

# Report

2023/24

**Developing  
media.  
Strengthening  
human rights.**



# Imprint

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© Eugene Tetteh Odoi

*Reaching across borders to develop and implement ideas together — this is the focus of DW Akademie's "IdeaLab" on media and information literacy in West Africa. In the ideas workshop, experts from Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger developed media and information literacy approaches for deaf and hearing-impaired people and for young leaders in politics and civil society. Participants also created a play for refugees on the topic of disinformation.*

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# Editorial

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However, if independent media work together, we can counter the flood of disinformation, propaganda and censorship. Independent journalism, after all, is the most effective way to do this.

Dear reader,

Social issues, political crises and wars across the globe pose major challenges for media professionals and consumers alike. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine; Israel's war against the terrorist organization Hamas following the terrorist attack against Israel in October 2023; the great suffering of Gaza's civilian population; protests against Iran's government and the armed conflicts in Sudan are just some examples.

Moreover, authoritarian states are on the rise worldwide. For journalists, this means that their work is becoming even more important—and more dangerous. This is because authoritarian, technologically advanced states are increasingly using internet shutdowns, censorship and repression to block their populations from independent reporting. AI-supported disinformation and public opinion manipulation threaten to further polarize and destabilize societies. However, if independent media work together, we can counter the flood of disinformation, propaganda and censorship. Independent journalism, after all, is the most effective way to do this.

People around the world trust DW's fact-based journalism. Our goal is to enable them to make informed decisions. Despite the increasing restriction of DW's broadcast channels in several countries, demand for our content grew to 320 million user contacts globally in 2023.

Deutsche Welle's DW Akademie is the leading media development organization in Germany. With its projects, we are committed to promoting freedom of the media and freedom of expression in nearly 70 developing and emerging countries worldwide.

**Peter Limbourg**  
Director General

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H.E. AMB.  
DENNIS FRANCIS

PRESIDENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

VIDE



**Our vision**

Media for a  
just and peaceful  
future



Together for media freedom: Political actors, non-governmental organizations and media professionals from around the world gathered in Santiago de Chile to celebrate World Press Freedom Day on May 3, 2024. DW Akademie and partner organizations also contributed to the UNESCO conference with discussion panels and workshops. The topics included environmental journalism, countering disinformation in the 2024 super election year and the question of how media development organizations can ensure the economic survival of quality media. One maxim prevails—that the human right to freedom of expression and access to information can only be defended together.

# “The concept of freedom is at the core of our work”

In an interview, Carsten von Nahmen, Managing Director, and Natascha Schwanke, Director of Media Development, describe DW Akademie’s activities amid global crises.

*From wars, conflicts, increasing extremism and autocratic trends, to hunger, migration and environmental degradation—we are living in a time of crises. How can media help overcome these crises? And what role does media development play?*

*Carsten von Nahmen:* It plays a crucial role because only well-informed societies can get through crises and conflicts, fight poverty and hunger, deal with the consequences of climate change, and create equal opportunities for women and girls. The concept of freedom is at the core of our work: Free media, free expression, free societies. In the super election year of 2024, it has become clear how massively disinformation is interfering in democratic processes worldwide—although this has stopped being a theoretical discussion since the start of the war in Ukraine.

Russia is deliberately using disinformation to weaken democracy and civil society, and not only in Europe: The impact of the war in Ukraine is also exacerbating the situation for people in the Global South, where conditions were already shaky.

This is also an information war, and so our projects play a preventive role. Independent media are crucial for countering autocratic tendencies, for naming injustices and strengthening transparency and good governance. People who can access reliable information can make responsible decisions. If they can freely express their opinions, an open social discourse can emerge where it becomes possible to discuss potential solutions.

*What does this look like in concrete terms?*

*Natascha Schwanke:* We work around the world with local partner organizations to promote free media and unhindered access to information. For example, we train local Ukrainian journalists in contested areas in the country’s eastern and southern regions; we support fact-checking initiatives in Burkina Faso; we help build independent exile media for Myanmar; modernize university journalism training in Uzbekistan and cooperate with community radio stations in rural Latin America. As a result, and together with local partners, we are developing open spaces for individuals and marginalized groups and providing them with access to reliable information. This also increases their confidence and understanding and, ultimately, their participation in overcoming conflicts and crises in their own countries.

*Still, journalists themselves and their media outlets have also been affected by the many crises.*

*Natascha Schwanke:* They have, and the conflicts have impacted media systems that were already struggling. When the pandemic came, media advertising revenues plummeted and economic crises, rising energy prices and galloping inflation can bankrupt a media outlet—especially the smaller ones.





© Pavel Nemecek/CTK/dpa/picture alliance

“The war in Ukraine is also an information war.” — In March 2022, a Russian missile hit the TV tower in Kyiv



© Philipp Böll/DW

## Carsten von Nahmen

*Carsten von Nahmen became Managing Director of DW Akademie in September 2018. He previously reported from the U.S. as DW's senior correspondent, and from 2014 to 2017 was head of DW's News and Current Affairs department and deputy editor-in-chief. Von Nahmen has been active with DW Akademie for many years, including as head of its Middle East/North Africa, Europe/Central Asia and Africa departments.*



© Philipp Böll/DW

## Natascha Schwanke

*Natascha Schwanke became Director of Media Development and Deputy Head of DW Akademie in March 2019 after heading the Africa department for several years. Prior to this, she worked for DW Akademie as a trainer, consultant and project manager. Schwanke is a trained journalist and has worked for leading radio and television stations.*



© Oleksandr Korniyakov/Vgoru

They reported on occupied and, later, liberated Kherson: Ukrainian journalist Liza Zharkyykh (center) and her colleagues from the local media outlet Vgoru—supported by DW Akademie (p. 16-17)

As a result, media companies and media professionals need new strategies, and we support them. For example, in developing sustainable business models. They also need different reporting formats to increase people's trust, particularly in local media, and to effectively counter attempts to influence their work. We've learned to collaborate across continents to develop effective solutions. For example, our open-source Colmena software enables community media to provide their audiences with crucial and reliable information, even in times of crisis. The app is a success because it was developed as part of a South-South dialogue, where 23 community media and media organizations from 13 African and Latin American countries were involved in its design.

**What are some of the challenges that lie ahead?**

*Carsten von Nahmen:* We've seen the importance of forging new global alliances around media development, and we want to continue strengthening our South-South cooperations. Our ongoing regionalization is part of this and is also important: It means that we are there where we are needed, we work closely with local partners, we bring in expertise, and we listen carefully when it comes to specific local needs.

Digital transformation is another central task. Social media have revolutionized the exchange of information and opinions

worldwide, but we've also seen the downside with the rise of authoritarian regimes: Digital media are being used to spread disinformation, stifle disagreement, increase polarization and undermine social discourse. We'll do more to counter this and will continue to train media consumers on how to move safely on digital platforms and critically assess content. We'll also be supporting media outlets and media workers in developing new digital business models. In all, a strong, pluralistic media landscape and an independent, effective media sector are key to overcoming the crises of our time.

# Free media. Free expression. Free societies.

DW Akademie is Deutsche Welle's center for international media development, journalism training and knowledge transfer. Our projects strengthen the human right to freedom of expression and unhindered access to information. DW Akademie empowers people worldwide to make independent decisions based on reliable facts and constructive dialogue. It is a strategic partner of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and is also active with funding from the German Foreign Office and the European Union.

