MEDIA COUNCIL OF MONGOLIA

MEDIA COUNCIL OF MONGOLIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

2020

2021

FOREWORD

The Media Council of Mongolia (MCM) is an organization:
- to support the freedom of the press;
- to promote responsible media and journalists in the society;
- to develop the professional standards and code of ethics in the journalism industry;
- self-regulatory body for print and online media, radio and televisions. The MCM was established in early 2015 due to the initiative and successful cooperation of journalists, employers, associations or unions, and professional organizations working to protect journalists' rights to be independent.

In 2020, the MCM successfully fulfilled its primary duties of enforcing the code of ethics and handling complaints received from citizens, organizations, and businesses regarding journalistic articles and newsroom programs.

In 2020, the MCM received a total of 52 complaints from citizens and businesses. Ethics Committees had six meetings to discuss and resolve these complaints.

The Board of the MCM made policy decisions, issued statements, and calls to improve the media legal environment, protect press freedom, and strengthen media self-regulation.

Twelve meetings and training on media self-regulation, code of media ethics and journalist security were organized for media organizations/newsrooms, and four training were organized for the MCM members and staff.

MCM has expanded its cooperations with industry coalitions, associations, editors, and domestic and foreign partners.

The MCM distributed materials about its activities in online and print form as part of the policy of keeping its activities transparent to the public. Also, the materials were actively disseminated through the media and social media.

The MCM organized six roundtable discussions on the journalism quality for the journalism industry and the public, also had one press conference, and implemented two case studies and monitoring. These events reached more than 1,000 people.

01 | COMPLAINTS AND DECISIONS

The MCM operates along with its Print and Online Media Ethics Committee and the Radio and Television Ethics Committee. The Ethics Committees discuss and resolve complaints according to the MCM's Operational Procedure, Complaints Procedure, and the Media Ethics Codes.

The MCM received and resolved a total of 385 complaints from 2015 to the end of 2020

19	41	67	100	106	52
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
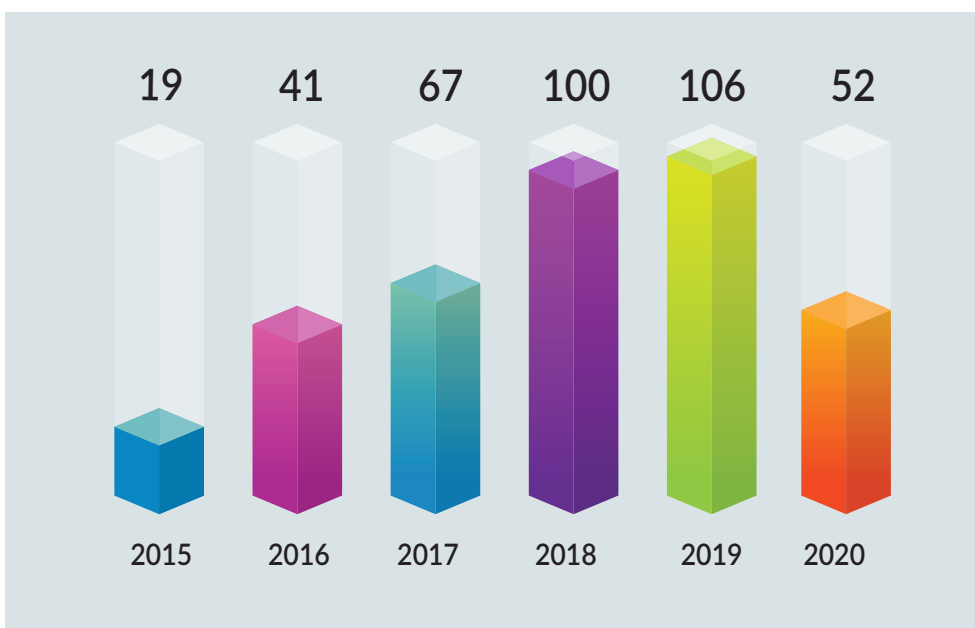
The MCM received a total of 52 complaints from January to December 2020. These include:
· Radio and Television Ethics Committee received ten complaints (19%);
· Print and Online Media Ethics Committee received 42 complaints (81%)

10 | Radio and Television Ethics Committee received ten complaints

19%

81%

42 | Print and Online Media Ethics Committee received 42 complaints
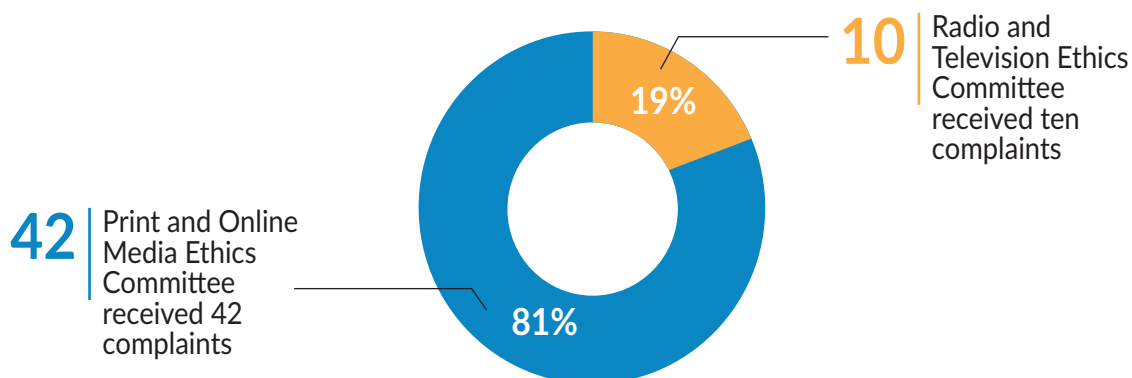
Resolved complaints:

The MCM Secretariat resolved 23 out of 52 complaints according to Article 2.3 of the Complaints Procedure due to the following reasons: incomplete submission of materials, complaints that are out of the MCM's operational scope, and groundless complaints.

Nine complainants withdrew their complaints.

Two Ethics Committees discussed complaints regarding 22 journalistic pieces (additional two complaints – one that was delayed until the court decision in 2019 and one received at the end of the year – were discussed, too) at their six meetings according to Article 6.3 of the Complaints Procedure and concluded the same as followings:

I.   To inform the public that ten newsrooms didn't make any ethical violations according to Article 6.3.1 of the Complaint Procedure;

II. To inform the public that three newsrooms corrected their mistakes and asked apologies without disclosing the media outlets' names according to Article 6.3.2 of the Complaint Procedure;

III. To inform the public that nine newsrooms violated the code of media ethics by indicating the newsrooms' names according to Article 6.3.3 of the Complaint Procedure.

