

Information Integrity: COVID-19



A UNDP governance response to information pollution and COVID-19

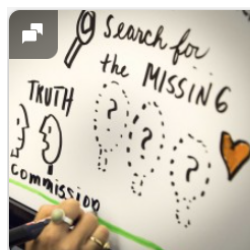
September/October Newsletter

Better Information Ecosystem Online Consultation

5-30 October 2020, UNDP in cooperation with UNESCO, hosted a four week online global consultation; [“Forging a Path to Better Information Ecosystem - Effective Governance Media, Internet and Peacebuilding Responses to Disinformation”](#).

The aim of this consultation was to gather evidence, experiences and perspectives internally and externally. The outcome will provide sharpened understanding and interventions by each UN organization, leading to stronger policy support, programming and partnerships.

The consultation closed on October 30th, and the outcomes are now being consolidated. A total of **159 participants** from **50+ countries** shared **205 thoughtful and informative contributions** in the **three discussion rooms** during the four weeks of the consultation.



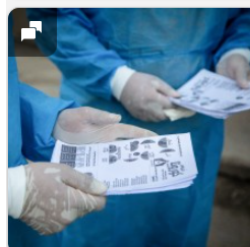
DISCUSSION 5 Oct - 30 Oct 2020

A problem analysis: what is the impact of disinformation on political and social

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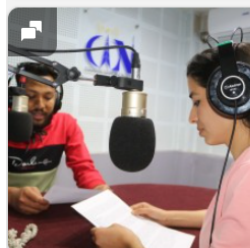
DISCUSSION 5 Oct - 30 Oct 2020

Drivers, enablers and risk mitigation: how does context influence the spread

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The path forward: forging effective solutions and partnerships

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Other representation

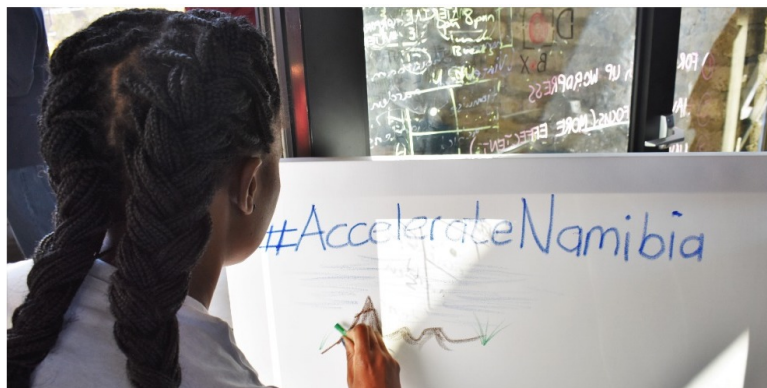
Presented at the *Monthly Arab States Innovation Call: Healthy Internet*, as well as meetings with:

- Microsoft Defending Democracy team
- Stanford AI's CAIAC platform
- First Draft News
- Oxford Internet Institute
- TED
- NDI

Case Study: Namibia

The recent blog post about UNDP Namibia's Accelerator Lab steps towards tackling information pollution is available on the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre webpage.

"On March 17th, 2020, President Geingob declared a state of emergency in Namibia due to COVID-19, and like several other countries, Namibia closed its borders. Given the disruption of everyday life, the government tried to ensure that the right information about the pandemic was shared in an organized and consistent manner. Even as the government finalized its COVID-19 communication strategy, misinformation and disinformation on various topics began to flourish, largely on social media."



...Read the full [blog post here!](#)

Information Mapping Programme

In August, a call was launched, through the Oslo Governance Centre (OGC) for small grants to support UNDP Country Offices to map information pollution at the national level. With financial support from the Government of Norway, the Information Pollution Mapping Programme seeks to improve understanding of national information landscapes and encourage collective learning and best practice.

8 countries were selected: Panama, Venezuela, Chile, Samoa, Cambodia, Sierra Leone, Ukraine and Lebanon. Data collection and analysis is currently underway in all countries.

In October, OGC organized a mid-term review of the Information Mapping Programme. All 8 countries held joint reflection and sharing meetings over two days. These virtual meetings were an opportunity to discuss challenges, lessons learned and best practices emerging across the different country contexts. Key findings included:

- The value of consultation and government buy-in
- The need to recognize local differences in how people interact with disinformation
- The challenge of data collection during the pandemic.

Together with an external M&E consultant, OGC will consolidate this learning into a practical tool for UNDP and other agencies seeking to understand and respond to disinformation trends and patterns.

Country Office Support

In 2020 we have supported the following countries:

Country Office Support