## 40.7

million euros in project funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the German Federal Foreign Office, the European Union and other donors (2023 budget)

## 84

DW Akademie projects in 2023

## 68

emerging economies and developing countries where we have projects (as of April 2024)

## 187

partner organizations around the world with which we work closely (as of April 2024)

## 3.3

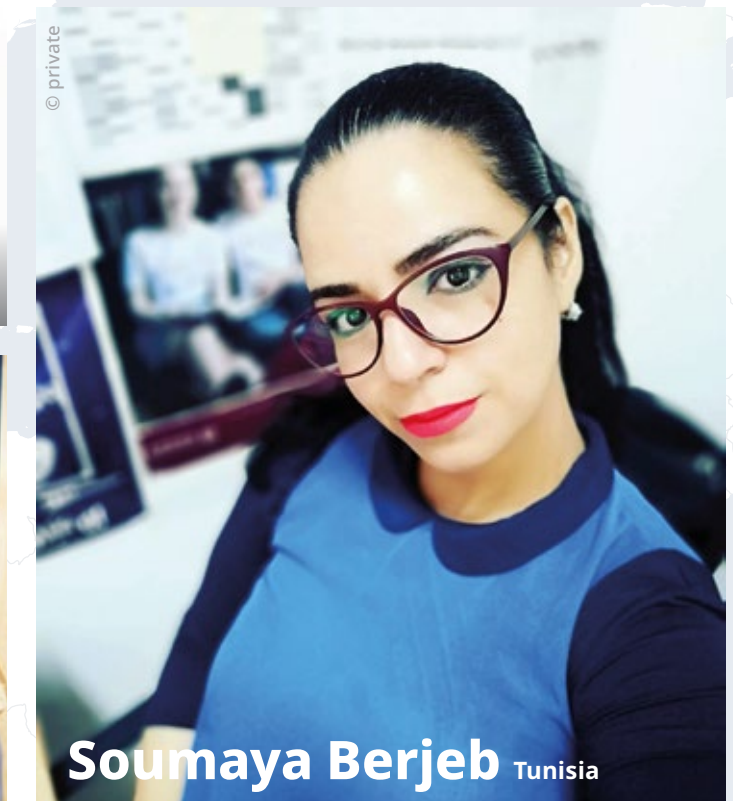
million euros in funding from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media, for work we do on behalf of Deutsche Welle (2023 budget)

# Powerful voices, new perspectives: The Global Reference Group

How is DW Akademie's work perceived in our target regions? How can we become even more effective? What strategic decisions do we need to make in order to continue to be internationally successful and relevant? These are questions that

twelve experts in media and media development from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the MENA region are helping us to answer. The first meeting of the Global Reference Group took place in June 2024 and kicked off the

new independent advisory body. We want to broaden our perspectives and receive valuable feedback on strategic approaches, equal partnerships and other aspects of our work.



# 12

members from around  
the globe



and

**Blandine Angbako**

Côte d'Ivoire

**Erick Huerta Velázquez**

Mexico

**Faruq Faisal**

Bangladesh

**Htaike Htaike Aung**

Myanmar (in exile in Thailand)

**Mira Milosevic**

Serbia (currently in Great Britain)

**Nadim Nashif**

Palestinian citizen of Israel



# Our work

## Action with impact

**Wars, conflicts and climate crisis:  
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A world in transition 26

Informed and competent:  
Youth and media 40

Empowering media makers 50



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Afghan refugees have been living in northern Pakistan since the 1970s. There, refugees face restrictions and discrimination and often live in poverty. DW Akademie and the news agency Tribal News Network (TNN) are working together to train Afghan community reporters. Together with Pakistani professional journalists, they learn how to use constructive journalism to effectively report on Afghan refugees and the issues they face. They have since produced online and video reports about the refugee community, focusing on solidarity and resilience.

# Staying strong: Ukrainian media since the invasion

DW Akademie has been working with local partners in Ukraine since 2014. Since Russia's full-scale invasion, our work has centered on the survival of media professionals and independent media houses.

From occupied to liberated, flooded and shelled, Kherson is emblematic of the Ukrainian experience since the Russian invasion. The city and region of the same name in southern Ukraine have endured many existential threats over the past two years.

The threats became reality less than a week after the full-scale Russian invasion when, on March 1, 2022, Kherson capitulated.

"The Russian military was targeting journalists," recalled Iona Korotitsyna, media director for Vgoru, a small independent media outlet that covers the region. "They offered media schools and wanted media to work with them."

Those who declined, such as Korotitsyna and her colleagues at Vgoru, faced an unspoken ultimatum: Leave or be targeted themselves. Korotitsyna and Vgoru reporter Liza Zharkykh decided they had no choice but to relocate to nearby cities.

## Navigating occupation

Despite the new logistical hurdles, the team of less than 30 people continued to inform citizens as best they could about the occupied city. Yet reports were scant. Sources risked their freedom and, potentially, their lives to send out any information.

After the Ukrainian offensive in November 2022, Russia was forced to the Dnipro River's southeastern bank.



## Viable media

Independent journalism needs sustainable business models and an effective editorial strategy. Yet other factors also influence the economic success of media, such as legal and political framework conditions, technological innovations and the economies of networks. Media viability is crucial to ensuring that citizens trust independent media and have access to reliable information — especially in times of crisis.





© Oleksandr Kormyakov/Vgoru

Life continues despite the severe damage suffered by the city of Kherson

“When the Russians left Kherson, they left the city with no electricity, no water, no communications,” Zharkyykh said.

After the city began to rebuild, the situation deteriorated once again when, in June 2023, the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant was destroyed. The Dnipro River’s dam broke, destroying 40 townships on the southern side.

### Journalism on the front line

The region of Kherson is a site of constant fighting. On the right bank of the Dnipro, the city remains on the front lines even today, with Russian military just across the river, within eyesight. There is only the occasional update via the social messenger app Telegram from the Russian-controlled far shore.

Throughout it all, Vgoru has been able to publish stories for Kherson and its diaspora. But the war has caused its advertising revenue to dry up, with little chance of returning to pre-war levels any time soon. Therefore, DW Akademie and its partners Canal France International and the Lithuanian public broadcaster LRT have been working to support independent and local media, specifically in Ukraine’s southern and eastern regions. Providing grants, tailored consultancy and training opportunities to media outlets has helped to keep independent media alive and even developing.

### Giving up is not an option

Shells pound the city daily. Less than a third of the city’s residents remain.

“Nevertheless, the city is a miracle and ordinary utility workers, shopkeepers and bus drivers have become real heroes,” Korotitsyna said.

The Vgoru team is working on a new website and their recently produced documentary called “Unconquered Kherson” has been screened across Ukraine and internationally.

Vgoru is only one example of great perseverance over the past two years to provide a necessary service. Regional media give a local perspective that is essential to understanding life in Kherson and elsewhere in Ukraine.

# 521

journalists and  
media workers  
imprisoned in 2023

(Source: Reporters Without Borders)

## Protecting media professionals to ensure independent journalism

DW Akademie is committed to protecting journalists at risk. Security for journalists has several dimensions: In addition to physical safety, legal and financial aspects play an important role. Furthermore, targeted media professionals often need psychological support. Together with its partners, DW Akademie supports editorial offices and media houses so that they can continue to work under pressure. Through protecting their workers, media houses can continue to provide independent information, even where governments or criminals try to restrict media freedom.

Press representative in front of a destroyed house in Kyiv, March 2022

© picture alliance / abaca | Yaghoobzadeh Alfred/ABACA

# 65

journalists killed worldwide in 2023. The number of media workers killed in conflict zones (38) has almost doubled compared to the previous three years. (Source: UNESCO)

© Yaghoob

“  
**When you are in exile,  
 you are not in a good  
 psychological place.  
 Writing is somehow  
 difficult, but I still  
 try. If I stop writing,  
 I stop existing.**

*Participant of the Space for Freedom project, a part  
 of the Hannah Arendt Initiative, which supports  
 and trains exiled Afghan media professionals*

# 146

stipends from DW Akademie's  
 Space for Freedom project  
 allotted to exiled media  
 workers from Afghanistan,  
 Belarus and Russia in 2023

## Hannah Arendt Initiative: A network to protect media workers

Journalists and media houses under  
 threat receive support from civil society  
 organizations.

In October 2022, Germany's Foreign Office and the Federal Commissioner for Culture and the Media launched the Hannah Arendt Initiative, a program dedicated to the protection of journalists under threat. This network of civil society organizations supports journalists and media workers from crisis and conflict zones with, for example, fellowships, training opportunities and consultations. Along with DW Akademie, partners of the initiative include the European Fund for Journalism in Exile (JX Fund), Media in Cooperation and Transition (MICT) and the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF).

DW Akademie is involved in the Hannah Arendt Initiative with the Space for Freedom project. The project supports refugee media professionals from Afghanistan, Belarus and Russia, to encourage independent journalism from exile. Since 2024, the project has also provided support for journalists at risk in Central America.

➔ [hannah-arendt-initiative.de](https://hannah-arendt-initiative.de)

# 197

Space for Freedom consultations  
 and trainings offered in 2023



The process of telling stories that move people can be a challenge for journalists, especially in remote or rural areas. High travel costs, time commitments and poor or no internet access make journalistic work on location difficult. However, digital technologies such as the DW Akademie-supported apps Colmena and Voice Deck in Uganda (photo), can help.

