

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



**FONDATION
HIRONDELLE**
media for peace & human dignity



From left to right and from top to bottom:

- Studio Tamani reporting in a Bamako hospital (Mali)
© Sébastien Rieussec / Fondation Hironnelle

- An inhabitant of Niamey (Niger) listening to the radio on mobile phone © Anne Mimault / Fondation Hironnelle

- Participant in a debate for young people organized by Fondation Hironnelle in Kinshasa (DR Congo)
© Catherine Trautes / Fondation Hironnelle

- Presenting the news bulletin live in Radio Ndeke Luka's studio, Bangui (Central African Republic) © Marc Ellison / Fondation Hironnelle

FOREWORD

CONTRIBUTING TO A MORE PEACEFUL GLOBAL SOCIETY

Fondation Hironnelle continues to work for dialogue and peace, despite a more tumultuous international environment. Informing, discussing and giving a voice to the voiceless - the goals for which we have been fighting for more than 20 years - are today more important than ever.

Our work, which emphasizes the fundamentals in our field, has been recognized by our partners, and most recently, in 2017, we were honored to receive the Ouseimi Prize for Tolerance. Our Board has also been strengthened by the arrival of two exceptional women: Ouided Bouchaoui, who received the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize as part of Tunisia's Quartet for National Dialogue ; and Doris Pfister, who has had a long career at the ICRC, where she has notably been director of resources and operational support. Doris Pfister takes the place on the Board of former ICRC director-general Paul Grossrieder, who has given us the gift of his experience and humanity for many years

Today's digital society increases the risks of manipulation and biased information, which can fuel hatred and division. Our challenge is more than ever to increase our support, contacts and projects, enabling us to contribute to a more peaceful global society.

Romaine Jean

Fondation Hironnelle Board President

BUILDING ON TRUST

2017 saw numerous changes at Fondation Hironnelle: a new management team in Lausanne, a new four-year programme, and new partners. All these things are in line with our mission of providing information to people in crisis zones, allowing them to act in their daily lives and as citizens.

The media are often denigrated and criticized, and their usefulness questioned. But in 2017, we also saw in different contexts throughout the world a new awareness of the vital role that reliable media can play in the service of the people. We have seen once again how useful media can be, in places like the Central African Republic, Mali, and Niger. Despite the difficulty of finding funding to continue these projects and develop new ones, we have redoubled our efforts to meet our goals in production, broadcasting and training.

The "Hironnelle" brand is associated with experience and expertise that are appreciated and recognized. This is the contract of trust that we have with our audience. We maintain this with vigilance, making high demands of ourselves and our partners, and fully aware of our responsibilities.

Caroline Vuillemin

CEO of Fondation Hironnelle

Key Numbers in 2017

- 11** media operations in **10** countries on **3** continents
- 10,200** hours of audio programmes
- 215** hours of video programmes
- 9,500** articles on the Web
- 16,500** posts on social media
- 120,000** followers on Facebook and Twitter
- 240** media supported
- 315** people trained
- Population reached:
66 millions people

FONDATION HIRONDELLE'S PROGRAMME

2017/2020 STRATEGY

For its 2017-2020 programme, Fondation Hironnelle has adopted the overall goal to "help make the right to information a reality by giving people in the places where we work access to quality media with useful, non-partisan, independent content, so as to allow each individual to make informed life choices, to participate as a citizen and in the democratic life of their country".

This objective takes account of the global context. Its transversal crises, social media, information technology, migrant movements and conflicts call us to understand this world, to hold a dialogue with neighbours, countries, regions, to find new responses together. Fondation Hironnelle must strengthen itself in order to continue implementing projects that respond to these needs. And so the strategy drawn up in 2017 also includes consolidating the financial structure of our organization, developing and strengthening our network and visibility, and increasing our participation in research on the impact of media. These efforts should help boost the development of our operations, allowing us to realize our mission wherever it has the most impact and utility in the service of the populations we serve.

*Studio Kalangou reporting in Niamey (Niger)
© Anne Mimault / Fondation Hironnelle*



THE FIGHT FOR ACCESS TO INFORMATION: AS VITAL AS EVER

Media and access to quality information were a major focus of public debate across the world in 2017, amidst new ways of manipulating information on social media, a resurgence of investigative journalism (e.g. *Panama papers*, *Paradise papers*), debates about the funding of public media, closures and launches of new publications. Fondation Hironnelle has been producing and broadcasting information for populations in crisis situations since 1995, allowing them to act in their daily lives and as citizens. The role of media is at the heart of what we do. 2017 was for Fondation Hironnelle a year of transition “with continuity”, with the arrival of new management and new approaches to be tested. It was a year of changes, reflecting the international environment in which we work.

The beginning of the year saw the end of our programmes in Tunisia, Guinea and Burkina Faso. Some of these operations fell under fixed-term mandates and so their end was foreseen. The Studio Hironnelle project in Guinea could have benefitted from continuing Fondation Hironnelle support, but we were unable to find the necessary funding. Also, despite our efforts and our convictions, we did not manage to launch the new project drawn up with local partners in Libya, an extremely fragile and complex country where the population’s need for reliable information is particularly vital. Our overall volume of activities was affected, but nevertheless reached 8.6 million CHF across 11 operations in 10 countries. The geopolitical environment remains marked by issues of political instability and insecurity in the countries where we work (DRC, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, CAR and Myanmar). Developing and managing media or supporting the production of independent information in “protracted crisis” zones in the CAR, DRC and Myanmar puts us in contexts where there is a clear political will to close political and media space rather than opening to civil society and building democratic, representative institutions. Despite these difficulties, we produced 10,000 hours of radio programmes, strengthened the capacities of more than 300 media professionals, organized 4 special operations including a first one in Pakistan, and generally increased the impact of our audio, video and written content, thanks to improvements in our broadcasting network with partner media and on social media.

