

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

## Capacity building programme & mentorship opportunity for investigative journalists on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, trafficking in persons, and forestry crimes

Deadline for applications: 2 February 2024

Programme duration: 1 March – 30 September 2024

Workshop dates: 15 April – 19 April 2024

### DESCRIPTION

The Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime is a network of prominent law enforcement, governance and development practitioners who are dedicated to seeking new and innovative strategies and responses to organized crime. Over the past decade, the GI-TOC has sought to enhance analysis of, encourage action against, and support resilience to organized crime in order to reduce its negative impact on people, the environment, businesses and states. For more information, please see our website at <http://www.globalinitiative.net>.

As part of a programme supported by the U.S. Department of State, the GI-TOC is coordinating a capacity building programme with a group of investigative journalists in Mauritania, Cape Verde, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, The Gambia and Senegal. The United States is committed to combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU Fishing) and Illicit Trafficking.

### The GI-TOC works to:

- connect and empower civil-society actors across the region who are working on issues related to organized crime and corruption, and their links to instability and conflict;
- identify, analyse and map criminal trends and shifts in regional instability, and their impact on illicit flows, governance, development, inter-ethnic relations, security, conflict and the rule of law;
- and support local stakeholders/actors in their monitoring of national dynamics and wider regional and international organized-crime and insecurity trends.

Enhancing the capacities of West African journalists is a vital step in the fight against transnational organized crime (TOC) and illicit trafficking. The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) has been a long-standing partner and supporter of investigative journalism focussing on organized crime around the world, including in West Africa.

The GI-TOC has longstanding experience working with journalists, and is partnering with Poseidon, and The Consortium of Media Innovation and Social Communication (CMICS) in the delivery of this training.

Poseidon is a global fisheries and aquaculture consultancy, providing independent advice to international and bilateral donor agencies, Governments, industry, NGO's and private clients. They are a group of highly qualified technical experts and project managers with many years of consulting and practical industry experience. The GI-TOC and Poseidon collaborated to produce the IUU Fishing Index.

CMICS is a non-profit association that brings together the main networks and associations of journalists, such as the Union of Journalists and Technicians of Social Communication (SINJOTECS), the Journalists Association (OJ-GB), the Association of Professional Communication Women Social Network (AMPROCS), the National Network of Community Radios and Televisions (RENARC) and the NGO Action for Development (AD), which has a long history of supporting this sector.

CMICS' main mission is to advance the media sector for peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau by defining shared goals and establishing strong relationships of trust among partners with a view to implementing strategies to be defined in common.

The primary goal of the capacity building and mentorship programme is to strengthen the capacities of West African networks of investigative journalists working on transnational organized crime, including by building their investigative skills and substantive knowledge of human trafficking, IUU and forestry crimes, and to enhance the impact of their reporting on public awareness and policymaking regarding TOC in West Africa.

The programme will constitute of:

- one virtual capacity building session providing the foundational basis for analysing transnational organized crime;
- a five day in-person workshop in Dakar between 15-19 April 2024. Sessions on IUU fishing, forestry crimes, trafficking in persons, investigative journalism skills (including audio-visual skills) will be delivered by experts in the relevant fields;
- the opportunity to apply for a six-month mentorship programme, which includes a USD 3 000 grant, and mentorship by an expert in the field relevant to the investigative story, to develop an investigative journalism story focusing on one of IUU fishing, forestry crimes, or trafficking in persons. Five journalists will be selected for this mentorship;
- the opportunity to become part of a network of journalists exchanging on IUU fishing, forestry crimes, and trafficking in persons.

Between 20 and 25 journalists across the focus countries (The Gambia, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Mauritania, Cape Verde) will be selected to participate in the programme.

### Eligibility criteria

In order to be eligible, journalists should:

- be based in one of the focus countries;
- have evidenced experience of working closely with communities in that country;
- have demonstrated experience and skills in investigative journalism (use of investigative techniques etc.);
- have previous, evidenced experience working on, and publishing investigative journalism articles regarding, transnational organized crime;
- be available to attend the workshop in person in Dakar between 15-19 April.

Experience in the following is desirable:

- previous, evidenced, experience reporting on IUU fishing, trafficking in persons and/or forestry crimes.

Female applicants are particularly encouraged to apply.

In order to apply please fill out the form [here](#) by the 2 February 2024.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted following applications.

