisis and in cooperation with the European Union funded #CoronavirusFacts project, the capacities of close to 900 hundred Iraqi journalists (among which half were women) were built on safety of journalists in times of a pandemic. In addition, 20 local trainers were trained on the issue, who then trained 550 journalists.	
	Response to the health crisis and knowledge of local journalists were strengthened through the development and distribution of special guidelines on COVID-19 reporting entitled "Safety of journalists and fighting disinformation".	
	In an effort to reinforce the safety of journalists in Iraq, UNESCO also developed guidelines on digital safety and protection from blackmail, which will be distributed in early 2021.	



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- UNESCO successfully rose to meet the challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis to the safety of journalists by strengthening the capacities of close to 900 journalists in reporting on the pandemic, debunking disinformation and preventive measures to adopt in the field. The Baghdad office also produced and distributed special guidelines on these issues and on digital safety.
- The creation of a reporting mechanism on harassment, threats and violence against Iraqi women journalists had been initiated, and the groundwork has been laid for the training of women police officers to begin in early 2021.
- In spite of challenges and delays created by the COVID-19 pandemic, policy advice and work on Iraq's freedom of expression legal framework has advanced, and collaboration with pivotal stakeholders has been established.



CHALLENGES, RISKS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

The COVID-19 crisis created challenges and significant delays in the implementation of activities under the reporting period. As a result, several activities such as parliamentary hearings on freedom of expression and the training of trainers for women journalists had to be postponed to 2021. The emerging needs nevertheless urged UNESCO to develop the capacities of close to 900 journalists on sanitary safety in times of pandemics, as well as to produce dedicated resources.

With regards to the helpline for women journalists, challenges faced were linked to traditions and taboos which often prevent women journalists from going to police stations or from asking for assistance with their mental health.



FORTHCOMING ACTION

In 2021, UNESCO Baghdad will resume the implementation of activities which had been delayed or postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will build on the ones it succeeded in implementing. For instance, in pursuance of the establishment of a reporting mechanism for women journalists, training sessions for women police officers will begin in February 2021. The training of trainers for women journalists on digital safety is scheduled to begin in the summer of the same year.

With regards to policy advice, the three parliamentary hearings at the Iraqi Council of Representatives to review draft laws on freedom of expression will be held on 7 March, 4 April and 3 May 2021.

In addition, the training courses on the safety of journalists and fighting disinformation in times of COVID-19 which successfully strengthened the capacities of close to 900 journalists will continue in 2021, and three sessions are foreseen to take place in April and May.

LEBANON

Syria

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS



CONTEXT

Lebanon has long had the reputation of being one of the freest Arab countries with a vibrant media landscape. However, the media sector has also had its share of political influence and dependency on some business actors, which translated into editorial independence, affecting at times the professionalism and accuracy of media content and production. In recent years, additional challenges ranging from the spread of hate speech and disinformation, to an undermined journalists' safety, have further regressed the viability of Lebanese media.

In addition to these pre-existing challenges, Lebanon was hit by two major crises in 2020, namely the COVID-19 pandemic and the Beirut port explosions. Beyond their impact on residents of Beirut and Lebanese citizens as a whole, these crises had a considerable impact on journalists, media institutions and their credibility, as their jeopardized survival puts into question their ability to continue delivering credible, independent and free information and opinions. These crises also raised questions about the judiciary system and its ability to deal with freedom of expression and safety of journalists-related matters independently. Moreover, this overall context of emergency and disaster posed challenges in terms of safety, disinformation and hate speech, linked to both the sanitary and political situations.

While the specific dates of the upcoming elections in Lebanon are not yet fixed, they will undoubtedly be a critical period in the history of the country. Many believe that this could be the spark for transformative change, however, they also believe that it will likely take years of instability and unrest, spurred by dismal economic conditions, to get there. Providing the grounds for free, democratic and transparent elections will be the first step towards a just representation of Lebanese people, who seek to hold those accountable for the destruction and humanitarian losses.

UNESCO's immediate response to the situation in Lebanon was twofold: firstly, in relation to the Beirut blast and the deterioration of freedom of expression and the safety of journalists, UNESCO joined forces with the Samir Kassir Foundation in Lebanon (SKeyes) and supported, both technically and financially, an emergency Media Recovery Fund. Thanks to an initial contribution of 50,000 USD from the MDP, the Samir Kassir Foundation was later able to raise funds among international partners and obtain 1 million USD. The bulk of the funding has been dedicated to a major pillar of the initiative, namely the economic livelihood and viability of media outlets. Other areas also supported thus far include psycho-social support, provision of equipment, personal support, creation of an online database (with a focus on documents related to the explosions), and capacity development (ranging from digital safety to investigative journalism). Secondly, as part of the LiBeirut taskforce, UNESCO is leading an interagency initiative (together with UNODC and UNFPA) to support civil society projects aligned with UNESCO's priorities and in support of communities affected by the Beirut blasts. Special focus is being given to freedom of expression, access to information and media & information literacy (MIL) projects, with a particular attention being granted to youth and women.

UNESCO also initiated cooperation with the judiciary through the signing of a letter of intent with the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) of Lebanon, whose judges benefited from trainings on freedom of expression, safety of journalists and communications-related topics. The Organization will continue to bridge the gap between the judiciary and the media throughout 2021 by holding additional trainings, dialogues and conferences, as well as coordinating communications efforts.



AREAS OF ACTION

Awareness-raising and advocacy	Enhancing journalists' safety	Policy advice
<p>Following the Beirut port blasts, UNESCO led an interagency initiative to support civil society projects aligned with UNESCO's priorities, namely Freedom of Expression, Access to Information and Media & Information Literacy. The projects supported response to four major needs: countering hate speech, fighting disinformation, enhancing access to information, and encouraging innovation and self-expression, with special attention to youth and women. As part of the LiBeirut initiative, the UNESCO Beirut Office is working to secure additional funds to support projects for Beirut youth through the provision of financial, technical and humanitarian support.</p>		
<p>Advocacy efforts targeting journalists and national stakeholders for the full implementation of the ATI law were enforced and more concrete steps are in place and were announced during the celebration of the 2020 IDUAI in partnership with the May Chidiac Foundation.</p>	<p>Implementation of the UN Plan of Action was reinforced through collaboration with the Lebanese judiciary following the signing of a letter of intent with the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC). Following the signing of this letter, UNESCO Beirut organized capacity strengthening activities for judges on freedom of expression & the safety of journalists, in addition to strengthening the SJC's communication skills and drafting a plan of action for dealing with media online and off-line.</p>	

	<p>Following the Beirut port blasts, UNESCO led an interagency initiative to support civil society projects aligned with UNESCO's priorities, namely Freedom of Expression, Access to Information and Media & Information Literacy. The projects supported response to four major needs: countering hate speech, fighting disinformation, enhancing access to information, and encouraging innovation and self-expression, with special attention to youth and women. As part of the LiBeirut initiative, the UNESCO Beirut Office is working to secure additional funds to support projects for Beirut youth through the provision of financial, technical and humanitarian support.</p>	
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KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Immediate technical and financial support to the Lebanon Media Recovery Fund from the MDP enabled the Fund to leverage and secure close to 1 million USD from international partner organizations and to provide psychosocial support, equipment, capacity development to local journalists, as well as to create an online resource database.
- As part of the LiBeirut initiative, the UNESCO Beirut office is leading an interagency initiative, together with UNODC and UNFPA, to support media and civil society projects aligned with UNESCO's priorities and respond to major needs.
- The signing of an agreement with the Supreme Judicial Council of Lebanon has opened the way for cooperation with judicial actors in the country as well as for the creation of a mutual understanding between the judiciary and the media in order to support an enabling and safe environment for freedom of expression and access to information.
- Awareness raised among journalists and national stakeholders about the importance of fully implementing Lebanon's access to information legislation through an advocacy campaign has brought attention and gathered efforts for a full force action in 2021.
- COVID-19 response strengthened through the translation into Arabic of the "[Journalism in a pandemic: Covering COVID-19 now and in the future](#)" MOOC and the regional launch through UNESCO's national and sub-regional offices.



CHALLENGES, RISKS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

The security situation in Lebanon, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Beirut Port blasts, and a general context of political unrest created a number of uncertainties and delays during the implementation of activities, while also requiring a change of priorities and modifications of the workplan. Several major actions were affected. Firstly, the threats to the safety of journalists, and regress of freedom of expression and access to reliable information required an immediate response at both media and civil society levels following the Beirut port blasts. Secondly, the spread of COVID-19 and ensuing disinformation created a need for awareness-raising about the importance of fact-checking and capacity building for journalists and youth. Lastly, support to the Supreme Judiciary Council emerged as a new priority, as its credibility and independence were questioned as a result of both political unrest and the port explosions.

The MDP's inherent flexibility and reactivity allowed for the redirection of actions towards an immediate response to the Beirut blasts and COVID-19 crisis in Lebanon. The credibility, neutrality and long-standing experience of UNESCO made possible the bringing together of the judiciary and Lebanese media, a feat which would not have been possible otherwise due to distrust and presumed partiality of the SJC. UNESCO was thus able to "break the ice" between both parties and strengthen the capacities of the judges to come up with a communication plan on how to deal with media matters.



FORTHCOMING ACTION

Actions foreseen in 2021 will build on the response to Lebanon's crises coordinated in 2020 and will see a deepening of activities involving the judiciary and the media. This will notably take the form of capacity-strengthening activities for both judges and journalists, dialogues, national conferences, broadcasting of TV spots and the creation of an online platform. Capacity-building activities will also be organized for journalists in cooperation with the Ministry of Information and in preparation for the country's upcoming elections which are tentatively scheduled for 2022, thereby supporting Lebanese media to report on the electoral process in a way that is independent, impartial and transparent.

UNESCO will likewise continue supporting the viability of media outlets affected by the Beirut blast throughout the year and will expand its COVID-19 response through awareness raising campaigns on radio and TV.

Furthermore, the MDP will enable the Beirut Office to enhance access to information through specially tailored radio programmes and social media channels that are aimed to provide the public with access to vital and verified information and a platform to discuss pressing matters ranging from the health crisis, to the repercussions of the port explosions, and the upcoming elections along with the promise of reform.

MOROCCO

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS

Algeria



CONTEXT

While Morocco embarked on a constitutional reform in 2011 which led to a renewal of its media legislation in 2016 and 2017, independent observers have noted that implementation of said new laws remains lacking. Furthermore, their efficiency with regards to judicial pressure and the imprisonment of journalists has also been questioned. In response to this, UNESCO deployed in 2019 advocacy efforts with the Ministries of Justice and of Communication, the Prosecutor General's Office, the National Press Council and representatives of the judiciary regarding the creation of a dialogue between justice and media, which was scheduled to be launched in 2020. While preparations for this launch were advanced, the strict lockdown imposed by authorities to curtail the spread of COVID-19 in Morocco significantly complicated the work of officers on the ground and the activities involving the judiciary were put on hold as they had to handle the consequences of the pandemic on a judicial system that is not yet digitized. This dialogue was therefore postponed to March 2021 and will be relaunched through capacity-strengthening sessions and workshops contextualizing existing tools from March to November.

Nevertheless, UNESCO engaged throughout 2020 in virtual discussions with the Ministry of Justice regarding a Memorandum of Understanding, which would allow student judges to benefit from trainings on freedom of expression in 2021. In addition, UNESCO successfully integrated within the 2020-2021 curricula of Rabat journalism school a series of master classes on justice and media, the safety of journalists and access to information.

Since its inception, the MDP has sought to assist the implementation of the country's legal framework and has achieved considerable progress with regards to Morocco's access to information legislation. For instance, synergies with various ministries and governmental actors were reinforced in 2019, and the support and involvement of the Prime Minister in fully implementing the ATI law was secured, as he pledged to support mainstreaming ATI within the government and to promote transparency and accountability. This endorsement paved the way for the training of public information officers, the first cohort of which graduated in July 2019, and led to UNESCO being solicited to train members of the Parliament on access to information and freedom of expression.

In spite of the delays and challenges created by the COVID-19 crisis and containment measures, UNESCO strove in 2020 to build on these accomplishments to further enhance access to information in Morocco, especially considering the vital importance of this right within the context of the pandemic. Together with the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Public Administration and CSOs, UNESCO produced an easy-to-follow guide for public information officers to address civil society's concerns. Further, with the same partners, UNESCO produced a blueprint for the creation of awareness-raising videos geared towards information focal points, civil society organizations and citizens, which will be produced in early 2021 and followed by a campaign from May to December 2021.



AREAS OF ACTION

Awareness-raising and advocacy	Policy advice and reinforcement of duty bearers' capacities
Awareness reinforced on the importance of freedom of expression through a digital campaign conducted with local media and the publication of a series of interviews on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day 2020.	Discussions progressed with the Ministry of Justice for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding that would allow student judges to benefit from trainings on freedom of expression.
Planning advanced for the production of an awareness-raising campaign on access to information geared towards information focal points, civil society organizations and citizens, with production set to begin in early 2021.	Provided guidance to information officers through the production of an easy-to-follow guide on access information within the context of the pandemic.
	Integration within the 2020-2021 curricula of the Rabat Higher Institute of Information and Communication (ISIC) of a series of master classes on justice and media, access to information and the safety of journalists.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- In spite of considerable challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and by measures to contain its spread, UNESCO Rabat has made headway for the planning of future cooperation with the judiciary through discussions around a Memorandum of Understanding and through preparations for the relaunching of Media & Justice Dialogue.
- The implementation of the right to access information was reinforced with high government and national support, represented by the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Public Administration and Civil Society Organizations, for the production of a guide for public information officers within the context of the pandemic.
- Long term impact and sustainability of UNESCO's advocacy on justice and media, access to information and the safety of journalists were achieved through the integration of a series of master classes for journalism students.



CHALLENGES, RISKS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

The COVID-19 pandemic and the sanitary state of emergency ordered by Moroccan authorities to limit its spread created significant hurdles for the implementing team at UNESCO Rabat. For instance, the justice and media project which was foreseen to take place between March and August 2020 had to be postponed to March 2021 as a strict lockdown prevented physical meetings and as the activities of the judiciary were hindered by its limited digitization and by a redirection of its priorities to deal with pandemic-related matters. Similarly, due to uncertainty around the possible postponement of Morocco's elections due to the pandemic, the workshops on the role of media in times of elections which were scheduled from September to December 2020 had to be put on hold.

Nonetheless, UNESCO officers managed to maintain some activities related to access to information, although some had to be adapted to the current pandemic context. For example, instead of trainings, the capacities of information officers were strengthened through the production of a guide to answer civil society's queries in times of the pandemic. The production of a video to support awareness raising on access to information was likewise maintained as the blueprints have been drafted, although actual production was delayed to early 2021.



FORTHCOMING ACTION

The aspired lifting of strict lockdowns and curfew measures in 2021 will provide UNESCO officers in Morocco with the opportunity to relaunch several opportunities, among which is the Media and Justice Dialogue that will take place from March to November and will include capacity-building for student lawyers, judges and prosecutors, as well as sessions contextualizing existing tools for the media and duty bearers. In addition, an open course on freedom of expression will be developed for civil servants.

With regards to the safety of journalists, UNESCO's ongoing support will continue through the development of toolkits on the safety of women journalists in French and Arabic, and provision of masterclasses in journalism schools based on these resources. Furthermore, a roundtable on the safety of women journalists is planned for the IDEI, plus two training sessions on SOJ for parliamentarians.

Finally, work on access to information will be expanded through capacity development of journalists and community activists, along with an awareness-raising campaign.



PALESTINE

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS



CONTEXT

Palestine continues to be a high-risk environment for journalists and media workers to exercise their profession on account of persisting political and security issues. While no journalists were recorded as killed in Palestine since 2019 by UNESCO's Observatory of killed journalists, many endure pressure and retribution from both national and external actors. According to the Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedom (MADA), violations of journalists' rights in 2020 ranged from physical assault, seizure of equipment, prohibition of coverage, to raids of media houses. Additionally, the restricted access for Palestinian journalists to some areas limits the topics and issues they can cover.

Building on past achievements, such as the creation of the Safety Officers Network in 2019 with the support of the MDP, and in line with UNESCO's continuous support to Palestinian media organizations and workers, the Ramallah Office continued to promote the safety of journalists and strengthen the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity as one of its priority areas. For instance, UNESCO sustained efforts to support the national monitoring mechanism which was launched in 2019 under the patronage of Palestine's Prime Minister, notably through a series of capacity-development sessions which received additional support from OHCHR as well as local NGOs. As a result, Palestine submitted its first report on the safety of journalists in response to the Director General's request for information on the status of judicial enquiries into the killings of journalists. This was done through a concerted effort involving the government, civil society and the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate.

Efforts in 2020 also focused on supporting media during the COVID-19 crisis by equipping local journalists and media workers with the knowledge and skills to protect themselves while reporting in the field, to counter disinformation through verifying and fact-checking sources and news, and to ensure gender sensitive coverage and solution-based journalism. Additionally, plans for 2021 include a specialized training on the COVID-19 “disinfodemic” that will be extended to journalism students at several Palestinian universities.

As in previous years, in 2020, the Ramallah Office used International Days as important platforms for advocacy and an opportunity to build synergies with international partners, as was the case this year with OHCHR and the Offices of the Dutch and Swedish Representatives. These events also enabled local stakeholders to exchange experiences and perspectives and engage in discussions on Palestine’s freedom of expression legal framework.

In the field of MIL, Palestinian education stakeholders are becoming more aware of the importance of MIL competencies. Through ongoing collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and through reinforced dialogue among duty bearers and rights holders to enable change, the first MIL Policy Paper in Palestine was produced and will dovetail into the development of a national policy on MIL. Besides, young people and youth organizations have enhanced their capacity on MIL and will further raise awareness on its relevance.



