



2012 Annual Report

Free Press Unlimited

**FREE
PRESS
UNLIMITED**

People deserve to know

Key data

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Statement by the Chairman of the Supervisory Board

I am proud to present Free Press Unlimited's second Annual Report. While the main focus of the foundation's first Annual Report was the recent merger, this past year was dominated by further structuring and consolidation, as well as Free Press Unlimited's move to a new location in the heart of press city Amsterdam.

2012 was marked by innovation, new collaborative projects, wonderful initiatives and good momentum in the area of fundraising. Allow me to let a number of these projects pass in review. For example, in April, representatives of Free Press Unlimited travelled to El Salvador. Here, they brainstormed with journalists from the region about how we can help members of the press to stay safe while working. The issue was given further attention on 3 May in the Netherlands and ultimately resulted in a collaborative project with the Mexican branch of Article 19 in the field of digital security. Free Press Unlimited started up a number of new projects in Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco that are based on StoryMaker: a smartphone app that supports journalists in their professional activities. In partnership with Hivos and XS4ALL, Free Press Unlimited set up the Internet Protection Lab, a platform aimed at protecting the freedom of the Internet. So many funds have already been attracted for this initiative that we have assigned a staff member to it on a full-time basis. This puts online freedom firmly on the map as a policy theme. In the area of fundraising, we successfully bid on an EU project in Bangladesh. In addition, the organisation has set up new youth news bulletins in Nicaragua, Bolivia, Nepal and South Africa.

With respect to its internal organisation, Free Press Unlimited took a major step in 2012 by moving its offices to the centre of Amsterdam. The official opening was a resounding success, with many of our local and international relations taking the trouble to travel to the Dutch capital so that they could attend the event. The festive opening was the culmination of a year's hard work, in which the organisation managed to fill several challenging vacancies, implemented the FOCUS system and worked on the development of a coherent new organisational culture.

It has been an enervating and occasionally demanding year, but all in all, we can look back on 2012 with considerable pride. The fine results – both within Free Press Unlimited's internal organisation and in its operations in the field – would not have been achieved without the tremendous dedication of our employees, trainers, interns and volunteers.

Joop Daalmeijer
Chairman of the Supervisory Board



Men listening to Radio Dabanga in El Geneina, Darfur.

Management summary

Our structure has been set up; our vacancies filled. The quality of our procedures, projects and finances has been assured. Our projects are all running on schedule. The foundations of Free Press Unlimited are solid, and form a good starting point to look beyond our present confines – explore the unlimited possibilities of the media in a global context and broaden our horizons.

This new perspective was mainly prompted by changing political attitudes in the Netherlands towards development aid. In the wake of the 2012 elections, the Rutte II coalition government introduced major new budget cuts. Among other things, the government did away with the 0.7% standard for development aid, and the prospects of a new grant framework for civil society organisations after 2015 are bleak. Although it is unlikely that the government will tamper with the budgets that have already been allocated, its fickle attitude towards development aid has led to considerable anxiety among organisations working in this field.

Free Press Unlimited is no exception, but we prefer to face the future secure in our own abilities. We do not see ourselves as development aid agency, but rather as an organisation that uses the media as a tool to promote press freedom and democracy. After all, when the media are able to serve as a watchdog for the public interest, this makes a direct and tangible contribution to the freedom of the press and freedom of expression.

To deal with the challenges of the future, we will need to make a targeted investment in knowledge and quality. That is why over the next few years, we will be devoting a great deal of attention to the further professionalisation of

our organisation. And to reduce our financial dependency on the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we will also be focusing on raising income from other sources. To this end, we will seek out new private funding in the Netherlands and abroad. As of 2013, we have reserved funds in our annual budget for the engagement of a full-time fundraiser. While this draws substantially on our continuity reserves, we consider it an investment in Free Press Unlimited's future, with the ultimate objective of establishing a strong and financially solid organisation.

The future not only presents challenges, but also opportunities. Opportunities that as a relatively small and flexible organisation, we are eminently suited to take advantage of. We keep a close eye on various international trends, like the advance of mobile telecommunications technology – which is starting to play an incredibly important role in Africa – and digital freedom – which is an important issue the world over. In an increasingly repressive world, maintaining one's digital, physical and psychological security has become a key condition for journalists and other media activists to do their job. We work to promote this security: our StoryMaker and Internet Protection Lab initiatives are good examples of this focus.

We are convinced that Free Press Unlimited's role in the world around us is by no means played out – as long as we ensure that our work is all about the interests of the people in our project countries. Keeping this insight in mind, we face the future with confidence and optimism.

Leon Willems
Ruth Kronenburg

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This section focuses on Free Press Unlimited's organisation. Here, you can read how our organisation has been structured, what our mission, vision and strategy are, details on the composition of our workforce, who our target audiences are and how we try to reach them, and how we monitor and evaluate our projects. This information is provided in accordance with the guidelines of the fundraising supervisor Centraal Bureau Fondsenwerving (CBF) and the Dutch Good Governance Code for NGOs ('Code Wijffels').

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The second section goes into Free Press Unlimited's different projects in more detail, and offers both thematic and programmatic information. All our projects also relate to Free Press Unlimited's specific objectives, which we have categorised into six result areas.

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In this section, Free Press Unlimited accounts for its income and expenditure. Our aim is to spend at least 90% of our income on our programme objectives. This year, we once again succeeded in achieving this target: Free Press Unlimited currently spend 94% of its funds on concrete objectives. We are duly proud of this result. The Financial Report also shows an increase in the diversity of our funding sources. We have provided this Financial Report in the shape of an annual statement of accounts.

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A: Management report*

1. Introduction: Building on a solid foundation

In organisational terms, 2012 was characterised by Free Press Unlimited's further consolidation and professionalisation after its formation in the preceding year. The organisation introduced a number of new procedures and structures in 2012, as well as filling the two vacant positions of team leader so that its staff could make a real start on working in teams. And the management went in search of a new location for its head office, while remaining in close consultation with the staff. In addition, Free Press Unlimited devoted attention to the implementation of its project plans: the call for a simpler project procedure resulted in a new approach that primarily lightens the administrative burden for the Programme Coordinators, without negatively affecting the quality of the monitoring process.

Relocation to Amsterdam

At the end of 2011, a vast majority of Free Press Unlimited's employees indicated that they wanted to move the organisation's headquarters to Amsterdam. The lease contract for Free Press Unlimited's existing premises in Hilversum stood to expire in November 2012, which formed an excellent occasion to go in search of a suitable new location. On 1 November 2012, Free Press Unlimited moved its operations to its new offices at Weesperstraat 3 in Amsterdam. The new building has a number of attractive features: it is centrally located in the heart of the vibrant Dutch capital, and has excellent accessibility for those arriving by public transport. The interior of the office is remarkably open. The lay-out of the different office floors is eminently suited for flexible work arrangements, which Free Press Unlimited introduced in tandem with the relocation. As the building has a large canteen area in the basement, it is suited for in-house trainings for up to 30 participants at a time. The grand opening of the new head office took place on 13 December 2012. Mr Boudewijn Poelmann, Chairman and founder of the Nationale Postcode Loterij, was so kind as to do the honours.

*In compliance with CBF guidelines and Guideline 650

The end of a partnership

2012 was also marked by Free Press Unlimited's negotiations with Radio Netherlands Worldwide in the context of a further merger with the RNTC training institute. In 2011, a part of RNTC had been transferred to Free Press Unlimited, with the intention of further integrating the institute in the new organisation over the following year. Unfortunately, the parties' negotiations regarding this transfer ultimately broke down. Due to the Dutch government's decision to take Radio Netherlands Worldwide out of the national public broadcasting system and place it under the direction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Radio Netherlands Worldwide was forced to re-evaluate its existing strategy. Ultimately, this led to a decision to call off the merger of the remainder of RNTC with Free Press Unlimited. Consequently, the partnership agreement between two organisations, which expired as of 31 December 2012, has not been extended. For Free Press Unlimited, this meant that it was required to dismiss a number of its staff. The Executive Board, Supervisory Board and employees all greatly regret this turn of events.

New partnerships

In 2012, Free Press Unlimited formed a new alliance with Hivos and XS4ALL to establish the Internet Protection Lab. This international network of professionals has been set up to ensure that the Internet becomes and remains safely accessible to people the world over. Since its formation, the alliance has already attracted a variety of grants and donations. It presently employs one staff member on a full-time basis to lead the programme. But as far as partnerships are concerned, Free Press Unlimited's horizon extends well beyond Dutch borders, with a clear focus on international players. In our next annual report, we hope to report more about this new step. Free Press Unlimited has sublet part of its Weesperstraat premises to Greenhost. Free Press Unlimited had started up its collaboration with this private-sector firm as early as 2010, with Greenhost sponsoring the hosting of all Free Press Unlimited's websites. In 2012, the existing partnership was expanded further with a joint project for Syria. Now that both parties can be found under one roof, the doors are open for even closer collaboration.

2. Vision, mission, strategy

2.1 Free Press Unlimited's vision

Everyone has the right to impartial information

The idea that underlies this vision is set out in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948:

'Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.'

For most people around the world, access to reliable information is by no means a matter of course. Nevertheless, we all need impartial information, so that we can assess our personal situation and influence it. If you don't know what's happening around you, how can you make the right decisions?

2.2 Free Press Unlimited's mission

Free Press Unlimited's mission is to ensure that impartial news and information are and remain available to people across the globe. Particularly in countries where there is little to no press freedom. By supporting local media professionals and journalists, Free Press Unlimited aims to help people gain and keep access to the information they need to survive and develop. We focus on developing countries, fragile states and countries with a repressive regime, and work on the basis of the following core values:

- Independent;
- Inspirational;
- Inventive;
- Dedicated;
- Tailored approach.

2.3 Strategy

Free Press Unlimited collaborates in over 40 countries with local media partners – individuals and organisations – who can make a difference: the so-called change agents. They are at the forefront of new local developments and serve as catalysts for societal development. Free Press Unlimited supports these change agents in the development of their knowledge and skills in a number of different ways:

1. It strengthens the capacities of journalists and media professionals at the individual level.
2. It promotes durable media development, with a focus on independent or soon-to-be-independent partner organisations in the local media sector.
3. It develops journalism initiatives geared towards the professional provision of impartial information in areas that lack independent media outlets.
4. Under specific circumstances, the organisation offers small-scale and temporary assistance in acute crisis situations, so that journalists can continue to do their job and provide citizens with information. A major share of such aid focuses on security and free access to the Internet.
5. In addition, Free Press Unlimited facilitates the exchange of knowledge and experience between individual journalists in the Netherlands and developing countries.

2.4 Fundraising

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Free Press Unlimited is the grateful recipient of grants from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs until the end of 2015. In addition to providing funding via the Medefinancieringsstelsel – the Dutch government's grant framework for civil society organisations – the Ministry also supported a number of individual projects in 2012, like Free Press Unlimited's citizen journalism programme in Syria. In this programme, local citizens are trained to produce solid independent coverage of current developments to ensure the continued flow of information in the war-stricken country.



Broadening our horizons

However, it is expected that the Ministry's support will sooner decrease than increase over the course of this term. That is why Free Press Unlimited is successfully working to bring its projects to the attention of an increasingly large network of governmental, private and international funders. To ensure that we respond effectively and decisively to the many opportunities that present themselves in the area of fundraising, in 2012, we drew up a long-term strategy for our fundraising activities. Two core aspects of this plan are the step-by-step plan to prepare Free Press Unlimited for the period after 2015, and the new Continuous Professional Development Plan for the organisation's staff. In addition, to handle its fundraising, Free Press Unlimited recently appointed a full-time Donor Relations Officer.

National Postcode Lottery

In view of the substantial economy measures adopted by the second Rutte cabinet, the importance of income from private fundraisers like National Postcode Lottery has only increased. The support of this lottery and its participants is of unique value to Free Press Unlimited, as these funds have not only been pledged for a term of several

years, but because the donor also allows us to determine for ourselves how they are allocated. The National Postcode Lottery's funding of Free Press Unlimited's core organisation is not only highly appreciated – in view of current political developments, it also promises to play an increasingly important role in our foundation's continuity and independent status.

3. Internal organisation and human resources

3.1 Executive and Supervisory Boards

The activities of Free Press Unlimited's Executive Board are overseen by a Supervisory Board. In 2012, this Supervisory Board was formed by:

Mr Joop Daalmeijer	<i>Chair</i>
Ms Marietje Schaake	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
Ms Corine de Vries	<i>Member</i>
Mr Teus Eenkhoorn	<i>Member, Chair of the Financial Audit Committee</i>
Mr Huub Elzerman	<i>Member</i>
Mr Jan Hoek	<i>Member, with a seat on the Financial Audit Committee (until 21 September 2012)</i>
Mr Ronald Gijsbertsen	<i>Member (as of 14 December 2012)</i>

The Supervisory Board has appointed a number of its members to a Financial Audit Committee. This standing committee is made up of at least two members of the Supervisory Board and is entrusted with monitoring the foundation's financial situation. The Financial Audit Committee has audited Free Press Unlimited's annual accounts for 2012 and issued a positive opinion to the Supervisory Board. The Financial Audit Committee convenes at least once a year.

The Supervisory Board met three times over the course of 2012. In addition, the members of the Executive Board and the Chair of the Supervisory Board have met on a number of occasions for consultation on specific important topics. In September 2012, Mr Jan Hoek informed the Board that he wished to leave the Supervisory Board with immediate effect. This decision was ratified by the Board during its meeting of 21 September 2012. The vacant position has since been successfully filled through the appointment of Mr Henk Boer. Mr Boer was authorised by the Supervisory Board as a prospective member of the Financial Audit Committee to collaborate on the audit and approval of Free Press Unlimited's annual accounts for 2012. Appointment of a member shall be done by a

majority of the Supervisory Board in accordance with the Articles of Association. The term of appointment is four years and may be renewed up to three times.

Furthermore, through the intercession of Free Press Unlimited's staff representative body, Mr Ronald Gijsbertsen, the Director of the Dutch NGO SOMO, also came to strengthen the Supervisory Board in December 2012.

Pursuant to the foundation's Articles of Association, the tasks of Free Press Unlimited's Supervisory and Executive Boards have been carefully separated. The tasks and responsibilities of the Supervisory Board are set out in the Articles of Association, while those of the Executive Board are included in the Management Regulations. In accordance with its articles the supervisory tasks are separate from the day-to-day management. Maintaining supervision is one of the core tasks of the Supervisory Board while day-to-day management of the organisation is in the hands of the Executive Board.

The Executive Board is made up of:

Mr Leon Willems – *Chair of the foundation's statutory management (Director of Policy and Programmes)*

Ms Ruth Kronenburg – *Member of the foundation's statutory management (Director of Operations)*

The Executive Board meets on a monthly basis. Minutes are kept of these Executive Meetings.

The Supervisory Board is responsible for the appointment and remuneration of the Executive Board. In December 2012, the remuneration of the Executive Board was reassessed in accordance with the FOCUS system. In addition to the FOCUS system, the Supervisory Board also ensures that the remuneration is in accordance with the Recommended Remuneration Scheme Directors of Charities and the DG norm. The remuneration of the Executive Board was also under the DG norm in 2012.

3.2 Confidential Committee

In early 2012, Free Press Unlimited drew up and implemented its new Code of Conduct. This Code of Conduct establishes ethical standards for the behaviour of the organisation's representatives. The Code not only applies to the foundation's regular staff, but also to Free Press Unlimited's partners and trainers.

A permanent Confidential Committee has been formed on behalf of both the Executive Board and Free Press Unlimited's workforce to serve as a sounding board for complaints relating to issues of ethics and/or violations of the Code of Conduct that need to be handled with due confidentiality. Every year, the Confidential Committee reports to the Executive Board, the Supervisory Board and the staff representative body, at which time it may also submit proposed changes to the Code of Conduct. The following section offers a brief overview of the Confidential Committee's findings.

In the year under review, the Confidential Committee was approached on one occasion by a member of staff who felt that he or she had encountered verbal aggression in the workplace. This complaint was not escalated to an official status. The members of the Confidential Committee conferred among themselves about the employee's signal and subsequently communicated with the Executive Board on the matter. The Executive Board informed the Committee that it was aware of the incident and informed the Committee members which measures would be taken or had already been taken. During its review of the past year, the Executive Board indicated that the situation had presently been normalised. It stated it would continue to keep an eye on the issue, however. During this same annual review, the Executive Board filled the Confidential Committee in on its key strategic decisions and which consequences these decisions would have for the permanent organisation.

3.3 Staff representative body

In 2012, Free Press Unlimited's staff representative body counted four staff members:

Steven Assies	<i>Chair</i>
Niels ten Oever	<i>Member</i>
Petra Nederkoorn	<i>Member</i>
Tamara Lunacek	<i>Member</i>

The staff representative body regularly conferred with the Executive Board in 2012. Issues that were discussed during these consultations included terms of employment, the organisation's annual accounts and year plans and

Free Press Unlimited's relocation to Amsterdam. In addition, the meetings looked back on and evaluated the 2011 merger. In accordance with Free Press Unlimited's Rechtspositiereglement (regulations regarding the legal position of its staff), the staff representative body proposed a candidate for the Supervisory Board and the Confidential Committee. In November, the members of the staff representative body attended a two-day training that dealt with the role and tasks of the staff representative body, its authorities and its relationship to the people it represents. During the training, the participants also spent half a day examining how the staff representative body's deliberations with the Executive Board could be improved. This part of the training was also attended by the members of the Executive Board. The staff representative body organised a number of meetings that were attended by Free Press Unlimited's entire workforce. In addition, the staff representative body accounted for the policy measures it had taken in the most recent period in a staff newsletter published in July 2012.

3.4 Changes in the workforce

Free Press Unlimited's new structure following the 2011 merger is based on three teams:

- Journalism Initiatives;
- Participatory Media Development;
- Education and New Media.

All Team Leader vacancies were filled as of July 2012. In May, the organisation recruited Mr Wijnand van Velzen for the Education and New Media team, and in mid-July Mr Turan Ali started working for the Journalism Initiatives team. The Participatory Media Development team has already been headed by Mr Leon van den Boogerd since the merger.

Key data for 2012

Total number of FTEs as of 31 December 2012	:	44.4 ¹
Number of FTEs working for FPU	:	28.5
Number of FTEs working for Radio Dabanga	:	15.9

FTEs broken down according to positions within Free Press Unlimited:

Executive Board	:	2
Team Leaders	:	2.7
Programme Coordinators	:	10.6
Project Officers	:	5.8
Finance staff member	:	1
Controller	:	0.8
Secretariat/Office management	:	3
Communication	:	2.6
Number of female employees as of 31 December 2012	:	28
Number of male employees as of 31 December 2012	:	22
Number of interns in 2012	:	13
Number of volunteers in 2012	:	12
Number of employees who left FPU in 2012	:	10
Number of employees who joined FPU in 2012	:	15
Staff absence in %	:	6.26% ²
Average period of absence in days	:	18.20
Term of absence < 7 days (= short-term absence)	:	27
Term of absence > 7 days (= long-term absence)	:	16
Of which due to accidents	:	2
Pregnancy and maternity leave (not included in the absence data)	:	1

Employee absence was slightly higher in 2012 than in the preceding year. This was primarily due to a few more cases of long-term illness (four). Only one of these cases was work-related. Thanks in part to intensive support by both the Health & Safety Service provider and the responsible case manager within Free Press Unlimited, the employee in question was able to make a full return to work.

Volunteers

In 2012, 12 volunteers supported the activities of Free Press Unlimited, namely in the area of events. They did not receive any remuneration for this except for a contribution to travel expenses. A number of volunteers were well acquainted with Free Press Unlimited and had helped with an event before. Volunteers are given a special

volunteer contract stipulating their rights and obligations. The personnel policy at Free Press Unlimited is aimed at ensuring that volunteers and interns are treated as if they were employees.

3.5 Evaluation system and auditing

The FOCUS system, which came into effect in late 2011, was actually first put into practice in 2012. At the end of 2012, all members of staff were consequently evaluated according to the FOCUS methodology. On average, 90% of the staff achieved a '3' score, meaning that they satisfied the required standard. This score resulted in a salary increase of 2.5% as of January 2013. It is Free Press Unlimited's objective to support and/or train all staff members to such an extent that they achieve a minimum score of '3'. To realise this objective, the organisation has set up an ambitious training plan, the so-called '**Continuous Professional Development Plan**' (CPDP). This plan is intended to maintain and even raise the professional level of Free Press Unlimited's staff. Partly in view of expected developments in the field of international development aid, the organisation believes it is wisest to keep training its own staff.

External auditing

Every year, the quality of Free Press Unlimited's operational management is assessed by three independent parties:

- Dubois & Co – Free Press Unlimited's external auditor primarily focuses on evaluating the organisation's financial management and reporting.
- LRQA - Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance primarily assesses to which extent Free Press Unlimited satisfies the requirements for the ISO 9001 quality standard. Free Press Unlimited's current certification is valid until 24 April 2015 and is subject to annual interim assessments.
- CBF – Every year, the fundraising supervisor Centraal Bureau Fondsenwerving (CBF) checks whether Free Press Unlimited satisfies the requirements for CBF charity certification. This also includes compliance with the Dutch Good Governance Code for NGOs ('Code Wijffels'). Free Press Unlimited's current CBF certificate is valid until the end of July 2014.
- Plan Netherlands – As the main applicant of the Child Rights Alliance, Plan Netherlands has also conducted an audit at its fellow alliance member Free Press Unlimited. This audit concentrated on a number of points, including good governance and project management. Free Press Unlimited achieved a good score on all points.

1 FTE = Full-time equivalent, equalling a workload of 38 hours per week.

2 On the basis of 42.4 FTE x 5 work days over the course of 52 weeks.

3.6 Internal communication

The communication department has made an inventory of the employees' different communication requirements. These subsequently served as a starting point for various initiatives aimed at improving the organisation's internal communication process. Work is underway on a practice-based communication manual for Free Press Unlimited's staff and collaborators. In addition, over the course of 2013, Free Press Unlimited will be taking a number of steps in the context of its Continuous Professional Development Plan to optimally involve the employees in its vision and mission. A separate communication plan was drawn up for communications relating to the organisation's move to Amsterdam. Among other things, the communication department used an internal newsletter, field trips and site visits to involve the staff more closely in the upcoming relocation.

Internal meetings

Within Free Press Unlimited itself, a number of platforms were set up to promote the internal exchange of knowledge and information. We launched informal 'Ping' meetings to give members of staff an opportunity to catch up and celebrate the organisation's achievements. And through its new 'Food for Thought' meetings, the organisation has reserved time to present and discuss project results, innovative ideas and new partnerships. In addition, Free Press Unlimited organised a number of one-off information meetings for educational purposes.

3.7 Knowledge management, planning, monitoring, evaluation and institutional learning

Free Press Unlimited's Monitoring Protocol

Over the course of 2012, Free Press Unlimited consolidated its Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation system, which the organisation had introduced in 2011. The Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation system serves as the foundation for Free Press Unlimited's general accountability, steering and learning processes.

All Free Press Unlimited projects are gauged on the basis of this general Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation framework with respect to the following results:

1. Representatives of specific vulnerable groups and/or civil society organisations have the capacity to use and produce media content;
2. Media organisations have been strengthened and enjoy an improved relation with their audience;
3. Media support organisations have been strengthened;
4. Media platforms/networks involving a variety of social actors (including civil society organisations and media organisations) are stable and operational;
5. Reliable information is provided in specific situations where press freedom is under pressure;
6. Individual journalists/bloggers are able to safely and securely produce high-quality media content.

The universal monitoring protocol serves as a base for all existing and future reporting processes, including the production of Free Press Unlimited's year plans and Annual Reports.

Country Programmes

In July 2012, Free Press Unlimited introduced new project templates. Among other things, this led to the implementation of new annual Country Programmes. In many countries, Free Press Unlimited works with multiple partners on a variety of projects. The Country Programmes offer a cohesive underlying vision for these operations and allow Free Press Unlimited to further coordinate its local activities and improve relations between local partner organisations. This in turn increases the impact of our work.

This new procedure brings activities and projects funded by the EU and other donors in line with projects organised within the Dutch government's grant co-financing framework. Free Press Unlimited's Programme Coordinators prepared the organisation's first Country Programmes, which relate to 2013, in the autumn of 2012. These Country Programmes are currently being implemented. Over the course of this implementation period, specific parts of the programmes may be adjusted in response to our experiences in the field.

New Quality Manual

Free Press Unlimited also worked on the production of a new Quality Manual in 2012. This handbook sets out how





Ralp León Arias working for Napa, the Peruvian edition of Kids News.

the organisation has structured its quality management system to meet the requirements for ISO certification. The Quality Manual focuses on a number of operational processes, including:

- The evaluation of the preceding year's ISO review;
- Quality assurance (indicators/facts/incidents/complaints/objectives/corrective and preventive action);
- The Customer Satisfaction Survey;
- Project management;
- Objectives in the current year;
- Audits (internal and external);
- Supplier evaluations;
- Quality-related activities.

The Quality Manual was presented to the staff in February 2013.

Knowledge creation, knowledge management and learning

Free Press Unlimited aims to develop a consistent knowledge creation and knowledge management system and to effectively structure its learning processes. In 2011, it gave concrete shape to this ambition through the appointment of a new Quality and Knowledge Coordinator, who also fulfils the role of Learning Facilitator.

In 2012, the Quality and Knowledge Coordinator started drawing up a five-year strategic plan for Free Press Unlimited that is intended to promote knowledge creation and management and to increase the organisation's learning potential. The basic framework of this long-term plan will be rounded off in 2013.

Continuous Professional Development Plan

In late 2012, Free Press Unlimited rounded off work on its Continuous Professional Development Plan. The Continuous Professional Development Plan is an integral part of the aforementioned five-year strategic plan to improve knowledge creation, knowledge management and institutional learning within Free Press Unlimited. The organisation made a start on the Plan's implementation in January 2013.

A Continuous Professional Development Plan is of crucial importance to an organisation's survival and continued success. This is especially true for Free Press Unlimited, which operates in a highly competitive sector that is confronted with growing cuts in public funding from national and international government bodies. It is paramount that the organisation explores and attracts new sources of income. To achieve this,

we need to be acknowledged experts in our field and develop a strong reputation for innovative high-quality projects, products and approaches. In an ever-changing world – and particularly in the world of development aid – organisations need to combine flexibility with professionalism. But above all, they need to specialise. By combining these three strengths, Free Press Unlimited will be able to make a difference and present clear added value in a competitive sector.

Matters addressed by Free Press Unlimited's Continuous Professional Development Plan include persuasion and learning, storytelling, creativity techniques, media/broadcasting awareness and skills (including formats), training awareness and skills, photography, the layout of reports, writing in English, project management, cross-cultural communication and dealing with resistance. Participation in the workshops and learning events organised in the context of the Continuous Professional Development Plan is mandatory for all members of the relevant target group.

