

FINAL REPORT FOR NATIONAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY THE BANGKOK CLUSTER
OFFICE

Country: Myanmar
Project Title: **ON-LINE MEDIA FOR PEACE: PROMOTING CROSS-CULTURAL DIALOGUE
AMONG MYANMAR ETHNIC MEDIA GROUPS**
Implementing Organisation: Burma News International (BNI)
Budget Code: 354GLO5002.48
Amount approved (in US\$): \$27,000
Status: completed

INTRODUCTION / RATIONALE

Myanmar is a country with more than a hundred distinct ethnic groups, and home to much ethnic-based conflict since independence in 1948. Recent studies have cited the media among “drivers of conflict” in Myanmar due to inaccurate reporting, misinformation, manifest bias, and a preference for conflict stories. As such, the media – particularly ethnic media groups – play a key role in informing and educating ethnic groups about their commonalities and differences, resulting in stronger cultural understanding and tolerance. Cooperation and networking among media practitioners, bloggers and citizens who have different ethnic backgrounds in Myanmar can significantly contribute to fostering dialogue, peace and reconciliation.

To maximize the role of ethnic media, there is a need for a common platform to facilitate the sharing of news and information produced by the different ethnic media groups. This will contribute to greater expression of views on the peace process, and a deeper understanding and appreciation of the history and culture of other ethnic communities. In this regard, an online interactive platform brings much advantages: immediacy, unlimited content, rich multimedia content, and a wide reach that goes beyond local ethnic media groups.

IMPLEMENTATION

- **Description of activities implemented / outputs:** The project activities are completed. Two editorial trainings were conducted by media professionals for 30 ethnic media groups (15 each). The first took place in Yangon from 18-23 December 2014, and the second in Mandalay from 13-18 January 2015. A webmaster has developed two websites (<http://www.bnionline.net/> and <http://burmese.bnionline.net/>) and created a Facebook account ([link here](#)) which serve as an information sharing platform for emerging ethnic media groups in Myanmar, both BNI members and non-members. Both websites are already online and in use but still in the finalization process. BNI also proposed to collect data on the ethnic media landscape in Myanmar and sent the report “Ethnic Media Mapping” which was presented at the Third Ethnic Media Conference at Hakha (8 march 2015). It will be continuously updated by BNI.
- **Analytical reflection:** The project’s capacity-building and network-strengthening activities has helped boost diverse ethnic voices, as well as the dignity and equity with regard to ethnic minorities, ultimately contributing to a peaceful democratic transition in Myanmar. From an organizational perspective, BNI was able to expand its network of partners, building up its own capacity as well as that of other ethnic media groups in the long run.

CHALLENGES AND KEY LESSONS

An unexpected staff turnover at BNI resulted in slight delays in implementation. BNI was able to quickly re-assign new staff and revise its work plan to ensure that the project was not derailed. Some ethnic media organizations are also much more established than others, thus BNI was required to step in to provide the required support for smaller and/or newer ethnic media organizations.

It was observed by BNI that while the project is in line with ethnic media groups' needs, a one-time project implementation would not be sufficient to meet the development objective. Follow-up activities which may complement the 'ethnic media mapping' activity being undertaken by BNI outside of the original scope are also recommended.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Please refer to the Progress Report attached below:



**Adobe Acrobat
Document**

Progress Report

FINAL REPORT FOR NATIONAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY THE BANGKOK CLUSTER OFFICE

Country: Thailand
Project Title: **ASSESSING GENDER SENSITIVITY IN THAI PUBLIC MEDIA**
Implementing Organisation: Thai Public Broadcasting Service (Thai PBS)
Budget Code: 354GLO5002.49
Amount approved (in US\$): \$15,000
Status: Completed

INTRODUCTION / RATIONALE

Central to media development is the recognition that if the media are to accomplish their democratic potential, they should reflect diversity in society and ensure plurality and transparency of ownership and content. Based on this, there can be no media pluralism until women have an equal voice in the news gathering and dissemination processes.

One of the greatest challenges that Thai journalists face is bringing media accountability into the struggle for gender equality. A 2011 global report on women in the media found that men dominate management jobs and newsgathering positions in Asia Pacific. Women comprise barely 13% of those in senior management positions, have had career advancement blocked by factors like prejudices, have lower salaries in general, and are typically relegated to 'soft' news.

In this project, Thai PBS aims to assess gender equality based on the Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media (GSIM), and formulate and implement a set of internal policies and strategies that will ensure gender equality in work and working conditions, and promote codes and editorial policies in favour of gender equality in media content. In doing so, it is hoped that other media in Southeast Asia will follow Thai PBS' lead to make gender equality issues transparent and comprehensible to the public, as well as to analyze their own internal policies and practices with a view to take necessary actions for change.

IMPLEMENTATION

- **Description of activities implemented / outputs:** All projects outputs were completed on time: (1) conducting research on gender equality in Thai TV organizations; (2) organizing two training/workshop on gender and media for media executives at Thai PBS and for journalists and media content producers from Thai PBS and other media organizations; (3) developing a GSIM manual tailored for Thai public media that includes the key findings of the research as well as the recommendations expressed during the training/workshop.
- **Analytical reflection:** As a result of the activities conducted under this project, the Thai public broadcaster has been strengthened by improving its capacity to reflect and represent the diversity of views in society, particularly those of women. The GSIM manual tailored for Thai public media is a relevant tool for raising awareness among Thai and regional TV media organizations about the need of gender equality in media production and content. It assesses the current state of gender sensitivity in Thai TV broadcasters and sets out steps to be taken to foster parity between men and women within Thai PBS as well as to mainstream gender issues in the news production process – guidelines that can then be emulated by other media organizations in Thailand and throughout the region.

CHALLENGES AND KEY LESSONS

Thai PBS didn't report about specific challenges faced during the implementation of the project' activities.

However, one of the challenge lies in ensuring and increasing both the national and regional impact of the new set of guidelines adopted by Thai PBS. It might be useful to consider further cooperation with the public broadcaster, for example to support Thai PBS in developing visibility activities for its GSIM tailored manual to reach journalists from other Thai and regional media outlets. Such initiatives would ensure that the new gender-sensitive manual fulfil its potential as a model to emulate and encourage other media organizations to take steps toward greater gender equality.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Please refer to the Progress Report attached below:



**Adobe Acrobat
Document**

Progress Report

FINAL REPORT FOR NATIONAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY THE HA NOI FIELD OFFICE

Country: Viet Nam
Project Title: **PROMOTING THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS IN VIET NAM**
Implementing Organisation: Center for Research on Development Communication (RED)
Budget Code: 354GLO5002.50
Amount approved (in US\$): \$13,000
Status: Completed

INTRODUCTION / RATIONALE

In the last 20 years, Viet Nam's media landscape has expanded rapidly in terms of platforms, publications, journalists and audience. The media plays an increasing role as a watchdog in monitoring the conduct of government and state officials, particularly in the fight against corruption and wrongdoing. Yet despite existing laws that ensure freedom of speech and safety of the media, in reality, journalists are not always able to work without the fear of threats, or even death. A 2011 study on obstruction of journalists in Viet Nam by RED, supported by the British & Commonwealth Office, showed that nearly 90% of respondents faced some kind of obstruction to their work, including avoidance of information provision, bribery, detention, inflicting injuries, and seizure/destruction of working facilities. Among other things, the study recommended capacity building for media professionals on their right to safety when collecting and disseminating information, and enhancing peer assistance among media professionals.

