



Annual report 2012

Special focus: Safety of journalists



INTERNATIONAL
MEDIA SUPPORT

INTERNATIONAL MEDIA SUPPORT

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International Media Support (IMS) is a non-profit organisation working to support local media in countries affected by armed conflict, human insecurity and political transition. Across four continents IMS helps to strengthen professional journalism and ensure that media can operate in challenging circumstances.

For more information visit:
www.internationalmediasupport.org

Cover photo: A journalist films a suicide bombing from the top of a nearby hotel in Herat, Afghanistan.
Photo: Lars Schmidt



Pakistani journalist Shumaila Jaffery wears a safety vest and helmet for protection. Photo: Shumaila Jaffery

One of IMS' strengths is our ability to tackle media safety within a broader media development package.



Jesper Højberg, IMS Executive Director. Photo: Rasmus Steen/IMS

FOREWORD 2012

With 2012 being one of the deadliest years for journalists and media workers on record, ensuring their safety and challenging the impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators of such attacks remain as important to IMS today as they were when the organisation was launched in 2001.

As armed conflicts and the ensuing threats to journalists and media workers have become even more complex and less clearly defined, we have had to develop a more sophisticated and adaptable approach to media safety. This edition of the IMS Annual Report underlines the continued focus of media safety in our overall support to driving forward the democratic role of media in countries experiencing armed conflict, human insecurity and political transition.

In 2011, we kicked off the year celebrating the Arab Spring and the opportunities this presented for free speech and media pluralism. However, with the war in Syria and an anti-democratic backlash in post-election Tunisia and Egypt, the safety of media workers deteriorated markedly in the region during 2012. With this in mind, we adjusted our work in the region to give greater attention to media safety, applying lessons from our decade of safety work in Africa, Asia and Latin America in the process.

Meanwhile, the United Nations launched its Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. This brings together UN agencies, governments, local organisations,

and prominent international press freedom and media development organisations in a comprehensive effort to address the unacceptable perils faced by media workers. In partnership with Open Society Foundations and UNESCO, IMS is privileged to be part of a new initiative that tests the UN Plan across four continents, thereby giving new impetus to our existing safety work in the countries concerned.

In Iraq, Nepal and Pakistan, IMS and its national and international partners are promoting locally-led safety and protection mechanisms for media workers. These efforts draw on experiences in Afghanistan, where IMS and our partners combine a range of safety interventions co-ordinated by a local body with access to safety funds. Inspiration has also come from countries such as Colombia, where a national journalist safety programme run by the government in cooperation with civil society significantly reduced the killings of journalists and media workers.

One of IMS' strengths is our ability to tackle media safety within a broader media development package. Just as we address various components of media safety, so do we strive to strengthen key, interlinked components of the media sector as a whole: the legal, policy and working environment; the institutions that operate within this environment such as media houses, media centres, unions, associations and training bodies; and the quality of content that journalists and media workers produce.

Our work in Myanmar is a good example of our broad media sector approach. Here, rapid political change has created unexpected opportunities for democratic media reform. IMS and its international partners have kick-started a massive, collaborative effort with the Myanmar government and civil society partners aimed at ensuring that the country builds a media sector suitable for a new democracy.

IMS' ability to react quickly to change through our rapid response mechanism also enabled us to engage in Mali, where a coup followed by a rebellion in the north of the country seriously affected the media's ability to provide reliable information to a population caught in the midst of the conflict. IMS, Panos West Africa and the Media Foundation for West Africa have, in a relatively short space of time, put together a package of relevant support for the beleaguered Malian media.

Our emphasis on partnerships and coalition building – the cornerstone of every IMS programme – also bore fruit in a number of countries during 2012. In the Caucasus, Azerbaijani media came under heavy attack during the course of the year. In close partnership with the Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety, IMS also helped to launch the internet watchdog coalition Expression Online. The coalition campaigned for improved internet freedom in the run-up to the Internet Governance Forum in November, and led to the pardon and release of human rights defender Taleh Khasmammadov.

A 2012 evaluation highlighted the effectiveness of the IMS-brokered coalition of national and international media development organisations and donors that has given common direction to media development in Zimbabwe. Meanwhile, the long-running international partnership in Nepal which includes IMS, was given further impetus when national and UN bodies bought into a broad, coordinated approach to media safety that now forms part of the country's efforts to advance the UN Plan of Action.

We should not forget that many of our trusted partners have suffered violent and at times deadly attacks in the past year. In 2012, IMS partners have been killed in countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria. This annual report honours their efforts. On our part, IMS will continue to focus on supporting journalists and media workers who risk their lives to keep the public informed and hold those in power accountable.


Jesper Højberg
IMS Executive Director

WHERE WE WORK 2012

OUR APPROACH TO MEDIA DEVELOPMENT AROUND THE WORLD

IMS' approach to media development in countries undergoing armed conflict, human insecurity and political transition is based on three building blocks. Each of these are essential to achieve a well-functioning media system able to support democratic development in a country:

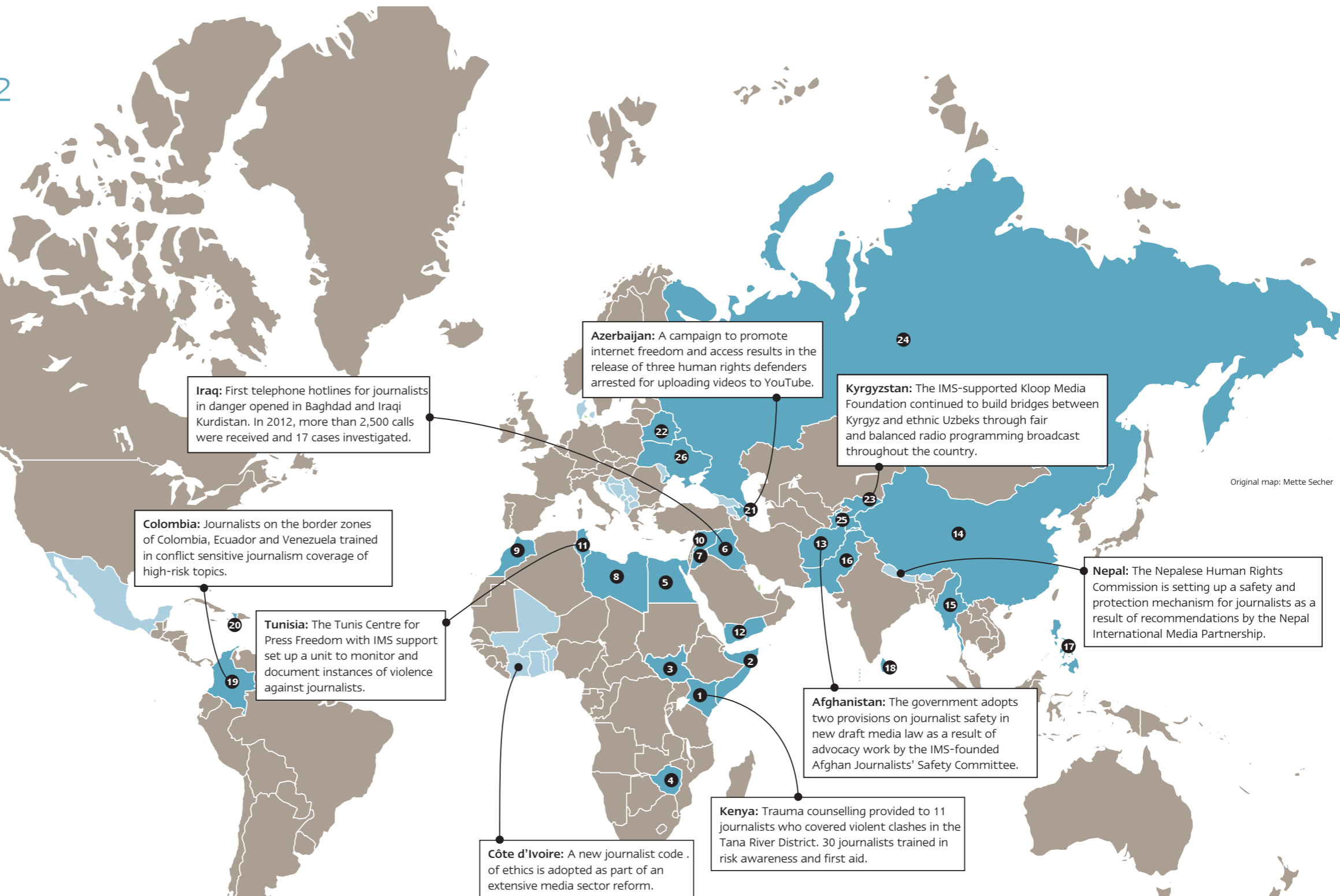
Media freedom and safety: laws and regulations that protect the rights of media and measures that ensure the safety of media workers;

Institution building: media houses, unions and associations that enable the media sector to function and develop along democratic lines;

Media content: media content that is diverse, and meets professional and ethical standards. This includes investigative journalism, conflict sensitive journalism, documentary filmmaking and photo journalism.

Seldom does IMS focus on all of these areas at once in any one country. Rather we focus on what the country's media, our partners and we consider priorities given the particular circumstances.

We endeavour to work together with national and international partners to ensure **local ownership**, **alignment** with national priorities, and **harmonisation** of media development efforts.



Original map: Mette Secher

Countries in which IMS worked in 2012

Africa	Middle East and North Africa	Asia	Latin America and the Caribbean	Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
1 Kenya	5 Egypt	13 Afghanistan	19 Colombia	21 Azerbaijan
2 Somalia	6 Iraq	14 China	20 Haiti	22 Belarus
3 South Sudan	7 Jordan	15 Myanmar		23 Kyrgyzstan
4 Zimbabwe	8 Libya	16 Pakistan		24 Russia
	9 Morocco	17 The Philippines		25 Tajikistan
	10 Syria	18 Sri Lanka		26 Ukraine
	11 Tunisia			
	12 Yemen			

In 2012, IMS also supported a number of smaller activities in: Albania, Armenia, Bahrain, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Denmark, Georgia, Ghana, Kosovo, Macedonia, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Nepal, Serbia, and Togo.



