

Internal evaluation

Reporters Respond

and Legal Defense

Fund (2018-2019)

Free Press Unlimited

The logo for Free Press Unlimited, featuring the words "FREE PRESS" stacked vertically in a bold, sans-serif font, with "UNLIMITED" centered below them. The letters are black on a white background.

**FREE
PRESS
UNLIMITED**

Colophon

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Free Press Unlimited, October 2020

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List of abbreviations

BoD	Board of Directors
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
FPU	Free Press Unlimited
GSA	Gender, Safety and Accountability (team)
HR	Human Resources
K&Q	Knowledge and Quality (team)
LDF	Legal Defense Fund
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
P&A	Policy and Advocacy (team)
RR	Reporters Respond

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Executive summary

This report presents the findings of the internal evaluation of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund, implemented by Free Press Unlimited and its local partners. The main goal of this evaluation was internal learning and examining areas where there is room for improvement. The time frame of this evaluation was 2018 and 2019. As part of the evaluation, nine interviews with the local partners were conducted, and four SurveyMonkey surveys were sent out. The surveys were sent out to beneficiaries of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund, either supported directly by Free Press Unlimited or by its local partners, Free Press Unlimited's staff members, and Free Press Unlimited's partner organisations.

The evaluation looked into the satisfaction of beneficiaries and of local partners, the efficiency and added value of cooperation with local partners, the gender gap in applications for support, the reasons for the increase in applications, the brand awareness and reputation of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund, and the holistic approach of the funds.

There has been a rise in applications for Reporters Respond, which is indicative of the deteriorating press freedom situation and increased (political) tensions in countries around the world. Furthermore, the increase in applications is also related to referrals from Free Press Unlimited staff members and partner organisations. A high number of beneficiaries from a certain country is mostly connected to the presence of a local partner.

Cooperation with local partners is of great added value for Free Press Unlimited, as this way Free Press Unlimited is able to help even more journalists whom it would not be able to help without these partnerships. Most local partners manage to proactively support media professionals in distress, without relying on applications. Furthermore, because of their networks and connections, local partners are able to provide the type of support that Free Press Unlimited cannot provide, and provide support in countries where Free Press Unlimited would not easily be able to support media professionals, due to the difficulty of vetting cases.

Generally, beneficiaries of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund are very satisfied with the support they received. They praise the speed with which they received support, the ease with which they could apply, and the lack of bureaucratic obstacles. Beneficiaries noted that as a result of the support, they are able to carry on with their work, they are under less psycho-social stress and they feel strong mental support.

Free Press Unlimited's local partners also praise the cooperation with Free Press Unlimited. They praise the Safety team on their flexibility, punctuality and speediness, noting that the team is very knowledgeable on the local contexts in which the local partners operate and therefore of the difficulties that might arise due to the circumstances in their countries.

Areas in which there is room for improvement is working on making the funds more accessible to female journalists, increasing the brand awareness of the funds, and linking the funds more to other types of support that Free Press Unlimited is able to provide.

1. Introduction

Free Press Unlimited

This report presents the results of the internal evaluation of Reporters Respond (RR) and the Legal Defense Fund (LDF), implemented by Free Press Unlimited (FPU) and its local partners. Free Press Unlimited is a Dutch non-governmental organisation, based in Amsterdam. It seeks to promote freedom of press and freedom of information, based on the notion that these are key for gathering and spreading reliable, unbiased information. Media can highlight under-reported issues, ensure accountability of policymakers and give marginalised groups a voice in the public space and thus, in short, catalyse processes of societal change.

Support to journalists in distress

Free Press Unlimited has an extensive safety programme that is premised upon the belief that safety is an absolute precondition for media to function properly and serve the public. Journalists are only able to function as watchdogs and to provide independent and trustworthy news to the public if they can carry out their work without risking harm. Free Press Unlimited's safety programme has four pillars, being support to journalists in distress, capacity development, tools and resources, and advocacy and campaigning. Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund both fall under the first pillar. Both are funds available to journalists and media organisations in distress, enabling them to mitigate emergencies that arise in relation to their work and to resume their work as swiftly as possible. Within Free Press Unlimited, Emma Bergmans (project officer) and Jantine van Herwijnen (programme coordinator)¹ are responsible for Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund.

Reporters Respond

Reporters Respond, established in 2011, is an international emergency fund for journalists and media organisations. The fund can support journalists and media organisations who have been confronted with (online) harassment, intimidation or violence, among other things, to continue their vital work as quickly as possible. Support is provided irrespective of the medium and the area covered by the journalist or outlet. Importantly, this fund is not meant to provide structural assistance. It provides media professionals with one-time financial support to cover costs, for example for replacing their damaged equipment. In addition to the financial support, other types of support provided comprise safety advice, letters of support, and referrals to other organisations. In short, the objective of Reporters Respond is to enable journalists and media outlets to resume work as quickly as possible when faced with local obstruction.

Legal Defense Fund

The Legal Defense Fund, established in 2018, is targeted at media professionals who have run into legal issues as a result of their profession. This fund responds to the trend of growing judicial harassment that journalists and media are subjected to. Prosecutions, long-running lawsuits and imprisonment are part of the abusive judicial proceedings designed to silence reporters and media houses and drain them of financial resources. The Legal Defense Fund provides financial assistance, so journalists will not be forced to withdraw their defense and accept the consequences of, often false, accusations. Other support that falls under the Legal Defense Fund

¹ Emma Bergmans and Jantine van Herwijnen will henceforth be referred to as the Safety team.

comprises financial support to families of imprisoned journalists who are breadwinners, referrals to (pro bono) lawyers, legal advice, preventative measures (such as a pre-publication analysis), prison support, and trial monitoring. In short, the objective of the Legal Defense Fund is to prevent journalists from being silenced due to legal proceedings by providing them with legal assistance.

Partners

The Journalists in Distress (JID) network is a network of international organisations that provide direct assistance to journalists and media professionals. At the moment, the JID network consists of 21 organisations: ARTICLE 19, Canadian Journalists for Freedom of Expression, Committee to Protect Journalists, Defend Defenders, English PEN, European Centre for Press and Media Freedom, Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders, Freedom House, Free Press Unlimited, Frontline Defenders, International Media Support, Internews, International Women’s Media Foundation, IREX Journalist Safety Network, Marie Colvin Circle, Media Legal Defence Initiative, PEN America, PEN International, Rory Peck Trust, Reporters Without Borders, and Skeyes Center for Media and Cultural Freedom. Together with these other international organisations, Free Press Unlimited verifies, discusses and vets cases and coordinates joint efforts in offering emergency and legal support to Journalists. In 2019 Free Press Unlimited became a co-coordinator of the network.

In addition to supporting journalists directly, Free Press Unlimited works together with local partners. These organisations receive funding from Free Press Unlimited, which they use to support media professionals in distress. Table 1 shows the local partners which Free Press Unlimited has cooperated with at the time of the evaluation and which therefore fall within the scope of this evaluation. The local partners have been anonymised for their safety.

Partner organisation	Region	RR	LDF
Partner A	Sub-Saharan Africa	✓	✓
Partner B	Sub-Saharan Africa	✓	✓
Partner C	Latin America	✓	✓
Partner D	MENA	✓	✓
Partner E	MENA	✓	✓
Partner F	Sub-Saharan Africa		✓
Partner G	Sub-Saharan Africa		✓
Partner H	Sub-Saharan Africa		✓
Partner I	Asia		✓
Partner J	Latin America		✓
Partner K	Europe		✓
Partner L	Europe		✓

Partner M	Europe		✓
Partner N	Europe		✓
Partner O	<i>Confidential</i>		✓

Table 1: Local partners for RR and the LDF

Scope of the evaluation

The target group of the internal evaluation is limited to journalists and media organisations that received emergency support and/or legal support in the years 2018 and 2019, and all local partners of Free Press Unlimited at the moment of writing (first half of 2020). The reasons for choosing this time frame and disregarding the period 2011-2017 and the year 2020 were fourfold:

1. The Legal Defense Fund only came into being at the end of 2018;
2. Limited data on Reporters Respond (including contact details of beneficiaries) is available before 2018;
3. Beneficiaries who received support before 2018 of support might have limited recollection of which organisation provided them with support as well as the specifics relating to the procedures;
4. As part of the evaluation is also geared at finding out whether the emergency support and/or legal support has had any long-lasting effects, the decision was made to not include journalists and media organisations that received support in 2020.

2. Evaluation questions

This evaluation seeks to answer a set of questions about Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund, which have been drawn up in consultation with the Safety team. Chapter 4 will present the answers to the following evaluation questions:

1. How valuable is Free Press Unlimited's financial support to journalists and media organisations?
2. How valuable is Free Press Unlimited's non-financial support to journalists and media organisations?
3. How efficient is cooperation with local partners in crisis areas?
4. Why does Free Press Unlimited receive less requests from female journalists in comparison to male journalists?
5. What explains the increase in applications for assistance?
6. What are the brand awareness and reputation of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund?
7. How satisfied are Free Press Unlimited's local partners with the cooperation with Free Press Unlimited on emergency support and legal support?
8. Do Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund approach safety in a holistic way?

3. Methodology

3.1 Interviews and surveys

As part of the evaluation, nine interviews were conducted and four SurveyMonkey surveys were sent out. The target groups of the surveys first received an email with the link and the request to fill out the survey. Later, they received a reminder via email. The emails were sent out in either English, French, Spanish or Arabic. The table below shows the response rates of the four surveys that were sent out.

	Languages	Sent out to	Filled out by	Response rate
Survey I: beneficiaries of RR and the LDF	English, French, Spanish, Arabic	28 beneficiaries	15 beneficiaries	68 percent
Survey II: beneficiaries of support of the local partners	English, French, Spanish	58 beneficiaries	22 beneficiaries	38 percent
Survey III: FPU staff members	English	80 staff members ²	43 staff members	54 percent
Survey IV: FPU's partner organisations	English, French, Spanish, Arabic	53 partner organisations	34 partner organisations	64 percent

Table 2: Response rates of surveys I - IV

Additionally, during the process of writing the evaluation report the Safety team was asked to provide input on their procedures and practices.

3.1.1 Interviews with local partners

In consultation with the Safety team, the decision was made to interview ten local partners, of which nine were interviewed in the end.³ The interviews took place either via Jitsi, Zoom or WhatsApp call, in either English or French (only with Partner A). Annex 1 shows the interview questions in English.⁴

The aim of the interviews was twofold: first, to answer evaluation questions 3, 4 and 7, and second, to gather contact details of journalists whom the partner organisations had supported, in order to send them a survey to inquire about their satisfaction.

3.1.2 Surveys for beneficiaries

3.1.2.1 Supported by Free Press Unlimited

To determine journalists' satisfaction with the support they received, two surveys were sent out. Survey I⁵ was sent to journalists whom Free Press Unlimited had directly assisted, either through Reporters Respond or the Legal Defense Fund. In selecting whom to send the survey to, the method of cluster analysis was used. For the purpose of this evaluation, the data objects are

² At the moment of writing, Free Press Unlimited has 80 staff members.

³ See annex 6, table 3 for the list of partner organisations and interviews, p. 59.

⁴ See p. 54.

⁵ See annex 2, p. 55.

beneficiaries whom received support directly through Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund. Segmentation of the journalists in cluster analysis laid the groundwork for making a random selection of journalists from the different clusters, with the aim of ensuring good representation. The beneficiaries were clustered on the basis of type of entity (person or media organisation), gender, geographic region, and type of support received.

The follow-up step was randomly selecting beneficiaries from the different clusters: 20 beneficiaries who were supported through Reporters Respond, and 10 beneficiaries who were supported through the Legal Defense Fund. The Safety team was requested to provide the email addresses of the selected beneficiaries, so they could receive survey I. However, it was not possible to receive contact details of all of the shortlisted beneficiaries: some were heavily traumatised, still found themselves in a hostile situation, or had continuously been stalking the Safety team. In the latter situation, contacting the stalking journalist would have the potential of exacerbating the stalking and creating expectations that could not be met. Therefore, the Safety team provided contact details of other beneficiaries, who had found themselves in comparable situations, trying to simulate the good representation that had been envisaged. Even though random selection from the clusters was not possible, the data that was gathered was consequently dis-aggregated on the basis of:

- Fund (supported through Reporters Respond or the Legal Defense Fund);
- Geographical region (Asia, Eurasia, Europe, Americas, North America, MENA or Sub-Saharan Africa);
- Gender (male or female).⁶

3.1.2.2 Supported by local partners

Survey II⁷ was sent to journalists who received emergency support and/or legal support via the local partners. The journalists' email addresses were requested during the interviews with the local partners. The quantity of provided contact details varied per organisation, depending on confidentiality, language barriers and anticipated willingness of the journalists to fill out the survey. In gathering this data, the evaluator was wholly dependent on the local partners, explaining the differences in the amount of contact details provided.⁸

3.1.3 Survey for Free Press Unlimited staff members

Survey III⁹ was sent out to Free Press Unlimited staff members, with the aim of gauging their knowledge of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund.

3.1.4 Survey for partner organisations

Survey IV¹⁰ was sent out to Free Press Unlimited's partner organisations, which were beneficiaries of subgrants at the moment of writing. Exceptions are:

6 In dis-aggregating the data, the category of media organisations was not considered, as no media organisations filled out survey I; the same holds for the category of non-binary people, as no non-binary people filled out survey I.

7 See annex 3, p. 56.

8 See annex 6, table 4 for the number of contact details provided and the number of responses per local partner, p. 60.

9 See annex 4, p. 57.

10 See annex 5, p. 58.

- partner organisations which Free Press Unlimited has started cooperation with only very recently;
- partner organisations which cannot be contacted for surveys due to security reasons;
- partner organisations which are also local partners for Reporters Respond and Free Press Unlimited.¹¹

Partner organisations in Syria and Burundi received the survey from respectively the project officer and programme coordinator working on the countries in question. The evaluator sent the other partner organisations the survey herself. In total, the survey was sent to 53 partner organisations.

The main aim of sending the survey to partner organisations was to explore the reputation of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund among Free Press Unlimited's partner organisations. There are two steps to researching this reputation: the first part is knowing whether partner organisations are aware of the existence of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund. If they are, the second part is knowing what their knowledge and expectations are with regard to both funds.

¹¹ See table 1, pp. 8-9.

4. Findings

4.1 General data analysis

4.1.1 Reporters Respond

Figures 1 and 2 show, respectively, the gender divide and the geographic location of the journalists and media organisations which received support through Reporters Respond.

