



Annual Report

2002-2003

Copenhagen, October 2003

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Acronyms

BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BMC	Baltic Media Centre
CPJ	Committee to Protection of Journalists
DFID	Department for International Development
DSJ	Danish School of Journalism
EAMI	East African Media Institute
EJC	European Journalism Centre
EU	European Union
FRESTA	Freds- og Stabilitetsrammen
IMPACS	Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society
IMS	International Media Support
INSI	International News Safety Institute
IWPR	Institute for War and Peace Reporting
IFJ	International Federation of Journalists
IPI	International Press Institute
IFEX	Internal Freedom of Expression Network
MISA	Media Institute of Southern Africa
MFWA	Media Foundation West Africa
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OSI	Open Society Institute
RsF	Reporters Sans Frontieres
UN	United Nations
UN – OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNESCO	United Nations Organisation for Education, Science and Culture
WAN	World Association of Newspapers

1. Introduction

This second annual report of International Media Support (IMS) presents an overview of the interventions carried out by the secretariat during the second year of operations. During the reporting period, IMS activities have continued with a pace and intensity similar to that of the first year.

The second year began with an international consultative meeting bringing together 50 key partners and international players in the field of media and conflict. The conference broadly acknowledged the IMS mandate and encouraged the organisation to continue to:

- Provide quick and flexible assistance to media in conflict and conflict threatened areas
- Ensure that the quick impact operations of the organisation would be linked to long-term media development perspectives.
- Strengthen its catalyst and facilitating/coordinating function.

1.1 External Evaluation

As anticipated in the IMS project document, the organisation was subject to an external evaluation during the second year of its existence. The Norwegian based *Christian Michelsen Institute* brought together an international team of experts, who carried out an extensive evaluation of IMS operations. The evaluation team represented a unique expertise particularly in the field of media development and it provided IMS with a relevant assessment of its specific case interventions, as well as appraising the methodological approach and theoretical assumption of the organisations activities.

The evaluation, entitled 'Looking for Trouble...', concluded that IMS was a new, important and unique initiative. In specific, the overall conclusion stated that:

"The most important conclusion that we want to draw from our work evaluating IMS is that we are very impressed with what the organisation and particularly the small and dedicated staff has managed to achieve over less than two years. The number of interventions is impressive. The quality of work is in general very good. The ability to cooperate is fine. The enthusiasm for the project is great both among the staff and the board"¹.

This overall conclusion was based on seven principles, which the evaluation team identified as characteristics of IMS:

- IMS is more than a freedom of expression organisation;
- IMS is willing to take risks;
- IMS serves as a catalyst for further action;
- IMS is flexible;
- IMS is inventive;
- IMS is both a donor and implementer;
- IMS is run by very dedicated people.

The evaluation team also presented a series of critical findings and conclusions, a number of which it is pertinent to mention. In this regard, it was recommended that IMS should in its future work:

¹ 'Looking for Trouble...' p. 70 (Chr. Michelsen Institute, April 2003)

- Clarify its organisational structure;
- Define a process for dealing with conflict of interest issues;
- Improve communication with board members;
- Hire additional programme staff;
- Organise an annual strategic planning session;
- Improve evaluation procedures;
- Refine its criteria for interventions as well as definitions of stages of conflict.

The IMS secretariat has taken note of the positive assessment and critical points from the evaluation team. It will in the coming programme period further strengthen its unique features and address the critical issues related mainly to internal organisational matters, as well as the difficult but relevant question of improvement of evaluation practices.

1.2. Activity Overview - 2002/2003

The IMS secretariat has since 1 September 2002 planned and implemented 30 interventions in 26 countries in accordance with the operational focus specified by the IMS board, the approved IMS project document and the document “IMS Intervention Processes”, which specifies criteria and models for Interventions and the IMS Tool box.

During its second year of existence IMS has been directly involved in the following regions/ countries (listed in alphabetical order):

- | | | |
|------------|---------------|--------------|
| - Angola | - India | - Rwanda |
| - Belarus | - Indonesia | - Somalia |
| - Burma | - Iraq | - Sri Lanka |
| - Caucasus | - Ivory Coast | - Sudan |
| - Chechnya | - Kazakhstan | - Tajikistan |
| - Colombia | - Kyrgyzstan | - Ukraine |
| - DR Congo | - Liberia | - Uzbekistan |
| - Ethiopia | - Middle East | |
| - Haiti | - Nepal | |

In addition, IMS is planning to continue to engage further during its third operational year in the following regions/ countries (listed in alphabetical order):

- | | | |
|------------|------------------|---------------|
| - Burma | - Guatemala | - Middle East |
| - Chechnya | - Horn of Africa | - Sri Lanka |
| - Columbia | - Indonesia | - West Africa |
| - Eritrea | - Iraq (tbc) | - Zimbabwe |

1.3. Report Structure

The report is structured according to regions of intervention. Each country section is in addition structured as described below:

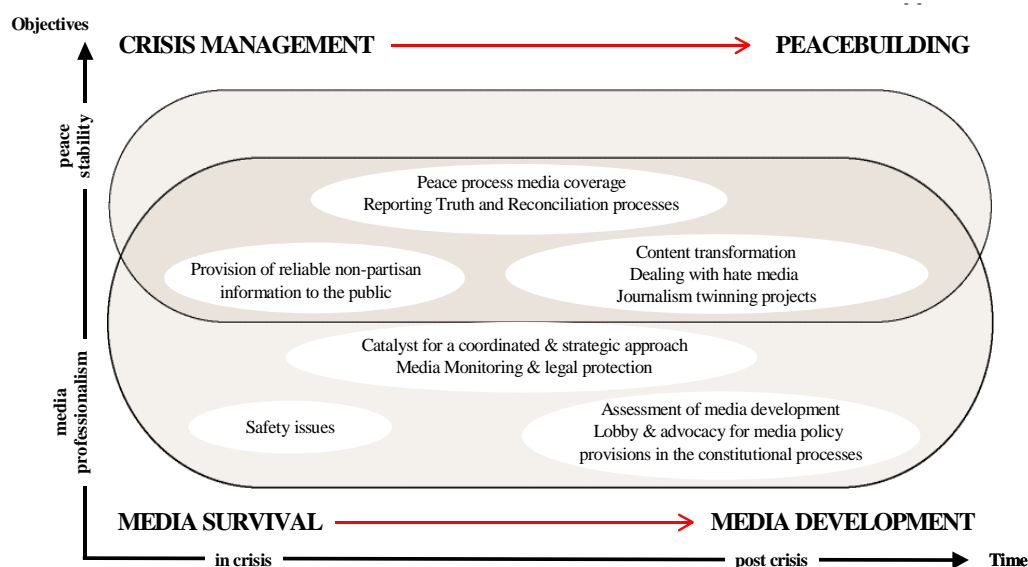
- Brief background and justification, including established criteria for the actions
- Presentation of specific objectives, actions carried out and relevant results/outputs
- Assessment of the interventions
- Brief indication of future actions and the question of sustainability of the actions

2. Methodological Considerations

2.1. Methodological Developments

Building upon previous IMS methodological considerations and analysis, the work of the organisation during the past year can be more clearly categorised through the relatively simple model (see below), which demonstrates how interventions are placed within the framework of short-term and long-term media and conflict parameters.

Types of IMS Activities ‘In’ and ‘On’ Conflict



IMS is operating to address emergency (‘humanitarian’) needs within the media community in conflict or conflict threatened areas around the world, whilst also aiming to ensure that our short-term interventions are linked to more long-term peace building and media development issues. As such, IMS is faced with two specific challenges. Firstly, to connect *crisis management* and *peace building*, whilst also linking ‘*media survival*’ and more complex *media development* issues.

IMS therefore operates with this dual perspective or with parallel objectives:

- IMS focuses on media professional issues, issues related primarily to the media, its survival and development as a foundation for any democratic society. It can be argued that the work of IMS within this perspective has an *indirect* effect on peace and stability. In this regard, IMS is working in (and not directly on) the conflict.
- IMS is obliged to address peace and stability issues (crisis management and peace building). Contrary to the above objective the interventions falling within this perspective attempt to address peace and stability *directly*. It also serves to underline the importance of having the media interventions (initiatives) linked up with the overall strategy for peace that may exist in a given country or region where IMS is active. In this regard, media interventions will be working on the conflict (and not only in the conflict).

In conflicts IMS has principally focused on the short-term perspective related to what broadly has been termed media survival and crisis management. In immediate post-conflict environments media development and peace building are in focus and represent the long-term dimensions of our work. However, the two dimensions should be seen as organically linked.

A fundamental factor of any short-term “humanitarian” intervention is that it must “prepare the ground” for more long-term development issues. The point is that it is not useful to isolate the short-term support for media in conflicts from a more long-term “principled strategy for building democratic media”.²

2.2. Intervention Categorisations

The different interventions that IMS has engaged in the past year can tentatively be placed within the below categories:

- Media Assessments (Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea, Central Asian Republics, Rwanda, North and East Sri Lanka)
- Safety Issues and Safe Havens (Haiti, Liberia, Nepal, Indonesia, Columbia and Ivory Coast)
- Content Transformation – i.e. conflict conscious journalism, peace process media and elections coverage (Rwanda, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Ivory Coast and Indonesia)
- Media Linkage and Perspectives – i.e. journalism twinning and team reporting (Middle East, Central Asia and Nepal)
- Catalyst – i.e. ensuring co-ordinated and strategic approaches (West Africa Partnership initiative, Horn of Africa, Sudan, Ukraine, Method Development on Conflict Journalism, and Central Asia programme development)
- Lobby and Advocacy – i.e. on media policy/law provisions in constitutional/peace negotiation processes (Belarus, Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia)
- Public Information – i.e. the provision of reliable non-partisan information to the public (Chechnya and Burma)
- Monitoring (Rwanda, Liberia, Central Asia, Somalia, Ethiopia and Columbia – all with IFEX)
- Equipment and Institutional Support (Burma, Rwanda, DR Congo and Haiti)

The above categorisation should not be considered as a fixed model for interpreting IMS interventions. It is important to understand that each conflict scenario demands a unique approach and each intervention must always be based on a (case-by-case) contextual assessment both of the conflict, how the media has been affected by the conflict and how the media itself has an impact on the conflict.³

2.3. Conflict Analysis and Intervention Identification

Conflict Analysis

To date, IMS has referred to a relatively simple and often used model of conflict analysis based on three stages of conflict:

Pre-conflict: A situation where the potential for outbreak of violent conflict, whether civil or inter-state, is both apparent and imminent.

² Thompson, Mark: “Remarks in Bern”, 25 June 2002 and IMS evaluation “Looking for trouble....” Bergen 2003. This perspective implies “to struggle for laws and regulations that protect media freedom and freedom of expression; to support the development of professional standards and ethics of the media, but particularly in journalism: strengthen the organisational capacity of the media; support independent media and the transformation of state broadcasters into real public service institutions”.

³ This was particularly emphasised by the evaluation of IMS: “Looking for Trouble...” carried out by the Chr. Michelsen Institute in early 2003, page 8-9. The evaluation also points out that the three-stage model may be a too simple way of understanding a conflict.

- Overt-conflict: A situation where both high-intensity and intermittent violent conflict is in progress, including lulls in conflict that do not have perspectives for lasting peace.
- Post-conflict: A situation where a conflict has been resolved or where there is a ceasefire agreement and/or peace-process underway with a real perspective for resolution.

These three stages should obviously not be solely seen as a linear process. Rather, they are best viewed in a circular pattern, with the various stages overlapping one another, without any set order or pattern through which they are past. In this regard, a conflict-situation may theoretically go from the overt-conflict stage to either the pre-conflict or post-conflict stages⁴. The important issue is, however, that IMS has not allowed itself to be strictly guided by programmatic documents or dogmatic models when it has under taken interventions.

Intervention Identification and Prioritisation

As the “Looking for Trouble...” evaluation correctly points out, IMS interventions have “always been based on concrete analysis of the specific conflict situation: IMS has been acting on a model that involves various combinations of the variables armed conflict and threatened media”⁵. The basic parameter has been that there need to be a threat to the media, as well as a degree of violent conflict for IMS to consider intervening.

Whilst it is correct to say that there should be some organised armed violence for IMS to intervene it is slightly more difficult to maintain this parameter for interventions in certain pre-conflict and immediate post-conflict situations. In particular, this is the case where the role of IMS primarily should be seen as catalytic and preparing the ground for media development in a post-conflict situation.

Furthermore, IMS does not use conflict analysis formulae or politically motivated considerations to prioritise the various interventions that may be planned and/or underway at any one time. In this regard, potential intervention areas are not rated over one another or accorded more resources based upon the ‘type’ or ‘degree’ of conflict within them. Rather, through the distribution of funding and human resources, IMS seeks to take action simultaneously across a broad geographical and thematic spectrum. Nevertheless, having stated this, practical resource and implementing realities demand that actions sometimes be prioritised. When this is necessary, such decisions are based upon the specific considerations below:

- Urgency of Identified Needs – as per the conflict categorisation table shown above, certain types of intervention will have an emergency perspective therefore demanding rapid action.
- Developments on the Ground – activities may be dependent or related to specific dates or occurrences on the ground (i.e. elections, enacting media related legislation, police/military activities, etc).
- Presence of International Actors – the presence of international actors capable of delivering similar assistance to that of IMS (i.e. the greater the presence the lower the prioritisation).
- Obstacles to Activity Implementation – although difficulties faced in implementing activities would not normally have a bearing on prioritisation (i.e. although it is potentially

⁴ The evaluation report refers to Michael Lunds “Media as an Instrument for Managing Conflicts and Building Peace”, 25 June 2002. He points out that conflicts may be perceived as going through stages: “They may typically encompass a variety of simultaneous facets including stable peace in relation to unstable peace; crisis with high levels of tension and confrontations, and breakdown of regional political mechanisms; war, stalemates; de-escalation or cessations; negotiations of settlements; settlements implementation; and post-settlement reconstruction and reconciliation. And several of these characteristics often occur at the same time. Conflicts are not uni-linear phenomena.”