According to the conclusions of the Ethics Committees, media outlets mainly violated the following articles of the code of media ethics. These include:

- *Article 1.1* - To verify the accuracy of the information, whether it complies with truth and avoid making accidental errors;

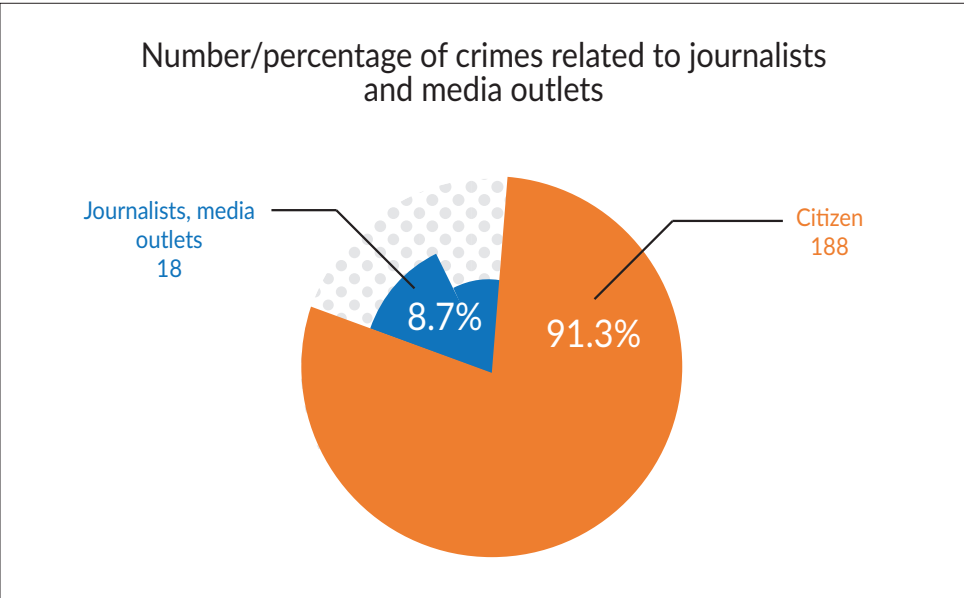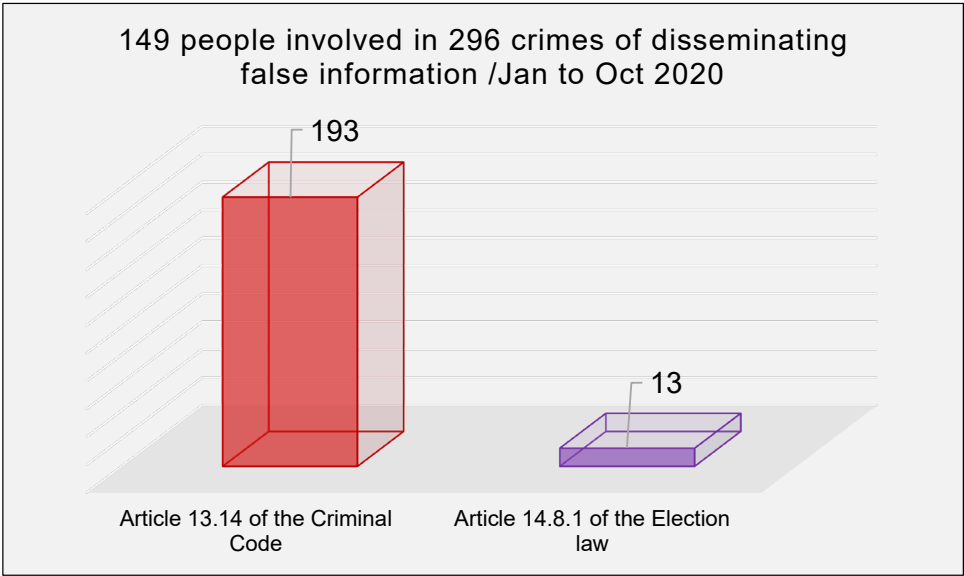- *Article 1.2* - To check the reliability of the source and try to state sources clearly.

Complainants to the MCM consist of:

-   Individuals – 54%
-   Politicians, government officials, or government bodies – 20%
-   Business organizations – 15%
-   Others – 11%
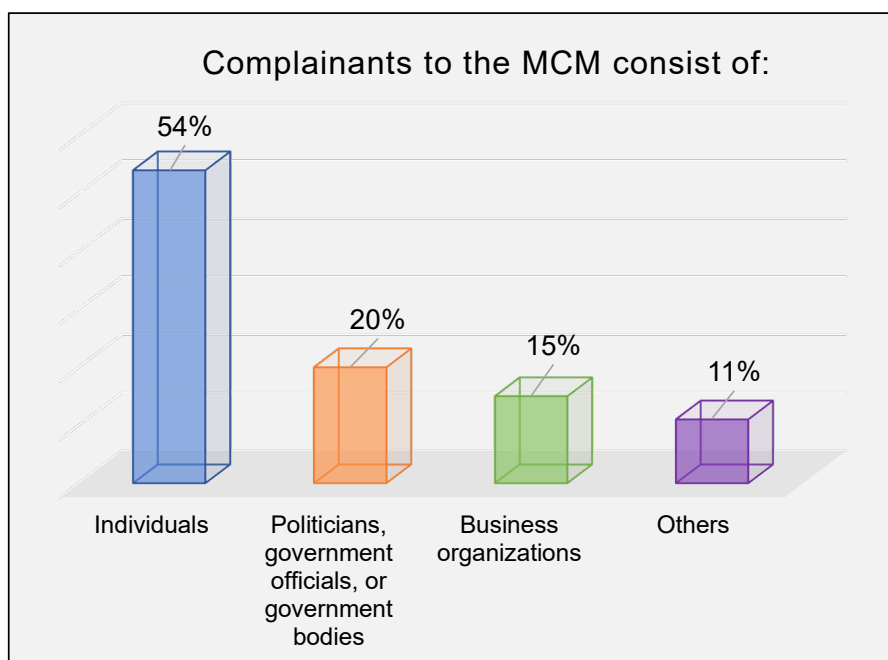
Comparison

As of October 2020, 206 cases were investigated by the Prosecutor's General Office of Mongolia for violations of relevant laws, including the provision of "dissemination of false information", 18 of them were related to journalists.

149 people involved in 296 crimes of disseminating false information /Jan to Oct 2020

193

13

Article 13.14 of the Criminal Code

Article 14.8.1 of the Election law

Number/percentage of crimes related to journalists and media outlets

Journalists, media outlets
18

Citizen
188

8.7%

91.3%

On the other hand, the MCM received 52 complaints in 2020 from citizens or organizations regarding the journalistic pieces that violated the code of media ethics or contained false information. A triple number of citizens' participation shows that journalistic content can be reviewed within the framework of the code of media ethics rather than legislation.