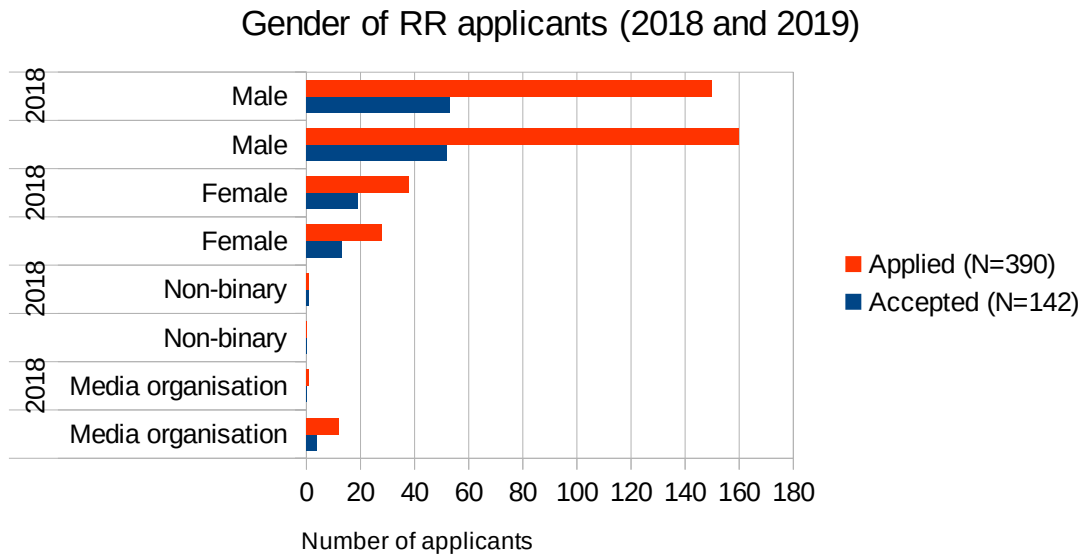


Figure 1: Composition of RR applicants, based on gender (2018 and 2019)

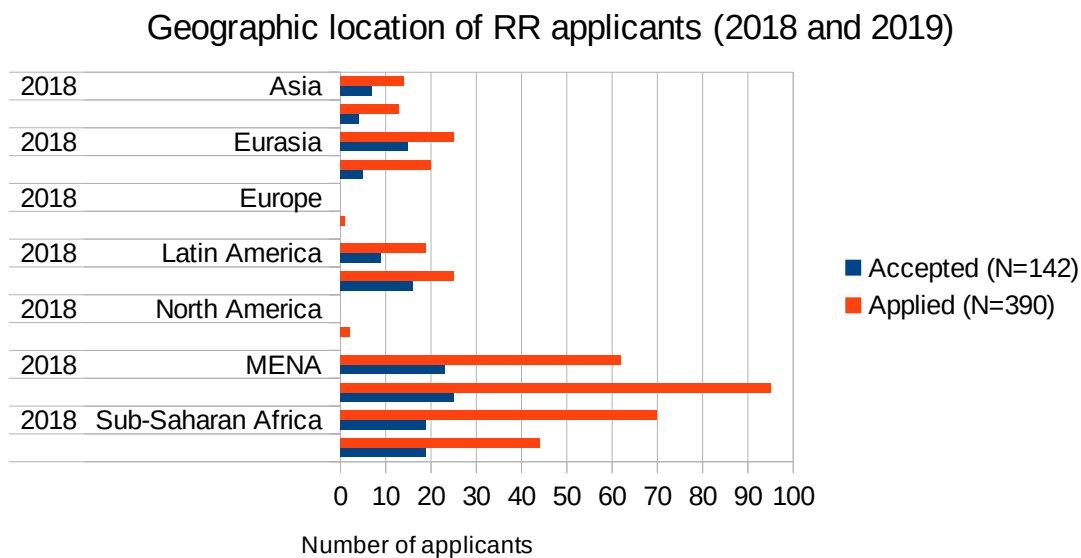


Figure 2: Applied versus accepted requests for support per geographic region (2018 and 2019)

RR 2018+2019 all partners

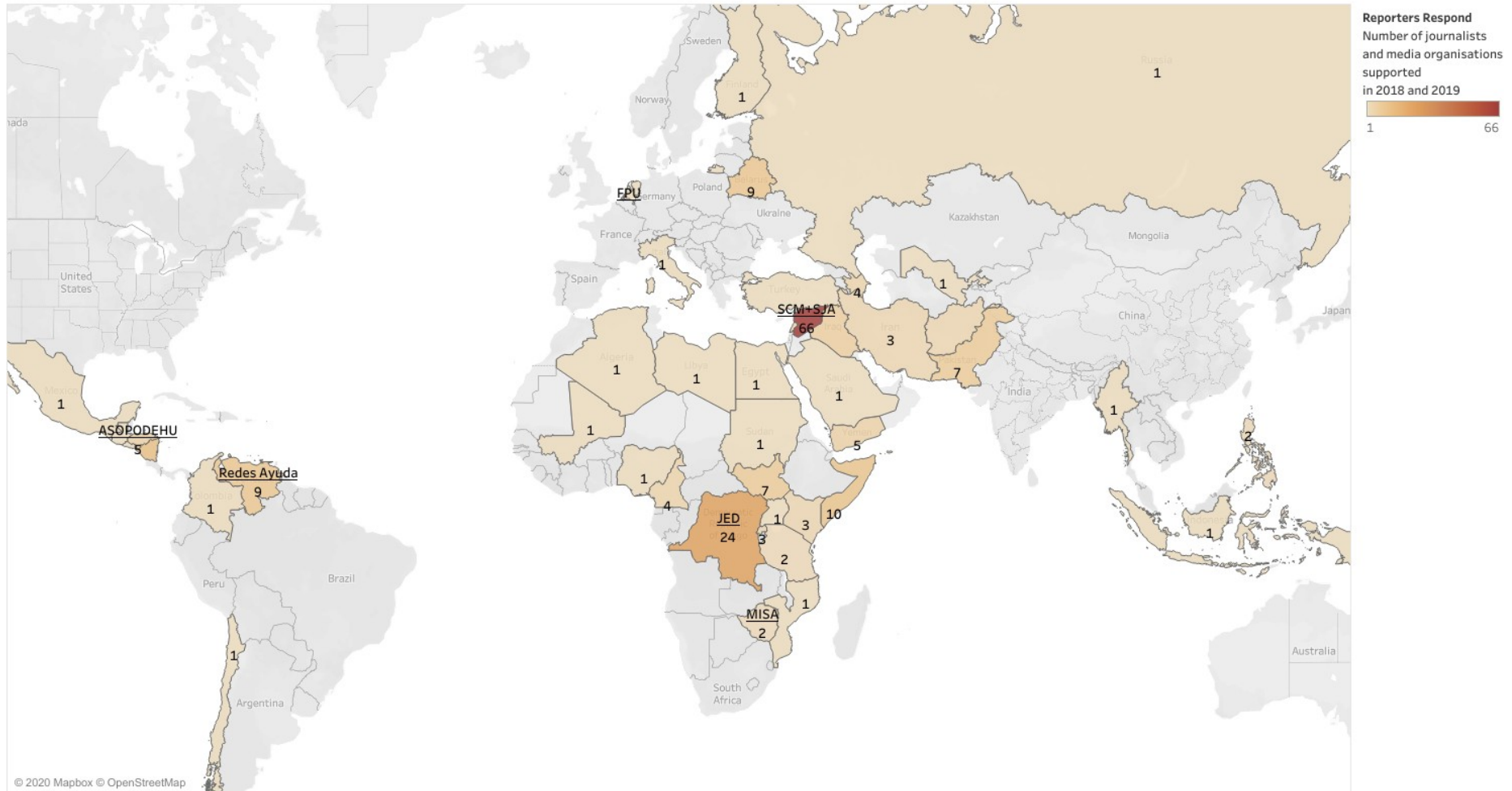


Figure 3: Supported journalists and media organisations in 2018 and 2019 (RR)

This figure shows the geographic spread of incidents for which beneficiaries received emergency support in 2018 and 2019. This figure also maps the presence of local partners, which provide support only in the countries where they are located.

The subsequent observations follow from figures 1 to 3, helping to answer the following evaluation question: *What explains the increase in applications for assistance?* As only one year of the Legal Defense Fund (namely 2019) has been evaluated, this question will only be answered in relation to Reporters Respond.

Gender divide

Significantly more male than female journalists applied for and received emergency support and legal support. With regard to Reporters Respond, the amount of female journalists who applied for and received support in 2019 was even lower than in 2018.¹²

However, in 2019 the Legal Defense Fund came into existence, meaning that a significant number of cases which previously allegedly would have been handled within Reporters Respond, were handled within the Legal Defense Fund as of 2019. Therefore, when looking at the gender divide, we can also take the amount of applications and accepted cases for Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund in 2019 together (amounting to 268 applications and 120 accepted cases). However, even in that case the percentage of female applicants is only slightly higher, and the percentage of female beneficiaries is slightly lower.¹³ Nevertheless, Free Press Unlimited has taken measures to ensure a higher application rate of female journalists, such as making the application page on the Free Press Unlimited website more gender-sensitive. This includes not only using photographs of male journalists on the website and listing the wide range of cases in which assistance can be provided, including incidents which relatively more female journalists experience.

Geographic spread

Over 50 percent of the beneficiaries (both media professionals and media organisations) come from four countries, being the DRC, Nicaragua, Somalia and Syria. This includes both the beneficiaries who received support directly through Free Press Unlimited, and the beneficiaries who received support through the local partners. These high numbers can be explained by a number of factors.

- The presence of a local partner;
- Countries where many incidents took place, often went through a crisis or another type of situation characterised by political tensions, for example elections (such as in the DRC);
- Free Press Unlimited staff members who are very active in referring cases to Reporters Respond; this may result in a spike in the number of beneficiaries from that specific country (such as in Nicaragua and Belarus);
- Partner organisations which are very active in referring cases to Reporters Respond; this may ensure that more journalists or media organisations in their country receive emergency support;

12 In 2018 21 percent of the applicants were female journalists (whereas 83 percent of the applicants were male journalists). With regard to the beneficiaries, the percentages amounted to 26 percent (female journalists) versus 72 percent (male journalists)

In 2019 14 percent of the applicants were female journalists (whereas 75 percent of the applicants were male journalists). With regard to the beneficiaries, the percentages amounted to 18 percent (female journalists) versus 75 percent (male journalists).

13 In 2019 18 percent of the applicants were female journalists (whereas 73 percent of the applicants were male journalists). With regard to the beneficiaries, the percentages amounted to 16 percent (female journalists) versus 73 percent (male journalists).

- Incidents tend to take place in countries where there is very limited press freedom. To take the DRC, Nicaragua, Somalia and Syria as an example: in 2018 they were, respectively, ranked on place 154, 90, 168 and 177 (out of 180) in the World Press Freedom Index.¹⁴ In 2019 they were, respectively, ranked on place 154, 114, 164 and 174 (out of 180).¹⁵

These factors also explain why there has been an increase in applications for assistance: crises in countries, referrals by Free Press Unlimited staff members or partner organisations, and the presence of local partners. However, these factors also illustrate that a bias is inherent in the support that Free Press Unlimited provides through Reporters Respond. Naturally, countries where press freedom is under threat are (over)represented in figure 3, but some other countries that ranked poorly on the 2019 World Press Freedom Index, such as Saudi Arabia (place 172) or Sudan (place 169) are not represented as clearly in figure 3. In providing emergency support, the Safety team is dependent on applications, referrals (from instance from other staff members or partner organisations), but also on its own network, that is needed to vet cases. Vetting cases is easier in countries where Free Press Unlimited has partner organisations, or in countries in which other members of the JID Network are active. However, as it is very difficult to vet cases in certain countries which are nevertheless notorious for their poor track record on press freedom, such as China or Cameroon, Free Press Unlimited does not provide emergency support (through Reporters Respond) to journalists or media organisations located in those countries. While the Safety team acknowledges this bias, it is important to keep searching for opportunities to, for example, find reliable local partners in such countries where media professionals continue to face many safety threats. Furthermore, Free Press Unlimited still endeavours to be active in different ways in countries where it is not easy or possible to offer emergency support.

Establishing new local partnerships for Reporters Respond is a difficult enterprise, however. Emergency support is particularly susceptible to fraud, due to the difficulties that vetting cases of emergency support brings about. Furthermore, it can be challenging to find local partners which support journalists irrespective of whether they share the local partner's vision. Nevertheless, this is key as Reporters Respond envisages to be an independent fund that supports all journalists. Therefore, the best approach in the light of these difficulties is the one that is already adopted, namely for Free Press Unlimited to provide support itself in certain difficult contexts, and to use the local partners to stay up to date regarding referrals for support.

Rejections

Both in 2018 and in 2019 less than 40 percent of the applications were accepted. In 2018 the reasons for rejecting an application were not yet documented, but in 2019 they were, granting the possibility to look into the reasons for the rejections. In 2019 69 out of 200 applications were accepted. In 26 of the remaining 131 cases, the Safety team referred the applicant to another organisation, such as the local partner, for example because it would be possible or easier for the local partner, rather than the Safety team, to vet the case. In the other 105 cases, reasons for declining were as follows, in descending order of frequency:

- The case did not fall within the mandate of Reporters Respond, for example because:

14 Reporters Without Borders, 2018 World Press Freedom Index, retrieved from <https://rsf.org/en/ranking/2018>.

15 Reporters Without Borders, 2019 World Press Freedom Index, retrieved from <https://rsf.org/en/ranking/2019>.

- The situation for which the applicant requested support did not arise as a result of their journalistic profession;
- The applicant was not or no longer a practicing media professional;
- The event for which the applicant requested support did not occur recently;
- The applicant requested structural support or organisational funding rather than emergency support;
- The applicant had been supported by Free Press Unlimited before;
- The applicant was already being supported by other organisations;
- The Safety team could not verify the threats and thus could not vet the case;
- Suspicion of fraud.

The two main reasons for rejecting a case are, therefore, the applicant not being a media professional, or the applicant not being at risk due to their work. Both of these eligibility criteria are clearly mentioned on the Free Press Unlimited website.¹⁶ Receiving applications from individuals who are in a dire situation yet not eligible, is to a certain extent inevitable. This is due to the nature of emergency funds, which naturally attract individuals in distress. Ultimately, there is a consideration to make between deliberately keeping the eligibility criteria vague and flexible to provide more leeway for the Safety team, and making the eligibility criteria clearer and the application form stricter, so that less applicants who are not eligible will apply. However, being more flexible allows the Safety team to follow-up on, for example, an unclear application of a media professional that is in fact in distress and eligible for support.

16 See <https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/safety-for-journalists/emergency-support>.

4.1.2 Legal Defense Fund

Figures 4 and 5 show, respectively, the gender divide and the geographic location of the journalists and media organisations which received support through the Legal Defense Fund in 2019.

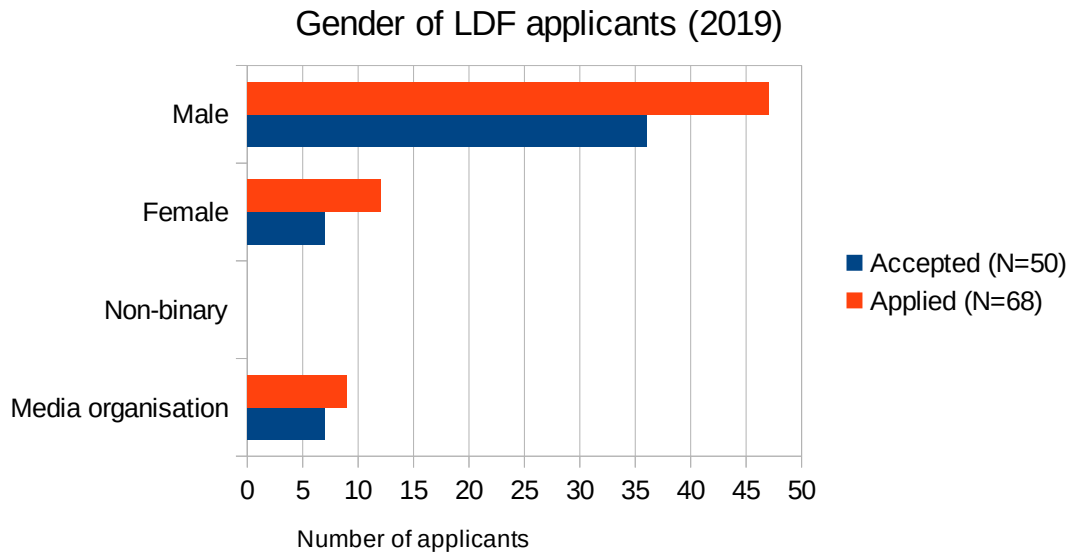


Figure 4: Composition of LDF applicants, based on gender (2019)

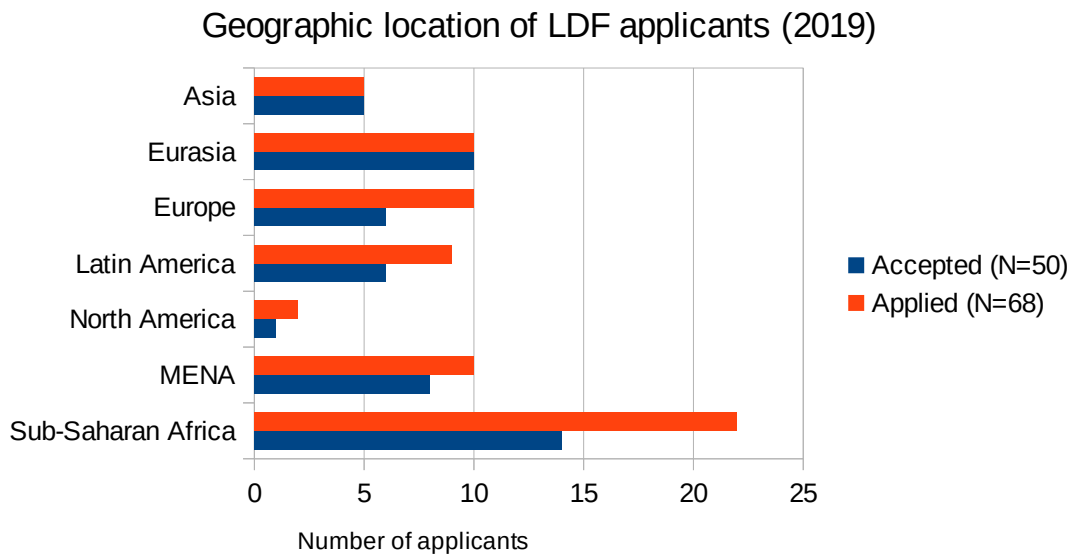


Figure 5: Applied versus accepted requests for support per geographic region (2019)

