MAPPING MEDIA DEVELOPMENT IN MYANMAR

Communication and Information Sector

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This mapping of the Myanmar media development sector is informed by three activities: a status update of the recommendations in the 2016 Assessment of Media Development in Myanmar report based on UNESCO’s Media Development Indicators\(^1\), an online survey conducted in March and April 2018, and a series of key informant interviews and focus group discussions. The two Top 10 lists of priority areas – the first for the Union Government and the second for media donors and implementers – are informed by the research findings.

For the purposes of this report, the term media development encompasses journalism, free and creative expression, internet freedom, communication for development, media and humanitarian efforts, media and peacebuilding, media and information literacy, and other related fields. The research was conducted using a mixed method approach: a quantitative online survey, complemented by qualitative face-to-face key informant interviews and small focus group discussions.

\(^1\) The UNESCO media development indicators reflect the priority areas of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC): promotion of free expression and media pluralism, development of community media, and human resource development (capacity building of media professionals and institutional capacity building) (https://en.unesco.org/programme/ipdc/initiatives/mdis)
A STATUS REPORT OF THE UNESCO 2016 MDI RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2016 Assessment of Media Development in Myanmar report was based on the UNESCO Media Development Indicators (MDIs); the research was conducted in 2014 and 2015. Covering all aspects of media development, the MDIs create a framework to guide the formulation of media-related policies and media development efforts in countries around the world, with a view to enabling media to contribute to, and benefit from, good governance and democratic development.

The 2016 report proposes a set of 56 recommendations to guide media development in Myanmar. For the purposes of the 2018 status report, each recommendation was assessed by interviewees and focus group participants based on four categories: recommendation achieved, action initiated, regression, and no action taken. Focus group participants suggested that one of the recommendations be split into two to ensure more precise scoring of its status, making a total of 57.²

According to the general consensus of the interviewees and focus group participants, as of April 2018 action had been initiated on 18 recommendations (31.5%), there had been regression in 2 cases (3.5%), no action had been taken on 37 recommendations (65%), and none of the recommendations had been achieved (0%).

KEY ONLINE SURVEY FINDINGS:

**Strategy:** All of the 64 online survey respondents cite the importance of advocacy (general), journalism training, gender and inclusion, and development of local content promoting peace, democracy and good governance. Donors place greater priority on support for media outlets, as well as legal reform, than do sub-granting and implementing organisations. Implementing organisations place greater priority on developing the radio sector, whereas sub-granting organisations place greater priority on research on a variety of topics including safety, media development, ethnic minorities, gender, peacebuilding and freedom of expression standards. Donors are increasingly prioritising the development of the television sector. Sub-granting and implementing organisations are increasingly prioritising media content monitoring.

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² Chapter 4: 1) Media management training should be more commonly conducted; 2) A course should be specifically tailored for managers of small ethnic media outlets situated in remote locations.
Programmatic gaps: The 64 online survey respondents identify key gaps in funding and implementation, including support for media management and business sustainability, core support for ethnic media, assistance for media in the use of, and adaptation to, new technologies, and a wide variety of journalism training, including basic, advanced, investigative, and in-house.

Operational trends: Although international implementing and sub-granting groups still spend considerably more than their national counterparts, this trend is shifting in favour of nationals. At the same time, while the number of international implementers is decreasing, the number of sub-granting organisations, which are predominantly international, is significantly increasing. This demonstrates that donors are shifting their funding from international groups that implement projects to those that sub-grant. Organisations that only implement projects and/or offer sub-grants in ethnic areas spend significantly less than those working across the country.

INTERVIEWS AND FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS:

The interviewees and focus group participants played several roles: debating and scoring the status of the MDIs, identifying top priorities for the sector, commenting on their own particular niche and activities, and assessing the survey results. Some also represented their organisations as survey respondents.

While there has been some progress, many observe that two years later the MDI recommendations remain largely unfulfilled. They link this in great part to the slow-down in reforms since the NLD took power two years ago, exacerbated by the deteriorating free expression and media freedom environment\(^3\). Some also observe that there were too many MDI recommendations on a vast array of topics that were not always indicator or outcome driven or achievable, and that it was not always clear to whom they were addressed.

It was also noted that the sector is fragmented, with funding, resources and expertise thinly spread across a wide variety of fields and activities, including journalism, business development, internet freedom, communication for development, media and information literacy, training, research, advocacy, free

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\(^3\) Myanmar dropped 6 positions in the Reporters Without Borders 2018 World Press Freedom Index. In the 2018 Scorecard Assessing Free Expression in Myanmar published by PEN Myanmar and 18 of its civil society and media partners to commemorate World Press Freedom Day, the score dropped from 8 out of 60 in 2017 to 2 out of 60 in 2018.
and creative expression, peacebuilding, and gender and inclusion.

The list goes on, swayed in part by available funding, and rendered uncertain by political instability, growing conflict and international concern over the humanitarian crisis in northern Rakhine and Bangladesh, and donor fatigue. Yet there are positive trends, also indicated in the survey findings; among them, that Myanmar civil society and media are slowly getting stronger, and that international funding is increasingly being sub-granted and/or granted to them.

**CONCLUSION:**

These research findings offer insight into the Myanmar media development sector. Yet they also raise many questions. Will the priorities and strategies cited by stakeholders in the survey, interviews and focus groups be implemented? How will funding trends evolve? Will the external environment continue to worsen and impact on plans and progress?

A number of trends and priorities emerged from the research. Almost all interviewees say that the government should not be in the print media business⁴, although the proposed transformation of the state broadcaster into a public broadcaster is a subject of debate⁵. Many of the survey respondents and interviewees also agree that private media outlets are struggling and need help, particularly in the ethnic states and regions. Many note the importance of private and community television and radio. Young interviewees say they want to do good journalism and multi-media production, but that they need support.

Survey recipients say they prioritise multi-platform content production, including digital, television and radio. They also note that media outlets and national media development organisations need support so that they can learn how to use new technologies, effectively and safely.

Journalism training - beginner, mid-career, investigative, and in-house – is cited as one of the priorities and gaps. Legal reform, including right to information, gender and inclusion, and the development of local content promoting peace, 

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⁴ Myanmar currently has several state-owned media outlets, both print and broadcasting, which are directly controlled by the government via the Ministry of Information. All broadcast channels are either state-controlled or are joint ventures between private entities and state channels.

⁵ Views differ between those who state that MRTV should be closed, those who think it should be sold to the private sector, and those who believe it should be transformed into a public service media outlet.
democracy and good governance, is also widely prioritised by interviewees, focus group participants and online survey respondents.

Given the deteriorating free expression and press freedom environment, it is no surprise that survey respondents and interviewees alike prioritise the safety and security of journalists and free expression and digital rights advocates. Many also point to the limitations, and in some cases ineffectiveness, of the press council as a self-regulation and protection body.

International implementers and sub-granting groups still spend considerably more than national groups. Yet there is a shift, albeit nascent, in favour of the national groups. This is a positive sign. Yet the more dominant trend is that donors are shifting their funding away from international groups that implement projects to international groups that sub-grant to national organisations. Organisations that implement projects and/or offer sub-grants that are working only in ethnic areas spend significantly less than those working across the country.

The two Top 10 lists of priorities (below) – the first for the Union Government and the second for donors and implementers - are informed by the MDI, as well as the online survey, interviews and focus group discussions. The list for the Union Government reflects key priorities. The list for donors and implementers is purposely practical with a focus on areas that have some traction. As a follow-on to this report, it would be useful to develop a strategic plan for each priority that takes into account current activities and funding, and that identifies gaps and new partnerships.

**TOP TEN PRIORITY AREAS FOR MEDIA DEVELOPMENT**

**FOR THE UNION GOVERNMENT**

1. **Create an enabling environment for freedom of expression** as a human right, including the right to freely search for, access, and express ideas and information.

   - **Remove defamation from the Penal Code** and address it through civil law in
accordance with relevant international standards, including overriding Section 66(d) of the Telecommunications Law and Section 8(f) of the privacy law.

- **Enact a right to information law** that guarantees access to information, establishes mechanisms for implementation, overrides all other laws, including the Official Secrets Act, and adds protection for whistleblowers. To enable effective implementation, train government officials on proactive openness and voluntary disclosure of information, and create transparent government online platforms.

- **Amend the privacy law** (Citizens’ Personal Privacy and Personal Security Law) to include a provision guaranteeing digital freedom without mass surveillance.

- **Amend the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law** to ensure a presumption in favour of the rights to free expression and assembly, to remove any ambiguity relating to the need to get permission from the authorities, and to fully decriminalise all peaceful protests

3. **Reform the judiciary** by supporting the implementation of the Supreme Court strategic plan (passed in early 2018), including promoting its independence, and addressing corruption issues.

4. **Reform the news media law**, adding safeguards to ensure the independence of the Press Council so it can act as a strong self-regulation and protection body. With a view to public interest, empower judges to encourage complainants to seek resolution via the Press Council during the pre-trial and trial period.

5. **Enable the participation** of civil society, media actors, and other stakeholders in the legal and regulatory reform process for free expression by creating a transparent and participatory process, with clear guidelines for public participation and input when passing or amending laws.

6. **Develop the broadcast sector** by implementing the Broadcasting Law and ensuring an equitable distribution of licenses according to public interest, with a view to diversifying ownership and ensuring a plurality of voices. This should include ending state control of the media by closing, privatising or transforming state broadcast media into a public service broadcaster.