Photographers Xiao Quan and Cattleya Jaruthavee participate in the Yangon Photo Festival in Myanmar.
Photo: Nicolas Havette

ASIA

In 2012, the media situation in South and Southeast Asia was characterised by a simultaneous widening and narrowing of democratic space and press freedom. Spring for press freedom in Myanmar continued in 2012 after five decades of strict authoritarian rule came to an end in March 2011. In Nepal, small improvements in media could be seen with less censorship and greater access to official information, while in Afghanistan, the safety of journalists continued to be a major issue. The ability of journalists to work freely in Pakistan worsened with a lack of government policy to protect media workers, and in the Philippines the safety of journalists continued on a rocky path with four journalists killed in the month of May alone.

IMS' work in Asia had the shared aim of enhancing the constructive role of local media in countries marred by conflict or in countries in the midst of democratic transition. Two overarching themes characterised our activities in the region: safety and protection of journalists to create an enabling environment for media, and professionalising media content to ensure a balanced and informed public debate.

Myanmar continued its remarkable transition from authoritarian rule to democracy in the course of 2012 with significant reforms taking place in the media sector such as the gradual lifting of censorship and a complete end to pre-publication scrutiny. Strong partnerships with journalist associations and media workers, government ministries and international media development organisations have helped to shape IMS' **broad sector approach** in the country, addressing **media law reform** to create a stable and safe media environment, the strengthening of **media institutions** that are the structural backbone of the media sector and professionalising **media content**.

In August 2012, Myanmar's first independent interim Press Council was established with IMS support and advice in a move to build a self-regulatory system and complaints mechanism for media. IMS has provided input to the Council's code of conduct and assisted in the formulation of a draft public service media law and draft broadcasting law.

Media practitioners in Myanmar are now better organised thanks to the emergence of three journalist associations that represent journalists: the Myanmar Journalist Network (MJN), the Myanmar Journalist Union and the Myanmar Journalist Association (MJA). IMS has worked closely with MJA and MJN to expand their memberships and regional networks. The three strengthened

associations were thus able to act in unison forcing through a suspension of the first draft print law drafted without their input.

In **Afghanistan**, the media sector continued to flourish with opportunities for the media to inform the public on ways to support the resolution of the country's conflict. However, threats to the lives of journalists still remained a daily occurrence, and self-censorship was rampant.



Two journalists film a mountainous area in the Muskhel District in Afghanistan's Khost Province. Photo: Farooq Jan Mangal

Since 2008, IMS has been broadening its countrywide **safety and protection mechanism** anchored in the local organisation Afghan Journalists' Safety Committee (AJSC). The AJSC dealt with 66 cases of journalists in peril in 2012 as part of the IMS safety mechanism that covers 32 of 34 provinces. The advocacy work of AJSC to push the government to address the safety of journalists culminated in 2012 when the Afghan government decided to adopt two provisions in the new draft media law committing the government to ensuring the safety of journalists.

Female journalists remain the most vulnerable members of the Afghan media community. As part of the IMS safety mechanism in Afghanistan, a female safety coordinator has done extensive work to inform female journalists about the support of the safety mechanism and is building a database of female reporters throughout the country. In 2012, of 224 journalists who took part in safety training, 32 were women whose training was tailored to address the risks faced by female journalists.

In neighbouring **Pakistan**, the statistics on attacks on journalists are grim. Between 2007 and



Journalists from IMS' partner Intermedia interview a group of locals protesting over unannounced rolling blackouts in Pakistan's northern Mohmand Agency in June 2012. Photo: Wajih Akhtar/Intermedia

2012, at least one journalist was targeted every 28 days (*Intermedia*), making it one of the most hazardous countries in the world for journalists.

In an effort to curb rising levels of violence and impunity, the Pakistani NGO Intermedia and Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) convened a meeting in Islamabad in November 2012 with IMS funding between Pakistani media, associations and the government. A roadmap was designed for a joint national strategy on the safety of journalists which includes a national alliance of media on safety and strong advocacy for the appointment of a special prosecutor to pursue cases of attacks on media.

This national action plan is now helping to align international efforts in the country working for journalists' safety under the UNESCO-led UN Plan of Action on Safety for which Pakistan has been selected as a roll-out country and of which IMS is an implementing partner. The monthly IMS-supported publication "Media Threats Bulletin" published by Intermedia since August 2012, compiles documentation on threats to media in Pakistan which has filled an information gap on the issue both domestically and internationally.

The establishment of the Radio Broadcasters Association (RBA) marked a major development in

the Pakistani media landscape in 2012. The association is one of the first successful attempts to organise radio broadcast media under one umbrella with a membership totaling 31 broadcasters with 75 FM stations including rural FM networks. The association will strengthen the position of radio in the media sector. Radio remains the primary source of news and information to rural populations.

Years of lobbying for the improved safety of media in **Nepal** by IMS and partners under the Nepal International Media Partnership's umbrella was rewarded in 2012 with the decision of the National Human Rights Commission in Nepal to establish a national mechanism for promoting



Participants in a conflict sensitive journalism training in Mandalay in December 2012. Photo: Binod Bhattacharai/IMS

Conflict sensitive journalism in Myanmar

"I never made an effort to get the views of all sides in a conflict," says Than Htoo, a senior reporter at the popular weekly 7 Days News in Myanmar.

"Now I realise that pain and suffering are the same for everyone involved in a conflict."

Like the majority of his colleagues, and despite entering his tenth year on the job, Than Htoo has never received any formal journalism training. Myanmar's journalists are only just emerging from a system of heavy censorship and have little experience in reporting on conflict in a balanced and responsible manner that does not fan the flames of conflict. While much optimism surrounds the democratic reform process in Myanmar, parts of the country remain marred by violent internal conflict between ethnic groups.

Than Htoo is one of nearly 400 journalists taking part in IMS-run workshops on conflict sensitive journalism between December 2012 and June 2013. The workshops are based in Myanmar's larger cities and in conflict-prone areas such as Kachin State and Rakhine State. The journalists learn techniques for producing balanced reporting that helps to increase understanding between conflicting parties. Attendees include both senior journalists familiar with the watchful gaze of authorities, as well as new, young reporters.

"We were a closed society until very recently. We never asked 'why', because we were used to the system we had. Now we try to think differently," said Than Htoo after the workshop.

Freedom of Expression particularly by ensuring **safety of journalists**. The mechanism will address journalists' lack of safety and impunity for attacks on journalists through a cooperation between the government, security forces, journalists and civil society.

In 2012, the International Media Partnership released its analysis of Nepal's constitutional proposals regarding the right to Freedom of Expression. The analysis marked a crucial and very concrete step in the effort to improve the legal environment for Nepal's journalists.

Three years since the Ampatuan massacre of 32 journalists in Mindanao, the safety situation for journalists continues to deteriorate in **the Philippines**. A joint IMS and Open Society Foundations assessment mission to the country in mid-2012 revealed that impunity prevails and that the safety situation has become a nationwide issue. The IMS-supported safety programme run by the

National Union of Journalists of the Philippines in 2012 ensured that journalists were assisted by a safety fund when in danger, that safe houses protected the lives of journalists forced to flee and safety training was offered to 190 journalists in the run-up to the 2013 elections.

"As a newsman, I am very much aware how financially unrewarding the job is, but never did I realize I would go as far as being peppered with bullets like I was in March 2012. A year after – or just when I thought the nightmare was finally over, a renewed bid on me was uncovered, compelling me to take my family and seek shelter. The safety assistance came out of nowhere and provided help when I needed it the most," says Fernan Jose Angeles, Philippino journalist.

Two safety offices run from Mindanao and Manila remain focal points for journalists in distress, building journalist networks and monitoring media rights violations for advocacy use.

Female journalists in Afghanistan brave danger

"I have been threatened by the Taliban, corrupt authorities, warlords and even the government. But none of these threats will ever stop me from what I do." – Fareiba, 24, female Afghan journalist.

Fareiba has worked for seven years as a journalist at an independent Afghan TV station and many of her articles are widely published online. But she is not swayed by the risks involved in speaking out.