# Nothing working? Try Colmena

## A digital newsroom in your pocket

Together with 23 organizations from 13 countries, DW Akademie has developed an app to enable local media to reliably inform their communities—even in times of crisis.

From nationwide lockdowns during the pandemic to internet shutdowns to poor network connections: Producing timely content remains a major challenge for many local and community newsrooms. Colmena—which means beehive in Spanish—is a digital toolbox for editorial teams which also works offline. Since 2024, DW Akademie and its partner organizations Tanda.net, Cambá and REDES A.C. have been providing the software, while the beta version has already been available for two years.

Local media can produce stories on the go with Colmena: From recording and editing to file sharing and publishing.

Just like in a physical newsroom, every feature on the app can be collaborative. The app has been developed for many end devices, is secure and free of charge. Colmena is available in five languages: English, French, Portuguese, Spanish and Ukrainian. If required, the menus, manuals and explanatory videos can also be quickly translated into other languages. Colmena is 100 percent open source and is therefore open to anyone who wants to contribute to its further development. ●

# 23

community radio stations, local media outlets and media organizations from 13 countries in Africa and Latin America were involved in the development of the Colmena app

# Disinformation on the front lines: “War is not just bombs and tanks”

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is accompanied by a proliferation of disinformation that challenges journalists and fact-checkers worldwide. Justin Arenstein, founder and chief executive officer of Code for Africa (CfA), Africa’s largest investigative technology and data journalism initiative, on foreign disinformation strategies in Africa.



A supporter waves a Russian flag following the military coup in Burkina Faso in September 2022

Fake news spreads

6

times faster than facts on Twitter. (Source: MIT)

**How are Russian disinformation campaigns managed?**

*Justin Arenstein:* The networks that are distributing the content, and then separately amplifying it, are also increasingly sophisticated, using a combination of fake sock-puppet accounts alongside those of real people. The social media content feeds into a growing echo chamber of pro-Russian bloggers and African “opinionistas,” who all cross-reference or quote each other, creating the perception of multi-sourced and substantiated journalism. It’s very similar to the alt-right media ecosystem in North America.

**To what extent is foreign disinformation a topic in African media? To what extent do people know about it?**

Knowledge about state-affiliated disinformation in African media is limited to small academic circles. Building on that blind spot, Russia and China are setting up their own state-affiliated media networks in Africa. We see both Russia Today (RT) and China Central Television (CCTV) running massive bureaus out of South Africa and Kenya, respectively, as some of their biggest anywhere. RT is also rolling out its most senior African journalists onto

talk shows, to frame sanctions against Russian state media as a press freedom issue. The argument is winning significant public support.

Many African media also can’t afford to buy content from international news agencies. And these state media know how to exploit that fact: Many of the African content producers at CCTV, for example, are not journalists, they are think tank academics and researchers. They are hired to write opinion pieces. Those pieces then get re-published and syndicated back out through content-sharing agreements with African media houses—for free. Readers don’t realize that what they are being served as an opinion piece by a professor from an African university actually originates from a Chinese state media newsroom.

**What do organizations like Code for Africa (CfA) and African media houses need to be able to deal with disinformation?**

Media and other watchdogs need advanced technology and investigative analysts to detect and track this stuff. But that’s out of reach even for large media outlets on the continent. So, we need to collaborate more to pool resources.

One example is our African Digital Democracy Observatory (ADDO) which brings together partners like DFRLab with African policy think-tanks, global disinformation experts, and forensic investigation teams with AI tools like our CivicSignal and iLAB teams.

Awareness is growing that a war is not just bombs and tanks, it’s also an information and an economic war.

DW Akademie and Code for Africa have been working together since 2018. DW Akademie has supported the iLAB since its incubation phase in 2019.




“**Targeted disinformation endangers our democracies, our open societies and our mutual peace. [...] That’s why we support local organizations that check facts, train journalists and teach media skills.**”

**Svenja Schulze**

*Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, at a meeting with FasoCheck, a partner organization of DW Akademie, in Burkina Faso in March 2024*





Port of Leticia, a city in the Amazon region in Colombia: Traders from the Andes meet indigenous communities inhabiting the rainforest

# Journalism to save the rainforest

Environmental conflicts are coming to a head in the countries of the Amazon basin. Illegal mining and deforestation are rapidly destroying local livelihoods with repercussions for the global climate. Media, academia and civil society organizations supported by DW Akademie refuse to silently accept this.

Colombia is one of the most dangerous countries in the world for environmental activists. Those who resist environmental destruction are often threatened or even murdered. Media workers are also targeted by violent groups. As a result, there are hardly any local media outlets that report on environmental degradation and human rights violations. Furthermore, the major national media outlets often face conflicts of interest, as they are owned by conglomerates that also pursue economic interests in areas such as mining.

Together with its partner organizations from Colombia (Agenda Propia), Peru (Servindi) and Ecuador (Corape), DW Akademie promotes close cooperation between media and civil society to encourage public dialogue on environmental conflicts. Indigenous communities are

both involved and consulted while advanced training in environmental journalism ensures high quality reporting. Journalistic research is always developed with its potential impact in mind, focusing on making local conflicts visible at the national level and motivating political decision makers to take action for the preservation of the Amazon rainforest. ●





© David Olmos

Every

**minute,**

an area of the Amazon  
rainforest the size of a  
football field is destroyed.

(Source: WWF)




© PH3 JAY C. PUGH/DoD/picture-alliance

Rescue after the devastating  
Hurricane Katrina in 2005

## Crisis-resilient media

The Times-Picayune newspaper from New Orleans, USA, won the Pulitzer Prize in 2006 for its coverage of Hurricane Katrina. The journalists worked in the middle of the disaster area until their own evacuation, while providing the population with vital information. Their experiences in crisis management are described in DW Akademie's publication "Weathering Crisis." Seven international examples from the field show how media have survived in times of pandemic, natural disasters, government restrictions or violent conflicts.

➤ [akademie.dw.de/resilience-scanner](https://akademie.dw.de/resilience-scanner)



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© Ayse Tasci/DW

African filmmakers Akuol de Mabior (center left), Ike Nnaebue (center right) and their crews have a lot to celebrate. Films from Generation Africa, a project from DW Akademie and the South African organization STEPS, deal with the future of Africa's youth, the pressing issues of migration and climate justice. DW Akademie trains filmmakers from the Global South and supports them in producing and screening internationally competitive films and series. The project makes an important contribution to freedom of expression and acts as a driver for social change and dialogue.

# Journalism in a refugee camp: “A universe full of stories”

Sikika is a DW Akademie project in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. Young refugees can learn how to produce audio segments. Although the program has been well-received by its audience in the camp, young women reporters still face many challenges.

Sudi Omar Noor gets up at 4:00 a.m. when it's still dark in Kakuma, in north-west Kenya. The 23-year-old makes breakfast and prepares lunch for her aunt's household of six. In the Somali society in which Noor lives, cooking and housework are a woman's domain, and she has plenty to do.

“My mother and younger brothers returned to Somalia,” she said. “I stopped going to school four years ago so that I could work and support my family.”