⁵ “Looking for Trouble...” p. 10

problematic to implement, it will not accordingly be considered less urgent), in certain specific cases the ‘impossibility’ of taking action needs to be considered.

2.4. New Activity Trends

During the second operational year, there have been a number of developments amongst the main IMS activity trends. The section below seeks to provide an overview of some of these developments, building upon those IMS activity models already outlined in previous documentation.

Catalyst Function

The role as catalyst is increasingly seen as a key element of the work of IMS. The recent attempt to prepare a strategic vision for a partnership among local, regional and international media organisations in West Africa can be seen in this light.

The strategic vision envisages collaborative and coordinated (rapid) action to ensure that emergency situations are addressed efficiently. Similarly the identification of the “media landscape” and the potential trends and needs therein are best addressed by pooling together the expertise of specialised actors. This is not an easy task although the overarching conclusion of the past years of media assistance (in Kosovo, East Timor, Afghanistan and elsewhere) is that coordination and the development of a common understanding of the priorities and goals for a country or region will significantly contribute to improving the provision of holistic and effective assistance.

Media Assessments

Closely associated with the catalyst function, IMS has also expanded its capabilities in relation to media assessments. In this regard, ‘best practices’ have been developed for activities in this area, as well as tools and procedures for the targeted dissemination of resultant reports and information to relevant stakeholders. In specific, this approach has been developed based upon the media assessment activities undertaken in Sudan during the reporting period.

Content Transformation – Conflict Conscious Reporting/ Peace Journalism

In the area of Conflict Conscious Reporting/ Peace Journalism IMS has organised a roundtable inviting key players and perspectives (trainers and freedom of expression advocates) to discuss this highly controversial field of media intervention. The meeting allowed the different positions to present their points of view and, as a follow-up, the various contesting schools of thought have agreed to prepare a publication that will concretise the field further.

Safety Issues

Within the area of safety, IMS has to date worked closely with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). This has been considered essential since this field is the responsibility of IFJ, which also has established a new institution International News Safety Institute (INSI) that is the obvious (and perhaps sole) long-term international actor when it comes to safety. IMS has and will be involved in this for as long as it makes sense and as long as it adds value (by identifying intervention areas and providing quick and flexible emergency funds) to this field of intervention.

Humanitarian Information

An area in which IMS potentially has a role to play is humanitarian information. In emergency conflict situations, information is the basis for the coordination of humanitarian assistance. Vulnerable populations need timely information in order to function and survive in the new conditions in which they find themselves. However, often when a crisis erupts communication is significantly hindered or obstructed. Although a number of international actors are active in this field, the task of quickly informing vulnerable groups in crisis situations nevertheless remains complex and substantial.

IMS does not seek to duplicate or reproduce the positive efforts of other more specialised actors in this field. Rather, the abilities of IMS could allow it to develop rapid and collaborative approaches amongst relevant stakeholders, crucial for ensuring that concerns relating to humanitarian information are addressed in a broad and coordinated manner. In addition, the funding options available to IMS could facilitate rapid action being taken in emergencies. Without such coordinating and funding contributions, there is the risk that information provided to vulnerable populations could be contradictory and insufficiently disseminated.

IMS Tools and Methods - Conflict Journalism/ Media Assessments and Evaluations

Most of the intervention categories presented in the above “model” represent areas IMS works within. In many instances other specialised organisations are involved in the actual interventions and most categories of intervention (monitoring, legal and media policy framework, association building, support to development of professional standards, humanitarian information, etc) can only succeed through collaborative approaches.

Within the areas of conflict journalism and media assessments and evaluations, however, IMS is continuing to develop specific tools and methods. It is considered that IMS can potentially make important contributions to these fields, resulting in both overall methodological advances, as well as improvements in actual activity implementation, with a specific focus of learning from and building upon such activities. It should also be noted that although IMS seeks to pioneer developments in these fields, collaboration with relevant actors will be sought and resultant outputs will be shared with all interested stakeholders.

3. Interventions

3.1. Africa

1. The Horn of Africa

Background and Objectives

Throughout 2002, IMS established working relations with media structures and individuals in Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia. In late 2002, it became evident that a regional approach to some of the more severe challenges facing the media in these countries might provide new options for much needed collaborative action.

Actions

In December 2002, IMS conducted a mission to Addis Ababa, Mogadishu and Khartoum, building on contacts established through previous cooperation with media structures and individuals in these capitals. The mission was conducted in cooperation with the director of Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), Kwame Karikari.

The mission consolidated contacts and established a sound basis for a regional approach to media support. The most tangible results could be summarized as follows:

- A support programme for freedom of expression action in the Somali capital initiated (see Somalia below);
- Direct supportive advice delivered to media organisations in Addis Ababa and Mogadisho;
- An assessment of options for regional approaches to media support in the Horn of Africa produced and published⁶.

Subsequently, MFWA and IMS have developed a proposal for a regional approach to the creation of support for the national lobby campaigns for more enabling media legislation/constitutional provisions for freedom of expression. The first major step to establish this regional approach would be an international roundtable in support of advocacy campaigns in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan in late 2003. The concept paper has been forwarded for comment to partners in the region (May 2003) and in June 2003 – along with a request for financial support - to SIDA, UNESCO and OSI.

Article 19 and UNESCO will be asked to provide international expertise, as well as specific recommendations for each of the national campaigns based on their own expertise and on the preparatory study (see below). In addition, Article 19 will be asked to provide specific advice on how its own extensive, global experience in promoting freedom of speech and appropriate legal frameworks can be forcefully utilized in each of the national campaigns.

Of equal prominence at the Roundtable, existing experiences with regional or cross-border cooperation in the field of media rights advocacy in Africa will be presented by MFWA, the Media Institute for Southern Africa (MISA) and the East African Media Institute (EAMI). These three organisations have very different but highly relevant experience in lobbying governments, security apparatuses, intergovernmental bodies like the AU, the African Human Rights Commission and others – and they have significant experience in forging alliances with non-media civil society structures for added advocacy impact in African contexts. These experiences represent a body of expertise distinctly different from that of international organisations like

⁶ Conflict, Peace and the Media in the Horn of Africa - Options for media development and professional exchanges between media communities in Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan, IMS, March 2003

Article 19 and UNESCO. The Roundtable will bring this expertise to bear in the Horn of Africa for the first time.

Consultant David Lush will produce a pre-Roundtable report on status of and options for the national campaigns for more enabling legislative environments. Mr. Lush will travel to Khartoum, Nairobi (Southern Sudan), Addis Ababa and Mogadisho to consult with the key figures to produce a solid basis for the Roundtable.

Assessment

The regional stakeholders – possibly with the exception of the northern Sudanese, who may be more disposed to a Middle Eastern approach – should readily accept the notion of a regional approach to media legislation. They will, however, only have very few resources to apply. Hence the importance of the pre-Roundtable study.

A regional approach to media development issues is likely to produce results only if supported by intensive consultation with the regional stakeholders. There is no history of regional cooperation, but serious religious, political and other fault-lines. A previous UNESCO supported initiative to establish the EAMI has not produced interesting results.

Future Actions and Exit Strategy

The planned regional roundtable will take place 21-23 October 2003 and will be jointly organised by IMS, UNESCO, Article 19 and MFWA and co-financed by Open Society Institute (OSI) and ICCO Holland. The donors involved have indicated an interest in the possible follow-up actions that will be identified during the roundtable in October.

2. Sudan

Background and Objectives

In June 2002, IMS did a small survey of the media situation in northern Sudan⁷. There are no credible media organisations in northern Sudan, but working relationships were established with key individuals in the media community, as well as with useful partners such as the Sudan Organisation Against Torture (SOAT), which also handles press freedom issues, and the British Council, which proved exceptionally appropriate as a locally based partner for project implementation.

The first mission led to several small strands of activities. These being:

- International linkage: The key media person from SOAT attended the IFEX annual general meeting 2002 in Abidjan (he has subsequently signed on as the first RsF correspondent in Khartoum) and the most central editor of the Khartoum media attended the IMS October 2002 conference in Copenhagen.
- Press freedom monitoring: IMS and SOAT cooperated in implementing in January 2003 a workshop on press freedom monitoring in Khartoum, profiting from the wide experience of Tunisian consultant Kamel Labidi (based in Cairo / Amnesty / IFEX associate). IFEX has subsequently initiated more long-term support for SOAT's press freedom work in Khartoum.
- Conflict reporting: IMS, the British Council and the National Press Council cooperated in starting a course on conflict reporting in Khartoum. A Cairo-based instructor arrived, the course started – but was then cancelled due to interference from the security apparatus. In July 2003, the instructor was, however, brought back by the British Council for a longer training programme in Khartoum.

⁷ Northern Sudan: IMS support for media development, July 2002

Action

Banking on the relations established through these smaller strands of activities, IMS in late 2002 established a team of three international consultants and two reference groups of Sudanese media experts to conduct a more comprehensive assessment of options for media development in Sudan, which could directly support the peace process.

Co-funding for this assessment was raised with DanChurchAid, PaxChristi (Holland) and ICCO (Holland). The assessment was carried out in March 2003 and published in June 2003. It contains an extensive base-line survey of all existing media in Sudan and detailed description of the conditions under which the media operate. Also, it contains detailed and prioritised suggestions for immediate media development, presented within a clearly outlined strategy, which highlights relations between media development and the peace process.

The distribution/ promotion efforts supporting this assessment have been the most extensive so far of any IMS initiative. The assessment and its findings have been promoted through IMS attendance at two international conference on Sudan; through representation by Danish diplomats in donor circles, through email distribution to several hundred selected recipients; through production of professionally designed printed copies and a separate introductory document in Arabic as well as through the IMS web-site; through the IFEX newsletter; and through the local media in Khartoum and several other channels. IMS has also worked with DanChurchAid in Nairobi to establish a special Sudan NGO and donors meeting in Nairobi to discuss media development on the basis of the IMS assessment.

The assessment process also led to formulation by IMS, Article 19 and Norwegian People's Aid of a project proposal: *Sudan: Promoting freedom of speech and civil society involvement in media development*. In June 2003 this document was informally submitted to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for funding. Further negotiations are expected to take place in early August 2003.

This project, if realised, will facilitate two roundtable platforms (Khartoum and Nairobi), which will produce rapid and comprehensive policy positions of the Sudanese media communities and civil society on freedom of speech and media development in Sudan. In this way the platforms will serve as departure points for structured dialogue with the Sudanese authorities (North and South) on constitutional provisions for freedom of speech and related legislation. Expert input from Article 19 project staff, as well as from their legal programme in London, will be provided throughout the 12 months project period. Through the roundtables platforms the project will also facilitate implementation of 5-10 practical small-scale media development projects directly relevant to the peace process. Finally, in a separate development, IMS decided to fund Article 19 participation in a SOAT Symposium on human rights education in Khartoum in the second half of 2003.

Assessment

The IMS Sudan media assessment is unique in its approach and has produced a marked increase in interest in media development and freedom of expression issues amongst several key decision makers connected either directly or indirectly to the Sudanese peace process. It seems likely that the assessment will influence media development in Sudan, but impact – as usual – will be hard to assess. No evaluation procedure has yet been established. The assessment has also provided IMS with important methodological 'lessons learned'.

The joint IMS / Article 19 /NPA project, if realized, is likely to produce important and very tangible results. It addresses very real needs, consistently identified by Sudanese partners north and south as the most pertinent among all issues in the media field in Sudan. The obstacles to any sound development in Sudan, however, remain formidable and may in the end prove too large to be taken on by a project of this relatively small scale.

The SOAT symposium on human rights development is a first of its kind in Khartoum. IMS support in the form of funding for Article 19 input during the actual symposium will help put

freedom of expression on the agenda in Khartoum. SOAT is an excellent, if slightly controversial, partner in this regard with all the proper relations in Khartoum already established.

Future Actions and Exit Strategy

IMS, NPA and Article 19 are currently waiting for a response on a funding request, which is being considered by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

3. Somalia

Background and Objectives

In December 2002, IMS established a working relationship with the Somali chapter of the East African Media Institute (EAMI) based in Mogadishu. The IMS mission in December 2002 constituted the first visit to Mogadishu by an international media organisation in ten years.

EAMI-S was established in 2001 and managed to run a couple of training workshops for the media community with a bit of help from UNESCO's Alonso Aznar in Nairobi. EAMI-S is run by a former correspondent of the Italian news agency and a council of governors representing major media outlets in Mogadishu.

As described in the report from the mission, the media in Mogadishu over the last three years have developed into highly important vehicles for public service information and as important conduits for dialogue and open debate. They are quite essential in the broader conflict perspective. If peace can be obtained in the capital it could have tremendous impact on prospects for sustainable peace. Also, the media are essential components of the on-going international efforts to establish credible governing structures in Mogadishu, unknown since 1993.

Action

Over the first six months of 2003 this EAMI-S – IMS partnership has produced the following outputs:

- EAMI-S has been able to consolidate its support from the Mogadishu based media community. EAMI-S is acknowledged as representative of the broader media community and equipped with a functioning, democratic structure, an electronically connected office and organisational capacity to carry out significant projects⁸.
- EAMI-S has conducted a lobby-campaign for the inclusion of provisions for freedom of speech and free media in any constitutional talks and drafts produced by the IGAD-driven Somalia peace conference in Kenya. This was achieved through close collaboration with the Somali Bar Association and through newly established working relations with Article 19 and with the MFWA. The campaign also received substantial moral support by IFJ.
- In March 2003, two Somali media professionals, including the Governor of EAMI-S⁹, participated in a training workshop on monitoring of press freedom violations in Accra, Ghana, conducted by the MFWA in collaboration with the International Freedom of Expression eXchange (IFEX) and IMS.
- In May 2003 these two Somali media professionals conducted a four-day training workshop in Mogadishu for 25 Mogadishu based journalists and established a five-member group of press freedom monitors, who will now report on violations using IFEX standards. Reports will be issued to the proper international channels through EAMI-S. Collaboration is established with well-established human rights organisations in Mogadishu.