"I work as a journalist because I want the voices of the underprivileged members of

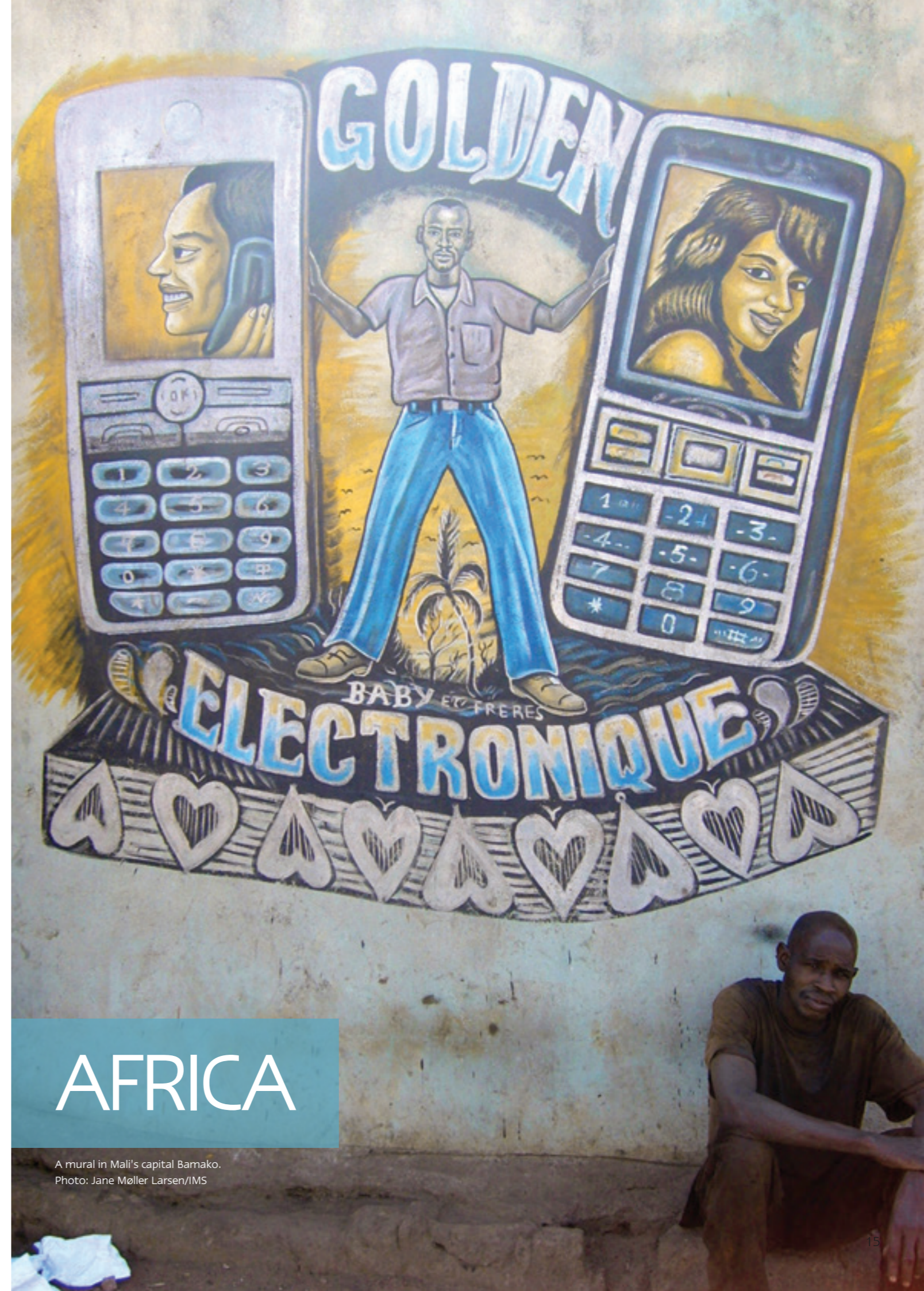
the Afghan society to reach the authorities of our country," she explains.

According to Fareiba, the biggest problem faced by both male and female journalists in Afghanistan is insecurity and lawlessness. Also, women deal with cultural taboos and resistance to them working in the media.

"Despite these factors, women have kept on fighting. Working alongside other women and bringing women justice gives me the energy to work harder," she says.

Three female journalists have been killed in the past seven years in Afghanistan and dozens have been intimidated to stop working. With other female Afghan journalists, Fareiba has taken part in IMS' safety course that includes conflict sensitive journalism training to improve her ability to cover conflict in a responsible, neutral manner.

Afghan journalists who participated in one of IMS' conflict sensitive journalism trainings in 2012. Photo: IMS



AFRICA

A mural in Mali's capital Bamako. Photo: Jane Møller Larsen/IMS

2012 began with a sharp deterioration in the freedom and safety of Malian journalists, when conflict and a military coup put the country's media under severe pressure. Across the border, Côte d'Ivoire took a crucial step towards an accountable and free media sector with the country's first code of ethics for journalists. In Kenya, the media's ability to support a peaceful lead-up to elections was put to the test bearing in mind the violent events following the 2007 elections, while neighbouring Somalia faced continuous humanitarian problems, as well as fragile progress with the appointment of a new president. In South Sudan on-going political and economic instability meant a worsening of press freedom and media safety.

IMS' work across the African continent in 2012 focused on the **safety of journalists** and professionalisation of **media content** to enable the media to play its crucial part in supporting democratic development and peace and reconciliation between conflicting parties.

In Africa's youngest nation, **South Sudan**, journalists were faced with challenges tied to a lack of media legislation, low levels of professionalism, and a poor relationship between security forces and journalists.

To enhance the **safety of journalists** and support constructive collaboration between security forces and media, IMS, the Association for Media Development in South Sudan (AMDISS) and the Union of Journalists of South Sudan (UJOSS) brought together foot soldiers, law enforcement officials and journalists to build mutual understanding of each others' roles and responsibilities.

In the border areas between South Sudan and Sudan tensions ran high throughout the year due to a long list of unresolved issues between the two countries. The tense situation made it difficult for journalists to cover news in the region and to play a constructive role in South Sudan's fragile relationship with its northern neighbour. Over five days, journalists from South Sudan's northern border regions attended a seminar on conflict sensitive journalism enabling them to produce **professional, balanced media content**, as well as training in first aid and how to assess and mitigate risk to stay safe.

In **Kenya**, IMS addressed the safety of journalists and the need for balanced and professional coverage in the run-up to elections in 2013, so as to avoid a repeat of the violent outcome of the 2007 elections.



Two men read the New Nation newspaper in Juba, South Sudan. Photo: Line Wolf Nielsen/IMS

As part of IMS' media and elections programme in Kenya, IMS and Media Council of Kenya trained 30 journalists in risk awareness, first aid, and **conflict sensitive journalism**. This was complemented by a training of trainers, enabling 19 experienced journalists to pass on skills and advice on how to stay safe to their colleagues working in volatile areas. As opposed to elections in 2007, where the media fuelled violence between ethnic groups through name-calling and hate speech, Kenyan journalists took a major step forward in the 2013 elections.

"Comparing our media's coverage of the violent 2007 elections to that of the 2013 elections is like comparing night and day," said Haron Mwangi, Chief Director of Media Council of Kenya, following Kenya's elections in March 2013.

To counter potential conflicts between security forces and journalists, Media Council of Kenya and IMS also held a series of **dialogue forums** between law enforcement personnel and journalists in hotspot areas.

"It is important for the police and the journalists to understand their different roles. They often work against each other, and we work to harmonise their relations," says Victor Bwire, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Media Council of Kenya.

After more than two decades without a functioning government, **Somalia** saw progress in 2012 with the appointment of a new president and the establishment of a new government. But with still-ongoing violent conflicts, widespread

"The images stay with you"

"The images stay with you after the coverage and by the time you realise you need psychological help, you have been very affected," says journalist Daisy Opar who covered a series of deadly clashes in Kenya's Tana River District in August 2012.

A result of a dispute over land rights, the clashes led to the death of over 100 people, many of whom were hacked to death with machetes or burned to death.

Following the clashes, Daisy and 10 of her colleagues received six days of trauma counselling conducted as part of IMS' work on the safety of journalists. Through group therapy and one-on-one sessions the counselling provided the journalists with strategies on how to cope with trauma derived from covering the violence:

"As a journalist I deserve to protect myself. I have also learned that our media houses should be providing for our safety, which they are not doing now," said Daisy Opar following the trauma counselling.

Daisy Opar and her colleagues feature in the short documentary "Covering Conflict" on Kenya's 2007/2008 post election violence, produced as part of the training and to document testimonies: <http://bit.ly/10Y3LK7>

poverty, and recurring natural disasters, the Somali media faced the crucial task of improving people's fragile living conditions through **professional in-depth reporting** on the country's humanitarian situation.

The IMS-supported humanitarian radio service Radio Ergo works to do just that. The radio has a unique presence across Somalia with a network of local stringers, and its daily programme on issues such as health and education, protection, and emergencies, is re-transmitted by 12 FM radio stations across the country. Radio Ergo's daily broadcasts were complemented in 2012 by a weekly segment on livestock market prices. With many Somalis dependent on earnings from livestock rearing, the radio segment proved a popular addition to Radio Ergo's programming.

"It's interesting to listen to the livestock prices on Radio Ergo. The long drought has affected our local production, so it is good for us to know the real prices at the main markets," said Abdalla Haji Osman, a camel and goat herder from Somalia's south-central district of Beledweyne.

In 2012, Radio Ergo also organised two intensive investigative journalism workshops for 40 journalists from across the country, covering everything from basic research tools and story presentation to ethics and legal principles, to enable them to provide their local communities with vital **humanitarian information** about issues such as food security, health, and disaster preparedness.

In its recovery from a post-election conflict in 2011, **Côte d'Ivoire** achieved an important milestone with the adoption of the country's first code of ethics for journalists. Part of a **broad media sector reform** supported by IMS, and as a follow-up to an IMS rapid response mission to the country in 2011, the code was developed and adopted by a broad representation of Ivorian journalists and other media professionals. It sets out journalists' duties and responsibilities as well as their rights and freedoms, guiding them to report professionally on the country's peace process and future democratisation.

"What has happened today is an important development in the history of the Ivorian media, and given the importance of professional journalism in our country's recovery process, this could not have happened at a better time," said Mam Camara, President of the Union of Ivorian Journalists, when the code was adopted.

To ensure proper implementation of the new code of ethics, MFWA with IMS support conducted a training programme for 39 editors from print and broadcast media and 23 representatives from media regulatory bodies, to enable the editors to utilise it in their newsrooms, and to enable media regulatory representatives to apply it when monitoring media content to ensure balanced and professional journalism.

An armed uprising in northern **Mali** and a subsequent military coup against the Malian president in early 2012 left much of the country's media in shambles. Emanating from the north, the conflict forced many journalists to seek refuge in the south and left the few remaining media outlets under severe pressure, unable to provide the Malian population with vital information on how the conflict evolved.

