International Media Support

Annual Report 2006

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Acronyms

AMARC	World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters
AMDISS	Association for Media Development in South Sudan
ANEM	Association of Independent Electronic Media
AoIJ	Association of Iranian Journalists
APFW	Arab Press Freedom Watch
ARIJ	Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism
ASBU	Arab States Broadcasting Union
ATDF	L'Association tunisienne des femmes démocrates
BAJ	Belarusian Association of Journalists
BJA	Bahrain Journalists Association
CDFJ	Centre for the Defence of Freedom of Journalists
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CJES	Centre for Journalism in Extreme Situations
CKU/DCCD	Danish Centre for Culture and Development
CNLT	Le Conseil national pour les libertés en Tunisie
CoPeAm	Conférence Permanente d'Audio-visuelle Méditerranée
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
CPM	Centre for Professionalisation of Media
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DFI	Danish Film Institute
DFID	UK Department for International Development
DFS	Danish Film School
DJ	Danish Union of Journalists
DJH (or) DSJ	Danish School of Journalism
DPI	United Nations Department of Public Information
DR	Danish Broadcasting Corporation
EAR	European Agency for Reconstruction
EC	European Commission
ECOWAS	Economic Community Of West African States
EDN	European Documentary Network
EJC	European Journalism Centre
EU	European Union
FAJ	Federation of Arab Journalists
FNJ	Federation of Nepalese Journalists
FUJ	Danish Association for Investigative Journalism
GAM	Free Aceh Movement
HLPG	High Level Policy Group
ICSN	Indonesia Conflict Studies Network
IFEX	International Freedom of Expression Exchange
IFJ	International Federation of Journalists
IMPACS	Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society
IMS	International Media Support
INS	Independent News Service
INSI	International News Safety Institute
IoME	Images of the Middle East
IPC	International Press Centre
IPI	International Press Institute
IPJ/LAU	Institute for Professional Journalists, Lebanese American University

iPRS	Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy
JHR	Journalists for Human Rights
JPA	Jordan Press Association
JRTV	Jordan Radio and Television
LADE	The Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections
LMC	Liberia Media Centre
LTDH	Ligue tunisienne de défense des droits de l'homme
LTTE	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MFWA	Media Foundation for West Africa
MIFTAH	The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy
MIM	Macedonia Institute for Media
MISA	Media Institute for Southern Africa
MMI	Montenegro Media Institute
MRA	Media Rights Agenda
MSI	Media Services International
NAB	Neighbourhood Programme
NAFEO	Network of African Freedom of Expression Organisations
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NiZA	Netherlands Institute for Southern Africa
NPA	Norwegian Peoples Aid
NUSOJ	National Union of Somali Journalists
OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
OSF	Open Society Foundation
OSI	Open Society Institute
OSIWA	Open Society Institute West Africa
OTM	Observatoire Togolais des Medias
PAN	Proyecto Antonio Nariño
PBS	Public Broadcasting Service
RNTC	Radio Nederland Training Centre
RRGL	Reseau des Radios des Grands Lacs
RSF	Reporters sans Frontières
SAPC	South Asia Pres Commission
SEENAPB	South East Europe Network of Associations of Private Broadcasters
SEENPM	South East Europe Network for the Professionalisation of the Media
SOCFEX	Somali Coalition for Free Expression
TFG	Transitional Federal Government of Somalia
UIC	Union of Islamic Courts
UJIT	Union of Independent Journalists of Togo
UN CCA	UN Common Country Assessment
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNOCI	United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire
URATEL	Union des radios et télévisions libres du Togo
VOP	Radio Voice of the People
WPFC	World Press Freedom Committee

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1. Introduction

1. Introduction

This annual report covers activities and interventions carried out by IMS from 1. September 2005 to 31 December 2006. The extended period reflects a change of IMS reporting period now following the calendar year.

IMS has during its fifth year of existence continued its core mandate activities, funded by Danida and Sida, with a particular emphasis on consolidating our approach and mode of operation. The core-mandate continues to prove its value and strength.

Similarly the three (additional) larger media programmes e.g. i) "Media Cooperation with the Arab World and Iran" (AIPP), ii) "Media Programme for Ukraine, Belarus and Western Balkans" (NAB) and iii) "Terrorism, Extremism and Media in Central Asia" have made good progress and have achieved innovative results during their first year of implementation.

Throughout the reporting period negotiations have taken place with the Norad regarding possible funding of IMS core mandate activities. In 2007 the present Sida contract will come to an end and it is expected that it will be renewed. The Danida contract runs until the end of 2008. For the lager media programmes a 2nd phase renewal is expected in 2007

To handle the programmes effectively the IMS secretariat has established separate programme units for Core mandate activities, AIPP and the NAB programme. IMS administration has been strengthened to cater for new programme activities.

2. Media and Conflict Programme - Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean

2.1. Overview of Activities and Strategy

2.1.1. Statistical Overview of Activities
During the reporting period IMS has carried out interventions in seventeen countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean under the Media and Conflict Programme.

Africa	Asia	Latin America and Caribbean
Gambia	Burma	Bolivia
Great Lakes	Indonesia	Colombia
Ivory Coast	The Maldives	Guatemala
Liberia	Nepal	Haiti
Somalia	Sri Lanka	
Sudan		
Togo		
Zimbabwe		

IMS interventions under the Media and Conflict Programme in 2006 have been relatively equally balanced amongst the eight intervention categories that IMS works with (please see section below). However, it is apparent that the importance of Partnerships has increased significantly in 2006, with IMS now coordinating international groups of media development and press freedom organisations in West Africa and South Asia, as well as for individual counties such as Colombia and Zimbabwe.

IMS activities in regards to media content, professional training and the operation of independent media continued strongly in 2006, accounting for a third of all interventions. During the year IMS maintained a focus on media content and professionalisation activities, seeking to maximise the role of independent and balanced reporting as a tool for conflict resolution. IMS also became more substantively engaged in media policy interventions broadening institutional knowledge in these areas.

Likewise, IMS has maintained a continued focus on safety related initiatives and strengthening media structures and networks. IMS has also actively engaged in the newly introduced area of press freedom advocacy, conducted with and through partner organisations specialised on such activities. Finally, IMS continued with its research and assessment activities, mostly as elements developed within the project cycle. For further details please refer to Annex 1: Overview of IMS Interventions per Category

2.1.2. Conceptual Development of Interventions

During 2006 IMS sought to further refine its categories of intervention bringing together experiences and lessons learnt from the previous 4 years of operation. This process was based on discussions held during a strategy retreat in late April 2006 and the follow-up meeting in July 2006. Based on this process, IMS revised and developed its intervention areas, as described below.

Media Operations
In areas affected by conflict and severe human insecurity, the operations of media practitioners and outlets may be adversely affected. This might include being targeted by the authorities or combatant parties, thereby seriously hindering operations through 'preventing' staff from working (such as through legal action, detention, threats of violence, etc), undermining the financial and/or legal status of an outlet (such as influencing investors and advertisers, manipulating tax, fire and/or copyright

inspections, etc), or the removal and/or destruction of property and equipment whether deliberate or as a result of violent exchanges between combatants.

As a result of such interference, a media practitioner or outlet may be forced to scale down, re-orientate or cease activities. When this occurs to a practitioner or outlet which is contributing to conflict reduction and resolution, as well as the attainment and improvement in respect for human rights and good governance, then IMS will act in support of that media practitioner or outlet.

IMS activities aimed at maintaining and/or re-establishing media operations will most typically involve support for equipment and running costs, as well as strategising with the local partner on how to avoid or overcome future interference in operations, whether this be to seek an alternative form of public or underground distribution, to continue activities from outside the country, or to use "smart techniques" to circumvent legal obstructions and other parameters used by those seeking to interfere.

Where there exists a vacuum of objective professional information in areas affected by conflict and severe human insecurity, both when the media has ceased to operate and where no media previously existed, IMS will seek work with local partners to fill that vacuum. This may also include the provision of humanitarian information, as such vacuums often exist in circumstances where populations relocate *en masse* or there has been widespread destruction of infrastructure.

Examples of where IMS has undertaken such media operation activities include Zimbabwe, Indonesia and Burma.

Media Content and Professionalisation
Whilst the conduit for positively impacting on conditions of conflict and severe human insecurity are the media outlets themselves, the professional skills of media practitioners and the content they produce is also of primary importance. Therefore, media practitioners must have access to and be able to draw upon a wide range of professional skills. In specialised circumstances, more advanced skills may also be of use for working in periods of heightened tension.

Conversely, where the media lacks professional skills and also pursues negative reporting and hate speech, whether this be unintentional or deliberate, this can have a serious impact on fuelling tensions and provoking violence. In the most extreme cases, media may also be actively assisting combatant parties by both disseminating propaganda and undertaking operations.

IMS activities relating to media professionalism often aim to strengthen access to professional development opportunities for local media practitioners and outlets, thereby impacting on and strengthening media content addressing those issues affecting conflict and severe human insecurity. This may include training in basic professional standards, or specialised training such as election reporting, investigative journalism or conflict conscious journalism.

When working on such professional development activities IMS will seek to use innovative forms of engagement and avoid 'parachute training' (this typically be one off training courses over a few days with little local relevancy or follow-up for the participants). Experience demonstrates that the way in which activities are structured impacts on the absorption of skills learnt and facilitates the production of more in-depth and elaborate content.

Examples of models used by IMS include 'team reporting', whereby media practitioners are formed into groups (sometimes across conflict divides) to undertake joint reporting, repeat or modulate training with a constant feedback loop to the trainer, in-house 'top-to-bottom' training whereby all

levels of an outlet are engaged from owner/editor to junior journalists to ensure proper usage of the skills learnt, and training-of-trainers (ToT) whereby local trainers are engaged in the process to ensure local capacity remains in place.

Activities may also seek to strengthen the breadth of information available to the media to improve content, in particularly through developing linkages and cooperative activities with civil society and academics, whereby mutually beneficial relations are created that empower the media and allow for more accurate and analytical information to get to the public.

The professionalism and ability of a media outlet to perform is also determined by management. In this regard, IMS may also assist outlets to further strengthen their financial and resource management capacities. Such activities are particularly relevant when consider self-sustainability options for media outlets or institutions.

In circumstances where hate speech occurs, IMS may try to engage the outlet and/or relevant authorities in dialogue together with the wider media community and relevant partner organisations to seek an end to such practices. In addition, IMS might support national partners to pursue legal action to end such practices, whilst at the international level, IMS may facilitate and join collective advocacy efforts to address the situation (please see 'Media Advocacy')

Examples of where IMS has undertaken such media content activities include Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Ivory Coast and Haiti.

Media Safety
The dangers for media practitioners working in conflict affected areas can be considerable and media practitioners that pursue professional objective reporting are often targeted. If the safety of media practitioners is threatened, this not only undermines their ability to provide reliable and objective information, but also significantly hinders the potentially positive role media can play in conflict reduction and resolution.

In this regard, IMS media safety activities often take two distinct forms dependent on whether the threat can be effectively addressed inside of the area of instability or not. When possible, the approach is normally to improve the safety environment within the area of instability, thereby allowing the media practitioners to remain *in-situ* and, if possible, continue their work.

Safety-related activities specifically targeting individuals may include mechanisms to facilitate high-level quick response missions by national 'persons of note' to address incidents, providing shelter for displaced journalists in a safe location, tracking media practitioners under threat, providing health and accident insurance for media practitioners, and establishing a 'grant fund' for targeted media practitioners and their families. Broader safety related activities may also include safety training courses, developing 'environmental' safety through collegial networks, telephone hotlines for reporting incidents, monitoring and publication of regular reports on abuses against the media, and awareness-building seminars with local media and authorities/ security forces.