⁸ Security in Mogadishu is poor at best. The city has been a 'no-go zone' for UN international staff for several years.

⁹ Mr. A. Walayo, through many years a correspondent in Mogadishu for the Italian news agency

In June 2003 a new IMS-EAMI/S contract was signed, covering EAMI-S activities up to and including September 2003. Activities will include

- Further consolidation of EAMI-S administrative capacity and democratic structures
- A second stage of the lobby campaign on freedom of expression has taken place in July 2003 and co-inciding with the drafting of the final pre-constitutional documents at the Nairobi-based Somalia peace conference in June 2003.
- A drafting process has been initiated whereby EAMI-S will establish and describe its projected activities for the second half of 2003 and a budget. This 'action plan' will centre on two themes: a) press freedom monitoring in Mogadishu and, progressively, also in other parts of Somalia and b) campaigning for freedom of speech / media rights in Mogadishu and through regional and international forums.

Funding Considerations

IMS has drafted an overview of its cooperation with EAMI-S which has been forwarded to SIDA/ Stockholm with a view to securing longer-term funding for EAMI-S. Also, a dialogue between the Danish Embassy in Nairobi and EAMI-S has now been established. The embassy is supporting through the EU a major BBC broadcasting training scheme for Somalia which will start later in 2003.

The BBC programme will – apart from its emphasis on training – also address issues of ethics and freedom of expression. IMS has held talks with the training section of the BBC Trust in London in order to promote EAMI-S as a possible sub-contractor to the non-training components of the BBC Somali programme.

Assessment

IMS cooperation with EAMI-S is producing very tangible results. There is little doubt that the very energetic lobby activities of EAMI-S at the peace conference in Nairobi have helped keep freedom of expression high on the agenda. Relevant clauses are being inserted in the final documents from the conference and the conference secretariat has been brought to put on the table suggestions for inclusion of media representatives in the new Somali parliament.

Furthermore, a group of press freedom monitors has been established in Mogadishu – for the first time in recent history. These are achievements that can largely be ascribed to the efforts of Mr. Walayo, the EAMI-S governor. However, it would be wrong to assume that this is a one-man-band. Mr. Walayo seem to be very consciously drawing on his democratic structures – a board of governors, always making sure that they are present for meetings. In addition, in the case of the new group of monitors, all decisions are taken in cooperation. Mr. Walayo has also shown to be very sensitive to the need for cooperation with the lesser groups of journalists in Mogadishu, aiming to create unity rather than personal gains.

Future Actions and Exit Strategy

EAMI-S will participate in the Horn of Africa roundtable-taking place in late October and the future support strategies for the organisation will be discussed there. An IMS consultant will visit Somalia and work with Mr. Walayo and prepare input to the roundtable.

4. Democratic Republic of Congo

Background and Objectives

In early 2002, IMS provided a bit of material support and expert advise to a community based radio, Radio Maendeleo in Bukavu in the South Kivu region of DRC. Radio Maendeleo is the only community-based radio in the hotly contested South Kivu region in eastern DRC on the border to Rwanda.

A report covering this first instance of support for Radio Maendeleo and some options for more wide ranging media support in the DRC was published in July 2003. Following this report, the Netherlands Institute for Southern Africa (NIZA) decided to incorporate Radio Maendeleo in its permanent support-programme for media. IMS offered to remain on stand-by ready to provide assistance if emergencies occurred.

Action

In early 2003 Radio Maendeleo was closed by the military leaders of Bukavu, but it took some time before this was discovered by IMS and no reports to this effect was sent to IMS by the radio or NIZA.

IMS has since tried to ascertain what action NIZA was intending. Since none seem to be anticipated, IMS has now asked a Danish journalists, who will travel to Bukavu in August 2003, to provide information on the state of affairs of Radio Maendeleo and on options for support for the radio until its broadcasting – and then presumably also NIZA support – can be resumed. In early July news from the radio's management that broadcasting was about to resume reached IMS.

Assessment

The role of IMS as an emergency backstop to the NIZA-Maendeleo partnership has not worked. Neither the radio nor NIZA informed IMS when the radio was downed by the authorities in Bukavu. The dilemma is that NIZA, which has announced a formal support scheme for Radio Maendeleo, did not act when an emergency situation occurred. The radio probably still merits support as an important tool for communications and conflict reduction in the Bukavu region.

Future Actions and Exit Strategy

Further IMS involvement will require a higher degree of engagement, while it must also be designed so as to supplement the NIZA's support programme. To determine whether IMS will continue supporting Radio Maendeleo a consultant is currently engaged (while already in DR Congo) to assess the situation of the radio.

5. West Africa

Background and Objectives

A collaborative and coordinated strategy document has been developed for a West Africa media partnership project aimed at averting and mitigating conflicts and their humanitarian consequences, involving national, regional and international stakeholders. This approach is based on discussions between MFWA, UN-OCHA, UNESCO and IMS.

In specific, there was a need to address the conflicts in Liberia and Ivory Coast from a regional and international perspective. Already in late 2002 and again in April 2003, IMS had provided input and assistance to training seminars in the Ivory Coast relating to media and conflict reporting. Similarly IMS in collaboration with MFWA and IFEX supported a media monitoring, legal assistance and safe haven project for Liberian journalists.

The regional perspective and implications of these national conflicts are clear. Emergency collaborative action by the international, regional and national media communities is therefore crucial for addressing the needs of local media practitioners and institutions in the conflict. Through timely, coordinated and efficient activities, the adverse conditions created by conflict can be addressed. However, the ability to undertake both short and medium-term media development in an effective manner demands coordination and collaboration.

Actions

In July 2003, a meeting was held in Ghana addressing the above mentioned concerns. The meeting was prepared and organised as a collaborative effort between MFWA and IMS with

UNESCO and UN-OCHA as co-organisers. The International Federation of Journalists, Media Action International and Panos-West Africa were present, as well as professional media organisations from Liberia, Ivory Coast, Guinea and Nigeria.

The meeting had the following immediate objectives:

1. International and national expert input and experience-sharing on supporting media in conflict in West Africa provided;
2. Potential avenues for coordinated national, regional and international support to media in conflict in West Africa explored;
3. Collaborative strategy document and action plan for Liberia and the Ivory Coast developed;
4. Collaborative regional strategy document and funding proposal for West Africa developed.

The West African context, and specifically the conflicts in Liberia and Ivory Coast, presents several issues of concern that would be best addressed through collaborative approaches. To date, a number of national, regional and international organisations have implemented activities to address some of these concerns. These have been based upon two dominant perspectives for supporting the media.

- Firstly, the short-term perspective for assisting the media during a conflict, which specifically aims to identify and address how the media is affected by the conflict and how the media is affecting the conflict.
- Secondly, the medium-term perspective, which most often focuses on providing more development, related assistance to the media following the cessation of hostiles.

Whilst taking the positive work already undertaken into consideration, the development of collaborative national and regional approaches could potentially enhance the effectiveness of both the short and medium-term assistance. The meeting in Accra was convened to develop such regional and international approaches.

As the primary output, the meeting produced a draft strategy document and concepts for funding proposal on media and conflict, specifically addressing the situation in Liberia and Ivory Coast, as well as for the region as a whole.

Assessment

The commitment from national, regional and international stakeholders to a collaborative approach is tremendously important and of historical significance. It signals a new approach to cooperation based on the recognition that many of the challenges facing the region would need the involvement of all types and levels of organisations. Both UNESCO and UN-OCHA see their role as essential in facilitating and coordinating these efforts and doing so in close consultation with Media Foundation West Africa, Panos West Africa and other major regional and international organisations in West Africa such as West Africa Journalist Association (WAJA), IFJ, ARTICLE 19 and Internews. It is also essential that this media and conflict initiative is in a close dialogue with ECOWAS and the African Human Rights Commission.

The initiative will develop innovative ways of regional collaboration to strengthen impact at a national level. Liberia is (hopefully) coming out of a devastating period of war and destruction and the media community can learn from the experiences in Sierra Leone.

The approach will be inclusive and open. Organisations, which can contribute, will be invited to participate. The programme will not compete with existing national and regional initiatives. It should be seen as adding value to programmes and projects already in place within areas such as journalists safety, conflict conscious reporting/conflict management, early warning mechanisms, journalism training, association building (following conflicts) and media legislative issues.

Future Actions and Exit Strategy

A follow-up meeting is planned for the co-ordinating committee to initiate specific activities. It is foreseen that the programme will be launched in phases focusing initially on the most urgent areas such as safety, media and conflict management, etc. IMS will stay involved until the programme has been through a pilot phase of approximately six months and will in this period present the programme to possible donors. Within the framework of this project Terms of Reference for a joint mission to Liberia is being prepared.

6. Liberia

Background

Liberia has been affected by violent conflict for more than 14 years. In 1997 Charles Taylor was elected President over a period of time, increasing tensions led to the formation of Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) and Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL), both of which are based on opposition to President Taylor. Despite the ongoing conflict between these groups, a ceasefire was signed between Taylor's government, LURD and MODEL, with President Taylor accepting an offer of asylum from Nigeria. However, despite this and the subsequent arrival of a peacekeeping force in Liberia there is still widespread instability in the country.

Objective

The overall objective was that assistance to MFWA media monitoring efforts on Liberia and a safe haven mechanism for exiled Liberian journalists in Ghana would be strengthened.

Actions

Following a meeting in Accra in July 2002 of human rights organisations, civil society and other pro-democracy advocates a strategy was developed for an international campaign addressing the situation in Liberia.

Activities have been implemented with two out of the three foreseen intervention areas; Monitoring and Information and Safe Haven for exiled journalists. The programme has been run by Media Foundation West Africa in collaboration with IMS and IFEX. The foreseen Legal Defence component of the programme did not take off and additional resources were allocated to strengthening the monitoring component. During the campaign the Liberian media monitors were stripped off their computers and it was necessary to re-allocate funds to purchase new equipment to the monitors. The Safe Haven mechanism for exiled Liberian journalists has developed a newsletter written by the journalist dealing with issue related to the political situation in Liberia as well as the situation of Liberian refugees in Ghana.

Assessment

Events in Liberia have underlined the importance of getting reliable information from within the country to the outside world. As control and clamp down on any dissident voices have increased and the civil war intensifying efficient media monitoring has come to a halt. It is currently foreseen that the Liberian campaign will be taken over by the "Partnership Initiative on Media and Conflict Prevention in West Africa".

Future Actions and Exit Strategy

The changing political situation in Liberia with an increase in violence and devastation has justified a continued involvement of IMS in Liberia.

It is foreseen as soon as the political situation allows for it a major media assessment will be prepared within the framework of the new Partnership Initiative bringing together the different relevant media organisations in planning and implementing the assessment. IMS will facilitate this "transitional" media assessment in collaboration MFWA. As the Partnership Initiative gets going,

IMS will gradually pull out and leave the implementation to a consortium of local, regional and international organisations.

7. Ivory Coast

Background

From being a positive example of economic development and ethnic tolerance, the Ivory Coast has entered into a conflict that has split the country in two. The government of President Laurent Gbagbo mainly controls the southern section, whilst the north is mostly held by the rebel Mouvement Patriotique de la Côte d'Ivoire (MPCI).

Already under some degree of censorship, the crisis brought about increased restrictions on the media, both through Government censorship and the threat of mob violence. Government officials have also publicly blamed the national and international media for stirring up the tensions in the country, using this as a primary excuse to obstruct the publication and broadcasting of independent media. As a result, various press freedom groups have expressed grave concerns about the safety of journalists and deteriorating press freedom conditions in the country.

Objective

Through implementation of journalism safety training and two journalism and conflict seminars the Ivorian journalists (North and South) have strengthened their ability to continue operating as journalists (despite the conflict) and have increased their awareness of the role (positive and negative) media and journalists can play in the current conflict.

Actions

In collaboration with CAF Holland, Media Action International and IFJ a safety training seminar was organised for a group of Ivorian journalists. Following the safety seminar the participating journalist were introduced to the field of conflict conscious journalism.

The initial interventions were seen by UN-OCHA as an important first step to address the role of the media in the current conflict. The organisation in collaboration with Media Action International took the initiative a step further and organised a follow-up round table “Media and Conflict Resolution” in Abidjan in April 2003. One element of the seminar focused on presenting international experiences on “hate media” to the journalists. IMS agreed to prepare a paper on the “hate media” experiences from Rwanda and present these at the round-table meeting.

As this is being written a third round-table is taking place in the north (“rebel-territory”) replicating the April meeting in Abidjan. IMS has agreed to play a role in collaboration with Media Action International in implementing this historical meeting, which is joined by the UN and Ministerial level officials.

The outputs from the activities have been:

- The “Media and Conflict” Seminar organised in Abidjan in November 2002;
- The follow-up round-table in Abidjan – “Media and Conflict Resolution” in April 2003 providing a regional and international perspective to media and conflict. Input from IMS through the Rwandan experiences of hate-media.
- 2nd round-table organised and held in Bouaké (in the northern “rebel” territory). IMS input similar to the Abidjan round-table and programme development assistance.

Assessment

Whereas the initial “Journalism and Conflict” seminar held in Abidjan in November 2002 was lacking in substance and was unable to ensure a proper group of journalists representing both the

media in the north and south the subsequent round-tables have been able to ensure a broader involvement (mainly catered for by holding two round-tables – in the north and the south). Bringing the international and regional experiences onto the scene have proven useful and have provided an eye-opener for the local journalists and media professionals. The continued work of Media Action International (as lead organisation in the Ivory Coast) in launching a new “L’Association des journalistes pour la Paix in Cote d’Ivoire” has been well received although it has been debated whether this initiative would not be better placed within existing Ivorian media associations.

