

2024 Q1 Report

 Pulitzer Center



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INTRODUCTION

This quarter, the Pulitzer Center supported dozens of reporting projects by journalists in 53 countries, with stories spanning our five focus areas, from peace and conflict, to global health, to artificial intelligence. We amplified stories through engagement initiatives that brought journalism to educators, students, and the public across the United States, Latin America, Africa, Southeast Asia, and around the world.

More than 130 stories were published across local, national, and global media partners, with Center-supported journalism also featured at film festivals and photography exhibitions. Notable projects revealed how online gig work is fueling Russian surveillance; exposed the Chinese underworld's ties to the illegal marijuana market in the U.S.; and traced the illegal timber trade across Congo and East Africa. You will find many more stories in this report and on our website.

The Pulitzer Center's engagement programs reached thousands of event participants and an audience of 2 million online—through our annual partnership with the D.C. Environmental Film Festival, the third annual 1619 Education Conference, and grants for university educators and researchers implemented in Indonesia and Brazil. We hosted online training for journalists in health reporting, a cross-disciplinary workshop on climate and labor issues in Bangkok, and presented reporting methodologies at numerous conferences.

As part of our mission to build collaborative networks and communities of learning, we launched exciting new programs: StoryReach U.S., a reporting network offering fellowships to journalists partnered with local and regional U.S. outlets, and the AI Spotlight Series, which will train 1,000 journalists and editors to report on artificial intelligence over the next two years. The first cohort of StoryReach Fellows will report on racial justice, health, and climate issues in various states around the U.S.; the AI Spotlight Series has already generated the interest of hundreds of journalists, editors, and students.

We're excited about what 2024 has in store for our mission and our partners, and we are grateful for your support of our work. We hope you'll join us in celebrating these highlights of an exciting start to the year—read on for more in our Q1 2024 report!



Sarah Swan
Director of Communications
and Audience Engagement





Photo: Apochi Owuicho - Sierra Leone

So far in 2024, we have supported

53

projects

74

journalists

in **53**

countries

Resulting in more than 130 stories



Photo: Taylor Roades - United States

The Pulitzer Center empowers a global community of journalists and media outlets to deepen engagement with critical underreported issues, bridging divides and spurring change. Highlights of our impact:

The Center's AI Accountability Network **launched** a global initiative to train 1,000 journalists on how to report on artificial intelligence (AI) and hold companies and governments accountable, while avoiding both hype and alarmism. The AI Spotlight Series is led by pioneer AI reporter and Pulitzer Center grantee Karen Hao.

We **kicked off** our new StoryReach U.S. lab, an initiative that supports cohorts of journalists partnered with U.S. local or regional outlets. Reporters work on in-depth projects with creative audience engagement components and receive financial, editorial, and outreach support from the Pulitzer Center.

Pawanjot Kaur and the Financial Times examined the "just transition" of India's coal industry with a **short documentary** that premiered at a Pulitzer Center workshop in Thailand. Kaur, a young filmmaker, spent months interviewing the people who live in Jharkhand, a major coal mining region.

A **series** on Military.com, which reaches millions of people, investigated the development of various types of cancer among U.S. service members who handled intercontinental ballistic missiles. The stories reveal that agencies have known about this risk for many years.

Using satellite imagery and extensive field reporting, Rainforest Investigations Network Fellows Musinguzi Blanshe (*The Africa Report*) and Fanny Pigeaud (*Afrique XXI*) published groundbreaking investigations about the legal voids, corruption, and criminality that fuel the destruction of tropical rainforests in **Cameroon** and the **Democratic Republic of Congo**.

In their **cover story** for *Harper's*, journalist Marzio Mian and photographer Alessandro Cosmelli journeyed the length of the Volga River to give readers a rare, candid look at how ordinary Russians view Vladimir Putin, the war in Ukraine, the outside world, and themselves.