As a crucial component in any country's progress out of conflict and into peaceful, democratic development, the media needs to be able to provide the population with information about the conflict, safely and responsibly. To provide a basis for assisting the Malian media in doing just this, IMS together with Panos West Africa and MFWA, conducted a rapid response partnership mission to the country in October 2012.

The mission's assessment formed the foundation for IMS' subsequent support to the Malian media in areas such as **conflict sensitive journalism** enabling journalists to contribute to building mutual understanding between the opposing sides in the country and support its future peace process.

A Safety Fund for journalists in danger

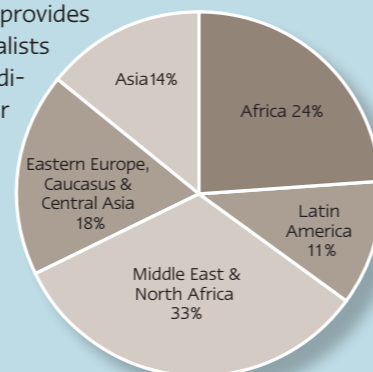
Fatoumata Abdou fled her hometown outside the city of Gao in northern Mali when rebels in mid-2012 took over her radio station deeming that "women should not lead men".

A grant from the Danish Union of Journalists' Safety Fund administered by IMS, enabled Fatoumata to take sanctuary in the capital Bamako until the rebels were driven from Gao several months later. Journalists like Fatoumata now play a crucial role in efforts to rebuild the media in northern Mali.

"Our role as journalists is now to enable our communities to talk to each other, and to sensitise people about why reconciliation is important," said Fatoumata Abdou as she returned to her hometown.

The Safety Fund assisted 68 journalists around the world between October 2011 and February 2013. The Fund is made possible through donations from members of the Danish Union of Journalists and provides support to journalists victimised as a direct result of their work.

Distribution of journalists assisted through the IMS-administered Safety Fund, October 2011 – February 2013.



LATIN AMERICA

A mobile radio station which broadcasts in Colombia's Arauca province near the border to Venezuela. Photo: Robert Shaw/IMS

In 2012, organised crime groups and drug cartels consolidated their power across Latin America from Mexico pushing down through Colombia and Ecuador into Peru, providing serious challenges for the region's media to cover a fast-moving array of continuously changing political and security interests.

With drug cartels injecting untold levels of violence and danger into strategically valuable border zones for drug smuggling between Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela, the media in the region faced rampant security risks resulting in self-censorship and low levels of critical, in-depth reporting.

To assist local media in addressing these challenges, IMS worked closely with key media outlets in training 50 reporters from Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador, in investigative journalism on topics such as drug-trafficking, internally displaced people and neo-paramilitary violence. These journalists were also trained in practical ways to lower safety risks whilst on the job, including risk assessments and first-aid training, and how to cover armed conflict, civil disturbances and natural disasters.

Working hand-in-hand with local media support groups, IMS supported a network of journalists and editors operating in the border zones between Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela to improve conflict sensitive journalism coverage of

high-risk topics. This resulted in the development of the new digital media outlet "La Otra Orilla" ("The other side") (laotraorilla.co) which provides a platform for journalists to publish critical reporting in high-risk zones with little existing media coverage.

Drawing on experience from Afghanistan and Pakistan, IMS brought together media and security forces in the border zones between Colombia and Venezuela. The aim was to address the conflicts between reporters and foot soldiers, pushing them to recognise their mutual goal of serving the public and to find common ground in support of Colombia's fragile path towards peace, as negotiations between the government and the FARC guerilla group continue.

In Mexico and Honduras, attacks on the media and targeted killings of journalists have risen steeply in the past couple of years. This has led to self-censorship, as journalists fear they will be killed if they report on the activities of drug cartels and organised crime groups. In 2012, IMS scaled up work with local and international media support groups to push the two countries' governments to boost protection of journalists. This led to the establishment of a federal protection mechanism in Mexico and paving the way for a similar mechanism in Honduras. IMS also began work to set up a special safety fund for journalists under fire in high-risk states in Mexico.



The Killing Fields of Cúcuta

"We were five siblings and now only two of us are left. My father died waiting for Antonio, Claudio, and Marta to come back, and I think I will die in the same way," says Luis Alberto Durán a farmer in the border zone between Colombia and Venezuela.

His story is chronicled in the in-depth journalistic analysis "The Killing Fields of Cúcuta" published as an interactive website with the support of IMS. The investigation details the actors and events surrounding a series of horrific mass killings by former and current paramilitary groups in the capital of Norte de Santander in northern Colombia between 1999 and 2004.

"This exclusive cross-border investigation garnered huge levels of public attention, and also sparked a renewed emphasis on internal safety procedures at our paper. We've now adopted practical safety measures at our paper acquired from previous IMS safety trainings," says



Estefanía Colmenares, Editor at La Opinión in Cúcuta, Colombia, about the impact of the story.

"The Killing Fields of Cúcuta" is available in Spanish and English at <http://bit.ly/13jwjdB>. It was produced and published with the support of IMS by the main newspaper in Cúcuta, La Opinión, together with the Venezuelan radio network Fé y Alegría, and reproduced by the leading Colombian national magazine, Semana.

SPECIAL FOCUS: SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS

TAKING ACTION TO PROTECT THE MEDIA

A journalist covers a protest in Baku, Azerbaijan demanding the release of political prisoners. Photo: IRFS

IMS' SAFETY PACKAGE

TRAINING

Journalism ethics

Training in principles of ethics and good practice, concerning the duties, responsibilities, and rights of journalists.

Media laws and codes of conduct

Legal training for journalists, press regulatory bodies, media lawyers, judges, and authorities to help ensure laws and codes of conduct are adhered to.

Conflict sensitive journalism

Training in journalism techniques that enables journalists to cover conflict professionally without fanning the flames of conflict.

Risk analysis

Courses that provide media workers with holistic knowledge of what to do when faced with danger, and how to avoid placing oneself in danger.

First aid skills

Training in first aid to enable journalists working in conflict to assist themselves and others.

Secure communications

Techniques that enable media workers to avoid having their phones tapped and online communications intercepted.

PRACTICAL MEASURES

24/7 telephone hotlines

An emergency phone line that media workers can call when in danger to receive appropriate legal advice or other emergency assistance.

Safe houses

Discrete places away from the firing line, where media workers and their families can seek refuge.

Safety funds for emergency assistance

Funds quickly available that cover legal assistance, medical treatment or safe passage for media workers under attack.

Safety equipment

Bulletproof vests, press jackets and other equipment that give media workers added protection.

Legal assistance

Legal expertise and funds to fight court cases.

Trauma counselling

Psychological help given to media workers who have witnessed traumatic events, as well as training in how to deal with such experiences.

ADVOCACY

Monitoring attacks on media

Research and awareness-raising that draws attention to media safety issues and provides a basis for subsequent advocacy.

Dialogue between security forces and media

Facilitated discussions between media workers, authorities, and security forces aimed at making each party more aware of each other's roles.

Media law reform

Initiatives that seek to change laws that are used to intimidate and censor the media, and to ensure that media workers enjoy greater legal protection.

Campaigns promoting the safety of journalists

Awareness-raising among media workers, decision makers and the public about issues of media safety.

Coordinated international support

Collaboration between international partners in countries where media workers are under sustained attack.

Guides and handbooks

Resource materials on safety for media workers, media trainers and decision makers.

The mantra sounds so logical: "No story is worth dying for". Yet journalists and media workers continue to be killed, attacked and intimidated more than ever before. The critical threats they face at increasingly complex and interrelated levels – on battlegrounds and in cyberspace, from repressive governments to organised crime – require well-designed and carefully chosen approaches to make them less vulnerable.

IMS utilises a combination of methods and tools to enable local journalists and media workers to survive and continue to provide the public with accurate, reliable information under the most challenging of circumstances.

THE IMS APPROACH TO MEDIA SAFETY

Our work on media safety goes beyond simply ensuring physical safety. Journalists and media

workers need to be able to assess and mitigate the risks they face, to deal with the psychological consequences of working in conflict, and to practice professional journalism under pressure.

The IMS approach to media safety combines training, practical measures, and advocacy. Some of the tools we use are reactive: designed to protect journalists and media workers when they are in danger. Others help prevent them from getting into danger in the first place. Rarely are all the tools used at once. Rather, they are applied strategically to suit the needs of the media and the political contacts in each country.

Training ranges from basic first aid and learning how to make a risk analysis of the working environment to enabling journalists to produce stories that are professional and which defuse rather than exacerbate conflict. Where possible, IMS qualifies local trainers to deliver training in



First aid training in Sudan. Photo: Michelle Betz/IMS

indigenous languages and adapt course content to their local context.

Practical measures cover legal advice and trauma counselling, logistical support, and

safety equipment. When there is an immediate need for protection or for taking journalists out of harm's way, we employ safe houses where they and their families can seek refuge. We also make telephone hotlines available that journalists in danger can call for advice and assistance. IMS also administers safety funds to help journalists under attack to seek refuge, and to pay for urgent medical treatment or legal assistance.

Advocacy spans local and global campaigns on media safety aimed at influencing both media and government policies and practice. Media violations are documented and, where possible, the evidence is used in court. IMS also supports the production of handbooks for journalists on safety. At a local level we encourage dialogue and understanding between journalists and members of the government and security forces to overcome mutual mistrust.

PUTTING OUR APPROACH INTO PRACTICE

Before intervening anywhere, we assess the needs of journalists in the country concerned. We do this in close consultation with local partners and other international press freedom organisations to ensure that subsequent interventions address local priorities and complement existing efforts.

In an armed conflict or in areas of human insecurity, our response is likely to include personal protection equipment and training in conflict sensitive journalism to ensure journalists are protected from further attacks, and avoid exacerbating the conflict with their coverage.