Thus, the project aimed to promote journalist safety through capacity building workshops on existing laws for journalist safety, developing guidelines for peer assistance, establishing a monitoring network and launching a related interactive online forum for journalists.

IMPLEMENTATION

- **Description of activities implemented / outputs:** All project outputs were completed on time: (1) forming a media advisory network to support the protection of media; (2) conducting workshops to train journalists on media laws, particularly on journalist safety and skills for peer assistance; (3) conducting training for media/journalism students to provide them with basic knowledge on journalist safety; (4) developing and launching the 'Operation Principles of the Media Right Advisory Network' and 'Guidelines to Support Colleagues'; and (5) creating a website to provide a platform to share information to protect media rights
- **Analytical reflection:** As a result of the activities conducted under this project, the capacity of the media network's members has been improved. Careful preparation of the training modules together with experienced trainers led to the success of the training sessions. Participants were also interested and enthusiastic in learning and joining the advisory network, which comprises key, credible representatives of the media across the provinces of Viet Nam. The website and network, coordinated by RED, will continue to its work to promote freedom of expression and journalism safety even after the project's completion.

CHALLENGES AND KEY LESSONS

The media advisory network consists of media professionals who are very active in their respective home provinces, and there was some difficulty faced in mobilising them to participate in the training. While this is a reality that cannot be avoided, it was observed that the network

coordinator – in this case, RED – plays a crucial role in ensuring that members are continuously active in the activities of the network. RED will continue its role as coordinator to ensure the effectiveness of the network in promoting journalist safety in Viet Nam.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Please refer to the Final Report and Training Report attached below:



**Adobe Acrobat
Document**

*Final Report
(including photos)*



**Adobe Acrobat
Document**

Training Report

INTERIM REPORT FOR REGIONAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY THE BANGKOK
CLUSTER OFFICE

Country/Geographical scope: Thailand and Cambodia

Project title: **BUILDING CAPACITY OF INDIGENOUS JOURNALISTS AND ACTIVISTS IN THAILAND AND CAMBODIA TO REPORT AND PRODUCE CONTENT ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S ISSUES THROUGH COMMUNITY MEDIA**

Implementing organization: Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), Chiang Mai, Thailand Budget code: 354GLO5003.36

Amount approved: 18325 USD

Status: On-going

INTRODUCTION / RATIONALE

The Mekong region in Southeast Asia is home to diverse groups of indigenous peoples facing considerable struggles such as sovereignty, mother language preservation, rights to land and natural resources, recognition within government and laws, and impact from environmental damage. Indigenous populations are often under-represented in the media, and/or not fully equipped to report on the issues of most relevance to their own communities.

AIPP has helped establish three indigenous media networks in Thailand, Philippines and Cambodia and organized several workshops for indigenous media practitioners and youth activists in a view to share and learn from each other's skills and experiences. This project seeks to strengthen two of the existing networks – IMN Thailand and CIJN in Cambodia by building capacity of the networks' members, organizing workshops to foster dialogue with stakeholders to highlight urgent indigenous peoples' issues, and raising the visibility of the indigenous journalists' work among their audiences. Through these activities, the project aims to promote the indigenous peoples' right to access to all form of media and produce their own media contents in Thailand and Cambodia and to enhance the intercultural dialogue in these two countries.

IMPLEMENTATION

Description of activities implemented / outputs: The project activities are completed. Two Journalism trainings for indigenous youth took place, one in Northeast Thailand (23-26 July 2015, in Surin Province), and one in Cambodia (23-27 July 2015, Phnom Penh). 60 young indigenous journalists and activists (among them 26 females) from 7 different ethnic groups have developed journalism skills enabling them to report on urgent issues relevant to their communities.

In addition, two public multi-stakeholder forums were held on urgent indigenous peoples' issues: one in Bangkok during the Second National Assembly of the Council of Indigenous Peoples (CIPT) and the commemoration of the International Day for World's Indigenous Peoples (9 August 2015). The second forum in Phnom Penh needed to be postponed to 27 November 2015, due to some delay by the mobilization of indigenous communities. The project contract was extended to February 2016 in order to include the outcomes of the forum in the final project report.

A website disseminating information about indigenous populations in Thailand and stories produced by young indigenous journalists has been set up (<http://www.nipt-cipt.org/portal.php>) and a quarterly newsletter is now featuring news on and produced by the indigenous communities.

Analytical reflection: The capacity-building activities of the project have helped the indigenous groups to exercise and foster their right to all forms of media and to produce their own media content. The pool of indigenous journalists in Northeast Thailand and Cambodia is now extended and the indigenous networks (IMN in Thailand and CIJN in Cambodia) in these regions are strengthened with increased memberships and visibility in their communities and beyond. The awareness raising activities were very helpful in promoting the rights of Thai and Cambodian indigenous peoples and highlight their concerns by relevant stakeholders including government officials, and the public in general. In particular, it has boosted the campaign for the recognition of indigenous peoples’ rights in the draft constitution of Thailand and the establishment of the Council of Indigenous Peoples of Thailand (CIPT). The project has contributed to amplify the voices of indigenous groups, increasing the public awareness about their issues and concerns in Thailand and Cambodia.

• **CHALLENGES AND KEY LESSONS**

The project partners have experienced that more time and personal resources need to be planned in order to have the best mobilization of indigenous communities in multi-stakeholder forums on critical issues. Face-to-Face meetings and direct discussions about design and objective of such a forum are necessary to ensure their participation. Particular attention needs also to be paid to the schedule constraints specific to indigenous groups (seasonal rituals and work for example).

• **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

- Programme and list of participants of the two journalism trainings
- Programme and list of participants of the two multi-stakeholders public forums
- Photos of the journalism training in Northeast Thailand
(<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B2P8dmjUNoQ6Sm9pcDFnb2liMUU&usp=sharing>)
- Photos of the public Forum in Thailand
(https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B2P8dmjUNoQ6fkFpUmx3WEk1a3otTWE1anZIVHNqNnI5SkZFYmdmMGZsWVpHM0x1c3pGOG8&usp=drive_web&ddrp=1#)
- Media coverage of the Public Forum in Thailand and media content produced by journalism trainees

No	Media	Link
1	Public forum : Thailand “ Nine Years of the UNDRIP: The Path of People, Land, Water, and Forest: the Strength of the Council of Indigenous Peoples ”)broadcasted on 14 August 2015(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wrpJNneFGWk
2	Voices of IP Youth	https://youtu.be/QACOfSO_1t0
3	Short news on IP day 2015	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=coYPeKBnVUo
4	Short news on IP day 2015: Karen language -1	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0Bx_D_oGfE
5	Short news on IP day 2015: Karen language -2	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZGIS23WLjM

6	Short news on IP day 2015: Kui language-1	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRxZ8oMnnzY
7	Short news on IP day 2015: Kui language-2	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGnJpTRN7T8
8	Short news on IP day 2015: Tai language	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r303q2VWVVE
9	Short news on 2 nd Assembly of CIPT	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmQ5SDoEacM
10	Short news on IP day 2015: Urak-lawuei language	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jxDckPAsfE

- Newsletter produced to highlight indigenous issues and work of indigenous journalists
- Website launched by the Thai indigenous network (NIPT) to feature stories on and produced by the community

INTERIM REPORT FOR REGIONAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY THE BANGKOK
CLUSTER OFFICE

Country/Geographical Scope: Asia and the Pacific
Project title: **MINDFUL COMMUNICATION FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION**
Implementing organization: Faculty of Communication Arts, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
Budget code: 354GLO5003.37
Amount approved: 17325 USD
Status: Ongoing

INTRODUCTION / RATIONALE

The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) to come into force in 2015 will transform ASEAN into a region with free movement of goods, services, investment, skilled labour, and free flow of capital. To achieve these goals the media needs to play an important role in facilitating and promoting regional integration, through enhanced dialogue among civilizations and cultures.