"My reporting techniques were refined during my year-long fellowship. I used satellite images, made location maps, and analyzed open source intelligence tools which had a huge impact on my reporting. What I learned is invaluable in my journalism career and I also made valuable contacts with whom I continue to engage."

Musinguzi Blanshe
RIN Fellow



STUDENT REPORTING FELLOWS

Photo: Mayara Teixeira - United States

Pulitzer Center Reporting Fellowships empower college and university students and recent graduates to tell stories that impact the world around them. The Fellowships also help launch careers by creating networks and developing journalism skills that will serve Fellows well, no matter the field they pursue.

This quarter featured multimedia projects on [postpartum](#) care for mothers in Arkansas, the state with the highest maternal mortality rate; seeking justice for religious minorities in Pakistan affected by [flooding](#); and preserving the [craftwork of Kutch tribal women](#) in India. We saw [our stories](#) published in *El Faro*, *Washington Blade*, *MindSite News*, *Business in Vancouver*, *Global Health Now*, *openDemocracy*, and *New Lines* magazine.

Reporting Fellows broadened the reach of their stories, connected with each other, and strengthened journalism ties as they took part in a virtual reunion for Reporting Fellow alumni. Two of our alumni received [Overseas Press Club Foundation Scholar Awards](#). 2019 Reporting Fellow from the University of Chicago, Nikhil Mandalaparth, was named a [Luce Scholar](#) for 2024-2025 and will work in Asia on civil society issues.

Columbia Journalism School Fellows, who produced [After Landing](#), about a Venezuelan couple migrating to New York, took part in a virtual panel after a Pulitzer Center screening. The film premiered at the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in February. *Far From Home*, a documentary about an Afghan refugee, by Northwestern University Medill Post-Grad Fellow [Ankita Mukhopadhyay](#), premiered at the AmDocs Film Festival in Palm Springs and won four awards at the 2023 College Filmmakers Film Festival.

“This fellowship gave me the opportunity to do a story I never thought I’d be able to do. I’m grateful for the funding to make it possible, but even more so, for the care and support you all provided and the amazing friends and colleagues I was able to make through this fellowship.”

Florence Fong Hope Middleton

2023 University of California Berkeley
Reporting Fellow



Photo: Name Surname - Country, 2022



AUDIENCE-CENTERED ENGAGEMENT

Our engagement programming in the United States, Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia reaches audiences with reporting through public forums, secondary and higher education schools, exhibits, and performances. This work seeks to amplify Pulitzer Center-supported stories, build public awareness and understanding of complex issues, inspire journalism-informed action, create networks, and bridge divides.

762k
website visits

2 million
reached on social media



Photo: Grace Jensen - United States

Public outreach highlights:

16 | **2,400+**
events | participants in 11 countries

Over 300 people filled an auditorium at the [2024 D.C. Environmental Film Festival](#) to view a collection of Pulitzer Center-supported short films. The collection, titled “Deep Dives: Squid Fleets, Fisherfolk, and the Future of Our Oceans,” illustrated how healthy oceans can address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. Six films and a panel of four journalists shed light on threats and community efforts to protect our oceans.

Researchers, practitioners, and journalists convened to discuss global warming and health impacts at the [American Association for the Advancement of Science \(AAAS\)](#) plenary session, joined by over 1,000 participants. Journalists Meredith Wadman and Vaishnavi Chandrashekar shared their reporting, part of a Pulitzer Center-supported [Science Magazine series](#).

A [journalism and community mapping](#) workshop was held at Universidad Unicervantes, in Colombia, as part of the [Festival Espiral de Historias](#), led by [Agenda Propia](#). Environmental engineer Daniela Jojoa and Pulitzer Center grantee Edilma Prada Céspedes taught 25 participants about narrative mapping, environmental stories, and Indigenous voices while presenting Pulitzer Center rainforest stories.