If the threat is consider too great and it is not possible to address safety within a country, IMS also assists with establishing safe-havens for media practitioners outside of the country. However, such support is time limited and must be connected to longer term avenues for sustainability options. IMS may also assist media practitioners with medical costs if injured as a result of their work, although such support can again only be provided within a clearly defined timeframe.

Before assisting media practitioners with financial support on an individual basis or seeking refuge outside of their country, IMS will work together with national and/or international partners to establish the credibility of their case.

Examples of where IMS has undertaken such media safety activities include Nepal, Gambia, Haiti, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe.

Media Policy
An important prerequisite for building an independent and professional media environment is the media policy and legalisation upon which it is based. Where a media policy environment allows for excessive state interference or otherwise impedes on press freedom (such as criminal defamation, government licensing of media practitioners or print media, etc) then the media cannot be truly independent and perform as the 'fourth estate' overseeing the actions of the authorities and vested-interest groups.

Moreover, where properly developed and applied self-regulatory system (voluntary accountability systems) or codes of conduct do not exist, coupled with balanced liable legislation and a functioning judiciary, an environment in which unprofessional reporting can flourish.

The creation of a stable, transparent and accountable media policy and legal framework is therefore essential. Although best-practices exist, a country specific approach must be adopted that considers the delicate balance required between the legal framework and self-regulatory system.

IMS media policy activities may therefore address any stage of a media policy reform process, from reviewing legislation, developing national consensus, drafting new bills, building support and advocacy, to support implementation. As a number of IMS partners are specialised in media policy reform issues, IMS will seek to work in close cooperation with them.

IMS may also support media communities with developing codes of conduct for both time specific circumstances, such as elections, and for indefinite periods as a component of a broader self-regulatory system.

Examples of where IMS has undertaken such media content activities include Liberia, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Sudan.

Media Structures and Networks
One of the often seen results of conflict and conditions of severe human insecurity is the breakdown of professional structures and networks. The tensions created by conflict may result in the various elements of civil society being broken into disparate groups with linkages between them being severed. In this manner, media structures and networks can dissolve due to divisions within the media community or the impractical logistical and financial reality of sustaining them.

As a result, support mechanisms and processes, including professionalisation activities, media research, collective advocacy, dialogue with authorities and so forth, may be discontinued leaving the media individually vulnerable through a lack of collective resources and opportunity to develop joint positions and address challenges pro-actively.

IMS activities may therefore focus on the (re)formation and strengthening of professional structures and networks. Typically this might include supporting a media centre that can act as a focal point for

professionalisation issues and media related research and advocacy, as well as provide a media community with access to improved technical resources.

Moreover, support for media associations and unions may also be provided, where such representational collective structures are required to lobby and advocate on behalf of the wider media community and provide support structures for media practitioners. Less formal structures might also be assisted which seek to improve the conditions and professional standards of the media in specialised fields, such as community radio or investigative journalism networks (such networks may also be closely linked with 'Media Content and Professionalisation' activities).

Examples of where IMS has undertaken such media structured activities include Colombia, Liberia, and the Great Lakes.

Press Freedom Advocacy
The defence of freedom of expression and press freedom are often inextricably linked to supporting media in conflict or conditions of severe human insecurity. In this regard, to advocate for press freedom at the national and international level can both complement and facilitate media support activities through pressing and encouraging authorities to respect these freedoms and create more conducive environments for local media practitioners to participate in and carry forward media support activities at the grass-roots level. Where state repression of press freedom is particularly harsh, advocacy activities at the international level may also be the most productive approach for pursuing change and demonstrating support for the national media community.

However, the interaction between the press freedom community and media support/ development community is not clearly established. Traditional thinking dictates that where the work of the press freedom group ends (i.e. with the improvement of the press freedom environment), so begins the work of the media development group (i.e. to develop the media community through strengthening professional skills and technical resources). Such a view is to simplify the complex nexus between the two fields, where more often than not the two overlap and fluid interaction between them is required.

As a media support organisation with a focus on short-term activities in severe conditions where press freedom is likely to be most weak, IMS is in a position to span the two fields thereby tying the monitoring and rapid reaction required for dealing with press freedom together with a project based approach for long-term development and change on the ground. In this regard, IMS seeks to explore options beyond alerts and public awareness campaigns through combining such activities with media support and development activities.

A typical IMS advocacy activity might include creating a partnership or grouping around a specific country context (please also see 'Partnerships'), facilitating a joint mission to the country to undertake advocacy and explore project activities to support that advocacy process, partake in any subsequent joint press freedom monitoring and encourage longer-term engagement in the country by national and international partners (such interventions may be closely linked to Media Safety activities, particularly where there is monitoring of press freedom violations).

Examples of where IMS has undertaken advocacy activities include the Gambia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

Partnerships
Where conditions of conflict and severe human insecurity are present it is likely that a complex range of challenges exist. In situations characterised by the widespread degeneration of a media environment, it

is often not possible to address one issue in isolation without also tackling other interlinked issues. If single interventions are therefore to be successful, they have to be part of a broader multi-track approach demanding coordinated action by national and international organisations. To combine expertise and funding can create greater effectiveness and impact than if individual organisations work alone. In addition, collective approaches to donors can help highlight needs more convincingly and secure funding for the immediate and longer terms.

If one is seeking to raise awareness and influence change through advocacy and lobbying activities and unity of opinion can be agreed, then combined approaches will also invariably carry more weight (please see 'Press Freedom Advocacy'). Moreover, advocacy requires sustained vigilance and rapid responses so 'sharing' the workload can allow for continued focus and greater attention.

Although partnerships can be viewed as an implementing structure for an intervention, for IMS it also constitutes an intervention activity unto itself. In this regard, IMS seeks to build partnerships around specific issues, countries and regions. However, IMS does not act solely as a coordinating entity, but also pursues activities within the context of the country or region in question. In this manner, through being an active stakeholder IMS derives increased legitimacy for its coordinating and information sharing activities.

A typical partnership approach may involve identifying a situation that requires a multi-track and/or multi-organisation approach, establishing dialogue to canvas support amongst both national and international organisations, coordinating an assessment and/or lobbying mission, publishing a report outlining the mission findings and recommendations, working together with partner organisations to design and implement project-based activities, calling and chairing periodic coordination meetings, and helping to source funding options for the activities of other partner organisations. Where advocacy activities are involved, IMS will share the task of drafting statements with a specialised press freedom organisation.

The dynamic and flexible funding structure of IMS also makes the organisation well-suited to facilitate partnerships, because small-scale funding can be quickly sourced to assist other organisations (particularly national and regional organisations with less access to resources), allowing them to participate in joint missions and paving the way for longer-term engagements through their own funding channels.

Examples of where IMS has undertaken such media partnership activities include Colombia, Zimbabwe, Togo, Gambia, Liberia, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

Research and Assessments
In undertaking its project activities, IMS seeks to further refine and develop its approaches through internal and external strategy development, as well as share information about its activities with the wider press freedom and media development communities with the aim of improving coordination.

This type of activity typically entails two approaches. Firstly, based on the findings of a mission – often in collaboration with other organisations through a partnership or advocacy approach – a report will be produced. This report will detail the current situation in the country and the recommendations for actions to be taken.

Secondly, IMS may seek to further develop thinking surrounding a particular type of intervention. Typically IMS would host a conference or workshop on the subject in focus and as an outcome of that

event produce a pamphlet or handbook detailing the findings and providing information for others seeking to work in that field.

Examples of the type of research and assessment undertaken by IMS include the mission reports from Bolivia, Liberia, Nepal, Togo, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, as well as the handbooks on conflict conscious journalism, election reporting training and 'Voices of War: Conflict and the Role of the Media' (which deals with post conflict media support).

2.1.3. Institutional Development

During 2006 IMS staff undertaking travel to conflict areas participated in safety training courses in Denmark and the UK. These courses were implemented by Pilgrims and the Danish Armed Forces and provided the participants with basic safety skills, including first aid.

As a result of this, IMS also developed a Standard Operating Procedure on Communication (SOP-COM) outlining in detail the safety producers for staff members on mission and communication with the IMS office whilst travelling.

2.2. Programme Activities in Africa

During the reporting period, IMS undertook the following intervention activities in Africa.

2.2.1. Gambia

Background and Objectives
In the build up to the Presidential elections in September and Parliamentary election in January 2007, the government of the Gambia, lead by President Jawara, has enforced increasingly harsh repression against the independent and, at times, state media, including prolonged unlawful detentions, physical attacks and closure of media outlets. This situation comes on top of the murder of the owner and editor of the Point Newspaper, Deyda Hydara, in December 2004.

The engagement of IMS in the Gambia has been under the broader strategy for West Africa of pursuing improved press freedom conditions in individual countries thereby building towards a generally better press freedom environment regionally as a result of close inter-governmental cooperation, including through the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). In this context, the objectives of IMS for the Gambia during 2006 have been threefold. Firstly, IMS has sought to mitigate and counter the immediate negative effects of the repressive actions of the authorities on the independent media community.

Secondly, IMS has sought to put in place options for the longer term work of the independent media community both within the country and in exile, to build both its capacity for self development and domestic advocacy, as well as the dissemination of professional and independent information in the country.

Thirdly, to achieve the goals outlined in the second objective, IMS has through the Partnership for Media and Conflict Prevention in West Africa (the Partnership) sought to bring together and facilitate coordination amongst regional and international actors, specifically including the Open Society Institute (OSI), FreeVoice, Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), Network of African Freedom of Expression Organisations (NAFEO), International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), Gambia Media Support (GAMES) and Article 19.

Activities

With the deterioration of the press freedom situation in the Gambia in late 2005, IMS supported the Gambia Press Union (GPU) in hosting their annual conference on 15 and 16 December 2005, including marking the anniversary of the murder of Deyda Hydara. IMS also provided emergency support through MFWA in June 2006 to two Gambian media practitioners seeking safety in exile. Moreover, IMS supported two rounds of election reporting training for the independent media undertaken in conjunction with FreeVoice, using trainers from GAMES, in September and November in preparation for the presidential and parliamentary elections.

Based on discussion with the Gambian counterparts, including at a meeting hosted by MFWA in Senegal in late May 2006, IMS prepared a paper outlining options for press freedom and media support interventions in the Gambia, which brought together a number of different activities being discussed by various actors at that time. This paper was shared with members of the Partnership and a group, including NAFEO, FreeVoice, OSI, IFJ, Article 19, IMS and GAMES, have subsequently been cooperating on a coordinated package of media support activities, including an exiled radio station, freedom of expression advocacy, national professional development and legal support for case of press freedom violations.

In December, an IMS consultant went on mission to Senegal from 2 to 5 December to work with local partners to refine the 'An Alternative Voice for Gambians' project proposal and budget for funding by IMS and partners. This programme will get underway in early 2007.

In the context of press freedom advocacy activities, IMS supported the NAFEO strategy meeting on the Gambia, held in Nigeria on 12 and 13 June. NAFEO held a second meeting in Senegal on Gambia in December 2007 at which the development of a full press freedom advocacy programme was discussed with the Gambian counterparts. A programme document for these activities is currently being developed.

IMS also supported a GAMES representative to attend the NAFEO strategy meeting in December in Senegal to develop a long-term curriculum and funding proposal with the GPU for the professional development and training of independent media in the Gambia.

Assessment

The focus for IMS during 2007 has been on the dual goals of ensuring rapid and meaningful support to the independent media in the Gambia during this period of increased repression through supporting individuals under attack, assisting with preparing for the elections and providing small-scale support to the activities of the GPU.

With the goal of putting in place longer-term options for the development of the independent media, IMS helped facilitate the development of three programmes, including the development of an exiled radio stations (with support expected from IMS and OSI), support for professional skills development (with support expected from FreeVoice and GAMES), national and regional press freedom advocacy (with support expected from NAFEO and MFWA), and the strengthening of the GPU (with support expected from IFJ, IMS and GAMES).