In countries where a democratic transition is underway, but some repression or pockets of violence remain, our efforts may focus on trying to influence policies and practice through advocacy and media law reform. In an emerging democracy, media also have a crucial part to play in furthering dialogue and peace by practicing journalism according to recognised professional standards.

In authoritarian states where there is little possibility of influencing government policies, our priority may rather be to ensure journalists are less susceptible to intimidation or surveillance by providing legal protection or training in secure online communications.

To be effective in the long run, our safety work must be anchored in local organisations and ultimately integrated into government policy. Therefore, our media safety initiatives are implemented through trusted and influential local organisations and individuals, as well as with international bodies. Launched in 2012, the **UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity** provides a common platform on which media and civil society organisations, UN bodies and crucially governments can share and harmonise their approach to improving the safety of journalists. In partnership with UNESCO and Open Society Foundations, IMS will be rolling out the Plan over the coming years in Pakistan, Nepal, South Sudan, Iraq, Honduras, and Mexico.

Afghanistan: The personal cost of surviving a story

Aasif used to work for one of Kandahar's most prominent media outlets. A young and committed journalist, he reported critically on the Taliban and the Afghan government. He was aware his writings might cause him and his family trouble, but dedicated to his trade he felt compelled to go on.

After months of continuous threats from the Taliban and the Afghan intelligence agency, including warnings that he would be stoned to death unless he ceased his reporting, the intelligence agency paid a visit to Aasif's workplace while he was away on business. They also stopped by his home to threaten and mistreat his wife.

Following this escalation of threats, Aasif's employer contacted the coordinator of the IMS-founded Afghan Journalists' Safety Committee in Kabul. After investigating the case and verifying the threats against Aasif using its network of provincial representatives, government authorities, tribal elders, and other sources, the Safety Committee determined his threat level at 5, the highest level on a scale from 1. This warranted immediate protection and evacuation of Aasif and his wife.

While they sought refuge in a safe house at a secret location, the Safety Committee and IMS arranged the practical details of their evacuation out of the country. Aasif and his wife were provided with new passports, but fearing that their family members might suffer revengeful attacks, they were torn between whether to go or stay. After days of unbearable contemplation they decided to flee. The couple now lives in Europe, but remain traumatised by their experience. Members of their family have since been killed as an act of retribution by the Taliban.

The IMS Afghanistan safety mechanism

The Afghan Journalist Safety Committee manages a country-wide safety mechanism which includes a Freedom of Expression monitoring unit that documents violations against journalists; a provincial safety team, a 24-hour telephone emergency hotline, safe house facilities, a safety fund for emergency support and practical safety training for journalists that includes trauma counselling and conflict sensitive journalism training.



MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

A member of the Iraqi Network for Social Media attends the network's first conference in Iraqi Kurdistan in February 2012.
Photo: Mohammed Abdullah

2012 was a year fraught with challenges for the media in the Middle East and North Africa. The initial optimism that followed in the wake of the 2011 historic uprisings was replaced by realism with the recognition that the road to democracy and press freedom would be long.

The overthrow of authoritarian regimes in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Yemen in 2011 launched the countries into complex transition processes which presented new opportunities for media development, but also new challenges. While the four countries experienced a proliferation of new media outlets and a growing awareness of the need for free and independent media to ensure accountability of authorities, the new governments had yet to show real support for media law reform and an improvement of the media environment in 2012. In countries like Jordan and Morocco, the governments did not act on promises of media reform.

Syria, alongside Iraq, continued to be one of the world's most dangerous hotspots for journalists. Syria in particular, caught in a sectarian war, saw its press freedom deteriorate further.

IMS' strategic focus in 2012 in the countries undergoing transition such as Egypt, Tunisia, Libya and Yemen was on the building blocks necessary for a well-functioning media sector; supporting

the ongoing **media law reform** processes to promote environments conducive to press freedom and safe working conditions for journalists; strengthening **media institutions** that function as the structural backbone of media sectors and work for the rights of journalists; and finally, improving the quality and impact of **media content** through journalism skills training, investigative journalism, documentary film-making, and photography. This was done in **partnership** with local and international partners to increase impact.

In **Egypt**, the media sector in 2012 was characterised by media pluralism and open debates. Yet state media remained unchanged and the reform of media laws was stalled.

The National Coalition for Media Freedom (NCFM) set up in April 2011 with support from IMS to provide input to the drafting of new media laws, continued its research and advocacy work to shape the direction of **media law reform**. In November 2012, the NCFM consisting of Egyptian media and civil society organisations released an analysis of 77 articles that restrict Freedom of Expression in Egyptian legislation and proposed amendments to these. Under the auspices of the Coalition, a group of Egyptian media lawyers are now also drafting a new Press and Publications law, pushing ahead to reactivate the stalled media law reform process.



A woman takes a photo of demonstrators protesting in defence of independent media in Tunisia. Photo: Tarek Alghorani



Protesters in Cairo's Tahrir Square in 2012. Photo: Rasmus Steen/IMS

Responsible and balanced media content enables citizens to make informed decisions during political transition periods and elections. In 2012, IMS trained a team of researchers to **monitor media content** in the run-up to elections in both Egypt and Tunisia. The results of the monitoring, which at times revealed biased coverage, were widely covered by media in both countries and led to debate and reflections in media on their professional standards.

The environment in which Egyptian journalists work became increasingly violent in 2012. A course on safety training for 20 Egyptian print and broadcast journalists in Cairo looked at the root causes of riots and how to deal with them, how to treat life-threatening injuries, and how to defuse anger to avoid conflict.

In **Tunisia**, the failure of the government to implement important media decrees and to establish an independent broadcast regulatory authority stalled the needed reform and development of the sector.

In 2012 IMS continued to work with Tunisia's regulatory reform body INRIC providing advice on the reform of the audio-visual sector and on broadcasting regulation, as well as on the criteria for providing licenses for radio.

In addition to laws that protect and guide media, it is important to have concrete documentation of attacks on media which can be used in a court of law. Violence against media professionals in Tunisia in 2012 reached unprecedented levels. In response to this, the Tunis Centre for Press Freedom set up a dedicated unit with the support of IMS to **monitor and document violations** from insults and threats to physical attacks and censorship which can be used to illustrate the state of press freedom. In November and December alone more than 36 cases of harassment or attacks against journalists were registered, carried out by police, religious groups or members of the public unhappy with media behaviour or content. The centre also has the support of a lawyer who provides journalists with legal advice.

The strengthening of **community radio** to reach marginalised population groups in the rural areas with news that supports their participation in the country's democratic process continues to be a cornerstone of IMS' work in Tunisia. The World Association for Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) has with IMS support set up a network of 45 Tunisian community radios aimed at sharing experience and content across the country. AMARC and Tunisian stakeholders have also produced a national strategy for the community radio sector in Tunisia.



Mr. Shaaban, the lawyer who mans the hotline along with staff at the Legal Protection Center in Baghdad. Photo: Osama Al-Hababbeh/IMS

IMS opens first hotlines for Iraqi journalists in Baghdad and Iraqi Kurdistan

An increase in attacks and harassment of journalists in Iraq in 2012 led IMS to open the first telephone hotlines for journalists and media workers in Baghdad and Iraqi Kurdistan.

The hotlines are open 24/7 and manned by media lawyers who provide legal advice and defend journalists and bloggers harassed and prosecuted by authorities. Since the hotlines opened in March 2012, 2,500 calls have been answered and 17 cases investigated.

"The current laws offer little protection for journalists and are difficult to understand. Also, courts do not investigate the validity of cases before they are brought before the court," says Sardasht Abdullrahman, general manager of the Iraqi Kurdistan Hotline.

Not only journalists, but also lawyers struggle to understand the laws that cover media in Iraq. IMS has trained around 20 lawyers from both Kurdistan and Baghdad in the existing laws that cover media as well as addressed the loopholes in the law that can be used by journalists to protect themselves.

"I defended a journalist who had a claim reported against him by the president of Iraq for writing that the president had hired a close relative in an important job. The journalist was accused of writing false information – but as his story was true I won the case. There were no legal grounds for the claim," says Mr. Shaaban, the lawyer who mans the Baghdad-based hotline.

The hotline center in Iraqi Kurdistan has **tel. number 3344** and Baghdad has **tel. number 3355**.



The Iraqi Network for Social Media meets in Sulaymaniyah in Iraqi Kurdistan in February 2012 to elect its board. Photo: Mohammed Abdullah

In **Yemen**, the adoption of the Access to Information Law in April 2012 brought with it a renewed sense of optimism regarding further media reform and an improved environment for media to work in. Through our local partner, Yemen Parliamentarians Against Corruption (YemenPAC), IMS raised awareness about the new law amongst media workers, and the government entities involved in implementing the new legislation. IMS also took part in the drafting process of an audiovisual law which will ensure the issuance of licenses for independent broadcast media once adopted by the government.

While the safety of journalists did improve in 2012, there were also instances of targeted attacks against media workers. IMS trained 30 journalists in **secure communications**, equipping journalists to work safely and protect their identities online.

In October 2012, Yemen Times Radio, a community-based FM radio station established by the independent newspaper Yemen Times began

broadcasting in Sana'a with equipment and technical advice provided by IMS. The station broadcasts 10 hours daily to the general public and provides an important alternative to the state-monopolised broadcast media. Its programmes focus on everyday issues such as health, traffic, education and environment and a weekly segment features the Mayor of Sana'a answering questions from listeners. The station also organised a campaign to collect clothes for the city's homeless for a colder than usual winter.

In **Libya**, initial euphoria and unity following the fall of former dictator Muammar Gaddafi was replaced with discontent and divided opinion in 2012. Most of the new media established since the revolution struggled with a lack of professionalism, and a shortage of finances and human resources.