02 | THE BOARD'S POLICY DECISIONS:

The Board of the MCM consists of 15 members representing five subgroups: newspapers/magazines, radio/television, websites, local media, and the public/initiative group.

The Board works as approving the action plan and budget proposed by the MCM Secretariat, monitoring the performance, providing recommendations, and giving working directions; in addition, the Board made the policy decisions regarding the protection of press freedom and strengthening media self-regulation according to Article 10.2 of the MCM NGO Charter.

In 2020, the Board of the MCM discussed and approved the following policy documents at eight meetings:

1. The Board made a decision to exit from the working group to draft the law on Press Freedom next to the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs of Mongolia (MOJHA) (February 21)

2. The Board approved the MCM's temporary complaint procedure for the election campaign period (May 19)

3. The Board elected L.Tserenjargal, Vice President at Mongolian National Websites Development Association, as a representative to Radio and Television Ethics Committee, and B.Bolorsaikhan, human rights activist, as a representative to the public (May 19)

4. G.Ulsbold, editor-in-chief at time.mn website, was elected to represent a journalist from online media to the Board of the MCM (November 10)

5. The MCM expressed its objection to amendment to Article 13.14 Disseminating false information of the Criminal Code of Mongolia (December 12)

The Board members attended two times and discussed improving the MCM's activities and a plan to develop a financially independent media self-regulatory body.

03 | "MEDIA POLICY" SERIES ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

The MCM started to organize series of roundtable discussions on "Media Policy" in cooperation with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung since 2018. "Media regulations and ethics during the elections" roundtable discussion were organized on October 28, 2020.

This time, the main goal of the roundtable discussion was to discuss challenges faced for the parliamentary elections organized during the pandemics in terms of the media legal environment, law enforcement, media self-regulation, and code of ethics with experts from different fields and find solutions.

Journalists, editors, the MCM members, lawyers, representatives from the Communications Regulatory Commission of Mongolia (CRC), General Election Commission of Mongolia (GEC), and the Prosecutor's General Office of Mongolia were attended the discussion. During the roundtable discussion, study results on "Resolving cases related to journalists and media outlets in the year of parliamentary election" and "Did televisions follow code of ethics during the election campaign period?" were introduced. Also, a presentation on "Journalism quality during the elections and impacts of media self-regulation" was introduced.

Participants emphasized that resolving cases that can be solved within the framework of media self-regulation by the Criminal Code or other laws was an attempt to curb free criticism of journalism. They also noted allocating a small amount of media coverage for election advertisement during the elections led to

limited production of voter education news and programs. Moreover, it's noted there is a need to clarify legal terms of "advertising" and "voter education information", etc. Participants agreed that media associations and journalists need to come together, have internal discussions, deliver their consolidated ideas or proposal on the draft laws, and work persistently not only delivering the ideas, but also to stage of law approvals before approving laws for next upcoming elections.

04 SERIES TRAINING AND MEETINGS FOR JOURNALISM QUALITY

The MCM Secretariat held regular editorial meetings and visited 13 media outlets to provide information on media self-regulation, code of ethics, and journalist safety. These include the Ardchilal Times and the Undesnii shuudan newspapers, Gogo.mn, Tovch.mn, Eguur.mn, Erennews.mn, Urug.mn, Livetv.mn, Time.mn websites, The Mongolian Mining Journal, TV9, NTV and C1 televisions.

April ●

The MCM translated the guideline of COVID-19 and Editorial Standards published by the Organization of News Ombudsmen and Standards Editors (ONO).

ORGANIZATION OF
NEWS OMBUDSMEN &
STANDARDS EDITORS

ONO

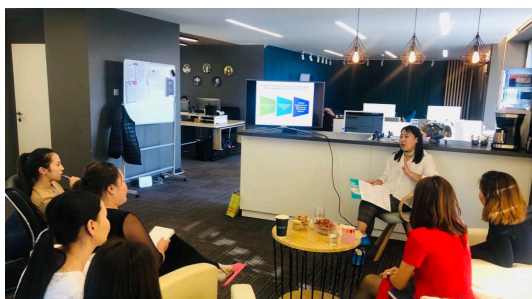## КОРОНАВИРУСТ ХАЛДВАР (COVID-19) БА РЕДАКЦЫН БАРИМТЛАХ СТАНДАРТ

Хэвлэлийн Омбудсмен олон улсын байгууллагаас сэтгүүлч, хэвлэл мэдээллийнхэнд зориулан коронавируст халдварын талаар мэдээ, сурвалжлага бэлдэхдээ баримтлах зарчим бүхий зөвлөмж гаргасныг ХМЗ-өөс орчуулан хүргэж байна. Англи хэл дээрх хувилбарыг эндээс үзэх боломжтой.

COVID-19 буюу шинэ коронавируст халдварын тухай мэдээлэл хамгийн эрэлттэй, өдөр тутмын анхаарал татсан мэдээлэл болоод байгаа төдийгүй цаашид хэсэг хугацаанд энэ байдал хадгалагдах төлөвтэй байна.

Шуурхай, нөлөө ихтэй энэ мэт асуудлыг сурвалжлах үед сэтгүүлчид ачаалал ихтэй ажилладаг. Тэд хурдтай хувьсан өөрчлөгдөж буй асуудлыг сурвалжлахдаа уртасгасан цагаар, ихэнх тохиолдолд биеийн болон сэтгэл зүйн эрсдэлтэй нөхцөлд ажилладаг. Тиймээс хэвлэл мэдээллийн байгууллагууд ажилтнуудынхаа эрүүл мэнд, аюулгүй байдалд анхаарал хандуулах хэрэгтэй.

May

An online discussion on "COVID19!!! Freedom of the press in times of crisis" was organized. Media representatives attended the discussion. During the discussion, O.Munkhsaikhan, PhD and Professor at the School of Law, the National University of Mongolia, presented about "Pandemics law, human rights, and freedom of the press", G. Gunjidmaa, Executive Director of the MCM, introduced "Media ethics to emergency situations", Manfred Protze, Deputy Chairman of the German Press Council, presented on "Role of journalism during the crisis" and listened to the views of the participants.

April

The MCM called on media outlets and journalists to strictly follow the code of ethics during the pandemic and published the recommendations. It also reminded the importance of truth and accuracy, reporting pluralistic information, re-verifying information, no discrimination, no insults, and respecting privacy during the pandemic.

October

"Editorial Policy and Media Self-Regulation during the pandemics" editors' consultative meeting was organized. As a result of the meeting, the newsrooms were urged to prevent disseminating unreliable information, to develop skills to verify information, and to follow the code of ethics while prioritizing the citizens' right to know the truth during the pandemic and understanding the goal to prepare information verified by multiple sources.