Whilst the support to the media community in the Gambia has only been small scale during 2006, it has played an important role in maintaining an independent media community and demonstrating the support of the international community for press freedoms. The development of longer-term

programmes and the required coordination amongst regional and international actors has taken longer than originally anticipated, although activities are expected to get underway in early 2007.

Future Actions
Expectations for any substantive change during 2007 in the press freedom and political situation in the Gambia are low. The longer-term approach as foreseen in the three programmes currently under development will therefore form the main basis of IMS activities in 2007, including direct support for the exiled radio programme. Moreover, IMS will continue to work closely with regional partners, including MFWA and NAFEO, to react to emergency issues as and when they arise.

2.2.2. Great Lakes

Background and Objectives
The Great Lakes area continues to be one of the most unstable in the world. Myths and misunderstandings concerning the neighbouring countries, their population and intentions are prevalent leading to tension and the danger of future violent conflicts. Thus, there is a need to provide information and promote cooperation across borders. Increased cross-border cooperation among media outlets is an important means to alleviate this situation.

In order to meet the needs for strengthened media cooperation IMS facilitated the establishment of "Reseau des Radios des Grands Lacs (RRGL)", a network of radio stations from Burundi, Eastern DRC and Rwanda. The purpose of RRGL was to meet the needs for exchange of information and news between the three countries, in order to promote mutual understanding and cooperation, as well as to build capacities within the radios.

Activities
Based upon a work plan from RRGL different activities have been organised and supported by IMS. In May 2005 a two-day risk awareness training was carried out and implemented by the International News Safety Institute (INSI). Later in September 2005, a team reporting exercise, where the radios jointly produced a number of radio programmes, was implemented. The activity was organised together with Panos (Paris) and Search for Common Ground.

In the beginning of 2006, the team reporting exercise was evaluated, including an overall assessment of RRGL's organisational strengths.

Assessment
Although the team reporting exercise achieved several of its objectives, the evaluation made it clear that RRGL would need strong external support including a close relationship with an organisation present in the region. Unfortunately, it has not been possible for the international organisations IMS has collaborated with on this initiative to give priority to this matter.

Future Actions
IMS has decided to put the support to RRGL on hold while following the development in the region and opportunities to re-engage. One condition for a possible re-engagement will be the establishment of a formal grouping with organisations present in the region.

2.2.3. Ivory Coast

Background and Objectives

During 2006 the political and geographical division of the Ivory Coast has continued between the Government in the South and the New Forces in the North. The peace agreement of January 2003 has only been implemented in part and often without the support of all parties. Although the new Government of Prime Minister Banny helped to advance the peace process by implementing a nationwide identification process and initiating the disarmament of combatant forces, the elections foreseen for October 2006 had to again be postponed.

During 2006 IMS has sought to identify and assess different project activities in support of the independent media community, with a focus on avenues for addressing and countering hate speech. This has included dialogue with numerous parties, support for two identification missions to the country, and discussions about the development of a number of project concepts, including a proposal for addressing hate speech with the Freedom of the Press, Ethics and Deontology Observatory (OLPED), elections training with the National Press Council (NPC) and a feasibility study for the establishment of a new independent newspaper.

Activities
In February 2006, IMS co-organised a meeting of the Partnership for Media and Conflict Prevention in West Africa at UNESCO in Paris to discuss, amongst other countries, the Ivory Coast. This included a group telephone conference with the UN Department of Public Information and UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) offices in New York and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and OCHA offices in Abidjan.

As a follow-up to these discussions, IMS supported MFWA-led assessment missions to the Ivory Coast in both May and November 2006 to hold discussions with partner organisations and explore and expand upon potential activity areas.

Assessment
Despite the breadth of consultations undertaken with local and international partners during 2006, including the preparation of a number of project activities, the deadlock in the country has made progress difficult. In this regard, IMS has focused on building relations with key local actors and developing concepts for potential project activities, which will hopefully be realistically implementable during 2007.

Future Actions
In order to further refine and concretise those project concepts under discussions, IMS supported a meeting in Accra in January 2007 with UNESCO, MFWA, NPC and OLPED. As a result of this meeting, CNP and OLPED agreed to draft a two track proposal for media content monitoring and journalist elections reporting training building up the elections currently foreseen for September 2007.

2.2.4. Liberia

Background and Objectives
The sizeable international presence in Liberia over the past years since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2003 has presented a significant opportunity to bring stability to the country in the short-term and establish the groundwork for addressing the country's problems and needs in the long-term. In October 2005, the peaceful election of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as President marked a significant step towards the creation of a stable democracy and ushered in a new phase in the post-conflict transition.

The primary focus of IMS during 2006 has been to continue to facilitate the coordinated efforts of the Partnership for Media and Conflict Prevention in West Africa (the Partnership), including a joint mission to the country in mid 2006.

As part of an overall down scaling in activities, IMS ceased core and institutional funding to the Liberia Media Centre (LMC), which during the year attained financial independence from IMS through self-generated finances and other international organisations, IMS remained closely involved in developing the strategic plans and funding strategy of the Centre.

IMS also continued to work in close cooperation with UNESCO and Article 19 on the media policy reform process initiated in 2004, as well as provided input with UNESCO to the UN Common Country Assessment (CCA) and interim Poverty Reduction Strategy (iPRS) donor funding coordination mechanisms.

Activities

With the Partnership entering its third year, the activities of those organisation that have remained engaged in the country continued apace, whilst new members were also brought on board, including International Alert, Open Society Institute for West Africa (OSIWA), Radio Nederland Training Centre (RNTC) and Journalists for Human Rights (JHR). The Partnership held a coordination meeting at UNESCO in Paris in February at which Liberia was discussed and it was agreed that a return mission should go to the country in June to advocate for the passing of the new draft legislation, push for the inclusion of media in the interim Poverty Reduction Strategy (iPRS), make new recommendations for media development support in the country and to updated media assessment report from 2003. IMS supported this mission in which nine Partnership organisations participated.

However, the June mission was cut short due to flight cancellations and a second follow-up smaller mission had to be carried out in December to collect the necessary information and conduct the remaining interviews so that the mission report could be completed. The report is expected to be finished in early 2007.

Support for the LMC continued with IMS funding for Phase I ending in mid-2005, although interim bridging funds were provided from September to October 2005 and February to March 2006. Phase II begun in early 2006 with support from FreeVoice, International Alert, UNESCO and the Radio Netherlands Training Centres (RNTC). Although IMS did not provide funding for this Phase, it continued to closely work with the LMC in an advisory capacity.

IMS has also continued to support the media policy reform process initiated at the national conference in 2004. The new draft media legislations for an Act Establishing an Independent Broadcasting Regulator and a Freedom of Information Act were completed by the team of Liberian lawyers in October 2005, then reviewed by UNESCO and Article 19, with subsequent validation meetings being held in December 2005, April 2006 and January 2007. The Liberian Broadcasting System Act was also introduced into this process during the year.

In cooperation with UNESCO, IMS also provided input to the media development sections of the UN CCA and iPRS. In addition to this, based on an appeal from the Press Union of Liberia (PUL) IMS provided assistance through the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) for the injured Liberian journalist, Throble Suah, in September 2006, and in November 2006 supported the Director of the Association of Liberian Community Radios (ALICOR) to attend the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) annual conference in Amman.

Assessment

During 2006 IMS continued to facilitate the coordination activities of the Partnership, including bringing new members into the group. However, with the democratic elections in October 2005, the country has moved from an immediate post-conflict environment into a longer democratic transition. In this regard, the activities of the Partnership members have also increasingly begun to reflect the longer-term programme perspectives this requires.

In terms of the two specific tracks of activities, IMS has continued support to the media policy drafting process, which came to a completion in 2006 with the validation meetings. Moreover, IMS core funding for the LMC was concluded, with Phase II activities be taken up by other funding agencies.

Future Actions

It is foreseen that 2007 will continue to see a down-scaling of the work of IMS in Liberia, although depending on the commitments made by UNESCO for the lobbying and advocacy surrounding the legislative process for media bills, IMS may provide continued support. IMS will also continue to provide strategic advice to the LMC.

In early 2007 IMS also plans to work on training for journalist reporting for the truth and reconciliation process in cooperation with the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), PUL and LMC, including follow-up team reporting activities during the course of the year.

2.2.5. Somalia

Background and Objectives

The creation of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia in 2004 was regarded as a breakthrough, although internal divisions prevented the TFG from making any substantive advancement in terms of state-building. However, after months of fighting in Mogadishu in early 2006, by June the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC) established control over the city. The TFG, based in Baidoa, and the UIC were soon in direct open conflict with the TFG forces retaking Mogadishu and establishing control in much of the south of the country by late December 2006 with the backing of Ethiopian forces.

The uncertain political situation has made it very difficult to establish longer-term programme activities with the Somali counterparts. However, IMS continued its support for the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) and Somali Coalition for Free Expression (SOCFEX), as well as provided emergency support to those press freedom advocates arrested by the UIC and trapped in Mogadishu during the fighting later in the year.

Activities

IMS met with SOCFEX, International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) and Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) in February and agreed to support a strategy development process for the network. Although postponed on a few occasions, a workshop was held in December 2006 in Djibouti.

IMS provided support to NUSOJ for a workshop in November on developing democratic media law for Somalia. Unused funds from this event were then carried over for a following meeting in March 2007.

Assessment

The support provided to the Somali media community during 2006 represented the objectives of continuing to assist the independent media in the country during the turbulent conflicts faced during 2006. In this regard, whilst many international actors have supported either NUSOJ or SOCFEX, with these two groups broadly representing a factional divide within the country, IMS has sought to work with both groups.

Future Actions
With the potential for a proper transitional and democratisation process in the country with the TFG now in place and the arrival of African Union troops forecast for March, IMS will work to facilitate a group of international actors for coordinating activities and undertaking joint press freedom advocacy. IMS will also continue to support both NUSOJ and SOCFEX, hopefully bring the two together on a coordinated media policy reform process together with the TFG Ministry of Information. IMS will also support the implementation of activities based on the new SOCFEX strategy as agreed at the December 2006 meeting in Djibouti.

2.2.6. Sudan

Background and Objectives
Following the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) the country has entered into the complicated process of implementation of the agreement. The process faces a number of obstacles, including disagreements on interpretation of particular issues in CPA, such as modalities for sharing of oil revenues. The increasingly severe conflict in Darfur and the humanitarian are also contributing negatively to the stability of the country.

In the south of the country, the Government of Southern Sudan has engaged in complex process of reconstruction after more than 20 years of civil war. The influx of Sudanese refugees from abroad is slowly increasing, putting additional pressure on the infrastructure, as well as contributing positively to the rebuilding of the country.

Media wise, the pressure on media and journalists continues at the Khartoum-based media, while media in Southern Sudan is beginning to experience a growing room for manoeuvre.

IMS has been supporting media development in Sudan since 2002, when it carried out a comprehensive media assessment. This document gave birth to a number of initiatives, including the establishment of a roundtable process for media stakeholders. This process has been organised together with ARTICLE 19, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), the Association for Media Development in South Sudan (AMDISS), the Khartoum Centre for Human Rights and Environmental Development, and lately also including the Olof Palme International Centre. The organisations are operating as a consortium based upon a Memorandum of Understanding.

Consequently, IMS' strategy for supporting media in Sudan is based upon the priorities developed within the consortium, and focus on dialogue between stakeholders, media policy development, as well as assistance to immediate support.

Activities
The round table process, which has included meetings at North, South and National level, has moved forward an advocacy process for reform of media legislation and policy development. A policy framework for media development has been agreed upon, and proposals for media legislation for Southern Sudan have been elaborated. The legislative proposals have been well received by decision makers, but still need to be integrated into the formal legislative process.

Meanwhile, IMS has been instrumental in supporting AMDISS in setting up a media resource centre for journalists and media. IMS has organised a feasibility study, as well as development of other planning instruments, and fund raised for the centre. Currently, a manager is being hired with responsibility for the actual building of the centre.