AREAS OF ACTION AND PROGRESS

Media and Information Literacy	Awareness-raising and advocacy	Enhancing the safety of journalists	Capacity Development
UNESCO produced the first policy document for MIL in preparation of a National MIL Strategy in Palestine, based on the UNESCO Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Policy Guidelines and model MIL Curriculum.	A joint celebration of WFPD and Human Rights Day was organized in December in collaboration with the Offices of the Dutch and Swedish Representatives as well as OHCHR, through a high-level webinar highlighting freedom of expression online and offline, along with the role of human rights defenders. This event was an occasion to build synergies, provide a platform for discussion and experience-sharing among national counterparts.	The Safety Officers Network, which was successfully created in 2019, saw its readiness to face safety threats reinforced throughout 2020, notably through meetings and visits to media outlets to follow-up on previously issued recommendations, in-house trainings, as well as specialized training sessions on COVID-19, organized virtually in both Gaza and the West Bank, with the additional support of OHCHR and local NGOs.	As part of UNESCO’s efforts to combat disinformation, and particularly in times of COVID-19, the Ramallah Office held interactive training sessions introducing the Arabic version of the UNESCO handbook “Journalism, ‘Fake News’ and Disinformation: A Handbook for Journalism Education and Training”. The trainings, which took the form of trainings-of-trainers (TOT), paid particular attention to providing participating journalists with the tools to deal with the “disinfodemic” and debunk manipulated facts.
40 young Palestinians from 5 universities (3 in the West Bank and 2 in Gaza) were trained to become MIL multipliers and trainers, and will raise awareness on MIL with at least 300 media students inside these universities.	Celebrations of IDEI were held under the theme “The Palestinian Reality and International Comparisons of Freedom and Violations Against Journalists”, and were marked by discussions among journalists, media representatives, and academics on Palestinian laws versus international standards pertaining to freedom of expression online and offline.	Continued support to the National Monitoring Mechanism was provided through a series of trainings of the relevant stakeholders in the West Bank and Gaza, in cooperation with OHCHR and local NGOs. As a result, Palestine submitted its first national report in response to the Director General’s request for information on the status of judicial enquiries into the killings of journalists.	A series of trainings was organized in relation to press freedom under emergency laws and new regulations enforced by the government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Other trainings included news verification and fact-checking, countering disinformation and solutions-based journalism, and gender sensitive coverage.

		A safety guide for reporters in high-risk environments was issued in Arabic in collaboration with the Media Development Center and the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate to support media in their coverage during the COVID-19 pandemic.	
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“I had never had an integrated plan related to, for example, how to enter and exit to and from conflict areas, or how can I protect myself from ballistic attacks, or how to deal with injured colleagues in the field and help them until the arrival of medical staff. But things have changed, and I can now deal with all these field risks in a major way and protect the press team that I supervise.”

Fady Elhassany, Palestinian freelance reporter



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- UNESCO office in Ramallah succeeded in reinforcing UN Joint coordination and creating multi stakeholder coalitions for the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity in Palestine. This was done by getting OHCHR on board to further support the National Monitoring Mechanism, along with local NGOs. Throughout 2020 UNESCO continued to support this safety mechanism, which was created in 2019 with UNESCO’s support and under the patronage of the Prime Minister of Palestine, through capacity development and in-house coaching.
- The Network of Safety Officers, created in 2019 in the West Bank and Gaza, was further reinforced and its members benefitted from in-house trainings based on previously issued recommendations, along with trainings on safety during COVID-19 coverage.
- UNESCO succeeded in providing emergency response to the COVID-19 crisis by developing a safety guide in Arabic together with the Media Development Center and the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate; organizing a series of trainings on news verification, disinformation and solution-based journalism in times of COVID-19; and launching the Arabic version of the UNESCO handbook “Journalism, ‘Fake News’ and Disinformation: A Handbook for Journalism Education and Training”.
- UNESCO supported the cooperation across multiple Ministries of Government to ensure a more integrated approach and sustainable development of MIL in Palestine.
- The first MIL policy paper in Palestine was produced which will dovetail into the development of a national policy on MIL.
- 68 journalists and educators trained on MIL.



CHALLENGES, RISKS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Unstable Internet connectivity, at a time where many activities had to be held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, posed a considerable challenge and prevented some participants from taking part in trainings and webinars, and partners from attending some meetings.

The announcement of upcoming elections in Palestine, while a positive step, will most likely mean a government reshuffle. This is foreseen to cause delays for the approval and implementation of the Access to Information Law. However, it will also provide a timely opportunity for UNESCO to provide support to this process, including the strengthening of journalists' and media's capacities to accompany this monumental national event.

Political instability and security concerns have also affected the implementation of some activities in the country, such as the multi-stakeholder trainings organized in Jericho. An adverse impact also affected the beneficiary groups and partners, as restricted access to some areas like the Jordan Valley following the rising presence of law enforcement, has also started to create concerns for the safety of journalists, freedom of movement and the possibility of covering certain issues.



FORTHCOMING ACTION

The announcement by Palestinian authorities of the first elections in over 15 years represents an important opportunity for UNESCO to accompany the Member State in this monumental event. In preparation for the elections, UNESCO will offer policy advice and strengthen the capacities of the media, starting February 2021. While the government reshuffle following the elections is expected to cause initial delays in the legal reform process, this could however eventually help overcome the deadlock in the implementation, in particular the adoption of the draft ATI law which was developed with support from UNESCO.

The UNESCO Ramallah Office will continue to strengthen advocacy and develop the capacities of partners and various stakeholders as part of a broader approach to further enhance the safety of journalists. This includes a training of the members of the Network of Safety Focal Points and workshops to support the creation of a national safety mechanism. In parallel, a second phase of training on safety and disinformation in relation to COVID-19 pandemic will be rolled out for media students in several Palestinian universities, in cooperation with Al-Quds Open University.

The UNESCO Ramallah Office will continue its advocacy efforts towards the adoption of an MIL action plan by the different ministries, which may eventually lead to a national MIL policy. Besides, it is planned to continue enhancing the capacities of youth organizations by setting up MIL Clubs in schools in Palestine, adopting an institution-building approach.

SUDAN

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS



CONTEXT

The revolutionary movement of 2019 brought an end to close to 30 years of authoritarian rule in Sudan following the overthrowing of Omar al-Bashir. Formerly notorious for human rights abuses, Sudan is now entering a new phase of its history, as a Transitional Civil-Military Council initiated in August 2019 a 39-month transitional period under the authority of a Sovereign Council of Sudan, in anticipation of general elections scheduled to take place in the fall of 2022.

The strong political commitment expressed by Sudan's transitional authorities to reform laws and policies relative to freedom of expression, freedom of the media and access to information, as well as their request for UNESCO's support, presented a window of opportunity which the organization welcomed through its field office in Khartoum by extending technical support and policy advice starting November 2019. Early successes achieved within this framework led the United Kingdom's Foreign & Commonwealth Office, through the British Embassy in Khartoum, to co-finance complementing activities implemented by the Khartoum Office in this regard in the beginning of 2020.

The first step was to conduct an assessment of Sudan's media landscape, regulations and challenges. This was initiated in November 2019 through a series of high-level meetings, among which 13 workshops and 66 expert meetings, were organized throughout the country and continued well into 2020, in order to collect information about the media situation in Sudan, identify gaps and discuss possible ways forward. These meetings included Ministers, media stakeholders, legal entities, policy makers and representatives from civil societies. At least 700 media professionals participated in this process. The assessment, which is based on UNESCO's Media Development Indicators (MDIs) was discussed with concerned stakeholders and was finalized in the summer of 2020.

This assessment then served as a basis to draft the Media Reform Roadmap, which covers issues such as the safety of journalists, advocacy for the rights of media professionals, and the compliance of laws and policies with international standards. The Roadmap was likewise finalized over the summer and was both approved and celebrated by the Sudanese Minister of Culture and Information in September 2020. Additionally, a 202-member National Team for Media Reform was formed. Media reform in Sudan is now in its initiating phase, and the way forward is clear.

A second objective in 2020 was to strengthen the capacities of Sudanese media workers on combatting disinformation and the prevention of violent extremism and hate speech, a theme which is of crucial importance for transitioning countries. Over 300 Sudanese journalists took part in these trainings, a large section of which were women and/or from outside the capital.

Throughout this process, UNESCO was able to count on the support of Sudanese authorities and particularly of the Ministry of Culture and Information, who kindly granted its auspice to the project and participated in all activities and project governance discussions.



AREAS OF ACTION AND PROGRESS

Awareness-raising and advocacy	Enhancing the safety of journalists	Policy advice and reinforcement of duty bearers' capacities
On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, on 3 May 2020, the Minister of Culture and Information took part in a talk-show dedicated to the Day on national Sudanese TV.	Capacities strengthened of 207 journalists (among which 56% were women and 43% were from outside the capital) through 9 two-day trainings on countering disinformation in Sudanese media.	In continuation of the workshops organized in 2019 to produce an assessment of Sudan's media landscape and policies based on UNESCO's MDIs, 2 more workshops were organized on the safety of journalists and on closing the MDI evaluation. Four workshops were also organized in the Eastern, Western, Northern, Central and Southern regions of Sudan with legal experts, media academics, media experts and journalists to give their input on the findings of the assessment as a final step for its finalization.
	Capacities strengthened of 129 journalists (among which 58% were women and 74% were from outside the capital) through 5 two-day trainings on preventing violent extremism and hate speech in Sudanese media.	Based on the assessment, the Media Reform Roadmap was drafted in the spring of 2020, presented to concerned stakeholders and discussed over the summer, and subsequently validated by the Minister of Culture and Information in September.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Since the inception of the project in November 2019, a total of 13 workshops and 66 expert meetings were organized across Sudan in order to advance the drafting of the Media Landscape Assessment in line with UNESCO's Media Development Indicators. At least 700 media professionals participated in this exercise.

- Establishment of a 202-member strong National Team for Media Reform, comprised of media experts, media owners and managers, journalists, officials of the Ministry of Culture and Information and civil society representatives who took part in the assessment of the Sudanese Media Landscape.
- The Media Landscape Assessment is finalized and available as a reference for the concerned stakeholders and the public.
- The Media Reform Roadmap is finalized and has been praised by the Ministry of Culture and Information and the Sudanese media community as a lighthouse and reference for organizing reform in the Sudanese media sector.
- Successfully strengthened the capacities of 207 journalists on countering disinformation and of 129 journalists on preventing violent extremism and hate speech through 14 two-day training sessions, 8 of which took place outside Khartoum.
- High visibility for the project through local media coverage, which highlight the interest felt by the Sudanese public for both the media reform process and the training of journalists – the UNESCO Khartoum Office documented 67 media records for the Media Reform project, and 19 media records for the capacity-building activities.



CHALLENGES, RISKS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

The COVID-19 pandemic created a variety of obstacles for the implementation of activities in Sudan. In particular, restrictions imposed by Sudanese authorities to contain the spread of the virus as well as the full lockdown and curfew from 13:00 to 6:00 in Khartoum made it impossible to hold meetings with a large number of participants and to travel internationally. This for instance delayed the delivery of the assessment of Sudan's Media Landscape from April to August.

Two no-cost extensions also delayed the initial project timeline by 5 months for the media reform component, and by 7 months for the capacity building component. In spite of this, the project ran smoothly, remained within budget, and all planned components were implemented.

An additional challenge was the various frictions and tensions between different groups of journalists and media workers, which were solved through explanatory and mobilizing discussions which managed to keep everyone onboard.



FORTHCOMING ACTION

In light of the notable achievements attained in Sudan since 2019, of the strong political will to continue reforming Sudan's media landscape, and of the great buy-in from Sudanese stakeholders, UNESCO will continue assisting Sudanese authorities and media stakeholders in advancing reforms conducive to a free and enabling environment for media to thrive. Actions in 2021 will be implemented in two phases:

- The first phase, which will take place from January to June 2021, will examine needs and draft three laws on the press, radio and TV licensing, and access to information;
- The second phase, which will take place from April to September 2021, will examine gaps and draft three laws on broadcasting, amendments to the criminal code and security law, and cyberlaw gaps relevant to the media.

Both phases will follow similar patterns and will begin with consultations with both international and Sudanese experts, before giving way to various discussion and validation workshops.

In addition, the UNESCO Khartoum Office will hold celebrations of all three international Days and will continue to use them for increased awareness-raising and advocacy efforts.

Turkey

OUTCOME 1

SYRIA

Lebanon

Iraq

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS



CONTEXT

The decade-long conflict in Syria has created extremely hazardous conditions for journalists and media workers, who often find themselves in the line of fire when covering bombings and combat. Between 2014 and 2018, the UNESCO Observatory of killed journalists recorded 54 killings of journalists in Syria, the highest figure under the 5-year period according to the “Intensified attacks, new defences: developments in the fight to protect journalists and end impunity” World Trends In-Focus Report. In 2019, the death of 9 more journalists was recorded by UNESCO, the second highest figure that year according to the 2020 Director-General’s Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity. International press freedom NGOs such as Reporters Without Borders have also noted that kidnappings of journalists at the hands of jihadist forces are commonplace, as are detentions by the government.

Furthermore, polarization and sectarianism affect the quality and reliability of the information received by Syrian citizens, as most are regularly exposed to partisan discourse and, at times, inflammatory hate speech. In zones controlled by the Syrian government, information is controlled by the state press agency.

Therefore, UNESCO's response to these challenges has focused on countering hate speech through monitoring, advocacy, and awareness raising; and enhancing journalists' safety through the development of an Action Plan for the Safety of Syrian Journalists.

Through supporting the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression (SCM)'s Observatory of Hate Speech and Incitement to Violence, the MDP allowed for a first monitoring study of hate speech in Syrian media content in 2018. In July 2019, representatives of Syrian media were brought together in an unprecedented meeting in Paris to discuss the outcomes of this monitoring and agree on a way forward, with recommendations to curb this phenomenon. Taking into account these recommendations, SCM launched in February 2020 the second phase of the monitoring project, following an awareness raising campaign and continuous advocacy with Syrian media inside and outside the country. The second round of monitoring aimed at measuring the extent of hate speech in media content and tracking its evolution compared to the results of the previous phase. The results of the second round showed that the average use of hate speech and incitement to violence in Syrian media decreased, as a percentage of provided content by (23.44%) compared to the previous report. The largest percentage of change according to the media type was by radios as it decreased by (29.79%) when compared to the previous report. Followed by the TV, at a rate of (23.58%) decrease, and finally the written (published\print) media, at a rate of (18.75%) decrease compared to the previous report. The results have been analyzed in a comparative study to be published in March 2021, and will be shared with national, regional, and international stakeholders in an open discussion to identify the way forward.

It is worth noting that the project has created the first pool of Syrian media monitors. In a practical perspective, this will allow the Observatory to maintain the regularity of media monitoring and form a solid ground to measure the performance of the media, and later design programmes that contribute to improving the levels of professionalism and limit the effects of hate speech on Syrian society, in addition to other important parameters such as gender equality, countering disinformation, and others.

Regarding the MDP support to enhance the safety of Syrian journalists, in 2019, UNESCO Office in Beirut launched a series of focus group meetings with Syrian journalists and media organizations (both state and independent media, including Kurdish speaking journalists) to assess the needs in terms of journalists' safety and identify available support mechanisms. The results were gathered in one document in the form of an action plan aiming at drawing the outlines of future support. In 2020, a draft of this Action Plan was shared with OHCHR and international press freedom organizations for their review and input. As a result, synergies were established with three major international NGOs, namely the Committee to Protect Journalists, Free Press Unlimited, and the International Federation of Journalists. This Action Plan will henceforth guide UNESCO's actions to enhance the safety of journalists in Syria with implementation starting 2021.

In support of the aforementioned actions, and building on UNESCO's success in integrating its model course on the safety of journalists into the curricula of the Damascus University, an awareness raising campaign was organized in cooperation with the media faculty. The campaign included a script-writing competition to produce Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on the safety of journalists, hate speech and access to information among media students. While the production of the winning PSAs was delayed by bureaucratic hurdles and delays from the Ministry of Information and the Censorship Department due to the sensitivity of the topics they tackle, nevertheless, the approval was finally secured, and production will resume in 2021 followed by a nationwide dissemination on national TV stations and social media.



AREAS OF ACTION AND PROGRESS

Awareness-raising and advocacy	Enhancing journalists' safety	Policy advice and reinforcement of duty bearers' capacities
<p>In continuation of a 2019 initiative, a script-writing competition to produce Public Service Announcements (PSAs) was organized among the media faculty students at the University of Damascus on the safety of journalists, hate speech, the right to access information, and public awareness on the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>In the preparation of the action plan for the safety of Syrian journalists, several focus group meetings were organized physically and virtually, with Syrian journalists and media organizations (including State, independent and Kurdish journalists) in order to explore their views on existing needs and gaps. Participants included the Syndicate of Syrian journalists and the Syrian Journalists Association, the Association for Kurdish Journalists, international NGOs and UN organizations.</p>	<p>Continued advocacy towards countering hate speech in Syrian media content, accompanied by awareness raising through social media, marked the final phase of a the 3-year project implemented by SCM. A second round of monitoring was conducted in 2020, followed by a comparative study highlighting the results of the second monitoring in comparison to those of the first round. The study is scheduled to be launched in March 2021.</p>
	<p>A needs assessment mapping gaps in availability and accessibility of safety and support mechanisms in response to violence against journalists was concluded, with a particular focus on women journalists.</p> <p>Production of two comprehensive studies documenting the process leading to the development of the action plan. The first study analyses the responses of Syrian journalists to a survey disseminated by UNESCO and the input from different media syndicates and organizations during meetings organized in the past year. The second study maps the focus areas of International NGOs and UN Agencies supporting the safety of Syrian journalists. It also includes their views with regards to needed coordination for the implementation of the UN Plan of Action. Those organizations include the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Free Press Unlimited (FPU), Human Rights Watch (HRW), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), Reporters Without Borders (RSF), International Media Support (IMS), the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression (SCM), Internews, and Deutsche Welle Akademie.</p> <p>An action plan to enhance the safety of Syrian journalists was developed based on the previously conducted needs assessment and was shared with international NGOs and OHCHR for their review and input.</p>	



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The second round of media monitoring within the framework of the “Monitoring hate speech and incitement to violence in the Syrian media” project has shown a decrease in hate speech in Syrian media content, following a yearlong advocacy and awareness raising targeting Syrian media outlets inside and outside the country. This decrease is an indicator of the efficiency of the approach followed in the past years.
- A comparative study on the evolution of hate speech in Syria since 2018 was produced and will be launched in March 2021. The study will contribute to identifying needs and priorities in the design of programmes to counter the spread of hate speech in Syrian media and curtail its negative impact on the Syrian society, thereby helping promote an environment conducive to freedom of expression, which represents an essential element in Syria’s peacebuilding process.
- An action plan to enhance the safety of Syrian journalists was produced through a multistakeholder process, involving national, regional and international organizations and institutions through a series of meetings and surveys. This study, which will be launched in 2021, will guide the work of UNESCO and other stakeholders in Syria in the upcoming years as it is based on up-to-date, and detailed information on the current needs and priorities as expressed by the Syrian journalists themselves. Follow up actions and support will be designed to ensure sustainability beyond the completion of the implementation strategy.
- New and renewed synergies were established with numerous Syrian media stakeholders as well as specialized international NGOs supporting Syrian journalists. Three organizations, namely the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Free Press Unlimited (FPU) and the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) expressed their commitment to join this joint action together with UNESCO.
- Thanks to continued advocacy by UNESCO, approval of the PSA campaign by the Syrian Ministry of Information was secured, and the awareness-raising campaign will resume production in 2021.