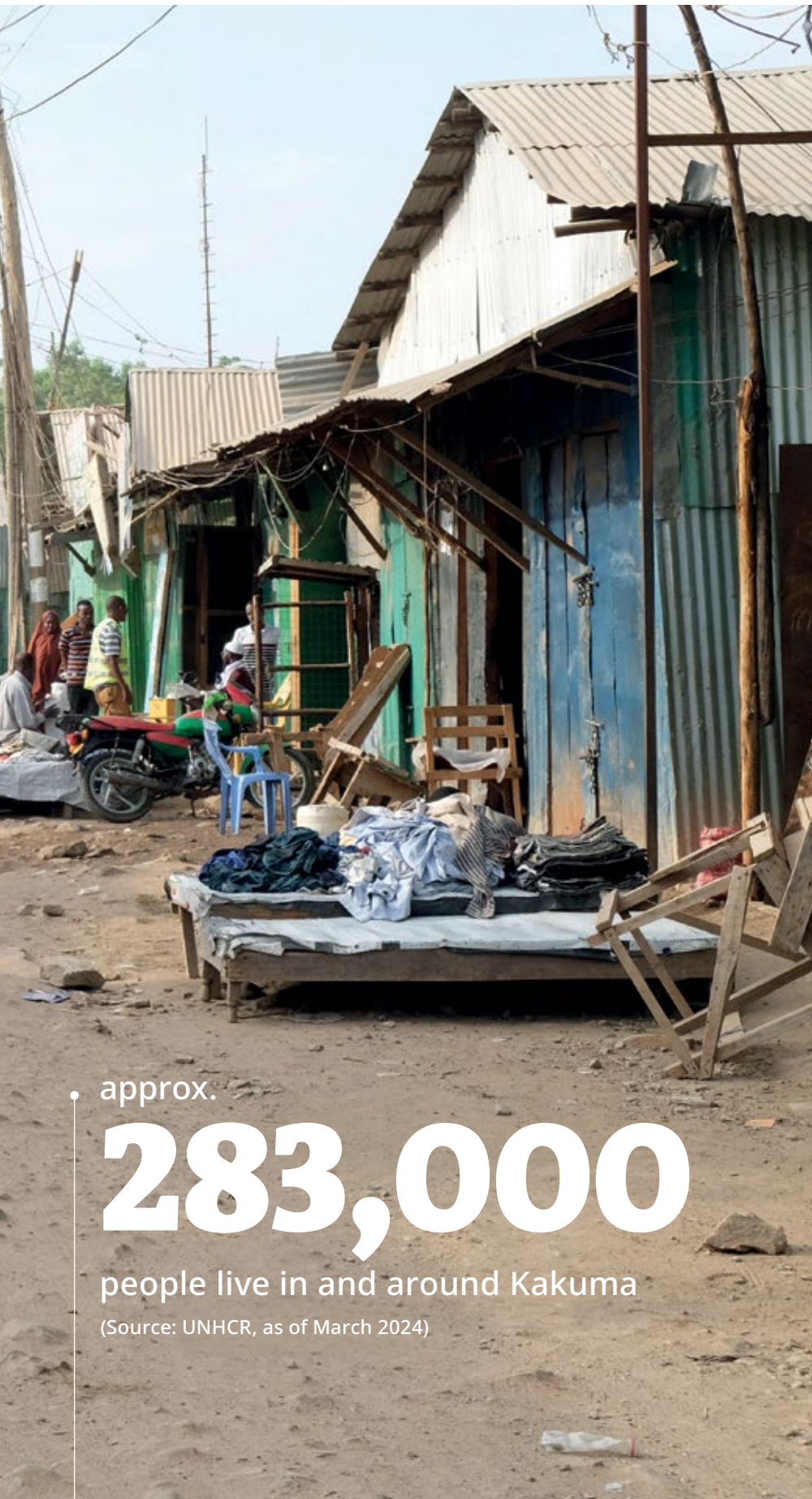
**“I dream of being a journalist, and I can't give that up.”**

Noor fled Somalia with her mother and seven siblings in 2008. All eight children should have the opportunity to attend school. When Sudi Omar Noor leaves her home at 8:00 a.m., she races to catch one of the scarce motorcycle taxis. Once, when she couldn't find one, she had to run. Some boys saw her and started throwing stones at her, and yelling that she was a disgrace to Somali society.

As a community reporter, Noor works for the audio program Sikika, which is a joint production between Kenyan organization COME Initiative and DW Akademie. The 18 reporters, half of whom are women, share information with refugees and residents about life in the displacement camps. Some of the women working



A street in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya



approx.

# 283,000

people live in and around Kakuma

(Source: UNHCR, as of March 2024)

at Sikika have similar life stories. She has often thought of just quitting, she admitted. But every time, Sikika's editor Taphine Otieno has convinced her to stay on and continue her work.

### Breaking the communication hierarchy

Meanwhile, Noor and her reporting colleagues have settled into the rebuilt shipping container that serves as the editorial office. They prepare interviews with experts here, translate quotes and edit stories.

In their work, the reporters are not just redefining gender roles. They are also breaking down the communication hierarchy in the camps. Every two weeks, they broadcast their hour-long segment to nearly 300 listener groups throughout Kakuma and the neighboring community of Kalobeyei. They then receive listener feedback after each segment.

One challenge is: "It's always difficult to get interviews with experts from organizations," said Taphine Otieno. "Only a few of them are allowed to speak with the reporters. In order to get permission to speak with a reporter from Kakuma, the expert has to query Nairobi or, in worst case, ask the head of the international organization."

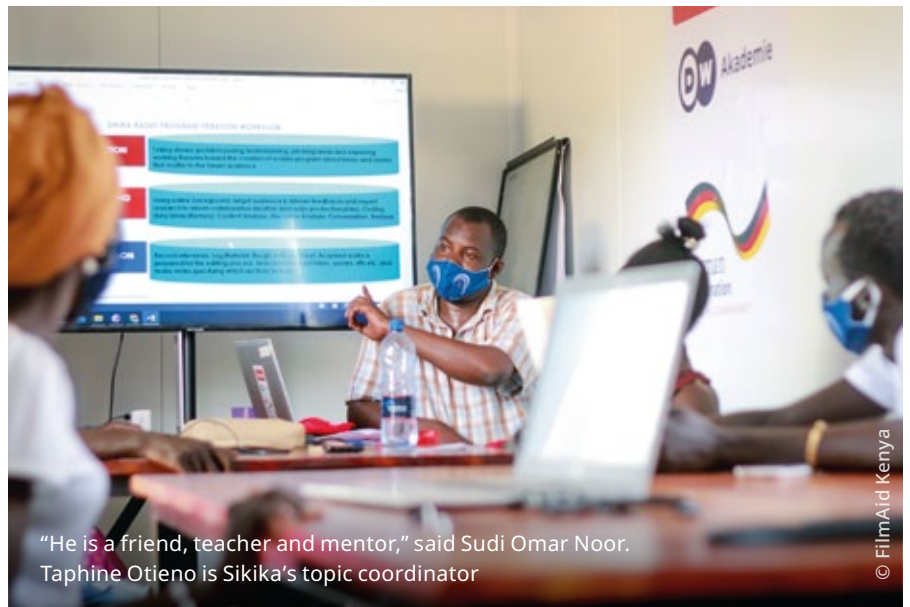
### Reporters: Diversity is their asset

In Sikika, which in Kiswahili has the potent meaning of "being heard," the community journalists report mostly on basic human needs, such as healthcare, nutrition, water and education, but also on sports, culture, and understanding among the various ethnic groups. Along



Sudi Omar Noor

© Laura Wagenknecht



"He is a friend, teacher and mentor," said Sudi Omar Noor. Taphine Otieno is Sikika's topic coordinator

© FilmAid Kenya

with the indigenous Turkana people, Kakuma is now home to refugees from South Sudan, Congo, Ethiopia and Somalia. People who have fled their homelands due to crisis now often find themselves living alongside members of various warring groups.

The Sikika team members support and encourage one another, said Noor. Together, they overcome daily challenges.

"I would like to be a role model for young girls in the camp," she said. "There are so many terrific people here in Kakuma. We have to tell our communities about them so that others can learn something."

Arriving home, Noor has to get dinner ready. The older generations hold tight to traditional ways of life, she said. Her aunt, nonetheless, supports her

decisions. Younger people are also very understanding.

"My cousin sometimes helps me cook," she said with a chuckle as she started preparing the meal. "But we have to close the door so that the other men don't see him."

## Migration and the media

DW Akademie works to ensure that refugees and migrants can exercise their right to access information and freedom of expression while promoting dialogue with host societies. In Bangladesh, for example, we have been supporting Rohingya refugees and locals through our partner organizations since 2018. Working together, they produce a weekly radio show on how to better cope with everyday problems. In Latin America and the Caribbean, we encourage journalism that spotlights the challenges migrants face along dangerous routes to the US.

# 114

million people forcibly displaced worldwide

(Source: UNHCR, as of September 2023)

## Country Queen: DW Akademie supports Kenya's first Netflix series

Corruption, the urban-rural divide and the social role of women are issues addressed by the fictional series "Country Queen." The Netflix series from Kenya is the first of its kind from East Africa.

The series focuses on Akisa, a woman who moved far from her village to leave her past behind and start a new life in Nairobi. When she is compelled to return home to visit her ailing father, she finds that an exploitative mining company has discovered gold near her childhood village. Caught between worlds, she must confront her past and decide what is truly important.

