

PRESS RELEASE

International Fact-Checking Day: CFI reaffirms its commitment to combatting misinformation

Issy-les-Moulineaux,
April 2nd, 2024

Misleading information poses unprecedented global challenges when it comes to public access to reliable information of a high standard. This false information, which deliberately omits details to sway public opinion, is widespread both on the Internet and social media. It is seeping into public discourse and threatening social cohesion in an increasing number of countries. As part of its commitment to ensuring everyone has access to information of a high standard, CFI is helping to combat misinformation by leading several fact-checking training projects around the world:

[Desinfox Sahel](#) — [Combatting the spread of misinformation in French-speaking Africa](#)

The *Desinfox Sahel* project provides a regional fact-checking media network in French-speaking Africa, designed to speed up their response to misinformation through a common monitoring and alert system. In 2024, this network, called the *Plateforme Africaine des Fact-Checkers Francophones* (African Platform of French-Speaking Fact-Checkers), will receive training on OSINT (Open Source Intelligence) research and will launch its first collective investigations, with the support of European experts. CFI will also launch the *Desinfox Networks* project at the end of the year to further consolidate the *Plateforme Africaine des Fact-Checkers Francophones*, particularly in the field of artificial intelligence, and will provide technical and financial support for investigating information manipulation in Africa.

[Desinfox Africa](#) — [Helping ensure that information is reliable and independent in West and Central Africa](#)

In partnership with the pan-African organisation Africa Check, *Desinfox Africa* helps improve the fact-checking skills of journalists from six African countries (Senegal, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Benin, Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast). This includes training in advanced digital fact-checking tools (Smart Brevity, Listicle etc.) and support in economic sustainability and looking for funding.

[Qarib](#) — [Helping media outlets to promote social cohesion in the Middle East](#)

In the Middle East, media outlets are powerful tools for social transformation, as they are able to ease tension between communities. *Qarib* encourages the media in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine to promote social cohesion and public debate, while urging them to become more independent and to do their part in combatting misinformation. There are therefore several activities dedicated to raising awareness of

fact-checking and to supporting initiatives that verify information in Arabic. In particular, CFI are offering support to the Arab Fact-Checkers Network so new tools can be developed (Chat Bot, Market Place).

Media for One Health — Journalism for health in South-East Asia

Thanks to this initiative, over 50 journalists from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and the Philippines are improving their methods for verifying environmental and health information. This fact-checking training programme is designed to prevent them from being exposed to misinformation too often, especially when it relates to a field as crucial as global health. It equips them to spot and avoid fake news, and create interactive fact-checking content that is ready to be posted on social media.