

Securing Access to Free Expression (SAFE)



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

6000

journalists supported since April 2013



from **17**
countries

Female	47%
Male	52%
Additional/Other	1%

Technical Expertise



Using holistic approaches to train target individuals and media outlets

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



Promoting solidarity among journalists and media workers, both nationally and

regionally, to build an enabling environment for the development of fortified groupings, associations, unions, and other platforms.



Commitment to providing equitable access to all activities and to advance the rights of all, including those

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



Conducting training workshops almost every month at each center. The workshops are comprised

of Basic and Advanced Trainings (both remote and in-person) for media workers and other social communicators with each training tailored to participant needs in a small group setting by local trainers.



Implementing a mechanism that provides threat mitigation plans

for journalists, media professionals, and news outlets who may become vulnerable to threats due to investigative reporting or other high-risk reporting activities.

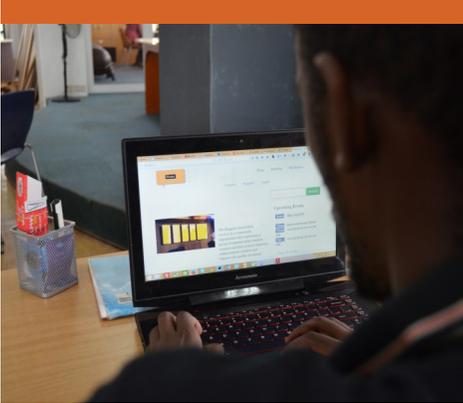


Connecting with media freedom groups, human rights defenders, and multilateral organizations

through an advisory network which provides strategic guidance, participant vetting and referrals, and promotion of SAFE's integrated safety approach within the media community.



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**



Global Reach

SAFE currently operates in five locations around the globe: Central America, East Africa, Eurasia, MENA, 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.