Off-site meeting

On 7 February 2012, Free Press Unlimited organised an off-site meeting in Amsterdam for the entire staff body. The main purpose of this meeting was to bring colleagues up to date on a number of subjects and to exchange knowledge. The subjects discussed included Free Press Unlimited's strategic communication, digital security, the new project assessment procedures, the preparation of the organisation's first Annual Report and a look back at the trainers network meeting held in December 2011. Regarding the latter, one of the views expressed during the off-site meeting was that when working to strengthen its trainers network, Free Press Unlimited should look beyond traditional training programmes and also explore other forms of instruction and exchange. In addition, the discussion moved towards the role of the trainers themselves. In light of changing contexts and needs, today's trainers are frequently expected to fulfil the role of 'learning facilitators' rather than 'traditional teachers'.

At the end of the meeting, the participants briefly evaluated the day's results. They agreed that the organisation could benefit from further opportunities for debate and discussion. Future off-site days should consequently provide more room for such interaction.

'Food for Thought' meetings

Free Press Unlimited organised its first 'Food for Thought' (F4T) meeting in 2011. These meetings are intended to provide the staff with an opportunity to share experiences, compare approaches and discuss interesting work-related subjects while enjoying lunch or coffee together. In addition, the sessions offer a platform for reflection, debate and joint learning. The 'Food for Thought' meetings have proven an interesting formula. No less than twelve F4T meetings were organised in 2012. The subjects that were presented and discussed during these meetings included:

- The SMS Platform in Uganda;
- Experiences gathered at the Mozambican weekly newspaper @verdade;
- The Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN);
- Safety and security for journalists in Mexico and Central America;
- Digital Safety;
- The Zimbabwean women's portal HerZimbabwe;
- The IMCK in Iraq;
- Radio Dabanga and Radio Tamazuj;
- Open Source and Open Standards;
- The future of local media in the digital age;
- Investigative journalism in Morocco.

Free Press Unlimited plans to further fine-tune the organisation of the 'Food for Thought' meetings, in order to promote thinking out of the box and joint learning. To this end, it prepared a brief evaluation of the F4T concept in late 2012. This evaluation included a survey among Free Press Unlimited colleagues, which was held in January 2013. The results of the evaluation and possible follow-up steps will be shared and discussed with the staff.

Participation in national and international conferences, meetings and workshops

In the year under review, Free Press Unlimited representatives also contributed to a number of international and national conferences, meetings and workshops that were not directly connected to the organisation's projects. Participation in these events allowed Free Press Unlimited to further strengthen its network, gain insight into new developments and changing contexts in the relevant sectors, and coordinate its activities with other organisations and stakeholders.

Events attended by Free Press Unlimited representatives in 2012 include:

- International Conference on the Protection of Journalists in Dangerous Situations, Doha, Qatar, organised by Qatar's National Human Rights Committee;
- NGO Security Conference, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, organised by the Centre for Safety and Development;
- Roundtable meeting to discuss concrete steps to strengthen professional journalism in Azerbaijan, organised by the European Union/Council of Europe;
- MIPJunior, Cannes, France – Networking with international television production companies;
- Highway Africa Conference, Grahamstown, South Africa, organised by Rhodes University;
- Annual conference for Arab Investigative Journalists, Cairo, Egypt, organised by ARIJ;
- Second UN Inter-Agency Meeting on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, Vienna, Austria;
- France Expertise Internationale (FEI) Partner Meeting, Paris, France.

Partner Satisfaction Survey

Free Press Unlimited held its first Partner Satisfaction Survey in late 2012. To this end, the organisation joined a group of 16 Dutch NGOs that participated in a joint survey focusing on their respective partners' appreciation of them. The group survey was performed by the UK firm Keystone in November and December 2012. The polling process was coordinated by the organisations Partos and Resultante. The results of the group survey were presented in individual reports, which were published in early 2013. In Free Press Unlimited's individual report, its



Trainer Jack Jansen at the Multimedia Training in Tbilisi, Georgia.

partner ratings were compared to the benchmark scores of a group of 46 comparable NGOs, as well as those of the benchmark group of 16 participating Dutch NGOs.

Free Press Unlimited invited 75 existing and former partners to take part in the survey. Of this group, 20 existing and former partners complied. This response rate of 36% matches the average response rate for the Dutch NGOs as a group. In a comparison of Free Press Unlimited's performance and that of other NGOs and funders in a number of key areas, the organisation ranked 3rd out of 46 in terms of 'overall satisfaction'. These key reference areas were financial support, non-financial support, administration, relationship and communications, understanding and learning and overall satisfaction. This satisfying score encourages us to make an even harder effort in the years ahead.

3.8 Trainers and consultants network

Free Press Unlimited's network of trainers and consultants plays a key role in the institutional strengthening of Free Press Unlimited's local partners and the promotion of good governance and press freedom in over 40 countries worldwide. The trainers and consultants sent out by Free Press Unlimited serve as the ambassadors of the organisation and contribute to the realisation of

its vision and mission. They are crucial to the successful development of local partners into autonomous media organisations that can effect a real change in local people's lives.

For this reason, Free Press Unlimited uses the activities of its trainers and consultants network to foster a sense of common purpose based on shared values and goals. Free Press Unlimited's on-going efforts to build this network and involve trainers and consultants as far as possible in its daily operations help to build team spirit and maintain quality at a consistently high level.

In 2012, the trainers and consultants network handled no less than 91 training and advisory programmes in connection with Free Press Unlimited's support to its partner organisations. The programmes were attended by people from 34 countries. Around a quarter of the trainers and consultants involved were local experts. In the remainder of the cases, Free Press Unlimited engaged the services of European or North American trainers and consultants.

Besides offering basic journalism, investigative journalism and journalism production training courses, in 2012, Free Press Unlimited organised additional courses relevant

to the specific situation of our partners among which: conflict-sensitive journalism; digital security; editorial strategies; election reporting; financial sustainability/ marketing; multi-media approaches; safe reporting and social media use.

3.9 Free Press Unlimited's Safety and Security Policy

In 2012, media professionals and media activists once again faced the challenge of making – and keeping – reliable news available to everyone.

Free Press Unlimited works in over 40 countries, many of which are considered medium- to high-risk areas by national governments and international non-governmental organisations.

Death threats to members of the press in Mexico, the intimidation of radio broadcasters in Mali, the on-going state of high alert in Somaliland, threats to kidnap the children of journalists in Central America and the volatile security situation in countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan and South Sudan are just a few examples of the incidents faced by Free Press Unlimited and its partners on a daily basis.

To make sure that programmes in these regions can be effectively implemented, all parties involved need to have sufficient awareness of potential safety and security issues. Free Press Unlimited has taken a number of measures to raise safety awareness and take due care of its staff in this context.

In 2011, Free Press Unlimited adopted a security programme that includes a general policy, security trainings, a travel checklist, a travel security plan, a field security plan, a staff profile form and various guidelines for using social media. The field security plan for several countries was updated in 2012 to reflect the changed situation in the field.

In addition, Free Press Unlimited has arranged a special travel insurance for its employees, as well as offering them the option of attending a three-day basic security course that prepares the participant for travel in medium- and high-risk areas. By the end of 2012, over 80% of the employees had attended this course. The organisation also provides specialist psychological assistance at the employee's request or in the event of trauma.

Raising safety and security awareness is an on-going process. Therefore, Free Press Unlimited regularly organises meetings in which employees are brought up to date on various issues that relate to safety and security – both physical and digital.

Realistic security assessments play a crucial role in the successful implementation of projects supported by Free Press Unlimited. In addition to participating in meetings, workshops and conferences organised by the Dutch Security Network, Free Press Unlimited subscribes to the information services of the international risk mitigation company AKE. The AKE updates and news reports help Free Press Unlimited to gain a better idea of potential risks and increase its staff's knowledge and awareness. Local security coalitions in regions where Free Press Unlimited has a permanent presence provide the necessary support in cases where quick decisions or more detailed knowledge are required.

In 2012, Free Press Unlimited was asked by various government bodies, non-governmental organisations and international institutions to provide trainings and share expertise and background information about a number of safety and security issues.

In the year ahead, Free Press Unlimited plans to continue providing its employees and partners with the tools and knowledge required to work in volatile, high-risk regions. The safety of our staff, local partners and network members is of paramount importance to us, and it will continue to be a fundamental point of departure in our activities.

3.10 Financial policy Free Press Unlimited

In the last few years, Free Press Unlimited has constantly strived at generating 25% more from donors other than the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, always with success. This was also the case in 2012, when it was 39%. Given the political climate, the Free Press Unlimited policy is aimed at increasing this percentage to 60% after 2015. To achieve this we must put a lot of effort into fundraising in the coming years.

Financial policy is also focused on allocating the revenues as much as possible to the objectives of the organisation so that as little as possible is used for overheads. To this end, the organisation strives to be as efficient and effective as possible. In 2012, 95.84% was spent on objectives.

Reserves policy

The Supervisory Board and the Executive Board agreed to a reserves policy that basically comes down to a continuity reserve equal to one year of operating costs. What this actually means is a continuity reserve of 1.9 million euros. Since the merger in 2011, Free Press Unlimited has shown itself to be able to increase the continuity reserve. Per 31 December 2012 the balance is 1,274,674 euros.

4. Communication: Getting our message out

Communication is of crucial importance to Free Press Unlimited's operations. Our audience, our donors and supporters deserve to know what we are working on. We work hard to keep them informed of our latest achievements. Because without their involvement and support, we would be nowhere. In addition, we aim to create a distinct profile for Free Press Unlimited within the wider array of charitable organisations: show people who we are and what we stand for. Because we are proud of our mission, our specific expertise, our local partners and the results we achieve.

Well begun is half done

What do you think of when you hear the name Free Press Unlimited? Freedom of the press? Courageous journalists around the world who need our help? Priming the flow of impartial information in those regions where this is of vital importance? Over the past year, Free Press Unlimited's communication department has worked hard to increase the organisation's brand recognition and draw attention to Free Press Unlimited's vision and mission. And with good results: the work of Free Press Unlimited and its partners enjoyed considerable exposure in the Dutch media in 2012. In addition, the organisation received a growing number of requests to provide speakers for conferences and guest lectures. Both developments can be taken as signs that Free Press Unlimited is becoming better and better known, and that its 'brand' is associated with the right themes. This growing reputation should not be underestimated, as brand recognition and public affinity with an organisation's key themes play a major role when it comes to attracting new sponsors and funds.

In 2012, the communication department's main objectives were:

- To inform our donors, partners and the general public about Free Press Unlimited's results and operations;
- To put Free Press Unlimited's themes on the agenda of relevant target audiences;

- To promote the organisation's brand recognition and brand identity among relevant target audiences;
- To attract new private donors.

In 2012, Free Press Unlimited primarily communicated with the following audiences:

- Administrators and members of staff of public and corporate funders;
- Private donors;
- Students of Journalism, Political Studies and other relevant degree programmes;
- Journalists and media professionals in the Netherlands;
- Partners who work together with Free Press Unlimited in the Netherlands and abroad;
- Policy-makers, public officials and decision-makers in the Netherlands, Europe and beyond.

We utilised the following instruments in this context:

- **Website:** Interested parties could visit our website to read articles and interviews with local partners and browse through information on our projects and our organisation.
- **Annual Report:** We produced two versions of our Annual Report (a full version and a summary for the general public), which were used to communicate the results of our projects and our current financial situation to our institutional funders and private donors.
- **Newsletter:** Every six months, we sent out a newsletter to our relations and donors that brought them up to date on developments in the organisation and our current projects.
- **Events and conferences:** Through a variety of events in the Netherlands and abroad, we called people's attention to our work and to the issue of press freedom in general. We both organised events ourselves and developed a large number of workshops, presentations and public appearances for external conferences and events.

- **Lectures:** Our Programme Coordinators held numerous guest lectures at research universities and universities of applied sciences, in which they explained to the students why our work is so important, offered them insight into our activities and engaged them in debate about these operations.
- **Free Publicity:** We gained considerable media exposure for the results of our projects in the media, both by issuing general press releases and contacting individual journalists directly;
- **Social Media:** To raise Free Press Unlimited's profile across the board, we generated attention for our events, our activities and our themes via various social media platforms, as well as launching a Facebook campaign.
- **Mailings:** To attract new donations and increase our recognition, we sent out a total of three mailings to potential donors.

Results

Two gauges for the success of the activities of the communication department are Free Press Unlimited's exposure in the media and the number of times the organisation was contacted with requests for information or expertise. 2012 was a good year for Free Press Unlimited in terms of free publicity.³ Our press releases were well received and our staff members were invited to appear in the media more often than in preceding years. On one occasion, Leon Willems' appearances on the radio in connection with our work in Syria even resulted directly in new donations.

The growing number of times we were asked to provide information, organise an educational project or contribute to an event also indicates that more and more people are becoming aware of Free Press Unlimited's work, and that we are also associated with the right themes and issues: press freedom and the importance of free media in conflict areas.

However, attracting a significant number of new donors proved more complicated in 2012. Free Press Unlimited is faced with an ageing donor base, while at the same time it is difficult to motivate young people to donate funds. The mailings that were sent out to recruit new donors did not yield the intended response and hardly resulted in any new donors. In contrast, we had no difficulty whatsoever recruiting new volunteers, trainers and interns, and we were able to attract large numbers of visitors to our events and negotiate substantial discounts from our suppliers. For the time being, the recruitment of new donors is clearly

a point of attention, but it is heartening to see how many people are prepared to lend their time and expertise to our cause free of charge.

Guest lectures by Free Press Unlimited

In 2012, Free Press Unlimited participated in 26 third-party events. Twelve of these involved guest lectures, ranging from a local freedom festival for group 8 primary school students, to workshops for the University of Amsterdam. More specific and specialist subjects were dealt with during a number of lectures organised for the Dutch United Nations Student Association (SIB) in Utrecht ('What can a real journalist do in conflict areas?') and Maastricht University ('What can press freedom achieve?').

Communication relating to the National Postcode Lottery

A special target audience of Free Press Unlimited's communication activities is formed by the participants in the lottery National Postcode Lottery. Working in partnership with the National Postcode Lottery's communication team, we inform these participants about our collaboration, projects, and the results Free Press Unlimited is able to book thanks to the lottery's generous financial support.



Free Press Unlimited's stand at the 2012 World Press Freedom Day event.

³ Please refer to the Appendix 2 "Free Press Unlimited in the media 2012".

One special collaborative project that was set up in 2012 was the Nationale Postcode Loterij Journalists' Fund, which is managed by Free Press Unlimited. The main objective of this fund is to maintain the flow of information about social and environmental issues in developing countries – even when they cannot be directly linked to current news reports. The Dutch public also deserves to know what is going on in the world at large. Dutch journalists could apply to the Nationale Postcode Loterij for a maximum of EUR 5,000 as funding for a foreign news report. The relevance and quality of the various applications was assessed by an independent committee. This fund enabled a total of 12 journalists to travel abroad and resulted in 26 foreign news articles in 2012.

Decision-makers

To get press freedom and media development on the agenda around the world – and keep them in the public eye – Free Press Unlimited maintains close contact with politicians, public officials and decision-makers in the Netherlands, the US and Europe. The nature of our work enables us to effectively share and exchange knowledge about a large number of countries and regions, and to quickly get in touch with the right people when we need to take action on behalf of people who need our help. Furthermore, we can fall back on a solid network of international organisations that work to promote the safety of journalists the world over.

Relations with the Royal Netherlands Embassies

2012 saw intensive collaboration between Free Press Unlimited and Dutch embassies in a number of the countries we are active in. In these collaborations, both parties worked from their respective responsibilities and from a shared ambition to promote freedom of expression and press freedom at the local level. Throughout the year, Free Press Unlimited's Programme Coordinators regularly conferred with embassy staff with regard to priorities and developments relating to press freedom in the countries Free Press Unlimited is active in. The organisation's relationship with the Dutch government can be characterised as layered and creative – with a clear focus on joint results where possible, and critical debate where necessary.

In 2012, two partnerships stood out in particular:

- Free Press Unlimited worked together with the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Costa Rica on the organisation of a seminar in San Salvador (El Salvador) that brought together journalists from four Central American countries and Mexico who had been subjected to violence or intimidation during their work. This seminar

led to a new Free Press Unlimited policy that focuses on providing psychosocial aid in tandem with emergency assistance to journalists who are a victim of intimidation within an integrated programme. The Dutch embassy in Costa Rica both supported the conference and subsequently announced a new human rights programme for Central America.

- In 2012, the organisation also consulted extensively with representatives of the Netherlands in Syria, Turkey and Lebanon to determine whether anything could be done to alleviate the dramatic situation in Syria. The parties ultimately decided to provide joint support to a large number of media activists in this region in the form of trainings and material assistance, particularly in the area of access to the Internet and secure communication.

Various other joint activities deserve mention. In Egypt, Free Press Unlimited started up a media monitor. With a bi-monthly report it carefully monitors the development of the media landscape in Egypt after the revolution, providing valuable information on the results of media development efforts.

The Dutch embassy in Sudan played an important role in providing substantive funds to our Radio Dabanga project. In the Caucasus, the Ambassador to Georgia, Mr P.J. Langenberg, opened a multi-media summer school project in which young people from three countries work together in joint multimedia projects. In addition, Free Press Unlimited established contacts with local actors in Burma and Rwanda for the benefit of projects relating to elections and improvement of press freedom in these countries.

Free Press Unlimited events

The support and sympathy of the Dutch public are of vital importance to Free Press Unlimited's operations. In 2012, the foundation organised two events for the general public, to draw people's attention to the importance of press freedom and make the issue more real to a broad audience of media professionals, students and other interested parties.

3 May 2012: World Press Freedom Day – Untold Stories

Every year, the international community celebrates World Press Freedom Day. Across the globe, local press freedom organisations organise meetings and other public events that focus on this important issue. In the Netherlands, Free Press Unlimited works together with a committee that includes representatives of the Dutch Association of Journalists (NVJ), the Persmuseum and NDP Nieuwsmedia. The 2012 event centred on 'Untold Stories'. Taking the local media situation in Mexico and Turkey as a point of



Teun van de Keuken, Cees Zoon and Elia Baltazar talking about journalists who work under pressure in Central America.

departure, we examined what happens when violence against members of the press is so extreme that stories are left untold and people are no longer adequately informed about what is going on in their own country. The 2012 press freedom lecture was held by Yasemin Çongar, Deputy Editor of the Turkish newspaper Taraf, who spoke about some of the stories that were left untold in her country over the years. The evening programme included

contributions by, among others, Mexico correspondent Cees Zoon and the Mexican journalist Elia Baltazar, who told which impact the extreme violence against members of the press in Mexico and Central America has had on the local news coverage. More stories are left untold than told, and by now, journalists are so scared for their own safety and that of those near to them that self-censorship has become the order of the day.

A number of well-known Dutch journalists contributed to the event programme, including Teun van de Keuken, Patrick Lodiers, Marjon van Rooijen and Cees Grimbergen.

After the plenary programme, attendees had the opportunity to take part in various workshops based on the theme 'Untold Stories'. In the 'newsroom' that had been set up for the day, students reported on the event under the guidance of experienced editors. The 2012 World Press Freedom Day and Press Freedom Night events were attended by over 500 people. Sadly, the clear relevance of what had been discussed throughout the day was confirmed that very evening: by the end of World Press Freedom Day, three new journalists had been murdered in Mexico.



Yasemin Çongar holding the 2012 Press Freedom Lecture on 3 May in Amsterdam.



Boudewijn Poelmann, co-founder and Chairman of the National Postcode Lottery, and Leon Willems at the official opening of Free Press Unlimited's new offices in Amsterdam.

13 December 2012: Knowing is everything – Free Press Unlimited's housewarming party

Having outgrown its old headquarters in Hilversum, in 2012, Free Press Unlimited moved together with the editorial team of Radio Dabanga to a new location in Amsterdam. In the heart of the bustling Dutch capital, Free Press Unlimited has set up a new nerve centre for its numerous operations across the globe. To celebrate this new stage in its development, Free Press Unlimited organised a special evening for old friends and new acquaintances. The organisation's new premises were officially opened by Boudewijn Poelmann, the co-founder and Chairman of Nationale Postcode Loterij, one of Free Press Unlimited's key supporting partners. After this, the floor was handed to Karim Amer, the producer of the documentary *The Square*. Mr Amer talked about the realisation of this widely-discussed film: starting from Cairo's Tahrir Square, the documentary makers followed a number of people who took to the street in early 2011 to fight for their freedoms. Mr Amer's presentation, which included never before shown footage of Tahrir Square during the protests, made a deep impression on the audience. After his presentation, the attendees could watch a sneak preview of *The Square*, and reflect with Karim Amer on this unique period in time.



Karim Amer, producer of the documentary *The Square*, talks about his film at the opening of Free Press Unlimited's new premises.

B: Programme report

Changing contexts: An introduction

Free Press Unlimited further expanded its programme in 2012, as well as introducing a number of innovations. These innovations mainly centred on digital freedom of expression and security. The organisation started up a large-scale human rights programme in the Arab world. The introduction of a new smartphone app enabled a growing group of digital dissidents and citizen journalists to produce better quality news items that could reach a wider audience at less risk to their personal safety. In addition, Free Press Unlimited launched the Internet Protection Lab, a new programme in which we increase the security from the users to publication through focused collaboration between hosting providers, technicians, programmers, trainers and context specialists. The initiative – a joint venture of Free Press Unlimited, Hivos, XS4ALL, Choke Point, Greenhost, Tactical Technology Collective and Virtual Road – managed to win the support of several private funds and has presently launched a number of small-scale activities in Ethiopia and Syria.

The five MFS alliances: An overview

Around 60% of Free Press Unlimited's projects are undertaken within the context of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Medefinancieringsstelsel (Co-financing System). The current Medefinancieringsstelsel runs from 2011 to 2015. Various NGOs have formed alliances within this grant framework and work together towards joint objectives. Free Press Unlimited is a member of five of such alliances. The following section provides an overview:

People Unlimited 4.1 Alliance

Together with Hivos, Mama Cash and UICN-NL, Free Press Unlimited makes up the alliance People Unlimited 4.1, for which Hivos serves as the main applicant. Free Press Unlimited participates in the Expression & Engagement programme. The basic point of departure in the alliance's programme is the understanding that a dynamic and democratic society cannot survive without independent media, access to impartial information and cultural freedom. The objective of the alliance is to provide space for innovative cultural, political and social expressions and

to actively engage citizens in social processes that directly impact their lives. To achieve this, the People Unlimited 4.1 programme focuses on improving the quality, diversity and accessibility of public information and cultural expressions. In addition, the participating organisations plan to create new podiums, networks and platforms that enable citizens to exercise their rights, hold their governments and the private sector directly accountable for their performance and make a constructive contribution to the development of their society.

In the context of the Expression & Engagement programme, Free Press Unlimited has realised interventions in ten different countries: Uganda, Zambia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zimbabwe and Somalia in Africa; Moldova and Kosovo in Eastern Europe; and Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan in Central Asia.

Freedom from Fear Alliance

The Freedom from Fear alliance consists of IKV Pax Christi (main applicant), Free Press Unlimited, Amnesty International and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC). The program focuses on projects in peace, conflict prevention and human rights. The alliance members are currently exploring ways to reach a new generation that can achieve breakthroughs in apparently insolvable conflicts. Free Press Unlimited has developed a multimedia summer school for three countries in the South Caucasus – Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan – in which young journalists work together on media projects. The results show that young people are prepared to look beyond the horizon of a political conflict and communicate with one another and work together. The use of multimedia technology offers the journalists new opportunities to reach and appeal to a broad audience.

IKV Pax Christi and Free Press Unlimited work together in the implementation of the programme 'Human Security for Citizens in Repressive States'. Within the Freedom from Fear alliance, Free Press Unlimited is active in the countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Iraq. This



Mobile telecommunications are booming in Central America.

programme supports non-violent change and conflict resolution through the building of civil society values and institutions, the professionalisation of the local media and public advocacy. Central to the 'Human Security for Citizens in Repressive States' programme is the understanding that independent media have their own role to play in shaping the public debate and ensuring that human rights and democracy are respected.

Conn@ct Now Alliance

The Conn@ct.Now coalition is made up of War Child Holland (the main applicant), Child Helpline International (CHI), Free Press Unlimited, TNO and T-Mobile. Conn@ct.Now aims to improve the quality of education, strengthen child protection structures and improve psycho-social services to children and young people. By doing so, Conn@ct.Now helps children and young people to claim and exercise their rights. The coalition is currently implementing this programme in Colombia, Burundi, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. The use of IT and media channels to achieve various goals and results is an important intervention strategy in this context. As a centre of expertise in the media field, Free Press Unlimited's role within the coalition mainly involves working together with the local media partners.

The core of these projects is formed by participatory youth radio and educational radio for young audiences. War Child has facilitated contacts between the radio stations and youth groups, frequently with a strong focus on rural areas. This is a very important initiative, as many of the radio stations have an urban bias and often do not give young people an opportunity to share their views. This lack of youth and children's perspectives can also be observed in news programmes. Studies in Uganda and Burundi showed that news programmes provide few opportunities for children and young people to have their say, and pay little attention to the subjects that are of particular importance to them. Furthermore, children and young people are often portrayed as victims, while other roles they play in their society are frequently ignored. Free Press Unlimited organises workshops and training sessions for journalists, radio producers and children and young people, to help them clear away obstacles and improve this situation.

Child Rights Alliance

The Child Rights Alliance is a coalition of Plan Netherlands, Child Helpline International, Defence for Children International, International Child Development Initiatives (ICDI), Women Win (WW) and Free Press Unlimited. The Child Rights Alliance is responsible for a programme called

'Girl Power: Promoting Equal Rights and Opportunities for Girls and Young Women'. The mission of this programme is to ensure that all girls and boys can exercise their rights and fully participate in the social, economic and political development of their communities.

The alliance is currently implementing the 'Girl Power' programme in ten countries: Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Bolivia and Nicaragua.

Within the alliance, Free Press Unlimited focuses on addressing the misrepresentation and underrepresentation of children and young people in news media. As a phenomenon, misrepresentation and underrepresentation of children and young people has both global and endemic aspects. It reflects and perpetuates the violation of their universal and basic rights.

To offer children and young people a platform to express their views and involve them in the shaping of their futures, Free Press Unlimited supports local media organisations in the improvement of the quality and quantity of independent, fair and complete news content for children and young people.

This programme, called Kids News, is expected to contribute to the improved quality and availability of inclusive and target group-sensitive news media for children and young people. In addition, it aims to achieve more effective and sustainable models of distribution and higher ratings for these media.

In 2012, Free Press Unlimited was active in the following countries within the context of this alliance: Ghana, Liberia, Zambia, Nepal, Bolivia and Nicaragua.

In Ethiopia, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the chances of successfully establishing a local youth news bulletin were so slim that it was decided in close consultation with the alliance members to produce special video productions instead. These video productions will deal with the current results of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals from the – often critical – perspective of girls in these countries. The first results of this project will be presented in 2013.

