

ICFJ



***IT TAKES
A JOURNALIST***

IMPACT REPORT 2023

► **OUR MISSION**

We enable a global network of journalists to provide the trustworthy news essential to free and strong societies.

Their vital work strengthens democratic ideals and spurs change. At ICFJ, we serve more than 177,000 journalists around the world, helping them cover the most critical issues of today, innovate to deeply connect with communities, and build news organizations that thrive.

► **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

OUR MISSION

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

OUR NETWORK

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

ICFJ AT 40

- OUR TRAILBLAZING HISTORY
- ENDURING INSTITUTIONS
- SOCIETAL IMPACTS
- ICFJ VOICES

OUR FINANCIALS

OUR DONORS

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OUR ADVISORY BOARD

OUR GUIDING VALUES



DEAR FRIEND,

March 2024

This is a big election year, with a lot on the line.

More than 2.6 billion people in 81 countries are going to the polls, including many of the world's largest democracies – India, Indonesia, Mexico, and of course, the U.S. As elections unfold, journalists are there to provide trustworthy coverage that helps us cut through harmful disinformation and make more informed choices.

And ICFJ is there, too, equipping our global network to do their vital work, as we have for the last 40 years.

Since our founding, ICFJ has fostered independent media in every region, including countries emerging from decades of oppression. We have operated at the forefront of a fast-changing industry, nimbly adapting to support journalists and the communities they serve. Over time, we have built an unparalleled global network that today stands at more than 177,000.

This network is a powerful line of defense against increasing assaults on truth and rising authoritarianism. By exposing injustice, fighting disinformation and shedding light on underreported stories, the journalists we serve improve and, in some cases, even save lives.

In an increasingly AI-fueled world, the importance of reliable, trusted reporting is only growing. ICFJ at 40 has the network, track record, partners and supporters to deliver on our mission. As always, we thank our entire community for all that you have done and continue to do.

Sharon Moshavi
ICFJ President

OUR GLOBAL NETWORK

177,000+

NETWORK MEMBERS

30,000+

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
IN 2023

95

COUNTRIES WHERE ICFJ WORKED
IN 2023

PROGRAMS IN 2023

68

PROGRAMS

37

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION
RECEIVED

534

STORIES PRODUCED

542

GRANT RECIPIENTS

24

TOOLS CREATED

3,653

TRAINING AND MENTORSHIP HOURS

SERVE

Investigating critical issues

Isabel Mercado revealed that HIV/AIDS, cancer and other patients in Mexico were left without lifesaving drugs after the government allowed more than \$12 million worth of medicine to expire. Following her investigation, public officials could face up to 17 years in prison. And the state launched a digital system to track the distribution of medicine. Mercado is part of an ICFJ-backed investigative network of journalists on the U.S.-Mexico border.



THRIVE

Ensuring good journalism survives



Talha Ahad and his team at Pakistan's first digital news network have produced exclusive visual storytelling on former Guantanamo Bay prisoners, drone-strike survivors and more. The Centrum Media is now positioned to expand its work, thanks to growth strategies it developed through ICFJ's Elevate initiative. With mentorship and funding, TCM grew its revenue by 25% and its audience reach by 33%.

INNOVATE

Harnessing AI for good

Zhouhan Chen of Singapore and Nick Toso of the U.S. came together with support from ICFJ's Leap innovation lab to develop a misinformation detection tool for journalists that is now available to 2,000-plus newsrooms. Rolli Information Tracer harnesses the power of AI to detect suspicious narratives and coordinated campaigns on social media, revealing how lies grow and spread.



As an ICFJ Jim Hoge Fellow, **Philip Obaji Jr.** has courageously exposed Russian abuses in the Central African Republic. He documented for The Daily Beast how an attempt to seize a gold mine "turned into a bloody massacre," and how Russia's operations there – which are funding its war in Ukraine – have shifted after the death of Wagner Group's Yevgeny Prigozhin.



“ICFJ’s mentorship has been pivotal in developing a product that upholds the trust and integrity of journalism in the age of AI.”

—NICK TOSO, MEDIA FOUNDER, U.S.