At the institutional level, the year was marked by the launch of our new four-year programme (2017-2020) and the attainment of the 2017 objectives that we had set ourselves. We reorganized our resources in Lausanne to gain in efficiency and quality. We kept our management spending under control whilst at the same time creating new resources for communication and research in our field of activity. Fondation Hironnelle was awarded the Ousseimi Prize for Tolerance and was also recognized by members of Geneva International through the signing of new partnership agreements.

 hirondelle.org

 facebook.com/fondationhirondelle

 [@FondHirondelle](https://twitter.com/FondHirondelle)

 linkedin.com/company/fondation-hirondelle

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

RADIO NDEKE LUKA

Radio Ndeke Luka (RNL) is the only Central African media that produces and broadcasts independent, professional news and information in French and Sango across the country. It has been doing this for 17 years. RNL was created in 2000 by Fondation Hirondelle, which has continued to support it. Since the end of the political transition in 2016, RNL is helping to prevent a new cycle of conflict. It is a general interest radio with a national vocation, offering 13 daily slots of news and information, debates, entertainment, music and practical information.

RNL broadcasts live around the clock, seven days a week, across the whole country, through 5 FM transmitters, 6 community radios and shortwave. Its programmes are also available on radiondekeluka.org.

RNL is the radio of the Central African people. A series of focus groups and an audience survey conducted in 2017 showed that more than 63% of the population aged over 15 listens to RNL in the zones where it broadcasts, and more than 90% of listeners think its information is reliable, objective and neutral. Listeners say RNL allows them to better understand the country and how it works, and to take an interest in all its regions and people.

“ *Radio Ndeke Luka is always the first to inform the population, and that reassures me* ”

RNL listener in a
2017 focus group

Inside the premises of Radio Ndeke Luka, Bangui
© Marc Ellison / Fondation Hirondelle



Radio Ndeke Luka reporting (Central African Republic) © Marc Ellison / Fondation Hironnelle

A RADIO THAT LISTENS TO THE PEOPLE

A wave of popular enthusiasm that followed President Faustin-Archange Touadéra's election in March 2016 died in 2017 as the security situation got much worse in several parts of the country and 80% of it was occupied by "warlords". These factors continue to hamper restoration of the State's authority in the provinces as well as the work of humanitarian agencies, which consider the Central African Republic to be one of the most dangerous countries in the world.

The people are the first victims of this new form of conflict. In total, 542,380 Central Africans have fled the country and 688,700 people are internally displaced, out of a population of 4.9 million.

In this context, Radio Ndeke Luka stepped up its coverage of social problems and concerns of the Central African people. At the same time, its debate and dialogue programmes helped support the government's peace and reconciliation processes, notably the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan and the creation of the Special Criminal Court.

To measure the radio's impact, Fondation Hironnelle and the RNL team organized focus groups with the population between May and July 2017, to gather the views and expectations of listeners. An audience survey was also commissioned from an independent survey company, and showed the strong role Radio Ndeke Luka plays in the country (see above). On the basis of the survey findings, Fondation Hironnelle experts advised the RNL team on an important modernization of its programme schedule, which was implemented in October 2017. The changes include more interactivity and better coverage of issues linked to refugees, health, agriculture and local development of people and regions.

After the appointment of a Central African woman as director of the radio in 2010, Fondation Hironnelle continued transferring management responsibilities to local staff. The introduction of a national management team, through the creation of national executive posts, was a success on the editorial and organizational fronts. A challenge faced by the radio in 2017 was to revive its advertising department, which had been more or less dissolved since the peak of violence in 2012-2014. From having only one marketing agent, the department took on 2 new recruits and doubled its revenue between 2016 and 2017.

In 2017, Radio Ndeke Luka continued its partnership with the Association of Community Radios to support the radios in its network.

FINANCIAL VOLUME

1,672,298 CHF

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- European Union - Fonds Bêkou
- Switzerland (SDC Programme Contribution)
- Amplify Change
- Service contracts (UNICEF, UNDP, CCO, MSF, OIM, DRC...)

ACCES

 radiondekeluka.org

- "Radio Ndeke Luka" application for iOS and Android
- AudioNow (radio by telephone)

MALI

STUDIO TAMANI

Studio Tamani provides daily radio programming with news and information on Mali. Since August 2013 it has been producing news bulletins in 5 languages (French, Bambara, Peulh, Tamasheq, Sonrhai), a programme and features linked to the news or to specific themes. In total in 2017, 3h15 of programmes were broadcast daily during the week and one hour a day on weekends and public holidays. Studio Tamani thus produced and broadcast 800 hours of programmes. More than 60 Malian media professionals were also trained by Fondation Hironnelle experts and senior Malian members of the editorial team. All content was produced by a team of 20 Malian journalists based in Bamako with a network of 35 correspondents throughout the country. The programmes are broadcast live by 70 partner radios across Mali. This network was built in the framework of a partnership between Fondation Hironnelle and URTEL (Mali Union of Free Radio and Television stations), which was the initiator of Studio Tamani.