Filmmakers worked on the series for five years with the support of DW Akademie and its partner Good Karma Fiction. Local expertise and film production skills, from acting and directing to camera and makeup,

were built up during production. The high quality of the series ultimately attracted the interest of the streaming service Netflix and "Country Queen" has gone on to be hailed as a major success for the Kenyan creative sector.

All six episodes were released worldwide on Netflix in July 2022. In Germany and France, the French-German broadcaster Arte aired Country Queen in summer 2023. The series, which was nominated for a Grimme Prize in 2024, can be streamed through the Arte media library.

## Women and religion: “For a long time, I thought I wasn’t leadership material”

Representatives of different religions took part in a special communication training course with DW Akademie. They worked together on their messages for interfaith dialogue.

They come from Turkey, Montenegro and Ukraine, among other countries: 13 international religious representatives sit together in one room for the first time. The women made short introductory videos before their trip. Now, having arrived in Bonn, they watch the videos together, immediately immersed in the activity.

“I was unsure. I don’t feel comfortable in front of the camera,” explains one participant.

“Did you notice that?” asks Daniela Wiesler, DW Akademie’s head of media training, after the participants’ self-critical assessment. “No” is the unanimous answer.

During a week of media training, the 13 women not only learn to better assess their own and others’ perceptions, but also to professionalize their presence in front of the camera and convincingly present their core messages on peaceful interreligious coexistence. The participants from 11 countries in Southeast and Eastern Europe are of Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths. They all have influential roles in their communities and share the same responsibility: To play a key role in shaping their religious communities.

Participant Melanie Ivančević works as an Evangelical Lutheran pastor in Croatia and is president of the Ecumenical Women’s Initiative.

“For a long time, I thought I wasn’t leadership material. I don’t have the qualities we usually associate with leadership which are stereotypically male: Competitive, strong-willed, aggressive and ready for conflict.”

During the training, she learns to be herself and still be confident in controversial discussions. These discussions often involve tolerance and its limits: “I firmly believe that change comes from the bottom up. Change takes time.”



# 765

media training  
participants in 2023

Melanie Ivančević (center) at an on-camera training with Daniela Wiesler (left) and trainer Patrick Batarilo (right)



## Media freedom and freedom of expression in a networked world

Human rights apply online as well as offline. In the face of increasing attacks on social media and the Internet, understanding and fighting for digital rights is crucial for international media development. DW Akademie's projects and publications help answer some of the most pressing questions about freedom of expression and accessing information online. Topics range from dealing with online violence such as hate speech, to internet shutdowns and government censorship, to open data.

- Bolivia's rural and mostly indigenous communities are particularly affected by disinformation and hate speech. DW Akademie and the team from the online magazine *Muy Waso* (p. 36) are developing fact-checking methods adapted to the needs of community and local media, so that they can better educate people about disinformation and hate speech.

© Benedikt Borchers/DW



“  
**Access to the internet is a universal human right, in the same way access to medicine and education are. I would like women to understand that nothing should bar them from using the internet for their own development or from having their voices heard.**

Lindsey Kukunda, Uganda, director of Not Your Body, one of DW Akademie's partner organizations within the Women@Web network in East Africa. The project provides support and teaches women media skills to empower them to participate safely in the digital world.





**73**

percent of women  
journalists surveyed  
experienced online  
violence in the course  
of their work

(Source: UNESCO Global Report  
2021/2022)



Michelle Nogales (left) shares her knowledge with other women

# “Feminism means freedom” —Feminist journalism as a success story

Michelle Nogales, co-founder of Bolivia’s first feminist online magazine, is reporting on women and the LGBTQ+ community. She explains why feminist journalism shows “the people’s reality.”

## Why do “women’s stories” matter?

*Michelle Nogales:* Bolivia is a really patriarchal country. There are a lot of women who are involved in leadership but chances are you’ve never heard about them because history made them invisible. So, it is really important to us to tell stories about women.

## What is feminist journalism about?

Feminist journalism means to give a point of view that is not one-sided but inclusive. A space where we can talk about our diversity, about our different ethnicities, about diverse sexual identities. So, feminism for us actually means freedom. We are trans-feminist, meaning we focus on women’s issues including LGBTQ+ people. Transgender rights in Bolivia are systematically violated.

Most of this is not shown by Bolivia’s big media which monopolize the information and give only very partial information.


We show another reality that exists, that is even the majority’s reality in Bolivia.

## What is the *Muy Waso*’s secret of success?

I think the most important thing was to never stop, to keep on working but also to be in a continuing learning process. We didn’t know how to produce a podcast but we did our research, took some workshops and just did it. We weren’t professionals in video-making either and now we are on our way to being the first multi-media and multi-format media from Bolivia. ●

The first feminist online magazine for digital culture and entertainment in Bolivia, *Muy Waso*, was founded in 2018 by Michelle Nogales and Mijail Miranda Zapata. *Muy Waso* was involved in the development of the open source software *Colmena* and is DW Akademie’s partner in Bolivia.





Moroccan society ostracizes unmarried mothers and their children, who are also stigmatized by their own families. Sex before marriage is taboo in the predominantly Muslim country. Men are not held accountable, yet unmarried mothers can even be prosecuted. If a child is born out of wedlock, the mother cannot expect any financial support from the father or the state. This puts many women and children in a desperate situation. More and more people, however, are trying to put an end to this discrimination, both in court and in civil society. But there is still a long way to go.

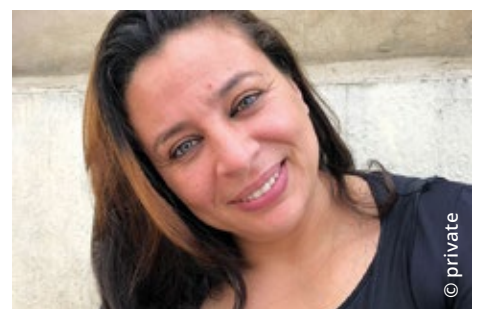


© IMAGO/Pond5 Images

“  
I now represent  
a large community  
of single mothers.  
Through radio,  
I can protect their  
rights and those  
of their children.  
I'm not afraid  
anymore and  
I'm not ashamed  
to be a single  
mother.

### **Naïma Hamdani**

*Morocco, radio presenter Mères en ligne (Mothers on Air). The Moroccan NGO 100% Mamans, with the support of DW Akademie, trains single women to become journalists for its community radio station.*



© private

Jordan's population is overwhelmingly young, with more than half of Jordanians under the age of 24. Digital technologies and social media play a central role in Jordan—for better or worse. The trend toward polarization and radicalization is heightened by the spread of disinformation, which first became apparent during the pandemic and, more recently, since the Israel-Hamas war. Institutional media literacy education remains limited in Jordan—especially in regions far from the capital. Over three months, the bus from Jordan Media Institute and DW Akademie has already traveled across the country, including visiting universities. The project has informed more than 1,200 interested citizens about media literacy and its role in responsible internet use.

**Wars, conflicts and climate crisis:  
Information saves lives** 14

**Changing perspectives:  
A world in transition** 26

**Informed and competent:  
Youth and media** 40

**Empowering media makers** 50







# Young Media Network: Young media professionals advance youth media

In times of disinformation and hate speech on the web, Gen Z journalists from four countries in the Western Balkans are taking a stand. They work closely together as part of a regional youth media network.

Keti Simić works at a local Serbian newspaper and makes Instagram content for young users.

“Regional youth organizations are almost non-existent here in the Balkans,” she said. “The great thing about the Young Media Network is that I can find contacts with young journalists from other cities and neighboring countries.”

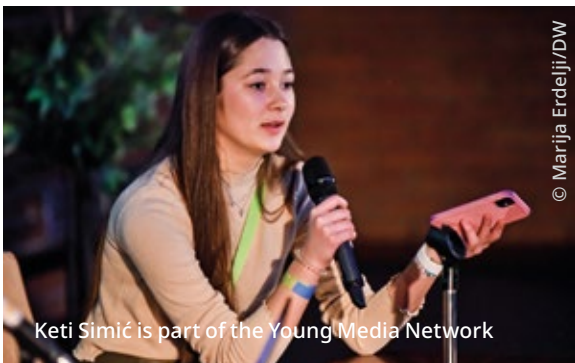
The network aims to improve the quality of media content for children and young people and educate them about the dangers of the digital world. It also wants to give young people more opportunities to bring their concerns into the public sphere.