Future Actions and Exit Strategy

IMS has continued being involved longer than originally anticipated. It is obvious that the initial step taken (IFJ, MAI, CAF and IMS) was quick and possibly (as indicated by the IMS evaluation Spring 2003) not the most appropriate intervention. IMS has subsequently decided that the continuation in the Ivory Coast will mainly be linked to strengthening the regional and international input through the “Partnership Initiative on Media and Conflict Prevention in West Africa”. This Partnership also engages Panos West Africa, which also consider the Ivory Coast as a key priority.

8. Angola

Background

Following the death of the UNITA rebel leader Jonas Savimbi in early 2002 and the subsequent peace agreement signed on April 4th 2002, Angola is finally enjoying a period of peace and relative stability after more than three decades of liberation struggle and a devastating civil war.

Despite these developments in the peace process, Angola still faces major problems. Corruption and relocation of refugees and internally displaced person are among the most serious challenges. According to government and UN figures almost 4 million people – equivalent of one third of the population – have been forced to leave their homes, and in many families two generations have grown up in camps.

Following the end of the civil war in Angola in 2002, a number of organizations involved in media development in Southern Africa have on different occasions discussed the options for support to the media sector in Angola. In the beginning of 2003, MISA (Media Institute of Southern Africa), the Open Society Institute and IMS agreed to try to advance the process by fielding a joint assessment mission.

Objective

The objective was through the involvement of relevant regional, national and international media organisations the IMS engagement would ensure a coordinated approach by donor organisations and NGO’s working in the field of press freedom and media assistance as well as recommending strategic areas of intervention both in the short- and long-term.

Actions

To fulfil this objective, IMS with very short notice organised a mission in order to provide updated information for a meeting in the Funders Forum in Cape Town on April 5, 2003. The following organisations were supposed to send non-Angola-based representatives:

- AMARC (World Association of Community Radios)
- Article 19
- IFJ (International Federation of Journalists)
- IMS (International Media Support)
- Media Action International
- WAN (World Association of Newspapers)

The mission carried out an assessment of the state and independent print and electronic media as well as existing Angolan media and relevant civil society organisations. Within the limited time frame it was only possible to obtain visa for the representatives of IMS and AMARC. MISA and OSI did have representatives on the ground in Luanda.

The outputs of these activities were:

- Meetings were held with all relevant state and independent media institutions and organisations in Luanda.
- An assessment report produced and distributed to relevant stakeholders
- The first draft of the report was presented to the Funders Forum in Cape Town in April.
- Follow-up meetings held with OSI, ARTICLE 19 and SAJA in Johannesburg to assess the continued involvement of IMS in Angola.

Assessment

The IMS involvement in Angola was motivated by an observed need to address issues related to media development following a ceasefire in the civil war in the country. Already a number of media organisations are involved in different types of media projects in Angola. The attempt was therefore not to engage with yet a separate project. Rather, IMS invited existing regional and international media organisation to prepare a joint assessment of the short- and long-term media assistance needs and challenges.

Principally the joint mission was anticipated to add strength to the proposed Coalition for Media in Angola, which was seen as a possible focal point for media development projects in the country.

The idea of a Coalition for Media in Angola was launched by MISA and has so far not received substantial support from the local media fraternity. It is viewed with scepticism and seen as an undesirable “clearing house” control mechanism by the local media. The MISA regional secretariat in Namibia has ensured Dutch funding to man the office in Luanda although at the time of writing the post has not been filled.

The assessment report underlined that although this Coalition of Media is desirable it would be essential to establish smaller strategic projects within: training, local/community media development, humanitarian information, as well as media policy and legislative issues.

Future Actions and Exit Strategy

Open Society, Netherlands Institute for Southern Africa (NIZA) and different German Foundations have engaged in the media development field in Angola. The Funders Forum in Southern Africa welcomed the IMS initiative. The recommended way forward provided in the IMS document has been discussed in a working group following the presentation of the report in Cape Town in early April. Open Society has in early August organised a conference in South Africa focusing specifically on Angola, which also included a session on the media. The continued involvements of IMS appears to be less relevant although it is important to follow the initiatives taken by others and continue to encourage cooperation and joint actions on key media development issues. The foreseen establishment of a MISA run Coalition for Media in Angola is still to be launched and IMS will maintain contacts with MISA on this issue.

9. Rwanda

Background and Objectives

Nine years have gone since the 1994-genocide and Rwanda is still politically in the transition-period defined by the Arusha Accords. The almost constant war with the heirs of the Hutu

power in DR Congo where they found political and military support has constituted a security-threat, which has made economic recovery difficult and put constraints on good governance.

The current government of National Unity dominated by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) since 1994 has been justifying its control over the activities of political parties with the fragile security situation. For the last three years, political parties have been dismantled or forced to accept the consensus imposed by the RPF in the name of the country's stability, unity and reconciliation. In spite of the situation, Rwanda's government started an electoral process in 1999 with the first local elections.

The government has decided to continue the election-process. The next step was a referendum on a new constitution, which took place in May 23 2003. According to the constitution, parliamentary and presidential elections should be held within six months after the referendum that is in November/December 2003. The Government has decided to speed up this process by having the presidential and legislative elections already in August and September 2003.

The government has taken on the commitment to conduct free and fair elections; political parties should enjoy adequate freedom to conduct campaign activities; the National Elections Commission should be independent; and non-partisan agencies should carry out election monitoring. One of the main contributions of civil society to the electoral process is to educate voters on the election-process and on citizen rights and responsibilities in such a process.

Responsible media coverage will thus be an important part of election monitoring. But, this process represents an important challenge to the media of Rwanda, which suffered an extreme loss of professionalism during the genocide of 1994 and has been engaged in a long process of overcoming its debilitated state since then.

In this regard, IMS sought to respond to the government of Rwanda's commitment to free and fair elections by strengthening the capacity of the Rwanda media and the media's fair and responsible coverage of the elections. This will be done with the support and collaboration of the MINALOC, the High Council of the Press, Rwanda's Association of Journalists, the Press House as well as a group of local and international partners – Norwegian People's Aid and Internews.

Actions

The proposed intervention includes the sharing of the experiences of media and political actors in neighbouring African countries' electoral processes, and the inspiration of lessons learnt there for the Rwandan media context. Besides strengthening the capacity of Rwandan media, the proposal also seeks to engender understanding and the appropriate degree of mutual collaboration among the media and those responsible for the conduct of free and fair elections, to serve well-informed citizen decision-making.

To this end the proposal specifically sought the engagement of the National Election Commission, of administrative authorities, of senior decision-makers within the state media and journalist professionals from the private media in this strengthening process. In addition, it provides a two-stage initiative, which allows for review of the media performance during the presidential elections, and application of lessons learned to the media coverage of the ensuing legislative elections. A strategy for the longer-term sustainability of the benefits of the proposal to journalism is also being developed.

The intervention is meant to target three groups, the media, the election authorities and the political players in the 2003 Rwandan election process.

The immediate objectives of the activities were:

- To raise the media's awareness of the special importance of professionalism and responsibility in conducting free and fair democratic election.

- To inform the media of the roles and procedures of the National Election Commission and election authorities
- To assist the Commission in making the fullest use of the media as an element of voter education and participation, and to develop a spirit of collaboration between them.
- To introduce the media, the electoral authorities and the political actors to the concepts of conflict-sensitive and conflict resolution journalism.

The intervention was composed of two seminars and later follow-up activities to sustain the benefits of the intervention. The first seminar was meant to last two days, 15-16 August, at the beginning of the presidential election campaign. It was to target only the media and the electoral administration authorities and would not include the political actors as they will be engaged in partisan activities in the campaign¹⁰.

The first seminar was meant to target 56 participants: over twenty representatives from the media (among them two students from the School of Journalism), over twenty representatives from the electoral authorities (the prefects, the National Electoral Commission, The High Council of the Press, the MINALOC), and two representatives from two umbrella-organizations from civil society. The second seminar will target the same 56 participants from the first seminar plus 16 representatives from political parties. The outputs from the activities were:

- A report on the Rwanda Experience from the Genocide;
- A fair and responsible media coverage of the two campaigns for presidential and parliamentary elections;
- Increased understanding of their roles and the inter-relationship among media, electoral authorities and political actors;
- The achievement of well-informed citizen decision-making by Rwandans and the enhancement of the democratic process;
- A prepared handbook for elections coverage developed in collaboration with IMPACS, Canada.

Assessment

The decision of the government to carry out the elections already in August and September made it politically difficult to obtain the necessary approval to implement the first seminar in August. An agreement was, however, reached with the Ministry of Information to go ahead with the second seminar (which then included elements from the first seminar) in early September (following the presidential elections). The postponement is unfortunate but was considered necessary also by the UNDP co-ordinated Election Task Force. The Election Task Force (constituted by the main donors in Rwanda) has agreed to fund the seminar.

The first seminar aimed to achieve a commitment among all participating media to the principles of responsible journalism and a free and fair election, as well as a commitment to conduct individual and collective review of media achievements of these principles and lessons learned during the presidential elections, and to present these at a second seminar to be held in advance of the legislative elections.

¹⁰ This first seminar was to include the following topics and initiatives:

- Rwanda's new electoral law and its implications for the media.
- The role of administrative authorities in the electoral process
- Principles of responsible journalism and specifically election-focussed journalism.
- The role of the National Election commission in ensuring free and fair voting.
- The role of the Press Council in fostering responsible election coverage.
- The interaction between media, the election authorities and political parties during the election
- What can be learned for the Rwanda election process from the experiences of the media and political actors in elections in Senegal, Kenya and South Africa.
- Monitoring of media coverage, and the role of observers in the electoral process.

The intervention included a review of media performance during the campaign, conducted by Internews, in liaison with the Press Council and the National Election Commission, which supports the lessons learned process at the second seminar.

The second seminar was to be conducted between the end of the presidential election and the commencement of the legislative election campaign and targeted the same two groups – the media and the election authorities – with the addition of the political actors in the legislative election campaign. Recommendations were formulated in this seminar for the media coverage of the legislative election campaign.

The preparation of the foreseen seminars ran into last minute obstacles. Consequently IMS decided to focus its initial step on media monitoring. Experienced South African media monitoring trainers were brought to Rwanda and in collaboration with the School of Journalism and the Press Council training was carried out of local media monitors.

Future Actions and Exit Strategy

IMS has engaged in this in close collaboration with Norwegian Peoples Aid, Rwanda School of Journalism, Internews as well as the Ministry of Local Administration, Social Affairs and Information. The funding for the seminar will principally be sourced from the UNDP co-ordinated Election Task Force. IMS has in collaboration with the international and Rwandan organisations prepared the proposal and has consulted closely with UNDP (and other donors). There has been a general consensus among the donors of the importance of the present project and an intense dialogue with the Ministry has ensured (with certain modifications) the implementation of the seminar. IMS considers Internews, Norwegian Peoples Aid and the Rwanda School of Journalism as the long-term institutional base for the media and election coverage perspective.

An offspring of the present project will be the preparation of a handbook on election reporting in immediate post-conflict societies. The handbook will be prepared in collaboration with IMPACS, Canada.

3.2. Middle East

1. Iraq

Background

With the apparent conclusion of the conflict between the US-led coalition and the regime of Saddam Hussein, Iraq now finds itself in a period of transition, with considerable social and political change likely to continue to occur in the coming months. This sudden shift in circumstances has created a fluid and uncertain political and social climate, whilst also opening up considerable social, political and economic opportunities for the peoples of Iraq.

Based on experience from other conflict scenario, such as Serbia, Kosovo and Afghanistan, it can be assumed that media development and provision of accurate and objective information will be a central issue as the transition process progresses. The new Iraqi Interim Authority (IIA), as well as other national and international stakeholders, will all have strong interests in the media and it is likely that number of international stakeholders and development agents will engage in media development.

All of these stakeholders will need proper information on which to base their activities in the media field. To help meet this collective need for sound information and expert guidance, a group of international media organisations, which met in London on 24 April to discuss media

development in post-war Iraq,¹¹ recommended that international and Iraqi media experts be commissioned to assess emerging possibilities for constructive media activity in light of the new situation created in Iraq.

Objective

The objective of the IMS activities was based upon the fact that the prospects for a successful and peaceful democratic transition in Iraq would be strengthened by media development programmes, which in turn would be significantly influenced by an expert assessment of options for media development. The main questions to be addressed by such an assessment included:

- Immediate areas where the Iraqi media community requires targeted and specific support in the post-war environment from the international media community;
- Recommendations on how the Iraqi media community may constructively assist with the transition and democratisation process in the coming months and years;
- How medium and long-term media development may be most constructively pursued in Iraq, taking into consideration the vital role of media in democratic societies.

The meeting in London on 24 April in addition recommended that a larger conference on media development be held in Baghdad in September 2003. In this regard, the assessments should seek to prepare the ground for this Conference.

Action

Of the two missions initially planned only one has been fielded. The mission took place in May-June based on ToR prepared by IMS. The mission was meant to:

- Map the current immediate post-war media environment (print and electronic) in Iraq;
- Identify and establish collaboration with the Iraqi media community;
- Assess immediate options for media development in Iraq directly supportive of the democratisation process;
- A mission report including recommendations for i) immediate support activities, ii) options for the “September Conference” and iii) mission two’s Terms of Reference;
- Prepare a financial report for the mission.

The mission team was undertaken by Antti Kuusi (Baltic Media Centre), Rohan Jayasekera (Index on Censorship) and Anthony Borden and Duncan Furey (IWPR) with Julie Flint as an independent consultant.

The mission members visited Baghdad, Basra, Erbil, Kerbala, Najaf and Suleimaniya and meetings were held with Iraqi editors, publishers, producers and journalists, CPA representatives, advisors and other contractors with the US Department of Defence, donor representatives, as well as Iraqi, US and British political officials. Following the mission a report was compiled which was distributed to the participants of the London meeting as well as through the distribution channels of IWPR.