“ *It was Studio Tamani that broke the ice between the warring groups. By bringing them together in front of a microphone, Studio Tamani showed them they could talk to each other. That was an important contribution to the peace process.* ”

Amadou Thiam, Malian member of parliament

Studio Tamani video report in Bamako
© Mamadou Ouattara / Fondation Hironnelle





Studio Tamani reporter interviewing an inhabitant of Bamako © Sébastien Rieussec / Fondation Hironnelle

INDISPENSABLE, USEFUL PROGRAMMES

Studio Tamani enriched its programming in 2017 with new video productions broadcast on social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube). A video production team has been created within the editorial team and trained by Fondation Hironnelle's head of multimedia production. Every week it now produces interviews, portraits and video reports in short formats. These productions are targeted mainly at a young urban audience which Studio Tamani's radio programmes have more difficulty reaching. The Studio's journalists thus continued to respond to the Malian people's vital need for reliable information in a context where they are faced with violence, conflicts and big difficulties in daily life. The platform for dialogue that Studio Tamani offers each day has also been strengthened by constructive partnerships with Malian civil society organizations such as IMRAP (Malian Institute for Research and Action on Peace).

According to an audience survey carried out by the IMMAR research institute, the quality and utility of Studio Tamani's information are strongly recognized by its listeners. The survey was carried out in September 2017 in 6 Malian towns (the capital Bamako, Kayes in the west, Sikasso in the southeast, Mopti in the centre, Timbuktu in the northwest and Gao in the northeast). More than 2,000 interviews were conducted with representative samples of the population. "If we take the weighted figure for the whole sample, 32% of Malians aged 15 and over say they listen to Studio Tamani's programmes," says the IMMAR report. The percentage is particularly high in Timbuktu (71%), Gao (60%) and Mopti (42%). In Bamako, where there is strong media competition and people have more diverse centres of interest, the rate is 11%.

Listeners appreciate the utility of the programmes and expressed trust in the information broadcast. According to the survey, 95% of listeners in Timbuktu, 94% in Bamako and 93% in Kayes said Studio Tamani's programmes were "useful or indispensable". Similar proportions of listeners said they trust the information broadcast by Studio Tamani. "The fact that people can listen to Studio Tamani's programmes in their own language is particularly appreciated," says the IMMAR report. "The choice of subjects and the way they are covered in the programmes allow the public to better understand their country."

To give Studio Tamani a durable place in the local media and society, a Malian association was created in October 2017, Association Tamani. This association will gradually take over the management of the project to ensure its sustainability.





FINANCIAL VOLUME

1,817,510 CHF

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- European Union
- Sweden
- Switzerland (SDC Programme Contribution)
- Service contracts (FHI360, Front Line Defenders, CHECCI)

ACCES

-  studiotamani.org
-  facebook.com/StudioTamani
-  [@StudioTamani](https://twitter.com/StudioTamani)
-  youtube.com/user/studiotamani
- "Studio Tamani" mobile application on iPhone and Android
- AudioNow (radio by telephone)

NIGER

STUDIO KALANGO

Since January 2016, Studio Kalangou has been producing two hours a day of radio programmes, including news bulletins in 5 languages (French, Haoussa, Zarma, Tamashek and Peulh), features on the life of men and women in Niger, and a debate programme called *Forum*. Studio Kalangou's programmes, which are produced at its editorial hub in Niamey by local journalists, are broadcast by a network of partner radios in all the regions of Niger. At the end of 2017, 34 private and community radios were broadcasting Studio Kalangou live, with a potential audience of more than 60% of the country's population. Studio Kalangou's team comprises some 15 journalists and translators at its central editorial hub and a network of correspondents across the country. The project is the fruit of a partnership between Fondation Hirondelle, the Network of Community Radios (RACOM) and the Association of Private Radio and Television Promoters of Niger (APRTPN).

“ Studio Kalangou has brought us out of ignorance with its impartial news and information in our native languages ”

Haoua Daouda,
housewife and listener in Dosso, southern Niger

Studio Kalangou reporting in Niamey © Anne Mimault / Fondation Hirondelle



Studio Kalangou reporting on the Niger river © Zada Baoua / Fondation Hirondelle

CONTRIBUTION TO ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN NIGER

A year after the first programmes were launched in January 2016, Studio Kalangou's programmes have reached a good "cruising speed", acquired a certain maturity and developed a relationship of trust with the listeners. The Studio is part of Niger's media environment, with content and style seen as independent, innovative, and reflecting reality across the whole of Niger. Its hallmark is giving a voice to everyone, whether it be the authorities in Niamey, ordinary people in Bouza, market gardeners along the Niger river or livestock farmers in Dolbel. The programmes are now broadcast by 34 partner radios in all the regional capitals, as well as many secondary towns and communes. This partnership allows communities to feel once again in tune with these radios. It allows the radios to build a loyal audience, as many listeners and radio directors have testified.

"Studio Kalangou's achievements include enriching the content of radios in Niger, offering innovative, hands-on training, and building technical expertise among the country's journalists, presenters and radio technicians," says Abdourahmane Ousmane, President of the High Communication Council. "The technical support and equipment that the Studio brings the radios gives them a basis to improve their structure and meet the needs of their audience."

An audience survey was conducted in 5 localities in May 2017 by the IMMAR company. It looked notably at audience perception of two Studio Kalangou daily pro-

grammes, the news bulletin and *Forum*. The news bulletin, which is broadcast in 5 languages, gets a vote of confidence from listeners, who appreciate its clarity, reliability, pertinence and diversity of information. Each of these four indicators was mentioned by over 90% of people surveyed. Listeners appreciate the debate programme *Forum* for the variety of its guests and subjects covered, and for the clarity of the discussions.

In 2017, Studio Kalangou produced and broadcast more than 600 hours of programmes and trained 41 journalists from all the regions of Niger. Since November 2017, *Forum* is also broadcast at the end of the week in the country's two main languages, Hausa and Zarma.

