

# Themes: Impact and Narrative

## Global Impact Statements and Outcomes

Thematic Area	TRANSPARENCY	Digital	Civic Space	Media	Protection	
<b>Impact</b> (6+ years)	The right to information is strongly reflected in national legislation and practices and in the language and practices of major international institutions targeting development, to the extent that communities and individuals are empowered to hold governments and other actors accountable for promoting and defending human and socio-economic rights.	International human rights standards and principles, specifically including the right to free expression and information, are broadly recognised as fully applicable online and there is widespread access to the internet, whilst governments, companies and international institutions involved in digital policies, products and services are demonstrating strong commitments to preserving and expanding these rights.	The right to publicly participate in decision-making, to engage in open debate, to criticise, protest and dissent, in physical and online space, is widely recognised in legislation, policy and practice, whilst the environment for civic discourse is robust and diverse, and actively encourages the voices of the marginalized.	The promotion and protection of media pluralism, media freedom and the public interest in an increasingly globalized, digitalized and converged media landscape will be widely recognised and reflected in laws, policies and practice.	Those on the frontline of defending freedom of expression and information are supported by effective networks of institutions and activists at the local, regional and global levels, and by strong legal frameworks and mechanisms, thus ensuring that violations are known, perpetrators held accountable, and effective relief or redress is secured.	
<b>Outcomes</b> (2+ years)	1	<b>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b>  The rights to information, free expression, participation, and association are incorporated into global, regional, and national agreements, accountability mechanisms, and inclusive participation practices on sustainable development and the environment.	<b>DIGITAL CONTENT REGULATION</b>  Critical principles and guidelines for people's rights to freedom of expression, access to information, privacy, and protest online have been adopted in target countries and relevant regional and international human rights bodies, and social movements have applied sustained pressure for their adoption.	<b>PROTEST</b>  Progressive standards have effectively influenced international and national debates on rights relevant to protest – as cited in resolutions, declarations, statements, and jurisprudence – and are demonstrated as effective in key countries.	<b>REGULATION (INCLUDING FREEDOMS)</b>  Critical actors – including media regulators, media houses, journalism associations, legislators, and others – have a strengthened understanding of the laws and regulatory frameworks necessary for a free, diverse, and independent media, especially within the increasingly converged digital landscape.	<b>SELF-PROTECTION</b>  Journalists, media workers, bloggers, 'social communicators',* whistleblowers, and human rights defenders have widespread access to tools – including gender-specific tools – and the knowledge to be able protect themselves, online and offline, from physical, digital, and legal risks or threats.  <i>* 'Social communicator' is a less romanticised term for 'citizen journalist': a journalist who works for non-profit media outlets within their communities. They are often from Indigenous peoples.</i>
	2	<b>ACCOUNTABILITY</b>  Progressive transparency and accountability frameworks and related standards on privacy, data, and contracting, as well as comprehensive disclosure regimes and access to social accountability tools and methodologies, have enabled people to improve government and corporate accountability and transparency	<b>PRODUCTS AND SERVICES</b>  Developers and providers of information and communication technologies use clear guidelines and abide by standards that provide strong freedom of information, access to information, and privacy protection as they develop and maintain products and services; failure to include strong freedom of expression/information and privacy provisions is known of and condemned.	<b>PARTICIPATION</b>  ARTICLE 19 research, advocacy tools, and campaigns have contributed to a diverse environment for debate and various forms of participation, enabling pluralism and the engagement of individuals and communities, particularly groups at risk in public discourse and decision-making.	<b>PLURALISM (INCLUDING PUBLIC INTEREST)</b>  Media landscapes are promoted that are conducive to the wider public interest, pursuing a diversity of perspectives from editorial, staffing, and ownership perspectives. Effective efforts are in place to maintain and promote equitable access, regional representation, media ethics, public service media, public interest journalism, and other critical elements.	<b>MEDIA ENVIRONMENT</b>  Media houses' unions and associations, media workers' unions and associations, lawyers, online communities, civil society organisations, and other non-state actors in target countries are able to defend media workers, journalists, bloggers, and human rights defenders; they have the requisite knowledge, awareness, tools, capacity, and dedication to do so.
	3		<b>INTERNET GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT, AND STANDARDS</b>  The main bodies, institutions, and processes that govern and impact Internet resources, and thus people's opportunities and rights online, consistently consider and incorporate freedom of expression and access to information principles as they adopt policies and technical standards.	<b>EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION</b>  A comprehensive package of tools and strategies – including articulated standards and principles, processes, and mechanisms – has promoted the universality of freedom of expression and right to information, in the face of competing moral claims, and addressed issues of hate speech.		<b>STATE AND INTERNATIONAL ACTORS</b>  States and regions in which journalists, human rights defenders, media workers, and other social communicators are most at risk have implemented significant and effective policies and practices that decrease these risks. Where they have not, effective coalitions are in place and actively promote the necessary measures.
	4		<b>ACCESS</b>  Targeted countries have made commitments to digital inclusion through universal access to the Internet and net neutrality – as essential to exercising freedom of expression and access to information – and effective coalitions are in place to ensure this.			<b>IMPUNITY</b>  Investigations of critical cases of crimes against journalists, human rights defenders, media workers, and other social communicators are initiated; where such investigations are already open, they are properly investigated and perpetrators held to account. Failure to do this is widely condemned and publicised by coalitions already in place combating impunity.
	5					<b>ENVIRONMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS</b>  Environmental defenders are given additional recognition and protection by key international bodies and agreements.