7. **Support private independent media** by closing government print media, and revising the Printing and Publishing Law, and special licensing for private media.
8. **Ensure physical access and safety** for journalists and investigators in conflict, disaster and humanitarian areas. **End impunity** of perpetrators who target journalists, as well as those exercising their right to free and creative expression, by conducting investigations and prosecutions of past and current murder and physical attack cases.

9. **Ensure all cases brought against journalists** are handled quickly, fairly and transparently.

10. **Counter hate speech** by promoting safe behavior online, including protecting privacy online and promoting digital literacy, and developing a plan to foster tolerance in line with the UN Rabat Plan of Action.

**FOR DONORS AND IMPLEMENTERS**

1. **Build up local mechanisms** that protect the physical, legal, and psychosocial needs of journalists, notably for those investigating conflict and other high-risk subjects.

2. **Strengthen capacity** of national media development and free expression organisations so that they can effectively manage programmes and funding, including in the ethnic states and regions.

3. **Support** local media development and free expression organisations by directly funding them.

4. **Increase financial support** for public interest media outlets struggling to sustain independent operations, particularly in the ethnic states and regions, complemented by management, institutional strengthening, and business coaching.

5. **Provide training in new technologies** to strengthen digital, mobile and social media reporting, as well as radio and television journalism.

6. **Enable watchdog journalism** by providing training in evidence-based reporting, investigative and data journalism, access to information, and key topical areas including elections, business, health, environment, peace and conflict, democracy and good governance.

7. **Produce credible research data** about the media and free and creative expression sectors to encourage professionalism and excellence, and to guide media development work, including media content analysis and analytical research reports to inform advocacy, journalism, filmmaking and other forms of expression.
8. **Support inclusion and gender policy development**, including the establishment and implementation of good practices in media outlets and other organisations working in the media development sector via in-house coaching.

9. **Promote media and information literacy**, including in the formal education system, with a view to increasing understanding of the role of public interest journalism, journalists, free expression, and ethics in a democratic and peaceful society.

10. **Conduct an independent review of the work of the press council since its inception** with a view to developing a set of fact-based recommendations to strengthen its independence and effectiveness.
INTRODUCTION

“Is there actually a Myanmar media development sector? It feels fragmented and lacking momentum. The media development conversation needs to be reframed by the Myanmar stakeholders.” - Key informant interviewee

This mapping of the Myanmar media development sector is informed by three activities: a status update of the recommendations in the 2016 Assessment of Media Development in Myanmar report based on UNESCO’s Media Development Indicators\(^6\), an online survey conducted in March and April 2018, and a series of key informant interviews and focus group discussions. The two Top 10 lists of priority areas – the first for the Union Government and the second for media donors and implementers – are informed by the research findings.

For the purposes of this report, the term media development encompasses journalism, free and creative expression, internet freedom, communication for development, media and humanitarian efforts, media and peacebuilding, media and information literacy, and other related fields.

Building upon the UNESCO MDIs, and with industry-wide input from media, free expression, civil society, and media development actors, implementers and donors, the mapping identifies key priorities for the sector which, in turn, advocate for greater transparency, efficiency, and usefulness. The research tackles a series of questions\(^7\) : who is working in the sector, what are they doing, and where is the money being spent? What are the priorities, strategies, and interventions? Where are the opportunities and gaps? To increase their specificity, effectiveness and traction, the research and recommendations target both governmental decision-makers, and national and international donors and implementing and sub-granting organisations.

According to the Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA), media

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6 The UNESCO media development indicators reflect the priority areas of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC): promotion of free expression and media pluralism, development of community media, and human resource development (capacity building of media professionals and institutional capacity building) (https://en.unesco.org/programme/ipdc/initiatives/mdis)

7 The complete online survey questionnaire can be found in Appendix 2
development refers to evolution and change in the fields of news media and communications, and relates to a range of institutions, practices, and behaviours, including rule of law, free expression and free press, education systems for journalists, business environments, capacities of journalists and managers, and support for a diversity of societal views. Media development can be driven by donor support, private investment, and local processes of change led by media owners, managers, journalists, media industry associations, and other collective efforts. UNESCO, for its part, defines media development as the promotion of free expression and media pluralism, development of community media, and human resource development, including capacity building of media professionals and institutional capacity building.

METHODOLOGY

The research was conducted using a mixed method approach: a quantitative online survey, and qualitative face-to-face key informant interviews and small focus group discussions. The status of implementation of the 56 recommendations based on the UNESCO Media Development Indicators (MDI) served as the starting point for the research. After reviewing the recommendations with a variety of interviewees, UNESCO organised three focus group discussions with diverse industry representatives to determine the final scoring. Two additional focus group discussions were organised, the first with young journalists, and the second with professors at the National Management Degree College Journalism Department. These focus group discussions were complemented by the online survey and 45 key informant interviews; the latter were either organised exclusively for the purposes of this research report or combined with other interviews and activities. Participants were selected based on their experience and knowledge.

The interviews and focus group discussions were conducted from December 2017 through April 2018. The online survey was conducted in March and April 2018. More than 100 organisations were identified, contacted and invited to participate in the survey. Sixty-four organisations completed the survey (58% of those solicited). The diversity and credibility of the interviewees and survey respondents, in terms of their organisational representation and collective experience and

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8 https://www.cima.ned.org/what-is-media-development/

9 This is a purposive sampling technique, also referred to as selective or subjective.
knowledge, ensure that the results can be generalised with some certainty across the media development sector.

**Limitations:** Interviews were conducted with journalists and free expression and digital advocates from across the country, and of different ages and levels of experience. Yet while efforts were made to include a representative breadth of diverse voices, some may have been inadvertently overlooked. Due to the scope of the consultancy, focus groups were Yangon-based and thus may not be representative of those in more remote areas. As well, the survey was conducted online, making reliable internet access necessary for participation, as well as familiarity with the research method. Many of the survey respondents were senior industry representatives who may not represent all opinions. Some key private and governmental donors did not respond to the invitation to participate in the survey. There is limited up-to-date data available about the local media development sector; recent forums and reports were nonetheless helpful in informing this research project.10

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10 A set of reports, conferences and surveys also informed the research, including the April 2018 Ethnic Media Conference in Hpa-An, Kayin State, the January 2018 Myanmar Digital Rights Forum, the May 2018 report Myanmar’s Media Freedom at Risk - The results of a nationwide survey of journalists opinions, published by Free Expression Myanmar, the May 2018 Scorecard Assessing Free Expression in Myanmar, published by PEN Myanmar, the December 2017 report 66(d): No Real Change, published by Free Expression Myanmar, the December 2017 Myanmar National Media Development Conference, and the 2016 Assessment of Media Development in Myanmar report, produced by UNESCO and International Media Support.
Assessment of Media Development in Myanmar

Based on UNESCO’s Media Development Indicators
SECTION 1: UNESCO MDI RECOMMENDATIONS

A STATUS REPORT ON THE UNESCO MEDIA DEVELOPMENT INDICATOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2016 report Assessment of Media Development in Myanmar was based on the UNESCO Media Development Indicators (MDIs), endorsed in 2008 by the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). The report was produced by UNESCO and International Media Support (IMS). Covering all aspects of media development, the MDIs create a framework to guide the formulation of media-related policies and media development efforts in countries around the world, with a view to enabling media to contribute to, and benefit from, good governance and democratic development.

Conducted over 18 months in 2014 and 2015, and using the 50 indicators of the MDI framework, the local media landscape was analysed via a literature review, legal assessment, public opinion poll with 1020 respondents, 90 key informant interviews, and 48 focus groups discussions across five states and four regions.

The 2016 report proposes a set of 56 recommendations. For the purposes of the 2018 update, each recommendation was assessed by interviewees and focus group participants based on four categories: recommendation achieved, action initiated, regression, and no action taken. Focus group participants proposed that one of the recommendations be split into two to ensure more precise scoring, making a total of 57.11

FINAL SCORING:

2018 MDI status update
No action achieved

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11 Chapter 4: 1) Media management training should be more commonly conducted; 2) A course should be specifically tailored for managers of small ethnic media outlets situated in remote locations.
According to the general consensus of the interviewees and focus group participants, as of April 2018 action had been initiated on 18 recommendations (31.5%), there had been regression in 2 cases (3.5%), no action had been taken on 37 recommendations (65%), and none of the recommendations had been achieved (0%).

RECOMMENDATIONS WHERE ACTION HAS BEEN INITIATED:

- **The government should continue consultations with relevant stakeholders with a view to adopting a Right to Information (RTI) Law. (Chapter 1)**

  Civil society participated in the development of a draft RTI law in collaboration with the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission.

- **The Myanmar News Media Council (MNMC) should develop clear and equitable procedures for determining which media organizations are permitted to attend government events with limited space. These procedures should be designed to ensure that a diverse array of media representing different viewpoints and target audiences are granted access. (Chapter 1)**

  The Myanmar Press Council (the name changed at the end of 2015) has raised this issue with government ministries and the military at the 4 pillars workshops on access to information that it has been organising since 2016. However journalists, particularly in the ethnic states, continue to cite limited access to government events.

- **The Ministry of Information should update the Motion Picture Law through a process that is inclusive of representatives from the film industry and civil society. (Chapter 1)**

  The Ministry of Information has started working with the Myanmar Motion Picture Organisation, some local and foreign organisations, and related ministerial departments, to develop a law. However, the consultation process should be more inclusive and include other relevant actors related to the film and audio-visual industry who have yet to be consulted.

