



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNESCO's response to COVID-19 in the field of Communication and Information

Online information meeting, Tuesday 21 April 2020



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Overview of CI response to COVID-19 based on four main pillars

1. **Advocating for freedom of expression and safety of journalists, and reinforcing the capacities of media to cover the crisis**
2. **Developing and disseminating resources to tackle disinformation about COVID-19**
3. **Harnessing innovation and digital technologies to counter COVID-19**
4. **Promoting open and universal access to information in response to COVID-19**





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Promoting freedom of expression and reinforcing media to address the crisis

- **World Press Freedom Day 2020 campaign focused on the role of free and independent media in providing verified, accurate and life-saving information in times of crises**
- **Four IPDC projects supporting media to respond to COVID-19 in Eastern and Southern Africa, India and Eastern Caribbean SIDS**
- **Development of a MOOC to build capacities of journalists to cover the COVID-19 pandemic professionally and safely**
- **UNESCO statement on the importance of ensuring safety of journalists amid the COVID-19 pandemic**



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Developing and disseminating resources to tackle disinformation

- **Policy briefs on disinformation on COVID-19, setting out the issue and analyzing responses, with concrete recommendations**
- **#DontGoViral campaign to crowdsource local openly licensed content to inform communities across Africa about COVID-19**
- **Audio messages for radio and other MIL-related resources to counter disinformation and promote healthy behaviours**
- **Possibility for large scale projects focusing on media and citizens to combat disinformation on COVID-19**



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Harnessing innovation and digital technologies to counter COVID-19

- **CodeTheCurve hackathon supporting young innovators across the world to develop digital solutions to counter COVID-19**
- **Coordination of the initiative “Collective Intelligence and AI Against COVID-19” to develop a comprehensive global knowledge platform**
- **Supporting the development of an AI-enabled public health mobile app to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic, with a focus on protecting data privacy**



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Promoting open and universal access to information in response to COVID-19

- **Open Educational Resources to support learning through openly licensed teaching and learning materials, and to collect and share information on COVID-19 resources**
- **Access to information in times of crisis as a focus of the 2020 International Day for Universal Access to Information**
- **Supporting preservation of official records related to COVID-19 as documentary heritage**



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Thank you for your attention
Stay safe and #ShareInformation