FINANCIAL VOLUME

1,301,645 CHF

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- European Union
- United Kingdom
- Switzerland (SDC Programme Contribution)
- French Embassy
- Service contracts (APBE)

ACCES

 studiokalangou.org

 facebook.com/Studio-Kalangou

 [@studio_kalangou](https://twitter.com/studio_kalangou)



MYANMAR HUMAN RIGHTS, PARLIAMENT & PEACE PROCESS

Fondation Hironnelle has been active in Myanmar since 2016. Our activities focus around: 1) Support for the democratic transition by giving legitimacy to the political process and legislative work; 2) Support to political solutions and legitimate political dialogue as part of the peace process; 3) Media actions designed to provide more objective information and that create a sense of balance among diverse ethnic groups. In 2017, we launched a new project in partnership with Frontier Myanmar to produce a weekly podcast that addresses gaps in access to information on human rights issues. We also continued to work with the Myanmar Parliament with the aim to improve the population's understanding of Myanmar's political processes. Lastly, we continued activities with actors involved in the official peace process on improving media coverage of these complex issues.

FINANCIAL VOLUME

229,379 CHF

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- The Netherlands
- Switzerland (SDC Programme Contribution)
- Peace Support Fund

ACCES

 frontiermyanmar.net/en/doh-athan

 facebook.com/dohathan/

Report for the Doh Athan podcast programme by Frontier Myanmar
© Steve Tickner / Frontier Myanmar

DOH ATHAN : A PODCAST ON HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2017, a partnership was launched with Frontier Myanmar, an independent, locally owned media. The joint project focuses on improving the population's access to information on human rights issues and providing a space to make their voices heard. In October 2017, *Doh Athan* (Our Voice) was launched, a weekly podcast covering human rights issues around the country. The podcast is broadcast online and via social media, and will be published by a network of partner media starting in 2018.

Our partnership with the Myanmar *Hluttaw* (Parliament) also continued in 2017, with the organization of a series of participatory workshops and coaching for over 60 staff from the *Hluttaw's* press office and local journalists reporting from parliament. The goal of these sessions is twofold: to build the capacity of the media to provide accurate information on the legislative process, and to improve working relations between the parliament and accredited media.

Fondation Hironnelle also continued to work with non-state actors involved in the peace process. Through a partnership launched in 2016, training provided by Fondation Hironnelle to Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) aimed to contribute to greater access to information on the peace process. Following request from participants, we also published and disseminated a "Myanmar Peace Process Media Guide" for EAOs, which includes useful information and practical tools to better understand and interact with the media sector.



TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE JUSTICEINFO.NET

Demonstration against an amnesty law linked to corruption under Ben Ali, Tunisia, April 2017 © Fethi Belaid / AFP

TRACKING JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION PROCESSES

In 2017, JusticeInfo ensured continuing coverage of reconciliation processes and “transitional justice” through a growing network of correspondents. It also followed debates on justice and impunity taking place in countries like Tunisia and Gambia that are emerging from dictatorships, or Mali and the Central African Republic (CAR) which are still struggling with divided societies.

To better target our coverage, we are giving priority to five “focus countries”: the CAR, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mali, Tunisia and Myanmar. Fondation Hirondelle has a strong presence in the CAR, DRC and Mali with its radios and studios. It is thus developing synergies between its different media and platforms.

We are following these countries particularly closely and have built online sections on each, including fundamental texts and reports on their reconciliation and transitional justice processes, as well as other resources. Owing to a wealth of news in our field and an excellent correspondent, Tunisia is a model for us. In Myanmar, which is going through a chaotic and incomplete transition, we are collaborating with a private media group of high quality, Frontier Myanmar.

We have also developed our presence on social media with the help of a very active community manager based in Tunis. The website is now using more video content, also available on Youtube.

JusticeInfo.net is a website launched in June 2015 covering transitional justice and reconciliation processes. The site is in French and English with some articles also translated into Arabic. Dozens of societies in Africa, Latin America, the Balkans and elsewhere are trying to rebuild after periods of violence and division. But how does a society rebuild itself, and can it find the way back to peaceful coexistence after such testing experiences? JusticeInfo.net provides independent reports and analyses of reconciliation processes, including truth commissions, international criminal tribunals, reparations programmes, traditional justice, amnesty laws and the work of remembrance. It is aimed at all those who wish to be informed, to reflect, debate and work on the practical tools, including human rights defenders, victims’ associations, transitional justice specialists, researchers, students and journalists.

FINANCIAL VOLUME

309,941 CHF

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- City of Geneva
- Canton of Geneva
- Switzerland (SDC Programme Contribution)
- Robert Bosch Foundation

ACCES

 justiceinfo.net

 facebook.com/JusticeInfo

 [@justiceinonet](https://twitter.com/justiceinonet)

**JUSTICE
INFO.NET**

FONDATION HIRONDELLE



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO GIVING A VOICE TO WOMEN AND YOUTH

Fondation Hironnelle, which has been active in the Democratic Republic of Congo since 2002, consolidated its presence in 2017 and its contribution to the people, by producing information and content that is close to them, in partnership with more than 120 partner media (radio and TV). We have chosen to increase our broadcast platforms by producing videos for TV partners and infographics for social media, as well as our audio formats. The issues covered by the journalists of Fondation Hironnelle and its partners are those that concern the country's people, such as the electoral process and young people's place in it, women's contribution to Congolese society, and human rights.

Fondation Hironnelle's partner media network was the country's biggest in 2017, reaching a potential 35 million people across the DRC.

