Short Session Report

Session Title: Video4change - Enabling citizens to expose corruption and demand equality, using the tool in their pocket.
Date & Time: Friday 2 December, 16:30-18:30
Report prepared by: Marie Terracol, Whistleblowing Programme Coordinator, Transparency International

Experts:

- Lucy Hannan, Journalist and film maker, InformAction
- Nick Lunch, Founder Director, InsightShareName, Position, Organisation
- Okai Michael Henchard, National Project Coordinator for the REDD+ Governance and Finance Integrity for Africa Project (REDD+ IN), Ghana Integrity Initiative
- Seelan Palay, Communications and Outreach Coordinator, EngageMedia
- Ulli Schauen, RoGGKenya
- Jessica Mayberry, Founding Director, Video Volunteers

Moderated by: Jessica Mayberry, Founding Director, Video Volunteers
Session coordinated by: Jessica Mayberry, Founding Director, Video Volunteers

Main issues raised in kick off remarks. What’s the focus of the session?

Video4change is the use of video to empower, inform and mobilize citizens to make a better world. Video is an indisputably important tool to fight corruption. It provides irrefutable evidence, mobilizes people, is democratic and can be used even by those with minimal literacy, and smartphones are spreading fast into every corner of the world and aspect of our lives. The camera has been used to expose corruption in many
famous cases, often ending the careers of highly visible public figures. Yet, more can be done to create even more impact.

Questions to be explored in the session include:

1. What are the innovations being used to fight corruption through video?
2. And how could they scale to millions of people being able to document corruption in a similar way, by using the smartphones in their pockets?
3. How can we make the use of video in exposing corruption less ad hoc? Is it possible to provide structure when so much is about someone with a camera being in the right place at the right time?
4. How is technology changing things and where does the technology need to go?
   How are people staying safe?

What initiatives have been showcased? Briefly describe the Game Changing strategies/ ideas (if applicable)

The workshop speakers are all leaders of the global video4change movement, running or working within organizations that have succeeded in creating new models to use video4change to fight corruption. They shared successful examples of how video4change has reduced corruption, including film clips, and outline the different models and methods available for using video to fight corruption, from India, Africa and South East Asia.

- InformAction presented their work in Kenya using video for human rights documentation.
- InsightShare presented their work on participatory video, highlighting the project, ‘Pakorpaa Susangho’ (Widow’s Cry), an exploration of how corruption impacts on widows in the Upper East region of Ghana.
- This participatory video was devised and shot by ten widows from Kulbia, on the outskirts of Bolgatanga, using cutting-edge production techniques and equipment (including iPads as powerful video cameras). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ka3hp8MMkTk
- Engage Media showed the powerful way that participatory video can enhance work with youth.
- Video Volunteers talked about their community video model in India, and their rural newswire, through which marginalized citizens produce videos that aim to solve the problems the video addresses.
- RoGGKenya introduced their initiative to empower local journalist to produce/talk about corruption issues. The website makes suggestions of stories (providing background, angles, questions) that the local journalist can produce in their area. http://RoGGKenya.org

Most workshop members are part of the Video4Change network, working together
Briefly describe the highlights including the thematically interesting questions and ideas that were generated from the discussion or from the floor, and session quotes.

Speakers talked about using videos strategically versus opportunistically. The question of product versus process was also discussed: for InsightShare and Engage media, it is not about the video produced in the end but about the process of making it. Impact often happen during the process because it allows participants to analyse the situation and come up with their own solutions.

Okai Michael Henchard stressed that when it comes to make customs and traditions evolved, seeking changes in behaviour will yield more results that a legislative reform and participatory video is can help achieve behavioural changes.

A participant raised the issue of safety risks associated when making videos. The speakers indicated that there were many tools that facilitate covert filming. But it is important to know the laws of the countries and to assess the risk. It is often riskier to get caught filming covertly compared filming openly.

Another participant raised the question ethics when making/using undercover video. The speakers explain that if it is in the public interest, it is ok to film undercover.

What are the key recommendations, follow-up Actions (200 words narrative form)

Citizen journalism should be recognized as a very powerful tool in fighting corruption, particularly from the point of view of empowering the most marginalized to prevent corruption. It would be a good thing if every government official had an awareness – even a fear – that they could be filmed at any moment. This would reduce corruption. We should create a global network of citizen video journalists, where they learn to train citizens in producing video on these issues.

Key Insights that could be included in the IACC Declaration

See section above

Rapporteur’s name and date submitted
Marie Terracol, 2 December 2016
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