In 2012 together with Libyan and international partners, IMS took a major step towards the establishment of the **Libya Media Institute**, the first national institute of its kind working for free and professional media in Libya. The Insti-

tute, which has brought together Libyan media actors to jointly identify the needs of the country's media, will have branches in both Tripoli and Benghazi and will offer journalism training and encourage dialogue between Libyan media stakeholders. The Board of the institute has been established and registration will be granted in spring 2013.

To strengthen independent media output in the run-up to Libya's elections in mid-2012 and thus broaden the public's access to coverage on key social, economic and political issues, IMS took 64 media workers, of which one third were women, through an intensive Training-Production-Publishing scheme, spanning from in-house coaching on stories to overall layout of media products to media management. The four newspapers that partook in all steps of the training produced a special edition on the elections in June 2012. The result was a marked increase in circulation of the four media outlets, as well as new layouts, editing techniques and a broader readership. (See box page 30.)

In **Iraq**, a country where the media continues to be divided along religious, political and ethnic lines, IMS opened the country's first **telephone hotlines** for journalists in danger in Baghdad and Iraqi Kurdistan in March 2012 together with Iraqi partners. The hotline offers legal advice and investigates claims brought against journalists or authorities. In 2012, more than 2,500 calls were received and 17 cases investigated.

The **Iraqi Network for Social Media (INSM)**, a network of young bloggers from across Iraq co-founded by IMS remains a highlight in an otherwise troubled media environment. The Network has bridged the gap between young bloggers in the historically divided Kurdish north and the Arab south. Around 60 bloggers spited historical differences and attended the first conference for bloggers in Iraq held in Iraqi Kurdistan in February 2012.

The Network managed to halt the adoption of a restrictive law on cybercrime in 2012 that would criminalise anyone who criticised the government on websites and social media networks. They created a Facebook page that tracked the law and opposition to it, and convened a forum in the province of Diwaniya bringing together some 30 parliamentary officials, judges, lawyers, bloggers and journalists to discuss the law. This led to the law being put on hold.

"The key is to work with the authorities, not against them as we are both working to fight

IT crime," says Heyder Hamzoz, Iraqi blogger and coordinator of the INSM network.

In a display of successful **media business management** following training by IMS, the independent newspaper Hawlati in Iraqi Kurdistan has turned loss to profit. The newspaper changed from a weekly to a daily and is now the first newspaper in Iraq to generate revenue that covers all expenses with a profit. Better use of staff and advertising and a change in content from only politics to arts, women and children's issues has contributed to the paper's progress. Hawlati now offers other independent media shared use of their printing facilities and is exploring door-to-door delivery subscriptions as the first newspaper in Iraq.

Documentary films are a platform for alternative voices that portray developments in society usually overlooked or more difficult to cover in mainstream media. In 2012, an exchange programme organised by IMS between film students from Iran, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco and The National Film School of Denmark resulted in 10 short documentaries that were screened at film festivals in Tunisia and Denmark. One film, "My Father looks like Abdel Nasser" by the Lebanese director Ms. Farah Kassem, was also selected for the Dubai International Film Festival and Ayam Beirut Al Cinema'iya.

Furthermore, 14 documentary films from across the Middle East, of which six had female directors, were supported by IMS through grants given by Screen Institute Beirut.

Regional and cross-regional collaboration enables a flow of know-how and knowledge between media communities. The institutional partnering or "**twinning**" set up by IMS of the Nordic



Photo from "My Father looks like Abdel Nasser".

TV collaboration "Nordvision" and the regional TV network "ArabVision" was launched in 2012. ArabVision is a partnership between four TV stations in the Arab world – ON TV, Egypt; Wattan TV, Palestine; Roya TV, Jordan; and Al Jadeed TV, Lebanon built on news exchange, programme exchange, co-production and knowledge sharing.



The Roaya team. Photo: Per Vinther

Roaya – a vision for Libya

"I want Roaya newspaper to be part of real free media. Not just for Roaya, but for Libya", says Aladin Salama, co-founder of Roaya, one of the few independent weekly newspapers to have survived tough market conditions since it was born during the revolution in Libya in March 2011.

Born out of an idea between two friends, the paper is now run with the help of 15 volunteers of which many are women. Their key word is "quality journalism" which they strive to achieve despite the fact that none of them have journalism backgrounds. What they do have is plenty of energy and dedication.

"The only training we get is through courses in journalism run by international organisations and these courses help us to develop our skills," says Khalid Elfitory, Editor in Chief of Roaya, who took part in an intensive journalism course conducted by IMS. The course which was carried out in the run-up to Libya's elections, included coaching on stories, layout and media management.

As part of the course, Roaya produced a special edition on the elections in June 2012. This resulted in a marked increase in circulation, as well as a new layout, editing techniques and a broader readership.



EASTERN EUROPE,
CAUCASUS
& CENTRAL ASIA

A journalist covers a protest in Azerbaijan's capital Baku in 2012. Photo: IRFS

2012 was marked by a decline in press freedom in Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia. Ongoing repression in Belarus and Ukraine intensified in connection with elections as authorities and other power holders sought to control and influence independent media through judicial measures, intimidation, and attacks. In Azerbaijan, the hosting of the Eurovision Song Contest and the Internet Governance Forum drew international attention to the country's continued human rights abuses, and an increase in attempts by authorities to control public opinion online.

In Kyrgyzstan, wounds from the country's ethnic conflict in 2010 had yet to heal, and the media continued to struggle with financial instability and poor professional standards. In Tajikistan, which suffered a violent conflict in the southern Gorno-Badakhshan province in July, authorities retained their control over the media through economic and judicial pressure, leaving little room for independent journalism.

IMS' strategic areas of focus in the increasingly restrictive and dangerous environments for media in Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia was the **safety of journalists**, both through training, practical measures as well as advocacy campaigns aimed at governments and international audiences; promoting **media law reform** where possible to protect the rights of journalists; and strengthening **independent media content** and alternative voices to provide citizens with an alternative to government discourse. IMS' approach was anchored in close partnerships with local and international media and civil society organisations to ensure that our support matched the concrete needs expressed by local media and to ensure a **harmonisation of efforts** amongst international media support organisations working in the region to develop media and press freedom.

THE CAUCASUS

Media in **Azerbaijan** experienced a slew of violations throughout 2012 as authorities turned to physical force, abductions, and imprisonment in an attempt to silence journalists and other critical voices.

In response to the deteriorating security situation for journalists both online and offline, IMS worked in close collaboration with local partners to provide journalists with courses on **secure communications**, covering topics such as encryption, anonymity and secure browsing.



A journalist films riot police called in as thousands protest against power abuse in Azerbaijan's northern town of Guba in March 2012. Photo: IRFS

Throughout the year, a special 24/7 **safety hotline** operated by Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety (IRFS) provided immediate and easy access to legal advice, medical help and transportation for nearly 200 journalists facing danger. To address needs for improved **physical protection**, IMS' partner IRFS distributed special press vests in a bright green colour to 150 journalists to increase their visibility and safety.

"These vests are very important. When I was in Guba on 1 March 2012 to cover a mass public protest I didn't wear one, so a policeman thought I was one of the protesters and attacked me. After this incident I got a safety vest from IRFS and now I wear it on all occasions to ensure my own

safety," says Tapdig Farhadoglu, a local Azerbaijani journalist working for Voice of America.

Realising the potential of the internet for political mobilisation and to shape public opinion, the Azerbaijani authorities blocked a number of opposition news websites, raided internet cafés, imprisoned so-called "cyber dissidents", and campaigned against social network sites. Countering this increase in restrictions on Freedom of Expression online, IMS in close partnership with IRFS supported the launch of the internet freedom watchdog coalition Expression Online, which campaigned for improved internet access and freedom in the run-up to the Internet Governance Forum in November, and successfully advocated for the release of three human

rights defenders who were arrested for uploading videos to YouTube.

As part of a city "beautification" campaign in preparation for the Eurovision, authorities in the capital Baku forcibly evicted homeowners, demolished homes, and clamped down on independent media reporting on the situation. Local organisations including IRFS created the Sing for Democracy campaign, which shone a light on human rights abuses and pushed the government for reform in the areas of property rights, and media and political freedoms. IMS followed the campaign closely.

Complementing these **advocacy initiatives** and to provide an alternate source of information in the country's restrictive legal environment, IMS

through its local partner the Azerbaijan Youth Media Center, provided training in the production of **creative multimedia publications**, which are shared in the online magazine Sancaq, currently one of the most popular Facebook pages among the Azerbaijani youth.

EASTERN EUROPE

In **Belarus**, the conditions for independent media remained very critical throughout 2012 with severe limitations on press freedom. Low voter

turnout in the country's parliamentary elections in September demonstrated a decrease in voters' trust in authorities and a growing public demand for independent news and information. With a steady growth in individual users in 2012, 40 per cent of the Belarusian citizens were able to access the internet, but a number of popular national and international websites remained blocked by the Belarusian authorities or were inaccessible from all state-related institutions. Through its partner in spirit, the Belarusian Association of Journalists (BAJ), IMS closely monitored the media situation in the country throughout 2012.

The media in **Ukraine** was subjected to increased government pressure in 2012 with political attempts to influence the coverage of the country's parliamentary elections in October, which suffered from a lack of balanced reporting. Against this backdrop, IMS sought to push forward the implementation of the Law on Access to Public Information, Ukraine's most significant achievement in the past couple of years in the area of **freedom of information**. Passed in 2011 with the support of IMS, the progressive law secures the right of journalists and citizens to access public and official information within a reasonable time.