- **The Ministry of Information should develop temporary licences for community broadcasters, so they can begin operations prior to the formation of the National Broadcasting Council and the drafting of the broadcasting bylaws. (Chapter 2)**

  The community radio project Khayae FM in the Yangon township, Htan Tabin, was granted a temporary agreement to operate, with support from Deutsche Welle Akademie.
• **Media houses should include diversity and gender mainstreaming initiatives in their employment practices. International media development organizations should provide media houses with technical support to this end. (Chapter 3)**

There is a growing awareness of the importance of gender and diversity policies and practices in the media development sector. Training, coaching, and courses and research are being conducted by a variety of organisations, including FHI360, Internews, Free Expression Myanmar, Media Development Investment Fund, IMS-Fojo, and the Gender Equality Network.

• **International media organizations should continue to provide on-going technical and financial assistance where appropriate to ethnic minority media outlets. (Chapter 3)**

A variety of international media organisations and donors offer technical and financial assistance to ethnic media outlets. As well, ethnic media are invited to participle in many of the training opportunities currently on offer. Yet based on the survey findings and interviews, the amount of core operational support available to ethnic media outlets remains comparatively small.

• **The government and media development organizations should provide adequate funding and technical assistance to the newly created Myanmar News Media Council (MNMC) in order to perform its functions as a media self-regulatory body. (Chapter 3)**

Funding for the Myanmar Press Council is allocated by parliament and channelled through the government (MOI). The council has also received small project support from IMS-Fojo and Deutsche Welle.

• **The Myanmar News Media Council (MNMC) should increase its engagement with media houses outside of Yangon to garner their support and enhance its legitimacy as a self-regulatory body for the media. (Chapter 3)**

The Myanmar Press Council has increased its engagement in the ethnic states and regions in 2017 and 2018 via its 4 pillar workshops on access to information. The press council has also held media law amendment consultations in Yangon, Mandalay and Mawlamyaing, and invited media representatives from across the country to participate.

• **International media organizations should conduct extensive media sensitivity programming with the military and police so that they know how to properly engage with the media. (Chapter 3)**
Media sensitivity training for the military and police has been conducted, notably by the EU-funded Support for the Reform of the Myanmar Police Force (Mypol).

- **Given the limited financial capacity of media houses to afford training courses/events, media development organizations should continue to subsidize and provide training courses in collaboration with training institutes. (Chapter 4)**

  The majority of training courses continue to be offered for free and/or are subsidised. The Myanmar Journalism Institute is one of the exceptions i.e. it asks course participants to contribute to the training fees.

- **Basic journalism training should be the main focus for journalists’ capacity-building projects. Efforts should be made to provide more of these training courses/events outside of Yangon as well as to conduct training in ethnic languages for ethnic media. (Chapter 4)**

  A variety of basic journalism training is offered by schools and training institutes, including Yangon and Mandalay Journalism Schools, Myanmar Journalism Institute, and the Center for Myanmar Media Development. BNI has plans to establish a journalism school for ethnic media in ethnic languages in Hpa-An, Kayin State. Some of the regional support networks, also offer basic journalism training; the Chin Media Network, for example, offers training in local languages.

- **More conflict sensitive journalism training should be provided, particularly to journalists and media professionals who are based in conflict areas. (Chapter 4)**

  A variety of organisations have offered conflict sensitive journalism training including IMS-Fojo, and Internews. There are, however, conflict reporters, notably freelancers, that still need training.

- **Gender and diversity should be included in both academic journalism education programmes and training events for media professionals. (Chapter 4)**

  Training, coaching and courses are being offered for media professionals by such organisations as FHI360, Internews, Media Development Investment Fund, and IMS-Fojo. There is still work to be done to integrate gender and diversity into academic journalism education programmes.

- **Media management training should be more commonly conducted. A course should be specifically tailored for managers of small ethnic media outlets situated in remote locations. (Chapter 4)**
This was assessed by the focus group participants as two separate recommendations: 1) for media management training and 2) for specific courses for small ethnic media outlets. Action has been initiated in both cases, by such organisations as Media Development Investment Fund, Internews, Sagawa, etc.

- **Media development organizations should play a role in equipping small media publishing houses with reference textbooks and publications. Providing open access resource centres for all journalists would serve to promote this goal. (Chapter 4)**

  In some cases, publications and research findings are being shared with small media houses. However, it is largely on an ad hoc basis, for example, when journalists and editors participate in training courses. There is a need to update reference and training manuals, and to ensure they are shared in a more systematic way.

- **The government and media development organizations should continue to support CSOs in media monitoring efforts, media literacy programmes and research in order to address the existence of hate speech on social media and develop mechanisms to counter it. (Chapter 4)**

  Media development organisations are supporting CSOs in media monitoring and literacy programs. UNESCO, for example, is working on the inclusion of a Media and Information Literacy (MIL) program in the Myanmar Teachers’ Education Colleges curriculum. However, rights activists say the government has failed to adequately address hate speech on social media, and there is a high risk of regression if the Ministry of Transport and Communications moves forward with its plans to spend K6.4 billion (US$4.73 million) on government monitoring of social media.

- **The Government should design the guidelines and management structure of the Universal Service Fund (USF) in consultation with civil society. Mechanisms for transparent oversight of the USF should also be developed prior to collecting revenue from operators. (Chapter 5)**

  The Post and Telecommunications Department (PTD), with the assistance of the international consulting firm, Intelecon, and with input from civil society, is in the final stages of developing a Universal Service Strategy (USS) framework for a Universal Service Funding mechanism. To date CSOs have only seen the overall strategy, and though it does contain mechanisms for transparent oversight, they have yet to be put to the test. As well, the pilot projects have yet to start.
INGOs and media training institutes should consider providing training and programmatic support to media houses to help them develop multi-platform delivery systems as well as enhancing the quality of their online presence. Additional effort should be made to reach out to small print media houses based outside of Yangon where the digital divide is larger. (Chapter 5)

INGOs and media training institutes, including FHI 360, Internews, Media Development Investment Fund, Burma Relief Centre, BBC Media Action, etc., have been assisting some media houses with the development of online platforms, including in the regions and ethnic states.

RECOMMENDATIONS WHERE THERE HAS BEEN REGRESSION:

• Defamation should be removed from the Penal Code and addressed through civil law rules in accordance with relevant international standards. (Chapter 1)

Defamation has not been removed from the Penal Code, and it is being used to threaten and imprison journalists and other individuals who are exercising their right to free expression. In addition, a new criminal defamation provision has been added to the privacy law adopted in 2017. A civil defamation law that decriminalises defamation, and that overrides Section 66(d) of the Telecommunications Law, needs to be passed.

• Sections 18 and 19 of the Peaceful Assembly and Processions Law should be amended to remove criminal penalties for staging protests without government approval, or for holding protests in unauthorized areas. The 1908 Unlawful Associations Act should be repealed so that the president does not have the power to unilaterally declare an association ‘unlawful’. (Chapter 1)

The Bills Committee put forward an amendment to parliament in early 2018 which would worsen the Peaceful Assembly and Processions Law by weakening protection of fundamental rights. The law needs to be amended to ensure a presumption in favour of the rights to free expression and assembly, and that the state protects and promotes these rights without discrimination. The 1908 Unlawful Associations Act was used to arrest and imprison 3 journalists in June 2017 in Shan State.12

A full status update of the 2016 Myanmar MDI recommendations can be found in Appendix 1.

SECTION 2: RESEARCH FINDINGS

“As it has started to lose its ‘donor darling’ status, there is not so much a gap as a significant decline in resources for Myanmar.” – Online Survey respondent

ONLINE SURVEY

KEY FINDINGS:

Strategy: All of the 64 online survey respondents cite the importance of advocacy (general), journalism training, gender and inclusion, and development of local content promoting peace, democracy and good governance. Donors place greater priority on support for media outlets, as well as legal reform, than do sub-granting and implementing organisations. Implementing organisations place greater priority on developing the radio sector, whereas sub-granting organisations place greater priority on research on a variety of topics including safety, media development, ethnic minorities, gender, peacebuilding and freedom of expression standards. Donors are also increasingly prioritising the development of the television sector. Sub-granting and implementing organisations are increasingly prioritising media content monitoring.
“Local media outlets have financial issues that prevent them from reaching international standards of journalism.” - Online survey respondent

**Programmatic gaps:** The 64 online survey respondents identify key gaps in funding and implementation, including support for media management and business sustainability, core support for ethnic media outlets, assistance for media outlets in the use of, and adaptation to, new technologies, and a wide variety of journalism training, including basic, advanced, investigative, and in-house.

**Operational trends:** Although international implementers and sub-granting organisations still spend considerably more than their national counterparts, this trend is shifting in favour of nationals. At the same time, while the number of international implementers is decreasing, the number of sub-granting organisations, which are predominantly international, is significantly increasing. This demonstrates that donors are shifting their funding from international groups that implement projects to those that sub-grant. Organisations that only implement projects and/or offer sub-grants in ethnic areas spend significantly less than those working across the country.

**GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT RESPONDENTS:**

The online survey was completed by 64 respondents in March and April 2018. The respondents were predominantly senior level representatives of organisations selected due to their past and current roles in Myanmar’s media development sector.¹³

Thirteen percent of the respondents represented donor organisations i.e. institutions that exist for the primary purpose of distributing funding, such as government agencies and private foundations or endowments. Other organisations may provide sub-grants to partner organisations or to individuals, but that is not their primary purpose. The remaining 87% of respondents represented organisations such as NGOs and training institutions. Of those, 14% represented sub-granting organisations, which distribute a major proportion of incoming funds to other INGOs, NGOs, and CSOs.¹⁴

Respondents represented donor organisations headquartered in a number of

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¹³ 88% of respondents are senior level representatives of their organisations

¹⁴ 70% of respondents’ organisations are accessible on Facebook, 84% via websites, and 11% do not have a digital platform.
countries, including Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, and the USA.\textsuperscript{15} Forty-three percent of respondents representing donor organisations came from private donors, and 57% from governmental donors.\textsuperscript{16} Seventy-three percent of respondents represented a broad range of national and international implementing and sub-granting organisations, as summarised in the following table.

Table 1: Implementing organisations

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<th>Share\textsuperscript{17}</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>International</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22% Media development</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11% Journalist association</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9% Human rights</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6% Digital development</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6% Literature</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2% Media lawyers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-grantors</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training institutions</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11% private</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4% state</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media outlets</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{15} A larger number of private donors completed the survey than governmental donors; a portion of significant governmental donors did, nonetheless, participate. Some information about governmental donors that did not participate can be found in the answers provided by their grantees. Respondents represented the following donor organisations: Japan International Cooperation Agency, Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung Ltd., Omidyar Network, Embassy of Switzerland, National Endowment for Democracy, Embassy of Sweden, USAID, and Open Society Myanmar.

\textsuperscript{16} 14% and 11% of all respondents, respectively.

\textsuperscript{17} 45%, 14%, 13%, 6%, and 6% of all respondents, respectively.
Strategy:

“We consider media outlets in the ethnic states and regions to be a tool for defending human rights.” – Online Survey respondent

The online survey respondents ranked Myanmar’s top media development priorities, as well as their organisation’s own strategic priorities for 2017, 2018, and 2019. Close to half of the respondents predict that their organisation’s strategic priorities will shift over the coming two-five years, and a significant minority predict partial changes.18

“*To address media credibility issues, we need to do advocacy and raise awareness, and to build trust between journalists, government officials and the Hluttaw.*” – Online Survey participants

According to respondents, donors’ top priorities will stay largely the same between 2017 and 2019. However, donors will each narrow their strategic priorities by 27% from an average of 11 strategic subject areas per donor in 2017-2018, to eight in

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All respondents</th>
<th>Donors</th>
<th>Sub-grantors</th>
<th>Implementers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Freedom of expression</td>
<td>• Advocacy (general)20</td>
<td>• Advocacy (general)21</td>
<td>1. Gender and inclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Training of journalists</td>
<td>• Peacebuilding</td>
<td>• Core support for the media</td>
<td>2. Freedom of expression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Media business development and sustainability</td>
<td>• Freedom of expression</td>
<td>• Gender and inclusion</td>
<td>3. Advocacy (general)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Right to information</td>
<td>• Freedom of assembly and association</td>
<td>• Journalist training</td>
<td>4. Hate speech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Legal reforms (general)</td>
<td>• Legal reform</td>
<td>• Journalist support networks</td>
<td>5. Journalist training</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All respondents</th>
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</thead>
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<td>1. Freedom of expression</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Training of journalists</td>
<td>• Peacebuilding</td>
<td>• Core support for the media</td>
<td>2. Freedom of expression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Media business development and sustainability</td>
<td>• Freedom of expression</td>
<td>• Gender and inclusion</td>
<td>3. Advocacy (general)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Right to information</td>
<td>• Freedom of assembly and association</td>
<td>• Journalist training</td>
<td>4. Hate speech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Legal reforms (general)</td>
<td>• Legal reform</td>
<td>• Journalist support networks</td>
<td>5. Journalist training</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18 44% and 28% respectively.
19 These are the top media development priorities for Myanmar cited by the respondents, rather than their organisations’ own strategic priorities.
20 These are written as bullet points rather than numbered because they were all ranked equally.
21 These are written as bullet points rather than numbered because they were all ranked equally.
2019. This means only one subject area - television - will sustain the same number of interested donors. In 2019, this process of consolidation will mean donor support for data journalism and self-regulation will disappear among the respondents. It is unclear to what extent donors fund programmatic work for each of the priorities they have cited in this survey.

Table 3: Shifts in surveyed donors’ strategic priority subject areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sustained priority</th>
<th>Decreasing priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Television (overall 0.8% shift from 36 subject areas, representing a 38% increase for television alone. The number of surveyed donors will remain the same in 2019 as in 2017-2018)</td>
<td>1. Media monitoring (1.7% decrease in comparison to all other subject areas. This means 2 fewer donors interested in 2019 as compared to 2017-2018)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Advocacy (general), development of local content promoting peace, democracy and good governance, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association, and legal reform will all remain priorities (+0.5% each)</td>
<td>2. Data journalism (-1% or 1 fewer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Self-regulation (-1% or 1 fewer)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Independent state-based ethnic media need increased resources.” – Online Survey respondent

Sub-grantors’ top priorities will stay largely the same between 2017 and 2019 according to respondents. Sub-grantors will see a significant 43% decrease in their average number of strategic subject areas, from nine each in 2018 to four each in 2019. It is unclear to what extent sub-grantors implement programmatic work for each of the priorities they have cited in this survey.

---

22 No subject area will increase in priority. The general narrowing of donors’ strategic focus means that most subject areas will see a resulting decrease in the number of donors. (The percentage represents the shift in prioritisation for this one priority subject area against all 36 priority subject areas identified in the survey. When combined, the 36 priority subject areas together add up to 100%. Therefore, a seemingly small percentage shift of +1% for a single priority subject area actually represents a much more substantial change, and could in some cases represent a doubling of prioritisation.)

23 It is unclear whether this decrease is due to consolidation, or whether sub-grantors have not yet decided their strategies for 2019.
Table 4: Shifts in sub-grantors’ strategic priority subject areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sustained priority</th>
<th>Decreasing priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Core support for media outlets (4.6% increase in comparison to all other subject areas. The number of sub-grantors will remain the same in 2019 as compared to 2018)</td>
<td>1. Communications for development (3% decrease in comparison to all other subject areas. This means 2 fewer sub-grantors interested in 2019 as compared to 2017-2018)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Content production for digital, mobile and social media reporting (+2.9%)</td>
<td>2. Documentary production (-2.1%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top priorities for implementing organisations will also stay largely the same between 2017 and 2019 according to respondents. Implementers will see a 14% decrease in their average number of strategic subject areas from nine each in 2018 to eight each in 2019. It is unclear to what extent they implement programmatic work for each of the priorities they have cited in this survey.

“In 2019, we expect priorities to shift to election monitoring and reporting.”
– Online Survey respondent

Table 5: Shifts in strategic priority subject areas for implementing organisations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sustained priority</th>
<th>Decreasing priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Documentaries (0.7% increase in comparison to all other subject areas. The number of non-donors will remain the same in 2019 as compared to 2018)</td>
<td>1. Data journalism (0.9% decrease in comparison to all other subject areas. This will mean 5 fewer non-donors interested in 2019 as compared to 2017-2018)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Peacebuilding (+0.6%)</td>
<td>2. Communications for development (-0.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Media monitoring (+0.5%)</td>
<td>3. Core support for media outlets (-0.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Digital rights (+0.5%)</td>
<td>4. Journalist training (-0.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Development of local content promoting peace, democracy and good governance (+0.5%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

24 No subject area will increase in priority. The general narrowing of sub-grantors’ strategic focus means that most subject areas will see a resulting decrease in the number of sub-grantors.

25 No subject area will increase in priority. The general narrowing of implementing organisations’ strategic focus means that most subject areas will see a resulting decrease in the number of non-donors.
Comparing future strategies:

There are some similarities in the strategic priorities of donors, sub-grantors and implementers for 2018-2019. All three groups are generally narrowing or consolidating their strategic subject areas in 2019. All three give high priority to advocacy (general), journalist training, gender and inclusion, and development of local content promoting peace, democracy and good governance.

There are also several differences in the strategic priorities of donors, sub-grantors and implementing organisations in 2018-2019. All three are narrowing their strategic focus by decreasing the number of subject areas they will prioritise in 2019; yet donors and sub-grantors are doing that much more than implementers.

“If you want to develop media then radio is the way to go.” - Key informant interviewee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Donors</th>
<th>Sub-grantors</th>
<th>Implementers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher priority than</td>
<td>Project support for media outlets 26</td>
<td>Radio</td>
<td>Research 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other groups</td>
<td>Legal reform</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Freedom of association and assembly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>… and increasing</td>
<td>Television</td>
<td>Core costs for media outlets</td>
<td>Documentary production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Media monitoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower priority than</td>
<td>Communications for development</td>
<td>Freedom of expression</td>
<td>Core costs for media outlets 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other groups</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>… and decreasing</td>
<td>Media monitoring</td>
<td>Communications for development</td>
<td>Core costs for media outlets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

26 Sub-grantors place higher priority on this than implementers.
27 Donors place higher priority on this than sub-grantors.
28 Sub-grantors place higher priority on this than donors.
Programmes:

Donors, sub-grantors, and implementing organisations fund and implement a variety of different programmes, including research, training/education, legal reform advocacy, support for media outlets and/or varied communications channels (radio, tv, etc.), and the provision of sub-grants.

