



quick facts

The Broadcasting Board of Governors is an independent federal agency supervising all U.S. government-supported, civilian international broadcasting.

Staff: **3,592 people at the BBG and all its entities**

Audience: **203 million people weekly**

Budget: **\$713 million FY 2013**

Media: **Internet and new media; satellite; terrestrial and cable television; shortwave, AM and FM radio**

Languages: **61**

Broadcast Hours: **More than 4,100 hours of original programming each week**

mission

To inform, engage, and connect people around the world in support of freedom and democracy.

overview

Strategic Goal

The Broadcasting Board of Governors' goal is to deliver accurate news and information to significant and strategic audiences overseas.

By providing high quality journalistic programming, BBG broadcasters serve as a trustworthy source of news and as an example of a free, professional press in countries that lack independent media.

BBG broadcasters engage with audiences and promote dialogue through interactive programs and social networking.

Through objective reporting and informed coverage of the issues and events at home and abroad, BBG broadcasters offer viewpoints not aired in restricted media environments. Such reporting provides an alternative to extremism and authoritarianism, fosters respect for human rights, supports popular aspirations for freedom in repressive societies, and communicates what America stands for – our policies, values and culture.

Structure

The BBG is headed by a bipartisan board comprised of nine members; eight are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The ninth, the Secretary of State, serves ex officio. The Board serves as a "firewall" against political interference in the journalistic product.

The BBG oversees the **International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB)**, which provides multimedia broadcast distribution as well as technical and administrative support to the broadcasters.

The Director of the International Broadcasting Bureau operates as an extension of the Broadcasting Board of Governors in its oversight of U.S. international broadcasting. The Director provides day-to-day management of Agency operations including oversight of the technical, professional and administrative support as well as strategic guidance and management of other programs.

The IBB manages a global network of transmitting sites and an extensive system of leased satellite and fiber optic circuits, along with a rapidly growing Internet delivery system servicing the 61 language services of the BBG networks.

Under the BBG umbrella are five international broadcasters:

- Voice of America (VOA)
- Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL)
- Radio Free Asia (RFA)
- Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB; Radio and TV Martí)
- Middle East Broadcasting Networks, Inc. (MBN; Radio Sawa and Alhurra Television)

The Voice of America provides international, regional and local news, as well as in-depth coverage of the U.S. and its policies.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia, and Radio and TV Martí provide their audiences the objective, comprehensive news with an emphasis on domestic events that they are denied by their own media.

Alhurra TV and Radio Sawa, broadcasting to the Middle East, provide a full range of international, regional, and local news as well as coverage of the United States.

board members



Jeffrey Shell



Michael P. Meehan



Ryan Crocker



Matthew Armstrong



Susan McCue



Kenneth Weinstein



John Forbes Kerry
ex-officio

Two seats on the board are vacant.

media



Broadcasting Board of Governors

Radio

Where shortwave and AM radio are popular, BBG broadcasters use them to reach noteworthy audiences, including many in Africa, and highly censored locales such as Cuba and North Korea. They also capitalize on the popularity of FM radio in many urban areas, often through relationships with local affiliates.

Television

BBG broadcasters have expanded their television offerings. Alhurra provides 24/7 TV programming to Arabic-speaking populations and VOA produces TV programs in 26 of its 45 broadcast languages.

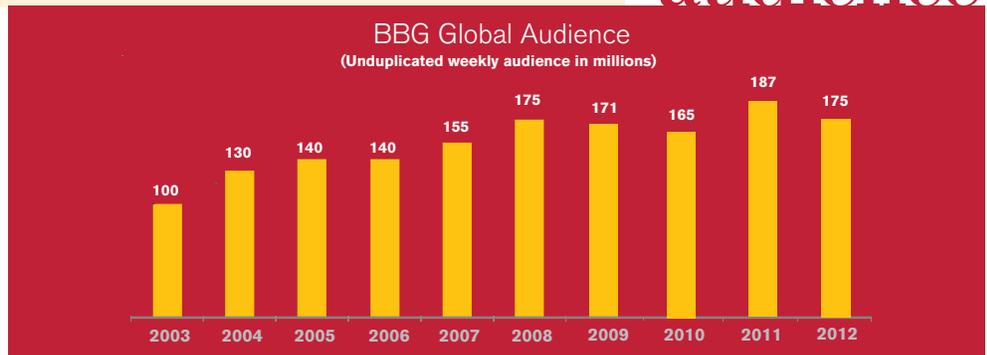
VOA's seven state-of-the-art TV studios produce a range of programs from traditional news, call-in and interview format to the youth-oriented *Zindagi 360* which is broadcast to Pakistan.

Internet and New Media

A growing web and new media presence allows BBG broadcasters to reach new audiences and to interact with them in new ways. Initiatives include:

- Delivering news to where the audience is through digital syndication strategies, including YouTube, iTunes, SoundCloud
- Inviting direct audience participation through cross-platform programming and social media
- Distributing content and engaging with audiences via mobile and interactive SMS services
- Using Internet anti-censorship tools to distribute programs in countries that seek to suppress independent media

audience



reach

Largest Audiences (Weekly Unduplicated)

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| Indonesia | 21,102,489 |
| Nigeria | 19,645,836 |
| Iran | 14,059,365 |
| Afghanistan | 13,517,280 |
| Iraq | 12,440,055 |
| Burma | 8,201,973 |
| Ukraine | 7,223,742 |
| Ethiopia | 7,014,741 |
| Tanzania | 4,835,256 |
| Syria* | 4,279,076 |

Highest Percentage Reach (Weekly Unduplicated)

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Somalia** | 74.7 |
| Afghanistan | 74.5 |
| Iraq | 66.9 |
| Kosovo | 59.7 |
| Albania | 48.9 |
| UAE*** | 48.4 |
| Kuwait | 45.3 |
| Armenia | 41.7 |
| Niger | 38.8 |
| Oman | 33.8 |

as of November 2012

* Syria results reflect telephone households only. ** Somalia results represent Mogadishu only for 2009-2011, Somaliland and Puntland for 2012 *** UAE results reflect are from four Emirates

Global

English
Special English

Africa

Afaan Oromoo
Amharic
Bambara
French to Africa
Hausa
Kinyarwanda
Kirundi
Ndebele
Portuguese to Africa
Shona
Somali

Songhai

Swahili
Tigrigna

Central Asia

Kazakh
Kyrgyz
Tajik
Turkmen
Uzbek

East Asia

Burmese
Cantonese
Indonesian
Khmer
Korean
Lao
Mandarin
Thai
Tibetan
Uyghur
Vietnamese

Eastern/ Central Europe

Albanian
Bosnian
Croatian
Greek
Macedonian
Montenegrin
Romanian
Serbian

Eurasia

Armenian
Avar
Azerbaijani
Bashkir
Belarusian
Chechen
Circassian
Crimean Tatar
Georgian
Russian
Tatar
Ukrainian

Latin America

Creole
Spanish

Middle East/ North Africa

Arabic
Kurdish
Turkish

South Asia

Bangla
Dari
Pashto
Persian
Urdu

languages