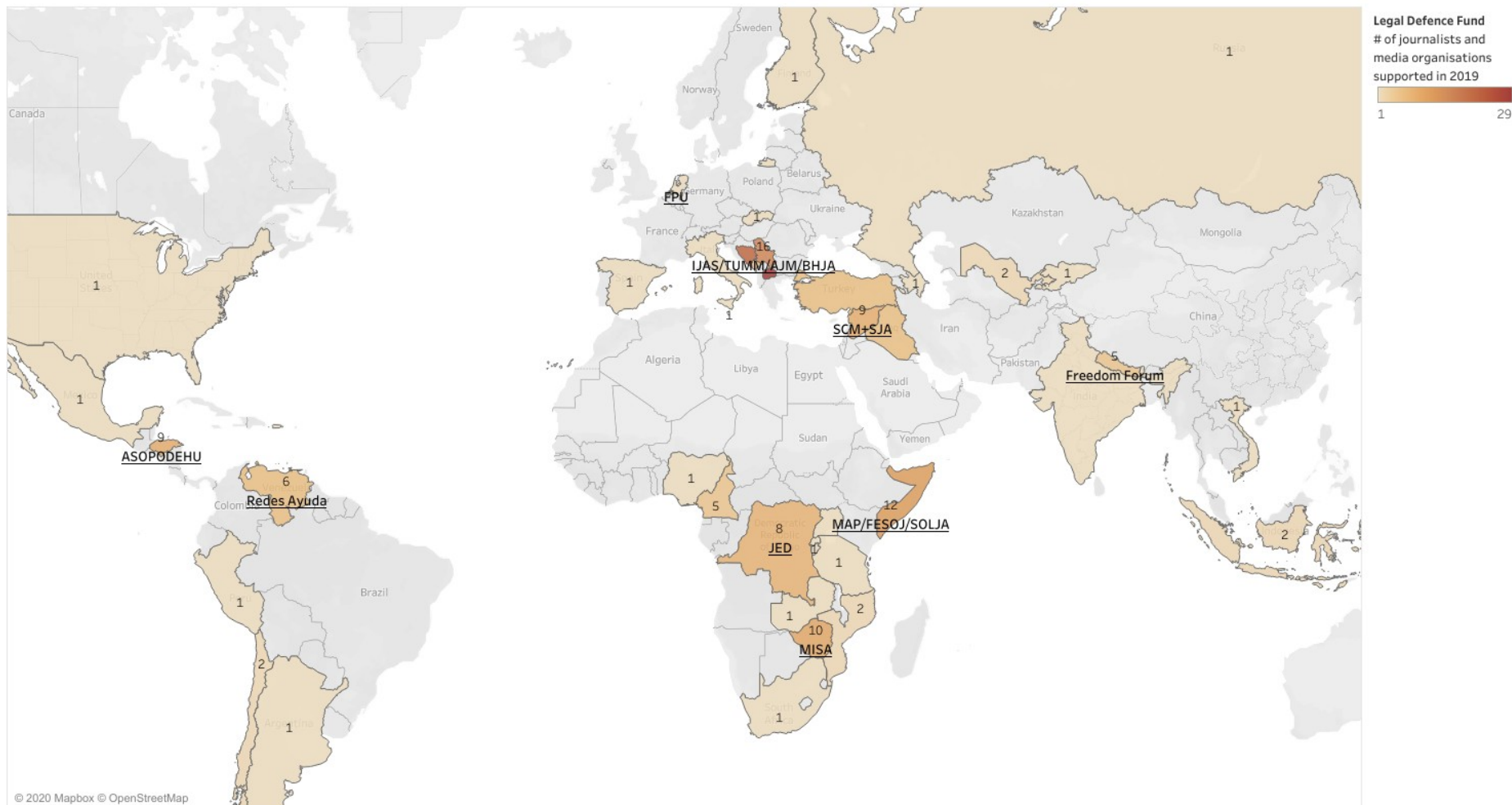


Figure 6: Supported journalists and media organisations in 2019 (LDF)

This figure shows the geographic spread of the incidents for which beneficiaries received legal support in 2019. The figure also maps the presence of the local partners, which provide support only in the countries where they are located.

The subsequent observations follow from figures 4 to 6.

Gender

Similar to Reporters Respond, significantly more male than female journalists apply for and receive legal support.¹⁷

Geographic spread

The presence of local partners is strongly connected to the high numbers of beneficiaries in certain countries. Generally, it is easier to work with local partners within the framework of the Legal Defense Fund, as this fund is less susceptible to fraud. This has to do with the fact that it is easier to vet legal cases as there are more (legal) facts that one can rely upon, such as a legal case before a court or an individual's arbitrary detention in prison.

Rejections

The acceptance rate of the applications for the Legal Defense Fund is higher than the acceptance rate of the applications for Reporters Respond (74 percent for the Legal Defense Fund, as opposed to 36 percent for Reporters Respond).¹⁸ The rejection rate for the Legal Defense Fund is lower as it is easier to vet legal cases, either through the presence of local partners or due to cooperation with other members from the JID Network. The cases which were rejected, were rejected predominantly because the case fell outside of the fund's mandate (for example in the case of labour conflicts), because of the case's limited feasibility, or because it was not possible to verify the facts of the case.

17 In 2019 17 percent of the applicants were female journalists (whereas 69 percent of the applicants were male journalists). With regard to the beneficiaries, the percentages amounted to 14 percent (female journalists) versus 72 percent (male journalists).

18 The mentioned acceptance rate of 36 percent for Reporters Respond is an average of the acceptance rates in 2018 and 2019.

4.2 Awareness about and knowledge of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund

This section answers the following evaluation question: *What are the brand awareness and reputation of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund?*

4.2.1 Awareness and knowledge within Free Press Unlimited

The following analysis is based on the responses to survey III.¹⁹ This survey was filled out by 42 Free Press Unlimited staff members, the composition of which is shown in annex 8.²⁰

4.2.1.1 Reporters Respond

Prior to receiving this survey, the vast majority of staff members (95 percent) had heard about Reporters Respond. The two staff members who had not heard of it, either fell in the category of having worked at Free Press Unlimited for less than 6 months or having worked at Free Press Unlimited for 6 months to 1 year. Both are active in the Syria team.

Of the staff members who are aware of the existence of Reporters Respond, 95 percent claimed to know which colleagues are responsible for the emergency fund. The percentage of staff members who were in fact able to name the colleagues responsible for Reporters Respond amounted to 84 percent.²¹

Expectations of Reporters Respond

The majority of staff members seem to over all have a good understanding of what Reporters Respond entails. However, doubts, misunderstandings or knowledge gaps mainly revolve around the following topics:

- The fact that media organisations are also eligible for support (and not just journalists);
- The sum of money that journalists can receive under Reporters Respond, namely no more than 3000 EUR, with a possibility of deviation from this amount (generally thought to be higher by staff members);
- The amount of times that one journalist can receive support, namely generally once per incident, and not once in a lifetime;
- The possibility of non-material support in addition to material support.

One respondent explicitly requested more clarity surrounding Reporters Respond: 'It is good if we can receive some [sic] time to time the newest version (inPDF [sic]) of the funds [sic] mains [sic] takeaways, criteria, amount, etc.'

Referrals to Reporters Respond

72 percent of the staff members who answered the question in case have referred a journalist or media organisation to Reporters Respond, stressing that they are very satisfied with how their referrals have been handled, in terms of speed, flexibility and communication.

4.2.1.2 Legal Defense Fund

Prior to receiving this survey, the vast majority of staff members who filled out the survey (95 percent) had heard about the Legal Defense Fund. Those who had not heard of it, either fell in

19 See section 3.1.3, p. 12; annex 4, p. 57.

20 See p. 62.

21 This includes knowing that Emma Bergmans and Jantine van Herwijnen are jointly responsible for Reporters Respond, and Bergmans's role is not supportive, but complementary in relation to Van Herwijnen's role.

the category of having worked at Free Press Unlimited for less than 6 months or having worked at Free Press Unlimited for 6 months to 1 year.

Of the colleagues who have heard of the Legal Defense Fund, 88 percent claimed to know colleagues are responsible for the emergency fund. In fact, the percentage of staff members who were actually able to name the colleagues responsible for the Legal Defense Fund amounted to 71 percent.²²

Expectations of the Legal Defense Fund

In comparison to Reporters Respond, fewer staff members feel they have a good grasp of the scope and specifics of the Legal Defense Fund. Generally, staff members are aware of the fact that the goal of the Legal Defense Fund is to support journalists with legal costs when they are facing prosecution. Doubts, misunderstandings or knowledge gaps mostly relate to the following topics:

- The fact that media organisations are also eligible for support (and not just journalists);
- The sum of money that journalists (or their family) can receive under the Legal Defense Fund, namely no more than 5000 EUR (generally thought to be lower by staff members);
- The fact that under the Legal Defense Fund, there are also grants available for strategic litigation cases, amounting to up to 50.000 EUR (generally thought to be lower by staff members);
- The fact that a detained journalist's spouse or family can also receive financial support, if he/she is currently unable to carry out his/her work as breadwinner.

Referrals to the Legal Defense Fund

38 percent of the staff members who answered this question have referred a journalist or media organisation to Legal Defense Fund. In their responses to the survey, staff members expressed their satisfaction with how referrals are handled: 'There [sic] have always been very quick in their response, and fantastic coordination with embassies, lawyers, other JID-members, other stakeholders and me as PC to provide regular updates.' As a point of feedback, the criteria should be communicated more clearly, in order to avoid raising expectations that cannot be met.

²² This includes knowing that Emma Bergmans and Jantine van Herwijnen are jointly responsible for Reporters Respond, and Bergmans's role is not supportive, but complementary in relation to Van Herwijnen's role.

Clarity of the application procedure

How clear is the application procedure for RR/LDF to you?

Average score per category with 5 = extremely clear and 1 = not at all clear
N=40 for RR; N=35 for LDF

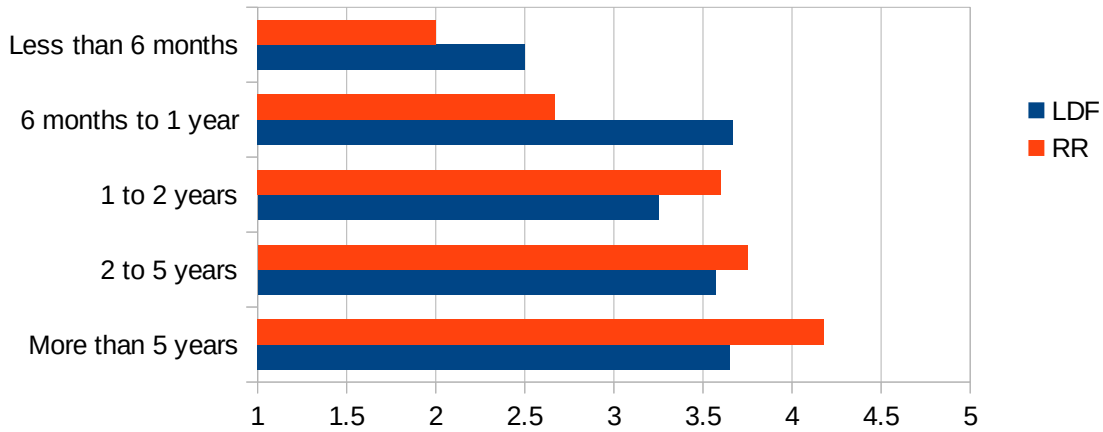


Figure 7: Clarity of application procedure, per duration of employment (survey III)

How clear is the application procedure for RR/LDF to you?

Average score with 5 = extremely clear and 1 = not at all clear
N=40 for RR; N=35 for LDF

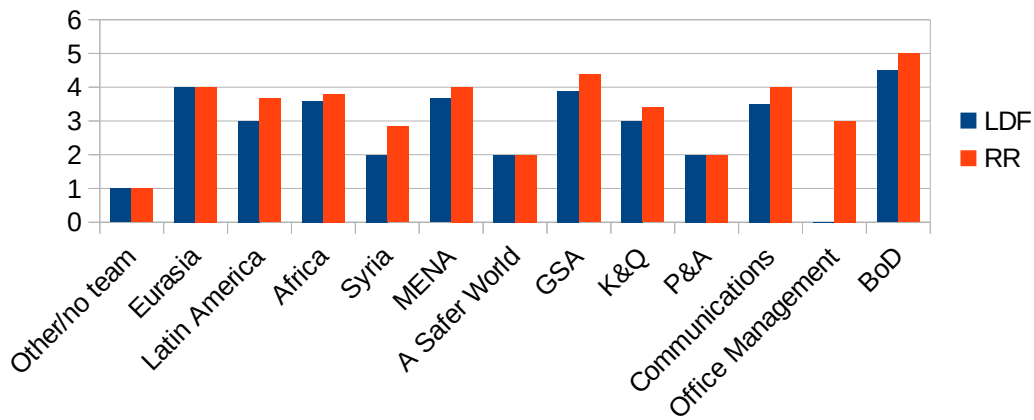


Figure 8: Clarity of application procedure, per (sub)team at FPU (survey III)

Clarity of eligibility criteria

How clear are the eligibility criteria for RR/LDF to you?

Average score per category with 5 = extremely clear and 1 = not at all clear
N=40 for RR; N=35 for LDF

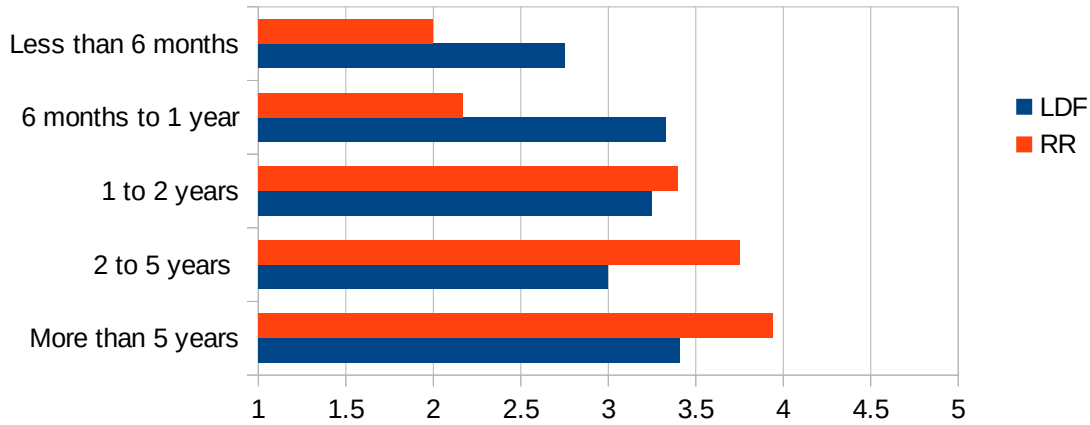


Figure 9: Clarity of eligibility criteria, per duration of employment (survey III)

How clear are the eligibility criteria for RR/LDF to you?

Average score with 5 = extremely clear and 1 = not at all clear
N=40 for RR; N=35 for LDF

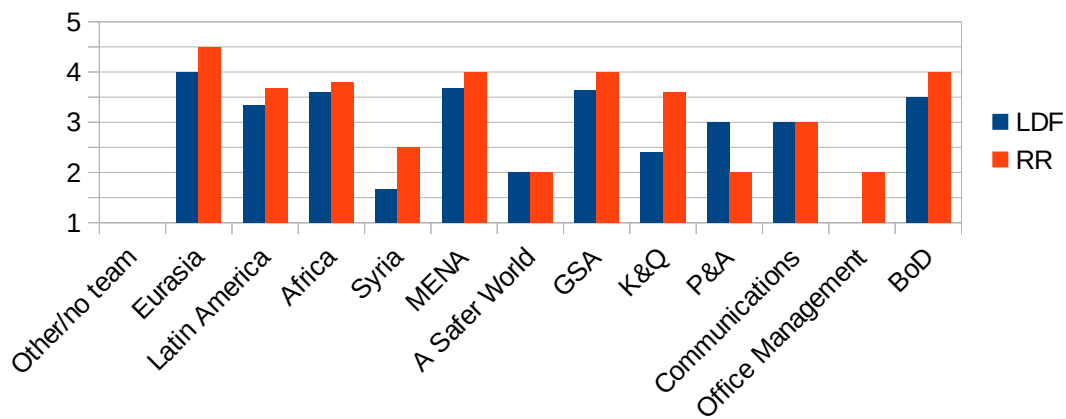


Figure 10: Clarity of eligibility criteria, per (sub)team at FPU (survey III)

Clarity of what kind of support falls under Reporters Respond/Legal Defense Fund

How clear is it to you what kind of support falls under RR/LDF?

Average score with 5 = extremely clear and 1 = not at all clear
N=40 for RR; N=35 for LDF

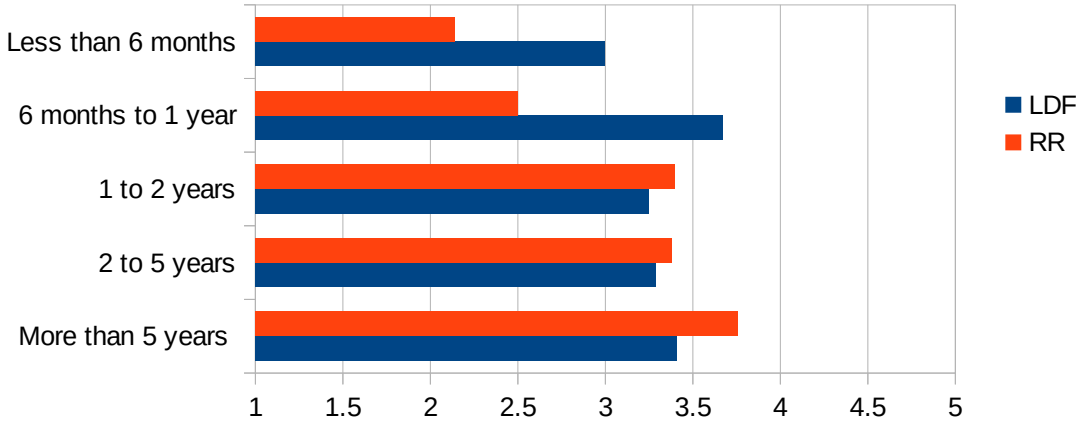


Figure 11: Clarity of support, per duration of employment (survey III)

How clear is it to you what kind of support falls under RR/LDF?

Average score with 5 = extremely clear and 1 = not at all clear
N=40 for RR; N=35 for LDF

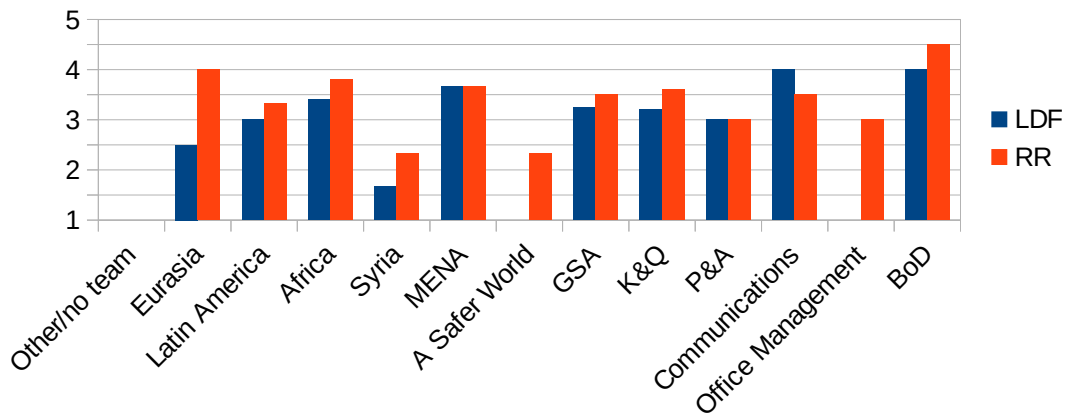


Figure 12: Clarity of support, per (sub)team at FPU (survey III)

4.2.1.3 Analysis

As aforementioned, 95 percent of the respondents had heard of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund prior to participating in the survey. However, as figures 7 to 12 show, staff members generally have a better understanding of the specifics of Reporters Respond than the Legal Defense Fund. With regard to Reporters Respond, there is a correlation between knowledge on the emergency fund and the duration of employment at Free Press Unlimited: generally, the longer the employment period, the more knowledge the person has on Reporters Respond. With regard to the Legal Defense Fund, this relation does not exist as strongly. This can be explained by the fact that the Legal Defense Fund only came into being at the end of 2018,

meaning that staff members who have worked at Free Press Unlimited for a longer period of time do not have a clear advantage in terms of knowledge over staff members who have joined Free Press Unlimited more recently.

Generally, members of programme teams have a better grasp of the application procedures, eligibility criteria and type of support offered. Similarly, these staff members are more likely to refer cases to Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund. This does not hold for teams which consist of many new staff members, such as the Syria team, Policy and Advocacy, and Safer World for the Truth. By regularly informing staff members about Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund, and not just during their onboarding process, Free Press Unlimited can ensure that staff members' knowledge is regularly refreshed and remains up to date.

4.2.2 Awareness and knowledge among partner organisations

The analysis is primarily based on the responses to survey IV.²³ This survey was filled out by 34 partner organisations, the composition of which is shown in annex 10.²⁴ The distinction that is made in the analysis is that between media outlets and media development organisations, but the respondents allocated themselves to either of the three categories (media outlet; media development organisation; other).

Prior to receiving this survey, about half of the partner organisations which filled out the survey (53 percent) had heard about Reporters Respond. In the case of the Legal Defense Fund, this amounted to 56 percent of the respondents.

23 See section 3.1.4, p. 12; annex 5, p. 58.

24 See pp. 64-65.

Clarity of the application procedure

How clear is the application procedure for RR/LDF to you?

Average score with 5 = extremely clear and 1 = not at all clear
N=16 for RR; N=12 for LDF

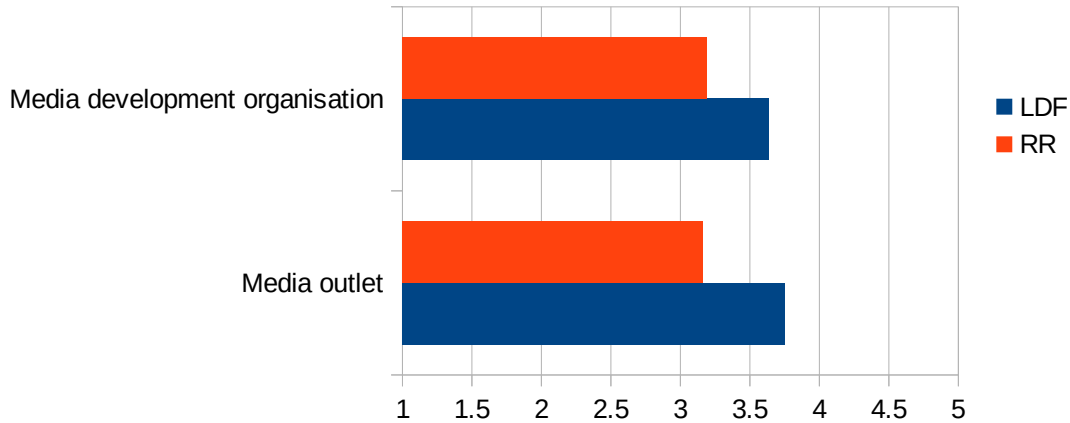


Figure 13: Clarity of application procedure, per type of partner organisation (survey IV)

How clear is the application procedure for RR/LDF to you?

Average score with 5 = extremely clear and 1 = not at all clear
N=16 for RR; N=12 for LDF

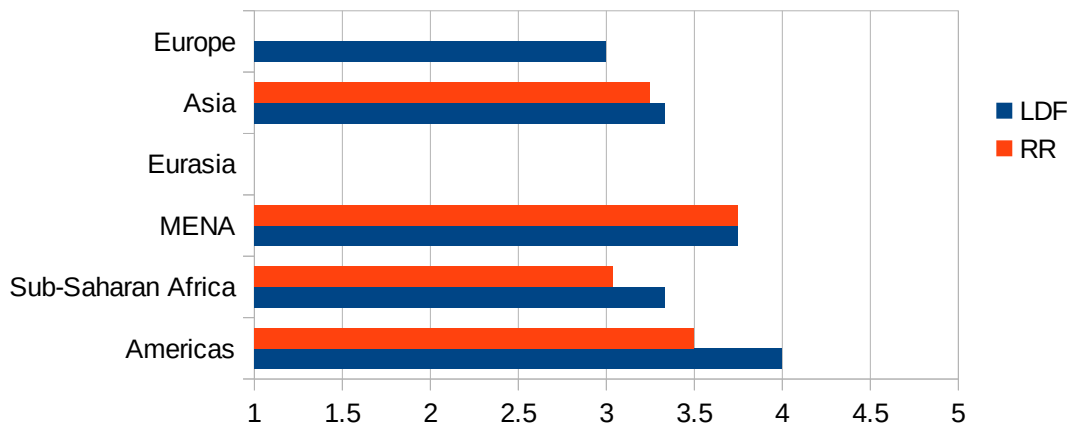


Figure 14: Clarity of application procedure, per geographic region (survey IV)

Clarity of eligibility criteria

How clear are the eligibility criteria for RR/LDF to you?

Average score with 5 = extremely clear and 1 = not at all clear
N=16 for RR; N=12 for LDF

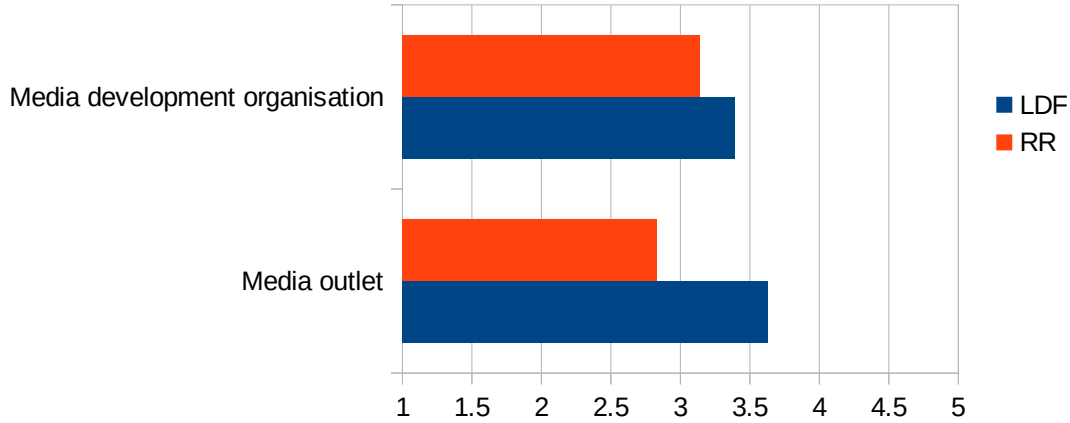


Figure 15: Clarity of eligibility criteria, per type of partner organisation (survey IV)

How clear are the eligibility criteria for RR/LDF to you?

Average score with 5 = extremely clear and 1 = not at all clear
N=16 for RR; N=12 for LDF

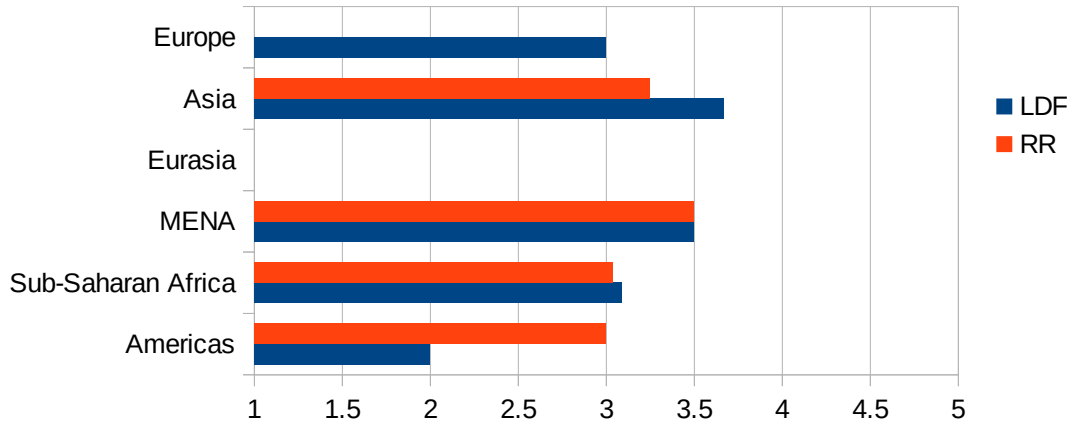


Figure 16: Clarity of eligibility criteria, per geographic region (survey IV)

Clarity of what kind of support falls under Reporters Respond/Legal Defense Fund

How clear is it to you what kind of support falls under RR/LDF?

Average score with 5 = extremely clear and 1 = not at all clear
N=16 for RR; N=12 for LDF

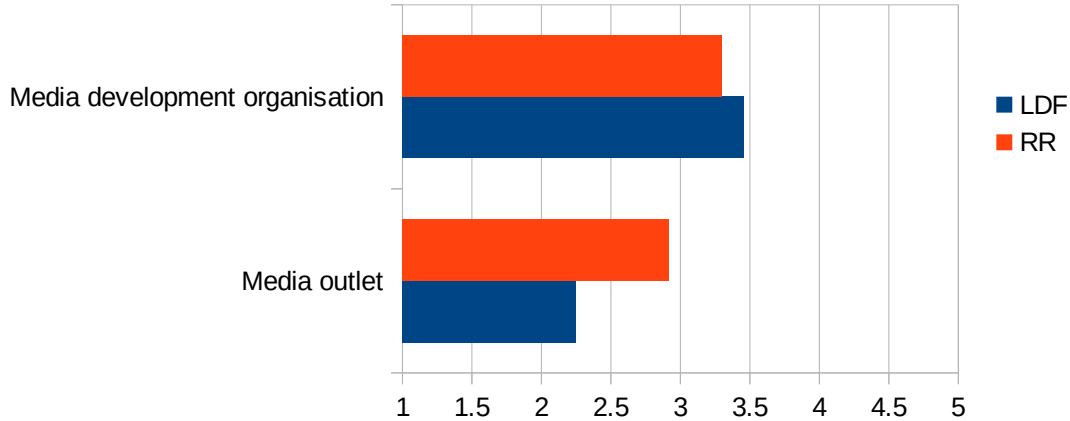


Figure 17: Clarity of support, per type of partner organisation (survey IV)

How clear is it to you what kind of support falls under RR/LDF?

Average score with 5 = extremely clear and 1 = not at all clear
N=16 for RR; N=12 for LDF

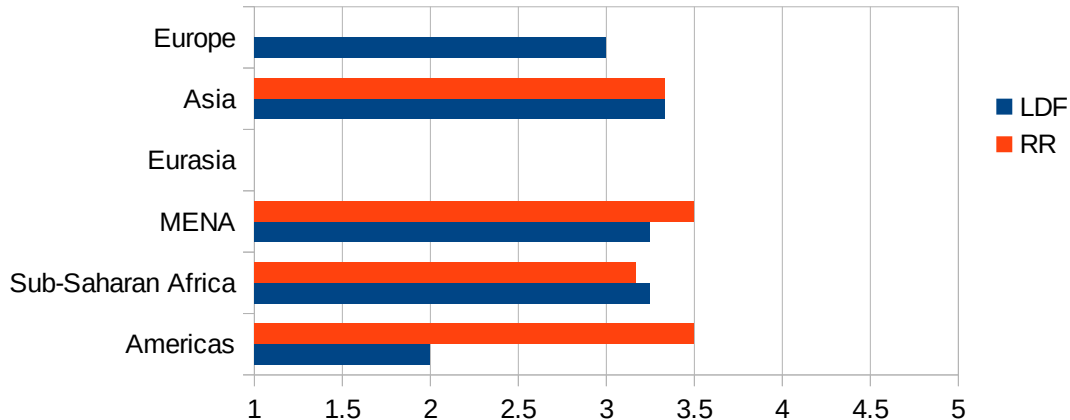


Figure 18: Clarity of support, per geographic region (survey IV)

4.2.2.1 Analysis

As figures 13 to 18 show, not all Free Press Unlimited's partner organisations have a clear understanding of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund and the application procedures, eligibility criteria and kind of support possible. With regard to the latter, some respondents have mentioned, as a suggestion on how to improve the support, to also offer help to journalists in cases of injuries or stolen equipment, whereas this type of support already falls under Reporters Respond. Furthermore, from their responses, it has become explicitly clear that there are also apparent knowledge gaps regarding the following topics:

- The fact that media organisations are also eligible for support (and not just journalists);

- The definition of a journalist – and therefore whether civic activists and bloggers are also eligible for support;
- The sum of money that journalists can receive under Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund;
- The possibility of non-material support in addition to material support.

However, importantly, three geographical regions are over-represented in the survey results, namely Asia, the MENA and Sub-Saharan Africa, which has consequences for the possibility to draw inferences from the data.

Surprisingly, partner organisations report to be more knowledgeable on the Legal Defense Fund (especially the application procedure and the eligibility criteria), whereas Free Press Unlimited staff members report to know more about Reporters Respond. This is also reflected in the gaps of knowledge identified above. Generally, partner organisations seem to consider the notion of legal support more straightforward and less encompassing than the notion of emergency support.

On average, media development organisations seem to be more aware of the mandate of the funds than media outlets. As media development organisations generally have a broad network, it would be useful if Free Press Unlimited would reach more media outlets through its media development partners.

Points of improvement suggested by partner organisations

Suggestions for improvement of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund, offered by partner organisations, are as follows:

- Incorporating preventive measures, such as training of and advice to journalists and media organisations, so they have a better grasp of how they can 'avoid' making use of the funds;
- Following up after support was offered to a beneficiary, to evaluate whether the support was helpful;
- Providing more anonymous examples of cases where journalists and media organisations were supported and how this helped them;
- Increasing partner organisations' engagement with the funds and providing more information on the funds, for example by organising a meeting with partner organisations specifically on the topic of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund;
- Building partnerships with law firms, with regard to the Legal Defense Fund.²⁵

4.2.3 Awareness among journalists and media organisations

This analysis is based on the responses to survey I and II, which were sent to the beneficiaries of the emergency support and legal support. Journalists and media organisations that received support directly through Free Press Unlimited, were asked how they found out about either Reporters Respond or the Legal Defense Fund. Responses are shown in figure 19. In most of the cases, journalists hear about Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund through word of mouth.

²⁵ This is already being done.

How did you find out about RR and/or LDF?

N=19

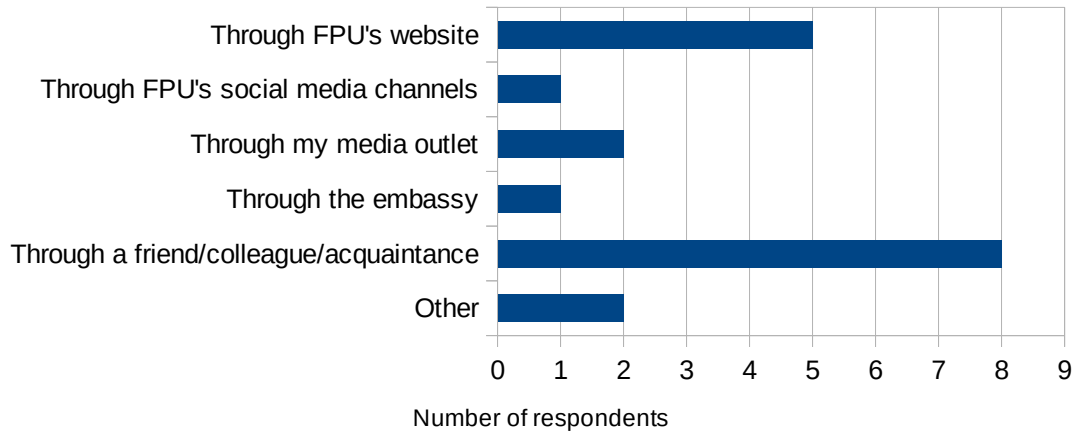


Figure 19: Publicity of RR/LDF (survey I)

Have you ever heard of RR and/or the LDF?

N=24

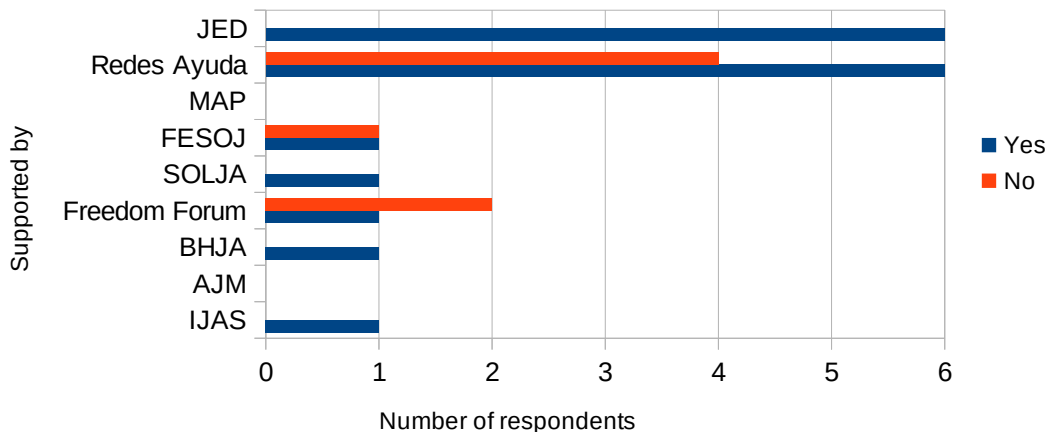


Figure 20: Awareness about RR/LDF (survey II)

The majority of the interviewed organisations said not to (actively) promote their support, because they take one or more of the following three approaches:

- They only offer aid to their members, which is communicated at the start of the membership;
- They do not want to raise expectations that they cannot meet due to limited capacity;
- They actively monitor violations and act accordingly, without waiting for an application for support.

Sometimes the approaches are combined, meaning that organisations may both provide aid whenever they have become attentive of a violation, and additionally accept applications for support.

When organisations do advertise their emergency and/or legal support, they do not refer to Free Press Unlimited as the organisation providing them with funding to finance their support. Oftentimes, the funding they receive from Free Press Unlimited is used for activities they were already implementing before working together with Free Press Unlimited. These activities are also often part of a broader strategy or programme focused on the safety of journalists. Despite this fact, 65 percent of the beneficiaries of support of the local partners reported to have heard of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund, as figure 20 shows.

The Safety team is well-aware of the fact that local partners do not publicly acknowledge that they received financial support from Free Press Unlimited for their emergency support and/or legal support. Importantly, the Safety team does not oblige local partners to do so. Working together with local partners is primarily a way for Free Press Unlimited to reach more journalists in distress and to make use of the local partners' network and knowledge of the specific context. Additionally, security considerations play a role: it is not always in the interest of local partners to mention that the support they receive comes from abroad, or from Free Press Unlimited specifically.

4.3 Appreciation of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund

4.3.1 Appreciation by beneficiaries

This section answers the following evaluation questions: *How valuable is Free Press Unlimited's support to journalists and media organisations?* The analysis focuses on the financial support that Free Press Unlimited provides, rather than the non-financial support. The reasons for this are threefold:

- Only in a small minority of cases, not amounting to more than two percent, does the Safety team provide non-financial support, such as referring applicants to Free Press Unlimited's TOTEM courses on digital safety²⁶ or Access Now's Digital Security Helpline,²⁷ writing letters of support for visa applications, or giving advice per phone;
- Aforementioned instances of non-financial support are usually not documented;
- None of the beneficiaries that filled out survey II received non-financial support.

Therefore, the scope of the following sections is limited to financial support.

4.3.1.1 Supported by Free Press Unlimited

This section explores how beneficiaries of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund view the support they received. This analysis is primarily based on the responses to survey II.²⁸ This survey was filled out by 15 beneficiaries, the composition of which is shown in annex 7.²⁹ This includes beneficiaries of Reporters Respond both supported in 2018 and 2019, and beneficiaries of the Legal Defense Fund supported in 2019.

Reporters Respond

N=9 (6 male, 3 female)

- 33 percent of the respondents received a response to their application **within one week**.
- 45 percent of the respondents found it **easy** to apply to Reporters Respond, whereas 33 percent of the respondents found it **very easy**.
- 22 percent of the respondents were **satisfied** with the emergency support they received, whereas 67 percent of the respondents were **very satisfied**.
- For 78 percent of the respondents, the emergency support they received has had a **long-term effect** on them and/or their work.
- None of the respondents experienced any **negative consequences** arising from the emergency support.
- 67 percent of the respondents would **definitely recommend** Reporters Respond to others.

Impact of Reporters Respond

As the most important positive consequence of Reporters Respond, respondents noted:

- the ability to carry on with their work;
- being under less psycho-social stress;
- feeling strong mental support

26 See <https://totem-project.org>.

27 See <https://www.accessnow.org/help>.

28 See section 3.1.2.2, p. 12; annex 3, p 56.

29 See p. 61.

Points of improvement suggested by beneficiaries of Reporters Respond

- Advertising Reporters Respond more efficiently, especially in countries where press freedom is under threat, for example by using journalists or media organisations which have received support as 'ambassadors';
- Providing core funding for small, independent media outlets as part of Reporters Respond;
- Making support available consecutive times rather than providing one-off support.³⁰

Testimonials

- 'I did not encounter any obstacles [in applying for support]. In fact it was easier than I had thought. I believe [Reporters Respond] is really an emergency fund, because other organisations do not support you in such a speedy manner, putting up many obstacles.'³¹
- 'We managed to buy equipment to continue working. At the moment, we are operating digitally and even in exile we continue our journalistic work.'³²
- 'We received support and help that we did not even know we could count on.'³³
- 'Our equipment was replaced and we are using it up to this day.'
- "[Reporters Respond] helped us and we believe it would help other journalists in need, too."
- 'My camera is my work. If I could not have repaired it, I would have lost my job.'

Legal Defense Fund

N=6 (4 male, 2 female)

- 50 percent of the respondents received a response to their application **within one week**.
- 67 percent of the respondents found it **easy** to apply to the Legal Defense Fund, whereas 33 percent of the respondents found it **very easy**.
- 33 percent of the respondents were **satisfied** with the legal support they received, whereas 67 percent of the respondents were **very satisfied**.
- For 83 percent of the respondents, the emergency support they received has had a **long-term effect** on them and/or their work.
- None of the respondents experienced any **negative consequences** arising from the legal support.
- All of the respondents would **definitely recommend** the Legal Defense Fund to others.

Impact of the Legal Defense Fund

As the most important positive consequence of the Legal Defense Fund, respondents noted:

- the ability to carry on with their work;
- being under less psycho-social stress;
- feeling strong mental support;
- legal charges against them were dropped.

30 It is possible for beneficiaries to receive support multiple times, however, for different emergencies.

31 Original Spanish text: 'No encontré obstáculos. De hecho fue más fácil de lo pensado, y creo que es realmente de emergencia porque otros organismos no te apoyan con esa premura y tienen muchos obstáculos.'

32 Original Spanish text: 'Logramos comprar un equipo para seguir trabajando. Hoy tenemos un medio digital y aun en el exilio seguimos haciendo periodismo.'

33 Original Spanish text: 'Creo nos dio un sosten, y una ayuda con la que realmente no contabamos ni sabíamos podíamos contar con ella.'

Points of improvement suggested by beneficiaries of the Legal Defense Fund

- The support should be extended until the end of the case;
- As legal costs vary from county to country, the Legal Defense Fund should take this into account as for some applicants it might be much more expensive to hire a lawyer;³⁴
- Free Press Unlimited should combine the legal support with advocacy, for example by publishing statements and publicly condemning certain lawsuits.

Testimonials

- '[The Legal Defense Fund] made my life easy. If there would have been no support, I would have been subjected to huge financial stress.'
- '[The Legal Defense Fund] has ensured my long-term protection as well as that of the structure for which I work.'³⁵
- '[After receiving support], I am feeling better prepared to face police harassment.'³⁶

4.3.1.2 Supported by local partners

This section answers the following evaluation question: *How efficient is cooperation with local partner organisations in crisis areas?*

To find out the beneficiaries' satisfaction with the support they received, the evaluator used two sources: the results of survey I and the interviews with the local partners. The local partners were asked whether they have an understanding of the satisfaction of their beneficiaries. Most organisations do not actively follow up post-support to track whether their support has been helpful, but rely on the beneficiaries proactively showing gratitude or providing feedback after the incident, for example by sharing it on social media. Especially the younger generation of media professionals is more vocal when it comes to expressing satisfaction or gratitude. Generally, being thanked is seen as a form of feedback. In some cases, journalists have suffered traumas or are still in jeopardy, which makes it undesirable to explicitly ask them for feedback or to send out surveys. However, a point of criticism that the local partners receive more commonly, is that they cannot support everyone. Due to limited funds, they may have to prioritise the most pressing cases.

In addition to asking the local partners about the satisfaction of the beneficiaries, the evaluator sent out a survey to beneficiaries whose contact details were provided by the organisations that had supported them. The survey was filled out by 24 beneficiaries. They were asked about, among others, the speed with which they received support, their satisfaction rate, and whether they have any points of improvement for the local partner which provided them with support.

34 The height of grants provided under the Legal Defense Fund is already being determined on the basis of local prices.

35 Original French text: 'Il a permit d'assurer ma protection sur un long terme ainsi que celle de la structure pour laquelle je travaille.'

36 Original Spanish text: 'Me encuentro mejor preparado para afrontar hostigamiento policial.'

Partner A (Sub-Saharan Africa)

N=6 (6 male)

- 80 percent of the respondents were **approached by Partner A** after the incident had taken place, whereas the other 20 percent **applied for support**. The respondents who applied for support found the application procedure **easy**.
- 50 percent of the respondents were **satisfied** with the support they received, whereas 33 percent of the respondents were **very satisfied**.
- 67 percent of the respondents stated that the support they received has had a **long-term effect** on them and/or their work.
- As the **most important positive consequence** of the support they received, respondents noted the ability to carry on with their work; being under less psycho-social stress; feeling mental support; legal charges were dropped.
- 50 percent of the respondents would **definitely recommend** the support offered by Partner A to others.

Points of improvement suggested by beneficiaries of support by Partner A

- Considering the family of the journalist and their struggles to a greater extent.

Partner C (Latin America)

N=10 (6 male, 4 female)

- 70 percent of the respondents were **approached by Partner C** after an incident had taken place – the majority of which **within one week**. The other 30 percent **applied for support** or had a third party apply for support on their behalf. The respondents who applied for support found the application procedure (**very**) **easy**.
- 20 percent of the respondents were **satisfied** with the support they received, whereas 80 percent of the respondents were **very satisfied**.
- For none of the respondents, the support they received has had a **long-term effect** on them and/or their work.
- As the **most important positive consequence** of the support they received, respondents noted the ability to carry on with their work; being under less psycho-social stress; feeling mental support; release out of prison.
- All of the respondents would **definitely recommend** the support offered by Partner C to others.

Points of improvement suggested by beneficiaries of support by Partner C

- Providing more information beforehand in order to create more awareness of what kind of support is possible;
- Enhancing the visibility of the available support, especially in the provinces;
- Working more closely together with international organisations.

Partner G (Sub-Saharan Africa)

N=2 (2 male)

- One of the respondents was **approached by Partner G** after an incident had taken place, whereas the other **applied for support**, finding the application procedure **very easy**. Both received a response **within one week**.
- Both respondents were **very satisfied** with the support they received.
- For neither of the respondents, the support they received has had a **long-term effect** on them and/or their work.
- As the **most important positive consequence** of the support they received, respondents noted being under less psycho-social stress and release out of prison.
- Both respondents would **definitely recommend** the support offered by Partner G to others.

Points of improvement suggested by beneficiaries of support by Partner G

- Extending support beyond those journalists living in the big cities and making sure to reach those in rural areas as well.

Partner H (Sub-Saharan Africa)

N=1 (1 male)

- The one respondent was **approached by Partner H** after an incident had taken place.
- He was **very satisfied** with the support he received.
- For the respondent, the support he received has had a **long-term effect** on him and/or his work.
- As the **most important positive consequences** of the support he received, the respondent noted feeling strong mental support, release out of prison, winning a court case.
- The respondent would **definitely recommend** the support offered by Partner H to others.

Partner I (Asia)

N=3 (3 male)

- 67 percent of the respondents were **approached by Partner I** after an incident had taken place, whereas in the other case, a **third party** had requested support for the respondent on his behalf.
- All of the respondents were **very satisfied** with the support they received.
- For all of the respondents the support they received has had a **long-term effect** on them and/or their work.
- As the **most important positive consequence** of the support they received, the respondents noted the ability to carry on with their work; feeling strong mental support; winning a court case; legal charges against them being dropped.
- All of the respondents would **definitely recommend** the support offered by Partner I to others.

Points of improvement suggested by beneficiaries of support by Partner I

- Promote the support offered more publicly in order to increase awareness;
- Be more lenient if, for example, expenditure bills are not available, as a result of the emergency.

Partner K (Europe)

N=1 (1 female)

- The one respondent was **approached by Partner K** after an incident had taken place.
- She was **satisfied** with the support she received.
- For the respondent, the support she received has had a **long-term effect** on her and/or her work.
- As the **most important positive consequences** of the support she received, the respondent noted the ability to carry on with her work; feeling less psycho-social stress; feeling strong mental support; winning a court case; legal charges against her being dropped.
- The respondent would **definitely recommend** the support offered by Partner K to others.

Partner M (Europe)

N=1 (1 male)

- The one respondent was **approached by Partner M** after an incident had taken place.
- He was **very satisfied** with the support he received.
- For the respondent, the support he received has had a **long-term effect** on him and/or his work.
- As the **most important positive consequences** of the support he received, the respondent noted the ability to carry on with his work.
- The respondent would **definitely recommend** the support offered by Partner M to others.

Working with local partners can bring about certain difficulties: local partners do not always report as clearly on the beneficiaries that they supported. Even though a reporting template is available, local partners tend to interpret it differently than what is intended. This might make it more difficult to know which media professionals have already been supported by local partners, which is nevertheless important information for the JID Network in the light of its vetting procedures. Furthermore, local partners are only required to report on the financial support they provide, not on the other activities they carry out as part of their emergency support and/or legal support. Whereas it would be useful for Free Press Unlimited to be informed about these interventions, in order to be able to keep track of the effectiveness of local partners' support, local partners would require more financial resources and HR capacity for this.

While taking these factors into account, it is clear that there is a clear added value of working together with local partners, which is threefold:

- Most of the local partners do not merely rely on applications, but manage to proactively support media professionals who are in distress (e.g. due to monitoring of violations);
- Local partners are able to provide support in countries where Free Press Unlimited would not easily be able to support media professionals, due to the difficulty of vetting cases;
- Local partners do considerable extra work in addition to giving out financial grants, which Free Press Unlimited cannot do, for instance due to a lack of connections, the geographic distance and language barriers.³⁷

³⁷ This especially holds for the Legal Defense Fund. Local partners have conceptual expertise and experience and are well-connected to local legal experts and lawyers, making it possible for them to offer contextualised and direct support and intervene in other ways than Free Press Unlimited. This may include putting pressure on the police or judicial actors, providing legal advice through helplines to prevent incidents, and mediating between journalists and prosecutors.

In short: Free Press Unlimited needs its local partners in order to support media professionals in need that it would otherwise not be able to reach. Furthermore, in some cases local partners can provide support that Free Press Unlimited would not be able to provide (as easily or as speedily).

4.3.2 Appreciation by local partners

This analysis is based on nine interviews with the local partners.³⁸ Among others, they were asked about if and how satisfied they are with the cooperation with Free Press Unlimited on Reporters Respond and/or the Legal Defense Fund. Their satisfaction rate is very high, ranging from satisfied to very satisfied. The aspects that partner organisations appreciate most about the cooperation are as follows:

- The Safety team is approachable, flexible and punctual;
- The Safety team replies very fast to any queries or requests;
- The Safety team has good contextual understanding of the countries in which the local partners operate and hence is also understanding of difficulties that might arise;
- As part of the partnership, the local partners do not have to demand for money anytime they wish to support a journalist or media organisation, meaning they can act immediately whenever a crisis arises;
- The relationship feels equal, rather than as a mere donor-recipient relationship.

Points of improvement suggested by the local partners are as follows:

- Several comments were made on the quantity of funding, its duration and its scope.
 - **Quantity:** the local partners would like to receive more funding (for example in the form of structural financial support), so they can help more media professionals in need.
 - **Duration:** with a view to situations such as upcoming elections, which bring about more threats for journalists and media organisations, the local partners expressed the need for the continuation of cooperation and funding in the future. Furthermore, at the moment the local partners are contracted per year, but this short-term funding may hamper the work of an organisation, for example in the case of long-running lawsuits.
 - **Scope:** many of the interviewed local partners do not provide emergency and/or legal support in isolation. Oftentimes, it is part of a broader safety programme, including preventative measures, such as safety training and awareness. Therefore, by broadening the scope of the support that Free Press Unlimited provides, more progress will be made towards the overall goal, which is to safeguard the safety of media professionals. Furthermore, the scope of the support that Free Press Unlimited provides funding for, is considered not to be broad enough at the moment. Many local partners see emergency support and legal support as interwoven, meaning that in some cases both types of support need to be given. Especially organisations which are receiving funding by Free Press Unlimited for legal support, may feel limited due to the narrow definition of legal support.
- One local partner mentioned a delay in receiving financial support, meaning that in the meanwhile they had to use their reserves. Communication on when they would receive the funds and whether there is a possibility of getting a refund in case of a delay had been lacking.

³⁸ See annex 6, table 3, p. 59.

- Another organisation expressed the desire for Free Press Unlimited to communicate more clearly about the scope of their help and a long-term vision, if there is any, so it is more clear what Free Press Unlimited can mean to the local partner: not only now, but also in the future.
- There is a desire for exchange of best practices and knowledge on the functioning of judiciary systems in other countries, such as the Netherlands.

The Safety team acknowledges the value of the suggested points of improvement, but to a certain extent also remains limited by donor requirements and dependence on short-term funding agreements. This especially holds for the local partners' suggestions to provide long-term and/or structural financial support and to integrate the emergency fund and the legal fund.

4.4 Demographics

This section answers the following evaluation question: *Why do less women journalists than men journalists apply for emergency support or legal support?*

As figures 1 and 4 show,³⁹ the ratio of women to men journalists who apply for Reporters Respond or the Legal Defense Fund is rather skewed. In order to explore why this is the case, beneficiaries, who filled out survey I and II, were asked whether:

- they encountered any barriers to applying for the emergency support and/or legal support because of their gender;
- they feel that the emergency support and/or legal support is just as accessible to female journalists as to male journalists.⁴⁰

4.4.1 Supported by Free Press Unlimited

Do you feel that RR/LDF is just as accessible to female journalists as to male journalists?

N=15

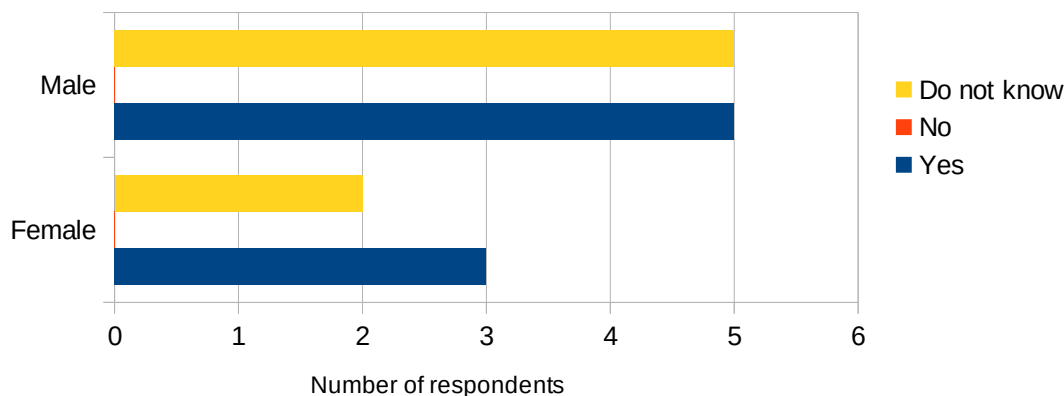


Figure 21: Accessibility of RR/LDF (survey I)

None of the 15 respondents who filled out this question, either male or female, experienced any barriers to applying for Reporters Respond or the Legal Defense Fund because of their gender. In line with this, respondents do not believe that Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund are less accessible to female journalists than to male journalists, as shown by figure 21. Even though there is a clear discrepancy in the amount of male versus female respondents, the gender composition of the respondents is still representative⁴¹ of the group of beneficiaries at large.

The Safety team has directed efforts towards making Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund more accessible to female journalists by altering the way they promote the funds, for example on the Free Press Unlimited website. By changing the imagery and including pictures of

³⁹ See figure 1, p. 14; figure 4, p. 19.

⁴⁰ The evaluator acknowledges that gender is not a binary concept, yet has used the terms 'male' and 'female' here as all of the respondents felt comfortable in referring to themselves as either male or female.

⁴¹ See figure 1, p. 14; figure 4, p. 19.

female journalists, the Safety team has attempted to make clear that the funds are not just aimed at war correspondents or the 'most extreme cases', but can also help journalists who are dealing with harassment or psycho-social trauma. These are the types of incidents that female journalists are more likely to be confronted with. Whereas the first step was showing, through its imagery, that the funds are not merely available to male journalists, the second step was disseminating information about the funds among female journalists, or organisations or networks that are in touch with female journalists. Free Press Unlimited's programme coordinator Gender and Media has taken up this task.

4.4.2 Supported by local partners

Beneficiaries of support of the local partners have given similar responses to beneficiaries whom received support through Free Press Unlimited.

- None of the beneficiaries experienced any barriers to applying for support because of their gender;⁴²
- 90 percent of the respondents feel that the support offered by the local partners is just as accessible to female as to male journalists.

In addition to the survey results, the interviewed local partners also offered their thoughts on the discrepancy between male and female applicants, and whether they make an effort to address women in promoting their support.

Partner A (Sub-Saharan Africa)

According to Partner A, the fact that less female journalists apply for support is not necessarily negative, as it means that they face fewer threats. As the organisation does not promote its support at all, it also does not make an effort to target women.

Partner C (Latin America)

According to Partner C, just as many female journalists receive support as male journalists. Partner C also does not promote its support, as it does not work with an application procedure. Instead, other organisations refer cases to Partner C. Partner C was also the only local partner which did not show a significant gender imbalance in the sample of beneficiaries who filled out the survey.

Partner F (Sub-Saharan Africa)

Fewer female than male journalists receive support from Partner F, due to two reasons. First, there are more male journalists in the country Partner F operates in. Second, women tend not to cover political, sensitive topics, which makes them less susceptible to (legal) violations as a result of their news coverage or production. However, compared to men, women face more violations in the newsroom, such as sexual harassment. In their promotion, Partner F does not make a distinction between men and women.

Please note that no media professionals supported by Partner F filled out survey II.

Partner G (Sub-Saharan Africa)

The reason for fewer applications from female journalists as compared to male journalists, is the hesitation on behalf of women to openly talk about or share their issues, according to Partner G.

⁴² Only five respondents of this group applied for support themselves, meaning that this concerns a small sample.

This is a larger cultural issue. To mitigate this, Partner G has established a Women and Human Rights Session, run by women, which aims to enable women to talk about the problems they experience as a result of their work.

Partner H (Sub-Saharan Africa)

In the country partner H operates in, the media is male-dominated: of Partner H's 570 active members working across the six regions of the country – Partner H is a journalists' association - 82 percent is male. Consequently, more men are the victim of violations, such as detention and kidnapping. Furthermore, the women who do work in media tend to be involved in (entertainment) programmes that are produced in studios rather than, for example, investigative journalism. Nevertheless, women do face other forms of violations including (sexual) harassment. The interviewee indicated that Partner H would like to allocate more resources to focusing on women in the promotion of their support.

Partner I (Asia)

As Partner I registers cases of violations, it has noticed that violations are more often addressed to male journalists than to female journalists. Additionally, there are also many more male journalists than female journalists in the country Partner I operates in. However, the interviewee also noted that some women might be reluctant to apply, as they might feel ashamed or uneasy. Even though Partner I does not specifically address women in its promotion, it does feel there is a need to do so in the future.

Partner K (Europe)

According to Partner K, just as many female as male journalists apply for support. The type of violations they face differs though, as women are more often victims of harassment, hate speech and threats via social media.

Partner L (Europe)

In 2020, Partner L found more threats to be targeted to female journalists than to male journalists. At the end of this year, a regional assessment will take place to explore why this is the case. More men experience physical violence or assault compared to women, whereas (verbal) threats are predominantly targeted at women. When it concerns marketing, Partner L does not specifically address women. However, Partner L does make an effort to educate judges, prosecutors and attorneys on online harassment and its specifics, as women are more prone to being the victim of online (sexual) harassment.

Please note that no media professionals supported by Partner L filled out survey II.

Partner M (Europe)

About 53 percent of the applications for support that Partner M receives come from men, whereas the other 47 percent comes from women, meaning that there is an almost fifty-fifty divide. Women journalists more frequently experience online crimes and online harassment, which have risen in recent times. Partner M does not make an effort to specifically address women in its promotion, but this also has to do with the fact that it does not actively promote its support. Partner M rather already has a reputation of being a strong supporter of women's rights, according to the interviewees.

4.5 Holistic safety

This section answers the following evaluation question: *Do Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund approach safety in a holistic way?*

The term holistic safety refers to the notion that safety is a concept that encompasses different aspects, being the physical, psycho-social, digital and legal aspects. These aspects should not be viewed in isolation of each other, because they impact on each other and can be interwoven. Threats to a journalist's physical safety, for instance, can have serious ramifications for his or her psycho-social well-being and safety as well. Furthermore, many women journalists are not only at risk because they are a journalist, but also because they are female, which highlights the importance for an inter-sectional and holistic approach. This means that solutions should be more than stand-alone interventions and should take the broader picture into account.⁴³

Traditionally, Reporters Respond was an equipment fund, but this has gradually been changing, as more types of support fall under this emergency fund, including psycho-social support. This is a clear effort towards broadening the scope of the fund and ensuring it is more holistic. Reporters Respond is thus available to media professionals facing physical threats, but also other kinds of threats. However, the possibilities for incorporating more safety elements within Reporters Respond are limited, as it is first and foremost an emergency fund. Making sure that journalists and media organisations facing threats to their psycho-social and digital safety can also receive support is a first step, but from there on, it is key to link the fund to other projects or programmes. Therefore, to prevent journalists and media organisations from having to fall back on emergency support in the first place, it is imperative to:

- provide safety trainings to journalists, which can also take place online, such as in the case of the TOTEM online courses;⁴⁴
- draw applicants' attention to other (emergency) funds whenever their case does not fall within the mandate of Reporters Respond;⁴⁵
- draw journalists' attention to numerous resources that they can use to protect their physical, psycho-social or digital safety.⁴⁶

The Safety team endeavours to implement the latter two measures as much as possible already..

The Legal Defense Fund has a clear, defined scope, which is legal safety. Nevertheless, the support that falls under the Legal Defense Fund is comprehensive. The fund does not only support journalists and media organisations, but also provides subsistence grants to detained media professionals or their family, in case they are unable to carry out their work as breadwinners. Furthermore, the Legal Defense Fund, alike to Reporters Respond, applies a broad definition of journalist, meaning that a wide range of actors fall within the target group of both funds.

43 Taken from Free Press Unlimited's Safety Resource Guide, available on <https://kq.freepressunlimited.org/themes/safety-of-journalists/dimensions-of-safety>.

44 See <https://totem-project.org>.

45 See <https://kq.freepressunlimited.org/themes/safety-of-journalists/four-pillars-of-safety/support-to-journalists-in-distress/support-by-other-organisations>.

46 See <https://kq.freepressunlimited.org/themes/safety-of-journalists/four-pillars-of-safety/tools-and-resources/tools-and-resources-other-orgs>.

Therefore, it can be said that Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund approach safety in a holistic way, as much as is possible, within the limits of their purpose and set-up. One approach could be to integrate the funds within a wider safety programme, premised upon multiple intervention strategies, besides emergency support. Alternatively, the funds could be more strongly linked to other projects which aim at strengthening media professionals' awareness of how to protect themselves and how to mitigate safety risks. The Legal Defense Fund is already part of a wider programme, being the Justice and Safety programme, which is also composed of training and insurance. Fully integrating the funds into a wider programme might not be realistic or feasible, due to the nature and approach of the funds. Whereas it is imperative to 'prevent damage', this is not always possible. Therefore, having an emergency fund is a response to the reality that violations against journalists will continue to be carried out, and therefore supplements training and risk mitigation.

Another approach is to interlink the monitoring of violations with a response, as for example Partner A does. This organisation proactively provides support – based on its monitoring activities - and takes initiative without receiving an application. It is harder for Free Press Unlimited to take such a proactive approach, but this underlines the importance of working with local partners. Generally, local partners have more capacity to react proactively to local violations, which can be an element of a holistic approach.

5. Limitations and future research

This chapter will go into the limitations of this evaluation, and will provide recommendations for future evaluations of and research into Reporters Respond and/or the Legal Defense Fund.

5.1 Limitations of the evaluation

The first limitation of this evaluation resides in the fact that it is an internal evaluation, carried out by a Free Press Unlimited staff member. To this end, some bias on the part of the evaluator is inevitable.

Secondly, only nine out of 15 local partners were interviewed.⁴⁷ Therefore, the geographic spread of the local partners was not present in this evaluation, as no organisations located in the MENA were included. Furthermore, the possibility to draw inferences from the interviews on the efficiency of cooperation with local partners was limited.

Thirdly, regarding survey I and survey II, no random selection of beneficiaries was possible. With regard to the beneficiaries of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund, the intention was to use the clustering method to make a selection of journalists to send survey I to.⁴⁸ To this end, a shortlist was made of 20 beneficiaries of Reporters Respond, and 10 beneficiaries of the Legal Defense Fund, and sent to the Safety Team which has access to beneficiaries' contact details. However, it was not possible to receive email addresses of all of the shortlisted journalists: either the journalist had incurred psychological trauma, was still in a dangerous situation, or had been stalking the Safety team. In the last case, contacting this journalist would have the potential of exacerbating the stalking and creating expectations that could not be met. Even though the Safety team suggested other journalists to send survey I to, this made it impossible to safeguard the random selection of beneficiaries from the aforementioned clusters (fund, gender, geographical region and type of support received). A similar issue was in place with regard to the beneficiaries of support of the local partners. The evaluator was dependent on the organisations to provide contact details of the journalists, making random selection impossible and thus possibly bringing in bias on part of the local partners. Furthermore, the amount of contact details provided differed greatly per organisation.⁴⁹ Therefore, the responses of the beneficiaries of one organisation might be more representative than the responses of the beneficiaries of another organisation.

Fourthly, connected to survey I and survey II, the response rate of both surveys was rather low.⁵⁰ Survey I was sent to 28 beneficiaries, and had 15 respondents (response rate of 68 percent). Survey II was sent to 58 beneficiaries, and was filled out by 22 journalists (response rate of 38 percent). Moreover, the response rate of survey II differed greatly per organisation, ranging from 0 percent to 100 percent. Even though survey II and III were sent out in three and four languages, respectively, the low response rates may be correlated with a language barrier. Both the third and

47 See annex 6, table 3, p. 59.

48 See section 3.1.2.1, p. 11.

49 See annex 6, table 4, p. 60.

50 See table 2, p. 11.

the fourth point illustrate that the reliability of the data of survey I and II is limited, both due to the impossibility of random selection and due to the low response rates.

Fifthly, no media organisations were among the respondents of survey I and II. Therefore, the results presented only extend to media professionals, but not to media organisations. However, it must be noted that the percentage of media organisations which receive support annually is very small.⁵¹

Sixthly, the scope of the evaluation was limited to financial support, and thus non-financial support was not considered. This has to do with the fact that none of the beneficiaries that filled out survey II received non-financial support, and moreover instances of non-financial support (which are rare) are usually not documented.

Finally, beneficiaries of the emergency support and legal support were asked two questions related to their gender, namely whether they encountered any barriers to applying for the emergency support and/or legal support because of their gender, and whether they feel that the emergency support and/or legal support is just as accessible to female journalists as to male journalists. A limitation inherent to asking these questions to the beneficiaries, is that per definition, the female journalists who struggled to apply for support or to receive support, will not answer these questions. Instead, only the women journalists who managed to secure support answered these questions, creating a bias. Following on, the majority of the respondents were male, which might also have an effect on their answer to the question whether female journalists can access the support just as easily as their male counterparts.

5.2 Recommendations for future evaluations

The following key recommendations for future evaluations of Reporters Respond and/or the Legal Defense Fund flow from the aforementioned limitations:

- Carrying out an external evaluation;
- Sending out the survey for partner organisations via Free Press Unlimited staff members who work directly with the partner organisations (programme coordinators or project officers), to increase the response rate;
- Sending out the survey for beneficiaries of the local partners via the local partners, to increase the response rate;
- Sending surveys to a bigger pool of beneficiaries, in order to compensate for a potential low response rate;
- Trying to ensure that media organisations, who were not among the respondents, will take part in an evaluation;
- Ensuring the random selection of beneficiaries for the surveys;⁵²
- Translating surveys for beneficiaries in more languages, such as Russian.

51 See figure 1, p. 14; figure 4, p. 19.

52 It should be made clear that filling out the survey is not mandatory, as to not put a higher burden on journalists who are heavily traumatised. However, as bias is one of the biggest limitations of this evaluation, ensuring the random selection of beneficiaries as much as possible is imperative.

6. Conclusions

This chapter concludes the report on the internal evaluation of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund, per evaluation question.

Free Press Unlimited's support to journalists and media organisations

How valuable is Free Press Unlimited's financial and non-financial support to journalists and media organisations?

The scope of this evaluation was limited to the financial support that Free Press Unlimited provides rather than the non-financial support, meaning that it was only possible to draw inferences on beneficiaries' satisfaction with the financial support from the data that was acquired. Generally, beneficiaries of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund are very satisfied with the support they received, praising the speediness of the funds, the ease with which they could apply for support, and the lack of bureaucratic obstacles.

Cooperation with local partners

How efficient is cooperation with local partners in crisis areas?

Nine of the 15 local partners that Free Press Unlimited cooperated with in the period of 2018-2019 were included in this evaluation. Cooperation with local partners means that through funding the local partners, Free Press Unlimited is able to support media professionals in countries it would otherwise not be able to reach. The added value of working with local partners is threefold. It is related to the fact that most local partners manage to proactively support media professionals in distress. Moreover, due to their networks and connections local partners are able to provide support that Free Press cannot provide, and vet cases that Free Press Unlimited would not be able to vet.

Gender gap in applications

Why does Free Press Unlimited receive less requests from female journalists in comparison to male journalists?

Both for Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund, there is a clear gap in the number of male beneficiaries vis-à-vis female beneficiaries. This can partly be explained by the fact that in most countries where Free Press Unlimited operates and provides support, the media landscape is dominated by male journalists. However, this discrepancy does not mean that female journalists face fewer threats, but it does mean that the nature of threats that they face is different, relating to, for example, online harassment and harassment in the workplace. Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund also seek to reach out to female journalists in distress, but the type of incidents that they are more likely to encounter than their male counterparts also require different types of interventions, besides emergency support.

Rise in applications

What explains the increase in applications for assistance?

A high number of applications does not merely have to do with conflict or increased (political) tensions within a country, affecting the press freedom and safety of journalists. It is also related to referrals from Free Press Unlimited staff members and partner organisations. These two elements often go hand in hand. The high number of beneficiaries stemming from Nicaragua, therefore,

first and foremost has to do with the crisis in the country, but is also related to the fact that Free Press Unlimited's Latin America programme coordinator has been very active in referring cases to Reporters Respond.

A high number of beneficiaries from a certain country, not to be confused with applications, is mostly connected to the presence of a local partner. This illustrates the fact that through its local partners, Free Press Unlimited can reach many more media professionals in distress than it would be able to without this cooperation.

Brand awareness and reputation of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund

What are the brand awareness and reputation of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund?

This evaluation gauged Free Press Unlimited's staff members' and partner organisations' knowledge of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund. Staff members are generally more knowledgeable on the application procedure, eligibility criteria and type of support of Reporters Respond, whereas partner organisations report to be better informed about the Legal Defense Fund. Both staff members and partner organisations, however, have clear gaps in their knowledge, for example relating to the height of grants that media professionals can receive under Reporters Respond or the Legal Defense Fund, the target group of the funds and the type of support that is covered. Even though media professionals tend to hear about Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund through word of mouth, there are still steps that can be taken in order to clarify what both funds entail, which can help in reducing the rejection rate of the applications.

Satisfaction of local partners

How satisfied are Free Press Unlimited's local partners with the cooperation with Free Press Unlimited on emergency support and legal support?

Local partners are very satisfied with the cooperation with Free Press Unlimited. They praise the Safety team on their flexibility, punctuality and speediness, noting that the team is very knowledgeable on the local contexts in which the local partners operate and therefore of the difficulties that might arise due to the circumstances in their countries. The most pertinent points of feedback related to uncertainties about continuation of the partnership and the scope of the support possible.

Holistic approach to safety

Do Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund approach safety in a holistic way?

The Safety team endeavours to approach safety in a holistic way when it comes to Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund. That means that they attach value to taking into account all different aspects of safety, being the physical, psycho-social, digital and legal aspects, as these aspects are interwoven. Both funds approach safety in a holistic way as much as is possible, considering the nature and mandate of emergency funds. Where possible, it is good to link the funds to other initiatives that seek to strengthen media professionals' awareness of safety risks and the way they can mitigate these risks. However, due to its nature, the funds also function and will continue to function on their own, as it is not always possible and realistic to 'prevent damage'.

This evaluation has shown that Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund are two highly appreciated funds, unique in the way they function and approach media professionals. What sets these funds apart from other funds by other organisations, is their broad mandate, the flexible cooperation with local partners, and the lack of reporting obligations for beneficiaries. These elements make it possible for the funds to truly support those in distress in a speedy manner. It does, however, also pose limits for the possibility to collect data and track the effectiveness of the support. Ultimately, there is a consideration to make between upholding the principle of urgency, and being able to monitor how effective the support is. Additionally, the funds remain bound by donor requirements and donor funding.

In short, both funds need to operate within the boundaries of the requirements set by donors and a limitation in financial capacities, and balance between remaining true to their spirit of emergency funds on the one hand, and tracking the effectiveness of the support on the other hand. While there are still steps that can be taken, the testimonials held within this report illustrate that both funds are very successful in making a difference in the lives of media professionals who find themselves in distress.

7. Recommendations for Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund

In order to improve Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund, the evaluator suggests the following courses of action:

Monitoring and evaluation

- Asking the Knowledge & Quality team to create a simple and straightforward (online) reporting template for the local partners, in multiple languages – and providing guidance to the local partners by offering a filled-out reporting template as an example;
- Documenting cases of non-financial support in addition to cases of financial support;
- Besides tracking applicants' countries of origin and nationalities, also tracking the location of incidents, if the goal is to have an overview of the location and geographic spread of violations (and not just the applicants' countries of origin and nationalities);⁵³
- Sending a survey (to be completed on voluntary basis) to applicants three to six months after support was offered;
- Documenting successes of legal support, including the strategic litigation cases;
- Selectively monitoring cases of the Legal Defense Fund, in order to keep track of how effective the fund and the offered support are.

Knowledge of Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund

- Creating a frequently asked questions section on the Free Press Unlimited website, in order to fill the knowledge gaps identified in section 4.2;
- Using anonymised examples of beneficiaries (as 'ambassadors') to highlight what type of support is possible under Reporters Respond or the Legal Defense Fund;
- Letting new Free Press Unlimited staff members attend a session on Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense as part of their onboarding procedure, separate from the session on the Gender, Safety and Accountability team;
- Creating an introductory video clip for (new) Free Press Unlimited staff members to inform them about Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund;
- Requesting Free Press Unlimited staff members to disseminate information on Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund and thus to provide a more complete overview in what Free Press Unlimited can offer, beyond specific projects or specific country programmes;
- Organising a (online) meeting with partner organisations (which are not local partners for Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund), specifically on the topic of Free Press Unlimited's emergency fund and legal fund;
- Using the presence of partner organisations to more effectively disseminate information on Reporters Respond and the Legal Defense Fund among media professionals.

⁵³ Tracking data of applicants and not just beneficiaries will yield more information on where incidents are taking place, but where Free Press Unlimited is not able to extend support (for example due to the impossibility to verify the facts and to vet the case).

Application procedure

- Adding a definition of media organisation or practicing media professional that Free Press Unlimited uses;
- Making the eligibility criteria and the application form available in other languages;
- Clarifying the eligibility criteria by adding that the event for which the applicant requested support needs to have happened recently (no more than three months ago);
- Rejecting applicants automatically on the basis of their application form (e.g. when they indicate that the event that they are requesting support for occurred a long time ago), complemented by an automatic referral to an overview of organisations which provide emergency support with another mandate;
- Adding examples of cases which are *prima facie* not eligible.

Other

- Involving local partners in strategisation, as far as this is possible.
- Cross-cultural learning of local partners facing similar problems, not necessarily per region but per type of challenges (e.g. hesitance on the part of female journalists to apply for support);
- Combining the provision of support with monitoring.

Annex 1: Interview questions in English (for local partners)

1. How much time is usually in between a journalist's application and your response?
2. What do you do to promote your emergency support and/or legal support?
3. Have you been receiving more applications and if so, why do you think this is the case?
4. Which type of non-financial activities and support do you offer to journalists?
5. Why do you think less women journalists than men journalists apply for emergency support and/or legal support?
6. Do you make an effort to address women journalists in promoting your emergency support and/or legal support? If so, can you explain what you do?
7. What do journalists think of the emergency support and/or legal support you provide?
8. How satisfied are you with the cooperation with Free Press Unlimited, from a scale of 1 to 5?
9. What do you appreciate about the cooperation with Free Press Unlimited?
10. Do you have any recommendations or suggestions for Free Press Unlimited?
11. Can you provide feedback on our survey for journalists who received support?
12. Can you provide us with the contact details of the journalists you supported, so we can send them a survey?

Annex 2: Survey I in English (for beneficiaries of RR and the LDF)

1. What is your gender?
2. Did you receive emergency support or legal support?
3. What kind of support did you receive?
4. How did you find out about the emergency support or legal support that Free Press Unlimited provides?
5. When did you apply for support?
6. How long did it take for your application to get a response?
7. How easy was it for you to apply to the emergency support or legal support?
8. If it was not easy, what obstacles did you face in applying for the emergency support or legal support?
9. Did you experience any barriers to applying for the emergency support or legal support because of your gender?
10. Do you feel that the emergency support or legal support is just as accessible to female journalists as to male journalists?
11. How satisfied are you with the emergency support or legal support you received?
12. What was the most important consequence of the emergency support or legal support you received?
13. Was there a negative consequence of the emergency support or legal support you received?
14. Has the emergency support or legal support you received had any long-term effects on you and your work?
15. What kind of situation would you have been if you would not have received the emergency support or legal support?
16. Would you recommend the emergency support or legal support to other journalists?
17. Do you have any recommendations on how to improve the emergency support or legal support?
18. Would you be available for an in-depth interview at a later stage?

Annex 3: Survey II in English (for beneficiaries of support of the local partners)

1. What is your gender?
2. Have you ever heard of Reporters Respond (emergency fund) and/or the Legal Defense Fund, by the organisation Free Press Unlimited?
3. Which organisation provided you with free emergency support and/or legal support?
4. Did you receive emergency support or legal support?
5. What kind of support did you receive?
6. What did the process of receiving support look like for you, after the incident for which you needed support took place?

If the respondent had to apply for support after the incident took place

1. How did you find out about the emergency support and/or legal support that is provided by this organisation?
2. When did you apply for support?
3. How long did it take for your application to get a response?
4. How easy as it for you to apply to the emergency support and/or legal support?
5. If it was not easy, what obstacles did you face in applying for the emergency support and/or legal support?
6. Did you experience any barriers to applying for the emergency support and/or legal support because of your gender?

If the respondent was approached by the organisation after the incident took place or a boss/colleague/family member/friend etc. requested support for the respondent

1. When did the incident you received support for take place?
2. How long after the incident did you receive emergency support and/or legal support?

1. Do you feel that the emergency support and/or legal support is just as accessible to female journalists as to male journalists?
2. How satisfied are you with the emergency support and/or legal support you received?
3. What was the most important positive consequence of the emergency support and/or legal support you received?
4. Was there a negative consequence of the emergency support and/or legal support you received?
5. Has the emergency support and/or legal support you received had any long-term effects on you and/or your work?
6. What kind of situation would you have been in if you would not have received the emergency support and/or legal support?
7. Would you recommend the emergency support and/or legal support to other journalists?
8. Do you have any recommendations on how to improve the emergency support and/or legal support?
9. Would you be available for an in-depth interview at a later stage?

Annex 4: Survey III (for FPU staff members)

1. How long have you been working at Free Press Unlimited?
2. Which team are you in?
3. Prior to receiving this survey in your inbox, had you heard about Reporters Respond?

If yes

1. Do you know which colleague(s) is/are responsible for Reporters Respond?
2. How clear is it to you how one can apply to Reporters Respond?
3. How clear are the eligibility criteria for Reporters Respond to you?
4. How clear is it to you what kind of support falls under Reporters Respond?
5. What are your expectations with regard to Reporters Respond, in terms of target group, sum of money granted, type of support offered etc.?
6. Have you ever referred a journalist or media organisation to Reporters Respond?

If yes

1. Could you elaborate on how referring the journalist or media organisation to Reporters Respond went for you? Were you satisfied with how your referral was handled?
1. Prior to receiving this survey in your inbox, had you heard about the Legal Defense Fund?

If yes

7. Do you know which colleague(s) is/are responsible for the Legal Defense Fund?
8. How clear is it to you how one can apply to the Legal Defense Fund?
9. How clear are the eligibility criteria for the Legal Defense Fund to you?
10. How clear is it to you what kind of support falls under the Legal Defense Fund?
11. What are your expectations with regard to the Legal Defense Fund, in terms of target group, sum of money granted, type of support offered etc.?
12. Have you ever referred a journalist or media organisation to the Legal Defense Fund?

If yes

1. Could you elaborate on how referring the journalist or media organisation to the Legal Defense Fund went for you? Were you satisfied with how your referral was handled?

Annex 5: Survey IV in English (for FPU's partner organisations)

1. How long have you been a partner organisation of Free Press Unlimited?
2. What type of organisation are you?
3. In which geographical region are you located?
4. Prior to receiving this survey, had you ever heard of Reporters Respond?

If yes

1. How clear is it to you how journalists and media organisations can apply to Reporters Respond?
 2. How clear are the eligibility criteria for Reporters Respond to you?
 3. How clear is it to you what kind of support falls under Reporters Respond?
 4. What are your expectations with regard to Reporters Respond, in terms of target group, sum of money granted, type of support offered etc.?
 5. Have you ever referred a journalist or media organisation to Reporters Respond?
 6. Do you have any suggestions on how to improve Reporters Respond?
-
1. Prior to receiving this survey, had you ever heard of the Legal Defense Fund?

If yes

1. How clear is it to you how journalists and media organisations can apply to the Legal Defense Fund?
2. How clear are the eligibility criteria for the Legal Defense Fund to you?
3. How clear is it to you what kind of support falls under the Legal Defense Fund?
4. What are your expectations with regard to the Legal Defense Fund, in terms of target group, sum of money granted, type of support offered etc.?
5. Have you ever referred a journalist or media organisation to the Legal Defense Fund?
6. Do you have any suggestions on how to improve the Legal Defense Fund?

Annex 6: Data on interviews and survey II

Partner organisation	Region	RR	LDF	Interviewed?
Partner A	Sub-Saharan Africa	✓	✓	Yes
Partner B	Sub-Saharan Africa	✓	✓	No The interview was not conducted as Partner B's contact person did not respond to the interview requests.
Partner C	Latin America	✓	✓	Yes
Partner D	MENA	✓	✓	No No interview was conducted due to security issues and overburdening of Partner D.
Partner E	MENA	✓	✓	No No interview was conducted due to security issues and overburdening of Partner E.
Partner F	Sub-Saharan Africa		✓	Yes
Partner G	Sub-Saharan Africa		✓	Yes
Partner H	Sub-Saharan Africa		✓	Yes
Partner I	Asia		✓	Yes
Partner J	Latin America		✓	No No interview was conducted as the partnership ended on bad terms, so as not to raise any expectations.
Partner K	Europe		✓	Yes
Partner L	Europe		✓	Yes
Partner M	Europe		✓	Yes
Partner M	Europe		✓	No No interview was conducted due to unclarities about current funding and expenditure.
Partner N	<i>Anonymous</i>		✓	No No interview was conducted due to the confidential character of cooperation with this local partner.

Table 3: Interviews conducted with the local partners

Partner organisation	RR	LDF	Number of contact details provided	Number of responses and response rate
Partner A (Sub-Saharan Africa)	✓	✓	13	6 (46 percent response rate)
Partner C (Latin America)	✓	✓	22	9 (41 percent response rate)
Partner F (Sub-Saharan Africa)		✓	2	0 (0 percent response rate)
Partner G (Sub-Saharan Africa)		✓	3	2 (67 percent response rate)
Partner H (Sub-Saharan Africa)		✓	1	1 (100 percent response rate)
Partner I (Asia)		✓	8	3 (38 percent response rate)
Partner K (Europe)		✓	2	1 (50 percent response rate)
Partner L (Europe)		✓	5	0 (0 percent response rate)
Partner M (Europe)		✓	2	1 (50 percent response rate)

Table 4: Beneficiaries of support of the local partners (survey II)

Annex 7: Composition of respondents of survey I (beneficiaries of RR and the LDF)

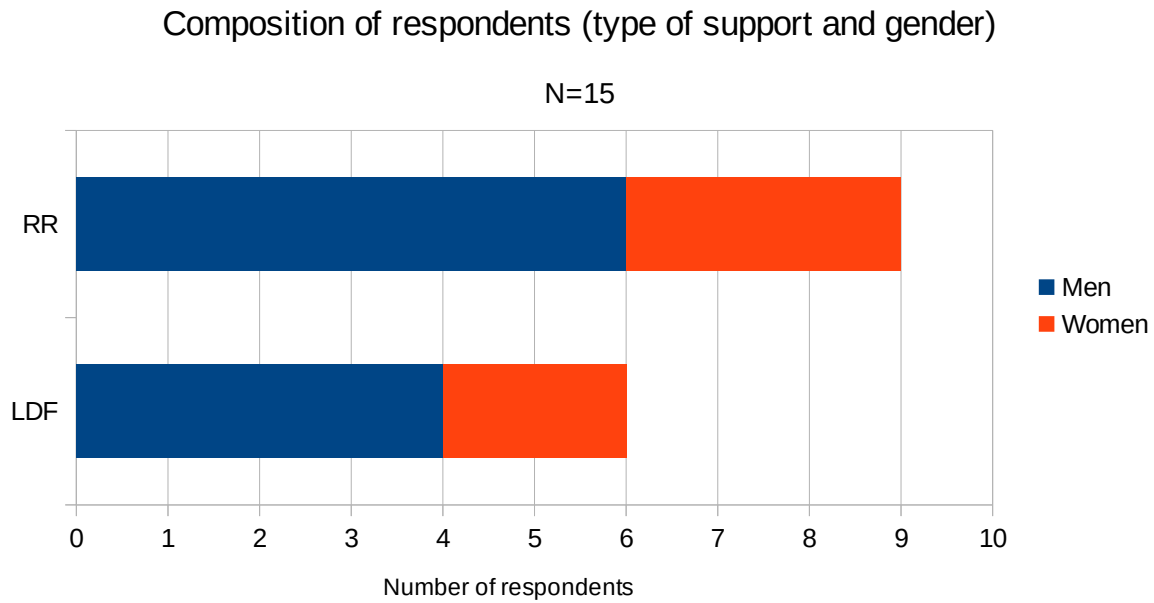


Figure 22: Gender of beneficiaries of RR/LDF (survey I)

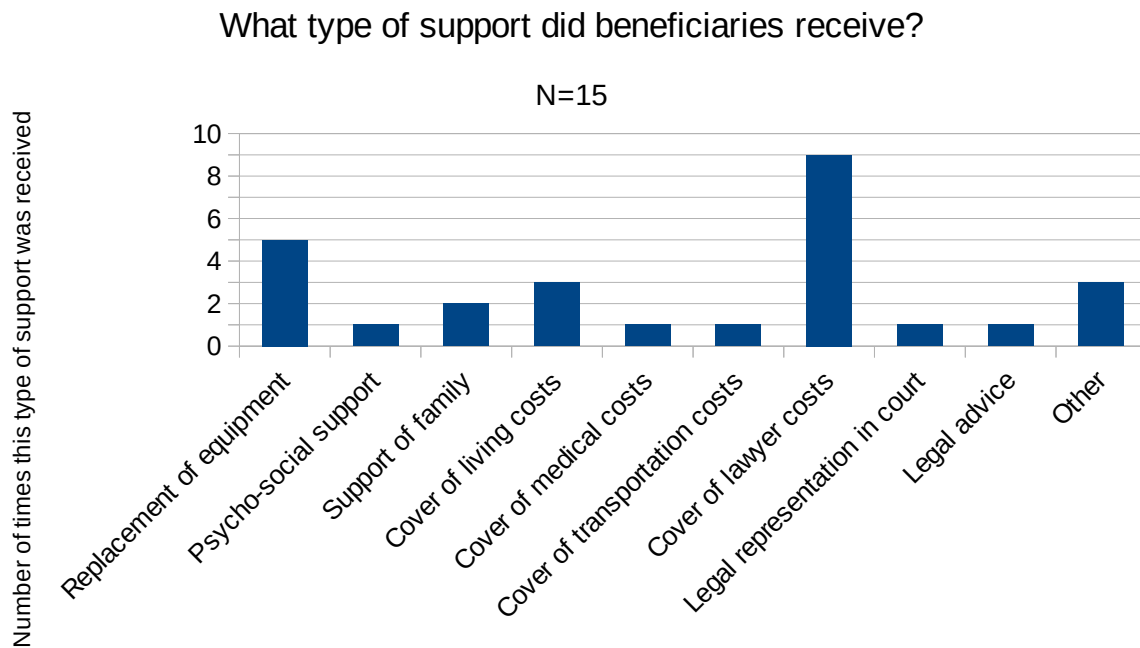


Figure 23: Type of support of beneficiaries of RR (2018 and 2019) and LDF (2019) (survey I)

Annex 8: Composition of respondents of survey II (beneficiaries of support of the local partners)

Composition of respondents (organisation and gender)

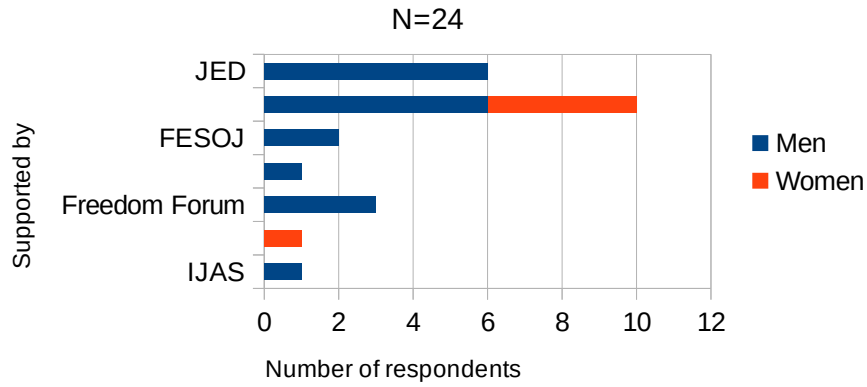


Figure 24: Organisation and gender of beneficiaries of support of local partners (survey II)

Annex 9: Composition of respondents of survey III (FPU staff members)

How long have you been working at FPU?

N=42

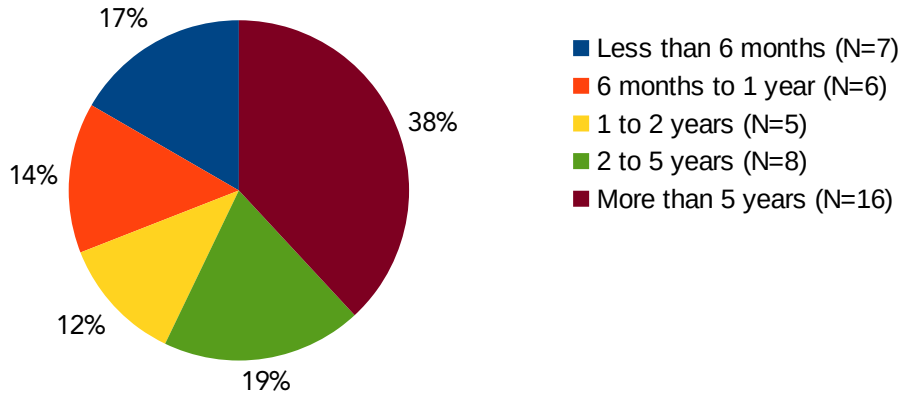


Figure 25: Time at FPU (survey III)

Which team are you in?

N=42

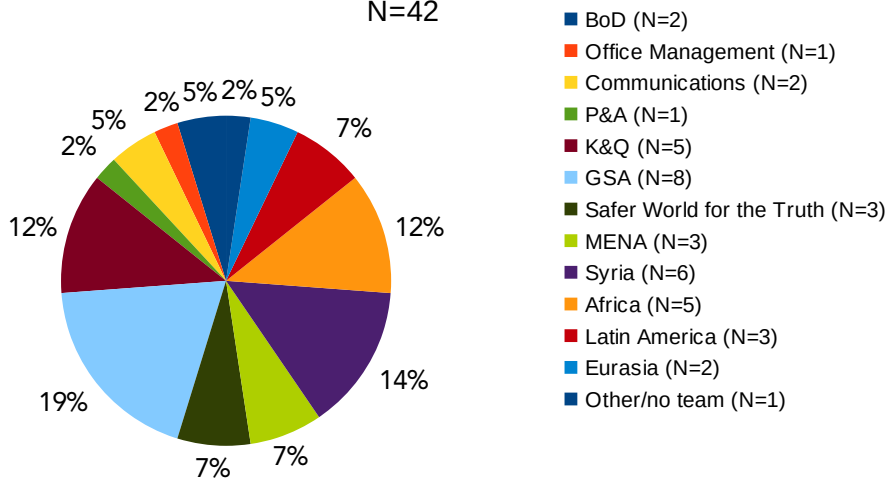


Figure 26: (Sub)team at FPU (survey III)

NB: No staff members from HR, Donor Relations, and Finance filled out this survey.

Annex 10: Composition of respondents of survey IV (FPU's partner organisations)

How long have you been a partner organisation of FPU?

N=34

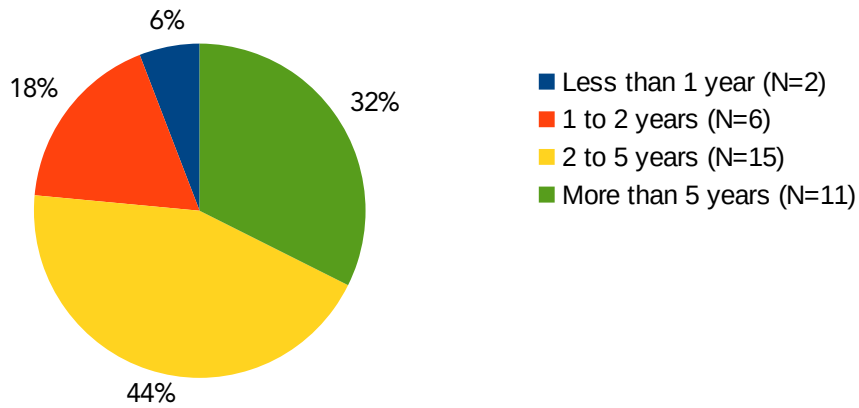


Figure 27: Duration of partnership (survey IV)

What type of organisation are you?

N=34

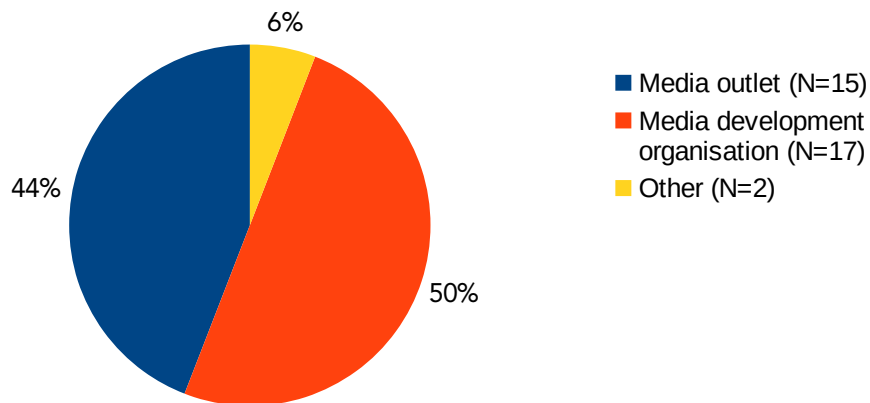


Figure 28: Type of partner organisation (survey IV)

In which geographical region are you located?

N=34

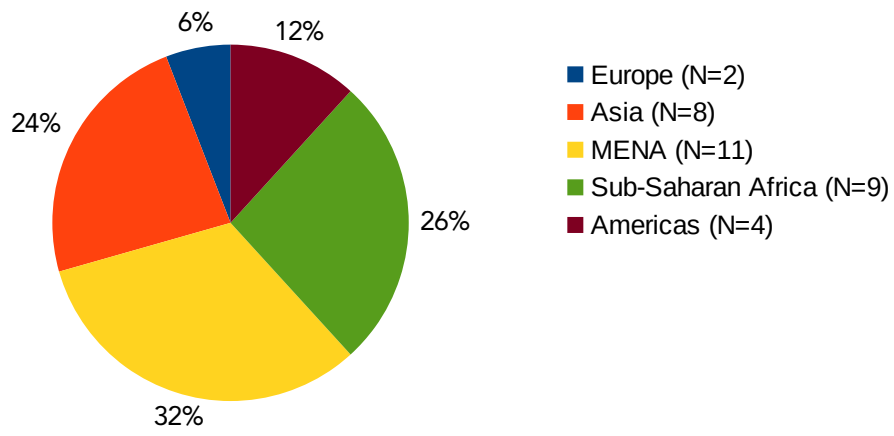


Figure 29: Geographic region (survey IV)

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People deserve to know