“The government is holding onto information as though it owns it.” – Key informant interviewee

The top five priority subject areas for legal reform advocacy are the adoption of two new laws - right to information and public service media - and the amending of three current laws - News Media Law, Telecommunications Law, and Broadcasting Law. The top five most popular subject areas for research during 2017-2019 are freedom of expression standards, peacebuilding and the media, media development (in general), ethnic minorities and gender, and journalist safety. In regards to overall support for media outlets and communication channels, digital will see a significant increase in priority, and print will see a significant decrease.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increasing priority</th>
<th>Decreasing priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Digital (4.6% increase in comparison to all other subject areas)</td>
<td>1. Print (2.9% decrease in comparison to all other subject areas. This will be 6 or 22% fewer implementers and sub-grantors interested in 2019 as compared to 2017-2018)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Television (+0.8%)</td>
<td>2. Multimedia (-1.5% and -7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Radio (+0.5%)</td>
<td>3. Community media (-0.6% and -5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For donor, sub-grantor, and implementing organisations funding or implementing education or training initiatives, the top five priority subject areas are advocacy, gender and inclusion (more generally), basic journalism, ethics, and digital, and mobile and social media reporting. The top five will stay the same in 2019, with some shifts in priority among other subject areas as shown in the table below.

Approximately 20% of respondents say that their organisations fund or implement scholarships and fellowships. Organisations offering fellowships include Asia Journalism Fellowship, Free Press Unlimited, Internews, Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA), and Yangon Film School. JICA, Heinrich Boell Foundation, and Prospect Burma offer support for Masters degrees. Other forms of subsidised
training are offered by EngageMedia, FHI 360, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Yangon and Mandalay Journalism Schools, BBC Media Action, and Myanmar Journalism Institute.

“There needs to be more legal support for journalists facing lawsuits” – Online Survey respondent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increasing priority</th>
<th>Decreasing priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Journalist safety (1.6% increase in comparison to all other subject areas)</td>
<td>1. Management training (1% decrease in comparison to all other subject areas. This means 6 or 30% fewer implementers or sub-grantors interested in 2019 as compared to 2017-2018)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Video training (+1.5%)</td>
<td>2. Business planning (-1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Mid-career journalism (+0.9%)</td>
<td>3. Gender and inclusion (-0.8%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All sub-grantors, and 34% of implementers, provide sub-grants to other organisations and individuals. In 2017 - 2019, the top five recipient types for these sub-grants are CSOs, training institutions (for projects), media outlets (for projects), training institutions (for core costs), and media outlets (for core costs).

The number of implementers that provide sub-grants as part of their programmes is reducing; in 2019 there will be a 55% decrease in that number, compared to 2017. According to the respondents, the decrease will affect each of the top five recipient types equally; the exception is that in 2019 there will be no more sub-grants from implementers for the core costs of training institutions.

Respondents from donor, sub-grantor, and implementing organisations have identified a number of gaps in the range of programmes currently being funded and implemented. They perceive the biggest gaps to be funding for, and implementation of, media management and business sustainability programs, support for ethnic media, assisting media in the use of, or adaption to, new technologies, and a variety of journalist training, including basic, advanced and investigative.
Operations and expenditure

More than 80% of respondents’ organisations fund or implement programs nationwide, including 93% of donors and sub-grantors, and 71% of implementers. The remaining 20% of respondents’ organisations, including 7% of donors and sub-grantors, and 29% of implementers, only work in specific cities or states. Almost all respondents’ organisations fund or implement in Yangon29, and just 3% say they work only in ethnic states and regions.

In regards to annual expenditure, respondents reported a range of donor budgets which increased by 25% on average between 2017-2018. Each donor organisation's mean average annual expenditure was $692,000 in 2017, increasing by 25% to $865,000 in 2018. Forty-three percent of donor organisations have an annual expenditure of more than $1 million. For private donor organisations, the average annual expenditure was $321,000 in 2017, rising by 16% to $371,000 in 2018. The total overall cumulative amount of annual expenditure reported by sub-grantor respondents increased by 57% from $1.3m in 2017 to $2.8m in 2018. Their average annual expenditure was $214,000 in 2017, increasing to $348,000 in 2018.

“Not all donors that assist media have a long-term vision.” – Online Survey respondent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 9: Respondent donors’ annual expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 - $100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Society Myanmar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total overall cumulative amount of annual expenditure reported by non-donor respondents decreases between 2017 and 2018, and is predicted to decrease again in 2019. The majority of these decreases are, however, absorbed by a 19% drop in overall cumulative expenditure made by international implementing organisations, while national implementing organisations see a cumulative
increase of 22%.

“There needs to be more non-restricted funding that can be applied to emerging issues and trends.” – Online Survey respondent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Implementers</th>
<th>National implementers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$9.2m</td>
<td>$2.7m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$8.6m (-7%)</td>
<td>$3.3m (+22%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“*We’re no longer in 2012 or 2014. Local organisations are here and they are far more capable. Donors need to put a higher proportion of their funding directly into local organisations rather than via international third parties. If donors are worried that local organisations cannot handle the administration, then that’s a perfect opportunity to build their much needed capacity hand-in-hand*” - Focus group participant.

The 7% decrease in overall cumulative expenditure for implementing organisations between 2017-2018 is reflected in the same decrease in the mean average annual expenditure for each organisation. The majority of this decrease is, however, absorbed by international implementing organisations, which will shrink by 13% on average. National implementing organisations will grow by an average of 15%.

International implementing organisations’ mean average annual expenditure is currently more than double the expenditure of national implementing organisations. This difference in expenditure is, however, dropping. In 2017 internationals spent 179% more than nationals on average, and this will decrease

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30 This data has been truncated. Truncation means removing the statistical outliers - the highest and lowest results - in order to get a less skewed result. Truncation has been used because one participating organisation - USAID - has a significantly larger expenditure than all of the others, and if kept, would skew the averages.
to 109% in 2018. The figure presented in regards to international implementing organisations represents their expenditure inside Myanmar rather than their total global expenditure for projects on Myanmar. Most international implementing organisations spend outside of Myanmar, often at their headquarters on their core competencies without which the organisation could not exist. These competencies include, for example, management oversight, expert staff, and financial administration.

Respondents from national implementing organisations that only work in one or more of the ethnic states and regions report significantly lower mean average annual expenditure. In 2017, they report 34% less than the mean average for all organisations, and in 2018, 40% less.

### Table 11: Mean average annual expenditure per organisation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Implementers</th>
<th>International Implementers</th>
<th>National Implementers</th>
<th>National Implementers only focused on ethnic areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$9.2m</td>
<td>$382,000</td>
<td>$137,000</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$331,000 (-13%)</td>
<td>$137,000</td>
<td>$95,000 (+5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

31 This data has been truncated. Truncation means removing the statistical outliers - the highest and lowest results - in order to get a less skewed result. Truncation has been used because one participating organisation - USAID - has a significantly larger expenditure than all of the others, and if kept, would skew the averages.
The mean annual average expenditure figures outlined above, while showing clear budgetary trajectories for each type of organisation over the years, overestimate the size of most national implementing organisations working in the sector in Myanmar, because a number of larger national organisations skew the results. The median average annual expenditure per organisation shows a far more realistic figure for most organisations’ annual expenditure. It is, however, fairly vague and provides little idea of the trajectories of change.

![Table 12: Median average annual expenditure per organisation](image)

Implementing organisations receive their funding from a range of sources which vary, depending on whether the organisation is international or national.

![Table 13: Sources of funding](image)
### Sources of funding listed by the survey respondents:

**Table 14: Individual sources of funding reported by implementers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Government donors</th>
<th>Inter-governmental donors</th>
<th>Private donors</th>
<th>Sub-grantors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>European Union (including from the EU Step Funds)</td>
<td>Corporate Social Responsibility Funds</td>
<td>FHI360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td></td>
<td>National Endowment for Democracy</td>
<td>Canadian International Development Research Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
<td></td>
<td>Open Society Foundations</td>
<td>Universities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
<td></td>
<td>Omidyar</td>
<td>Kann Let (Dai Global)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Foreign Affairs (German Bundestrat and Bundestag support),</td>
<td></td>
<td>Telenor</td>
<td>PEN America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZGermany)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Temasek Foundation (Singapore)</td>
<td>PEN International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embassy of Sweden, Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), Swedish Lottery Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US State Department, USG/USAID</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTERVIEWS AND FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The interviewees and focus group participants played several roles: debating and scoring the status of the MDIs, identifying top priorities for the sector, commenting on their own particular niche and activities, and assessing the survey results. Some also represented their organisations as survey respondents.

While there has been some progress, many observe that two years later the MDI recommendations remain largely unfulfilled. They link this in great part to the slow-down in reforms since the NLD took power two years ago, exacerbated by the deteriorating free expression and media freedom environment. Some also observe that there were too many MDI recommendations on a vast array of topics that were not always indicator or outcome driven or achievable, and that it was not always clear to whom they were addressed.

It was also noted that the sector is fragmented, with funding, resources and expertise thinly spread across a wide variety of fields and activities, including journalism, business development, internet freedom, communications for development, media and information literacy, training, research, advocacy, free and creative expression, peacebuilding, and gender and inclusion.

The list goes on, swayed in part by available funding, and rendered uncertain by political instability, growing conflict, international concern over the humanitarian crisis in northern Rakhine and Bangladesh, and donor fatigue. Yet there are positive trends, also indicated in the survey findings; among them, that Myanmar civil society and media are slowly getting stronger, and that international funding is increasingly being sub-granted to them.

