Burma Project Portfolio Review

BP: Burma Project
PIJ: Program on Independent Journalism

Organizational Cost-share Grants

Organization	Organizational Description	Project Description	2011 grant amount	BP	PIJ	2012 grant amount	BP	PIJ	2013 grant amount	BP	PIJ
Burma News International (BNI)	BNI is the country's only ethnic media network. Founded in 2002 with support from OSF, its 13 members are based inside Burma and/or on and near the Thai, Indian, Bangladeshi and Chinese borders. BNI's mission is: to strengthen cooperation among ethnic media, including shared content production; to monitor and produce research reports about the peace process; to connect members with national and regional media; to promote journalistic ethics and excellence; and to foster tolerance and understanding.	OSF provided BNI with core support to help its members move back to the country and register officially. Producing news in ethnic languages has only been permitted in the country since 2013. Our grant supported BNI in tackling sensitive issues such as intolerance, hate speech, and ethnic tensions; assisting with the development of a locally owned radio sector; organising an annual ethnic media conference; publishing research linked to ongoing peace processes in all of the ethnic states; and fostering improved ethical journalistic standards. As the network transitioned into the country, we supported the establishment of an outreach office in Yangon.	**$85,000**	$45,000	$45,000	**$190,000**	$90,000	$100,000	**$250,000**	$150,000	$100,000
Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB)	DVB is nonprofit media organization and considered the only independent Burmese owned and operated broadcaster. Established in Oslo in 1992, DVB seeks to promote a culture of democratic thinking and human rights through public interest content production and journalism; to provide accurate and unbiased news and information to the people of Burma and to the international community; to foster independent public opinion; to promote understanding and cooperation among ethnic and faith groups; and to strengthen professional journalistic standards and institutional sustainability. DVB is currently in the process of transitioning its operations to Burma in light of new openings for media in the country.	OSF provided DVB with core support to legitimise and broaden its operations inside Burma by opening an 'unofficial' office, holding regular meetings with government officials, hosting a visit of ministry and state broadcasting officials to Norway, partnering in the organisation of a broadcasting conference in Rangoon, working to transform its network of underground reporters into a professional media team, moving its radio and television production operations from Norway to Thailand and Burma, increasing its tv and online audiences, strengthening its governance and organisational and financial health, and developing a viable revenue model and business plan.	**$255,000**	$50,000	$165,000	**$220,000**	$70,000	$150,000	**$200,000**	$100,000	$100,000
The Irrawaddy Publishing Group (The Irrawaddy)	Established in 1993 by exile Burmese journalists living in Thailand, The Irrawaddy is an independent non-profit Burmese media organisation. The Irrawaddy has long been considered a leader among Burmese media as a result of its in-depth and analytical journalism and ethical standards. In light of the current period of opening, it is working to transition inside and to establish a fully operational, independent media bureau in Rangoon by 2015.	OSF provided core support to The Irrawaddy for the relocation of the majority of its operations inside Burma; the continuing production of high-quality, independent, public interest, in-depth and analytical content; and the strengthening of its organisational capacity and long-term financial sustainability.	**$150,000**	$55,000	$95,000	**$160,000**	$60,000	$100,000	**$200,000**	$100,000	$100,000