IMS has been developing a concept for update of the media assessment from 2003 and an on-going internet based assessment of media support to Sudan. The initiative has undergone some delay but is to be launched in 2007.

A particular activity has focused on Darfur, and the need to increase the provision of humanitarian information to the region. Based upon a specific needs assessment for Darfur carried out by IMS in 2005 and funded by Ford Foundation, BBC World Trust Corporation developed a radio outreach programme for the region. Meanwhile, IMS is planning an initiative, which will address the distorted media coverage of Darfur in Sudanese and Arab media.

Assessment
The initiatives related to Sudan have been met with a number of challenges, which is often encountered in post-conflict societies, including weak infrastructure, difficulties in encountering human resources, high costs and continued conflict. Nevertheless, the project initiatives have been developed along set priorities, although not always as speedy as originally planned for.

The lack of consortium partners being effectively on the ground has been another obstacle. This has changed recently, since NPA has expanded their office in Southern Sudan, and now has a person dealing with media support on the ground in Juba, Southern Sudan.

Future Actions
IMS will focus its future actions on supporting the process around the round tables, which will include supporting the establishment of the media resource centre, as well as establishing the on-going assessment of the media support and media development in Sudan. Furthermore, the project related to media coverage of Darfur will start being implemented during the first semester of 2007.

2.2.7. Togo

Background and Objectives
Following the death of President Gnassingbé Eyadéma in February 2005, the military installed his son, Faure Gnassingbé, provoking widespread international condemnation. Although Mr. Faure subsequently stood down two months later, he nevertheless won elections held in April 2005 amidst widespread social and political unrest, including the forced closure of a number of independent media. During 2006 the Government has sought a more moderate path entailing dialogue and cooperation with opposition parties. Nevertheless, with parliamentary elections scheduled for June 2007 there remain real concerns that the independent media may again be targeted.

The engagement of IMS in Togo has been under the broader strategy for West Africa of pursuing improved press freedom conditions in individual countries thereby building towards a generally better press freedom environment regionally as a result of close inter-governmental cooperation, particularly through the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). In this context, the activities undertaken by IMS together with partner organisations have been designed to strengthen the independent media and improve the media safety and policy environment building up to the elections.

In this regard, IMS has through the Partnership for Media and Conflict Prevention in West Africa (the Partnership) sought to bring together and facilitate coordination amongst regional and international actors, including the Media Rights Agenda (MRA), FreeVoice, Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), UNESCO and Article 19.

Through its project activities IMS has aimed to support the independent media in Togo in the build up to the June 2007 elections through facilitating increased unity between Togo's various journalism associations and unions, strengthening the capacity of independent radio stations in their role as key defenders of good governance and press freedoms, and enhancing the capacity of the Observatoire Togolais des Medias (OTM).

Activities
Following the political and civil unrest in the country in late 2005, IMS facilitated and participated in a Partnership assessment mission in January 2006, together with the IFJ, MFWA and MRA. Based on this mission, a report was produced entitled 'Supporting the Media in Togo: A Review of the Media Landscape for the Post-Electoral Transition Period'

IMS then provided support for the Union of Independent Journalists of Togo (UJIT) annual congress in March, as well as a follow-up meeting with UJIT and OTM held in Accra in April. IMS also participated in a mission to Togo in August to finalise project activities in collaboration with the Open Society Institute West Africa (OSIWA) funded MFWA training programme for the independent media.

IMS project activities begun in late 2006 included support for increasing unity and coordination of the media community through dialogue with the authorities on media policy enforcement and safety issues through OTM; the provision of equipment through the Union des radios et télévisions libres du Togo (URATEL) to strengthen the capacity of independent radio stations in their role as the main independent news in the country (and as those worst targeted in mid 2005); and support for the self-regulatory and media monitoring functions of the OTM building up to and during the 2007 elections.

Assessment
During 2006 IMS successfully co-facilitated the joint engagement in Togo by members of the Partnership, which played a significant role in strengthening the independent media, enhancing professional skills, reinforcing press freedoms, supporting independent media dialogue with the authorities and, for the first time, finding common ground amongst the numerous journalists and media unions and association so that they might take stronger collaborative positions vis-à-vis the authorities. In this regard, project cycle process during 2006 has gone from the joint assessment mission early in the year to the initiation of substantive and broad based activities by the end of the year.

Future Actions
In 2007 IMS intends to cooperate with UNESCO and the Ministry of Communication in Togo, to implement a comprehensive election reporting programme to be designed and implemented by IMS expert training consultants. The dialogue forums to be undertaken with OTM, including input from IFJ and Article 19, will also be implemented under the umbrella of this to ensure strong participation from the authorities and security forces.

IMS will also continue to support URATEL to strengthen the capacity of independent radio stations, as well as OTM in undertaking its self-regulatory and media monitoring functions.

2.2.8. Zimbabwe

Background and Objectives

Since 2000 Zimbabwe has been in political and economical turbulence. The hyper-inflation, which is foreseen to reach 4000% annually in 2007, is taking out the breath from economy and leaving the major part of the population in economical despair. The pressure on political opponents from the Mugabe-regime has increased during the last year, and is likely to be even more severe towards the upcoming 2008 elections.

The repressive laws against media freedom, harassment of media workers and frustration and closure of private media enterprises are part of the picture. Independent media are working under great challenges inside the country, and some have decided to relocate to a location outside the country or work from underground.

IMS has supported the media in Zimbabwe from years back, and has included building up a partnership including the Open Society Institute (OSI), Netherlands Institute for Southern Africa (NiZA) and Media Institute for Southern Africa (MISA). Since 2005 this process has moved towards the formulation of a joint strategy.

Activities

IMS carried out a mission to Zimbabwe in November 2006 in order to draft a strategy for media support to the country. The strategy was based upon previous meetings, and built upon the contribution of a variety of stakeholders within the media sector. The first months of 2007 the strategy will be consolidated through a consultative process.

Radio Voice of the People (VOP) is one of the institutions heavily affected by the clamp down on the media. Their radio studio in Harare has been bombed and the board and staff members brought to court. This made the radio decide to partly relocate to South Africa. IMS has taken part of the solidarity and advocacy for VOP and has facilitated the possibility for the radio to achieve funding for their relocation and continued production.

Assessment

The strategy work has developed as planned, and a comprehensive document been developed through an inclusive consultative process, thereby creating ownership to the strategy from Zimbabwean partners.

Future Actions

The concrete implementation of the strategy will initiate during May-June 2007, and depending on funding, it is likely that a major media support programme will develop on this basis. Likewise, it is foreseen that the support to Radio VOP will be initiated during the first semester of 2007.

A basic principle in the work towards Zimbabwe will be the constant revision of the strategy and adaptation to changes in the socio-political situation in the country.

2.3. Programme Activities in Asia

During the reporting period, IMS undertook the following intervention activities in Asia.

2.3.1. Burma

Background and Objectives

The constitutional convention that resumed in 2005 February, but without the participation of the main opposition and ethnic groups, came to an end in January 2006 with no clear outcome. The new capital city, Pyinmana, located in the centre of the country was opened and hosted its first official event, an Armed Forces Day parade, in March 2006.

Activities
During 2006 IMS has sought to maintain its ongoing cooperation with Mizzima News in supporting the exiled media community along the Indian border and seeking to ensure the delivery of objective and independent information inside the country.

Meetings were also held in 2006 with Norwegian Burma Committee, Burma Media Alliance and Mizzima News in March to explore options for establishing a Burma Media Centre, and with Danish filmmakers, Anders Østergaard and Lise Lense-Møller, to discuss the Burma Image TV proposal.

Assessment
The challenges faced with providing access to objective and independent information inside of the country are enormous, and the penalties faced for those engaged in such work are huge.

Future Actions
In 2007 IMS plans to continue engaging with Mizzima News in helping to enable the dissemination of information in Burma.

2.3.2. Indonesia

Background and Objectives
In August 2005, the Indonesian Government and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding ending the three decade long conflict in Aceh. This MoU and the deployment of the Aceh Monitoring Mission offered a real prospect for the resolution of the conflict and 2006 culminated in the peaceful democratic election of a Governor in December 2007, marking a significant landmark towards the lasting resolution of the conflict.

Despite rumours that a peace deal might be forthcoming in Papua this did not materialise during the year and the low-level insurgency in the province continued. Moreover, religious trouble continued to simmer in Sulawesi following the execution of three Christian militants in September for their involvement in the violence of 2000. However, other conflict affected areas where IMS has previously been working, including Maluku and Kalimantan, remained stable during the year.

Activities
In November 2005 IMS undertook a mission to Aceh to assess media support options in light of the peace deal. Based on the findings of that mission, IMS supported a workshop in March in Banda Aceh on the establishment of a peace monitoring network, which in turn allowed for the development of a project initiated in November 2006 together with the Women Revival on Peace Media (KBAB). This project included a joint forum of local media and civil society organisations engaged in supporting the peace process; media training and education on the peace process and democratization agenda (including the elections); and radio talk shows to mediate and disseminate information on the peace democratization processes.

During 2006 IMS also sought to build upon previous activities in the country with the Indonesia Conflict Studies Network (ISCN) on a programme linking academics and local media in West

Kalimantan. This project was approved for funding by the Finnish Embassy in Jakarta with activities expected to start in early 2007.

Previous activities undertaken with the ICSN and Local Radio Network for Democracy (LRND) in 2004 and 2005 were internally evaluated, as was the 68H North Maluku project undertaken in 2005. Both evaluations were done by a local consultant in Indonesia between December 2005 and June 2006.

Assessment
Although IMS supported the activities of KBAB in relation to the peace process for Aceh, the considerable assistance already being provided to the media community in the province, combined with positive progression of the peace process during the year, has meant that the IMS engagement has been limited. In this regard, 2006 has seen a general down-scaling in IMS activities in Indonesia, despite work on the concept development of a proposal for the continuation of work with the ICSN on facilitating linkages between the media and academic communities.

Future Actions
In 2007 the IMS project with KBAB in Aceh will be continued and linkages between this activity and those of other international actors will be sought with a view to ensuring continuity. It is expected that the project with the ICSN in Kalimantan will be initiated with a mission in early 2007. The longer-term inclusion of IMS in this activity beyond the initial phases is still to be decided. Moreover, IMS will continue to monitor the situation in Papua to explore for options to support the independent media community in the province with regard to a peace deal, as well as the continuing low intensity unrest in Central Sulawesi.

2.3.3. The Maldives

Background and Objectives
Following political and civil unrest in the Maldives, sparked in September 2003 by violence in Maafushi prison, in June 2004 President Gayoom announced a sweeping programme of political reforms, which were outlined in a roadmap for reform in May 2005. These proposed amendments addressed freedom of expression, freedom of information, the right to seek compensation for loss or injury, as well as the right to form political parties. Although there has been some progress, abide delayed, with implementing the roadmap, tensions between the political opposition and government have continued during 2006 threatening serious civil unrest in the country.

During 2006 IMS has engaged in the Maldives with the aim of supporting all parties to move the reform agenda forward for creating a stable media policy environment based on international norms and standards, as well as supported the role of the independent media in promoting peaceful dialogue and political reconciliation building towards the creation of a viable and representative democratic system in the country.

Activities
In May 2006 IMS facilitated an International Press Freedom Mission to the Maldives with Reporters Without Borders (RSF), International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), Article 19 and the South Asia Press Commission (SAPC). As an outcome of that mission a joint report was produced and distributed in July.

Based on the findings of the May mission, IMS prepared a two-track programme for supporting professional development and independent media in the country. This firstly included working together with the Ministry of Information and Sri Lanka Press Institute (SLPI) on preparing training on

professional ethics for both state and independent media, and secondly, providing support to the only independent radio stations in the country, Minivan Radio. The latter proposal was finalised with the mission of an IMS radio expert to the country in December 2006, with activities expected to start in early 2007.