Nine media outlets from Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina and North Macedonia founded the network in November 2022. Young journalists from local newsrooms, student portals and public broadcasters play an important role. All media are advised by DW Akademie as part of the program. Since 2017, hundreds of young media professionals have participated in training sessions and exchanged ideas at the annual international Brave New Media Forum event. ●



Focusing on dialogue: Igor Stojanov from North Macedonia is a Young Media Network board member

© Marija Erdelji/DW



Keti Simić is part of the Young Media Network

© Marija Erdelji/DW

# 9

media outlets already working together in the Young Media Network — with more to come!

“

**The Young Media Network is an idea that unites young people in the Balkans. It will create a new future where people in the region finally listen to and understand each other.**

**Igor Stojanov**

*North Macedonia, editor-in-chief of the student portal Goce and board member of the Young Media Network*



© DW Sina - Kirana Soekarman

“

**Hate speech incites people to do unimaginable things. Young people are usually the perpetrators, but we are also the first target of disinformation and violence. So, it's up to us to do something about it.**

Esha Mohammed, Kenya, participant with Influencer4Peace from DW Akademie and the Dream Achievers Youth Organization (DAYO). Esha uses her reach on social media to raise awareness about online violence.

“  
The concept of MIL  
has changed my life.  
We need to be more  
critical thinkers when  
we encounter false  
information.”

### Nyamgerel M.

*Mongolia, MIL trainer for the Faro Foundation, a partner organization of DW Akademie which conducts MIL workshops in schools*



## Navigating the media: Competence as a compass

Media and information literacy (MIL) is the ability to access, analyze and critically reflect on media, as well as to create media content oneself. It is a prerequisite for citizens to exercise their rights to freedom of expression and access to information. Our innovative projects promote these rights and empower people to understand and use media responsibly.

“  
The Digital Village is the  
place where your MIL  
knowledge gets tested,  
your reasoning horizons  
are expanded and your  
critical thinking abilities  
get challenged.”

### Hania Bitar

*Palestinian Territories, director of PYALARA. With the support of DW Akademie, the non-governmental organization is building a center for media and information literacy that uses state-of-the-art interactive technologies that are unique in the Middle East.*





© Vibol Mam

“

**Before the class, I didn't know whether to believe what I saw or heard on social media. Sometimes I would just read the title and share it without verification. I see now that this behavior has to change, because it affects both myself and society at large.**

Duch Utdom, Cambodia, student at Paññasastra University and participant in an MIL course organized by DW Akademie and the Cambodian Center for Independent Media



New, interactive methods for teaching media skills need to be tested: Both students and teachers learn together

# Moldova: Media and information literacy for the classroom

Together with the Moldovan Ministry of Education, DW Akademie has set out to teach students directly in the classroom on how to use media competently.

“I notice that the students love it when I give them the tasks. Even when it’s homework,” says Lina Gorceag, a teacher at the Principesa Natalia Dadiani secondary school in the Moldovan capital Chişinău. She is one of 20 Moldovan teachers who have included media and information literacy (MIL) in their Romanian curriculum in 2023.

In Moldova, where one in five children grows up with only one parent or without parents, school is often the only place where children can be encouraged to engage critically and competently with media. With so much propaganda and disinformation from Russia, young media users need to know how to access reliable information and recognize fake news.

Together with the Independent Journalism Center (IJC), DW Akademie has entered into a strategic partnership with

the Moldovan Ministry of Education and Research and educational institutions to integrate MIL into the Romanian and English school curricula. MIL has already been included in the national curriculum as a compulsory subject since 2020 and by the end of 2025, around 1,500 pupils at lower and upper secondary levels in the Republic of Moldova will have strengthened their media skills and armed themselves against disinformation. Through the partnership, teachers also learn how to engage their students interactively to enhance their MIL skills.

For teacher Gorceag, the project is already a complete success: “The pupils are more self-confident and knowledgeable in their engagement during lessons. They enjoy their newfound freedom and courage.”



MIL workshops using sign language are held in Ghana for deaf and hearing-impaired students

## Pilot project in Ghana: Media literacy via sign language

For deaf and hearing-impaired youth in Ghana, educational opportunities have improved in recent years, yet remain limited. A MIL project is now also helping these students to confidently navigate the world of social media.

Much to the surprise of trainers from Penplusbytes, a partner organization of DW Akademie, most of the deaf or hearing-impaired students participating in a MIL training event were not familiar with TikTok, despite the popularity of the social media platform among young people in Ghana. Working together, the students quickly developed the new sign for the platform: T for TikTok, combined with the gesture for video. Gestures for Instagram and Twitter were already in use.

The Internet has revolutionized communication for deaf and hearing-impaired youth in Ghana as well as expanded their participation in society. But this new access also brings dangers, ranging from disinformation to bullying. Many of the 17- to 24-year-old participants had already fallen for phishing schemes or suffered from online bullying, trolling and leaked

personal photos. As they further develop, the MIL trainings will reach more deaf and hearing-impaired young people in Ghana, teaching them how to use social media critically and safely.

# 4.76

billion people  
worldwide use  
social media

(Source: Statista)



## Learn German on the go and free of charge with “unicorn rock” and a telenovela

Whether you're just starting out or already advanced, the DW Learn German platform is aimed at learners at all levels.

The telenovela “Nicos Weg” (Nico's Way) offers 228 lessons at level A1 and above so users can start learning German or deepen their language skills. Learners meet the young Spaniard Nico upon his arrival in Germany and accompany him as he navigates everyday life in a new country. The course is available in 16 languages, including Arabic, Bosnian, Portuguese, English, French, Farsi, Portuguese and Ukrainian.

For advanced learners, there are slowly spoken news reports and—in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut—music for learning German. With lyrics like “Sprache ist der Schlüssel, dein Herz ist das Schloss” (“Language is the key, your heart is the lock”), the band ok.danke.tschüss inspires enthusiasm for the German language. The Mannheim-based band describes its poetic musical style itself as “unicorn rock.” Interactive tasks complement the music and can be worked on directly on a smartphone or tablet so users receive immediate feedback. Social media offerings such as Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and TikTok also enable interaction.

Teachers who want to use the free teaching material in the classroom can download comprehensive accompanying material. Worksheets, didactic tips or even entire lessons can also be used both on- and offline.

➔ [dw.com/learngerman](https://www.dw.com/learngerman)

# 1.1

million registered users of the DW Learn German platform  
(as of March 2024)

# 57

percent of DW Learn German users between the ages of 21 and 35  
(as of March 2024)

# 3.7

million fans and followers of DW Learn German on social networks  
(as of March 2024)



© Edith Bachkönig/DW

“Unicorn Rock”—Promoting the German language plays an important role in international dialogue.



<b>Wars, conflicts and climate crisis: Information saves lives</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Changing perspectives: A world in transition</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Informed and competent: Youth and media</b>	<b>40</b>
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© Hetq

The Armenian word “hetq” means “to trace,” and that’s exactly what the journalists at the online news site Hetq do. With their fact checks, they examine news reports and government public statements, for example. Hetq is one of 13 independent media outlets in Armenia that has worked closely with DW Akademie since 2021.

# Rural journalism: When the seasons determine the news

With over 95 percent of the population engaged in agriculture, northern Ghana. Characterized by diverse languages and cultures, it also has a considerable technology gap.

In a region where smartphones are still rare, many rely on the radio. The information needs of rural populations also differ significantly from those in urban areas. In northern Ghana, for example, the most pressing problems are seasonal. In the rainy season (from May to October), floods, washed-out roads, and markets or villages damaged by storms dominate the news. In the dry season, bushfires, crime and access to drinking water are the most pressing issues.

“All communities here have their unique problems, and they need to be reported on,” said Maxwell Suuk, DW correspondent for northern Ghana. “If there weren’t journalists in the rural communities, no one would ever hear from them.”

## Building journalistic skills

Despite the population’s need for reliable information in the rural north, Suuk recognized that journalism training opportunities were scarce. It was not due to a lack of newsroom talent, but

rather a journalism knowledge gap. In response, DW Akademie developed a series of training courses for local journalists. Participants learned the basics of quality journalism and discovered how to produce reports for radio, online and television with just a smartphone and a couple of free apps.

