



# ***IT TAKES A JOURNALIST***

IMPACT REPORT 2022

► **OUR MISSION**

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

Their vital work strengthens democratic ideals and spurs change. At ICFJ, we serve more than 160,000 journalists around the world, helping them cover the most critical issues of today, innovate to deeply connect with communities, and build news organizations that thrive.

► **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

OUR MISSION

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

COMBATING DISINFORMATION

OUR NETWORK

IJNET

THE FORUM

OUR THREE PILLARS

• SERVE

• INNOVATE

• THRIVE

ICFJ TRIBUTE TO JOURNALISTS

OUR FINANCIALS

OUR DONORS

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OUR ADVISORY BOARD

**DEAR FRIEND,***April 2023*

The International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) has supported independent media since 1984 – a commitment that remains steadfast. It took a journalist then, and “it takes a journalist” now to do the work that free and strong societies demand.

Yet so much else has changed. Today, our world faces rising authoritarianism, disinformation and technological disruptions that have transformed almost everything about the way news is gathered and shared. To meet these challenges and ensure journalists in our network can do their ever-important work, ICFJ is focusing our efforts on three strategic areas:

- We **SERVE** reporters and editors, giving them the skills and knowledge to cover the most critical issues of today, from the climate crisis to migration to conflict.
- We help journalists **INNOVATE**, using new tools and techniques to build trust and engage with communities.
- We help independent newsrooms **THRIVE** financially, adopting effective business models to ensure they can serve their purpose well into the future.

In this report, we highlight just a handful of the journalists in our network – now 160,000+ strong – whose work is making a difference. Their collective impact is immeasurable. We applaud each of them for their commitment to delivering reliable news and information to their communities, and thank our donors who generously back this work.

**Sharon Moshavi**  
President, ICFJ

# FIGHTING A GLOBAL SURGE OF DISINFORMATION

Our **Disarming Disinformation** program works globally to:



**Investigate** the sources and funding behind disinformation campaigns



Help media use cutting-edge **tools** to make the facts spread virally



**Research** the most effective techniques for countering lies



**Share findings** in eight languages to journalists worldwide on IJNet.org



Work with key news outlets to instill **best practices** in the fight for truth



ICFJ Knight Fellow **Laura Zommer** co-launched Factchequeado to bring verified information to U.S. Spanish-language communities targeted by lies. In the run-up to the 2022 elections, she and her team joined with 27 news outlets, including in battleground states such as Arizona, Georgia and Nevada, to debunk falsehoods spreading among Latinos and keep voters informed with the truth.

► **A sampling of disinformation topics** investigative participants are working on:

**Elections**  
**Health and science**  
**Environment**

**Reproductive rights**  
**Immigration**



## OUR GLOBAL NETWORK

160,000+

NETWORK MEMBERS

24,000+

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS  
IN 2022

119

COUNTRIES WHERE ICFJ WORKED  
IN 2022

## OUR PROGRAMS

81

PROGRAMS

352

STORIES PRODUCED

30

TOOLS CREATED

21

AWARDS RECEIVED

\$8.9 million

IN GRANTS GIVEN TO JOURNALISTS  
AND NEWSROOMS

692

GRANT RECIPIENTS

4,740

TRAINING AND  
MENTORSHIP HOURS

97%

OF PARTICIPANTS SURVEYED GAINED  
SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE





Offering expert advice, tools and training opportunities for the news media

**8** Languages

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Persian,  
Portuguese, Russian, Spanish

**180,000**

Average Monthly  
Visitors

**1,791**

Resources

**+55%**

Russian-Language Resources  
in 2022

**261**

Crisis Reporting Resources  
Published with the Forum

“I recommend IJNet’s weekly newsletter to everyone. The site has a lot of practical information and real professional advice. In April 2022, I found on IJNet a great training on conflict reporting. Since I live in Ukraine and I write a lot about the Russian war in Ukraine, it was very useful for me to get such training.”