Organization	Organizational Description	Project Description	2011 grant amount	BP	PIJ	2012 grant amount	BP	PIJ	2013 grant amount	BP	PIJ
Mizzima News Group (Mizzima)	Mizzima is an independent media organization established in 1998 by three exiled Burmese journalists living in India. Since its founding, Mizzima has grown into a multi-platform, interactive media group that focuses on quality, unbiased and transparent public service content on issues important to Burmese and the democratic development of their country. Mizzima transitioned in 2011 from an exiled media group with offices in Thailand and India, to a locally registered company with a weekly business magazine, television programming, and a website with content produced in Burmese and English. In 2013, Mizzima adopted a private, for profit model.	OSF provided core support for content production activity costs, including staff salaries, rent and communications, maintenance of its two web portals, the implementation of a pay-for-content e-zine subscriber service, and the development of a weekly print journal. Mizzima's Burmese and English-language websites were the focus of its activities; after the ban on its websites inside Burma was lifted in 2011, web traffic increased by approximately 40% on the Burmese site and 20% on the English site.	**$200,000**	$35,000	$165,000	**$220,000**	$70,000	$150,000	**$0**	$0	$0
Myanmar Observer Media Group (Maw Kun)	Maw Kun is an independent media organization established in 2011 by Burmese journalists and focused on providing quality investigative journalism in Burma. Maw Kun produces one of the few investigative journals in Burma; fosters public policy debate; and mentors a new generation of journalists via trainings, workshops and internships.	OSF provided core support to Maw Kun for its investigative reporting and analysis. Stories included the return of exiles to Burma; human trafficking, including the forced export of women to marry Chinese men; Burmese environmental concerns about mangrove forests in the Irrawaddy coastal region that were damaged by Cyclone Nargis; an interview with a French expert on the history of the Rohingya in Arakan State (in response to the on-going sectarian, anti-Rohingya violence); and Burma's increasingly frequent labour strikes.	**$50,000**	$25,000	$25,000				**$75,000**	$40,000	$35,000
Yangon Journalism School (YJS)	YJS provides training to young journalists in Burma. Established in 2012 by Burma's most experienced and respected media-trainer, Ye Naing Moe, the school focuses on basic journalism with an emphasis on training and mentoring Burma's next generation of journalists. Prior to establishing YJS, Ye Naing Moe led a wide variety of training activities with support from OSF and Internews. YJS also offers midcareer training on topics such as economics, business, extractive industries and ASEAN, and is currently developing a new focus on investigative journalism.	OSF provided YJS core support that went toward training young journalists who entered the field with weak educational backgrounds and little or no mentoring or training. The school trained approximately 20 novice journalists per semester. Our funding also supported mid-career training.							**$60,000**	$40,000	$20,000

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Organizational Grants

Organization	Organizational Description	Project Description	2011 grant amount	2012 grant amount	2013 grant amount
Independent Mon News Agency (IMNA)	IMNA provides independent and accurate news of interest to the Mon community in southern Burma, Thailand, and abroad. Established in 2000 by the OSF grantee Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM), the organization produces daily content in print, online, and various other outlets in both Burmese and English. IMNA is a member of Burma News International (BNI), a network of ethnic media groups and an OSF grantee.	OSF supported IMNA's content production and distribution, including its Guiding Star newspaper, website, and distribution of VCDs in Mon state and to Mon migrant communities in Thailand and Malaysia.	**$16,000**	**$16,000**	**$25,000**
Kachin News Groups (KNG)	Established in 2003 by Kachin participants in Burma's 1988 democratic uprising, KNG provides independent and accurate reporting on issues of relevance to the Kachin community. The organization is based in Chiang Mai, Thailand and has branches in Myitkyina, Kachin State, and along the Sino-Burmese border. KNG provides regular coverage of news and political developments in Kachin State, including the ongoing conflict between the Kachin Independence Army and the Burmese Army. KNG produces and distributes content in English, Burmese, and Kachin via its website, print publication, VCD, and radio broadcasts. KNG is also a BNI member.	OSF supported KNG to report on the civil war between the Kachin Independence Army and the Burmese Army in Northern Burma. KNG also covered stories on human rights violations committed by the Tatmadaw against Kachin civilians. KNG's reporting addressed the effects of the war on the civilian population, with special attention given to internally displaced persons (IDPs), effects of the conflict on women and children, and the developments in the political situation/peace process.	**$10,000**	**$10,000**	**$20,000**
Kaladan Press Network (KPN)	KPN is an independent, non-profit news agency established in 2001 by members of the Rohingya community in Chittagong, Bangladesh and reports on issues relevant to the Rohingya community in Arakan State, Burma. Though focused on Arakan and Rohingya news, KPN also reports more broadly on Burma. It is a member of Burma News International, an OSF grantee. Kaladan produces news in English, Burmese and Bangla both in print and online.	OSF supported KPN's core media program. Content included coverage of social issues, economics, education, rights abuses, citizenship and political developments.	**$17,000**	**$18,000**	**$17,000**