"Because the new law significantly shortens the timeframe for providing information, access to information requests are now being used as a real tool by practicing journalists, and public authorities strive to meet the deadlines set in the law," says Olga Sushko, the lawyer in charge of Access to Information cases at IMS' partner, the Ukrainian Media Law institute (MLI).

To put the new legislation into practice, IMS in close partnership with the Ukrainian organisation Centre for Political Studies and Analysis (CPSA), published an Access to Information Handbook. Through documented best practices and experiences, the handbook assists journalists and civil activists in understanding and using the law to gain access to information previously held in secret by state institutions. With support from IMS, MLI also provided a free consultancy service to help media, activists and the general public to request access to information using the new law.

In response to the increasingly oppressive environment for the media, 77 journalists and editors from across Ukraine also received anti-censorship training covering practical advice and tips on how to stay professional even under the most challenging of circumstances.

"Zero tolerance for criticism" in Azerbaijan

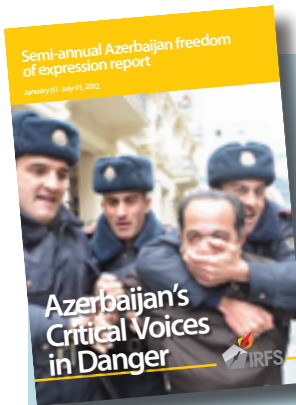
In early March thousands of protesters took to the streets of Guba in northern Azerbaijan to demand the resignation of a local official. The protests were

triggered by a YouTube video showing the governor making derogatory remarks about local residents. Authorities arrested over a dozen people in their response to the protests, including journalists Vugar Gonagov and Zaur Guliyev who were accused of provoking the protests by uploading the video to YouTube.

The cases of the two journalists are chronicled alongside dozens of others in the IMS-supported report "Azerbaijan's critical voices in danger" (pictured). Published as part of a large advocacy campaign, the report provides documentation which can be used by civil society to counter the Azerbaijani government's attempts to suppress critical voices.

"The government has zero tolerance for criticism, and that's the main reason for the prosecution and intimidation of critical voices," said Emin Huzeynov, Chairman of Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety (IRFS), the organisation behind the report. "We call on the authorities to seriously investigate and prosecute all cases of violence against journalists."

After a year's imprisonment, the two journalists Vugar Gonagov and Zaur Guliyev were released in March 2013 on suspended sentences.



Local journalists at work in Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe. Photo: Henrik Keith Hansen/IMS

CENTRAL ASIA

In **Kyrgyzstan**, in 2012 it became clear that there were wounds which time alone would not heal. While the relationship between ethnic Kyrgyz and Uzbeks in the country's south remained stable, the violence which erupted between the two groups in June 2010 has left an enduring mark on the Kyrgyz society.

The IMS-supported Kloop Media Foundation continued its efforts to build bridges between the two ethnic groups through fair and balanced web news and radio programming in Kyrgyz, Uzbek, and Russian. Available online at radio.kloop.kg, Kloop's radio programmes expanded their reach in 2012 through rebroadcasting agreements with nine local, regional and national radio stations across the country, including in southern Kyrgyzstan, where the country's large minority of ethnic Uzbeks live. Two Uzbek language radio stations also began broadcasting the news programmes.

Throughout the year, Kyrgyz media struggled with poor sales and low advertising revenue, forcing them to rely on sources of income tied to political agendas. To address a need for **professional and balanced journalism**, Kloop organised two journalism school trainings for over 50 students in the spring and summer of 2012.

Beyond the difficulties for independent media outlets in achieving financial stability, the media sector in Kyrgyzstan also faced the challenge of low professional standards. Responding to this, IMS continued its support to the Public Association of Journalists (PAJ), one of the central

institutions campaigning for the rights of journalists in the country. PAJ launched a series of professional trainings of over 70 mid-career journalists in international journalism standards and ethics, as well as investigative journalism and online news writing.

"Coming back from the trainings, our journalists had gotten a more responsible attitude about their work, and seem to really understand the importance of their own role in society, and how they can contribute to improving it," says Jazgul Zhamangulova, Chief Editor of Radio Maral FM, commenting on journalists from his radio station who took part in the IMS-supported training for mid-career journalists.

The media sector in **Tajikistan** continued to struggle with high levels of corruption and strict state control over both state and private media outlets through economic and judicial measures, leaving journalists to impose high levels of self-censorship to avoid retribution. The strained relationship between the media and authorities presented a major challenge for independent journalists in obtaining official information from the authorities.

To strengthen the relationship between media and the government and to improve the media's access to government information, IMS supported the work of the umbrella organisation National Association of Independent Mass Media in Tajikistan (NANSMIT) which brought together 81 journalists and 40 press officers from ministry and government departments to improve the interaction and understanding between the two groups.



Investigative journalism training at the 2012 ARIJ conference. Photo: Lena Odgaard

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

Acting as the “fourth estate”, as a watchdog over governments and vested-interest groups is a core role of media in a democratic society. In 2012, over 200 stories carried out by dedicated journalists supported by IMS’ investigative journalism schemes around the world created debate, instigated positive change in communities, and set new professional standards for media content and practice.

SCOOP Eastern and Southeastern Europe

SCOOP, IMS’ trademark investigative journalism grant scheme and network for journalists in 12 countries in Eastern and Southeastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, run in cooperation with the Danish Association of Investigative Journalism (FUJ), continued its successful work in 2012.

77 investigations on issues such as corruption, pollution and human trafficking were published in Eastern and Southeastern Europe in 2012, sparking public debate and action from authorities.

The video investigation “Deadly trips” by Vladimir Thoric and Galina Vasileva tackled the issue of illegal passenger transportation in Moldova. The journalists revealed that the most profitable illegal routes were operated by former officers of law enforcement bodies protected by the acting

official of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Following an airing of the video on national television, the investigation ultimately led to the resignation of the Minister of Internal Affairs who was also suspected of other illegalities.

In some cases the contacts initiated by SCOOP between investigative journalists in a given country led to the set-up of local organisations for investigative reporters. In Moldova, the NGO Centre for Transparency and Civic Engagement was established by SCOOP-supported journalists in September 2012 to promote investigative journalism and civic engagement.

SCOOP Central Asia

In the Central Asian countries of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan SCOOP was off to a flying start in 2012 with 14 completed journalistic investigations despite repressive and often dangerous environments in which to practice journalism. Investigative journalism is still in its infancy in the region, underlined by the fact that the IMS-supported SCOOP is the first organisation to offer support to investigative journalism in Kyrgyzstan. Here, an investigation showed that apartments meant for victims of the riots in June 2010 who had lost family members were instead awarded to common criminals with the help of fraudu-

lent and corrupted officials. The investigation led the Osh Municipal Property Department to set up a commission to go through the allocation of apartments.

SCOOP Russia

Increased repression dominated the media environment in Russia in 2012 where most non-state media remained financially weak and thus controlled and dependent on vested-interest groups. 14 journalistic investigations were completed, covering issues such as corruption, illegal trade with amber and appalling conditions for disabled war veterans.

SCOOP Russia, established in cooperation with FOJO, IMS and FUJ also trained journalists in a better understanding of the country’s media law, how to gain access to information and how to structure and develop an investigation.

Programme for African Investigative Reporting (PAIR)

Investigative journalism is extremely challenging in West Africa due to limited access to information, restrictive media laws, low wages, corruption and retaliations against journalists. PAIR, run in cooperation with FUJ and Media Foundation of West Africa (MFWA) supported 54 investigations in 2012 carried out by journalists in Benin, Togo, Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Côte d’Ivoire. Issues investigated ranged from the illegal petrol trade between Nigeria, Benin and Togo to an American church accused of illegal adoption in Ghana.

Fairtrade Rip-off, a six-month transnational investigation into the Fairtrade label in West Africa funded by PAIR and led by the Forum for African Investigative Reporters (FAIR), found that cocoa farmers in West Africa received few or no benefits from the heightened prices paid by Europeans for “honest” chocolate. The story created a heated debate in the Netherlands where it was published.

Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ)

ARIJ strengthened its position in 2012 as an important regional driver in the call for government accountability through investigative journalism in the Middle East and North Africa. In largely volatile and repressive environments, 14 investigative reports were produced with ARIJ support by journalists from Syria, the Gaza strip, Tunisia, Iraq and Jordan.

The IMS-supported ARIJ also successfully launched four in-house investigative units in both broadcast and print media in Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan from which 24 reports materialised. One

story, an award-winning cooperation between BBC and Al Balad Radio in Jordan led to the closing of home care centers, the prosecution of staff and the establishment of a government investigative commission after horrendous physical abuse of disabled at care centers in Jordan was uncovered.

The Moroccan Association of Investigative Journalists (AMJI) which has benefited from advice from the ARIJ network, funded five investigative reports in 2012. With local sections in 11 of Morocco’s major cities, AMJI has served as an important instrument for lobbying for reforming media regulation.

Network for Iraqi Reporters for Investigative Journalism (NIRIJ)

NIRIJ, Iraq’s first network for investigative journalism set up in 2011 with support from IMS, continued to make headway. In 2012, NIRIJ secured a landmark agreement with Baghdad University Media College and IMS to jointly develop a new curriculum on investigative journalism for Iraqi journalists.

“The Iraqi media is like a dead body. We need to inject life into this body. By providing teaching in investigative journalism, we help both the Iraqi media and society to confront the widespread corruption and lack of fundamental freedoms of expression in our country,” says Mr. Hisham Hasan, the Dean of Baghdad University Media College.

Despite adverse conditions, five NIRIJ-supported investigations were carried out. One story by Dlovan Barwari on the brutal practice of female genital mutilation in Iraqi Kurdistan led the Kurdish parliament to pass legislation in 2012 that criminalises female circumcision. A “fatwa” was also issued by the foremost religious leader in Kurdistan in 2012 stating that female circumcision is against Islamic beliefs.