SUPPORTING A GLOBAL NETWORK OF JOURNALISTS

Spotlight on ICFJ-Powered Initiatives



UNITED STATES

68 U.S.-based media organizations are fighting election disinformation targeting Spanish speakers, with FactChequeado.



LATIN AMERICA

An investigation from Salud con Lupa in Peru led to a **government ban** of a pesticide harmful to humans and commonly found in food.



GAZA

Arab journalists received awards for outstanding coverage on the human impact of the war in Gaza, as part of ICFJ's Pamela Howard Forum on Global Crisis Reporting.



ASIA

Journalists are launching a **cross-border investigative journalism network**, the first of its kind in Southeast Asia.



AFRICA

Data-driven coverage of gender-based violence is expanding through the Africa Women Journalism Project: 58 reporters trained, 37 stories published, 1 gender desk launched.

4@

40 YEARS OF IMPACT



OUR TRAILBLAZING HISTORY

Over the years, ICFJ has remained ahead of the trends to ensure that journalists can provide reliable information to best serve their communities.

1984

ICFJ founded by three journalists to **share knowledge** with their peers around the world



1991

Aided the rise of independent journalism in the former East bloc after **the Berlin Wall fell**



1994

Trained a new generation of South African journalists for the **post-apartheid era**

1998

Launched IJNet to **provide resources and opportunities** to journalists, now reaching 180,000+ per month in eight languages



2001

Helped U.S. and Arab journalists combat stereotypes after **9/11**

2007

Launched the first Global Business Journalism master's program in **booming China**



2009

Supported the first **mobile news** service in the poorest rural regions of India



2014

Trained the first network of African health journalists to cover deadly diseases like **Ebola**



2019

Built new **business models** for independent news startups in the Americas

2020

Mobilized journalists in 134 countries to cover **COVID-19**, with training in five languages

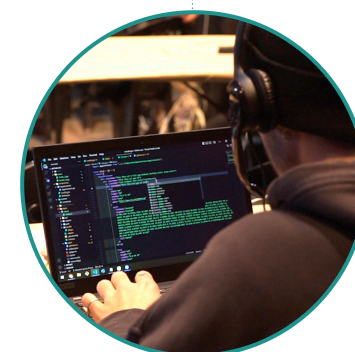


2022

Equipped journalists in and around Ukraine to cover the **Russian invasion** and war crimes

2022

Published ground-breaking research used by newsrooms to better protect women journalists from **online violence**



2023

Seeded innovative projects to **deepen trust** between journalists and their communities

2023

Enabled 3,500+ journalists to **fight disinformation** using AI and other innovative methods

ENDURING INSTITUTIONS

ICFJ has fostered schools, centers, networks and other institutions that have endured for years or even decades, advancing trustworthy news.



Pioneering Media Innovation

ICFJ helped build Code for Africa, whose labs in 27 countries have mentored 10,000 journalists in everything from drone and sensor technology to open-source intelligence, giving audiences actionable information and countering disinformation.



Educating Generations of Journalists

ICFJ founded the Caucasus School for Journalism and Media Management in Georgia, which has been providing hands-on education for students across the Caucasus for more than 20 years.



Strengthening Crisis Reporting

ICFJ's Pamela Howard Crisis Reporting Forum provides training in five languages to more than 16,000 journalists in 70-plus countries, leading to new media outlets, award-winning coverage and more.



Improving People's Lives

ICFJ Knight Fellows launched lasting health journalists' associations across Africa, fostering reporting that raised vaccination rates in Ethiopia and exposed mismanagement of hospitals in Uganda.



Elevating Voices

An ICFJ Knight Fellow created TempoWitness, a network of 800 citizen journalists across Indonesia who are reporting on environmental and Indigenous issues – spurring government action to resolve problems.



Exposing Wrongdoing

ICFJ incubated CONNECTAS, a cross-border investigative network in Latin America that has trained 2,500+ journalists, uncovered over \$36.6 billion in mismanaged public funding and generated 143 official responses to its reporting.

BETTER JOURNALISM, BETTER LIVES

With ICFJ's support, journalists in our network bring improvements to society — from better governance to healthier communities to cleaner environments. Here are some ways ICFJ programs have led to change:

U.S.

