A UNDP Governance Response to Information Pollution and COVID-19

Guidance note produced

A Guidance note on Responding to Covid-19 Information Pollution has been developed.
This detailed guidance note is part of the Informed and Engaged Societies focus area of UNDP's governance response to Covid-19, as outlined in Guidance note #10. It is also in direct response to several UNDP Country Office requests for support in this area.

This note is intended to provide practical guidance on how COs can design effective rapid responses to information pollution and how to situate those in longer-term approaches. As such it provides both immediately practicable intervention approaches as well as longer-term programmatic considerations

The guidance note is available in English, French, Arabic and Spanish.

GUIDANCE NOTE

Responding to COVID-19

Information Pollution

May 2020

Webinar series initiated: Governance CoP Chat

A webinar series, Governance CoP Chat, has been initiated on the topic of information pollution during the Covid-19 pandemic. Calling in different experts, both within UNDP and external speakers, the webinars have shed light on the following subjects:

- **April 3rd** Covid-19 and Misinformation
- **April 8th** Mistrust, Lies and Information Disorder: A big-data guide to identifying, tracking and countering disinformation in our digital age
- **April 24th** Supporting Effective Local Strategies to Address Misinformation and Disinformation in the Context of Covid-19 Pandemic: Focus on Conflict Sensitivity and Community Engagement
- **May 14th** Online and Digital Strategies to Address Misinformation and Disinformation in the Context of Covid-19 Pandemic

Country office support

The team has provided virtual guidance and support to UNDP Regional Hubs and Country Offices along three lines of service:

Orientation: Initial orientation/discussions with COs on Covid-19 information disorder to help frame the issue and provide general principles for action
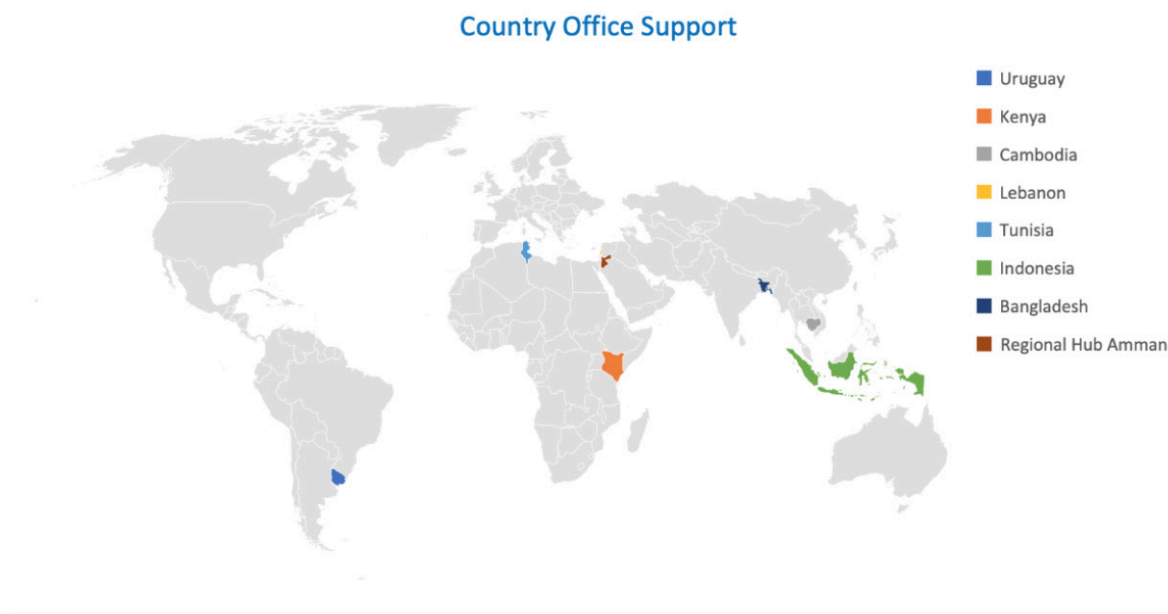
Design: Participation at proposal design stage to support on theory of change and logical framework

Review: Review of concept notes, project proposals
Two regional meetings with RBAS and RBLAC were held to present the guidance note,

exchange experience on information pollution across countries, and promote technical support available to country offices. Similar regional meetings will be held in other regions going forward.

Separately we have engaged with the following COs: Uruguay; Kenya; Cambodia; Lebanon; Tunisia; Indonesia; Bangladesh.

Country Office Support

Legend:
- Uruguay
- Kenya
- Cambodia
- Lebanon
- Tunisia
- Indonesia
- Bangladesh
- Regional Hub Amman

Strategy being developed – in parallel with project discussions with MFA Sweden

A 12-month global project initiative on "**Countering Misinformation in a Time of Pandemic**." Shortly summarized, the project focuses on the following:

As information pollution affects different portfolios and mandates of UNDPs development work, it is important that this initiative is able to act as a focal point and bring all the different strands of work together to form a coherent, strategic and coordinated approach. It will also build on previous UNDP work on media and governance and country level projects that have addressed information disorder through different lenses, including preventing violent extremism and electoral support projects.

Importantly, this initiative will be an investment in learning and best practice. While there has been a lot of attention given to information disorder in recent years there is still an absence of any analysis of what works and what doesn't. This initiative will include a rigorous monitoring and evaluation framework that will allow relevant lessons to be shared and successes to be attributed to interventions.