The report provided a critical view of the media situation in Iraq following the war. It points to the extreme difficulties that the Iraqi civil society is facing and elaborates on the fundamental

¹¹ The meeting was organised by the Danish based International Media Support (IMS) in collaboration with the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) and ARTICLE 19. It included representatives from Alliance Internationale pour la Justice, Baltic Media Centre, BBC World Service Trust, Danish School of Journalism, European Journalism Centre, Index on Censorship, International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX), International Federation of Journalists, Internews Network, Internews Europe, Media Action International, Media Diversity Institute, Open Society Institute, Press Now Foundation, Reporters Without Borders (UK), U.S. Committee for a Free Press in Iraq, UNESCO, World Association of Newspapers.

absence of any professional media outlets able to report on humanitarian issues are absent. It similarly points to the failures made by the CPA in its efforts to launch radio and television programming and newspapers. Based on the findings of the mission, further assessment of the media environment in Iraq has been made with a view to identify and recommend follow-up actions.

Following the mission to Iraq, IMS was invited to participate in an Internews Conference on “Designs for a Democratic Media in Iraq”. The three-day symposium, from 1-3 June, was held in Athens. The Conference brought together exiled Iraqi, Arab and Western media law and policy NGO’s to discuss policy recommendations for legal and regulatory reforms in Iraq. A detailed framework paper was presented providing an outline of a way forward. Subsequent to the Conference, Internews has proceeded and introduced the framework for the CPA in Iraq. It appears that the suggested approach has been agreed to by the CPA and Internews is introducing the elements of the framework to relevant media professionals all over Iraq.

IMS was approached by Internews to join a proposed consortium of organisations involved in media development in Iraq. IMS has refrained from the invitation and Internews has apparently given up the ambitions of developing this consortium. Article 19 and BBC has also decided not to join the initiative.

IMS decided to assist Arab Press Freedom Watch (APFW) the first all Arab mission media assessment made following the termination of the war. APFW has subsequent to the mission finalised a report with a prominent focus on issues of capacity building and the importance of “re-building” an Iraqi Association of Journalists.

The outputs of the activities have been:

- A mission report including recommendations for immediate assistance priorities;
- An assessment of the relevant and timeliness of organising a larger media conference in Baghdad, which will organised through close consultation with local Iraqi media professionals;
- APFW report further detailing the initial mission report done by IMS, IWPR, BMC and Index on Censorship.

Assessment

The mission to Iraq was prepared and carried out following the London meeting on Media in Post-war Iraq. It reflected the signals given by the meeting that only very scarce information existed with regard to the media situation there.

The meeting in London gave IMS the mandate to prepare the mission. Some, however, felt that independent consultants rather than representatives from specific organisations should have constituted the assessment team. IMS still decided to proceed with an “organisational” assessment mission, since the participating organisations were motivated and ready to go. To balance out the question of being disinterested IMS decided to add one independent consultant to the team. The consultant chose to leave the mission in Amman due to security considerations.

IMS has continued to consult with relevant organisations and donors on a further involvement in Iraq. Presently the situation is in a state of limbo following the bombing of the UN buildings in Baghdad. A few days prior to the bombing IMS contacted the media responsible within the UN set-up requesting up-dated information on a proposal developed by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq. The proposal suggests the establishment of an Iraqi Media Centre with special reference to the possible role that IMS and APFW could play in setting this up. IMS has not been contacted in relation to this and has not received information on the status of the project.

To a certain extent the role that IMS was given by the London meeting has taken a different dimension due to the course of events in Iraq over the summer. The Internews initiative has with the energy of a big (American funded) organisation made it difficult for IMS to proceed as planned.

Future Actions and Exit Strategy

IMS has therefore decided to take a slightly different approach, which will investigate other options or entry points to the task in Iraq. Discussions with Article 19, the Danish School of Journalism and BMC has led to the conclusion that IMS should still plan for a second mission to Iraq. The mission should investigate options for organising the larger conference suggested by the London meeting although this has not become an easy task following the recent bombings.

This role does not appear to be given to the UN by the American administration. Consequently IMS would need to stay back until the UN/American relationship has been clarified. The development of “strategic projects” could be a possibility i.e. media centres, consultative meeting with Iraqi media professionals to build confidence and breed the ground for proper Iraqi involvement in the media development process. This has been discussed with the UNESCO representative participating in a recent UN mission to Baghdad focusing on media development in Iraq. The UN mission confirmed the impression that Internews is rapidly trying to get a broad acceptance for their framework approach to media development in the American and UN system.

2. Israel and Palestine

Background

The IMS intervention was spurred by the increased hostility in Israel and Palestine caused by the start of the second Intifada 2000. Among the media professionals on both sides there was a feeling that the political climate was back to square one. Since the IMS engagement started in January 2002 there has been a few attempts to initiate a constructive political development with limited or no success.

The media community in Israel and Palestine have not been left untouched by the present conflict. As stated in the IMS 2002 annual report:

- The media on each side of the conflict (as well as international media) have increasingly been part of the political polarisation through their journalistic coverage of the conflict;
- Many media professionals lack an understanding of the professional media context under which their peers on the other side are working;
- A number of international media and monitoring organisations observed that particularly Palestinian journalists and media institutions have been under attack.

Action and Objective

Consequently IMS in 2002 engaged in Safety Training courses (in collaboration with IFJ) as well as initiation of twinning co-production projects involving Danish, Israeli and Palestinian journalists. This was not collaboration (dialogue) project but an attempt to have one or more international journalists working separately (in parallel projects) with Israeli and Palestinian journalists focusing on the role of the media in the present conflict. The broader aim was to sharpen awareness among media professionals in the Middle East and internationally on the strengths and weaknesses of present media coverage.

Assessment

The twinning co-production projects were carried out relatively successfully although only a limited number of Palestinian and Israeli journalists participated. The participating journalists have indicated that the co-operation element in the project allowed the journalists to publish more critical articles. Teaming up with international journalists has made it easier for the local

journalists to get straightforward answers from politicians on issues related for instance corruption and censorship.

Similar experiences have been gained on the Israeli side where increased direct censorship and self-censorship among journalists has to be challenged. It is apparent that the preparation processes and articles have contributed to the discussions about what good (and critical) journalism is all about both among the Palestinian and Israeli journalists. Despite the positive feedback from those participating in this project the attempts to continue has been difficult.

Future Actions and Exit Strategy

The continuation of IMS in Israel and Palestine must be linked to further fund-raising efforts and partnerships with other international organisations. The political situation in the region has made it difficult to raise additional funds. IMS has, however, decided to continue the attempts and possibly expand and develop the twinning activities further – adding perhaps a regional (middle east) dimension to it.

The focus will still be the concept of twinning co-production, which should be understood as the paring of two or more journalists and/or newspapers allowing them to develop media products through joint story development and research. The concept of twinning co-production is a critical and, for some, difficult approach. Therefore the lessons learnt and models for collaboration established during Phase I will be fully applied and utilised in Phase II.

The future activities will be low-key and initiated in close consultation with the participants. Similarly, the concept of collaboration should be non-dogmatic and flexible allowing for models of twinning and co-production that do not aim for Palestinian and Israeli journalists to be directly working together as such models presently has proven unrealistic. New types of collaboration may also include exchange of articles between Danish and Israeli/Palestinian publications. If feasible the activities will take into consideration the short-term need for inclusion of a conflict resolution perspective in local and international news-management in the Middle East.

3.3. Asia

1. Sri Lanka

Background

In February 2002, the government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) signed a ceasefire in an attempt to halt the civil war that had been running in the country for two decades. In response to this development, in April 2002 IMS fielded a mission to Sri Lanka to assess the possibilities of assisting the peace process through supporting the media community.

This mission led to the implementation of a series of seminars and in-house training workshops in June 2002 with the overall aim of introducing journalists, sub-editors and editors to tools for more constructive reporting on the ceasefire process. It was foreseen that through this process it would be possible to address some of the tension-inducing journalism being produced by the media in the country. These activities were conducted in cooperation with the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) in Colombo, with the Canadian consultant, Ross Howard, acting as the main facilitator alongside Sunanda Deshapriya. Financial support was provided through the Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society (IMPACS) by the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition, during the implementation of the activities, IMS entered into close cooperation with IMPACS.

Objectives

The peace process in Sri Lanka was expected to be neither rapid nor smooth. It was anticipated from the outset that the negotiations would most probably be drawn out and complex, with

numerous potential obstacles to overcome that could derail the process. In this regard, it was foreseen that the role of the media as both a stabilising and destabilising factor would continue to be of significant importance to the overall process.

In specific, as identified in April 2002 during the initial assessment mission (please refer to the Assessment Mission Report), the opening up of the North and East of the country, combined with the transitional process leading to the 'legitimation' of LTTE control of these areas, could create a potentially unstable situation. However, during the initial assessment it was considered too 'premature' to act upon these potential concerns, particularly as access to the North and East was not secured at that stage.

Following on from the seminars in June 2002, the need to secure the sustainability elements to the conflict conscious journalism activities of June 2002 was apparent in order to ensure that the skills and knowledge imparted would be properly utilised.

The objectives for 2002 – 2003 were to remain in close contact with Sri Lankan partners (namely the CPA and FMM) thereby ensuring that IMS was aware of key developments and able to react rapidly with substantive support to address any significant events that may threaten and/or support the peace process. In specific, IMS sought to pay close attention to events surrounding the peace process and media situation in the North and East of the country.

IMS, in cooperation with CPA and IMPACS, also sought to ensure that the sustainability elements for the conflict conscious journalism activities of June 2002 were achieved.

Actions

As a follow-up to the seminars and in-house training in June 2002, IMS and IMPACS produced a handbook on conflict conscious journalism, written by Ross Howard, to serve as an everyday practical guide for journalists and editors in Sri Lanka. This handbook has been translated into Sinhala and Tamil, to be disbursed by the CPA to the participants and other relevant persons/institutions.

Following on from the activities in June 2002, the CPA has continued to conduct conflict conscious journalism activities, including an on-going project of field workshops funded by USAID-OTI. In addition, the CPA is involved in a 2-year exchange programme of Nepali and Sri Lankan journalists on conflict sensitive journalism. IMPACS also undertook an assessment mission to Sri Lanka in June 2002 with the possible intention of implementing follow-on activities to the conflict conscious journalism seminars.

As foreseen, the ceasefire process created new dynamics in the situation in the LTTE controlled areas of North and East Sri Lanka, thereby 'uncovering' instabilities with the potential to derail the peace process and/or heighten existing latent tensions. In addition, the potential introduction of new press freedoms in the LTTE areas, including an influx of more media outlets from other areas of the country, raised concerns about obstacles in this transitional process. In order to provide a basis for the development of collaborative and targeted activities in these areas, IMS and CPA produced an assessment report on the media environment, including priority areas for assistance. IMS has made this report public and shared it with key partners that could be in a position to take action on the mentioned priority areas. These partners specifically include IFEX, Danish School of Journalism, IFJ and the Danish Embassy in Delhi (responsible for Sri Lanka).

Assessment

The actions undertaken during 2002 and 2003 have ensured sustainability to those of the previous year. The handbook will hopefully allow for the continued usage of conflict conscious journalism by the media community on an everyday basis and the CPA has reported that the local language editions has produced 'an incredible amount of interest' amongst journalists. However, the handbook took longer than expected to be produced, with the first print run only coming out in March 2003.

The activities of CPA in continuing to promote the concept of conflict conscious journalism in the country have been positive. However, the potential follow-on actions by IMPACS have not yet materialised.

The assessment mission in North and East Sri Lanka produced a substantive report with concrete recommendations for priority areas. This report has received a positive response and it seems that action may be taken upon it by a number of organisations in the listed priority areas.

Future Actions and Exit Strategy

The production of the handbook marked the conclusion of the direct IMS funding contribution for conflict conscious journalism activities in Sri Lanka. It is foreseen that the CPA, which has in the past year become a leading organisation in this field, will continue to spearhead these activities in the country. It is also hoped that the pending actions of IMPACS will further reinforce conflict conscious journalism in Sri Lanka.

IMS is now planning a joint approach to donors with the goal of getting funding for the priority area recommendations made in the media assessment report for North and East Sri Lanka. In specific, IMS is taking into consideration the potential for initiating activities focusing on the under-addressed issue of Tamil-Muslim relations, which has the growing potential to destabilise the North and East of the country and could be substantively addressed from a media perspective. Work on the development of this concept is currently underway.

2. Indonesia

Background

In August 2002, IMS participated in a workshop hosted by the Indonesian Conflict Studies Network (ICSN) on the topic of conflict management in Indonesia. At the same time a brief assessment of the media situation in the conflict-affected areas of the country was undertaken by IMS.

The conclusions of IMS from the assessment in August 2002 were that the situation in Indonesia presented a complicated multi-faceted scenario, comprised of a number of current and latent conflicts specific to particular areas of the country. Therefore, whilst there is a clear need for conflict resolution and/or de-escalating activities, it would be overly simplistic and potentially counter-productive to assume a single generalised approach and specialised knowledge was required for each region. In addition, it was seen that the media development landscape in the country was already well represented by international and national actors. Moreover, there were a number of productive and efficient civil society and media networks and structures already in place.

Objective

IMS sought to build upon the abilities of existing networks with the aim of utilising local expertise and local media in conflict de-escalation activities. In this regard, IMS aimed to bring together the ICSN and UNESCO local radio network (LRN) from conflict-affected areas to share experiences and highlight commonalities between the roles of the media in conflict. It was foreseen that this would also facilitate linkage between local radio stations and academics, with the ICSN experts providing a broader perspective and researched analysis to the local stations as advisors/ researchers, whilst the radio stations provided a new medium for the accredited 'publication' of the academics work.

Actions

In April 2003, the LRN, ICSN and IMS held a seminar and workshop on conflict management and conflict de-escalating radio programming for the ICSN and LRN members from Aceh,

Kalimantan, Maluku, Papua, and Central Sulawesi. These activities were held at UNPAR University in Bandung and co-funded by the Finnish Embassy in Jakarta.