—GALYNA OSTAPOVETS, UKRAINE



# THE FORUM



Expanding coverage of critical issues of local importance

**5**

Languages

Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish

**100**

Reporting Grants Given

**12,683**

Training Attendees

A sampling of 2022 trainings

Monkeypox Outbreak:  
Myths vs. Facts  
(Arabic)

How Journalists Can  
Best Engage  
Audiences on  
Climate Change  
(English)

How to Cover  
Terrorism and  
Violent Extremism  
(French)

Disinformation  
and the Amazon  
(Portuguese)

Long COVID  
in Children and  
Adolescents  
(Spanish)



# DEEPENING NEWS COVERAGE

*From conflict to climate change, ICFJ helps journalists give audiences the vital information they need.*



## Ukraine

ICFJ grants have helped journalists:

- ▶ Map Russian war crimes
- ▶ Provide vital information on environmental hazards of the conflict
- ▶ Produce award-winning documentaries on the invasion's impact on ordinary people

**“ I wanted to tell how artists, musicians, volunteers, soldiers, public figures, and local government worked during the war, and how they help preserve Ukrainian statehood and independence. ”**

—ANDRIY ZAIETS, UKRAINE, ICFJ GRANT RECIPIENT

## China

Now in its 16th year, our Global Business Journalism master's degree program at Tsinghua University in Beijing trains Chinese and international students to cover the world's second-largest economy.

- ▶ **450** master's degree recipients
- ▶ **70** countries
- ▶ Graduates working at **100+** key media outlets



**“ The GBJ program not only teaches us knowledge, but it brings international students to China and brings the world to Chinese students. ”**

—LI DONGXIAO, CHINA, GBJ GRADUATE



## Sub-Saharan Africa

The Africa Women's Journalism Project, led by ICFJ Knight Fellow **Catherine Gicheru**, works in seven countries to increase data-driven coverage of issues vital to women, and to help female journalists move to leadership positions.

**“ Through your programs, women victims of gender-based violence have the courage to approach us for early care in the health facilities. ”**

—MBOJI AÏSSATOU SENE, PRESIDENT OF A SENEGALESE HEALTH WORKERS GROUP, SPEAKING TO A RADIO JOURNALIST IN ICFJ'S PROGRAM



# SHAPING THE FUTURE OF JOURNALISM

*ICFJ advances media innovation centered on building trust with communities.*



## United States

**Susannah Locke** and her former colleagues at Vox developed transparency features for their news site, such as author bios and Q&As, to show how and why stories are reported. She was among 34 journalists from six regions of the world who took part in ICFJ's Leap Solutions Challenge on building audience trust.

“The program being so intense and immersive allowed me to build a pair of trust glasses. They're always out, and I see trust opportunities everywhere now.”

### ► ICFJ's Leap Solutions Challenge

# 34

MEDIA PARTICIPANTS

ARE CONFIDENT BUILDING TRUST & TRANSPARENCY IN THEIR NEWSROOM:

NOW **100%** BEFORE **38%**

## Hong Kong

As an ICFJ Knight Innovation Fellow, **Tinshui Yeung** researched how independent news organizations forced out of Hong Kong could operate effectively in exile. Several Chinese-language outlets adopted the cutting-edge tools he recommended, so they could pay their reporters safely and defend against authoritarian attempts to erase their journalism from the internet.



## Brazil

ICFJ Knight Fellow **Sérgio Spagnuolo**'s social media listening platforms are helping news outlets and others in Brazil and the U.S. analyze political discourse on social networks. Tools like Political Pulse aggregate posts from trusted sources while filtering out message that are part of disinformation campaigns.

### Protecting Women Journalists

As women journalists around the world face brutal online attacks, ICFJ's research division, in partnership with the University of Sheffield, is developing an early warning system to help keep digital harassment from escalating to real-world violence.



WILL IMPLEMENT PROCESSES FOR FOSTERING NEW IDEAS:

NOW **100%** BEFORE **47%** HAD PROCESSES

# STRENGTHENING INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM

*ICFJ equips news leaders to build sustainable businesses that thrive.*



## Egypt

**Namees Arnous** is generating new revenue for E7kky (“speak” in English), the digital news outlet she started to spotlight women in the Arab world and the issues they face. Taking part in ICFJ’s Elevate initiative transformed her thinking and led to the launch of two new revenue streams: events and training focused on women’s empowerment.

