Global Safety Programme (GSP)

The Global Safety Programme (GSP) is an innovative development safety model, where national safety mechanisms are shaped by and for local media and journalists.

The GSP is about both the people and processes that need to be in place to ensure that the safety tools - both reactive and proactive - at a country’s disposal are used to maximum effect to manage risk for journalists and media houses.

Development approach to Safety

This IMS approach to safety focuses on developing national-led safety mechanisms. A safety mechanism should be understood as encompassing either or both a formal state-led system or an informal civil society-led system or a mix of both.

Based on extensive analysis and insights from around the globe, the GSP has built strategic alliances around a core set of 5 principles to continuously revise what works and doesn’t work and why around national safety mechanisms.

Impact / Five Principles

1. Strategy
2. Presence
3. Influence
4. Collaboration
5. Sustainability

Programme Overview

- UNESCO has recorded the killings of at least 1,103 journalists and media workers between 2006 and 2018.
- The impunity rate for the murders of journalists in recent years remains at a staggering ninety percent.
- Historical trends show that close to ninety percent of journalists killed were local.
- Launched in 2012, the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity was the first ever UN strategy to address the complexity of these inter-connected problems of journalists' safety and impunity. Its implementation is based on a human rights-based and gender-sensitive approach.
- As one of the implementing partners for the UN Plan of Action, the GSP has taken a lead role in researching and documenting the work of local actors – both from civil society and the government – to develop safety mechanisms that adapt to the needs and realities of their respective countries.