32 Myanmar dropped 6 positions in the 2018 World Press Freedom Index by Reporters Without Borders (RSF). In the 2018 Scorecard Assessing Free Expression in Myanmar published by PEN Myanmar and 18 of its civil society and media partners to commemorate World Press Freedom Day, the score dropped from 8 out of 60 in 2017 to 2 out of 60 in 2018.
RESEARCH OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

“The government should not be in the media business.” - Key informant interviewee

The above sentiment was expressed by the majority of people interviewed for this media development mapping project. They say it is non-negotiable, at least when it comes to the print media sector. The proposed transformation of the state broadcaster into a public broadcaster is, however, a subject of debate. Some media development actors feel it is a good opportunity and a given, and are supporting the state broadcaster in a variety of ways. Others say that the transformation will never happen, that it is waste of money, and that the state broadcaster should either be shut down or privatised. They say the support offered is condoning government media, and is bad for the struggling private sector.

Many of the online survey respondents and interviewees agree that private media are struggling and need help, particularly in the ethnic states and regions. According to one key informant interviewee: “We need to keep building the business capacity of media. Without it, the private media sector will not survive.” Yet funding and technical support for these media outlets are still relatively limited.

Young interviewees say that they want to do good journalism and multi-media productions but that they need support: “We have so many ideas but we do not have money. We need a fund that supports good journalism, photography, video and filmmaking for young people.”

Online survey recipients prioritise multi-platform content production, including digital, television and radio. They also note that media and media development organisations need support so that they can learn how to use new technologies, effectively and safely. According to a young key informant interviewee: “We urgently need to learn how to protect ourselves online.”

Radio is referenced by interviewees and online survey respondents alike. In the words of an experienced regional media owner: “We need to open up the private radio sector. It has a huge potential role to play in the remote regions and ethnic states.” Yet another regional radio veteran recommends caution when it comes to the development of the community radio sector: “Community radio needs to be initiated by people in the community. It cannot be a standardised approach that is driven from the outside.”

Given the deteriorating free expression and press freedom environment – the imprisonment of the two Reuters journalists is often cited as an example – online
survey respondents and interviewees alike prioritise the safety and security of journalists, and free expression and digital rights activists. Many also express disappointment about what they call the limitations, and in some cases ineffectiveness, of the press council as a self-regulation and protection body.

Journalism training - beginner, mid-career, investigative, and in-house - is one of the priorities and gaps identified by survey recipients. This speaks to the wide-ranging needs of a growing sector. Yet given the number of training schools and training programs in Myanmar, that this is viewed as a gap deserves closer attention. An independent assessment of the impact of the training initiatives that have been offered in Myanmar from 2013-2017 would provide valuable data to help determine current needs and guide future spending in this sector. It would also serve as a useful case study in Myanmar and for the global media development community.

Legal reform, including right to information, gender and inclusion, and the development of local content promoting peace, democracy and good governance, are also widely cited as priorities by interviewees, focus group participants and online survey respondents.

International implementers and sub-granting groups still spend considerably more than their national counterparts. Yet the shift, albeit nascent, in favour of national groups is a positive sign. That being said, the more dominant trend is that donors are shifting their funding away from international groups that implement projects to those that sub-grant to national organisations. Organisations that implement projects and/or offer sub-grants that are working only in ethnic areas spend significantly less than those working across the country.
CONCLUSION

These research findings offer insight into the media development sector. Yet they also raise many questions. Will the priorities and strategies cited by stakeholders in the online survey, interviews and focus groups be implemented? How will funding trends evolve? Will the external environment continue to worsen and impact on plans and progress?

The two Top 10 lists of priorities – the first for the Union Government and the second for donors and implementers - are informed by the MDI, as well as the online survey, interviews and focus group discussions. The list for the Union Government reflects key priorities. The list for donors and implementers is purposely practical, with a focus on areas that have some traction. As a follow-on to this report, it would be useful to develop a strategic plan for each priority that takes into account current activities and funding, and that identifies gaps and new partnerships.
APPENDIX 1:

COMPLETE LIST AND SCORING OF THE 2016 MDI RECOMMENDATIONS

Chapter 1: A system of regulation conducive to freedom of expression, pluralism and diversity of the media

- Myanmar should sign and ratify international treaties which pertain to freedom of expression, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the (first) Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination. (No action taken)

- The 2008 Constitution should be amended to strengthen guarantees of freedom of expression (i.e. Article 354) and the right to information. These guarantees should not allow ordinary laws to restrict these rights but should, instead, impose clear conditions on any laws which restrict these rights. (No action taken)

- In order to better safeguard freedom of expression, the Constitution should be amended to place more substantial conditions for declaring a state of emergency. (No action taken)

- Only a judiciary that acts independently can properly interpret laws which restrict freedom of expression in the public interest. The government should promote the independence of the judiciary and address reported corruption issues within it. (No action taken)

- The government should promote wider public participation in legal reform processes and more proactively communicate on the legal reforms pertaining to freedom of expression by creating opportunities for interactions with the public. (No action taken)

- The government should continue consultations with relevant stakeholders with a view to adopting a Right to Information (RTI) Law. (Action initiated)

- The Myanmar News Media Council (MNMC) should develop clear and equitable procedures for determining which media organizations are permitted to attend government events with limited space. These procedures should be designed to ensure that a diverse array of media representing different viewpoints and target audiences are granted access. (Action
initiated)

- Legislation that protects confidentiality of journalists’ sources should be adopted. *(No action taken)*

- The Broadcasting Law should be amended to allow the nomination of council members by civil society and parliament, with both houses of parliament responsible to appoint a specific number of members. *(No action taken)*

- Significant reforms to the colonial-era Penal Code should be adopted. Any restrictions on freedom of expression should be provided by law, limited to the protection of legitimate interests as listed in the Article 19(3) of ICCPR and necessary to protect those interests. *(No action taken)*

- The blasphemy provisions in the Penal Code which go beyond protecting religious groups against incitement to hatred should be removed. *(No action taken)*

- Defamation should be removed from the Penal Code and addressed through civil law rules in accordance with relevant international standards. *(Regression)*

- Sections 18 and 19 of the Peaceful Assembly and Processions Law should be amended to remove criminal penalties for staging protests without government approval, or for holding protests in unauthorized areas. The 1908 Unlawful Associations Act should be repealed so that the president does not have the power to unilaterally declare an association ‘unlawful’. *(Regression)*

- The 1923 State Secrets Act, which prohibits access to government’s facilities and confidential governmental information, should be amended to conform to international standards. *(No action taken)*

- The 2014 Printing and Publishing Enterprise Law should be amended to remove section eight which places restrictions on what print media can publish. *(No action taken)*

- The restrictions to freedom of expression stipulated in the Electronic Transaction Law should be more narrowly defined, and criminal penalties for breaching these restrictions should be removed. *(No action taken)*

- The Computer Sciences Law should be amended so that registration of Internet-capable devices is no longer legally required. Similarly, restrictions
to freedom of expression in the Law should be more narrowly defined and
criminal penalties for breaching these restrictions should be removed. (No
action taken)

- The Telecommunications Law should be amended to remove the defamation
rule in Section 66(d) and to prevent the imposition of general suspensions
of telecommunications services. (No action taken)

- The Ministry of Information should update the Motion Picture Law
through a process that is inclusive of representatives from the film industry
and civil society. (Action Initiated)

Chapter 2: Plurality and diversity of media, a level economic playing field and
transparency of ownership

- State-owned broadcasters should be turned into public service or private
broadcasters and all references to state-owned media should be removed
from the Broadcasting Law (No Action Taken)

- The Ministry of Information should develop temporary licences for
community broadcasters, so they can begin operations prior to the
formation of the National Broadcasting Council and the drafting of the
broadcasting bylaws. (Action Initiated)

- A regulatory review of the broadcasting sector should be conducted by
civil society groups and/or media development stakeholders on the first
anniversary of the enactment of the Broadcasting Law in line with the
indicators used in this chapter. (No action taken)

- The Ministry of Information should create conditions that will allow for
the inclusion of broadcasters and civil society in the drafting of the
broadcasting bylaws. Relatedly, the bylaws should include detailed and
realistic guidelines to limit undue media ownership concentration in the
future and address existing concentration. The National Broadcasting
Authority should develop the Broadcast Spectrum Management Plan in
consultation with broadcasters and civil society and develop a dissemination
plan and public awareness raising initiatives for it. (No action taken)

- The Ministry of Information and the MNMC should develop guidelines
for the fair and unbiased placement of government advertisements in all
types of media. (No action taken)

- The PPEL should be amended so that companies registering under the
PPEL are required to make information about company ownership available to the public directly or through the media regulation authority. (No action taken)

- The government should consider a tax policy which actively supports the media and community broadcasters in particular. (No action taken)

- The Myanmar News Media Council (MNMC) should develop a code of advertising or some type of advertising guidelines for private media and develop related awareness-raising activities to ensure private media houses are familiar with the new code. (No action taken)

**Chapter 3: Media as a platform for democratic discourse**

- Media houses should include diversity and gender mainstreaming initiatives in their employment practices. International media development organizations should provide media houses with technical support to this end. (Action initiated)

- International media organizations should continue to provide on-going technical and financial assistance where appropriate to ethnic minority media outlets. (Action initiated)

- A trust fund for establishing community radio should be set up to provide financial support and seed capital to applying communities. Funding should be managed by an organization that is neutral and independent from political and economic interests. (No action taken)

- The government should channel revenue from commercial tax on the media into the aforementioned trust fund for community broadcasters. (No action taken)

- International media organizations should conduct extensive media sensitivity programming with the military and police so that they know how to properly engage with the media. (Action initiated)

- The public service remit for public service broadcasters should be defined in and protected by law. (No action taken)