## Journalism that makes a difference

Moses Apiah works as a journalist at a local radio station. After training with DW Akademie, he reported on a man who makes a living selling soap door-to-door. Because of a physical disability, it could take him hours to get from one house to another. Shortly after Apiah’s story was aired on local radio and posted on WhatsApp, a local politician contacted Apiah to offer his help. “At first I thought it was normal politician talk,” Apiah recounted. “Three days later, a tricycle arrived!” Journalism can make a lasting difference in people’s lives.

## Journalism: Credible quality

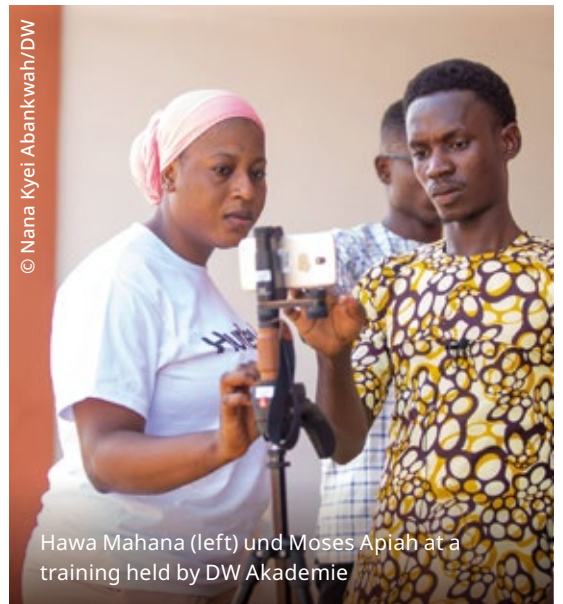
DW Akademie supports media professionals in shaping the future of journalism with training and continuing education programs. We support schools for journalists because they play a leading role in the further development of the sector. They are drivers of innovation for journalism whose work benefits both the public and media companies.



A water station near the city of Tamale in northern Ghana



Journalism in rural regions remains close to the populace



Hawa Mahana (left) und Moses Apiah at a training held by DW Akademie



© Amalia Oganjanryan

“  
I’m  
inspired!”

Nazira Inoyatova, Uzbekistan, program director of Aytoradio, and participant at Media School Uzbekistan, a partnership between the Modern Journalism Development Center (MJDC) and DW Akademie



## From idea to market: Start-up incubator MEDIA LOVES TECH makes it possible

A DW Akademie program and its Tunisian partner organization Al Khatt support digital media innovations in Tunisia.

Media workers everywhere around the world recognize that good journalism skills aren't enough to reach audiences or to ensure the financial viability of a media house. Therefore, MEDIA LOVES TECH has supported between eight and 12 start-ups annually since 2018—from idea to prototype to market entry. Participating start-ups have tackled challenging topics such as climate change in North Africa, how photojournalists can protect and monetize their work and how to help business journalists obtain reliable financial data. A panel assesses the viability of the projects, the commitment of the teams and the feasibility of the projects in reaching their goals.

The top prize in 2023, worth 10,000 euros, went to the online magazine Yaluna. The team focuses on solutions journalism to "help young people stay informed and inspired." Yaluna is active on social media and covers many topics, including the environment and health—all with a constructive approach. ●

# 55

start-ups in Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria supported by MEDIA LOVES TECH (2018-2023)

## Innovation for public dialogue

The digital transformation of public dialogue comes with opportunities and risks. Modern technology offers us endless opportunities to share information and engage in public discussions. Its limitations lie in unequal access, language barriers, algorithmic bias and government regulation. DW Akademie promotes innovations in the digital world to improve public dialogue without barriers and protected from restrictions and manipulation.

# More than survival: Podcast highlights successful business models for media

On DW Akademie's "Survive and Thrive: The Media Viability Podcast," media managers from around the world discuss financing models and recipes for success, along with what they learned from missteps and bad decisions. Launched in 2023, the second season has been running since January 2024.

Armed conflicts, natural disasters, increasing cyber attacks and declining revenue streams are affecting media companies worldwide. How do media survive in such a difficult media landscape? What motivates media professionals to keep going? Among the guests who have answered these questions so far are Iryna Vidanova, an exiled media manager from Belarus; Salam Omer from KirkukNow in Iraq, which reports from conflict regions; and Michelle Nogales, co-founder of Bolivia's first feminist online magazine.

"Survive and Thrive" is published monthly and can be found on all major podcast platforms, along with a video of the podcast on YouTube. The transcript, further information and resources are available on the [DW Akademie website](#) and on our LinkedIn newsletter.

“  
Most Iraqi  
politicians view  
independent  
journalism and  
news that is not  
in their interest  
as propaganda.”



**Salam Omer**

*Iraq, consultant and editor-in-chief KirkukNow, an independent online news website that covers the disputed territories of northern Iraq*

During the first season of "Survive and Thrive: The Media Viability Podcast," newsletter subscriptions surpassed

# 10,000

on LinkedIn.



# 40

languages in which the  
MethodKit for Podcasts  
is available

© Julia Minner/DW Akademie



## Got an idea for a new podcast? Get start-up help from professionals

**With MethodKit for Podcasts, DW Akademie supports podcasts worldwide from development to production.**

Together with the Swedish organization MethodKit and 20 global podcast experts, DW Akademie developed a set of 61 cards, each highlighting a crucial aspect of podcast development. The kit stimulates discussion and helps with concept development as well as considering production details. It also helps trainers working with media professionals on new audio formats but it can also be used independently.

DW Akademie has also developed training modules that have already been implemented in various African countries, Cambodia and Ukraine. The podcast kit can be used online and offline and is available in English, Kiswahili, Amharic, Burmese, Oromo, Arabic, Chichewa, French, Mooré, Spanish, Ukrainian, Khmer and German, among others. Digital kits are available for free at

➔ [methodkit.com/podcasts](https://methodkit.com/podcasts)



DW Trainees report through wind and rain

© Curtis Shuck

## DW trainees broaden their horizons on assignment abroad

DW trainees hail from different cultures and countries. They have joined the DW Akademie program to become the next generation of journalists.

The budding journalists of the 2023/24 trainee cohort come from seven nations to work with DW. Over 18 months of practical seminars and editorial assignments, the trainees have learned the journalistic skills necessary to produce television, online and radio news. Beyond working in both Bonn and Berlin, a two-month assignment in one of DW's foreign studios is mandatory. In addition, trainees have the choice of a month-long elective assignment, which can be at the ARD studio in Madrid or at the UN in Jamaica. The main goal of the program is for trainees to understand what makes DW's correspondent work so remarkable and to experience how colleagues from other media companies work.

And after the traineeship? Almost all of them stay with DW—as editors, reporters or correspondents.

# 12

DW trainees per cohort

# Qualification ensures quality: Strengthening media with academic training

The new students in the International Media Studies (IMS) master's program come from all over the world, including Mexico, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Colombia, Ghana, Kenya and Ethiopia. And for the first time, students from Latvia, Lithuania, Zimbabwe and Albania are also joining the program.

All students have already gained some professional experience in the media industry, media development or in editorial offices.

The international program gives students an in-depth look at the connections between media, politics and development. In two years, they learn digital media production and gain comprehensive journalistic expertise and media management skills.

Upon completion of the master's program, graduates function as media experts worldwide and contribute to strengthening media development and freedom of speech in their home countries.

The International Media Studies program is offered through DW Akademie, Bonn University and the Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences.

“

**The IMS program is enhancing my journalistic skills and widening my horizons. It will help me pursue my dreams to make a difference in the lives of many, especially in Africa.**



© Jennifer Pahlke/DW

**Efemena Mapholomi**

*Nigeria, master's student in International Media Studies*

# 265

alumni of the International Media Studies (IMS) master's program

## Studying in French — in France and Bonn

The new French-language master's degree program in international journalism (MFJI) will start in the 2024 academic year. The program, aimed at media professionals from the French-speaking world, is a result of a partnership between DW Akademie and the Université de Tours in France. After the first year in Bonn, MFJI students continue their education in Tours in the second year. The program concludes with a professional internship in the student's home country and is accompanied by a scholarship.

A person wearing a blue denim shirt, grey cargo pants, and headphones is walking away from the camera on a gravel path. They are holding a camera with a lens. The background is a misty, forested landscape with rolling hills and trees. The sky is overcast.

**Our numbers**

We set the  
standards



Close cooperation with local partner organizations in nearly 70 developing and emerging countries is our strength. To enable us to work even more closely together, we are continuously opening or expanding DW Akademie's field and regional offices. For example, a new regional office was opened in Mexico in 2023. Our 15 field offices complement our ten regional offices to form a global network of media development experts. Our decentralized organizational structure guarantees that we are where we are needed most.



© picture alliance/dpa | Jair Cabrera Torres

Calls for justice: After the body of a journalist was discovered in the city of Tepic, Mexico, in July 2023, protesters displayed posters with pictures of murdered media workers in the country

## On the ground for media freedom: DW Akademie opens office in Mexico

Mexico is one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists. According to Reporters Without Borders, more media professionals have been killed in Mexico than in any other country at peace.

The violence is directed against critical voices and the crimes against journalists in Mexico are rarely investigated, much less punished. The consequences are self-censorship or even flight. In recent years, freedom of expression in Mexico has also come under pressure due to the spread of false information on social media. Young people, women and indigenous communities are particularly affected.

DW Akademie has been active in Mexico as a focus country since 2020 and opened an office in Mexico City in March

2023. Together with our partner organization Periodistas de a Pie, we are working to curb disinformation. The local media alliance is active throughout the country, developing editorial guidelines and testing new media formats to strengthen dialogue and promote media and information literacy (MIL). In Central America, we were the first international organization to systematically promote MIL, drawing on our wealth of experience and expertise from projects worldwide.

In March 2024, around 200 DW Akademie employees from all over the world came together in Bonn to exchange ideas and participate in workshops at the Akademietage. Fahmim Ferdous (left), Bangladesh team, and Yulia Alekseeva, Ukraine team, hosted the event.

© Philipp Böll/DW



**25**

DW Akademie  
locations outside  
of Germany

## ■ Regional office

## ■ Partner countries (on behalf of BMZ)

Bolivia	Kenya	Palestinian territories
Burkina Faso	Lebanon	Serbia
Colombia	Mexico	Tunisia
Côte d'Ivoire	Moldova	Uganda
Ethiopia	Morocco	Ukraine
Ghana	Namibia	

## ■ Project countries

Afghanistan	Georgia	Montenegro
Albania	Guatemala	Myanmar
Algeria	Honduras	Niger
Argentina	Indonesia	North Macedonia
Armenia	Jordan	Pakistan
Bangladesh	Kazakhstan	Peru
Belarus	Kosovo	Philippines
Bhutan	Kyrgyzstan	Russia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Latvia	Sierra Leone
Brazil	Lesotho	South Africa
Cambodia	Libya	Tanzania
Chile	Lithuania	Thailand
Costa Rica	Malawi	Timor-Leste
Ecuador	Malaysia	Uzbekistan
El Salvador	Mali	Yemen
Estonia	Mauritania	Zambia
The Gambia	Mongolia	Zimbabwe

# Dedicated to free media around the world

**10**  
regional offices and

**15**  
field offices

**68**  
emerging economies  
and developing  
countries where we  
have projects  
(as of April 2024)

**84**  
DW Akademie projects  
in 2023

**365**  
people around the world  
whom we employ on a  
full or part-time basis  
(as of May 2024)

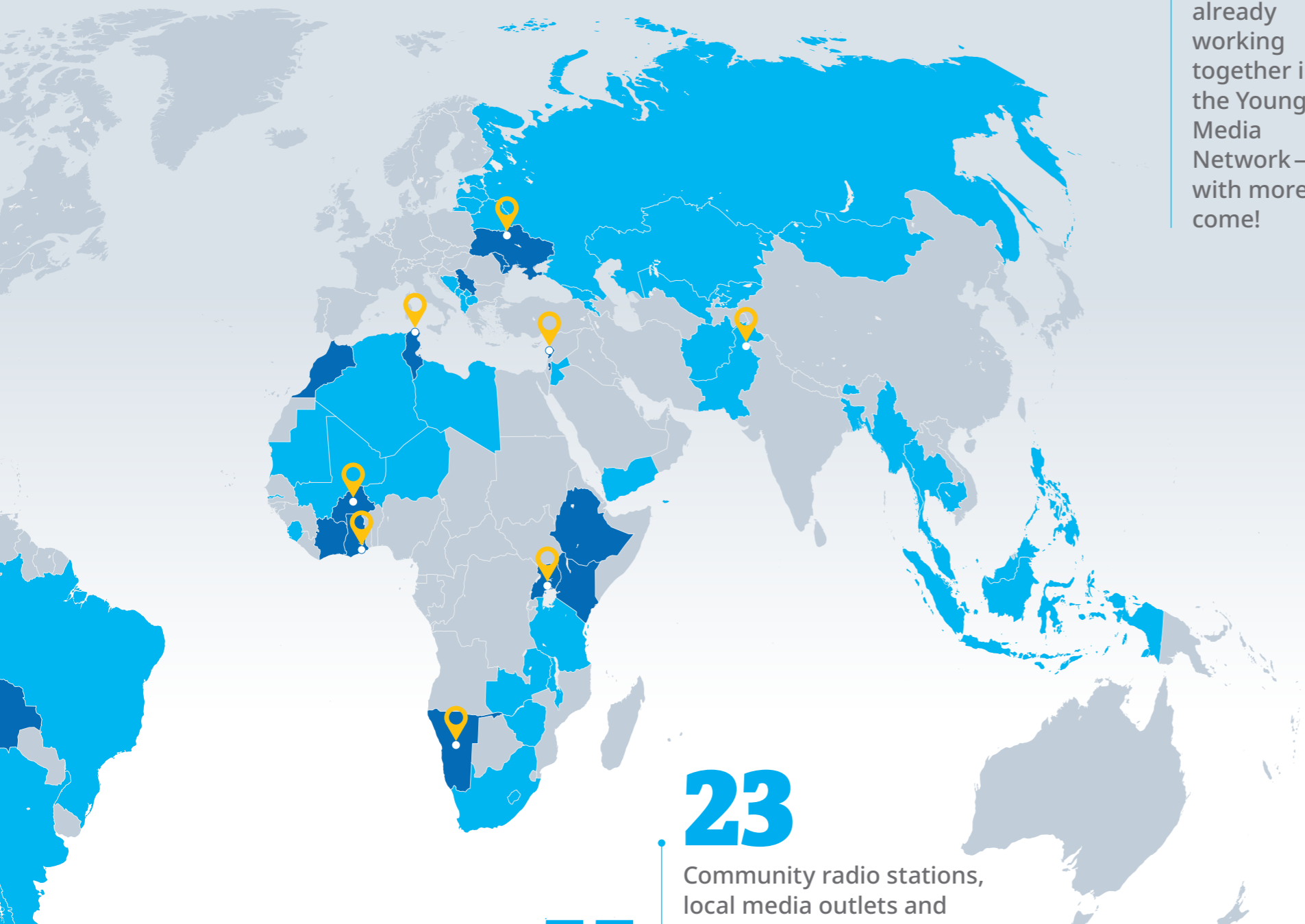
**187**  
partner organizations  
around the world with  
which we work closely  
(as of April 2024)

**40.7**  
million euros in project  
funding from the German  
Federal Ministry for  
Economic Cooperation and  
Development, the Federal  
Foreign Office, the European  
Union and other donors  
(2023 budget)

**3.3**  
million euros in funding from the  
Federal Government Commissioner  
for Culture and the Media, for work  
we do on behalf of Deutsche Welle  
(2023 budget)







**40**

languages in which the MethodKit for Podcasts is available, including many indigenous languages

**55**

start-ups in Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria supported by MEDIA LOVES TECH up to 2023

**23**

Community radio stations, local media outlets and media organizations from 13 countries in Africa and Latin America were involved in the development of the Colmena app

**9**

media outlets already working together in the Young Media Network — with more to come!

**265**

alumni of the International Media Studies (IMS) master's program offered by DW Akademie, together with the Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences and Rhenish Friedrich Willhelm University Bonn (2011 to 2023)

**12**

DW trainees per cohort

**1.1**

million registered users of the DW Learn German platform (as of March 2024)

**57**


percent of DW Learn German users are between the ages of 21 and 35 (as of March 2024)

**3.7**

million fans and followers of DW Learn German on social networks (as of March 2024)

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