Together with other members of the International Mission, IMS also supported the ongoing collective lobbying and advocacy efforts both in relation to specific press freedom violations, including the arrest and detention of media practitioners, as well as comments and input on draft legislation being prepared by the authorities.

Assessment

The media policy reform agenda in the Maldives has moved at a comparatively fast pace during 2006, although it has not kept to the self-prescribed deadlines set by the Government. The engagement of the International Mission in the country has resulted in dialogue with both the independent media and the authorities, which in turn has allowed the International Mission to make constructive interventions for the release of detained media practitioners, as well as provide expert advice on the drafting of media legislation. In this regard, the input of the International Mission has assisted in maintaining dialogue and ensured that the fast moving reform agenda is based upon international standards.

Moreover, specific engagements with the independent media has provided professional development opportunities to those outside of the state media, as well as assist the media in continue to play a constructive role supporting political dialogue and a peaceful transitions through the reform agenda as outlined by the roadmap.

Future Actions

In 2007 IMS plans to facilitate a return mission to the Maldives by the International Press Freedom Mission. This mission will focus on ensuring the continued input of the International Mission on lobbying and advocacy activities for the creation of a media policy landscape ongoing.

The professional training course on ethics is also expected to get underway in early 2007 with trainers being provided by SLPI. Likewise, support for Minivan Radio will commence in early 2007 and it is hoped that the station will get an FM licence in early 2007 when the Ministry of Information opens up for licence applications from independent broadcasters for the first time.

2.3.4. Nepal

Background and Objectives

As a result of mounting protests culminating in April 2006, often referred to as the of the Rhododendron Revolution, King Gyanendra was forced to accepted popular sovereignty, disband his Government, reinstate Parliament and invite the mainstream seven-party alliance to implement a roadmap for peace.

The peace process between the CPN-Maoists and seven party alliances has subsequently progressed at a steady pace, abide with delays. The Government and Maoists signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in November 2006 declaring an end to the ten-year conflict. Elections for a Constituent Assembly are scheduled for June 2007, with the new Assembly expected to rewrite the constitution, whilst a UN ceasefire monitoring and electoral assistance mission (UNMIN) began assisting with disarming combatants and preparing for the elections.

At the start of the year, prior to the Rhododendron Revolution, the work of IMS focused on supporting the media community in Nepal to resist the steady encroachment on press freedoms and freedom of expression as underway since February 2005. In this regard, IMS continued to facilitate the joint engagement of the International Press Freedom and Freedom of Expression Mission (the International Mission), as well as support specific projects aimed at improving the safety environment for media practitioners, as well as ensuring access to professional and objective independent information.

Following the Rhododendron Revolution, IMS focused on building dialogue with the new authorities, again through the International Mission, concerning the reversal of the infringements on press freedom and the creation of a press freedom environment in accordance with international norms and standards.

Activities
The second International Mission to Nepal was coordinated by IMS in March 2006 and focused on continuing the collective advocacy work of this international group, as well as providing direct project based support to the media community. The mission included Article 19, FreeVoice, International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), International News Safety Institute (INSI), International Press Institute (IPI), Reporters sans Frontières (RSF), South Asia Press Commission (SAPC), UNESCO, World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) and World Press Freedom Committee (WPFC).

The joint safety and shelter project implemented by IMS with Rory Peck Trust (RPT) and Media Services International (MSI) incorporated insurance for media practitioners working in conflict areas, grants to the families of attacked media practitioners, tracking media practitioners under threat and a safe house for those in hiding. IMS support for these activities was completed in April 2006 with the political changes. Likewise, IMS support for the Independent News Service (INS) run by Media Services International (MSI) to provide news updates three times daily to independent radios and newspapers around the country (with e-bulletin going to over 250 recipients) was finished in early 2006.

The third 'post-rhododendron revolution' mission by the International Mission was undertaken in September. This mission was coordinated by IMS and the Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) and included Article 19, IFJ, INSI, UNESCO, AMARC and the Open Society Institute (OSI). The goal of this mission was to engage the new Government and to outline the next steps for supporting the media community after the political changes.

Assessment
According to the testimonies of a number of notable persons in the media community in Nepal, the work of the International Mission was central for the preservation of press freedom in the country, as well as bolstering the resolve of the national media community to continue to resist infringements on freedom of expression. In this regard, the national media community played a central role in the pro-democracy movement, resisting the autocratic measures propagated by the government and defending their role as the 'fourth estate', as well as staging and participating in pro-democracy demonstrations.

It is of course difficult to precisely detail the impact of the International Mission, but based on feedback from national partners and other observers, the efforts of the International Mission were key in supporting the national media community, and the national media community in turn was arguably the most active element of civil society in opposing the actions of the authorities, thus playing a crucial role in the restoration of democracy.

The project activities undertaken by IMS to improve safety conditions for media practitioners and to ensure the continued nationwide distribution of objective and independent information were important for assisting the media community during the emergency, clearly demonstrating support for those who defended press freedom, as well as ensuring the survival of the independent media throughout the country and allowing the general public at large to access information from sources other than the Government or Maoists.

Future Actions
As a follow-up to the September 2006 International Mission, IMS will undertake a mission in early 2007 together with Article 19 with the aim of outlining international support for the media policy reform process. IMS will also use this mission to reassess its individual project activities in support of the peace process. However, consideration will be given to down-sizing the IMS engagement in the country after the elections in June 2007.

IMS will also commission a booklet by a respected independent local media expert to document the work of International Mission in Nepal and its impact from early 2005 till the end of 2006.

2.3.5. Sri Lanka

Background and Objectives
Although the peace agreement signed in February 2002 had been stalled for some time, the election of a more hard-line Government in November 2005, led by President Rajapakse, further strained the peace with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE or Tamil Tigers). In early 2006 the situation significantly deteriorated with a sharp increase in fighting. This lead to an increase in threats and attacks on Sinhala, Tamil and English language media, with eight media workers murder from August 2005 until the end of 2006, as well as numerous death threats and incidents of harassment. However, the Tamil media in particular came under heavy and sustained attack, especially in areas affected by the fighting.

With the Presidential elections in November 2005, IMS undertook an assessment of its activities in Sri Lanka with a view to reengaging in the country to address the foreseen negative political trend expected after the change in Government, with the goal of supporting the independent media in reducing tensions and promoting reconciliation. However, the very rapid deterioration in the security situation in early 2006, marked by increased attacks on the media, meant that IMS had to again reassess its approach with an emphasis on providing emergency support to improve safety and supporting the efforts of the national media to engage the authorities and combatant parties on press freedom issues.

Activities
IMS undertook a mission in November 2005 to reassess options for support to the media and published a subsequent report, drafted by Yasha Lange and Shastri Ramachandaran. As an outcome of this process, IMS proposed a series of interlinked activities. These included support to the Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka (PCCSL) for the development of general guidelines in election reporting, a safety training course together with International News Safety Institute (INSI) in February 2006, and a source book and media exchanges project launch with the Sri Lanka Press Institute (SLPI) and Media Resource and Training Centre (MRTC) in May 2006.

However, with the worsening press freedom environment, IMS brought together and coordinated an International Press Freedom and Freedom of Expression Mission (the International Mission) process, including a mission to the country in October 2006 with the International Federation of Journalists

(IFJ), International Press Institute (IPI), International News Safety Institute (INSI), and UNESCO, with local support from Sri Lanka Press Institute (SLPI).

As an outcome from the International Mission engagement in the country, the international group has agreed on multi-track safety and advocacy strategy. This includes a rotational system for taking up issues and sending letters to the authorities. In addition, a report on the safety situation was researched and published by IMS with INSI and IFJ in September 2006, and a broad safety programme was subsequently initiated with IFJ and the Free Media Movement (FMM) in December 2006. This programme includes emergency humanitarian assistance, emergency contact person (incl. hotline and SMS), safe locations, a coordinated national reaction plan, health and life insurance, training on international alerts, and support for the advocacy actions of the International Mission.

Assessment
The growing political tension in the country in the second half of 2005 led IMS to undertake a thorough reassessment of its activities in Sri Lanka and to initiate a range of project activities aimed at addressing the situation. However, the rapid deterioration in the security situation created an emergency environment to which IMS had to quickly readjust its strategy in early 2006. As a result, IMS put together a broad international group which has undertaken coordinated advocacy work in support of the national media community, including a joint mission to the country in October. Moreover, IMS has worked with partners to development and initiate a safety programme for media practitioners.

As a result of the safety programme and the diploma course in Chennai, IMS has assisted in creating an improved safety environment in the country taking those persons under immediate threat to safer locations. Although it is hard to accurately assess the advocacy work of the International Mission on press freedom issues, the Director of Government Information released a statement in late October for the first time 'deploring attempts to curb media freedom in the north and east'. In addition, a few days after the public release of the mission report in March 2007, President Rajapakse made a public statement deploring impunity for attacks (although not specifically on media practitioners) and calling on the police to do more to apprehend the perpetrators.

Future Actions
IMS will coordinate a return International Mission visit to Sri Lanka foreseen for May, potentially including IFJ, IPI, UNESCO and RSF. Moreover, the diploma course at SRM University will start in early 2007 and the broad safety programme will be ongoing.

2.4. Programme Activities in Latin America and the Caribbean

During the reporting period, IMS undertook the following intervention activities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

2.4.1. Bolivia

Background and Objectives
Bolivia has lived through turbulent times the last 7 years. Increased tension between changing governments and social movements, often based upon indigenous organisations, has put the governance of the country at risk. With the election of Evo Morales in December 2005, Bolivia obtained its first indigenous President. Following the elections, tension decreased for some time, but has returned with a growing polarisation between the new government and the sectors traditionally

holding the governmental powers, as well as groups advocating autonomy of the well-off Eastern part of the country.

Pressure on journalists, self-censorship and the fact that no mainstream media effectively bridge between the opposition positions, has lead to a polarised media landscape reflecting the current power struggle in society, and adding to the risk of destabilising the country.

Considering this development, IMS decided to engage in supporting media in Bolivia with a view to support initiatives that can prevent the media sector to have adverse effects on stability and governance.

Activities
IMS carried out an assessment of the media scene in Bolivia in October 2006, in order to identity needs and challenges, as well as to develop recommendations for immediate support. The media assessment was carried out through linking up to local media partners, who also was invited to comment on the assessment before its publication.

Parallel to the assessment, IMS provided technical support to Pondera a newly established Bolivian organisation, in its process of defining its organisational strategy and funding options. This included by linking Pondera to the Colombian organisation, Medios para la Paz.

Assessment
The activities have been carried out as planned, although some difficulties have aroused in identifying funding for Pondera.

Future Actions
IMS plans to partly finance activities of Pondera, as well as other initiatives identified in the assessment. It is likely that support will be provided to advocacy processes related to the constitutional process. Other initiatives related to strengthening dialogue between media actors from different sides of the political spectrum will also be considered.

2.4.2. Colombia

Background and Objectives
With the re-election of President Alvaro Uribe in 2006, Colombia will continue the hard-line policy for resolving the ongoing armed conflict. The paramilitary groups have now to a large degree been demobilised, although many continue operating within organised crime, while others have obtained public or political posts. Meanwhile, the leftist guerrilla groups are under increased pressure for giving in, although there are no clear indications that these groups will demobilize in near future.

The situation for media freedom and safety for media professionals continue to be severe, with harassment and pressure on journalists covering issues related to corruption, organised crime, the armed conflict and power abuse.

IMS has together with other international organisation, primarily Reporters without Borders (RSF) - Sweden, developed a series of interventions which has supported specific media initiatives, while seeking to strengthen capacity and cohesion between the Colombian media organisations organised in the alliance Proyecto Antonio Nariño (PAN).