Press Freedom Consortium

The Press Freedom Consortium is made up of Free Press Unlimited (the main applicant), Mensen met een Missie, the European Journalism Centre, World Press Photo and the European Partnership for Democracy. The consortium is active in 11 countries: Bangladesh, Bolivia,

Egypt, Georgia, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The key point of departure in this alliance's programme is the acknowledgement that the media and civil society organisations each play their own role in shaping public debate. It is in the interest of both parties that press freedom, human rights, democracy and the rule of law are respected and promoted. New media, social media and innovative communication technologies play an increasingly important role in processes of social change. The Press Freedom 2.0 programme tries to bring both these spheres together, with a strong focus on four key themes in MFS-II policy: human rights, democratisation, good governance and education.

The adopted intervention strategies are geared towards strengthening the capacity of local partner organisations and journalists, promoting good governance and building civil society. To this end, the consortium trains and otherwise supports individual journalists and members of media organisations and local NGOs and provides funding for their valuable work.



Free Press Unlimited is active in over **40** countries worldwide. Here are a few of our highlights:

The website www.awene.com, which was overhauled in 2012, offers independent news from **Iraqi Kurdistan**. The site has over **600,000** visitors a month, which gives an idea of the strong local demand for impartial information.

In the past year, **2,700** young people in **Iran** participated in Radio Zamaneh's e-learning courses, learning how to share news and opinions, how to set up a blog and other relevant skills.

Kids News Network launched **4** new youth news bulletins in 2012. The present network of 12 youth news bulletins offers millions of children around the world – and their parents – access to child-friendly news and information.

The work of the National Postcode Lottery Journalists' Fund resulted in the publication of **23** articles in the Dutch media. The Fund provides journalists with the resources required to report on countries that generally enjoy limited media exposure.

30 young people from **Bujumbura, Burundi**, were trained in basic journalism and radio production skills. Now children and young people can also offer their perspectives in this impoverished country, which is being rebuilt after years of civil war.

28 journalists in an urgent situation were able to continue their important work thanks to direct support by Free Press Unlimited's emergency fund Reporters Respond.

22 journalism and technical trainings were offered to **300** production staff and directors, presenters and technicians of local radio stations in Bandundu Province in DR Congo. Local listeners are provided with more relevant information and given the opportunity to talk about issues that concern them.

Every month, **Kosovo's** taboo-breaking website www.kosovotwopointzero.com is visited some

2,250

times by young people who want to gain a more nuanced, up-to-date perspective on what is going on in their country.

In 2012, **530** Egyptian media professionals participated and improved their journalism skills at the Al Sawt al Hurr training centre in Cairo, **Egypt**.

In the past year, **65** mobile reports from the streets of **Zimbabwe** were viewed

5,000

times on YouTube. These mobile reports focussed on the concerns of ordinary citizens in a country where press freedom is under considerable pressure.

In 2012, **100** Syrian media activists were trained in the use of basic information technology to ensure secure digital communications in the field. These activists can continue to inform the people of Syria at less risk to their personal safety.

104 journalists in **Bangladesh** attended training programmes in basic journalism skills, ethical standards and reporting on important social issues. Thanks to their improved skills, the participants can provide the local population with better-quality information.

On World Press Freedom Day, **300** people attended Free Press Unlimited's event 'Untold Stories', which examined what happens when violence against members of the press is so extreme that important stories are left untold.

Every week, **4,000** people in South Sudan participate in an innovative radio-based education programme. For people in remote parts of South Sudan, these broadcasts are often the only reliable source of education and information.

Every day, **2 million** people in Sudan and South Sudan listen to Radio Dabanga, and the station's website is visited over 65,000 times a month. Radio Dabanga provides relevant, accurate and impartial news coverage from the war-torn region of Darfur.

Journalists of **11** Ugandan radio stations were trained in the coverage of youth and child-related topics. This created new opportunities for children in **Uganda** to share their experiences and exchange knowledge.

Citizen journalists in **Georgia** have produced over **100** films and documentaries on regional conflicts and social issues. These were shown during **48** community screenings and strengthened ties between the regions and the Georgian capital.

The website Kirkuk Now provided the people of Kirkuk with independent coverage of news events in the four main languages spoken in the city. Every month, the Kirkuk Now website is visited by some

73,000 people

In 2012, the website of the Bolivian youth news bulletin PICA had **62,000** visitors. They left **600** comments – an indication of the relevance of the issues addressed by the news bulletin.

Projects in 2012: An introduction

Free Press Unlimited focuses on six main themes in its work: six areas in which we aim to achieve concrete results through our activities. We have assigned each of our initiatives implemented in 2012 to one of these themes and the corresponding monitoring protocol – irrespective of which parties fund them.¹

1. Increased media participation of vulnerable groups

Children, teenagers and women are often underrepresented in the media. While they constitute over three-quarters of the world population, a disproportionately small share of media content is directed at them or focuses on their interests. To give children, young people and women an opportunity to share their perspectives and shape their own futures, Free Press Unlimited supports local media organisations through a variety of targeted programmes. This way, we hope to improve the quality and availability of independent, impartial and complete information for these groups.

2. Strengthened media organisations

A diverse media landscape is of crucial importance for developing countries. It allows people to have their say, participate in the public debate and discover what is going on in their local environment.

In countries with regional conflicts or a fragile democracy, Free Press Unlimited helps existing media partners to develop into independent, professional organisations. In addition to helping individual journalists to produce solid, impartial coverage on news events, Free Press Unlimited also supports the organisations' management teams in the development of their business and marketing skills. This helps them to build their organisation into a viable commercial enterprise, which in turn helps it to preserve its autonomy.

3. Strengthened media support organisations

Local organisations that dedicate themselves to helping journalists and media organisations play an indispensable role in the development of a healthy and diverse media landscape. Their activities range from providing aid and support to individual reporters and organising professional trainings to union work and lobbying for improved media legislation.

The combined efforts of these organisations contribute to a better situation for independent journalists and media parties in their respective countries. That is why Free Press Unlimited supports these organisations in turn, so that journalists around the world can continue to do their job to their best ability.

4. Support provided to networks and platforms

We can achieve far more if we work together. This quickly becomes clear when you try to get to the bottom of a story in a conflict area or a country with a repressive regime. Free Press Unlimited supports networks and platforms of journalists and media organisations that focus on joint progress, knowledge exchange and debate on relevant issues.

5. Journalism initiatives

In areas where there is so much repression that local journalists are unable to do their work, Free Press Unlimited occasionally initiates its own news services. These journalism initiatives provide reliable information to citizens caught up in the local conflict. For these people, reliable news coverage can literally be a matter of life and death. By developing effective reporting solutions that are tailored to the local situation, Free Press Unlimited offers local target audiences a rare opportunity to access impartial and reliable information about their current situation.

6. Individual journalists and bloggers

In many countries around the world, journalism is a high-risk – and occasionally lethal – activity. Journalists work under hazardous and unpredictable circumstances to provide their audiences with the necessary information and news. Free Press Unlimited helps many of these individuals by raising their awareness of potential security issues and increasing their knowledge and skills in this area. This allows the journalists to do their job at less risk to their personal safety. In cases where their equipment has been confiscated or destroyed, Free Press Unlimited helps them to get back to work by offering small-scale financial support.

¹ An exception to this rule concerns a few projects that were funded from the RNTC budget, but were managed and implemented by Free Press Unlimited. These projects are discussed in RNTC's 2012 Annual Report.

1. Increased media participation of vulnerable groups

Children, teenagers and women are often underrepresented in the media. While they constitute over three-quarters of the world population, only a disproportionately small share of media content is directed at these groups or focuses on their interests. To give children, young people and women an opportunity to share their perspectives and shape their own futures, Free Press Unlimited supports local media organisations through a variety of targeted programmes. This way, we hope to improve the quality and availability of independent, impartial and complete information for these audiences.

In 2012 Free Press Unlimited launched projects in Liberia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Ghana, Colombia, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Burundi, Bangladesh, Mexico and Zambia in the context of this programme.

These projects contributed to:

- The improved quality of media content in terms of sensitivity to its target audiences (quality);
- The increased production and distribution of media reports that are inclusive and sensitive to the target audience (quantity);
- More effective models of distribution and a higher viewer/listener ratings (access and reach);
- An increased demand for inclusive media that are geared towards the target audiences and a more conducive production environment (enabling factors).

During the implementation of these projects, Free Press Unlimited provided strategic funding, developed local capacity and facilitated the exchange of knowledge.

The projects are developed and executed in partnership with the Child Rights Alliance, Conn@ct.Now, the Press Freedom 2.0 and People Unlimited 4.1 alliances and the Adessium Foundation.

Radio for and with children and young people in Burundi



Burundi is found in the bottom-most ranks of the Human Development Index. Maternal deaths and infant mortality rates are among the highest on the African continent. The country is plagued by a number of serious social problems, ranging from sexual violence against women and minors to the recruitment of children by militant groups. Free Press Unlimited focuses on developing information services for children and young people in Burundi and involving these groups in local news coverage. This way, the younger generations in Burundi have a chance to inform themselves about their environment, develop, and ultimately create a better future for themselves.

In 2012, Free Press Unlimited started a long-term project in Burundi that concentrates on three distinct objectives:

- Training local radio station staff in the production of educational radio programming;
- Training and mentoring journalists and young people in the production of participatory youth programming, so that young listeners are able to learn from their peers and the local youth gain a platform to express their views.
- Monitoring the news bulletins of local radio stations with respect to the portrayal of children and young people in their news coverage and training local stations to implement the relevant recommendations.



Students discussing news broadcasts in Bujumbura, Burundi.

Free Press Unlimited's partner organisation Radio Bonesha FM handles the coordination of the support and training programmes in the area of participatory and educational radio production. These programmes are currently being implemented at five major radio stations in Burundi. Our partner organisation Maison de la Presse is responsible for coordinating the media monitoring programme.

During an international training, two journalists per station were introduced to the basics of participatory youth radio production and various policies and procedures to ensure the safety of participating children. At the same time, 30 young people from Bujumbura, Cibitoke and Bubanza were trained in basic journalism and radio production skills, so that they can now produce their own radio items. These items will be included in the stations' broadcasts at a later stage in the programme. The programme supported radio station staff in the production of features about youth-related issues in regions other than Bujumbura. By visiting the project coordinator's radio stations on location and attending two additional trainings, the participating station staff and young people were able to increase their skills in this area. The partner stations regularly broadcast programmes about and for young people and children. One remarkable change to the project's original planning is that the participating radio stations have decided to work together on a joint monthly programme, which is

broadcast on the different radio stations. In addition, they use the material they collect during field visits in monthly programmes focusing on youth issues.

Funder: Conn@ct.Now Alliance

Partners: Radio Bonesha FM/Maison de la Presse

Would you like to know more?

<http://youtu.be/Gd4qtMr-jiA>

Media about, for and by children and young people in South Sudan



After a bloody war, South Sudan's newly independent status as of 9 July 2011 significantly changed the context of Free Press Unlimited's projects in the region. Many matters have not yet been clearly established in the new nation of South Sudan. National media legislation has been proposed, but the bill in question was not yet passed at the time of writing. Media organisations are often unwilling to report on sensitive issues, or discouraged to do so. Instead, they are advised to only publish positive reports about their country. Free Press Unlimited is helping to give shape to an independent media landscape in South Sudan through capacity strengthening projects and the development of programming. With regard to the latter, the emphasis is on programming for children, as they are the ones who will need to help shape the future of South Sudan in the aftermath of the war.

Free Press Unlimited's local office Free Voice has selected six radio stations which it aims to assist in their organisational and programmatic development. Free Voice deals with the stations Liberty FM and Spirit FM in Yei; Voice of Eastern Equatoria, Radio Grace and Radio Emmanuel in Torit; and Voice of the People in Juba, offering them support in the development of their long-term capacity. The aim is to strengthen the organisations as a whole, by offering support to the management teams, as well as improve the professional skills of individual staff members, by offering training in areas such as editing and interviewing skills. The stations are all regularly visited by a training and support officer. In the participatory youth radio trainings, the focus is on how to produce recorded radio items. Most of the participating children enjoyed recording their voices. If they receive the proper training, these young people can actually help to instruct the others within their groups. During the trainings, the children all participated in their own way, and without exception they proved highly motivated to learn these new skills.

Funder: Conn@ct.Now Alliance

Partners: Liberty FM, Spirit FM in Yei; Voice of Eastern Equatoria, Radio Grace, Radio Emmanuel in Torit; and Voice of the People in Juba

Participatory Radio in Uganda



During the recent conflicts in Northern Uganda, children in particular were frequently the victim of violence, abduction and rape. And today still, children and young people are generally portrayed in a negative way in Uganda's news bulletins and current affairs programmes. The quality of the programming for children and young people in Uganda is generally low. Free Press Unlimited aims to help these children to deal with psychological trauma, by giving them an opportunity to share their feelings, exchange knowledge and ask the public's understanding via the local media.

To give young people a platform to share their views and reach their peers, Free Press Unlimited has teamed up with the Uganda Media Development Foundation (UMDF). The two partners support eight radio stations in Northern Uganda and three radio stations in the West Nile district. The programme focusses on making broadcasts that are geared towards younger listeners and on training journalists in the coverage of youth and child-related subjects. The radio stations have received mentoring sessions on location, as well as coaching and feedback on their programming. Each radio station sent one representative to participate in the training.

The stations participating in the programme have all taken a group of young people under their wing, who have been trained to produce radio features about matters that are of particular concern to them. These items are included in the youth shows aired by the radio stations, so that young people gain their own platform within the media landscape and are able to share their perspectives.

The participatory youth radio training and mentoring programme was the first time most of these youngsters had worked with radio in any form. The programme planning meetings at the different stations all shared

a number of standard elements, such as basic radio production skills, how to interview people and talk on air, what participatory youth radio is about, and why the participants need to show one another respect and work as a team. The programmes produced by the stations focussed on the following subjects: Youth and their Elders, Early Marriages, Education, Dressing Styles, HIV/AIDS, Drug Abuse, Unemployment, Abortion, Underage Mothers and Sports.

Funders: Conn@ct.Now Alliance/People Unlimited
4.1 Alliance
Partner: Uganda Media Development Foundation

Media Monitoring in Burundi and Uganda



When children’s rights are violated, the media can help to break the cycle. Reports by journalists help to educate communities about violations and their consequences. Further, the coverage of news events can stir public debate about sensitive and traumatic issues, creating a new openness that may lead to healing.

The local media in Uganda and Burundi frequently fail to make a positive impact in this regard. Current news and current affairs programmes on the region’s radio stations tend to show children in a negative light. Radio stations – and the journalists employed by them – seem to attach greater value to the commercial appeal of their stories than to the children’s best interests.

To improve child-friendly reporting and the portrayal of children in the region’s news broadcasts, the South African NGO Media Monitoring Africa has introduced the regular monitoring of media broadcasts by both child and adult media supervisors. This approach has proven very effective in South Africa. By working from a rights-based principle

and confronting media organisations with the results of the monitoring programme – as well as organising further training workshops for local journalists – within a few years of the programme’s launch, the organisation has managed to considerably alter how children are portrayed in the media.

The introduction of a similar monitoring system in Uganda and Burundi is expected to yield comparable results. A pilot project in 2011 and 2012, which involved the implementation of media monitoring with respect to children and young people’s portrayal in the news, was positively received overall and will therefore be continued in 2013. Moreover, South Sudan will be added to the countries covered by the initiative.

Funding: Conn@ct.Now Alliance
Partner: Media Monitoring Africa, South Africa

Media development programme in Bangladesh



In Bangladesh, 2012 was characterised by increasing violence against members of the press. Several journalists were killed, many beaten, and a number were prosecuted. Political instability in the country also increased, with tension between Muslim and Buddhist minorities escalating into violent clashes and killings. There were also frequent demonstrations against the Bangladeshi government in 2012, with several general strikes forcing the entire country to a standstill. In such situations, journalists play a crucial role in providing people with reliable information on what is going on around them. Unfortunately, Bangladesh has a lack of skilled journalists – particularly outside the capital of Dhaka. A large share of the country’s population lives in these rural areas, and reliable information is of vital importance to them.

In 2012, Free Press Unlimited's local partner in Bangladesh, News Network, continued with its trainings in basic journalism skills for local or regional journalists in the rural areas. The organisation set up five training programmes in Bogra, Sylhet, Dinajpur, Khulna and Cox Bazar. These were attended by a total of 104 journalists, of whom 44 were female. Three of the five programmes targeted young and aspiring journalists working in remote areas, while two (in Khulna and Cox Bazar) were organised exclusively for women journalists. The trainings dealt with basic skills, ethical standards and reporting on important social issues like gender equality and violence against women, poverty, local governance and the environment.

In 2012 Free Press Unlimited also supported News Network in the further professionalisation of the partner's own organisation. This involved reviewing and improving News Network's evaluation process and introducing effective monitoring and follow-up procedures. News Network's organisational development still requires a great deal of work, but 2012 came off to a good start with the launch of the first phase of the Learning Needs Assessment training, which will be continued in 2013.

Funding: Press Freedom Consortium
Partner: News Network
Would you like to know more?
www.newsnetwork-bd.org/

Media about, for and by children and young people in Colombia



In 2012, the Southwest of Colombia was troubled by large-scale drug trafficking, guerrilla violence and the activities of semi-paramilitary criminal groups. Indigenous and Afro-Colombian children, adolescents and young

people – living in the Valle del Cauca, Cauca and Nariño departments – continue to be the primary targets of forced recruitment, personal threats, kidnapping and violent assaults. Cities like Buenaventura, Tumaco and Cali – Colombia's third-largest city and ranked as the seventh-most violent city in the world – were beset by escalating bloodshed against the background of peace talks between the Colombian government and the FARC guerrillas.

In Colombia, Free Press Unlimited relies on various innovative and creative channels to reach, support and ultimately socially activate the children and young people affected by this violence, including information and communication technologies and the local media. Through its programmes for this young target audience, Free Press Unlimited hopes to encourage them to stand up for their rights and create a better future for everyone in the country.

Free Press Unlimited's programme in Colombia is showing steady progress and positive results. The organisation works through its local partner, the Cree-Ser Foundation, and focuses on the conflict-stricken Southwest. In 2012, all planned activities were linked together in the 'CONNECTATE Initiative'. The programmes directly benefited 253 children and young people – most of them female – and 122 adults. The Cree-Ser Foundation set up twelve training workshops in the past year, as well as organising the CONNECTATE Festival: an education fair and exhibition of best practices. This festival concentrated on art and media productions that promote children's right to protection, to psycho-social wellbeing and to education.

Funding: Conn@ct.Now Alliance
Partner: Cree-Ser
Would you like to know more?
www.conectatecolombia.org

ON, the Voice of Youth in Colombia

In response to a media consumption environment that is becoming increasingly cross-platform, multi-screen, digital and multimedia, the Colombian media production company Casarodante requested Free Press Unlimited's financial support for the production of an original cross-media storytelling pilot for a series called 'ON, the Voice of Youth'. The series' 30-minute episodes will integrate television, mobile and online technologies and social gaming. The pilot focuses on young people's

experiences and put a strong emphasis on young women’s participation in society. This way, the makers hope to generate hopeful awareness and public debate about the realities of life in Colombia for many young women, and the challenges they face within the context of the local armed conflict.

The younger generations stand at the forefront of a watershed change in media history – one that is characterised by individual empowerment and expression, since digital communication technologies enable anyone who can access them to become a ‘prosumer’ (producer/consumer). Individuals can use these tools to collaborate with one another and can utilise mobile and web-based technologies to create highly interactive platforms through which they and their communities can share, co-create, discuss, and modify user-generated content.

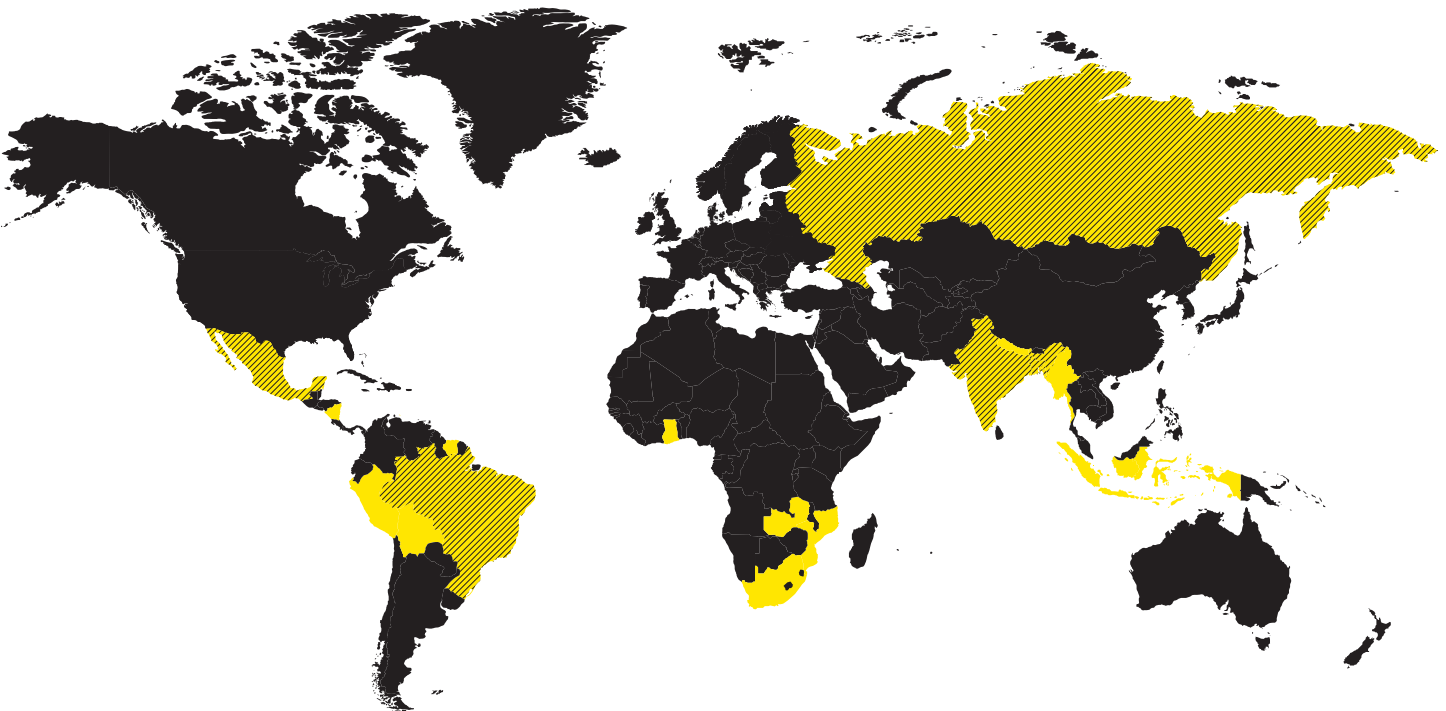
During the final quarter of 2012, Casarodante started work on the production of a single 30-minute pilot episode – to be produced within the space of 10 weeks – one online demo for multi-platform digital devices – which includes

the design of user touchpoints (mobile, web, email, and social media) – and a responsive web platform.

Funding: Conn@ct.Now Alliance
Partner: Casarodante, Colombia
Would you like to know more? http://casarodante.biz/ON/entregables/demo/HOME_ON.html

A youth new bulletin for children around the world

From Nepal to Nicaragua; from South Africa to Suriname – all over the world, children are eager to remain up to date on new developments. Yet most countries don’t have a special news bulletin for younger audiences. From an early age, children tend to watch what their parents are watching. As a result, they often don’t understand what they see, or it frightens them. Kids News Network aims to reach these children – wants to hear what they have to



- Kids News until 2013**
- Youth Voice, *Burma*
- PICA, *Bolivia*
- News Generation, *Ghana*
- Teen Voice, *Indonesia*
- Telejunior, *Mozambique*
- Naya Pusta, *Nepal*

- DeHumo, *Nicaragua*
- NAPA, *Peru*
- Bona Retsang, *South Africa*
- 10 Minuten Jeugd Journaal, *Suriname*
- Z Kids News, *Zambia*

- ▨ Kids News planned 2013-2015**
- Bangladesh, Mexico, Russia, India, Brazil



say and provide them with access to impartial information. So they can grow up with a broad horizon and a more balanced view of the world.

Kids News Network

Kids News Network works together with local partners to set up youth news bulletins in developing countries. So children can learn from a young age that there is more than one way of looking at things, and that the world is bigger than the village they grow up in. News programming that is specifically tailored to children raises their confidence, since it allows them to know what is going on in the world around them. They learn how to deal with the challenges they might be facing and become aware that they probably aren't the only one with a particular problem. Every day, the programmes supported by Kids News Network are viewed by millions of children and their parents across the globe.

In 2012, Kids News Network launched new youth news bulletins in South Africa, Ghana and Nicaragua (television) and in Nepal (television and radio).

When children appear in local current affairs programmes in South Africa, it is usually as victims of crime, HIV or violence. In 2012 Free Press Unlimited teamed up with Vuselela Media to develop and start up a new Kids News programme in South Africa. This programme,

Bona Retsang ('Look what we're doing'), learns young people basic media skills so that they can tell stories that are unique to them from their own perspective. The programme primarily focuses on children from poor and marginalised communities.

Television channels in Ghana offer very little local content that is specifically geared towards children. Indeed, special news and current affairs programming for children is absent altogether. The Kids News programme News Generation, which was launched in August 2012, offers relevant, high-quality news content for young audiences, promotes children's rights and treats them with dignity and respect.

Nepal has one of the youngest populations in the world: nearly 23% of its 30 million inhabitants are between the ages of 5 and 14. This age group also forms one of the main segments of the local viewing audience. With the launch of the programme Naya Pusta (New Generation) in October 2012, the children of Nepal have finally gained their own news bulletin.

In Nicaragua, the new Kids News programme De Humo (which is slang for 'cool') provides children and young people in Nicaragua with an environment to form and express their opinions on issues relevant to them and the world they live in.

The introduction of youth news bulletins in these countries has significantly increased the amount of broadcast content that is sensitive to children's and teenagers' needs

and resulted in a higher volume of child-sensitive news broadcasts. In Zambia, Free Press Unlimited involved its local partner in the development of the format of a global kids news broadcast and the production of a pilot broadcast. To this end, the partner's staff received both on-the-job training and coaching support. In Mexico, Kids News Network started up a pilot youth news programme at the end of 2012 in collaboration with a national and a local broadcaster. This pilot programme will be evaluated in the course of 2013.

Funding: Child Rights Alliance/Press Freedom Consortium/Adessium Foundation

Partners: Multi Media Group Ltd (Ghana), Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists, Vuselela Media (South Africa), PROMEDIA (Nicaragua).

Would you like to know more?

www.kidsnewsnetwork.nl

In the spotlight:

Youth as a powerful agent of change

The youth news bulletin 'De Humo' – Launched November 2012

After a careful review of various potential partners, Kids News Network selected PROMEDIA to build and strengthen its local presence in Central America. PROMEDIA is a Nicaraguan production company that dedicates itself to the production of independent, high-quality news programming in an occasionally hostile environment. PROMEDIA has a clear perspective on why news for kids and young people is important: *'Kids in Nicaragua are expected to just "have fun" and to not pose any questions regarding social issues and their role in society. Their appearance in media is always related to entertainment and compliance with the status quo. We aim to break through this cycle by portraying youth as a powerful agent of change, alert to society at large and involved in its development.'*

Free Press Unlimited provided PROMEDIA with funding and technical support for the development of a local version of Kids News called De Humo (which is slang for 'cool'). This technical support consisted of trainings and on-site assistance for the programme's management and editorial teams. The editors took part in trainings dealing with the selection and production of news content tailored specifically to »

young audiences. In addition, the team was coached in development of special formats and completed a cycle of test broadcasts.