Organization	Organizational Description	Project Description	2011 grant amount	2012 grant amount	2013 grant amount
Kantarawaddy Times (KT)	Established in 2004 by a young Karenni journalist dedicated to the promotion of freedom of the press, KT is an independent, Karenni-run media organization that produces accurate and impartial content on issues relevant to the Karenni people. KT provides the Karenni people with a voice through its content. KT publishes written, video, and radio content in English, Burmese and Karenni through several venues including a website. The organization is a member of Burma News International, an OSF grantee.	OSF supported KT to publish a 20-page Burmese language newspaper each month. Funding supported the organization's team of stringers, as well as the distribution of 1,000 copies of the paper via the post to readers outside of Mae Hong Son, Thailand.	**$7,000**	**$8,866**	**$13,600**
Karen Information Center (KIC)	Established in 1997 by exile Karen activists who recognized a gap in the media landscape, KIC is an independent media group that disseminates consistent and accurate reporting on issues of concern to the Karen community. Though it was initially politically affiliated, in 2006 KIC made strides to ensure its independence. The organization publishes a bilingual (Burmese and Karen) monthly paper called Kayin Tadin Zin, which reports on politics, economics, and sociocultural issues of relevance to all ethnic groups in Burma, though with a focus on Karen news. The paper is officially registered in Burma, though the organization continues to maintain a presence in Thailand. KIC is a member of Burma News International, an OSF grantee.	OSF provided KIC with core support for the production and distribution of its Kayin Tadin Zin (Karen News Journal). KIC Issues 3,000 copies of the journal each month in Karen State of Burma.	**$5,000**	**$5,000**	**$25,000**
Khonumthung News Group (Khonumthung)	Established in 2002 by Chin youth in Mizoram State, India, Khonumnthung provides consistent and accurate reporting on issues of concern to the Chin community. In 2013, the organization moved its operations inside of Burma to Chin State and officially registered as "Khonumthung News Journal." Khonumthung publishes monthly newsletters in Burmese and English and produces written and video news on its website http://khonumthung.org/. The organization's reporting on famine in Chin state has been critical as it is underreported in the local and international press. Khonumthung is a member of Burma News International, an OSF grantee.	OSF supported the following activities as well as costs to run the office: 1) Khnomunthung News Journal: Khonumthung expanded its production of the journal from a monthly to bi-monthly distribution. It produced between 3,000 and 6,000 copies of each issue, and distributed the publication in five townships in Chin State, two townships in Sagaing Division, and along the Indo-Burmese border. 2) Website: Khonumthung maintained and updated its English and Burmese websites with daily written and multimedia content. 3) Khonumthung's journalists monitored development projects in Chin State, which are often associated with abuse and corruption.	**$13,000**	**$19,000**	**$23,000**
Narinjara News (Narinjara)	Established in 2001 by exiled Arakanese living in Bangladesh, Narinjara News is an independent media organization that provides accurate and consistent reporting on news from Arakan State, Burma. Narinjara has offices in Bangladesh and Rangoon, with reporters located in Arakan State. The organization distributes content in English, Arakanese and Burmese via its website and print editions of the Arakan Post (approximately 1,000 copies in Bangladesh and Arakan State are distributed each month). Narinjara is a member of Burma News International, an OSF grantee.	OSF supported Narinjara's publication of news in English, Arakanese, and Burmese through its website and its monthly magazine, the Arakan Post. This included the organization's communication costs, stipends for stringers inside Burma, and the publication and distribution of the Arakan Post. We also helped Narinjara receive technical assistance from BNI and other partners in order to capitalize on the new opportunities for registration with the government.	**$16,000**	**$16,000**	**$16,000**

Organization	Organizational Description	Project Description	2011 grant amount	2012 grant amount	2013 grant amount
Network Media Group (NMG)	NMG is an independent radio news agency that produces daily news, as well as weekly radio documentaries and radio dramas. The agency was created in 2001 by Burmese exiles living in Thailand. NMG also provides news to Burmese-language international radio stations such as BBC-Burmese, VOA-Burmese, Radio Free Asia, Democratic Voice of Burma and SBS-Australia- Burmese service. Their editors work with Burmese independent radio stations.	OSF supported NMG to produce weekly ethnic radio documentaries as well as radio programs for RFA, DVB and VOA. NMG's Ethnic Milestones Programs were the continuation of the ethnic radio program OSF has supported to raise awareness among ethnic people about diverse cultures and customs. The program also highlights different political and historic events and places in ethnic areas. It also focuses on human rights and the social situation inside the country.	**$10,000**	**$15,000**	**$17,300**
Shan Herald Agency for News (SHAN)	SHAN is a private, non-profit media organization providing coverage of political, social and economic developments in Shan State, Burma. Since its creation in 1991, the organization has published periodicals and reports featuring politics, culture, human rights and opinion columns. They are published in Shan, Thai, Burmese, English, and Chinese. SHAN's mission is: to provide greater access to news about the situation in Burma, and specifically Shan State; to inform the international community in order to create greater understanding of the situation both locally and worldwide. SHAN promotes freedom of expression, national reconciliation and peace. The organization is a member of Burma News International, an OSF grantee.	OSF provided core support to SHAN. Our support helped the organization distribute accurate and reliable information on developments in Shan State, including coverage of the ongoing conflict and peace process, development projects, and the drug trade. Support also allowed the organization to expand its coverage by opening of a Burma-based office, printing a monthly Shan-language news journal, and maintaining a multilingual website.	$25,000	$25,000	$25,000