This projects aims at advancing Journalism education in the ASEAN region through capacity building of communication trainers and the development of a comprehensive curriculum drawing from UNESCO's Model Journalism Curriculum and traditional knowledge and communications theories from Asian cultures. This specific train-the-trainer programme will help to raise awareness about common regional challenges among journalists of the ASEAN countries and to address issues of racial and cultural stereotyping of people in a region with tremendous cultural and religious diversity.

IMPLEMENTATION

- **Description of activities implemented / outputs:** The project activities are on track. From 14-15 December 2015, a symposium took place at the Faculty of Communication Arts of the Chulalongkorn University to develop a curriculum for a training platform for journalists and communicators from Southeast Asia. 42 communication scholars, media practitioners and philosophers from Thailand, India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Malaysia and Singapore have gathered to review the curriculum for journalism education in the region. The core team (composed of five experts) in charge of assembling the course materials and launching the training platform is set up. A prototype of the website for the web-based training has been prepared. Due to calendar constraints, the seminar took place a bit later than expected so that the course materials will be ready in January 2016 instead of December 2015. The selection of the trainees and design of the training workshop will follow in January 2016.
- **Analytical reflection:** The seminar has discussed communication theories emanating from Buddhist, Hindu and Confucius teachings and identified resource materials to be incorporated in an innovative, web-based regional journalism training. The project capacity-building activities will advance journalism education and intercultural understanding in Southeast Asia through the development of a comprehensive curriculum drawing from UNESCO's Model Journalism Curriculum and traditional knowledge and communications theories from Asian cultures. From an organizational point of view, the project will help to build capacity at the Communications Arts Faculty of Chulalongkorn

University to offer a unique regional programme in training communicators to promote sustainable development.

CHALLENGES AND KEY LESSONS

In the period reported, no particular challenge in the implementation of the project has arisen.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- Photos of the symposium “Mindful Communication for ASEAN Integration” (14-15 December 2015, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok)
- List of participants and speakers of the symposium ‘Mindful Communication for ASEAN Integration’ held at the Chulalongkorn University from 14-15 December 2015
- CVs of the five members of the core team in charge of the development of the course materials for the training
- Screen-shots of the prototype of the web-platform to be used to conduct the training

INTERIM REPORT FOR NATIONAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY THE BANGKOK CLUSTER OFFICE

Country/Geographical Scope: Myanmar

Project title: **SUPPORTING PEACE THROUGH THE MEDIA: MONITORING AND ANALYZING HATE SPEECH IN MYANMAR**

Implementing organization: Myanmar ICT for Development Organization (MIDO)

Budget code: 354GLO5003.35

Amount approved: 18 325 USD

Status: Ongoing

INTRODUCTION / RATIONALE

Myanmar is facing increasing risks of religious violence – different international NGOs have raised alarms in this regard. One core factor contributing to this environment conducive of violence and impeding reconciliation efforts is the perception of Myanmar as a Buddhist nation facing an existential threat from ‘Islamicization’, and the rhetoric that people must actively ‘protect their race and religion’. Extreme nationalist or religious groups for example actively and systematically spread information, both offline and online, contributing to the climate of fear.

An equally serious concern is the potential for renewed restrictions on freedom of expression and crackdowns on political dissent, with new laws being justified on the basis of preventing incitement of religious hatred and disrupting public order. Against this backdrop, this project aims at monitoring, analysing and disseminating information on online hate speech for the benefits of media professionals as well as civil society groups and community leaders in Myanmar. It builds on a wider range of activities conducted by MIDO together with partners to counter hate speech in Myanmar: for example, the ‘Pan Zagar’ anti-hate speech campaign or the Myanmar Media and Society (M.MAS) project with the Oxford University.

IMPLEMENTATION

- **Description of activities implemented / outputs:** The project activities are on track. MIDO has set up a team to monitor online hate and dangerous speech which has worked with regional networks to identify those accounts that most aggressively promote such content, especially in local areas. From September-October 2015, 30 Facebook-accounts, 30 Facebook-pages, 4 Facebook-groups and over 100 posts have been monitored and analyzed. A report identifying content qualified as dangerous and violent as well as recommendations for actions is in the process.

For this project to benefit from other related activities conducted by MIDO on countering hate speech in Myanmar, the project duration was extended to June 2016. These activities are 1) an anti-hate speech campaign; 2) a research partnership with Oxford University; 3) A public diplomacy initiative designed to support nuanced counter-messaging, led by Phandeeyar and Rachel Brown from the Holocaust Museum; 4) A grass-roots rumor management project to be launched by Search for Common Ground.

The workplan has been aligned with these complementary projects in order to incorporate their outcomes in the remaining IPDC activities – namely the implementation of response

strategies and regular meetings with media and civil society groups as well as the development of public information resources (Facebook page).

- **Analytical reflection:** The project monitoring activities have helped to identify social media accounts that directly or indirectly incites racial-religious violence, as well as different types of hate speech in social media in Myanmar. This will help to develop efficient and tailored response strategies to countering online hate speech in the country. The dissemination of public information on this issue will also contribute to increase media, public and civil society awareness on ethical online practices and build their capacities to counter online hate speech and to promote safe online space.

MIDO have enhanced capacity and network and strengthened his role as a central hub for monitoring and response activities on online hate speech. Ultimately the project will contribute to the capacity-building of media, including community radio, and civil society groups: their practice and understanding on freedom of expression will be deepened which will foster the peace building and democratization process in Myanmar.

CHALLENGES AND KEY LESSONS

In the period reported, no particular challenge in the implementation of the project has arisen.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- The draft report on the results of the monitoring identifying content that the monitoring team qualifies as dangerous and violent.

INTERIM REPORT FOR NATIONAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY THE KATHMANDU,
NEPAL

**ENGAGING STATE AGENCIES TO ADDRESS IMPUNITY: INITIATIVE TO MINIMIZE
THE PRACTICE OF SELF-CENSORSHIP AMONG NEPALI JOURNALISTS**

The UNESCO/IPDC project "engaging state agencies to address impunity: initiative to minimize the practice of self-censorship among Nepali journalists" was successfully completed. The IPDC Bureau had approved \$ 19,325.00 (Budget code: 354 GLO 5000) for the implementation of the project.

This project was implemented by UNESCO Kathmandu Office in partnership with the Development Communication Society (SODEC) Nepal. Three different regional and a national consultation programmes on self-censorship among state agencies i.e. Ministry of Information and Communication, Press Council Nepal, Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ), Media Institutions, and Human Rights Organizations were organized as key activities. A study report on "Impunity in Nepal with Special Reference to Freedom of Expression and Journalist's Safety" was published.