The new-trained editors of De Humo soon proved able to combine a fresh approach that is accessible to young viewers with serious and relevant subjects. While the De Humo team make a point of using humour in their broadcasts, they do not shy away from 'heavy' topics. Subjects that have been

addressed in the programme so far include drug violence, elections, pollution, the forced marriage of teenage girls and bullying. De Humo was first broadcast in November 2012. It was immediately greeted with enthusiasm on social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter.

PROMEDIA: *'After just one week of broadcasting, we participated in the Kids News Network Summit in Peru. It was a bit early, but it allowed us to get immersed in the KNN ethos, and get to know the work of our Kids News colleagues from ten other countries. Before, we felt we were working in a void, pioneering as we are in Nicaragua. It was heartening to see our colleagues have done the same in their countries, and that we have a common vision and goal. We learned a lot from their experiences. The most important thing we learned was the necessity to search for alternative funding even at an early stage in De Humo's life.'*

Would you like to know more?

Twitter: @dehumo

World Kids News

In 2012, Kids News Network produced 12 episodes of its new broadcast programme World Kids News, as well as developing a new World Kids News format that can be distributed worldwide via the Internet. World Kids News is a youth news programme that brings together items produced by all the different members of Kids News Network across the globe.

To facilitate the exchange of knowledge between the members of Kids News Network, the parent organisation organised an international summit in Lima, Peru. During the summit, the organisation reviewed Kids News Network's activities in 2012 and collected input for its 2013 year plan and strategy for 2012-2015.

2. Strengthened media organisations

A diverse media landscape is of crucial importance for developing countries. It allows people to have their say, participate in the public debate and discover what is going on in their local environment. In countries with regional conflicts or a fragile democracy, Free Press Unlimited helps existing media partners to develop into independent, professional organisations. In addition to helping individual journalists to produce solid, impartial coverage on news events, Free Press Unlimited also supports the organisations' management teams in the development of their business and marketing skills. This helps them to build their organisation into a viable commercial enterprise, which in turn helps it to preserve its autonomy.

Community Radio in Democratic Republic of the Congo



By developing local community media, we enable the residents of small communities to broach those issues and subjects that are of specific interest to them. As a result, community radio stations can involve people in their coverage who would never be heard otherwise, such as women, young people and minorities. This allows our local partners to break through taboos and provide their

audiences with solid, objective information. Free Press Unlimited supports community media in The Democratic Republic of the Congo via a number of training and capacity development programmes.

Free Press Unlimited's capacity strengthening programme in the central Bandundu province, which involves nine local community radio stations, became fully operational in 2012. The programme is organised in collaboration with the network organisation Union of Local Radio Stations in Bandundu (URPB). During the year under review, a total of 22 journalism and technical trainings were offered to some 300 production staff and directors, presenters and technicians. We also installed extra production equipment at eight of the participating radio stations in the context of the programme. The training centre in Kikwit is running smoothly and is also being used by other organisations. Working in collaboration with Radio France Internationale (RFI), the programme partners have also set up a pilot project with palm oil-fuelled generators at four of the supported radio stations.

In September 2012, Free Press Unlimited undertook a fact-finding mission in the three Kivu provinces to explore which options there were for projects in this part of the country. Due to the very unpredictable situation in the region and security considerations, it was decided to initiate two short-term pilot projects. The first project is a training in conflict-sensitive reporting given to 14 local radio stations in North Kivu, which Free Press Unlimited will also provide with new equipment for news reporting. This short-term project is organised in partnership with the network organisation of local radio stations in North Kivu, CORACON. In the South Kivu province, Free Press Unlimited supported the network organisation RATECO in organising its General Assembly, as well as offering training in broadcast management. After several delays due to security concerns, these activities were finally implemented in January 2013.

In the western part of the country, in the Bas-Congo province, Free Press Unlimited ended its collaboration of seven years with the local network organisation REMACOB. It now offers 23 local radio stations in the province a different training programme for the production of interactive radio formats. Another project in Bas-Congo focused on improving relations between journalists and local civil society organisations. The 108 civil society organisations involved in this project learnt how to present themselves more effectively, and provide the public with more information on their respective projects. We would like to point out that the trained and experienced staff of our former partner REMACOB all managed to quickly find new employment elsewhere in projects implemented by organisations similar to our own.

Funding: People Unlimited 4.1 Alliance/France
Expertise Internationale
Partners: RATECO, REMACOB, URPB, CORACON



Local Congolese radio trainer in Bandundu, DR Congo.

Why are local media so important? Congolese community radio proves stronger than magic racket.

A swindler was recently apprehended in the Congolese region of Kwenge. The authorities arrested the man after a local radio station reported that he had duped villagers by claiming that a spell had been put on them and demanding goats, roosters, money and clothing in exchange for a 'cure'.

Mala fide magician

A local priest found out about the man's fraudulent practices and warned him to stop. The self-styled seer took no heed of the priest's admonition, however, and continued swindling gullible locals. The villagers responded by notifying journalists from the local radio station, which then informed its listeners on the air that the man was wanted by the police. Hearing this message, the mala fide magician decided to scoot. However, the police managed to arrive on the scene in time to arrest the scoundrel.

Community radio in Congo helps keep misconduct in check

'A Dutch audience might be amused by this kind of story. But in fact, it's an excellent example of the strong monitoring role fulfilled by local radio within the Congolese communities. Radio broadcasts regularly help to track down thieves or reclaim stolen goods and cattle,' explains Leon van den Boogerd of Free Press Unlimited. The training centre for community radio staff, set up by Free Press Unlimited in the centrally located town of Kiwkwit, opened its doors in 2012. By providing local radio stations with trainings and equipment, the centre is able to improve the quality and impact of their programming. In the extensive rural areas of Congo, most people rely on local radio stations as their main source of information and news.

Ligne Editorial, Tunisia



After the revolution of 2011 in Tunisia, many new local, privately-owned radio stations sprang up in the country. The Tunisian state radio initiated a process of reform and reorientation. In 2012, Free Press Unlimited, with the financial support of the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Tunis, offered trainings and coaching to a number of radio stations in Tunisia, in order to help them to develop their editorial strategy and newsroom management.

Free Press Unlimited implemented this programme – called ‘Ligne Éditorial’ – with the aid of a local consultant. The programme focuses on removing several of the main obstacles to the development of qualitative radio programming in Tunisia after the revolution – such as the lack of clearly established editorial principles and charters; a lack of unity and cohesion within the news programmes’ editorial teams; and the limited room for debate among local journalists. By providing the various radio stations with in-house training, Free Press Unlimited hoped to strengthen cohesion within the editorial teams and increase their insight into their role and responsibility in developing and maintaining respect for diversity of opinion and expression.

Three rounds of group and in-house trainings were organised at 16 radio stations across Tunisia, training a total of over 80 radio production staff members. In addition to benefiting the professionalisation of local journalism in Tunisia, the development of solid editorial policies also allows the different media outlets to create a clear identity for themselves and improve their overall visibility.

Funding: Royal Netherlands Embassy in Tunisia

Pilot training project for community radio in Zimbabwe



After gaining sovereignty in 1980, many predicted a shining future for Zimbabwe. But today, the country can only look back on decades of political and economic crises. Nearly 90% of the country’s working population is unemployed, and there is no democratisation to speak of. The government of the incumbent president Robert Mugabe desperately tries to retain the impoverished population’s support through the spread of propaganda and misinformation. The situation is particularly urgent in Zimbabwe’s rural areas: over 60% of the people in these regions are deprived of objective news coverage altogether. This forms an obstacle for people’s personal development and makes them more susceptible to the deceptive tactics of the state media. Free Press Unlimited works to improve their plight by organising projects that give Zimbabweans an opportunity to tell their own stories, share experiences and expose social wrongs.

At the end of 2012, Free Press Unlimited and RNTC bundled their strengths to train a group of 36 volunteers from the member stations of the Zimbabwe Association of Community Radio Stations. The programme consisted of a one-week intensive course in basic radio production, followed by an 11-week follow-up mentoring programme. During this period, the participants sent in weekly two-minute audio reports which were reviewed by the head trainer.

The objectives of the programme were to both increase human capacity at the stations and improve the volunteers' skills when it came to producing local news and information content. A specific focus of the project was to enable the members of the Zimbabwe Association of Community Radio Stations to collaborate and form a nationwide network of radio stations that can exchange productions.

Funding: Press Freedom Consortium
Partners: Zimbabwe Association of Community Radio Stations (ZACRAS), Radio Netherlands Training Centre (RNTC)

Dialogue 3: Twinning between Lori TV (Armenia) and Serhat TV (Turkey)



In 2012 Free Press Unlimited continued to support the twinning project that has been set up between Lori TV (based in Vanadzor, Armenia) and Serhat TV (based in Kars, Turkey). The aim of this project is to promote dialogue and the exchange of information between the residents of these border towns via local broadcast media. Due to their troubled past, Turkey and Armenia have a difficult relationship – as a result of which the border between the two countries remains closed. Against this background, the efforts of the two stations to put an end to the propaganda war and focus on what the two countries have in common can be seen as a unique initiative.

The most important result achieved in 2012 – the third year of collaboration between the two stations – was the recruitment of new target audiences. The active participation of people from the sports and cultural sectors (chess tournaments and music events organised on both sides of the border) created new opportunities

for real dialogue. A total of four events were organised: two in each country. Each of these events was attended by local citizens and covered by both Lori TV and Serhat TV. The events also received exposure in the two countries' national media. In addition, both television stations produced TV spots addressing the prejudices existing in both societies.

In 2013, the project will be incorporating Kanal 13, the first on-line television station in Azerbaijan, in the existing partnership. Since the launch of the first Dialogue project, Free Press Unlimited has worked together with the Dutch regional television station Omrop Fryslân to improve the technical and journalism capacity of the participating stations. Omrop Fryslân sent its first team of consultants to the region in mid-December 2012 after Kanal 13 had joined the Lori-Serhat partnership. Kanal 13's inclusion promises to broaden the range of regional issues covered by the project – the human dimensions of the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute, for example.

Funding: Freedom from Fear Alliance
Partners: Lori TV (Armenia), Serhat TV (Turkey), Omrop Fryslân
Would you like to know more?
www.loritv.am / www.serhattv.com.tr

Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters



Georgia continues to teeter on the edge of conflict and escalating violence. The country's democratisation process is bound up with issues like social exclusion and limited information about the actual needs of people living in and near conflict areas.

In 2009, a number of regional television stations in Georgia started working together in the Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters (GARB). The members aim to improve the quality of their programming and promote the exchange of information between the different regions. GARB currently has 22 member stations.

Free Press Unlimited has supported GARB from the outset, by offering the association expertise and financial assistance. Since 2011, this support has centred on the production of GARB's weekly programme *Mrakvalkuthedi*. This programme is jointly produced and broadcast by the GARB member stations. *Mrakvalkuthedi* sheds light on regional issues that gain insufficient exposure in the Georgian mainstream media. With Free Press Unlimited's support, a fifteen-minute block on conflict reporting was added to the programme in 2011. Through this special focus on conflict reporting, *Mrakvalkuthedi* offers local communities across Georgia concrete and objective information on conflict situations and promotes mutual understanding. GARB is the only television broadcaster in Georgia to report from and on the country's conflict regions.

2012 was a turbulent year for the GARB member stations. In the run-up to the Georgian parliamentary elections in October, they were under constant pressure to report in a manner favourable to either the incumbent president Saakashvili or the opposition coalition. Neither of the two groups encouraged independent coverage of news events. Nevertheless, GARB's members continued to work together during this period. It should be noted that GARB was the first to report on serious human rights violations in Georgian prisons in 2012 – an issue that would later prove one of the key factors in the defeat of Saakashvili's party in the parliamentary elections of October.

Funding: Freedom from Fear Alliance

Partner: Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters (GARB)

Would you like to know more? <http://garbonline.tv/>

Go Group Media, Georgia

Go Group Media provides isolated minority groups throughout Georgia with an opportunity to share their perspectives, by enabling them to produce personal reports on regional conflicts and social issues that are of particular importance to them. These documentaries – which are made by and for the people living in Georgia's rural areas – are both screened locally in the villages and broadcast online. Through its activities, Go Group Media increases people's awareness of conflict issues and promotes mutual understanding and cross-ethnic dialogue.

Providing even the most isolated areas in Georgia with relevant and objective information proved particularly important in 2012, as the country would be holding its parliamentary elections in October. A total of 48 community screenings were organised throughout the year, which were attended by some 1,500 people. Go Group's citizen journalists produced over 100 films and documentaries. Some 30% of these productions were made by contributors from Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Free Press Unlimited provided funds in support of this Eyewitness Studio project.

Despite being entirely dependent on foreign funding, Go Group Media is Free Press Unlimited's strongest partner in Georgia. The organisation is active in a wide range of areas, and has proven able to raise the funds necessary for its operations. In addition to organising the Eyewitness Studio project, in 2012 Go Group Media also launched the Caucasus Authors' Course (CAC): a project aimed at training young multimedia reporters from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Funding: Freedom from Fear Alliance

Partner: Go Group Media



Newspapers sold on the streets of Tbilisi, Georgia.



A new website for the newspaper Awene in Iraqi Kurdistan



In 2012, Free Press Unlimited helped the newspaper Awene, based in Sulaymaniyah in Iraqi Kurdistan, to improve its website. Established with the support of Free Press Unlimited in 2006, Awene has since grown into one of the leading independent media outlets in the region. In recent years, it has seen a decline in readers however, due to strong competition from subsidised party newspapers, the economic downturn and the growth of the Internet. Internal problems also played a role in this development. In 2011, Awene asked Free Press Unlimited to help the newspaper upgrade its website, explore online advertising

opportunities and train the new editorial team for Awene’s online publications. Awene launched its new website in late 2011. It was an immediate success, which is reflected in the website’s high visitor numbers of some 60,000 per day, with occasional peaks of around 100,000 per day.

In 2012, Awene also asked Free Press Unlimited’s support for the launch of an Arabic-language site that will be catering to the Arabic-speaking population of Iraq. The newspaper team believe this site will attract a large number of visitors from the Arabic-speaking South who are interested in current developments in Iraqi Kurdistan – especially policy makers and business men. The Arabic-language site will be launched in the spring of 2013.

Funding: Freedom from Fear Alliance
Partner: Awene Holding
Would you like to know more? www.awene.com

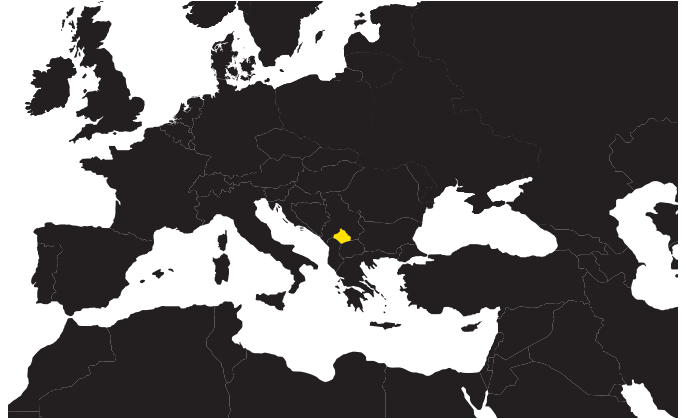
Taraf Online, Turkey



In a highly-polarised country like Turkey, with numerous powerful interest groups that attempt to influence the media landscape, producing quality journalism can pose quite a challenge. Self-censorship is widespread among local journalists. The Turkish newspaper Taraf aims to distinguish itself as the only newspaper in the country that provides truly independent and objective journalism. In 2012, Free Press Unlimited started supporting Taraf in the professionalisation of its operations. It helped the independent Turkish daily to renew and further develop its website, so that it is more in tune with current developments in multimedia consumption. This project was funded by the National Endowment for Democracy. In 2012, Taraf hired two new staff members to work on the new website. In this project, Free Press Unlimited worked together with Sourcefabric, a non-profit organisation that specialises in constructing open source journalism opportunities. Sourcefabric provided the required expertise for the successful launch of the new website features. As the project got off to a rather slow start, Free Press Unlimited asked the National Endowment for Democracy for a six-month budget extension for the project. The extension was granted, creating an excellent opportunity for Free Press Unlimited's programme coordinator to monitor Awene's editorial line and content quality after the newspaper's Editor-in-Chief and Subeditor tendered their resignations in mid-December 2012.

Funding: National Endowment for Democracy

Balkan Investigative Reporting Network, Kosovo



Kosovo's burgeoning democracy is still very fragile. Although the Yugoslav Wars ended more than a decade ago, ethnic tensions between the region's Albanian population and the Serb minority crop up on a regular basis. Officially, there are very few limits on press freedom in Kosovo. In practice, however, there are numerous obstacles that stand in the way of the effective and impartial coverage of news events. The few people who have the courage to address controversial subjects such as alleged war crimes are not sure of their lives. This results in self-censorship. In addition, most of the media have a strong political bias, leading to a lack of diversity in news reports and a strong emphasis on ethnic issues. In 2012, Free Press Unlimited continued to support the Kosovo branch of the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN). Free Press Unlimited further developed Kosovo's first online news portal for investigative journalism and quality analysis – Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë. With over a million visits per year, this website has established itself as a key source of information for people living in Kosovo and abroad.

Another important activity supported by Free Press Unlimited in 2012 was the placement of five interns from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (RAE) communities at the BIRN office. The mainstream media in Kosovo show very little interest in these communities, and not one member of the RAE communities is currently employed as a professional journalist. In 2012, the interns working for Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë wrote some 30 stories, giving the local Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities a chance to share their perspective and creating an opportunity to address topics of special interest to them.

Funding: People Unlimited 4.1 Alliance
Would you like to know more? <http://gazetajnk.com/>

Independent News Centre, Kosovo

The Independent News Centre (INC) is a network of 17 independent radio stations located in both Kosovo and Serbia. The members of the INC – which was set up in 2008 by Free Press Unlimited’s long-term partner Radio Urban FM – work to provide Albanians and Serbs with impartial and objective news coverage.

In 2012, Free Press Unlimited supported a new INC project called The Bridge. In this project, the INC members worked together on the joint production of a weekly one-hour talk show. Each instalment focussed on a different subject and the show aimed to build a bridge between the Albanian and Serb communities living both in- and outside Kosovo. It was the first time Albanian and Serb broadcasters worked together on such a scale. Many high-profile guests have appeared on the show, including the Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo and the Minister of European Integration.

Funding: People Unlimited 4.1 Alliance

Press Freedom Festival, Kosovo

Free Press Unlimited teamed up with the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Prishtina to organise festivities marking World Press Freedom Day 2012 in Kosovo. The festival, which took place on 3 May, featured contributions by all Free Press Unlimited’s local partners in Kosovo.

The programme focussed on the enthusiastic efforts of a new generation of media professionals to build an independent media sector that works on the principles of transparency and fact-based, non-sensationalist reporting. However, the World Press Freedom Day event appealed to a wider audience than just media professionals. By holding the festivities at a central location in Prishtina – both indoors and out in the street – the organisers were able to involve Kosovo’s citizens and youth. Through television and radio broadcasts, online activities, debates and public screenings, the programme informed a broad audience about World Press Freedom Day and invited them to join in on the celebrations. The festival was a resounding success and a testimony to the partners’ ability to effectively work together. A new edition has been planned for 2013.

Funding: People Unlimited 4.1 Alliance/Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs/MATRA

KOSOVO 2.0, Kosovo

Kosovo 2.0 is an interactive multimedia web platform run by a team of relatively young but experienced journalists, editors, graphic designers and artists. The website serves as a home base for bloggers and video bloggers from all over the world. Kosovo 2.0 provides a platform for the region’s silent and disenfranchised majority: the Kosovar youth.

One remarkable development in 2012 in Kosovo’s socio-political sphere was the growing local support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) initiatives. A number of public debates were organised on LGBT themes, and members of Kosovo’s LGBT community were able to talk openly about the challenges they face in the region. In 2012, Kosovo 2.0 actively supported these changes, while simultaneously working on its own campaign, the release of the ‘Sex’ issue of its print magazine at the end of the year. This subject sparked controversy in Kosovo, and a group of some twenty people destroyed the stage during the new issue’s official presentation. One member of Kosovo 2.0’s staff was attacked at this time. Another important development in Kosovo, during the spring of 2012, was the draft of two new articles in Kosovo’s Penal Code that allow the state to prosecute journalists who refuse to reveal the identity of their sources. These articles form potential threats to Kosovo’s press freedom.

In the course of 2012, around 250 blogs were written and published by 35 local Albanian and Serb bloggers, seven international bloggers living in Kosovo, six regular regional bloggers and 21 international bloggers. In addition to devoting its fourth issue to ‘Sex’, the magazine Kosovo 2.0 also published an issue on ‘Religion’ in the spring of that year.

Funding: People Unlimited 4.1 Alliance
Would you like to know more? www.kosovotwopointzero.com

Breaking taboos is a risky affair for journalists in Kosovo

You don't have to travel that far to find a country where press freedom is under serious pressure. In the EU candidate member state Kosovo, journalists are regularly subjected to harassment and threats in the course of their work. During the release party for the latest issue of the magazine Kosovo 2.0, a group of rioters beat up the magazine's editors and destroyed equipment. The mob was angered by the magazine's latest theme: sexuality. The material damages – which ran into the thousands of euro – were subsequently covered by a contribution from Reporters Respond, Free Press Unlimited's emergency fund for journalists. Editor-in-Chief Besa Luçi is still recovering from the shock: 'It was terrifying. We had to be escorted home by the police.'

'They destroyed everything in their path.'

Prior to the presentation of the new issue, the editors of Kosovo 2.0 had already received numerous death threats after a local news website had announced the release would be a 'sex party'. This description rapidly spread across the Internet. Several hours before the party started, 20 rioters managed to storm the premises. 'They destroyed everything in their path,' explains Luçi. Later that evening, the street outside the venue filled with

hundreds of protesters. 'They were shouting things like 'infidel homosexuals' and 'Allahu Akbar', says Luçi. Police units prevented the protesters from entering the building. The party had to be cancelled due to the threatening situation. Protesters have posted footage of the riotous atmosphere during the evening online.

On-going challenge

'The magazine deals with the different questions that exist among young Kosovars about sexuality – how to deal with the widespread homophobia found in Kosovo and other Balkan countries, for example,' explains Luçi. As is evidenced by the violence used by the rioters during the release party, sexuality remains a very controversial issue in Kosovo. In 2009, Besa Luçi founded Kosovo 2.0 together with Dutchman Joan de Boer. Through this magazine, the editors hope to present a 'different Kosovo' to the war-torn country generally shown in the international media. According to Luçi and De Boer, Kosovo is also home to many creative young people. Kosovo 2.0 tries to break through the taboos that young Kosovars struggle with on a daily basis. 'Some 70% of Kosovo's population is under 35. Kosovo 2.0 offers this enormous group its own media platform', says Luçi. The magazine also has an English-language digital edition, enabling it to reach young Kosovars the world over. Quit? It has never even occurred to Luçi: 'After this disastrous evening, I am more determined than ever to continue this work!'

The Reporters Respond emergency fund for journalists

Damages were estimated at some EUR 5,000, and will be covered by Reporters Respond. The Reporters Respond fund was set up to provide financial support to journalists who suffer material damages in the course of their work. The fund helps them to repair or replace their equipment so that they can get back in the field as soon as possible.



Besa Luçi, Editor-in-Chief of Kosovo 2.0.

TV Dnestr, Transnistria, Moldova



TV Dnestr is an online television channel based in Bender, Transnistria. After starting off as an independent radio station, in 2010, Dnestr continued its activities as a website with the support of Free Press Unlimited. The online channel has become an important alternative source of information for the local populations of both Transnistria and Moldova. TV Dnestr helps to counter the isolation in terms of information experienced by ethnic groups living in Transnistria. It is the only initiative of its kind in the region.

In 2012, TV Dnestr received financial support from Free Press Unlimited, with two key objectives. The first objective was to improve the quality of TV Dnestr's productions. In the course of 2012, the channel started streaming live coverage of news events, and set up a small studio from where it could broadcast short daily news bulletins. The second objective was to develop an effective promotional strategy for TV Dnestr. The station team had no commercial experience prior to the launch of the project. Free Press Unlimited closely monitored the implementation of the various new activities. Our consultant Sergej Latysov – who had already worked with the TV Dnestr team on several occasions – paid two visits to the station in 2012 to provide the staff with technical advice and help get the promotional campaign underway. TV Dnestr printed 2,000 promotional flyers and put up two large banners along roads in Transnistria.

TV Dnestr is almost entirely dependent on donor funding. It worked under considerable financial pressure in 2012 – particularly when donors delayed their funding. It was by no means certain that the organisation would be able to round off its marketing campaign and quality improvement project if it came into further financial difficulties in 2013.

For this reason, Free Press Unlimited will continue to support TV Dnestr in the year ahead, and help the channel to survive as a precious source of objective information in this region.

Funding: People Unlimited 4.1 Alliance

Would you like to know more? www.dnestr.tv/

<http://www.youtube.com/user/DnestrTV>

Ziarul de Gardă, Moldova

The bi-weekly investigative newspaper Ziarul de Gardă (ZdG) became a Free Press Unlimited partner in 2011. It is one of the few wholly independent newspapers in Moldova and works to expose corruption and non-transparency in the country.

In 2012, the team of Ziarul de Gardă started to integrate its print newspaper and its online activities. Ziarul de Gardă operates both a website and an online investigative television portal. The latter initiative was officially recognised by the United Nations with an award. Free Press Unlimited provided Ziarul de Gardă with funding in support of the newspaper's further improvement of its websites. In addition, the newspaper continued the promotional campaign it had launched in 2011 with the aim of increasing its subscription numbers. The newspaper used Free Press Unlimited funding to raise the newspaper's visual appeal by including four colour pages in its issues. To support this process, Free Press Unlimited sent consultant Henk van Setten to visit Ziarul de Gardă on location.

In 2011, two district prosecutors sued Ziarul de Gardă for EUR 33,000, demanding compensation for the newspaper's reporting on their alleged wrongdoings. In the summer of 2012, the case was dismissed by Moldova's Supreme Court: a major victory for the publication. This decision was hailed by national and international media development organisations like the office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, as it set 'an example of due implementation of the national Law on Freedom of Expression'.

Ziarul de Gardă continues to operate in a hostile environment, however. The newspaper is under constant pressure as a direct result of its watchdog activities. The distribution of its print publication remains problematic

due to Moldova's current state monopoly on the distribution system, and its situation is complicated further by the relative lack of interest in print media in the country.

