

Securing Access to Free Expression (SAFE)

Outcomes of five years of support for journalists & media practitioners



Overview

Between 2013-2018, the Securing Access to Free Expression (SAFE) program enabled journalists and media practitioners from 12 countries in the Central America, East Africa, Eurasia, MENA, and South Asia regions to better manage and mitigate risks in their work. The 4-5 day in-person trainings, delivered by SAFE's local trainers through the lens of digital identity, physical awareness, and psychosocial care were outcome-oriented. Based on the program's theory of change, SAFE expected to observe a positive change in awareness and knowledge across the areas covered by the training, as well as trainees implementing the skills learned. At the conclusion of the first five years of the program, trainee feedback shows that overall, the trainings achieved their intended goal.

1751

Journalists & Media Practitioners
Trained Directly



1172

Journalists & Media Practitioners
Reached through Solidarity
Building Activities



41%
(training
participants)



59%
(training
participants)

Participants report safer practices

At the end of each SAFE training and in the following six months, participants answered a number of questions to self-assess their gain in awareness, knowledge, and behavior.

- Immediately after the training, **96% of participants reported that they were better able to plan around and mitigate risks.** Thus, while participants operated in the same high-risk environment, the training made them feel more prepared to handle those risks.
- Three to six months after the training, participants overall reported **improved knowledge, attitude, and behavior related to communication strategies, information management, planning, profile management, psychosocial self-care, and situational awareness,**¹ all key in ensuring an individual's integrated safety. Results were consistent for female and male training participants.
 - ✓ 83% of participants surveyed were more likely to think carefully about using secure communication channels when planning to transmit sensitive information.
 - ✓ 82% of participants surveyed were more likely to pay attention to how their work affected their emotions, thoughts and behaviors.
 - ✓ 75% of participants surveyed were more likely to be able to pause first before reacting if they were in a difficult situation.

After the training, we started planning with the reporters for their coverage, defining potential risks and having plans in case of detention, and creating list of trustable contacts for reporters.
Eurasian Participant

¹ 18% of SAFE basic training participants completed the follow-up survey.