The activities were comprised of two interlinking components designed to create mutually beneficial linkage between the media and academic communities. The first component was a conflict management seminar, which was facilitated by the international expert, Dr. Timo Kivimaki, and included presentations from the ICSN members about the different conflicts in Indonesia, with the aim of identifying common causes applicable to all, specific causes in the individual regions, and the role of the media in provoking and resolving conflict. The second component was the radio programming workshop, which was facilitated by the international expert, Fiona Lloyd, with the aim of using the outcomes of the conflict management seminar for developing 'conflict reducing' radio programme models, including the production of programmes for broadcast on the local radio stations.

Assessment

The activities seem to achieve their immediate objectives and laid the foundation for future relationships between specific LRN and ICSN members from the same areas. It was reported by the media development expert that "the LRN participants felt that they not only gained new skills and understanding, but new friends and mentors, whilst the ICSN participants were excited about the dynamic potential of radio to communicate their messages to a wider audience"¹². However, it should be noted that the withdrawal of UNESCO from the LRN could negatively affect the networks ability to undertake coordinated activities with the ICSN in the long-term.

Future Actions and Exit Strategy

The ICSN and LRN participants expressed an interest to continue their relations based upon concrete activities. The resurgence of fighting in Aceh in May 2003 also highlighted to the participants the need to enhance their ability to react quickly to conflict related emergencies and strengthen early warning networks. Furthermore, the situation in Aceh also threatened the physical safety of media practitioners in the province. In response to these factors, IMS is currently preparing the following two activities.

The activities in April 2003 included discussions about the creation of mutually beneficial long-term working relationships between members of the ICSN and LRN. It was foreseen that such relations would allow the participants to utilise the skills and knowledge they had gained. In order to facilitate a pilot-phase of linkage activities for the ICSN – LRN partnerships, it is foreseen that a 'fund' will be created and used to finance small-scale cooperative activities. In this regard, IMS is currently assessing the potential for accessing funding on behalf of the ICSN and LRN.

3. Burma

Background

In the spring 2003 IMS commissioned two journalists travelling to India and Thailand to visit exiled Burmese media communities to prepare a status report on the media situation in these communities. The report 'Burma: Borderline journalism and exiled media in India, Bangladesh and Thailand' was submitted to IMS in June 2003.

The two consultants met with editors, journalists, publishers, foreign NGO's, representatives from political parties, diplomats, unions and a number of exiled Burmese organizations from the pro-democracy-movement.

Although the report provides a detailed political overview of the situation among the exiled Burmese media communities IMS felt that there was a need for more precise recommendations before it would be in a position to decide on any actions.

¹² Final report submitted to IMS by Fiona Lloyd.

A follow up desk study was therefore carried out by consultant Pernille Bøggild. The study aimed at providing IMS with recommendations concerning the Burmese exile media along the border-area east and west of Burma. In line with the terms of reference the report also described reactions from the international community to the present crisis in Burma plus the efforts of key-stakeholders to get Aung San suu Kyi released and to breathe new life into the process of democratisation and reconciliation after her detention on 30 May 2003.

The follow up desk study based its main premises on the information's given in the independent research study by Tom Heinemann and Lotte la Cour.

Actions

The two reports are currently being assessed by IMS and decisions on possible follow-up actions will be taken after consultation with the two reporting teams. Of main concern for IMS has been whether it would make sense for the organisation to get involved in support activities to the exiled Burmese media community since already substantial assistance is provided by organisation Internews. The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has indicated an interest in discussing the findings of the two reports with a view to identify possible and meaningful lines of support for the Burmese media community without endangering the lives of potential Burmese partners.

Future Actions and Sustainability

The actions will be determined by the discussions to be held between IMS and the two assessment teams, as well as consultations with organisations already engaged in media support for the Burmese media community.

4. Nepal

General Background

Since February 2002 IMS has implemented the following activities:

- A mission by the IMS chairman, Torben Krogh to Nepal to assess possible IMS interventions. It was recommended that IMS assist the Centre for Investigative Journalism to develop a series of investigative reports from conflict areas. The Centre also has analysed the medias coverage of the State of Emergency and how the emergency situation affected the operations of the press.
- The report of the chairman also identified the Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) as IMS partners. FNJ wanted to focus on media monitoring and spot reporting from conflict areas. The project with FNJ was postponed due to an internal restructuring process.
- In September 2002, IMS in collaboration with IFJ and Nepal Press Institute implemented a Safety Training Course for Nepali journalists. Closely linked to this was a Conflict Conscious Journalism Programme organised for chief editors of both the Nepali and English speaking newspapers.

Team Reporting

Subsequent to this it was recommended that IMS continued its engagement in Nepal through the development of a Team Reporting concept. The concept was seen as an obvious extension of the Safety and Conflict Conscious Training efforts.

The concept was developed in Nepal to address ideological divides and significant geographical and urban-rural divides within the country. The idea of collaboration in professionalism was conceptually welcomed by many journalists and editors in Nepal.

The key objective of the programme was professional skills development and contribution to conflict resolution. The key idea has been to bring together journalists from different communities, both ideologically and geographically to produce reliable reporting, which addresses major issues in the national interest.

Actions

Three teams of reporters were formed under the umbrella and coordination of Nepal Press Institute (NPI). Based on input from IMS consultant Ross Howard the three teams appointed a team leader and discussed the possible topics for the exercise. They were as follows:

1. The Team report focused on the extent of citizens abandoning their villages in the Eastern district of Khotang, 250 kilometres east of Kathmandu, because of threats or fear of Maoist and/or government attack, disruption or mistreatment, as well as degraded economic and living conditions. The story's main theme is that the truce has not substantially alleviated fear in the remote regions, and that an exodus continues from the countryside.
2. Team Two's focus was the extent of long-lasting physical and emotional injuries suffered by victims of the insurgency and the cost of inadequate treatment, rehabilitation facilities and economic loss, centred on a small town of Deng, west of Kathmandu and including some reporting from Kathmandu. No Maoist-held or directly threatened communities are included.
3. Team Three's focus was at the exceptionally high school drop-out rate of 80 per cent of students in Maoist-controlled and threatened areas, and the implications for the communities and individuals.

The reports was published/broadcast as planned in five media outlets: Nepal Samacharpatra, the second-largest Nepali daily in Kathmandu; Space-Time Today, a major English daily in Kathmandu; Pokara Daily, a Nepali daily in the Western city of Pokara; and Blast, a regional Nepali daily in the East; and broadcast on Region FM Radio in the West.

All participating media were free to use their own headline, pictures and lay-out of the story. All four newspapers featured the report prominently on Page 1. The radio station apparently broadcast it as the main morning program feature the same day it was published.

Assessment

Considerable unprecedented cooperation took place among traditionally competitive media editors. The originally identified concern for team members' compatibility was in no way manifested in Team One's progress, but appears to have been a major factor in Team Two's less successful progress. A more substantial assessment of the process and outcome of the project, especially from the participants and editors viewpoint, is needed in order to allow a proper evaluation by the consultant and IMS of the overall initiative.

A preliminary Team Members' evaluation (a series of five questions) was collected by NPI from two members of Team One and all members of Team Two and Three. The report provides a positive assessment of the team reporting experience and journalistic lessons learned. All teams recommend a Second Phase later this year. The Team Reports need, however, to receive better promotion upon publication.

There needs to be additional techniques developed to further extend benefits obtained by the program, possibly such as ensuring all participants receive a follow-up package including copies of all three reports, perhaps some additional journalism skills development material, and perhaps a copy of the CSJ Handbook or other documents.

Future Actions and Sustainability

IMPACS, Canada, has indicated an interest in a major follow-up to the first team-reporting exercise. The IMS consultant Ross Howard will prepare a second phase in collaboration with

Nepal Press Institute and the three teams. IMS will carry out an evaluation of the activity with a view to utilise the concept elsewhere. Plans are currently under way to develop a team-reporting programme in North-East Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) in Colombo.

The team-reporting activity in Nepal was prepared as a collaborative effort between IMS, Ross Howard and Nepal Press Institute. It was developed as a project proposal by IMS for submission by NPI to the Danish Embassy in Katmandu. The Embassy has funded the first phase of the exercise and it is anticipated the CIDA will take on the second more advanced phase of the programme.

Conflict Conscious News Management

Although public support for the peace process (initiated with the signing of a cease fire in late 2002) in Nepal is currently strong, the positions of the two sides remain far apart and the potential for disagreement and dispute during the peace negotiations is high. In light of this, it is extremely important that media coverage of the ceasefire and peace process remains professional and objective, as it will be instrumental in shaping political and public opinion.

The conflict in Nepal has been on-going for seven years and long-standing reporting trends combined with the sudden shift in circumstances could hinder balanced coverage of the peace process and efforts towards lasting peace. The rapid transformation of events following the ceasefire has now created a new delicate political/ conflict dynamic and the media will require a broad range of tools and knowledge to interpret and communicate this process in a balanced and objective fashion.

The media's ability to evaluate and convey the ceasefire process in a professional and objective manner would thus be furthered through providing increased awareness of conflict sensitive news management techniques and an operational understanding of the role of the media in a ceasefire context, including the use of international case examples.

Actions

In April 2003, IMS in collaboration with WAN, Panos South Asia, and Media Services International (Katmandu) organised a seminar on 'Conflict Conscious News Management in Nepal's peace process: Lessons from Sri Lanka'.

The activities comprised a one-day seminar targeting senior media decision-makers. The seminar sought to address key media and conflict issues within a conflict conscious media format, using the case example of Sri Lanka to provide an international perspective and external understanding of both the positive and negative forces in a conflict process.

The seminar provided an opportunity for the target group to objectively examine the media coverage of the conflict, consider the current thinking on the role of the media in a conflict environment and explore conflict-conscious issues in the Nepalese context.

The target group included the most senior media practitioners. The seminar was thus orientated towards conflict conscious news management techniques, rather than journalism techniques. Furthermore, guest speakers were invited from the Government and Maoists to provide an overall perspective, analysis and prediction on the situation in the country. Other international guest speakers provided examples and insight from negotiation processes conducted elsewhere and the productive role that the media can play. In addition a public meeting will be held with civic society organisations using the Sri Lankan guests as resource persons.

Assessment

Although the presence of government and Maoist representative was anticipated they were in the last minute unable to attend. This of course hampered the potential output of the meeting. The participation of editors from all major newspaper in the country was, however, an achievement

and gave proof to the relevance of the seminar. It was apparent that the participation of Sri Lankan editors was key to the success since the lessons they had learned were applicable to the Nepalese context.

The seminar was termed successful by Kanak Dixit, CK Lal and Bharat Koirala among others especially for introducing in media circles an awareness of the need for a mediating presence in the extremely fragile truce talks, and was featured in at least two media reports the next day and on the evening newscast (unexpectedly) of the state television. The first newsroom seminar was reported in at least two dailies today.

Future Actions and Sustainability

To determine the actual impact of this one-day seminar is obviously difficult. However, one of the objectives of the meeting was to kick off the perspective of Conflict Conscious News Management during a peace process. Panos South Asia did in this process revise a programme for peace process coverage, which would function as a follow-up to this initiative. Following the seminar Panos South Asia submitted a proposal to the Danish Embassy in Katmandu for funding and they are now implementing a follow-up project.

5. Central Asia

Background

IMS, with PEM Consult, participated in a fact-finding mission to Central Asia for the Danish Foreign Ministry – FRESTA in October and November 2002. This mission focused on possible pilot initiatives that could form an emerging platform for future cross-boundary and regional networking activities. It also identified constructive perspectives and activities for short and medium-term media support for the Central Asian media environment.

Although to varying degrees, the media environments in the Central Asian countries are all restrictive. The post 11 September international situation has provided an excuse to the authoritarian governments of the region to further tighten controls over the media. Therefore, although not affected by conflict at this time, the situation in the region is particularly concerning and could result in the further regression of democratic practices and structures.

Furthermore, the situation in the ethnically mixed Fergana Valley region, which encompasses the eastern Uzbekistan, northern Tajikistan and southern parts of Western Kyrgyzstan, is potentially explosive. There is considerable social and ethnic tension, accentuated by the new borders dividing nations and ethnic groups. In this regard, the Valley can be described as a serious threat to the peace and stability with the real potential for the re-emergence of violence as seen in the late 1990's.

Objectives

The objective of the IMS activities in Central Asia have been to initiate activities and prepare the ground for longer-term support for the development of independent and progressively-minded media practitioners and outlets in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. These activities had a specific focus on the issues of national and regional networking and cross-border linkages, and have also paid specific attention to the Fergana Valley region.

Actions

Stemming from the fact-finding mission, IMS has undertaken a number of strategic preparation activities in the region to identify potential avenues for supporting the media. These have been undertaken with the aim of addressing key immediate needs and developing perspective in collaboration with the local media community for a larger long-term media development programme to be funded by Danish Foreign Ministry.

These strategic preparation activities have included: 1) In February 2003, a group of eight Uzbek journalists working on monitoring issues participated in a workshop in Moscow. IFEX, CJES and OSI also participated in the workshop. 2) In March 2003, IMS participated at the CASCEN conference in Baku, Azerbaijan where a meeting was held with the other international donors. 3) In May 2003, IMS and WAN implemented a workshop for print media professionals in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Twenty leading editors from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan attended, as well as specialists from MDLF, ICFJ and OSI. 4) In May 2003, IMS and Freedom House co-sponsored a workshop on media and monitoring issues in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Twenty journalists working on media monitoring from all regions of Uzbekistan also participated in IFEX and Adil Soz training. At a special workshop, representatives for all international media donors met and discussed collaboration and shared experiences and plans. 5) In June 2003, IMS sponsored a meeting of media professionals from Fergana Valley in Osh, Kyrgyzstan. Fifteen radio, print and media resources leaders discussed and worked out proposals on future collaboration across the Valley. 6) In June 2003, IMS funded the preparation of an assessment report on web publishing options in Central Asia by leading experts from the region.