Funding: People Unlimited 4.1 Alliance
Would you like to know more? www.zdg.md
www.reporterdegarda.md

Independent Journalism Centre, Moldova

The Independent Journalism Centre (IJC) was established in December 1994. Founded on the principles of a free and open media, over the past 18 years, the IJC has focused on building a free and impartial media sector in Moldova through training and advocacy activities. To this end, it has provided media professionals and people working in the field of journalism with training, resources and consultancy services. The foundation for the Independent Journalism Centre's various activities is formed by the Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism. This institution was set up in 2006 with the support of Free Press Unlimited. A separate project description for the School of Advanced Journalism is included in a different section of this Annual Report.

2012 was the first time in their long-term partnership that Free Press Unlimited directly supported the IJC's own activities. The organisation provided the IJC with financial support to set up its own production department. The staff members of this production department have presently been trained and have produced a number of advocacy spots focusing on freedom of expression, access to information, media ethics, media platforms and solidarity among journalists. Free Press Unlimited organised two trainings over the past year, and a total of six advocacy spots have been produced. The IJC also relied on support by Free Press Unlimited in the organisation of its annual Press Club Gala in December 2012. Like its newly-established production department, this event significantly contributed to the Independent Journalism Centre's local visibility in Moldova.

Furthermore, Free Press Unlimited supported two consultancy missions to ICJ, aimed at bolstering the IJC's continuity and aiding the organisation's efforts to promote independent media and civil society in Transnistria. The consultants involved – Margarita Akhmediani, the director of Go Group Media, and the Bulgarian Petko Georgia –

both come from Southeastern Europe. This decision to rely on experts from neighbouring countries – who have practical experience dealing with challenges similar to those faced by the IJC in Moldova – was appreciated by the Centre. This consultancy programme will be continued in 2013.

The Independent Journalism Centre is one of Free Press Unlimited's strongest partners in Moldova. The organisation is here to stay, and plays a central role in addressing the different needs of the local media sector. For this reason, Free Press Unlimited will not hesitate to explore further opportunities to join strengths with the Independent Journalism Centre in the year ahead, and to share as much expertise as possible to strengthen the Centre's different projects and internal organisation.

Funding: People Unlimited 4.1 Alliance
Would you like to know more?
<http://www.ijc.md/eng/>

3. Strengthened media support organisations

Local organisations that dedicate themselves to helping journalists and media organisations play an indispensable role in the development of a healthy and diverse media landscape. Their activities range from providing aid and support to individual reporters and organising professional trainings to union work and lobbying for improved media legislation.

The combined efforts of these organisations contribute to a better situation for independent journalists and media parties in their respective countries. That is why Free Press Unlimited supports these organisations in turn, so that journalists around the world can continue to do their job to their best ability.

Strengthening the continuity of the Forum for African Investigative Reporters, South Africa



The Forum for African Investigative Reporters (FAIR) is a professional association for investigative journalists in Africa. Investigative journalism in Africa suffers from a lack of editorial and publishing support, poor resources and the risks involved in exposing local abuses of power. This situation is further complicated by the fact that journalism is still widely perceived as a poorly-paid job, with positions

in public relations or management appearing to offer more attractive options for the reporter who wants to get ahead.

This situation affects the flow of quality information to the public, leading to a lack of transparency in many African countries and forming a major obstacle to civic empowerment. Moreover, it affects the standing of African journalism in the international community, as it helps perpetuate negative stereotypes about the continent and makes it difficult for African journalists to share their perspectives. The Forum for African Investigative Reporters sees it as its mission to improve the quality of investigative journalism in Africa – both through peer mentoring initiatives and by providing small-scale funding for investigative projects. The Forum works to promote effective, ethical and original reporting that goes beyond a simplistic focus on ‘corrupt’ individuals, in favour of a more systematic exposure of corruption, exploitation and other social injustices.

In 2012 Free Press Unlimited’s contribution enabled FAIR to once again present its annual award for the best investigative journalism project, as well as issue grants to a number of investigative reporters. In addition to supporting these activities, Free Press Unlimited funds enabled the organisation to set up a more professional financial management structure and develop a cohesive strategy for its future in the shape of a business plan. FAIR will use this plan to explore and determine which measures it will need to take to strengthen its organisational continuity.

Funding: Press Freedom Consortium

Partner: Forum for African Investigative Reporters, South Africa

Would you like to know more?

<http://fairreporters.net/>

Evaluation of the Zambian Institute of Mass Communication training programme in Zambia



Following the implementation of a pilot project in Zambia in 2011, in early 2012, Free Press Unlimited commissioned a third party to evaluate the results, relevance and efficiency of this programme in the Zambian media community media landscape. This external evaluation also assessed to which extent the programme addressed local needs and the initiative's possible value for the future.

The results of the evaluation show that the project definitely fills a niche in Zambia's media landscape, as it focuses on teaching a variety of programming formats, story development and learning and persuasion techniques. As such, the project does not compete with capacity strengthening programmes offered by other organisations. Besides distinguishing itself in terms of its curriculum, according to the beneficiaries of the training programme, it also offered highly relevant content. One thing that was clearly established during the evaluation was that a future version of this programme should offer production training in tandem with other types of training – with a specific focus on the financial management of a radio station. Furthermore, the Zambian Institute of Mass Communication (ZAMCOM) was advised to integrate the new course in its overall training offer. All in all, this pilot programme, which had been jointly developed by Free Press Unlimited and ZAMCOM, presented clear added value for the Zambian media landscape.

Funding: People Unlimited 4.1 Alliance
Partner: Zambian Institute of Mass Communication

Trainings for community radio stations in Zambia

After a positive review of this training programme in early 2012, the partners decided to continue it in the second half of the year. The project is still underway at the time of writing. As the Zambian Institute of Mass Communication had seen considerable staff turnover during parts of 2011 and 2012, the management team felt the need to organise a new and revised Training of Trainers course. In addition to drawing two trainers from the Radio department, Free Press Unlimited advised management to form a larger pool of trainers that includes staff from the Institute's Television and ICT departments, as well as station managers previously trained by the Zambian Institute of Mass Communication. Several of these individuals had already shown considerable talent in this area. This ultimately resulted in a group of 10 trained trainers, and the strengthening and development of the organisation's human capacity.

A total of five production trainings have been organised so far, in which 81 people were trained – 25 of whom were women. In addition, the partners will be organising a training in financial management and marketing for the participating stations. This training will be geared towards financial managers and sales staff. The objective of the latter training is to enable community radio stations to increase their income from local advertising. In addition, a comprehensive capacity needs assessment for the Zambian Institute of Mass Communication has been planned for 2013 that will also focus on staff skills and various technical issues. This assessment is expected to lead to the development of a capacity strengthening strategy. And finally, the Zambian Institute of Mass Communication will be conducting a media survey in 2013, which will be followed by a conference for its major stakeholders that focuses on community media development.

Funding: People Unlimited 4.1 Alliance
Partner: Zambian Institute of Mass Communication



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Gisela Volcetti en su Tijuana Bros...

IMPERIAL



Bridge funding and strengthening of community radio activities in Zimbabwe



Despite the call for free airwaves included in the Global Political Agreement and the allocation of two national radio frequencies to companies associated with ZANU-PF, Zimbabwe's broadcast media landscape still does not admit any independent players.

The Zimbabwe Association of Community Radio Stations serves as the umbrella organisation for community radio station initiatives in Zimbabwe. The Association has been lobbying for free airwaves in Zimbabwe since its establishment in 2003. Even though none of its members has a broadcast licence, they work to inform their local communities through alternative means, such as broadcasting from abroad, publishing CDs, offering text message services, and by organising road shows, local festivals and music events.

Over the years, the Zimbabwe Association of Community Radio Stations has faced a number of challenges, culminating in early 2012 with the dismissal of its previous

Director. In 2012, Free Press Unlimited partnered with IMS to offer bridge funding to see the Association through this period, in which another major funder of the Zimbabwe Association of Community Radio Stations was also reviewing its recent support. In addition to providing bridge funding, Free Press Unlimited supported the Zimbabwe Association of Community Radio Stations in its organisation of a consultative stakeholder meeting. This meeting was intended to further strengthen the Association's communication activities and member consultation process. Free Press Unlimited also organised a strategic workshop for the Association's board members. In the area of member initiatives, Free Press Unlimited helped fund legal assistance for six Association members that did not have proper deed of trust registration. In addition, the organisation enabled 10 members that lacked their own website to develop one, meaning that a total of 13 stations can now be found online. The members also received training in the technical management of their website.

Funding: Press Freedom Consortium
Partner: Zimbabwe Association of Community Radio Stations
Would you like to know more? www.zacraszim.org

Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC), Bangladesh



In 2012, a total of 14 community radio stations were active throughout Bangladesh under an approved community radio policy, broadcasting 100 hours of programming per day. Over 500 young journalists and volunteers (nearly half of them women) are involved in the broadcast and production of these local radio programmes. The growth and success of community media is a direct result of



Students attending a training in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

the long-term lobby and advocacy efforts of Free Press Unlimited's local partner BNNRC. Last year, another two organisations were licenced to operate a radio station. These stations will be ready to start broadcasting in 2013. The two main objectives of Free Press Unlimited's partnership with BNNRC are: 1) To strengthen BNNRC as an organisation, so that it can actively engage in lobbying and advocacy for improved legislation and law enforcement with regard to community media and Bangladesh's Right to Information Act (RTI); and 2) To sensitise local audiences regarding the importance of community radio for civil society and to improve the skills of community radio staff and other community media professionals.

To strengthen its internal capacity, BNNRC organised trainings that furthered its employees' professional development in the fields of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and the Training of Trainers (ToT). The Community Media Resource Centre team was strengthened with a full-time project officer and two new resource publications (Gender Policy of Community Media and Community Radio in Bangladesh: Recent Experiences and Challenges). In addition, the BNNRC organised two training programmes for participants from all 14 radio stations. These programmes focused on development news and development advertising for community media. The organisation also produced four television talk shows on community media and development, which were broadcast on RTV, a popular privately-owned television channel in Bangladesh.

Funding: Press Freedom Consortium
Partner: Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC)
Would you like to know more? www.bnnrc.net

Baku School of Journalism, Azerbaijan



The Baku School of Journalism has been Free Press Unlimited's key partner in Azerbaijan since 2005. Established by prominent Azerbaijani journalists, professors of journalism and opinion leaders, the School aims to create a new community of qualified journalists in the country.

In 2012, the Baku School of Journalism received funding from Free Press Unlimited in support of the institution's capacity strengthening programme. Over the course of 2012, the School offered two tri-media courses for fifteen participants each. Besides print journalism, these courses also focus on television, radio and online journalism. The school also offered a regular civic journalism course, as well as additional weekly short-term courses covering 'hot topics'. A total of 95 students have graduated from the School so far.

Through this unique curriculum – specifically the tri-media course – the Baku School of Journalism has demonstrated its ability to adapt to a changing media environment. The institution has recognised the important role the Internet can play in the field of independent journalism. Although the School is generally greeted with hostility by local authorities, it has managed to continue growing over the years. This success improves its chances of survival and its continuity as an organisation. Financial sustainability remains a major concern for the School, however. Virtually its entire budget is covered by external donations. Due to various structural problems in Azerbaijan's media sector – a direct result of the country's repressive political atmosphere – the Baku School of Journalism will most likely remain donor-dependent. The institution's key strength lies in its ability to raise funds from an increasingly wide range of donors.

Funding: Freedom from Fear Alliance
Partner: Baku School of Journalism
Would you like to know more? www.var.az

Institutional development of the Independent Media Centre Kurdistan in Iraq



The political situation in Northern Iraq remains volatile. In 2012, relations between the authorities and local media deteriorated as a consequence of the 2011 anti-government demonstrations. Independent media organisations were accused of taking the side of the demonstrators. The IMCK tries to counter this trend by advocating for professional standards and actively engaging with media parties, politicians and government representatives. In 2012, this resulted among other things in the distribution of 'riot cards' and hi-viz jackets that make it easier for journalists to identify themselves as members of the press when reporting on a demonstration.

The Independent Media Centre Kurdistan (IMCK) is based in Iraqi Kurdistan, a region with very few independent media outlets and professional journalists. The IMCK aims to improve this situation by raising the quality and skills of local journalists and media organisations through training, education and consultancy.

The IMCK depends on various international donors, including local sources and corporate funding initiatives set up in Northern Kurdistan. Funding remains an issue, however, and in 2012, the IMCK was forced to cancel or postpone a number of projects. The Centre is increasingly focusing on the organisation of topical trainings on issues that are underexposed in the Iraqi media, like the economy, natural resources, environment and illegal migration. The film festival 'Illusions of Paradise', which presents documentary films about the tragedy and false hope of illegal migration, has become a regular event. The IMCK organises some 50 events per year (including training workshops, seminars and debates), which are attended by over 1,000 participants.

The website Kirkuk Now was set up by the IMCK in 2011 as a training and reporting project. The main objective of the website is to offer the people of Kirkuk independent coverage of news events in Kirkuk and the surrounding region. Within a short period of time, Kirkuk Now has become a trusted source of information for the city's different ethnic groups. The oil-rich city of Kirkuk has a mixed population of Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen, Christians, Shiite and Sunni. Inter-ethnic conflicts regularly lead to violent clashes. Kirkuk Now tries to create greater understanding between these different groups, by offering news and information in the four main languages spoken in the city. Its website is currently visited by some 73,000 people a month, and page views were up to 283,463 as of December 2012. Kirkuk Now will serve as the model for a similar initiative in Mosul, a city that faces issues similar to those in Kirkuk.

Funding: Freedom from Fear Alliance

Would you like to know more?

<http://imckiraq.blogspot.nl / www.kirkuknow.com>

Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism, Moldova



The Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism was founded in 2006 to address the poor quality of journalism degree programmes in Moldova. The School offers consistent, long-term, practice-oriented education in this field – something that had been lacking in the country so far. The institution trains between 15 and 20 undergraduate and graduate students per year, and enjoys structural funding by Free Press Unlimited. In addition, Free Press Unlimited organised its second Training of Trainers (ToT) mission to the school in November 2012, leading to the training of

twelve new local trainers. This pool of trainers can play a key role in the development of Moldova’s local media sector.

Since its establishment, 81 young journalists have graduated from the Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism. Sixty-five percent of these graduates presently work for local Moldovan media outlets. Other alumni of the School have found employment at media development organisations and other NGOs, in the public relations industry, or have moved abroad to gain an advanced degree in their field. Free Press Unlimited will continue to support the School in 2013.

Funding: People Unlimited 4.1 Alliance
Partner: Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism
Would you like to know more?
<http://scoaladejournalism.md/en/>

Enhancing safety and security for journalists in Mexico, Mexico



More journalists have gone missing in Mexico than any other country in the world. At least nine members of the press were reported missing during President Calderón’s six-year term, according to a study by the Committee to Protect Journalists. The human rights organisation Article 19 recorded the murder of six journalists and seven attacks on media outlets with explosives or gunfire in 2012. Media professionals in the country continue to fall prey to murder and kidnapping, or become the target of personal threats and malicious prosecution. So far, a number of investigations by the federal government have failed to effectively address cases of violence and aggression against journalists, and are marred by omissions, delays and compromised procedures.

In 2012, Free Press Unlimited supported Article 19’s Mexico and Central America office in the recording and documentation of violence against journalists, as well as helping Article 19 to launch and update its website specialising on safety and security issues and promote the site’s content via social media networks. In addition, Free Press Unlimited helped Article 19 to monitor the performance and transparency of the federal Protection Mechanism for Journalists and organise its first E-learning pilot programme, which focused on safety and security for journalists. Finally, Free Press Unlimited supported Article 19’s Mexico and Central America office in the strengthening of its institutional communication and administrative procedures – two projects that will see further consolidation in 2013.

Funding: Press Freedom Consortium
Partner: Article 19’s Mexico and Central America Office
Would you like to know more?
www.coberturaderiesgo.net

4. Support provided to networks and platforms

We can achieve far more if we work together. This quickly becomes clear when you try to get to the bottom of a story in a conflict area or a country with a repressive regime. Free Press Unlimited supports networks and platforms of journalists and media organisations that focus on joint progress, knowledge exchange and debate on relevant issues.

Al Sawt al Hurr, Egypt



Since the fall of Mubarak in 2011, the Cairo-based journalism training centre Al Sawt al Hurr (The Voice of Freedom) has played a pioneering role in the development and supervision of the country's new media landscape. After years of government repression and propaganda, a world of possibilities is open to Egyptian journalists. At the same time, the country's new rulers have already started tampering with the local media's freshly-won freedoms.

Supported by Free Press Unlimited, Al Sawt al Hurr works to strengthen and professionalise the operations of Egyptian media organisations and professionals. The centre's main activities are skill trainings for journalists and management courses for the organisations' management teams. In addition, Al Sawt al Hurr offers legal advice to

journalists and organises seminars and meetings where a variety of media-related topics are freely discussed.

Egypt remained in political turmoil throughout 2012, and this unrest was only heightened further by the two presidential election rounds. Media channels had a hard time keeping up with the rapid developments in the country. However, Al Sawt al Hurr continued to organise workshops on themes like social media, legal awareness, news-writing skills, professional and personal safety and financial reporting. The training centre organised a total of 34 workshops in 2012, which were attended by 530 participants.

A major development in Al Sawt al Hurr's internal organisation was the resignation of its Director Khaled Dawoud in the spring of 2012. He has been replaced by Petrus Schothorst, who now serves as the centre's Interim Director.

A new initiative undertaken by Al Sawt al Hurr in 2012 was the publication of the Media Monitor Egypt: a bi-monthly report on developments in the Egyptian media sector. The production of these reports is co-funded by Oxfam Novib and Free Press Unlimited. Every two months, both digital and print versions of the reports are distributed through the networks of the various organisations involved.

Funding: Press Freedom Consortium
Would you like to know more?
<http://asahnetwork.org>



Union of Regional Broadcasters Meridian, Moldova



Over the past four years, regional media have managed to become an important alternative source of information for the public in Moldova. Citizens have never before had so much access to new information, or so many opportunities to connect with their communities. However, many regional media organisations in the country are in financial straits, which threatens their continuity. The Moldovan Union of Regional Broadcasters Meridian manages a network of 15 regional television stations and 13 regional radio stations, including two online television

stations and two radio stations based in the breakaway territory of Transnistria. The Meridian team works to strengthen the members’ capacity.

In 2012, Meridian received funding from Free Press Unlimited for strengthening its central studio in Chisinau. The organisation launched a new television channel, which is based in this studio and broadcasts contributions from each of the union’s member stations. Free Press Unlimited’s support covered the costs of the studio production team. The team is presently up to speed and is committed to bringing the stories and issues of Moldova’s different regions to the attention of all Moldovans. Among other things, the new channel produces hourly news bulletins – presented in both Romanian and Russian – and current affairs programmes. Free Press Unlimited consultant Jack Kroes visited Moldova in September 2012 to support Meridian by offering a staff training programme and sharing his expertise.

Funding: People Unlimited 4.1 Alliance
Would you like to know more?
www.canalregional.md

5. Journalism initiatives

In areas where there is so much repression that local journalists are unable to do their work, Free Press Unlimited occasionally initiates its own news services. The main goal of these journalism initiatives is to provide reliable information to citizens caught up in the local conflict. For these people, reliable news coverage can literally be a matter of life and death. By developing effective reporting solutions that are tailored to the local situation, Free Press Unlimited offers local target audiences a rare opportunity to access impartial and reliable information about their situation.

Free Press Unlimited's journalism initiatives are implemented in highly complex and frequently hostile environments. The close monitoring of local political, security, economic and social conditions is of particular importance for Free Press Unlimited, as it allows the organisation to plan its projects more effectively and swiftly respond to changing conditions and their possible consequences.

Radio Hirad, Somalia



Independent media organisations play a crucial role in the stabilisation and rebuilding of Somalia and stimulating good governance in the war-torn country. The local

population can only make informed decisions about matters that impact their lives and personal safety when they have access to reliable information.

Free Press Unlimited's projects in Somalia aim to promote professional journalism and balanced reporting and give the local people more opportunities to develop their own opinions.

Free Press Unlimited's key objectives in Somalia are:

- To raise the professional standards of local radio journalists, particularly in terms of the accuracy, balance and impartiality of their coverage of news and current affairs. In this context, Free Press Unlimited works to expand the range of subjects covered by partner organisations to include important issues that are generally underexposed in the Somali media;
- To strengthen Free Press Unlimited's partner radio stations in terms of continuity – specifically their ability to generate legitimate income and cover their operating costs.

Free Press Unlimited originally proposed to produce a daily broadcast via shortwave radio. However, this schedule and format proved unfeasible due to a lack of certain skills among the local trainees and staff limitations at the participating stations. Furthermore, a different format and broadcasting schedule would be more effective in the local Somali context. For this reason, the project ultimately focussed on professional training and the production of a weekly one-hour radio programme that was broadcast across Somalia by 15 participating stations.

In 2012, Free Press Unlimited provided 64 journalists from radio stations across the country with training in basic journalism skills – including hands-on training on location. In addition, the organisation offered 24 station executives radio management training at its centre in Hargeisa.

The basic journalism and on-the-job training course ran for three months, allowing the trainees to take turns producing the weekly programme on Radio Hirad. The

management training programme focused on business planning, advertising acquisition and administration, in order to strengthen the local stations' continuity and discourage corruption.

Radio Hiraad, a balanced weekly news and information programme, is produced according to international standards of journalism by local journalists, including the participants in the 2012 training programme. The radio programme is distributed to stations all over the country. It is estimated the programme has presently been heard by around 50% of the Somali population. Radio Hiraad can also be listened to via its website, where visitors can also download its broadcasts.

Funding: People Unlimited 4.1 Alliance, European Commission (European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights):
Would you like to know more? www.radiohiraad.org

Format development programme for Radio Hiraad, Somalia

In this project, Free Press Unlimited provides and encourages unbiased news coverage and persuasive 'story-telling reporting' for the Somali people. This way, it hopes to create a shared public understanding of the rule of law, accountability and human rights and develop greater understanding between the country's communities. Ultimately, this should help the Somali people to make better informed decisions and become less susceptible to radicalisation.

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In 2012, the security situation deteriorated for journalists in Somalia as a whole – and the South-Central region in particular – with 12 journalists reported murdered

in that year alone. This does not include the numerous unsuccessful attempts on the lives of local media professionals – including several of Free Press Unlimited's trainees. These dangerous conditions frequently disrupted the trainees' travel plans and availability and led to last-minute cancellations.

Funding: Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Security Policy Department)

Support to independent radio stations in South-Central Somalia

In Somalia, access to accurate and objective information is particularly important in areas that are or were formerly controlled by the rebels of al-Shabaab. A lack of concrete information in these towns and rural areas encourages the spread of misinformation, censorship and propaganda and leads to a lack of understanding and trust between the various communities. While we have no reliable data regarding listener numbers in these areas, radio is estimated to have the greatest reach, particularly outside of Mogadishu. This is also acknowledged by al-Shabaab itself, which relies heavily on radio for its own communication.

The main aim of this project was to give Somalis living in Baidoa, Beledweyne and Jowhar – all areas that were recently liberated from al-Shabaab occupation – greater access to reliable information that is not subject to al-Shabaab propaganda and censorship. This way, Free Press Unlimited hopes to contribute to a more inclusive and effective political reconciliation process in these areas. The organisation has supported three radio stations with equipment and training. In addition, managers at the three stations were given management training to strengthen their station's organisational continuity. The stations were issued basic radio equipment that allows them to record and broadcast news features.

Funding: People Unlimited 4.1. Alliance, British Embassy



Journalists at work for Radio Tamazuj, South Sudan.

Radio Tamazuj – News across the border of Sudan and South Sudan

Radio Tamazuj promotes people's right to freedom of speech and right to information in Sudan and South Sudan. It is presently the most listened-to station in the Abyei Area, Southern Blue Nile and Kordofan. Fighting continues in these troubled regions, forcing many people to flee their homes. In such situations, access to objective information can become a matter of life and death. Radio Tamazuj broadcasts independent news reports and information relating to local security conditions and the humanitarian situation for the people living in these areas. In the longer term, Radio Tamazuj plans to expand its programming and improve the professional quality of local journalism in the region.

A year after South Sudan gained its independence in 2011, a border war broke out between Sudan and the new state with incursions on both sides. The clashes between the Sudanese and South Sudanese troops related to disputed boundaries and the future of the border region of Abyei. In addition, the Sudanese government in Khartoum came in conflict with rebels in the Nuba Mountains and the Southern Blue Nile who are fighting for equal rights, religious and cultural freedom and economic development in the region. The Khartoum government responded with a combination of scorched-earth tactics and aerial bombings, leading to food shortages in the region. Aid agencies are not allowed to enter the area,

however, resulting in thousands of deaths and hundreds of thousands of displaced persons. Radio Tamazuj keeps listeners on both sides informed of new developments in the fighting, the humanitarian situation and the peace process. At the same time, Radio Tamazuj has developed into an important source of information about the conflict for the international community. Radio Tamazuj's website was considerably expanded in 2012, and now offers both English- and Arabic-language content.

The station's radio unit in the disputed border region of Abyei was destroyed by Sudanese government troops in 2012. Like most of the local population, the journalists have left the area pending the entry of an effective peace force.

In 2013, Radio Tamazuj plans to actively monitor food supplies in the area, as well as the growing stream of displaced persons. The station aims to play an even more prominent role in the turbulent border region. In the course of the year, Tamazuj expects to once again set up a radio unit in Abyei. Tamazuj will try to team up with local stations that are supported by Free Press Unlimited to distribute its productions. One of the organisation's spearhead projects in the year ahead will be strengthening its reporters' professional qualifications and improving the safety conditions they work under.

Would you like to know more? www.radiotamazuj.org

Let's Talk – Civic education in South Sudan



South Sudan now has to manage its own affairs. The young country has started on a process of democratisation, which will need to develop in tandem with the civic spirit of its population. To this end, the people of South Sudan need be aware their rights and obligations as citizens and learn how they can participate in their country's administration – at all political levels. Working in collaboration with the National Democratic Institute, Free Press Unlimited has launched a series of radio programmes produced in each of South Sudan's 10 constituent states, under the header Let's Talk. Each 30-minute programme deals with a specific topical issue, and presents a brief radio drama and an interview with experts, followed by vox pops and a public discussion. The hosts are trained to moderate this discussion on the basis of a pre-established format in the local languages of the region in question. The programme is broadcast in most of South Sudan's states, and the popular format is expected to be expanded further over the course of 2013. Two issues were even discussed in the South Sudanese parliament as a result of one of the broadcasts: the conduct of local police on the street and the fact that women in South Sudan do not have the right of inheritance. The project demonstrates that the impact of a centrally managed broadcasting programme is proportionate to the extent to which local stations can contribute their own perspectives.

A total of 18 programmes were produced in 2012. In addition, Free Press Unlimited organised three forum meetings for radio stations in South Sudan's three main regions: Equatoria, Bahr el Ghazal and Greater Upper Nile. These forums served as an occasion for discussion, training, information exchange, drawing attention to the Let's Talk project and the development of new network partner agreements with local radio stations.