Treasury Department cited investigative reports in decision to ban Latvian bank over money laundering

MEXICO

Biggest anti-corruption reforms in history launched in wake of presidential scandal

COLOMBIA

Colombia's Constitutional Court, informed by ICFJ research, took action to recognize, prevent and punish online violence against women journalists

PERU

40 government officials resigned in COVID-19 vaccine scandal

NIGERIA

Clean drinking water comes to Niger Delta communities contaminated by oil spill

SYRIA/TURKEY

Turkey opened border to allow Syrian refugees with cancer to access emergency treatment

KENYA

Fake malaria drugs taken off market

SOUTH AFRICA

Deaths from botched circumcisions dropped by more than 40 percent

INDIA

Doctors and nurses suspended in India's Rajasthan state for negligence in infant deaths

INDONESIA

Officials arrested for accepting bribes in exchange for issuing licenses to palm oil companies

VOICES OF ICFJ HONOREES

Every year ICFJ recognizes journalists whose news reports and analyses have made a huge impact. These outstanding media leaders are an important part of our network.



“World leaders need to be under the constant lens of solid, well-researched, fact-based journalism. That is what ICFJ does every day ... training and supporting and mentoring journalists in the most critical areas of the world.”

ANDREA MITCHELL,
NBC NEWS, ICFJ
AWARDEE, U.S.



“I am so thankful to ICFJ for its unwavering support. It has come at a crucial time, when my organization and Philippine democracy are struggling to survive.”

MARIA RESSA, NOBEL
PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE,
ICFJ KNIGHT AWARDEE,
PHILIPPINES



“The support from ICFJ helped us to actually make the lives of our reporters safer.”

ROMAN ANIN, ICFJ
KNIGHT AWARDEE,
RUSSIA (IN EXILE)



“A decade ago, you took me to Kenya and introduced me to African journalists struggling with press freedom issues. I am forever grateful.”

JACQUELINE CHARLES,
THE MIAMI HERALD,
ICFJ AWARDEE, U.S.



“I am glad to say that ICFJ has launched a new program to support exiled media and journalists to keep reporting on Afghanistan. Such initiatives are incredibly important to keep journalism alive in Afghanistan.”

SAMIULLAH MAHDI,
ICFJ KNIGHT AWARDEE,
AFGHANISTAN
(IN EXILE)



“ICFJ gave me my first formal training in journalism – what questions to ask, how to frame them, and how to write investigative pieces that would start difficult conversations.”

**SHARMEEN
OBAID-CHINOY,**
OSCAR WINNER, ICFJ
KNIGHT AWARDEE,
PAKISTAN



“I really appreciate your work ... for having exposed – in such a comprehensive and professional manner – the serious phenomenon of digital violence against journalists, especially women.”

CARMEN ARISTEGUI,
ICFJ KNIGHT AWARDEE
AND RESEARCH
SUBJECT, MEXICO

We are careful stewards of our donors' funds.

Total Revenue for 2022: \$23.44 MILLION



82.41% PROGRAMS

7.33% DEVELOPMENT + FUNDRAISING

10.26% GENERAL + ADMINISTRATION

**Financial data covers calendar year 2022*



Top 2%

ICFJ's four-star track record with Charity Navigator places us among the top 2 percent of nonprofits evaluated.



Platinum

ICFJ has a platinum-level rating from Candid, the highest ranking given.

Thank you to our supporters for their generosity.

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OUR GUIDING VALUES

Our values govern our decision-making and inform how we operate in pursuit of our mission. We believe that:

Journalism is a pillar of democracy.

By reporting in the public interest, journalists equip people with the information they need to participate in the democratic process.

Independence is non-negotiable.

All of the journalistic projects ICFJ supports maintain editorial independence. Operating free of outside influence is fundamental to journalism.

Accountability matters. We support reporting that holds the powerful to account. We also hold ourselves to account, operating at the highest standards for our profession.

Inclusion makes us stronger. We strive to make ICFJ and our programming welcoming and supportive of all people. We work to expand the diversity of voices shaping news coverage and those reflected in it.

Trustworthiness is foundational.

Without trust in news and its institutions, journalism cannot serve its highest purpose. We prioritize trust-building in the work we do with our network.

Collaboration is a priority. ICFJ is committed to fostering a healthy exchange of ideas so we can surface and share solutions across borders.

Bold thinking is a must. It empowers us to harness our creativity to experiment, innovate and embrace continuous learning.

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