Activities

In 2006 the main activity focused on establishing a joint strategy for media support to Colombia. Assessment of the media situation, lessons learned from media support and analysis of donor's interests has fed into an international conference held in September 2006. Colombian media organisations, donors and international media organisations participated. The conference outlined key elements for a media strategy, as well as developed elements for a campaign strategy against impunity.

A spin-off result of the conference was the interest raised for developing a media programme for the Caribbean region. IMS facilitated the elaboration of the concept for this programme.

Prior in 2006, IMS together with RSF - Sweden supported the news paper La Opinion in Cúcuta for strengthening its electoral coverage. This was done by testing a model for coaching the journalists and editors for improving their coverage and editorial policies during the electoral campaign.

In 2005, IMS also supported the development of a pilot project for enhancing investigative reporting.

Assessment

The efforts for strengthening the PAN-alliance have been met with a series of challenges. The alliance has gone through a crisis due to disagreement of the overall objectives and its mode of operation. This situation has affected the development of initiatives. Nevertheless, the alliance has come out relatively consolidated from this process. In particular, the conference and the following discussions have provided a platform for a strengthened collaboration.

Future Actions

Since its first engagement with Colombia in 2002, IMS has moved from support to specific media interventions, to strengthening media support at a more general level in the country. The facilitation of strategy development is one example of this approach. This line will be followed in 2007, where IMS primarily aims at bringing the strategy development to its final stage and supporting the establishment of a media programme in the Caribbean region. Support to the development of a campaign against impunity will also be provided.

2.4.3. Guatemala

Background and Objectives

The country continues to be marked by violence, often linked to organized crime, but also related to turbulence growing out of social conflicts related to land rights and access to natural resources.

Journalists in the country have been victims to the violence, and some practice self-censorship and avoid topics like drug-trafficking and corruption. The media landscape in Guatemala is dominated by Television Corporation, which is pro-establishment in most coverage. Commercial enterprises dominate the radio sector; although a large number and variety of community radios do exist, but function under very difficult situations with problems in having frequencies legalized.

Consequently, the population in the country do not have access to critical, well-balanced and broad news and information.

Based upon a fact-finding mission in February 2005, IMS decided to provide funding to a radio station seeking to go new ways by delivering news and social and cultural programmes with a more critical approach.

Activities
Together with the Danish Association for International Co-operation and DanChurchAid, IMS funded programme production at University Radio. The radio is based in the capital and functions as an innovative news platform in the Guatemalan media landscape. These news programmes fill a gap in the Guatemalan media scene by being critical and reflecting alternative points of views.

Assessment
The project with the University Radio received support and has developed according to schedule.

Future Actions
IMS applied for funding to a more broad based support to radios in Guatemala, but was not successful in these efforts. IMS has of 2006 finalised its engagement in the country.

2.4.4. Haiti

Background and Objectives
The elections held in February 2006 was organised under severe constraints with political violence and crime as part of the electoral scenario. Subsequently, the media has carried out their work under great pressure by political groups and criminal gangs. Moreover, media are still suffering from the lack of understanding and tradition for free democratic dialogue and compromise in the Haitian political life, leading to fear and self-censorship within the media.

IMS support to Haitian media goes back to 2004, where a mission was conducted together with Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society (IMPACS). The mission became instrumental in developing a media support programme financed by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and implemented by Reseau Liberte (IMPACS' francophone sister organisation). IMS has continued to provide technical support to the programme, bringing in its particular expertise.

Activities
Part of the CIDA funded media programme included strengthening the media coverage of the elections at six different radio stations in Port-au-Prince. The capacity building took the form of on-site coaching, for which purpose IMS in 2005 together with Reseau Liberte and Media&Democracy developed a coaching manual. In 2006 the manual was transformed into a generic version to be used elsewhere, and translated from French into Arabic, English, and Russian made possible by UNESCO funding.

A second intervention developed in 2005-6 was to strengthen the electoral coverage through the internet based news service AlterPresse (www.alterpresse.org). Together with the Canadian organisation Alternatives, IMS supported the expansion of this Internet service during a period of 5 months around the elections. The support included the re-launch of a weekly electronic newsletter on Haitian current affairs, a daily election web broadcasts by AlternRadio and one daily special election analysis.

Assessment
The objectives set forth in the two interventions were achieved without major obstacles. Due to the numerous delays of the electoral date, the website adjusted part of the activities planned for in order to match the changes, but without affecting the overall objective.

The development of a generic coaching manual from a practical experience demonstrates the importance of synthesising on lessons learned in order to share experience and developed tools with larger groups.

Future Actions

IMS has decided to out phase of Haiti. The CIDA funded programme implemented by Reseau Liberte is catering for the needs identified in previous missions and IMS see its role as initiator and technical advisor as finalised.

2.5. Conference and Workshops

In October 2007 IMS held a workshop entitled 'Strengthening Sustainability Options for Media Centres: Deriving Lessons Learnt and Best Practices from Media Centres in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East'. This event brought together 10 media centres with which IMS cooperates, including the International Press Centre (Lagos), Liberia Media Centre (Monrovia), Southern Sudan Media Resource Centre (Juba), Sri Lanka Press Centre (Colombo), Nepal Press Institute (Kathmandu), Radio 68 (Jakarta), Mizzima News Group (New Delhi), Macedonian Institute for Media (Skopje), Bulgaria Broadcast Training Centre (Sofia), Sarajevo Media Centre (Sarajevo).

IMS had noted that a number of the media centres with which it works around the world face the same challenges in ensuring long-term sustainability after 'start-up' funding from donors has ceased. Some of these centres have used innovative approaches for ensuring both financial and institutional viability and credibility within their media environments, thus allowing them to successfully evolve into stable long-term expert institutions within their media fields.

In this context, the workshop brought together media centres from around the world to share lessons learnt and identify approaches for addressing common challenges, whilst also giving due recognition to the different environments within which each centre functions. It is foreseen that as a result of this cross-fertilisation, best practice models can be formulated for use by the participating institutions and other media centres around the world. These lessons learnt and best practice models will be outlined in a handbook to be published by IMS together with the participating media centres following the event, which is expected to be ready in April 2007.

2.6. Reports and Publications

During 2006 IMS released the following publications. These publications include handbooks on media and conflict related issues, joint reports with international partner organisations and assessment reports from intervention countries.

1. Supporting the Media in Togo: A Review of the Media Landscape for the Post-Electoral Transition Period (February 2006)

2. Press Freedom and Freedom of Expression in Nepal: A Report by the International Press Freedom and Freedom of Expression Mission to Nepal (March 2006)

3. A Vibrant Media Under Pressure: An Independent Assessment of Press Freedom in the Maldives (May 2006)

4. Strengthening Liberia's Media: A Review of Media Support in the Post-Conflict Transitional Period and Recommendations for Future Actions (June 2006)

5. Coaching Manual for Media Support during Elections (in the following language versions: Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish) (July 2006)

6. Assessment of the Media Safety Environment in Sri Lanka (September 2006)

7. Voices of War: Conflict and the Role of the Media (by Andrew Puddephatt)

8. Press Freedom and Freedom of Expression in Sri Lanka: The Struggle for Survival (November 2006)

9. Media and Conflict in Bolivia: Fostering a Constructive Role for the Media in a Situation of Vulnerable Governance (March 2007)

3. Media Cooperation Programme with the Arab World and Iran

3.1. Overview of Activities and Strategy

The overall objective of the programme for Media Cooperation Programme with the Arab World and Iran is to support the development of independent media in the Middle East, Northern Africa (MENA) and Iran through partnerships between Danish and Arab/Iranian media, and thereby contribute to the establishment of a broader platform for pluralistic dialogue in the Arab/Iranian region.

The guiding principle for the programme overall has been to base activities on an in-depth understanding and respect for the context, to set long-term strategic goals, create and consolidate regional and international cooperation and last but not least to ensure that activities are demand-driven and partnership-led.

The establishment of partnerships has been guided by two main principles. Firstly, that cooperation should have a regional perspective, i.e. transcend national borders in the Arab world (including Iran). Secondly, activities within each area should entail and encourage professional collaboration and dialogue between partners based there and in Denmark/Europe.

This mode of partnership has formed the backbone of all work through the inception phase and through the first year of the implementation of this programme. It has led to close cooperation between Arab and Danish partners and to a joint development of institutions with shared ownership through Arab/Danish boards.

The process of developing new institutions in the Arab region such as the centre for investigative journalism (Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (component 3), and the Arab Institute of Film (component 5) has proven to be an intricate exercise in terms of matching different expectations, legal platforms, traditions for decision-making and running of businesses. However, once established, board members have acknowledged the new professional opportunities that these institutions provide for. Similarly the mere exercise of jointly setting up a new platform for professional collaboration has strengthened the notion of partnership between Arab and Danish/European media professionals. While the development of new (civil society and media) institutions could be considered a goal in itself - allowing the space for free expression to expand - partners have realized the need to demonstrate results. The ability of these institutions to serve their specific professional purpose is an essential criterion of success for this programme. Both ARIJ and AIF have passed the test in the immediate term, and the challenge is now to test the sustainability of these institutions and the viability of the partnerships upon which they are built.

A similar challenge exists within Component 6, Danish-Arab Media Forum. The numerous twinning partnerships initiated within this component have tested the variety of options for innovative collaborative projects. Although the twinning partnerships have, in the original set-up, been of a short-term nature, many of the twinning projects implemented so far indicate a strong long-term potential that may possibly form a pipeline ("breeding basket") for future activities as well as new institutional partnerships.

3.2. Programme Activities

The activities within the programme are divided into six different components.

3.2.1. Component 1: Monitoring, Advocacy and Legal Protection

The immediate objective of this component is to make a targeted effort to support civil society and media in the Arab world to increase media freedom.

To achieve this, a working group for media & elections in the Arab world was formed to undertake monitoring of media coverage during elections in the Arab region. Furthermore, the Jordan-based radio program "Eye on the Arab Media" was expanded to cover five countries in the region and finally, support was given to activities aimed to develop competency in legal protection issues.

Media monitoring in relation to elections, has taken place in connection with the Parliamentary local councils' election in Yemen in the fall of 2006, and previous successful monitoring programmes were implemented in Tunisia, Egypt (twice) and Palestine (twice).

3.2.2. Component 2: Capacity Building of Journalists Unions and Associations

The immediate objective of this component is to develop and strengthen the trade union and professional associations of journalists in the Arab world and Iran.

As many of the media organisations are members of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) IMS developed a project for journalists' unions and appointed IFJ as the implementing partner. Furthermore, The Danish Union of Journalists is supporting the project by providing professional input in the form of four members of the Danish union who are experts in collective bargaining and in defending journalists' rights.

3.2.3. Component 3: Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ)

The immediate objective is to promote investigative reporting in the region.

Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism, ARIJ, has been formed as a network with a board and a small secretariat placed in Amman, Jordan. From here, ARIJ is preparing training workshops and coaching of the journalists who are accepted for this program. ARIJ is also in the process of producing models of 'best practices' and advocates the need for investigative reporting.

3.2.4. Component 4: Audio-Visual Co-production and Exchange

The immediate objective is to generate and maintain professional relationships between the public broadcasters in Syria, Jordan and Denmark, based on the concept of professional partnerships and co-production.

A partnership between Danish broadcast Corporation (DR), Syrian TV (SYRTV) and Jordan TV (JRTV) has been established. The involved participants are mainly engaged with issues related to the production of children's and youth TV. A weekly TV series on young people in Jordan and Syria respectively have been produced. To date this production is broadcasted in Jordan, yet to be broadcasted in Syria. In parallel a co-production on the educational children's TV programme "Sebastian" is prepared, taking of within 2007.

3.2.5. Component 5: Production of Documentaries and establishment of Arab Institute of Film

The immediate objective is to offer training and production support to talented documentary film makers in the Arab region.