Covid-19!!! Хэвлэл мэдээллийн зөвлөлөөс зөвлөж байна!

Онцгой байдалд редакцын баримтлах ёс зүйн зарчим

COVID-19 онцгой нөхцөл байдлын үед цргэдэд худал мэдээлэл тарахаас сэргийлэх, сэтгүүлчид, хэвлэл мэдээллийн байгууллагыг хэвлэлийн эрх чөлөөнд халгүйзээр үйл ажиллагаагаа саадгүй явуулахыг дэмжих зорилгоор Хэвлэл мэдээллийн зөвлөлөөс дараах зөвлөмжийг хүргэж байна.

Онцгой нөхцөлд хэвлэл мэдээллийн редакцууд мэргэжлийн түвшинд, ёс зүйн зарчмаа баримтлан ажиллаж, бодит мэдээлэл түгээснээр олон нийтийг зөв үйлдэлд чиглүүлнэ. "Хэвлэл мэдээллийн ёс зүйн зарчим"-ыг өдөр тутмын сэтгүүл зүйн үйл ажиллагаандаа чанд сахин мөрдөхөөс гадна дараах ёс зүйн зарчмуудыг онцгойлон анхааралаа хандуулахыг зөвлөж байна.

- **Үнэн бодит байдлыг эрхэмлэх:** Олон түмэнд үнэнд нийцсэн мэдээлэл хүргэх, хүнлэг ёс, хүн чанарыг эрхэмлэх нь сэтгүүл зүйн эрхэм дээд үнэт зүйл мөн. Мэдээллийн үнэн зөвийг таних эхний алхам нь мэдээллийг түгээгч нь найдвартай, баталгаатай эх сурвалж мөн эсэхийг нягтлах. Мэдээллийг түгээхдээ хүнлэг байх, олон нийтийг айдас, хүйдэс, эрсдэлт таагүй нөхцөл байдал руу хөтлөхөөс болгоомжилж, зөвхөн үнэнд нийцсэн мэдээллийг түгээхэд анхаарна.

- **Олон ургальч мэдээллээр хангах:** Албан ёсны эх сурвалжийн мэдээллээс гадна эрүүл мэндийн чиглэлийн эрдэмтэн судлаачдын байр суурь, халдвар судлалын шинжлэх ухааны үндэслэлтэй судалгаа, эрдэм шинжилгээний өгүүлэл зэрэг баримт бичгүүд, халдварт өвчин нь нийгмийн бусад салбарт хэрхэн нөлөөлж буй талаарх судлаачдын ажиглалт, тандалтыг олон нийтэд түгээж, тэдний шийдвэр гаргалтад зөвөөр туслахыг хичээнэ.

April

"False information and COVID-19" online training was organized for the Board members of the MCM. O.Munkhsaikhan, PhD and Professor at the School of Law, the National University of Mongolia, participated as a trainer. They discussed a provision of "dissemination of obviously false information" added to the Criminal Code, its applications and consequences, and risks and cases that might arise during the COVID-19 situation.

May

The MCM calls on the media houses to report the parliamentary election in an ethical manner. This election was being organized in the situation of a pandemic. Therefore, the MCM urges media houses and journalists to respect human rights, promote equality, avoid making accidental errors and being attentive to report apart from false information, defamation, or insults, verify multiple sources, and strictly follow professional ethics.

October

The MCM organized training for its all members. The training discussed media legal regulations, principles and concerns for the complaint procedure, quality improvement, how editorial policy affects ensure the code of ethics, and the annual report of 2018-2020. In training, U.Tamir, Deputy Chairman of the Board of the MCM, Ts. Chimiddondog, Deputy Chairman of the Radio and Television Ethics Committee, B.Bolorsaikhan, Member of the MCM, D.Narantuya and O.Ariunbileg, members of Print and Online Media Ethics Committee, and G.Gunjidmaa, Executive Director of the MCM, made presentations

Хэвлэл мэдээллийн редакцуудыг сонгуулийн үеэр ёс зүйтэй ажиллахыг уриалж байна

УРИАЛГА

Монгол Улс 2020 оны УИХ-ын ээлжит сонгуулийг онцгой нөхцөл байдалд, олон сорилтын дунд хийх гэж байна. Үг хэлэх, үзэл бодлоо илэрхийлэх, мэдээлэл авах, чөлөөт шүүмжлэл өрнүүлэх, эвлэлдэн нэгдэх зэрэг хүний үндсэн буюу жам ёсны эрхээ хэрэгжүүлэх боломжтой нөхцөлд ард иргэд улс төрийн сонголтоо бүрэн дүүрэн, итгэл төгс хийж чадна. Иймд цар тахлын үеийн чөлөөт, шударга, ардчилсан сонгуулийн үйл явцад чөлөөт ХЭВЛЭЛ МЭДЭЭЛЭЛ, МЭРГЭЖЛИЙН СЭТГҮҮЛЧДИЙН үүрэг, хариуцлага үлэмж их юм.

Сонгуулийн үед хамгийн түгээмэл ажиглагддаг худал мэдээлэл, гүтгэлэг, доромжлолоос мэргэжлийн сэтгүүлч, редакцууд ангид байж, ийм зүйлийг нийтлэх, түгээхээс татгалзах ёстой. Үүний тулд сэтгүүлч, сурвалжлагч та бүхнийг аливаа мэдээ, мэдээллийг түгээхдээ туйлын хянуур байж, санамсаргүй алдаа гаргахаас сэргийлэн, олон талын эх сурвалжаар баталгаажуулсны дараа хэвлэл мэдээллийн хэрэгслээрээ түгээхийг онцлон анхааруулж байна.

Редакцын бэлтгэсэн мэргэжлийн контентийн агуулгаас үзэл суртал шингэсэн болон төлбөртэй мэдээллийг тодорхой тэмдэглэн зааглаж, хэрэглэгчийг төөрөгдүүлэхгүй байх нь сэтгүүл зүйн зарчим. Энэ нь нэг талаар иргэдийн мэдэх эрхийг хангах, нөгөөтэйгүүр тухайн редакцын ил тод нээлттэй байдлын хэмжүүр болно.

October

The 22nd Central Asia Media Conference was held online. G.Gunjidmaa, Executive Director of the MCM, participated in the conference organized by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and made a presentation on the "Mongolian media industry's situation during the pandemic."

October

"Media regulations and ethics during the elections" discussion was organized as a part of the "Media Policy" roundtable discussions in cooperation with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.

October

G.Gunjidmaa, Executive Director of the MCM, participated as a trainer in training on "Media Participation and Violence Against Children in Cyberspace" co-organized by World Vision, "Khuurkhun zurkh" NGO, and the Delegation of European Union to Mongolia. Participants exchanged information on the current situation of the Mongolian media, media self-regulation and child protection in the context of "Protecting children's rights through media self-regulation".
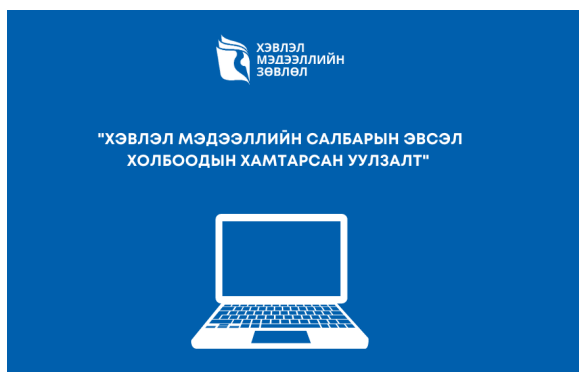

November

"Challenges in Journalism during the state of national preparedness level" online meeting was organized. Journalists and editors attended the webinar, and they exchanged views on the challenges and problems faced by journalists in carrying out their duties at a time of national preparedness level due to the pandemic.

December

The MCM conducted a survey on "Freedom of the press in the time of national preparedness level". The survey involved 300 journalists and media professionals. The purpose of the survey was to identify the challenges facing press freedom and journalism during the transition to national preparedness level due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to find solutions to them.

December

"Joint Meeting of Media Coalitions and Associations" was organized online. The meeting discussed how the fundamental rights of every citizen to freedom of speech, expression, and the press apply during the time of national preparedness level and the obstacles journalists face in reporting. Furthermore, the industry coalitions and associations agreed to cooperate on issues related to the media legal environment closely.

December

The MCM held its all members meeting online related to the announcement of MOJHA about forming a working group and revising the Law on Press Freedom. In one part of the draft law, it's written to re-establish a media council that is in charge of the code of media ethics for journalists and media outlets by the law. The MCM described this statement as very harmful and a threat to freedom of the press and independence of the press. Also, the MCM noted the importance of cooperating with other coalitions and associations, as the common understanding and the media industry's stance are important for the successful discussion of the draft law.

December

The Board of the MCM called its special meeting to consolidate the MCM's stance regarding the amendment to Article 13.14 "Dissemination of False Information" of the Criminal Code drafted by the MOJHA. The Board of the MCM objected that the draft law developed by the MOJHA and posted on its website was submitted to the Cabinet meeting in violation of the Law on Legislations without having discussions with the relevant professional organizations and the public. Therefore, it is necessary to unite with other coalitions and associations and put pressure on not to discuss the draft law by the Cabinet meeting.
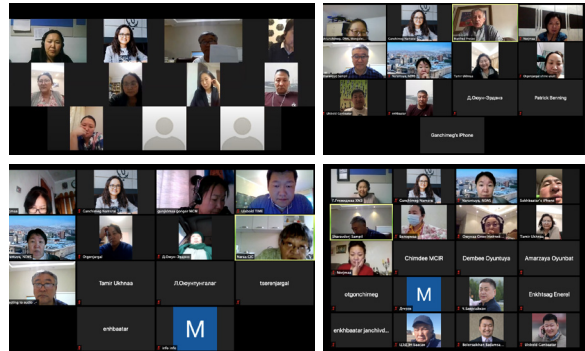
ХЭВЛЭЛИЙН ЭРХ ЧӨЛӨӨНИЙ ТУХАЙ ХУУЛИЙН ТӨСЛИЙН АЖЛЫН ХЭСЭГТ САЛБАРЫН ЭВСЭЛ, ХОЛБООДЫГ НЭГДЭН АЖИЛЛАХЫГ УРИАЛЖ БАЙНА

МСНЭ-ээс 2020 оны 12 дугаар сарын 17-нд зохион байгуулсан хэвлэл мэдээллийн эвсэл холбоод, мэргэжлийн байгууллагуудын нэгдсэн хуралдаанаар Хэвлэлийн эрх чөлөөний тухай хуулийн төслийг шинэчлэн боловсруулах дөрвөн ажлын хэсэг байгуулагдсан бөгөөд Хэвлэл мэдээллийн зөвлөл хуулийн ажлын хэсгийг ахалж ажиллахаар боллоо. Иймээс 12 дугаар сарын 18-нд 20 гаруй эвсэл, холбоо, мэргэжлийн байгууллагуудад уг хуулийн төслийн ажлын хэсэгт төлөөллөө оруулахыг хүсэж албан бичиг хүргүүллээ. Үүнд:

December

Four working groups were formed at a joint meeting of media coalitions and professional organizations to revise the Law on Press Freedom. The MCM was assigned to lead the working group in drafting the law. Therefore, the MCM sent official requests to more than 20 coalitions, associations and professional organizations asking them to send their representatives to the working group of drafting the law.

- ◦ Confederation of Mongolian Journalists
- ◦ Globe International Center NGO
- ◦ Press Institute of Mongolia
- ◦ Mongolian Televisions Association
- ◦ Mongolian Daily Newspapers Association
- ◦ Parliamentary Journalists Association
- ◦ Mongolian Websites Association
- ◦ Mongolian General Association of Websites Development
- ◦ City Journalists General Association
- ◦ "Khangarid" Ulaanbaatar's Journalists Association
- ◦ Local Media Organizations Associations
- ◦ Local Televisions Association
- ◦ Daily Newspapers Investigative Union
- ◦ Mongolian Center for Investigative Reporters NGO
- ◦ Investigative Journalists Unity NGO
- ◦ Economic Journalists and Experts Club NGO
- ◦ Young Journalists Involvement in the Governance NGO
- ◦ Mongolian Criminologists Association
- ◦ Mongolian Photographers Association
- ◦ Taliin Turleg NGO
- ◦ Mongolian Public Media Content Library
- ◦ Journalism Innovation and Development Nest Center

December

The MCM organized a "Media Legal Environment and Current Issues" online discussion in cooperation with the Local Media Association and the Local Television Association. The discussion was attended by about 40 people, including media representatives from 21 provinces and the MCM. During the online meeting, information was exchanged and provided on the revised law on Press Freedom presented by the MOJHA, the draft Article 13.14 of the Criminal Code, and whether the state can interfere in media self-regulation.
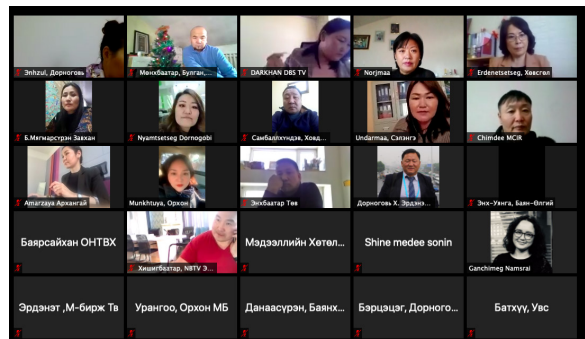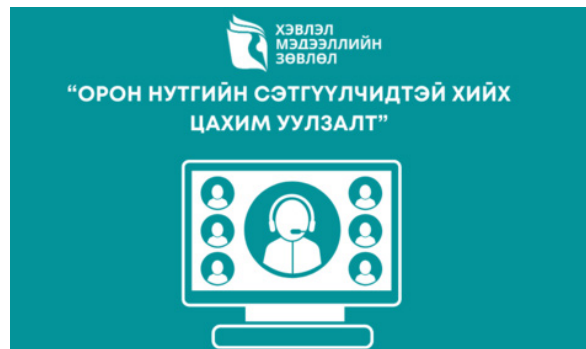

December

The MCM organized an online consultative meeting on its financial independence and sustainability. The meeting was attended by the Board members and Manfred Protze, a member of the German Press Council. At the meeting, members supported the idea of establishing an independent organization to support the MCM's activity because it is important for the MCM to fulfil its duty as a "court" of the media self-regulation. The Board viewed that it's necessary to form a working group to prepare for the future.

05 | PUBLIC EVENTS:

● The MCM sent an official letter to the Speaker and members of the Parliament asking them to take seriously the provisions of the law related to freedom of the press during the pandemic. The letter contained recommendations and criticism about some provisions which are harmful to freedom of the press in the draft law on Prevention and Combating the pandemic, law on Disaster Protection, and law on administrative offences. (April)

Хэвлэлийн эрх чөлөөтэй холбоотой заалтуудад нухацтай хандахыг УИХ-д анхаарууллаа

Улсын Их Хурлын дарга Г.Занданшатар танаа

Хэвлэл мэдээллийн зөвлөл, Глоб интернэшл төв ТББ-ууд нь хэвлэлийн эрх чөлөөг баталгаажуулах, олон нийтийн баталгаатай, үнэн бодит мэдээлэл авах эрхийг хамгаалах, сэтгүүл зүйн хэвлэл мэдээллийн байгууллагуудын ёс зүйн хариуцлагыг дээшлүүлэх зорилготой ашгийн бус олон нийтийн байгууллагууд юм.

Сэтгүүл зүйн ёс зүй, хэвлэл мэдээллийн редакцийн хариуцлагыг бид зөвлөн хэм хэмжээ буюу хэвлэл мэдээллийн өөрийн зохицуулалтаар шийдвэрлэх нь урт хугацаандаа илүү үр өгөөжтэй хэмзээ үздэг. Иймээс ХМЗ нь хэвлэл мэдээллийн ёс зүйн зарчмыг зөрчсөн хэмээн үзэж буй иргэн, аж ахуйн нэгжийн өргөдөл гомдлыг үнэ төлбөргүй хүлээн авч, өөрийн дүрэм журмынхаа хүрээнд шударгаар хэлэлцэн дүгнэлт гаргадаг. Үүний зэрэгцээ хэвлэлийн эрх чөлөө, үг хэлэх үзэл бодлоо илэрхийлэх эрхийг хамгаалах, хэвлэл мэдээллийн хараат бус байдлыг хангахтай холбоотой хууль, журам төслүүдэд манай байгууллагууд саналаа нэгтгэн, хамтран илэрхийлсээр ирсэн.

● G.Gunjidmaa, Executive Director of the MCM, and O.Ariunbileg, member of Print and Online Media Ethics Committee, announced that the MCM

would receive and immediately resolve complaints related to journalistic materials from citizens and candidates during the 2020 parliamentarian election, and the MCM would follow editorial policy during the election period to the public. (June)

● Six press releases were prepared and reported to the public on how the MCM resolved complaints according to the Complaint Procedure. (http://www.mediacouncil.mn/as/shiidver)   Also, they were disseminated through the media.

ЁС ЗҮЙН ХОРОО ШИЙДВЭРЭЭ ГАРГАЛАА

● The MCM issued a statement on December 13 objecting to the amendment to Article 13.14 "Dissemination of false information" of the Criminal Code.


ЭРҮҮГИЙН ХУУЛИЙН 13.14-ИЙН НЭМЭЛТ ӨӨРЧЛӨЛТИЙГ ХМЗ ЭРС ЭСЭРГҮҮЦЭЖ БАЙНА

Хэвлэл мэдээллийн зөвлөл /ХМЗ/-ийн Удирдах зөвлөлийн ээлжит бус хурлыг 2020 оны арванхоёрдугаар сарын 12-нд зохион байгууллаа. Энэ удаагийн хурлаар Эрүүгийн хуулийн 13.14 дэх "Худал мэдээлэл тараах, түгээх" заалтад ХЗДХЯ нэмэлт өөрчлөлт оруулахаар хуулийн төслийн санал боловсруулсантай холбогдуулан ХМЗ-ийн байр суурийг нэгтгэх, энэ талаар хэлэлцэж цаашид ямар арга хэмжээ авч ажиллах талаар Удирдах зөвлөлийн гишүүд хэлэлцлээ. Уг хурлаар дараах байр суурийг нэгтгэсэн болно.

ХЗДХЯ-наас боловсруулан вэб сайтдаа байршуулсан уг хуулийн төсөл нь холбогдох мэргэжлийн байгууллагууд болон олон нийтээс санал авалгүйгээр хууль тогтоомжийн тухай хуулийг зөрчиж арванхоёрдугаар сарын 16-ны Засгийн газрын хуралдаанд оруулахаар болсоныг ХМЗ эрс эсэргүүцэж байна. Иймээс бусад эвсэл, холбоодтой нэгдэж хуулийн төслийг Засгийн газрын хуралдаанд оруулахгүй байх талаас шахалт үзүүлэх шаардлагатай гэж үзлээ.

ХЗДХЯ уг хуулийн төслийг боловсруулснаараа Хүний эрхийн түгээмэл тунхаглал, Иргэний болон улс төрийн эрхийн тухай олон улсын пакт, Үндсэн хууль, Хэвлэл мэдээллийн эрх чөлөөний тухай хууль зэрэг олон хууль тогтоомжийг зөрчиж байна. Иргэний нэр төр, алдар хүндийг хамгаалах, нийгмийн эмх замбараагүй байдал үүсэх эрсдлээс хамгаалсан зохицуулалтууд нь бусад олон хууль тогтоомжид баталгаажсан байдгийг давхарлуулсаныг Удирдах зөвлөлийн гишүүд эрс буруушаасан юм.

● The MCM publishes and distributes quarterly e-journals as part of its policy of transparency to the public. Last year, a total of four e-journals were issued and delivered to more than 700 local and about 100 foreign people.
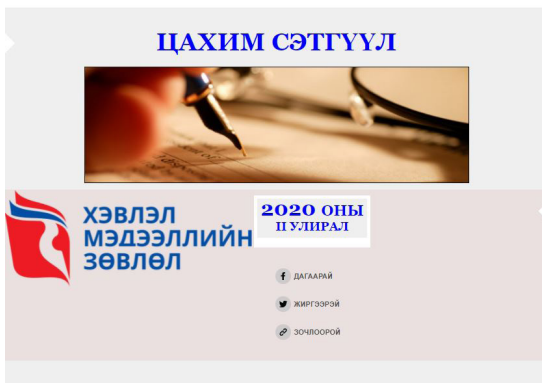
● The MCM published its annual report of 2019 about its activities and funding. The annual report 2019, along with the annual report 2018, were distributed to more than 100 media outlets and supporting organizations. The MCM initiated to develop of the "Editorial Policy in online platforms" and the "Policy document on ethical reporting" and delivered them to the media industry associations and newsrooms. These documents can be found at www.mediacouncil.mn and are available to the public.

● The MCM published printed material about its complaints statistics and code of media ethics. These printed materials are distributed to the public and media outlets.

● The Media Ethics Day was traditionally celebrated in the last week of September. In line with this day, the MCM conducted an advocacy campaign through its social media pages asking to follow to code of media ethics. The following activities were carried out within the scope of this event. These include:

- Video contents were produced and disseminated under the topics of why ethics issues are important.

- Posters were prepared and disseminated, expressing the editors' views on how journalists can work during the pandemic.

- G.Gunjidmaa, Executive Director of the MCM, gave an interview to "Udriin sonin" newspaper on "Countries are against to regulate false information by the Criminal Code."

● The "Media Self-Regulation" handbook was made consisting of 15 cards and distributed to the public in hard (1000 copies) and electronic copies. The content of the handbook includes topics such as Free and Independent Media, The Right to Know and Media Self-Regulation, Journalists' ethics, Human Rights and the Media, Restoring violated rights, and Resolving citizens' complaints. This handbook was developed with the support of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Country Office in Mongolia.
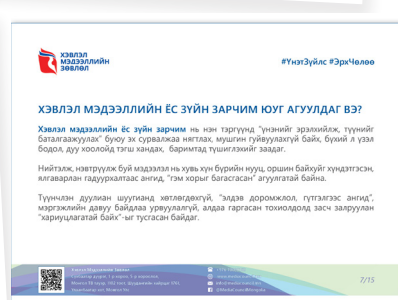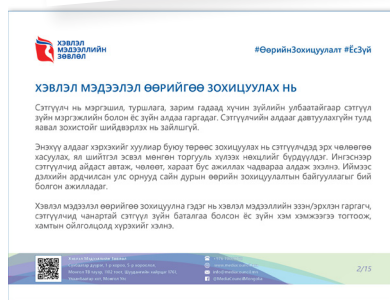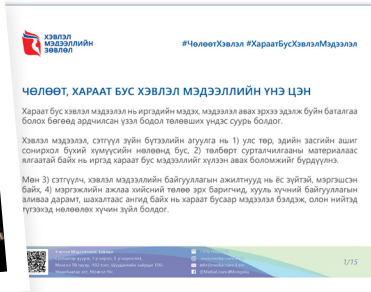
• Quotes from editors and industry experts on the media legal environment, election campaigning, and press freedom issues during the pandemic were prepared as posts and disseminated online.

• The MCM gave interviews to the media as a guest and participated in news articles on the issues of press freedom during the pandemic, the reform of the Law on Freedom of the Media, the proposed amendments to Article 13.14 of the Criminal Code, and media self-regulation. In this context, MCM Executive Director G.Gunjidmaa expressed her position through TV9, Live TV, C1, NTV, Mongol TV, Tovch.mn, Mass.mn, Unuudur newspaper, Gogo.mn and other media outlets.

06 | PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

The MCM prepared the following manuals, brochures, handouts and promotional products in 2020 and distributed them to the journalism industry and other target groups.

1 The MCM's Annual Report 2019-2020

500

2 "Editorial Policy in online platforms" handbook

500 ш

Complaints statistics and brochure about code of media ethics

250 ш

3 "Policy document: Ethical reporting on elections" handbook

500 ш

4 "Media self-regulation" handbook

1000 ш

5 "Media regulations and ethics during the elections" monitoring report

300 ш

6

07 | LOCAL COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

» **The MCM cooperated with associations and unions of the media industry**

» "Joint Online Meeting of Media Associations and Unions" was organized. Associations and Unions agreed to discuss challenges faced in the media industry and to cooperate closely. They agreed to divide into three groups and choose three issues from freedom of the press, open information, and sustainability of the media industry.

» Associations and Unions of the media industry had a joint meeting and sent a letter to the Minister of Justice and Home Affairs objecting to the amendment to Article 13.14 "Dissemination of False Information" of the Criminal Code.

» Confederation of Mongolian Journalists organized a conference with media associations, unions, and professional organizations on December 17, 2020. By the conference, a temporary national committee was formed to work on revising the law on press freedom and four sub-working groups were formed, too. It's decided that the MCM will lead the working group on drafting the law. The MCM sent official requests on December 18 to more than 20 coalitions, associations and professional organizations asking to send their representatives to the working group of drafting the law.

The MCM delivered information according to the above-mentioned meetings and cooperation to the following organizations:

- Confederation of Mongolian Journalists
- Globe International Center NGO
- Press Institute of Mongolia
- Mongolian Televisions Association
- Mongolian Daily Newspapers Association
- Parliamentary Journalists Association
- Mongolian Websites Association
- Mongolian General Association of Websites Development
- City Journalists General Association
- "Khangarid" Ulaanbaatar's Journalists Association
- Local Media Organizations Associations
- Local Televisions Association
- Daily Newspapers Investigative Union
- Mongolian Center for Investigative Reporters NGO
- Investigative Journalists Unity NGO
- Economic Journalists and Experts Club NGO
- Young Journalists Involvement in the Governance NGO
- Mongolian Criminologists Association
- Mongolian Photographers Association
- Taliin Turleg NGO
- Mongolian Public Media Content Library
- Journalism Innovation and Development Nest Center

☑ **Editorial Consultative meetings were organized.**

» "Editorial Policy and Media Self-Regulation during the pandemics" editors' consultative meeting was organized. As a result of the meeting, the newsrooms were urged to prevent disseminating unreliable information, to develop skills to verify information, and to follow the code of ethics while prioritizing the citizens' right to know the truth during the pandemic and understanding the goal to prepare information verified by multiple sources. Also, it's concluded that it's necessary to form an editors club or editors' council to attentively care about the media industry's legal issues.

» "Challenges in Journalism during the state of national preparedness level" online meeting was organized. Editors exchanged views on the challenges and problems faced by journalists in carrying out their duties at a time of national preparedness level due to the pandemic and how to overcome these problems.

☑ The MCM initiated to develop of the handbooks of "Editorial Policy in online platforms" and the "Policy document: Ethical reporting on elections" for editors, journalists, and newsrooms and delivered them to the media industry associations and newsrooms.

☑ The MCM has worked with international organizations such as the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, the DW Akademie, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the British Embassy to Mongolia to improve the media legal environment, to ensure freedom of the press, and improve journalistic ethics.

☑ **Media outlets and business organizations provided financial support to media self-regulation.**

- Benecraft LLC
- Mongol Content LLC
- Mongol TV LLC
- Otgontenger University
- CRC
- Mongolian Information and Communication Association
- Local Media Organizations Association
- A star Mongolia LLC
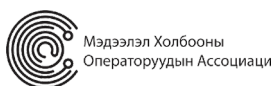
☑ A meeting of the Media Council Club members - the founders of the MCM, was organized. Members shared their views on the history of founding the club first and the current state of the MCM, its results and achievements, and expressed that they will continue to support and give advice for further strengthening the MCM's activities, promoting the MCM to the public, and increase its effectiveness.

08 | FINANCIALS

In 2020, the MCM worked with a total cash income of MNT 112,015,556.64 and a total cash outflow of MNT 99,466,991.57.

REVENUE GENERATION: internal source 25.6%, project source 74.4%.

Income sources consisted of donations, media outlets' support, and project revenues. The MCM's operating costs by types:

◦ Salary, insurance, and tax costs   40%
◦ Operational and fixed maintenance costs   31%
◦ Project operating costs   29%

INCOME
112
MILLION MNT

OUTFLOW
99,4
MILLION MNT

MCM'S OPERATING COSTS BY TYPES:

Salary, insurance, and tax costs

40%

29%

Project operating costs

31%

Operational and fixed maintenance costs

REVENUE GENERATION:

74,4%

25,6%

Internal source

Project source
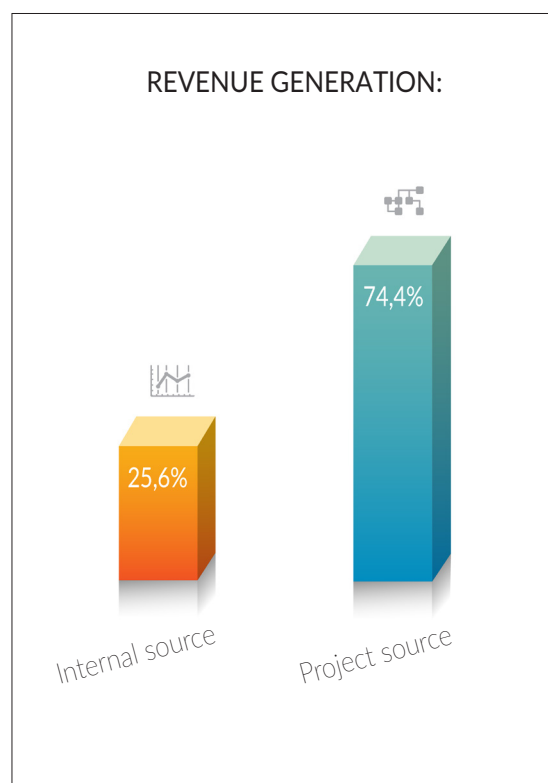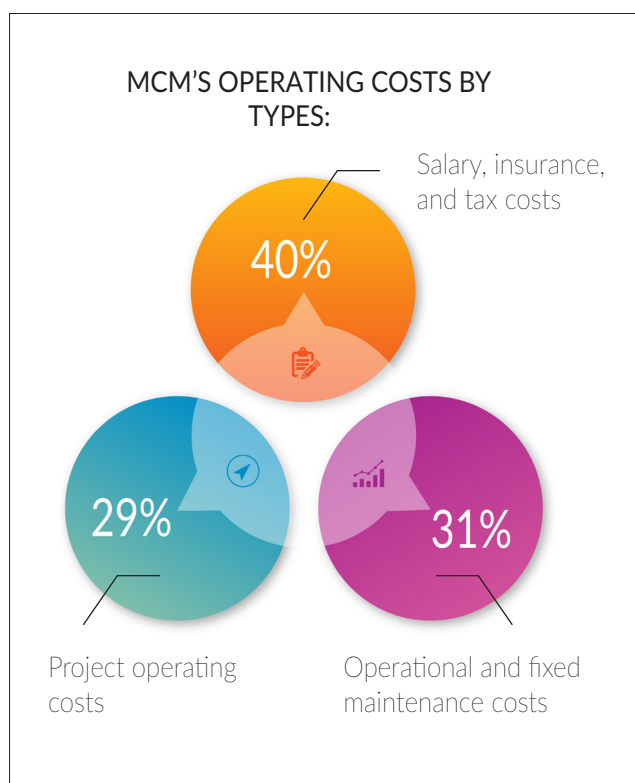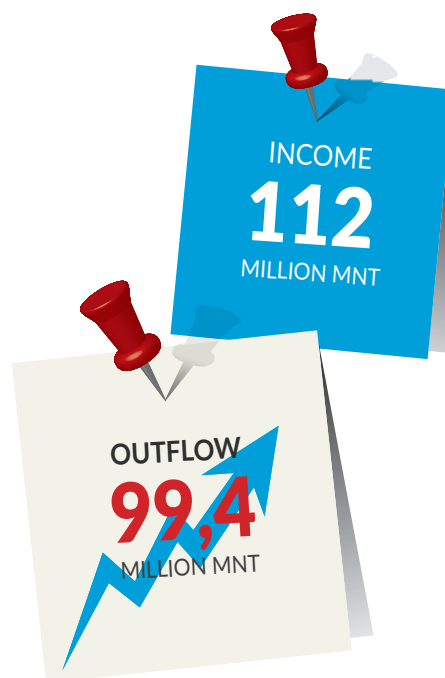
09 | THE MCM'S MAIN ACTIVITIES IN 2021-2023

1
To enhancing the capacity of all MCM members through keeping the knowledge, experience and traditions accumulated so far, and to support the development of ethical journalism by improving the quality of the process for the Complaint Procedure;

2
To create an independent supporting body that supports and benefit independence and sustainability of media self-regulatory organization;

3
To help improving the media legal environment, protecting freedom of the press, and increase the possibility for journalists to perform their professional duties in a fearless, safe, and favourable legal environment;

4
To implement extensive journalistic and public relations work for protecting the freedom of the press and supporting the independency of newsrooms or media outlets in social emergency situations like pandemics or elections, thus, thereby ensuring citizens' right to know and supporting the improvement of the reliability and reputation of the media;

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS SELF-REGULATION IN 2020