

PAKISTAN

A. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION		
1.	PROJECT TITLE	"SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS WORKING IN HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT IN RURAL PAKISTAN"
2.	NUMBER	IPDC/58 PAK/01
3.	MEDIA DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS' CATEGORY	Category 4: Professional capacity building and supporting institutions that underpins freedom of expression, pluralism and diversity
4.	IPDC PRIORITY AREA	Human resource development
5.	SCOPE	NATIONAL
6.	TYPE OF ASSISTANCE REQUESTED	FINANCIAL
7.	TOTAL COST OF PROJECT	US\$ 26,876
8.	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM IPDC	US\$ 14,376
9.	BENEFICIARY BODY	RURAL MEDIA NETWORK PAKISTAN,535-536 Sarwar Shah Street. AhmedpurEast, District Bahawalpur. Phone+92 62 2273092Fax +92 62 2272560 www.ruralmedianetwork.org.pk
10.	IMPLEMENTING OFFICE	UNESCO FIELD OFFICE ISLAMABAD
11.	PROJECT LOCATION	Bahawalpur,Bahawalnagar,Muzzafargarh and other districts of South Punjab.
12.	PROJECT PREPARED BY	Ehsan Ahmed Sehar, President RMNP
DECISION OF THE BUREAU:		

B. PRESENTATION

1. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

Ninety four journalists have been killed in Pakistan during last decade out of which 38 were shot dead in target killing. In 2012, eleven journalists including one TV channel driver were killed in three provinces, Balochistan, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of the country as impunity against Pakistani media rises to unacceptable levels. According to the figures compiled by the Rural Media Network Pakistan (RMNP) eight Pakistani journalists have been killed up to June this year. Due to this alarming situation, Pakistan has been identified as one of the focus countries for the UN's Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity in 2013-2014.

The biggest challenge apart from direct threat to the life of journalists in Pakistan is a culture of impunity. "The killers of not a single of the 94 journalists killed in Pakistan excluding US journalist Daniel Pearl have been arrested, tried and convicted. This promoted impunity and allowed anyone to threaten and target journalists because they know they can get away with murder. Journalists often complain about receiving threats, including from the country's intelligence agencies which can lead to violent attacks against them.

South Punjab, a home of 50 million people is in the grip of religious extremism and sectarian violence now days. Law enforcement agencies have arrested dangerous terrorists from various areas of South Punjab who are activists of banned religious organizations including their mastermind a PHD degree holder. Suicide jackets, hand grenades, mine, and explosive material in heavy quantity was also recovered from an area seven kilometers away where RMNP is based. This situation demands strict safety precautions from media men. They put their life in danger to cover different assignments. Religious extremism is spreading in different parts of the country. There are many sectarian organizations fighting for domination. South Punjab is a part of the country's biggest Punjab province where militants have strong base. Religious extremists force journalists to cover their speeches and pressurize them to publish their news word by word.

The security of the media persons remained a big question during current, and no proper steps have been taken to provide security by the authorities and even by the media houses. The attitude of media houses was more indifferent towards the safety and security of journalists as compare with the authorities. The journalists who are involved in their professional duties in the conflict areas are more vulnerable and exposed before the law enforcement agencies, militant groups and other non state actors. The majority of the journalists are under paid or allowed only to use ID cards of the channels they work for and have to arrange their own earnings.

This RMNP project aims to increase the safety of Pakistani journalists working in hostile environment through training, adoption of safety procedures and bringing religious parties leaders and feudals in training sessions helping to create a space for dialogue among these three groups so that every one better understands the situation and the roll and needs of other in democracy. It will enable the participants to discuss the challenge of maintaining public order while respecting human rights. The project will see establishment of safety mechanism for journalism practitioner, to lobby for greater protection of journalists, and to train journalists to adopt practices that can keep them safe. The proposed safety mechanism includes up gradation of website, fast track responses to journalists under threat, safety training and secure communications for journalists. A total twelve workshops are planned to be organized .At least 15 rural journalists are expected to participate in each workshop, which will bring to 180 the number of participants who will benefit from the training. Other activities include the creation of a national database on media rights and violations encountered by media professionals in Pakistan, and publication of an upgraded manual on safety issues for journalists.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE TARGET GROUP:

The project's target group is both print and electronic media journalists working in rural areas of South Punjab and other areas of rural Pakistan.

3. DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE:

Building capacities of rural journalists and promoting mutual understanding among extremists' religious leaders and feudals to create a space for dialogue among three groups for better understanding of the situation and the roll and needs of others in democracy. By providing training and support for media rights in some of the most vulnerable areas in South Punjab and other area of rural Pakistan, the project aims at ensuring the existence of a free and vibrant media, where journalists are free from fear of intimidation and violence and can report accurately, fairly and in a balanced way.

4. IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE:

To train a total of 90 journalists in media rights monitoring and advocacy techniques through 6 workshops, held in different parts of South Punjab and other areas o (Rural Pakistan).

5. PROJECT OUTPUTS:

- Centralized database on media rights violations in Pakistan;
- Constitution of press freedom monitoring committees and dialogue among religious extremists, feudals and journalists.
- 12 trainers trained in media rights monitoring and to deliver media rights and advocacy workshops; 90 journalists trained in media rights and advocacy.
- Publication of new safety of journalists training manual in Urdu Language

6. ACTIVITIES:

- Selection of 90 participants to be trained from various rural areas;
- Production of a 2-day training module on media rights and advocacy by RMNP
- Six 2-day workshops conducted on media rights and advocacy

7. PROJECT INPUTS:

Selection of trainee journalists;
 Development of training module and up gradation of website
 Materials and equipment for workshop;
 Training of 90 journalists in twelve 2-day workshops
 Coordinator's supervision and coordination of activities.

8. WORK PLAN:

ACTIVITIES / MONTHS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Selection of the participants, resource persons and completing other related works.												
Safety for journalists training												
Submission of Project completion report.												

9. **INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK:**

Rural Media Network Pakistan (RMNP) with the collaboration of National Press Union, Rural Daily Nawa-e-AhrnedpurSharqia, Rural Press Clubs and individual journalists committed to press freedom, will implement the project. in rural Pakistan.

10. **SUSTAINABILITY:**

The selection of 12 trainers will ensure that the expertise of the project will exist long after the project funding and activities have finished. The training module in country Urdu language will be used for regular use in further training workshops. The establishment of regional networks feeding into a centralized database and system will continue operating after the project is completed.

11. **FRAMEWORK OF MONITORING:**

Monitoring will be carried out by RMNP with the involvement of officer from UNESCO.

12. **EVALUATIONS CARRIED OUT:**

The project will have several evaluation techniques. Participants in activities will be asked to provide feedback, including via written evaluations. The purpose is to evaluate the performance and attitude of participants and the quality, relevance and content of training and resource materials. Recommendations from the evaluations will be incorporated into the new training module and assist to set the agenda for the seminar and follow-up. Interim and final reports will include evaluation by the RMNP coordinator and will incorporate feedback from participants in activities as well as organizations that engage closely in the project.

13. **FRAMEWORK OF BENEFICIARY AGENCY'S REPORTING:**

The reporting of the training sessions will be done to the UNESCO office in Islamabad on four-month basis. The final report will be submitted on the completion of the training programme. The report will be prepared by President RMNP.

C. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Prior to the submission of the IPDC Project proposal, RMNP met its Board Members to discuss on the project. It went through all the previous activities of RMNP and IPDC to decide on the most appropriate Media Development Indicator to be addressed. The meeting finalized Category 4 as the most appropriate media indicator category.

D. BUDGET

BREAKDOWN OF IPDC CONTRIBUTION (in US dollars)	
Training fee for two trainers \$150 each (for 2 days)	300
Honoraria for three resource persons/experts \$100/- per person	300
Lunch tea 20 persons \$10/- p/person/day (total 2 days)	400

Accommodation 4 single rooms \$50 p/night for 3 nights for two trainers and two staffers	600
Travel for 2 trainers + 2 staffers (\$100 each)	400
Workshop material, photography, banners, certificates, training venue	200
Food bill for 2 trainers and 2 staffers x 3 days x \$8/day	96
Sub-total for one workshop	2296
Total cost of 6 workshops (15 district correspondents in each workshop will be trained in one workshop)	13,776
<u>Cost of training manual and website up gradation</u>	
Publication of training manual (500 copies)	600
TOTAL	US\$ 14,376

BREAKDOWN OF THE BENEFICIARY AGENCY'S CONTRIBUTION (in US dollars)	
Institutional support(includes project coordinator and instructor)	9,000
Administrative expenses	1,500
Telephone, communications	1,000
Electricity	1,000
TOTAL	US\$ 12,500