Journalists and coordinators in IMS’ PAIR programme in West Africa. Photo: Anne Lea Landsted



Conference on Media Development in Myanmar in March 2012. Photo: Mizzima

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Working closely with national, regional and international partners is for IMS a fundamental instrument in addressing the challenges of media development assistance globally. Working in partnerships is a means of making development assistance more efficient which leads to bigger impact.

When democratic reforms in March 2011 opened up Myanmar to the international community, there was an influx of international organisations and donors looking to support the development of the media sector. The Myanmar Ministry of Information in partnership with UNESCO, IMS, Canal France International and Nordic donors thus hosted a meeting for Myanmar media, civil society and international media development organisations in March 2012 in Yangon to provide inspiration for the reform of the Myanmar media sector. The aim of the meeting was to share best practices from the region and create a common understanding of the challenges and needs of media in Myanmar.

The outcome of the historic event was a list of recommendations for the Myanmar government and media actors on the way forward built around the UNESCO media development indicators. The event established a platform on which to begin collaboration and coordination of efforts between the participating parties. A follow-up conference is planned for mid-2013.

In 2012, the **Nepal International Media Partnership** released its analysis of Nepal's constitutional proposals regarding the right to Freedom of Expression which was shared with the Nepalese government. The Partnership, which consists of international organisations working to support the positive development of the Nepalese media sector, also recommended to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) that a national mechanism be set up to protect journalists. The NHRC is now working to set up a mechanism with both preventative and protec-



The Nepal International Media Partnership meets with Nepal's then Prime Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai (centre) in February 2012. Photo: FNJ

tive functions which includes representatives of government, the Attorney General's office, the police and the Federation of Nepalese Journalists.

The new protection mechanism is expected to play a coordinating role in the implementation of the **UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity** for which Nepal has been selected as a rollout country.

Building on the 2nd UN inter-agency meeting on the safety of journalists in Vienna in November 2012 where IMS moderated a session aimed at finding a common vision amongst civil society organisations, the Plan is now set to be jointly rolled out by UNESCO, Open Society Foundations and IMS in six countries: Iraq, Nepal, Pakistan, South Sudan, Mexico, and Honduras. The Plan of Action provides a worldwide framework for media and civil society organisations, UN bodies and crucially governments to share and harmonise their approach to improving the safety of journalists. With its integration of UN agencies and governments, the Plan of Action will complement and give new impetus to on-going civil society initiatives to improve the safety of journalists at the national levels.

Twice a year IMS organises a conference in Iraq where all international organisations working with media development in the country are invited. The aim of these meetings which took place in April and October 2012 was to coordinate common activities and to work for a shared vision in the Iraqi media sector.

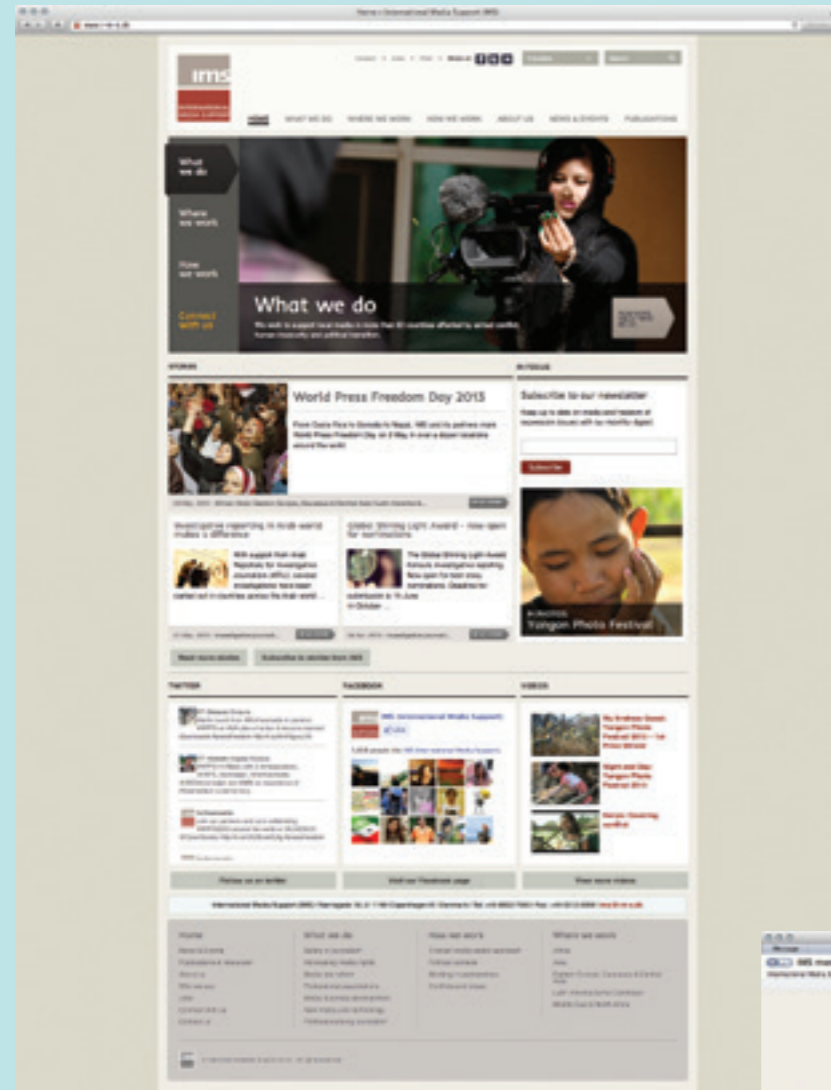
"The difficult circumstances make coordination among media support organisations an important priority, says Osama Al-Habahbeh," IMS Programme Manager for Iraq.

The meetings have created awareness amongst the organisations of each other's work and have led to discussions on issues such as business development to improve the income generating activities of the independent media.

Following the conflict which erupted in Mali in the beginning of 2012 and the subsequent information vacuum brought on by a destroyed media sector, IMS, Panos West Africa and Media Foundation West Africa undertook a rapid response partnership mission in October 2012 to assess the impact of the crisis on the media sector and its needs. The outcome was the assessment report "Media in Mali divided by conflict", which was widely shared within the international media development community and which has formed the basis of a joint programme in the country between Panos West Africa, Media Foundation West Africa and IMS.

In Zimbabwe, the long-running effort to harmonise international media development work and anchor it with local organisations continued with a stakeholder meeting convening a broad representation of national and international partners. As an annual tradition, the meeting identifies needs and strategic priorities of Zimbabwe's media, and works to provide coordination and a sense of shared direction for its development.

THE NEW IMS WEBSITE



The new IMS website (internationalmedia-support.org), launched in December 2012, is designed to inspire and engage with our global audience on media and press freedom issues worldwide. It showcases a wide variety of content including our publications on media environments in countries affected by conflict, human insecurity and political transition; our approach to media development; and engaging stories and photo galleries from the world's media hotspots which also feature in our newsletter "IMS Monthly Digest": <http://eepurl.com/TUYuX>

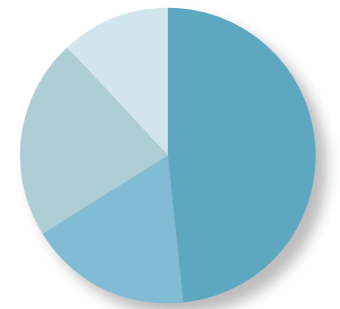
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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2012

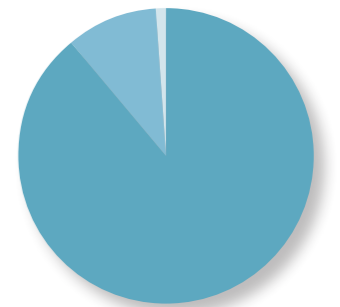
FUNDING

	EUR	%
Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Embassies and Danida	6,500,732	49%
Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Embassies and Sida	2,359,353	18%
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Embassies and Norad	2,898,524	22%
International Donors	1,528,842	11%
Total	13,287,451	100%



EXPENDITURES

	EUR	%
Activities	11,814,993	89%
Cost of doing business	1,337,265	10%
Development	135,193	1%
Total	13,287,451	100%





IMS Board 2012. Photo: Petter Åttingsberg/IMS

IMS BOARD 2012

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Director, Internet Freedom and Human Rights Project, New America Foundation (USA)

Miklós Haraszti
Adjunct Professor at the School of International & Public Affairs, Columbia Law School, New York (Hungary)

ACRONYMS

AJSC	Afghan Journalists' Safety Committee
AMARC	World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters
AMDISS	Association for Media Development in South Sudan
AMJI	Moroccan Association of Investigative Journalists
ARIJ	Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism
BAJ	Belarusian Association of Journalists
CPSA	Centre for Political Studies and Analysis
FAIR	Forum for African Investigative Reporting
FARC	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
FUJ	Foreningen for Undersøgende Journalistik
IMS	International Media Support
INRIC	L'Instance Nationale de Réforme de l'Information et de la Communication
INSM	Iraqi Network for Social Media
IRFS	Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety
MFWA	Media Foundation for West Africa
MJA	Myanmar Journalist Association
MJN	Myanmar Journalist Network
MLI	Media Law Institute
NANSMIT	National Association of Independent Mass-Media in Tajikistan
NCMF	National Coalition for Media Freedom
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NIRIJ	Network for Iraqi Reporters for Investigative Journalism
OSF	Open Society Foundations
PAIR	Programme for African Investigative Reporting
PAJ	Public Association of Journalists
PFUJ	Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists
RBA	Radio Broadcasters Association
UJOSS	Union of Journalists of South Sudan
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
YemenPAC	Yemen Parliamentarians Against Corruption

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up to date on media issues worldwide

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