INTRODUCTION / RATIONALE

According to the Federation of Nepalese Journalists' report released in 2012-13, there have been 228 incidents where journalists have been either attacked or threatened by different interest groups. Sixty-five journalists have been threatened, 32 have been attacked and two journalists have been murdered. Unfortunately, only two cases have been registered in court. Since the beginning of the armed conflict in Nepal, 35 journalists have been killed and 4 journalists disappeared and have not been found as of today. The relatives of murdered journalists are still waiting for justice. Various interest groups have been threatening journalists in Nepal taking advantage of the political transition and widespread unrest. However, the state hasn't taken action against the perpetrators. This clearly shows that impunity still prevails in Nepal and that journalists are working in a challenging context. As a result, it is hard for journalists to share information and express ideas and opinions freely to the public.

This project was implemented to show a way forward and to enable an environment which minimizes the practice of self-censorship, ensures safety and promotes freedom of expression among Nepali journalists. The project also sensitized state agencies on their role and responsibility of minimizing self-censorship; linked to freedom of expression, press freedom and right to information which has been identified as a priority by the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC).

IMPLEMENTATION

Description of activities implemented / outputs:

Following three major activities implemented under the project as originally envisaged.

1) Three regional consultations addressing the challenges in promoting freedom of expression and ensuring the safety of journalists with different stakeholders were organized. Journalists and state agencies got the opportunity to interact with each other in an open and free environment to tackle self-censorship, safety of journalists and the issue of impunity.

2) Conducted an in-depth study exploring impunity in the 39 cases of killed and missing journalists, identifying the reasons behind it. A study report on "Impunity in Nepal with Special Reference to Freedom of Expression and Journalist's Safety" was published and distributed among concerned stakeholders including media institutions, security agencies, judiciary, universities, libraries etc.

3) A national level seminar was organized with security and judiciary officials, lawyers, and journalists. The findings of the regional seminar were shared among state agencies and concerned stakeholders, reinforcing their pro-active engagement when it comes to minimizing self-censorship, increasing the safety of journalists and ending impunity. The seminar successfully made state agencies more responsive and accountable in promoting freedom of expression in Nepal.

Analytical reflection:

The activities carried-out under the project remain important in order to raise discussions on the issues related to self-censorship as well as journalist's safety and freedom of expression in Nepal. The study has highlighted the status of the killed and missing journalists, and identified the main causes of impunity in the context of Nepal i.e. lack of independent mechanism to investigate the violation, limited authority of the investigative body, lack of support by the security sector, delays in the legal process etc. Because of safety concerns journalists tend to be more self-censored.

The study has generated some useful suggestions for stakeholders. The UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and Issues of Impunity is operational. The action has to be maximized in the context of Nepal. The cases related to the murdered and missing journalists have to be reopened, updated, and appropriate action must be taken by stakeholders. The study also suggested the establishment of an independent mechanism to address the issues of freedom of expression and impunity under the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). This initiative had already been mentioned in the strategic plan of NHRC.

Some concerns were common for all stakeholders regarding impunity as well as journalist's safety and freedom of expression. A very important point that has emerged is that all stakeholders recognized media as an open platform for people to get their voices heard and a development tool bridging the government and society at large. Therefore, the safety of journalists should be guaranteed in order to safeguard citizens' freedom of expression. Similarly, journalists have a responsibility towards the people and must adhere to a professional ethics. The promotion of the code of conduct for the practice of journalism, the availability of professional trainings for journalists and self-regulation are among the additional issues raised by stakeholders. They also urged that both journalists and state agencies commit to the collective effort aimed at minimizing impunity - notably in the media sector. The role and responsibility of the Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) to take action against threats targeting journalists, minimize impunity and reduce self-censorship was clearly mentioned in the study report.

In addition, regional and national consultations have reinforced the trust between journalists and state agencies; ultimately contributing to the creation of a constructive environment promoting freedom of expression. Consultations have equally boosted understanding among stakeholders and narrowed the gap between journalist and state agencies.

CHALLENGES AND KEY LESSONS

The project was successfully implemented and achieved the intended objectives. However, some challenges emerged during the project implementation period. The major challenge was the political unrest characterizing recent months in Nepal. Journalists were increasingly threatened

and self-censored compared to the usual media landscape in Nepal - notably in the Tarai region. Journalists expressed their fears and experiences during regional consultations, yet programs were logistically difficult to organize due to the political unrest hitting the country.

The comprehensive study report tackling impunity in the 39 cases of killed and missing journalists has provided precious recommendations to state agencies, as well as the judiciary, security and media sectors. Different stakeholders have been sensitized on their responsibility to minimize the self-censorship, increase the safety of journalists and reduce impunity. However, continues lobby and advocacy is needed to encourage state agencies to take immediate action.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION



Consultation with stakeholders in mid-western region Nepaljung, Banke



Consultation with stakeholders in eastern region Biratnagar, Morang



Consultation with stakeholders in western region Pokhara, Kaski



National Seminar organized in Kathmandu in 2 November 2015

INTERIM REPORT FOR NATIONAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY THE KATHMANDU,
NEPAL

**STRENGTHENING CAPACITY OF WOMEN JOURNALISTS WORKING IN
COMMUNITY RADIOS OF NEPAL**

The UNESCO/IPDC project "Strengthening Capacity of Women Journalists Working in Community Radio in Nepal" has successfully come to an end. The IPDC Bureau approved \$ 14,325.00 (Budget code: 354 GLO 5000) for the implementation of the project in 2015.

This project was carried out by UNESCO Kathmandu Office in partnership with Working Women Journalists (WWJ) and Asmita Women's Publication House. Five trainings were organized in different regions of the country targeting working women journalists to train them in gender-sensitive radio program production. The two-day long trainings enhanced the capacity of over 100 women journalists working in community radios across Nepal. Consolations meeting on gender sensitivity and women's inclusion in community radio also were organized among the owner, station managers and senior journalists.

INTRODUCTION / RATIONALE

In the context of Nepal, radio is one of the most influential media. According to recent data of ACORAB, umbrella body of Nepal's Community Radios, more than 270 community radio stations are operational, reaching over 90 percent of the population. The number of women journalists engaged in those community radios has significantly increased over the years. However, they continue to lack opportunities to enhance capacity on crucial issues such as gender equality and women empowerment. On the one hand, there is not a meaningful gender representation in the structure of radio stations, and on the other hand, journalists haven't been trained to produce gender sensitive programs. These dynamics have resulted in very few programs addressing gender being produced and broadcasted regardless of the hundreds of stations operating in Nepal. Moreover, some of the stations have agreed to Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) policies but aren't implementing them efficiently.

UNESCO has given high priority to the promotion of gender equality by developing the "Gender Sensitive Indicators for Media-2012". The trainings conducted under the project, were based on such indicators. The major objectives of the project were to enhance capacity of women journalists with adequate knowledge and skills to produce and broadcast gender sensitive radio programs while increasing their representation at decision-making and senior position level. Awareness was raised among those in position of leadership in radios across several districts in Nepal to promote gender policies.

IMPLEMENTATION

Description of activities implemented / outputs:

Following, the five major activities implemented under the project as originally envisaged;

- 1) A training manual on gender sensitive radio production was published. Fundamental aspects of gender, women's empowerment, as well as the role of community radios in promoting gender equality together with the tools and techniques for effective radio program production were included in the manual as major contents.