- The drafting of both a new public service media bill and an MRTV charter must be an inclusive process with representatives from the broadcast industry and civil society. Similarly, the new law and charter should contain provisions for an open, transparent and free process for the appointments of the public service broadcasters’ governing body. (No action taken)
• The government and media development organizations should provide adequate funding and technical assistance to the newly created Myanmar News Media Council (MNMC) in order to perform its functions as a media self-regulatory body. (Action initiated)

• The Myanmar News Media Council (MNMC) should increase its engagement with media houses outside of Yangon to garner their support and enhance its legitimacy as a self-regulatory body for the media. (Action initiated)

• The Myanmar News Media Council (MNMC) should create a comprehensive contact database of all existing media houses and publish the information on its website. (No action taken)

• The Myanmar News Media Council (MNMC) should review the media Code of Conduct adopted by the Interim Myanmar Press Council (I) MPC by involving wider participation from media houses across the country and actively promote its use by media professionals. (No action taken)

• The Broadcasting COC should be drafted in a way to ensure harmonization and complementarity with the existing COC adopted by the (I) MPC. (No action taken)

Chapter 4: Professional capacity building and supporting institutions that underpin freedom of expression, pluralism and diversity

• Given the limited financial capacity of media houses to afford training courses/events, media development organizations should continue to subsidize and provide training courses in collaboration with training institutes. (Action initiated)

• Basic journalism training should be the main focus for journalists’ capacity-building projects. Efforts should be made to provide more of these training courses/events outside of Yangon as well as to conduct training in ethnic languages for ethnic media. (Action initiated)

• More conflict sensitive journalism training should be provided, particularly to journalists and media professionals who are based in conflict areas. (Action initiated)

• Gender and diversity should be included in both academic journalism education programmes and training events for media professionals. (Action initiated)
1) Media management training should be more commonly conducted. 2) A course should be specifically tailored for managers of small ethnic media outlets situated in remote locations. (Action initiated for both)

The Myanmar News Media Council (MNMC) should proactively publish information on training opportunities through its website in order to inform media outlets situated in remote locations. (No action taken)

Media development organizations should play a role in equipping small media publishing houses with reference textbooks and publications. Providing open access resource centres for all journalists would serve to promote this goal. (Action initiated)

The National Management College should be supported to procure modern, audio-visual and broadcasting equipment so that it is appropriately equipped to teach broadcast media. International media development organizations should consider providing technical and financial support to this end. (No action taken)

The Ministry of Education (MOE), Ministry of Information (MOI), and relevant media development organizations should work together to promote the development of journalism programmes in universities across Myanmar. Emphasis should be placed on selecting a university in Mandalay to offer a degree in journalism with a view to improve access to academic journalism training in the north of the country. (No action taken)

In tandem with the opening of new academic journalism programmes, the MOE should provide adequate training to new lecturers. Training for new lecturers should include journalism-related fields such as human rights and democracy. The MOE should also consider sourcing new lecturers from the media industry, graduates from the MNC’s journalism programme, and the Myanmar Journalism Institute. (No action taken)

Media development organizations should continue to support media professional associations so that they are able to effectively advocate for media workers’ rights and provide them with support both in Yangon and across the rest of the country. (Action taken)

Media development organizations should conduct programmatic monitoring of media workers’ associations located outside of Yangon. Associations which have both the ability to grow and remain representative of their members’ interests could be considered for financial and capacity-
building support. The unification and/or federation of smaller regional associations should also be promoted where contextually appropriate and geographically proximate. (No action taken)

- The government and media development organizations should continue to support CSOs in media monitoring efforts, media literacy programmes and research in order to address the existence of hate speech on social media and develop mechanisms to counter it. (No action taken)

- Media literacy should also be mainstreamed in the formal academic education system. (No action taken)

Chapter 5: Infrastructural capacity is sufficient to support an independent and pluralistic media

- The government should develop a national digital migration plan. This plan should cover not only infrastructure development but also include strategies to help rural households cope with the transition and stay connected. Media development organizations should play an important role in providing technical support in this regard. (No action taken)

- The MCIT should adopt the Telecommunications Master Plan after taking into consideration suggested revisions by civil society and telecommunications operators. (No action taken)

- The government should design the guidelines and management structure of the Universal Service Fund (USF) in consultation with civil society. Mechanisms for transparent oversight of the USF should also be developed prior to collecting revenue from operators. (Action initiated)

- INGOs and media training institutes should consider providing training and programmatic support to media houses to help them develop multi-platform delivery systems as well as enhancing the quality of their online presence. Additional effort should be made to reach out to small print media houses based outside of Yangon where the digital divide is larger. (Action initiated)
APPENDIX 2:

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

UNESCO MEDIA DEVELOPMENT MAPPING SURVEY

Thank you for agreeing to participate in our survey. Your input will ensure we can do a comprehensive and accurate mapping of priorities and trends. The survey focuses on support for the Myanmar media development sector, including journalism, free and creative expression, digital rights, communications for development, and media and humanitarian efforts. The findings will be aggregated and shared with survey respondents, as well as with other interested groups and individuals. We would be grateful if you could complete the survey as soon as possible. The final deadline is 11 April 2018. Please submit one survey per organisation. We are using Zawgyi font for the Burmese script; if you do not have that font in your computer the script may be affected. If you have queries or technical difficulties, please email consultant Jane Madlyn McElhone at jmmcelhone@gmail.com.

1. Your full name
2. Your title
3. Your organisation’s name
4. Your phone number
5. Your organisation’s website URL (if you have one)
6. Your organisation’s Facebook URL
7. Please select one option below and click NEXT

Donors

8. What kind of organisation do you represent?
   Mark only one oval.
   - Governmental donor
   - Private donor

9. Other: If you chose Other, please specify the kind of organisation you represent.

10. Which areas are you supporting? (If you do not yet know which areas you will be supporting in 2019, please leave that column blank.) Check all that apply. Year 2017 - Year 2018 - Year 2019
Advocacy
Communications for development
Content production (mobile, digital, print, television, radio, multimedia)
Core operational support for independent news media
Data journalism
Development of local content promoting peace, democracy and good governance
Digital rights
Digital security
Documentary production
Filmmaking
Freedom of expression
Freedom of assembly
Gender and inclusion
Hate speech
Humanitarian communications
Investigative Journalism
Journalism training
Judicial reform
Legal reforms
Media literacy
Media monitoring
Media support networks and associations
Media skills for civil society organisations
Media skills for public/government agencies and parliamentarians
Peacebuilding
Project support for independent news media
Radio
Research
Right to information
Safety of journalists
State/government print media
Sustainability (business development)
Telecommunications
Television
Transformation of state broadcaster into public broadcaster
Selfregulation (press council etc)

11. If you support areas not included in the list, please note them here.
   Skip to question 19.

**Nondonor**

12. What kind of organization do you represent?
   Mark only one oval.
   Implementing organisation
   NGO
   Implementing organisation UN or other international agency
   Implementing organisation media business
   Implementing organisation training organisation (private)
   Implementing organisation training organisation (university)

13. Other: If you chose Other, please specify the kind of organisation you represent.

**SUBGRANTING:**

14. In addition to being an implementing organisation, do you also provide subgrants?
   Mark only one oval.
   Yes ,No

15. If yes, what do your subgrants support? (If you do not yet know what subgrants you will be offering in 2019, please leave that column blank.) Check all that apply.
   Year 2017 - Year 2018 - Year 2019
   Media outlets core support
   Media outlets project support
   Training institutions core support
   Training institutions project support
   CSOs
16. If your subgrants support other areas not included in the list, please note them here.

17. In which thematic areas are you working? (If you do not yet know the areas in which you will be working in 2019, please leave that column blank.) Check all that apply. - Year 2017 -

Year 2018 - Year 2019
Advocacy
Communications for development
Content production (print, digital, television, radio, mobile, multimedia)
Core operational support for independent news media
Data journalism
Development of local content promoting peace, democracy and good governance
Digital rights
Digital security
Documentary production
Filmmaking
Freedom of expression
Freedom of assembly
Gender and inclusion
Hate speech
Humanitarian communications
Investigative Journalism
Journalism training
Judicial reform
Legal reforms
Media literacy
Media monitoring
Media support networks and associations
Media skills for civil society organisations
Media skills for public/government agencies and parliamentarians
Peacebuilding
Project support for independent news media
Radio
Research
Right to information
Safety of journalists
State/government print media
Sustainability (business development) Telecommunications
Television
Transformation of state broadcaster into public broadcaster
Selfregulation (press council etc)

18. If you work in areas not included in the list, please note them here.

Skip to question 19.

For both donor & non donor

19. Which type of media outlets and communications channels are you supporting?

(If you do not yet know what you will be supporting in 2019, please leave that column blank.)

Check all that apply.

Year 2017 - Year 2018 - Year 2019

Multimedia
Digital
Television
Radio
Print
Community media
Documentaries
Filmmaking
Photography

20. If you support other media outlets and communications platforms not included in this list, please note them here. media outlets

TRAINING AND EDUCATION:

21. If you implement or fund training or education initiatives, please indicate which kind(s).
(If you do not yet know which training or education initiatives you will be implementing or funding in 2019, please leave that column blank.) Check all that apply.