A [meet-up](#) with young professionals brought together 54 participants in DRC, including students, members of civil society, and fisherfolk, to discuss marine biodiversity and the wellbeing of coastal communities. The meeting was held in Parc Marin des Mangroves, marking the first time for many of the students to visit a national marine park in their own city. In a survey, 94% of participants stated that they improved their knowledge on ocean protection.

A catalog featuring [visual arts and poetry](#) by Balinese artists from the [“Story of the Forest” exhibition](#) held in late 2023 has been finalized and distributed to our network and partners for use in community and youth discussions early this year.

The Pulitzer Center’s Climate and Labor Dialogue 2024 combined a [series of webinars](#) with an in-person workshop in Thailand that gathered journalists, social and environmental leaders, academics, and members of civil society to address workers’ rights amidst the climate crisis. Fifty participants took part in the working sessions and the webinars reached 845,466 people around the world.



Photo: Kinsella Cunningham - Democratic Republic of the Congo

“All these films are related: this is an economic problem, and it’s related to what we eat. I think we all should be involved in getting to know more about this and how things get done. It’s not something that just happens at sea, it’s always coming to our plates when we eat.”

Paola Martínez Gutiérrez
Pulitzer Center grantee

Education highlights:

164
events

12

lesson and unit plans



Photo: Grace Jensen - United States

Reaching more than 16,000 students, teachers, and community members

In February 2024, nearly 700 participants gathered virtually for the third annual *1619 Project* Education Conference ([full recap here](#)). Sessions led by 18 educators from the *1619* Education Network and nearly a dozen project contributors shared methods for integrating *1619* resources and themes into primary, secondary, and post-secondary curricula.

3,970 students from over 60 schools connected to our focus areas through [virtual journalist-led workshops](#) and a district partnership resulting in [our eighth exhibition of student photography in Washington, D.C.](#), visualizing students' everyday lives and what they see as underreported in coverage of D.C.

Completed in early 2024, five [Impact Seed Funding projects](#) in Brazil reached 7,000 students and 100 community teachers. All the activities provided reflections about the rainforest and climate & labor issues through Pulitzer Center-supported stories. The projects produced school materials, booklets, and podcasts ([here](#) and [here](#)).

During the Kinshasa [Science and Technology Week](#) in DRC, more than 2,000 students visited the Pulitzer Center booth and learned about Center-supported [AI stories](#). Through a partnership with a national education TV channel (managed by the Ministry of Education in the DRC), we also organized a [student debate](#) on AI issues and tech responsibility.

In February 2024, our Impact Seed Fund (ISF) grantees from Universitas Airlangga, Indonesia presented [policy recommendations](#) on worker protection against heat stress to local labor authorities. Since then, the grantees have continued to raise awareness of climate change and occupational health among local authorities.

Nairobi-based investigative reporter Naipano Lepapa connected with more than 240 university students across the U.S. She explained how she and her colleagues [exposed the shadowy industry of low-cost surrogacy](#). Lepapa visited [Davidson College](#), Glendale Community College, Huston-Tillotson University, and the University of Texas at Austin, as well as K-12 schools in California and Texas.

Journalist Stephanie Hanes brought the *Christian Science Monitor's* [Climate Generation](#) series to the climate generation itself. Hanes, the *Monitor's* environment reporter, framed a hopeful perspective on social change during climate crises at [Texas Christian University](#), Hunter College, and [William & Mary](#), where she also co-leads a seminar with the Pulitzer Center.

“Our students benefit so much from the way you all have taken this project and turned it into curriculum across fields... It helps our world make sense to them. The work that you do matters. It has always mattered, but it’s even more critical today.”

Nikole Hannah-Jones
1619 Project creator

Photo: Misha Vallejo Prut - Ecuador





THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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This broad mix of foundation funding, along with continued core support from members of the Pulitzer family, board members, and many other generous individuals, ensures the independent journalism and education that is essential to our mission in these times. We are grateful to all who continue to sustain our work. **We hope that others will join.**