Assessment

After the workshops in Tashkent and Moscow, a group of Uzbek journalists with an interest in monitoring issues has been identified. It is foreseen that this group will constitute the backbone of the future monitoring work of IFEX in the country, to be funded by the Danish Foreign Ministry - FRESTA.

The workshop for print media leaders in Central Asia, held in Bishkek in May 2003, served to introduce the editors in more detail to concepts such as revenue generation and web publishing, as well as led to the initiation of a proposal for joint reporting activities amongst the editors.

The workshop in Osh, in June 2003, further developed proposals to enhance the already existing cooperation between media in the Fergana Valley. Furthermore, time was spent on identifying potential problems in this cross-border work. This workshop was successful in developing the idea of 'concentric circles' of radio, print and media centre networks across media and state boundaries. As with the workshop in May, several proposals have come out of this meeting.

Future Actions and Exit Strategy

As a culmination and conclusion to the abovementioned activities in Central Asia, IMS has worked closely with Robertson Consult in preparing a programme document for support to the media to be funded by the Danish Foreign Ministry - FRESTA. This programme builds upon the framework created by the strategic preparation activities undertaken by IMS in cooperation with local stakeholders. It is expected that this programme will begin around October 2003.

3.4. Latin America

1. Columbia

Background

The civil war in Colombia between the paramilitaries of the United Self-defence of Colombia (AUC), government forces and the guerrillas of the FARC and the ELN, is also an information war. Journalists have become military targets, with all parties trying to coerce the media. Killings of journalists are common and 97 pct of all crimes go unpunished.

In March 2002 WAN and the Colombian Publishers Association organised an international conference on violence against the media in Colombia. 200-300 journalists, editors, publishers and other media professionals attended. IMS participated in order to assess the media situation in the country and to consult with local press organisations to determine an appropriate assistance package. Following the consultations between IMS and the Colombian press organisations

preparations of a specific intervention packages have largely been done by the organisations themselves.

Objective

Through the IMS assistance to key media and press freedom organisations in Columbia their work of monitoring the media situation and working conditions for journalists in the country will be strengthened and the safety of working journalists enhanced.

Actions

Since March 2002 IMS has supported the media in Columbia through a three tire approach:

1. Assisting the efforts to promote a strong/joint press freedom organisation with representatives from the different sectors of the media, i.e. “PROYECTO ANTONIO NARINO”.¹³
2. Assisting the organisation “Medios Para Las Paz” in further developing its web-site dealing among other things with “Responsible Journalism in Times of War”
3. Provision of financial support to the (Publishers Association) to implement a ‘Newspaper in Education’ Conference in May 2003.

During the Spring 2003 the initial package of assistance has come to an end. Taking the grave and increasingly dangerous situation of the media and journalists in Columbia into consideration IMS has decided to maintain a small but important supportive role to the media organisations courageously working to improve the working conditions for journalists in the country. Columbia is still the country in the world where most journalists are being killed while carrying out their profession. It is also a country where crimes committed against journalists remains unpunished since impunity is a key feature of the judicial system.

IMS has in the present reporting period therefore continued along the three tires above:

- Through Proyecto Antonio Narinio and Fundacion para la Libertad de Prensa (FLIP) IMS has assisted in making possible the seminar: “Impunity in the cases of threats against the press”, 19-20 March 2002. The Seminar was organised within the framework of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression for the Organisation of American States.
- IMS continues to assist FLIPs important work in recording and investigating violations against media and journalists.
- Further assistance has in addition been provided to “Medios Para Las Paz” to develop its web-site.
- Finally the issue of Safety will be addressed in a joint project between Antonio Narinio, International Safety Institute (under IFJ), Committee To Project Journalists, UNESCO and IMS. It is apparent that safety of media professionals in Columbia demands a special focus that attempts to combine international safety standards (and training) with the unique experiences that already exist in Columbia in terms of safety.

The outputs from the activities include:

- Seminar on “Impunity in cases of threats against journalists” successfully carried out concluding with a number of action-oriented recommendations giving the Special

¹³ The “Antonio Narinio Project” promotes a culture of self-protection among the journalists/media institutions when exercising their profession. Its objectives are: to assist in strengthening an established media alert network (FLIP); to channel information on violence against the media/press to the Columbian public and to international organisations such as IFEX and to advocate freedom of expression issues.

Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression for the Organisation of American States a special role.

- FLIP supported to continue its alert, protection and prevention work for media professionals in Columbia.
- The issue of Safety of media professionals given particular attention through an international seminar and training session for Colombian journalists.
- An evaluation carried out by an IMS consultant participating as an IMS representative in the seminar on “Impunity...”

Assessment

Overall the rationale behind the IMS assistance to the media organisations in Columbia remains the same. Although there has been international attention to the atrocities committed against the journalists and media professionals in the country it has been very difficult for the organisations working with these issue to obtain financial assistance. The Antonio Narinio Proyecto – being an umbrella organisation for all major media organisations in Columbia – stands out as a very capable and essential organisation to assist in its continuous efforts to promote a culture of self-protection among the journalists. There has for many years been an emergency in Columbia with regard to the situation of the media. IMS has decided to maintain a small but continuous assistance to the key media organisations.

Future Actions and Exit Strategy

With the last package of assistance provided to the media organisations in Columbia IMS has indicated that a possible exit strategy for the organisation would entail support to the development of a larger funding proposal, which then would be financed through other funding channels. An agreement has been made with IFEX (which also provides assistance to the Colombian organisations) that a joint effort will constitute the termination of direct support to the organisations. IMS has in addition agreed to engage Antonio Narinio in a global networking initiative where they are brought in contact with professional peers in Africa and Asia to exchange experiences and share ideas on issues related to impunity, safety of journalists and regional networking.

3.5. Caucasus

1. Regional Network of Documentary Filmmakers in Caucasus

Background and Objective

The Caucasus has regional wars creating divides and hostility between ethnic groups and emergent states. In addition, hundred of thousands of people have been displaced. At the same time global politics of fighting against terrorism, securing oil supplies and maintaining political stability are having an impact on everyday-life in the region.

The mass media in the Caucasus are dominated by discourses of ethnic antagonisms. Although there is a growing interest in documentary film production and while a number of smaller filmmakers have emerged during the past few years, they often lack access to production means for realization of their projects. Especially filmmakers promoting visions of ethnic tolerance in a political climate dominated by confrontational nationalist ideologies find it hard, at times impossible, to express their alternative views. Since the late 1990s, networking among documentary filmmakers within the national borders of the Caucasus republics has taken place to some extent with the emergence of a few filmmakers’ associations. To date, most of these national networks, however, remain largely nominal and have had little success in creating productive and sustainable structures. Moreover, cross border cooperation among the filmmakers takes place at a very limited level and there are no developed structures that unite documentary filmmakers across the regional state borders, not to mention conflict lines. Hence, the foreseen activities are expected to be a much needed contribution to support and establish

interregional links between documentary filmmakers and related players who are committed to visions of peace building, ethnic tolerance and democratic values.

The documentary film as media has been selected on the basis of the growing regional interest in the genre in the latter years after the virtual demise of the documentary film production in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union. The documentary film genre can offer an important corrective to the current dominance of news journalism focusing on national antagonism and imaging of enemies. In contrast to conflict headlines, documentary programs can take their outset in individuals crossing borders, thereby shifting focus towards efforts at understanding each other across conflict lines and the role of individual agency in this. Documentary films can further a sense of common human core values without obliterating cultural and social differences. Furthermore, documentaries are relatively cheap to produce and can potentially reach large audiences.

Actions

The project seeks to establish a network of Caucasian documentary filmmakers, as well as facilitating the production of a number of documentary film productions. IMS has engaged in phase one of the present project to ensure that proper research is carried out before the project is launched in large scale with funding from other sources. The activities during phase one are the following:

- Identifying potential filmmakers in all parts of the Caucasus and outside the region (eg. exile communities such as refugees, ethnic diasporas as well as filmmakers outside of the region with a specialized knowledge of and interest in the region);
- Identifying centres of film/media learning, national, regional and local television stations, small production companies and existing national networks of filmmakers;
- Compiling an overview of the status of documentary film production and distribution in the region;
- Conducting a project workshop in Tbilisi in the autumn 2003 with participation of the core team of project experts in order to:
 - Discuss the relevance, needs and tasks of a documentary network in the region
 - Develop the documentary production concept on the basis of the above research and on the experiences gained by the core members, specifically Malkhaz Kukhianidze and Gia Saghinadze's current production of a series of children portraits dealing with the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict.
- Ensuring a thorough coordination of the project with related projects in the field. The project concept has been aired and welcomed by many humanitarian actors in Georgia and the Russian Federation, but coordination is still to be made with major media players such as International War and Peace Reporting, Open Society Institute, Eurasia Foundation and others, who either implement or fund media or other related projects in the Caucasus. Coordination with other networking projects, such as the DRC/FRESTA facilitated CRINGO network will also take place. European Documentary Network with HQ in Copenhagen will be consulted about the network building. During the pilot phase, contacts with other relevant actors will be established and areas of possible cooperation will be explored;
- Preliminary presentation of the project to commissioning editors at major Western public service broadcasters (BBC, ARTE, DR/TV2, YLE, SVT, NRK) and media development donors (Sundance Institute, formerly Soros Documentary Fund, and Jan Vrijman Fund);
- Identifying potential institutional donors for the project (FRESTA, DANIDA, SIDA, NORAD, FINNIDA, UNESCO) and possibly private donors;
- Compiling project proposals for the main project – phase two.

Assessment

IMS has engaged in this as a facilitator. The project is prepared and implemented by professional film-makers with substantial experience in developing regional networks and co-production series

in Africa and elsewhere. The thematic focus on safety and security appears relevant and well conceived. The project has chosen to focus not on conflict and hostility but on strategies whereby people are – under extreme difficult circumstances – manage to make the best out of a very unstable situation. The films produced are to be broadcast in the region. Likewise the cooperation with Western public broadcasters serves to ensure that a smaller number of the films are screened to a world-wide audience.

The concept of regional collaboration is similarly relevant and pertinent in particular to enhance collaboration between film-makers in the region and also to use the network as a starting point for the creation of a regional market. With the demise of the Soviet Union the financing structures for documentaries have basically disappeared.

Future Actions and Sustainability

As first phase of the project is successfully finalised IMS will hand over its possible continuation to another organisation/institution. The professional capacities currently running the project are experts in Caucasus and in documentary film making and therefore adequately equipped to ensure the professional success of the project. As the research has been finalised an assessment will be made with regard to the feasibility of a phase 2. FRESTA has indicated a potential interest in financing part of phase 2 – although decisions on this will depend on the outcome of the research currently taking place.

2. Chechnya

Background

Since early 2002 the Russian – Chechen conflict has taken several turns for the worse. No political settlement seems within sight. A spate of suicide bombings by Chechen militants have been the most visible answer to the Russian drive to ‘normalize’ through a referendum and upcoming presidential election.

Since early 2002 IMS has been establishing working relationships with relevant partners within the Chechen media community. Also, a ‘map’ of existing Chechen and international media related initiatives focussed on the Chechen conflict has been established.

The process has involved extensive consultations with Chechen media professionals in exile in Russia on their priorities for media development and media work in the crisis. During desk studies in Copenhagen and three missions to Russia, IMS has identified several groups of Chechen media professionals, who are eager to enhance their capacity for independent and objective media work.

Action

In April 2003 IMS decided on two interlinked tracks of support both aimed at capacity building within the Chechen media community, which will have immediate relevance to the conflict.

Capacity building with the Russian-Chechen Friendship Society (RCFS)

The Russian-Chechen Friendship Society (RCFS) is trying to establish a climate of dialogue between Chechen and Russians. RCFS already has a network of correspondents in and around Chechnya. This network is used to compile information about events in Chechnya, which is then sent to the RCFS office in Nizny Novgorod in Russia and distributed to interested parties in a monthly newspaper ‘Pravo Zashita’ (The Right to Defend), and in a news bulletin, distributed by e-mail to 300 receivers primarily within the Russian media community.

RCFS has recently decided that their information and communication activities should be more precisely focused on addressing the Russian media. RCFS wishes to relate information and analysis from the field in a more balanced, reliable and professional manner, thereby increases impact within the Russian media.

In April 2003 a first workshop aimed at such professionalization was held in Moscow under IMS auspices and in close cooperation with the Moscow-based Centre for Journalism in Extreme Situations; Internews Russia; the National Institute for Development of Russian Press, and the Centre for Confidence Building and Community Development in Moscow.

Capacity Building for Chechen Media Professionals

Since mid-2002 IMS has consulted with a small group of exiled Chechen women in Moscow, who are all trained journalists or with previous experience from media work¹⁴. IMS has established contact between this group and the managing editor of the weekly paper 'Groznsky Rabocii' Mr. Musa Muradov, who re-started printing and publishing from Nazran in Ingusetia in April 2003. He has suggested that this group be engaged as writers for a monthly women's supplement to 'Groznsky Rabocii'.

IMS is now supporting the elaboration of a more precise strategy and activity plan, which will tie support to the women in Moscow, to the Groznensky Rabocii women's supplement and support to the emerging Faculty of Journalism at the University in Grozny together in one stream of cross-fertilizing activities under the auspices of the Faculty of Journalism.

This faculty is a candidate for support through a larger Danish partnership programme to connect institutions of higher learning in Chechnya with sister-institutions in Denmark. This programme, commissioned by FRESTA, is currently under construction. IMS is supporting the elaboration of a strategy and activity plan for the women in Moscow, Groznensky Rabocii and the Faculty in Grozny in anticipation that longer-term funding for the activities involved will become available to the Faculty of Journalism through the partnership programme.

The project was further pursued in early July 2003 when the IMS consultant on Chechnya participated as a trainer on an IWPR workshop for journalists in the North Caucasus.