CHALLENGES, RISKS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

The outbreak of COVID-19 both at global and national level led to the cancellation of several activities in Syria, mostly conferences and large meetings. For the development of the safety action plan, which was the main activity foreseen for the year 2020, meetings were held online instead.

Many of the challenges faced in 2019 persisted, such as bureaucratic hindrances and ensuing delays in implementation. Likewise, the sectarianism fueled by the Syrian conflict required additional caution when bringing together journalists from different areas and affiliation and in the drafting of the action plan.

In addition, while the coordination of efforts was a major concern of international NGOs involved in activities, when the opportunity to coordinate and work together presented itself, the response was often weak due to the territorial behavior of some stakeholders and reluctance to cooperate with other organizations within the same area of focus.



FORTHCOMING ACTION

Planned activities in 2021 will directly build on achievements attained in 2020, including those aimed at enhancing the safety of Syrian journalists. A meeting bringing together all stakeholders involved in the action plan will be held in 2021 to draw the guidelines for the roles of each organization. In addition, the production of PSAs will resume and the awareness raising campaign will be launched. This will complement advocacy and lobbying efforts to enhance the safety of journalists and the need to address the right to access information and hate speech in the media.

The comparative study on hate speech will also be launched in March 2021 at a multistakeholder meeting where the results of the second round of monitoring will be shared with national, regional and international organizations. SCM will also use the results to continue advocacy with Syrian media outlets in order to identify the ideal mechanism to put an end to hate speech and reinforce ethical standards to support the role of the media in peace building.

Additionally, a series of online trainings will be launched to further develop the capacities of media in areas such as fact checking and countering disinformation, and reporting on elections, in preparation for the upcoming presidential elections planned for Spring 2021. UNESCO will also support the monitoring of the media coverage during the elections and compare the results with the previous cycles.

TUNISIA

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS



CONTEXT

Since its 2011 Jasmine Revolution, Tunisia has strived to consolidate its democratic achievements, among which freedom of expression, media freedom and the right to access information, as well as to strengthen its public institutions. Considerable progress was made in this regard, and citizens now enjoy unprecedented civil liberties, as is illustrated by the country's ever-growing press freedom rankings among specialized NGOs. Yet, concerns remain regarding the safety of journalists, and Tunisia continues to face political and economic uncertainty.

Since 2019, the MDP has provided support at policy and legislative level within the framework of ongoing dialogue on media laws. These efforts were sustained in 2020 as these dialogues resumed following the easing of lockdown measures, and UNESCO engaged with the Higher Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HAICA), CSOs and other institutional partners on this topic, which included a debate about the social relevance of community media based on the principles enshrined in UNESCO's Community Media Sustainability Policy Series. In 2021, UNESCO will organize a high-level meeting to deepen these discussions.

With regards to the safety of journalists, the MDP continued to collaborate with the Monitoring Unit on attacks against journalists led by the Union of Journalists in Tunisia (Syndicat National des Journalistes Tunisiens – SNJT) which has been piloted since 2018 with support from the MDP and OHCHR. Following the reinforcement of its methodology and coordination mechanisms in 2019, SNJT produced in 2020 monthly reports on the safety of journalists in Tunisia within the context of the pandemic, as well as one yearly report. In addition, advocacy and awareness-raising activities were conducted in partnership with SNJT through the production of videos that were broadcasted on national radio and TV channels with the aim of informing journalists on sanitary safety in times of the pandemic.

Awareness about the safety of journalists was likewise reinforced among members of the judiciary, as a series of capacity-building activities on SOJ and the rule of law were deployed between September and December 2020 for members of the media and magistrates.

Furthermore, the understanding for the relevance of Media and Information Literacy was raised among 45 teachers through workshops in 3 different cities which incentivized the development of MIL school clubs and eventually led to the the creation of the first MIL clubs in Tunisia.



AREAS OF ACTION AND PROGRESS

Awareness-raising and advocacy	Enhancing journalists' safety	Policy advice and reinforcement of duty bearers' capacities	Community Media Sustainability
In response to the COVID-19 crisis, awareness was raised among members of the Tunisian media on safety measures to adopt within the context of the pandemic through a campaign elaborated in cooperation with SNJT.		Continued advocacy for the drafting and alignment of media laws with international standards together with Higher Authority for Audiovisual Communication, CSOs and other institutional partners.	Carried out a study about community media sustainability in Tunisia which will provide the foundation for an informed policy.
On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, an online webinar was organized under the theme "Journalism in times of crisis" which gathered concerned stakeholders, civil society partners and UNESCO/CI's Assistant-Director General in order to discuss the role of the media, the safety of journalists and access to information during the pandemic.	Capacities of the judiciary and members of the media were reinforced through a series of trainings on the safety of journalists and the rule of law.		Increased awareness for the community media sector's needs through multi-stakeholder roundtable sessions. This was accompanied by the development of a position paper towards the establishment of a pluralistic, independent and democratic media environment by enhancing the sustainability of the community radio sector.
	Continued support to the monitoring mechanism put in place by the Union of Tunisian Journalists (SNJT) led to the production of monthly reports on the safety of journalists within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as one annual report.		Strengthened the capacities of youth radio reporters through partnerships with youth houses.

Media and Information Literacy

Capacity building of teachers in Media and Information Literacy and exchange with local duty bearers.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Building on previous achievements thanks to MDP support and funding, the Monitoring Unit put in place by SNJT continues to prove its valuable role as a national safety mechanism through continuous monitoring and production of monthly and annual reports, including specific reports within the context of Covid-19.
- The safety of journalists reinforced through enhanced mutual understanding and dialogue between members of the judiciary and members of the media.
- National efforts in response to the Covid-19 pandemic dedicated special attention to the implications of the health crisis on journalists' safety and access to information.
- Increased awareness about the need for an improved governing framework for Community Media Sustainability through publications and papers which provided the basis for an informed debate.
- Increased understanding of Media and Information Literacy among 45 teachers, and the creation of the first MIL clubs in Tunisian schools.



CHALLENGES, RISKS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

As in neighboring Morocco, tight lockdown and curfew measures created obstacles for the implementation of activities in the first half of 2020. Nevertheless, as these restrictions eased down, UNESCO CI officers were able to resume policy advice as well as most activities in the initial annual workplan, albeit with delays. For instance, continued support to SNJT's monitoring unit and trainings for judges were successfully implemented, although awareness-raising events and meetings on access to information had to be suspended.



FORTHCOMING ACTION

Tunisia's democratic achievements will be further supported in 2021 through a series of trainings for parliamentarians on media law reform, building on advocacy work and discussions held in 2020. The MDP will likewise continue its activities with the judiciary through the creation of a network on media and justice and the subsequent training of the members of said network. Planned activities also include capacity building for access to information focal points as well as an awareness-raising campaign on ATI.

With regards to the safety of journalists, the MDP will maintain its support to the monitoring unit of the SNJT and will collaborate with the syndicate on developing tools for journalism education which will be used in masterclasses for media students. In addition, two trainings on the safety of female journalists are foreseen, along with a round table on SOJ on the occasion of IDEI 2021.

Saudi Arabia

Oman

YEMEN

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS



CONTEXT

The civil war which has torn Yemen since 2014 has turned an already struggling country into a humanitarian catastrophe. In addition to its human toll and to the famine it has engendered, the Yemeni Civil War has also heavily compromised human rights, among them the right to freedom of expression and access to information. While these rights are quintessential in any society, they are especially so in societies experiencing conflict and war.

The media plays a central role in contributing to or mediating conflict, framing society issues, and constructing historic records and narratives. Lack of access to reliable information, on the other hand, can heighten tensions, spread hate speech and disinformation.

The media landscape in Yemen has historically been manipulated by political agendas, and most outlets continue to be owned by political parties. Their partisan nature has been further exacerbated by the ongoing conflict, which increased levels of non-factual, biased, and at times hate mongering information being published. This, in turn, has created an overall communication vacuum that needs to be addressed for Yemenis, and especially youth, to be able to participate in Yemen's reconstruction, and feel a sense of agency and ownership over the process.

Within this context, Yemeni media have an important role to play in enabling citizens to engage in constructive inclusive dialogue, to exchange perspectives, identify ways forward for reconciliation and share their aspirations for the future. Encouraging the development of free and independent news outlets as well as strengthening the capacities of actors within the Yemeni media landscape therefore stand out as imperatives to help advance the transitional process and pacification of Yemen.

The COVID-19 pandemic is too posing a considerable threat to the country, whose depleted health system is struggling and might not be able to contain the outbreak of coronavirus. In addition, misinformation and disinformation about the virus have proliferated, putting numerous lives at risk. For this reason, UNESCO organized a series of trainings, together with Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalists (ARIJ), in order to urgently equip local journalists with the necessary skills to best inform the public, raise awareness about the pandemic and fight against disinformation.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic in Yemen, along with measures taken to contain the virus in neighbouring Qatar, where the UNESCO Office for Gulf States and Yemen is located, created significant delays and hindrances in the implementation of another project entitled “Strengthening coordination among media development actors in Yemen to foster joint actions reinforcing Freedom of Expression online/offline, and access to information”, which was subsequently postponed to 2021. This project, which seeks to create a coordination group among media development entities in the country, aims at promoting joint and/or coordinated actions for the reinforcement of norms and policies related to freedom of expression (both online and offline) and access to information.



AREAS OF ACTION AND PROGRESS

Enhancing journalists' safety and countering disinformation

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and rampant disinformation, three capacity-building webinars for journalists were held on:

- Safety procedures, mitigating measures and ethics for journalists during the COVID-19 pandemic,
- Scientific journalism and scientific vulgarization,
- Reporting in times of information disorder, verification tools and Media and Information Literacy.

“When this new invisible enemy came, we were scared like everyone in the world. But in Yemen, the risk is much greater as our health infrastructure has already collapsed from the war. I was wondering: how should we deal with this virus? How should we send these stories while also protecting ourselves? News outlets support us with COVID-19 kit, but they didn’t arrange trainings to explain how to cover COVID-19 stories. I had no information on how to deal with this virus. I found all these answers in the UNESCO training.”

Ahmed Baider, EMMY-nominated Yemeni freelance journalist

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Reinforced independent media coverage and access to reliable information on the COVID-19 pandemic for Yemeni citizens by successfully strengthening the capacities and providing comprehensive set of skills to 44 Yemeni journalists (among which 20 were women) to professionally communicate on the COVID-19 pandemic, support citizens to safely navigate information and decipher disinformation, and ensure Yemeni citizens are better informed on how to access potentially lifesaving information.
- Research and planning for the establishment of a coordination group among media development actors in Yemen advanced, and priority areas identified.



CHALLENGES, RISKS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Yemen and in the Gulf States and measures put in place to contain it created significant delays and hindrances for the implementation of the “Strengthening coordination among media development actors in Yemen to foster joint actions reinforcing Freedom of Expression online/offline, and access to information” project, which was initially scheduled to begin during the summer of 2020. Nevertheless, UNESCO staff continued to advance planning, research and the identification of partners and donors for this project, which is now scheduled to begin in January 2021.

In addition, the COVID-19 created a new set of urgent needs, such as the capacity-building of local journalists, which the Multi-Donor Programme was immediately able to meet thanks to its flexibility. These capacity-building sessions were held digitally in order to avoid any COVID-related risks for participants and trainers.



FORTHCOMING ACTION

As was reported by the Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient (CARPO) in 2020, “the greatest challenges that the media in Yemen face today are the consequences of the economic crisis and political polarization, as well as the high risks associated with media work. The economic crisis affects media workers on an individual level, as well as the media generally on an organizational level. Journalists, as the rest of the population, are primarily concerned with securing the livelihood of their families, with quality media work of lower priority”. Within this context, Yemeni media cannot properly play their role or enable Yemenis to engage in constructive dialogue.

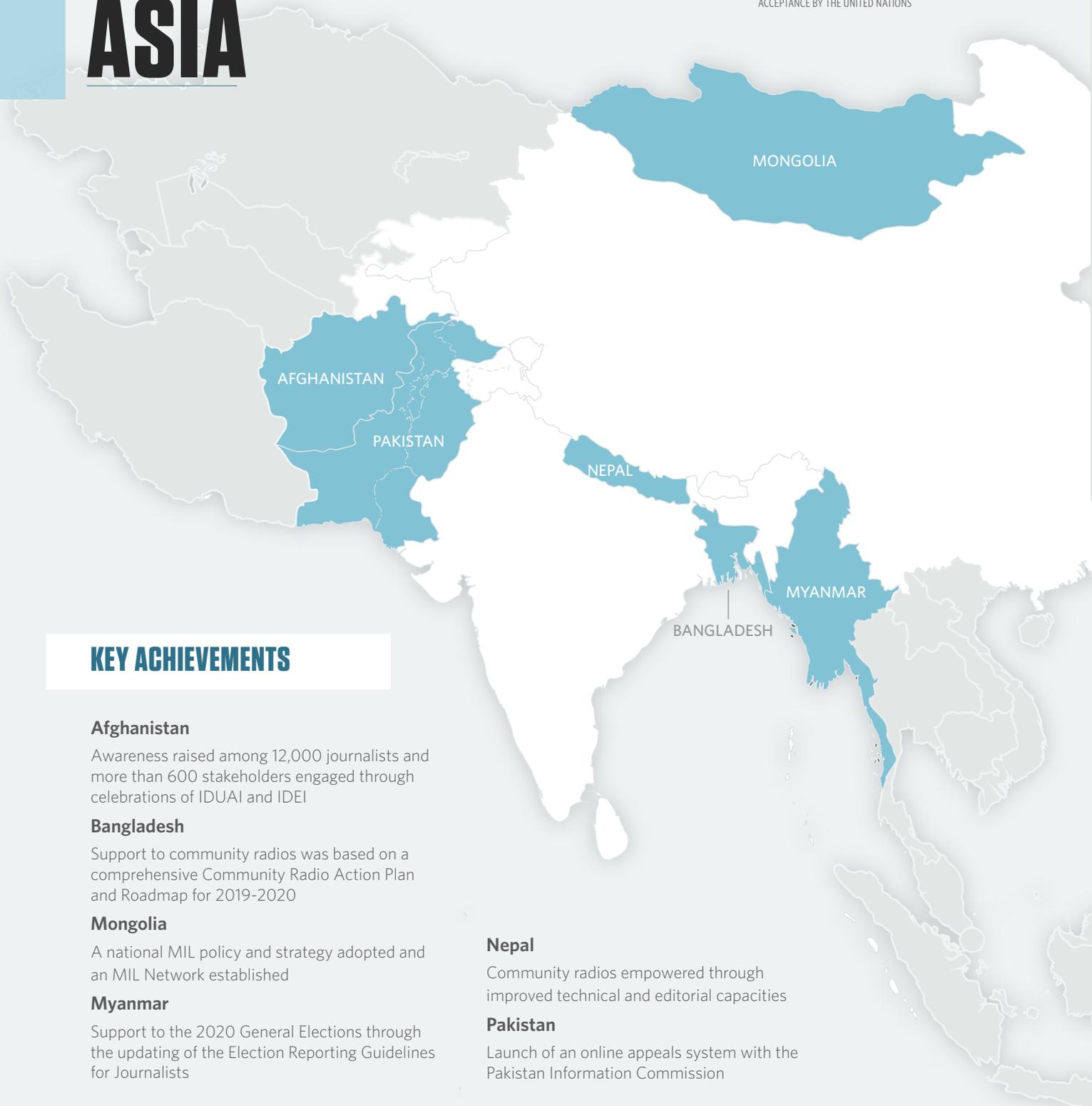
Bearing in mind that free, pluralistic and professional media is essential for peacebuilding processes, UNESCO will in 2021 implement a project entitled “Strengthening coordination among media development actors in Yemen to foster joint actions reinforcing Freedom of Expression online/offline, and access to information”. Initially set to start in the second half of 2020, it was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This project will be implemented in three phases:

- The first phase will consist of conducting research to identify the media development technical entities working in the field of media development in Yemen, including priority areas, donors, duration of their presence in Yemen, cooperation with other entities, and mandate, among others.
- The second phase will be the creation of an interactive and user-friendly digital map of media development actors in Yemen.
- The third phase of the project will see the setting up of a coordination group among media development actors which will facilitate dialogue and research related to freedom of expression, access to information and media development, identify intervention priorities, coordinate and create synergies, as well as ensure sustainability of this mapping of actors and sound follow up actions.

In addition to this project, the UNESCO Doha Office also plans to develop the capacities of young Yemeni journalists on peace journalism, international humanitarian law and human rights, as part of the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund project “Empowering Yemeni Youth towards peace: ensuring access to information and participation” which was initiated through actions supported by the MDP.