“We figured out that our product is not our content. Our audience is our product!”

### ► Elevate: ICFJ’s News Business Hub

# 17

NEWS  
ORGANIZATIONS

# 13%

AVERAGE GROWTH IN  
REVENUE\*

# 18%

AVERAGE GROWTH  
IN MONTHLY UNIQUE  
USERS\*

\*Over an eight-month period

## United States

**Tibisay Zea** is reaching Spanish-speakers in the U.S. with accurate health information through Salud, the podcast she launched with ICFJ’s support. Before the first season finished, Zea had attracted financing from Boston’s public health commission.

“I applaud ICFJ’s commitment to helping journalists of color tell important stories to the communities they serve.”



## Brazil

**Leandro Galante**’s news outlet in southern Brazil, O Estafeta, has provided local and regional news coverage since 1991. Through an ICFJ program, he and his team grew their monthly website visits from 21,000 to 142,000 in three months — an increase of nearly 700%.

“The program motivated us to set and achieve ambitious goals. Today, we produce and deliver excellent content to our communities.”

### ► Accelerating Digital Transformation in Brazil

# 160

NEWS OUTLETS AND  
JOURNALISTS

# \$1.4 million

IN INNOVATION GRANTS



# HONORING JOURNALISTS

**Each year, ICFJ recognizes outstanding journalists whose news reports and analyses have had tremendous impact.** For ICFJ's Tribute to Journalists 2022, we held our first in-person gala since before the pandemic and broadcast the event to a worldwide audience. Jonathan Capehart, of The Washington Post and MSNBC, served as master of ceremonies for an evening that brought together media luminaries, corporate and foundation leaders, journalists and friends of ICFJ to celebrate the importance of quality journalism. In 2022, we recognized the journalists below.

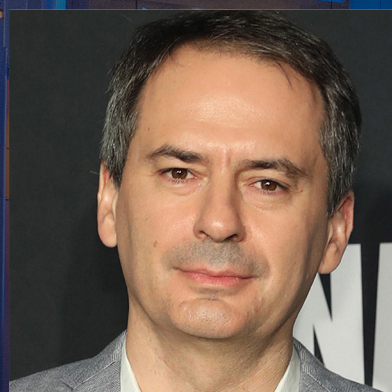


**Jonathan Capehart**



**Andrea Michell**  
Chief Foreign Affairs  
Correspondent,  
NBC News

ICFJ Founders' Award  
for Excellence in  
Journalism



**Christo Grozev  
Bellingcat**  
Executive Director,  
and Global Investigative  
News Outlet, Bellingcat

ICFJ Innovation in  
International Reporting  
Award



**Anisa Shaheed**  
Television Reporter,  
Afghanistan

ICFJ Knight International  
Journalism Award



**Evgeniy Maloletka  
Vasilisa Stepanenko  
Mstyslav Chernov**

Freelance Photojournalist,  
Freelance Video Producer,  
Visual Journalist,  
Ukraine

ICFJ Knight International  
Journalism Award



**Carlos Dada**  
Founder and Director,  
El Faro, El Salvador

ICFJ Knight Trailblazer  
Award

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

—ANDREA MITCHELL



# We are careful stewards of our donors' funds.

**Total Revenue for 2021: \$20.89 MILLION**



**82.24%** PROGRAMS

**7.18%** DEVELOPMENT + FUNDRAISING

**10.58%** GENERAL + ADMINISTRATION

*\*Financial data covers calendar year 2021*



**Top 2%**

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



**Platinum**

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

## Thank you to our supporters for their generosity.

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TRACE International  
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Univision  
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Article 19

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*\*This list reflects contributions made in 2021. Donations below \$5,000 are acknowledged on our website.*



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Developers and media innovators work on their team project at ICFJ's Leap Hackathon at Media Party in Buenos Aires.





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