- 2) At least 100 women journalists working in community radios have participated in a two-day long training organized in five different districts. The trainings successfully enhanced their knowledge on gender sensitive radio program production as well as on strategies turning radio stations into inclusive and safe working environments.
- 3) Five-Gender Sensitization Consultation with Community Radio Owners, Station Managers and Senior Journalists were organized at district level.
- 4) Based on consultation findings at district level, a national consultation was organized to raise awareness among concerned stakeholders.
- 5) Ten fellowships were provided to selected participant aimed at the production of high-quality programs on gender issues motivating women journalists working in community radios.

Analytical reflection:

The activities carried-out under the project contributed significantly to the capacity-building of women journalists as follows;

- 1) The produced training manual has been used as a toolkit by women journalists while producing gender sensitive programs. The manual is a pivotal resource material to conduct similar types of training and research in the future.
- 2) Trained women journalists are now able to produce programs tackling issues of gender equality and women's empowerment. Participants have started to analyze the contents of community radio stations integrating a gender perspective and producing gender sensitive programs ensuring equality. Women journalists have been trained to advocate for meaningful gender participation in the context of community radio stations prepare and implement the Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) policies as well as promoting a gender-friendly working environment.
- 3) Five consultations among owners, station managers, editors, and senior journalists were organized at district level. Stakeholders were made aware of the national and international instruments and legal frameworks addressing gender, social inclusion and responsibility in order to develop gender sensitive radio programs on their radio stations. Constrains faced by the owners and managers were shared with women journalists to find solutions collectively, concerning the promotion of gender sensitivity programs in community radio stations.
- 4) At the national consultation, the status of gender sensitivity in community radios at district level was disclosed. Key concerned agencies and decision makers (i.e. Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (ACORAB), station managers, Federation of Nepali Journalists, Press Council Nepal and media advocacy groups) participated in the consultation. The status of gender responsive programs of community radios, women's participation and the need to encourage a safe working environment were sketched-out in the consultation to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. Key stakeholders expressed their commitment aimed at promoting gender sensitivity in community radios through the implementation of existing policies and the formulation of additional guidelines.
- 5) This project remains meaningful in promoting gender equality in community radios, increase and balance the fair coverage of issues relative to women's development goals.

CHALLENGES AND KEY LESSONS

The project was successfully implemented and achieved the intended objectives. The political unrest in the Tarai region which perpetuated for over three months affected the implementation and timeline of certain activities. Identified districts such as Siraha, Kapilvastu and Rautahat were shifted to Banke, Kavre and Dolakha.

Some significant lessons were learned through the implementation of this project. For most of the women journalists working in community radios this were their first opportunity to explore gender sensitivity. However some of them were nevertheless producing radio programs based on their own understanding of the issue. The training has enriched their understanding and advanced their skill and knowledge. The newly recruited women journalists working in community radios gained the know-how on gender sensitivity programming that will benefit them in the long-run. Similarly, findings have unveiled that most of the owners, editors and senior journalists are now increasingly aware of gender sensitivity issues. Most of them have gained knowledge on the in/national instruments and legal frameworks addressing gender equality and women's empowerment. This has been identified as a crucial aspect, essential to build gender friendly community radio stations across Nepal.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION



Participants of the training in Dang district



Participants of the training in Kavre district



Training participants in group work in Dolakha district



Discussion with owner, station manager and journalists in Nepaljung

INTERIM REPORT FOR NATIONAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY THE NEW DELHI
CLUSTER OFFICE

Bhutan: CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT TO ENHANCE MEDIA SUSTAINABILITY IN BHUTAN

Budget Code: 9778354GLO5003.43

Amount approved: US\$ 16,994

Status: Ongoing

INTRODUCTION / RATIONALE

The IPDC priority addressed by this project is 'Capacity Development'. With the rapid growth of the media industry in Bhutan, the demand for skilled and experienced media professionals is growing. However, there is a high rate of turnover of the media professionals, and the few trained and experienced professionals are spreading thin into various organizations. In particular, training for media managers – especially related to the business management and media economics aspects of media development – are virtually non-existent. Consequently, the sustainability of media houses in Bhutan has emerged as a major challenge, further aggravated by the media's focus on the urban public, and the fact that production and distribution costs are rising while the prevailing limited quantity of advertising revenue, chiefly from the Government, must now be shared among an increasing number of media houses.

In order to help address this issue of media sustainability, it was agreed that the current IPDC project would comprise: (I) A 1-day seminar for BMCI staff and trainers on gender equality and mainstreaming gender in all BMCI training courses, including for this project. (II) A 3-day training course for 13 private media managers of media companies in business management issues. (III) A 3-day training course for 13 media staff in charge of advertising, sales, marketing and circulation on respective appropriate business skills. (IV) A 3-day training workshop for 13 senior reporters to impart essential skills in business reporting, with a view to increasing circulation and advertising revenue in urban areas. (V) A 3-day training workshops (in English and Dzongkha) for 13 reporters on identifying and reporting rural issues, with a view to increasing circulation in rural areas.

IMPLEMENTATION

The project activities are being undertaken as per the final work plan and budget submitted to UNESCO / IPDC. The trainers for the workshops were identified after a rigorous selection process.

- The first activity was a workshop on gender. Senior media professionals and gender focal persons of some agencies attended. The workshop helped BMCI become more sensitive to gender in terms of planning, the selection of candidates, curriculum design and selection of activities for the future. In addition, the media houses were sensitized on the importance of being gender sensitive in their overall content including both news and other content.
- The subsequent training workshops have been on rural reporting (in English and Dzongkha); media management; and advertising, sales and marketing. These have included both broadcast and print media. Although the selection of trainers with expertise in all platforms was difficult, the trainings were found to be very useful to understand the overall media scenario and help establish links between participants from different media platforms.

- 74 Bhutanese media professionals have been trained so far. The participation for the trainings has been very encouraging.

Analytical reflection

- Feedback collected at the workshops indicates that the activities have benefited the targeted media professionals. The project is also helping BMCI expand its networks among stakeholders and industry experts. BMCI invited the officials from the Ministry of Information and Communications on several occasions. Dasho Kinley Dorji, Honourable Secretary for Ministry of Information and Communications took a keen interest and interacted with both trainers and the participants. He also graced the closing and gave away the certificates for the training on media management.
- These training workshops have helped BMCI develop curriculum, course material and build linkages with a range of stakeholders. The experience has helped build BMCI's own capacity for planning, implementing and evaluating training workshops more efficiently.

CHALLENGES AND KEY LESSONS

- The training Rural Reporting trainings were conducted in Dzongkha and English separately and the idea was welcomed by all participants. The Dzongkha reporters could engage in workshop-related activities with greater ease and found it very useful and relevant.
- The main challenge faced by the Dzongkha trainer was the lack of Dzongkha terminology or reference materials for journalism.
- Key lesson is that while it is difficult to get enough participants for the trainings if a training institute conducts separate workshops for print and broadcast professionals, doing a joint workshop limits the time allocated for different platforms and only a limited number of relevant activities can be undertaken.
- Therefore, if possible, it would be more efficient to conduct the trainings for different platforms separately and to keep either a translator as an assistant trainer or conduct trainings in different languages separately as well.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

The reports for the training workshops along with feedback forms and photographs have been attached.