REGIONAL ACTION IN ASIA

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Afghanistan

Awareness raised among 12,000 journalists and more than 600 stakeholders engaged through celebrations of IDUAI and IDEI

Bangladesh

Support to community radios was based on a comprehensive Community Radio Action Plan and Roadmap for 2019-2020

Mongolia

A national MIL policy and strategy adopted and an MIL Network established

Myanmar

Support to the 2020 General Elections through the updating of the Election Reporting Guidelines for Journalists

Nepal

Community radios empowered through improved technical and editorial capacities

Pakistan

Launch of an online appeals system with the Pakistan Information Commission

AFGHANISTAN

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS

CONTEXT

In spite of considerable improvements achieved towards the rebuilding of Afghanistan's political system throughout the past decade, which notably saw the adoption of policies that are more conducive to the independence of the media in the country, Afghanistan remains one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists and media workers. Political instability and rampant insecurity have had a lasting impact on journalism, which authorities have not yet managed to curtail despite resolute political will to improve the situation of media professionals in the country.

The UNESCO observatory recorded 73 killings of journalists between 2001, the year which marks the outbreak of the war in Afghanistan, and 2020. Among them, 9 were foreign correspondents. In addition, more than 40 media outlets have been attacked and destroyed since 2001, and threats against the lives of journalists are regrettably commonplace. According to a report by local media freedom NGO Nai SOMA, 130 cases of violence against journalists were recorded by the organization in 2020. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has also expressed concern over this situation in its 2020 annual report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

Following the launch of the Doha peace talks between the United States and the Taliban in 2019 and the signing of the Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan in February 2020, the media and journalists in Afghanistan have come under increased pressure, a pressure which particularly affects Afghan women journalists who meet and interview members of the Taliban. The concerns of media representatives were also magnified as the Taliban singled out journalists as targets ahead of the start of the intra-Afghan dialogue in Doha, with the Taliban's military commission issuing a statement warning journalists that it would consider them and their organizations "military targets" unless they stopped issuing "anti-Taliban" statements. At the same time, media representatives have expressed concern about the lack of protection, investigation and judicial process for those who have been arrested in relation to these targeted killings, as well as limited access to information about the judicial proceedings. Threats against journalists have likewise been on the rise, emanating from a variety of actors such as the Taliban, jihadist groups, powerbrokers and local warlords. The already precarious

situation of the media has been further worsened by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which puts the survival of many local outlets in jeopardy due to severe losses in advertising revenue.

In response to the urgency of this situation, and bolstered by its strong relationships with Afghan authorities, media organizations and CSOs, UNESCO supported the Joint Committee of the Government and Media (JCMG) in coordinating high-level meetings to discuss the safety of journalists and determine the way forward. In synergy with UNAMA, UNESCO also convened heads of local media outlets as well as international partners to discuss this issue and put forward recommendations to steer future action to reinforce the implementation of the UN Action Plan on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. This will be done through a series of capacities-strengthening activities for journalists in 2021, whose outline is based on recommendations produced during this meeting.

Collaboration on Access to Information likewise continued in 2020 through the organization of the International Day for Universal Access to Information, which provided a platform for the AIC to raise awareness about current concerns regarding the implementation of this law and the difficulty in accessing public information for citizens. While capacity-building activities were also planned with the Commission in 2020, they had to be rescheduled to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



AREAS OF ACTION

Awareness-raising and advocacy	Enhancing journalists' safety	Policy advice and reinforcement of duty bearers' capacities
<p>More than 600 stakeholders engaged over the course of 2 national celebrations of IDUAI and IDEI and awareness raised on the issues faced by journalists and media workers in Afghanistan. Awareness was also raised among over 12,000 journalists during follow-up activities on these issues through national conferences, with the attendance of over 8 provincial representatives.</p>	<p>UNESCO supported the organization of discussions and follow up of the Joint Committee of the Media and Government (JCMG) meeting, which was chaired by Afghanistan's 2nd Vice President and attended by representatives of the international community and the UN. This meeting is the third high-level round table on the safety of journalists and ending impunity and led to the production of recommendations for follow-up action.</p>	
	<p>Coordination, and support provided to the secretariat of the Joint Committee of the Media and Government for the reporting on cases of violence against journalists in 2020.</p>	
		<p>In synergy with UNAMA, UNESCO organized a high-level meeting which gathered heads of Afghan media outlets to discuss future areas of strategic collaboration as well as the safety of journalists.</p>



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- More than 12,600 people throughout the country were reached directly through awareness raising campaigns and sensitization initiatives on safety of journalists, freedom of expression and access to information launched around international days.
- Successfully helped coordinate the third high-level Joint Committee of the Media and Government meeting, which brought together the Attorney General's office, the Ministry of interior, the Ministry of Defense, the Directorate of Intelligence, the Ministry of Information & Culture, alongside the Afghan Journalists Federation, which presented their reports and shared their concerns. The meeting was also attended by the UN Special Representative to Afghanistan, as well as Ambassadors and representatives from the United Kingdom, Germany and GIZ, Sweden, the Netherlands, France and Spain.
- The high-level meeting chaired by the Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations to Afghanistan and UNESCO, and which gathered heads of Afghan media to discuss the safety of journalists, was also attended by the Ambassadors of the Netherlands and Sweden, as well as representatives of Canada, the United Kingdom and the European Union.
- The Secretariat of the JCMG has been actively responding to the UNESCO Director General's requests for information on the status of judicial enquiries into the killings of journalists, due to UNESCO's continuous support, thereby feeding into the monitoring of killings of journalists in Afghanistan and the elaboration of the Director General's Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity.
- The International Day for Universal Access to Information was commemorated on a high level through a conference at the Presidential Palace. UNESCO supported the Access to the Information Commission with the organization, which provided a platform for the Commission to voice their concerns and highlight challenges regarding access to public information from governmental institutions by the media and the general public.



CHALLENGES, RISKS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

The COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown measures to contain its spread compelled UNESCO Kabul to cancel the World Press Freedom Conference, which could not be replaced by an online event due to limited internet access and scarce electricity supply in the country.

UNESCO also faced challenges with regards to capacity-building activities for the Access to Information Commission which were planned for 2020. This was due to the unavailability of most of the Commission staff who were either infected or busy with internal administrative issues related to the Covid-19 response. Therefore, these activities were postponed to 2021.

In addition, pre existing challenges such as the precarious security situation and targeted violence continued to be a great factor of risk for UNESCO officers on the ground.

With regards to the safety of journalists, the signing of the Doha Peace Talks in 2019 marked an intensification of pressure for media workers and a rise in threats from a variety of non-state armed actors, particularly ahead of the start of said Talks.



UPCOMING ACTIONS

In 2021, UNESCO Kabul will resume activities which had to be suspended due to the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, the capacities of the Access to Information Commission will be strengthened on public outreach and social media messaging, and a public awareness-raising campaign on the importance of the access to information law as well as some new procedures will be deployed.

In order to enhance the implementation of the UN Plan of Action in Afghanistan, actions will be based on recommendations produced during the meeting of media representatives, UNESCO, UNAMA, representatives of the Netherlands, the European Union, Canada, the United Kingdom and Sweden. These include building the capacities of journalists regarding safety in the field, understanding Magnetic Improvised Explosive Devices (MIEDs) and first aid trainings in case of attacks. This activity will be further coordinated with partners for resource mobilization and coordination for a joint approach.

With regards to the capacities of the judiciary, UNESCO's Guidelines for Prosecutors on Cases of Crimes against Journalists will be printed and disseminated in Dari and Pashto. The publications will be distributed among judges, prosecutors, Afghan Journalists Safety Committees and the UNDP Rule of Law unit.

India

BANGLADESH

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS



CONTEXT

In Bangladesh, community media – and especially community radio – remain very popular, particularly for rural populations to consume and receive information, to increase their knowledge, as well as to gain new insights and build critical thinking skills.

Community radio in Bangladesh started in the late 1990s and has since then grown and gained in popularity, as is demonstrated by the numerous non-governmental organizations, development practitioners, media-enthusiasts, and representatives of civil society who started or are using community radio stations to reach the rural population of the country.

In 2017, with support from UNESCO, a community radio association was established – the Bangladesh Community Radio Association (BCRA). Since the national elections in December 2018, community radio has entered a new era, allowing both policy-makers and community leaders to be more involved in the development of their community via radio. BCRA maintains a very close relationship and serves as interlocutor vis-à-vis the Government of Bangladesh.

In 2018, the Government of Bangladesh introduced a policy for community radio, the “Community Radio Installation, Broadcast and Operation Policy 2017”. The policy underlines the importance of radio stations. It describes their essential role in Bangladesh “to improve the area of education, culture, human values and dignity, and awareness building with a new dimension” (Policy Gazette).

UNESCO has been a part of the community media development process in Bangladesh since the early days. While UNESCO initially provided radio equipment to community radio stations, since 2016, the focus has shifted to the reinforcement of capacities, convening key stakeholders, and promoting networking and knowledge exchange among crucial entities.

UNESCO’s support for community radio stakeholders in 2020 was based on a comprehensive Community Radio Action Plan and Roadmap for 2019-2020 which had been developed in 2019. It includes a strategy to advocate for the community radio sector in Bangladesh, to build its capacities and sustainability, to strengthen the network of community radio stations as well as to enhance their visibility and coordination. The activities which were carried out in 2020 led to increased awareness and visibility of Bangladesh’s vibrant community radio sector towards local and international actors, resulted in enhanced commitments to further develop the sector, and contributed to improved media pluralism through an increased number of community radio stations in Bangladesh.



AREAS OF ACTION

Community Media Sustainability

In partnership with the Institute of Communications Studies (ICS) and the Bangladesh Community Radio Association (BCRA), the UNESCO Dhaka Office conducted a roundtable discussion with Bangladeshi radio stakeholders on the occasion of World Radio Day 2020 (20 February 2020). Under the theme “Radio and Diversity”, 18 radio stakeholders including rights-holders and duty-bearers discussed issues related to radio and diversity in Bangladesh. World Press Freedom Day 2020 (3 May 2020) was celebrated through the dissemination of 14 messages collected from diverse Media Stakeholders in Bangladesh under the theme “Journalism without fear or favour”.

In collaboration with DW Akademie, the UNESCO office in Dhaka coordinated the online meeting “Re-Connect - Bangladesh Media Stakeholder Meeting” on 14 October 2020. Six invited panelists from the government, print media, community media, academia and development partners discussed the impact of COVID-19 and the opportunities it presents for the media sector. The panel discussion was streamed live on Facebook and was a follow-up to the recommendations developed on the basis of UNESCO’s Community Media Sustainability Series for Bangladesh in 2019.

In response to the expressed need for capacity building, the UNESCO Dhaka Office, in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair of Community Media, conducted two series of in-depth online masterclasses for 72 participants from 18 community radio stations in Bangladesh in December 2020. With the support of international and national expert trainers, a 5-day Master Class on Social Media Broadcasting and another 5-day Master Class on COVID-19 Broadcasting were conducted. The masterclasses provided more than 15 hours of training for each of the 72 participants, building their capacities and providing an opportunity to interact with other community radios.

In collaboration with three community radio stations, three videos were produced showcasing their work to advocate for improved frameworks for greater sustainability among duty bearers. The videos highlight the relevance and impact of community radio stations by portraying reporters in the field and in the studios, as well as citizens from their audience who listen to and benefit from their radio programmes. The videos produced include examples of community radio's impact, including its role in providing distance education to primary and secondary school students, awareness raising, social mobilisation, natural disaster sensitization and information sharing.

In collaboration with the UNESCO Office in New Delhi and CEMCA, two community radio stories were developed to illustrate the impact of community radio stations on the SDGs and were included as a contribution in the publication "Best Practices of Community Radio and Sustainable Development Goals: A Handbook". The stories collected show concrete examples of the impact of community radio stations in Bangladesh on SDG 3 and SDG 13.



"Even while using social media, it was important to keep the ultimate goal of the CR station in mind. Social media could be very useful in engaging with audiences and increasing participation since by their very nature they are interactive and help in creation and sharing of information, ideas and interests using text, images and videos."

Prof. Vasuki

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Sustained advocacy efforts for an improved governing framework for community media sustainability in Bangladesh through audiovisual content, roundtable discussions and online panel discussions which led to increased awareness on the relevance of the sector among duty bearers as well as local and international actors. These efforts also contributed to increasing the number of community radio stations in Bangladesh from 17 to 19.
- Increased journalistic, editorial and managerial capacities of 18 community media stations through online workshops with 72 participants, and 3 community media networks empowered.
- UNESCO established as a key player for community media support and especially as a bridge between community media, international actors and duty bearers.
- Increased regional and international visibility of Bangladesh's community media sector and its needs through the contribution for the publication "Best Practices of Community Radio and Sustainable Development Goals: A Handbook".



CHALLENGES, RISKS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Changes in the Government in Bangladesh following the elections in 2018 required to identify and build relations with some new officials, as well as reconfirm the commitment from previously engaged duty-bearers in order to continue with the implementation of activities as planned. These relations have been established over the past two years, resulting in an increased participation of duty bearers in the proposed activities.

However, political sensitivities around the media in Bangladesh remain an issue that required the UNESCO Office in Dhaka to continuously ensure that government stakeholders remained aware and involved in interventions of UNESCO and of its implementing partners.

Despite the government issuing its “Community Radio Installation, Broadcast and Operation Policy 2017”, it continued to be difficult to engage with duty-bearers at the national level to discuss the implementation of the policy. As a remedial action, UNESCO and its partners continue to include policy elements, especially relating to Community Media sustainability, in advocacy and capacity building activities which included duty-bearers and rights-holders.



FORTHCOMING ACTION

In 2021, the UNESCO Dhaka office plans to continue its support for community media on the existing levels, including capacity building for community radio stations, strengthening networks and continuous advocacy towards increased awareness for the sector and its needs. It is planned that the advocacy efforts and activities involving duty bearers should dovetail into a structured multi-stakeholder policy dialogue, discussing community radio's changing role in the context of COVID-19, where specific actionable recommendations should be developed and followed-up on. This dialogue will be accompanied by a participatory mapping exercise of the structural transformation of Bangladesh's CR Sector due to COVID-19. The UNESCO Dhaka office plans to continue raising awareness for the sector through the production and dissemination of impact stories and videos targeting duty bearers, as well as by celebrating World Radio Day 2021. Community radio networks will be further strengthened through the development of a joint sustainability strategy, and the capacity building of community media journalists will continue by scaling up the masterclasses from 2020, and by developing and disseminating self-paced training modules (in English and Bangla) that allow community radio journalists and especially non-trained volunteers to learn at their own pace.

MONGOLIA

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS

China



CONTEXT

In Mongolia, community media is still not recognized under the state policy and regulatory framework. Thus, there is no form of support at the governmental or local level. Against this backdrop, and as the community media sector in Mongolia is transitioning towards online broadcasting, UNESCO has been working to improve the technical and editorial capacities of managers, staff and volunteers of the 9 community radio stations in Mongolia, with a special focus on digital broadcasting. As a result of UNESCO's interventions, all nine stations now enjoy a social media presence and have been provided with an online platform for digital programmes. The number of community radio volunteers has also increased, with over 40 volunteers registered and trained with a good understanding of community radio and the operations of digital radio, including on social media platforms.

Public awareness on the importance of community media has increased through two programmes produced by 15 UNESCO-trained community radio managers and staff. The newly elected governors and representatives of SOUMS (local authorities in Mongolia) in October 2020 have expressed their support for the community radio, including by securing the salary from the SOUMS income for community radio staff, and by providing workplaces for the community radios. School directors and teachers also suggested specific proposals for educational programs.

As a result of the efforts of the first year of the project and the series of MIL workshops, the level of awareness and the willingness to contribute to promoting the MIL was significantly greater among stakeholders, including education stakeholders, media professionals, as well as youth organizations, compared to the situation at the beginning of the project in 2019.

Consensus has been reached by 60 stakeholders, including governmental, non-governmental, and media organizations, on the need for joint efforts to promote policy development for an enabling environment for MIL.

A National MIL Network has been established, with members representing 15 MIL stakeholders from the governmental and non-governmental sectors. The fact that half of the stakeholders who joined the Network represent government agencies demonstrates the progress made by project activities in the area of increasing awareness on the importance of the MIL. The harmonization of MIL activities was further discussed and agreed upon among around 100 national stakeholders during the 2nd National Stakeholder Forum on Media and Information Literacy, with a view to optimize the use of resources invested in digital and information literacy activities and to promote MIL with a cross-curricular approach. A Steering Committee was established to develop and implement a systematic national policy and to ensure collaboration of all stakeholders.



AREAS OF ACTION

Media and Information Literacy	Community Media Sustainability
<p>An online MIL training targeting education stakeholders was organized on 12-28 May 2020, involving around 60 school teachers, directors, education specialists, and education NGO representatives (78% women, 55% from rural areas). The training included a total of six sessions focusing on the introduction of MIL concepts and its importance, function of news media in democracy, the media landscape in Mongolia, media ownership, COVID-19 related disinformation and content production for social media platforms.</p>	<p>An online training on election coverage of the Mongolian parliamentary election was organized in June 2020 for 15 managers and staff from 7 community radio stations. The participants were sensitized to the concept of democracy, the basics of democratic election and the role of media in times of elections, with a special emphasis on community media and the need for community media sustainability. As an outcome of the training, the participants produced two short radio programs for the voters, which were aired by the Community Radios six times a day for one week during the election. Besides, the advocacy skills of the participants were enhanced.</p>
<p>A MIL workshop for media professionals was organized on 26-27 May 2020 for 17 journalists (70% women) from major media outlets such as the Mongolian National Broadcaster, News.mn, Family radio, News agency "Uzeg", among others. Based on the adapted MIL curriculum, the content of the training included an overview of the changing media landscape in Mongolia and globally, the growing importance of MIL, the issues of critical thinking in journalism, social media, and digital literacy, experiences and best practices of media coverage, types of disinformation, as well as mobile journalism and Podcast production.</p>	<p>One 3-day training workshop was organized on 19-21 November 2020, with the objective of improving the technical and editorial capacities of community radio managers and staff on the digital transition on the basis of UNESCO's Community Media Sustainability Policy Serie's recommendations, with 24 community radio managers and volunteers from all 9 community radio stations in Mongolia. The training included components on the digitalization of community radio, program planning and production of digital content, hosting on a digital radio, and the enabling regulatory framework for digitization. Following the workshop, Facebook pages and web pages have been set up for the 9 community radio stations, which have started producing programs using the online platforms on a weekly basis. The total number of viewers/listeners of aired online programmes by the community radio stations reached 14,163 as of December 2020.</p>

An online MIL workshop for youth organizations was organized on 28 May 2020, attended by 40 participants (73% women) representing organizations operating in the areas of youth development and education such as the Government agency for Children, Family and Youth, the National Network for Children and Youth Participation, the National Centre for Children, Amnesty International Mongolia.