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Technical support /capacity building/org development

Organization	Activity	Status	Notes
Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB)	**Nov-Dec, 2012, and Apr-Nov, 2013:** Business development mentoring with media business consultant Michelle Foster ($41,000 supported by PIJ); **May, 2014:** OSF Audit team led by Zoltan Molner carried out an organizational and financial development audit (cost covered by the Audit Department); **June, 2014:** Marketing mentoring by Malaysian marketing consultant Ai Lian for two days. Ai Lian's report is helping to form the basis of DVB's new marketing strategy. This assistance was offered as part of Asia Calling's peer-to-peer mentoring program financed by OSF.	Ongoing	
Burma News International (BNI)	**June - Sept 2013:** We hired a consultant to aid in BNI's organizational development & strategic planning process ($70,000 PIJ); **Nov 2013:** A one-day business and organizational development workshop was held for BNI members in collaboration with MDIF ($2000, BP); **Dec 2013:** Management Accounting for NGOS (MANGO) financial training course was organized for BNI 's Financial Manager in Bangkok ($4,000 BP); **May 2014:** OSF organizational and financial development audit with Zoltan Molnar (cost covered by Audit Department).	Ongoing	BP and PIJ are currently in discussions with Omidyar and the Media Development Investment Fund to organize business mentoring, the development of sustainability/business plans, and the exploration of options for monetising the network's products (ie: online content, radio programming etc), as well as to assist individual members with their business/sustainabiity efforts.
Myanmar Observer Media Group (Maw Kun)	**Apr 2014:** A two-day in-house organizational development workshop was carried out by a consultant (cost covered by PIJ: $1,000); **May 2014:** OSF auditor Zoltan Molnar held a one-day workshop with the team (cost covered by the Audit Department).	Ongoing	
The Irrawaddy Publishing Group (The Irrawaddy)	**June 2014:** Mentoring by Malaysian marketing expert Ai Lian for two days. Ai Lian's report is helping to form the basis of The Irrawaddy's new marketing strategy (Ai Lian was hired as part of Asia Calling's peer-to-peer mentoring program financed by OSF); **Apr 2014:** PIJ supported a managing editor's attendence at the Annual Symposium on Online Journalism and Texas Tribune Revenue in Austin ($25,000 by BP and PIJ); **Mar 2014:** Safety and security audit carried out by Filipino consultant Red Batario (we are using his report as a basis for identifying safety and security needs and priorities).	Ongoing	The total cost of all safety audits in Burma over 8 days was $10,000, paid through IJP.
Mizzima News Group (Mizzima)	**March 2011:** Conducted an external evaluation of Mizzima in partnership with the organization. This led to significant changes which prepared the organization for its move back to Burma in 2012.	Discontinued support	

Organization	Activity	Status	Notes
Yangon Journalism School (YJS)	**Nov 2013:** Management Accounting for NGOS (MANGO) financial training course for YJS's manager ($2,000 by BP); **Mar 2014:** Organizational development mentoring for 5 days ($6,500 by PIJ); **Mar 2014:** Safety and security audit; **May 2014;** OSF organizational and financial development audit with Zoltan Molnar for 2 days (cost covered by Audit Department).	Ongoing	The total cost of all safety audits in Burma over 8 days was $10,000, paid through IJP.
University of California, Berkeley School of Journalism	Since 1999, support for one Burmese journalist to study at the Burma Visiting Scholar journalism fellowship program at the University of California , Berkeley School of Journalism (average of $18,000 USD per year by BP). Journalists from Yangon journalism School, Myanmar Observer Media Group, and The Irrawaddy have benefited.	ended in 2006	
OSF Scholarship Program	For the past three years, we've supported 9 Burmese students studying for undergraduate and MA degrees in communications and journalism: three scholars are female. The universities include: Hong Kong University, Ripon College, Hong Kong Baptist University,Grinnell College, and Bangkok University.	Follow up through networking with the Myanmar Scholarship Alumni Association.	
Advocacy	**Activity**	**Status**	**Notes**
The University of Yangon: To integrate the professional understanding and the study of journalism and media policy into other areas of social science at the undergraduate level	HESP, assisted by Burma Project and PIJ, has been working with the university on directing the journalism department toward more academic and policy-oriented media studies at the undergraduate level. We have also started a conversation about setting up an interdisciplinary unit/center for social research, which may eventually serve as a prototype graduate program/training center for a number of key areas, including a focus on media, given its definitive role and reflection of the overall transition in Burma.	Ongoing	