FINANCIAL VOLUME

1,461,824 CHF

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- Belgium
- United States / Internews / Counterpart
- United Kingdom
- Sweden
- Switzerland (SDC Programme Contribution)
- Swiss embassy
- Service contracts (GIZ, CTB via Kandindi, FAO, FHI360, UNDP, GIRL)

ACCES

 facebook.com/jelections

Public debate organized by Fondation Hironnelle in Kinshasa
© Catherine Trautes

WOMEN, YOUTH AND ELECTIONS

In the DRC, 2017 was marked by political tensions and numerous civil society and opposition demonstrations which were violently repressed by the authorities. The enormous divide between the central government's will to keep control and the situation of revolt, mainly in Kasai and the Kivus, is helping to fuel a major humanitarian crisis in the country, with thousands of people displaced without protection or access to basic needs. It is in this difficult context that Fondation Hironnelle's "Young People and Elections" and "Women and Elections" programmes were launched – with success, as expressed by Gertrude Tsungu Diambu, an inhabitant of Boma who listens to Radio Boma, in western DRC. "When I listened to the 'Women and Elections' programmes, I was enthralled to hear the testimonies of prominent personalities like Jeanine Mabunda [former minister and current presidential advisor]," she says. "It encouraged me to enrol as a future candidate, because the others were also like me."

An impact study of the programmes for young people carried out by the survey company IMMAR in February 2017 amongst 508 people aged 20 to 30 in Kinshasa, Matadi, Lubumbashi and Bukavu provinces found that nearly 75% of young people who had listened to the programmes wanted to become more active as citizens.



BURKINA FASO ACCESS TO PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION

Simultaneous interpreting booth at the parliament of Burkina Faso
© Denis Vincenti / Fondation Hirondelle

SUPPORT TO THE PARLIAMENT OF BURKINA FASO

In 2017, we continued our support to the country's institutions with a project of support to parliament, following our partnership with national broadcaster RTB in 2015-2016. This new partnership focused on strengthening media coverage of parliamentary work, and technical support to the National Assembly to allow introduction of national languages in its debates. Fondation Hirondelle first organized two training cycles for 26 employees of the Communication Ministry and the National Assembly involved in producing information on parliamentary work. This training focused on journalistic coverage of the parliament's work, as well as recording sound and sound editing for radio.

Fondation Hirondelle also provided technical support to the National Assembly to allow simultaneous translation of its debates. We installed simultaneous translation equipment and oversaw the construction of translation booths. A training course for technical staff ensured their ability to use this equipment. Out of the 127 current members of parliament, only 36% are assumed to master French. Simultaneous translation in parliament now allows members the possibility to speak in their own languages. It also makes the debates more accessible to the population via the media that relay them.

A new parliament was elected in Burkina Faso on November 29, 2015. The people's expectations of this institution and its new parliamentarians are very high. The new National Assembly has expressed the desire to be more transparent and accessible to citizens. However, Burkina Faso's parliament is handicapped by its weak capacities in communication and the fact that not all its members master French, which is the official working language. In this context, after providing support to the national broadcaster Radiodiffusion Télévision du Burkina (RTB) in 2015/2016, Fondation Hirondelle carried out a mandate of support to parliament in the first half of 2017, to introduce national languages into parliamentary debates and help improve media coverage of parliament's work.

FINANCIAL VOLUME

163,128 CHF

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- Switzerland (SDC mandate)



SPECIAL OPERATIONS

TEMPORARY EDITORIAL TEAMS

From July 6 to 12, 2017, Fondation Hironnelle deployed 4 journalists from Mali, Niger, DR Congo and Burkina Faso, plus two journalist trainers, to Luxembourg to cover the 43rd session of the Francophone Parliamentary Assembly (APF), during which the 8th edition of the Francophone Youth Parliament (PFJ) also took place. As well as covering the parliaments' work, 3 young people attending the PFJ were selected and coached by the journalists to produce a daily "journal" of the PFJ for broadcast on social media. This operation was co-organised with equipment and technical support from Canal + International, Vivendi and the APF.

Like parliaments and youth, climate change is one of the priority themes of Fondation Hironnelle's 2017/2020 programme. As for COP21 and 22, Fondation Hironnelle covered the COP23 in Bonn from November 6 to 17 with 3 journalists, of whom two from our media in Africa (Mali and CAR). The editorial team covered complex issues, making them accessible nevertheless through educational and innovative video formats.

FINANCIAL VOLUME

- COP23 : 4,518 CHF
- APF : 8,003 CHF
- Pakistan : 10,407 CHF
- Afrik Activ' : 30,079 CHF (voir pages 18-19)

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- COP23: Switzerland (SDC Programme Contribution)
- APF: Switzerland (SDC Programme Contribution)
- Pakistan:Switzerland (SDC mandate)
- Afrik Activ': Groupe Michel Hervé, Vivendi, Système U