A total of 5 stakeholder meetings in small groups were organized with MIL stakeholders to follow up on the activities conducted in 2019, which led to an agreement regarding the need for the establishment of a national network for coordinated and systematic efforts to promote an enabling environment for MIL, including legal regulations, policies and resources.

The Mongolian National Network was established and an MOU on the National MIL Network was formulated and signed on 29 June 2020 by 15 governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The second national stakeholder forum on MIL was held on 28 October 2020, as part of the national celebration of the UNESCO Global MIL Week 2020. 96 national stakeholders (including members of Parliament, the Ministries of Education, Culture, Science and Sports, the Institute for Teachers' Professional Education, the Institute of Education, Departments of library and information science, media and information related regulatory bodies, representatives of schoolteachers, youth organizations, NGOs, Media organizations, along with the Embassy of Sweden) participated in the discussion on the harmonization of MIL activities, with a focus on the integration of a MIL curriculum in education, MIL trainings for school teachers, MIL for equality, tackling disinformation, MIL for youth participation, as well as the role of these stakeholders in the development of MIL.

A steering committee was established to develop and implement the systematic national policy adopted in 2019 and to ensure collaboration of all stakeholders. The steering committee is chaired by the Secretary General of the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, with members representing governmental and non-governmental sectors, including ministries, educational and teacher training institutions, as well as NGOs and CSOs.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- A national MIL policy and strategy was formulated and adopted by stakeholders from governmental and non-governmental sectors.
- The draft policy and strategy document was submitted to all members of the Mongolian Parliament's Standing Committee for Education, Culture, and Science.
- In 2020, a steering committee within the Mongolian government was established to develop and implement the systematic national policy adopted in 2019 and to ensure collaboration of all stakeholders, with members representing governmental and non-governmental sectors, including ministries, educational and teacher training institutions, as well as NGOs and CSOs.
- Increased awareness regarding the relevance and need for community media sustainability among duty bearers and increased capacities of reporters.
- Increased audience of community media through social media presence.



CHALLENGES, RISKS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

The COVID-19 lockdown significantly influenced the implementation of the project activities. Due to uncertainty regarding the duration of the restrictions for public events (including workshops), the project activities could not be launched until the end of April, as UNESCO awaited the official decision of the Government to loosen the lockdown measures. At the end of April, changes had been made in the activity and budget plans in consultation with national partners to implement the majority of activities online. The workshop agendas and the teaching materials had to be re-designed to adjust them to the online format. Contrary to some previous concerns, all online training events were successful.

The COVID-19 quarantine and the continuation of formal educational programs via television and online platforms positively influenced the training for education specialists – all participants were already experienced in online training platforms and their modes of use, and all participants demonstrated continuous interest and engagement. Due to the travel restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, the study tour originally planned for in 2020 for Mongolian government officials was postponed to 2021. Efforts have been made to explore alternative options: instead of a study tour, online consultation workshops are considered to be organized with counterparts from Nepal, including policy makers, government representatives, the Association of Community Radio Broadcasters of Nepal (ACORAB), as well as the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Asia-Pacific (AMARC – Asia), to share experiences and engage in exchanges.

Bhutan

India

China

Bangladesh

MYANMAR

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS

Laos



CONTEXT

Myanmar initiated in the beginning of the past decade a process of political, administrative and economic reform, which UNESCO has been accompanying since 2013 by providing support to the creation of an enabling environment for free and independent media to thrive. In particular, UNESCO has provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Information and to the Parliament in reforming media laws and strengthening the capacities of journalists and media workers across Myanmar. However, a general sense of mistrust towards the media and hesitancy to pursue legal reform for laws pertaining to freedom of expression, press freedom and access to information have stymied this process, and these reforms have stagnated since 2016.

To address this issue, UNESCO engaged with diverse and new groups of stakeholders and duty bearers, beyond the Ministry of Information, so as to give new impetus to these reforms. UNESCO notably coordinated with the Myanmar Press Council, journalists' associations, media NGOs, civil society organizations (such as Pen Myanmar, Pyi Gyi Khin, Free Expression Myanmar, among others) for sustained right to information and media reform advocacy initiatives, as well as to foster dialogue and build trust between governmental institutions and the media. The need to align Myanmar's freedom of expression legal framework with international standards was also highlighted throughout various training courses and forums organized or co-organized by UNESCO throughout 2020.

As far as community media are concerned, there has been little advancement towards the necessary reforms to regulate this sector and is in standstill since the amendments of the broadcasting law were promulgated in 2018. UNESCO's efforts were focused on building a coalition of national and international CSOs (43 organizations, including the existing five community pilot projects) to strengthen coordinated advocacy efforts to push forward the legislation needed to regulate the community media sector. The report, *Baseline Study on Community Media Sustainability* prepared by AMARC Asia Pacific with support from UNESCO was launched in July 2020. The report included policy recommendations aimed at ensuring the sustainability of community radios in the country and mobilizing multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral support for community radio, including the creation of a Community Media Support Network. The Study recognizes that strengthening community radio will contribute to a more vibrant and free media climate, which is essential to a strong democracy. These efforts were accompanied by the provision of capacity building for community media producers and enhancing the small Community Media Network, for instance through the *Community Radio: Lessons Learned Workshop*. UNESCO proposed to the MoI bilateral dialogues to discuss the outcomes from the previously mentioned activities related to the licensing of community radio, and the representation of community media in the Broadcast Council to be created with the approval of the Broadcasting By-Laws. The bilateral dialogue was supposed to be pursued in 2021 which by the time of writing this report seems unlikely following the military coup on 1 February.

The diffusion of Media and Information Literacy (MIL) in Myanmar has advanced significantly during the reporting period, with milestone achievements in developing national MIL policies and strategies. In Myanmar, the process led to the formal establishment of a national committee to promote MIL within the Ministry of Information. The Committee for the Promotion of MIL is mandated with the implementation of various initiatives to foster a media and information literate society through national media, libraries, and community centers. In the last quarter of 2020, the Ministry of Information of Myanmar started developing its MIL Action Plan for 2021-2022. UNESCO provided MIL orientation and training to 34 government officials from 17 ministries through a webinar organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in November 2020. Besides, MIL has been integrated in the new 4-year teacher education curriculum implemented in the 25 Education Degree Colleges of Myanmar.

In light of the 2020 General Elections, which were held on 8 November 2020, and building on 2019 activities intended to highlight the role media can and should play in supporting elections and the democratic transition in Myanmar, UNESCO continued to facilitate dialogue between the Myanmar Press Council and the Union Election Commission, as well as contributed to updating the Election Reporting Guidelines for Journalists, which aim to ensure free and fair electoral coverage by the news media. In addition, UNESCO organized discussions on the role of media in elections during the yearly 8th Myanmar Media Development Conference. While the elections were lauded as free and fair by international observers as well as the Myanmar Elections Commission, the military has since then made repeated claims of generalized election fraud, which culminated into a coup d'état on 1 February 2021 and the arrest of both the head of the civil government and the President of Myanmar.

In addressing the safety of journalists in Myanmar, UNESCO joined forces with the Union Supreme Court of Myanmar and the Anti-Corruption Commission through a dialogue held under the global theme of World Press Freedom Day and entitled *Safety of Journalists: Practicing Journalism Without Fear of Favor*. The Deputy Director-General of the Office of the Union Supreme Court, following this dialogue, invited UNESCO and the Myanmar Press Council to further collaborate with the Court in pursuing its Judicial Strategic Plan (2018-2022), with a focus on public awareness raising.

With regards to the specific risks to the safety of journalists posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, UNESCO provided, in collaboration with the Myanmar Press Council, psychosocial support training to 49 journalists and developed "*Guidelines for Journalists Covering COVID-19: Professional Standards and Tips for Physical and Psychological Wellbeing*".

Throughout 2020, UNESCO also continued to strengthen South-South cooperation, as previously established relations between the Myanmar Press Council and the Indonesian Press Council likewise led to increased dialogue and exchange of good practices on issues pertaining to legal reform, media sustainability and the safety of journalists.

AREAS OF ACTION AND PROGRESS

Media and Information Literacy	Awareness-raising and advocacy	Enhancing journalists' safety	Policy advice and reinforcement of duty bearers' capacities
<p>More than 200 officers/ staff of the Mol attended Basic and Advanced MIL Training. These individuals were expected to be MIL champions in their respective communities. They are expected to initiate community-based MIL projects including MIL training courses.</p> <p>About 70 officers/staff from at least 17 ministries were capacitated on addressing information disorder, hate speech and engaging in inter-cultural dialogue using the MIL Framework. These individuals were also trained on how to integrate MIL principles and practices in their regular programs/ projects.</p> <p>UNESCO Myanmar Office launched Towards MIL Competency Framework in Myanmar on 09 September 2020. The crafting of the Framework was a collaborative effort of representatives from the Mol, teacher colleges, and NGOs. The primary users of the Framework are MIL service providers, e.g., planners and managers of MIL programs/ projects from government agencies, international and national NGOs, academic institutions, and people's organization. The Framework will be very useful in designing MIL programs which will equip young people with critical thinking and analytical skills especially in the use of social media.</p>	<p>Joint celebrations of WPF and IDEI in Myanmar increased public awareness about the impact of COVID-19 on freedom of expression and led to new collaboration with the Myanmar Union Supreme Court and Anti-Corruption Commission on the issue of the safety of journalists.</p>	<p>In collaboration with the Myanmar Press Council, UNESCO successfully provided psychosocial support training to 49 journalists covering the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as developed a resource entitled "Guidelines for Journalists Covering COVID-19: Professional Standards and Tips for Physical and Psychological Well-Being. These guidelines are also available online and will be published in early 2021 along with Psychosocial Support Guidelines for Journalists.</p>	<p>Building on advocacy and policy advice activities conducted throughout 2019, and in support of the 2020 General Elections, UNESCO facilitated the dialogue between Myanmar Press Council and Union Election Commission, and contributed in updating the Election Reporting Guidelines for Journalists to ensure free and fair reporting during 2020 elections.</p> <p>Within the framework of the 8th Media Development Conference, UNESCO organized discussions on the role of media in elections including ethical practices and self-regulation by the news media during elections.</p> <p>UNESCO continued to foster dialogue between Myanmar and ASEAN peers such as the Indonesian Press Councils on media law reform, self-regulatory mechanisms, safety of journalists, the role of women journalists, and media sustainability. The dialogue series provided a platform for both bodies to discuss and share their experiences and best practices.</p>

“I have learnt how to examine our mental resilience first and prepare ourselves before we go to the field which may be sensitive (like going to the conflict areas, or to interview the people who just suffered from trauma) and how to deal with the stressful situation. I apply the knowledge that I learned from the training in my daily routines. As a result, I am capable of performing my work as a journalist better than I used to in the past.”

Aung Aung Htoo, journalist for Radio Free Asia’s Rakhine Programmes



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- By virtue of an agreement brokered by UNESCO in 2019 between the Myanmar Press Council and the Myanmar Union Election Commission, dialogue persisted between these two bodies in anticipation of the November 2020 General Elections. This privileged relationship enabled UNESCO to contribute to the updating of the Election Reporting Guidelines for Journalists, thereby helping promote free and fair coverage of the electoral process by local media.
- Production of the Guidelines for Journalists Covering COVID-19: Professional Standards and Tips for Physical and Psychological Well-Being as well as the Psychosocial Support Guidelines for Journalists, provided highly valuable resources for the psychological safety of journalists in times of COVID-19 and beyond.
- Sustained advocacy efforts for legislative reform opened the way for collaboration with new bodies such as the Myanmar Union Supreme Court and the Anti-Corruption Commission, which led the Court to invite UNESCO and the Myanmar Press Council to further collaboration in pursuing its Judicial Strategic Plan (2018-2022), with a focus on public awareness raising.
- UNESCO has succeeded in reflecting its mandate and giving ample attention to its major priorities in the country’s national plans and strategic documents. The 4th draft UNDAF (July 2019), which is under discussion with Myanmar Government, is articulated around the “Five Ps” that frame the SDGs, and the Outcome-4: “Peace” pillar recognizes the critical role that the free flow of information and access to information play in strengthening democratic institutions and good governance. Likewise, Myanmar’s Sustainable Development Plan (2018 – 2030) includes specific actions to improve and legalize citizens’ access to information and broaden the accessibility of information on budgets, legislation, strategic plans, policies, statistics and other key information held by public authorities Under Pillar-1 “Peace and Stability”.
- Continued dialogue and cooperation among the Myanmar Press Council and its counterparts within the ASEAN region.
- Increased availability of knowledge about, and awareness among duty bearers for community media sustainability.
- Improved national MIL policies and strategies.
- Increased MIL competences among duty bearers, youth and citizens.



CHALLENGES, RISKS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

As in previous years, the persistent lack of trust in the media and the reluctance of certain Myanmar authorities and officials to undertake thorough reform of the country's laws pertaining to freedom of expression, freedom of the media and access to information continued to be a hindrance. This includes pertinent provisions of such laws as the News Media Law, Unlawful Associations Act, Burma Official Secrets Act, the Telecommunications Law, the Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of the Citizens, and the National Record and Archive Law (enacted in 2019). In order to address this issue, UNESCO, in coordination with the Myanmar Press Council upscaled its advocacy efforts by engaging with new stakeholders from other government bodies such as the Judiciary, the Human Rights Commission, the Anti-Corruption Commission, as well as human rights NGOs.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings, dialogues and trainings were held online instead. Connectivity issues and irregular electricity supply in the country proved challenging but were nevertheless overcome thanks to the proactivity and pragmatism of the UNESCO Officers on the ground, who found alternative ways to reach and engage with key stakeholders.



FORTHCOMING ACTIONS

In 2021, UNESCO initially planned to continue its support for safety of journalists by helping them understand different aspects of legal safety and exposing them to both national laws and international standards, while also strengthening the Safety Focal Points Network which was established in 2019. UNESCO likewise intended to maintain its policy advice activities by consulting with stakeholders such as the Judiciary and local security forces and exchanging on the role of journalists in a democracy, and how they can support the implementation of the UN Plan of Action in Myanmar. Advocacy activities regarding freedom of expression legislation reform and the right to information bill were also planned for 2021, as is the continuation of dialogue between the Myanmar Press Council and its South East Asian peers.

At the time of redaction of this report, 2021 projects and activities (which were originally submitted in late 2020) need review and amendments in the aftermath of the evolving political crisis in Myanmar. While the safeguarding of journalists' safety remains as the overall theme, there is a need to shift partnership from duty-bearers to right holders, particularly journalists and media workers. This approach is seen as more sustainable and less politically sensitive in these times of uncertainty, as the relevant duty bearers are difficult to identify within the context of the coup d'état. In order to avoid legitimizing the de facto authorities, UNCT Guidelines provide that UN agencies should not have any engagement with the de facto authorities including cabinet-level officials appointed by the military-led State Administrative Council (SAC), as these actions may legitimize the military authority. Based on these guidelines, UNESCO Myanmar Office has proposed prioritizing the setting up of a centralized and evidence-based database of documented cases of press freedom restrictions throughout the country. This will assist in strategic planning and delivery of safety and protection programs and a coordinated advocacy and assistance work at the global and national level. The database will be managed by an independent CSO in coordination with journalists, media workers, media houses, etc.

China

NEPAL

India

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS



CONTEXT

In 2020, the MDP was successful in continuing multi-stakeholder dialogue towards an improved framework for community media sustainability, a dialogue which had started in 2019, as well as in strengthening the capacities of community radio broadcasters. Duty bearers at local, provincial and federal levels were supported to design community-media friendly policies based on UNESCO's Community Media Sustainability Policy Series. This included the endorsement of the definition of community broadcasting, allocation of frequencies, ensuring ownership and participation of community members in radio stations, establishment of an independent regulatory agency for media, and setting up an independent fund for the development of the broadcasting sector, with the aim of securing the government's consideration. The pandemic has stressed the relevance of community media to inform and communicate with communities, and through UNESCO's support, an increased understanding of the role of community media has been noted. This understanding is driving the policy debate, as local level representatives highlighted the role of local governments in enhancing the capacities of community radio stations, as well as resource mobilization at a local level and coordination with local government to raise general awareness about social issues. Mayors and deputy mayors expressed their commitment to facilitate the smooth functioning of community radios and review current practices. While the policy debate has also progressed at different stages with the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and with the Ministry of Communication, Information and Technology, UNESCO, in cooperation with its national and regional partners, continues advocacy for improved community media policy.

More than 270 community media benefited from the project, and it has also contributed to reinforcing the capacities of 15 community radio broadcasters through hands-on production trainings, with the aim of improving the quality and reach of potentially life-saving COVID-19 messages for the community. Additionally, 200 community radios were supported to develop educational programmes for school children during school closures, reaching more than 800,000 pupils.



AREAS OF ACTION AND PROGRESS

Community Media

The UNESCO Kathmandu Office organized 7 events with more than 100 duty bearers and around 750 community media producers empowering the duty bearers to strengthen their role in formulating a strong media policy. The programme was held in all seven provinces as well as in the capital. The workshops allowed both the community radio broadcasters and duty bearers to move towards a solution-oriented discussion of the issues and challenges being faced by both the sides, such as the difficulty in receiving radio operation licenses and financial setbacks faced by the radio stations due to dual taxation provisions.

A national level, interaction in partnership with the Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Nepal (ACORAB) and the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Asia-Pacific (AMARC-ASIA Pacific) in the presence of former Prime Minister, the UN Resident Coordinator, the UNESCO Kathmandu Director and the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission was successful in highlighting the community media sustainability project and the role UNESCO can play for FOE and ATI in Nepal.

From April to June 2020, UNESCO joined the community radio against COVID-19 campaign in cooperation with AMARC Asia-Pacific. UNESCO Kathmandu provided expertise to 15 radio stations which helped them prepare verified and timely content. The activity reached approximately 1 million listeners with urgent and potentially life-saving messages, and contributed to raising awareness on the relevance of the community media sector among duty bearers and the general public.