The main activity of this component has been to provide training courses for talented Arabic filmmakers who has been trained by Arabic, Danish and international documentary professionals. The students have developed specific film projects in the course of a nine months cycle.

3.2.6. Component 6: Twinning – Danish Arab Media Forum

The immediate objective is to strengthen the professional media standards in both regions making coverage of the Arab world and Iran in Danish media, as well as Arab/Iranian coverage of life in Europe more multifaceted and less stereotypical.

The twinning projects and exchanges that have been facilitated between Danish and Arab media aims firstly, to make coverage of the region in Danish media more multifaceted and less stereotypical and to nuance Arab and Iranian coverage of life in the West. Secondly, it aims to encourage mutual collaboration at all professional levels – between journalists, editors or media managers, etc. So far, 22 twinning projects have been supported from within all fields of the media landscape between media professionals from Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates and Danish partners from all corners of the media industry.

3.3. Assessment of Activities

AIPP is overall "on track" if one compares achievements to date with the immediate objectives that are set out in this document. This despite the complexities of working in the Arab region in general, the political crisis that erupted between Denmark and the Arab following the publication of Danish cartoons about the Prophet Mohammed in particular. The war in Lebanon, in addition to the difficulties of initiating new, pioneering projects, posed another challenge.

However, the achievements of the programme are still in line with the objectives set up. One example is the establishment of a regional working group of human rights organisations who are engaged in monitoring media's coverage of elections. In 2006, the group supported monitoring exercises in 5 countries. Most monitoring reports received widespread local and international attention. This initiative serves as a major contribution towards civil society organisations holding the media accountable to professional standards. These initiatives also convinced several participating organisations to incorporate media freedom and freedom of expression issues into their organisation's overall priorities.

Another achievement is the establishment of the first Arab network for investigative journalism, Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism. In 2006, the network has supported 31 journalists from the region to conduct in-depth investigations for their media outlets.

A third major achievement is gained through the twinning programme - Danish Arab Media Forum. Engaging more than 70 media professionals from more than 25 different media institutions from all over the Middle East/Iran and Denmark this programme has reached the highest level of interaction between media professionals from the two parts of the world based on the concept of partnerships and collaboration.

We see AIPP's choice to support regional initiatives rather than national as the overall "the right road" even though it is "the hard road." Individuals from various countries coming together to work on a

collective project remains a challenge, some attributing it to cultural and historical factors and others to the lack of a democratic culture in the region even among civil society actors. No matter the reasons, these regional initiatives have managed to achieve results and partners believe it is a necessary and even desirable growing pain.

3.4. Future Actions

3.4.1. Component 1: Monitoring, Advocacy and Legal Protection

During the next programme phase media coverage during election campaigns will be strengthened and a secretariat for the Arab Working Group will be established and the organisation formalised. In addition, media coverage of human rights issues in national and regional media will be monitored

The transmission of the weekly episode of Eye on the Arab Media in four countries will be carried out in addition to weekly reviews of media printed in national newspapers in 4 countries. The website of the programme will be further developed, adding weekly polls and links. A database will be available online containing accounts of reactions from audiences in Arabic and English established. Also, a quality assessment of radio program will be developed.

3.4.2. Component 2: Capacity Building of Journalists Unions and Associations

During next programme phase national action plans for reform and development of the unions and programmes for the unions to address the needs of the journalists in the selected countries will be launched and implemented.

Regional cooperation on specific themes of joint interest will be identified by participating unions, as well as promoted and organized. In addition to this, international cooperation, exchange of experience and lessons learnt and representation of unions in international forums will be promoted.

3.4.3. Component 3: Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ)

During the next programme phase ARIJ will initiate training courses for coaches of investigative reporting. Another new initiative will be to set up "out of the box" training sessions that can be given at any media outlet. ARIJ will also publish a training manual for investigative journalism as well as book on investigative journalism and new media. In addition to this a prize for best investigative report and a prize for best supportive editor in the region will be set up.

3.4.4. Component 4: Partnership for Co-production and Exchange between Public Broadcasters

During the next programme phase, productions of the educational children's TV programme "Sebastian" through co-production between DR, SYRTV and JRTV will take place. In addition a workshop on audience research and how to tailor-make TV-programmes for children and youth in the regional context will be arranged.

3.4.5. Component 5: Production of Documentaries and establishment of Arab Institute of Film

During the next programme phase the Arab Institute of Film will be consolidated. This includes further developing the curriculum and website and a roster of tutors to be established.

In collaboration with the documentary film festival in Copenhagen, cph:dox, the core group of organizers will put together a programme of films, lectures and debates at Danish universities as well as at international film festivals selected by the board of AIF.

3.4.6. Component 6: Twinning – Danish Arab Media Forum

During the next programme phase the partnerships between Danish, Arab and Iranian media institutions will be continued and new ones will be established. Also, co-productions between Danish, Arab and Iranian media will be established, this including high quality media productions published/broadcasted in Denmark and in the Arab World/Iran.

4. Media Programme for Ukraine, Belarus and the Western Balkans

4.1. Programme Activities in Ukraine

Background and Objectives
Ukraine experienced a crisis following the parliamentary elections at the end of March 2006. Former Prime Minister Yanukovych's Party of Regions secured 32.12% of the vote, and another former prime minister, Tymoshenko, secured some 22.27% while the President Yushchenko's party was in third place with a mere 13.94%. No party however secured a majority and all parties were manoeuvring to secure a coalition, which paralysed the political system in Ukraine for months. A coalition was formed and the former Prime Minister Yanukovych is back in power again. This holds a risk of hampering the pro-reform climate that was created right after the orange revolution, and will also have an influence on the will of the government to undertake media reforms.

Media development and reform started immediately after Ukraine's independence in 1991. The law on Printed Press was adopted in 1992, the law on Information in 1992 and the law on Television and Radio Broadcasting in 1993. Whilst there has been reform since independence, much remains to be done. There are still significant state subsidies of the print media which are distorting the media market. There is no true Public Service Broadcaster and State Television remains under state control – a tool available to any government that chooses to use it to its own ends. There are significant subsidies to State-owned and Community/Municipal-owned media that distort the market, and weaken the independence of the media.

The objective of this programme's broad-based reform of the framework of media legislation is to provide a strong and independent media, both private and public. This media must be able to serve as an effective fourth estate, thus enhancing the capacity for Ukraine to develop its democratic institutions and citizen participation in the democratic process.

Activities
A comprehensive programme of reform of the "framework of media legislation" has been defined as the target of the IMS implemented media reform programme for Ukraine in 2006 and 2007. The programme includes a central pillar of legislative reform, but also encompasses a reform of secondary level legislation such as the statutes of government bodies and media-related NGOs. In addition, a programme of training and capacity building of the judiciary will be incorporated to ensure proper implementation of improved, new, and extant legislation. Training will also be provided for media lawyers to enhance and improve the overall level of professionalism of the legislative environment in Ukraine. Media enterprises and managers will also receive training and support to improve their capacity to conform to extant and new legislation. In addition a program of public awareness raising on the merits of a strong and independent media and critical media reforms will be conducted.

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is a key local partner for the programme, conducting on the ground management. A central pillar of the programme is the high level "policy group" (HLPG) comprised of Ukrainian government representatives, lead international media organisations, and other key actors in the media including lead international Kiev based actors. The policy group's role is to ensure relevance of the program to local needs and to provide local input, ownership and long-term sustainability. The HLPG is also the means by which the programme will achieve the political influence and weight it will require in order to see reforms carried through the legislative process.

A meeting of the high-level policy group was held in November with participation of a large number of key local and international actors. A comprehensive review of media legislature drawing on existing reviews and analyses aimed at providing guidance for targeted legislative reform under the programme has been initiated; review of selected laws and consultation with experts and relevant partners is undergoing.

Assessment
The political crisis and difficulties in establishing a government after the election delayed the implementation of the programme. Furthermore time consuming negotiations regarding the contractual agreement were held with OSCE. However, the assessment is that the programme is finally taking off and concrete activities have been implemented since December 2006.

IMS is keenly aware that the new political circumstances in Ukraine could affect the possibilities to implement the project successfully. IMS will therefore look critically at the current implementation mechanism.

Future Action
Media policy is of utmost importance to ensure a positive development of the Ukrainian media landscape, where privatisation of the media and reform of the public service broadcasting (PBS) system constitutes key priorities. The political development will be followed closely and assessed if the situation in Ukraine calls for a change of strategy.

4.2. Programme Activities in Belarus

Background and Objectives
The presidential elections of 19 March 2006 cemented the current regime as President Alexander Lukashenko was declared to have won a third term as President. Western observers claimed that the election was flawed and there were reports of widespread harassment of opposition supporters and overwhelming media bias.

Mass media are perceived a powerful tool for political control and propaganda. As a result, the regime is investing enormous resources in state media. According to information, the Belarusian state has in 2006 allocated 60.55 million USD for state media, which is 1.5 times more than in 2005 and twice as much as in 2004.

As a result, non-state media is under enormous pressure struggling with the direct political and economical pressure as well as having to compete and attract readers in competition with state media which have the financial means to utilise the newest technology and layout, pay good salaries to journalists.

The government is preparing a law on usage of Internet, registration of web pages, registrations of organisations and media outlets having web pages etc.

A major concern of the international community is the increasing isolationism of Belarus. Minimizing isolation and ideological repression, and support the flow of alternative information to the public is important.

IMS is liaising with a number of media organisations, which has resulted in the drafting of common priorities and implementation of joint activities.

Activities
The focus is on creating space and possibilities for the independent media community to ensure freedom of expression and provide independent information to the public.

3. Assessments
IMS' liaison with a number of media organisations involved in Belarus is providing a valuable frame for setting priorities, coordinating activities and ensuring a needs-based approach.

The capacity building of BAJ through international contacts seems to have had an impact both regarding organisational development of BAJ and national and international advocacy.

The linking of like-minded professional media organisations is viewed by all as very successful especially in the Belarusian context, where it has a dual function of breaking the isolation and providing input for the capacity building of the organisations.

Future Activities
The difficult situation for the independent media in Belarus underpins the importance of the continuation of the activities.

4.3. Programme Activities under SCOOP

Background
In Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and the Western Balkans, concerns remain amongst national and international commentators over the capacity of the media to fulfil its role as the 'fourth estate'. The level of professionalism of journalists remains low and the content of media outlets is often journalistically weak. In particular, the media lacks the ability to produce serious in-depth reporting. Addressing these concerns has been a primary focus area for media development actors in the Western Balkans and Ukraine for a number of years, resulting in a notable amount of training on professional standards and investigative journalism. However, the impact of the vast amount of training that has been carried out can be questioned. In order to supplement and build on the training efforts implemented so far, a need to support actual investigative reporting has been identified.

The present project builds on activities implemented since spring 2003. In the first phase of the project Russian, Bulgarian, Romanian, Serbian and Ukrainian journalists were involved. Since then the number of countries involved have increased. The present funds will cover national investigations in Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and the Western Balkans. Romania and Bulgaria will be included in the trans-national investigations.

The Danish Association for Investigative Reporters (FUJ) has since the introductory phase been the implementing partner, and has established good local and international contacts. A regional committee with one representative from each of the countries is established. In brief the project functions as an open support structure where individual journalists are given support to carry out specific investigations.

The objective of the project is to enable the media to act as an effective watchdog over the actions of government and vested-interest groups, which will be done through direct support to investigations as well as building of networks among investigative reporters.

Activities

SCOOP is a support structure for journalists doing investigative reporting in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe through which assistance is given to carry out concrete investigations. The project was initiated in early 2003 by IMS, the Danish Association for Investigative Reporters (FUJ) and a group of journalists in Ukraine with the aim of boosting the quantity and quality of investigative reporting in the region. The project has since the beginning been focusing both on national and trans-national investigations. The activities have also been expanded to cover the Western Balkans, Bulgaria, Romania, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.