Assessment

Professionalisation of the information activities of the Russian-Chechnyan Friendship society should be regarded as a long-term activity. The Chechens involved are dedicated and may provide important access to the Russian media in due course, but IMS has to decide if this is feasible within normal IMS project timeframes. If not, an exit strategy could possibly be to involve the Danish Helsinki Committee or the International Helsinki Committee in Vienna in a more long-term, low-key training input.

Tying the group of women in Moscow with Groznensky Rabocii in Nazran and the Faculty of Journalism in Grozny may prove to be a very indigenous way of providing substantial and viable support to the Chechen media community. It will require substantial consultant input throughout 2003, in Russia and in Denmark. It should be supported by immediate support to concrete and tangible activities involving all Chechen partners, which can illustrate IMS's commitment and keep the momentum achieved by IMS so far. The project is very much dependent on the continued engagement of the IMS consultant on Chechnya, and will also require extensive consultations by the IMS secretariat with project stakeholders and donors in Denmark.

3.6. Caribbean

1. Haiti

Background

¹⁴ The group includes a former deputy editor of the newspaper 'Groznsky Rabocii', an assistant to the Chechen Deputy in the Duma (Russian Parliament), and a leader of a women's organisation in Northern Caucasus.

IMS activities in Haiti were initiated following an assessment mission to the country in February 2003. The political climate in Haiti is marked by a trend towards growing oppression, with persistent and obvious violations of basic human rights, which have led to sanctions from the United States and European Union.

Radio stations dominate the media scene in Haiti, although to the extent that a number of them try to work as independent providers of news and information they are subject to threats and harassment (as documented by RSF and CPJ). In addition, the authorities are trying to take over a number of the independent television and radio stations, whilst the overall financial situation in the country is also deteriorating thereby undermining the viability of independent media.

Objectives

In light of the situation in Haiti, IMS sought to support the independent media in the face of the challenges posed by the deteriorating political situation, increasing harassment, and worsening financial environment.

Actions

IMS provided support to Radio Haiti Inter during its period of suspended broadcasting to ensure that the station remained viable as an independent outlet in the media landscape. Support was also provided to the Association des Journalistes Haitien (AJH) to assist the work of journalists in legal and medical matters, as well as those forced into exile for a period of time.

Assessment

The assistance provided in Haiti by IMS ensured that the independent media community remained viable and could counter the challenges posed against it during a period of worsening harassment.

Future Actions and Exit Strategy

IMS is currently reviewing options for active continued support to the independent media to counter some of the long-term challenges and the deterring media environment.

3.7. Eastern Europe

1. Ukraine

Background

In September 2002, IMS fielded a mission to Ukraine with the objective of assessing the options for supporting independent media, with a specific focus on the promotion of investigative journalism addressing human rights issues, including the production and publication of such work.

The mission in September 2002 confirmed that the establishment of a nucleus of independent journalists, which would produce and publish investigative journalism, would be a constructive and timely addition to development of independent journalism in Ukraine, and that this perspective was not being addressed by others.

Objectives

Based upon the conclusion that a short-term emergency intervention would be insufficient, the objective for 2002 – 2003 was to ensure that a long-term approach was developed and secured for providing assistance for the production of investigative journalism in Ukraine.

Actions

Working closely with the Danish Association for Investigative Journalism (FUJ), IMS was engaged in the establishment of partnerships with relevant Ukrainian media and human rights organisations. Furthermore, in order to develop concepts for supporting the production of

investigate journalism, IMS funded a workshop in Kiev in January 2003. This meeting brought together a number of the main independent media stakeholders engaged or interested in investigative journalism in Ukraine, as well as some of the key organisations involved in investigative journalism from the wider eastern European region.

Based on the recommendations of this workshop, as well as the independent findings of IMS and FUJ during the assessment period, in March 2003 IMS prepared a project proposal with FUJ for supporting investigative journalism, which was submitted to the Danish Foreign Ministry.

Assessment

The continued engagement of IMS during the year and workshop in January 2003 secured a long-term approach for tackling those concerns originally identified during the mission in September 2002. The resultant project proposal prepared by IMS with FUJ served to address these concerns, as well as foresaw the development of a regional support network of investigative journalists spanning Ukraine, Bulgaria, Rumania, Russia and Serbia.

Future Actions and Exit Strategy

With funding having been obtained for the long-term activities from the Danish Foreign Ministry, the direct involvement of IMS in the project ends. The project will be implemented during the course of the year under the auspices of FUJ, with IMS functioning in an advisory capacity as a member of the project-working group.

2. Belarus

Both the Republic of Byelorussia and the Russian Federation have joined the principal international treaties on human rights and are obliged to observe these rights with regard to the media. However, media and of journalists rights are systematically being violated in Byelorussia.

It has in this regard been necessary and pertinent to systematically monitor and act on the present limitations on freedom of expression in the country and inform the public as well as the media about these limitations seen in relation to European standards.

The proximity of the Byelorussian and Russian legislation, traditions and existing professional connections provides the preconditions for an objective evaluation on the situation of the mass media in Byelorussia not only by Byelorussian specialists but also by Russian specialists.

The territorial proximity of the two countries favours the arrangement of uncensored exchange of information between Russian and Byelorussian medias, journalists and specialists within the framework of information and press law. These conditions are also an advantage for the publishing of a newsletter in Russia and the following unimpeded import of the numbers printed to Byelorussia.

Actions

The activities undertaken have been:

- To expand contacts between Russian, Byelorussian and international media, journalists and legal experts working within the area of the mass media.
- To introduce and implement media policy and media legislative recommendations from European mass media structures.
- To monitor violations of the rights of the media and to analyse the situation of the media in Byelorussia in order to identify strategies on how to address these issues in a coordinated manner utilising available Byelorussian, Russian and international mechanisms and institutions.

- To exchange information between Byelorussian and Russian journalists and legal defence organisations and to distribute and spread this information.
- Within the 1-year duration of the project prepare and publish 4 editions of the magazine “Media-Expert” to be distributed in Russia and Byelorussia.
- To prepare and implement a series of additional activities that will strengthen the overall objective of the project of enhancing media freedom in Byelorussia.

The resultant outputs from the activities have included:

- Two editions of Media Expert published
- A seminar for young Byelorussian journalist carried out focusing of freedom of expression issues.
- Study tour of young Byelorussian journalists to Denmark carried out.

Assessment

IMS has in this project played a facilitating role developing the project in close collaboration with the Byelorussian, Russian and Danish partners (The Danish Union of Journalists). The Danish Union of Journalists is the formal project holder although IMS has provided implementation backup and advise. The project has been well received by media professionals in Byelorussia and the two editions of the magazine “Media-Expert” has provided the media community with a critical voice focusing particularly on legal issues in relation to press freedom in the country.

The situation of the media in the country is severe. Publications are being closed down and journalists harassed. It is therefore important that international media organisations maintains a presence there and encourage those local journalists and media organisations, which uphold a critical voice towards the authorities.

The project emphasise the link to international media and policy bodies to enhance the pressure on the current government. OSCE is currently actively putting pressure on Byelorussia in particular since the country again has become full member of OSCE and is expecting to join the Council of Europe.

Future Actions and Sustainability

The project is running over a period of 12 months. During the autumn 2003 external consultants will evaluate it. Based on the evaluation the Democracy Fund within the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs will decide whether funding can be continued. The Danish Union of Journalists is currently investigating possible collaboration with other international media organisations such as Article 19, Internews and Open Society Institute.

1.8. Methodological Development

Conflict Reporting and Conflict Conscious Journalism

Background

IMS has contributed to the field of ‘conflict reporting’ and ‘conflict conscious journalism’ through a couple of interventions in 2002, where short training sessions were conducted for local reporters and editors in Sri Lanka and Nepal. In addition, these interventions have resulted in the production of a handbook on conflict conscious journalism, designed as an everyday guide for local media practitioners in conflict affected areas.

In the Philippines, IMS facilitated exchanges between conflict researchers and broadcasters, whilst in Indonesia IMS ran a workshop and seminar to facilitate linkages between academics and local radio stations for the collaborative production of programmes aimed at reducing conflict inducing tensions.

In Sierra Leone, IMS worked with the West African Media Foundation (WAMF) and the Canadian Journalists for Free Expression (CJFE) to assist media professionals deal with the peace and reconciliation process, whilst in early 2003 IMS and Media Action International (MAI), facilitated the transfer of experience from the media community in Rwanda to the Ivory Coast.

The practice of conflict conscious journalism has the potential to form a central element in the role and ability of media to positively affect conflict resolution. However, it is also seen by many as a threat to the traditional neutrality of the media, crucial for objectivity and safety. At present the development of conflict conscious journalism is being pioneered by a number of international experts, each pursuing a particular strand or orientation of the same general premise – that media can and should pro-actively help resolve conflict – although it is variously called ‘peace journalism’, ‘conflict sensitive reporting’ or ‘conflict conscious journalism’. The activities of the past year have given IMS a substantive role in the development and application of these concepts and provided an opportunity to oversee the practical processes and results of communicating such theories to local media communities affected by conflict.

Objectives

Based upon the IMS involvement with conflict conscious journalism to date, as well as the organisations role as a facilitator and implementer of emergency assist to media in conflict, IMS will seek to further debate on new methodologies for conflict reporting, as well as develop application techniques for the practice of conflict conscious journalism.

Actions

In order to achieve its objectives, IMS held a roundtable on conflict reporting in October 2003. This event was designed as a contribution to the development of constructive approaches to modern conflict coverage and should facilitate an exchange of views and doubts between professional media developers, all of who are engaged in study of the dynamics of conflict and conflict reporting.

The roundtable brought together both international and national experts from a number of conflict-affected regions to discuss to specific topics, these being the role of reporting in recent conflicts and interventions on conflict reporting (objectives, design, impact).

Assessment

The IMS contribution to the field of conflict conscious journalism has been predominantly practice-based during the past year. This has taken a number of different forms (as outlined in the Background section) and had varied results (please refer to each specific country intervention for further analysis).

The roundtable in October brings a new methodological element to the IMS involvement in this field and should hopefully serve to further international debate. However, it must be clearly noted that the IMS involvement in this process is not designed to promote the use of conflict conscious journalism per se, but rather to widen discussion and expand methodologies to include a broader range of perspectives.

Future Actions and Exit Strategy

The discussions at the roundtable in October 2003 will be condensed by a professional rapporteur and the results will be widely distributed to media development actors, the media community at large, to conflict research institutions, faculties of journalism and other relevant target groups.

IMS will also continue its involvement in this field, both through a continued contribution to the development of the methodological debate, as well as practical interventions using conflict conscious journalism where applicable and necessary.

4. Coming Interventions

	Intervention activity	Timing	Partnership
1.	Zimbabwe – in collaboration with local, regional and international organisations discuss and develop lobby and advocacy strategy for media and freedom of expression organisations in Zimbabwe. The difficulties facing the media in the country demands a complete new approach to advocacy – putting an emphasis on contacts and dialogue with other African governments.	October 2003	Media Institute for Southern Africa (MISA), FXI South Africa, MISA Zimbabwe, MMPZ Zimbabwe, ARTICLE 19.
2.	Liberia – assessment mission to Liberia within the framework of the Partnership for West Africa. There is a severe need to address the media situation in Liberia following the cease-fire and presence of UN peace-keeping forces.	December 2003	Media Action International, Media Foundation West Africa, IFJ, ARTICLE 19, UNESCO, Panos West Africa and OCHA.
3.	Norway – presentation of IMS at a Conference in Oslo with a view to discuss possible Norwegian support to IMS.	November 2003	
4.	Sri Lanka – project preparation mission to the North East of Sri Lanka to finalise journalism (team-reporting) project. The project is being developed based on an assessment mission to the area by Centre for Policy Alternatives earlier (CPA) this year. The Danish Embassy in New Delhi has shown an interest in funding the project, which will be implemented by CPA, the Danish School of Journalism in collaboration with local partners in North East Sri Lanka.	December 2003	CPA and the Danish School of Journalism.
5.	Indonesia – Safety training in Aceh Indonesia.	December 2003	In collaboration with the AJI, IFJ and CAF Holland.
4.	Preparation of project document for a continuation of media and conflict programme in Indonesia. Focus is on strengthening the link between the Indonesian Conflict Research Network (ICRN) and the UNESCO network of Community Radio Stations.	November 2003	ICRN and UNESCO
5.	Ivory Coast – bringing professional journalists from both sides of the conflict line in contact with each other to discuss the information “black out” that has happened between the north	December 2004	Media Action International and Media Foundation West Africa as well as IFJ.

	and the south of the country.		
6.	Chechnya – Collaboration with moderate newspaper Groznenskyj Rabocij and the Faculty of Journalism in Grozny. Student internships and link to a possible long-term curriculum development programme and TOT programme with input from the Danish School of Journalism.		Groznenskyj Rabocij, Faculty of Journalism in Grozny and the Danish School of Journalism
7.	Burma – investigating different avenues for working with (adding a media component) to the National Reconciliation Programme (NRP) as well as assisting in “alternative” information dissemination inside Burma. Support to training of exiled Burmese journalists in north India and Bangladesh is being looking into.	November 2003	Exiled Burmese media organisations and possibly Internews.
8.	Conflict Conscious Journalism – follow-up to Roundtable on Journalism and Conflict will focus on the development of the training aspects. A group of trainers (representing different positions within Conflict Journalism) will prepare a publication (expansion of the Handbook already published by IMS/IMPACS on Conflict Conscious Journalism.	December/January 2003/2004.	IMPACS, OSI and individual trainers etc.
9.	Middle East and North Africa – possible assessment mission to the region.	December/January 2003/2004	Relevant international and regional organisations + Danish School of Journalism and BMC + the Dutch organisation CAF.
10.	Follow-up to the Horn of Africa Roundtable held in Addis 21-23 October.	December/January 2003/2004	ARTICLE 19, IFEX, Media Foundation West Africa and organisations in Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia.