



# JOURNALISTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



ANNUAL REPORT 2020  
*Mobilizing Media. Changing Lives.*



**jhr**

Journalists for  
Human Rights



# JOURNALISTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

**MISSION:** Empowering journalists to cover human rights stories.

**VISION:** For everyone in the world to be aware of their rights.

Published **2362** stories **1055** women **TRAINED**

RECEIVED **10** AWARDS

**97,563,748 individuals reached**



WORKED IN

**30+**

COUNTRIES

Trained **18,277** JOURNALISTS

**MAP LEGEND:**

-  current programs
-  previous programs

**Cover Photo:**

*JHR Regional Coordinator for East and Southern Africa Siyabulela Mandela distributes personal protective equipment to media partners in South Sudan — Photo by Alex McBride*



# VIEW FROM THE BOARD

**A**s I sit down this morning to write this introduction to our annual report – which serves as an A-to-Z review of JHR's activities for 2020 – journalists Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov have just been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their fights to defend human rights in the Philippines and Russia.

This is an amazing recognition of reporters and the impact brave journalism can have on building and strengthening democracy around the world.

The Nobel Committee's announcement is a particularly apt note on which to open the formal review of JHR's 2020+ activities. Never before in our lives has there been a more urgent global need for honest, fact-based, professional journalism. Never has it been under greater threat. And never has the work of JHR been more vital.

2020 & onwards hasn't been easy as we struggle with the tragedies and restrictions the pandemic has hit us with. COVID-19 has been the predominant issue facing every single organization globally in 2020 and 2021 without exception. Did JHR stay on the planned course? No! We pivoted in several areas. Programmes had to be shuffled or renewed and budgets had to be amended.

We were in good company during the first COVID lockdown in 2020 when JHR closed offices everywhere and asked staff to work from home. Like everyone else, we had to familiarize ourselves with the wonders and magic and frustrations of Zoom.

Domestically, for example, First Nations communities rightly closed their doors to outsiders and JHR staff switched to online training. One reward was to see trainee-journalists successfully place several stories in various media houses including APTN and the *Globe and Mail*. JHR was also able to arrange for 7 talented young Indigenous journalists to join major outlets such as the national Canadian Press to Calgary's *The Sprawl* and Quebec's *La Converse*.

Internationally, JHR changed its programmes to concentrate on bringing truth and clarity to the dangerous mis- and disinformation about the pandemic, as well as continuing to work to help shine a light on the human and gender rights issues that have been exacerbated. We were among the first organizations to jump to easy-to-use webinars, an initiative that significantly expanded public engagement across Africa and the Middle East.

Yes indeed, very difficult times. But I don't think I've ever been so proud of my own association with JHR as I am right now, as of this writing in October 2021, when a human rights alarm bell rang and our staff immediately answered.

Most recently, the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan triggered a fast panicked exodus as the country fell into chaos and danger especially for those people associated with the Canadian military and who had worked for human rights organizations. As Western governments shut down their operations, Canadian military veterans who once served in Afghanistan, joined by JHR and other nonprofits, all helped organize escapes for thousands of Afghans.

At the front of that effort helping Afghan journalists and human rights workers was JHR Executive Director Rachel Pulfer and her amazing team.

Rachel is a veteran of organizing speedy exits from war zones. Leaning on that experience, and using smarts and diplomacy and a fine focus, the JHR team was able to get dozens of journalists and their families out of Kabul and then to safety (and new lives) in Canada.

JHR's outlook for 2022 is challenging. For one thing, the pandemic will still be with us. Issues include finishing the job evacuating journalists and their families from Afghanistan, continuing and extending the promotion of gender equality across Africa and the Middle East, and ensuring people can separate fact from perilous fiction through the COVID-19 vaccine rollout across 12 countries.

You will see when you read Rachel's report in the next pages that we are positioned to meet those challenges with the JHR team's organizational intelligence and with renewed energy.

All this is possible only because of you, our donors and supporters. Your encouragement is vital and I thank you most profoundly. Please read through this annual report where we share with you other accomplishments of 2020 and more challenges going forward into 2022.

A sincere thanks,

**Michael Cooke**  
Board Chair



# FOREWORD

**A**fter a very successful 2019 and a strong start to 2020, JHR, like most organizations, experienced a dramatic shift as a result of COVID-19. We shut down all offices, mandated all staff to work from home, and pivoted all activities to online.

Although we found ourselves tested, the JHR team has shown great creativity, resourcefulness and positivity at every stage of this pandemic, laying the groundwork to emerge in a position of strength.

Innovation is one of JHR's core values. It is what explains our evolution from a youth organization founded by two 24-year-olds over MSN Messenger 18 years ago to one that now leads national and international programs on issues such as Indigenous rights at home in Canada, media freedom in South Sudan and gender equality worldwide.

The short- and long-term challenges we face require all of us to embrace this spirit of innovation. It is a time for transformative change and recovery. As Emerson once wrote, this time, like all times, is a good one, if you but know what to do with it. Despite the unknowns, we are energized by the team's resilience and excited **to define the future we collectively want and need.**

The strategy that JHR created to withstand the tests of COVID-19, while also stepping up to meet the human rights challenges it represents, inspired an initial burst of speed through the first lockdown. We grew rapidly, in order to respond to the information challenges posed by COVID-19. Subsequently, we've seen a process of careful adaptation, some restructuring, some very hard decisions, and intentional thought required to sustain our level of growth.

**It is important to recognize the JHR staff, led by our new deputy director Bill Killorn, director of policy Janine DeVries and director of finance Nabin Pokharel, for the extraordinary effort they put in through this most challenging of years. In particular, I'd like to recognize the work done, as a team, at a distance, to negotiate, secure and then implement a new 12-country, \$1.5 million program from Global Affairs Canada within three months of lockdown: *Mobilizing Media to Fight COVID-19*.** We moved training online and refocused on the challenge to human rights that COVID-19 represents, reassigned staff to programs, adapted hours, and explored and secured government support in order to keep layoffs to a minimum.

Already, we have shifted our programming in unprecedented ways. In our domestic Indigenous Reporters Program, we pivoted to online training, and saw trainees place story after story in outlets from APTN to the *Globe and Mail*. We also placed talented young Indigenous journalists in major outlets from the *Globe and Mail* to The Canadian Press to Calgary's *The Sprawl*.

We launched solutions journalism training at home while testing out a program to fight dis- and misinformation about the coronavirus. And we reimagined our international programs to focus on fighting mis- and disinformation about the virus. We also worked with star journalists, leaders from Judie Kaberia in Kenya to Prince Murhula in the DR Congo, to spotlight the human and gender rights issues that have been exacerbated as a result of the pandemic.

The essence of our work is in the way we introduce new ways of thinking about journalism and show journalists how they can use their power and platforms to highlight human rights issues and catalyze positive change in communities both at home and around the world. What 2020 taught us is that it is possible to do this virtually. The challenge now is to understand how best we can serve beneficiary communities more effectively, whether online or off, as they navigate the impact of COVID-19 in the years ahead.

We are particularly grateful to you, our community of support, as we weather the fundraising challenges that accompanied COVID-19. The challenge of 2021 will be to restart in-person fundraising efforts in earnest, but JHR is in a very strong position thanks to your support and leadership. We are energized by the confidence that our Board, community and teams have put into our work and excited to move ahead to address the urgent challenges to human rights and media freedoms that COVID-19 represents – worldwide.

**Rachel Pulfer**  
*Executive Director*



# JHR MALI ADVOCATES FOR DEAF COMMUNITIES' ACCESS TO COVID-19 INFORMATION

**O**n July 16, 2020, JHR hosted a radio show on the limited access to COVID-19 related health information for people with disabilities. During the show, Mamadou Diallo, a representative of the National Center for Information, Education and Communication for Health, part of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (CNIECS), made a pledge “to produce and broadcast videos on COVID-19 in collaboration with the Malian Association of Interpreters in Sign Languages”.

Following the show, on August 7, the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs delivered on its promise of creating COVID-19 awareness videos for Deaf and hard of hearing communities. The videos, which provided information on COVID-19 preventive measures and government restrictions, were later aired on the national broadcaster ORTM and disseminated through social media networks, increasing access to life-saving information for an estimated 309,000 people with disabilities.

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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

With the support of the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) in 2019, JHR initiated a two-year pilot project in Mali to strengthen the capacity of media and media institutions in order to foster an effective, inclusive, and transparent democracy. The project seeks to address the institutional and structural weakness within the Malian media sectors in order to develop a strong and vibrant media that can effectively play its role of holding duty bearers accountable regarding to human rights and good governance issues.

Over the past two years, JHR, in collaboration with local partners, has worked on building the capacity of journalists, media managers and journalism students to effectively and ethically report on human rights and governance issues that affect their communities. In February 2020, JHR in collaboration with l'École Supérieure de Journalisme et des Sciences de la Communication (ESJSC), developed a human rights

curriculum to be adapted by the school, the first and only public academic institution offering a program in Journalism in Mali. Starting from October 2020, students at ESJSC will be able to receive lectures taught using the JHR human rights curriculum. The curriculum will make it possible for current and future students to have access to quality education and also contribute to the creation of a new generation of journalists that have the capacity to effectively play their role as a government watchdog. JHR has also focused on helping the general public better understand their rights and support the protection and promotion of these rights, especially women and girl's rights.

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## GOAL

To strengthen media institutions' abilities to play their role in fostering an effective, inclusive, and transparent democracy in Mali.

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# MALI



trained or engaged  
**213** **journalists**

PRODUCED

**100**  
stories

REACHED

**199,532**  
Individuals

**132** **WOMEN**  
trained or engaged



*Participants in the roundtable on inclusive democracy in Mali — Photo courtesy JHR Mali*

## VOTING IN MALI: SOLUTIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

After Mali held its second round of legislative elections on April 19, 2020, the Election Observation Mission (EOM), comprising the National Commission for Human Rights of Mali and numerous civil society organizations, submitted a post-election report to the Malian government. In that report, they included several recommendations for facilitating access to polling stations for people with disabilities, such as the transcription of the names of candidates and political parties in Braille on ballots.

These recommendations stemmed from JHR Mali's pre-election awareness activities, which included a roundtable held in Bamako on February 20, in which the current EOM president Dr. Ibrahima Sangho led the discussion on the inclusion of people with disabilities in the elections. The roundtable saw active participation by three EOM members, including the Citizen Observation Pool of Mali (POCIM), the Youth Association for Active Citizenship and Democracy (AJCAD) and the National Human Rights Commission.

In addition, the Ele Consortium, consisting of the Malian Association of Sign Language Interpreters (AMILS) and other members of the EOM, implemented other recommendations from JHR's February roundtable, e.g., "to set up citizen assistance throughout the electoral process to facilitate voting for people with disabilities." AMILS raised awareness about the elections among people with disabilities, especially the Deaf community, and made it easier for them to access candidates' messages.

Following the report, the Prime Minister of Mali personally addressed a letter of thanks to the EOM head for the entity's thorough efforts to ensure an inclusive electoral process.

## Resilience on reserve: How my First Nation and my family have endured this pandemic

The small community of Wauzhushk Onigum Nation continues to adapt to the unique limits COVID-19 has forced upon it

ZACHARY SKEAD  
CONTRIBUTED TO THE GLOBE AND MAIL  
PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 27, 2020



Zachary Skead pays tribute to the resilience of his Wauzhushk Onigum First Nation community in this photo essay published in the *Globe & Mail* on November 27, 2020 — Screengrab

# IRP MENTEE ZACHARY SKEAD'S COVID-19 PHOTO ESSAY GETS PUBLISHED IN THE GLOBE & MAIL

“ Our Indigenous traditions and culture keep us connected, and so it has been hard to watch as powwows have been cancelled and attendance for our traditional feasts have been limited. Still, we’ve found a way, including by organizing drive-by food pick-up events. And with Halloween’s typical door-to-door interactions posing a threat to public health, the community held an event, “Trunk or Treat,” where people filled up the backs of their cars with candy to hand out to costumed children outside.”

– Zachary Skead, *Globe & Mail*



In his photo essay titled 'Resilience on reserve: How my First Nation and my family have endured this pandemic', Indigenous Reporters Program trainee Zachary Skead documented how the Wauzhushk Onigum First Nation community in Ontario responded to COVID-19. In starkly beautiful black-and-white images, Skead captures how his family's life transformed during the pandemic, from stockpiling on grocery essentials and online learning to partaking in a physically distanced 'Trunk or Treat' Halloween celebration. The photo essay was published by *The Globe & Mail* in its November 27, 2020 issue, and was one of 28 stories produced by IRP-mentored journalists in 2020.

## READ

Opinion: Resilience on reserve: How my First Nation and my family have endured this pandemic, [www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-resilience-on-reserve-how-my-first-nation-and-my-family-have-endured](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-resilience-on-reserve-how-my-first-nation-and-my-family-have-endured)

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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Since launching in 2013, JHR's multi award-winning Indigenous Reporters Program (IRP) has worked to increase the quality and quantity of Indigenous stories and voices in media in Canada.

IRP provides media skills training in Indigenous communities, creates opportunities for Indigenous people to pursue careers in journalism, and works to improve Indigenous coverage in mainstream news outlets.

The program works in three pillars, creating a ladder from the grassroots to the newsroom: community media training, supporting emerging Indigenous journalists, and training non-Indigenous journalists to better report on Indigenous stories.

Since 2013, IRP has:

- Provided in-community journalism and media literacy training to more than 1600 community members in 26 partner First Nations in Northern Ontario and 1 in Manitoba.
- Developed a Grade 11 Indigenous journalism course, offered to students at Keewatinook Internet High School.
- Engaged 75 Indigenous people from First Nations and municipalities across Northwestern Ontario in online media training with a prestigious team of trainers, including award winning journalist and media producers Ryan McMahon, Brandi Morin and Jesse Winter.
- Supported Indigenous journalism trainees in the production of more than 850 stories, news bulletins and podcast episodes, published in local and national outlets and reaching audiences of over 2.2 million people.
- Coordinated 33 internships with news outlets across the country, including: APTN, Global TV, CBC, Wawatay News, the Toronto Star, and HuffPo Canada.
- Awarded 14 bursaries for stories produced by emerging Indigenous journalists with outlets including the Globe and Mail, Canadian Press, The Tyee, The Discourse and La Converse.
- Provided 27 scholarships for Indigenous students studying journalism or media.
- Supported two editorial bursaries that provide emerging Indigenous reporters experience working with monthly publications in an editorial role.
- Awarded 1st annual Award for Outstanding Work by an Indigenous Youth Reporter.
- Held *Mookitaakosi*, JHR's first Indigenous reporters conference, to connect remote emerging Indigenous community journalists to each other and working Indigenous journalists.
- Developed a curriculum on best practices for reporting on Indigenous communities which is freely available to post-secondary journalism programs in Canada.

• Published three research studies:

- *Buried Voices* and *Buried Voices: Changing Tones*, which were media monitoring studies examining coverage of Indigenous stories in print and online media in Ontario from 2010 to 2013 and from 2014 to 2017 respectively.
- *Emerging Voices*, an examination into access to post secondary journalism education for Indigenous youth in Ontario. It also explored how and whether post secondary journalism programs in the province are implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #86.

Looking ahead, the Indigenous Reporters Program is exploring new opportunities to expand the reach of the program while deepening its impact. The program seeks to partner with and learn from organizations to ensure the program is both filling a needed gap in the media development landscape as well as providing opportunities for emerging Indigenous reporters to amplify voices and stories in local communities.

The Indigenous Reporters Program was funded in 2020 by the Ontario Trillium Fund, RBC Foundation, Canadian Commission for UNESCO, and Unifor Social Fund.

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## GOAL

JHR's Indigenous Reporters Program works to increase the quality and quantity of Indigenous stories and voices in Canadian media.

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*Pictured here with a Spirit Bear in honor of Bear Witness Day, 12-year-old Kristina Nodin of Thunder Bay is the host and producer of weekly podcast Nshiime Voices — Photo courtesy Jessica Barry*

## LISTEN TO THE PODCAST 'NSHIIME VOICES'

Kristina Nodin, 12, is sharing stories in her community and beyond in a weekly webcast.

Nshiime Voices - Nshiime meaning “my sibling” in Anishinaabemowin - is a space to share experiences and find out more about some of the interesting people doing great things in northwestern Ontario and beyond.

Kristina's podcast caught the attention of *Globe and Mail* reporter (and JHR program alumna) Willow Fiddler, who subsequently profiled her in a feature on the Indigenous Reporters Program. The feature ran on January 18 in both *The Globe and Mail* and *Toronto Star*.

### **LISTEN**

Nshiime Voices, [www.soundcloud.com/jhrindigenous/sets/nshiime-voices](http://www.soundcloud.com/jhrindigenous/sets/nshiime-voices)

### **READ**

Indigenous Reporters Program helping shape new group of storytellers in Northern Ontario, [www.thestar.com/news/canada/2021/01/18/indigenous-reporters-program-helping-shape-new-group-of-storytellers-in-northern-ontario.html](http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2021/01/18/indigenous-reporters-program-helping-shape-new-group-of-storytellers-in-northern-ontario.html)



*Award-winning journalist Judie Kaberia is the Gender Media Trainer for JHR's Voice for Women and Girls' Rights project in Kenya — Photo by Francis Mbatia*

# MEET JUDIE KABERIA, KENYA'S GENDER RIGHTS CHAMPION

Judie Kaberia is a multi award-winning journalist and the Gender Media Trainer for JHR's **Canada World: Voice for Women and Girls** program in Kenya. Since the onset of COVID-19, Judie has been creating awareness through research and reporting on how the pandemic has heightened the existing risk of women and girls becoming victims of human trafficking for sex exploitation, child labour and domestic servitude.

The lack of a safe shelter system and protection for young women and girls who are victims of human trafficking was already a major issue in Kenya but that threat has only increased due to the cessation of movement as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Judie has worked with civil society organizations (CSOs) and government agencies to rescue and counsel a huge number of young girls looking for safe houses and shelters during the pandemic, and has advocated for the urgent need to create new rescue shelters for victims of human trafficking, as in the article below.

## READ

Kenya: Lack Of State-Run Shelters, Double Violation To Victims Of Human Trafficking, [www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2020/07/kenya-lack-of-state-run-shelters-double-violation-to-victims-of-human-trafficking/](http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2020/07/kenya-lack-of-state-run-shelters-double-violation-to-victims-of-human-trafficking/)

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Since 2019, JHR has been running a four-year, Global Affairs Canada-funded project in Kenya, titled **Canada World: Voice for Women and Girls**. The project seeks to build the capacity of the Kenyan media sector to effectively cover women and girls' rights issues while reinforcing the relationship between media and key stakeholders with the goal of advancing women and girls' rights.

The project uses a gender-sensitive and right-based approach to build the capacity of local media actors, civil society organizations (CSOs) and women rights organizations to better advocate for women and girls' rights.

The project also seeks to engage key stakeholders, such as decision makers, community leaders and the public, to strengthen public accountability and ensure that women's issues such as female genital mutilation (FGM), women's representation and women's access to education are prioritized on their respective agendas.

Overall, the project seeks to create an environment where women's issues are centered and receive adequate coverage, leading to more women being empowered to shape their societies and access their rights.

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## GOAL

Enhance the rights of women and girls through media development.

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# KENYA (2020)



Trained **13** JOURNALISTS  
[6 Women]

PUBLISHED

**18**  
stories

REACHED  
**1,500,000**  
Individuals

**85** CSOs AND MEDIA REPS  
TRAINED AND ENGAGED  
[42 Women]



*Siyabulela Mandela, Regional Coordinator, East & Southern Africa, distributes masks and gloves to JHR media partners in South Sudan — Photo by Alex McBride*

# KEEPING MEDIA PARTNERS IN SOUTH SUDAN SAFE THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

JHR's #InformationSavesLives campaign raised money to support journalists around the world to cover COVID-19 while fighting misinformation about the disease with truth and facts. This support extended to providing our media partners in South Sudan with PPE so they can report on the pandemic safely.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

From February 2016 to July 2020, JHR's Global Affairs Canada-funded project **Strengthening Media in South Sudan** aimed to work with journalists, media organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), and government representatives to enhance public accountability in South Sudan on human rights and good governance issues.

In March 2020, as a response to the global pandemic, the project pivoted its activities to exclusively focus on COVID-19 and its impact on human rights as well as COVID-19-related misinformation. Over the course of the project, JHR trained more than 297 journalists on human rights and gender-sensitive reporting, including sexual and reproductive health rights. The project also supported and mentored journalists to produce 650 stories on gender equality, reaching an aggregated audience of over 9 million South Sudanese people.

The scope of this project went beyond journalists in the media sector. JHR also trained more than 100 CSO staff members on how to disseminate key information on public health and human rights. JHR trained 287 members of South Sudan's security sector on press freedom and how to work with members of the media. Finally, JHR successfully developed a human rights curriculum in collaboration with the University of Juba's Department of Development and Education. To date, 298 students (116 of which were female) in journalism and communication studies have received lectures based on JHR's curriculum.

## GOAL

To improve public accountability of all stakeholders in South Sudan on issues of peace, human rights and governance.



*Amara Bangura of the Dallaire Initiative with the then JHR South Sudan team lead Laura Bain (seated first and second from left) at the South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation premises, where they gathered with Godfrey Musila, Commissioner of the Commission for Human Rights in South Sudan (seated third from left), as well as reps from the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (SSPDF) and Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition (SPLA-IO) to view their trainees' work. Earlier, the Dallaire Initiative, in partnership with JHR, had conducted a 'Storytelling to Prevent the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers' workshop series for local journalists in South Sudan.*

# SOUTH SUDAN

PUBLISHED  
**607**  
stories

REACHED  
**16 million**  
Individuals

Trained or Engaged **1475** JOURNALISTS & INDIVIDUALS

**190** WOMEN  
trained or engaged



*Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Denis Mukwege (left) with JHR's DRC Project Manager Prince Muhrhula — Photo courtesy JHR-DRC*

# JHR BEGINS COLLABORATION WITH NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER DR. DENIS MUKWEGE IN THE DRC

Prince Muhrhula, country lead for JDH-JHR in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), met Nobel Peace Prize Winner Dr. Denis Mukwege to seek advice and discuss collaboration opportunities. In 2018 Dr. Mukwege was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize alongside Yazidi activist Nadia Murad, according to the prize committee, “for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict”.

“We came to see Dr. Denis Mukwege because he is the standard bearer for the fight for women’s rights in the DRC. We want to learn his views and give our support for his fight against impunity for the sexual violence and crimes committed here. We are here to present our program to train journalists on issues aimed at combating violations of the rights of women and girls in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,” shared Prince Muhrhula about his visit.

Dr. Mukwege thanked JDH-JHR for their involvement in the fight against sexual violence against women. “I encourage the training of journalists who can investigate and research the massacres that have taken place in forgotten corners and that have not been mentioned in the UN ‘Mapping’ report. It is time people start to realize we need to act,” said Dr. Mukwege on the occasion. “We are planning to take multiple actions and Dr. Mukwege has agreed to work with us. We will follow his recommendations to improve and strengthen the work for women’s rights and journalists in the DRC,” added Muhrhula.

During their meeting, Dr. Mukwege expressed the wish that “journalists should investigate these crimes to establish evidence for judgments, because the perpetrators need to be judged while still alive.”



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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Since 2007, Journalists for Human Rights (JHR) has worked with over 1,600 journalists and journalism students in the DRC to produce media about human rights abuses, crime, corruption, democracy, and good governance. JHR initiatives have built a network of 10 autonomous press clubs across the country, which work to promote coverage of human rights issues.

Since 2019, JHR has been implementing a four-year, Global Affairs Canada- funded project in the DRC, titled **Canada World: Voice for Women and Girls**. The project seeks to address the institutional weakness of the Congolese media sector and foster strong and sustainable partnerships between media and key stakeholders with the goal of advancing women and girls' rights.

The project uses a gender-sensitive and right-based approach to build the capacity of local media actors, civil society organizations (CSOs) and women rights organizations to better advocate for women and girls' rights.

The project also seeks to engage key stakeholders such as decision makers, community leaders and the public, to ensure that such women's issues as representation in the media, access to education, access to health (including their sexual and reproductive rights) and justice for victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) are prioritized on their respective agendas.


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## GOAL

Enhance the rights of women and girls through media development.

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# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



PRODUCED  
**1012**  
stories

REACHED  
**9.1 million**  
Individuals

Trained **1641**  
JOURNALISTS [60 Women]

**109** CSOs AND MEDIA REPS  
ENGAGED (IN 2020)  
[69 Women]



*Nisreen Anabli is one of four authors of a major collection of papers highlighting threats faced by women journalists, published by UNESCO and JHR in November — Photo courtesy Nisreen Anabli*

## JHR PROFILE IN COURAGE - NISREEN ANABLI, SYRIA

**N**isreen Anabli is a Syrian human rights journalist, who has reported on human rights in Syria and Syrian communities in neighboring hosting countries for pan-Arab newspapers. Currently reporting for Geroun Media Network in Istanbul, Turkey, Nisreen is recognized for her efforts to stop gender-based violence within her community.

Syria ranks 174th out of 180 countries for press freedom, according to the 2020 World Press Freedom Index. According to the report issued by the Syrian Center for Press Freedoms, 22 violations against women in media have been documented in Syria since the start of the Syrian revolution. This includes six female journalists who were killed, 12 cases of arrest and kidnapping, and six other violations that include wounding, beating, threats, violence, and pressure to prevent them from working in the media.

Nisreen Anabli describes the security and social risks that prevent women journalists from performing their duties optimally. “Women journalists wanted to communicate the reality of what was happening on the ground to the outside world. It is a testament to these women that they emerged even from very conservative social environments, which strongly opposed female work. These women wanted to prove themselves and change the prevailing idea that women were useless in crises.”

Some media organizations have increased their numbers of female journalists only to satisfy funding agencies, and not because they believe in the need for female journalists to participate. This is the case both inside Syria and in countries where Syrian media is working, such as Turkey.

“Most of the opposition media organizations that I worked at were run by men, some of whom had no background in the media profession at all. These leaders often weren’t interested in the issues that women journalists wanted to highlight. For example, I wanted to publish a story on the problem of the lack of menstrual health supplies for women in the camps and the besieged areas in Syria. I tried hard to convince the editor-in-chief of the importance of this problem. I was ridiculed and bullied by my male colleagues who believed that the issue of menstrual health supplies for women would cross a “red line” according to the standards of our conservative societies. They had a narrow view of the problems and needs of women in wartime, which they summarized as merely lacking food supplies,” Anabli recounts.

“Within Syria and other conflict zones, civic actors, women rights organizations, media organizations, need to advocate for legislative reforms that encourage gender equality when it comes to specializations, positions,

and wages for journalists. International organizations have the leverage with those media organizations to require the adoption of codes of ethics, by-laws, and policies that could protect women journalists," concludes Nisreen Anabli.

Anabli was one of four authors contributing to a major collection of papers published by UNESCO and JHR in November, highlighting threats women journalists face and strategies that newsroom managers and international community actors can deploy to help them.

### READ

Half the story is never enough: threats facing women journalists, [www.jhr.ca/publications](http://www.jhr.ca/publications)

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

JHR has worked in Syria since 2017, creating a network of 40 Syrian journalists and 20 civil society and human-rights defenders working inside and outside of Syria. This program encourages media outlets working in different geographic territories to share resources, collaborate on major stories, and gain access to territories in which they cannot freely work. Particular emphasis is placed on improving the coverage of women's and girls' rights in the Syrian community in Turkey and improving women and girls' access to essential information about their rights. JHR is grateful for funding from the United Nations Fund for Democracy (UNDEF), the Donner Canadian Foundation and Bill Martin—in addition to individual donations from human-rights supporters.

## GOAL

To strengthen independent Syrian media. Working with independent Syrian media outlets based in Turkey, JHR builds the capacity of journalists and media managers to mainstream human rights journalism in Syria, hold key decision-makers to account, and create dialogue channels for the public on critical issues, such as democracy and gender equality.

# SYRIA

Trained **207** JOURNALISTS

PUBLISHED

**163**  
stories

REACHED

**3,167,781**  
Individuals

**33** WOMEN TRAINED



Scenes from a clothing factory in Kafranja, Ajloun in Jordan — Photo by Ahmad Hamdan

# JHR-TRAINED JOURNALISTS’ INVESTIGATION OF LABOUR CONDITIONS IN JORDANIAN TEXTILE FACTORIES SPARKS ACTION

**A**s part of JHR’s mentorship program in Jordan, journalists Shifaa Al-Qdaa and Ansam Bani-Ismael published an investigative story about textiles factories in Ajloun in September 2020. They looked into the working conditions of female workers in these factories and found many challenges and legal violations. Some of the workers had not had a proper day off for two years.

In response to the publication, the Ministry of Labour spokesperson, Mohammad Al-Zayod, stated: “The Ministry is aware of the investigation, following up on the cases, and encouraging victims to reach out to the ministry for claims of any violations through the available mechanism.” JHR Jordan and the two journalists are keeping a spotlight trained on the situation.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Since 2013, JHR has worked in Jordan to enhance the capacity of the Jordanian media sector to cover human rights issues and engage key stakeholders in public conversations to contribute to building a public culture of respect for human rights in the country. In 2019, for the first time, the JHR Jordan team coordinated workshops that were held in governorates outside of Amman, engaging journalists on best practices for investigative journalism and access to information. In 2020, JHR was able to successfully pivot to COVID-friendly methods of story production, leading to articles on pressing human rights concerns during the lockdown, such as online learning and gender-based violence.

In November, JHR published a comparative study, *Media Monitoring Study on Human Rights Journalism in Jordan*, which explored how Jordanian media reported on human rights between the years 2019 and 2020.

The program also produced an *investigative journalism toolkit* – the first of its kind in Jordan – which equipped journalists and media outlets with the necessary skills to access information on human rights. This toolkit is available online, and 1000 print copies were disseminated across targeted media outlets and journalism institutions, including Al-Yarmook University.

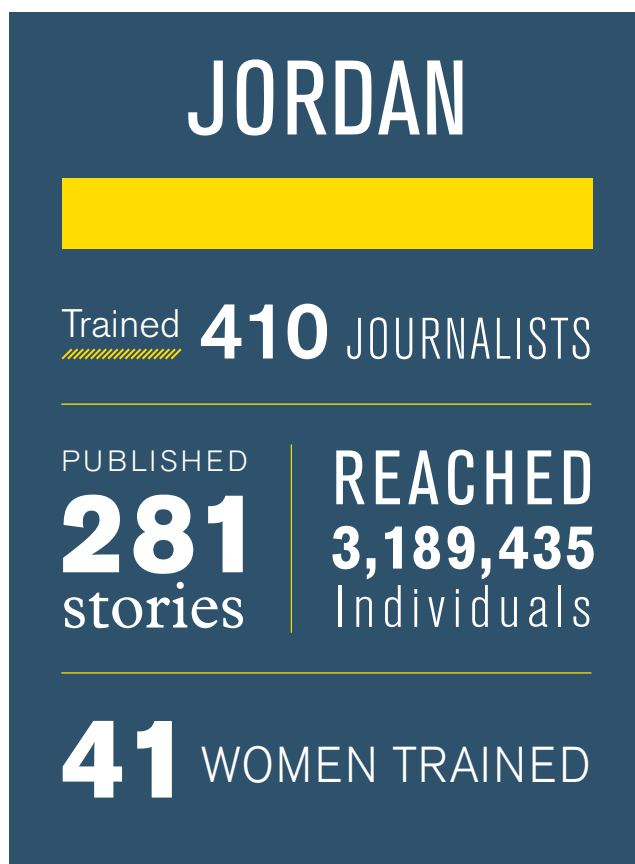
## READ

Media Monitoring Study on Human Rights Journalism in Jordan, [tinyurl.com/JordanMediaMonitoringStudy2020](https://tinyurl.com/JordanMediaMonitoringStudy2020)

Human Rights Investigative Journalism Manual, [tinyurl.com/JordanHRIJManual](https://tinyurl.com/JordanHRIJManual)

## GOAL

Through training, public engagement, and story production, JHR has worked to increase freedom of expression in Jordan and create a space for more open, informed, and constructive dialogue on human rights issues affecting the country.





The 'Fighting Misinformation in Canada' webinar that marked the launch of the Truth Matters microsite — Screenshot

# PILOTING A WAY TO FIGHT MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION ON COVID-19

**F**rom February to April 2020, JHR ran a pilot training initiative providing Canadian journalists and social media users with tools to identify and safely debunk online misinformation and disinformation..

In November, JHR ran a webinar *'Fighting Misinformation in Canada'* with disinformation expert and curriculum advisor Craig Silverman, journalism and media literacy trainer Aphrodite Salas from Quebec, journalism trainer Geoff Leo from Saskatchewan, journalism trainer Amara Bangura, disinformation expert Marcus Kolga, Dimitri Pavlounis, a media literacy expert from CIVIX Canada, and JHR executive director Rachel Pulfer.

The webinar coincided with the release of JHR's new microsite [jhr.ca/truth-matters](http://jhr.ca/truth-matters): a free tool with resources for journalists and the general public including videos, academic studies and disinformation expert and media literacy trainer Marcus Kolga's report 'Canadian Media and Citizen Preparedness to Combat Disinformation' that unpacked the results and proposed next steps.

The success of this pilot project led to the launch of JHR's current *Misinformation Project*, which provides Canadian journalists and journalism students with digital investigation and media literacy training in online misinformation, in partnership with First Draft News.

## WATCH

The 'Fighting Misinformation in Canada' webinar, November 27, 2020, [tinyurl.com/JHRMisinfoWebinar2020](https://tinyurl.com/JHRMisinfoWebinar2020), or read the recap, [tinyurl.com/JHRMisinfoWebinar2020Recap](https://tinyurl.com/JHRMisinfoWebinar2020Recap)

## LEARN

The resource library from the Truth Matters microsite, [www.jhr.ca/truth-matters/library](http://www.jhr.ca/truth-matters/library)

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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In 2020, JHR partnered with Canadian journalists and disinformation experts Craig Silverman of ProPublica and Taylor Gunn from CIVIX to develop a mis/disinformation training curriculum.

With the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, and the resulting 'infodemic' of false news, the digital news literacy training program took on added urgency.

Funded by the Canadian Heritage Program, the program sought to train journalists in exposing misinformation and disinformation in news-gathering and news production, and using innovative online tools to strengthen reporting on the topics discussed. The project also provided training to promote digital news and media literacy among Canadians by focusing on tangible skills to improve digital and news literacy skills.

In total, the project trained 279 journalists, of whom 96% reported the training had been of significant help to them in understanding how to report on and navigate misinformation and disinformation safely. It also trained over 1000 members of the general public through online Digital Literacy webinars, double the original project target of 500.

At the time of the pilot project's launch, Gunn said, "For the past two years, CIVIX has been consulting with experts around the world to build digital literacy tools for educators. These have been successful in schools, but the habits and skills of informed citizenship apply to everyone."

Silverman added, "Canadian journalists play an essential role in stopping false and misleading information from taking hold. I'm thrilled to work with JHR to train journalists in newsrooms big and small in order to help them spot disinformation, understand how social media can be manipulated, and use their skills to create a more informed public."

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## GOAL

To train journalists and media professionals on how to detect and report on online misinformation.

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# CANADA



trained or engaged  
**297** journalists

PRODUCED

**27**  
stories

REACHED

**250,000**  
Individuals

**145** WOMEN  
trained or engaged

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# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

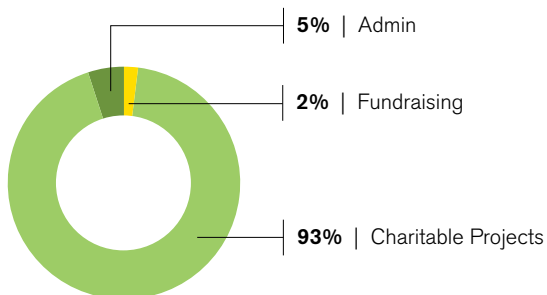
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<i>As at December 31</i>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Cash and bank	3,093,701	1,570,651
Accounts receivable	225,618	194,727
Government remittances receivable	9,467	21,357
Advances and prepaid expenses	9,098	25,556
	3,337,884	1,812,291
<b>Capital Assets</b>	58,482	28,912
	<b>3,396,366</b>	<b>1,841,203</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	82,838	119,884
Deferred revenue	2,878,455	1,286,132
	2,961,293	1,406,016
<b>Deferred Capital Contribution</b>	58,479	28,909
	3,019,772	1,434,925
<b>Net Assets:</b>		
Unrestricted	376,594	406,278
	<b>3,396,366</b>	<b>1,841,203</b>

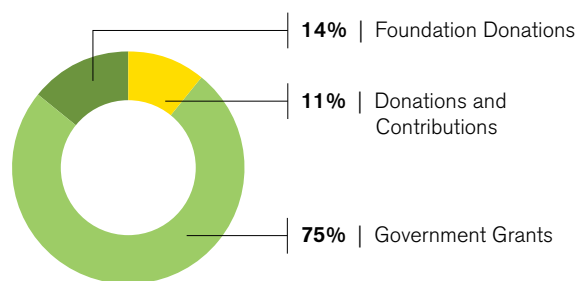
## STATEMENT OF OPERATION AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

<i>For the year ended December 31</i>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Government grants	2,087,459	2,042,098
Foundation donations	392,105	346,488
Donations and contributions	306,511	549,667
	<b>2,786,075</b>	<b>2,938,253</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
International projects	1,957,253	1,921,845
Project support	80,312	99,755
Fundraising	46,742	174,364
Professional fees	55,574	25,840
National programs	664,107	609,932
Exchange losses (gains)	11,771	20,109
	<b>2,815,759</b>	<b>2,851,845</b>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(29,684)	86,408
Net assets, beginning of year	406,278	319,870
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>376,594</b>	<b>406,278</b>

### EXPENSE ALLOCATION 2020



### REVENUE ALLOCATION 2020





*A journalist holds up a COVID-19 informative poster in Lofa County, Liberia — Photo by Kolubah Akoi*



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