Since October 2005 to December 2006 approximately 55 investigations have been supported, some of the large trans-national investigations like the X-ray of Trans-Dniester, which was co-financed by the Small Arms Survey. The investigation received an award.

Several national seminars have been held in the involved countries, where local journalists have been engaged. Two meeting of the regional committee on the project have been held.

For the first time a SCOOP investigation has ended up in court. A journalist in Moldova carried out an investigation in the small town of Rezina, where the mayor and city council illegally sold the property of the municipality to their relatives at prices far below normal prices and despite higher bids in tenders. The mayor and other officials from Rezina demand damages from the two newspapers, which ran the articles. Fortunately court ruled in favour of the journalist.

Assessment

The assessment is that by having a clear focus on concrete investigations, SCOOP is filling a gap in the previous international funding given in Eastern Europe and is building on and supplementing the training activities of the last few years. Moreover, the investigations are tackling issues of national concern to the democratic development of the countries involved, as well as helping to strengthen the overall perception of the media and its role.

An indicator of the success of SCOOP is the media awards and prices that have been given to investigations carried out under the project. For example, in Ukraine two investigations were awarded the prize for "best investigative journalism" in 2003 and 2004, whilst in Bulgaria an article was awarded a prize and in Romania an investigation into child slavery received an award. The X-ray of Trans-Dniestr was awarded the first prize in Moldova in 2006 at a national journalistic contest organized by the Independent Press Association. In addition, SCOOP itself was a candidate for the German Leipziger Medienpries, which is given to outstanding journalists and media projects.

Another indicator of success is the circulation of the stories, where also Western newspapers have been taking up stories. An example is an investigation into the phenomenon "Surrogate Mothers" in Ukraine. The investigation was cosponsored by the German newspaper Welt am Sonntag. The investigation exposed a scheme, where rich women from Western-Europe rent a young and healthy Ukrainian woman to give birth to their children. The articles "Rent a Womb" were published in "Welt am Sonntag" in Germany, "Die Presse" in Austria and "Politiken" in Denmark. In Ukraine it was published at first in a smaller web-paper (www.liga.net) but the echo was astonishing, and the issue was taken up by other newspapers and the national TV, whom all quoted the Scoop-investigation. The national TV hired a researcher to develop the story into a TV production. Ukrainian women even established a small NGO to support this kind of "solidarity" between Ukrainian and Western European women.

Based on the previous good experience and results, IMS and FUJ have used the model in other regions and as part of other programmes, such as the Arab Initiative. More information and all articles can be found on the SCOOP webpage – www.i-scoop.org

Future Actions
Attention will be paid to enlarging the outreach of the stories by linking up with radios, internet based news agencies as well as international media and journalists. Furthermore, attention will be paid to strengthening the role of the regional committee and national coordinators as well as to improve the procedures and management of the project in general. Also, efforts will be made on measuring and documenting the results achieved.

Long-term sustainability for the practise of investigative reporting depends on the capacities of the individual journalists but also on the editors and media owners. In order to have a more comprehensive approach to investigative reporting a new activity focused at enhancing the awareness and methods of the newspapers in using investigative reporting as a marketing tool will be initiated.

IMS and FUJ are in cooperation with the local partners engaging in developing a tool box for investigative reporting, where a workshop is planned to take place in September 2007.

4.4. Programme Activities in the Western Balkan – Sustainability of Media Centres

Background and Objectives
The countries and entities in the Western Balkans have gone through a process of economic development and democratic stabilisation since the passing of Franjo Tudjman in 1999 and in particular the downfall of Slobodan Milosevic in October 2000. Croatia and Macedonia are already entering negotiation for membership of the European Union, while all other countries are part of the Stabilisation and Association process. As an indication of the progress towards eventual membership: the European Commission no longer has a separate Western Balkans division, yet has moved all these countries towards 'enlargement'.

In the media sphere, improvements can be noticed as well. New media outlets have been established and operate without fear of governmental interference. Harassment of journalists reduced, advertising expenditure increased and the legal framework is being developed. Still, though, the media in the Western Balkans suffer from a variety of persistent problems. The number of media outlets, particularly in Serbia and Macedonia, surpass what is economically viable, leaving media weak and prey to unwanted influence. The implementation of the legal framework requires monitoring and assistance. The public broadcasters have difficulties to reform and restructure. University-based journalism education remains weak and largely unreformed. Journalists and editors are generally poorly paid, poorly represented and not always able to resist either self-censorship or payment for articles.

The four media institutes Novi Sad School of Journalism, Macedonian Institute for Media, Montenegro Media Institute and Albanian Media Institute are receiving support under the media programme for Ukraine, Belarus and the Western Balkans. All four centres have received Danish support previously and the present support are part of phasing out international support, enhancing sustainability and enabling the centres to continue to play a central role in training, monitoring, advocacy and improving the professional level of the media in the Western Balkans.

The centres are, however, faced with a problem. In most cases, their core-activities have been developed in a post-transition society, with the full support from international donors. These activities were not always 'demand-driven', in the sense that they would not have taken place unless donors would have supported them. For example: training courses were offered for free and participants invited, instead of developing a course for which participants would be ready to pay. Of course, this was with good reason – training was (and still is) needed, and students could not be expected to pay at that time.

These four institutes have been the major recipients of Danish media support to the countries in SEE. The projects supported have been implemented by the Danish School of Journalism (DSJ). In most cases DSJ has implemented the projects in close cooperation with other donors active in the region. This component builds on the well-established cooperation between DSJ and the four organisations and the capacities created through the previous projects.

Activities
The goal of the activities is to contribute to a greater degree of self-sustainability of four media institutes in the Western Balkans, by improving their current operation, rationalising costs, developing new and commercially viable services and market these appropriately. The project is carried out in concert with other donors, who share the goals and methodology.

The project has four layers: (1) internal organisation, including improvement of management capacity (primarily financial and internal management) and development of business plans to ensure optimum efficiency; (2) review and improvement of current core-activities, including direct support for those core-activities which are considered to contribute to enhanced sustainability; (3) market research and feasibility studies to explore possibilities for the development of new services and the subsequent capacity building and roll-out of such services; (4) support to the branding and marketing of the institutes, their core-activities and new services.

While some activities are continuous – such as the review, development and support to core-activities – the implementation of other elements can be divided in three phases: (1) research, such as market analysis and feasibility studies; (2) development of core-activities, new services and additional capacity; (3) roll-out of new services, including marketing and pricing.

Assessment
Ensuring sustainability is a major challenge and the assessment of the results has to be seen in this context.

IMS held a workshop in September focusing on sustainability of media centres, where a handbook is produced. The workshop and the handbook were instrumental in providing a forum for exchange of experience and inspiration between the centres. Also the centres from the Balkans participated.

Future Actions
The support to the four centres at the Balkans is part of phasing out of the Danish support, and therefore the future actions specifically focusing on the four centres at the Balkans will be limited However lessons learned from the process will be used and transferred to other intervention areas.

5. Terrorism, Extremism and Media in Central Asia

5.1. Programme Activities in Central Asia

Background and Objectives
The Fergana Valley in Central Asia, which encompasses eastern Uzbekistan, northern Tajikistan and south-western Kyrgyzstan, has a number of shared problems, which impact on all communities in the region. The break-up of the Soviet Union brought with it the establishment of five new states in Central Asia, creating new borders where they did not previously exist. As a result, communication between communities in different countries has been progressively constricted. This has created obstacles to solving shared problems, all of which have cross-border implications, not only in terms of commonly felt repercussions, but also because each requires significant inter-communal and cross-border linkage if it is to be understood and addressed.

Central Asia is a region in transition and has experienced political turmoil and problems during recent years – the revolution in Kyrgyzstan and the 2005 massacre in Andijan being the most dramatic examples. The political and human rights situation in Uzbekistan has deteriorated - a group of journalists previously involved in IMS activities has decreased dramatically due to imprisonment and escape of several of journalists to Western Europe.

Each of the countries involved in the programme i.e. Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan is experiencing increased nationalism and sense of "nation building", which e.g. results in the Russian language slowly being replaced by Uzbek, Tadjik and Kyrgyz languages. According to OSCE, the ethnic tension in the Fergana Valley is growing, but this development and problems of extremism/terrorism are to a large extent considered a public taboo that is not addressed politically or in the media. There are little to no opportunities for questioning government policies or to voice critical debate on important ethnic and religious issues. While the main focus of the IMS programme is extremism and terrorism, ethnic tension will be covered in the media products when relevant.

The development in 2006 has been marked by the two major events – the Andijan massacre and the revolution in Kyrgyzstan.

Throughout Central Asia the quality of the media is poor. Governments tightly control the state media and either directly control or strongly influence the private media. Access to alternative information of high quality is limited. However, the internet is increasingly becoming important as a source of independent information, especially in Uzbekistan. Access to the internet is limited, but news obtained through the internet is often passed on either verbally or in print to people who do not have access to internet.[1]

The journalistic standards are often poor. The old style teaching is still dominating at the universities and due to the strong state control no ethic or professional standards are enforced at the media outlets. The non-state media is often aligning itself closely with the opposition instead of providing critical non-biased information. To some degree it can be said that what distinguishes the journalists at the non-state media from the state controlled media is not greater professionalism but merely their personal view and political preferences.[2]

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[1] Danil Kislov & Andrei Kudriashov in INDEX publication, number 1, 2005
[2] Oleg Panfilov in INDEX publication, number 1, 2005

The difficult economic situation and the unstable political situation result in a very unstable media market with often changing actors – few non-state media outlets have a long history of existence. The radio stations can roughly be grouped into two categories: One being the larger economically viable stations that can afford producing their own news, but who are mainly playing pop music assuming that listeners are not interested in news and current affairs programmes. The other category is the smaller local broadcasters that are - to the extent it is economically possible – making their own productions, but which are economically weak. It is understandably difficult for such small local broadcasters operating in economically and politically restrictive environments to invest in news and information programming.

The objective of the IMS project in central Asia is to ensure access to independent information for the general public by enlarging the group of journalists able and willing to produce high quality media products. The thematic frame for the programme is extremism, terrorism and the role of media. Furthermore, activities are implemented by IFEX aimed at enhancing the environment for free expression.

Activities
The programme includes production of radio documentaries, products for web media and news building capacities of the local journalists as well as providing information to the public. Two 30 minutes radio documentaries are produced monthly and broadcasted in Russian, Uzbek and Kyrgyz at three local radio stations. 30 minutes weekly news is produced. Every second month there is a call for articles for the webpage. Five trainings/editorial meetings were held in 2006 with the participation of approximately 20 journalists at each training.

Furthermore targeted interventions will be undertaken focused at creating economical viable radio stations where news is used as a branding possibility. This will be done through audience research, hereunder focus groups, which will be the stepping stone for an on-going dialogue with the radio stations on financial sustainability.

The overall thematic frame for the project is media, extremism and terrorism, where research, seminars and workshops are undertaken. Synergy will be ensured between the research on extremism, terrorism and the media products, where the conclusions from the research will be described and discussed in the media products.

In order to strengthen the local ownership of the project an advisory board consisting of three local media people have been set up. A local coordinator employed and an office established.

IFEX undertakes training, monitoring and reporting on freedom of expression violations.

Assessment
Working in Central Asia has been challenging due to the low professional level in the media community, the unstable political situation and the weak economy. However, some successes have been attained.

Especially the programmes on youth have shown successful, where e.g. a local agency were contracted to carry out research regarding corruption in the education system. Due to the poor economic condition of local media and the general low level of professional skills investigations and media products are not normally based on thorough surveys and research. Thereby the project has been instrumental in introducing new standards and methods of work.

There has been large interest in the research on extremism, terrorism and the role of media that is initiated under the programme.

Future Actions
The challenge is to ensure and stabilise the local ownership to the project. Research on extremism, terrorism and the role of media will be undertaken to further expand knowledge in this area.