From September to November 2020, the second phase of the campaign focused on capacity enhancement for eight community radios and the production and broadcasting of innovative and effective radio programs on tackling the impact of the pandemic.

In December 2020, UNESCO organised a webinar for duty bearers from the local, provincial and federal levels on community media sustainability policy in partnership with ACORAB. The local level representatives highlighted the role of local governments in enhancing the capacities of community radio stations, resource mobilization at a local level, and coordination with local government to raise general awareness about social issues.

“The continuous advocacy and lobbying by the community media sector have motivated us to facilitate the free flow of information to communities,” said Rabi Lal Pantha, Secretary at the Ministry of Communication of Lumbini Province.

Aung Aung Htoo, journalist for Radio Free Asia’s Rakhine Programmes



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Community radios were empowered through improved technical and editorial capacities to serve diverse audiences, to engage in networking and coordination, and to advocate for greater sustainability of the community broadcasting sector in the context of the pandemic.
- Successful multi-stakeholder activities with public health authorities, civil society organizations, community-based organizations, UN Organizations, local government and other institutions working to respond to the pandemic. This was done with the objective of better informing local communities and provided an appropriate framework as well as resulted in increased awareness on policy needs for community media sustainability.
- More than 800,000 pupils and listeners of 15 community radio stations benefitted from UNESCO's project.



CHALLENGES, RISKS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Nepal underwent a political crisis in 2020 which led to frequent changes of government officials and culminated in the dissolution of the Parliament in July 2020. These changes led to UNESCO's continuous capacity building support for duty bearers to address wide-spread inadequate understanding among duty bearers on freedom of expression and access to information as a fundamental right.

In addition, 2020 was overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on community media and the audiences they serve. The activities were therefore designed to meet these particular and immediate needs.



FORTHCOMING ACTIONS

In 2021, the UNESCO Kathmandu office will seek to ensure the continuity of its support to community media. The reinstatement of the Parliament in February 2021 could lead to more political stability and provide the context for efficient advocacy towards community media sustainability on the national level, in cooperation with UNESCO's project partners. At the same time, capacity building of community media and duty bearers will continue through webinars and, if the pandemic allows, through in-person workshops.

Furthermore, activities to address violence against women and girls were prepared at the end 2020 and will be implemented in 2021, under Output 2 of Outcome 2. Two regulatory and legislative bodies and other relevant authorities in Nepal will have improved capacities to support SDG5 by promoting policies or ethical codes to inform and alert people on VAWG; and 30 media organizations will have improved awareness of the UNESCO resources "Reporting on violence against women and girls" and "The Big Conversation" for quality reporting and coverage of specific gender concerns.

PAKISTAN

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS



CONTEXT

Working conditions for many Pakistani journalists remained challenging throughout 2020. Human rights experts and media stakeholders have raised concerns about shrinking online space for dissent and freedom of expression, as the year was marked by a reported increase of hate speech and digital surveillance. Furthermore, online freedoms were stymied due to increased blocking of political, social, and cultural websites and undeclared policy of connectivity restrictions.

At the same time, issues faced by women journalists, bloggers and media workers online have emerged as a key area of concern. While they only represent a small fraction of Pakistani journalists, women journalists have increasingly been the target of coordinated online campaigns, an issue which has led the National Assembly Standing Committee on Human Rights to invite women journalists to brief Parliamentarians on their concerns.

In a situation of increasing censorship on mainstream news media, social media and digital platforms are considered the 'last frontier' for the free flow of information by many media workers in Pakistan. Based on the pre-existing cyber crimes laws, Pakistani authorities are currently in the process of enacting additional social media regulations, which would give sweeping powers to government bodies to monitor, control and remove content from the internet. But limited awareness among rights holders on freedom of expression and access to information in the digital sphere, as well as a lack of capacity among lawyers and judges on the intersection of human rights and technology pose a challenge for effective response to censorship measures. In addition, several instances of misuse of cybercrimes laws against journalists were also reported by the Pakistani Federal Union of Journalists.

Media stakeholders in Pakistan have also expressed concern regarding the lack of legal safeguards to prevent misuse of the new regulations, as Pakistan is not currently equipped with data protection and privacy legislation, and as the draft Bill on the safety of journalists is yet to be approved by the Cabinet. This new draft Bill, which was developed with UNESCO’s support in February 2020 based on previous drafts, assures that the government will implement best practices provided in the United Nations Plan of Action on Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, and has been well received by civil society.

Progress regarding access to information legislation was nevertheless achieved, as all provinces have established or taken measures towards establishing independent Information Commissions for increased accountability. Significant gaps however remain in terms of capacity building of public departments and public information officers.



AREAS OF ACTION

Awareness-raising and advocacy	Enhancing journalists’ safety	Policy advice and reinforcement of duty bearers’ capacities
<p>More than 160 stakeholders engaged over the course of 3 national celebrations of WPF, IDUAI and IDEI in awareness on the issues faced by women journalists and media workers online.</p>	<p>Seven focus group discussions were held with policy makers from different political parties to deliberate on cybercrime laws and implications on freedom of expression. As a result, 86 Policy makers and duty bearers engaged and were sensitized to strengthen the legal framework on safety of journalists and freedom of expression by revisiting Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016.</p>	<p>UNESCO supported Pakistan Information Commission in the development and launch of an online appeals management information system (AMIS) to process information requests of citizens.</p>
<p>Cooperation on advocacy on issues pertaining to press freedom and journalists’ safety has been extended to new partners (Pakistan Information Commission, Sustainable Social Development Organization, European Union, Embassy of Netherlands, Embassy of Sweden, High Commission of Canada, Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights).</p>	<p>Partnership and coordination was sustained with Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights, Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs to reinforced and strengthen 5 Working Groups on SDG 16.10.1 (1 Federal, 4 provincial).</p>	<p>In Baluchistan province, UNESCO facilitated consultations with stakeholders to gather recommendations for a new Right to Information Law in accordance with international standards.</p>
<p>A national awareness raising campaign was launched to encourage citizens to exercise their right to information.</p>	<p>Post legislative scrutiny of cybercrimes law (misused to target journalists) was initiated in light of International Human rights obligations, recommendations from stakeholders compiled and presented to MPs from different political parties in 1 high level advocacy event.</p>	



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- More than 19,000 people were reached through the awareness raising campaigns on freedom of expression and access to information.
- The Ministry of IT & Telecom constituted an internal committee to deliberate upon submitted recommendations on safeguarding freedom of expression during enforcement of cybercrimes law.
- As a result of legislative advocacy conducted by UNESCO in Pakistan, “implications of cybercrimes law on freedom of expression” was included in the agenda of National assembly Standing Committee on Law and Justice in July 2020.
- UNESCO supported the Pakistan Information Commission to develop and launch an online appeal management system (AMIS) for citizens to file information requests online via their website. The system has supported Pakistan Information Commission in managing more than 600 Information requests and/or appeals since its launch.
- The recommendations resulting from the multi stakeholder consultations in the Baluchistan province, facilitated by UNESCO for a new Right to Information Law, were accepted by the concerned Minister and will be presented in the Provincial Assembly.
- As a result of continuous advocacy and regular engagement with the Ministry of Human Rights, crimes against journalists were included in their human rights database in coordination with the National Police Bureau. Moreover, the Ministry of Human Rights formed a Task Force on SDGs related to Human Rights of which UNESCO has been made a member.
- Proposed Amendments to the Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016, were shared with parliamentarians to be presented at the National Assembly to address concerns raised by journalists.



CHALLENGES, RISKS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Freedom of expression and safety of journalists continue to be sensitive issues in Pakistan. Rapid enactment of new social media regulations, lack of consultation and inclusive process in policy making has been a challenge as it does not allow an entry point for feedback. UNESCO continued to leverage its strategic partnership with the Parliamentarians’ Commission for Human Rights and relevant standing committees of the National Assembly. Moreover, UNESCO is coordinating closely with CSO partners and press clubs to diversity outreach and ensure that effects of social media regulations on their rights are well understood by citizens.

To address these challenges UNESCO continued its advocacy and consultations with duty bearers, provincial and federal working groups on SDG16.10.1, and engaged with provincial assembly members regularly to garner support for legislation reforms, particularly to lobby for judicial oversight.

While the level of accountability and ownership by relevant government bodies was found to be low due to the fragmented mandates of ministries and departments on the issue of the protection of media and information, the Ministry of Human Rights has however recently assumed a more active role. UNESCO is planning to liaise closely with the Ministry on the safety of journalists.



FORTHCOMING ACTIONS

In order to best meet the needs of Pakistani stakeholders in its upcoming activities, the UNESCO Islamabad Office has relied on formal and informal consultations with the media, civil society and government officials. For example, the need to engage nontraditional partners such as digital businesses, internet service providers, gamers and lawyers was highlighted by local press clubs, to increase support for freedom of expression online, and will therefore be addressed in activities such as a dialogue on digital rights and ATI online, which will include both public and private stakeholders. Bilateral meetings with government authorities also highlighted the need to enhance the capacities of judicial officers in dealing with cases of cybercrimes and online censorship, an issue which will be addressed through a series of capacity-building workshops in 2021.

Careful monitoring of the discourse around freedom of expression, access to information and safety of journalists in Pakistan, and analysis by national and international watchdogs also helps guide UNESCO's response to emerging issues. For instance, 2020 saw several new measures by the government to regulate digital platforms. The Asia Internet Coalition (comprising Facebook, Twitter, Google, Amazon, Apple and other tech giants) in a letter to Pakistan's Prime Minister warned that the government's new rules to regulate social media activity will make it "extremely difficult" for digital companies to operate in Pakistan. Accordingly, activities in 2021 will focus on advocacy for freedom of expression and access to information online, internet freedom and inclusion.

Lastly, as youth engagement and participation in advocacy events has remained low in the past year, it will be addressed through specific sensitization activities for Pakistani youth in 2021.

REGIONAL ACTION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors
- Capacities of more than 2,300 judicial operators from 21 countries reinforced through the 6th edition of the MOOC “International Legal Framework on Freedom of Expression, Access to Public Information and the Safety of Journalists”
- Creation of a new capacity-building programme for journalists together with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights
- Launch of a rapid response mechanism for journalists under threat in Paraguay

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CONTEXT

The situation of media freedom, freedom of expression and access to information continues to be unequal across the Latin American and Caribbean region, as most countries find themselves at different stages of aligning their legislative framework with international standards. Journalists on the ground likewise face widely differing realities, as some are able to work virtually unhindered, while others in more restrictive countries face frequent threats, surveillance and violence; a situation that has been compounded by COVID-related restrictions imposed by some authorities.

As was highlighted in the 2020 UNESCO Director-General's Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, Latin America and the Caribbean represented the second-deadliest region for journalists in 2018, before recording the highest number of casualties in 2019.

In its efforts to promote a conducive and enabling environment for free journalism and the free flow of information, UNESCO carried out activities pertaining to the training of judicial officers, which were initially launched as the Judges Initiative in 2013. The 6th edition of the "International Legal Framework on Freedom of Expression, Access to Public Information and the Safety of Journalists" massive open online course (MOOC) reached a total of 2,334 Ibero-American judicial operators from 21 countries, thereby bringing the number of trained judicial operators and judges to over 17,000 since its inception. This year's edition of the course included an additional module on freedom of speech and access to information in times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Building on a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2019 with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) to strengthen the protection of freedom of expression, freedom of the press and the safety of journalists, and together with the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and the Rule of Law Program for Latin America of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, with the support of the UNESCO Montevideo office, the partners formed a network of senior journalists with the aim of responding to the situation of persecution and restriction of freedoms that has been noted across the region, along with the rise of hate speech. This newly formed network was formally launched through an online dialogue under the theme "Network of Journalists of the Human Rights Protection System of the Americas", which benefited from the participation of high-level journalists from the region as well as a judge from the IACHR. As a result of this meeting, the abovementioned partners designed and implemented over the summer a series of masterclasses under the title of "Diploma for Journalists on Human Rights", with additional support secured from the European Commission. Over 1,300 journalists applied, and 40 were selected for this first round of courses, of which a new edition has been announced for 2021.

In Paraguay, whose Court of Justice had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNESCO in 2015 regarding the enhancement of freedom of expression and access to information with a view to establishing joint actions, a rapid response mechanism for journalists and communications workers was launched in 2020 in the form of a digital help desk called "Mesa para la Seguridad de Periodistas" (or "Safety of Journalists Desk"). This mechanism, whose development benefited from support from the MDP and IPDC in previous years, aims at preventing, defending and ensuring justice in cases of threats, assaults and crimes against journalists in Paraguay. The initiative was set up by Paraguayan State institutions and journalists' unions with the support of UNESCO to comply with the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists.



AREAS OF ACTION AND PROGRESS

Awareness-raising and advocacy	Enhancing journalists' safety	Policy advice and reinforcement of duty bearers' capacities
<p>Celebrations of WPFDF were held regionally in coordination with 11 Latin American and Caribbean Field Offices. Several events helped reinforce awareness among relevant stakeholders as well as the general public by highlighting the importance of journalism and access to information in times of crisis as well as violence against women journalists. They also served to honour the 2020 recipient of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, Colombian journalist Jineth Bedoya.</p>	<p>Launch of the 6th edition of the Judges Initiative Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) "International Legal Framework on Freedom of Expression, Access to Public Information and the Safety of Journalists", through which the capacities of more than 2,300 judicial operators from 21 countries were strengthened.</p>	
<p>An awareness-raising campaign in Spanish on disinformation in times of the COVID-19 pandemic reached over 50,000 people (from April to May). (Materials from the campaign were subsequently used by offices in other regions and translated into 5 languages, including Myanmar.)</p>	<p>Building on an MoU signed in 2019 with IACHR, and in collaboration with the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and the Rule of Law Program for Latin America of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, a network of high-level senior journalists from the region was created, with the aim of responding to human rights issues and the rise of hate speech across Latin America and the Caribbean.</p>	
	<p>Following the creation of the abovementioned network of journalists, an online capacity-building programme for journalists entitled "Diploma for Journalists on Human Rights" was put in place by the same partners as well as the European Commission. Participants notably gained knowledge and skills on issues pertaining to the function of the IACHR, challenges to the safety of journalists in the region, discrimination and hate speech, democracy and the rule of law, among others. This series of courses received 1,300 applications and is set to hold a new edition of the masterclasses in 2021.</p>	
	<p>A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by UNESCO and the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors (AIAMP) On World Press Freedom Day (3 May 2020).</p>	
	<p>The launch of a rapid response mechanism for journalists under threat in Paraguay called "Mesa para la Seguridad de Periodistas" (Safety of Journalists Desk).</p>	



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Through the 6th edition of the MOOC for judicial operators, over 2,300 participants gained knowledge and skills on freedom of expression, safety of journalists and access to information international standards. This new edition further reinforced an informal network of over 15,000 judicial officers committed to the reinforcement of the implementation of the UN Plan of Action and to the application of international standards within their national contexts across Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Building on its privileged relations with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, UNESCO was able to attract new stakeholders, as well as support from the European Commission, and jointly create a new network of high-level Latin American journalists steadfast in responding to human rights challenges and hate speech in the region.
- Expanding on the abovementioned cooperation, a capacity-building programme entitled “Diploma for Journalists on Human Rights” was launched, garnering great interest from journalists across the region.
- Over 50,000 people were reached via an awareness-raising video campaign on disinformation in times of the COVID-19 pandemic and the work carried out with UNESCO Montevideo’s network of social media influencers.
- Safety of journalists in the region enhanced through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and the Ibero-American Association of Attorney Generals (AIAMP) on World Press Freedom Day, thereby reinforcing the Organization’s partnerships with judicial operators in the region; and the launch of a rapid response mechanism for the safety of journalists in Paraguay with the aim of preventing, defending and ensuring justice in cases of threats, assaults and crimes against journalists.



CHALLENGES, RISKS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic created challenges in organizing activities, as most had to be carried out remotely. In addition, the implementing team faced challenges regarding technological reliability and access to appropriate technical assistance. Partners likewise sometimes struggled with connectivity, often lacked remote support, and were not always equipped with the necessary digital skills. In some Latin American countries, limited access to the internet and the blocking of some digital platforms such as the inaccessibility of Zoom in Cuba due to US sanctions complicated the organization of regional events.



FORTHCOMING ACTIONS

The capacities of Latin American and Caribbean judges will continue to be strengthened throughout 2021 with a focus on digital challenges and rule of law as well as artificial intelligence and freedom of expression. In addition, as several countries within the region will hold general or legislative elections in 2021 and 2022, efforts will also focus on countering election disinformation and guaranteeing free, plural and fair elections.



*(under UNSCR 1244)

THE BOUNDARIES AND NAMES SHOWN AND THE DESIGNATIONS USED ON THIS MAP DO NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED NATIONS

SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE AND TURKEY

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Increased outreach and functioning of 5 press and media councils
- Publication of a study on the role of media in times of COVID-19 and of guidelines for inclusive media reporting on COVID-19
- Awareness on MIL reinforced through a regional seminar



CONTEXT

In 2020, the Multi-Donor Programme has continued to co-finance the second phase of the project entitled “Building Trust in Media in South East Europe and Turkey”, funded by the European Union, which covers Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Turkey and Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244). This has contributed to strengthening freedom of expression in target countries and addressing the issue of disinformation to ensure citizens have access to plural and verified information remains a pressing issue.

Freedom of expression is a key benchmark in the enlargement criteria of the European Union. Yet, the region is considered particularly vulnerable to the spread of conspiracy theories and disinformation. The endeavor of candidate countries and potential candidates to the European Union to ensure the necessary conditions for media freedom takes place against the backdrop of a rapid transformation of the media landscape and significant shifts in media consumption patterns. While opening up new opportunities for sharing information, this changing environment in communications has brought risks, including a decline in professional standards and the thriving of information chaos creating distrust in the media and institutions.

The second phase of this 3-year project, which started November 2019, aimed at piloting MIL in formal education, supporting media self-regulatory bodies of the region to increase their outreach and efficiency, and supporting young journalists and media outlets to address disinformation through improving their good governance, respect for labor rights or fact-checking techniques. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, activities were adapted to include COVID-related components.