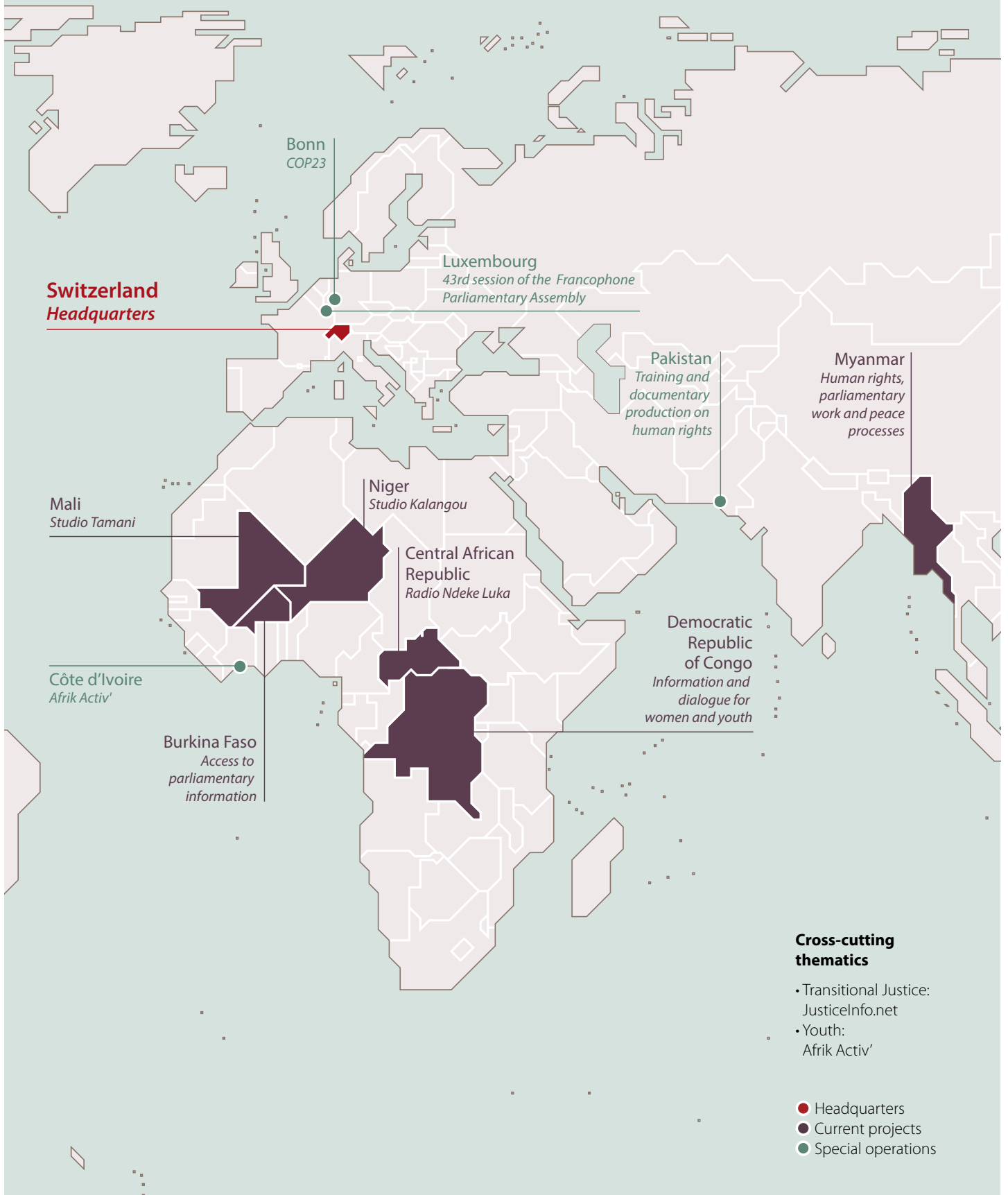
Covering the francophone youth parliament, Luxembourg 2017
© Tristan Miquel / Fondation Hironnelle

TRAINING AND DOCUMENTARY PRODUCTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

After being contacted by the UN Center for Information in Pakistan, Fondation Hironnelle took part in an operation that was unique in the country: a training course in producing audio and video documentaries on human rights. This project with Pakistani and Afghan journalists working together to make human rights issues better known, is supported by the Swiss embassy in Islamabad. It was implemented with logistical and technical support from the Center for Excellence in Journalism in Karachi and two trainers from Fondation Hironnelle. In July 2017, 4 Afghan journalists and 4 Pakistani journalists came together for 15 days to work on various subjects. The team was composed of 4 women and 4 men, all with production experience but who did not know each other before and had never worked in a team. The result was remarkable, with 3 bold documentaries produced: *Bahaali*, a 12-minute film about child drug addicts in a rehabilitation centre; *The Sound of Silence*, a 12-minute film showing the daily life of a deaf family in Karachi; and *Transgender in Pakistan*, an audio-documentary on the barriers to employment for transgender people in Pakistan. The productions were shown at film and documentary festivals in Pakistan and at the 2018 edition of the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH) in Geneva.

For more information, links and extracts from the productions, please go to hironnelle.org

FONDATION HIRONDELLE OPERATIONS IN 2017





PARTNERS AND NETWORK

MEDIA AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Fondation Hironnelle worked to expand its network and its civil society partners. New alliances between media and civil society organizations can help formulate more inclusive responses to problems of societies facing crises. In 2017, we worked with several NGOs, institutes and other organizations to develop an approach promoting more open societies and the participation of everyone. With the same objective, we continued our contacts with company social responsibility partners through the "Cercle Médias Mutations", and carried out two special operations with companies: coverage of the Francophone Parliamentary Assembly and the launch of Afrik Activ', a platform for young African entrepreneurs.

Charlotte Lindsey-Curtet, ICRC Communication Director, Christine Beerli, ICRC Vice-president, and Caroline Vuillemin, Fondation Hironnelle Chief Executive Officer, at the signature of the partnership between the ICRC and the Fondation Hironnelle in Geneva in December 2017
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STRATEGIC SWISS PARTNERS

Fondation Hironnelle's "Swissness" is reflected in the values it promotes: dialogue, respect for everyone's voice, including minorities, and impartiality. It is also reflected in its partners, firstly the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the international cooperation agency of the Swiss Confederation. In 2017, the SDC renewed its trust in Fondation Hironnelle and signed a new partnership contract based on our 2017-2018 strategic plan. Some 20 Swiss NGOs have this type of institutional partnership, which through its flexible funding gives us capacity to respond to our needs and to develop new activities.

Three other important partnerships are to be noted in 2017. In December we signed an agreement with the ICRC to promote collaboration between our respective teams in the field. Then there was the relaunch of our historic partnership with Radio Télévision Suisse (RTS), which is linked to the founders of Fondation Hironnelle. Today, this partnership includes RTS financial support to the Fondation (75,000 CHF per year), co-productions and sharing of services (training, coaching, etc.). Finally, in May 2017 we concluded a partnership with Interpeace, a Geneva-based international organization specialized in peace building, to design projects that support peace efforts in countries emerging from conflict.



Workshop on measuring the impact of media projects, Maison de la paix Geneva, September 2017 © Virgile Pasquier / Fondation Hirondelle

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

MEASURING IMPACT

We stepped up our efforts in 2017 to contribute to research on measuring the impact of media projects and information programmes. We discussed with Professor Jeff Conroy-Krutz at the political science department of Michigan State University, who obtained funding to conduct an impact study in 2018 of Studio Kalangou in Niger. This study will look notably at whether Studio Kalangou listeners are more interested in politics, have a better knowledge of the institutions, whether they are more aware of opportunities to take part in collective decisions and whether they take them.

Fondation Hirondelle was also brought in as a partner to a high-level research programme in Germany on media development. This programme funded by the Volkswagen Foundation will allow seven people doing doctorates at three German universities to make research visits to media organizations like Fondation Hirondelle.

Finally, we contributed to the coordinated reflections of international media organizations, notably by co-organizing a meeting with other members of the GFMD (Global Forum for Media Development) on September 26, 2017, in Geneva on methods for measuring the impact of our projects. This meeting was the first step in a process which should help us work towards establishing common indicators.

PROSPECTION

In 2017, our development efforts focused first of all on young people. We worked with Interpeace on the concept for a project in Côte d'Ivoire to give a voice to young people and promote dialogue on questions of social success, perspectives and migration. In December we also launched from Abidjan the pilot project 'Afrik Activ', a platform online and on Facebook dedicated to information for young male and female entrepreneurs in francophone Africa. We also designed a regional media proposal for the G5 Sahel countries (Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mauritania) based on transversal issues like security, climate change, the future of young people and shared responses. With regard to Mauritania, we have developed a project with Fondation Cordoue in Geneva for dialogue between civilisations. In Tunisia, we continued to exchange with Parliament with a view to setting up a training project for parliamentarians and journalists on parliamentary coverage. These projects will start when the necessary funding has been secured.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

GENERAL FINANCIAL SITUATION

A decrease of 14 % in the financial volume was recorded in 2017, ending with a global volume of 8.6 million CHF. This decline is due to the closure of two programmes at the end of 2016 in Tunisia and Côte d'Ivoire, plus the end in 2017 of most activities under the SDC mandate in Burkina Faso for support to the national broadcaster RTB and the closure in May 2017 of our programme in Guinea. Despite the end of these projects and the reduction in volume, Fondation Hironnelle ended the year with a higher volume than forecast. The signature of multi-year funding contracts starting in 2017 for Niger (UK CSSF) and the DRC (SIDA) have brought more support for our current activities and also to diversify them, as in DRC. Added to that are an increased European Union contribution for the CAR, and good results by Fondation Ndeke Luka. That allowed us to finish the year with a positive result of 153,000 CHF.

In addition to the regular activities of Fondation Hironnelle, the SDC contribution, mandates from development agencies and various donations allowed us to carry out special operations such as coverage of the COP23 in Bonn, training of Pakistani journalists to make short documentaries shown at the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights in Geneva, our participation in the Francophone Parliamentary Assembly in Luxembourg and the launch of Afrik Activ', an information platform for young entrepreneurs.

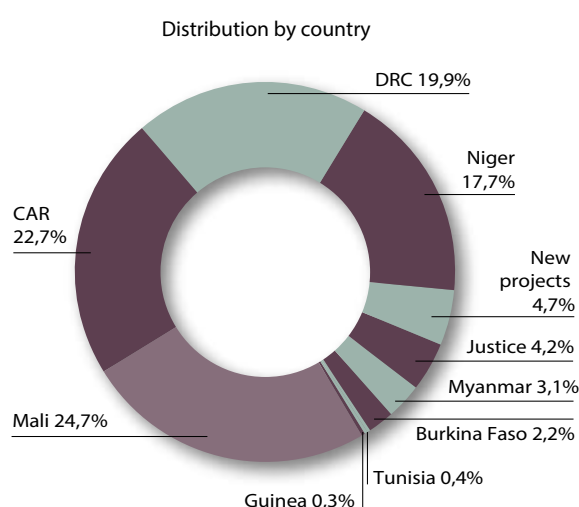
REORGANIZATION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

With regard to the organization of Fondation Hironnelle support services, the setting up of our Accounting Oversight Unit (URC in French) in Tunis has after one year produced positive results, with shorter time lags, staff training and improved quality of our accounting procedures thanks to daily support to our teams on the ground. This has improved our financial supervision, allowing us to better adapt to the complex environment in which we work. The creation of the URC has allowed us to optimize the posts of administrative officers based in Lausanne, who have become management controllers. These management controllers are attached to a geographical zone with transversal responsibilities covering, for example, in-country human resources, budgeting and purchasing procedures. This reorganization allows Fondation Hironnelle better supervision of the internal control system and conformity and respect of our donors' rules.

PROJECT EXPENDITURE

Out of total expenditure of 8, 649, 692 CHF, 15% went on headquarters costs, a percentage increase on the previous year owing to the decrease in overall financial volume, but a decrease in real value of 2% compared with 2016. The 7,352,559 CHF spent on projects was attributed as follows: 61% on staff costs, 34% on operational costs and 5% on equipment.

Projets 2017	en CHF
Mali	1 817 510
CAR	1 672 298
DRC	1 461 824
Niger	1 301 645
New/miscellaneous projects	344 702
Transitional Justice	309 941
Myanmar	229 379
Burkina Faso	163 128
Tunisia	31 152
Guinea	21 080
TOTAL	7 352 659



HUMAN RESOURCES

At the end of 2017, Fondation Hironnelle employed 148 professionals throughout the world. The number of nationals working for the Fondation fell slightly (-8 %) to 116 (126 in 2016). In addition there were more than 20 nationals as trainees and correspondents, and 9 expatriates in post with long-term contracts, supported by 32 expert missions to the field (47 missions in 2016). Headquarters staff levels continued to adapt, notably to needs on the ground, and fell by 10 % in FTE (Full Time Equivalent) posts. On December 31, 2017, headquarters had 9 staff in the equivalent of 7.7 full time posts directly supporting projects, and 14 staff (FTE 11.5) in management, transversal and support posts. Fondation Hironnelle is also training an apprentice and had the help throughout 2017 of 8 people on replacement military service/trainees (FTE 2.89) and 3 people on professional reinsertion placements (FTE 0.28).

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Fondation Hironnelle funding revenue was 8,721,022 CHF in 2017, which breaks down as follows:

Type of revenue	in CHF	in %
Public funding	8 856 267	90,2%
Switzerland	3 014 646	34,6%
- SDC Programme Contribution	2 700 000	31,0%
- SDC Mandate	214 646	2,5%
- Canton of Geneva	50 000	0,6%
- City of Geneva	50 000	0,6%
European Union	2 540 390	29,1%
Sweden	1 088 274	12,5%
United Kingdom	408 232	4,7%
United States (Counterpart, Internews)	342 568	3,9%
Belgium	215 571	2,5%
France	173 756	2,0%
Netherlands	54 329	0,6%
Peace Support Fund	24 787	0,3%
World Bank	3 213	0,0%
Private funding	247 070	2,8%
RTS	75 000	0,9%
Amplify Change	57 994	0,7%
Bosch Foundation	40 933	0,5%
Afrik Activ': Vivendi, Super U, Groupe Hervé	30 080	0,3%
Financial products and other income	31 916	0,4%
Gifts	11 147	0,1%
Service Contracts	608 186	7,0%
DRC	217 960	2,5%
Mali	145 479	1,7%
CAR	120 402	1,4%
Headquarters	70 597	0,8%
Niger	49 176	0,6%
Myanmar	4 572	0,1%

SUMMARY OF FONDATION HIRONDELLE ACCOUNTS

Fondation Hironnelle's annual accounts were audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers SA, which certified their conformity with Swiss law and Swiss GAAP RPC 21 provisions. The audited 2017 financial report of Fondation Hironnelle can be downloaded from our website www.hironnelle.org.

We would like to thank all our public, private and individual donors, and contributors to the Hironnelle Support Fund (in 2017 especially: Fondation Sandoz, Fondation Ousseimi, Friends of Fondation Hironnelle Association).

BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31 (in Swiss francs)

	2017	2016
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Liquid assets	1 475 271	1 888 923
Third-party debtors	143 570	74 555
Prepaid expenses	155 098	254 019
Fixed assets		
Financial assets	76 715	55 675
Intangible assets (equipment)	54 482	102 152
Total assets	1 905 137	2 375 324
LIABILITIES		
SHORT-TERM LIABILITIES		
Short-term debts	131 987	226 302
Accrual and deferred income	76 063	361 044
Provision for audit fees	81 372	78 201
Other provisions	-	62 981
Various loans	414	2 164
Long-term liabilities		
Provision for legal contingencies	213 780	181 295
Provision for termination of staff contracts	21 018	53 166
Allocated funds		
Funds allocated by donors	178 268	576 072
Other allocated funds	240 631	183 317
Equity capital		
Foundation capital	50 000	50 000
Support fund	497 858	340 092
Operating capital	260 690	310 690
Final result	153 055	-50 000
Total liabilities	1 905 137	2 375 324

OPERATING ACCOUNT OF FONDATION HIRONDELLE (in Swiss francs)

	2017	2016
A INCOME		
Income allocated by donors	5 295 099	6 842 150
Income allocated by the Fondation	2 786 147	2 701 446
Other income	635 769	494 868
Total income	8 717 015	10 038 465
PROJECT EXPENDITURE		
Staff	4 512 512	5 454 387
Operations	2 485 274	2 710 329
Equipment	354 871	610 635
Total project expenditure	7 352 658	8 775 351
FONDATION HIRONDELLE HEADQUARTERS EXPENDITURE LAUSANNE, SUISSE		
Staff	684 076	803 127
Operations	441 564	371 016
Equipment	68 343	52 676
Contributions to partner projects*		50 878
Total headquarters expenditure	1 193 983	1 277 697
OPERATING RESULT	170 375	-14 584
FINANCIAL RESULT	-17 319	-35 417
FINAL RESULT	153 055	-50 000

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD IN 2017

Romaine JEAN

Chairwoman of the Board
Journalist and former producer at the Swiss public Radio and Television (RTS)

Ouided BOUCHAMAOU

Businesswoman
2015 Nobel Peace Prize winner with the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet

Mario FETZ

General Secretary of the Foundation Apprentis d'Auteuil International
Former fundraising and marketing director of WWF

Jacques FORSTER

Honorary Professor of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) in Geneva and former Vice President of the ICRC

Dick MARTY

Former member of the Swiss Council of States

Serge MICHEL

Journalist, Former editor-in-chief of the Website "Le Monde Afrique"

Doris PFISTER

Adviser in organizational and strategic communication management,
Former journalist

Guillaume PICTET

Vice-President of the Board of De Pury Pictet Turrettini & Cie SA

Martin WOKER

Former international editor of *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* (NZZ)



hirondelle.org

Fondation Hirondelle is a Swiss non-profit organization which provides information to populations faced with crisis, empowering them in their daily lives and as citizens. Through our work, millions of people in war-affected countries, post-conflict areas, humanitarian crisis and societies in democratic transition have access to media that speak to them and give them a voice.

Fondation Hirondelle

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