



THE INTERNEWS EMERGENCY FUND FOR INDEPENDENT MEDIA

Support the Truth & Those Who Report It



Media Turn to Internews in Crisis

Over the course of 40 years, Internews has partnered with thousands of journalists, media outlets, and technology pioneers in more than 100 countries. Many of these information entrepreneurs live in low-income communities, conflict zones, or areas plagued by humanitarian disasters. In times of crisis, these partners turn to us for help, whether it's emergency financial support, digital security, or creative ways to maintain news production under incredibly challenging conditions. When it comes to supporting local media, Internews is committed to working where information is most at threat.

From Afghanistan to Ukraine, Funds are Needed to Cover Urgent Crises

Every year, Internews provides urgent support at a moment's notice. When Russia invaded Ukraine, Internews immediately spent hundreds of thousands of dollars delivering safety kits to journalists. When the Taliban retook control of Afghanistan, Internews spent nearly \$800,000 on emergency living stipends, flight support, and lodging to evacuate journalists at extreme risk. After the coup in Myanmar, Internews provided \$200,000 in emergency services to protect the digital safety of journalists and activists. When COVID-19 devastated the news business, Internews immediately issued \$100,000 in small grants to keep vital community-based outlets open.

The funds needed for this type of urgent response are not found in our traditional grant funding. With each crisis, we scramble for resources at a time that we should be laser focused on saving people's lives and livelihoods. In 2022, we aim to change that.

In 2021 Internews supported:



1,000+ current and former staff and media partners working in extreme risk environments



10,000's of journalists and activists secure their online profiles



5 country teams with emergency evacuations



160 outlets in 40 countries with COVID rapid response funds



© European Union, 2020 / Mallika Panorat

A Campaign for a \$4 Million Emergency Fund for Independent Media

We estimate that a \$4 million fund will allow us to meet these needs over the long term. For our 40th anniversary, we are challenging our long-term supporters – and people everywhere who care about protecting independent media – to rise to the occasion. This unrestricted fund will allow us to support media in a crisis, including digital security services, emergency financing for outlets at risk of closing, advocacy to pressure governments to support independent media, and other vital needs. This fund will enable Internews to work where information is most at threat – no matter the crisis.

TRUTH IS AN ENDANGERED SPECIES. WILL YOU SUPPORT MEDIA UNDER THREAT?

Contact Michelle Sokolowski (msokolowski@internews.org) or Alex Cole (acole@internews.org) for more details.



INTERNEWS IS THERE WHEN INDEPENDENT MEDIA NEED US MOST



A journalist in Ukraine reporting on the 2014 Revolution of Dignity.



Internews evacuated and helped resettle 62 Afghans.



Okot Emmanuel of Internews-supported Eye Radio in South Sudan slept at the station during COVID lockdown to continue broadcasting.



Pro-democracy activists in Myanmar in 2013 (By Burma Partnership).

Ukraine: Delivering Safety Kits to Journalists

When Russia invaded Ukraine and targeted independent media, Internews spent hundreds-of-thousands of dollars in emergency funds to deliver safety kits to journalists; relocated dozens of journalists and support staff to safer locations; and provided digital security support to respond to the massive increase in hacking, phishing and DDOS attacks. We also launched a humanitarian response to support the millions of people who have fled Ukraine with timely and accurate information on border crossings, safe travel routes, how and where to access help, and rumor tracking to respond to the huge amount of mis and dis-information circulating.

Afghanistan: Evacuating Journalists Under Threat

When Afghanistan, where we've worked for 20 years, fell to the Taliban, we were flooded with thousands of requests from journalists for emergency support. We provided emergency living stipends, flight support, visa services, and lodging to evacuate 62 journalists at extreme risk of persecution. We continue to support these journalists in exile, helping them to continue reporting and providing vital information to Afghans at a time of political tumult.

COVID-19: Keeping the Doors Open at Vital News Outlets

When COVID-19 devastated news advertising in April 2020, Internews immediately issued dozens of small grants, totaling \$100,000, to keep community-based outlets open. Internews' extensive research on information ecosystems, combined with deep ties to thousands of outlets and journalists around the world, allowed it to identify vital outlets with the greatest needs and channel resources to them quickly. Internews leveraged this initial investment, approached larger donors, and was ultimately able to support 160 outlets in 40 countries.

Myanmar: Protecting Digital Security of Journalists & Activists

When the democratically elected government in Myanmar was ousted in February 2021, Internews provided \$200,000 in emergency consulting services to protect the digital safety of journalists and activists. Working closely with civil society groups and technology platforms, Internews was able to protect the identity of hundreds of activists under threat and reduce the flood of disinformation designed to undermine their activities.

WILL YOU HELP US RESPOND TO CRISES LIKE THESE?

Contact Michelle Sokolowski (msokolowski@internews.org) or Alex Cole (acole@internews.org) for more details.