Training report on
Rural Reporting 201

INTERIM REPORT FOR NATIONAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY THE NEW DELHI CLUSTER OFFICE

Country: Sri Lanka

Project: **BUILDING CAPACITIES OF MEDIA TO INVESTIGATE POVERTY**

Budget Code: 9782354GLO5003.47

Amount Approved: USD 17,825

Status: Ongoing

Project implementing partner: Centre for Poverty Analysis

INTRODUCTION / RATIONALE

The media in Sri Lanka consists of all types of electronic and print media, communicating in Sinhala, Tamil and English. While the government owned media is politically inclined towards the incumbent government, private media organizations are not wholly independent either, as they too are often financed by individuals with political affiliations. Of the print media, newspapers have relatively limited circulation and as a result are heavily dependent on income from advertising leaving little space for thorough investigative journalism. Journalists in the country receive training mainly through the Sri Lanka College of Journalism, the Sri Lanka Press Institute and the Jaffna Media Resource and Training Centre which offer diploma courses in journalism; and the University of Colombo which offers a 1-year diploma for working journalists. A few other universities offer training in mass communications. However, there are very few, if any, that offer training for journalists reporting on specialized issues.

In addition to the limited understanding of poverty, media institutes allocate little or no budget for research-oriented investigative journalistic assignments, mainly due to financial constraints. The enthusiasm for investigative journalism with meticulous research done in the field by young and energetic journalists is dampened as a result. Reportages that are written/produced are largely based on limited and second hand information that is channelled to journalists.

IMPLEMENTATION

Description of activities implemented / outputs:

The Project on Building Capacities of Media to Investigate Poverty was envisaged by CEPA to work with journalists in the English, Sinhala and Tamil media. CEPA sourced an expert panel of journalists with extensive experience in development journalism (CVs attached). In CEPA's initial discussions with this panel, we found that the training and manual should ideally be targeted in Sinhala, Tamil and English if we were to be effective. It was also felt that a single manual in English would not be adequate. The budget provided by UNESCO covered one workshop and a single manual. This would not achieve the ultimate objective of building the capacities of journalists, particularly those working in the Sinhala and Tamil languages. Therefore, it was felt that in order to be effective, at least 2 separate workshops and a trilingual manual/3 separate manuals would be better.

Since this would require additional funds for production and time CEPA, with permission from the UNESCO regional office focused on sourcing funding for this from additional sources. We

explored different avenues and also applied for a Public Diplomacy Grant from the US Embassy in Colombo. Cepa is currently awaiting response on this proposal.

In the meantime, CEPA begun work on the manual – building up the structure and collating material for the manual. Sections of the manual have been translated into Sinhala and Tamil. The Manual will now be complete in early January and CEPA will call for applications from journalists at the same time. The workplan for the project has been revised according. (Revised workplan is attached).

CEPA has also networked with journalists attached to various media since the inception of the project. Of particular note is that CEPA attended different forums focusing on communicating development messages to journalists during this period.

- **Analytical reflection:**

Since the project is still not at a stage where the journalists have produced the outputs an analytical reflection at this point of time is not possible. However, it is expected that we will be able to work with at least 15 journalists in the different media. Also it is expected that the manual will feed to training of a further number of journalists through subsequent programmes.

CHALLENGES AND KEY LESSONS

The key challenges faced in our activities so far have been that of working simultaneously with the three languages. While we are especially keen to work with Sinhala and Tamil journalists, working on translations and getting appropriate material has been challenging.

A key lesson in the implementation of the project is the need to factor in additional time and subsequently funding when working with three different language groups. This is a key lesson that is now factored into the planning.

A further learning was the experience gained in our interactions at forums with young journalists and the media. This has informed our planning and provided insights into how to better focus both the material in the manual and delivery of the training.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Attached with this report is the revised work plan factoring in the changes. The names of panel and journalist assisting in the preparation of the manual: Expert Panel

- Mr Nalaka Gunawardene
- Mr Victor Ivan
- Mr Ameen Hussein
- Ms Hana Ibrahim
- Prof. Siri Hettige

Preparation of Manual

- Mr Kusal Perera (with assistance from members of the expert panel)

A soft version of the manual and the members of media selected for the training will be shared by CEPA in January.



CEPA Building
Capacities of Media

FINAL REPORT FOR NATIONAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY THE NEW DELHI CLUSTER OFFICE

Country: Regional

Project Title: **MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN THE MEDIA: LINKING CSO'S & THE MEDIA IN THE DEVELOPMENT SECTOR**

Budget code: 8025354GLO5002.58

Amount approved: US\$ 21,000

Status: Completed

Project implementing partner: Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (now renamed Public Media Alliance)

INTRODUCTION / RATIONALE

The media's handling of gender issues has an enormous effect on people's understanding and support of gender equality. It is therefore of paramount importance to equip media professionals with adequate knowledge and skills to address gender issues in all communication processes, and to report news in an objective and gender-sensitive manner. It is also important that the media work closely with Gender NGO's to promote the message more effectively through campaigns and key experts in this area. Media must come to value these resources in their communities as well as the NGO's who also must develop a relationship with the media to work together to promote gender equality in all aspects of life.

The workshop on Mainstreaming Gender in Media aimed to forge these stronger links between media organizations and NGOs working for female equality. It was held in New Delhi, India's capital from 16 to 20 February 2015, and attended by female and male journalists and NGO staff from Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka. The workshop was funded by the Public Media Alliance and UNESCO.

This project provided a forum for discussion between the media and NGO's as well as training for Gender NGO's and media professionals in order to promote a genuine and faire image of women by increasing gender perspectives in the media and strengthening its capacity to develop stories and campaigns which promote gender equality. The five-day workshop discussed what the media want from NGOs, difficulties encountered in covering gender issues, how to prepare an Interview including tackling difficult questions, how to write/produce a story/feature and what the elements needed, planning session on ideas for future programming/article, how can journalists and NGOs use social media to their advantages.

IMPLEMENTATION

Activities

- Two days seminar held for 9 journalists and 8 participants from Women's NGOs on the how media can be used to address women issues.
- Two and a half days workshop held for 9 journalists and 8 Participants from NGO's to impart them with skills need on gender sensitive programming.

- Two and a half days training for 9 journalists and 8 Participants from NGO's on how to produce and share content aimed at educating the public and raise awareness about gender and women's issues. Field visits of participants to local projects in India
- Discuss & Debate gender representation, good practices, content guidelines, international best practices
- Discuss Local Laws and regulations on gender, culture and media in each country represented and the role of media in social change and influencing issues.

The workshop was designed and delivered with a high level of interactive participation, using group work, discussion and brainstorming. Handouts were provided to reinforce some of the learning, and provide additional resources. Practical exercises and field work assignments were used to measure participants' understanding and application of skills and techniques. Evaluation questionnaires completed at the end of the workshops determined the effectiveness of the training and reflected changes in attitude, understanding and approach to both reporting on gender or initiating greater media coverage of these issues.

Summary of key learning points:

- Explore and develop issues around gender in this region.
- Examine editorial values and ethical and cultural issues affecting media coverage of these of these topics
- Foster responsible reporting of gender issues
- Encourage and enhance links between journalists/programme makers and NGOs
- Develop interviewing techniques, and production skills applied to covering these issues
- Develop media skills in NGOs so they are better able to attract media's attention, and get their important messages across
- Encourage reporters to promote stories on gender more effectively with their editors

Analytical reflection:

- Increased capacity and skills of journalists to report effectively on women's issues
- Increased skills of NGOs to communicate their important role in supporting and empowering women in this region
- Greater understanding among journalists of the role and work of NGOs
- Greater understanding among NGOs of the work and role of the media, and how they can help provide important content on women's issues, in a way that will attract the media.
- Strengthened links and networks between journalists and NGOs
- Enthusiastic engagement with the issues raised, and commitment from all participants to either collaborate on future programmes/articles, or some NGOs planned to start incorporating social media in their work, or film their own material to either offer to the media, or to use to gain more understanding of the issues.

