

IMPACT REPORT 2023

INTRODUCTION

Stories shape our world. It matters how they're told.

We support journalists and filmmakers globally to tell stories that inform and connect us all.

In a swiftly evolving world of breaking news, stories remind us of what it means to be human.

We prioritise diverse storytelling in multiple ways, from spotlighting incredible journalism in the global south to supporting journalists and filmmakers to develop their careers. We care deeply about who tells a story and once it takes shape, we help take it to the world.

We are trying to initiate change in the media industry by empowering people to cover subjects they care about and have a say in how those narratives are constructed.

By celebrating underreported stories and connecting talented storytellers to opportunities through training and events, One World Media is changing and challenging stereotypes.

"It's been an exciting, eventful year filled with impact," says Peter Horrocks, Interim Chair of One World Media's Board of Trustees. "We occupy a distinct position of supporting storytellers across the global south. The team and Board are committed to continuing the charity's work to stay relevant for our worldwide community."

"Winning the New Voice Award in particular serves as a reminder to myself and all those present that what we do is both important and necessary. It's a reminder to keep on telling the stories that too often are ignored or remain little known to global audiences and it's also a hugely appreciated confidence boost as someone who entered the industry from a diverse background."

– New Voice winner Runako Celina

CELEBRATING UNDERREPORTED STORIES

Our goals are to:

- Increase the visibility of filmmakers and journalists reporting from the global south.
- See more stories that break through stereotypes, promote balanced narratives and collaborative approaches with contributors.

This year marked the 35th Anniversary of the Awards highlighting stories in the global south. The Awards Ceremony took place at Curzon Soho in London and was live streamed around the world. The event was an opportunity to gather our Winners, Nominees, Trustees, past winners, alumni and friends in one room for an evening of incredible global journalism.

We had a record number of entries in 2023, including from 11 global south countries who entered the Awards for the first time, like the Solomon Islands, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan and Montenegro. The founders of POPLab in Mexico who accepted the Special Award in person at the Ceremony said,

"We face many troubles and persecution from the government. This Award is a support to our work. It reassures us that we're on the right path. We can be in no better company."

As part of the Awards Day programme, we also hosted a screening of alumni films from our Global Short Docs at Bertha DocHouse in London.

Each year, the Awards encourage stories that meet at least one of the following criteria – challenge stereotypes, promote balanced narratives, collaborate with contributors and find solutions. The Awards attracted 66% of entries that came under at least one of these categories, which is an increase from 62% in 2022.

Measuring our impact

- Our Award winners say winning an Award has meant an increased interest in the issues and communities they reported on, growth in their industry profile and connections leading to greater career opportunities. For winners and nominees facing press freedom attacks, the recognition gives them validation and protection
- Philip Obaji Jr. was the first Nigerian International Journalist of the Year winner
- Several OWM alumni were Longlisted for the Awards in various categories



Philip Obaji Jr's brother accepting the Award on his behalf for International Journalist of the Year from Channel 4's Krishnan Guru-Murthy.



"Getting this recognition from OWM inspires us to continue our work covering "sacrifice zones", places where profits are put before human rights, health, and the climate, and where people's voices are too often silenced or ignored."

– TV Docs winners, Jess Kelly and Owen Pinnell, BBC News Arabic

CHAMPIONING NEW TALENT

Our goals are to:

- Provide accessible practical training and a supportive environment that elevates emerging talent.
- Provide a foundation for the next steps in a filmmaker's and journalist's career.

Our new talent programmes brings journalists and filmmakers in the global south to the heart of their communities to tell stories.

In 2023, we recruited 10 Fellows for storytelling projects in Kenya, Venezuela and the Philippines, among other countries. And in a new partnership with the Financial Times, we selected one Fellow from the African continent to report a story with a business or economic angle for the newspaper. This year, work by our Fellows has appeared in Al Jazeera and BBC Radio 4's From Our Own Correspondent.

The Global Short Docs Forum (GSDF) acts as a matchmaking programme between media outlets and new talent focused on underreported stories from the global south. GSDF: Solutions Edition was an expansion of the programme, focused on bringing solutions-focused documentaries to broadcast and digital outlets; and gave emerging filmmakers in the global south greater access to paid commissions.

The pioneering, five-week programme involved training, mentoring and pitch meetings for 16 filmmakers, with pre- and post-Forum activities that brought together storytellers to foster an understanding of solutions journalism and deliver ongoing impact. At the end of the programme, several participants received commissions from global media outlets.

Measuring our impact

- Our 2023 GSDF filmmaker Elahe Esmaili's documentary, Can I Hug You, premiered at Sheffield Doc Fest and was screened as part of the One World Media Summit in London.
- Based on a meeting at GSDF, Mongabay acquired and aired a 13-minute cut of filmmaker Biswajit Das' project about the human-elephant conflict in India. Biswajit has completed our 2023 GSDF and 2022 Fellowship programme. At this year's Summit, he also screened this film to a live audience in Assam and in the villages where he reported.
- Alumni Chloe Abrahams' (2018 Fellow) debut non-fiction feature film, The Taste of Mango, was screened at BFI London Film Festival in 2023. Chloe recently won Best Debut Director – Feature Documentary for the film at the British Independent Film Awards.



GSDF filmmaker Elahe Esmaili and her husband, Hossein, speak to Fay Maxted, CEO of The Survivors Trust and Tanaka Mhishi, a writer, performer and Trustee of SurvivorsUK following the screening of Can I Hug You at the OWM Summit in London



A still from GSDF filmmaker Biswajit Das' film, The Caretakers

CONNECTING OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Our goals are to:

Open access to/direct connections in the media industry.

Convene meaningful events that build connections in the industry.

As an organisation focused on the global south, we connect a global community of journalists and filmmakers with major media outlets. We do this through numerous matchmaking events, online and in person.

- We began this year with a screening of short docs that have won our Awards at Bertha DocHouse in London, followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers.
- To mark International Women's Day, we hosted an online panel discussion with four of our alumni to share their experience of producing a documentary in different parts of the world.
- We produced a limited series podcast featuring conversations between journalists in three different parts of the world.
- Each month, we host live conversations on Instagram and Twitter with Award winners to provide our audience with tips and real-world advice from experts.
- In the final quarter of the year, we hosted the annual One World Media Global Reporting Summit in Nairobi, online and in London where early-career journalists and filmmakers could meet media leaders. This year, the Summit included sessions in London with commissioning editors from major outlets like ITV, BBC and The Guardian.

Measuring our impact

- Our alumni network is connected through Slack, WhatsApp and an alumni-specific newsletter that was launched this year. These channels allow us to share relevant opportunities and build relationships within the community.
- Our events gather industry professionals at various career stages and include dedicated networking sessions.
- Recordings of all sessions are available online to a global audience.

AMPLIFYING UNDERREPRESENTED VOICES

Our goals are to:

- Increase recognition of diversity and representation in international reporting
- Grow our support for media organisations from the global south

We care deeply about who tells a story. By developing diverse storytellers, we bring positive influence to how stories are told. We realise how difficult the media industry can be to break into and how homogenous it often is. Towards changing this, it's important that all our work reflects the many regions we reach, highlights underreported stories, features relevant training and includes a wide range of people whose voices we hope to amplify.

Measuring our impact

- 61% of Awards judges were from minority communities and 74% were women.
- 80% of our Fellowship cohort was from the global south and 50% was female.
- 93.75% of our GSDF filmmakers were from minority communities and 43.75% were women. Out of 16 filmmakers, 13 were from the global south (81%). And the films are geographically diverse: SubSaharan Africa (2), MENA (4), Latin America (1), Asia (4), Eastern Europe and Caucasus (5).
- 77.7% of Summit speakers were from minority communities and 66.6% were women.

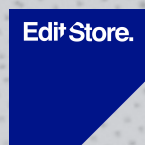
"It was really exciting to be connecting with filmmakers from regions that we don't often get that many pitches from. We're constantly looking for a really diverse slate of projects, so to be connecting with filmmakers from all over the world was brilliant. [The pitches] all felt really contemporary, urgent, and relevant, but had very innovative storytelling."

– On meeting new talent, Jess Gormley, Executive Producer of Documentaries and Features at The Guardian



THANK YOU

We could not do this work without our international community of funders, partners, journalists and filmmakers.



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