2017 - 2018 - 2019

Advocacy
Basic journalism
Broadcast editing
Business and economics reporting
Business planning
Community radio
Conflict sensitive journalism
Crossborder reporting
Digital, mobile and social media reporting
Documentaries and filmmaking
Election reporting
Environment
Ethics
Financial management
Inclusion and gender
Investigative and data journalism Management training
Midcareer journalism Political reporting
Radio reporting
Reporting in conflict zones
Safety
Sales and marketing
Scriptwriting
Video

22. If you implement or fund training or education initiatives not included in the above list, please note them here.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

23. Does your organisation offer or support scholarships or fellowships that target this sector?
Mark only one oval.
Yes, No
24. If yes, please specify the type Mark only one oval.
Masters program Fellowship Other:
25. If a Masters scholarship, please provide details (type, focus, length, frequency, number of scholarships)
26. If a short term fellowship, please provide details (type, focus, length, frequency, number of fellowships)
27. Which geographical locations do you target in your work? (Please check all relevant locations. If you do not yet know where you will be working in 2019, please leave that column blank.)
Check all that apply.
Myanmar (countrywide)
Yangon
Mandalay
Naypyidaw
Chin State
Kachin State
Kayin State
Kayah State
Mon State
Shan State
Rakhine State
Tanintharyi Region
Sagaing Region
Magway Region
Bago Region

BUDGET:
28. How much money is your organisation spending in the sector? (If you do not yet know how much you will be spending in 2019, please leave that column blank.) Check all that apply. Year 2017 - Year 2018 - Year 2019
Under US$1000
US$1000 $4000
29. Where do you currently get your funding? If you are a donor, which organisations do you fund?

30. Do you expect your priorities to change over the next two to five years and, if so, how?

31. In your opinion, what are the top three priorities for work in this sector? Check all that apply.

   - Core support for media outlets/Media outlets
   - Project support for public interest content production
   - Business development and sustainability
   - Digital rights
   - Free expression
   - Right to information
   - Research
   - Legal reforms
   - Training for journalists

32. Other: If you chose Other as one of your three priorities, please specify it here.

33. If you are supporting, or working on, legal reforms, please specify which ones and over which time period.
APPENDIX 3

LIST OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS, FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANTS, AND KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

UNESCO MEDIA DEVELOPMENT MAPPING SURVEY RESPONDENTS (64):

- Article 19
- Asia Journalism Fellowship
- Athan
- BBC Media Action
- Burma News International
- Burma Relief Center
- Burma-Swedish Committee
- Canal France International
- Center for Law and Democracy
- Center for Myanmar Media Development
- Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy
- DVB Multimedia
- Deutsche Welle Akademie
- Engage Media
- Equality Myanmar
- Embassy of Switzerland
- FHI360
- Free Expression Myanmar
- Free Press Unlimited
- Global Forum for Media Development
- Hanns Seidel Foundation Myanmar
- Heinrich Boll Stiftung (Myanmar)
- Hirondelle Foundation
- International Federation of Journalists - Asia Pacific
- IMS/Fojo
- Info Digest
• International Center for Integrated Mountain Development
• Internews Myanmar
• Japanese International Cooperation Agency
• Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (Foundation)
• Media Development Investment Fund
• Memo 98
• Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation
• Myanmar Center for Responsible Business
• Myanmar Institute for Democracy
• Myanmar ICT for Development Organisation
• Myanmar Journalism Institute
• Myanmar Journalist Network
• Myanmar Journalists Union
• Myanmar Media Lawyers’ Network
• Myanmar Press Council
• Myanmar Women Journalists Society
• National Endowment for Democracy
• National Management Degree College (Journalism Department)
• Omidyar
• Open Society Institute Myanmar
• PEN America
• PEN Myanmar
• Phandeeyar: Myanmar Innovation Lab
• Prospect Burma
• Protection Committee for Myanmar Journalists
• Rory Peck Trust
• Sagawa Development Consultancy Co. Ltd
• Southeast Asia Press Alliance
• Embassy of Sweden (Section Office Yangon) (SIDA)
• Swedish Radio Media Development Office
• Thabyay Education Foundation
UNDP
UNESCO
UNFPA
USAID
Yangon Film School
Yangon Journalism School
World Association of Newspapers (WAN-IFRA)

SMALL FOCUS GROUPS DISCUSSIONS:
Review of research, recommendations, and the status of the UNESCO MDI (Chatrium Hotel, Yangon)

FOCUS GROUP 1:
- Ma Thida, Info Digest, PEN Myanmar
- Minkiewicz, Alexandra, Yangon Film School
- Lawi Weng, The Irrawaddy
- Sein Win, Myanmar Journalism Institute
- Swe Win, Myanmar Now

FOCUS GROUP 2:
- Martin, Harriet, Joint Peace Fund
- McGuin, Rachael, BBC Media Action
- Myo Min Htike, IMS/Fojo
- Tropp, Maria, Swedish Embassy (SIDA)
- Zin Linn, BNI

FOCUS GROUP 3:
- Ei Myat Noe Khin (Khin), Phandeeyar: Myanmar Innovation Lab
- Spencer, Oliver, Free Expression Myanmar
- Than Zaw Aung, Myanmar Media Lawyers Network
- Yin Yadanar, Free Expression Myanmar

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION WITH YOUNG JOURNALISTS AT YANGON JOURNALISM SCHOOL:
- Nan Lwin Hnin Pwint: journalist At The Irrawaddy
- Pyi Hein Taw: 7 Day journalist
• Zarli Myint Oo: 7 Day journalist

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION AT NATIONAL MANAGEMENT COLLEGE ABOUT EDUCATION:
• Chan, Ying: writer, educator and journalism professor; until 2016 founding director of The University of Hong Kong’s Journalism and Media Studies Centre
• Zin Mar Kyaw: director, journalism department at the National Management College

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS:
• Aquirre Idiaquez, Mikel: program officer, communication and information, UNESCO Myanmar
• Aye Chan Naing: executive-director, DVB MULTIMEDIA
• Bowman, Vicky: executive-director, Myanmar Center for Responsible Business
• Brang Mai: CEO of Myitkyina News Journal (Kachin State)
• Chandran, Premesh: CEO, Malaysiakini, Malaysia; media business coach for the Media Development Investment Fund Myanmar Media program
• Chen, William: editor-in-chief, Modern and Kumudra
• Ei Myat Noe Khin: Digital Rights and Digital Security, Phandeeyar
• Gunn, Kate: Internews Myanmar journalism advisor
• Harymoto, Bambang: founder of Tempo magazine, Indonesia
• Holmertz, David: Head of Support Unit for Asia and MENA, Department for Asia, Middle East and Humanitarian Assistance, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
• Htaike Htaike Aung: director, Myanmar ICT for Development Organisation (MIDO)
• Htusan, Esther: Kachin journalist working for AP
• Karlekar, Karin: Director, Free Expression at Risk Programs, PEN America
• Khin Maung Shwe: program manager, media, FHI360 Myanmar
• Knaus, John: National Endowment for Democracy, deputy director for Asia
• Kyaw Soe Oo: imprisoned Reuters journalist, formerly with Root Investigative Agency and DVB Multimedia
• Lawi Weng: Mon journalist working for The Irrawaddy
• Ma Thida: writer, founding director of PEN Myanmar, Info Digest editor, PEN International board member, member of right to information coalition
• Mandel, Toby: human rights lawyer, member of RYI coalition, director of the Center for Law and Democracy (CLD)
• Maung Saunghkha: Executive Director, Athan
• Myint Kyaw: media trainer, secretary of the Myanmar Journalists Network
• Myo Min Htaike: Program manager, International Media Support/FOJO, Myanmar
• Nai Kasauh Mon: Burma News International (BNI) executive-director
• Nai Myint Naing: editor-in-chief, Mon News Agency
• Nan Paw Gay: director, Karen Information Center (KIC)
• Nay Phone Latt: regional parliamentarian
• Pan, Michael: Internews Myanmar country director
• Pauker, Ed: country director, BBC Media Action
• Piper, Tessa: Southeast Asia Director, Media Development Investment Fund (MDIF)
• Rio, Victoire: formerly Social Impact Director, Phandeeyar: Myanmar Innovation Lab @ riovictoire@gmail.com
• Santoso, Tosca: former director of KBR national radio network, Indonesia; media business coach for MDIFs Myanmar Media program
• Sein Win: Myanmar Journalism Institute Training Director - trainingdirector@mjimyanmar.org
• Soe Myint: CEO, Mizzima
• Spencer, Oliver: consultant, Free Expression Myanmar; formerly Article 19 Asia Director
• Stageman, Jane: gender and inclusion specialist, FHI360
• Swe Win: award-winning editor-in-chief of Myanmar Now, defendant in 66(d) criminal defamation case
• Thiha Saw: Myanmar Times, formerly executive-director of the Myanmar Journalism Institute, press council member, MJA secretary
• Thin Le Win: Thomson-Reuters
• Thu Rein Hlaing: co-founder and editor of Dawei Watch/Tanintharyi
Weekly and editor-in-charge of The Voice Weekly @thureinhlaing@gmail.com

- Venkiteswaran, Gayathry: Nottingham University, assistant professor teaching media and politics, Malaysia; formerly executive-director of the Southeast Asia Press Alliance (2010-2015)
- Ye Naing Moe: director and chief trainer, Yangon and Mandalay Journalism Schools
- Yin Yadanar: director, Free Expression Myanmar; formerly Article 19 country manager
The Communication and Information sector of the UNESCO Myanmar Office works to advance freedom of expression and supports the development of independent and professional media in Myanmar in different ways. As the United Nations agency with a specific mandate to promote “the free flow of ideas by word and image”, UNESCO works with the Government, Civil Society Organizations, journalism training institutions and media professionals in Myanmar to foster free, independent and pluralistic media.