

SAFE

Securing Access to Free Expression



Overview

SAFE is IREX's flagship effort to enable media practitioners and human rights defenders to work as safely as possible in closed and closing spaces. SAFE serves to equip media practitioners and human rights defenders with the means to resiliently continue their important work, and manage—as well as mitigate—the risks and threats they face in their day-to-day work uncovering injustices, reporting on corruption, and holding authorities accountable. SAFE addresses safety through the unique lens of digital identity, physical awareness, and psychosocial care by delivering trainings in five regions spanning the globe.

over

8800

journalists supported since April 2013



from **22**
countries

Female	49%
Male	47%
Additional/ Other	4%

Technical Expertise



Using holistic approaches to train target individuals and organizations

with an integrated curriculum combining digital, physical, and psychosocial elements.



Promoting solidarity among media workers, locally and regionally, to build

an enabling environment for the development of fortified groupings, associations, and networks.



Commitment to equitable access to all activities, including those facing

marginalization and discrimination. SAFE works to include members of marginalized communities in activities and to address their safety needs.



Conducting training workshops almost every month in each region. These trainings may be

Basic and Advanced Trainings (remote and in-person), and are tailored to participant needs in a small group setting by local trainers.



Implementing a mechanism that provides threat mitigation plans for individuals and

organizations who may become vulnerable to threats due to investigative reporting or other high-risk reporting activities.

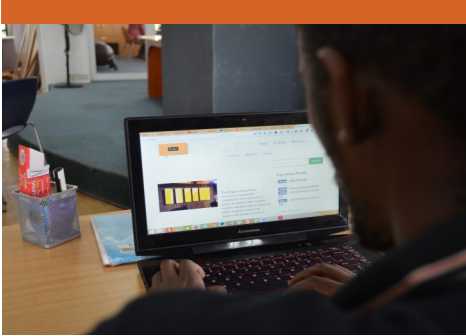


Ensuring sustainability of safety skills through Training of Trainers (TOT) which provides

partner media organizations with support, guidance, and mentorship, on building the capacity to conduct their own holistic safety trainings.



Our Impact



Digital Identity

“Digital training has helped me monitor my information. I suspected that my phone was hacked and disposed it and bought another one. I do not reveal sensitive information on my phone, I moved houses [and] changed residences. The advance training was a game changer.” - **East Africa trainee**



Physical Awareness

“After the training, I was caught in a situation at the slum and had to handle it in a calm manner. A gang from the slum approached us and told us that we were not supposed to be there. They threatened to attack us and take our equipment away but I was able to use the negotiation skills I learned during the training to handle the situation calmly.” - **Central America trainee**



Psychosocial Care

“I had no access to a psychologist and even if I had, I couldn't go because of the taboo in society about psychologists. That's why I found this psychosocial [training] very interesting as it gives options on how to act if you are traumatized. Having the skills to calm myself is very important and useful for me and for many journalists working in stressful environments.” - **Eurasia trainee**

Inclusion

“After this training, I am more confident to write a story about my life, me being an intersex person, without the fear of being judged. I now have what it takes not to expose my real identity.” - **MENA trainee**

Training of Trainers

“I was immediately drawn to be able to spread this useful knowledge. Because this is not only for myself, but for the security and safety of my organization.” - **South Asia trainee**



Global Reach

SAFE operates in five regions around the globe: Central America, East Africa, Eurasia, Middle East-North Africa, and South Asia.



Areas of operation

Contact Us

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About IREX

Established in 1968, IREX is a global development and education organization. We strive for a more just, prosperous, and inclusive world—where individuals reach their full potential, governments serve their people, and communities thrive. We work with partners in more than 100 countries in four areas essential to progress: cultivating leaders, empowering youth, strengthening institutions, and increasing access to quality education and information. In Georgia, IREX has been implementing media, education and civil society projects since 1994.