Funding: National Democratic Institute
Partner: National Democratic Institute
Would you like to know more?
www.ndi.org/south-sudan

Africa Educational Trust – Education programme in South Sudan

Due to the high illiteracy rates and poor infrastructure in the remotest parts of South Sudan, radio forms an important instrument for education and information exchange in these areas. It often takes the local villagers days to reach the nearest city, and the areas have little to no electricity and very little money for schooling. As part of the Africa Educational Trust Programme, Free Press Unlimited implemented a unique three-year schedule education programme for remote areas in 2012 that involved role back centres and small community radio stations. Working in partnership with a local team, Free Press Unlimited developed educational content, produced the programmes, developed audio tests (radio-based exams) and implemented a student progress monitoring and feedback system. Three radio stations and five centres participated in the teaching education programme, which made use of both radio broadcasts and cassette tapes – in areas with no reception. The project monitored the progress of over 4,000 weekly participants. The programme includes teaching scripts for specific subjects, tests and feedback. The results of this innovative project will be published in 2013.

Would you like to know more?
www.africaeducationaltrust.org/where-we-work/southern-sudan

Sustainable media development in South Sudan

Sustainable media development in South Sudan is aimed at helping the local media to become economically self-sufficient, independent of political forces and able to operate within a legal framework of freedom of the press. In this project, Free Press Unlimited organised a financial management training for 10 journalists and local media organisation managers. The participants were first asked to assess their existing knowledge and understanding of finance and financial management issues. Except for one journalist, all participants rated their own knowledge as low. Following this self-assessment, the participants took



Journalists at work for Radio Tamazuj, South Sudan.

part in an open discussion on the importance of financial management for journalists, both as employees of a media organisation and as contributors to the public debate. The training involved the explanation, examination and discussion of the principles of stewardship, accountability, transparency, integrity, viability and consistency; a basic introduction to budgeting; practical exercises in financial reporting and the use of real-life examples from business newspapers like The Financial Times, The Wall Street Journal and the International Herald Tribune. One exercise dealt with interpreting, using and reporting on South Sudan's consumer price index (CPI): the only index available in South Sudan to measure domestic inflation, a major economic concern. The guide for this module was based on the CIVICUS Budgeting Toolkit developed by Janet Shapiro. During the exercise, participants were given excerpts from South Sudan's National Bureau of Statistics Consumer Price Index for July 2012. These were used to explain the methodology, principles and use of the index and its limitations for financial reporting. This was followed by a Q and A session on the index.

Funding: International Organisation for Migration / EU

Radio Dabanga, a Free Press Unlimited initiative in Sudan

Radio Dabanga started broadcasting news and information programmes in Darfur on 1 December 2008. The news bulletins are broadcast in Darfur Arabic and five local languages. The station is presently considered the only reliable source of news information about the region – not just Darfur, but the whole of Sudan. That is why in 2012, Radio Dabanga also focused on current developments and news events in both Sudan and South Sudan.

The war between Sudan and South Sudan resumed in 2012, with border clashes, incursions and a rebellion in the Nuba Mountains and Southern Blue Nile. These events were all closely monitored by Radio Dabanga. Starting as a station that concentrated exclusively on Darfur, over time, the station's reporters also started covering the related border conflicts. This increased Radio Dabanga's value as a regional news channel and made the station an indispensable source of information for the people of Sudan. When authorities in Khartoum declared that they had foiled an attempted coup, the station was able to cover this event virtually in real time.

The Sudanese government tries to tightly control all media channels in the country. Nevertheless, Radio Dabanga also became a key platform for the ruling National Congress Party to spread information that is in the national interest.

An outbreak of yellow fever in Sudan led health authorities and Radio Dabanga to collaborate on an almost daily basis in order to provide the population with instructions and information. After taking scores of lives, the outbreak was contained thanks to a campaign that included broadcasts on Radio Dabanga: a trusted source of information. A focus group review held in 2012 showed that the people of Sudan have embraced the station as a local public service. Their main complaints about the station are the limited duration of its broadcasts and jamming by government transmitters. Although for most of Dabanga's target audience this interference is not a major problem, in some areas this affects the station's broadcasts. An audience survey conducted in late 2012 also yielded positive results, leading to the announcement of new initiatives in the spring of 2013.

The main challenge for Radio Dabanga in 2012 continued to be the protection of its stringers and reporters. Nevertheless, 2012 was a relatively calm and safe year for the station, which has adopted the most stringent safety measures to protect its network. Dabanga also resumed its training and capacity building activities and its central desk provided new batches of trainees with support and equipment for their work in the field.

Funding: Various donors

Would you like to know more?

www.radiodabanga.org

Support for licence application of Radio Voice of the People in Zimbabwe



Actually, it did not come as a surprise that in 2011, the new national frequency licences for radio broadcasters were issued to the pro-government organisations Zimpapers and ZIFM. Our local partner Radio Voice of the People was unsuccessful in its bid for a broadcast licence. Free Press Unlimited had supported Radio Voice of the People in its application.

Despite this setback, when the government issued a new call the following year, Radio Voice of the People decided to re-apply for a licence. Free Press Unlimited once again supported the application. This time, the government call involved 15 local licences. However, since only five organisations applied for a licence, the entire procedure was cancelled without any indication whether a new licencing procedure will be initiated at a later date. So far, no new calls have been issued by the government and there is no clarity regarding what will happen next in this process. What is clear, however, is that the Zimbabwean Ministry of Information will not be issuing licenses prior to elections.

Funding: Press Freedom Consortium

Partner: Radio Voice of the People (VOP)



Women listening to a Radio Dabanga news broadcast in El Geneina, Darfur.

The Zimbabwean comes home, Zimbabwe

Until October 2012, the weekly newspaper The Zimbabwean was unable to be openly distributed in Zimbabwe. The country's government has passed highly restrictive media legislation, and Harare generally does not tolerate a critical press. The Zimbabwean, which was established in 2005, has always maintained an independent editorial stance towards the country's administration, which does not make things easy for the publication. So far, the newspaper has been forced to operate from bases in the UK and South Africa. In 2012, The Zimbabwean decided to establish a local presence in the country, in the context of an overall strategic re-orientation. This proved an opportune decision, as soon after, Zimbabwe's Media Commission announced that all unregistered print publications were in breach of the law.

One of the prerequisites for obtaining a local licence was a registered office in the country. The weekly asked Free Press Unlimited to help establish this local office, as well as provide funding for the salaries of the local office staff. In addition, the management requested funding for the development of a business plan that is intended to consolidate The Zimbabwean's local presence in Zimbabwe.

The newspaper opened its local desk in May 2012, in the centre of Harare. The office is staffed by a local editor, two journalists and a sales representative. In August 2012, the paper was finally issued a local licence. Though this is greeted as good news, the management also realise that the licence can be revoked at any time. Therefore, The Zimbabwean continues to be printed in the neighbouring country of South Africa.

In addition, Free Press Unlimited helped the management to draw up a business plan in 2012 that in time should lead to financial self-sufficiency for The Zimbabwean. This plan will be implemented in 2013.

Funding: People Unlimited 4.1 Alliance

Partner: The Zimbabwean

Would you like to know more?

www.thezimbabwean.co.uk

Channel Zim – The first national, independent radio service in Zimbabwe

Since Zimbabwe gained independence in 1980, the state – which in practice means the ruling party ZANU-PF – has maintained a strict broadcasting monopoly through the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC). Independent

radio stations that challenge this monopoly, broadcasting from across the borders of the country – are labelled 'pirate radios' by the government in Harare. This restrictive media environment forms a major obstacle to balanced, fair and impartial news coverage for the citizens of Zimbabwe. Over the years, the state broadcaster ZBC has inundated its audiences with skewed reports and information. The population responded by turning en masse to free-to-air satellite broadcasts from South Africa. Millions of Zimbabweans have installed satellite dishes at their homes to listen to independent news, entertainment and information.

The local media organisations Radio Voice of the People, SW Radio Africa, Radio Dialogue, Community Radio Harare and the Zimbabwe Association of Community Radio Stations recognised that this development also creates new opportunities. They decided to form a consortium that will launch a special radio service for Zimbabweans that can be accessed via a satellite transmission platform: Channel Zim. It will be the first independent, nation-wide service of its kind in the country's history.

Channel Zim will be offering its listeners objective information and election news coverage that will enable them to make better-informed decisions.

To help its local partners to build the skills and knowledge required for the production of quality content that is specific to Zimbabwe, Free Press Unlimited supported a programming and production workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa. The organisation will also be supporting the follow-up workshop that will be held in Harare in 2013.

Funding: People Unlimited 4.1 Alliance, Press Freedom Consortium

Partner: Zimbabwe Association of Community Radio Stations (ZACRAS), on behalf of the Channel Zim Consortium



Truck Radio broadcasting for the local population of Bamiyan Province in Afghanistan.

Truck Radio project in partnership with Bamiyan University in Afghanistan



In Afghanistan, Free Press Unlimited intended to continue training prospective radio journalists in the mobile radio station it has set up in collaboration with Bamiyan University. As in previous years, this mobile radio station, popularly known as Truck Radio, was supposed to travel to different areas in Bamiyan Province to offer trainee journalists an opportunity to gain hands-on experience. However, the local security situation in 2012 forced the training programme to remain in the provincial capital rather than travel through the region. Two trainers were

recruited to offer the training in the summer of 2012 to Bamiyan University students and ‘grassroots’ participants from the conflict areas. This inclusive approach led to the development of a cross-conflict reporting structure. A total of 40 prospective journalists from Bamiyan Province were trained in 2012. The training covered a variety of subjects, including basic journalism skills and ethics, reporting and interviewing techniques and audio recording and digital editing.

However, Free Press Unlimited has decided to no longer partner with Bamiyan University in this project, due to repeated changes in the University’s governing board, the University’s interference in the project – including the request to control programme content – and the restrictions it places on the project schedule in exchange for the continuing involvement of its students and facilities. In the year ahead, Free Press Unlimited will be focusing on new projects in Afghanistan and seeking out new local partners for effective new initiatives.

Funding: People Unlimited 4.1 Alliance
Partner: Bamiyan University





Afghan students training their new radio production skills.

Newscap, Tajikistan



Due to various developments, Free Press Unlimited was unable to implement a number of its programmes in Tajikistan in 2012. These programmes involved support to online initiatives by local print media, strategic support to a local consortium that would possibly be established to set up a 'journalism school', and support to Tajikistan's network of regional television stations.

Free Press Unlimited's online media initiative Newscap, which it launched in 2011 in partnership with a local Tajik newspaper, was put on hold due to a series of libel suits against the outlet and the emigration of various key staff members to Russia. Access to information for people in the Pamir Mountains was seriously hindered by violence and unrest in the region. The region was closed off by government order and all communication channels were shut down.

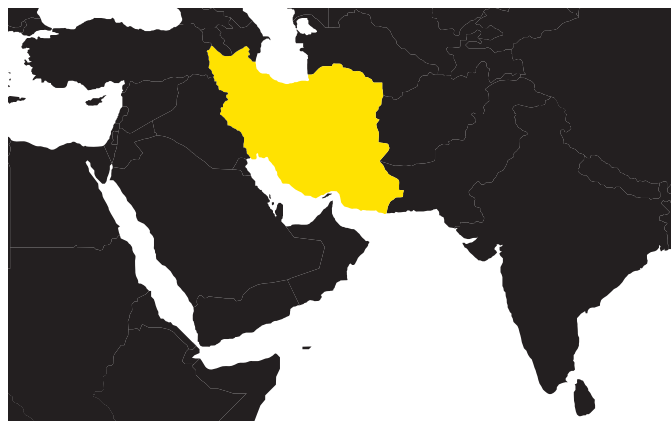
In the case of the 'journalism school' initiative, it proved impossible to form a consortium that could handle the scale and requirements of the proposed project. A local non-governmental organisation that had taken on this responsibility was unable to deliver on its promises, but would not allow other organisations to take over the project. Although Free Press Unlimited used various approaches to resolve this situation, it was unable to do so.

Our programme for Tajikistan's regional television network was hindered by lower budgets due to the general economic crisis, on-going censorship and government pressure, and lawsuits against one of the project's key regional partners. Furthermore, experienced programme staff members were 'bought up', leaving the project understaffed and unable to fulfil its mandate.

In 2013, Free Press Unlimited will be strengthening its local presence in Tajikistan, by deploying a team of local coordinators and consultants to oversee the step-by-step implementation of the local programmes. The continuation of local projects is dependent on concrete targets, which will be closely monitored.

Funding: People Unlimited 4.1. Alliance

Radio Zamaneh, Iran



Media organisations in Iran are under strong pressure to conform to the authorities' wishes. The Iranian government exercises a virtual monopoly on media operations. Publications that are disagreeable to the regime are simply banned – often without any legal proceedings – and the journalists involved are prosecuted. Iran is second only to China when it comes to the number of journalists who are held in prison. As a result, many people in the country rely on the Internet as an important source of alternative information. Iran has a large and active community of bloggers and citizen journalists. However, online security remains a major issue. The regime is steadily working on its own Internet that will be entirely separate from the global network. Radio Zamaneh is an Iranian, Persian-language radio station that was set up by Free Press Unlimited to offer an alternative to the official channels. It provides impartial, reliable coverage of news events and offers its visitors an online platform for debate.

Radio Zamaneh is based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and broadcasts via the Internet, shortwave radio and satellite. The station mainly focuses on young adults, offering news, information, education and entertainment. With over a million unique visitors per quarter, Radio Zamaneh's website is one of the most popular

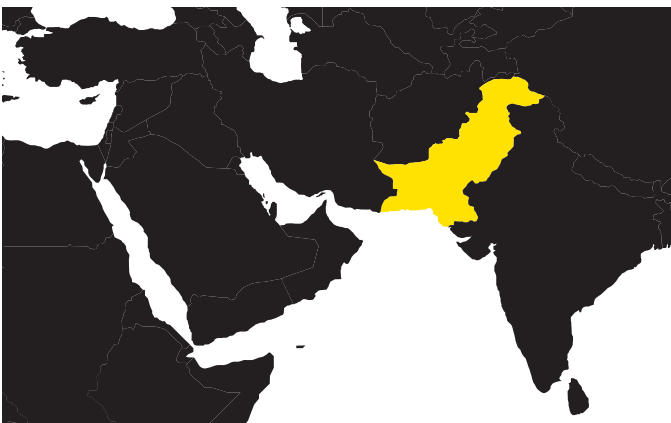
independent news and information sites for Iranians in both Iran itself and the Iranian diaspora. Radio Zamaneh relies on an extensive network of correspondents, working both from within the country itself and abroad.

Since 2010, Radio Zamaneh has been offering online journalism courses to site visitors. This programme is mainly geared towards young Internet users in Iran, and is intended to expand the station's network of citizen journalists in the country. At present, between 5 and 10% of the articles published on the Radio Zamaneh website are contributed by local citizen journalists. In 2012, the station further expanded its programme with course in, among other things, journalistic writing and an advanced course in radio and video production. At present, over 2,300 students have taken one or more of these courses. Over 60% of the course participants live in Iran itself.

Free Press Unlimited's contribution to Radio Zamaneh's total budget is relatively small. Nevertheless, the organisation remained closely involved in the station's operations over the course of 2012. Free Press Unlimited helps Radio Zamaneh to find new donors and advises the station's management and executive board.

Would you like to know more?
<http://radiozamaneh.com>

Pamir Times, Pakistan



Pamir Times is a news website for the Gilgit-Baltistan region in Northern Pakistan that is run by local volunteers. Due to various factors, including the unpredictable nature of local inter-communal tensions, this region poses considerable political and security risks for international organisations who wish to operate here. In this situation,

the support of a local web-based news service forms a good alternative.

In 2012, Free Press Unlimited supported Pamir Times in the professionalisation of its website and provided its staff with training in journalism skills and effective safety and security procedures.

The long-term objectives of this programme are to support rural journalism, women journalists and media exposure for ethnic and/or religious minorities in Gilgit-Baltistan and promote the development of a strong independent media organisation that can continue its work after Free Press Unlimited has rounded off its training and financial support programme.

Despite being volunteer-based, Pamir Times has taken significant steps towards becoming a truly self-reliant organisation thanks to Free Press Unlimited's support to its professionalisation drive. In addition to formal training, Free Press Unlimited also provided Pamir Times and its network of correspondents with equipment in 2012. While a number of programme objectives – to support Pamir Times in its recruitment of a full-time administrator/coordinator, its organisational professionalisation, the coordination of the website's communications with contributors, and the effective management of Pamir Times' phone calls and Internet connections – had not yet been rounded off by the end of 2012, they will be given first priority in the year ahead.

Following an evaluation of our local partners' implementation capacity in 2011 and 2012, it was decided to phase out Free Press Unlimited's partnership with the Pakistan Rural Media Network in a responsible manner over the course of 2012. The organisation also decided to seek out new local partners in the region – a process that was already underway at the close of 2012.

Would you like to know more?
<http://pamirtimes.net/>



Rise of online media in Pakistan's turbulent border region

Troubled times

The communities living in the many isolated mountain areas and remote valleys of Gilgit-Baltistan mainly depend on word of mouth for news and information. The on-going war in the neighbouring country of Afghanistan, local sectarian violence and a number of terrorist attacks have led to serious instability in this previously peaceful region. This increasing insecurity causes many journalists in Gilgit-Baltistan to practice self-censorship. In these troubled times, Free Press Unlimited has taken it on itself to support the local website Pamir Times' development into a mainstay of independent news coverage in the region.

Greater stability

According to one of the reporters of Pamir Times, who wishes to stay anonymous for security reasons, impartial news coverage is of vital importance in this difficult period in the region's history: 'Biased reporting by government stations has spread a lot of factually incorrect information that further feeds the growing mistrust between our different communities.' According to him, independent journalists can help to improve the public's understanding of political and social issues. He calls it a 'refreshing perspective' that will ultimately contribute to greater stability in the troubled border region.

Progress

Pamir Times' slogan is 'Voices of Mountain Communities'. Founded by students, the newspaper has earned international acclaim for its reports. Most of its readers have a university education. Free Press Unlimited will be training the members of Pamir Times' editorial board, which at present still mainly consists of volunteers, to become full-time, professional journalists. The organisation will also provide them with new equipment, including new laptops and digital cameras. 'We can see clear progress at the newspaper – both in terms of quantity and quality,' says the reporter. Providing educated readers in Gilgit-Baltistan with reliable news reports is the first step towards an effective information service for everyone in this mountainous region.

The more, the better

'A growing number of people – including many young people – are able to access the Internet via their mobile phone. This gives considerable impetus to social media platforms like Facebook,' explains the Pamir Times reporter. To not only reach educated young people, but also older generations – who are often illiterate or semi-literate – Pamir Times has decided to take a new route. Working in partnership with Free Press Unlimited, its website will not only be offering English-language news articles, but also be reporting on current developments with the aid of audio files and mini-documentaries in Pakistan's national language Urdu. In addition, the newspaper will be working on photo reportages. 'By professionalising our organisation on the one hand and making our content accessible to a wider audience on the other, we are building a durable future for quality news and online media in Pakistan,' concludes team leader Ali.

6. Individual journalists and bloggers

In many countries around the world, journalism is a high-risk – and occasionally lethal – activity. Journalists work under hazardous and unpredictable circumstances to provide their audiences with the necessary information and news. Free Press Unlimited helps many of these individuals by raising their awareness of potential security issues and increasing their knowledge and skills in this area. This allows the journalists to do their job at less risk to their personal safety. In cases where their equipment has been confiscated or destroyed, Free Press Unlimited helps them to get back to work by offering small-scale financial support.

StoryMaker – Telling and sharing stories at the press of a button

To say mobile reporting has made a tremendous mark on media the world over is something of an understatement. Numerous compelling news facts have been brought to the public's attention through mobile reporting. For example, Western audiences know what is going on in Syria thanks to the impressive footage and images made and distributed by Syrian citizens at a risk to their own life with their mobile phones.

However, the content produced by citizens in this region is often of poor broadcast quality, and mobile reporting presents considerable security concerns. That is why Free Press Unlimited has developed the StoryMaker app – to improve the quality of the content produced and to allow users to safely share their stories through the app's secure-by-design technology. StoryMaker enables people to record good footage and produce quality reports with a device that they always carry around with them: their smartphone.

Much of the footage produced by citizen journalists is low-res, blurry and shaky. The StoryMaker app gives mobile reporters the opportunity to deliver quality content that can be used by professional media channels. It is time to

bridge the digital divide between a new generation of citizen reporters and the traditional media – to ensure that all voices are heard and rural populations can also join in the digital debate.

StoryMaker's combination of an integrated training app and a comprehensive editing suite is the first of its kind. The innovative app was designed as a free, open source platform so that users and media organisations can adapt it to their local requirements.

Free Press Unlimited launched a StoryMaker training programme in North Africa and the Middle East for private citizens, human rights activists and journalists. These trainings were intended to ultimately improve the quality of content produced using mobile phones, and to distribute this content in a way that does not endanger them personally.

From 5 to 19 December 2012, Free Press Unlimited held a first round of Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops in Iraq, Egypt and Tunisia. During these trainings, the participants indicated that it would be worthwhile to devote one session to the basic principles of a 'good story' and how you can recognise a newsworthy event or situation. In Egypt, the trainers expressed a concern that the app might not address all the skills needed for becoming a good video journalist. Free Press Unlimited realises that it needs to continue improving the StoryMaker application. In this process, it will listen carefully to feedback from local trainers and participants and adapt the app to local requirements in their respective countries. The Training of Trainers workshops will be followed up in 2013 with the programme's implementation phase. This includes a new round of trainings in the four countries for a total of 600 participants.

Funding: Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs



The StoryMaker app in action.

Promoting Investigative Journalism in Morocco



You are barely supported by your editors, are unable to access all kinds of key information and even risk a prison sentence when you try to get to the bottom of specific sensitive topics. Reporters in Morocco are justifiably wary of getting into investigative journalism. This is a pity though, because investigative journalism forms an ideal means for combating social abuses with rock-solid facts.

That is why in 2006, Free Press Unlimited launched a programme to promote investigative journalism in Morocco together with a local partner, the Rabat-based Ibn Rochd Center for Studies and Communication. The aim of this programme is to raise the level of local journalism and promote high-quality investigative reporting that holds authorities accountable. In addition, the partners established an annual award for the best investigative story of that year. In 2008, the programme was expanded with a master class on investigative journalism and the issue of project grants to talented investigative journalists.

The training programme was continued and expanded further in 2012 with the support of the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Rabat. Over the years, more than 140 journalists have attended the training sessions, and the participants have published more than 120 articles in a variety of newspapers and magazines. A number of these articles have led to heated discussions in the media; others supported the activities of civil society organisations; and some – for example, a series of articles on child marriages – have even succeeded in spurring the authorities to action.

The programme has successfully managed to lay a foundation for investigative journalism in Morocco, and the quality of the journalists' reports is improving year by

year. In the upcoming period, Free Press Unlimited will be focusing on building a core group of well-trained and effectively managed investigative journalists in the country.

Funding: Royal Netherlands Embassy in Rabat

Would you like to know more?

<http://www.amjipress.com/>

Radio Dialogue – Mobile reporting training programme in Zimbabwe



Free Press Unlimited works to build the capacity of Zimbabwe's media sector in order to help people in the country's remotest regions to share their stories with the rest of the population and the world at large. Free Press Unlimited focuses on training the next generation of professional and citizen journalists. Among other things, participants are taught how to use simple technology like mobile phones to produce video reports about issues relevant to their local communities.

The mobile reporting training project, which was started in 2011, was continued in 2012 and rounded off in June of that year. All in all, the 8-month programme yielded 65 reports that were produced by the participants and posted on YouTube.

Quick research shows that the videos have already been viewed over 5,000 times on ZICORA TV alone since they were posted in November 2012. A number of reports have been taken over by important news platforms, including www.africanews.com and www.headlinesafrica.com, and posted on their websites. The organisation that was hired to hold the trainings also posted the videos on its own website (www.voicesofafricamediafoundation.org). Remarkably, the team discovered that the video



Students attending the Multimedia Training in Tbilisi, Georgia.

productions have even made it to India, where they were used by the local news outlet www.indiaeveryday.in. Although the number of reports produced in 2012 was lower than expected, it is encouraging to see a demand for news and information coming from Zimbabwe.

Funding: Press Freedom Consortium

Would you like to know more?

www.youtube.com/user/ZICORATV

Support of HerZimbabwe's participation in the Digital Crossroads Conference, Zimbabwe

HerZimbabwe is Zimbabwe's first female blog portal. The portal, launched on 12 March 2012, was an instant success – with 35,000 unique hits on its very first day, as well as 908 Facebook friends. In Zimbabwe's difficult media landscape, in which women are severely underrepresented, HerZimbabwe forms a refreshing and inspirational best practice and a case study for similar ventures. The founders, Fungai Machirori and Ruthendo Chigudu, developed the portal completely under their own steam, without any reliance on donor funding. By sharing knowledge and skills and engaging the services of web developers sympathetic to their initiative, the founders were able to realise their vision in the space of a few months. The two young women represent Zimbabwe's new generation of tech-savvy urban youth. This generation, which is also extremely active in cyberspace, is not afraid to express itself about issues that affect Zimbabwe's youth – particularly the country's girls and young women.

In 2012, HerZimbabwe was invited to participate in the Digital Crossroads Conference organised by the University of Utrecht. The aim of this conference, which took 'Media, Migration and Diaspora in a Transnational Perspective' as its theme, was to address the relationship between migration and digital technologies across national contexts and ethnic belonging. Machirori and Chigudu had been asked to speak at the conference. Free Press Unlimited provided the financial means for them to travel to Utrecht and build contacts with a global network of bloggers and web developers.

Funding: Press Freedom Consortium

Would you like to know more?

<http://herzimbabwe.co.zw>

South Caucasus Multimedia Training in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia



During the second half of 2012, Free Press Unlimited organised a multimedia training programme for 24 young journalists from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The project kicked off with a one-week training course in Tbilisi, Georgia in September. During this training, the participants formed small groups – with each group containing one representative from each country. Their assignment was to use photo, video and audio footage to produce a story about a regional issue relevant to them. The participants were intensively coached by a team of four local and international trainers. After the kick-off course, the participants went home again, where they continued their training via the Internet for another three months. During the first week of December, they returned to Tbilisi to round off and present their productions. Four productions were awarded with a prize at the end of the programme. The story that probably stood out most was the one presented by participant Nelli Shishmanyanyan, which showed the daily life of an Armenian family living near the border with Azerbaijan.

Funding: Ministry of Foreign Affairs/MATRA Programme

Would you like to know more?

<https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/article/young-camjos-breach-barriers-turbulent-caucasus>

Young video journalists break through barriers in troubled Caucasus

There's no love lost between the different peoples of the Caucasus – or so we've always been told, at least. So you could expect getting young people from Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan to work together in a joint programme to pose quite a challenge. But are relationships between the different ethnic and cultural groups in the region really that bad? A diverse group of young journalists have broken through mutual mistrust and prejudices to collaborate on joint multimedia productions. After a first series of workshops in September, the 2012 programme was rounded off with the final trainings in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi in early December.

'Multimedia productions are difficult to censor.'

'We didn't have any cultural problems at all. We had a great time working together', said one of the participating journalists after the last training. During the workshops in September, the participants formed a number of project groups – each of which included a Georgian, an Armenian and an Azerbaijani journalist. This could potentially have led to trouble, as there have been multiple conflicts between these three countries over the past few decades. Each group was given a theme, ranging from 'Activism' to 'Front line' and 'Traditions'. The groups used their theme as the starting point for a multimedia story that incorporated video, photo and audio material. The workshops were held by a number of excellent trainers, like the photo journalist Onnik Krikorian and the film maker Jack Janssen. 'Nowadays, everything is done with multimedia: media are mixed all the time. For the future of journalism in the Caucasus, it is important for us to learn how to use multimedia. That's why these workshops are so useful', explains one of the participants. 'With multimedia productions you have more freedom, because they are difficult to censor for the government. You are free to choose your own subjects and you can appeal to new audiences. You feel free,' said one of the young journalists.

Cross-border friendships

'It is a challenge to show the inhabitants of the Caucasus how people live just across the border. We have to

become more aware of each other', says a young Azerbaijani journalist. The programme was concluded in December with the final trainings and an awards ceremony. The undisputed winner was 'The Kingdom', made by the Armenian journalist Nelli Shishmanyman. Using beautiful still images and video footage, Shishmanyman showed the daily life of an Armenian family living in a village right on the border with Azerbaijan. George Gogua from Georgia also did a great job with a production about the Marneuli Region, where Armenians and Azerbaijani live side by side in peaceful coexistence. 'The most valuable result of this training are the international friendships we have developed,' concludes one of the young participants.



Students attending the Multimedia Training in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Keeping information flowing in Syria



In 2012, Free Press Unlimited started on a new project in Syria. For the past two years, the country has been in the grip of a bloody civil war. The media has regularly been targeted by the Assad regime in this period. This can take a variety of shapes – from physical attacks on journalists and media activists to large-scale Internet blackouts and the spread of misinformation by official government channels. As a result, there is a dearth of objective information about new developments in the country. Through its new programme for Syria, Free Press Unlimited aims to fill this news void, improve safety and security conditions for local media workers and plant the seeds for the development of professional journalism in the country.

To this end, the organisation is currently implementing a two-phase programme. In the first phase, Free Press Unlimited focused on improving the security and safety of media activists, reporters and other sources of news information. Its quick-win action plan focused on training, equipping and coaching ‘information gatherers’ to work as professional journalists for a centralised news desk. The second phase of the programme will focus on developing media outlets in Syria and/or neighbouring countries. This way, Free Press Unlimited hopes to increase the Syrian population’s access to reliable information, develop the local media’s structural training capacity and make existing information platforms more durable.

In 2012, over 100 Syrian media activists were trained in the use of basic information technology to ensure secure digital communications in the field. They also gained basic skills for multimedia journalism and were provided with various reporting tools. In tandem with this programme, Free Press Unlimited also entered into an agreement with Syrian partners to set up a professional web-based news agency. Among other things, this involved the formation

and training of a network of some 30 stringers. The new agency’s central desk is expected to start publishing daily news updates in the course of 2013.

One of the main challenges in this project was to keep the selected trainees involved in the programme and committed to the ethics of objective journalism. The reality of their daily lives is such that they constantly risk becoming personally involved in the country’s conflict. Free Press Unlimited will be taking this experience into account in its efforts to build a dedicated team and engage all partners within and outside the conflict zone.

Funding: Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Reporters Respond

Across the globe, members of the press face growing repression, violence and intimidation by government authorities, militia and other parties. Unfortunately, for many journalists working in repressive states and conflict zones, threats to their personal safety are a daily reality.

To help reporters who have been attacked to continue their vital work, Free Press Unlimited set up the international emergency fund Reporters Respond in 2011. This fund offers direct support to independent journalists and media organisations, so that they can get back to work as soon as possible after suffering a setback. The fund does not set any requirements for the recipients’ media channel or coverage area.

Free Press Unlimited continued to operate the Reporters Respond emergency fund² in 2012. A growing number of media professionals from all over the world have found their way to the fund for ‘second-line assistance’. The pilot project has developed into an established programme and can be considered a success.

In 2012, the fund approved applications from Azerbaijan, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Ethiopia, Georgia, Kosovo, Mali, Mauritania, Palestinian territories, Senegal, Somalia,

² Reporters Respond is an emergency fund that is intended to help media professionals, independent journalists, activists and bloggers who are unable to work due to government repression, threats to their person by public or private parties or harassment. The fund was set up to provide direct support to these individuals, so that they can continue to do their work. Recipients are offered various forms of aid, ranging from replacement equipment and expertise to training and strategic advice. Reporters Respond focuses on providing direct, incidental (i.e. non-structural) solutions in urgent cases where people’s safety is at risk.

Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkey and Yemen. A total of 28 individuals were given funding by Reporters Respond and four organisations that were in a particularly urgent situation received emergency support.

Besides providing funds to individual reporters, Free Press Unlimited also intensified its monitoring of emergency regions in the context of this programme and organised its first international security workshop in El Salvador. The latter event aimed to facilitate the exchange of best practices among journalists from Mexico and four Central American countries who work under violent and repressive conditions.

And finally, Free Press Unlimited organised three trainings on location:

- A safety and security training for television reporters in Kazakhstan;
- A multimedia and security training in Syria that focused on how to cover news in a conflict zone and simultaneously protect your people and equipment;

- A training that focused on security and online journalism for a group of courageous bloggers in Ethiopia (the only sources of independent information in the country).

The Reporters Respond Fund receives a large number of applications for funding. However, these applications do not always correspond with the fund's mandate. Conversely, the Reporters Respond Fund originally expected to receive applications from specific regions that in fact have so far sent none. One response to this 'mismatch' will be to re-evaluate the fund's mandate, make a needs assessment and inventory for new regions and raise the fund's profile in specific regions to make potential applicants aware of its existence.

Funding: People Unlimited 4.1 Alliance



Tom Keunen holding a safety training for journalists in Central America.

Who protects vulnerable journalists in Central America?

A three-day Safety Workshop for journalists in El Salvador, 15-17 March 2012.

Violence against journalists and media professionals has become increasingly commonplace in Mexico and Central America. Indeed, the murder of a journalist in the line of his or her work often doesn't even make the news anymore.

Dangerous reporting

Nowadays, many members of the press are killed or threatened in retaliation for their coverage of the activities of the Mexican and Central American drug cartels: reports on the numerous ties that exist between the cartels and member of the local army, political establishment and business elites, for example. Another extremely dangerous topic to report on are the intimidation and violence that mar many local elections and that are used to keep political opponents in check. Critical reporters, members of the media and even citizen journalists work under the constant threat of violence – be it from their local government, the army, the police, paramilitaries or organised crime groups.

Safety Workshop

That is why in 2012, Free Press Unlimited joined forces with Article 19 Mexico and Central America and the Central American University 'José Simeón Cañas' (UCA) of El Salvador to offer these courageous journalists practical support in the form of a three-day Safety Workshop. The event was held in El Salvador from 15 to 17 March 2012.

The Safety Workshop received financial support from the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Costa Rica, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Costa Rica and the Centre of Communication Competence for Latin America (a C3 Programme organised by FES, Bogotá). It gathered together 20 professionals from Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico who work for a range of national, provincial and local media organisations. At some time or other, most of those attending the workshop had been subjected to violence and intimidation in the course of their work to keep the public informed.

Dealing with violence

The workshop yielded a number of results. Not only did the participants learn new strategies for dealing with various kinds of violence and intimidation, they also acquired new knowledge and skills in the area of safety and security (including digital security, protecting your personal safety and monitoring online traceability). In addition, the three-day event led to the formation of a new network of Central American and Mexican journalists who aim to follow up the workshop with new initiatives and share knowledge and experiences.

Limited support and solidarity

The meeting also brought various issues to light that exacerbate the poor conditions that critical journalists work under. To start, local media organisations and editorial boards presently pay insufficient attention to measures and protocols that can contribute to their staff's safety, and fail to organise effective trainings and education in this area. Secondly, there is limited solidarity among journalists towards colleagues who work under this kind of pressure, and a basic lack of support from journalists' associations and trade unions. And finally, the poor state of press freedom and freedom of expression in Central America and Mexico gets very little exposure in the international media. There is very limited international support for local media professionals whose lives are in danger due to their work.

A call to stop impunity

After making an inventory of the key obstacles to critical journalism in this region, the attendees concluded the three-day event by issuing a final statement that called on governments to not let violence against members of the press go unpunished. Free Press Unlimited staff members are currently developing a solidarity network that offers concrete support to journalists who work under pressure, in the shape of practical trainings, information and psychosocial aid that helps them to continue doing their valuable work.



Insultan a Vargas Llosa

ATERRADO

EXPRESO

Argentina paralizada por huelga

TRAEN 200 TANQUES RUSOS

Extra

COLECCION DE DINOSAURIOS

PONEN FECHA Y HORA AL FIN DEL MUNDO

LA RAZON

¡APURAN COMP DE SATELITE!

depor

¡MOSQUETERO DEL GOL!

DELPAIS

DEL RETORNO DE ANTONIO

diario PICOPICO

WENTON

POLICIAS REYER DEL SECUESTRO

Newspaper stand in Lima, Peru.

Appendices

Appendix 1: List of Abbreviations

AMJI	Moroccan Association for Investigative Journalists	IMS	International Media Support
ATB	Red ATB, a television channel in Bolivia	INC	Independent News Centre
AVD	Audio-visual department	IOM	International Organization for Migration
BIRN	Balkan Investigative Reporting Network	IUCN-NL	International Union for Conservation of Nature
BNNRC	Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication	KNN	Kids News Network
BSJ	Baku School of Journalism	LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
BuZA	Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs	LNA	Learning needs assessment
CAC	Caucasus Authors' Course	MATRA	Programme for social transformation
CBF	Central Bureau on Fundraising	MSF-II	Co-financing grant framework of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
CPDP	Continuous Professional Development Plan	NDI	National Democratic Institute
CPI	Consumer price index	NED	National Endowment for Democracy
CPJ	Committee to Protect Journalists	NEFEJ	Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists
CSAJ	Chisinau School of Advanced Journalism	NGO	Non-governmental organisation
CSO	Civil society organisation	NOS	Netherlands Broadcasting Foundation
DDR	Disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration	NPL	Nationale Postcode Loterij
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo	NVJ	Dutch Association of Journalists
EC	European Commission	OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
EIDHR	European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights	OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
EJC	European Journalism Centre	PICA	Intelligent Programmes with Adolescents
FAIR	Forum for African Investigative Reporters	PME&L	Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning
FARC	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia	PVT	Staff representative body
FARDC	Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo	RAE	Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians
FEI-Congo	France Expertise Internationale	RFI	Radio France Internationale
FRPC	Federation of Local Radio Stations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	RNTC	Radio Netherlands Training Centre
GARB	Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters	RTI	Right to Information Act
GPA	Global Political Agreement in Zimbabwe	RTV	Radio and television
GPPAC	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict	RvT	Supervisory Board
ICT	Information Communications Technology	SABC	South African Broadcasting Corporation
IDP	Internally displaced persons	SaH	Al Sawt al Hurr
IJC	International Journalism Centre	SIB	Dutch United Nations Student Association
IMCK	Independent Media Centre Kurdistan	SWN	Small World News
		TNO	Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research
		ToT	Training of Trainers
		UMDF	Uganda Media Development Foundation
		URPB	Union of Local Radio Stations in Bandundu, Democratic Republic of the Congo

VOP	Radio Voice of the People
WKN	World Kids News
ZACRAS	Zimbabwe Association of Community Radio Stations
ZAMCOM	Zambian Institute of Mass Communication
ZANU-PF	Zimbabwe African Union – Patriotic Front
ZBC	Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation
ZdG	Ziarul de Gardă

Appendix 2: Free Press Unlimited in the media

Magazine	‘Ik ben een nieuwsjunkie’ February 2012 – OneWorld Magazine
Internet	‘Postuum eerbetoen voor Hans Verploeg’ 6 March 2012 – nvj.nl
Internet	‘Kamer bezorgd over journalistieke onafhankelijkheid RNW’ 3 April 2012 – rnw.nl
Newspaper	‘Vrijheidsfestival: Vrijheid geef je door’ 18 April 2012 – Zenderstreeknieuws IJsselstein/Lopik
Newspaper	‘Wereldomroep is er niet meer voor emigranten en soldaten’ 10 May 2012 – Nederlands Dagblad
Newspaper	‘Peentjes zweten in “oorlogsgebied” Soesterberg’ 2 June 2012 – AD Amersfoortse Courant
Internet	‘Registeraccountants aangeklaagd voor misleiding kantonrechter’ 28 September 2012 – accountancynieuws.nl
Internet	‘Free Press Unlimited verhuisd’ 7 November 2012 – villamedia.nl
Radio	‘Hoezo Armoede?’, Throughout the week, Leon Willems is a returning guest on the programme. 26-30 November 2012 – NCRV Lunch!, Radio 1
Radio	‘Een documentaire maken op het Tahirplein’, interview with Leon Willems and Karim Amer. 14 December 2012 – NCRV Lunch!, Radio 1

Postcode Loterij Fund

Internet	‘Nationale Postcode Loterij deelt uit’ 10 February 2012 – villamedia.nl
Radio	‘Goed nieuws voor Free Press Unlimited’, Leon Willems is a guest on the programme. 13 February 2012 – NCRV Lunch!, Radio 1
Television	‘Koffietijd’, Ruth Kronenburg and Minka Nijhuis are guests on the programme. 16 March 2012 – RTL 4
Internet	‘Free Press Unlimited ook het komende jaar beneficent van de Postcodeloterij’ 13 February 2012 – nederlandsmedianieuws.nl

World Press Freedom Day

Newspaper	‘Dag van de Persvrijheid’ 28 April 2012 – De Gooi- en Eemlander, Eemland edition
Newspaper	‘Verhalen die de krant niet in mogen’ (14 publications) 28 April 2012 – Leidsch dagblad, Duinen en Bollenstreek edition; Leidsch dagblad, Rijn- en Veenstreek edition; Leeuwarder Courant, Noord edition; De Gooi- en Eemlander, Eemland edition; Noordhollands Dagblad/Alkmaarsche Courant; Noordhollands Dagblad/Dagblad Kennemerland; Noordhollands Dagblad, West Friesland edition; Noordhollands Dagblad/Enkhuizer Courant; Haarlems Dagblad, Haarlemmermeer edition; Haarlems Dagblad, Haarlem edition; De Gooi- en Eemlander, Gooi en Vechtstreek edition; Noordhollands Dagblad/Schager Courant; Leeuwarder Courant, Stad edition; Noordhollands Dagblad, Waterland edition; Noordhollands Dagblad, Zaanstreek edition; IJmuider Courant.
Internet, Radio	‘Dia Mundial de la Libertad de Prensa, Historias Contadas’ 3 May 2012 – Radio Netherlands Worldwide
Radio	‘Leon Willems over persvrijheid’ 3 May 2012 – NCRV Lunch!, Radio 1

Internet 'De methode van Poetin: explosie van meningen leidt niet per se tot meer vrijheid'
3 May 2012 – denieuwereporter.nl

Newspaper 'Onvertelde verhalen'
3 May 2012 – Trouw

Newspaper 'Latijns-Amerika gevaarlijk voor pers'
3 May 2012 – Trouw

Radio 'Dag van de Persvrijheid', Leon Willems and Cees Zoon are guests on the programme.
3 May 2012 – NOS Met het Oog op Morgen, Radio 1

Internet 'Untold tales for World Press Freedom Day'
3 May 2012 – rnw.nl/english

Newspaper 'Onvertelde verhalen'
4 May 2012 – De Telegraaf

Newspaper 'Lakmoesproef van de mensenrechten'
4 May 2012 – de Volkskrant

Internet 'Internationale persvrijheid: "ik zie nog niet een vooruitgang"
8 May 2012 – viceversaonline.nl

Safety Workshop in El Salvador

Internet, Radio Gran Angular, 'Cuando informar es un riesgo', Jacqueline Eckhardt-Gerritsen is a guest on the programme.
14 March 2012 – Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Internet, Radio Gran Angular, 'Al matar a un periodista, se busca callar la información',
9 May 2012 – Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Internet, Radio 'De zwartste dag van de Nederlandse journalistiek'
17 March 2012 – NOS Radio 1

Internet 'Journalistieke klimaat in Midden-Amerika zorgwekkend: "het gaat hier helemaal de verkeerde kant op"
19 March 2012 – onjo.nl

Internet, Magazine 'Iedereen heeft het gemunt op journalisten in Midden-Amerika', Cees Zoon
8 April 2012 – De Groene Amsterdammer

Newspaper 'Journalist is in Midden-Amerika riskant vak', Cees Zoon
20 March 2012 – Het Parool

Internet Protection Lab, online security

Internet, Radio Dichtbij Nederland, Tom Keunen is a guest on the programme.
9 April 2012 – NTR Dichtbij Nederland, Radio 5

Internet 'Internet Protection Lab gelanceerd'
28 September 2012 – informatieprofessional.nl

The Caucasus

Internet 'Geuzenpenning voor Gregory Shvedov'
15 February 2012 – villamedia.nl

Internet 'Giving people of the Caucasus a voice'
13 March 2012 – rnw.nl/english

Newspaper 'Songfestival inzet imagostrijd'
24 May 2012 – de Volkskrant

Internet, Newspaper 'Donkere kant Azerbeidzjan songfestival'
24 May 2012 – de Volkskrant

Newspaper 'Voetbal, strijd en identiteit'
31 May 2012 – Groninger Gezinsbode

Newspaper 'FK Stepanakert'
27 June 2012 – Het Parool

Radio 'Joop DaalMayjer start uniek project'
5 September 2012 – NTR Dichtbij Nederland, Radio 5

Syria

Internet 'Hulp voor Syrische burgerjournalisten'
8 March 2012 – villamedia.nl

Internet 'Apparatuur voor Syrische burgerjournalisten'
8 May 2012 – nieuwsbank.nl

Internet 'Hulp voor Syrische burgerjournalisten'
8 March 2012 – rtlnieuws.nl

- Radio 'Free Press Unlimited in actie voor informatievoorziening vanuit Syrië'
9 March 2012 – KRO Goedemorgen
Nederland, Radio 1
- Radio 'Overleven in Syrië', Leon Willems is a guest on the programme.
10 March 2012 – TROS Nieuwsshow, Radio 1
- TV, Internet 'Moed en wanhoop in Syrië'
Possible in part thanks to the collaboration of Free Press Unlimited
11 March 2012 – KRO Brandpunt, NL 2

Sudan and South Sudan

- Radio Café Grande, Hildebrand Bijleveld is a guest on the programme.
3 July 2012 – GrootNieuwsRadio
- Magazine 'Goed bezig', about Anne-Haaksman de Koster in South Sudan
April 2012 – OneWorld Magazine
- Newspaper 'Soedan creëert hongersnood Nuba-volk', by Hildebrand Bijleveld
22 November 2012 – NRC Handelsblad
- Newspaper 'Niet alleen in Congo, ook hier is oorlog', by Hildebrand Bijleveld
22 November 2012 – NRC Next
- Magazine, Internet 'Alle schijnwerpers op Lotte van Elp'
December 2012 – ViceVersa

Kids News Network

- Television 'Op bezoek bij het Nepalese Jeugdjournaal!'
2 November 2012 – NTR:School TV, NL 3
- Television 'Nieuw jeugdjournaal in Nepal!'
2 November 2012 – NOS Jeugdjournaal, NL 3
- Internet 'Elk land een eigen jeugdjournaal'
29 November 2012 – kidsweek.nl

Appendix 3: The staff of Free Press Unlimited

Executive Board

Leon Willems

Chair (Director of Policy and Programmes)

Ruth Kronenburg

Member (Director of Operations)

Management Team

Turan Ali

Journalism Initiatives Team Leader

Yvonne Pinxteren

Head of the financial department/Controller

Leon van den Boogerd

Media Development Team Leader

Wijnand van Velzen

Education and New Media Team Leader

Journalism Initiatives Team

Hildebrand Bijleveld

Jessica Gregson

Ian Mac William

Tag McEntegart

Elisabetta Plebani

* Other staff remain anonymous for security reasons.

Radio Dabanga

Tamara Lunacek

* Other staff remain anonymous for security reasons.

Media Development Team

Carlos Cortés

Dessi Damianova

Chermene Fisser

Nada Josimovic

Katja Michael

Petra Nederkoorn

Bram Truijen

Daan van Bree

Afke van Dijk

Education and New Media Team

Steven Assies

Ruken Baris

Joris van Duijne

Albana Shala

Niels ten Oever

Marinka Vukojevic

Internal organisation

Jacqueline Eckhardt-Gerritsen

Quality and Knowledge Coordinator

Tom Keunen

ICT Coordinator

Michael Pavicic

PME Officer for the Press Freedom Consortium

Finance

Jaap de Bruijn

Abdel Malki

Gerhard Timmerman

Communication

Else Lenselink

Margit Kraak

Eva Oosterwegel

Janneke van Riel

Office Management

Rolien Boelens

Anne-Marie Kuiper

Marjolein Peters

Wendy Vandersluis

Anja van Rossum

Dina Zbeidy

Interns

Corinne Cath

Laura de Ruiter

Daphne Dupont-Nivet

Peter Grol

Madina Kholmatova

Yuridia Montoya

Mathieu Peulen

Tomas Rys

Manouk Staal

Tan Tunali

Marcella van Beusekom

Annemijn van der Veer

Jolein van der Ven



Camera crew working in Tbilisi, Georgia.

C: Financial report

Balance sheet as of 31 December 2012

ASSETS	31-12-2012	31-12-2011
Tangible fixed assets		
Renovation	156.429	0
Office supplies	73.777	30.131
Computers	2.853	1.604
Total fixed assets	233.059	31.735
Current assets		
Accruals	32.684	50.571
Accounts receivable	142.737	83.675
Advances	115.821	27.429
Grants yet to be received	770.805	735.200
Total current assets	1.062.047	896.875
Liquid assets		
The Netherlands	4.603.898	4.059.239
Abroad	29.630	133.172
Total liquid assets	4.633.529	4.192.410
TOTAL ASSETS	5.928.634	5.121.021

LIABILITIES	31-12-2012	31-12-2011
Reserves and funds		
Continuity reserve	1,274,674	866,909
Allocated reserves for private donor projects	110	9,821
Reporters Respond Security Fund	36,052	36,052
Severance Scheme Appropriation Fund	142,227	256,660
Total reserves and funds	1,453,063	1,169,441
Current liabilities		
Reserves for holiday allowances	66,885	63,631
Provisions for statutory leave entitlements	65,623	52,479
Taxes and Social Security contributions	28,677	83,536
Payable to suppliers	349,985	163,979
Other short-term liabilities	269,881	244,740
Obligations in connection with current projects	1,283,395	744,020
Grants that have been received in advance	2,411,125	2,599,194
Total current liabilities	4,475,571	3,951,579
TOTAL LIABILITIES	5,928,634	5,121,021

Statement of Income and Expenses for 2012

INCOME	2012	Budget	2011
Income from own fundraising activities	1.443.396	1.155.000	1.572.957
Income from third-party activities	893.741	1.240.000	538.670
Government grants	11.063.822	9.122.221	8.925.803
Other income	94.503	10.000	40.066
TOTAL INCOME	13.495.462	11.527.221	11.077.495
EXPENSES			
<i>Spent on the organisation's objective</i>			
Media support programme	12.661.880	10.934.895	10.258.813
<i>Spent on the acquisition of new funds</i>			
Cost of own fundraising activities	69.491	45.039	98.290
Acquisition costs for government grants	183.358	142.655	42.975
	252.849	187.694	141.265
<i>Spent on management and accounting</i>			
Management and accounting costs	297.111	335.537	348.470
TOTAL EXPENSES	13.211.840	11.458.126	10.748.548
BALANCE OF INCOME AND EXPENSES	283.622	69.095	328.948

Appropriation of the balance

Additions to/withdrawals from:		
Continuity reserve		407.765
Reserves for private donor projects		-9.711
Severance Scheme Appropriation Fund		-114.433
TOTAL		283.622
	2012	2011
Spent on organisational objective/Total income	93,82%	92,61%
Spent on organisational objective/Total expenses	95,84%	95,44%
Costs of own fundraising activities/Income from own fundraising activities	4,81%	5,59%
Management and accounting costs/Total expenses	2,25%	3,24%

Cash flow statement

	2012	2011
Operational activities		
Balance of income and expenses in the financial year	283.622	328.948
Depreciations	22.772	18.469
<i>Gross cash flow on the basis of operational activities</i>	306.393	347.417
Changes in current assets	-165.172	144.169
Changes in current liabilities	523.991	582.773
<i>Net cash flow on the basis of operational activities</i>	665.213	1.074.359
Investment activities		
Changes to fixed assets	-224.095	-5.472
Reserves obtained through the 2011 merger	0	421.548
Release of provisions	0	-15.000
Changes in liquid assets	441.118	1.475.435
Liquid assets at the start of the financial year	4.192.410	2.716.975
Liquid assets at the end of the financial year	4.633.529	4.192.410
Changes in liquid assets	441.118	1.475.435

Accounting principles

Free Press Unlimited's statement of accounts is drawn up in accordance with the revised Dutch Accounting Standards for Fundraising Institutions (RJ650), which became effective as of 1 January 2011.

ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES FOR VALUATION

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are valued at their purchase cost minus the depreciations determined on the basis of the asset's estimated lifespan. For computers, the annual depreciation amounts to 33.3% of the original purchase cost; for office supplies to 20% of the original purchase cost; and for the renovation of the organisation's premises to 14.3% (over a term of seven years).

Receivables

Receivables are entered at their nominal value minus a provision for possible bad debts based on an individual assessment of the receivable's recoverability.

Obligations in connection with current projects

The entry for obligations in connection with current projects states the balance of contracts actually entered into with partner organisations minus advance payments to these partner organisations.

Grants that have been received in advance/Grants that are yet to be received

The terms of many grants extend beyond a single calendar year. The difference between the advance awarded by the funder in a specific financial year and the project funds that are spent in that same year and/or the realised grant income amounts are accounted for on the balance sheet

as a grant advance. If the realised grant income amounts exceed the funder's advance, the difference is entered on the balance sheet as a receivable.

Other assets and liabilities

These are entered at their nominal value.

ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES FOR INCOME RECOGNITION

Grant income

Grant income amounts are allocated on the basis of the realised direct and indirect spending on the organisation's objective within the guidelines established in the grant decision.

Contributions and donations

Contributions and donations are accounted for in their year of receipt. Consequently, the statement does not take contributions and donations that have been received in advance into account.

Management and administration costs

Management and administration costs for the organisation's fundraising activities and various objectives are calculated on the basis of allocable FTEs for the different categories. The remaining staff costs that cannot be allocated to specific categories are distributed proportional to the allocatable costs.