CHALLENGES AND KEY LESSONS

We requested that broadcasters sent staff who had at least three years experience in their role, and who had an interest in reporting on gender issues. The workshop was aimed at both men and women. Those attending had a variety of roles - some were active programme makers, in Radio or TV. Two of our participants from Bangladesh Betar TV had broader roles, such as transcription director, and set designer. Unfortunately a few of our media participants, and one NGO participant who were based in Delhi could not attend on all five days, due to work pressures. A journalist due to attend from Sri Lanka also pulled out at the last stage due to ill health. Most of

our invited NGOs attended, again with a variety of roles and experience from a Communications director, to a CEO of the charity, Maitri. There were some language issues, as although we had asked for English speakers, one of our Sri Lankan NGOs and one of the media group from Bangladesh struggled and had to be helped by colleagues.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION





INTERIM REPORT FOR NATIONAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY THE NEW DELHI
CLUSTER OFFICE

INTRODUCTION / RATIONALE

INDIA: OUR PRACTICE – BUILDING CAPACITIES OF COMMUNITY RADIOS TO DOCUMENT GOOD PRACTICES THAT SUPPORT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Budget Code: 9779354GLO5003.44

Amount Approved: USD 17325

Status: Ongoing

Project Implementing Partner: IDEOSYNC MEDIA COMBINE

The IPDC priority being addressed by the project is **Innovation in convergence and integration of legacy media and new communications**. This project “Our Practice” proposes innovative documentation of good practice stories around Freedom of Expression, pluralism and diversity extant in CR stations in India, through the use of participatory content creation / participatory audio and video production methodologies. The project will support the use of innovative new media technologies like the mobile and the internet to enable community radio stations to create and share this body of work with each other and with the national and global community.

The project will enhance the capacity of community radio broadcasters across India to implement community radio’s potential in fostering the freedom of expression of all community members. As a part of this initiative, a total of 60 CR members, from 15 CR stations across the country, shall be trained at their respective radio stations, who will then produce quality video/audio documents that contribute to narratives around freedom of expression in the Community Radio sector in India.

IMPLEMENTATION

Sl.no	Activity	Description
1	Assigning Programme team	Ms. Venu Arora and Mr. Ramakrishnan Nagarajan assigned as senior Trainers on the project Ms. Himabindu Chintakunta and Ms. Jaimini Luharia Assigned as junior trainers on the project. The Programme team shall conduct the trainings at the selected CR stations and oversee the process of video/audio production
2	Call for Participation from CR stations across the country	Invitations were sent out to 40 CR stations across the country (based on Ideosync’s previous engagement and knowledge of with these stations and their participatory philosophies and principles), requesting them to send stories of their work that is reflective of ideals of Freedom of Expression. These stories were to be used for finalising the CR stations to be trained under the program.
3	Selection of final participant stations	The stories sent by each of the CR stations, were reviewed keeping in mind ideals of Freedom of expression i.e., diversity and plurality ; role of CR in representation of marginalised voices/issues ; gender sensitivity ; space for alternate voices, etc.,
4	Designing training curriculum	The 3-day training curriculum was designed to introduce the CR stations to the key ideas of Freedom of Expression in Community Radio ; identify stories from their community that contribute to

		Freedom of Expression and to equip them technically in producing quality audio and video diaries using mobile phones.
5	Identifying compatible mobile applications for video editing	Through rigorous search, the team narrowed on an easy to use mobile video editing application called VideoShow lab , which is compatible with the smart phones being used. This application allows the users to edit videos, offline (without being connected to web) and share the final videos on multiple online platforms.
6	Training sessions at respective CR stations	The 3-day training sessions will be implemented on-site at the respective CR stations over a period of 5 months between November and March.
7	Learning from first training	The first training IPDC training was conducted at Waqt ki Awaaz Community Radio station in Kanpur between 27th to 29th November 2015. This training helped strengthen the training curriculum.

- **Analytical reflection:**

The project will provide skills and knowledge to 60 representatives of 15 community radio stations to:

- Critically assess their daily practices in terms of freedom of expression within their stations and communities; and,
 - Using audio and video, to document and share those practices that enhance the freedom of expression; as well as
 - Share these good practices with a wider community broadcasting community through the Community Media Manch platform, a monograph and CDs.
- Detailed training curriculum has enabled us in engaging with the participants in discussing ideas like freedom, rights, bringing marginalised voices to the fore front and reflecting on ongoing debates around freedoms in relation to food, culture, religion, etc.,
 - Field visits during training for documenting stories from the community during practice sessions have worked well and have also helped the station in framing the stories they could narrate using the visual form.
 - The pre and post assessment evaluation method has been helpful in understanding the knowledge and efficacy of the participants around the central ideas of the training and also assessing self-efficacy of participants in using the visual medium to narrate stories from the community.

CHALLENGES AND KEY LESSONS

We are at an early stage of project implementation and trainings and hence are working towards strengthening the trainings and processes. We would be in a better position to identify challenges and concerns as we progress further with more CR stations. The only challenge the team has faced thus far was in identifying the stations, and in engaging them with the idea of freedom of expression to identify relevant stories. CR stations seem to be used to collating success stories that do not always reflect freedom of expression themes.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Here are a few visuals from the first training program conducted at Waqt ki Awaaz Community Radio station, in Kanpur Dehat



Figure 1: Glimpse from the training session



Figure 2: Participants working with visuals for story boards



Figure 3: Field practice on mobile phone

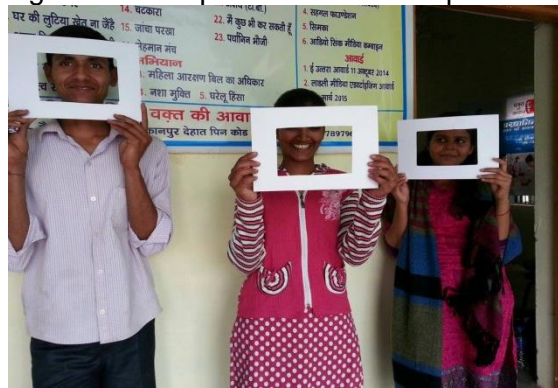


Figure 4: Frames and perspectives

Current Training plan dates finalised

Sl.no	Name of the Participant CRS	Training Schedule
1	Waqt ki Awaz, Kanpur Dehat, Uttar Pradesh	27 th – 29 th November 2015
2	Hamra MSPICM, Solan, Himachal Pradesh	17 th – 19 th December 2015
3	Radio Snehi, Siwan, Bihar	21 st – 23 rd December 2015
4	Tilonia Radio, Tilonia, Rajasthan	10 th – 12 th January 2016
5	Radio Madhuban, Rajasthan	28 th – 30 th January 2016

Report submitted by

Venu Arora

Ideosync Media Combine

For any clarifications please write to: varora@ideosyncmedia.org

INTERIM REPORT FOR NATIONAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY THE NEW DELHI
CLUSTER OFFICE

COUNTRY: Bangladesh

**BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS TO UNDERTAKE
PARTICIPATORY PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATION USING THE
COMMUNITY LEARNING PROGRAMME**

BUDGET CODE: 9777354GLO5003.42

AMOUNT APPROVED: USD 18,285.00

STATUS: Ongoing

PROJECT IMPLEMENTING PARTNER: RUPANTAR, Bangladesh

INTRODUCTION / RATIONALE

Within the framework of the IPDC project entitled 'Building the Capacity of Community Radio Stations to Undertake Participatory Programme Development and Communication Using the Community Learning Programme' and under the direct supervision of the National Programme Officer, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO New Delhi, Rupantar shall, with the cooperation of UNESCO New Delhi office, undertake activities to adapt and implement a participatory model of community radio (CR) programme production, the Community Learning Programme (CLP), to produce (non-health-related) programmes on citizens' rights and entitlements, and access to information on local governance.

