Hi there.

Welcome to the tenth edition of Connect:COVID-19. This weekly digest will connect you with quality resources and fact-checked information designed to combat misinformation in the COVID-19 crisis. We aim to support busy newsrooms as well as fact-checking and community organisations.

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Who are we? We are a group of organisations funded by the H2H Network that work to improve access to quality information in a crisis. Find out more.

Special - World Health Assembly #WHA 73

The 73rd World Health Assembly (WHA) was held this week. Every year in May, hundreds of delegates travel to Geneva, Switzerland, to meet and make decisions on global health. For the first time ever, the assembly was held online and was shortened to just two days.

At WHA 2020, Member States reported on their progress in fighting COVID-19 and shared knowledge on the evolving situation.

Importantly, members signed a landmark agreement to ensure fair and equitable access to health technologies and products to combat the virus,
agreed to launch an investigation into the origins of the virus as well as into the response from organisations, such as the WHO. The United States, however, rejected the provisions on pooling or sharing vaccine developments to the benefit of poorer countries, saying this would "send the wrong message to innovators who will be essential to the solutions the whole world needs".

They also agreed to:

‘Provide the population with reliable and comprehensive information on COVID-19 and the measures taken by authorities in response to the pandemic, and take measures to counter misinformation and disinformation and as well as malicious cyber activities’

Useful links:

- Find the opening remarks of the WHO Director-General here
- Access video recordings of sessions here

**This week's tools.**

**People’s Perspectives—What are people saying about the virus?**

In Indonesia, BBC Media Action has partnered with RRI, Indonesia’s national public service broadcaster, to launch a radio drama series ‘Balada Yayang Bebeb’ (the Ballad of Men and Women), featuring a story of a couple, quarantining in different locations in times of physical distancing. This seven-episode series cover COVID-19 myths and misconceptions, for example, that eating garlic or using traditional massage can prevent virus infection.

Did you miss Edition #3 of the Internews Social Media Rumour Bulletin
last week? You can find it and all our resources on our website. Edition 3 will be available in Vietnamese, Thai, and Bahasa Indonesia in the coming days.

This week The BMJ published this study on the role of YouTube in spreading misinformation, the study found that more than one-quarter of the most popular COVID-19 videos in English contained misinformation. What role does YouTube play in your context or language?

Resources—What info can I use to respond?

Webinars:

Bangladesh - As the end of Ramadan is approaching, Internews and BBC Media Action will hold a webinar on May 20th to discuss how journalists can keep themselves safe while reporting on Eid activities. Webinar in Bangla. Register here.

India - Internews and Dataleads - the team behind Factshala: India Media Literacy Network is bringing a series of 5 webinars this month to help journalists find trustworthy information during COVID-19. Webinars in English, Hindi, Bangla, Tamil, and Marathi. Register here.

Global - A key feature of this pandemic has been the struggle to access key medical supplies such as masks, respirators, and other essential equipment. The Global Investigative Journalism Network will hold a webinar on May 21st to help journalists investigate this essential medical supply chain where they live. Webinar in English. Register here.
Other resources:

The strain of working on the frontline of an infodemic is taking its toll on Journalists. Internews has produced this guide to self-care and mental health for journalists.

Governments, UN agencies, and non-governmental organisations are releasing regular sit reps (or situation reports) to update us on the important facts and figures of the pandemic. These reports can be a great source of stories for journalists. Internews has produced this guide to turning dry facts into engaging content.

Hungry for more COVID-19 reporting materials? Check out the Internews COVID-19 Media resource library - a living document of more than 100 links to useful COVID-19 information, advisories, toolkits, and webinars.

Communicating health information in the right language is critical. These new datasets and maps from Translators without Borders provide insights into language, literacy, and communication dynamics in Cambodia.

Have you seen this storybook for children on COVID-19 – My Hero is You? TWB worked with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to translate it into Tagalog, Korean, and Hindi. More languages soon.

Finding it difficult to translate complex health terms? This week TWB expanded their multilingual COVID-19 glossary to include 23 languages.

Do you need easily accessible information on which to base your decisions? Evidence Aid’s COVID-19 collection now includes over 200 plain language summaries of COVID-19 research. Summaries look at interventions,
health and social care services and response, and the impact of COVID-19 on non-health outcomes and are translated into Arabic, Simplified and Traditional Chinese, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish.

BBC Media Action has produced a Khmer language poster answering frequently asked questions and providing practical steps to stop the virus.

An animation in Khmer is also available to encourage Cambodians to verify information before sharing, particularly on social media.

- Webinar: The International Center For Journalists (ICFJ) will look at lessons learned reporting on a pandemic on May 21st. Webinar in English. Register here.
- The Open Notebook has created this tip sheet to help journalists report on COVID-19 stories without spreading misinformation.
- Collaboration is key: Solution Journalism Network has created this free Creative Commons platform of COVID-19 news and information your media organisation can re-publish
- The Associated Press has updated its stylebook to include guidance on the use of terms associated with the pandemic.
• The World Health Organization Academy has developed an app to support health workers to access all WHO's COVID-19 resources in different languages. This application can be downloaded for free from Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

• World Press Photo has provided guidance, resources, funding, and grants for visual journalists on this page.

If you have any questions, requests for resources, feedback or would like to let us know when our tools have been useful, you can email us at any time at covid-19@internews.org.

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