AREAS OF ACTION

Awareness-raising and advocacy	Policy advice and reinforcement of duty bearers' capacities
Knowledge sharing was supported by sponsoring the participation of 5 young journalists of the region to the global WPFD conference in The Hague to participate in the Youth Newsroom.	Support was provided to 5 press and media councils in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo*(under UNSCR 1244) to reinforce media self-regulation and media professional standards.
Awareness about Media and Information Literacy strengthened through the organization of a regional South Eastern European seminar for MIL Week	
To shed light on the value of the work of Press and Media Councils at a time of pandemic and analyze the impacts of the ongoing public health crisis on their functioning, the project supported a study entitled ‘The critical role of press and media councils in time of Covid-19’. The study highlights the measures taken by press councils in the region, as well as across Europe, to shield journalists and media from hurdles of reporting during a global pandemic, including providing advice on how to report about the pandemic according to ethical standards, engaging in advocacy activities following press freedom violations, and ensuring the right to access to information is respected.	With a view to upgrading the existing ethical framework in relation to journalistic reporting on minorities in times of crisis, the project supported the elaboration of new “Guidelines for inclusive media reporting on Covid-19”.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Increased outreach and functioning of press councils in South Eastern Europe, which report an increased number of media outlets belonging to the system of self-regulation and an increased number of complaints received, thereby proving that these bodies are better known and used by citizens.
- The co-financing of the MDP to the project has been instrumental in mobilizing new funds during the Covid-19 Pandemic with the European Union for another Project entitled “#CoronavirusFacts: Addressing the ‘Disinfodemic’ on Covid-19 in conflict-prone environments”. The project focuses on four regions (Latin America & the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, East & Horn of Africa, and West Africa) and nine target countries (Afghanistan, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iraq, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, and Zimbabwe).



CHALLENGES, RISKS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Despite delays created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the implementing team was able to catch up and implement the project according to plan. Some activities however had to be held online instead of in person.

ANNEX I

List of publications, resources and infographics

Title of publication	Language	Country	Link
Journalism in a pandemic: Covering COVID-19 now and in the future (MOOC)	English; French; Spanish; Portuguese; Arabic; Russian	Global	https://journalismcourses.org/coursecat/journalism-in-a-pandemic/
Guidelines for Journalists Covering COVID-19: Professional Standards and Tips for Physical and Psychological Well-Being	English; Myanmar	Myanmar	https://bangkok.unesco.org/sites/default/files/assets/article/UNESCO%20Myanmar/files/final-guidelines-and-professional-standards-journalists-eng.pdf
2020 Election Reporting Guidelines for Myanmar Journalists	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000374028.locale=en
8th Media Development Conference Report	English; Myanmar	Myanmar	https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/8th_mmdc_report_eng_version.pdf
10 Tips for Journalists Covering COVID-19	English; Myanmar	Myanmar	https://www.facebook.com/17769852242574/posts/3231261016886294/
WPFJ Messages from South Asian Journalists	English; Myanmar; Thai	Myanmar	https://www.facebook.com/unescoBangkok/posts/3234193709926358
Key Messages on COVID-19 and Access to Information	English; Myanmar; Thai	Myanmar	https://www.facebook.com/17769852242574/posts/3234377963241266/
Online Information Request Portal Developed for Federal RTI commission website	English	Pakistan	http://appeals.rti.gov.pk/
IEC resources on Right to Information awareness	English	Pakistan	http://rti.gov.pk/
Draft Data Protection Bill	English	South Sudan	Available upon request
Access to Information Regulation, 2020	English	South Sudan	Available upon request
Access to Information, Request forms	English	South Sudan	Available upon request
Journalists' Code of Ethics	English	South Sudan	Available upon request
COVID-19: the role of judicial operators in the protection and promotion of the right to freedom of expression: guidelines	English ; French ; Spanish ; Portuguese ; Russian; Khmer; Arabic; Chinese; Burmese,	Global	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000374208
Guidelines for prosecutors on cases of crimes against journalists	English (upcoming translations in 2021)	Global	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000375138
Tips to face disinformation	English	Global	https://en.unesco.org/news/tips-face-disinformation
Policy Brief – Disinfodemic: deciphering COVID-19 disinformation	English; Spanish; French; Portuguese	Global	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000374416.locale=en
Policy Brief – Disinfodemic: dissecting responses to COVID-19 disinformation	English; Spanish; French; Portuguese	Global	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000374417.locale=en
Media Pandemics – Seeking Journalistic Answers in Eastern Africa	English	Eastern Africa	https://www.kenyaeditorsguild.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/BOOK-final-2b-2209-web.pdf

Fact checking tool kit for African journalists	English ; French ; Arabic ; Amharic	Africa (regional – African Union Member States)	Available upon request
The Right to Information in Times of Crisis: access to information – saving lives, building trust, bringing hope! (WTR issue brief)	English	Global	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000374369
Safety of Journalists Covering Protests : preserving freedom of the press during times of turmoil (WTR issue brief)	English; French; Spanish; Russian; Arabic; Chinese; Portuguese; Myanmar	Global	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000374206
Journalism, Press Freedom and Covid-19 (WTR issue brief)	English; French; Spanish	Global	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000373573.locale=en
Reporting Facts: Free From Fear or Favour (WTR In-Focus Series)	English	Global	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000375061
Reporting Facts: Free From Fear or Favour (Preview)	English; French; Spanish	Global	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000373572
World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development: Global Report 2017/2018 (Russian Translation)	Russian	Global	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000374137
Media Landscape Assessment of Sudan - Study on media development in Sudan based on the UNESCO Media Development Indicators	English	Sudan	Available upon request
2020 Media Reform Roadmap for Sudan	English	Sudan	Available upon request
Sudan: Disinformation situation analysis and needs analysis developed	English	Sudan	Available upon request
Sudan: PVE situation analysis and needs assessment	English	Sudan	Available upon request
Online violence against women journalists: a global snapshot of incidence and impacts	English (currently being translated to French, Spanish, Arabic)	Global	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000375136
حقائق فيروس كورونا والتعامل مع المعلومات المضللة حول الجائحة كوفيد# 19 في البيئات المعرضة للصراعات (Coronavirus facts and dealing with misinformation about Pandemic COVID-19 in Conflict-Prone Environments)	Arabic	Iraq	https://www.facebook.com/MDC.BZU/posts/3421393321207673
إرشادات السلامة النفسية للصحافيين في مواجهة فيروس #كورونا المستجد، بالتعاون بين مركز تطوير الإعلام جامعة بيرزيت و #نقابة_الصحفيين# - #MDC_الفلسطينيين، و #اليونسكو (Psychological safety guidelines for journalists in the face of the emerging # Corona virus, in cooperation between the Media Development Center #MDC - #Birzeit University, the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate, and # UNESCO.)	Arabic	Palestine	https://www.facebook.com/MDC.BZU/posts/3421393321207673
Study: The Critical Role of Press and Media Councils in Time of COVID-19	English	South Eastern Europe and Turkey	https://www.semm.mk/attachments/09-10-2020/Press_council%20analysis.pdf

Guidelines for Inclusive Media Reporting on COVID-19	English	South Eastern Europe and Turkey	https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/guide_inclusivemediareporting_covid19.pdf
Internal Guide on Media Law Reform	English	Global – Internal for UNESCO officers	Available upon request
Reporting on violence against women and girls: a handbook for journalists	English, French, Russian, Arabic, Kyrgyz	Global	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000371524
Terrorism and the media: a handbook for journalists	English, French, Arabic, Portuguese, Spanish, Georgian, Serbocroatian	Global	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000265733
Best Practices of Community Radio and Sustainable Development Goals: A Handbook (UNESCO New Delhi Office)	English	India, Bangladesh, Nepal	Available upon request
“Towards a Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Competency Framework in Myanmar”	English	Myanmar	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000374230
“Towards a Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Competency Framework in Myanmar”	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000374230_bur
“Situation Analysis of Community Media Sustainability in Myanmar”	English	Myanmar	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000374008
“Situation Analysis of Community Media Sustainability in Myanmar”	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000374008_bur
Myanmar translation of “Journalism, Fake News & Disinformation: Handbook for Journalism Education and Training”	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000374458
An online module “Coping with the COVID-19 Pandemic through MIL” for e-Library of Pre-Service Teacher Education Colleges	English	Myanmar	https://edc.moe.edu.mm/en/resource/online-module-coping-with-the-covid-19-pandemic-through-media-and-information-literacy-1
An online module “Coping with the COVID-19 Pandemic through MIL” for e-Library of Pre-Service Teacher Education Colleges	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://edc.moe.edu.mm/en/resource/online-module-coping-with-the-covid-19-pandemic-through-media-and-information-literacy
An online module “Fact Checking Health Information” for e-Library of Pre-Service Teacher Education Colleges	English	Myanmar	https://edc.moe.edu.mm/en/resource/unesco-myanmar-module-on-fact-checking-health-information-1
An online module “Fact Checking Health Information” for e-Library of Pre-Service Teacher Education Colleges	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://edc.moe.edu.mm/en/resource/unesco-myanmar-module-on-fact-checking-health-information
Non-Formal Education Guideline of Media and Information Literacy curriculum	English	Nigeria	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000372417
Media and Information Literacy Storybook: Sikito Has A Good Day	English	Nigeria	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000372418
Media and Information Literacy Card Game	English	Nigeria	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000372420
Media and Information Literacy Fun Game	English	Nigeria	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000372421

Resisting disinfodemic: media and information literacy for everyone by everyone; selected papers	English	Nigeria	https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000375167
Manuel de Formation de Formateurs sur le droit d'accès à l'information (Training of Trainers Manual on the Right of Access to Information)	French ; Arabic	Morocco	Available upon request
Guide de vulgarisation de la loi d'accès à l'information (Guide to popularize the Access to Information Act)	French (currently being translated into Arabic)	Morocco	Available upon request
Monthly reports (12) from the monitoring unit	Arabic	Tunisia	Available upon request
Annual report from the monitoring unit	Arabic	Tunisia	Available upon request

ANNEX II

List of videos and audio-visual visibility products

Title	Type	Language	Country	Link
UNESCO – The next normal	Video campaign	English; French; Spanish	Global	https://youtu.be/QR_z7P28bl
Protect Journalists. Protect the Truth #ProtectJournalists	Video campaign	English; French; Spanish; Arabic; Russian; Chinese	Global	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJLWTijSNyo&feature=emb_title
What is media capture and how to fight it back?	Awareness-raising video	English; French; Spanish	Global	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_N1odsBK5Q&feature=emb_logo
#WorldMediaTrends Report In Focus on Media Independence - Fight Back	Awareness-raising video	Spanish	Global	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOOBd6iiDNs&ab_channel=UNESCO
#WorldMediaTrends Report In Focus on Media Independence - "Media Capture"	Awareness-raising video	English	Global	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRonpxawgVk&feature=emb_title&ab_channel=UNESCO
#WorldMediaTrends Report In Focus on Media Independence – Risks	Awareness-raising video	English	Global	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eI9U0U5IOs&feature=emb_title&ab_channel=UNESCO
#WorldMediaTrends Report Issue Brief: Press Freedom and COVID-19	Awareness-raising video	English	Global	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGWpsQKq5is&feature=emb_title&ab_channel=UNESCO
Media Independence in Times of Crises	Awareness-raising video	English	Global	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iE9Jptkd4Q0
Safety of Journalists Covering Protests	Awareness-raising video	English	Global	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfp_RpLh8qQ
Parallel session on online violence against women journalists at the World Press Freedom Conference	Live Streamed event (video)	English	Global	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69eEn3HDJMI&t=1012s
Sessions from World Press Freedom Conference available on demand	Live Streamed event (video)	English	Global	https://www.youtube.com/hashtag/wpfc2020
Video campaign with 10 Latin American Journalists on press freedom in times of COVID-19	Video campaign	Spanish	Latin America and the Caribbean (regional)	https://es.unesco.org/news/10-reconocidos-periodistas-america-latina-se-suman-campana-digital-semanadelaprensa-unesco
¿Cómo frenar la desinformación en tiempos de coronavirus?	Video campaign	Spanish	Latin America and the Caribbean (regional)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1G7ZP_oevuc&feature=emb_title
Safety and ethics for journalists during the corona pandemic	Webinar (video)	Arabic	Yemen	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BYQhBU41sq&feature=emb_title
Scientific Journalism Reporting on Covid-19	Webinar (video)	Arabic	Yemen	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLioSy7fRAo&feature=emb_title
Reporting in time of information disorder - Verification Tools	Webinar (video)	Arabic	Yemen	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMgERwzZ7Q&feature=emb_title
WPFDF Video Message by U Kyaw Min Swe, Chief Editor of the Voice Journal	Video message	Myanmar; English	Myanmar	https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=943631999386685

WPFD Video Message of UN Resident Coordinator for Myanmar	Video message	Myanmar; English	Myanmar	https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=192640085035022
WPFD Video Message of Ei Ei Toe Lwin, Chief Reporter, Myanmar Times	Video message	Myanmar; English	Myanmar	https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=284559335886722
WPFD Video Message of Min Jeong Kim, Head of UNESCO Myanmar	Video message	Myanmar; English	Myanmar	https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=690695688427134
Launch of Covid-19 Reporting Guidelines	Live Streamed event (video)	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://www.facebook.com/myanmarpresscouncil/videos/710771002989877
Recorded dialogue on the role of media during elections between the Union Electoral Commission, the Myanmar Press Council and UNESCO – Day 1	Live Streamed event (video)	Myanmar	Myanmar	Part 1: https://www.facebook.com/uecmyanmar/posts/3121314544660889 Part 2: https://www.facebook.com/uecmyanmar/posts/3121571444635199
Recorded dialogue on the role of media during elections between the Union Electoral Commission, the Myanmar Press Council and UNESCO – Day 2	Live Streamed event (video)	Myanmar	Myanmar	Part 1: https://www.facebook.com/uecmyanmar/posts/3124281007697576 Part 2: https://www.facebook.com/uecmyanmar/posts/3124396081019402
Virtual Launch on Election Reporting Guidelines	Live Streamed event (video)	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=723907918392085&ref=watch_permalink
8th Media Development Conference – Opening Session	Live Streamed event (video)	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=329554441561150&ref=watch_permalink
8th Media Development Conference – Plenary Session 1: Role of media in elections; comparisons and lessons learned in 2010 and 2015/2018	Live Streamed event (video)	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://www.facebook.com/MOIWebportalMyanmar/videos/316117642940932/
8th Media Development Conference – Plenary Session 2: Elections and Safety of Journalists	Live Streamed event (video)	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://www.facebook.com/Myanmarmediadev/videos/737259270388386/
8th Media Development Conference – Plenary Session 3: Ethical practices and self-regulation by media during the electioneering process	Live Streamed event (video)	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://www.facebook.com/myanmarpresscouncil/videos/5957212221113181/
8th Media Development Conference – Plenary Session 4: Elections in the age of social media	Live Streamed event (video)	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://www.facebook.com/Myanmarmediadev/videos/311692513232745/
8th Media Development Conference – Plenary Session 5: Election reporting in ethnic states and regions – challenges and solutions	Live Streamed event (video)	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://www.facebook.com/Myanmarmediadev/videos/612129909502466/
World Press Freedom Day 2020 message by UNESCO and MDP member states	Video message	English	Pakistan	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NYznhBPxtpl

International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists 2020 – Event Highlight Video Developed	Event highlights (video)	English	Pakistan	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4TmC53i098&feature=youtu.be
National Mechanism for Monitoring Safety of Journalists in Palestine	Video about activities	English; Arabic	Palestine	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZOsoiZYwd0
حماية الصحفيين ومكافحة التضليل المعلوماتي في زمن كورونا 2020-2021 (Protecting journalists and combating disinformation in the time of Corona 2020-2021 - #Coronavirus Facts)	Awareness-raising video	Arabic; English	Iraq	https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=512609403038750
حماية الصحفيين من مخاطر كورونا ومكافحة التضليل المعلوماتي حول الجائحة (Protecting journalists from Corona dangers and combat misinformation about the pandemic)	Awareness-raising video	Arabic; English	Iraq	https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=228260422100300
#CoronavirusFacts: Addressing the 'Disinfodemic' on COVID-19 in conflict-prone environments	Awareness-raising video	Arabic; English	Iraq	https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1966913180374009
Ethiopia – Access to Information in times of crisis	Webinar (video)	Amharic	Ethiopia	https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=2697977093852998&ref=watch_permalink
Kenya – Africa MIL Alliance	Social media presence	English	Kenya	https://www.facebook.com/AfroMILNetwork
Message's on the occasion of World Radio Day		English	Bangladesh	Facebook: https://business.facebook.com/212805442069004/posts/3402634173086099/
Message's on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day 2020		English	Bangladesh	Facebook: https://business.facebook.com/212805442069004/posts/3625573777458803/ UNESCO Dhaka Office website: https://en.unesco.org/news/messages-occasion-world-press-freedom-day-2020?fbclid=IwAR2nMydJsgvC90xfR_zQGSMKNRSe8PDhIDQ4_DPoyqAHrNoHTaePnTHjwOw
Re-Connect-Bangladesh Media Stakeholder Meeting		English	Bangladesh	Facebook Live Event: https://business.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=343066283473435&ref=watch_permalink Recording: https://business.facebook.com/watch/?v=383237912859631 UNESCO Dhaka Office website: https://en.unesco.org/news/re-connect-bangladesh-media-stakeholder-meeting
Video: COVID-19 awareness-raising and social mobilization (Radio Sarabela)		Bengali and English in subtitle	Bangladesh	
Video: Natural disaster awareness-raising (Radio Boral)		Bengali and English in subtitle	Bangladesh	