Balance of income and expenses

The balance in the financial year is calculated as the difference between the income that can be allocated to the year under review and the expenses that can be allocated to the year under review.

Notes to the balance sheet as of 31 December 2012

ASSETS				
Tangible fixed assets				
<i>Non-current assets required for Free Press Unlimited's regular operations</i>	Total	Office supplies	Computers	Renovation
<i>Balance at the start of the financial year</i>				
Purchase cost	256.008	189.369	66.639	
Cumulative depreciations	-224.273	-159.238	-65.035	
Book value at the start of the financial year	31.735	30.131	1.604	0
<i>Changes over the course of the financial year</i>				
Additions to fixed assets	224.095	61.832	3.950	158.313
Disposal of fixed assets	0			
Depreciations	-22.772	-18.186	-2.701	-1.885
Balance of changes over the course of the financial year	201.324	43.646	1.249	156.429
<i>Balance at the end of the financial year</i>				
Purchase cost	480.103	251.201	70.589	158.313
Cumulative depreciations at the end of the financial year	-247.045	-177.424	-67.736	-1.885
Book value at the end of the financial year	233.059	73.777	2.853	156.429

CURRENT ASSETS		
<i>Accruals</i>	31-12-2012	31-12-2011
Various securities	4.359	3.072
Other prepayments	28.324	47.499
TOTAL	32.684	50.571
<i>Claims</i>	31-12-2012	31-12-2011
Amounts yet to be invoiced	5.303	
Accrued interest	66.432	34.008
Other accounts receivable	71.002	49.667
TOTAL	142.737	83.675
<i>Advances</i>	31-12-2012	31-12-2011
Advances to own staff	4.371	145
Advances to external contractors	111.450	27.284
TOTAL	115.821	27.429
<i>Grants yet to be received</i>	31-12-2012	31-12-2011
Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Sudan		72.665
Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Syria	4.375	
FEI - Congo	1.469	100.414
Nationale Postcode Loterij	500.000	500.000
Anonymous donations to the South Sudan office	122.983	22.760
Anonymous donations to Radio Darfur Network/Tamazuj	11.859	
DSO (via RNTC)	7.254	
EU - Radio Darfur Network	119.292	
Anonymous donations to Radio Zamaneh	3.573	
Various		39.362
TOTAL	770.805	735.200

LIQUID ASSETS		
	31-12-2012	31-12-2011
<i>The Netherlands</i>		
Cash in euro	170	2.390
Cash in US dollars	572	3.595
Cash, Radio Darfur Network	2.918	1.598
Bank account balance, Radio Darfur Network	2.249	2.063
Giro 381679	1.069	20.201
Giro 7676	38.162	26.452
ING deposits	0	2.000.000
ING savings accounts	4.167.968	1.215.000
ING US dollars	39.352	34.418
ING bank account balance	351.438	753.522
	4.603.898	4.059.239
<i>Abroad</i>		
Office in Sudan	29.630	133.172

LIABILITIES

Reserves and funds		
	31-12-2012	31-12-2011
<i>Continuity reserve</i>		
Balance as of 1 January	866.909	394.471
Allocation in connection with the merger		164.888
Addition to the reserve	407.765	307.549
Balance as of 31 December	1.274.674	866.909

The additions to the continuity reserve made in connection with the merger will be explained in the section on the Severance Scheme Appropriation Fund.

<i>Allocated reserves for private donor projects</i>	31-12-2012	31-12-2011
Balance as of 1 January	9.821	24.474
Contributions by private donors	41.011	42.858
Acquisition costs for private funding and public grants		-51.912
Spent on organisational objective	-50.721	-5.599
Balance as of 31 December	110	9.821

<i>Reporters Respond Security Fund</i>	31-12-2012	31-12-2011
Balance as of 1 January	36.052	0
Transferred fund		40.706
Withdrawals in 2011	0	-4.654
Balance as of 31 December	36.052	36.052

Stichting Veiligheidsfonds journalisten was founded in 1992, with its registered office in Amsterdam. The foundation was set up to provide financial support to journalists the world over (or in certain cases, their surviving relatives) who have run into trouble due to their work, while fighting for press freedom and/or defending people's right to impartial information. The management of the foundation's affairs was handled by Stichting Free Voice.

After the merger, it was agreed with the executive of Stichting Veiligheidsfonds journalisten to transfer the fund's management to Free Press Unlimited. Stichting Veiligheidsfonds journalisten was subsequently dissolved and its assets were transferred to Free Press Unlimited's Reporters Respond fund via an appropriation fund.

<i>Severance Scheme Appropriation Fund</i>	31-12-2012	31-12-2011
Balance as of 1 January	256.660	0
Merger partner allocation		256.660
Severance costs	-114.433	
Balance as of 31 December	142.227	256.660

On 23 May 2011, Radio Netherlands Worldwide (RNW) and Stichting Press Now (one of the legal predecessors of Free Press Unlimited) entered into an agreement. Among other things, this agreement specified that Free Press Unlimited and Radio Netherlands Worldwide plan to establish a more intensive collaboration, in which RNW intends to allow Free Press Unlimited to execute its RNTC activities in the context of international development projects.

Among other things, the various sections of the agreement cover the outsourcing of RNW activities, the transfer of a share of RNW's equity and the transfer to Free Press Unlimited's employment of ten RNW staff members who retained their years of service. Free Press Unlimited's engagement of ten new employees was not covered in financial terms, since RNW remained the owner of the relevant project contracts. For this reason, RNW transferred compensation to the amount of EUR 421,548 to Free Press Unlimited, of which EUR 256,660 was earmarked until the end of 31 December 2012 as 'severance payments for former RNTC staff'. The remaining funds, to the amount of EUR 164,888, were not allocated as such and have been transferred to Free Press Unlimited's continuity reserve.

The severance costs of two former RNW employees have been paid out of this fund. The remainder of the fund was added to the continuity reserve as of 1 January 2013.

Policy with respect to non-restricted capital

Free Press Unlimited strives to maintain un-restricted capital on its balance, which the foundation can use to satisfy its financial obligations in the event that its income falls short of expectations. Its policy is to bring its continuity reserve to a level that allows Free Press Unlimited to continue its organisation for at least one full year.

It is the policy of the foundation to spend its funds in accordance with their allocation at the time of their establishment. For this reason, income from fundraising that has not been spent in the year under review is entered separately on the balance as reserves for private donor projects. If the continuity reserve falls short of the level established by Free Press Unlimited's Supervisory Board, funds received in the form of donations may temporarily be reserved to maintain the continuity reserve at the required level.

CURRENT LIABILITIES		
	31-12-2012	31-12-2011
Reserves for holiday allowances	66.885	63.631
Provisions for statutory leave entitlements	65.623	52.479
Taxes and Social Security contributions	28.677	83.536
Payable to suppliers	349.985	163.979
Other short-term liabilities	267.254	221.083
Pension contributions	2.627	23.656
Obligations in connection with current projects	1.283.395	744.020
TOTAL	2.064.446	1.352.385
<i>Grants that are yet to be spent or repaid to donor</i>	31-12-2012	31-12-2011
Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Life Link Somalia/Radio Hiras	184.215	120.650
Ministry of Foreign Affairs - MFS-II	948.362	957.844
Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Wrapp/StoryMaker	240.937	
EIDHR - Somalia	23.353	169.974
Eurodonatiefonds	55.196	100.137
NED	19.858	2.984
Oxfam Novib	6.709	37.912
Tides Foundation	140	15.285
Nationale Postcode Loterij Fund	67.493	10.269
Deutsche Welle - EIDHR - Zimbabwe	1.884	5.446
Anonymous donations to Radio Darfur Network		359.477
Adessium Foundation	10.770	81.781
Royal Netherlands Embassy - Khartoum	660.425	237.863
Royal Netherlands Embassy - Morocco	121.534	
Royal Netherlands Embassy - Tbilisi	7.695	
Royal Netherlands Embassy - Turkey	31.362	
Royal Netherlands Embassy - United Kingdom	22.535	
Various	8.657	499.572
TOTAL	2.411.125	2.599.194

Financial obligations that are not included on the balance sheet

Free Press Unlimited has entered into an agreement with Woonstichting Lieven de Key regarding the lease of a working accommodation and five parking spaces on Weesperstraat 3-5 in Amsterdam. The term of the present lease expires on 30 September 2015. At the end of this term, the lease contract may be extended for a contiguous term of three years (1 October 2015-30 September 2018). After this, the contract may be extended for contiguous terms of five years at a time. The initial lease is EUR 140,327.20 per year.

In addition, Free Press Unlimited is required to pay a monthly advance of EUR 3,100.51 to the lessor for additional products and services (gas, electricity, water, heating, sewage).

The contract partners have also agreed upon a rent-free period of four months in total, which will be deducted in the shape of a standard discount on Free Press Unlimited's payments to Woonstichting Lieven de Key in 2014 and 2015.

Free Press Unlimited's bank has issued a surety (charged to Free Press Unlimited's savings account) to Woonstichting Lieven de Key to the maximum amount of EUR 44,383.33.

A key aspect of funding provided within the Dutch government's MFS-II grant framework is the funder's requirement that a minimum of 25% of the recipient's income derives from own fundraising.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has the option of curtailing the provided funds if the recipient does not meet this condition. As the percentage calculated in its annual statement of accounts makes clear, Free Press Unlimited has satisfied this condition.

The awarded MFS-II funding is subject to certain conditions. The Ministry reserves the right to make cuts in the funding that is awarded every year. Free Press Unlimited has incorporated this condition in the contracts it enters into with its partners.

In 2009, Stichting Free Voice entered into an operational lease contract for a multi-purpose printer/copier/scanner. After the merger, this device was taken over by Free Press Unlimited. The term of the lease contract is six years, and runs from 22 September 2009-21 September 2015.

The standard rental is EUR 269 per month, with additional use being settled after the fact.

Notes to Free Press Unlimited's Statement of Income and Expenses for 2012

INCOME			
<i>Income from own fundraising activities</i>	2012	Budget	2011
Contributions by private donors	41.011	75.000	42.858
World Press Freedom Day contribution	17.166		
Grants for Radio Darfur Network	228.448	200.000	82.305
Grants for projects by the South Sudan office	535.309		428.171
Foundation for Democracy and Media grant for IMCK			50.000
Anonymous donation to Radio Zamaneh	422.976	470.000	426.464
Stichting Doen	48.305		337.143
Adessium Foundation	71.011	60.000	69.247
NED-Turkey	21.333		
Other funding/acquisition	57.837	350.000	136.768
	1.443.396	1.155.000	1.572.957
<i>Income from third-party activities</i>	2012	Budget	2011
Cordaid	244.821	150.000	24.884
Oxfam Novib	31.203		
Eurodonatiefonds	44.941	90.000	553
Nationale Postcode Loterij Fund (project funding)	72.776	500.000	
Nationale Postcode Loterij (structural funding)	500.000	500.000	513.234
	893.741	1.240.000	538.670

<i>Government grants</i>	2012	Budget	2011
Ministry of Foreign Affairs - MFS-II	8.108.323	5.956.224	6.913.077
Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Security training programme	1.845		21.930
Ministry of Foreign Affairs - IMCK	4.369		
Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Somalia	11.127		
Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Wrapp/StoryMaker	450.871		
Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Syria	366.558		
DSO / RNTC	535.027	430.033	367.031
PSO	27.653		3.392
Government grants for Radio Darfur Network	782.383		
European Commission including acquisition	297.417	895.000	695.047
France Expertise Internationale (FEI)	22.123	138.000	160.356
Kingdom of the Netherlands - Khartoum	144.632	800.000	552.608
Kingdom of the Netherlands - Morocco	137.483	174.964	155.433
Kingdom of the Netherlands - Tunisia	24.274	28.000	5.930
Kingdom of the Netherlands - Georgia	92.429		
Kingdom of the Netherlands - United Kingdom	46.685		
Kingdom of the Netherlands - El Salvador	7.815		
Kingdom of the Netherlands - Turkey	2.808		
Other public funding/acquisition		700.000	50.998
	11.063.822	9.122.221	8.925.803
<i>Other income</i>	2012	Budget	2011
Other	809		200
Interest	93.694	10.000	39.866
	94.503	10.000	40.066
TOTAL GENERAL INCOME	13.495.462	11.527.221	11.077.495

Explanation regarding the differences between budgeted and actual income amounts

The differences between the budgeted income amounts and the higher amounts that were actually realised in 2012 can be explained as follows:

Income from own fundraising activities

Free Press Unlimited has undertaken a wide range of new activities in Sudan. In contrast with previous years, it was decided (frequently at the request of the donors themselves) to no longer include the names of the donors of projects in South Sudan in Free Press Unlimited's annual statement of accounts.

Income from third-party activities

Nationale Postcode Loterij has awarded Free Press Unlimited's project 'New Horizons for Journalists' funding to the amount of EUR 130,000 for the period 2012-2013

Government grants

Free Press Unlimited is the main applicant for the Press Freedom Consortium. The organisation never includes funds allocated to its fellow alliance members in the context of the MFS-II grant framework in its own budget.

These amounts are entered as + and - items on its annual statement of accounts. The organisation accounts for the spending of these grant moneys in a separate report to the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Other income

Thanks to an active liquidity management policy (involving the immediate transfer of balance surpluses on Free Press Unlimited's current account to a savings account), the organisation received higher income from interest in 2012 than had been originally budgeted. Income from interest on MFS funds have been directly allocated to the relevant project budgets.

Notes to Free Press Unlimited's income from own fundraising activities

Grants for projects by the South Sudan office

In contrast with previous years, it was decided (frequently at the request of the donors themselves) to not disclose the names of the donors for the projects of Free Press

Unlimited's office in South Sudan and the donors of Radio Darfur Network (RDN).

In 2012, projects that were funded by a variety of donors include the following:

- Speak Up: English-language Literacy for Young South Sudanese;
- Let's Talk radio network (until 31 January 2012);
- Peace education to promote peaceful co-existence and sensitise communities to the underlying cause of conflict and important Human Rights issues.

Anonymous donation to Radio Zamaneh

On 6 September 2010, an anonymous donor made nearly EUR 1 million available as funding for the activities of Radio Zamaneh. The donation, which is provided over the term of two years, is subject to certain conditions. Free Press Unlimited has incorporated the conditional nature of the awarded funds in its contract with Radio Zamaneh. The financial settlement of the donation will take place in January 2013.

Stichting Doen

This entry concerns the Uzbekistan project, which was financed with funds remaining from the 'Giving Voice to the Voiceless' project. This project was rounded off in early 2012. The final settlement of the project finances took place in 2012 after formal approval by Free Press Unlimited.

Adessium Foundation

The Adessium Foundation had made funding available to one of Free Press Unlimited's predecessors, Free Voice, to the amount of EUR 347,796, for the Kids News Network project. This funding was issued for the period 1 July 2009-30 June 2012. The final settlement of the project finances, to the amount of EUR 337,026, was sent out in December 2012. The evaluation of the final settlement will take place in 2013.

Cordaid

In 2012, Cordaid awarded funding to Radio Tamazuj for a period ending in October 2013, to the amount of

EUR 196,859. In addition, Cordaid allowed Free Press Unlimited to transfer funds remaining from the Radio Referendum project, which had already been rounded off, to Radio Tamazuj.

MFS-II grant framework for civil society organisations

Free Press Unlimited is the main applicant of the Press Freedom Consortium.

In addition, Free Press Unlimited is a member of the following alliances:

- People Unlimited 4.1 – Main applicant: Hivos
- Freedom from Fear – Main applicant: IKV Pax Christi
- Child Rights Alliance – Main applicant: Plan Netherlands

In addition, Free Press Unlimited participates as a collaboration partner of War Child (main applicant) in the Conn@ct.now alliance.

The main applicants bear responsibility for an extensive separate account for their respective alliances’ financial management towards the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Directie Sociale Ontwikkeling (DSO)/RNTC

The amounts that have been passed as service charges and overhead costs to RNTC in connection with the engagement of Free Press Unlimited staff for project activities funded by DSO are accounted for in the annual accounts under the entry for the funding agency DSO (in accordance with the relevant guideline). In addition, the service charges that have been passed on to RNTC that were not funded by DSO are also accounted for under this entry, as these projects were funded with EU grants or by FEI and Nuffic respectively.

In their contract dated 23 May 2011, Free Press Unlimited and Radio Netherlands Worldwide agreed that the latter would allow Free Press Unlimited to execute RNTC activities relating to international development projects.

The passed-on project costs to the amount of some EUR 535,000 have been accounted for in Free Press Unlimited’s annual statement of accounts.

Free Press Unlimited bears responsibility for the execution of the activities that have been taken over from Radio Netherlands Worldwide. In concrete terms, this means Free Press Unlimited handles their coordination, financial administration and logistics.

Free Press Unlimited guarantees that the activities in question are executed in a timely and correct fashion and

that the related spending remains within the financial limits set for these activities on the basis of a previously approved budget.

Every year, Free Press Unlimited is required to account for how it has spent the funds received in this context.

Throughout the year under review, Free Press Unlimited passed on the costs for the RNTC programme and conferred with Radio Netherlands Worldwide about these expenses on a monthly basis.

Although RNTC has presently reimbursed all expenses, the charges in question have not yet been signed off by RNTC or its auditor.

Free Press Unlimited expects to receive this formal approval in the course of 2013.

France Expertise Internationale (FEI)

FEI has made funds available to the amount of EUR 199,808 for the project ‘Rôles et relations des médias et société civile dans le Bas-Congo’. The funding term ran from 1 December 2011 to 30 November 2012. The final settlement, to the amount of EUR 181,297, was sent to FEI at the end of December 2012.

European Commission

This entry relates to three EIDHR grants:

	Period	Amount in euro
Radio Life Link Somalia	2011-2012	300.000
Media in Zimbabwe (Deutsche Welle)	2011-2013	110.624
Radio Darfur Network	2010-2012	1.192.919

Kingdom of the Netherlands – Khartoum

The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Khartoum has issued the following grant decisions in support of the activities of Radio Darfur Network:

- On 1 November 2008: no. 18591, to the amount of EUR 1,500,000.
- On 11 August 2011: no. 23096, to the amount of EUR 1,692,641.

In early January 2012, Free Press Unlimited accounted to the Royal Netherlands Embassy for the final block of decision no. 18591.

Percentage ratios of income according to source

OWN CONTRIBUTION		
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MFS-II grant framework	8.108.323	
Correction for Press Freedom Consortium members:		
Mensen met een Missie	-899.683	
World Press Photo	-425.123	
European Partnership for Democracy	-508.024	
European Journalism Centre	-636.464	
	5.639.029	
Other grants from Dutch non-governmental sources	1.030.224	11%
Other grants from foreign non-governmental sources	2.367.825	26%
Private donations	41.011	0%
Other income	93.694	1%
	9.171.783	39%

The funds received by Free Press Unlimited as the main applicant on behalf of its fellow alliance members have been eliminated in the calculation of the foundation's own contribution percentage.

Free Press Unlimited's own contribution percentage is 39%, which means that in the year under review, the organisation satisfied the 25% requirement made by the Dutch government.

Explanation regarding the differences between budgeted and actual expenses

The following section provides a general explanation regarding the differences between the actual expenses and the previously established budget:

As the main applicant, Free Press Unlimited has chosen to refrain from including the funds that are to be transferred to its fellow alliance members in its annual budget. In the annual accounts, these amounts do need to be accounted for in Free Press Unlimited's statement of income and expenses. The funds in question amount to EUR 2,469,294.

The 'Other Projects' item in the 2012 Budget also includes an entry for Acquisition to the amount of EUR 1.5 million.

The organisation fell approximately EUR 600,000 short of the previously determined amount.

EXPENSES			
<i>Funds spent on the organisation's objective (not including the allocated costs of Free Press Unlimited's own organisation)</i>	2012	Budget	2011
MFS-II: Press Freedom 2.0	3.464.502	1.034.528	3.938.423
MFS-II: People Unlimited 4.1	1.179.956	1.377.000	1.092.110
MFS-II: Freedom from Fear	308.129	333.200	331.721
MFS-II: Conn@ct.now	459.028	466.678	236.165
MFS-II: Child Rights Alliance	1.019.742	797.611	220.032
	6.431.356	4.009.017	5.818.451
Radio Zamaneh	390.812	447.500	452.351
Kids News Network (not including MFS-II)	72.041		63.246
Wrapp/StoryMaker	358.246		
Syria	308.375		
Turkey	17.067		20.739
Tunisia	23.747		
France Expertise Internationale - Congo	14.160	128.340	158.096
Oxfam Novib	31.203		
Morocco	120.459	162.196	138.042
Georgia	74.729		
Radio Referendum/Tamazuj	69.322		83.575
Various projects in South Sudan	456.235	250.000	364.186
Radio Life Link Somalia	221.526	169.064	181.817
Radio Darfur Network (RDN)	1.554.676	1.600.000	1.343.666
Postcodeloterij Fund	47.598		
Eurodonatiefonds	44.941	90.000	
Other projects	155.637	1.779.500	164.014
	10.392.130	8.635.617	8.788.183
Allocated costs of own organisation*	2.819.710	2.822.509	1.960.365
	13.211.840	11.458.126	10.748.548

* including a non-recurring relocation charge (budgeted at EUR 75,000; actual charge EUR 47,965)

Remuneration of the members of the Executive Board and the Supervisory Board:

Name/position:	L.A.M. Willems, Director of Policy and Programmes	
Employment contract:	Permanent, full-time, 38 hours a week, term: 1 January 2012-31 December 2012.	
Pay type	Gross salary	75.090
	Holiday allowance	6.007
	Year-end bonus, '13th month'/'14th month'	
	Variable annual income	
		81.097
	Social Security contributions (Employer's contribution)	8.983
	Taxable benefits and allowances/Additional tax liabilities	
	Pension contributions (Employer's contribution)	12.324
	Other long-term benefits and remunerations	
Total remuneration in 2012		102.404
<i>Total remuneration in 2011</i>		<i>94.099</i>
Name/position:	R.C.E. Kronenburg, Director of Operations	
Employment contract:	Permanent, full-time, 38 hours a week, term: 1 January 2012-31 December 2012.	
Pay type	Gross salary	68.984
	Holiday allowance	5.519
	Year-end bonus, '13th month'/'14th month'	
	Variable annual income	
		74.503
	Social Security contributions (Employer's contribution)	8.983
	Taxable benefits and allowances/Additional tax liabilities	
	Pension contributions (Employer's contribution)	11.129
	Other long-term benefits and remunerations	
Total remuneration in 2012		94.616
<i>Total remuneration in 2011 (8 months)</i>		<i>57.328</i>
Total remuneration of the Executive Board in 2012		197.020
<i>Total remuneration of the Executive Board in 2011*</i>		<i>151.427</i>

*The Director of Operations joined the organisation in May 2011.

Free Press Unlimited's Supervisory Board has formally approved the organisation's remuneration policy, the salaries of the members of the Executive Board and the levels of other salary components. This remuneration policy is periodically updated and was last evaluated in November 2012.

When determining the remuneration policy and the salary amounts for the members of the Executive Board, the Supervisory Board refers to the Recommended Remuneration Scheme for Directors of Charitable Organisations (Adviesregeling Beloning Directeuren van Goede Doelen), in accordance with the regulations of the Dutch charity sector organisation FVI.

Specification and distribution of costs according to category

CATEGORY	Objective	Acquisition of income		Management and administration	2012 Total	2012 Budget	2011 Total
Expenses:	Media support	Own fundraising activities	Acquisition of government grants				
Grants for partner organisations/own activities	10.392.129	31.535	31.535	2.447	10.457.646	8.720.617	8.849.465
Staff costs	1.888.025	31.572	126.289	203.642	2.249.528	2.016.983	1.481.243
Housing costs	95.903	1.604	6.415	10.344	114.266	124.000	82.969
Office costs	285.823	4.780	19.119	80.678	390.400	596.526	334.871
Total	12.661.880	69.491	183.358	297.111	13.211.840	11.458.126	10.748.548
PERCENTAGES		2012	2011				
Spent on organisational objective/ Total income		93,82%	92,61%				
Spent on organisational objective/ Total expenses		95,84%	95,44%				
Costs of own fundraising activities/ Income from own fundraising activities		4,81%	3,59%				
Management and accounting costs/ Total expenses		2,25%	3,24%				

At the end of 2012, Free Press Unlimited employed 27.5 FTEs at its head office in Amsterdam. These FTEs could be broken down into the following positions: 15.4 Programme Coordinators/project officers, 1 member of the Finance team, 1 Controller, 1 office manager, 2 executive secretaries, 2.6 members of the Communication department and 2 members of the Executive Board. In 2012, 13 people worked for Free Press Unlimited as unsalaried interns. In addition, at the end of 2012, 13.9 FTEs (compared to 11.5 FTEs in 2011) worked from Free

Press Unlimited's head office on the Radio Dabanga and Radio Tamazuj projects. The organisation employs 1 Programme Coordinator on location in Colombia (who serves as the representative for Latin America) and has posted 2 FTEs to the South Sudan office.

The members of Free Press Unlimited's Supervisory Board are not reimbursed for their activities. In addition, neither they nor the members of the Executive Board are awarded any loans, advances or sureties by the organisation.

Budget for 2013

INCOME	2013 Budget	2012 Annual Accounts	2012 Budget*
Income from own fundraising activities	2.650.000	1.443.396	1.155.000
Income from third-party activities	745.000	893.741	1.240.000
Government grants	9.399.670	11.063.822	9.122.221
Other income	10.000	94.503	10.000
TOTAL INCOME	12.804.670	13.495.462	11.527.221
EXPENSES			
<i>Spent on the organisation's objective</i>			
Media support programme	12.111.188	12.661.880	10.934.895
<i>Spent on the acquisition of new funds</i>			
Cost of own fundraising activities	105.776	69.491	45.039
Acquisition costs for government grants	246.812	183.358	142.655
	352.588	252.849	187.694
<i>Spent on management and accounting</i>			
Management and accounting costs	311.866	297.111	335.537
TOTAL EXPENSES	12.775.642	13.211.840	11.458.126
BALANCE OF INCOME AND EXPENSES	29.028	283.622	69.095

* Due to misrepresentations in the 2012 budget with regard to the category in which a specific donor was to be accounted for, the overall allocation of income across the four categories has changed in relation to the adopted budget for 2012.



Independent auditor's report

To: the Board of Free Press Unlimited, Amsterdam

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Free Press Unlimited, Amsterdam, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2012, the profit and loss account for the year then ended and the notes, comprising a summary of the accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's responsibility

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair representation of these financial statements and for the preparation of the management board report, both in accordance with the Guidelines for annual reporting of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board, especially Guideline 650 "Fundraising Institutions". Furthermore management is responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing. This requires that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error.

In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the foundation's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the foundation's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Free Press Unlimited as at 31 December 2012 and of its results for the year then ended in accordance with the Guidelines for annual reporting of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board, especially Guideline 650 "Fundraising Institutions".

Amsterdam, 12 April 2013

Dubois & Co. Registeraccountants

Original signed by: G. Visser

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