IMPLEMENTATION

Description of activities implemented / outputs:

Two training workshops (4 days each) were organized on the CLP to train 42 CR broadcasters (three from each of 14 operational CR stations in Bangladesh) including the delivery of modules on field-level stakeholder engagement, practical research and content development.

The first workshop was organized at Rupantar Training Centre, Khulna, Bangladesh from 23 to 26 October, 2015. The second workshop was held from 4 to 7 November, 2015 at Caritas Development Institute (CDI), Dhaka, Bangladesh. 42 participants from 14 community radio stations participated in both the workshops.

(Refer to interim report and two workshop reports for details. These have been attached as supporting documents.)

Analytical reflection:

It has been observed that participants who had experience in the development and awareness-building activities have now developed the knowledge and skills to formulate content for Community Learning Programmes. Sessions on how to develop and formulate learning issue for community at local level was highly appreciated by the participants.

After completion of various training sessions it was found that participants realized the importance of Community Learning Programmes for sustainability of Community Radio. The participants

expressed high interest in content development and message formulation through field exercise for community development.

CHALLENGES AND KEY LESSONS

As a new partner of IPDC, Rupantar considers the following challenges for CLP

1. CLP is a new methodology for some of the community radio stations and for its personnel. It is a combined approach for both off air and on air that ensures participation of expert and community experience since community participation is big challenge.
2. The key role of CLP is to produce quality radio programmes developed through a participatory method.

Since Community Learning Programmes is new for most of the Community Radio Stations, the CR personnel will gradually become skilled. Simultaneously, continuous monitoring and mentoring will improve the effectiveness and efficiency.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION











INTERIM REPORT FOR NATIONAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY THE NEW DELHI CLUSTER OFFICE

Country: Bangladesh
Project title: **PROMOTING THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL IN BANGLADESH USING COMMUNITY RADIO**
Budget code: 8022354GLO5002.55
Amount approved: USD 18,000
Status: To be concluded on 31 December 2015
Project implementing partner: Centre for Communication and Development (CCD)

INTRODUCTION / RATIONALE

The Government of Bangladesh passed the RTI Act in 2009, but unfortunately no significant steps have been taken since to effectively implement and promote the Act. As a result, most of the people are still unclear about the benefits and applications of RTI.

As community radio (CR) in Bangladesh plays the important role of meeting local information needs it could help build public awareness about the principles and importance of RTI Act, and motivate citizens to seek necessary information from Government and non-Government organizations. It has been found however that most media gatekeepers and CR broadcasters in Bangladesh do not have a sound understanding of RTI practices and principles, and hence cannot effectively sensitize the public or promote the effective implementation of the RTI Act at the local level.

In this context, UNESCO New Delhi and CCD jointly prepared the present project to strengthen the implementation of the RTI Act at the local level and to sensitize and mobilize citizens to promote the Act with the active participation of CR stations and a comprehensive media campaign.

IMPLEMENTATION

The following outputs have been successfully achieved by the project:

- Under this project a number of training modules and schedule have been successfully prepared and utilized in the process of organizing the four training courses.
- A total of four training workshops on “Training on Radio Reporting and News Production on RTI Issues” and “Training on Radio Programs Production on RTI Issues” have been successfully organized where 65 potential news producers, reporters, program producers and presenters from 16 CR stations actively took part.
- The project trainees have produced a total of 64 news and reports as well as 64 programs on RTI related issues that will be broadcast from 16 CR stations in November and December 2015.
- A number of public representatives, administrative officials, academics and media activists have actively taken part in the project activities and have built strong interpersonal relations with the trainees of the project.

Analytical reflection:

- As a result of their active participation in the training program, a total of 32 news producers and reporters from 16 CR stations of Bangladesh have acquired skills, learning and capacity to produce various kinds of effective radio reports and news programmes on RTI issues.
- 33 programme producers and presenters from 16 CR stations have acquired skills, learning and capacity to produce different formative radio programmes on RTI issues.
- Through the project activities the trainees have been able to build strong interpersonal linkages with public representatives, administrative officials, academics and media activists.
- Finally, it can be said that this project has contributed significantly towards giving grassroots communities a voice and to help establish and ensure their information rights. It has also enabled a coordinated media / advocacy campaign for the effective implementation of the RTI Act at the local level in Bangladesh.

CHALLENGES AND KEY LESSONS

The political situation of Bangladesh was unstable for much of 2014, with political unrest and strikes. As a result, CCD was unable to arrange the training courses according to schedule. There were several date changes and postponements due to strikes – most participants for a particular workshop would have to come from another district, and that was not possible because of a strike. Hence UNESCO was requested to extend the project period up to 31 December 2015.

Findings:

- It was found from the training courses with CR broadcasters that CR personnel are not able to undertake good reporting and producing programs on RTI issues due to many constraints. Very few good reports and programs are also being done by the participants working in CR stations. From the discussion the participants agreed that they did not have easy access in government, non-government organizations and international donor agencies that are working in the field. But available and accurate information about the issues and access of concerned organizations is inevitable for community radio broadcasters to prepare good reports and programs. Sometimes lack of proper information and resources (like fund and concerned facilities etc.) hinders preparing good reports and programs on the issues.
- The participants viewed that, if someone cannot provide those facilities, they should not prepare a good report or program on this important issue. Without providing good report and programs mass people cannot be able to be informed and aware about the RTI Act and its principles. But due to above constraints they cannot prepare and broadcast excellent reports and programs on the issue.

Lessons learned:

These training programs revealed that most CR broadcasters are interested in and look favourably upon reporting and producing programmes on RTI issue. But this positive outlook is not reflected in their actual day-to-day functioning. Besides the lack of capacity, other reasons for this include:

- Lack of up-to-date information on RTI ACT and related issues
- Lack of specialized background among community radio broadcasters
- Low priority given to RTI issues by CR management generally
- Political and government administrative pressure to avoid these issues
- Perception that RTI is a sensitive issue
- CR broadcasters experience difficulty in obtaining information and data from government agencies, INGOs and NGOs on this issue

If CR broadcasters easy access to information related this issue and if they are oriented and trained up they can play the most effective roles in raising mass awareness on RTI related issues and also play significant role in promoting the implementation of RTI Act at the local level. Besides, providing better materials and increasing access to RTI related programs and projects would help CR broadcasters to promote the issue through their respective media.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION







