



## FAST FACTS

ANNUAL BUDGET  
**\$20 million (FY21)**

NUMBER OF  
PROJECTS SUPPORTED  
**400+**

USERS OF OTF-SUPPORTED  
TECHNOLOGY WORLDWIDE  
**2 billion+ daily**

## MISSION

Open Technology Fund works to advance internet freedom in repressive environments by supporting the research, development, implementation, and sustainability of technologies that provide secure and uncensored access to the internet to counter attempts by authoritarian governments to repress the internet and to enable citizens worldwide to exercise their fundamental human rights online.

## Open Technology Fund

**The Open Technology Fund (OTF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing internet freedom in the world's most repressive environments. OTF supports the applied research, development, implementation, and maintenance of technologies that provide secure and uncensored internet access to enable citizens worldwide to exercise their fundamental human rights online.**



## PROGRAMS

OTF funds internet freedom technologies at every stage of the development cycle from proof-of-concept, to on-the-ground deployments, to multi-year efforts. This ensures that USAGM journalists and audiences have the tools they need to safely access an uncensored internet while investing in innovative solutions to stay ahead of evolving censorship threats. OTF solicits applications through a fully open and competitive process designed to attract innovative applications from expert technologists, frontline journalists, human rights defenders, researchers, and digital security specialists. In order to provide comprehensive support to internet freedom projects, OTF provides resources through a variety of implementation mechanisms.

**Direct Funds:** OTF provides direct funding to support the research, development, implementation, and sustainability of technologies that enable censorship circumvention, protect the freedom of the press, ensure secure communications, and enhance user security and privacy online.

**Labs:** OTF's Labs provide translation services, security audits, usability assessments, and secure cloud storage. These expert services ensure that the

## EXAMPLES OF TOOLS SUPPORTED BY OTF:

- Signal
- Lantern
- Psiphon
- WireGuard
- GlobaLeaks
- Snowflake
- Deflect
- Geneva
- Mailvelope
- OONI
- Tor
- Tails
- F-Droid
- Certbot
- NoScript
- K-9 Mail
- NewNode
- Briar

INTERNET FREEDOM  
TOOLS TRANSLATED INTO

**200+**  
LANGUAGES

including Mandarin, Russian,  
Farsi, Spanish, Arabic, Tibetan,  
French, and Vietnamese

PROVIDED RAPID  
RESPONSE ASSISTANCE  
TO JOURNALISTS  
IN MORE THAN

**40**  
COUNTRIES

technologies incubated and supported by OTF are as effective, secure, and usable for USAGM audiences as possible.

**Fellowships:** OTF supports individuals to carry out cutting-edge applied research projects examining how authoritarian states are restricting the free flow of information and ways for citizens to overcome those tactics.

**USAGM network support:** OTF provides USAGM networks with assistance to protect their content online and ensure it is resistant to censorship. For example, when USAGM news sites were abruptly blocked in Pakistan, OTF created mirror sites to ensure USAGM content remained available for key audiences. OTF also created the first internet freedom guide for international broadcasters — [BypassCensorship.org](http://BypassCensorship.org).

**Rapid Response:** OTF provides emergency support to independent media outlets and journalists facing digital attacks to get back online and mitigate future attacks.

## IMPACT

**Billions of users worldwide:** Today, over 2 billion people use OTF-supported technology daily. More than two-thirds of all mobile users globally have technology incubated by OTF on their device.

**Best-in-class tools:** OTF supports anti-censorship, privacy, and security tools that are regularly used and recommended by leading media and human rights organizations, including the Committee to Protect Journalists, UNESCO, Reporters Without Borders, Human Rights Watch, and Freedom House, among many others.

**More timely, accurate censorship detection:** Through OTF funding, timely detection of censorship events in repressive contexts worldwide is observed and documented via hundreds of thousands of measurements taken monthly in more than 210 countries.

**Rapid response:** OTF has provided rapid response assistance to individuals and organizations facing digital emergencies in more than 40 countries, including Burma, Venezuela, Iran, Azerbaijan, Vietnam, Pakistan, and Uganda, among others.

**Exposing repressive Chinese surveillance and censorship:** A Xinjiang investigative series, funded by OTF and aligned with OTF’s mission of circumventing censorship and obstructing repressive surveillance, won the Pulitzer Prize in International Reporting. The investigation exposed China’s detention of Uyghur Muslims through systematic research into map and satellite imagery cross-referenced with censored or “blacked out” content by China.

**Combating Internet Shutdowns:** OTF has supported the development of technologies that preserve content sharing and secure communications even when internet connectivity is shut off.