Video: Distance learning for primary and secondary school students through radio during COVID-19 (Radio Padma)	Bengali and English in subtitle	Bangladesh	
MNB Interview of the speakers and facilitators at the 2ND National Stakeholder Forum on Media and Information Literacy on 28 October 2020	Mongolian	Mongolia	https://www.facebook.com/mnbmongoliinmedee/posts/3741470875876870
Press release of the 2ND National Stakeholder Forum on Media and Information Literacy on 28 October 2020	Mongolian	Mongolia	https://www.ncle.mn/news/531/ https://www.montsame.mn/en/read/241067 http://unesco.mn/mn/2765/ http://itpd.mn/article/253 https://www.cita.gov.mn/58072.html
False information and their actors	Mongolian	Mongolia	http://ub.life/p/khuuramch-medeelel-taraadag-7-turliin-khun
How do we identify fake news?	Mongolian	Mongolia	https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=227795965176825
Media and Information Literacy online workshops taking place	Mongolian	Mongolia	http://www.unesco.mn/p/652
Media as educators and/or manipulators	Mongolian	Mongolia	https://business.mn/blog/2020/05/18/12835/
The number of comments of social media and public opinion	Mongolian	Mongolia	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5lkzFORczM
Fake news are disseminated by fake accounts	Mongolian	Mongolia	http://www.mnb.mn/i/208211
Disinformation increases during the elections	Mongolian	Mongolia	https://www.facebook.com/eaglenewssocial/videos/2624217204492078/UzpfSTMxNzkyNTQ1MTU5NTk0OTozMDY5NjM5NDE2NDI0NTI1/
Negative impacts of disinformation	Mongolian	Mongolia	https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=247118163233694
MIL Curriculum and Policy needed	Mongolian	Mongolia	https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=952825005156902&external_log_id=0c8963cd-25b6-408b-8c88-6746f2210fd4&q=%D1%85%D1%8D%D0%B2%D0%BB%D1%8D%D0%BB%20%D0%BC%D1%8D%D0%B4%D1%8D%D1%8D%D0%BB%D1%8D%D0%BB
National MIL Network established	Mongolian	Mongolia	http://niislelimes.mn/content/86426
Beware of fake accounts on social media	Mongolian	Mongolia	https://livetv.mn/p/166355
Online news media overview	Mongolian	Mongolia	https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=592651321666396
Media and Information Literacy project implemented	Mongolian	Mongolia	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITEm1C-J7aE
MNB Family Channel joined the National MIL Network	Mongolian	Mongolia	http://www.mnb.mn/i/210709
Media and Information Literacy	Pidgin English	Accessible to all	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlmFN6Gg19w

Center for Media and Information Literacy Kenya Website	English	Kenya	www.medialiteracy-kenya.info
Africa MIL Alliance social media presence	English	Kenya	https://www.facebook.com/AfroMILNetwork
Center for Media and Information Literacy Kenya Facebook site	English	Kenya	https://www.facebook.com/CMLInKenya

ANNEX III

List of equipment

Description	Quantity	Country	Remarks
HP Elite Desk800 G5	1	Pakistan	Pakistan Information Commission was supported in developing an online Appeals Management Information System (AMIS) to support the digitization of the process of information requests. Upon PIC's request equipment was provided to ensure remote access to the AMIS and manage the information requests of citizens
HP Probook laptop	3		
AADATA 4.0TB USB External Hard Disk Drive	1		
HP LaserJet Pro M528db Multifunction Black & White Printer	1		
Loudspeakers for six local community radio stations in Mongolia	6	Mongolia	To make sure that all the community radio stations in Mongolia have the necessary equipment and to support the broadcasting of news and information in minority languages amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

ANNEX IV

A sample of media coverage

Title	Type	Language	Country	Link
مؤتمر صحفي لليونسكو حول تطوير قطاع الإعلام	Media coverage (article)	Arabic	Sudan	https://suna-sd.net/ar/single?id=538818
اليونسكو توصي بإنشاء مفوضية مستقلة لقطاع الإعلام	Media coverage (article)	Arabic	Sudan	https://suna-sd.net/ar/single?id=538835
خبير سوداني باليونسكو يستعرض توصيات ورش الإعلام	Media coverage (article)	Arabic	Sudan	https://suna-sd.net/ar/single?id=538852
نشاط مكثف لليونسكو هذا الاسبوع بالسودان	Media coverage (article)	Arabic	Sudan	https://suna-sd.net/ar/single?id=538913
السودان #سونا توقيع اتفاقية بين اليونسكو # ووزارة الاعلام	Media coverage (video)	Arabic	Sudan	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OOoQseavgY&feature=youtu.be
السودان #سونا ورشه سياسات وقوانين قطاع # الاعلام في السودان	Media coverage (video)	Arabic	Sudan	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FE3_KqFYrug&feature=youtu.be
وزير الإعلام يؤكد أهمية وضع خطة وطنية للتدريب	Media coverage (article)	Arabic	Sudan	https://suna-sd.net/ar/single?id=690434
اليونسكو: خارطة طريق اصلاح الاعلام في السودان عالجت الفجوات	Media coverage (article)	Arabic	Sudan	https://suna-sd.net/ar/single?id=690446
تطوير خارطة طريق لإصلاح الإعلام في السودان	Media coverage (article)	Arabic	Sudan	https://alhakim.net/19179
وزير الاعلام: نحاول تحرير احتكار الإعلام بإعطاء مجال للإعلام الخاص	Media coverage (article)	Arabic	Sudan	https://www.alrakoba.net/3144378/8/%D9%88%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85-%D9%86%D8%AD%D8%A7%D9%88%D9%84-%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%AA%D9%83%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B9%D9%84/
وزير الثقافة السوداني: نريد قدرا كبيرا من الاستقلالية لوسائل الإعلام	Media coverage (article)	Arabic	Sudan	https://alwafd.news/%D8%AB%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A9-%D9%88%D9%81%D9%86/3167076-%D9%88%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AB%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A-%D9%86%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%AF%D8%B1%D8%A7-%D9%83%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A7-%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D9%82%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B9%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85

اليونسكو: خارطة طريق اصلاح الاعلام في السودان علجت الفجوات	Media coverage (article)	Arabic	Sudan	https://moojz.net/2020/09/03/%D8%AA%D8%AD%D9%82%D9%8A%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D9%88%D9%82%D8%B6%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A7/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%AC%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%A9/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%86%D8%B3%D9%83%D9%88%D8%AE%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%B7%D8%A9-%D8%B7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%82-%D8%A7%D8%B5%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AD-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7/
اخبار منفردة	Media coverage (article)	Arabic	Sudan	https://alyoumaltali.net/%D8%A7%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D9%85%D8%AA%D9%81%D8%B1%D9%82%D8%A9-138/
محجوب محمد صالح: يجب انشاء مفوضية لإصلاح الإعلام	Media coverage (article)	Arabic	Sudan	https://allshahid.com/?p=19978
Sudan's restrictive media laws to be reviewed	Media coverage (article)	English	Sudan	https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/sudan-s-restrictive-media-laws-to-be-reviewed
الاحتفالية الختامية حول : السودان#سونان# تطوير خارطة طريق لإصلاح الإعلام في السودان	Media coverage (video)	Arabic	Sudan	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oY0fd7Wq8FQ&t=59s
ورشة الصحفيين بنبالا تختتم أعمالها	Media coverage (article)	Arabic	Sudan	https://disap.net/?p=25344
انطلاق الورشة التدريبية حول مكافحة الأخبار المزيفة	Media coverage (article)	Arabic	Sudan	https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1344809402371997&id=139111706275112
ورشة تدريبية لقطاع الإعلام البديل حول مكافحة الاخبار المزيفة	Media coverage (article)	Arabic	Sudan	https://www.alttahrer.com/archives/53578
اختتام الورشة التدريبية في مكافحة الأخبار المزيفة	Media coverage (article)	Arabic	Sudan	https://www.suna-sd.net/ar/single?id=695490
الإعلام البديل يحارب الأخبار الكاذبة	Media coverage (article)	Arabic	Sudan	https://www.snn-news.net/48956/
وكيل الاعلام في ورشة الاخبار الكاذبة سنعيد تنظيم إدارة الاعلام لتواكب روح الثورة وشعاراتها	Media coverage (article)	Arabic	Sudan	https://www.snn-news.net/48959/
الرشيد سعيد يتعهد بتنظيم إدارة الاعلام الاتحادية لتواكب روح الثورة وشعاراتها	Media coverage (article)	Arabic	Sudan	https://editor-press.com/?p=9744
وكيل أول وزارة الاعلام: لانريد إدارات اعلام (دعائية) تمجد الوزراء	Media coverage (article)	Arabic	Sudan	https://www.alrakoba.net/?p=31471647
Feature on WPF and the UN Secretary General's Message on MRTV (Government Broadcasting Media)	Media coverage (TV feature)	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5e7eFrbYVMV
Khit Thit News covers the UNSG WPF message	Media coverage (social media post)	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://www.facebook.com/khitthitnews/videos/274891583517282/

DVB media covers various WPFDD video messages	Media coverage (social media post)	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=532165077667278 https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=699599290871330 https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=598931484039476
Internews covers various WPFDD video messages	Media coverage (social media post)	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://www.facebook.com/Internews.Myanmar/posts/2689555337819890?tn_=-R https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=532996044247157
MRTV Feature on Psychosocial Support Training	Media coverage (TV feature)	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EslsoMXKdsE
MRTV Feature on Launch of Psychosocial Safety Guidelines	Media coverage (TV feature)	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9uZkQ8Vnpc&feature=emb_title
Myanmar Press Council news item about elections & media dialogue	Media coverage (social media post)	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://www.facebook.com/myanmarpresscouncil/posts/3922261604455532
Myanmar Digital News feature about elections & media dialogue	Media coverage (article)	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://www.mdn.gov.mm/my/pnnytheaangcurekeaakpaikaaamng-ukktttth-uulsin-2020-pnnync-athetherekeaakpainng-stngmiidiyaamaae
MWD Web Portal news feature about elections & media dialogue	Media coverage (article)	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://www.myawady.net.mm/node/2004
Ministry of Information feature story on 8th Media Development Conference	Media coverage (article)	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://www.moi.gov.mm/news/4619 and https://www.moi.gov.mm/moi:eng/news/1264
MRTV feature on 9th Media Development Conference	Media coverage (TV feature)	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJQE4OBQioM
Myanmar Digital News coverage of 8th Media Development Conference	Media coverage (social media)	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=616944565883052
Asian Network for Free Elections coverage of 8th Media Development Conference	Media coverage (article)	English	Myanmar	https://anfrel.org/medias-role-to-inform-important-during-elections-media-conference-panel/
Myanmar TV coverage of 8th Media Development Conference	Media coverage (article)	English	Myanmar	https://www.myanmaritv.com/news/people%E2%80%99s-parliament-questions-raised-motions-tabled-and-discussed
DW Akademie Asia coverage of 8th Media Development Conference	Media coverage (social media)	Myanmar; English	Myanmar	https://www.facebook.com/DW/Akademie.Asia/posts/4131358063600888
Myanmar Press Council Coverage of dialogue with Indonesian Press Council	Media coverage (social media)	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://www.facebook.com/myanmarpresscouncil/posts/4106743309340693 and https://www.facebook.com/myanmarpresscouncil/posts/4200467749968248
Myanmar Press Council news item on "Safety of Journalists: Practicing Journalism without Fear or Favor" dialogue with the judiciary	Media coverage (social media)	Myanmar	Myanmar	https://www.facebook.com/UNESCOMyanmar/posts/192766072564037

Evento principal del Día Mundial de la Libertad de Prensa 2020	Media coverage (article)	Spanish	Latin America (Argentina)	https://www.primeraedicion.com.ar/nota/100270033/evento-principal-del-dia-mundial-de-la-libertad-de-prensa-2020/
Este domingo se celebra el Día Mundial de la Libertad de Prensa	Media coverage (article)	Spanish	Latin America (Argentina)	https://sisanjuan.gob.ar/deportes/2020-05-03/22100-este-domingo-se-celebra-el-dia-mundial-de-la-libertad-de-prensa
Día Mundial de la Libertad de Prensa	Media coverage (article)	Spanish	Latin America (Argentina)	https://elmilenio.info/2020/05/03/dia-mundial-de-la-libertad-de-prensa-2/
3 de Mayo: Día Mundial de la Libertad de Prensa; mensaje de la UNESCO	Media coverage (article)	Spanish	Latin America (Uruguay)	https://semanariolaprensa.com/3-de-mayo-dia-mundial-de-la-libertad-de-prensa-mensaje-de-la-unesco/
3 de Mayo: Día Mundial de la Libertad de Prensa	Media coverage (article)	Spanish	Latin America (Uruguay)	https://helvecia.com.uy/2020/05/03/3-de-mayo-dia-mundial-de-la-libertad-de-prensa/
Día Mundial de la Libertad de Prensa. Ni un paso atrás. Hablemos sin miedo	Media coverage (article)	Spanish	Latin America (Paraguay)	https://www.lanacion.com.py/gran-diario-domingo/2020/05/03/dia-mundial-de-la-libertad-de-prensa-ni-un-paso-atras-hablemos-sin-miedo/
Hoy se conmemora el Día Mundial de la Libertad de Prensa	Media coverage (article)	Spanish	Latin America (Peru)	https://www.radionacional.com.pe/noticias/actualidad/hoy-se-conmemora-el-dia-mundial-de-la-libertad-de-prensa
Difunde UNESCO mensajes para combatir « infodemia » de COVID-19	Media coverage (video)	Spanish	Latin America (Mexico)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBduhcSuOLk
Día Mundial de la Libertad de Prensa e INFODEMIA	Media coverage (article)	Spanish	Latin America (Mexico)	http://gourmetaro.com/2020/05/03/dia-mundial-de-la-libertad-de-prensa-e-infodemia/
Jineth Bedoya recibe premio de la libertad de prensa Guillermo Cano de la UNESCO	Media coverage (article)	Spanish	Latin America (Colombia)	https://www.eltiempo.com/cultura/gente/jineth-bedoya-recibe-premio-de-la-libertad-de-prensa-guillermo-cano-de-la-unesco-490332 and https://www.eltiempo.com/podcast/no-es-hora-de-callar/jineth-bedoya-gana-el-premio-guillermo-cano-de-periodismo-de-la-unesco-490640
Jineth Bedoya Lima gana el Premio Mundial de Libertad de Prensa UNESCO-Guillermo Cano 2020	Media coverage (article)	Spanish	Latin America (regional)	https://www.sipiapa.org/notas/1213916-jineth-bedoya-lima-gana-el-premio-mundial-libertad-prensa-unesco-guillermo-cano-2020
Jineth Bedoya Lima: Premio Mundial de Libertad de Prensa UNESCO-Guillermo Cano 2020	Media coverage (article)	Spanish	Latin America (regional)	https://flip.org.co/index.php/es/informacion/pronunciamientos/item/2503-jineth-bedoya-lima-premio-mundial-de-libertad-de-prensa-unesco-guillermo-cano-2020
Jineth Bedoya recibe el Premio Guillermo Cano de la Unesco	Media coverage (article)	Spanish	Latin America (Colombia)	https://www.casmujer.com/index.php/2020/04/30/jineth-bedoya-recibe-el-premio-guillermo-cano-de-la-unesco/
Jineth Bedoya recibió premio Unesco Guillermo Cano de Libertad de Prensa 2020	Media coverage (article)	Spanish	Latin America (Colombia)	https://www.lafm.com.co/colombia/jineth-bedoya-recibio-premio-unesco-guillermo-cano-de-libertad-de-prensa-2020

Periodista Jineth Bedoya Lima, Premio Libertad de Prensa UNESCO-Guillermo Cano	Media coverage (article)	Spanish	Latin America (Paraguay)	https://cdn-www.lanacionpy.arcpublishing.com/voces/2020/04/30/periodista-jineth-bedoya-lima-premio-libertad-de-prensa-unesco-guillermo-cano/
La figura de Guillermo Cano y la libertad de prensa	Media coverage (article)	Spanish	Latin America (Colombia)	https://www.eluniversal.com.co/cultural/la-figura-de-guillermo-cano-y-la-libertad-de-prensa-FE2767733
Jineth Bedoya Lima; periodista colombiana, gana el Premio Mundial de Libertad de Prensa UNESCO-Guillermo Cano 2020	Media coverage (article)	Spanish	Latin America (Colombia)	http://catedralestereo.com/2020/04/30/jineth-bedoya-lima-periodista-colombiana-gana-el-premio-mundial-de-libertad-de-prensa-unesco-guillermo-cano-2020/
Access to information in time of crisis (Fana broadcasting Corporate)	Media coverage (article)	Amharic	Ethiopia	https://www.fanabc.com/%E1%8B%93%E1%88%88%E1%88%9D-%E1%8A%A0%E1%89%80%E1%8D%8D-%E1%8B%A8%E1%88%98%E1%88%A8%E1%8C%83-%E1%89%B0%E1%8B%B0%E1%88%AB%E1%88%BD%E1%8A%90%E1%89%B5-%E1%89%80%E1%8A%95/
Ethiopia Press	Media coverage (article)	English	Ethiopia	https://www.press.et/english/?p=28031
Media in time of crisis (Ahadu TV)	Media coverage (TV Feature)	Amharic	Ethiopia	https://www.facebook.com/1780298595514846/videos/1584293218417292/
Access to information (Sheger Radio 102.1)	Media coverage (Radio show/podcast)	Amharic	Ethiopia	https://www.mixcloud.com/ShegerFM/%E1%88%98%E1%88%B5%E1%8A%A8%E1%88%A8%E1%88%9D-192013-%E1%8B%A8%E1%8B%98%E1%8A%95%E1%8B%B5%E1%88%AE-%E1%8A%A0%E1%88%88%E1%88%9D%E1%8A%A0%E1%89%80%E1%8D%8D-%E1%8B%A8%E1%88%98%E1%88%A8%E1%8C%83-%E1%89%B0%E1%8B%B0%E1%88%AB%E1%88%BD%E1%8A%90%E1%89%B5-%E1%89%80%E1%8A%95-%E1%8A%A0%E1%88%B5%E1%88%98%E1%88%8D%E1%8A%AD%E1%89%B6-%E1%89%A0%E1%8B%8C%E1%89%A2%E1%8A%93%E1%88%AD-%E1%8B%8D%E1%8B%AD%E1%8B%AD%E1%89%B5-%E1%89%B0%E1%8B%B0%E1%88%AD%E1%8C%93%E1%88%8D/?fbclid=IwAR1ubXXBbL3osqVI2sbX6EbusN1ddqQA8-nIVFL2O06y106meTS_DgMRA68



United Nations
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Multi-Donor Programme on Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists

ABOUT

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